Gilbert’s important vocabulary of Tarascan has been reprinted several times, most recently in 1975. Lagunas’s book, however, has been previously reprinted only once, in 1890, as yet another contribution of the renowned Nicolás León, and that edition failed to include the prayer book. The present reproduction of the original work in its entirety is most welcome. Since the work of Lagunas complements that of Gilbert in language description and documentation and contains more ethnohistorical information, this book will be an important resource for anyone interested in the Tarascan language or early colonial Mexico.

The quality of the reproduction in the present edition is uneven, but adequate. Though persons unfamiliar with the orthography and style of early New World documents will encounter initial difficulties, there is no problem of legibility.

University of New Mexico

Garland D. Bills


This is the third of a projected five volumes of reports on the Harvard archaeological project at the Maya lowland site of Seibal. Most of the volume is devoted to A. L. Smith’s report on the major buildings, the caches, and the physical settings of the stelae. Smith’s goal is the representation of the results of excavation, mapping, and surface examination of the formal architecture. The descriptions are clear and detailed, and the illustrations appropriate. Unfortunately, this is no longer a sufficient kind of report. Of the approximately 226 structures at Seibal, 13 were thoroughly excavated. Functionally, this number is composed of 4 temples, 4 palaces, 2 ballcourts, and 3 miscellaneous structures. One can only regret that the excavation plan did not more carefully take account of the greater diversity of functional structures suggested by Smith’s own work at Altar de Sacrificios, Uaxactún, and the concurrent excavations at Tikal. The study is, however, quite adequate in its presentation of what was done, and is certainly a necessary volume of substantive information for any Maya archaeologist.

The final part of the volume is a collection of notes and short papers by a group of scholars working on the physical composition of fine paste (fine orange and gray) pottery. In spite of the impressive “high tech” applications of physical science, it does not serve much to illuminate either the source or processual importance of this ceramic ware.

University of Texas at San Antonio

R. F. W. Adams


Rubén Darío (Nicaragua, 1867–1916) is one of Spanish America’s major literary figures. He is the undisputed leader of the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century literary movement, Modernismo. The impact of Darío’s poetry and the movement on subsequent generations of writers in Spanish America and in Spain is indeed great. In fact, the movement put Hispanic poetry on a par with other contemporary literatures.

Today a plethora of historical, biographical, and literary studies on Darío and Modernism are available. Few, however, deal with the topic of Cathy Login Jrade’s book. It is a thorough analysis of Romantic/esoteric tradition in the poet’s works. At the turn of the century, humanity faced a crisis of beliefs: religion and metaphysics had come under severe