Despite the obvious and tacitly admitted Hispanista bias of the book, it is a well-written, well-argued polemic. It contains a brief list of sources as well as an adequate index. It can be read with profit as an example of hispanophile apologia and as a stimulating attempt to re-evaluate the germinal origins of Colombian and Spanish-American emancipation from Spain.

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NATIONAL PERIOD

MEXICO AND THE CARIBBEAN


The record of the debates of the Constituent Assembly of 1917 is an essential source not only for the student of Mexican law, but also for the investigator of the whole gamut of the aspects of Mexican contemporary development. Unfortunately, the original edition of this vital source, published in 1922 under the direction of Fernando Romero García and based on the stenographic version revised by Joaquín Z. Valadez, has become an exceedingly rare item. Therefore, the republication of the debates of the Constituent Congress of Querétaro, from Nov. 21, 1918 through Jan. 31, 1917, under the auspices of the National Commission for the Celebration of the 160th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Mexico's Independence and of the 50th Anniversary of the Mexican Revolution is a most appropriate and welcome commemorative measure.

Lic. Hilario Medina, constituent deputy and Supreme Court magistrate, provided an historical and analytical introduction for the new edition. He examines the role of Carranza in the formation of the new Constitution and the origins of the movement for the convocation of a constituent assembly, compares Carranza’s project of reforms with the final product of the labors of the Congress, and concludes that the Constitution of 1917 differs from its predecessor by being an instrument of government and by having introduced into the Law the economic aspect of society.

STANLEY ROBERT ROSS
The University of Nebraska


The journalist author of these synthetic daily notes describes the two previous editions of this work as but the incomplete fragments on which the present, and presumably definitive, publication is based. The initial edition, issued in 1930 under the title En el vértigo de la revolución mexicana, covered the years 1907 to 1920. Mi vida en el vértigo de la revolución, published in 1936, extended the coverage from 1900 to 1930. Some of the old entries have been expanded and new daily entries have been added in the initial volume of the latest edition which covers the period from 1901 to 1913. Despite the author’s characteristic pretentiousness in designating his effort the “true history” of the Mexican Revolution, scholars should find Taracena’s expanded chronological synthesis a handy reference.

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