

native: "The Irish conquest of the Atlantic was a contributory cause of his [Columbus'] own, even if it never happened; and while Brendan may not have discovered America, he has no rival as the patron saint of American discovery."

Land to the West wanders as far as the alleged voyage of Brendan. The reader is whisked from Erin's shores (via the Hebrides, Orkneys, and Faeroes) to Iceland, Greenland, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia. From North Salem, New Hampshire (and its "unexplained" ruins) to Mexico, Central America, and the high Andes the magic carpet flies. There are asides with Quetzalcoatl, Kukulcan, and Viracocha; there are visions of Minoan voyages to New England. All of this is seasoned with bits of mythology from Egypt, Greece, Rome, and Phoenecia. If this is not enough, Atlantis is at long-last "positively" located!

The criticism here is not of the suggestion that there may have been pre-Viking visitors to America. There probably were. Henry Sinclair was almost certainly in Nova Scotia by 1398 A.D. Even Brendan, or other Celts, may have been successful. Ashe's attempt to make sense of the hodge-podge of Mediterranean and Celtic navigation myths is above adverse criticism. Nor is there anything wrong with the author's literary style. Generally, it is excellent. He poses many questions that need answering, and some of his hypotheses are plausible and merit further testing. Ashe is criticized for trying to write on both sides of a number of issues; for trying to say all things to all readers. He strays often from the subject at hand, and re-hashes well-worn material that, though interesting in itself, is not germane to the immediate issue. He has committed the unpardonable sin of omitting some of the evidence—even evidence that would support certain of his contentions. And lastly, there are significant gaps in his bibliography at the end of the book.

If *Land to the West* stimulates inquiry into the whole problem of pre-Viking voyages to America it will make a real contribution to the history of exploration. If pieces of the text are used to champion the extreme pro or con arguments raging about this phase of history it will be of limited value.

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ROBERT H. FUSON

The Native Period in the History of the New World. By PEDRO ARMILLAS. México, 1962. Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia. Notes. Maps. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xxxii, 201. Paper.

This work is the result of a decade of collaboration by a group of distinguished scholars representing all the nations of the Americas.

The cooperative project began in 1947, as part of the Programa de Historia de América supported by the Rockefeller Foundation. The primary purpose of the inter-American group was to outline a pattern for a general history of the New World which could be used in teaching academic courses. It was hoped that an exchange of regional insights would result in a more international approach to the study of history than is generally found in the textbooks of any one nation. The group also wanted to encourage publication of studies presenting a broad view of historical trends throughout the Western Hemisphere in the native, colonial and national periods. The formulation of these goals merits high commendation as an attempt to overcome the nationalistic and ethnocentric limitations of modern literature in the social sciences.

The summary report prepared by Armillas focuses on the pre-Columbian period but also traces the later development of native cultures during the colonial and national periods. This approach reflects the feeling of Mexican scholars that U. S. specialists have frequently underestimated Indian influences on post-Conquest culture in the New World.

The section on the native period contains a useful guide to the study of New World archeology with a valuable selection of Spanish and English references. Armillas displays a broad command of the literature on native cultures. It is interesting to note that he classifies as "barbarians and savages" all natives of the Western Hemisphere outside of the Mesoamerican and Andean civilizations. These terms are derived from Childe's theory of cultural evolution postulating stages called Savagery, Barbarism, and Civilization. Although Childe's taxonomy is out of fashion among U. S. anthropologists, it is still used by Mexican scholars.

In evaluating this report as a whole, I must agree with Acosta Saignes that it falls short of the primary objectives of the program. The report is not suitable for use as a teaching guide nor does it provide new theoretical insights of general significance for the study of New World history. It is a descriptive inventory of topics to be explored in a history yet to be written. Armillas himself expresses agreement with Acosta Saignes' conclusion that the report does not constitute an appropriate guide for undergraduate teaching. Rather, Armillas regards the report as "a guide to history, history as he would like to write it." He points out that progress was made in fostering cooperation among historians of different areas and stimulating interdisciplinary collaboration among historians and anthropologists. Such achievement makes the program eminently worthwhile. Finally, it

should be noted that the program has also produced a series of specialized publications, while a general work on the colonial period is to be completed in the near future.

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WILLIAM MADSEN

An Album of Maya Architecture. By TATIANA PROSKOURIAKOFF. Norman, Oklahoma, 1963. The University of Oklahoma Press. Maps. Illustrations. References. Index. Pp. xxi, 142. \$7.95.

This work was first issued in 1946 in the publication series of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. The new edition is designed to reach a large general audience, and properly so, for the text is both authoritative and simple, the illustrations are superb exercises in pictorial reconstruction, and the whole is a work of singular beauty.

The book's purpose is to make visual restorations of Maya architecture. In each instance a small drawing shows the existing ruin, with solid lines to indicate what may be actually seen and with broken lines to indicate what may be reasonably deduced from the site itself. Opposite these drawings the full imaginative restorations are presented, with walls, substructures, and roofs intact, with human figures in appropriate poses, and with all parts in their places. The result is a series of thirty-six plates giving the reader an extraordinary illusion that he is viewing pictures of real Maya scenes.

Accompanying the illustrations are brief textual descriptions and analyses, providing the essential information needed for understanding the various scenes. In easy, unassuming language, sites are identified, styles analyzed, building materials described, and additional relevant topics discussed. A prefatory section, equally unassuming, is informative concerning Maya civilization and Maya architecture in general and provides some bibliography.

Only a relatively small number of Maya sites may be treated in this way, for in most instances the evidence of the extant ruins is insufficient to justify reconstructions in exact detail. The criteria for selection are quite demanding. Enough must be known to permit measurements and projections of sections and plans, necessary preliminaries to reliable perspective drawings. Enough of the building or complex of buildings must remain to yield a plausible restoration of surface features, designs, and decorations. At the very least, enough must be available to allow analogies with other buildings. The emphasis is necessarily on late styles, stone buildings, and thoroughly studied sites.

The book is probably most useful for readers in need of immediate