

## 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

identified as the positive is stressed wholeheartedly. Though Reindorp purports to examine clichés critically, he deals in the most common of accepted generalizations. Still, sincerity is apparent and the writing leavened by a benevolent attitude of tolerance. The volume might have been written in 1948, but today it is surprising.

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*Datos básicos de población en América Latina, 1970.* Washington, [1970]. Unión Panamericana, Secretaría General de la OEA, Departamento de Asuntos Sociales. Tables. Notes. Pp. 115. Paper. \$0.50.

This modest publication presents a great deal of useful information cheaply and in a form as plain as a Model T Ford. Concerning each country of Latin America it lists practically all basic demographic information for 1960, 1970 (or other years close by), and projections for 1980. This information includes population—total, urban, and rural—density of habitation; percentage under 15; birth, death, and growth rates; life expectancy; percentage of illiteracy; pupil-teacher ratios; doctors, patients, and hospital beds per 10,000 inhabitants; and much more. For good measure, the islands of the former British West Indies are included. Sources are scrupulously specified.

Even today some Latin American statistics are apt to inspire a raised eyebrow. Still it is undeniably desirable to have even partly reliable data in systematic form at one's fingertips.

D. M. P.

*Models of Political Change in Latin America.* Edited by PAUL E. SIGMUND. New York, 1970. Praeger Publishers. Pp. xiv, 338. Cloth. \$9.00. Paper. \$3.95.

Paul E. Sigmund and Praeger obviously intend this book of readings for courses in Latin American history

or government. But the first premise, as stated in the Introduction, may be faulty: "Teachers and students of contemporary Latin American affairs, in the United States and elsewhere, have been aware of a lack of basic Latin American source materials" (p. v). Perhaps so. But the present *HAHR* editors have seen a score or more of such anthologies come across their desks in the past five years. And I would imagine that many a Latin Americanist (together with his publisher) has been disillusioned by the few sales and small royalties these collections have garnered. Still, there is probably always room for an excellent new one. Is this it?

The documents purport to illustrate and explain political change in nine Latin American countries, through revolutions (Mexico, Bolivia, and Cuba), military rule (Brazil, Argentina, and Peru), and constitutional democracy (Venezuela, Colombia, and Chile). Most documents come from the 1960s, though a few on Mexico go back to the beginning of the 1910 Revolution. If the inside cover blurb is to be believed, the author intends to present "all sides of the current debate over political, social, and economic change in the region."

The documents do not live up to that advertisement. On Mexico, for example, the book includes Madero's Plan of San Luis Potosí, Zapata's Plan of Ayala, excerpts from the 1917 Constitution, and Cárdenas' oil expropriation decree—hardly an explanation for three decades of revolutionary change. The selections from Charles C. Cumberland, Robert E. Scott, Frank Brandenburg, and Pablo González Casanova may be new to Paul Sigmund but are old stuff to long-time Mexicanists. And the final documents on the student strike of 1968 refer to a "revolt." Nothing in the student plans or actions justifies that interpretation of their strike.

Some selections could be useful for assigned readings from library reserve shelves. I doubt, however, if the entire book should be required reading for