The significance of nonceramic artifacts in resource exploitation and in trade is neglected.

Ball presents a detailed analysis of ceramics, organized by zone, and then launches into a careful speculative reconstruction of ceramic and population movements in the northern Petén–Yucatán area. Both reports are substantial contributions.

University of Colorado

Payson D. Sheets


This book is so loaded with errors and omissions that it would appear to be the first rough draft. The omissions begin with the map preceding the first page of the text. This map does not include Palenque! Neither does it have a scale, nor is it labeled properly. The errors begin with the first paragraph and continue at an alarming rate. Since Anthony McLoughlin does not cite his sources nor include a bibliography, I feel forced to conclude that this book is probably a product of faulty memory and fantasy. The only positive aspect of the book is the low rate of typographical errors.

An historian interested in the prehispanic Maya would better spend his/her time reading anything but this book. I would recommend the relevant sections of the Handbook of Middle American Indians (Volumes II and III), An Introduction to American Archaeology, or Maya Cities Official Guide, INAH.

University of Arizona

R. B. Brown


For some time book titles have tended to be lengthy, often prolix to the point of serving as bibliographic annotations in themselves. If the volume under review signifies a reverse trend, it does not say much for the merits of brevity. A more descriptive title might well have been “A Pictorial History of the Conquest of Mexico as Represented by Reproductions from the Florentine Codex with Accompanying Text Condensed from the Pedro Robledo Edition (1938) of Sahagún’s Historia general de las cosas de la Nueva España, Book 12.” But that would not have left much for the reviewer to say.

The editors’ intent, as they state in the introduction, is not to use occasional drawings to illustrate the text, but to let the imagery of the drawings provide most of the narrative. The 169 pages of reproductions are for the most part in the same order that they appear in the Florentine Codex and they are of good quality. The main value of this small book is that it provides inexpensive and valuable illustrative materials for use in teaching the conquest of Mexico at the secondary or college level of instruction.

North Texas State University

Donald Chipman