

eastern South America, an area too often ignored in books of this nature; yet it appears to have been an important cultural hearth area. Two bonus chapters complete the book. Lanning's "The Transformation to Civilization" considers possible processes in the development of native American civilizations, while "Transoceanic Diffusion and Nuclear America" by Tolstoy presents a reasoned and scholarly appraisal of possible contacts with other cultures (primarily Asian).

The book's greatest drawbacks are its brevity and bibliography. The brevity forces the authors to limit their coverage and discussion. This makes the book difficult to use as a text except in general survey courses where other books (including possibly others from the same series) are also used. The brevity may send the reader to the bibliography for further information, only to meet with frustration. Most of the books cited are themselves only larger secondary summaries.

University of Illinois

DAVID GROVE

Across South America: An Account of a Journey from Buenos Aires to Lima by Way of Potosí. By HIRAM BINGHAM. New York, 1976. Da Capo Press. Illustrations. Maps. Index. Pp. xvi, 405. Cloth. \$27.50.

Behind this rambling travel account, in almost equal parts, are physical energy, intellectual curiosity, love of history, and concern about the then present. Having previously retraced the route of Bolívar across Venezuela and Colombia, Bingham readily succumbed to an urge, in 1908, to retrace the route of colonial commerce between Buenos Aires and Lima. However, his varied forms of travel greatly affected his capacity to report, as he intended, concerning the "people, their history, politics, economics, and physical environment" (p. viii). A train ride of 720 miles in twenty-four hours defeated his every purpose while numerous forty-mile-per-day stages by mule admirably served most of his ends.

The best of Bingham concerns those parts of Bolivia and Peru where the roads were execrable and the Aymaras and Quechuas predominant. He is tantalizing in terms of sixty-five-year-old theorizing and speculation and weak in the irrelevance of his opening chapters. To Bingham himself the greatest worth lay in the role this travel prompted Peru to play in his subsequent career. Even as the reader marvels at Bingham's energy, he is left to wonder why the editor of the reprint series in which this appears fails to marshal a single word to validate the desirability of reissuing the volume.

Murphysboro, Illinois

C. HARVEY GARDINER

Mexico State Papers, 1744-1843: A Descriptive Catalogue of the G. R. G. Conway Collection in the Institute of Historical Research, University of London. By MICHAEL P. COSTELOE. London, 1976. The Athlone Press. Index. Pp. 153. Cloth. \$9.50.

Students of late colonial and early modern Mexico will find this a well-edited monograph of particular value. The G. R. G. Conway Collection consists of over 1200 printed documents acquired by the Institute of Historical Research, Univer-