

BOOK NOTICES

Initialed notices were written by C. R. Boxer, John V. Lombardi, David M. Pletcher, Robert E. Quirk, Russell Salmon, James R. Scobie, and Kathleen Hedberg, all of Indiana University.

A Bibliography of Latin American Bibliographies. Rev. ed. Compiled by ARTHUR E. GROPP. Metuchen, New Jersey, 1968. Scarecrow Press. Index. Pp. ix, 515. \$30.00.

Arthur E. Gropp, librarian of the Columbus Memorial Library in Washington, D. C., has carried out the monumental and unenviable task of revising C. K. Jones' *Bibliography of Latin American Bibliographies* (1942). More than 4,000 new references have been added—an indication of the great number of publications on Latin America since the 1930s. Gropp has altered Jones' basic format, arranging the entries by subject, rather than by country. Within each subject, however, the listings are broken down into country subdivisions. The compiler has also provided a detailed index to names, corporate bodies, government offices, titles of series, and subject entries. The reviewer's cliché that this volume belongs on the bookshelf of every Latin Americanist is most apropos here.

R. E. Q.

Spanish American Customs, Culture and Personality. By REGINALD C. REINDORP. Macon, 1968. Wesleyan College. Illustration. Appendix. Bibliography. Pp. xvi, 344. Paper.

This volume, product of both observation and research, is an effort to provide "understanding" of the Latin American historical heritage and the contemporary personality of Latinos. In the words of the author, it is an "offering on the altar of inter-American friendship."

The 344 pages, divided into four sec-

tions sweep from pre-Roman Spain to present day banking in Latin America. The first section, "Cultural Blueprint," provides a historical sketch of Spain, its peoples and institutions, and a discursive interpretation of the Spanish psyche. Section two, "The Foundations," covers the background of the American civilizations, the transfer and adaptation of Spanish institutions, the movements for independence, and a cursory outline of the major political issues during the nineteenth century.

Throughout, the author commendably emphasizes those facets of the historical inheritance which seem visible today. "Social Structure," section three, is devoted to convenient generalizations on Latin American class divisions, attitudes, beliefs, practices, and other cultural idiosyncracies. The fourth and last part, "Intellectual and Economic Life," deals with education, arts, ethics, and contemporary commercial practices, and, in addition, provides well-intentioned advice for the ingenuous traveler. At the end of the book there is an appendix which lists countries, their size, population, capital city, national hero, average life span, and the most common association—e.g., Uruguay, "free education," Dominican Republic, "Where Columbus rests." There is also a general bibliography, as well as a brief listing of references at the end of individual chapters. The bibliography might have included some of the more significant writings by social scientists in the past decade.

In sum, Reindorp has contributed another potpourri on Latin America, and the result suffers from many of the shortcomings of the genre. The book, which grew out of the author's teaching, seems intended as a text for lower division courses offered by Spanish and history departments. Certain instructors may favor it, since no controversial issues are raised, no disturbing questions posed, and what is