

ism changes its character, as indeed it must under the impact of the social revolution sweeping Asia, that Philippine nationalists would heed Father de la Costa's sage advice.

"Riding the Whirlwind" is perhaps the most suggestive essay of the lot. It is an admirably concise and penetrating historical explanation of the contemporary social upheaval in the Orient that deserves an attentive audience on the banks of the Potomac. His analysis of the dilemma is evocative, but his proposed solution is highly questionable, that is, that the faith of Catholicism is the only spiritual force capable of providing an alternative to the militant faith of Chinese communism.

University of Wisconsin

JOHN LEDDY PHELAN

BACKGROUND

Economics and Prestige in a Maya Community. The Religious Cargo System in Zinacantan. By FRANK CANCIAN. Stanford, 1965. Stanford University Press. Illustrations. Tables. Figures. Maps. Appendices. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 238. \$6.50.

This tightly written, innovative book should be of interest as much to historians as to anthropologists, although for reasons that are different from what the title might imply. The author is a cultural anthropologist, not an archeologist, and the Maya he studies are contemporary Tzotzil Indians of a township in southern Mexico; they are about 7,500 among the nearly two million people who speak Mayan languages today. Based on close and sustained field work supplemented by archival research, the study combines ample description of ritual and other aspects of the cargo system with analysis of its functions from the point of view of its participants and of the community. (The "cargo system" is a hierarchy of community offices held in turn by men who pay dearly in time and money for the privilege and who get prestige in return. It is important in the economic, political, and religious systems of Indian communities throughout the highlands of Middle and South America and appears to be a vigorous survival from pre-Columbian times.)

Not only does Cancian look to the past to illuminate the present; he even ventures to predict how increasing demographic pressures may affect the system in decades to come. Furthermore, he is refreshingly explicit about his methods of research, and his chapter on "Functional Analysis and the Single Society" is as pertinent for historians as for other social scientists.

This study is exceptionally valuable both as an ethnographic document and as a case study of an important cultural institution. Its value is enhanced by the fact that it is not merely the result of an isolated effort, but rather is one of the first products of the Harvard-Chiapas project, a long-term multidisciplinary research effort among the contemporary Maya. One could hardly hope that subsequent contributions do more than live up to the high level set by this volume.

Brown University

DWIGHT B. HEATH

They Found the Buried Cities. Explorations and Excavation in the American Tropics. By ROBERT WAUCHOPE. Chicago, 1965. The University of Chicago Press. Illustrations. Index. Pp. viii, 382. \$7.50.

No one will deny Herbert J. Spinden's insistence that the finest part of the archaeologist's quest for ancient cities is intellectual rather than physical, but the present book nonetheless demonstrates that the latter aspect is also revealingly significant. Robert Wauchope recounts his own initiation in the physical aspect of Mayan archaeology as a preface to selections from the published writings of eighteen others. Although the experiences range from 1805 (Dupaix) to 1939 (Burbank), their locale, with a single exception, is Central America. Carried away by admiration of his favorite, E. George Squier, the editor briefly—and unfortunately in terms of thematic unity—includes Peru.

Wauchope contributes candid and informative introductions to the selections, but his brief identifications of the authors are less than adequate for the popular audience to which the book must principally be directed. The short maudlin bit by Ann A. Morris is the feeblest, and the artistic evocation by Addison Burbank is unrelated to buried cities. Weakened by the absence of maps, the book is enriched by numerous fine illustrations.

This dramatic and romantic exhibition of archaeologists at work is an admirable supplement to dry-as-dust reports. In the past the kind of writing that depicts both living archaeologists and dead cultures has attracted other workers to the field. Today this volume, a fine sampler, is simultaneously an introduction, an invitation, and an expression of professional dissatisfaction by one mature, reflective archaeologist.

Southern Illinois University

C. HARVEY GARDINER