force during a crucial period in Mexican history—may be undertaken again in more depth, utilizing the extensive wealth of archival materials presently available in Mexico.

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Dawn Keremitsis


The unwary tourist to Mexico who has already purchased the authentic skull of Pancho Villa or the one reliable map locating his treasure will most certainly want a copy of Haldeen Braddy's _The Paradox of Pancho Villa._ For this slim book, like mounted bullhorns or velvetean paintings of toreadors, is a curio of the border. It has no more relation to history or folklore than the Juárez strip to Mexican culture. Braddy has indiscriminately combined hearsay, gossip, oral tradition, a few facts, allegations of Villa's enemies and detractors, and recollections from random interviews. The historical references are often wrong—Luis Terrazas was not a wealthy Spaniard (p. 6), Porfirio Díaz did not abdicate in 1910 (p. 17), and Villa did not finish the unexpired term of Governor González (p. 17). Attempts at folklore are offhand—a comparison to Robin Hood (p. 17) and reference to the thunderstorm at Villa's birth as an indication of a tempestuous love life (p. 30). The scant analysis simply begs the question; Villa's biography is like a desert mirage (p. 16). Villa's life may be a chimera but the book's price is not: "ten dollars each, gringo, no bargaining."

North Carolina State University  

William H. Beezley


This diary both amuses and informs. The writer is an upper-class German lady, forced by familial insistence to marry a well-to-do countryman, whose principal business is a large department store in Durango City, Mexico. She's there, oozing her paternal racism toward Mexicans, when the Revolution erupts in late 1910. Her diary then helps the historian: although Francisco Madero's rebellion sputtered to a start on November 20 in Chihuahua, she does not report a "rumor" of revolution until February 13, 1911, and then it is only aimed at the abusive governor of Chihuahua. Although the word is that foreigners will be spared, no one is sure, as the insurgents seem to be a potpourri of sincere nationalists and wanton bandits. The foreigners want peace without regard to politics. The author favors Bernardo Reyes for president, anyone so the fighting will end. When rebel/bandits appear outside of Durango, five foreign consuls seek to make a separate peace with them, which naturally angers the federal commander preparing to defend the city.

There are wildly cheering processions on May 3. To welcome an armistice?