

novelists who invent more than they discover. Somewhere in between, the "happy medium" perhaps, are the Prescotts, the Parkmans, and the Morisons. These exemplary historians realize that great events demand great prose to reconstruct them. In attitude if not in accomplishment Fernando Benítez belongs in the middle group. All of his books on colonial Mexico are read with great pleasure. He makes his characters live—as they did live—in time and in space as bold and colorful men and women. Unfortunately his imagination seizes the initiative all too frequently. As Irving A. Leonard pointed out in his perceptive review of the Spanish edition of 1962 (*HAHR*, Feb. 1964), Benítez introduces "colorful passages with invented discourses and dialogues for the sake of readability." But perhaps this is, after all, not too great a price to pay for enjoying what one reads. A good translation by Joan MacLean carries into English the high literary quality of the original Spanish edition. In short, Benítez gives us a good account of the transformation of the Spanish conqueror into the Mexican creole of the sixteenth century.

Mayorazgos de la Nueva España. By GUILLERMO S. FERNÁNDEZ DE RECAS. México, 1965. Instituto Bibliográfico Mexicano. Notes. Index. Illustrations. Pp. 509.

Socio-economic historians of the colonial period will find excellent source material in the Biblioteca Nacional de México's recent publication *Mayorazgos de la Nueva España*. This study of the sixty-one *mayorazgos* listed in the Archivo General de la Nación offers a detailed survey of the history, genealogy, legal structure, and styles—i.e., regular or irregular—of this type of entail in New Spain. Obviously, Guillermo S. Fernández de Recas, the author and editor of three other editions in the series published by the Biblioteca Nacional, has invested an enormous amount of time in this careful and scholarly investigation of the *mayorazgos* of México, Hidalgo, Puebla, Veracruz,

Querétaro, Guanajuato, San Luis Potosí, Zacatecas, Oaxaca, and Yucatán. More than one-half (33) of the total number of *mayorazgos* existed in Ciudad de México, while four others were located in the Estado de México in such areas as Chalco, Cuauhtitlan, and Texcoco. The colonial period is almost entirely covered by the dates of various *mayorazgos*. Pertinent laws and precedents of the establishment of the *mayorazgo* in Spain and New Spain are included as appendices to the text. *Mayorazgos de la Nueva España* is also replete with illustrations of *casas de mayorazgos*, escutcheons, and portraits of some of the heirs of *mayorazgos* in New Spain.

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NATIONAL PERIOD

Contenido literario de "El Siglo Diez y Nueve." By MALCOLM D. McLEAN. México, 1965. Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público. Bibliography. Notes. Pp. 357. Paper.

Malcolm D. McLean, professor of Spanish at Texas Christian University, completed the manuscript upon which this book is based as his master's thesis in 1938. Subsequently parts of it were published in Mexico, but now for the first time the entire study appears in print. It is a valuable contribution to the study of Mexican literary developments. The first seventy-eight pages are devoted to an introduction to the newspaper *El Siglo Diez y Nueve*, published in Mexico City between 1841 and 1896. The largest part of the book consists of an alphabetical list of authors of literary articles, and, under the author listings, a chronological arrangement of their writings. Among the scores of foreign writers represented in the pages of *El Siglo Diez y Nueve* are Daudet, Zola, Anatole France, Poe, Longfellow, Daniel Webster, Goethe, Schiller, and Tolstoy, Arabs, Austrians, Belgians, Danes, Greeks, Hungarians, and Swedes, as well as representatives of Spain and the several South American countries. The strongest representation, of course, is