

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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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

from Mexico and includes Manuel Payno, Guillermo Prieto, Francisco Zarco, and Hilarión Frías y Soto. Professor McLean indicates that a virtually complete file of the newspaper can be found in the Biblioteca Nacional in Mexico City. This was true in 1938, but in all probability it is now housed in the Hemeroteca Nacional. In any event this book will serve the scholar as an excellent introduction to the columns of *El Siglo Diez y Nueve* and to the literary tastes of nineteenth-century Mexico.

La verdadera revolución mexicana. Primera etapa (1901 a 1911) and Complemento de la primera etapa (1911 a 1913). 2nd ed. By ALFONSO TARACENA. México, 1965. Editorial Jus. Pp. 407, 317.

Alfonso Taracena here offers a second edition of the third (1960) version of the "primera parte" of his synthetic daily notes. With essentially double the space distributed over two volumes, the author has added many new entries and enlarged some of the existing ones. The added material is about evenly distributed among three periods: 1901-07, 1908-10, and 1911-13.

The expansion of the material consists principally of reporting additional events (many of them ceremonial in nature and the majority obviously taken from the contemporary press) and the insertion of quoted material from speeches, statements, correspondence, and documents. For example, of the thirty-two additional pages in the section on 1908, six consist of quotations from the Creelman interview and fifteen are devoted to transcriptions of the correspondence exchanged between Ricardo Flores Magón and María Telavera.

Obviously the more complete the "diary" and the fuller its entries the more useful it will be for the student of the period. It would have been helpful for those wishing to pursue a matter further if Taracena had identified his sources more carefully.

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Los Dominicos en Panama. By FR. ALBERTO E. ARIZA, S., O. P. Bogotá, 1964. Convento-Seminario de Santo Domingo. Illustrations. Bibliography. Pp. 95. Paper.

Los Dominicos y la Villa de Leyva. By FR. ALBERTO E. ARIZA S., O. P. Bogotá, 1963. Convento-Seminario de Santo Domingo. Illustrations. Bibliography. Pp. 175. Paper.

Both books are the work of an *aficionado*, and accordingly one should not be surprised that they leave something to be desired in methodology and criticism. They contain useful information, however, and even some new material on modern developments which the author narrates on the basis of his personal experience and from restricted or inaccessible archives.

This may be said with complete justice of *Los Dominicos y la Villa de Leyva*, in which, along with copious data on local history there is much of interest for the general history of the Church in Colombia. Almost the whole book is devoted to events of the last hundred years. In the booklet *Los Dominicos en Panama*, which seeks to cover the entire history of the order in the Isthmus from the sixteenth century to the present, the subject is treated in a more superficial manner, and statements of the author should be taken with caution. Even in this book also, however, there is valuable material for those who know how to use it with discrimination.

In spite of the above qualifications Father Ariza deserves the gratitude of historians for having gathered together these fragments, which would otherwise have disappeared from sight.

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Anglo-American Isthmian Diplomacy, 1815-1915. By MARY WILHELMINE WILLIAMS. New York, 1965. Russell & Russell, Inc. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 356.

It is always welcome news when a