

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-

turing. Murray makes clear in the Foreword that this is not a history of the Church, nor a "scholarly monograph"; nor will he be "objective," or "scientific." Rather it is an "exploratory study for the general reader, for students, and even for people teaching Mexican history or general church history" (pp. 9-10). Murray intended, then, to write a book of interpretive essays, not narrative history. Yet it is something of both. The essays reflect a partisan view which characterized conservative Catholic thinking during the long struggle against the liberals and the twentieth-century Revolutionaries. And despite the author's disclaimer, much of the book is a narration of the history of the Mexican Church.

The book fails, in the last analysis, because the essays are not completely convincing, and because the description of past events is colored by his religious viewpoint. Nonetheless, the student of Mexican history can find here much material for further study that would be unattainable elsewhere. It is the author's hope that the reading of his book "will serve as a stimulus" and will lead to a "general history of the Church in this area of the world which is so badly needed by us all" (p. 10).

R. E. Q.

*Versión francesa de México. Informes diplomáticos, 1864-1867.* Vol. IV. Edited and translated by LILIA DÍAZ. México, 1967. El Colegio de México. Index. Pp. xxiv, 568. Paper.

With a nice but unobtrusive sense of historical aptness the Colegio de México has celebrated the melancholy centenary of Maximilian's execution by completing its series of French diplomatic dispatches on the Intervention and the Empire. Like its predecessors, this volume is ably translated and edited. A list of the dispatches giving writer, date, and a brief statement of contents would have been useful, especially since the index is limited to names.

Shortly after the beginning of this volume the Marquis de Montholon, who had served as principal French representative during the establishment of

the Empire, was transferred to the Washington legation. Most of the dispatches, therefore, were the work of Alphonse Dano, who took his place. Dano played a less influential role than his predecessor, but his detailed commentary on events will probably be just as useful to the historian. His final dispatch, written from New York, ends with words which ring like the Lamentations of Jeremiah through the writings of nearly all nineteenth-century visitors to Mexico: "Meanwhile, what will become of Mexico? . . . No one has any confidence in the duration of the present state of affairs; when Congress convenes, discussions, disorder, and disunion will begin again; . . . anarchy and confusion will be such that only North American intervention can remedy them" (p. 554).

D. M. P.

*Proceso de Fernando Maximiliano de Hapsburgo, Miguel Miramón y Tomás Mejía.* Prologue by JOSÉ FUENTES MARES. México, 1966. Editorial Jus. Pp. 271. \$20.00 (Mex.).

In the year following Maximilian's downfall and execution some of the principal documents occasioned by his trial were gathered together and published. In its series "México Heroico" Editorial Jus now reprints this collection. While not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings, it contains several of the principal speeches of prosecution and defense. No effort has apparently been made to edit the documents, except for the addition of a brief summary before each one for easy identification. In his prologue Fuentes Mares sets the legal background of the trial, denying that Maximilian's case was parallel to that of Jefferson Davis, who went free some years after Appomattox.

D. M. P.

*Nueva historiografía política del México moderno.* By DANIEL COSÍO VILLEGAS. México, 1965. Editorial del Colegio Nacional. Index. Pp. 176. Paper.

In 1949 Daniel Cosío Villegas pub-