

New Mexico Historical Review

Volume 13 | Number 3

Article 7

7-1-1938

Book Reviews

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmhr>

Recommended Citation

. "Book Reviews." *New Mexico Historical Review* 13, 3 (1938). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmhr/vol13/iss3/7>

This Review is brought to you for free and open access by UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *New Mexico Historical Review* by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu, lsloane@salud.unm.edu, sarahrk@unm.edu.

BOOK REVIEWS

Bosquejos históricos. By Vito Alessio Robles. (Mexico City, 1938; 467 pp., index.)

In a brief foreword, the author states: "In this volume have been brought together articles and addresses of mine, selected from among those which contain historical data or which may be considered as contributions meant to aid in apprehending the truth or to correct facts which, through lack of documents or through malice or merely through laziness, have been falsified in our much abused history. The topics vary widely and embrace epochs quite distinct. They are published in this volume in order to bring them forth from the heap, and from the scattered places in which they were to be found."

Some of these historical papers are reminiscent of various books by Sr. Alessio Robles with which our readers are already familiar. But to many friends of this Mexican historian, more especially those north of the Rio Grande, others of the papers will be entirely new. For example, this author and a cultured friend visiting Mexico City express themselves (in dialogue form) regarding the Mexican state shields which Diego Rivera painted on the walls of the Secretaría de Educación Pública. Their opinion was decidedly unfavorable! Whatever the intrinsic art value of these murals, others will agree that they cannot endure because they disregard and pervert historic evidence.

Research workers will be interested in the information afforded about the various archives of Mexico which will be found in the eight papers which are grouped together at the end of the book.—L. B. B.

Extracts from the European Travel Journal of Lewis H. Morgan. Edited by Leslie A. White, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Michigan. (Reprinted from Volume XVI of the Rochester Historical Society Publica-

tions, Rochester, New York. 1937. With frontispiece portrait of Morgan and reproductions of several of his drawings. 390 pp.

As a travel volume as well as a social-political commentary by a renowned American anthropologist and sociologist on conditions in western Europe at the time of the Franco-Prussian war, 1870 and 1871, it is most interesting and even fascinating. Morgan had already won fame at home and abroad when he set out with his wife and only son on a European journey during which he met and conversed with famous people including such scientists as Huxley, Darwin, Lubbock, Maine, etc. Morgan filled six note books with his daily impressions and the incidents of 133 days spent in Great Britain, 170 days in Italy, 12 days in Paris and brief sojourns in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, and Holland. Particularly interested in architecture as a significant feature of social development, he measured buildings and closely examined details of their plan and structure. His comments on social conditions would be called radical even at this day but obviously lack perspective and depth. He shows himself singularly prejudiced against the Roman Catholic hierarchy, and commends "public sentiment against the existing order of things" wherever he went. In London he wrote: "The workingmen will have to rise upon the merchants and traders as well as the aristocrats and push them out of the way in one body." For England he advocated "a system of taxation upon real and personal property, with discriminations in the amount of taxation against entailed estates, and pay with the proceeds the national debt. Twenty-five years ought to be time enough to wipe it out. This would be an amazing relief to the industry of the country." Morgan comments on English foreign policy in seeking to justify the Commune in Paris in 1871: "A working man's government finds no sympathy in aristocratic England. The 'gentleman of the pavement' must stand aside and the privileged class must ride. English sympathy is about as unenlightened as Hottentot sympathy

and perhaps more so. They are certain to get on the wrong side of all questions arising among foreign nations because they see all things from the aristocratic and nothing from the democratic standpoint." Vienna, Prague, Dresden, Berlin, Rome, Venice, Florence, Naples, Pompeii, Heidelberg, Wiesbaden, Basel, Interlaken, Milan, Antwerp, Cologne, Freiburg, Leghorn, Verona, Pisa, Munich, Versailles, pass in review through Morgan's spectacles, with lengthy comments on paintings, sculpture, domestic architecture, culture. Morgan and his family were presented to the Pope. Despite his anti-clerical views, Morgan states that Mrs. Morgan carried ten rosaries to be blessed by the pontiff. "He (the Pope) is quite gray, with a fine eye and a hearty good-natured face. He is a venerable looking man with the manners of a gentleman," continues Morgan, but refused to kneel as the others did, remarking: "I would not have done it under any circumstances, nor have kissed his hand to save his soul." Professor White has rendered a notable service by editing Morgan's *European Journal* and making it available. There is not a dull line in it and it certainly helps to understand better Morgan's viewpoint he so sturdily defended in his *American studies*.—P. A. F. W.

Our Catholic Heritage in Texas, 1519-1936. Volume III. The Mission Era. The Missions at Work 1731-1761. By Carlos E. Castañeda, Ph.D. Prepared under the auspices of The Knights of Columbus of Texas. Paul J. Folk, C. S. C., Ph.D., Editor. (Von-Boeckman-Jones Co., Austin, Texas, 1938. 475pp. Illustrated. Map. With extensive bibliography and index.)

C. E. Castañeda, Latin American Librarian of the University of Texas, has given us in this exhaustive and scholarly study of the Texas missions and incidental expeditions from 1731 to 1761, a comprehensive picture of ethnological, historical and cultural value. It does not merely supplement Dr. H. E. Bolton's "Texas in the Middle Eighteenth Century" but throws new light upon the history of the lower

Rio Grande Valley where Spanish settlements were actually established on the northern bank of the Rio Grande by 1753. For the first time are also presented the details of the first exploration of the Gulf Coast from the mouth of the Guadalupe River to the mouth of the Rio Grande, below Corpus Christi Bay, first called Bahia de San Miguel. Much additional information has been gathered from many sources not available heretofore, particularly with regard to the history of the stretch of country from the present Presidio to El Paso. It had not even been suspected that several missions were actually established, in the vicinity of the Presidio, in 1715, one year before the Ramón expedition of 1716 that resulted in the permanent occupation of East Texas. As the author states in his preface: "An attempt has been made to give a fuller picture of life in Texas. The slow growth of the Spanish settlements and missions, the gradual extension of the frontier into central and western Texas, the increasing influence of the French among the northern tribes, and the first glimpses of English designs on the province of Texas have been brought out." As in New Mexico there were bickerings between ecclesiastical and military authorities. In more than one instance the story unfolded, dovetails into New Mexico history. Interesting is the reproduction of an original sketch drawn and colored in 1746, of a map of southwest Texas, New Mexico and Nueva Vizcaya. It has the Rio Pecos flowing into the Rio de Santa Fe, which however, is named Rio de la Villa, while the mountains to the east of Santa Fe are called "Sierra de la Villa." The Province de Navajo is located north of Zuni and extending to the Rio Colorado. Moqui, however, is to be found south of Zuni, while the Apaches are designated as "Naciones de la Xila." The pueblos of Cochiti and Isleta as well as El Paso are correctly shown.

How familiar the following sounds to New Mexico historians: "Harassed by conflicting claims of the sponsors and opponents of the various plans and constantly being called upon to defray the expenses of new explorations and

investigations, royal officials of the exchequer were reluctant to grant financial aid even for those projects that have been approved." In this same connection in 1750, "every presidio in Texas, Coahuila and New Mexico was clamoring for an increased garrison. Father Santa Anna, burning with zeal for the conversion of the Apaches, was promoting with might and main the erection of a mission for these Indians, and had even urged with vehemence the abandonment of San Antonio and the removal of its presidio to the Pedernales." An eye witness writes of the smallpox epidemic among the missions in the same year: "The disease developed with such fury that when the corpses were removed from the tents, they literally fell in pieces. Undaunted by the horrors of the dreaded disease, the Padres worked unceasingly comforting the sick and baptizing the dying." At the same time it was written of the Indians: "A full stomach is the god to whom the wretched creatures pay the tribute of their hardest labors."

It is certain that every one at all interested in the Spanish Southwest will want to have this volume. As to southwestern libraries, none should be without it.—P. A. F. W.