

Dávila Garibi, José Ignacio. *Toponimias Nahuas; normas para la interpretación de toponimicos de origen náhuatl y análisis etimológicos de trescientos de ellos*. (Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia, pub. núm. 63.) Mexico: Editorial Stylo, 1940. xxxii+251 pp.

The author of this book is one of the few scholars in the world with a working knowledge of the Náhuatl language. Dávila Garibi is the author of an historical treatise on the Náhuatl language ("La Escritura del Idioma Náhuatl a través de los siglos" in *Memorias y Revista de la Academia Nacional de Ciencias "Antonio Alzate,"* T. 54, núms. 4, 5 y 6, pp. 223-309), and a study of Aztec names (*Epítome de Raíces Nahuas* [Mexico, 1938]). He has charge of all Náhuatl derivations in the set of Francisco Hernández' *Historia de las Plantas de Nueva España*, which is now in the process of publication.

*Toponimias Nahuas* has expanded and brought up to date what Peñafiel began in his *Nombres Geográficos de México* (Mexico, 1885). Dávila Garibi's work does not include the Aztec hieroglyphs but it embraces all sorts of names, while Peñafiel's edition contained only those names found in the Codex Mendocino together with their hieroglyphs. Since Mexico swarms with Náhuatl place names, this work should be of interest and importance to every student of Mexican life and culture.

Dávila Garibi has divided his book into six parts, two appendices, and a bibliography of 36 items.

Part I—Notes on the interpretation of place names.

Part II—Definitions and use of postpositions occurring in place names.

Part III—Definitions and use of reverential, augmentative, and diminutive suffixes.

Part IV—The use of numerical af-

fixes in forming Aztec place names.

Part V—The influence of Spanish upon the form and spelling of Nahua names.

Part VI—A complete analysis of 300 place names, together with the pronunciation of each.

Appendices A and B deal with the name Coyoacán, discussed and interpreted by Lawrence Ecker and Cecilio A. Robelo.

Mexico will never be understood until its native cultures are understood, and books of this type are very important contributions to such an understanding. They constitute keys to an untouched storehouse of Náhuatl documents.—(G.T.S.)

☆

Garibay K., Angel María. *Llave del Náhuatl; Colección de Trozos Clásicos, con Gramática y Vocabulario, para Utilidad de los Principiantes*. Otumba, Mex., 1940. 259+[2] pp.

The 16th and 17th centuries in Mexico saw a flood of books and pamphlets in and about the native languages, especially Náhuatl, the Aztec language. Only a few Náhuatl grammarians, however, have contributed important grammars: Andrés de Olmos, a portion of whose works was published by the Frenchman Rémi Siméon; Alonso de Molina, whose grammar was republished in the 19th century; Horacio Carochi, who made an attempt to edit a complete grammar of Náhuatl in a scholarly pattern. Others were published in the 19th century by Chimalpopoca Galicia and Antonio del Rincón. Mariano Jacobo Rojas in 1927 issued a small grammar of modern Náhuatl.

Perhaps the first scientific approach to classical Náhuatl (that approaching the spoken language of the Aztec nobles) is the grammar under review. Garibay comes to his task well versed in a number of ancient and modern languages, including studies in Otomí. In the field of Náhuatl, he became

interested in the *Cantares Mexicanos* and published large sections in translation in *La Poesía Lírica Azteca* (Mexico, 1937). In 1940 the Biblioteca del Estudiante of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma published his *Poesía Indígena de la Altiplanicie*. Also in 1940, *Abside* (Vol. 4, Nos. 1, 3) printed "La Épica Azteca," comprising his study on two fragments of the Poem of Quetzalcóatl, in both the Aztec text and the Spanish version.

Garibay's *Llave* is not only a grammar, but also a reader with vocabulary. His selections for reading are chosen from Sahagún, a Ms. of 1558 giving in narrative form the story of the Creation of Man and the Finding of Maize, *Cantares Mexicanos*, Chimalpain, and a Ms. describing the foundation of Mexico and the Conquest. In an appendix, one finds selections from the 18th century to present day dialects, chosen from Ignacio de Paredes (who wrote and spoke perhaps the most polished Náhuatl used by any Spaniard), a text from Tepoztlán, a text about San Martín de las Pirámides, and dialect material from Tuxtla, Ver., and Nicaragua (Pipil). There is an index of proper names and a Bibliography.

The *Llave* is an improvement over any grammar previously published. However, one regrets that the author did not provide a complete vocabulary of all terms used in the grammar for illustrations and in the selections for reading. For the benefit of beginning students the vocabulary should at least carry the root of every word used. The book, unfortunately, is marred by many typographical errors. Some of them are noted in a table of errata. Too many errors have been the great fault of Mexican printers during the past 60 years. Recently, however, there has been a trend toward greater accuracy in Mexican printing.

But in spite of minor defects, the book is the best grammar of Náhuatl that can now be obtained. We venture

to predict that Garibay will make a name for himself in the field of Náhuatl studies and some day will be known to scholars throughout the world.—(G.T.S.)



*Mexicana Review*, a Journal devoted to the publication of bibliographical as well as popular and scholarly articles on all aspects of Mexicana. (Published by the New York Archives of Mexico as a semi-annual. Edited by Jesse J. Dossick, New York University, Washington Square, New York, N. Y. 60 cents a year.)

The strong point of the *Mexicana Review* is its exhaustive bibliographies of books, magazines, and articles dealing with every phase of Mexicana, from ornithology to dances. Only materials in English are listed. One issue each year is devoted to a bibliography of Mexicana written in English during the previous year. The other issue contains bibliographies of the Mexicana to be found in past volumes of selected scholarly journals.

Besides bibliographies, each number offers short book reviews within the same limits. Occasionally a brief article is included, such as "Twenty Centuries of Mexican Art and Music," by Amy Richter, in the June, 1940, issue.

From the restriction to materials in English and the introductory nature of the occasional articles, it is apparent that the *Mexicana Review* aims at an audience of school-teachers and similar, cultivated non-specialists. This is an entirely reasonable, modest, and useful goal. The really comprehensive bibliographies render it useful, however, to more advanced investigators also.

The purpose of *Mexicana Review* is stated in the first issue:

"The New York Archives of Mexico is sponsored by a group of university professional people imbued with an honest and sincere interest in the dem-