

material. Unfortunately the present volume does not include a list of the equivalents of the archival abbreviations. While the specialist can recognize Fabela's archives (A.I.F.) and Barragán's papers (B), other archival references are not so easily identified. When completed this documentary series should prove to be an invaluable tool for the investigator of aspects of the initial decade of the Mexican Revolution.

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La verdad sobre los gringos. 4th edition, enlarged and corrected. By IGNACIO MUÑOZ. México, 1961. Ediciones Populares. Notes. Appendices. Pp. 277. Paper.

With journalistic sensationalism the author seeks to stimulate the Mexican mind from apathy to pride in race and nation. He chooses to instill nationalism by describing the danger that Mexico faces from her neighbor to the north. Alien in language, race, and historical tradition, the United States is condemned as the eternal enemy of Mexico and all Latin America.

The first half of the book treats of American efforts to conquer Mexico, of our promotion of revolutions in Latin America, of our illusory capacities (emphasized by references to Korea, Sputnik, and decreasing gold reserves), and a narration of a little-known Mexican attempt to reconquer the State of Texas. The author's admitted anti-Yankee prejudice, the treatment of subject matter in the tradition of historical fiction, and the absence of supporting documentation, makes the proposed truth about the gringos a tenuous premise for scholars.

The remainder of the book includes undocumented examples of shortsightedness on the part of Mexican officials in national economic development, actions of adventurous and unscrupulous Yankees to the detriment of Mexico's national interests, and the continuous efforts of the United States

to effect a pacific conquest of Mexico. According to the author, the pacific conquest is conducted through the news services, the Rotary Club movement, Protestant sects and Masonic organizations, among others, all tending to undermine Mexico's individuality and national unity.

Although the reader may question the material as being subjective, Muñoz' intense nationalism is unequivocal.

LEONARD CARDENAS, JR.
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Memorias de un juez de pueblo. By RAFAEL PÉREZ PALMA. México, 1961. Librería de Manuel Porrúa, S.A. Pp. 177. Paper.

Informative and delightfully-written books are rare. Rafael Pérez Palma is the author of one of them. Though a lawyer, he writes in the style of José Rubén Romero's famous *Pito Pérez*. *Memorias de un juez de pueblo* is not an earth-shaking book, but the simple story of eight years as a judge in a provincial Mexican town. There are twenty-three episodes; the years are the 1930's.

Pérez Palma's remembrances will be overlooked by many students of contemporary Mexican political life. They should not be, for he offers an intimate account of justice and politics in Mexico. There are no lofty theories, no elaborate interpretations, just tales about the trials and tribulations of a small-town judge. Yet Pérez Palma tells the reader much that is seldom found in more pretentious studies. He writes of the senator whose political machine ruthlessly controls the town, of the governor who keeps close tabs on him, and of the people for whom political rights and elections are meaningless. Justice for him, the provincial judge, is what the senator permits and the governor allows. Right and legal principles are secondary, for this is the Mexico of the 1930's, a land where the few dictate policy. All of this is told with a wonderful sense of humor.

Political scientists, in particular, should read this unpretentious book. If

they do, they will keep their feet on the ground. Again, *Memorias de un juez de pueblo* is not a weighty contribution to scholarly knowledge, just the observations of a man with noble instincts who recognized that justice is often a nebulous dream in Mexico.

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Mexico. By LIFE WORLD LIBRARY. New York, 1961. Time, Inc. Illustrations. Appendix. Index. Pp. 160.

An attractive combination of text and photographs, characteristic of the Life World Library, this volume on Mexico was prepared by William Walker Johnson and *Life's* editors. The book consists of some ninety excellent photographs and illustrations supported by an introduction by former Ambassador Hill, ten chapters of text, a calendar of important dates, a selected bibliography, and end maps.

The text will provide the layman and even the beginning student with an adequate introduction to Mexico. Individual chapters deal with the country's physical environment, history, politics, education, arts, fiestas, and the "gap to be closed." The commentary is occasionally marred by errors or oversimplifications. Carranza was not given the presidency in 1914; Díaz was a mestizo rather than an Indian; the Obregón-Villa-Pershing border conference was not primarily concerned with preventing raids on American property; confirmatory titles are given to others than squatters; and large industrialists are not formally represented within the official party. Cárdenas did not expropriate foreign petroleum holdings to settle a workers' strike, but rather to meet a challenge by the foreign companies to his government. Assertions that Santa Anna was principally responsible for Mexican territorial losses and that land hungry Zapatistas forced Carranza's 1915 decree are oversimplifications at best.

These minor slips are more than compensated for by the sense of understanding conveyed of the diverse aspects

which make up Mexico and by the outstanding photographic illustrations, well-captioned excepting only the incorrect identification of El Toreo as Plaza México. These handsome and revealing pictures alone are worth the cost of the book and the time spent perusing it.

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Christmas in the Mountains. By IGNACIO MANUEL ALTAMIRANO. Introduction, notes, and translation by HARVEY L. JOHNSON. Gainesville, 1961. University of Florida Press. School of Inter-American Studies. Monographs. No. 15. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. 68. Paper.

The author's message concerns a priest who by applying Jesus' teachings helps uplift social conditions in a small mountain village in Mexico during the War of the Reform.

Altamirano's participation in the Liberal cause and in the securing of reforms in Church-State relationships and his prominence in the literature of his time combine to make this novelette of significant influence. This liberal, in addition to denouncing mal-practices, enunciated in positive terms what the Church and clergy could do.

Professor Johnson's translation, a faithful rendition of the author's story, seems too literal in several passages. Might it be better to sacrifice exactness at times for the sake of smoother translation? For example, on page 51, "My curiosity makes me impatient" seems more natural than "My curiosity is becoming impatient." One feels the beauty of lyric qualities in the Christmas songs and in the poetic descriptions of nature.

The introduction, notes, and bibliographies present pertinent biographical data, valuable literary criticism, and a summary of Mexican history from 1821 to 1876. Sketches by Olympia Ogilvie add authentic charm.

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