tions is then insufficient to the understanding of a social system without an
analysis of activities and of residential relationships as they affect interaction.”

The study’s objectives are well met and the findings are of worth in an-
thropological theory. They are also relevant to group and organization theory,
while the study itself constitutes an addition to the ethnographic material on the
Mayans.

The book is a dissertation written for an anthropology department and it
reads like a dissertation. It is not easy nor always very exciting to read. The
inferior quality of the printing and particularly the diagrams further detract
from the reader’s enjoyment; but, if the subject is of interest, it does not
detract much.

G.M.

Ally of Cortés. Account 13: Of the Coming of the Spaniards and the Beginning
of the Evangelical Law. By Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl. Trans-
lated by Douglass K. Balleentine. El Paso, 1969. Texas Western Press,
The University of Texas at El Paso. Illustrations. Map. Appendix. Gloss-

This book will have limited uses, since it is neither critically translated nor
annotated. It is, rather, a sometimes faulty surface transposition of words from
Spanish to English with no penetration into the Account itself. One example
will suffice: Ixtlilxochitl employed the word “villanos” very pointedly in contrast
to “señores,” obviously reaching for the image of villenagium. The translator
renders it “villains” in the connotation of being rascals, and the whole point of
the paragraph—a rather significant one—is lost in the translation. This is no
rarity in the work.

The book has no documentation and an inadequate bibliography, even for
the casual reader of Mexicana. We are still in need of a critical and annotated
translation of Alva Ixtlilxochitl’s Relación XIII.

Brown University

R. C. Padden

The Sign of the Eagle: A View of Mexico, 1830-1855. By Lt. John James
Cloth. $14.50.

This attractive and readable volume is the result of the happy combination
of the wartime letters of Lt. John James Peck and a profusion of illustrations
based on lithographic representations of Mexican places and life and battle-
scenes from the war between Mexico and her northern neighbor. The text has
been skillfully edited with foreword and commentary by Richard F. Pourade.

Peck served with the invading North American forces both in the north and
in the campaign from Veracruz to the Mexican capital. His letters to friends,
family, and newspaper editors, dated from August, 1845, through April, 1848,
have been edited and at times consolidated to avoid repetitions and eliminate
extraneous matter. Recipients are not identified. Peck proves a good and
sympathetic observer and commentator on places and people, military and
political events. The half a hundred illustrations are drawn from the work
of Captain D. P. Whiting, Englishmen Daniel Thomas Egerton and John Phil-
lips, Carl Nebel, a German, and Mexican Casimiro Castro.

S.R.R.