

its subjects, so that he may be memorialized in granite. It contains separate biographical sketches of two minor characters in the American seizure of Veracruz in 1914—the commander who organized the resistance at the Naval Academy and his son, who died in the combat. The author, director of a cultural center in Veracruz, seeks to enhance the city's name and further the construction of a monument to Commander Azueta.

The result is page after page of hero worship and descriptive passages, both steeped in superlatives. There are several inaccuracies in the account of the Veracruz incident. American casualties at the Naval Academy encounter are exaggerated, and the author succeeds in placing at Veracruz a vessel that was not present at the time of the landing. A picture caption (opposite p. 56) is a mistranslation of the English caption and entirely reverses its meaning.

The brief bibliography consists entirely of secondary works, nearly all in Spanish, and the volume is conspicuously devoid of footnotes. The appendix contains a French correspondent's account of the events at Veracruz and Tampico, unfortunately written from the latter city and hence inaccurate regarding the landing.

The only portions of interest to historians—and that only marginal—are the references to Manuel Azueta's pivotal role in the formation of the Mexican Navy during his numerous trips abroad to purchase and supervise the construction of warships and the brief reference to Carranza's stubborn refusal to accept the services of anyone who aided Huerta, even if that individual had fought against the Gringo invaders at Veracruz, as in the case of Azueta. These items, however, are merely mentioned, rather than analyzed. The volume adds little to existing knowledge about the occupation of Veracruz, save for the movements of the title characters.

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México visto en el siglo XX. Entrevistas de historia oral. By JAMES W. WILKIE and EDNA MONZÓN DE WILKIE. México, 1969. Instituto Mexicano de Investigaciones Económicas. Appendices. Bibliography. Indices. Pp. x, 770. \$100.00 (Mex.). (Distributed by "Cuadernos Americanos," México.)

Although the tape recorder has not yet revolutionized the study of history, it has at least added a completely new dimension. Scholars have long used personal interviews to gain information not available in documents. But accuracy was difficult, if not impossible, when the oral words had to be taken down by hand or on a typewriter. The case and efficiency of using a tape recorder put an end to that problem. Oral history programs proliferate in the universities of the United States. James W. Wilkie, now based at UCLA, began such a program at Ohio State University, and this volume is the first published result of his interviews in Latin America.

Aided by his wife, Edna Monzón de Wilkie, James Wilkie talked at length with leading political figures in Mexico, drawing them out in numerous sessions to reveal hitherto unknown aspects of Mexico's recent history. Here are his interviews with Ramón Beteta, Alemán's secretary of the Treasury; Marte R. Gómez, a Zapatista; Manuel Gómez Morín, leader of PAN; Vicente Lombardo Toledano, Marxist labor union leader; Miguel Palomar y Vizcarra, of the Catholic Action movement; Emilio Portes Gil, provisional president in 1928; and Jesús Silva Herzog, Marxist and journalist.

James and Edna Wilkie have since taken their recorder and tapes to Costa Rica, Bolivia, and Venezuela. Speaking for all true Mexicanists, however, I wish that they could come back to Mexico fairly soon to interview Miguel Alemán, Lázaro Cárdenas, Daniel Cosío Villegas, David Siqueiros, Carlos Fuentes—the list is endless!

R. E. Q.