

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.

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*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.

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*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.

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*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