

the most penetrating examination of the nature of Mexico and the Mexicans that has come to the reviewer's notice. It recalls such attempts at national self-analysis as Ángel Ganivet's *Idearium Español*, and Ortega y Gasset's *Invertebrate Spain*. In his prose Señor Paz shares the clarity and lucidity of the latter Spanish thinker, and the profundity of the Mexican's insights places him in the same high company.

Clearly *The Labyrinth of Solitude* is designed to enhance the understanding of its readers, be they specialists or laymen in Hispanic American and Mexican studies, and it should be required reading. Also, I believe, it is right to add that Señor Paz, like a concert soloist, might share his well deserved applause with his accompanist, the translator Lysander Kemp, who has also performed admirably.

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*A Catalog of Maya Hieroglyphs.* By J. ERIC S. THOMPSON. Norman, 1962. University of Oklahoma Press. Illustrations. Plates. Pp. 458. \$20.00.

The difference between Thompson's catalogue of Maya glyphs and the catalogues of Gates (1931) and Zimmermann (1956) is that Thompson's includes glyphs from all sources whereas Gates and Zimmermann confined theirs to codical glyphs. Zimmermann's work was a great improvement over Gates' but it is now superseded by Thompson's, which includes Zimmermann's material in the larger repertory. The Zimmermann system of numbering the elements of compound glyphs and using periods and colons to indicate locations is followed by Thompson. But the Zimmermann numbers are insufficient for the expanded list, and Thompson therefore assigns new numbers and includes a table of comparison between his and Zimmermann's numbers. The Thompson catalogue contains 862 signs, or about three times as many as the Zimmermann catalogue. All are non-calendrical. New discoveries will undoubtedly add to this number, but at the same time the elimination of main-sign and affix duplicates will reduce it. Some signs now catalogued separately will be found to be variants of a single sign. Thompson estimates 750 as the final total, and in his Introduction he comments interestingly on the nature of a writing system that uses this number of signs.

For each glyph the catalogue gives a number, a drawing, an identifying name, a list of known occurrences on monuments or codices, and some further commentary and cross reference. The

list of occurrences is highly specific, and the ingenious symbols readily indicate the affixes and their relation to the main sign in each case. The work is a model of intelligent economic indexing, the result of years of patient labor. It is a fundamental epigraphic tool and a major contribution to Maya studies.

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CHARLES GIBSON

#### COLONIAL PERIOD

*A Primer of Dutch Seventeenth Century Overseas Trade.* By D. W. DAVIES. The Hague, 1961. Martinus Nijhoff. Maps. Illustrations. Bibliography. Pp. 160.

In 1954 this author gave us an admirable little book on a limited subject (*The World of the Elzeviers 1580-1712*) well within the area of his competence as a professional librarian with earlier training in history. In the present work he attempts something much more extensive and difficult, to trace the complex development of Dutch seventeenth-century overseas commerce in all regions of the globe, with considerable attention to its European evolution in preceding centuries, and that in the brief space of 154 pages. The result is less than satisfactory. Although a five-page "Bibliographical note" indicates that Dr. Davies consulted a substantial (if far from exhaustive) list of the printed works on the subject, he gives the impression of having read in desultory fashion, and certainly not with the discernment of the specialist in economic and maritime history which this theme so patently requires. The consequence is an unsophisticated book lacking in real synthesis, uneven in coverage, interlarded with general history unrelated to trade and navigation, and containing invalid generalizations, numerous errors of fact, some misspellings, and evidence of hasty editing.

A very few examples. The "Icelandic trade," which the author admits to be unimportant (p. 146), gets a full chapter, while major branches such as the Norway timber trade and Arctic whaling (with all its corporate and commercial ramifications) rate only incidental mention. The pre-eminent Dutch *seventeenth-century* commercial (not to mention technological and industrial) role in Russia gets eight lines (p. 13). Why, in a book on trade, a whole chapter on "Australia" (with Cape Colony, Mauritius, and Madagascar thrown in), where the Dutch indeed busily explored but developed no appreciable trade? In contrast, practically nothing (pp. 51, 113) on the great East and West India Companies as corporate entities: their