

Las "pintaderas" mejicanas y sus relaciones. By JOSÉ ALCINA FRANCH. Prologue by MANUEL BALLESTEROS GAIBROIS. Madrid, 1958. Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Instituto "Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo." Maps. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 250. Paper. 110 pesetas.

Sr. Alcina Franch presents us in this book an extreme diffusionist explanation for the distribution of seals or stamps which he calls "pintaderas." He notes they are used to mark pottery and to paint the human body and cloth. He has found them in India, the Mediterranean basin, Africa, and Pre-Conquest Mexico. American scholars will find his last chapter most provocative, for here he presents the diffusionist case most effectively. In other chapters he publishes large numbers of pintaderas in line drawings and discusses the themes they portray, the diets and their attributes. In this last he is able to call upon Mexican codices in identifying design motifs. One can admire the book for having brought so much material together otherwise scattered in public and private collections. His bibliography is equally impressive with references to pintaderas from both the Old and New Worlds.

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An Archeological Chronology of Venezuela. Vols. I and II. By J. M. CRUXENT and IRVING ROUSE. Washington, D. C., 1958. Pan American Union. Social Science Monograph, VI. Vol. I: Tables. Bibliography. Pp. xiv, 277. Paper. \$1.00. Vol. II: 201 figs., 104 pls. Paper. \$1.00.

This monograph has two purposes: 1) to summarize the present status of Venezuelan archeology, and 2) to develop a detailed chronology for the area. The authors review all previous archeological information and reports on their own extensive survey and test excavations. Coverage extends over

most of Venezuela north and west of the Orinoco. Except for the early pre-ceramic sites, description is largely confined to pottery complexes referred to as styles. These are described chronologically by regions in a uniform outline that includes the sites where the style occurs, characteristics of paste, techniques of manufacture, vessel shape, decoration, associated artifacts, resemblances to other styles and chronological position. The sequence of style in each geographical area was determined by stratigraphy, seriation or a combination of these. Carbon 14 dates and stylistic resemblances were used to align the areal sequences and to establish 5 chronological periods. Volume 1 contains all the textual material, volume 2 all the plates, figures, maps and charts.

The authors believe their major conclusion to be the demonstration of an areal dichotomy between the eastern and western parts of Venezuela. They equate differences in ceramic styles with different subsistence patterns, based on manioc in the east and maize in the west. As far as paths of diffusion are concerned, they feel their data support Osgood's H-theory better than Steward's Circum-Caribbean hypothesis.

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COLONIAL PERIOD

España en América, El régimen de tierras en la época colonial. By J. M. OTS CAPDEQUÍ. Mexico-Buenos Aires, 1959. Fondo de Cultura Económica. Pp. 145. Paper.

Sr. Ots Capdequí's new volume contains much information, organized under suitable headings. Unfortunately, it apparently has been written on the theory that the Spanish empire was a rigidly centralized and uniform administration, nearly alike in all parts. It is only on the basis of such a theory that one can defend a study that jumbles together imperial legislation and local regulation in New