

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

of a driver of a *carreta* drawn by yoked oxen carrying freight between the villages of Chiapas, the author sketches conditions under which rural Mexicans lived early in the present century with detailed descriptions of the prevailing systems of peonage and debt slavery. The series of "Jungle Novels" should prove a welcome addition to the available background reading for students of Mexican history.

S. R. R.

Costa Rica en el siglo XIX. Edited by RICARDO FERNÁNDEZ GUARDIA. San José, Costa Rica, 1970. Editorial Universitaria Centroamericana. Pp. 583. Paper. \$5.00.

Costa Rica en el siglo XIX became a scarce book shortly after its publication in 1929 when a fire in a San José storehouse destroyed most of that edition. Yet the book has remained the most important single source for the social history of Costa Rica in the 1800s, making this new printing by Editorial Universitaria Centroamericana particularly welcome.

In this anthology the late Ricardo Fernández Guardia, dean of Costa Rican historians, brought together and translated descriptions of Costa Rica written by nine foreign travelers between 1825 and 1863. These range from such well-known and available works as those of John Lloyd Stephens, Ephraim G. Squier, Robert G. Dunlop, and Anthony Trollope, to obscure pamphlets and articles such as John Hale's *Six Months' Residence and Travels in Central America* (1826), and Thomas Francis Meagher's "Holidays in Costa Rica," from *New Monthly Magazine* (1859-1860). Complementing the views of these Anglo-Saxon observers are accounts by a Chilean diplomat, Francisco Solano Astaburuaga; a German adventurer, Friedrich Wilhelm Marr; and the French canal entrepreneur, Felix Belly. The translations of these accounts by Fernández Guardia, who was fluent in French and English, have not become dated and his occasional annotations remain useful.

This second volume in EDUCA's *Colección Viajeros* is handsomely illustrated and printed. A photo offset process, however, would have eliminated errors in reproduction and an index would have considerably enhanced the utility of the book.

University of Costa Rica

DAVID J. WEBER

The Liberator, Simón Bolívar. Man and Image. Edited and with an introduction by DAVID BUSHNELL. New York, 1970. Alfred A. Knopf. Borzoi Books on Latin America. Illustration. Map. Bibliography. Pp. xxxiv, 218. Paper. \$2.95.

This volume edited by Professor Bushnell (University of Florida), a leading authority on Colombian history of the 1820s, adds another collection of readings to the series of Borzoi Books on Latin America, which seem to be designed in considerable measure for the college student market. All the selections are from English sources or in English translation. The first 40% of the readings are Simón Bolívar's own writings (or, in the case of two short selections, his views as expressed by close associates). This first part of the book includes very substantial portions, though not the complete texts, of his most important statements on political matters, such as the "Jamaica Letter," his Angostura Address,