

ever, only a small portion of the volume relates to the period prior to the present century and most of it relates to the last twenty-five years.

In reality, the book is more akin to the modified economic "histories" which deal with economic development. It presents the author's interpretation of secondary data for the recent development of the Latin American economies, striving at the same time to discern common elements within the Latin American sphere leading to meaningful generalization.

In mentioning the Cuban Revolution in its title, the author trades somewhat upon this dramatic event. The primary justification for using it in the title is a single "literary" chapter. The author's statistical tables and analysis do not end with the Revolution. Moreover, in historical terms, he does not really equate it with the Iberian Conquest.

The most useful aspect of the book is the interpretation of recent economic development reflected in the selected arrangement of secondary materials from the viewpoint of a well known Brazilian economist influential in North and Latin American intellectual circles. While numerous cross-sectional and short term series are presented, there are no long term statistical series, nor is there a single graph. Analytical statistical tests and empirical verifications such as correlation coefficients and quantitative techniques of the "new" economic history are also absent.

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#### COLONIAL AND INDEPENDENCE PERIODS

*La découverte de l'Amérique.* By MARIANNE MAHN-LOT. Paris, 1970. Librairie Ernest Flammarion. Questions d'histoire. Collection dirigée par Marc Ferro. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 142. Paper.

*La découverte de l'Amérique* is the most recent volume in the French series published by Flammarion. The collection deals with historical, political, social, and economic subjects in the main, but also touches on anthropology and the fine arts. To date 18 volumes have appeared and 91 additional titles are in preparation. Of the former group, only the volume under review pertains to Latin America; of the latter, at least three books will possibly interest Latin Americanists when they are published.

*La découverte de l'Amérique* is a small book. The 98 pages of text are supplemented by a chronology of discovery (from 874-1550 A.D.),

a few quotes from six documents (ranging from Norse sagas to Bishop Las Casas), a bibliography, and an index.

For those familiar with the voyages of the Vikings and Columbus, this book offers little. It is an extremely brief summary of all the well-known and non-controversial names, dates, and places. Even in the chapter that purports to treat “problems and controversies” the most exciting notion put forth is that the infinitive *découvrir* (to discover) implies an intentional act. In other words, the author maintains that if Columbus went forth *to discover* we may be certain that he (or his superiors) already knew what it was he was to discover. Conversely, when an early voyager stumbled blindly onto a new land, he *found* (not discovered) it!

Bearing the above lesson in semantics in mind, the reader may “discover” this an interesting re-hash of a few voyages; he will “find” nothing new or unique about it.

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*Boletín de la Academia Puertorriqueña de la Historia. El enigma del descubrimiento de Puerto Rico. Nuevos datos documentales y solución matemática del problema.* Vol. 1, No. 3. San Juan, 1969. Maps. Appendices. Bibliography. Pp 76. Paper.

Aurelio Tió, the author of this monograph, has spent many years advocating a particular site as *the* landing place of Columbus on the island of Puerto Rico during the course of the Admiral’s second voyage. Columbus, according to his son Ferdinand, kept a journal on this voyage. Unfortunately for historians, it has disappeared and we are dependent upon the fleet physician and historian, Dr. Diego Álvarez Chanca, and others, more or less reliable, for the details of the second voyage. Unlike the first, it was undertaken with a veritable armada of seventeen ships and fifteen hundred men who crossed the Atlantic (from the Canaries) in the remarkably fast time of three weeks.

No historian has given much attention to the Puerto Rican landing, and with good reason; it was a short stopover of a few days. Samuel Eliot Morison, in 1939, wrote that the landing place was “probably Boquerón Bay” and “might have been Salinas Bay.” In 1963, Morison wrote that “the fleet called either at Añasco Bay or Mayagüez Bay.” One year later, after conversations with Tió, Morison decided that the argument for Añasco “is clinched by the fact that Ponce de León, who was with Columbus in 1493, landed there thirteen years later.”

Tió has determined to settle three chief areas of controversy in