

# New Mexico Historical Review

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Volume 11 | Number 1

Article 5

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1-1-1936

## Book Reviews

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### Recommended Citation

. "Book Reviews." *New Mexico Historical Review* 11, 1 (1936). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmhr/vol11/iss1/5>

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Death In The Desert.* By Paul I. Wellman. (The Macmillan Company, New York, 1935; xiv+294 pp; bibliog., map, illustrations, index; \$3.00.)

*Death In The Desert* is the second of two books by Paul I. Wellman, a newspaper man of Wichita, dealing with the tempestuous, bloody beginnings of the present day Indian problem.

His first book, *Death On The Prairie*, published in 1934, covered the struggle to subdue the Indians of the Great Plains from the beginning of the Sioux warfare in Minnesota in 1862 to the final, last-hope rally of the Plains tribes around the Indian Messiah in 1891.

*Death In The Desert* deals with what the author calls the "Fifty Years War For the Great Southwest." He covers fifty years and more in point of time, from 1822 to 1886, but he has also managed, by some geographical stretch of the imagination, to include in the war for the great southwest an account of the struggles with the Modocs in Oregon!

Neither of these books contributes anything new in material on the years of Indian warfare, but the digging out of new evidence was not the author's purpose. He had done what anyone might do, and what very few have done—gathered together reliable personal narratives, state documents, military records, historical society records, and then, after making this material his own, he has produced a vivid dramatic portrayal of what happened when Redman and Whiteman behaved alike as savages or supermen. Too many books in the past have whitewashed the white man; too many in recent years have attempted the same treatment for the red man. Mr. Wellman is sternly just to both sides or equally condemnatory as the case may warrant.

The criticism may be made that these books are journalistic in style, but if a well thought out plan of presentation, a sympathetic interpretation of character, and an

ability to recreate a scene in the vivid details of sound and smell and sight represent journalism, then it is good journalism.

These are books that are primarily for laymen—they may move some laymen to want to delve more deeply into the lengthy material of the bibliography—but they are also books for historians. They might teach some historians that history is drama and can be written in an entertaining as well as an accurate manner.

*Death On The Prairie* seems to be the better of the two books in style and technic and presentation of material. Both are well documented, and maintain a consistent point of view. The illustrations in each, obtained from various historical collections, are adequate; and *Death In The Desert* contains a map of sorts that must be, even for the most casually reading layman, a great improvement over the mapless *Death On The Prairie*.

The foreword in *Death In The Desert* with its vague reference to Indian migrations and its attempt to build up character for the Apaches adds nothing. It is not consistent in tone nor style nor accuracy with the rest of the book.

The Apaches were not the only people whose name for themselves meant the People. It was a characteristic of most of the tribes of Athapascan stock. Neither did the fact that the word Apache was derived from the Zuñi word for enemy mean that this tribe were more than ordinarily ferocious. To one tribe all other tribes not their allies, were enemies, and the early white men, hearing them so referred to, accepted that name. The word Sioux, for instance comes from the Chippewa name for enemy.

The Apache does not need the build-up that the author attempted to give him in the foreword; his character speaks for itself in the pages that follow. Furthermore, to thus emphasize this tribe in the beginning spoils the unity of the book since Mr. Wellman logically includes in his story of the southwest the uprising in Taos in 1846 and illogically drags in the Modoc disgrace of 1871.

In spite of minor criticisms, Mr. Wellman has done an interesting study of Indian warfare as a whole. His two books are a welcome contribution to the background of the Indian problem of today.

MILDRED S. ADLER.

*Albuquerque.*

*The Texas Rangers.* By Walter Prescott Webb. (Houghton Mifflin Company, The Riverside Press, Boston, 1935. 584 pp., ill. by Lonnie Rees. \$5.00.)

Dovetailing into the history of New Mexico at a number of points, the story of the Texas Rangers as presented by Professor Webb of the University of Texas, is not only well written and thoroughly documented but it is as thrilling a tale, or series of tales, as is to be found in western literature. Hollywood could find between its covers plots for a score of films more exciting than any movie portraying modern gangsters and their pursuit by G-men. As a contribution to southwestern history of the past hundred years it merits high rating. To a large extent biographical, it recounts vividly the incidents of border warfare along the Rio Grande from Brownsville to El Paso. It records in detail the story of Indian raids along the New Mexico and Oklahoma boundaries, of train robberies, bank lootings, stage hold-ups, livestock thieving and banditry in general during the century from 1835, when the Rangers were first organized, to 1935, when they were reorganized into highway patrols. Like the Canadian mountain police, the Texas Rangers got their man even if they had to disregard international law and the niceties of court procedure. Though small in number the Rangers found it necessary to kill more than five thousand outlaws in establishing order in a domain larger than the German Empire. It was said of the Rangers that "they could ride like Mexicans; trail like Indians; shoot like Tennesseans and fight like the devil," and it took all that and more to create a record of daring and achieve-

ment such as stands to their credit. They protected society from its enemies with a vigor which has given them immortal fame. The careers of the dominant figures typify the traits of the force as a whole. The author has done well in making this evident as he takes up the lives of the commanding officers chronologically.

However, there are also picturesque chapters descriptive of phases of history more far-reaching than the warfare with bandits, or the biographies of individuals. The account of the battle of Monterey might well take its place among the classics which should be found in every advanced school reader. "The El Paso Salt War" and "The Las Cuevas War" are chapters in which clashes between Mexican and Texan reached high points in the continuous strife of these elements along the Rio Grande. Across the pages of this well-written book march outlaws who served as prototypes for Billy the Kid, and also others as popular and romantic as Robin Hood who stole and killed so that they might give to the poor. Altogether fascinating these true stories have an appeal which should bring to the book many readers outside of the boundaries of the Lone Star State.

The volume is well illustrated with fine drawings by Lonnie Reeves and many interesting photographs. The typography is attractive and the press work on the heavy, glossy paper is excellent. The large format and wide margins together with the artistic arrangement of citations and quotations on an introductory page to each chapter give distinctiveness to the book. A detailed index and a bibliography add to its value for the student of southwestern history.—P. A. F. W.

*Arte en America y Filipinas*, cuaderno I. Director, Diego Angulo fñiguez. (Spain, Universidad de Sevilla, 1935. 8 pesetas.)

Unusual interest will be found by many of our readers and exchange libraries in this brochure of 94 pages. It is the initial issue of a series which is to appear "without fixed

date, in cuadernos of some eighty pages, at the price of eight pesetas each. Every four cuadernos will constitute a volume."

It bears the imprint of the University of Seville, in which Professor Iñiguez directs the teaching of the colonial arts of Hispano-America; but it is sent out from the "Center of Studies in the History of America" on the Triana side of the Guadalquivir which was opened in 1929 and has been doing such excellent work, under the auspices of the University and directed by Prof. José Maria Ots Capdequi.

Inspired by a recent visit to the Museum of Mexico and by archival material which he has found in Madrid and Seville, Professor Iñiguez himself contributes the principal study of this number (pp. 1-75), "La Academia de Bellas Artes de Mejico y sus pinturas españolas," accompanied by twenty-six beautiful illustrations. It is an intriguing, fascinating account, one which opens up a phase of Spanish colonial history of which we know far too little.

A shorter but also important paper (pp. 76-88) is by Sr. Antonio Muro Orejón: "Alonso Rodríguez, primer arquitecto de las Indias," the celebrated architect of Seville with whom the House of Trade made a contract in 1510 for the building of certain parochial churches in the Island of Hispaniola,—but who (the records show) never went to the Island. But he seems to have supplied the plans which were later used. Three other short articles or notes conclude the issue.

The Universities of Seville and Buenos Aires<sup>1</sup> are opening up a line of research and study which has great possibilities. What universities in the United States will follow the lead?—L. B. B.

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1. See N. MEX. HIST. REV., X, 169.

## ERRATA

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(additional to those on p. 348)

- p. 273, line 31, *read* seized.
- p. 302, note, *for* West Point *read* Annapolis.
- p. 307, line 31, *for* three *read* there.
- p. 329, note, *for* Doway *read* Douay.
- p. vi, line 28, *for* Father *read* Brother.



New Mexico Historical Review  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131