

Pre-Historic America. By the MARQUIS DE NADAILLAC. Edited by W. H. DALL. Translated by N. D'ANVERS. Oosterhout, N. B., Netherlands, 1969. Anthropological Publications. Illustrations. Figures. Notes. Appendix. Index. Pp. xii, 566. \$18.75. (Distributed in the U.S. by Humanities Press, New York.)

This publication is a photomechanic reprint of the 1885 English translated edition of the Marquis de Nadaillac's classic summary of New World archaeology, titled *Amérique préhistorique*. As such, the reprint is primarily of value to the sophisticated Americanist interested in obtaining the best-organized and most critical appraisal of archaeological fact, theory, and fiction prevalent at that time. On the other hand, the lack of editorial comments, or any type of new information can only mislead the reader unfamiliar with the major changes in knowledge of New World prehistory that have occurred since then.

In the 1880s even the most highly trained and knowledgeable New World archaeologists were still handicapped by the lack of available precise dating techniques or reliable methods of field excavation or laboratory analysis, much less a large body of accumulated tested data. As a result most of their ideas today can be rejected as a pyramiding of conjecture. It is much to Nadaillac's credit that he was fully aware of the then undeveloped status of archaeology as a science and thus attempted to separate fact from fancy by critically appraising the competency of his contemporaries and by thoroughly examining the published available literature. As a result he rejected many of the then popular theories of New World prehistory derived from Biblical interpretations; the ideas that the Old World civilizations were the source of those of the Americas, or that the Aztec culture was the fountainhead of those in the United States. It is of particular interest that Nadaillac and many of his contemporaries accepted the idea that the earliest inhabitants in the New World were contemporary with the extinct Pleistocene animals and that major climatic changes had occurred since then. Such a theory was subsequently rejected by most American archaeologists until its revival by the discovery of evidence of man associated with extinct fauna at Folsom, New Mexico in 1927.

Indiana University Museum

WESLEY HURT

La Revolución Mexicana. Eslabones de un tiempo histórico. By DIEGO ARENAS GUZMÁN. México, 1969. Fondo de Cultura Económica. Presencia de México, 8. Illustrations. Pp. 140. Paper. \$2.00.

This little book, comprising just 59 pages of text, is No. 8 in the publisher's "Presencia de México" series. The author is a journalist whose life roughly spans this century, and to whom the Mexican Revolution symbolizes the idealism of his youth, the vigor of his middle years, and the devoted reflection of his later life.

To the professional—unless it is the non-Mexican or, even, non-Latin American historian seeking a brief overview of the Mexican Revolution—the work is too brief and sketchy. The author defines the revolution as the period from the Creelman interview to the drawing up of the Constitution of 1917. To a scholar seeking a Mexican writer's survey of this period, the two volumes, comprising 600 pages of text, of Jesús Silva Herzog's *Breve historia de la Revolución Mexicana* (6th ed., 1969), published by the same well-known house in its "Colección Popular" series would be much more valuable.

For the lay reader, this little survey may be quite helpful. The author's viewpoint is unspectacular, comprising a critical but not denunciatory assessment of the Porfirio Díaz regime, emphasis on Madero as a political revolutionary only, complete repudiation of Huerta, and stress on Carranza's constitutionalism. The writer's style is pedestrian, but clear. He eschews anti-Yanqui comments with reference to events in which it would be both tempting and justifiable to include them. Lack of space almost entirely precluded consideration of Villa and Zapata. The author evidently knew the Maderista, Alfredo Robles Domínguez well, and makes a couple of specific references to his part in, or assessment of, events. A useful feature of the book is a large and particularly variegated collection of photographs.

Texas Technological College

LOWELL L. BLAISDELL

La Revolución mexicana y sus monedas. By CARLOS GAYTÁN. México, 1969. Editorial Diana. Illustrations. Tables. Appendices. Bibliography. Pp. 252. \$60.00 (Mex.).

Designed primarily for numismatists and other *curiosos*, Gaytán's study of Revolutionary coinage is only of tangential interest to the historian. The catalog is arranged alphabetically by states, replete with pictures of each coin described. The descriptions cater to the interests of the coin buff—size, weight, metal content, distinguishing characteristics and general value. Reflecting for just an instant one can appreciate that a coin classified as "*fain*" is not quite as valuable as a duplicate designated as "*veri fain*."

The historian will find that the introduction is the most valuable part of the book. After a brief bibliographical essay on previous studies of Revolutionary coinage, the author indicates that in Mexico the historical setting of a coin often determines its value more than its scarcity or condition. As an example he cites the silver peso minted in 1914 by the Villistas which, under the Constitutionalist banner, contains the legend "*Muera Huerta*." The entire Revolutionary phenomenon (not excepting, of course, the nature of the historiography) has inflated the demand and thus the value of this item. In fact, it commands a price not much lower than a similar Constitutionalist coin, ten times rarer, with the simple inscription "*H. del Parral*."

Unhappy that foreigners have produced most of the studies on Mexican coinage, Gaytán calls for the establishment of a chair of numismatics at the National University. Given a more professional interest it is possible that works of greater historiographical value could be produced. This work, however, will do little more for the historian than enable him to feign a little expertise during a Sunday outing at Lagunilla. Don't offer more than 500 pesos for a "*Muera Huertas de Seis Estrellas*!"

University of Nebraska

MICHAEL C. MEYER

The Carreta. By B. TRAVAN. New York, 1970. Hill and Wang. Pp. 264. Cloth. \$5.95.

In the 1930s, B. Traven, best known in this country for his *Treasure of the Sierra Madre* and for the speculation about his identity which now appears to have been fairly well resolved, wrote a series of six short novels intended to describe the background and nature of the Mexican Revolution. Through the story