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Pearce and Hendon, America in the Southwest: A Regional Anthology

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BOOK REVIEWS

Yuman Tribes of the Gila River. By Leslie Spier. (University of Chicago Press, 1933. xviii+433 pp. Illustrations; bibliography; index. \$4.00.)

Dr. Spier's book fills a noteworthy and important gap in the ethnography of the Southwest and is perhaps an even more significant contribution than his *Havasupai Ethnography*.

The book begins with a detailed discussion of our knowledge of the tribal distribution of the Maricopa, Kaveltcadom, and Halchidoma in historic times. Spier shows that even if we identify the Cocomaricopa of Spanish chronicles with the Maricopa of our day and the Opa with the Kaveltcadom, nevertheless it is extremely doubtful that the Maricopa have lived within the last three centuries on the Lower Gila below the great bend. Hence it seems likely that the Maricopa and Pima have had close cultural connections for a much longer time than has been generally assumed. Throughout the book Spier stresses the reciprocal nature of these cultural connections.

Following this account of tribal distribution and intertribal relations comes a full description of the bases of the economic life of these tribes before their transition to modern rural conditions, a section on houses, a section on dress and ornament, and one on technology. The chapter on time-reckoning with its correlations to historical events is one of the most interesting in the book.

Social structure is treated very completely and the link between these and other Yuma-speaking tribes, especially those of the lower Colorado, is clearly shown. The study of religious life is extremely well done. The absence of ritual dances is remarkable, as is the extraordinary prominence given to dream experience. In general, the religious and ceremonial forms seem very unakin to the general Southwestern complex.

The chapter on "Individual Development" contains a

great deal of suggestive and valuable incidental material. The final eighty pages of the book are given over to a very fine selection of folktales. Taken as a whole, the book gives a very satisfactory and integrated picture of these peoples, hitherto neglected by ethnographers. There is an occasional lack of lucidity in expression and one sometimes would like to know whether particular assertions are based on information given by more than one informant.

CLYDE K. M. KLUCKHOHN.

University of New Mexico.

American Foreign Policy in Mexican Relations. By James Morton Callahan. (New York, The Macmillan Co., 1932, 626 pp.)

In this volume, the author gives us what he claims is "the first general historical view of American-Mexican policy." The author has done a fairly satisfactory piece of work. Some of us, however, had considered Professor Rippey's contribution in this field as giving us a general view, although in many points lacking in certain details which are to be found in the present volume. In this work, Professor Callahan relies "upon the manuscript archives at the Department of State at Washington—especially upon the volumes of 'Instructions' and 'Despatches.'" For the first decade after 1907 he has relied chiefly "upon published volumes of Foreign Relations and other government documents," and for the decade since 1920, he has largely "supplemented the government documents by newspaper files." In addition to these original sources, he has used such secondary material as the studies of Manning, Rives, Reeves, Garber, and Rippey. He has not, however, consulted Mexican archives and other published Mexican sources, nor has he referred to British sources.

To a person with a general background and interest in United States-Mexican relations, the volume will no doubt prove interesting because of its vast amount of detailed information with dates of diplomatic correspondence and instruction, and "who's who" information in regard to the

personalities participating in the diplomatic episodes discussed. With but few exceptions the volume is written in the calm objective style so dear to the heart of members of the cult who glory in what is called modern scholarship. The author volunteers but few attempts at interpretation. Synthesis, generalization, and interpretation which are logical and valid functions of the scientific mind are avoided. This manner of treatment, however, with its punctilious attention to details and dates will, no doubt, place this volume on the reference shelf, and thus restrict its reading to students of history and diplomacy, and leave the general reader to seek his knowledge and understanding of our very interesting relations with Mexico from other more popularly written sources, in which the high art of generalization and interpretation is not considered out of place.

The author's alleged reason for presenting his book is the public interest in United States-Mexico diplomatic relations created by the unrest during the period 1911-1931. The 1911 revolution marked the overthrow of the Díaz regime and the most marked period of foreign capitalistic invasion, ending in a widely spread possession and control of Mexico's mineral wealth and other natural resources. The struggle of the Mexicans for internal organization, stability, and for repossessing their own natural wealth was a period most annoying to the United States. "The pacification of Mexico," to use the author's words, which was brought about by Dwight W. Morrow, seems to bring this period to a close. The author speaks approvingly of the methods of Mr. Morrow which included his many expressions concerning the welfare of the Mexican people and his friendly breakfasts with President Calles. Certainly the methods of Dwight W. Morrow were a great improvement over the methods of Woodrow Wilson in dealing with Huerta, and the methods adopted by the Harding and the early part of the Coolidge administrations. It is probable that the period 1919-1929, which represented the gala

days of American capitalism at home, brought from some of our governmental officials statements that represent the high-water mark in nationalistic arrogance and investment diplomacy in Mexico.

Some statements by our public men prior to the mission of Mr. Morrow are worth recalling. Early in the Harding administration, Secretary Fall wrote, "So long as I have anything to do with Mexican questions, no government of Mexico will be recognized with my consent which does not first enter into a written agreement promising to protect American citizens and their property rights in Mexico." This attitude was again expressed in 1921 by Secretary Hughes in his outline of the general American policy when he urged that the fundamental and vital question was, "the safeguarding of American property rights against confiscation." The final expression of this attitude was made by President Coolidge in April 1927 when, at a dinner of the United States Press Association, he declared "the person and property of a citizen are a part of the general domain of a nation even when abroad." Such public statements of our blustering diplomacy failed to stop Mexico in the application or enforcement of Article twenty-seven in her new Constitution; and since public opinion in the United States did not look with favor on aggressive measures, the pacification program of the Morrow mission was adopted. From the point of view of American diplomacy the Morrow mission was successful. The diplomacy of friendly breakfasts succeeded where bluff and arrogance failed.

But granting the scholarly research involved in getting material for this volume, and a satisfactory objectivity in reporting it, is this enough in a volume of this kind? Must the scholar who has waded through this mass of evidence stop there? The volume lacks that touch which the scientist would give to the results of his investigations—a tentative interpretation of his evidence.

ARTHUR S. WHITE.

University of New Mexico.

America in the Southwest, A Regional Anthology. Selected and Edited by T. M. Pearce, Ph.D., associate professor of English at the University of New Mexico, and Telfair Hendon, M.A., instructor of English at the University of New Mexico. (The University Press, Albuquerque, N. M., 1933. xxviii+346 pp. \$3.00.)

Books of prose selections for use in college composition courses come off the press in such a steady stream that it is surprising to find one with an entirely new principle of selection. *America in the Southwest*, while roughly divided into the traditional exposition, description, and narration, has the more alluring headings: What is the Southwest? Where is the Southwest? Who is the Southwest? This division puts the emphasis more upon the matter than manner of expression. In answer to the questions, southwestern voices are allowed to speak.

Mary Austin, who has always preached the gospel of regionalism with stimulating effect on other southwestern writers, is of course represented. So also are Willa Cather, Frank Applegate, Harvey Fergusson, Erna Fergusson, Alida Sims Malkus, Witter Bynner, Paul Horgan, J. Frank Dobie, Charles F. Lummis, R. L. Duffus, Elizabeth Willis De Huff, Omar Barker, Stanley Vestal, Andy Adams, Frederick Bechdolt, Ruth Laughlin Barker, Douglas Branch, John Chapman, Emerson Hough, Robert Reynolds, Eugene Manlove Rhodes, Dorothy Scarborough—and even these names do not exhaust the varied list.

An interesting phase of the book, however, is the amount of space given to those who are not primarily literary men. That selections from their work are often among the best in the book is a healthful discovery for professional writers to make, for readers to make, and for students of composition to make,—though surely only students of composition can be surprised at it. And probably they will be least surprised of all.

For it is an axiom that a man who has something to say will find a way to say it—and the less his eye is on the

manner of saying the better ; the fitting words will be found. If we want to know about bell towers and capitals then, we go to an architect—William Templeton Johnson. For archaeological and ethnological material we can go to Edgar L. Hewett and Hartley Burr Alexander. To exclude them from professional writers, it is true, is, in view of their extensive published work, a little absurd. It is done on no finely drawn technicality, but on their probable preference for being known first of all as scientists. The integrity of these men's prose is not surprising ; nor, except to those who are having their introduction to them in this volume, are the passages of very real beauty to be wondered at.

When, however, one looks over the whole list of contributors, with work drawn from such contrasting publications as the *Yale Review*, the *Southwest Review*, the *New Mexico Quarterly*, and *Folk-Say*, on the one hand, and the *Saturday Evening Post* and *West Magazine* on the other, it must be admitted that these selections are uneven in quality. Yet, again taking the clearly defined point of view of the editors into consideration, this also seems to be a virtue. A survey of what the Southwest is saying—a regional diagnosis—should not refuse to listen to those who speak in a popular as well as in a scholarly fashion. For that matter, this aspect of the book again shows that pigeonholing writers and publications—as editors of most prose anthologies such as this are prone to do and as these editors avoid doing with refreshing unconventionality—is unsafe. The reader may be surprised at the places where he finds his nuggets.

Moreover, this unevenness is more stimulating to the imagination than a neat literary orthodoxy would be. The reader who approaches the book with a diagnostic purpose, as the editors evidently desire him to do, will be led to wonder about America in the Southwest ten years from now. As a quick survey this is the sort of thing that might well be repeated periodically. For in spite of selections from Susan Shelby Magoffin and from Bandelier, from James Josiah Webb and Frederick Ruxton, the book is mainly a

collection of today's materials. Tomorrow will have its own speech. And if for comparative purposes, yesterday is also allowed to speak, perhaps the next volume will bring material of more salty vigor and beauty from the pages of Cushing, of Washington Matthews, of Benavides;—the names from yesterday, and from yesterday's languages, crowd for room. Probably that is the reason why yesterday is allowed so faint a voice.

But for contemporary writing this covers a surprisingly wide field. Some of the tendency for short selections from such a wide field to scatter is counteracted by an excellent introduction explaining the significance of such a regional approach. This introduction is written by Dr. Pearce, whose work in the field of southwestern vocabulary and usage and as editor of the *New Mexico Quarterly* makes him the man for such an analysis. The plan of the book is briefly outlined by Dr. Pearce and Mr. Hendon. A survey of the types of characters represented in the section of the book entitled "Who is the Southwest" is given in a thoughtful and suggestive introduction to that section written by Mr. Hendon, who died before the book was completed.

With the engaging balance that the whole book shows, the editors include in it a symposium on the subject of regional literature conducted by the *Southwest Review* with contributions from Mary Austin, Stanley Vestal, Roger Adger Law, Albert Guerard, J. Frank Dobie, Howard Mumford Jones, John William Rogers, John Chapman, John C. Granbery, E. E. Leisy, B. A. Botkin and Witter Bynner. Some of these people are opposed to a regionalism which is too conscious of itself, too rigid in its boundaries. Such questioning clarifies and perhaps strengthens the point of view upon which the book is built. At any rate, to include it in an examination of regional culture is honest, and adds spice.

With its balance and unconventionality of content, the book will do for southwestern students something they have been crying for. It will show them their own materials.

No longer need they say—"But I can't write. I haven't anything to say. Here is Conrad writing of the sea—but I have never seen the sea. Here are men writing about London and New York and Chicago—but I live fifty miles from a neighbor." It has been a fair challenge that has come to every composition instructor. Now the answer is at hand. "Here is Willa Cather writing about a piñon, writing about a cottonwood. In these pages are the health seeker, the artist, the realtor; here are cattle, and cow-punchers, and cliff dwellings, and pueblos. These are your people, your places. See what others can write about them. See what you can write about them."

Such a book should bring consolation to both teacher and student. That it brings stimulus too to the reader and the writer outside the University classroom, that it gives a cross section of today's southwestern cultural expression, makes it more than a textbook—and therefore makes it a better textbook.

FRANCES GILLMOR.

University of New Mexico.

New Mexico History and Civics. By Lansing B. Bloom, A. M. and Thomas C. Donnelly, Ph.D. (The University Press, Albuquerque, N. M., 1933. 539 pp. Illustrated. \$2.50.)

Written primarily for the high schools of New Mexico, this work will appeal to a much larger circle. It is a scholarly, authoritative production which brings the history and civics of New Mexico up to the last minute, necessarily supplanting earlier text books. It is fortunate that the writing of this text book was undertaken by men of ripe and recognized scholarship whose familiarity with the sources and whose mastery of their subjects enabled them not only to differentiate between the trivial details and the important undercurrents which culminated in decisive events but also to present their subject matter interestingly with a real sweep of comprehensiveness.

The authors speak for themselves in the preface and the reviewer enthusiastically endorses their viewpoint when they say: "The history of our state is presented as an *interpretation* rather than as a complete and detailed *narrative*. Yet familiarity with, and use of, our rich source materials and the many and varied writings of earlier authors is both necessary and desirable. To this end, by the aid of frequent reading-lists and questions, the student and the teacher (in preparation and later in class discussion) may verify or criticize our interpretation, and they may discover a wide range of topics for stimulating thought and discussion. It will be found that the background of historical continuity is present, but space and emphasis are given to aspects of our history which have been largely overlooked or misunderstood by earlier writers.

"The section on civics will be found to be the most complete treatment yet offered of the government of New Mexico. The attempt has been made, not only to present to the student a clear picture of the organization and functioning of his own state government, but also to compare and contrast, here and there throughout the text, New Mexican practices with those found in other states. Thus evaluations are made possible, and a provincialism found in many text books on state civics has been avoided."

The arrangement and sequences of the book are somewhat unusual but logical. The nice discrimination and temper with which even controversial points are treated are admirable and the absence of bombast, too often found in local school histories, is commendable. Yet, full justice is done to the romance of New Mexico's "rich and colorful past" and to its cultural and political development.

The first chapter briefly sketches the European background of the era of discovery in Spanish history, with reference to the motives of the Conquistadores, to wit: the thirst for gold and other treasure, the desire to find an adequate supply of labor, and the evangelization of the pagan world. "The Northern Mystery" is the second chapter

heading and covers the travels of Cabeza de Vaca and the expedition of Coronado, a disappointed and disillusioned leader whose journeyings to the Seven Cities of Cibola and the Gran Quivira convinced his followers that "there was nothing worth returning for."

It is in the third chapter that Historian Bloom takes up the prehistory of New Mexico as archaeologists have revealed it at Chetro Keti, on the Pajarito Plateau, at Pecos, in the Jemez country, at Tabirá and other ancient settlements, the beginning of which in some instances has been taken back to the ninth century by careful tree-ring analysis. It presents a most interesting story of cultural development, which, according to the author, possibly began thousands of years ago for it is the only way in which he can explain the linguistic differences of closely related and situated town groups. The seventy years from Coronado to the founding of Santa Fé include the stirring events which continue to color the aspirations and progress of the commonwealth even to this day. Amazing are the episodes of "The Great Missionary Era" covered by Chapter V, the martyrdom of scores of Franciscans and the conflicts and internecine struggles of ecclesiastical and secular authorities.

"Spaniards versus French, 1673 to 1769," the subject of Chapter VI, develops the gradual encroachments on the Spanish Domain from the east. It was a century of Indian wars, of the Pueblo rebellion, the reconquest and the emergence of Santa Fé as a center of commerce. Then came the period from 1776 (the year of American Independence,) to 1821, the year of separation from Spain. "Monotonously uneventful" one historian calls these years, and yet Chapter VII presents a vivid review of events, some of which, like the myth of the "Sierra Azul" with its reputed fabulous mines of silver and quicksilver, and the marvelous exploits of Governor Juan Bautista de Anza, "one of the ablest men who ever held this office," might well be the themes for great epics.

It was during "The Mexican Interlude" (Chapter VIII) that New Mexico looked toward the east with growing apprehension and yet desire. "The Blending of the Two Frontiers," in Chapter IX, with its story of the Santa Fé Trail, the Conquest by the American Invaders, the Civil War, the Coming of the Railroads, the growth of the range industry and the political intrigues of territorial days, is a book in itself. The tenth chapter treats of the events and growth since New Mexico was admitted as a State, including New Mexico's part in the World War and the years of economic depression.

No other commonwealth has had so splendid and wonderful a story and Lansing B. Bloom, editor of the *New Mexico Historical Review*, associate professor of history of the University of New Mexico and associate of the School of American Research, tells it so well in 250 pages that it should be read in every New Mexico household and find a place on every Southwestern library shelf.

Dr. Donnelly, until lately professor of political science at the New Mexico State Teachers College, is given 275 pages to develop his theme in fourteen chapters, treating philosophically as well as lucidly "The Constitution of New Mexico," "The Electoral Process," "The Legislature," "The Governor," "State Administration," "The State Educational System," "State Finance," "The State Courts," and "County, Village, Town and City Government." Especially interesting and valuable are the latest statistics available, which give a graphic birdseye view of present day conditions. A glossary, a well edited and complete index, approximately a hundred maps, plats, portraits, and other illustrations, and excellent typography make the volume most attractive, a credit to authors and press. The volume is dedicated to the late Amado Chaves, first superintendent of public instruction "worthy heir of our early history, distinguished citizen, cultured Christian gentleman."

P. A. F. W.