

written on the Aztec empire and its overthrow by Cortés. The bibliography will prove useful to the historian whose book supersedes the last full-scale work on the conquest by Ángel de Altola-guirre y Duvale in 1954. That same historian must use the Vienna documents reproduced here, as they differ in some particulars from the published versions altered or miscopied by clerks and scribes.

CHARLES E. NOWELL

University of Illinois

Relación del viaje a Chile, año de 1600 (Crónica de viaje.) Introd. by EUGENIO PEREIRA SALAS. Santiago de Chile, 1961. Editorial Universitaria. Separata de los Anales de la Universidad de Chile. Illustrations. Maps. Pp. 16. Paper.

Father Diego de Ocaña, an unknown in Latin American history before the appearance of this manuscript, was a member of the Order of Guadalupe and devoted his life to introducing the cult of the Virgin of Guadalupe to the scattered Spanish settlements. During his travels throughout the Spanish dominions he kept a record of his observations, plotted maps of the countryside, and drew pictures of the native inhabitants. From the manuscript, which rests in the archives of the University of Oviedo, the editor of this volume has taken the sections referring to Chile and has pieced together a fascinating view of the seventeenth-century colony. Included are reprints of Father Diego's maps and drawings.

TERENCE S. TARR

University of Mississippi

Noticias históricas de Portugal e Brasil (1715-1750). By M. LOPES DE ALMEIDA. Coimbra, 1961. Coimbra Editora Limitada. Index. Pp. 360. Paper. 40 escudos.

Collected in this volume are all the notices relating to Brazil which appeared in the *Gazeta de Lisboa* from its first edition on August 10, 1715, to December 29, 1750. Senhor Lopes de

Almeida promises a second volume covering the years 1751-1800.

The diverse, informative news items, varying in length from three lines to a page, make fascinating reading. They are filled with names, dates, amounts, prices, and expenses. Although the notices touch upon a myriad of subjects, the information most frequently given relates to commerce, political and ecclesiastical appointments, new legislation, and the economic and political life of Brazil.

The only order in this collection is chronological. However, a well-arranged index of 51 pages follows the 308 pages of text. This inclusive index readily guides the reader to a topical study of the notices. The completeness of the index is an invaluable aid for the study of the varied notices.

Scholars of Braziliana will welcome this compact volume of hitherto widely scattered source material.

E. BRADFORD BURNS

Rutgers University

MEXICO AND THE CARIBBEAN

Historia de las relaciones entre México y los Estados Unidos, 1819-1848. By CARLOS BOSCH GARCÍA. México, 1961. Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Pp. 297.

Though few American historians have written on United States—Mexican relations of the early nineteenth century, Mexicans have frequently explored the era. The answer lies in their fascination with the Mexican War of 1846-1848, a cataclysmic episode for Mexico. Carlos Bosch García is the author of the latest study of this era.

His book departs from much that has been written before on the subject. Unlike some of the essays, articles, and books that precede his study, Bosch García's piece is free of the nationalism that mars them. He has done this, as he points out, by relying exclusively

on documents in the archives of the ministries of foreign affairs of Mexico and the United States. Objectivity aside, Bosch García has another reason for this reliance on primary sources. One of his purposes in writing the study is to evaluate the books and articles published by Mexican and United States historians. Only after he had concluded his archival research did he read the secondary works. His evaluation of the published materials are in a special chapter at the beginning of the *Historia de las relaciones*. . . . They are done carefully and represent a contribution to historiography, of prime interest to those interested in learning "the other side" of the story.

The strength of Bosch García's method is also the weakness of his book. By focusing on the almost day-to-day diplomatic intercourse between the United States and Mexico, the author often overlooks the forest for the trees. A wider perspective and more interpretation would have helped. Despite this criticism, Bosch García has added greatly to the knowledge of this era, particularly since he casts much light on the Mexican reaction to Washington's objectives and diplomacy. He does so in a scholarly, thoroughly documented fashion.

RAMÓN E. RUIZ

Smith College

Breve historia de la revolución mexicana. La etapa constitucionalista y la lucha de facciones. By JESÚS SILVA HERZOG. México, 1960. Fondo de Cultura Económica. Colección popular 17. Illustrations. Bibliography. Pp. 294. Paper.

The month of November, 1960, saw in Mexico the publication of a great number of books dealing with the Revolution launched fifty years earlier by Francisco Madero. Many of these were of the hurry-up-and-get-it-out variety, as though to cash in on the enthusiasm of the Mexican reading public for more information on this heroic era. In a sense this is also that kind of

book, for it was quite obviously written for the occasion; it represents little in the way of real research or even of thoughtful analysis. It tells us again *what* happened, instead of *why* or *how* it happened. It plows no new ground. Yet it has many obvious merits. For one thing it is well written; Jesús Silva Herzog is, after all, one of Mexico's outstanding historians. It presents a simple, straight-forward account of the events in Mexico from the advent of Huerta to the promulgation of the Constitution of 1917. Best of all, it contains many of the important documents of the Revolution: The Plan of Ayala, Carranza's Veracruz Decrees, the principal articles of the Constitution, etc. It is, in short, a very handy little source book for the political history of Mexico between 1913 and 1917. This I imagine, is precisely what the author and the publishers intended it to be.

ROBERT E. QUIRK

University of Indiana

Lázaro Cárdenas. El hombre y el mito. By CARLOS ALVEAR ACEVEDO. México, 1961. Editorial Jus. Pp. 359. Paper.

Writing polemics against Lázaro Cárdenas, former president and reformer, is an old pastime in Mexico. Carlos Alvear Acevedo has written the latest of them. In his study, Cárdenas is the fool, the plotter, and the Communist. Everything the man from Michoacán attempted, the author alleges, failed. Alvear Acevedo writes passionately; but he will convince no one who demands a sober analysis and impartial documentation.

RAMÓN E. RUIZ

Smith College

Mexiko. By HANS HELFRITZ. Berlin, [1961]. Safari-Verlag. Illustrations. Pp. 257.

This is another journalistic description of Mexico. For the expert it adds little if nothing new to Mexican travel literature. But in Europe Mexico still