

Nevertheless, this ambitious anthology, and the series in general, makes important contributions to the evolving field of borderland studies. As Weber notes, “scholars continue to reinvent the borderlands to fit their current multidisciplinary and comparative interests” (p. 14). With the completion of the trilogy, historical archaeologists have staked their claim to define the field on their terms. We historians have much to learn from their research as well as their means of professional advocacy.

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*Handbuch der Geschichte Lateinamerikas. Band 2. Lateinamerika von 1760 bis 1900.* Edited by RAYMOND TH. BUVE and JOHN R. FISHER. Stuttgart: Verlag Clett-Cotta, 1992. Maps. Tables. Bibliography. Index. 891 pp. Cloth.

This volume, the first to appear in a projected three-volume series, was published during the Columbus Quincentenary. The first volume will extend to 1760, and the third will cover the twentieth century; both are scheduled to appear in 1994. Although the text is in German, the editors are authorities from the Netherlands and Britain and the contributors include German, Dutch, Spanish, and British historians. In this respect, the book recalls another noteworthy publication, the *Cambridge History of Latin America*, which first appeared in the 1980s. The present volume, however, appears far more compact. It is not a collection of independent studies but rather an integrated whole, which doubtless owes much to the editors' approach to Latin American history.

They have divided the material into two sections, the periods before and after 1830. The first section covers the preconditions for independence and the wars of independence, and the second deals with “rebuilding and modernization.” In two long chapters, John Fisher examines broad topics in Latin American society and chief aspects of public life in the colonies and newly independent states, such as the legal system, the economy, and international relations. His presentation is complemented by Jan Lechner's essay on culture. Other authors describe developments in individual regions—the Caribbean, Central America, Mexico, Brazil, and so on. Hans Joachim König, Gert Oostindie, and Raymond Buve deal with fundamental aspects of communities that, at the turn of the nineteenth century, were being transformed from colonial creole societies into the national communities of modern states.

One advantage of the present volume is that its authors have avoided the pitfall that has tripped many Latin American historians, of devoting an unreasonable amount of space to the military aspect of the wars of independence. Although the space devoted to political, economic, military, and other spheres is by no means uniform in each of the chapters, the reader is rewarded with abundant useful information on all major aspects.

The publication is conceived as a textbook for university students and readers interested in a more profound consideration of Latin American history. In this respect it contains a single notable flaw: the bibliography is merely a list of books and articles. What is required here is a bibliographical essay to guide the reader through the vast array of titles—far too many for any one person to search out and look at. But on the whole, the volume is of great significance and will surely stand for many years to come as one of the indispensable reference works on Latin American history.

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*Cartes des Amériques dans les collections de la Bibliothèque Royale Albert I<sup>er</sup>*. By HOSSAM ELKHADEM et al. Brussels: Bibliothèque Royale Albert I<sup>er</sup>, 1992. Plates. Illustrations. Notes. Index. xiii, 169 pp. Paper.

This book, another product of the Columbian Quincentenary, is the catalogue of a 1992 exhibition of maps of the Americas in the collection of the Bibliothèque Royale in Brussels. The exhibition included 59 maps and plans from the fifteenth to the mid-nineteenth century, ranging from world maps to nautical charts and city plans. The catalogue includes excellent reproductions of about half the works exhibited, 14 in color and 12 in black and white. The authors give a detailed account of each map, with discussion of its provenance, biographical information on the individuals involved in its production, and analysis of the cartographic and written sources on which it was based. Each item is examined in the broader context of evolving geographic and cartographic knowledge of the New World, with discussion of such issues as the changing views of the shape and extension of the South American continent and the erroneous tradition of depicting California as an island. Extensive references for further reading are also provided.

Most of the maps included were made by professional cartographers who worked in Europe and had no direct experience of the regions described. Most provide general rather than detailed local information. As one would expect from the nature of the exhibition, the Low Countries predominate, with maps by Abraham Ortelius, Michel Mercator, Jodocus Hondius, Willem Blaeu, Frederick de Wit, and others. Iberian cartography is represented only by Juan de La Cosa's world map and an eighteenth-century map of South America by Juan de la Cruz Cano y Olmedilla, which is not reproduced. A plan of the city and fort at Willemstad on Curaçao is included, but Latin American cities are represented only by the well-known schematic views of Mexico City and Cuzco from the *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*. Maps of particular interest to Latin Americanists include Sir Robert Dudley's map of Guiana and the mouths of the Orinoco; Dutch nautical charts of the Atlantic and Caribbean by Willem Blaeu, Hendrick Doncker, and Gerard van Keulen; general maps of South America by Arnold van Langren and Vincenzo Maria Coronelli; and a map of New Granada and Popayán published by Willem