

The Population of the California Indians 1769–1970. By SHERBURNE F. COOK. Foreword by WOODROW BORAH and ROBERT F. HEIZER. Berkeley, 1976. University of California Press. Tables. Graphs. Index. Pp. xvii, 222. Cloth. \$12.75.

This work, posthumously published, represents the culmination of over thirty years of work, and it is the end result of a dozen studies of California's aborigines published since 1940. The first chapters fill in three regions which were missing from the earlier inquiry into the development of the Indian population since contact with the whites after 1769: the Sacramento Valley, the "Mission Strip" from San Diego to San Francisco, and California east of the Sierra Nevada. The next chapters bring the demographic picture up to 1970, studying age distribution and vital statistics which reflect responses to environment and disease among many factors. The fifth and sixth essays break entirely new ground. They present a comparative study of Indian and White populations and the impact of interracial fusion on the magnitude of both populations. The graphs and tables which are based upon highly sophisticated methods are explained in straightforward language. Cook estimates the California Indian population in 1769 to have numbered 310,000, give or take ten percent.

For Latin Americanists, special interest lies in the study of the impact of the Spanish Missions. The scrupulous assessment of the sources, cross-checked wherever possible, is a model exercise. The author not only analyzes the texts as such, but he gives invaluable hints as to their editions and prior use, and the impact of such past scholarship upon the traditional estimates of populations. This book is a fitting capstone to a unique and impressive life-long enterprise which has stimulated many scholars here and abroad.

U. L.

Goodbye García Adiós. By DON DEDERA and BOB ROBLES. Flagstaff, Arizona, 1976. Northland Press. Illustrations. Glossary. Index. Pp. xii, 131. Cloth. \$9.50.

Jesús García—an obscure reply to the question, "Who is your favorite hero?" Perhaps what is most appealing about this story is that it tells of an unknown man, confronted with a life-and-death situation.

In 1907, young García, a railroad employee of Phelps–Dodge Mining Company in Nacozari, Sonora, appeared an unlikely candidate for martyrdom. However, while engineering one of the trains which transported ore and supplies, coincidences ominously combined. Sparks from a faulty stack fell on dynamite inadvertently carried on the open ore car closest to García's engine and fire broke out. He and the crew, expecting an explosion momentarily, frantically fought to contain the fire but as it blazed out of control García shouted to the crew to jump. In those few moments, he determined to take the train beyond the town. Just as the train reached the outskirts of Nacozari, the dynamite exploded with tremendous force, killing García and twelve others. His bravery had prevented a far greater loss of life and the town of Nacozari was saved.

García's story most certainly merits telling, and the authors have accomplished this in a bilingual, side-by-side English-Spanish text. Many interesting photographs depicting Nacozari and its townspeople in the early 1900s have also been included.