

COLONIAL PERIOD

Relaciones histórico-descriptivas de la Verapaz, el Manché y Lacandón, en Guatemala. Edited by FRANCE V. SCHOLES and ELEANOR B. ADAMS. Guatemala, 1960. Editorial Universitaria. Ediciones del tercer centenario de la introducción de la imprenta en Centroamérica. Vol. no. 35. Illustration. Pp. 275. Paper. Ø. 2.50.

This volume provides historians of colonial Latin America with two valuable seventeenth-century *relaciones* concerning Spanish efforts to establish control over the troublesome areas of Verapaz, Manché, and Lacandón. The first is by Capitán Don Martín Alfonso Tovilla, *Relación histórica descriptiva de las provincias de la Verapaz y de la del Manché del Reino de Guatemala, y de las costas, mares y puertos principales de la dilatada América*, written in 1635 and published from a photographic copy of the original which is now in the Biblioteca Pública de Toledo, Spain, and the second Antonio de León Pinelo's *Relación . . . sobre la Pacificación y Población de las Provincias del Manché, y Lacandón . . .*, published from a photographic copy of the original pamphlet of 1639.

Tovilla was designated Alcalde Mayor of the provinces of Verapaz, Golfo Dulce, Sacapulas, and Manché late in 1629, while in Spain, and reached Cobán about a year later. He soon obtained authority from the President of the Audiencia of Guatemala to establish a town in the province of Manché to serve as a base for protection of peaceful Indians against attacks by the unpacified Itzáes, Yoles, and Lacandones. He organized and set in motion an expedition in the first part of 1631, but after several months his efforts came to naught. Even though the Tovilla record is one of failure and it was not until the close of the century that a campaign against the Itzáes was to be successful, it includes details of interest concerning the northern provinces of Guatemala. It is also an interesting addition to

knowledge of Spanish efforts of pacification in far outlying areas.

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Libro de Cabildos de la Ciudad de Quito, 1638-1646. By JORGE A. GARCÉS G. Quito, 1960. Imprenta Municipal. Illustrations. Indices. Pp. v, 467. Paper.

It is gratifying to note the continued progress by the municipality of Quito in the publication of its early cabildo records. The present volume is the thirtieth in the quadricentennial series, covering an eight-year period in the mid-seventeenth century.

Special interest should be attached to Quito in the relations of the crown and the cabildo. The reviewer believes that "the causes of the independence of the Hispanic American countries, in our view, must be deeply studied in the three centuries of colonization" (p. III) before definitive conclusions as to the real origin of this movement can be reached. Quito's history emphasizes profound dissatisfaction with the royal policy of taxation. Outspoken and independent, the cabildo suffered as the penalty for its rebellion against the crown in 1592 deprivation of the right to elect alcaldes ordinarios. As late as 1646 it was petitioning the Council of the Indies for the restoration of the privilege. Like Lima, Quito maintained in the seventeenth century a paid *agente de negocios* in Madrid, whose function it was, among other things, to present memorials to the king. In a clarification of the policy of the crown toward the colonial ayuntamientos one suspects that too little attention has been given to the role of the municipal procurators in the Spanish capital. Preoccupation of the cabildo with the alcabalas and the compulsory military contributions foreshadows remotely another *quiteño* revolution in the eighteenth century.

The editor-transcriber is to be commended for preserving the high standards of scholarship set in the earlier volumes. Detailed indices at the end