

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 '37*. 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

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*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

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*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

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*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

Puerto Rican business; on the non-communication between levels of culture in Puerto Rico; and on the impact of entrepreneurship. In the latter instance he shows "how physical environment, technological change, inherited culture, and North American influences have . . . altered the attitudes of Puerto Rican entrepreneurs." The book is thoughtful throughout, based on careful research and on a year spent in the Commonwealth. It has value well beyond the range of history, for it reveals a wealth of economic and sociological information about one of the more intriguing experiments in the life of the United States.

JOE B. FRANTZ

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#### NICARAGUA

*Las constituciones de Nicaragua (Exposición, crítica y textos)*. By EMILIO ALVAREZ LEJARZA. Madrid, 1958. Ediciones Cultura Hispánica. Prologue by M. FRAGA IRIBARNE. Pp. xiii, 998. Paper.

This work is part of the Collection *Las Constituciones Hispanoamericanas* and has considerable merit, in spite of some obvious bias on the part of Sr. Alvarez, a Nicaraguan Senator. The first 226 pages are devoted to a brief but good résumé of the historical and constitutional background of Nicaragua, which takes the reader from early Indian governments through the constitutional reforms of 1955.

Of far greater value is the material between pages 227 and 998. Here one finds the texts of constitutions, fundamental laws, and international conventions. Some of those included are: the Constitution of Bayona of July 7, 1808—dictated by Napoleon I and approved by Joseph Bonaparte, the Constitution of 1812—proclaimed by the Cortes de Cádiz, the incorporation of Central America into the Mexican Empire, the Federal Constitution of Central America, the Knox Note, the Bryan-Chamorro Treaty, and the numerous Nicaraguan Constitutions. By compiling these forty-three documents, Sr. Alvarez has

aided greatly anyone interested in Nicaragua, since many of them are not readily accessible.

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#### PERU

*Menéndez Pelayo y Riva-Agüero, A propósito de su epistolario*. By CESAR PACHECO VELEZ. Lima, 1958. Publicaciones del Instituto Riva-Agüero. Illustration. Pp. 59. Paper.

*Criterios de política y administración del Ministerio de Relaciones Interiores de Venezuela. Digesto*. By FRANCISCO J. PARRA. Prologue by JULIO DIEZ. New York, 1958. Las Américas. Index. Pp. 128.

This slim little volume is worth its weight in gold to the historian. It is a digest of the archives of the *Ministerio de Relaciones Interiores de Venezuela* for the years 1830 to 1846, and indicates the problems which faced the new republic in 1830. It begins with *Aduanas* (the main concern of which was how to direct the navy to control smuggling), *Agricultura*, *Anotaciones de Hipotecas*, *Archivos* (the author laments the loss of records and the confused state of the remaining ones), *Autoridad Civil y Militar*, *Bagajes*, *Biblioteca Nacional* (books in suppressed convents and other depositories were declared the property of the nation so they could be placed in the National Library), *Caminos*, *Capital de la República*, *Cárceles y Presidios* (since no Venezuelan could be tried outside his own district, criminals would go unpunished if jails were not established in each canton), and continues on through 115 sections to end with *Viáticos y Dietas para Congresantes*.

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