

criben las principales etapas de las que hoy llamamos ciencias americanísticas, a partir de lo que se designa como "Presunción de un Nuevo Mundo" hasta la enumeración de fuentes, delimitación de áreas culturales, elenco de los principales cronistas, existencia de testimonios indígenas y valoración de los trabajos de los pioneros en las investigaciones sobre los pueblos americanos.

Una segunda perspectiva abarca lo más sobresaliente en lo que hasta hoy sabemos del largo pasado histórico de la América prehispánica. Con razón expresa Ballesteros Gaibrois que, en el caso de la América indígena, resultaría difícil estudiar de manera exclusiva sus grandes religiones, prescindiendo de su "andamiaje histórico-cultural". A su juicio, para ahondar en el tema de la religión, es necesario hablar antes de las correspondientes culturas indígenas y su evolución histórica. De hecho, en el caso de las antiguas sociedades prehispánicas, las relaciones entre el fenómeno religioso y otros aspectos de la cultura, incluido el socio-económico, se presentan tan estrechas que, en muchos casos, es casi imposible su separación.

Desde un tercer punto de vista acometen luego los autores su presentación de "Cultura y Religión" en Mesoamérica y el mundo andino. A lo antes expresado sobre la evolución histórica de esas culturas, añaden ahora otras precisiones acerca de su visión del mundo, arte, sociedad, economía y vida urbana, en especial de Mesoamérica. Ello constituye el marco para el estudio propiamente dicho de la religión, tanto maya como de los pueblos nahuas en su etapa azteca o mexicana. Sin entrar en una valoración específica de lo expresado en dichos capítulos, puede afirmarse que lo expuesto está fundamentado tanto en las fuentes antiguas como en las principales aportaciones de investigadores contemporáneos. El lector desearía que se hubiera concedido atención más amplia a la zona andina.

El presente libro *Cultura y religión de la América prehispánica* es obra de conjunto que puede calificarse de buena introducción a tema tan vasto y complejo. Es satisfactorio, por otra parte, que series como la Biblioteca de Autores Cristianos, abriendo su mira, den entrada a temas como éste de las religiones indígenas de la América prehispánica.

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*Spain*. Compiled by GRAHAM J. SHIELDS. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 1985. Volume 60, World Bibliographical Series. Annotated bibliographies. Index. Pp. xxvi, 340. Cloth. \$55.00.

This is one of the latest products of the Clio Press's "World Bibliographical Series," a project that has already published books dealing with a number of Latin American countries and is designed to eventually produce volumes treating every country in the world. The compiler, Graham J. Shields, is a librarian at the University of Bradford and a devotee of Spanish themes.

His book is aimed at the "informed general reader," but it also intended to be of use to students (as indeed, it will be). It attempts broad comprehensive coverage of Spanish topics and is subdivided into numerous categories. The lengthiest section is devoted to history (49 pages), followed by empire, geography, languages and dialects, society, religion, politics, literature, the arts, tourism, and a number of smaller areas. Though topical coverage is fairly comprehensive, the actual bibliographical coverage must perforce be relatively selective in order to hold the annotated listings within a 300-page book.

The primary criterion has been to choose the principal works on each topic in English, though a few Spanish-language publications are included, and a small amount of periodical literature is also incorporated to deal with specific items not fully covered by books. The selection is generally judicious, though the criteria for the choice of the very small number of Spanish works that are included remain unclear. Each item is briefly annotated in a generally helpful way. Since Shields is selecting what he judges to be the best material, his capsule evaluations tend to be positive and sometimes overgenerous, and specialists will find them occasionally questionable on specific books.

It is easy to criticize individual aspects of selective bibliographies, but, in view of the dearth of such publications on Spain, students will find the present guide a useful new study tool. It can also be consulted profitably even by specialists for topics other than their own.

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#### COLONIAL PERIOD

*Handbook of Latin American Art (Manual de arte latinoamericano): A Bibliographic Compilation.* Volume II: *Art of the Colonial Period.* General editor JOYCE WADDELL BAILEY. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 1986. Bibliography. Abbreviations. Index. Pp. xxv, 538. Cloth. \$75.00.

This bibliographical compilation of writings on a crucial period in the development of Latin American art is, as is only natural in a publication of this kind, the result of teamwork. A long list of collaborators, presumably all art historians of well-deserved reputations, worked under the coordinating efforts of general editor Bailey to bring this volume to its successful publication.

In the preface, the scope of the volume and the method followed by its collaborators are clearly explained, and, as becomes obvious later on, these are applied with care and caution. While the first volume consisted of general references on