

The Mexican Corrido: as a Source for Interpretive Study of Modern Mexico (1870-1950). By MERLE E. SIMMONS. New York, 1969. Kraus Reprint Co. Appendix. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. xviii, 619. Cloth.

Few books can be labeled scholarly, informative and genuinely interesting. Merle Simmons' study of the corrido meets all of the tests. Historians of the Mexican Revolution for years have recognized the popular corrido as a potentially important historical source but most have deigned to use it for little more than anecdotal relief or spice. As both a mold of public opinion and a reflection of it, the corrido offers a unique kind of historical grist. Hopefully this new edition of the volume which appeared originally in 1957 as a part of the Indiana University Humanities Series will spark a renewed and more serious interest in this remarkable type of popular document. Historians, folklorists and literary critics can squeeze out much more.

M.C.M.

Latin American Government Leaders, 2nd ed. Edited by DAVID WILLIAM FOSTER. Tempe, 1975. Center for Latin American Studies, Arizona State University. Pp. vii, 135. Paper. \$3.00.

A useful update of the guide first published in 1970 under the same title, this volume constitutes a handy reference for those persons needing brief biographical sketches of Latin American government officials. The study is arranged by country and includes presidents, vice-presidents, cabinet ministers, leading diplomats and church figures, as well as the heads of some de-centralized agencies.

M.C.M.

Latin America 1974. Edited by LESTER A. SOBEL. New York, 1975. Facts on File. Index. Pp. 210. Cloth. \$8.95.

The third annual volume of the Facts on File reference series dealing with Latin America, like the previous two, provides an account of the major political, economic, and social events of the year in Latin America. The material is written in a crisp, journalistic style and is organized by country. Each section presents a concise account of major current events in a single country, and, taken together, they comprise a fairly comprehensive reference for those interested in contemporary Latin America.

S.P.B.

Yearbook on International Communist Affairs, 1975. Edited by RICHARD F. STAAR. Stanford, 1975. Hoover Institution Press. Tables. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xxii, 678. Cloth. \$25.00.

The present volume constitutes the ninth in the series. Format remains basically the same with country studies grouped according to geographic area.