

La Declaración de la Independencia. By BONIFACIO DEL CARRIL. Buenos Aires, 1966. Emecé Editores. Illustrations. Pp. xx, 95. Paper.

Bonifacio del Carril has attempted to clarify some aspects of the Argentine Declaration of Independence. In the first and most interesting section of his book, "*Cómo se redactó la declaración,*" the author uses close textual analysis to compare the Argentine document to the United States' Declaration of Independence. The deputies at Tucumán clearly modeled their declaration on the American precedent but adapted it to conform to the juridical and colonial traditions of Argentine history. In the second section, "*Cómo se proclamó la independencia,*" Carril discusses the various editions of the document. Handsome reproductions of the Declaration and extensive explanatory and bibliographic footnotes add to the value of this book.

J.A.

Veinticinco años de investigación histórica en México. Edición especial de *Historia Mexicana.* México, 1966. El Colegio de México. Index. Pp. 676. Paper.

The Colegio de México, one of the leading centers of advanced humanistic studies in Latin America, has chosen to celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary by publishing a general bibliography of Mexican historical writings during the last quarter century. The result will astonish those few misguided persons who still feel that only Yankees can write adequate monographs and articles on Latin American history. The book is also a prerequisite for the library of any Mexicanist. It consists of twenty distinct bibliographies—most of them arranged by topics (history of ideas, of the plastic arts, of science, religion, politics, etc.) and a few devoted to periods of special interest in Mexican development (the Independence and the French Intervention) or to related areas such as Spain and the Philippines. Each section is preceded by a brief his-

toriographical essay, and most entries are briefly annotated.

D.M.P.

Face to Face with the Mexicans. By FANNY CHAMBERS GOOCH. Edited with an introduction by C. HARVEY GARDINER. Carbondale, 1966. Southern Illinois University Press. Latin American Travel Series. \$6.95.

This book will of necessity be compared with that of Mme. Calderón de la Barca, though its date of publication (1887) places it closer in time to Charles Flandreau's *Viva Mexico!* Fanny Gooch had little of the literary grace which characterized the letters of Fanny Calderón de la Barca. Mrs. Gooch's prose is as ordinary as the kitchen stove. But it is a valuable book, nonetheless, for she saw more parts of Mexico and had a broader knowledge of the Mexican people than her earlier counterpart. As Harvey Gardiner writes in his perceptive introduction: "Her abilities and desires combined to produce the finest statement of the social aspects of the early years of the Díaz era."

R.E.Q.

Under the Waters of Mexico. By PABLO BUSH ROMERO. New York, 1964. Carlton Press. Illustrations. Pp. 184. \$5.95.

In 1959, 1960, and 1961 the Club of Explorations and Water Sports of Mexico carried out diving expeditions off the Mexican coast and in Yucatán. Written primarily for the sport enthusiast, this book describes the club's activities.

T.G.P.

Volcanic History of Nicaragua. By ALEXANDER R. MCBIRNEY AND HOWEL WILLIAMS. Berkeley, 1965. University of California Press. Illustrations. Map. Figures. Tables. Appendix. Bibliography. Pp. vi, 73. \$2.50.

Except where canal possibilities and potential mineral deposits exist, ac-

curate, detailed structural knowledge is scarce for Central America. Utilizing petrographic techniques on rock samples taken throughout the whole country, *Volcanic History of Nicaragua* makes a contribution to the general geologic history of the area by focusing on two primary problems: deciphering the relations and relative ages of the various volcanic units found within the country and determining the age and origin of the Nicaraguan Depression.

The general organization of the study is concerned with the four physiographic areas of Nicaragua: the Pacific coastal plain, the Nicaraguan Depression, the interior highlands, and the Atlantic coastal plain. Within this framework the types of rocks found and their attributes are listed. Also, descriptions of faults and volcanoes are recorded.

While the conclusions regarding the geologic history of the country are general, the complexity and importance of volcanic activity in Nicaragua are conveyed. Perhaps the most important aspect of this report is that it has developed the background necessary for a more detailed investigation.

L.L.

Cuna. By JOANNE M. KELLY. New York, 1966. A. S. Barnes and Company. Pp. 440. \$7.50.

On the northeastern coast of Panama are the San Blas Islands—as many as the days of the year, according to Columbus. Miss Kelly has written an exciting book about the Cuna Indians, who occupy about twenty of the islands in this coconut-producing archipelago. Today this tribe numbers approximately twenty-five thousand.

Apparently bored with New York City, this young secretary tried to unravel the meaning of life from the jungle Indians. She seems to have succeeded: "I . . . found out what the reasons in my society for living and life were all about. They are the same as the reasons are to the Cuna: to live, to be happy, to have a home, . . .

to die content with the life one has lived" (p. 234). While the author puzzled about the big problems of life and death, she enjoyed the excitement associated with skin diving, spear fishing (including man-eating sharks and barracudas), a smuggling trip, and chicha feasts.

The book is not a serious anthropological study, and there are a few minor errors. Probably one should let the scientist account for the numerous albinos among the San Blas instead of attributing them to "European blood . . . from the Spanish era" (p. 55). Balboa, "the fencing master" did not hide in a barrel to escape from Spain (p. 24) but to escape his creditors in Santo Domingo. Apparently the author is not aware of the Black Legend which exaggerated not only the number of Indians killed by Spaniards but the original number as well.

Probably the most important part of the book comes as addenda. While waiting for her flight back to New York Miss Kelly witnessed the "flag incidents" and the bloody Panama riots of January, 1964. When she learned that all the killing had been caused by some American students at Balboa High School and members of the American Legion who refused to obey the law, she was justly angry: "I got up quickly and left the U.S.O. . . . I had to or I was going to murder that boy with my own hands" (for hurling a curse at every student in Panama) (pp. 436-437). If Miss Kelly had applied the same logic to the Central Zone area as she did to learning from the San Blas, however, she might have realized that friction, hostility, anger, and killing can take place without involving "leftists" or Cubans. Undoubtedly many Panamanians have been subject to the same kind of injustice which the author witnessed. This reviewer has observed them also—many of them, and prior to any talk of Cuba, Castro, and the Cold War. It is absurd to ascribe all friction today to Castro, Communism, and the Cold War. If all Americans had learned as much as Miss Kelly in her San Blas sojourn,