

Dibble, Charles E. *Códice en Cruz*. Mexico, 1942. 2 vols. (Vol. I, description and critical study of Codex, 159+[8] pp.; vol. II, plates of Codex, 3 leaves.)

One of the most valuable historical codices of the Valley of Mexico, although completed a few years after 1553, remained unknown until 1736 when Boturini secured it along with numerous other Mss. Because this Codex of Texcoco is laid out in the form of a cross (13 years on each arm, making 52-year period for each leaf), it was early designated as *Códice en Cruz*. Short descriptions of it have been made by Boturini, León y Gama, Aubin, and Boban. The original now rests (uneasily?) in the National Library in Paris, but reproductions have been made, a tracing of one of which is excellently reproduced in volume II of Dibble's work.

The Codex begins with 1 Tochtli (1402), which depicts the birth of Nezahualcóyotl, and ends with 13 Tecpatl (1557). However, among these 156 years of history, some 58 are left blank, due perhaps to the lack of any historical event of importance occurring during these years. After 1557 (the last actual event recorded falls in 1553) some later writer who possessed the Codex began adding events in Latin letters, starting with 1 Tochtli of the third leaf as 1558 and continuing on around the 52-year cycle to 1609.

The critical study in volume I continues very lucidly from year to year, and Dibble has thoroughly analyzed each hieroglyph, bringing together references from every type of source material which may shed light on the interpretation of each historical event.

The book is divided into three parts according to 52-year periods. Each part has a chronological table comparing dates of events with dates given in other sources. Also are included numerous places of hieroglyphs from various codices with explanations for comparison with those of the *Códice en Cruz*.

Dibble has greatly increased usability of his study by adding an excellent index and an ample bibliography.

In conclusion the author substantiates two points: (1) That the Codex must have been written by a Tlacuilo in Chiauhitla, an important cabecera in the province of Texcoco, and (2) that the writing took place a few years after 1553 and perhaps during the so-called golden age of Texcoco when Don Hernando Pimentel was the thirteenth Texcocan king.

Dibble's work sets a pattern for future analysts of Mexican historical codices. Although such work as this represents a tremendous amount of labor (the *Códice en Cruz* is the culmination of four years of study in Mexico), it is of vital importance as basic material for a clearer reconstruction of the still hazy aboriginal history of Mexico.—[G. T. S.]