
This booklet is a compilation of brief biographies of current and former governmental leaders in eleven Latin American countries. Entries are grouped by nationality. Selections emphasize the Central American republics and the Spanish Caribbean plus the South American nations of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Uruguay, and Peru. There are token entries from other countries. Despite the unevenness of selection and presentation, this remains a handy guide for quick reference.

W.C.


This volume is the record of the first major exhibition of Pre-Colombian art by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The production principally of the Easbys, the show and catalogue are very up-to-date in selection and interpretation. The catalogue is an indispensable reference tool for the scholar, with sources cited throughout the captions and texts.

Despite covering Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean islands during more than three thousand years, a good representation was obtained. Instead of the famous examples, important lesser-known works were chosen: Aztec sculpture is represented by, among other things, an earth god found in the subway excavations in 1967 and sculptures brought from Hamburg, Vienna, Paris, and London. It would seem impossible to do justice to Maya sculpture with thirty-eight items, only eleven of them over twenty inches high, but imaginative selection produced a good overview. The catalogue is both a service to scholarship and a treat for the art lover.

T.G.


Archaeological research in Mesoamerica, born almost a century ago, is fast becoming a subject for historical studies, most of which deal with swashbuckling adventures in the bush of southern Mexico and the Maya area, or with the development of archaeological ideas and techniques. Thomas Joyce’s summary, first published in 1914, has become a part of the history of prehistory in Mesoamerica, and the value of the reprint edition lies almost solely in this area. No work half a century old, nor in fact one published as little as twenty years ago, can be expected to mirror modern understanding of and approaches to the prehistory of complex Mesoamerican civilizations; read as a piece of history, however, such a work can be highly illuminating.

Joyce’s summary came at a time when much surface exploration and very little controlled excavation had been carried out. He was forced, therefore,