

León, Juan J. Moreno, Fintan Warren, and Francisco Alegre. The last is cited from the incomplete and utterly unreliable first edition instead of the recent critical and annotated edition. Manuscript sources are limited mainly to the Archivo de Indias and the Real Academia; obviously missing are the more important Archivo General of Mexico City and the abundant documentation in Morelia and elsewhere in Mexico. It is hoped that the author in publishing a new edition will find time to incorporate some of the considerable documentation from Mexican sources, correct the numerous mistakes of spelling and accentuation, normalize the bizarre system of pagination, and add a much-needed detailed index.

The volume appeared in a limited multigraphed edition of 350 copies of which all but 100 are available only to purchasers of the entire *Colección Sondeo*.

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*Materiales para la historia de la cultura en Venezuela (1523-1828). Documentos del Archivo General de Indias de Sevilla.* By ENRIQUE MARCO DORTA. Caracas, 1967. Fundación John Boulton. Index. Pp. xvi, 547. Paper.

The title of this compendium gives little indication of the kind of material inside, nor is the subtitle wholly accurate. The work contains not *Documentos del Archivo General de Indias de Sevilla*, but extracts of documents from the Archivo. In spite of this initial confusion, Marco Dorta's book turns out to be both interesting and useful. In essence, what he has given us is a highly personal selection of extracts from documents about Venezuela found in various sections of the AGI. With these general parameters of the collection in mind, we can better understand the criteria of selection.

Culture, for Marco Dorta, embraces a wide variety of topics. For example, he is interested in artisans, architecture, and construction techniques, and so the book has a vast and informative complement of extracts about artisans and their tools, costs and materials of construction, and architects and their drawings. He also includes many documents describing the deteriorating condition of local churches and pleading for royal financial help in reconstruction.

In addition to the information on buildings and their builders, there are many book lists. Some refer to titles passed through the Inquisition for shipment to Venezuela. Others are inventories of clerical libraries. Fortunately, these extracts give the book lists in full detail.

The compendium is organized chronologically by the date of the document. Although there are entries from 1523 to 1828, over three-fourths of the collection refer to the eighteenth century. Each item is accompanied by its location in the AGI, its date, and usually by the number of folios involved. The analytical index is well done and eminently usable, although more detailed key words would have helped. It is hard to know what to do with a half-page of numbers referring to the key word *Caracas*.

Any work of this kind necessarily frustrates the reader, for extracts only indicate the type of information included and fail to reveal the depth or detail contained in a document. In any event, the Fundación Boulton of Caracas has again given us a worthwhile publication which will prove useful to many students of colonial Venezuelan culture.

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*Sonora y Sinaloa en el siglo XVII*. By LUIS NAVARRO GARCÍA. Sevilla, 1967. Escuela de Estudios Hispano-Americanos de Sevilla. Maps. Tables. Notes. Pp. 319. Paper.

This volume is an interesting effort to write the history of the West Coast of Mexico—Sinaloa and Sonora—from the secular point of view. For this reason, the author has excluded from consideration the “tierras de misiones,” which have been treated so exhaustively by Jesuit chroniclers in behalf of their order, to which the area had been assigned by the Church and the government. The reader will therefore look in vain for the history of the west coast, as told by Pérez de Ribas, Eusebio Francisco Kino, or other chroniclers of the mission era. On the contrary, he will find that the first seventy-two pages are devoted to a cursory review of the exploration of the Gulf of California, early mining activity, and the population of the Gulf Coast, as well as Indians and Spaniards.

Then comes the heart of the book beginning with Chapter III. This is devoted to administration, particularly the “Alcaldías mayores.” It is a comprehensive treatment of the institution of the alcaldía mayor, from the issuance of patents by king, viceroy, governor, or audiencia. Although the author states that while he found numerous examples of the first three, he found none actually issued by the audiencia. He cites a typical “título,” quoting it in full, together with commentary. This is an interesting section, and well worth the eighty-six pages allotted to it. Virtually all of it is based on documentation from the AGI.