to rearrange them. Schwartz’ translation from the Spanish is a good one, and he provides footnotes to explain certain interpretations made in the translation.

Schwartz’ conclusions are the high point of the book. He analyzes the biography with deep sensitivity and insight. The reader will find numerous important observations in these conclusions about the use of the forest as a psychological refuge, the reason for disorderly house decorations, the open, informal nature of rites of passage ("turnings"), the Oedipal nature of mother-son relationships, and others. Perhaps the single most fundamental conclusion about Abel’s biography, as representative of the ladino culture of the Peten, was expressed by Schwartz as follows: “Since there are no functional equivalents for the family and household, one must not only rely on them, but become over-dependent on them, and this seems to be inevitably frustrating” (p. 115). The biography reveals that a concomitant of ladino culture in Peten, not fully grasped from more standard ethnographic studies, is the personal pain experienced by the participants in that culture.

I strongly recommend this fine study by Schwartz. It bridges the fields of cultural and psychological anthropology on the one hand, and history and literature on the other.

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This comprehensive economic survey of two departments in northeast Paraguay, Concepción and Amambay, provides statistical information and a fine set of resource maps not previously available. This region, comprising 33,000 square kilometers, is extremely isolated and populated by fewer than 200,000 people, most of whom speak only Guarani and are illiterate.

Economic activity in the region has been dormant since a decline in demand for yerba mate and quebracho wood, formerly used for tanning extract and railroad ties. Cattle raising, subsistence farming, and lumbering are the main activities. Industrial employment is limited to some 7,000 jobs in sawmills and a cement plant.

The survey indicates that a land reform program conducted since 1957 by the Paraguayan government’s Rural Welfare Institute (IBR) has had little effect. About 14,000 farms in fifty-six colonies along trunk roads are described as ribbons of minifundia practicing subsistence farming with little technical or social assistance. Data on proprietorship reveal that ninety-five percent of the land in the two departments is controlled by six percent of the operators, chiefly large cattle raisers.

The border zone with Brazil is beginning to be affected by land speculation resulting from Brazilian economic growth, which includes massive hydroelectric projects on the Alto Paraná River. The study includes proposals for making better use of the unexploited resources of the region in order to insure a more equitable distribution of income.

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