

the former church and convent of San Pedro y San Pablo to the enlarged programs in the National Preparatory School and the Ministry of Education. The author's thorough knowledge of the events which paralleled and influenced mural production is reflected in his account of the outbreak of both public and official hostility to the paintings, student riots in the Preparatoria, Vasconcelos' resignation, and the initiation of a more selective patronage policy under Vasconcelos' successor.

Only one of the areas which benefits from the author's careful attention to details is the accurate dating of those murals painted between 1920 and 1925, several of which were later destroyed. In his incisive rendering of the complex personality and artistic philosophy of José Vasconcelos, Charlot gives Obregón's Minister of Education the credit that he has long deserved as the father of the mural movement. Also of great value is the author's dissection of the factors which ultimately led to the suspension of painting in August, 1924. An important by-product of his narrative is the excellent documentation using sources until now untapped. Charlot relies largely on materials from government archives and unpublished memoirs of participants, including fragments of Siqueiros' autobiography.

Charlot's personal account of the social and political environment of the Obregón era deserves the attention of political historians. The national political struggles into which mural painting was quickly drawn need more definitive work, but until this work is done, Charlot's book is a useful guide to the temper of the Reconstruction period. An important source of information for historians of Mexican art, *The Mexican Mural Renaissance* has long been needed in the field, and its high standards of scholarship assure it an unqualified welcome.

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*Mexican Jewelry.* By MARY L. DAVIS and GRETA PACK. Austin, 1963. The University of Texas Press. Illustra-

tions. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 262. \$6.50.

This book covers all that pertains to jewelry making from the pre-Columbian era to the colonial period and through nationhood up to the present. The descriptions of the various techniques of jewelry making, together with the deep understanding of the spirit of the country, its artist jewelry makers and its jewelry wearers, make everything plausible and interesting. The critical evaluation of the various styles and periods of the jewelry itself is tactful and discreet.

A wealth of historical and socio-cultural data runs through the book. It is apparent that the authors have more than a cursory acquaintance with the country. They did a commendable job of research and they encourage and facilitate further study and investigation by including an extensive bibliography.

This fine book deserves a more inviting format and layout and a better quality of photographic reproduction.

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*Estudios históricos.* By MANUEL VALLADARES RUBIO. Guatemala, 1962. Editorial Universitaria. Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala. Vol. 40. Index. Pp. 508. Paper.

The *Estudios históricos* of Manuel Valladares Rubio (1869-1927), known better in his own day by the pseudonym "El Doctor Fences Rédish," cover a wide range of subjects and periods. Although some of these writings appeared during the author's lifetime in various Mexican and Central American newspapers and journals, the greatest part of them were unpublished. Well-known in Guatemala as a politician, diplomat, poet, and literary figure, the present volume justifies Valladares as a historian as well. Although occasional errors and misstatements are to be found and a strong political bias becomes evident in his treatment of events since 1871, these studies contribute significantly to the available literature on the history of

Central America since 1808 and to the literary history of colonial New Spain.

Biographical studies of José Matías Delgado and Manuel José de Arce, published originally in San Salvador in 1911, and "Guatemala en las Cortes de Cádiz," in which special attention is paid to the roles played by José María Peinado and Antonio Larrazábal, comprise about half the volume. These studies reflect considerable insight into the period from 1808 to 1830. While the author's biographical sketches are particularly enlightening, he placed little importance on institutions such as the Consulado de Comercio and the Sociedad Económica and, in general, failed to recognize fully the economic issues affecting the emerging political factions in Central America. On the other hand, his treatment of the Guatemalan Ayuntamiento contains much information not generally available in works of this sort.

In dealing with figures nearer his own time Valladares was less dispassionate, especially in his bitter but revealing condemnation of the regime of Manuel Estrada Cabrera, which he called "the cruelest dictatorship in the history of America." Briefer essays discuss Dr. Esteban Corti, Manuel and Andrés de Llano, Domingo Antonio de Lara, Dr. Mariano Gálvez, and Justo Rufino Barrios. The remainder of the volume contains miscellaneous essays, notes, letters, and documents, several of which deal with poetry and other literature of colonial New Spain.

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*My War with Communism.* By MIGUEL YDÍGORAS FUENTES with MARIO ROSENTHAL. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1963. Prentice-Hall, Inc. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 238. \$5.00.

The author of this book is a recent president of Guatemala, deposed by a *coup d'état* on March 30, 1963. His collaborator is a native of Guatemala, a correspondent for the Associated Press, and the author of *Guatemala: The Story of an Emergent Latin-American*

*Democracy*, published in New York in 1962.

By way of preface, *My War with Communism* begins with a brief essay sketching the main story and explaining how and why its author was overthrown and forced into exile, including a vigorous denial that he connived in his own downfall and departure. The essay is dated April 6, 1963, Managua, Nicaragua, and is followed by a short foreword by Adolf Berle dated New York, New York, March, 1963, in which Berle vouches for the importance and, apparently, for the veracity of the narrative. These dates are specified here because they suggest that the main body of the book was probably completed before General Ydígoras left Guatemala.

The most interesting portions of the volume are those dealing with Guatemala's participation in the Bay-of-Pigs episode and with the posture and activities of the Guatemalan delegation at the Santiago, San José, and Punta del Este Inter-American Conferences. The rest is illuminating and important but often rather dull because of a multitude of names, dates, and geographical details without maps or illustrations. At least the author proves his case that Communist activities in Guatemala did not cease with the overthrow and expulsion of Jacobo Arbenz in July, 1954, and that those activities intensified with the success of the Fidel Castro revolution in Cuba.

General Ydígoras asserts that his administration (1958-1963) was attacked by enemies both from the right and from the left; that he has long been a champion of democracy and enlightened capitalism; and that he has been misunderstood and misrepresented in the United States. These assertions have the ring of truth and sincerity. But most readers will probably be slow to accept without further verifying evidence some of the author's assertions with reference to the role of United States Ambassador John Peurifoy during the critical months of 1954 and regarding the policy of the United Fruit Company, the International Railways of Central America, and some of the