

the whole Gulf and Caribbean area. A parallel contribution could be made by the Archivo Nacional de Cuba if it would sponsor the publication of the mass of papers in the institution concerned with Spain's part in the intervention in Mexico by Spanish, French, and British forces in 1861. Another such contribution could be made by publishing the papers in the Archivo Nacional dealing with Spanish reoccupation of Santo Domingo in 1861-65.

The volume on *Relaciones de Cuba y México durante el período colonial*, by Dr. Franco, is an identical reproduction of his introduction printed in the volume reviewed above.

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Les limites entre le Nicaragua et le Honduras. By JAIME SOMARRIBA-SALAZAR. Leyde, N.D. [Received in 1962]. A. W. Sijthoff's Uitgeversmaatschappij N. V. Maps. Appendix. Index. Bibliography. Pp. 339. Paper.

Presented as a doctoral thesis to the Faculty of Law at the University of Paris, this work was begun in 1954 after the author had completed the Licence en Droit at the same University. In this, the publication of his thesis, Somarriba-Salazar shows his legal training as well as his knowledge of the delicate question confronting the two Central American countries.

Briefly, this study is composed of three sections: 1) a history of the boundaries between Nicaragua and Honduras from 1502 to 1821; 2) the boundary question from the date of Independence to 1957 and 3) the judicial elements of the boundary dispute, in which is constituted the three major elements of the thesis.

The Problem:

Honduras claims that the frontier should run from Portillo de Teotecacinte by the middle of the Guineo or Namasli River, from where it is to proceed by the Poteca or Bodega River continuing along the *talweg* (that line joining the two lowest parts at the end of a valley, i.e., the middle line of a valley) of the Coco or Segovia River to its delta in the Atlantic Ocean at Gracias à Dios. The counter claim by Nicaragua, based upon the *uti possidetis juris* of 1821, supports the view that the frontier, beginning at Portillo de Teotecacinte, should follow the Aguán or Romano River to its mouth at Santa Rosa de Aguán on the Atlantic.

The land area in dispute between these two countries is not of a minor nature for the surface area between Portillo de Teotecacinte and the *talweg* of the Coco and Aguán Rivers and the Atlantic Ocean

is more than 30,000 Km², not too mean an area for any country to ignore. Those wishing to locate this territory accurately might do well to forego consultation with the two maps placed at the end of the work. For such an admirable study as this is, it is disappointing to have such poor cartography.

Basis of Dispute:

On July 22nd, 1906 the report of the Commission for the examination of the boundary dispute between the Republics of Honduras and Nicaragua was presented to the King of Spain, Alfonso XIII. Five months and one day later came the "Sentence Arbitrale de S.M. Le Roi D'Espagne . . ." given in Madrid and countersigned by the Spanish Minister of State, Juan Pérez Caballero. On Christmas day, 1906, Nicaragua stated its dissatisfaction with the decree of the Spanish King and it is from this basis of dispute that the third major element of the thesis springs.

Investigation of the Dispute:

Beginning with the thesis paragraph number 722, the author examines the validity of the Royal decree of 23 December, 1906, then passes on (725) to two points of argument favoring the case of Nicaragua: 1) an examination of the competence of Alfonso XIII to adjudicate the dispute, and 2) the fact that the *Sentence* of 23 December 1906 had, according to International Law, a fundamental error of documental misinterpretation.

Dr. Somarriba-Salazar proposes to bring the problem of the boundary dispute before the International Court of Justice and, an appendix indicates that this has been done since completion of the thesis.

On a general level, it may be remarked that the compilation of documents used in the thesis is a masterful accomplishment and these may all be seen at one glance in a carefully prepared chronological index. The author's prudent progress from one point to another throughout the work gives the study a highly organized, one might say coldly legal, but thoroughly readable aspect.

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Colotlán. Doble frontera contra los bárbaros. By MARÍA DEL CARMEN VELÁZQUEZ. México, 1961. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Cuadernos del Instituto de Historia. Serie Histórica No. 3. Maps. Index. Pp. 118. Paper.

The author of this book set out originally to write an article based on twelve reports made by local authorities in 1783 on the Colotlán