



Reproductions of Nahua Manuscripts by Francisco del Paso y Troncoso

Review by: O. M. D.

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The chief difficulty in the way of accepting Mr. Penrose's conclusions is the want of evidence to support his fundamental assumption. The calculations have been made with great care, and one cannot praise the author too highly for the pains he has taken to collect local data, such as the altitude of the visible horizon and the conditions of visibility of different stars in the climates of Greece and Italy, data which are of the highest importance in such nice calculations. The only material error in the calculations appears to be in the conversion of the Sun's declination and right ascension into a calendar date, where Mr. Penrose would appear to have followed some recent almanack without making the necessary corrections for a distant date. His dates in the fifth century before Christ are in consequence from six to eight days too early, and the synchronisms between the astronomical and calendar dates of the festivals do not therefore hold for the years which he suggests. Elsewhere this error would appear to be of no importance.

J. K. F.

DESCRIPCION HISTORIA Y EXPOSICION DEL CODICE PICTORICO DE LOS ANTIGUOS NAUAS que se conserva en la Biblioteca de la Cámara de Diputados de Paris, por Francisco del Paso y Troncoso, Director del Museo Nacional de México. Florence, 1898. 368 pp. 8vo. (Presented by the Author.)

In this work Señor F. del Paso y Troncoso gives a commentary of a singularly interesting pictorial MS. on agave-paper preserved in the library of the Chamber of Deputies at Paris. The manuscript is a ceremonial calendar, treating of the feasts proper to different seasons of the year, and Señor Troncoso discusses each of the thirty-seven pages in detail. His commentary will be read with additional interest as soon as the reproduction now promised us has been issued. As a compliment to the learned Director of the Trocadéro, Señor del Troncoso proposes to name the MS. the Codex Hamy. In some interesting prefatory remarks, the author relates the history of the MS. which was formerly in the Escurial and was probably removed to France in the early years of the nineteenth century. About 1780 it was discovered by the Rev. Mr. Waddilove, Chaplain of the British Embassy at Madrid; he communicated his discovery to the historian Robertson, who noticed it in one of the later editions of his *History of America*. Señor Troncoso suggests that the communications of Waddilove may still exist among the papers of Robertson, and that if this is the case, further information as to the facts of the discovery may yet be forthcoming. He commends the search to any of our countrymen who are interested in the study of American Antiquities.

O. M. D.

REPRODUCTIONS OF NAHUA MANUSCRIPTS. By Francisco del Paso y Troncoso.

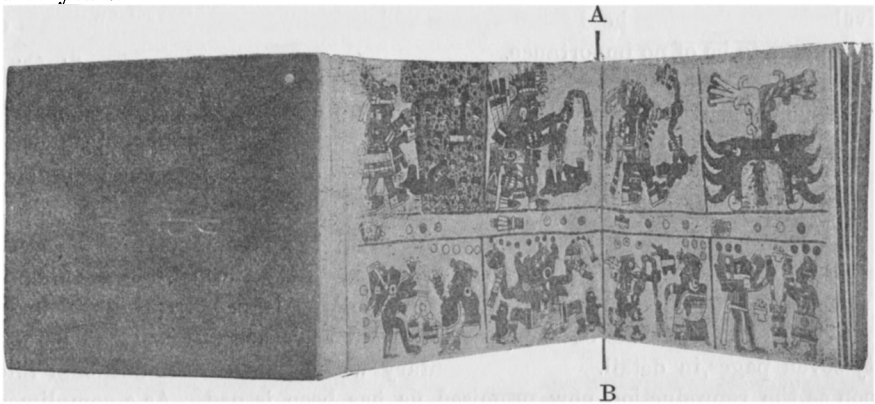
The attention of all Anthropologists interested in the ancient civilisations of America should be drawn to the magnificent series of reproductions of Mexican manuscripts now being issued by Señor del Paso y Troncoso and Professor Hamy, under the auspices of M. le Duc de Loubat. The codices already issued are five in number, namely the Vatican MS., 3773, known as the Codex Fabrégas; the Borgian MS. in the Museum of the Propaganda; the Codex Cospianus in the Library of the University of Bologna; the Codex Tellerio-Remensis in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris; and the Vatican MS., 3738, known as the Codex Rios, the two last being posterior to the Conquest, and provided with a commentary in Spanish. This series of facsimiles is of quite remarkable excellence, the most minute peculiarities of material and colour being reproduced with surprising fidelity.

The advance made since Lord Kingsborough's time is enormous, and students can now consult facsimiles of the accuracy of which they can confidently rely.

NEW SERIES, VOL. II, NOS. 3 AND 4,

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Through the munificence of M. le Duc de Loubat, who has in this matter proved a veritable Maecenas, the principal libraries of the world have been provided with each number of the series as it appears. From many points of view the MS. first mentioned is the most interesting, for it is still contained in its original wooden covers, formerly set with turquoises, of which only one now remains. The reproduction in this case gives us therefore an exact idea of the books from which the Nahua priests derived their ritual and astronomical lore, before Cortes overthrew the Empire of Montezuma. It may be added that M. le Duc de Loubat has himself rediscovered and published the "Clave General de Zeroglificos Americanos" of Don Ignacio Borunda, lost to sight in the archives of Notre Dame de Guadalupe for a hundred years.



The accompanying illustration will give some idea of the appearance of the smallest MS.—the Vatican Codex, 3773. It is on skin, painted on both sides, and opening like a folding screen. It is inclosed between two wooden covers, of which that which is shown in the photograph is the front. In the right-hand top corner of this cover can be seen inlaid a small stone resembling turquoise, while in the left-hand bottom corner is the cavity left by a similar stone; the marks seen in the middle of the cover are in all probability also those of other stones now lost. The other cover is left unornamented, from which it may be gathered that the end of the MS. is at this side a matter of some importance, for without some such clue it is difficult to say where some of these MSS. begin. The length of the covers is six inches. The line A B marks a fold in the manuscript.

O. M. D.

DECADES AMERICANÆ, MÉMOIRES D'ARCHÉOLOGIE ET D'ETHNOGRAPHIE AMÉRICAINES. Par le Dr. E. T. Hamy, 3^e and 4^e Décades. Paris, 1898. 4 Plates. 23 illustrations. 211 pp. (Presented by the Author.)

The above work is the second instalment of a series of papers on American Archæology and Ethnography, arranged as the name implies in groups of ten. The greater number have already appeared in various publications, chiefly in the *Revue d'Anthropologie* and in the *Journal de la Société des Américanistes de Paris*. Dr. Hamy has conferred a distinct service on students of American ethnology by bringing together in one volume these useful essays. The subjects treated are very various and deal with almost all parts of the Continent. We have the history of explorations, ethnographical papers on Alaska, on the Jivaro Indians, on ancient Mexico, on Huron Wampum, etc., and on a memoir on the prominent part played by France in investigating the ancient civilisations of Mexico and Central America. The volume is provided with an index and table of contents.

O. M. D.