

ment in Madrid to gloss over the ugly incident.

In 1935 Antonio S. Pedreira, assisted partly by Sr. Lidio Cruz Monclova, presented a polished monograph entitled *El año terrible del '87*. The progress realized by the present generation of the island historians is vividly demonstrated by this current study. The students of don Lidio, to keep up with the established tradition, will only be able to improve on their mentor's work by locating the lost prison diary of Baldorioty de Castro last seen in the Library of Congress.

THOMAS MATHEWS

Universidad de Puerto Rico
Mayagüez

Panorama de la cultura puertorriqueña.

By MARIA TERESA BABIN. Prologue by ANDRES IDUARTE. San Juan de Puerto Rico, 1958. Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 488.

This is a very good, all-over survey of the people, values, culture, arts and beliefs of Puerto Rico. All proveniences are drawn upon—Latin American, North American, Indian, African, and Castilian—to show the cultural complex, and to point out past and future direction of allegiance. The sections on intellectual activity are especially fruitful, as analysis, and as a record as well. The self-consciousness of Puerto Rican writers, poets, playwrights is made quite clear as part of the literary "nationalism" which marks their expression. In one sense, the book is a paean in prose to the intellectual and spiritual glory of Puerto Rico. It surely is one of the credits to the good record already earned by the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña.

Although the University of Puerto Rico is treated with respect and appreciation for its cultural accomplishments, the author is aware that in Puerto Rico, as elsewhere, poets, artists, novelists and playwrights come from the outside: the people or the informal *ambiente* of the culture. Both of these sources confer an intellectual vigor upon

the tiny island whose writers have given it a voice in the Caribbean and Latin American world.

HARRY BERNSTEIN

Brooklyn College

Presencia jíbara desde Manuel Alonso hasta don Florito. By ERNESTO JUAN FONFRÍAS. San Juan Bautista de Puerto Rico, 1957. Editorial Club de la Prensa. Prologue by ALBERTO MARIA CARREÑO. Pp. 140. Paper.

Esta obra del senador Fonfrías, conocido político y periodista de Puerto Rico, es, sobre todo, una recopilación de datos sobre el jíbaro o campesino borinqueño como tema literario. Quien desee tener una idea de lo que el género costumbrista ha producido en la hermosa isla antillana, y de cuáles han sido las vicisitudes del simpático jíbaro—de arcaico y expresivo lenguaje—en las letras puertorriqueñas puede, entre otros, acudir a este librito.

Hará bien, sin embargo, en prescindir de la lectura de las páginas 121 a 140. No contienen más que una serie de ditirambos dirigidos al autor. Sea cual sea su importancia, no le añaden nada, ni tienen que ver, con la obra propiamente dicha.

MIGUEL ENGUÍDANOS

University of Texas

The Puerto Rican Businessman. A Study in Cultural Change. By THOMAS C. COCHRAN. Philadelphia, 1959. University of Pennsylvania Press. Tables. Appendices. Index. Pp. 198. Cloth. \$5.00.

Professor Cochran interviewed about one hundred business executives, some of them several times, in an attempt to learn how business and the business man in Puerto Rico have made the transition from Spanish colonial practice to the procedures of the contemporary world. He has not been interested, except for inevitable comparisons, in the activities of continental United States business operating in the island.

Particularly the author dwells on the cultural differences which have shaped