

farming they turned to hunting and gathering, and their cultural level declined as a result of the move to poorer terrain.

Such a hypothetical reconstruction of culture history in the Tropical Forest zone echoes a similar theme of disinheritance and decline proposed earlier by Claude Lévi-Strauss (1952) to account for cultural discontinuities in prehistoric Central Brazil. But neither Lévi-Strauss nor Lathrap has given us the empirical evidence necessary for the acceptance of these interpretations. Certainly Lathrap's vision of waves of migrations pouring into the Upper Amazon Basin, creating land shortages and population pressures, cannot be deduced solely from a study of the archeological materials presented in *The Upper Amazon*.

Today, decimated by disease and all but destroyed through colonization, the present Indians of the Peruvian Amazon are reminders of a once flourishing agricultural community. Ironically, it is the relict bands of forest nomads whose presumed degenerative culture is found relatively intact. Almost all that we have to attest to the high level of cultural achievement of the early riverine horticulturalists is a fragmentary inventory of their ceramic wares. It is from these pieces that Lathrap ingeniously puts together the story of the Upper Amazon. If his readers judge him not entirely successful in this attempt it is owing to the paucity of information available about the prehistory of the region, and not to his imaginative reconstruction of past events in tropical South America.

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RELATED TOPICS

Bridging The Gap: Articles on Mexican Literature. By JEFFERSON REA SPELL. Edited by LOTA M. SPELL. México, 1971. Editorial Libros de México. Tables. Bibliography. Pp. 393. Paper.

Professor Jefferson Rea Spell, for forty-seven years a member of the Department of Spanish at the University of Texas, who died in 1967, was one of the pioneers in the United States in the study of Latin American and especially Mexican literature. His books on *The Life and Works of José Joaquín Fernández de Lizardi* (Philadelphia, 1931), *Rousseau in the Spanish World* (Austin, 1938), *Contemporary Spanish American Fiction* (Chapel Hill, 1944), and his editions of comedies of Eusebio Vela (in collaboration with Francisco Monterde) and of the several novels of Lizardi, are standard works.

The present book gathers together sixteen articles from his pen,

previously published in learned journals, and three chapters from the first of the above-mentioned books. They date variously from 1923 to 1963, and give us a picture of a life devoted to the scholarly study of Mexican literature and thought. They have been grouped in six parts: i. Materials for the study of Mexican literature (a report on the University of Texas acquisition of the Genaro García collection); ii. The Mexican theater (in the eighteenth century and in 1805-1806); iii. The channels of diffusion of Rousseau (in Spain and in Mexico); iv. José Joaquín Fernández de Lizardi (the largest group, including papers dating from 1930 to 1963); v. The *costumbrista* movement in Mexico; and vi. Mexican literary periodicals (in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, plus a study of those published in Mexico by the Cuban poet José María Heredia). All these papers are equally well grounded in exhaustive bibliographical research, with indication of the places where the materials used are to be found, and all are distinguished by clear thinking, clear exposition, and convincing argumentation.

The papers of greatest interest to readers of *HAHR* are probably those on the penetration of Rousseau in Spain and Spanish America, on the intellectual background of Fernández de Lizardi, on the historical and social background of his *El Periquillo sarniento*, and on Lizardi's work as a pamphleteer (pp. 71-96, 149-196, and 247-263).

Very few pages of the articles collected have dated since their first publication—perhaps only those dealing with the supposed absence of novels in colonial Spanish America, printed before Irving Leonard's and José Torre Revello's studies on this subject. This speaks very highly for the thoroughness of Dr. Spell's research methodology.

The book includes a foreword by Mrs. Lota M. Spell, a scholar in her own right, sketching the career of her late husband. She closes it stating that: "he went far toward bridging the century-old gap between Anglo and Hispanic America, by bringing into closer contact, in thought, in word, and in deed, the thinking people of two continents." The truth of these words is the best epitaph to the memory of a learned and good man.

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Foreign Enterprise in Mexico. Laws and Policies. By HARRY K. WRIGHT. Foreword by STEPHEN M. SCHWEBEL. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 1970. The University of North Carolina Press. Tables. Index. Pp. xi, 425. Cloth. \$15.00.