

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.

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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*!"

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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