

BOOK NOTICES

GENERAL

Estado general de la provincia de San Salvador: Reyno de Guatemala. By DON ANTONIO GUTIÉRREZ Y ULLOA. San Salvador, 1962. Dirección General de Publicaciones del Ministerio de Educación. Colección Historia, Vol. 9. Charts. Notes. Index. Pp. 145. Paper.

Because of a royal order of the intendants of New Spain of 1786 and royal instructions of September 23, 1803, to the governing president and captain general of San Salvador, don Antonio Gutiérrez y Ulloa undertook the preparation of this report; it was first published in San Salvador in 1926, more than a century after its compilation. This second printing is Volume IX of the *Colección Historia* of the Ministry of Education of El Salvador.

Sr. Gutiérrez y Ulloa divided the material into two parts: the general status of the population and the actual state of the Royal Treasury in the year 1807. In the first part a rather detailed description was given of the families, the classes, the estates, the public offices, the clergy, the character and customs of the people, the topographic division of the land, and the produce of consumption and commerce. In the second the objects of domestic and foreign produce were well covered and numerous helpful tables and charts were included. A good index makes the volume very useable.

This definitely is not a trade book nor was one intended. With little difficulty one may find the type of government in a city, province, or town; the number of Spanish, Indians, Ladinos, mulattoes, or Negroes living in any area; the rivers, lakes, and climatic conditions; the crops grown or the industries in a locale, or even the economic basis of a particular hacienda. Since this was the first and only such major work for the intendancy, it is a valuable source for the period just prior to the independence movements. The printing was superior

to that usually done in Central America, and no errata was necessary.

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West Indian Family Structure. By M. G. SMITH. Seattle, 1962. University of Washington Press. Research Institute for the Study of Man. Charts. Tables. Appendix. Bibliography. Index. Pp. vii, 311. \$6.00.

The Jamaican anthropologist, M. G. Smith, deals here with the domestic organization of sample populations in five West Indian Negroid lower class communities. Comparison of his data leads Smith to the conclusion that the family systems of the five groups each belong to one of three variants of a basic structural type: Latante and Rural Jamaica have a mating organization, in which extra-residential mating, consensual cohabitation, and marriage each have their successive place in the individual life cycle; Grenville and Kingston also know these three mating forms, but here they lack a specific order in the individual's life; Carriacou disapproves of consensual unions and integrates extra-residential mating and marriage in one system. The differences between these variants cannot be adequately explained by demographic and ecological factors; in Smith's opinion, they are to be attributed to differences in the way in which, during slavery and the post-emancipation period, marriage could be integrated in the already existing mating organization.

M. G. Smith convincingly criticizes R. T. Smith, who, in his *The Negro Family in British Guiana* (London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1956), considers the household with an elementary family as the developing unit from which the variety of alternative domestic groups is derived. He also succeeds in making clear that the significance of the 'grandmother family' has been overstated, that marriage and consensual union have to be clearly dis-

tinguished, and that the individual household is not the appropriate unit for the study of family relations.

Theoretically, Smith's conclusion that there is a serial order in the three mating alternatives in Latante and Rural Jamaica should not be based on an "einmalig" survey: one would need life histories. Also, the repeated statement that all the populations have a formal commitment to monogamy, probable as this may be, cannot, so facilely, be derived from purely statistical-demographical data. Where the author, comparing the history of marriage in the West Indies and Europe, states that the Europeans, since Tacitus and before, have had unions of the life-long, exclusive type "and knew no other" (263), his vision of the history of mating organization of the different European social strata proves to be too simplified. The ease with which the West Indian white ruling group came to a fusion of marriage and extra-residential mating, very similar to that which Smith describes for the Carriacou Negroid lower class, is at least partially explainable as the continuation and/or imitation of a European feudal pattern of life, just as, maybe, Smith's Carriacou population knew itself backed in its mating organization by the example of its social elite.

The singular in the title of Smith's work suggests a general Caribbean character, both social and geographic, that actually is not present. How fertile would a comparison be with the Spanish Caribbean, where the Carriacou pattern is, or was, practically universal. In spite of these critical remarks—and mainly because of the care with which the terminology was coined—and the hypotheses tested on the basis of extensive quantitative material, I consider the book under review the most important one that in recent years has been written on British West Indian family structures.

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The Chamizal Settlement, A View from El Paso. By GLADYS GREGORY. El

Paso, 1963. Texas Western College Press. Southwestern Studies. Vol. I. No. 2. Notes. Pp. 52. Paper.

Mexico and the United States have finally settled the disputed boundary between El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico; or have they? Although the senates of both countries have approved the 1963 treaty, Dr. Gregory's short, legal, and historical study indicates that anything can happen, or has in the past.

Instability of the Rio Grande River, which periodically flooded and changed courses, is at the root of the Chamizal controversy. This monograph traces boundary surveys, litigation, and diplomacy from 1848 to mid-1963. A high point was reached in 1911 when the parties agreed on arbitration. An international commission headed by a Canadian divided the territory between the litigants, but the United States refused to accept the decision.

Future books on Mexican-American relations will list this as the best work on the Chamizal dispute. With the assistance of an excellent map, good organization, and documentary footnotes, the reader is conducted through the legalistic and geographic Chamizal jungle without getting lost in the "avulsion of alluvial valleys." However, it does seem strange that a book printed in Texas and written by a Texan should state that "Texas was voted into the Union on March 1, 1945. . .," when most of us recognize a much earlier date.

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Sam Houston American Giant. By M. K. WISEHART. Washington, 1962. Robert B. Luce, Inc. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiv, 712. \$10.00.

M. K. Wisheart, an accomplished journalist with all the higher gifts of writing as well as the historical perspective necessary to make a valuable contribution to history, has produced a fascinating addition to the private life, character, and public career of a re-