

quences, but he also suggests desirable socio-economic patterns to follow in developing the nation.

The author is convinced that the movement of the colonial capital in 1773 from present day Antigua to what is now Guatemala City was a major factor in the fractionalization of Central America. In less than fifty years the new capital did not have time to acquire the dignity and prestige necessary to command the loyalty of the population. As a city it was younger than most of the regional centers. Yet Herrarte suggests that today the establishment of a new capital on the order of Brasília would be a binding force in the reunited republics.

Overall this is an excellent study. The chapters analyzing the political agreements since 1824 are sufficiently detailed so as to give the reader a notion of ideas current at the time the proposals were made. His chapter on ODECA reflects his own considerable contribution to its development. Since no work is perfect, it is necessary to point out one minor error (p. 68), a reference to "the pirate, Juan Morgan" [surely Henry] who attacked Porto Belo and Panama in 1670. The student will wish to bring his information up-to-date by noting the rapid economic progress made since 1955 under plans similar to those outlined by Herrarte.

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CYRIL ALLEN

*Empires in the Wilderness. Foreign Colonization and Development in Guatemala, 1834-1844.* By WILLIAM J. GRIFFITH. Chapel Hill, 1965. University of North Carolina Press. Maps. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. Pp. x, 332. \$7.50.

Without reopening the old controversy over the value of narrow specialized monographs as against broad interpretative studies one can readily recognize the merit of this new book by William Griffith. The author denied himself the leisure of retracing the old and familiar paths of Central American history and has painstakingly pioneered in a new domain with a meticulously researched work. The result is an exacting account for the serious scholar.

The title is possibly misleading. No empires rose in the Central American wilderness. Efforts at foreign colonization proved abortive, and development remained conspicuous by its absence. But the account of what actually happened reveals in concrete form some of the underlying trials and tribulations confronting Guatemala during its formative years of transition from colony to nation. Specifically the book details the unsuccessful career of the British Eastern Coast

of Central America Commercial and Agricultural Company in both its London and Guatemalan operations between 1834 and 1844. The study traces the origin of the company to the earlier Poyais project of Gregor MacGregor on the Mosquito Shore, skillfully unravels the company's sporadic activities in Guatemala as the contractual agent of the Gálvez government, and records the end of the company and its displacement by the newer Campaign Belge following the collapse of the Morazán Federation and the rise of Rafael Carrera to power in Guatemala.

Mariano Gálvez and his Liberal supporters harbored great expectations in the 1830s for economic advancement and enlightened progress to follow the recent political separation from Spain. Their visionary plans to rejuvenate Guatemala by means of extensive foreign colonization and development of heretofore vast untapped regions of the state coincided with lingering hopes of British speculators to salvage something from the financial debacle following the collapse of the London bubble of 1824-26. The ambitions of the Guatemalan chief of state and the British speculators united in a bewildering array of shadow enterprises in the extensive Vera Paz and Chiquimula regions that enclosed the narrow Caribbean outlet of Guatemala. The grandiose schemes bogged down in local and national politics, financial stringency, company mismanagement, rivalry over the limited mahogany resources of the region, and international disputes over the rights and limits of the British merchants and mahogany cutters in neighboring Belize.

The author has reconstructed this neglected aspect of foreign influences in Guatemala by exhaustive research in primary materials scattered through collections in Guatemala, British Honduras, Belgium, and England. The way in which he pursued elusive data and used it for convincing interpolation is a credit to his scholarship. Although most of the characters involved have little individuality beyond their identifying features, and some like Bennett unfortunately drop from view too soon, it is remarkable how many of these obscure men the author restores to history.

The concluding chapter "Retrospect" affords an impressive and stimulating summary analysis that reflects the author's long familiarity with Central America. The proposal that the designs of Gálvez and the response of British enterprise in the early nineteenth century can be interpreted as a forerunner to modern economic development should provoke discussion. One might also say that much of the Gálvez design resembled in format, expectations, execution, and fail-

ure a similar project launched by Las Casas in Venezuela in 1521 and was less an exponent of modernism than a retention of the colonial mentality (Cf. Lewis Hanke, *The Spanish Struggle for Justice*, Chap. V). Griffith's concluding observations are perceptive, however, especially when he notes that subsequent efforts to direct poor countries out of their poverty have not fared much better than those launched by Gálvez: "The problem can be reasonably well defined, but an effective means of attacking it has rarely been discovered" (p. 310).

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ROBERT A. NAYLOR

*Historia del arte en Guatemala. Arquitectura, pintura y escultura.* 2nd ed. By ERNESTO CHINCHILLA AGUILAR. Guatemala, 1965. Departamento Editorial "José de Pineda Ibarra" del Ministerio de Educación. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 261. Paper.

*Tejidos de los altiplanos de Guatemala.* Vol. I. By LILA M. O'NEALE. Translated by EDITH RECOURAT C. Guatemala, 1965. Departamento Editorial "José de Pineda Ibarra" del Ministerio de Educación. Illustrations. Pp. 462. Paper.

The first edition of Chinchilla's book numbering some two thousand copies came out in 1963. There must be a wide interest in the art of Guatemala, for the present edition now amounts to five thousand. But there is little to distinguish the first from the second edition. The author rewrote the last chapter, changed the illustration decorating the paper cover, and added a few illustrations in the text. Both editions are published on newsprint, including the illustrations, which are reproduced with half-tone cuts as in the daily press. The resulting grubby appearance is inexcusable since an art book should at least try to be a work of art. But it is also an apt reflection of the state of affairs in present-day Guatemala, especially of the official point of view, since the book was published by the Ministerio de Educación. It certainly deserved better treatment, if for no other reason than that it represents a first attempt to treat the history of art in Guatemala from its beginnings in the sixteenth century to the present. The book is not intended for the scholar, but it can be recommended to those who wish to read a general survey of the development of Guatemalan art.

The second book, *Tejidos de los altiplanos de Guatemala*, is a belated Spanish translation of the late Lila Morris O'Neale's *Textiles*