

coming correspondence, some of it with notes indicating the reply Díaz wished to make. Volume XXV includes a number of letters written by Díaz. All letters reflect the day-to-day problems facing the President: lack of revenue, political quarrels, and military questions. They also bring out clearly the rising feeling against the United States because of border clashes.

As this series continues it becomes evident that it will make possible studies of the political, military and economic histories of various states based on letters to Díaz. Information on various prominent men, such as Manuel González and Luis Mier y Terán, is accumulating which clarifies and supplements that already available. Moreover, this new material will ultimately make possible a study of the presidency as an institution.

Due to the demands of the subscribers to the series, the editor takes the first 67 pages of Volume XXV to jump ahead and to discuss the uprising in Veracruz in June 1879, in which the notorious "mátalos en caliente" incident occurred. The editor, in general, exonerates Díaz by showing that, contrary to previous accounts, no such telegram was ever sent by the President to Governor Mier y Terán. Letters written by the Governor are quoted to show that he realized he was in the wrong and tried to cover himself by getting a pre-dated telegram from Díaz ordering him to act in case of revolt.

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Combatimos la tiranía. Un pionero revolucionario mexicano cuenta su historia a SAMUEL KAPLAN. Translated by JESÚS AMAYA TOPETE. Mexico City, 1958. Biblioteca del Instituto Nacional de Estudios Históricos de la Revolución Mexicana. Pp. 323. Paper.

The youngest and least well-known of the Flores Magón brothers, but unlike Jesús a companion to Ricardo's political escapades, Enrique here gives his

memories of the eventful days from about 1893 to 1923. According to his account, at age fourteen he joined his older brothers in making violent political speeches against the Díaz administration, and at age sixteen he aided his brothers in establishing the opposition weekly *El Demócrata*. He details their various brushes with Díaz law as a consequence of their newspaper activities, and describes his own incarceration in both the unbelievably vile Belén prison and the military prison of Santiago Tlatelolco. Flight to the United States, to Canada, and back to the United States, always pursued by Díaz agents, followed; but the continual persecution did not prevent Ricardo and Enrique from taking the lead in founding the revolutionary Liberal Party which attempted—and failed—to begin the revolution. These attempts and failures are given in some detail, as are the episodes which sent both Ricardo and Enrique to Leavenworth where Ricardo died in 1922. The pervading atmosphere of *Combatimos la tiranía* is unsophisticated to the point of naïveté, with much of the detail of dubious veracity. As a story of dogged determination in the face of insurmountable obstacles, Enrique's account is exciting and has elements of grandeur; as a measured retrospective presentation of the ideals and philosophy of the Flores Magón movement it is a dismal failure.

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El constitucionalismo a mediados del siglo XIX. Tomos I & II. By various authors. Mexico City, 1957. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Foreword by ROBERTO L. MANTILLA MOLINA. Pp. xv, 1649. Paper. 60 pesos; 70 pesos.

These two heavy volumes represent a notable and successful attempt on the part of the Faculty of Law of Mexico's National University to commemorate the centennial of the constitution of 1857. That document was an outstanding landmark in the history of Latin

American constitution writing and it is highly appropriate that this ambitious effort and international approach should have been undertaken and gratifying that it was so successfully achieved.

Nineteen countries (Central America is treated as one) are treated in twenty-six papers by twenty-eight authors. The focal point is the middle of the nineteenth century and most of the papers deal with the constitutional development in the respective countries in the half century preceding that or with an examination of the particular state's constitutionalism or constitutional law at mid-century.

Of the nineteen countries treated, eight (Argentina, Brazil, Central America, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Mexico, and Uruguay) are Latin American; the others, with the exception of the United States, are all European. Papers are in all instances given in Spanish and in case they were originally written in another language that form is published too.

Value of the papers naturally varies from instance to instance but, taken as a whole, the collection is an eminent addition to the literature on Latin American constitutional history, law, and theory.

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Diego Rivera. By SAMUEL RAMOS. Mexico City, 1958. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Colección de Arte, 4. Illustrations. Pp. 200. Cloth.

This book seems an odd choice for the important University of Mexico series, Colección de Arte. It is neither art history nor biography; Professor Ramos, as a philosopher, writes an appreciation of Rivera as a public figure and a man more than as a painter, dealing with abstract ideas and generalizations, not details of the painter's life or style. The danger of such abstract thinking is that it may lose contact with reality or be careless with facts. For instance, he compares Rivera with

several artists including Grünewald, Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Tintoretto and Chardin, saying they all are the product of a people's rebellion for fundamental rights (p. 26). This reviewer cannot agree. The poor quality of the photographs is to be regretted. The book is an interesting essay by an important philosopher, but for a history of Rivera and his works or an analysis of his style one must turn to other books.

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Francisco Zarco ante la intervención francesa y el imperio (1863-1864). Compilación y prólogo de OSCAR CASTAÑEDA BATRES. Mexico City, 1958. Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores. Appendices. Pp. 216. Paper.

Francisco Zarco, liberal editor, was the leading spokesman for the Reforma and the chief defender of Mexican integrity during the French Intervention. Deserving a place as one of the great heroes of Mexico's resistance to invasion, he nevertheless has been generally unknown to modern historians.

Castañeda Batres here compiles a number of Zarco's great editorials written while Zarco accompanied Juárez as the Mexican government fled before the advancing French. The editorials, from *La Independencia Mexicana* (San Luis Potosí, 1863) and *La Acción* (Saltillo, 1864), attack and refute the French from the standpoint of morality and ethics, religion, and legality. Zarco proves the absurdity of the French position, citing difficulties of finance, international diplomacy, and military supply. He repeatedly rallies all Mexicans to defend their nation.

The editorials here compiled have not been easily accessible to the public. There exist two incomplete collections of *La Independencia Mexicana* and none of *La Acción*, the editorials of the latter being preserved only in a pamphlet printed in Colima in 1864.

Castañeda Batres, in an excellent prologue, analyzes Zarco's great contri-