

trade in Latin America" (p. 316). Platt concedes that the blockades of the Plata during the 1840s may not have conformed to this pattern. He maintains most emphatically that British intervention in Mexican politics, 1913-1914, under the influence of Cowdray oil interests was only "a legend" (p. 325). Perhaps so, but one would like to see a little more scrutiny directed toward the activities of Sir Lionel Carden, British minister to Mexico in 1914, during his earlier days beginning in the 1880s, when he fought a running guerrilla campaign against American capital in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Cuba. As Carden used the terms, "fair and equal" might be open to some semantic sleight-of-hand.

Concerning financial interference, Platt declares categorically: "Bondholder grievances, whatever the provocation, never became a determining factor in British policy in Latin America" (p. 346). This statement occurs in the course of short but pithy surveys of bond cases involving Mexico in the 1860s, Peru in the 1880s, and Venezuela after 1900. The last named is a useful addition to the literature on the Venezuelan Crisis of 1902.

At the end Platt concludes that "trade, in fact, was the beginning and end of British diplomacy in Latin America" (p. 352). Clearly he is a scholar who knows his own mind. Those who disagree with him had better be well acquainted with the output of H. M. Stationery Office.

D. M. P.

*American Imperialism, a Speculative Essay.* By ERNEST R. MAY. New York, 1968. Atheneum. Footnotes. Index. Pp. xi, 239. \$5.95.

*The Great Rapprochement: England and the United States, 1895-1914.* By BRADFORD PERKINS. New York, 1968. Atheneum. Footnotes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. ix, 341. \$7.95.

Between the Spanish American War and World War I the current of United States-Latin American relations ran so

close to the mainstream of United States diplomacy that almost anything written on the larger subject has interest for Latin Americanists. Like the book of D. C. M. Platt noted above, these two represent the latest thinking of mature scholars, although they rest less obviously on weighty scholarship.

May's essay, a byproduct of the research which produced his earlier *Imperial Democracy* (1961), does not deal explicitly with Latin America at all, but sets forth the thesis that the Spanish American War and subsequent United States ventures into empire-building represented imitation of European models or at least response to European influences and suggestions, intentional or not. Although by no means new, this is an illuminating idea as May develops it and might be worth applying to United States policy in Latin America during the early twentieth century.

Perkins is best known for three thoroughly researched monographs on Anglo-American diplomacy of about a century earlier, leading up to and through the War of 1812. His present work grew out of the Commonwealth Fund Lectures, which he delivered in 1965, and like much lecture-based writing it is more fluent than exhaustive. Anglo-American relations for this period have already been well covered by half a dozen other recent scholars, but Perkins has returned to the original sources enough to turn up new facts and ideas. The book will be just right for undergraduate collateral reading.

In *The Great Rapprochement* U.S.-British-Latin American relations are confined to two chapters entitled "America's Hemisphere." The principal topics are quite predictable: the Panama Canal, the Venezuelan Crisis of 1902, the Roosevelt Corollary, and Wilson's relations with Huerta. Only on the last subject does Perkins penetrate beneath the surface. He agrees with Platt that although Wilson thought he smelled oil in British diplomacy, it was only his imagination. However, Perkins traces the Anglo-American imbroglio with a little more urbanity.

"English statesmen deserved high marks for their accomplishments," declares Perkins as he leaves Latin American problems (p. 208). The Commonwealth Fund audience must have liked that.

D. M. P.

*An Appraisal of Tree-Ring Dated Pottery in the Southwest.* By DAVID A. BRETERNITZ. Tucson, 1966. University of Arizona Press. Anthropological Papers of the University of Arizona, 10. Maps. Tables. Appendices. Bibliography. Pp. vii, 128. Paper. \$5.00.

Although David Breternitz's publication is of primary interest to the specialists engaged in Southwestern archaeological research, it does contain a discussion of the general problems involved in attempts to date accurately various kinds of pottery classifications, such as "type," "style," "horizon marker," and "horizon style." In addition, several conclusions are made about the process of ceramic distribution in the Southwest.

Utilizing approximately 5715 tree-ring dates, 325 pottery "types" from 342 sites are tabulated and interpreted. The time period spanned by this analysis extends from the introduction of ceramics to the Spanish Entrada. Much less successful was Breternitz's attempt to date ceramic "styles." Not only are the time periods longer and less rigidly delineated, but the "styles" represent a higher level of abstraction. By extension the same difficulties apply to the dating of "horizon styles."

Another major conclusion of Breternitz is that there was a general and progressive increase in the amount and range of traded pottery, as well as an increase after 1200 A.D. in the local copying of the trade ware, particularly that of small decorated vessels as opposed to the large utility or undecorated ceramic containers. This trade apparently was carried out by person-to-person contact rather than by the institutionalized traders of Mesoamerica.

W. H.

*Quipus and Witches' Knots. The Role of the Knot in Primitive and Ancient Cultures.* By CYRUS LAWRENCE DAY. Lawrence, 1967. University of Kansas Press. Illustrations. Figures. Notes. Appendices. Index. Pp. 158. \$7.50.

This is one of those pleasant books that are nice to give to a hostess interested in esoterica, but it is not really very illuminating. The main theme is the non-fastening functions of knots, especially as seen in ancient and non-Western European societies. Numerous simple, clear drawings illustrate the text.

The first section deals with mnemonic knots from the simple counts used in several primitive societies to the highly complex Inca quipu with its positional decimal system. The discussion of the quipu is based largely on the earlier work of L. Leland Locke, Erland Nordenskiöld and, for the related abacus, Henry Wassén. The author's own views on the astronomical uses of quipu is an important device and needs much more work done on it if any new conclusions are to be drawn concerning it.

The second chapter deals with magical knots used in connection with weather, disease, curing, marriage, etc. Examples are cited from various times and places. The last chapter briefly discusses practical knots, and the author rightly laments our lack of knowledge of ancient knots and of the knots used by primitive peoples.

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*Conquistadors Without Swords. Archaeologists in the Americas. An Account with Original Narratives.* By LEO DEUEL. New York, 1967. St. Martin's Press. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xi, 647. \$12.50.

Leo Deuel's "Conquistadors" are not the true conquerors of the New World, who used the sword, but the archaeologists, who accomplished a