

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.

STANLEY ROBERT ROSS
State University of New York
at Stony Brook

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.

LINO G. CANEDO, O. F. M.
Academy of American
Franciscan History
Washington, D. C.

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

standard reference on a given topic is reissued, especially if it has been out of print for years. Winner of the coveted Justin Winsor Prize (1914) and originally presented as a doctoral dissertation at Stanford University, this honored work was published under the auspices of the American Historical Association in 1916. By utilizing the extensive documentation of the Public Record Office in London and by employing a more critical historical approach, Miss Williams improved upon the pioneer studies of Ira D. Travis. Her objective exposition of the controversial 1850 treaty and its hectic aftermath caught the attention of reviewers from the beginning; indeed, a half century later, that section remains the most vital contribution of her book. Less definitive, because of the lack of documentation available to her, the last two chapters treat Anglo-American negotiations from 1860 to 1914 in just fifty pages.

Miss Williams painted the same uncomplimentary picture of British activities in Central America that Travis had sketched, charging the Foreign Office with a deliberate plan of territorial acquisition and extension of English influence throughout the area. British agents, for example, were responsible for the dissolution of the Central American Republic (1823-1839); and they consistently fought the liberal-unionist movement in subsequent years, siding with the *Serviles*, or Conservatives, of Central America. Though the controversy over the nature of Britain's role in Central America is still alive today, we can safely say that Miss Williams' interpretation is now outdated. Reviewing British policy in its European context from 1846 to 1860, Professor Richard Van Alstyne convincingly refuted or qualified the former imputations of British imperialism in a trio of articles published in the late 1930s. Others have done the same for the Central American context. In the *HAHR* (August 1960), Professor Robert A. Naylor argued that the commercial interests of Englishmen in the area, not political or

strategic factors, guided British policy in Central America. Professor Thomas Karnes in *The Failure of Union: Central America, 1824-1960* (Chapel Hill, 1961) sharply attacked the Williams interpretation, denying that Frederick Chatfield had anything to do with the dissolution of the Republic or with the anti-unionist movement in subsequent years. My own study, *A Palmerstonian Diplomat in Central America: Frederick Chatfield, Esq.* (Tucson, 1964), supports Karnes' assertion with regard to the Republic. With these qualifications in mind, Miss Williams' book is still useful.

MARIO RODRÍGUEZ

University of Arizona

Cuba before Castro. An Economic Appraisal. By PHILIP C. NEWMAN. Ridgewood, N. J., 1965. Foreign Studies Institute. Tables. Charts. Pp. 123. Paper.

This is a curious volume. It was copyrighted in 1965, but the text contains no indication of having been written after 1959, except for a statement in the introduction that the possible destruction of records in Cuba might make it subsequently impossible to reconstruct the recent past. If there is a reference to "the present government" in the text, it is to Batista's and not to Castro's regime. If there is comment about a contract that has "recently" been negotiated, it normally refers to an action in 1957 or 1958.

Keeping this caveat constantly in mind, the reader will find much useful economic information in the slender volume. By design the study contains almost nothing of politics. It does give a great deal of information, soberly and factually presented and with little or no interpretation, about the nature of the Cuban economy, the foreign and domestic investment picture in the island, the history of "joint ventures," etc. The many statistical tables are more helpful than the occasional charts which, because of poor drafting, are difficult to interpret.