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Book Reviews

Land of the Conquistadores. Cleve Hallenbeck. Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, 1950. Pp. 375. Illus. $5.00.

While little, if anything, is added to present knowledge of New Mexico history in this ambitious compilation, Hallenbeck's work is a welcome résumé of data gleaned from the published research of such dependable and scholarly historians as Bolton, Hackett, Scholes, Bloom, and others. Perhaps sufficient credit is not given to the late Lansing Bloom, whose careful and thorough research in Seville and other European archives and libraries made available to scholars much of the lately acquired information regarding former gaps in New Mexico's annals, by means of microfilm now stored in the Library of the University of New Mexico and of the Museum of New Mexico. As the author states in his Foreword: "To date no other unbroken history of the state has been written, because the period 1608 to 1680 was almost entirely blank—the so-called 'silent years' of the state's annals." Referring again to the Foreword, the author was unaware that the New Mexico Archives, transferred at one time to the Library of Congress, have been restored to the vaults of the Museum of New Mexico and the New Mexico Historical Society. Some readers might find fault with the classification adopted by Hallenbeck for New Mexico inhabitants as Spaniards, *mestizos,* Spanish Americans, New Mexicans, and "Anglos," only the last named being designated as "white" citizens of the United States. The author died in February, 1949, and therefore did not have available to him late publications such as Bolton's *Coronado and the Turquoise Trail* or the historical sketches of present-day author Fray Angélico Chávez and other Catholic writers.

The book opens with a sketchy treatment of the Indian tribes when they apparently occupied different sections of the Southwest in early days. This is followed by a chapter entitled "The Conquistadores," beginning, as do most if not all New Mexico histories, with the wanderings of Cabeza de

Vaca and his three companions. The author is among those who believe that they made a detour far into New Mexico. Friar Marcos de Niza is branded a charlatan, impostor, and unmitigated liar, the author completely ignoring the pleas of apologists and defenders of the friar, from Bandelier to Fray Angélico.

Chapter 3 is devoted to "The Seventeenth Century," beginning with Juan de Oñate, the colonizer, up to and including the reconquest by de Vargas. The Eighteenth Century chapter, starting with the administration of Pedro Rodríguez Cubero, lists the governors up to Fernando Chacón and tells much of the strife between the Franciscans and the secular authorities which began as early as the days of Oñate. Hallenbeck states: "One of Oñate's demands which was disallowed, was that religious orders other than the Franciscans be permitted to engage in missionary activities in New Mexico. This request, if granted, would have prevented most of the turmoil that marked the seventeenth century in this province. . . ." A few pages later: "The Pueblo Indians thus found themselves with two masters who continually were at loggerheads. The situation was rendered worse by the fact that the Church was represented in New Mexico by only one of the mendicant orders—the Order of Friars Minor, popularly known as the Franciscans." These conclusions of the author must be taken as mere opinions not entirely borne out by facts. Indian warfare and the westward march of the French colored much of New Mexico's history in the Eighteenth Century. Writes Hallenbeck: "Spain's activity on this northern frontier was directed chiefly toward two objects: (1) the repulse of the French advance, and (2) the protection of the settlements from hostile tribes that encompassed New Mexico on the west, north and east." However, much else occurred as the administrations of successive governors are covered more or less briefly, climaxed by the administration of Juan Bautista de Anza, to whom, according to the author, the following tasks were assigned: (1) to lay out a more direct route from Santa Fe to Sonora, (2) to dissolve the alliance between the

Apaches and the Navajos, (3) to form an alliance with the Comanches, (4) to consolidate the scattered settlements of the province, and (5) to save the Moquis from extinction.

Chaper 5, "The Nineteenth Century," brings New Mexico history up to the American Occupation, a few paragraphs in conclusion merely referring to the years that followed up to the granting of statehood to the Territory.

Hallenbeck adds chapters "dealing intimately with the life of the colonial New Mexico," depending upon Benavides, Vetancourt, Morfi, and Barreiro, upon traditions and the early visitors over the Santa Fe Trail. There are separate chapters on Government, the Missions, Population, Industries, Commerce, Colonial Life, the Spaniard and the Indian, and The New Mexico Camino Real, the longest and most informative, perhaps, being the chapter on commerce.

The illustrations are from drawings by the author done rather stiffly with pen and ink. Maps and plats aid the reader to follow the sequence of the narrative. The book is one deserving a place on the library shelf of everyone interested in New Mexico history.

PAUL A. F. WALTER

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Bird's-Eye View of the Pueblos. Stanley A. Stubbs. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1950. Pp. ix, 122. $3.00.

This small volume represents a compilation which should have been made years ago. No library concerned with Southwestern subjects can be complete without its inclusion.

Following a general discussion and illustration of ground plans of prehistoric Pueblo villages, and a brief description of Pueblo Indian life, the author systematically lists all of the currently occupied Pueblos of the Southwest. Each is illustrated by means of a vertical aerial photograph and a scaled map. Each room is shown and the number of stories of construction indicated. Kivas and abandoned rooms are designated, as are the missions. After completion of the air photographs, the author visited each village in order to

establish a scale for the accompanying map and to orient the ground plan in relation to north.

This record of the villages of a rapidly changing people is particularly valuable because of the inclusion of tabulated information such as the etymology of the village name, linguistic affiliations, approximate date of founding, the census of population, size of reservation and the date of the annual feast day and dance. It is for this reason that no serious visitor to the Pueblo villages should be without a copy.

Accompanying the photographs, maps and tabulations are brief and soundly authoritative discussions of each Pueblo, its pottery, basketry, silverwork and other handicrafts, together with salient points concerning the history of the people. These contribute so much that one might wish they had been more extended. With justification Stubbs also emphasizes the rapidity of change or alteration of the ground plans. This circumstance may well make us speculate on the enhanced value of this record one hundred years from now.

The insignificance of the errors found certainly reflects the high validity of the book. The single kiva at Sandia is referred to as being plural in the text (page 34), the *square* kivas of the Rio Grande towns should not have been called *rectangular* (for this confuses them with the Little Colorado rectangular kivas), and a comma is misplaced on page 71. The only other possible bone of contention has to do with the date of changes in the Pueblos as a result of Spanish re-conquest. This date is usually given as 1692 rather than 1693.

One interesting point bears on an old, old argument. Stubbs lists Acoma as having been occupied "at least one thousand years" and Old Oraibi as having been occupied "since about 1150." However, the author conservatively states that "only by archaeological excavation in the refuse mounds of Acoma and Old Oraibi can the title of oldest continuously occupied town in the United States be settled." And such excavation is, of course, impossible at this time.

In addition to the accuracy and high value of this excellent account, the author has achieved the goal of making what might have been a mere tabulation into genuinely interesting reading. Although written in clear and popular form for the layman, the book will see extensive use for many years by the anthropologist.

PAUL REITER

University of New Mexico

Grant of Kingdom. Harvey Fergusson. New York: William Morrow and Company, 1950. Pp. vi, 311. $3.00.

A reviewer of Harvey Fergusson's latest novel could sit down with it and a copy of W. A. Keleher's *Maxwell Land Grant* and occupy himself delightedly in seeking answers to such questions as whether or not the "grant" in question is the famous Maxwell Land Grant; to what extent the fictional Jean Ballard is Lucien B. Maxwell; whether or not Clay Tighe is in reality Jim Masterson, the law enforcement officer brought in by the grant people to quiet the dispossessed; to what degree Daniel Laird, preacher, is a fictional development of the Reverend O. P. McMains of Raton, fiery leader of the anti-grant faction; or who the fictional Major Arnold Newton Blore is supposed to be.

Such an exercise, however, would be of little profit to the lover of history or of fiction. A piece of historical fiction is not to be judged by any criterion of conformity to the known facts of character, era, or region, however sparse or abundant the known facts may be. The historical novelist seeks to catch the spirit, the feeling, the flavor of character, era, or place, not merely to get in as many known facts as possible. He is interested in "the process by which the past becomes a beloved myth," to use Harvey Fergusson's own words. He is interested in nostalgia, in the desire of any human being, as he looks at a place where life was once lived, to repeople that place, to vivify its incidents, to dramatize it and romanticize it and put some kind of understandable pattern upon it.

Harvey Fergusson started, he says, with the ruins of an old house; and he goes on from there to tell the fascinating story of an Eastern woodsman who came to the West, became a mountain man, fell in love with a woman of Spanish descent whose family had a royal Spanish grant, married her, and accepted the challenge to move east out of the mountains around Taos on to the Plains to settle and establish there law, order, and civilization. Here is the basic Robinson Crusoe fictional pattern that will still appeal mightily to any reader with an iota of love of freedom and tangible accomplishment left in him. The only difference is that there is abundance here that Crusoe never dreamt of. The one-man empire flourishes; only age and physical disability—and the march of history—defeat Jean Ballard. Land-hungry America swarms in, corporate interests gobble up Ballard's holding, nesters and settlers not very well versed in the intricacies of law and surveying are dispossessed, mainly through the iron nerve of a former Kansas officer who represents the new interests. An old-fashioned preacher-prophet with some of the primitive strength of Moses resists the new forces, but fails and goes back into the mountains and into the Spanish-American villages along the Rio Grande.

The Maxwell Land Grant locale is not the only one Mr. Fergusson writes convincingly about. Jean Ballard's life in the old Eastern wilderness, an axman's life like that of young Abraham Lincoln; the life in Virginia before and just after the Civil War, which Arnold Blore knew he had to leave; the raw life in the Kansas cattle-shipping towns; the life of the Western trappers and mountain men—Mr. Fergusson, in building characters' backgrounds, handles all these briefly but with the novelist's sense of what is meaningful and what is not.

It is perhaps a bit difficult to tell how seriously one should take the clue to the pattern of the book that the author himself gives. In his "Foreword" Mr. Fergusson writes, "Here were the benevolent autocrat creating order, the power-hungry egoist destroying it, the warrior tragically bound to

his weapon, the idealist always in conflict with an irrational world, struggling to save his own integrity." Whether or not this story and this situation really have much in common with or throw any light upon "the great power struggles that periodically shake the world" [Fergusson's own words again], here are people that are convincing, working out a destiny in a region that called out the heroic and the dramatic. Above all, here is a portion of history in a beloved region made into a "beloved myth." These yesterdays in the American West were not many days ago, and Harvey Fergusson makes it seem tragic to have lost them.

DUDLEY WYNN

University of Colorado

Cowboys and Cattle Kings. C. L. Sonnichsen. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1950. Pp. 316. $4.50.

This is a shotgun kind of book. Mr. Sonnichsen knows a great many people in, or associated with, the livestock industry. He crams these into both barrels of his ten gauge Greener and lets drive.

The title, "Cowboys and Cattle Kings," seems a little misleading and the subtitle, "Life on the Range Today," comes nearer to describing the contents of the book. To be sure there are cowboys present and at least one cattle king, but there are also sheepherders, sheepmen, stock farmers and a dairyman or so. Perhaps a better title for the book would be: *A Good, Fair Picture of How Men Get Along With Cows,* and the subtitle might read, *And How They Look, Act, and Talk While Doing It.*

Anyone who wants the above, circa 1950, should have *Cowboys and Cattle Kings.* Anyone who wishes to preserve his illusions as depicted by Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, et al, should leave it alone. Because the movies won't buy this one. What horses there are ride in trailers and pick-up trucks, the way horses ride. The people pack few guns, lock their doors when they go to town, and otherwise act as reasonable citizens. Never a one says, "They went that-a-way," and only two or three are cow thieves.

Indeed, at first reading it seemed that Mr. Sonnichsen was on a debunking expedition, but reflection shows that this was not the case. The author had something on his mind and this appears to be that while times change and people change with them, Western people remain Western people. Just doing things differently, that's all.

Pleasant reading.

BENNETT FOSTER

Albuquerque, N. M.

Revista Interamericana de Bibliografia: Review of Inter-American Bibliography. Washington: Pan American Union, 1951.

This quarterly replaces *Lea,* which has been discontinued. It should become a useful supplement to other literature on Latin American and American countries. It will not, however, replace professional journals devoted exclusively to Hispanic American states. For example, the *Hispanic American Historical Review* is published in the English language; the newcomer in the field, the *RIB,* is essentially bi-lingual, and often even quatro-lingual. Contributors write in their native idioms, which may indicate that the circulation will be greater in the Latin-speaking countries than in the United States and Canada. There are also some European contributors, who, by agreement, are restricted to writing in French, Spanish, Portuguese, or English.

Another variation from the usual type of professional journal lies in the fact that the *RIB* will attempt to cover all fields, which will mean special usefulness for reference and research. The reference room of every library should have copies on file; this periodical should be read by all students of Hispanic America, regardless of the field in which they specialize.

Because the publication is sponsored by the Pan American Union, one must not expect the exactness demanded by professional journals. Although Dr. A. Curtis Wilgus is the president of the organization, its essential purpose seems

to be the continued development of closer cultural relations between the various states on a higher level, with each country making contributions within chosen fields.

The *RIB* will, like most quarterlies, publish a general bibliography of books, pamphlets, and articles, as well as bi-annual lists of new periodicals, and an annual roundup of government documents. The latter two items should be used as checklists of Latin American materials.

The two major weaknesses appear to be: first, the employment of a variety of languages, which may prove to be a handicap to the less gifted who would otherwise be interested; and second, as the title indicates, only the area is specific, the field is general.

DAVIDSON B. MCKIBBIN
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Mexico During the War with the United States. José Fernando Ramírez. Edited by Walter V. Scholes. Translated by Elliott B. Scherr. The University of Missouri Studies, XXIII, No. 1. Columbia, 1950. Pp. 165. $2.50.

This is one observer's view of Mexico during the years 1846 and 1847. It is in the form of a diary and letters to a political friend. These were published nearly fifty years ago in the original Spanish by Genaro García. Now they appear for the first time in English translation, with numerous brief notes identifying persons and places and explaining certain events that might not otherwise be clear to the reader. The translation seems to be a happy combination of accuracy and clarity. The notes, in some instances, are incomplete, and the index is not quite adequate. The introduction does not present a rigidly accurate view of the circumstances leading to the Mexican War. But these are very minor blemishes. The documents well deserve publication in English, for they present a vivid picture of the chaotic conditions in Mexico during this period as seen by an intelligent observer, as well as the opinions and perplexities of this observer, who witnessed in person many of the events which

he described. José Fernando Ramírez did not have a high regard for the political capacity of the Mexicans of his day, whom he considered proud, imprudent, selfish, and, for the most part, corrupt. Later he seems to have despaired of their ability for self-government, for while he did not join in the invitation to Ferdinand Maximilian to rule Mexico, he soon became a member of Maximilian's cabinet. Although Ramírez had a few kind words for Paredes, Santa Anna, and Gómez Farías, his tone is usually denunciatory. The Mexico of this war period seems to have reeked with petty larceny.

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