

tional disease for biographers: hero worship. The Mexican president is a hero *sans peur et sans reproche*. There are no subtle distinctions, no shades of grey; he is the good guy, and those who differed with him or opposed him are the bad guys. With this thesis it is easy to explain away rather than to explain why so many liberals broke with Juárez in the years from 1861 to 1863 and again after 1867. By overplaying Juárez' role Smart does not make clear to the reader why the Constitution of 1857 was so important. From his account it is difficult at times to understand what the liberals were fighting for and why such stalwarts as Díaz, Lerdo, and Ramírez, to name but a few, either broke with Juárez or constantly disagreed with him. These men turned against him because, in brief, his actions were not in accordance with the constitution. But if one is not aware of the tremendous importance the liberals assigned to constitutionality, he may well accept Smart's interpretation.

Without a doubt Juárez was one of the great men of the nineteenth century, and he therefore deserves a biographer who will treat him as a human being who suffers no loss of dignity for sharing the human failing to err. In short, this very well-written, well-researched work can be assigned to students as the best available pro-Juárez interpretation.

WALTER V. SCHOLES
University of Missouri

La Constitución de Apatzingán y los creadores del estado mexicano. By ERNESTO DE LA TORRE VILLAR. México, 1964. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas. Pub. no. 92. Illustrations. Documents. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 439.

This is Number 5 in the *Serie Documental* of the Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas. The earlier numbers are 1) *Libro secreto de Maximiliano* (1962); 2) *Entrevista Díaz-Creelman* (1962); 3) *La España de Carlos III, de 1764 a 1776 según los embajadores*

austriacos (1963); and 4) *Historia documental de México*, 2 vols. (1964). The whole series makes a valuable collection of Mexican source materials available for libraries and scholars.

The present volume includes an *Estudio Preliminar* of 91 pages followed by a listing of documents included in the *Sección Documental*. These are listed under the headings: I *Antecedentes*; II *Suprema Junta Nacional Americana*; III *Actuación de Ignacio López Rayón, José Sixto Verduzco, José María Liceaga, José María Cos, Andrés Quintana Roo*; IV *El Congreso de Chilpancingo*; V *Morelos: El estadista*; and VI *La Constitución de Apatzingán*. The documentary selections fill 310 pages.

DONALD E. WORCESTER
Texas Christian University

El Libro Secreto de Maximiliano. Prólogo de JOSÉ MA. LUJÁN. México, 1963. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Cuadernos del Instituto de Historia. Serie Documental No. 1. Index. Notes. Pp. 126.

Reconciliación de México y Francia (1870-1880). Texto, notas y prólogo de LUCÍA DE ROBINA. México, 1963. Publicaciones de la Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, Dirección General de Prensa y Publicidad. Archivo Histórico Diplomático Mexicano. Segunda Serie. Número 16.

As Emperor of Mexico, Maximilian compiled a secret book listing his Mexican collaborators. The manuscript fell into Mexican hands and in 1867 a small book appeared giving the names of the collaborators; this was followed in 1900 by a second edition. Recently, a scholar going through the Díaz papers found the original Maximilian manuscript and from it prepared the edition under review. In this volume the names on the original list are distinguished from those added later, and all those omitted from the first two editions are noted. There is also a convenient alphabetical guide to the collaborators.

Lucía de Robina has written an excellent introduction and gathered to-

gether an important set of documents dealing with Mexican-French relations from 1870 to 1880. When Juárez returned to power in 1867, Mexico had diplomatic relations with only one major power, the United States. The Mexican president was willing to re-establish diplomatic ties with the European powers, but under two conditions: 1) they must take the initiative; 2) they must agree that previous treaties were no longer in force. Germany made the first move in 1869 and other European nations soon followed. By way of the United States, France indicated that she too wanted to restore normal relations, but it took over ten years before this could be accomplished. The major area of disagreement came over the Mexican position on the treaties, which France refused to accept. Mexico held firm, however, and finally, before the formal presentation of credentials, an exchange of notes confirmed Mexico's point. Emilio Velasco was the Mexican government's chief negotiator.

Most of the documents published here are from the Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de México, but a few are from French and American archives. The material is arranged, as it should be, in chronological order.

WALTER V. SCHOLES

University of Missouri

A Southwestern Utopia. By THOMAS A. ROBERTSON. Los Angeles, 1964. The Ward Ritchie Press. Maps. Illustrations. Appendix I. Appendix II. Notes. Index. Pp. 266. \$5.95.

Thomas Robertson, the author of *A Southwestern Utopia*, was the son of a Dane name Lajos Proschowski, who came from a Greek Orthodox Polish family converted in Hungary to Lutheranism. Perhaps it is not surprising that a man of such complex antecedents would be born among Mayo Indians in Sinaloa, nor that he continued the pursuit of social idealism that led his forbears from Poland, through Hungary, Denmark, the United States, and into Mexico. He was born and spent all of

his boyhood in a "Brook Farm" type of colony at Topolobampo, a name with the rippling sound of a rondo that seems fitting to the bubbling enthusiasm that almost two thousand settlers brought to northwestern Mexico.

The colony was promoted and founded in 1886 by a persuasive civil engineer named Albert Kimsey Owen, at a site where he envisioned the growth of a "great metropolitan city," with ships lying in the harbor flying the flags of many nations. However, Owen was not only persuasive but a practical enthusiast; it was he who planned and started the construction of a railroad that was to reduce the distance from Kansas to the Pacific Coast by 400 to 600 miles. Although his venture failed, the lines projected for his Kansas City, Mexico y Oriente railway were the basis for the recent completion of the Chihuahua al Pacífico railway; and members of his colony took the first steps pointing the way to the prosperity of the city of Los Mochis and its agricultural hinterland.

But the colony collapsed. Dissension tolls the bell; adversity deflated enthusiasm and antagonism grew between the "practical" private property group and the "idealist" socialists. Directly instrumental in the demise of the colony—although disintegration had already advanced toward an obvious denouement—was a hardheaded organizer named Benjamin Francis Johnson. Gradually acquiring rights to lands and water, he emerged with control of colony lands, and ultimately with four hundred thousand acres in the area, before expropriation ended his operation.

The book is divided into two parts: Part I concerns the founding of the colony, its tribulations, and ultimate decline. The latter fact was not due to bad choice of an area; failure was the result of naiveté. The settlers thought that success would come to them because of their devotion to an ideal. They had too much enthusiasm and too little understanding of simple principles of geography. Hard working and generally intelligent, the fact did not occur to them that a new en-