BOOK NOTICES

 Initiated notices were written by members of the editorial staff.


Mexico's most celebrated eighteenth-century historian, Francisco Javier Clavigero (1731-1787), was born in Veracruz and educated by Jesuits at the Colegio de San Ignacio in Puebla. After entering the Jesuit order in 1748, he devoted his scholarly life to the study of Mexican history (especially Mexican antiquities) and to teaching natural philosophy and rhetoric in the Jesuit colleges of Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Valladolid. With the expulsion of his order from New Spain in 1767, Clavigero took up residence in Italy and in Bologna began a ten-year project which culminated with his famous *Historia antigua de México*.

The four-volume study, originally written in Spanish, was completed in 1779, translated into Italian, and published the following year under the title *Storia antica del Messico*. It has undergone numerous translations and editions since that time.

This latest edition is a facsimile reproduction of Charles Cullen's English translation published in London in 1787. Historians of colonial Mexico are familiar with Clavigero's motivation and point of view. Designed to refute erroneous European ideas about Mexico's Indian population, the *Historia antigua* treats the grandeur of Mexico's pre-Cortesian civilizations from the beginning of their development to the time of the Spanish conquest. The coverage is genuinely eclectic as the volumes detail religion, language, geography, and the social and economic organization of Mexico's leading Indian cultures. The text is supplemented by many interesting drawings which portray not only flora and fauna but also daily life. Libraries not holding previous editions might well want to consider this new two-volume edition.

M.C.M.


This important little book studies the colonial economy of the bishopric of Oaxaca, especially but not exclusively in the eighteenth century, via its tithe collection or diezmo.

The major findings are startling and revisionist. (1) The Indian, supposedly exempt, was the heaviest payer of the diezmo. (2) The Indian, in spite of the demographic catastrophe, increased his production of commercial, European products, especially livestock, throughout the seventeenth century. (3) While Indian production increased it did not do so as fast as that of Spaniards and mestizos. The main feature of the economic history of Oaxaca in the century of depression was the accelerated growth of this sector, competing with and surpassing Indian commercial production so that by the end of the eighteenth century Indian commercial agriculture was important only in peripheral zones. (4) The first three decades of the eighteenth century saw vigorous growth. (5) Perhaps the major finding is