

Pope Innocent XII issued the papal bull *Pietatis et Caritatis Opera*. The Congregation suffered its share of problems over the years. Opposed by the Franciscans, who "forbade the devotion and afterwards tried to impede the celebration of the Saturday services," the Association managed to grow into one of the most important and influential organizations in all of Mexico.

Historically, the Diocese of Querétaro has consistently exerted great strength in Catholic growth throughout New Spain. The diocese received juridical autonomy in 1862 when it was detached from Mexico City by Pius IX and is now a suffragan see of the Metropolitan Province of Morelia. Within the city there once flourished the famous Apostolic College of Santa Cruz which Innocent XI called the "greatest influence for the propagation of the Faith in the Indies." It is as one important and vital aspect of the overall diocesan expansion that the subject of this volume receives its true value.

REV. FRANCIS J. WEBER

Queen of Angels Seminary

Don Bernardo Yorba. By TERRY E. STEPHENSON. Los Angeles, 1963. Dawson's Book Shop. Illustrations. Pp. 115. \$3.75.

This is a reprinting of a 1941 limited edition and is a faithful reproduction: unfortunately this means that errors in accentuation, outdated allusions, and imprecise translations of the original are still included.

Cast in romantic form with much speculative history, this book is a nostalgic essay without benefit of footnotes or bibliography, written by a newspaper man characterized as Orange County's (California) "greatest antiquarian." Attracted by the rather anachronistic character of one of southern California's early rancheros, Stephenson pieced together bits of information, relying heavily on judicial proceedings. Though the title suggests a biography, most of the work is concerned with the legacy of Don Bernardo Yorba and his extensive holdings. Unique were the facts that Yorba

was one of the few grantees who engaged in irrigated agriculture; that he complied strictly and literally with provisions of the Mexican Colonization Laws of 1824 and 1828; that he was one of the few to receive a virtually uncontested patent from the U. S. Commission to Settle Private Land Claims in California; and that he was able to maintain and even expand his land holdings up to his death despite arrival of the gringo.

Scion of one of the "typical" but virtually nonexistent "pure Spanish families" of early California, Bernardo's father had come to California with the founding expedition commanded by Gaspar de Portolá. The family established roots in the Orange County soil as early as the 1790's, with Bernardo's Rancho Cañon de Santa Ana dating from 1834. Most clearly demonstrated in this brief work, though perhaps unintentionally, is the patriarchal character of Mexican California's pastoral society.

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Biografías de vicentinos ilustres. San Salvador, 1962. Ministerio de Educación Dirección General de Publicaciones. Notes. Illustrations. Appendix. Index. Pp. 178. Paper.

Obedying a royal cédula against living among the natives, some fifty Spanish families were moved to a new colony within the boundaries of the *alcaldía mayor* of San Salvador in the year 1635. On December 25 the little village was formally established and given the name of San Vicente de Lorenzana. The name appears to have been derived from the Spanish lineage of Alvaro Quiñónez, President of the Audiencia of Guatemala and the man most significant in encouraging the early growth of the town.

To celebrate the 300th birthday of San Vicente, *Biografías* was published in 1935 by El Salvador's Academy of History to help perpetuate interest in local history. Several authors, many of whom are members of the Academy, participated in sketching the lives of

twenty-eight *vicentinos*, colonial and modern. In addition, forty-plus lesser known native sons received a few lines in a separate section of the book.

In 1962 the collection was reprinted to conform with the style of the series of historical publications regularly coming from the offices of the Salvadorean Ministry of Education.

The major change in content was the addition in 1962 of a biography of Dr. Sarbelio Navarrete, distinguished poet, educator, and jurist, who had died subsequent to the first printing.

The new volume's appendix includes a summary of the place of San Vicente in Central American history and an astonishingly long listing of the more than one hundred men who served as El Salvador's chief of state between 1821 and 1935.

Certainly only a few readers of the *HAHE* will have occasion to read this book, but for those few *Biografías* should prove very handy.

THOMAS KARNES

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Spirit of Mexico. By BERYL MILES. New York, 1962. McBride Books. Illustrations. Maps. Glossary. Index. Pp. xii, 208.

For anyone who has visited Mexico, and enjoyed it, Miss Miles' book will be both delightful and nostalgic. In the course of an eight-month sojourn Miss Miles traveled widely in Mexico, going into a number of areas not seen by the casual tourist. She is a good and sympathetic observer, with an obvious liking for the Mexican people and an appreciation for Mexican terrain and climate.

The book is in no sense history, even though the author is aware of the historic and archaeological background of the people and places she describes. It is a book about Mexico today, ancient sites, modern cities, out-of-the-way villages, and the people associated with them. The contrast in Mexican life is everywhere visible. The extremes of poverty and opulence, antiquity and modernity, superstition and sophistication are recurring themes.

The chapters entitled "Antonio's

Wedding" and "Guanajuato and the Plays" are particularly pleasing. Antonio's wedding took place in a little village reached by antiquated truck over a road which, by description, might well give an *arriero* pause. And the village is both an anachronism and an indication of the task which Mexico still faces. The Guanajuato plays are an adventure in cultural make-believe in a setting so imaginative that it is difficult to conceive of anything more convincing.

What does Miss Miles offer the historian? The occasional historical digression which she presents is brief and not always entirely accurate. A future generation of historians may welcome her description of the current scene; however, this is not a work on the level with a Madame Calderón de la Barca or a Mrs. O'Shaughnessy. Miss Miles had neither the entree nor the interest to deal seriously with the politico-economic conditions. The book should be read for what it is, an account of travel and experiences. Viewed in this light, it is both entertaining and worthwhile.

ROBERT W. FRAZER

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The Mexican Mural Renaissance 1920-1925. By JEAN CHARLOT. New Haven, 1963. Yale University Press. Illustrations. Notes. Index. Pp. xv, 328. \$15.00.

The publication of this volume marks the appearance of the most complete account yet to appear of the formative period in the history of Mexican mural painting. With a standard introduction of his subject Charlot discusses the pre-Revolutionary artistic influences which contributed to the successful development of a public art movement in the 1920's. In the subsequent narrative Charlot's scholarly dispassion is complemented by his experience as a participant in the stormy first years of mural painting. In a field where participation has usually been a liability to scholarship, Charlot's is an asset.

The body of the work is concerned with the course of mural production from its conception with José Vasconcelos through the first experiments at