

interested in the ancient Maya civilization. His youthful enthusiasm led him to plan an exploration of the little known coast of Quintana Roo. By boat, but mostly on foot, equipped with only a disarming naïveté and good luck, he traveled from Puerto Juárez to British Honduras, with side trips to Isla de Mujeres and Cozumel. In a manner reminiscent of Richard Halliburton, Peissel has written an account of the human and natural obstacles which he encountered in his journey. Highlighting the text are his frequent discoveries of Maya ruins, many previously unknown. Only one site (Muyil or Chunyaxche) was, however, given more than a cursory examination and recordation by the author.

The personal narrative style and the romantic Maya subject matter make this a readable and entertaining book in the tradition of those written some thirty years ago by Gregory Mason, T. A. Willard, and E. H. Thompson. Like the earlier books Peissel's account of his adventures is primarily appealing to the armchair explorer and archaeologist; it is not, in general, a study for the serious student of the Maya. Factual errors, particularly popular misconceptions about the Maya, are unfortunate detractors. No bibliography is included to indicate the author's sources or to suggest references for interested readers.

ANN SCHLOSSER

Chatsworth, Georgia

*Among the Valiant Mexican-Americans in WWII and Korea.* By RAUL MORIN. Los Angeles, 1963. Borden Publishing Co. Notes. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 280. \$5.00.

Written in journalistic style, this volume relies on the author's personal wartime experiences, interviews and correspondence with participants, accounts of wartime exploits, histories of combat units, and War Department records. With a foreword from then Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, the book contains a comprehensive index, no bibliography, and occasional footnotes. The author is not a professional

writer nor is he associated with an educational institution. The publication was financed by the American GI Forum of the United States, a Mexican-American ex-servicemen's organization.

This work can have value as a sociological insight into an ethnic minority and as a supplement to recorded military history. In a sociological context the author describes the pre-World War II Mexican-American living in a political limbo unable to identify fully with Mexico and lacking full acceptance as a citizen of the United States. The language barrier and lack of education and of economic opportunity contributed to keep him politically and socially isolated. World War II and the Korean exercise saw over two million Mexican-Americans in uniform, many serving with distinction, as the book well documents. Military service and postwar education, housing, and job preference benefits served to increase Mexican-American identification with the United States. As military history the book provides details not contained in permanent records, for example, those relating the Rapido River crossing in Italy. This led to the 36th Division Association's (unsuccessful) opposition to a postwar fifth star promotion for General Mark Clark.

Finally, the book reflects the developing political sophistication of Mexican-Americans as represented by the Political Association of Spanish-speaking Organizations in Texas and the Mexican-American Political Association in California. This book contributes to the rationale of their political demands.

LEONARD CÁRDENAS, JR.

Texas Western College

*With the Ears of Strangers: The Mexican in American Literature.* By CECIL ROBINSON. Tucson, 1963. University of Arizona Press. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 338. \$7.50.

Este libro presenta al lector el fenómeno sociocultural del encuentro de dos culturas en el territorio norteamericano. Desde los viejos tiempos de las culturas