

*Septiembre al 11 de Octubre de 1912.* Edited by DIEGO ARENAS GUZMÁN. México, 1961. Instituto Nacional de Estudios Históricos de la Revolución Mexicana. Pp. 491.

This is the first of a projected four-volume series, edited and annotated by Diego Arenas Guzmán, devoted to reproducing the debates of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies from September, 1912, to the fall of President Madero.

This first volume contains the debates concerning the seating of representatives to the Chamber of Deputies whose elections were contested. Thus, the questions involved are, on the surface, political and legal ones, but they reflect the struggle of interests and the basic problems faced by the Revolution.

With two exceptions, for the sake of continuity, the material follows the chronology of the original debates. A comparison with the published *Diario de los Debates* indicates a careful, accurate job of editing with a minimum of comment by Arenas Guzmán. However, the reader might wish in some places that the speaker's political affiliation were stated for this is not always immediately evident from the debates. Also, the addition of an index would increase the book's usefulness for quick reference. These are minor criticisms, however, as are the presence of a few typographical mistakes and misplaced pages in Chapter XI.

While the primary value of the book is its accessibility as a source for these important debates, it is by no means dull reading; on the contrary, the debates impart the flavor of the revolutionary period, the emotionalism, and the confusion of ideas, and they show the developing political, economic, and social struggles.

ROBERT KNOWLTON

University of Iowa

*Camino a Tlaxcalantongo.* By RAMÓN BETETA. México, 1961. Fondo de Cultura Económica. Illustrations. Pp. 126. Paper.

Ramón Beteta, in *Camino a Tlaxcal-*

*antongo*, may have produced a work that will be remembered. The narrative begins on a noisy May morning in 1920 at a railroad yard in Mexico City as Don Venustiano Carranza, the deposed president, prepared for his hasty departure from the capital. The forces of General Álvaro Obregón were moving rapidly down the paths that led into the valley. The scene was one of confusion and complete disorganization wherein everybody wanted to command and nobody wished to obey. The author was then a young university student fully dedicated to the *primer jefe*. He was among thousands who nervously awaited the signal to start the engines that were to pull the troop trains. Their destination was Veracruz, where the garrison gave "assurances" of devotion and loyalty. But in Mexico such pronouncements were meaningless. The trains were not able to travel beyond the sierras of Puebla. As the opposition forces closed in, and the inevitable turncoats evidenced their infidelity, the trains were abandoned. Accompanied by remnants of his party, Carranza fled to a mountain village where on a stormy night he was killed by bullets from assassins' guns.

The scene of the cold-blooded murder was a hut located at Tlaxcalantongo where he slept with complete assurance of being protected. The methods employed were commonplace to Mexican politics—first, pronouncements of friendship; second, deception; and then, murder. His fate was clear and logical, as was that of his predecessors as well as successors. He had participated fully in this human disorder and knew well the rules and consequences. The new patriot of the moment under whose command the shameful episode occurred was General Rodolfo Herrero, one of many who had vowed unending loyalty to his commander. Herrero would later be rewarded by the new caudillo of Mexico, Álvaro Obregón. The setting was a little different, but the story was the same.

The author accomplished several things and in each case he did them well. He did not argue a political point

nor discredit any group or person. In this he varied from the typical "patriot" of the revolution. His work is a sample of good literature constructed of short sentences with clear and concise thoughts. His observations were keen and the story intensely interesting. He seems to have meant what he said and to be happy that he finally said it.

LUIS M. MORTON, JR.

Odessa College

*Yo maté a Villa.* By VÍCTOR CEJA REYES. México, 1960. Populibros "La Prensa." Illustrations. Bibliography. Pp. 250. Paper. 5 pesos.

Of the nine gunman who assassinated Pancho Villa in 1923, only three were still living when this volume was written. The core of the work is the testimony of Librado Martínez, one of these survivors. A second survivor refused to discuss his role, and the third offered but little information. A few other persons indirectly associated with the event were also interviewed and helped to round out the story.

The organization of the volume leaves something to be desired. Too many minor figures, testifying to the events of July 20, 1923, are introduced too quickly to permit the reader to assess adequately their role in the plot. The loose ends are eventually tied up in the last five or six chapters, but much of this material could have been put to better use in orienting the reader from the beginning.

By the author's admission, this study is journalistic rather than historical, although the substance of the interviews is examined with reference to contemporary newspaper and eyewitness accounts. Long-known details of the event are verified by the participants, and a few additional minor facts, such as the amount of payment for the murder, are brought to light. Ceja Reyes claims that Martínez' identification of Calles as the "intellectual author" of the crime proves earlier contentions that government officials engineered the plot, but he presents no

further evidence to substantiate the old charge. While the story is fascinating and well dramatized, the author-journalist has not been successful in unearthing important new materials.

KARL SCHMITT

University of Texas

*Mi caballo, mi perro y mi rifle.* By J. RUBÉN ROMERO. México, 1959. 5th ed. Libería de Manuel Porrúa, S. A. Pp. 208.

In this, another novel of the Mexican Revolution, the story which never grows old is told once more. A young man, Julián Osorio, after suffering a sickly childhood and an unhappy youth, nursed resentment against the symbols of authority of his village. Enlisting in the Revolution at the first opportunity, he found in its ranks status and acceptance of sorts. He acquired a rifle, a horse, and a dog.

Happiness turned to sadness, however, as he saw his new-found friends slowly begin to develop the same faults which had characterized the village leaders against whom he had rebelled. Complete disillusionment came as the movement triumphed and Julián noted disorganization, greed, and corruption among the leaders of the Revolution.

For the historian, this work holds nothing of particular interest which has not been said several times before. On the other hand, because of its characteristic style, and for its liberal use of the colorful language of the *campesinos*, it might well be worth adding to the collection of the serious student of the literature of the Revolution.

RAY F. BROUSSARD

Mississippi State University

*Las ideas sociales contemporáneas en México.* By VÍCTOR ALBA. México, 1960. Fondo de Cultura Económica. Colección Tierra Firme, Historia de las Ideas Contemporáneas, VII. Bibliography, Index. Pp. 473. Paper.

This book joins a series of the Tierra Firme collection devoted to the history of ideas in America. The title