

sity of London in 1936. The collection begins with a small selection of viceregal documents but its main strength lies in the rich variety of materials on the independence struggles, the first Federal Republic and the complex political events of the period up to 1843.

The bulk of the documents is made up of presidential and congressional decrees which were issued and circulated by federal ministers to the appropriate government departments and authorities throughout Mexico. Although a number of well-known political plans, *pronunciamientos* and diplomatic treaties are included, the great value of the collection is in the wealth of detailed information it provides on the fiscal and economic legislation of the different post-independence governments. Students of the economic and bureaucratic history of the period will be interested to note that many of the documents listed by Michael Costeloe in this catalogue are accompanied by the administrative instructions of the ministers responsible for their implementation.

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A Guide to Historical Sources in Saltillo, Coahuila. By DAVID C. BAILEY and WILLIAM H. BEEZLEY. East Lansing, 1975. Latin American Studies Center, Michigan State University. Map. Bibliography. Pp. 101. Paper. \$3.00.

The guide encompasses all the major civil and ecclesiastical archives in Saltillo. It is a useful guide, but it is not a model of archival reporting. There is an imbalance in the attention given to the state archives. For example, the *Archivo de Justicia* is described as massive and complete (p. 61), but is summarized in one page. The *Biblioteca del Congreso* and the *Registro de Propiedades* together receive three pages. The forty pages given to the *Archivo General* of Coahuila contain an internal imbalance. In a sample of condensed entries from the archival guides, the years from 1688 to 1875 are compressed into four pages, while the years from 1876 are given a run of thirty-one pages. Insufficient access to the municipal archive causes a lapse in the reporting of its contents. The key *ramos* of *Inventarios y Testamentos* (1617–1846) and *Actas del Ayuntamiento* (1701–1919) are not mentioned, while the colonial section of the municipal *Ramo General* is credited with thirty *legajos* fewer than it actually contains. The parish archives of Santiago and San Esteban are well handled. Researchers will still want to look over this guide. It locates the archives and gives a general indication of their holdings.

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Political Handbook of the World: 1976. Governments and Intergovernmental Organizations as of January 1, 1976. Edited by ARTHUR S. BANKS, REBECCA T. GRANGER, et al. New York, 1976. McGraw-Hill. Tables. Appendices. Index. Pp. xi, 545. Cloth. \$19.95.

For quick, fundamental information on the politics of any country in the world (as of the end of 1975) one can delve into the comprehensive *Political Handbook of the World: 1976*. Its editors provide a compendium which succeeds in placing a great deal of factual material in an economical space. Considering the amount and utility of information, the price is reasonable.