

oath of allegiance which all must take to the new nation, the "Provincias Unidas en Sud-América." How independence was proclaimed and celebrated and when the oath was administered in the provinces of the former Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata are discussed in the well-documented and interesting little study reviewed here.

Records are not available for all cities. Also the area under the aegis of Artigas did not adhere to the congressional declaration, and Upper Peru was unable to act because it was overrun by Spanish troops. However, the author briefly describes what happened in the provincial capitals and some minor cities loyal to the Congress and free from enemy occupation. He emphasizes the city of Buenos Aires, where the ceremonies were delayed until mid-September because of heavy rains. The account of the events in the viceregal capital is based largely on a rare pamphlet written by Bartolomé Doroteo Muñoz in 1816 and on newspaper reports, and it includes a number of poems written for the occasion. Significantly, the account does not make clear whether the Supreme Director himself took the required oath.

Salta was the last province to pledge allegiance to the new state, because, the author maintains, its governor, Martín Güemes, was in the field until December, 1816. Rural militia units were involved in the ceremonies in Jujuy and Mendoza, and the rural authorities in San Luis, but elsewhere the rural inhabitants evidently were overlooked. Everywhere the clergy, regular and secular, endorsed independence with enthusiasm. Apparently, the oath was expected to accomplish two purposes: to oblige every one by a "religious act" to defend independence; and to restore unity and harmony among the people. Breda has answered many questions, and he has paved the way for a more intensive examination of the circumstances surrounding the congressional decision of July 9, 1816.

Boston College

JOSEPH T. CRISCENTI

NATIONAL PERIOD

Six Faces of Mexico. History, People, Geography, Government, Economy, Literature and Art. Edited by RUSSELL C. EWING. Tucson, 1966. University of Arizona Press. Illustrations. Maps. Tables. Notes. Bibliographies. Index. Pp. 320. \$10.00.

A collaborative enterprise by seven faculty members at the University of Arizona, *Six Faces of Mexico* is indicative of how fruitful

a carefully conceived and well-executed interdisciplinary venture can be. Historian Russell C. Ewing opens the study with a sixty-three page introduction to Mexican history from the time of the European discovery through the López Mateos administration. Concentrating only on major historical trends, Ewing presents a very readable and reasonable summary analysis. While obviously handicapped by the need for brevity, the author carefully avoids the type of oversimplification which so often characterizes short survey narratives.

In a section entitled "Ways of Life," anthropologist Edward H. Spicer skillfully examines the outstanding cultural traits of the Indian and mestizo populations. Basing his study on a thorough knowledge of Mexican prehistory and history, Spicer catalogs and interprets elements of diversity and unity inherent in the population amalgam. Of special interest is his conclusion that the statistical data examined do not point categorically to the imminent demise of Indian languages in the Republic, as other scholars have been predicting for years.

Historians whose exposure to Mexican geography is limited primarily to introductory chapters in the standard survey texts will find David Henderson's treatment of Mexico's physical and cultural geography refreshing. With the statistical data relegated properly to accompanying charts and tables, the narrative flows smoothly in an uninterrupted fashion. Each of the country's six major geographical regions (Central Highlands, Meseta Central, Gulf Slope, Southern Mexico, Northwest Mexico, and Southeast Mexico) is viewed from the perspective of physical characteristics and man-land relationships.

In examining the political dynamics of the Mexican state Paul Kelso focuses attention on organizational structure, the party system, the role which the government has assigned itself in fostering the social revolution, and the continuing desire to make democratic processes truly operative. Conscientiously avoiding the temptation simply to weigh the Mexican experience on a United States scale, Kelso views the developing democracy against a background of historical forces clearly inimical to it. His conclusions, while far from startling, are unquestionably sound: "Progress to date has been remarkable, but much remains to be done before the Republic can enter the democratic family of states" (p. 204).

The study of Mexico's economic growth has been consigned to George F. Leaming and Walter H. Delaplaine. Although the coverage is comprehensive, the authors avoid the technical jargon and pseudo-scientific pedantry that can easily frustrate the nonspecialist. Once

having surveyed agricultural and industrial pursuits, foreign and domestic commerce, tariff policy, finance and labor, they venture several policy recommendations. As Sanford Mosk admonished in 1950, they caution against excessive concentration on industrialization at the expense of other sectors of the economy and appeal to the Mexican government to do still more to encourage the participation of private investment in the total developmental scheme.

Renato Rosaldo paints the sixth and final face—"The Legacy of Literature and Art." The cultural and artistic reconnaissance runs the entire gamut from *Popul-Vuh* and *The Books of Chilam Balam* to Octavio Paz and Carlos Fuentes. While the reader at times may become bogged down in unfamiliar names and titles, the quality of the coverage is uniform and good.

It is quite certain that Mexicanists in any one of the six disciplines represented could find fault with the choice of material and interpretation in the chapter dealing with his field. To criticize a collection of this kind on these grounds, however, seems untenable. The combined effort represents a major contribution toward appreciating the essence of *mexicanidad*. Finally, the University of Arizona Press should receive special acknowledgment for having manufactured a handsome, beautifully illustrated volume at a price fully commensurate with the finished product.

University of Nebraska

MICHAEL C. MEYER

Travelers in Texas, 1761-1860. By MARILYN McADAMS SIBLEY. Austin, 1967. University of Texas Press. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 236. \$5.00.

This is an interesting and sprightly account of Texas—country, life, and society—as seen by the travelers of all nationalities while the land passed successively from Spanish rule to Mexican, to nine years of independence, and to statehood in the United States. Through their eyes Mrs. Sibley is able to examine the routes, means, and hazards of frontier travel, the geography and climate, the Indian and his treatment, the Texan character, the more colorful aspects of the administration of justice, slavery ("a hideous sore that consumes"), and emigration. There is little here on schooling, holidays, newspapers, and religion, but the author enhances her volume with portraits of sixteen travelers and two maps, the first showing Spanish Texas in 1767 and the second the Republic in 1841.

Sources fall into three major categories: reports of official or