of the literary world and perhaps of the artistic and scientific worlds as well)—have a familiar ring and indeed are now critical commonplaces. The problem as his own writing reveals is that the destruction of the old proceeds more quickly than the creation of the new. No one, however, would seriously deny Macedonio Fernández the pioneer position which Jo Anne Engelbert’s solid and serious study accords him. The one criticism that can be leveled at her book is that she promises more in her title than she gives. There is, indeed, very little on the Spanish American new novel except incidentally.

Stanford University

JEAN FRANCO


*Mexican Mosaic* is compiled for the casual reader who desires a glimpse of varied travel accounts of Mexicans and their environment. This mosaic is portrayed through excerpts taken from the writings of de la Barca, Dane Chandos, Hernando Cortés, Bernal Díaz, Thomas Gage, Graham Greene, D. H. Lawrence, and John Steinbeck. The timelessness of Mexico and the tradition-bound nature of the people are the motifs of the mosaic. These themes are reinforced by Joe Rosenthal’s photographs which center on crumbling churches and pre-Columbian ruins. It would have been well had Georgetown Press introduced the authors to the reader so that he could understand the perspective from which they wrote. If *Mexican Mosaic* stimulates the reader to explore the writings in their entirety, it will have served a worthy purpose.

University of Arizona

ANN RODGERS


In Mexico City during June 5-11, 1977, the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana organized a conference on “The Environmental Setting in Latin America.” Francisco Szekely, Director of Environmental Impact Studies at UNAM, edited ten of the conference reports for this volume.

These ecologists from throughout Latin America warn the region that technology is contaminating its natural resources. For example, the United Nations director of the Latin American Environment Office warns that larger crops in Central America depend on insecticides which are poisoning water systems. Will Central American governments be willing to rely on inefficient organic farming with its resultant drop in national income? One report stresses Mexico City’s streets clogged with polluting automobiles. Perhaps the blue haze itself, blotting out buildings, makes this the most convincing essay for those unfamiliar with the environmental crises.

Latin Americans are suffering high unemployment, runaway inflation, and annual population increases which dump millions of additional young job seekers onto labor markets which cannot absorb them. They do not worry about dirty