

Hans P. Kraus Collection of Hispanic American Manuscripts, A Guide. By J. BENEDICT WARREN. Washington, 1974. Library of Congress. Bibliography. Index. Illustrations. Pp. 187. Cloth, \$17.50.

With this catalogue the Library of Congress has done justice to the Kraus Collection of Hispanic American Manuscripts. In rarity, variety, and range this represents the largest acquisition in the field since 1929. Among the rare items are autographs from the Archive of Archbishop Zumárraga that include those of King Charles I and his family, and of Cardinal García de Loaysa. There is an unpublished four page letter by Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas concerning privileges he found it necessary to request for his work in Chiapas. As for variety of material, it ranges from a central section of opinions about the probable effects of the New Laws of 1542 commissioned by the crown from the Archbishop of Toledo, Secretary Cobos, and the Cabildo of Mexico City among others, to a wide spectrum of public and private concerns. The geographic scope reaches from Peru to a substantial section originating in the Borderlands of New Spain including Florida or territories which are now in the U.S.A. and consecutively from 1500 to 1819. Some of the manuscripts present totally fresh and intimate insights into colonial life and there are also remarkable variations of known works (items 117 and 156).

The compiler J. Benedict Warren has done an expert job on description of the manuscripts, including provenances, publications, and editions. Richard Boulind is credited with all non-Spanish items. Format, design, printing, and binding complement the fine scholarship of the catalogue which introduces a truly splendid collection.

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English Interpreters of the Iberian New World from Purchas to Stevens: A Bibliographical Study, 1603–1726. By COLIN STEELE. Oxford, 1975. The Dolphin Book Company. Tables. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 206. Cloth.

Colin Steele's attractive and useful book is a study of the English translation of Spanish and Portuguese writing about the New World during the years 1603–1726. It should find a warm reception with two categories of readers, that small number whose scholarly work requires a detailed understanding of the seventeenth-century English texts of Las Casas or Gómara, on the one hand, and on the other those readers who will relish a bibliographic essay on the subject. The years were ones when every translator was editor, and translations were as often as not transformations. This fact alone warrants the treatment of this subject as a history of interpretation rather than a compendium of translations. Mr. Steele is a skillful historical essayist, but the bibliographic information lies at the heart of the book. In one way or another fifty or sixty Spanish works found their way into English in these years. Only two or three were originally Portuguese. An awkward but useful appendix traces the genealogy of each, and a singular chapter looks at the Spanish New World literature found in several of the great private and institutional libraries of Stuart England.

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