

many prehistoric sites. Salvage investigations supported by the National Park Service were begun in 1962, and this publication is the first in a projected series intended to report the results of these investigations.

This volume is comprised of separate papers and appendices by various authors dealing with the natural environment of the affected area, site surveys, and excavation results at three stations. All of the latter are assignable to Pueblo II through Pueblo III. One, the Alfred Herrera Site, was large, with multi-room surface structures, kivas, and pit houses. It was extensively excavated, and the bulk of the volume provides a detailed analysis of the rich cultural data obtained. In addition to the customary archaeological content, the faunal and floral materials are given separate treatment. So are such topics as the glazed pottery and human skeletal remains.

The publication is overtly descriptive in character, the authors preferring to postpone interpretation until all phases of the field work are accomplished. The description of excavation results is admirable, but the reservoir area is not dealt with in equal depth, as one might have expected. None of the maps succeeds in pinpointing the location of the dam and the sites, so that some of the text discussions are not clear.

J. H. K.

*The Almohad Movement in North Africa in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries.* By ROGER LE TOURNEAU. Princeton, 1969. Princeton University Press. Princeton Studies on the Near East. Map. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. viii, 127. \$5.00.

This book is the outgrowth of some lectures delivered by the author at Princeton some years ago. The translation is competent and reads well, and the book is about the only thing so far on the Almohads (*al-Muwahhidūn*) now available in English. As such, it is a valuable supplement to the sketchy chapter on the Almohads in Watt and Cachia's *History of Islamic Spain*.

In his three chapters, Le Tourneau discusses the origins of the birth of the movement and gives an account of the career of Ibn Tūmart, the second African Mahdi, and then the expansion and collapse of the "Unitarian" cause.

The entire Almohad episode was a rather improbable one. The author might have done more to explain why Ibn Tūmart's propaganda was such a success among the Mašmūda mountaineers of Morocco. One wonders if simple hatred of the Almoravids and a dislike of centralized authority on the part of the Mašmūda was enough to make them fight their Ṣanhāja enemies with such vigor? One also wonders if the arguments advanced (pp. 108-109) for a Berber-Arab clash within the empire are not echoes of French historical writing which always stressed these differences in Morocco. But these are minor points, and the study is a useful and valuable one which does something to fill the great gap in accounts of Spanish, as well as North African, Islamic history which can be read in English.

B. G. M.

*Westward to Vinland: The Discovery of Pre-Columbian Norse House-sites in North America.* By HELGE INGSTAD. Translated by ERIK J. FRIS. New York, 1969. St. Martin's Press. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 249. \$6.95.

*Westward to Vinland* is a popular account of the author's six archaeological expeditions to North America between 1961 and 1968. These investigations led to the discovery of a pre-Columbian Norse settlement on the northernmost tip of the island of Newfoundland.

The authenticity of Ingstad's findings at L'Anse aux Meadows is indisputable and universally accepted by archaeologists today. Eight house sites and four boat sheds were excavated. He recovered artifacts of Viking origin, including a bronze ring-headed pin commonly used as a cloak fastening. One of the most exciting finds was a

Norse spinning tool, the oldest household implement of European origin ever found in America. A smithy with a large quantity of iron was also unearthed and near it a charcoal kiln.

The western lands visited first by Bjarni Herjolfsson (who later furnished Leif Eiriksson the sailing directions he needed) were called Helluland, Markland, and Vinland. There can be no doubt that Leif followed Bjarni and saw the same three regions. Whether they were Baffin Island, Labrador, and the island of Newfoundland, as Ingstad claims, is another matter. The unquestioned proof of a Viking settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows does not necessarily prove that insular Newfoundland is Vinland, nor does it establish that this was the camp of Leif the Lucky. There may have been other Viking settlements.

*Westward to Vinland* is more than an archaeological report. It offers an excellent account of the Eskimos and Indians of northeastern Canada, and it is rich in geographical data. The author devotes a full half of the book to background material, such as an analysis of the principal Norse sagas, and an evaluation of early maps and manuscripts. Friis' translation from the Norwegian is smooth, and the work is highly readable. Many superb maps and photographs compliment the text.

Was L'Anse aux Meadows really Vinland? This book is required reading for anyone at all interested in the answer to that intriguing question.

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*Historia universal de las exploraciones.*  
Vol. IV: *Época contemporánea.* By  
JULES ROUCH *et al.* Edited by L. H.  
PARIAS. Madrid, 1968. Espasa-Calpe.  
Illustrations. Maps. Figures. Notes.  
Bibliography. Index. Pp. 477.

This is the fourth and final volume of a work originally published in France during 1955-1956. (The first three volumes of the Spanish edition are reviewed in *HAHR*, August 1969, pp.

527-529.) The *tomo* under consideration consists of three *libros*, of which the first, *Las exploraciones de los océanos y de los continentes desde 1815 a nuestra época*, was written by the late Jules Rouch. It consists of two sections, the oceans and the continents. A fundamental question may be raised about the propriety of including material which should not be classified under the history of explorations, but more properly belongs in a scientific treatise, i.e., the chemical composition of water, the depths of oceans, and species of fish.

In a word, there is far too much oceanography and too little exploration. Furthermore, every topic is treated far too summarily, both here and in the second section. One would think that in the fewer than 200 pages allotted to the author for the entire *libro*, he would have had problem enough squeezing in events which occurred on earth without devoting space to the exploration of the atmosphere. This work does purport to be universal in its coverage, however, and the promise to the reader must be kept somehow.

The Gallic chauvinism of the author is too evident, especially when he entitles a chapter, "*Expediciones francesas y otros países (1873-1910)*," as well as in his four-page bibliography, which consists overwhelmingly of works by French authors. Not a single journal reference is listed in the bibliography for this section—or, for that matter, in the others.

The second *libro*, *Las exploraciones polares*, is by Paul-Emile Victor. This section possesses more unity than the others and is the best written and most engrossing of the book, perhaps because of the special expertise and the singular experiences of the author, a polar explorer. I do question his organizational approach to the topic in certain chapters. Is it really necessary to devote separate sub-sections to British, Soviet, Norwegian, and Australian and German (odd combination) efforts, after a separate section on French polar explorations? Indeed, the polar regions and the planets are the two