

against foreign intrigues, and also, interestingly enough, used naval vessels to patrol the Mississippi River for the first time.

To the specialist, most of the documents are well known, and they have been cited. These are all taken from the Spanish archives, although copies of most of them are also found in the United States.

This reviewer has translated and edited the diaries here published, and a running account of the correspondence paralleling them, and several more diaries as yet unpublished, but only one document here given has been published—and that was done by Professor Holmes in the *Missouri Historical Review*, where he omits one paragraph.

In Volume XV Professor Holmes has included a number of maps and a very useful index. However it would have been much more useful if this valuable collection had been published in English under the able editorship of Professor Holmes. In that way, it would have been given a wider use by scholars in the United States, for, after all, books that sell for 2,000 pesetas cannot be purchased by the regular run of scholars. This book is well printed but bound with a paper cover; it has been carefully proofread despite the fact that the author's name on the title page of Document V has been misspelled.

We are looking forward with great interest to other publications by Jack Holmes.

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NATIONAL PERIOD

Memorias de Nemesio García Naranjo. Mis andanzas con el General Huerta. Vol. VII. By GARCÍA NARANJO. Monterrey, México, n.d. Talleres de Porvenir. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 369.

Nemesio García Naranjo once told this reviewer that he always had been a man of passion. His physical and intellectual faculties unhindered by his more than three score and ten years, he still is a holder of strong views. However, his viewpoint is well known, his preconceptions are clear, and his partisanship undisguised. The chapters of his memoirs first appeared serially, between 1953 and 1961, in various periodicals. This seventh volume in book form, with minor emendations and additions, details his association with Huerta's government in which he held the portfolio of Minister of Public Instruction.

After a brief, but interesting sketch of Huerta's earlier career, the author plunges into the politics of the troubled years of the counter-revolutionary regime. While most of the important internal events

and international episodes are touched upon, there are a number of topics which are of particular interest to scholars of the period: the attitudes of and relations between the various conservative factions; Dr. Urrutia's anticipation of the break between the *felicistas* and *huertistas*; García Naranjo's authorship of the apochryphal Mondragón to Félix Díaz letter; the abortive efforts of the "quadrilateral" members to achieve reconciliation with the *maderista* deputies; the author's conversation with German diplomat Von Hintze relative to a proposal to nationalize petroleum transport with the aid of German capital, and his account of educational efforts during his tenure in the Ministry of Public Instruction; and the analysis of the character and personality of Victoriano Huerta.

For García Naranjo Huerta was a singular man of very complicated psychology. "The qualities of Huerta were so great that they could be surpassed only by his defects" (p. 343). While conceding his subject's "grave defects" and charging that conservative and revolutionary propaganda has clouded his image, the author portrays Huerta as a one hundred percent Mexican of exceptional qualities—a very masculine man of steel, possessor of a vigorous body which seemed impervious to fatigue, and master of his nerves. Here is Huerta the heavy drinker, but not the incorrigible drunkard some have portrayed. "Although political passions and hatred have pictured him as an ogre of grim visage, filled with resentments and bitternesses, I always saw him full of optimism and disposed to laugh. A happy Indian" (p. 351).

At times the author's analysis is superficial, his analogies lack exactness and his interpretations are open to question. His defense of the Federal Army against charges of sedition, his excusing Huerta's first cabinet for not resigning after Madero's assassination, his view that the dissolution of Congress was "inevitable" and his assignment of almost exclusive responsibility for Huerta's downfall to the United States are of such a nature. He is bitter and impassioned in his denunciations of Carranza, Wilson, Bryan, and Lind. Despite these shortcomings, García Naranjo's views and his first-hand recollections will provide raw material for the scholars who will strive to place Huerta and his regime in proper perspective.

With this volume the author concludes the account of his "active political career." The succeeding volume will deal with his "memoirs of an exile," less political only in the sense that the author had ceased to occupy a public post and was living outside of Mexico. The im-

portance of those recollections lies in their representation of the viewpoint of the critics of revolutionary Mexico between 1915 and 1920.

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STANLEY ROBERT ROSS

After San Jacinto. By JOSEPH MILTON NANCE. Austin, 1963. University of Texas Press. Maps. Notes. Illustrations. Appendix. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiv, 642. \$8.50.

After the defeat of Santa Anna's forces by Sam Houston's army at San Jacinto, relations between Texas and Mexico entered a "cold war" phase involving threats and counter-threats of invasion, and deep suspicion of each other's intentions lasting for almost a decade. Mexican officials refused to recognize Texas' independence, and consistently clamored for a war of re-conquest, though hampered by the French blockade in 1838 and the turbulence of Mexican internal politics. Texans, on the other hand, unofficially at least, gave assistance to Mexican Federalist factions in revolt against the Centralist government of Anastasio Bustamante, ordered the Texas navy to secure an alliance with secessionist Yucatán, and at length in 1841 dispatched an expedition in the direction of Santa Fé.

In the complicated story of Texas-Mexican relations, the major area of conflict, as Professor Nance points out, was the trans-Nueces country, a veritable no-man's-land where "Mexican, Anglo-American, and Indian met, mingled, and fought either singly or in some form of alliance of one with another against the third." Here men of many nations congregated and competed outside the law for fame and fortune—smugglers, thieves, freebooters, spies, brigands, "cow-boys," and the like. But the trans-Nueces region was more than just a wilderness on the southwestern frontier of Texas—it was an area claimed by both Texas and Mexico, and one in which both nations had a considerable stake.

Texas' interest in the trans-Nueces country was to secure the Rio Grande river as an uncontested boundary, provide for an adequate defense against possible invasion, and to make the area safe for peaceful and legitimate trade. Largely because of lack of funds, however, little was accomplished. Mexico's concern with the area, on the other hand, involved a Federalist uprising in the north that in 1840 succeeded in establishing an independent Republic of the Rio Grande, comprising three Mexican states south of the river and the trans-Nueces region to the north. Officially, the Texas government took no