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Book Reviews

BOOK REVIEWS

Three New Mexico Chronicles: The Exposición of Don Pedro Bautista Pino, 1812; the Ojeada of Lic. Antonio Barreiro, 1832; and the additions of Don José Agustín de Escudero, 1849. Translation and notes, by H. Bailey Carroll and J. Villasana Haggard. (The Quivira Society, Vol. XI, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1942. Pp. xxxi+342, illustrations, glossary. Facsimile of the original edition of Don Pedro Baptista Pino's *Exposición;* facsimile of the original edition of Lic. Antonio Barreiro's *Ojeada sobre Nuevo-Mexico*. Index. $10.00).

Another notable volume marks the high standards of the Quivira Society under the editorship of George P. Hammond. This, the eleventh volume, (volume ten is yet to appear), is a translation of three 19th century chronicles of New Mexico. The original book was discovered first by the translators, H. Bailey Carroll and J. Villasana Haggard, in a private collection. Upon investigation they found additional copies in the Latin-American library of the University of Texas and in the Bancroft Library of the University of California. The Pino report and the Barreiro *Ojeada* have long been recognized by historians as, perhaps, the most valuable sources upon the history of New Mexico in this period. So, it is most gratifying to have this material made easily available.

Don Pedro Bautista Pino presented the first of the three chronicles as a report to the Cortes in Spain when he represented New Mexico there in 1810. It was published in Cádiz in 1812. The *Ojeada* by Barreiro was published in Puebla, Mexico, in 1832. The latter was republished with the final notes by Escudero, bringing the material up to the date of publication in Mexico, 1849.

In the Editor's Introduction, Mr. Hammond gives brief sketches of the three co-authors and calls attention to the clever acrostic in Pino's report (*vide* facsimile, Ap-

pendix, 252-253) by which Juan López Cancelada identified himself and pretty well established the responsibility for the literary form of the Pino report.

Aside from the introductory chapter on discovery, settlement, and early history of the colony (in which there are some curious and interesting 19th century errors fully explained in the notes), the chronicles deal with conditions in 19th century New Mexico. The geographical situation, land ownership and economic problems, political affairs, church, administration of justice, questions of public taxes, the military, census, education, natural resources, trade, and Indians show the completeness of the review.

Something of the skill of the translation may be judged by consulting the facsimiles of the original report and the *Ojeada* which are reproduced in half-tones in the Appendix, although the 1849 edition is the one from which the translators worked. One of the most valuable parts of the book is the editor's notes. There are some fifty pages which identify and explain items in careful and painstaking detail, adding a wealth of documentation. The glossary completes the identification and a full index closes the volume.

With such careful editing one finds continued accuracy; only minor queries occur such as the extensive note on *varas* being placed after the second appearance of the word (p. 26) when it first occurred on p. 23.

This volume is distinguished not only by its excellent scholarship but also by its beautiful title page, fine illustrations and binding. It is a book which brings delight to the bibliophile and collector, as well as joy to the historian.

Dorothy Woodward.
University of New Mexico

Diary and Letters of Josiah Gregg. Edited by Maurice G. Fulton, with an introduction by Paul Horgan. (Norman: Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1941. xvii—413 pp., maps and illustrations, two appendices, index. $3.50.)

It being easier to point out mistakes than it is to avoid

making them, this review will refrain from mentioning obvious typographical errors, occasional lapses in syntax and inconsistencies in historical references, due no doubt, to hasty proof reading, but which in no way detract from the value or interest of the contribution to historical and biographical knowledge. The dedication of this well printed volume indicates the source of the material: "To Claude Hardwicke, grand-nephew of Josiah Gregg, who safeguarded his ancestor's papers in the hope of their adequate publication, and to his widow, Antoinette Hardwicke, who with loyal persistency has helped to achieve that aim."

The book is the first of two volumes. It covers the portions of the diaries and letters of Josiah Gregg between his final retirement from the Santa Fé trade in 1840, and the severance in 1847 of his connection with General Wool's campaign in the Mexican War. The second volume is to present Gregg "as an observer of the Battle of Buena Vista, a practicing physician in Saltillo, a visitor to the city of Mexico, the leader of a scientific expedition westward to Mazatlan." From this port Gregg migrated to California and the Northwest for further adventure and exploration.

Fulton believes that the publication of this material will give a new perspective of Gregg and a truer realization "of how gifted he was in observing, wherever he went, the country and its people and how naturally and unartificially he expressed his impressions."

As an introduction, Paul Horgan contributes a biographical sketch. Horgan, who has made himself a name as a novelist and student of New Mexico history, takes the sparse biographical data and spins them into a vivid presentation of a living figure against a colorful background of pioneer days and adventure. It is a masterpiece of writing, worth-while American literature. Unfortunately, it is not to be completed until the second volume is published. In other words, it is left hanging in mid-air at a most interesting turning point in Gregg's career. As to Horgan's method, it is best explained in his own words: "It is a small enough

bone by which to reconstruct a social skeleton; but by its reference to idle habit and family propriety, it somehow makes a ghost of a life."

It is not until page 43, that Part I of the Book is reached. It is Gregg's diary of his "Last Return from Santa Fe" and covers details of the trip to Van Buren, Ark., over a partly new route. With a caravan of forty-seven men, twenty-eight wagons, 200 mules, and two to three hundred sheep, the journey began at Santa Fé on February 25, 1840. Arrival at Van Buren was on April 22, almost two months later. A fight with Pawnees on Trujillo creek was one of the thrilling incidents recorded, but most of the diary is given to geographical description which would identify the route and landmarks to the present day.

Part II describes a "Trip into Texas," June 1841 to June 1842, to find new business opportunities. It is cotton country between the Arkansas and Red rivers which he describes with close attention to flora, fauna and physical features. Incidentally he dwells on social conditions. Writing of the country around Clarksville: "As to society, it is rather bad yet. There are a few planters of some wealth, but the proportion is very small, and although most of these, being of backwoods raising, they live in the plainest and coarsest style. And unfortunately for the country too, there are a great many persons scattered in different parts of ill fame, and correspondent conduct. The people of this vicinity have been endeavoring lately to strike terror to the miscreants of the country, by the exercise of Lynch's law—whipping some, and hanging some three or four others." Gregg went as far as Nacogdoches and Shreveport in Louisiana, abandoning, however, a proposed trip to New Orleans and returning home to accept a contract to resurvey the town of Van Buren for which he "was to receive $900 Arkansas money, and assistants and all things furnished." He formed a commercial partnership with his brother John and George C. Pickett, but directed his main

effort to writing a book about his experiences of a nine years' residence in New Mexico.

This adventuring in authorship resulted in the publication of the classic *Commerce of the Prairies* through which Gregg became best known. Part III and the diary from January 1843 to December 1844 are devoted to the incidents and transactions with publishers. Outstanding was his friendship with John Bigelow who was of great assistance in bringing out the first edition of 2000 copies; in fact so much so that authorship was erroneously ascribed to him by some contemporaries.

From authorship, Gregg turned to medical studies, a period covered by his diary from February 1845 to May 1846. It was, no doubt, because of protracted illness that Gregg decided to go to Louisville to attend medical lectures. Included in this Part IV are a number of letters to Bigelow and other correspondence with fac-simile reproduction of a page from the diary and a broadside prepared by Gregg to advertise *Commerce of the Prairies*.

Parts V and VI are somewhat startling accounts of the Arkansas Volunteers in their invasion of Mexico during the War with Mexico. It was a bizarre military expedition in which Gregg was extremely critical of commanding officers and the conduct of the war. Of San Antonio he writes: "I did not expect to see so poor and wretched looking a place. * * * The streets are dirty, crooked, and narrow—no sort of pavement nor even sidewalks; I believe none of the streets have even names." Gregg, in describing "grama" grass of northern Mexico in which New Mexico was included at that time, points out "that animals winter upon it without other feed," and predicts that therefore the country will be fine for pasturing. He tells of cattle being so abundant "that they are said to have been sold as low as 50 cents to a dollar per head."

"Visits to Monterrey and Saltillo" during the winter of 1846-1847 form a colorful last chapter of the volume. Appendices include "Memorabilia in Letters" in which there

are found biographical data, and the text of an oration delivered by Gregg at Jonesborough, Missouri, on the 4th of July, 1829, when he was only twenty years old. The Index, while not comprehensive, is useful to the student. All in all, the book is not only a necessity for every historical library but is so entertaining that it should be also of interest to the general reader, young or old.—P.A.F.W.

Guádal P'a: The Journal of Lieut. J. W. Abert, from Bent's Fort to St. Louis in 1845. Edited by H. Bailey Carroll. (Canyon, Texas; The PanHandle-Plains Historical Society, 1941. 121 pp., portrait, map, index. $3.50.)

In his opening pages (3-7) the editor introduces the reader to the biographical record of Lieutenant Abert and to the little known record of his exploration of the Canadian River,—the Kiowa name for which he makes use of for his title.

In the late summer of 1845, when Capt. J. C. Frémont was at Bent's Fort on his third western exploration. Lieutenant Abert was detached from the main expedition and given orders to cross by Raton Pass and get on the headwaters of the Canadian—which stream he was to explore eastward to its junction with the Arkansas River between Fort Gibson and Fort Smith. Mr. Carroll tells us that the original manuscript is now in the National Archive, but he seems to have worked from the text as first published in the Senate Documents.

Not all will agree with the editor that this journal is more important than Abert's later *Report of his examination of New Mexico 1846-7*; or that there is any significance in his use of mules. He had four wagons, and naturally he would use mules—but he had saddle horses along also. Abert does give interesting notes and comments regarding the Kiowa Indians; and very interesting also is the "back-stage" view we are afforded of the existing feud relations between Comanches and Texans.

In the printing of this book throughout, there was an unfortunate carelessness at the Press in the spreading of the ink. The editing and proof reading have been especially good.—L. B. B.

To Form a More Perfect Union.—The Lives of Charles and Mary Clarke from their letters 1847-71. By Herbert O. Brayer. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1941. 233 pp., Illustrated.)

Dedicated to Dr. George P. Hammond of the University of New Mexico, this recently published volume presents, in letters of Charles Francis Clarke and his widow, an intimate picture of life on the western frontier from 1847-1871. Divided into period chapters by the author, each is prefaced by a vivid summary of the events and other high lights of the years covered. The result is a most entertaining as well as informative American history, lucidly written and of literary merit.

Charles Francis Clarke, when twenty years old, ran away from his home at Henstead in Suffolk county, England. It it through his English eyes that the American scene is first presented. In his letters home, the transformation into a patriotic American can be discerned. These letters were made available to the author by Miss Florence Clarke of Toadlena, N. M. The first one was sent from Milwaukee, Wis., October 3, 1847. "I am very sorry at having left England" writes Clarke. "Why I left I know not." He was soon to get over the spell of homesickness. "The railroads here are very slow and very rough never going above 15 miles an hour," he remarks in this first missive. As to prices he says "You may buy a good cow here for 10 dollars, a pair of oxen for 40, a pair of excellent horses for 100, a wagon for 50—wheat now is worth 75 cents a bushel; and a laborer will earn 1 dollar a day or his board and lodging and 10 dollars a month." Whiskey was quoted at 30 cents a gallon. "My board and lodging at an Hotel cost me 2 dollars a week. A single man can live

very comfortably for 2 to 300 dollars a year. The legal interest allowed in this Territory is 12 per cent, but I have let several sums out on good landed security at 20 per cent and you can frequently obtain 50, money being very scarce."

Clarke enlisted in the United States Army in 1848 and was ordered to proceed to Mexico City as a paymaster. He sailed down the Mississippi to New Orleans and thence to Vera Cruz. Near Puebla the American troops were attacked several times by guerrilla bands which were easily repulsed.

Clarke apparently had become a lawyer and on his return to Milwaukee after being discharged from the Army, negotiated a law partnership. However, "Law here is a very poor business. It seems to be the principal aim of the legislature in framing the laws of the State to injure the lawyer as much as possible. It requires a good business to be worth 400 to 500 dollars a year while a laborer gets from one to two dollars a day." Clarke therefore accepted a clerkship with the American Fur Company at $25 a month and board. In 1849 he re-enlisted in the U. S. Army. His pay was $8 a month with rations and clothing, which he wrote to his father "is quite sufficient." September 29th, 1852, finds him at Fort Massachusetts in New Mexico, a picture of which is one of the illustrations of the book. Three weeks were spent at Fort Union from where the route was via Taos. In "several places the mountains were so rugged and steep that we had to take out the mules and let the carriage down with ropes," he reports and then remarks: "The appearance of the inhabitants of New Mexico is not at all prepossessing to a stranger. They are a mixture between the Spaniards and Indians and possess all the vices and but few of the virtues of both races. The houses are built of sun-dried brick and are anything but neat looking. Agriculture is at a very low ebb and the climate is so dry that in order to secure a certain crop the land has to be irrigated. The only thing in favour of the country is its remarkably healthy climate." On April 25, 1853, he writes his father

from Fort Massachusetts: "It is seriously recommended by the military governor and several other distinguished individuals to abandon New Mexico altogether to the Indians, withdrawing both the Civil and Military authorities, it being retained only at an immense cost to the government and actually bringing in nothing at all in return. In fact they do not export a single article to the United States or anywhere else. Wagons coming to this country with manufactured goods going back empty for want of freight." At Cantonment Burgwin, 80 miles further south, conditions were more agreeable, according to Clarke: "The land is very rich and climate fine. . . . Labour, such as it is, is very cheap. You can hire a Mexican for 25 cents per diem, and buy an able-bodied peon for about thirty dollars." Here Clarke came in contact with Ceran St. Vrain who is now very wealthy, owning and carrying on three large grist mills, several stores and many leagues of land."

As is apparent from these quotations, Brayer has edited a most fascinating series of letters and with his scholarly comments and introductions to each chapter has made an important contribution to the historical knowledge of the beginnings of the conquest of the West.—P. A. F. W.

Uncle Sam's Stepchildren: The reformation of United States Indian Policy, 1865-1887. By Loring Benson Priest. (Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, 1942. 310 pages with index. $3.75).

Dr. Priest has developed this intensive study of the Indian problem topically under four headings: four unsuccessful efforts at reform, the rise of interest in Indian reform, destruction of the old Indian system, and formulation of the new Indian policy. The four unsuccessful efforts at reform were: the policy of concentration of Indians on a few large reservations; the attempt of the war department to wrest control of the Indians from the interior department; the church nomination of Indian agents, which did not improve conditions in the service; and the crea-

tion of the Board of Indian Commissioners, which soon fell under the domination of the interior department. At the same time the old policies were being modified: the treaty system was abandoned officially in 1871, and annuities were slowly diverted from knick-knacks and subsistence supplies to the purchase of farm equipment and educational facilities. The final change was the Dawes Act of 1887, intended to break up the communal system of land holding and make possible the assimilation of the Indian.

The reviewer has been hoping that continued study of the Indian problem would reveal a more favorable picture of just treatment of the red man by the white man, but this study presents the usual story of selfish motives and confusion in dealing with the natives. The trader, the cattleman, the squaw man, the partisan politician, the railroad corporation, and even the churchman was too often motivated by self-interest. The Indian might incidentally be benefited, but progress toward that goal was slow and painful compared with the returns to the white men who administered to or had close contact with these wards of the nation.

Outside of a few minor errors, the author has made a worthy contribution to the literature on the subject, and after a method far superior to much of the writing that exists. If the story is painful to read, it is at least based on authentic sources of information and not pure imagination or sentimentalism. There is no formal bibliography, but the footnotes at the end of the book reveal an extensive use of printed source material and some use of manuscripts.

A final chapter summarizing and interpreting the period covered by the study would have been useful to the reader because of the many threads in the story. Instead, the author has written a brief account of the failure of the Dawes Act which really lies outside the scope of this work. He terms this failure "the disastrous history of America's first systematic effort to provide for Indian welfare," a heady statement in view of his intention "to discuss con-

troversial issues impartially" because "of current disagreements."

Such a chapter would have been difficult since the subject can almost be called "confusion worse confounded." This is revealed in some conflicting generalizations: concentration was defeated by local opposition on page 7, but by Western settlers and Eastern philanthropists on page 17. "The average layman was not interested in the Indian problem," (p. 30); "While most Americans were extremely critical . . . ," (p. 36). "While Catholics could expect little sympathy from government officials . . . " (p. 35), "most government officials were disposed to treat the Catholics fairly . . . " (p. 35).

The discussion of Navajo police on page 139 might be modified a bit. A force of 100 men was actually organized in 1872 and served for a year at a wage of $7.00 per month. They were disbanded on the recommendation of Agent Hall, Arny's successor.

Frank D. Reeve

Economic Nationalism in Latin America. By Richard F. Behrendt. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico, 1941. Pp. 24.)

The first of a proposed series of short papers, under the general title of *Inter-Americana,* it presents a rather incisive analysis of factors which have been, and to some extent still are, barriers to complete understanding between the United States and the so-called Latin-American republics. No one could be better qualified to discuss this situation, perhaps, than Dr. Behrendt, assistant professor of Inter-American affairs at the University of New Mexico. Of European birth and training, he was professor of economics and sociology, dean of the faculty of social sciences and economic adviser to the government of the Republic of Panama for five years; assistant director of the Pan American Good Neighbor Forum, co-editor of *Pan American Forum* and *Foro Panamericano,* and lecturer in economics and Latin American affairs in Chicago.

At the onset, the writer makes it clear that "it is

inaccurate, and sometimes unfair, to refer to Latin America as if it were a unit. Immense differences in economic, social and cultural conditions can be found among the various countries and even certain regions within the same country." The discussion, therefore, confines itself to a certain extent to problems common to all nations of Latin America.

It is made evident that growing nationalism has widened the gap into a gulf, separating the nations of the Americas, not only politically, but also economically. Despite the infiltration of European capital and industry, the people of the Americas demand and advocate "the restriction and even final elimination of the economic activities of foreigners. Obstacles in the way of economic independence are formidable. There is political unrest, for instance. Says the writer: "Most educated people depend on the government for making a living through public offices. * * * They exercise a tremendous strain on the public treasuries." Then there "is the discrepancy between the broad masses of the population, among whom a very low standard of living and scarcity of formal education prevails, and a relatively small group of large land owners and military and political key personages." The trend toward socialism is apparent, in fact, decisive, for to attain the nationalistic aims, it is the government which must take the place of the foreign investors as "there does not exist yet a sufficiently broad and potent class of capitalists."

In conclusion, Professor Behrendt urges intelligent cooperation between the United States and its neighbors to the south. "Otherwise, 'el capitalismo yanqui' will find the sociological tide in most Latin American countries turning against it more strongly every day." For the present, it is sought to buy good will rather than to earn it and "there is great danger in approaching an understanding of Latin America by means of night club attractions, tourist propoganda and Hollywood productions."

The study is an important contribution by the School of Inter-American Affairs of the University of New Mexico, which is being ably organized by Dr. Joaquín Ortega,

recently called from the University of Wisconsin, to strengthen the important influence which the University of New Mexico has already attained in the field of Latin American relations.—P.A.F.W.

Handbook for Translators of Spanish Historical Documents. By J. Villasana Haggard. Assisted by Malcolm Dallas McLean. Archives Collection, University of Texas. (Oklahoma City, 1941. Pp. 198.)

This volume serves the useful purpose of bringing together various aids, hitherto dealt with only in widely scattered works, for the benefit of persons interested in reading and translating documents in the Spanish language. It must be remembered, however, that Spanish historical documents relating to the colonies deal with such a wide area and so many varied problems that it is impossible to lay down a single set of rules which will prove satisfactory in all cases. Thorough knowledge of the languages involved is only the first step. The translator must have a sound general acquaintance with the background of the material with which he is working, or the active collaboration of someone who does. Very often it is essential to consult specialists in other fields. A handbook such as this can spare us a certain amount of the initial drudgery, but the long slow work of solving the problems which each document presents cannot be avoided.

In general Mr. Haggard's theory of translation is sound, if a bit too arbitrary. Undoubtedly there are some who will disagree with his rules for transcription. In many cases it is advisable to transcribe documents exactly as they stand, but in preparing documents for publication there is much to be said for modernizing spelling and punctuation for the benefit of those who may be interested in different phases of the material presented and yet have insufficent knowledge of the peculiarities of earlier Spanish phraseology and spelling to read them with ease, or even to interpret them accurately, when they are left in their original form. If the editor is not competent to modernize, it is open to doubt whether he is competent to transcribe.

Unfortunately the *Handbook* contains serious errors in both palaeography and translation. The original of the first sample translation is so obscure that it would be impossible to make a definite translation without the aid of related documents to clarify the situation. Undoubtedly Mr. Haggard had access to such. Other translations are at fault because of misunderstanding of Spanish legal procedure and points of civil and canon law. In certain cases the transcriptions are incorrect, e. g., *Fr. A. archopo. Mex. Conqt.* for *Fr. A. archieps.* (*archiepiscopus*) *Mexicanus; Hos.º App.co* (translated as "Apostolic Hospitaller") for Not.º App.co (Apostolic Notary); and in Appendix B, Specimens number 17 and 18, attributed to Muñoz y Rivero, contain outstanding errors in transcription.

The lists of stock Spanish words, phrases, and expressions with their English equivalents are of interest but must be used with caution since many of these expressions have other meanings of equal importance and frequency. These lists contain a large number of Southwestern terms and should be particularly helpful to those interested in that field. Certainly it would be almost impossible to compile a comprehensive list of expressions of this kind, for they are indefinite and vary exceedingly according to place, period, and subject under discussion. Such specialized terms as those describing caste are to be found in works like Nicholás León's *Las castas de México Colonial o Nueva España* (México, 1924). The interpretation of legal terms requires extreme care and the works of specialists must be consulted.

The sections dealing with weights and measures and monetary values have definite value. It is to be regretted, however, that a table of Spanish monetary values in terms of one another was not included.

An excellent, though not exhaustive, bibliography is appended.

Eleanor B. Adams

Division of Historical Research
Carnegie Institution of Washington