

from Latin America, and the others from areas north of the Rio Grande. The illustrations reflect the range of materials that are typically shown in these recent art books: a pot or two from Tlatilco, textiles from the Peruvian coast, views of Machu Picchu and other archaeological sites, gold work from Colombia, and some Maya stela or stone carving. What is interesting about the specimens illustrated by Anton and Dockstader is that many of them have not appeared in print before, because they belong to private collectors or dealers in antiquities. Consequently the illustrations will be of some value to the specialist in aboriginal art.

Unfortunately the text does not equal the illustrations in quality. Some of the statements are misleading; for example, why are "the most important of the Paracas ceramics . . . those in the Ocucaje style" (p. 176)? Could it perhaps be that more of them have been purchased by collectors and dealers who support the extensive looting of archaeological sites in this part of the Ica Valley? Other statements in the text are simply erroneous; Anton, for example, writes about the puma-god of the Chavín cult, when in fact representations of any kind of feline are exceedingly rare in the so-called Chavín styles. Indeed, they are virtually nonexistent at the type site of Chavín de Huantar itself, as the recent excavations of Hernán Amat and Luis Lumbreras have shown.

There is a fundamentally more important reason for the poor quality of the text. It does not provide an adequate context for viewing any of the illustrated archaeological objects. The authors mention none of the vast archaeological research that has been carried out in Latin America since 1960, either in the text or in the bibliography. Some results of these investigations have significantly changed many of our previous views about cultural development in Mesoamerica, the intermediate area, and the Central Andes; yet they were not taken into consideration when the text was written.

What we do not need at the present time are more art books like this one, even though its illustrations are excellent and its price reasonable. We do need well-illustrated general publications that deal with various aspects of aboriginal American art. They should have well-written, accurate, up-to-date texts that provide adequate contexts for carefully selected illustrations.

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THOMAS C. PATTERSON

*Los indios de México.* By FERNANDO BENÍTEZ. México, 1967. Ediciones Era. Illustrations. Maps. Figures. Pp. 514. \$11.44.

Known particularly for his works on the conquest and the early colonial period of Mexican history (*In the Footsteps of Cortés; The Century After Cortés*), Fernando Benítez in this work examines the Mexican Indian population as a whole. It is a disorganized book on a variety of features of native life, including some summary history, an account of the author's visit to the Tarahumara, material on ancient Mixtec and Zapotec civilizations, and a series of recorded conversations with modern Indians. A second volume will treat native hallucinatory drugs.

What gives this miscellany its unity is the frank spirit of *indigenismo* that characterizes Benítez' point of view. Suppression and neglect of Indian peoples receive repeated comment and denunciation in the historical sections, and the Indian of the twentieth century is understood essentially as the victim of systematic coercion and deceit. Whites and mestizos, usurpers of land, and callous or indifferent political authorities are the villains here, and ample evidence is provided from Benítez' personal experience to demonstrate that classic forms of exploitation continue to the present. Words of praise, also based upon the author's experience, are addressed to the agents of the Instituto Nacional Indigenista and the Secretaría de Educación. These make up a "pequeño ejército del bosque" engaged in educating, protecting, and bringing their anthropological training to the support of the indigenous peoples.

The short personal narratives by Indians, which make up an important portion of the book, exemplify the themes of grinding poverty, political subordination, and helplessness. The whole is a personal and unscientific but very humane and persuasive treatment. The illustrations are principally of modern Indian life in different parts of the Republic.

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CHARLES GIBSON

*The Prehistory of the Tehuacán Valley*. Vol. I: *Environment and Subsistence*. Vol. II: *The Non-Ceramic Artifacts*. By RICHARD S. MACNEISH *et al.* Edited by DOUGLAS S. BYERS. Austin, 1967. University of Texas Press. Illustrations. Maps. Tables. Figures. Notes. Bibliographies. Indices. Pp. viii, 331; xiii, 258. \$27.50.

These two volumes are the first in what is surely a landmark in the history of New World archaeology. Not so very long ago Old World archaeologists were able to say that nothing was known of the transition to settled life in the New World or of a so-called "Neolithic