

lacks documentation, but does have a very good bibliography.

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Aportaciones de México al mundo. Lo que México ha dado al mundo en vegetales, minerales, animales, inventos, sistemas, doctrinas, y aportaciones a la cultura universal. 2 vols. By HERIBERTO GARCÍA RIVAS. México, 1964. Editorial Diana. Pp. 208, 228. Paper.

The substance of this work is a multitude of data and historical information revealing what Mexico purportedly has invented, developed, or adapted as a part of its culture and contributed to world culture in general. The two volumes contain twenty-seven chapters whose subject headings range from minerals, animals, and the *maguey* to literature, art, and philosophy. Each chapter is subdivided into topics related (in the compiler's mind) to the subject heading of the chapter. Altogether, there are some 345 individual topics which cover the time period of pre-Columbian days to the present.

The work is laudible as a first effort. It contains a vast array of information, startling perhaps to the neophyte, but probably already familiar to the serious student and scholar. The overall quality of the work suffers because it attempts to discuss too many items in too limited a space. Also one may question the author's placing of emphasis. For example, an entire chapter is devoted to the *maguey* plant, while the history, effect, and contributions of positivism in Mexico are compressed into two paragraphs. The chapter on astronomy in Mexico is twice as long as that on literature. Only single paragraphs are devoted to such giants as Orozco, Rivera, Siqueiros, and O'Gorman. There is no bibliography, although reference is made from time to time to such writers as Caso, Díaz del Castillo, Cortés, and several of the codices. Such weak points are to be expected in an initial undertaking of such proportions, but a work of this

kind is vitally needed, to clear up misconceptions about a nation and people of rising importance to the modern world.

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Decorative Design in Mexican Homes. By VERNA COOK SHIPWAY and WARREN SHIPWAY. New York, 1966. Architectural Book Publishing Company. Illustrations. Glossary. Pp. xix, 249. \$12.95.

Discussing the contemporaneity of his country's past, Edmundo O'Gorman once observed that "history walks the streets of Mexico." And this beautiful book makes clear that history inhabits Mexican houses as well. Mexico's architects and interior decorators draw with rare skill from the rich heritage of ancient Indian cultures and of colonial New Spain, using old treasures or ancient themes in a thoroughly modern setting. Somehow it does not appear incongruous, for example, to find a replica of a great stone head from La Venta set against a wall of steel-reinforced concrete. These are certainly not typical houses; they are the residences of Mexico's well-to-do. Nonetheless, they can teach us much about a country which has managed to preserve and combine the best of its many cultural influences.

R. E. Q.

The Catholic Church in Mexico. Historical Essays for the General Reader. Volume I: 1519-1910. By PAUL V. MURRAY. México, 1965. Editorial E. P. M. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 398. Cloth. \$8.00. Paper. \$7.00.

Paul V. Murray, a prominent American Catholic in Mexico, served for many years as president of Mexico City College. At the same time, he maintained a lively interest in Mexican history, particularly the Reforma period of church-state conflict. This book, the first of two volumes on the history of the Church in Mexico, is the result of these years of study, writing, and lec-