

Fuentes de la historia contemporánea de México: Periódicos y revistas (1959–1968). Vols. III, IV, V. STANLEY R. ROSS, Director General. Mexico City: UNAM, 1976, 1977, 1978. Index. Pp. 1,450; 1,370; 1,065. Cloth.

With the publication of these three volumes, Stanley Ross concludes the quarter-century newspaper-periodical bibliographical project on “sources” for study of the great Mexican Revolution (1910–40). His first two volumes, covering materials printed during the years 1908–58, were published by the Colegio de México in 1965 and 1967. Work on these three volumes, covering materials published during the decade 1959–68, commenced in 1959 and continued through 1978. Ross directed this project under the auspices of UNAM’s Instituto de Investigaciones Bibliográficas at the Biblioteca Nacional and the Hemeroteca Nacional in Mexico City. Unhappily, there has been no updating of the three companion 1908–58 “libros y folletos” bibliographical volumes, which were directed by Luis González y González and published by the Colegio de México in 1961 and 1962.

Researchers on the Mexican Revolution over the past generation, and for generations to come, owe and will owe a monumental locating and timesaving debt to Ross and his able team of Mexican investigators; these three volumes not only contain a comprehensive listing (46,125 items) of the 1958–68 newspaper and periodical articles, but also, each item is accompanied by a succinct annotation. In addition, the 265-page index in volume V lists all authors, persons cited, source locations, and cross references. No serious scholar of the Mexican Revolution can afford to be without access to this invaluable, one-of-a-kind bibliographical reference tool. These volumes have just recently become available to the public at approximately \$13.00 each.

E. L.

Origins of the Mexican War: A Documentary Source Book. Edited by WARD MCAFEE and J. CORDELL ROBINSON. Salisbury, N.C.: Documentary Publications, 1982. Maps. Notes. Pp. xxii, 177. Cloth. 2 vols. \$39.95.

From a wide variety of sources, McAfee and Robinson have selected 110 documents that, in their judgment, help explain the coming of the war between Mexico and the United States. The editors have arranged these documents in groups that address such issues as President James K. Polk’s alleged sabotage of John Slidell’s mission and the role of John Frémont in California. Professing to adhere to Carl Becker’s dictum that the facts do not speak for themselves, the editors offer brief, balanced, and carefully considered introductions to each group of documents. Often, however, the editors raise more questions than they answer and urge the readers to evaluate the sources themselves.

It is convenient to have these documents in one place; a few are published or translated here for the first time. Nevertheless, *Origins of the Mexican War* seems of marginal utility. Professional historians have access to nearly all of the sources in their original published form, and will want to see them in the context of accompanying documents. The general reader, on the other hand, would probably prefer to avoid analyzing documents and to read, instead, engaging narratives by historians who have already done that arduous work. If these volumes are designed for students, as McAfee’s and Robinson’s prose style suggests, they will be used only in the library. The books are too detailed for general courses and too expensive even for upper division courses and seminars.

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