

by the far-traveling Aztec merchants with the Incas of Peru (p. 750)?

The style of writing tends to be too breathless, even by journalistic standards. One sentence paragraphs abound—page 64, for instance, has ten full paragraphs but only fourteen full sentences. Historical interpretations are often hysterical. For example, take the concluding sentence of chapter four: "If Aztec experimenters in medicine and pharmacology and experimenters in surgery had collaborated for a few generations, it is not impossible that the problem of foreign-body rejection could have been solved and successful organ transplants could have become feasible—over four hundred years ago!" Not impossible, just infinitely improbable.

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*Dos microcéfalos "aztecas."* *Leyenda, historia y antropología.* By JUAN COMAS. México, 1968. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas. Cuadernos: Serie Antropología. Illustrations. Notes. Appendices. Bibliography. Pp. 134.

A physical anthropologist of great repute, Comas is the author of a widely used anthropometry text (*Manual of Physical Anthropology*, 1960). He has been a principal protagonist in anthropological discussions of race, taking up the cudgels for "anti-racist" angels in maintaining that physical differences do not imply innate differences in mental ability. Comas is, moreover, prominent in Western Hemisphere indigenist politics—his *Ensayos sobre indigenismo* was printed by the Interamerican Indian Institute in 1953.

The present small volume comes as a surprise, therefore, since it seems more an exercise in the history of science than anything else. Comas summarizes in twenty-eight pages the half-century of exhibition of two Central American dwarfs, Bartola and Máximo. He dissects the exhibitors' propagandistic version of their exotic origin in an un-

known "Aztec" city preserving in 1850 its isolated way of life, untouched by European civilization. He analyzes the anthropological literature on these two beings during the past century. Then Comas gives ninety pages of Spanish translations of over a dozen articles originally written in English, French, and German.

Exhibition propaganda made much of resemblances between profile sculptures of Indian heads at prehistoric Palenque and the dwarfs' profiles. Dispassionate scientific demonstration of dwarfism as the cause of the living profiles would have been understandable during the latter half of the last century when the dwarfs were being exhibited. It is hard to understand why, sixty years later, a physical anthropologist who has devoted much of his career to decrying racism should be concerned to demonstrate that these two dwarfs were neither Aztec nor Mexican but offspring of an apparently normal mulatto couple in El Salvador. If Comas is seriously interested in dwarfism, he can still scientifically study it in Mexico. When I last recorded data at the regional pilgrimage festival of St. Francis at Magdalena, Sonora, in 1957, one loudspeaker contributing to the din of the Plaza Madero fair advertised "The World's Smallest Human." This female talked a blue streak, in contrast to mute Bartola and Máximo, and should make an excellent subject for study.

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*Delinquency and Crime. Cross-cultural perspectives.* By RUTH SHONLE CAVAN and JORDAN T. CAVAN. New York, 1968. J. B. Lippincott Company. Tables. Notes. Indices. Pp. 244. \$5.95.

Ruth Shonle Cavan is a veteran sociologist and textbook writer whose first book (her dissertation on suicide) appeared in 1928. The "junior" partner in the present joint venture is her husband, a retired professor of education. Not seriously intended as a ma-

for research effort, their book is directed to "college students and interested laymen." Intelligently conceived and competently written, it will doubtlessly be widely adopted as an auxiliary text to provide a needed cross-cultural perspective in the ever-popular criminology courses to which students flock in large numbers.

Six "societies" receive chapter-length treatment: the Eskimo, Mexico, India, the Soviet Union, Sicily (for the Mafia), and England; briefer attention is devoted to eight others. Sources are necessarily secondary and standard. "Interested laymen" knowledgeable in any one of the regions covered will find little new in content for their area, and most of them will probably want to quarrel a bit with the Cavans' presentation. Mexico is described as "an agricultural land . . . dotted with small folk villages" (p. 44). The "transplanted" peasants of Mexico City's slums are therefore presented as disorganized former "folk," despite the fact that the authors' chief source (Oscar Lewis) has repeatedly and vigorously attacked this interpretation. It is easy to see, nonetheless, why they persist in their more old-fashioned view; otherwise Mexico (in company with India) would fit less conveniently between the Eskimo and the Soviet Union. Such are the hazards of pedagogy, which daily tempts all of us into questionable generalization.

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*Mexico City.* By ROBERT PAYNE. Photographs by DICK DAVIS. New York, 1968. Harcourt, Brace and World. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 212. \$12.95.

Robert Payne, an English-born poet and journalist, juxtaposes his hundred pages of text with a similar number of Dick Davis' full-page photographs of Mexico City and its immediate environs. The result is a warm impressionistic scenario of little tangible value to the scholar, but nevertheless

a pleasant literary and visual experience.

The narrative begins with the Conquest, touches upon the colonial period, and then jumps inexplicably from "The Viceroy's" to "Juárez and Maximilian." With the execution of the Hapsburg emperor the chronological approach is abandoned for a topical presentation of subjects which interest the author and which lend themselves nicely to Dick Davis' probing camera. The subjects range from the Basilica of Guadalupe (and the Juan Diego episode) to the new National Museum of Anthropology. The textual commentary, interspersing legend and lore freely with historical fact, advances no new theses. Most of the selections are sensitive and penetrating and can be enjoyed equally by those who have never visited the Mexican capital or those with many years of residence in the Valley of Anáhuac.

Few academicians will consent to pay \$12.95 for this handsome volume. Many may like to receive it as a gift or as a review copy, thumb its pages at leisure, and place it alongside their favorite oversized volumes.

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*The Landing at Veracruz: 1914. The First Complete Chronicle of a Strange Encounter in April, 1914, When the United States Navy Captured and Occupied the City of Veracruz, Mexico.* By JACK SWEETMAN. Annapolis, 1968. United States Naval Institute. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xvi, 221. \$8.50.

Whether this is the "First Complete Chronicle" of the American landing at Veracruz in 1914, as the author proclaims, is a moot question. Not much is added to the reviewer's own account in *An Affair of Honor*. Perhaps the chief new contribution is the inclusion of material based on extensive interviews with survivors of the landing. But there are no Mexican or Spanish-language sources, so that "complete"