

orary Mexicanisms which were somehow omitted: i.e. *libre* meaning *taxi*, *pesero* meaning a one-peso-per-person, fixed-route cab, *burro* as *ironing-board*, *popoff* meaning of or pertaining to society's "upper crust", etc.

Without qualification, this is the best dictionary ever compiled on Mexicanisms. Two regrettable faults—the omission, referred to above, of many contemporary Mexicanisms in use only since the last decade or two, and constant editorializing, including many unwarranted sociological and racial generalizations—mar this otherwise monumental work in the best Santamaría tradition. This first printing of only 3,000 copies will not nearly satisfy the tremendous demand for this basic reference work in Mexican lexicology.

JOSEPH H. MATLUCK

University of Texas

*Breve historia de la novela mexicana.*

By JOHN S. BRUSHWOOD and JOSÉ ROJAS GARCIDUEÑAS. Mexico, D.F., 1959. Librería Studium. Manuales Studium, No. 9. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 157. Paper.

This well-balanced manual is divided into two approximately equal parts, Brushwood covering the years from the beginnings of the form in 1620 down to 1910, and Rojas Garcidueñas from 1910 to the present. Following the practice of this handy and welcome series, the former double stars ten (Lizardi, Payno, Inclán, Altamirano, Cuéllar, Rabasa, Delgado, Gamboa, López-Portillo y Rojas, Frías) and single stars twelve others out of a total of some forty-one novelists given a berth for his period, while the latter double stars six (Azuela, Guzmán, Anda, Rubín, Almanza, Yáñez) and single stars eighteen others out of a total of some seventy novelists for the last half century.

Brushwood accepts a fairly-well established pattern by recognizing three chronologically and esthetically determined periods in the earlier development of the form, namely, the "be-

ginnings" (1620, *Los sirgueros de la Virgen*, by Bramón, through Lizardi), the "romantic" (1830-1867), and that of "transition and realism" (1867-1910).

JOHN ENGELKIRK

University of California

Los Angeles

*Archivo del general Porfirio Díaz.*

*Memorias y documentos.* XXVI.

Prologue and notes by Alberto María Carreño. Mexico, 1958. Editorial "Elede." Pp. 317. Index. Paper.

The twenty-sixth volume of the papers of Díaz covers the period from July 15 to August 21, 1877. Most of the documents are directed to the president, although Díaz's replies are noted where available and a number of communications written by him do appear. Included are reports on social, economic and political conditions as well as routine matters and individual petitions seeking consideration for services rendered or losses suffered. Data is made available on a wide range of subjects including the political rivalry in Tepic between J. H. Alfaro and F. Tolentino, factional squabbles in Yucatán, social conditions in Guerrero, customs house receipts from Veracruz, and reports and rumors of lerdista activities on the frontier. Recurring frequently is evidence of the scarcity of funds and vestiges of the campaign against the lerdistas. In this connection, appended are a number of letters which turned up out of chronological order. There is an exchange between Lerdo and Gen. Diego Álvarez in Dec., 1876, as well as the latter's communication explaining his conduct to the Secretary of War in Jan., 1877. Finally, there are two messages directed by Lerdo in exile, dated in March and July, 1877, to Gen. José Ceballos.

STANLEY ROBERT ROSS

The University of Nebraska

*Orozco.* By LUIS CARDOZA Y ARAGÓN. Mexico, D.F., 1959. Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas, Universidad