

*Tamayo en la pintura mexicana.* By OCTAVIO PAZ. Mexico City, 1959. Universidad Nacional Autónoma. Colección de Arte, 6. Bibliography. Illustrations. Name index. Pp. 80. Cloth. 50 pesos.

In this brief criticism Señor Paz begins by citing the artistic results of the Mexican Revolution. He points out that the great national art of this period has run its course and that younger men such as Rufino Tamayo have avoided the trap of lifeless repetition by creating a new and contemporary idiom. Even though Tamayo has departed drastically from the great mural tradition of Orozco and Rivera, and even though he has learned much from the international painting forms, he remains unmistakably and profoundly Mexican.

Written in Spanish with English and French translations by Sita Garst, this book will serve as an introduction to those who might wish to become familiar with or know more about the work of Mexico's most sensitive and imaginative painter.

The book contains four color reproductions and 128 black and white halftones, with a chronology, a bibliography, and a comprehensive index to the illustrations.

WILLIAM LESTER

University of Texas

*Textos políticos.* Introduction and selections by XAVIER TAVERA ALFARO. 2nd ed. Mexico City, 1957. Universidad Nacional Autónoma. Biblioteca del Estudiante Universitario, 75. Pp. xxvi, 161. Paper.

This volume contains a limited selection of political essays by Francisco Zarco (1829-1869), a leading nineteenth-century journalist, liberal politician, and literary figure who for many years was a collaborator and ultimately the editor-in-chief of *El Siglo XIX*, the outstanding liberal newspaper of the epoch. Most of the writings pertain to the initial phases of the French Intervention in Mexico but nevertheless reveal some of Zarco's basic political

tenets, such as his belief in popular sovereignty, the electoral process, federalism, civilian supremacy in government, tolerance of all religious cults, separation of Church and State, and individual liberties. Unlike many of the Liberal thinkers of his time who ardently subscribed to the same ideology, Zarco wrote with a degree of impartiality and was often measured in his analysis of controversial public issues. His style is lucid, simple, and forceful.

Señor Tavera Alfaro's detailed introduction, which includes a biographical sketch and commentary on Zarco's political philosophy and literary contributions, is a valuable addition to the readings.

FRANK A. KNAPP, JR.

Washington, D. C.

*Tres votos y un debate del Congreso Constituyente, 1856-57.* Selección y prólogo by XAVIER TAVERA ALFARO. Jalapa, 1958. Universidad Veracruzana. Cuadernos de la facultad de filosofía y letras, I. Pp. 178. Paper.

This is a book containing reprints of documents rather than a collection of documents in the ordinary sense, for the documents (which are not edited or clarified in any way) are presented by the author to help the reader understand the text of the volume. This text, which is labelled misleadingly the Prologue, is a condensation of some lectures given by the author at the Universidad Veracruzana in honor of the Constitution of 1857 and its makers. The lectures form a brief history of liberalism in Mexico from the Enlightenment to 1857 in which the author stresses what he considers a paradox. European middle class liberalism arose in Mexico without the existence of a Mexican middle class. In other words, perhaps, liberalism in Mexico represented the conversion of the intellectuals rather than the rise of a new middle class based on economic change. The author presents a working hypothesis to try to explain this. It is that men

like Zareo and Ponciano Arriaga were well aware that they were legislating for the future when they worked on the Constitution of 1857. The economic change, apparently, was to be brought about by the introduction of liberal laws rather than vice-versa.

The documents appended to help the reader understand these viewpoints consist of dissenting votes on various unrelated matters by Isidoro Olvera, Ponciano Arriaga, and Castillo Velasco, and part of a debate between [Marcelino ?] Castañeda and [José María ?] Mata on religious toleration.

About all one can say for this little book is that it is interesting. It can hardly be taken seriously until sufficient evidence is produced to back up not only the author's premature working hypothesis but also his paradox as well.

C. A. HUTCHINSON

University of Virginia

*Valentín Gómez Farías. Ideario reformista.* Recopilación, prólogo y notas de RICARDO DELGADO ROMÁN. Guadalajara, 1958. Publicaciones del Gobierno del Estado. Pp. 184. Paper.

The objective of this short collection of speeches made by Valentín Gómez Farías and of laws passed during his administration touching upon such matters as ecclesiastical reforms, education, the formation of militias, promoting colonization, and reforming the administration of justice is, according to the author, to bring together in a short volume the most important writings that reveal Farías to have been an outstanding leader in the Mexican social revolution. The author is also anxious to avoid the strongly biased attitudes, pro or con, of those who discuss Farías.

In these objectives Ricardo Delgado Román has largely succeeded. His little volume is a useful compendium for anyone interested in the early 19th century reform movement in Mexico. Due credit should be given to Governor Agustín Yáñez and to the State of Jalisco for sponsoring the series of

volumes on liberal thought in Mexico of which this is one.

C. A. HUTCHINSON

University of Virginia

*The Family and Population Control. A Puerto Rican Experiment in Social Change.* By REUBEN HILL, J. MAY-ONE STYCOS, KURT W. BLACK. Chapel Hill, 1959, University of North Carolina Press. Figures. Tables. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xxvi, 481. Cloth. \$8.00.

Attracting attention because of its high birth rate, Puerto Rico has been the object of a number of investigations of its family life. This book records another such study, a particularly ambitious one, involving dozens of researchers and an intensive examination of lower-class Puerto Ricans. The authors' conclusions are many, but may be summed up with the statement that family limitation is an extremely complex matter related to many facets of culture. The study won the Helen L. De Roy Award as the best piece of social research done in 1956.

CARL M. ROSENQUIST

University of Texas

*Historia del año de 1887.* By LIDIO CRUZ MONCLOVA. Puerto Rico, 1958. Editorial Universitaria. Index. Pp. 385. Paper.

The history of 1887, an infamous year for the Spanish administration of Puerto Rico, was written with the blood and suffering of leading island citizens. Professor Lidio Cruz Monclova, the Puerto Rican historian of the XIX Century, offers in this third of a four volume series a solid documentary study of the antecedent vacillations of the island liberals which came to crystallize, under the dynamic leadership of Román Baldorioty de Castro, in the political position of local autonomy; the reaction, precipitated by the local philo-Spaniards, of the despotic military minded resident administrators led by General Palacio; and finally the feeble attempts by the Central Govern-