

sufficient explosives; in the process he constructs an entire new group of myths. Among those which stand out most blatantly are the following: Madero had the Texas Rangers fighting with him at the battle of Casas Grandes (I, 75); Pascual Orozco accepted the Plan de Ayala as his banner (I, 205); 820 Americans were killed during the landing at Veracruz in April 1914 (II, 180); Thomas A. Edison was born in Chihuahua of a Mexican father (I, 271-272); and President Woodrow Wilson ordered the assassinations of Victoriano Huerta and Pascual Orozco (I, 292; II, 384-385).

Less significant historically but even more of an affront to the reader's sensibility is the author's obstreperous anti-Semitism. In a section of the fourth volume entitled "Judaizando a México" President Calles is accused of fomenting an utterly fantastic Jewish-Communist plot to take over Mexico and perhaps even all of Latin America. The author concludes: "El pulpo judío avanzaba. Sus tentáculos ahogaban todo. El poder del callismo tiránico y destructor, se ponía al servicio de los hijos de Israel para esclavizar aun a los mismos hijos del país" (IV, 151).

The kindest thing that can be said about the work under consideration is that it is properly titled. Even the most cursory reading, however, will reveal that it contains considerably "mas mito que verdad."

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Pancho Villa. By WILLIAM DOUGLAS LANSFORD. Los Angeles, 1965. Sherbourne Press, Inc. Illustrations. Appendices. Bibliography. Pp. 283. \$6.50.

It is curious that since his death Pancho Villa has been transformed from a bitter enemy of all gringos to an American folk hero. Illustrative of the trend is the recent dedication of a state park at Columbus, New Mexico, with his name and to his memory—not to the memory of any of the Americans whom he killed at that site. The present work is another example in which Villa emerges as a hero, a great revolutionist, a modern Robin Hood, and almost but not quite a Sir Galahad. The author's avowed purpose is to bring the man, Francisco Villa, to life, so that the reader can see what sort of a person the Centaur of the North actually was. "If I succeed," he says, "you should be able to discover how tall he was, how he moved, the actual configuration of his face and body; his likes, hates, fears; his way of thinking, and his manner of speech" (Author's preface—no page number).

Mr. Lansford's research included numerous conversations with aging Villista veterans, and others who knew Villa personally. For his written and published sources he has relied heavily upon secondary writers, most of whom seem to be admirers of Villa. With this information as his foundation and employing the form of a novel, the writer endeavors to reconstruct Villa's thought, speech, and action in various episodes of his life. As a vehicle of expression the fictional form is undoubtedly more flexible than historical narrative, but it leaves the reader in some doubt as to how much is actually Villa and how much is Lansford.

The author has succeeded admirably in giving a picture of the Pancho Villa of his own interpretation, for his style is breezy and sustains the interest well. Since he is openly *villista* in his sympathies, however, Carranza and other mortal enemies of Villa are handled rather roughly, and in ways that will not appeal to their *aficionados*. Also there are a number of points that are open to question, such as the inference (p. 247) that the Columbus raid was made by subordinates without Villa's authority and the statement (p. 262) that American go-betweens were involved in Villa's final surrender.

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La unión de Centro América (tragedia y esperanza). Ensayo político-social sobre la realidad de Centro América. 2nd ed. By ALBERTO HERRARTE GONZÁLEZ. Guatemala, 1963. Centro Editorial "José de Pineda Ibarra" del Ministerio de Educación Pública. Maps. Appendix. Pp. 427. Paper.

Alberto Herrarte González, distinguished lawyer and foreign minister of Guatemala, logically and persuasively pleads the cause of Central American union in this well-written exposition. The first half of the work is political history; the latter part deals with economic, social, and foreign influences. The writing is lucid and to the point. Herrarte has little to say by way of praise or condemnation of individuals. His "devils," even Frederick Chatfield, are not very devilish.

The point of view of the author is made clear in the preface: Because sociology is the science of social crisis, he feels that the problem of Central America should be studied from the standpoint of the sociologist, particularly Karl Mannheim. Herrarte asserts that narrative history is decadent, but he justifies publishing another example by the need to find the antecedents and consequences of actions since Independence. Not only does he find these antecedents and conse-