

Hoffman, Kinnaird, Vigness, Brinkerhoff, Faulk, Avera Sánchez, Nance, and Horgan. Weddle draws on their findings, but also on manuscript materials in the archives of Spain, Mexico, Saltillo, and Béxar and in the University of Texas collections. On a number of points he offers corrections, and on the total history of this important way-point he provides excellent coverage. His book is a most useful addition to the literature on the Spanish borderlands.

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*Spanish Government in New Mexico.* By MARC SIMMONS. Albuquerque, 1968. University of New Mexico Press. Illustrations. Maps. Figures. Notes. Appendix. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xv, 238. \$6.95.

Marc Simmons has opened a door for graduate students who might have a yen to probe Spanish colonial activities north of the Rio Grande. He spotlights the half-century between 1772, when the *Reglamento e instrucción para los presidios que se han de formar en la línea de frontera de la Nueva España* was proclaimed in a royal cédula, and 1821, when Mexican independence was consummated. Simmons' study details the organization of New Mexican government under the commandancy general down through the governor to the *alcaldes mayores* and *tenientes alcaldes*, the lowest levels of local officialdom. Present-day political activities in the United States sound like a 200-year-old echo from this far-off frontier. There was legal assistance for those unable to pay: "The protector *partidarios* were obligated to defend the rights of the Indians, in court if necessary; to free them from all oppressors; and to make certain the natives were receiving proper religious instruction. The Indians were not to be charged any fees for these services, but they should each contribute one-half a real yearly to defray legal expenses incurred in their behalf" (p. 190). And the rights of the underprivileged were insured by governmental decree: "These men (*alcaldes mayores*), while they served, were enjoined by their superiors to exercise absolute impartiality and to maintain the rights of the Indians in the manner prescribed in the *Recopilación* [1756] and in royal cédulas of September 30, 1779, and of March 11, 1781. All *alcaldes* were forbidden to interfere with such activities and were required to assist in seeking justice for the Indians. The clergy in particular were delegated to report to the protector any infringement upon native rights" (p. 191).

The administrative machinery of the provincial government was more elaborate than would be expected in a frontier province so distant from Madrid. Simmons explores the organization and operation of government under the commandancy general and the intendancy system from 1776 to independence.

Perhaps this book's greatest service, in entering this obscure corner of history, is to point students toward a wealth of unexplored archival material, for those who might wish to piece together the minutiae of day-to-day government during New Mexico's last years as a province of Spain.

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*The Architecture of Antigua Guatemala, 1543-1773.* By VERLE LINCOLN ANNIS. Guatemala, 1968. University of San Carlos. Illustrations. Maps. Figures. Bibliography. Indices. Pp. 476. \$22.00. (Distributed in U. S. by Wittenborn and Company, New York and Kurt L. Schwartz, Beverly Hills.)

This book presents every surviving seventeenth- and eighteenth-century building in Antigua of any architectural interest in a *catalogue raisonné* divided into categories by function: government buildings, monasteries, convents, churches, schools, and houses. The text (English and Spanish) draws on long research in Guatemalan archives. Individual buildings are illustrated with the author's photographs—average in quality, but well above average in quantity—plus some 60 pages of his measured drawings: plans, elevations, and lavish spreads of doors, grilles, even nail-heads, surprising to find in a book today but familiar 50 years ago in books made not for scholars but for architects, to assist their eclectic plundering.

Despite his research, the author is reluctant to date buildings, mainly because of the many repairs and alterations after earthquakes. He holds that "Antigua's architecture becomes confused if treated by periods" and also rejects style, another means of ordering material unclassified chronologically. Pictures are preferred to words: "To reduce the text to a minimum . . . it was necessary to eliminate opinions, or quotes." The result is unhistorical, sometimes antihistorical. Buildings are described, but their forebears in Mexico and Spain are ignored, although relation with contemporary building in Chiapas is obviously close. Indeed, San Cristóbal de las Casas and Antigua are architecturally sisters or close cousins—country cousins.