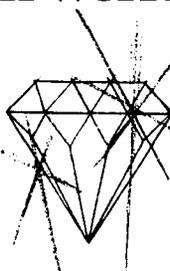


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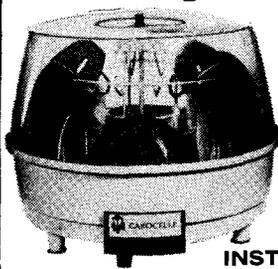
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Travel

A TRAVELER IN SOUTHERN ITALY

by **H. V. Morton**

Dodd, Mead, 420 pp., \$10

THE MEXICO TRAVELER:

A Complete History and Guide

by **Selden Rodman**

Meredith, 264 pp., \$7.95

IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY travel was an art. It was undertaken searchingly and with grace. The nineteenth-century person of means who chose to travel and who wrote about his experiences examined them with an inquiring mind. Because he had the leisure he lingered a bit, and philosophized. He perceived what it was in the antiquities he visited that had affected his own times, and history was of consequence to him.

Today it is the exceptional travel guide that does much more than shuffle its readers from airport to hotel to museum, or from historic site to restaurant. The less muddle of history and philosophy the book has, the better. Most contemporary tourists are looking for highlights; their vacations are too short and their schedules too rushed for anecdotes and the reflections that make travel more illuminating.

But H. V. Morton in *A Traveler in Southern Italy* and, to a lesser extent, Selden Rodman in *The Mexico Traveler* have journeyed with curiosity and written about exotic locales informatively and with ease.

Mr. Morton is one of those travelers

who cannot resist a colorful legend, who is well-versed in history and clearly fascinated by it. In *A Traveler in Southern Italy* he weaves marvelous tales of the Norman conquest of southern Italy in the eleventh century, of the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II with his falcons and his experiments in trying to build a city at Lucera for disgruntled Saracens in order to make them his devoted followers.

Morton's enthusiasm is not only for the distant past. "I thought at the time and I still think," he writes, "that the rescue by air in 1943 of Mussolini by Hitler from the top of Italy's highest mountain was one of the most fantastic stories of the last war." So, visiting Aquila and seeing the Gran Sasso, where the rescue took place, towering into the sky, Mr. Morton set out to find a witness to that extravagant escapade. He succeeded, and writes of the subsequent conversation. For all the baseness of the men involved, the feat was a daring one that makes good telling.

The author defines southern Italy as the part that was subject to the kingdoms of Naples and Sicily. It includes the Abruzzi, Campania, Apulia, Basilicata, and Calabria. With the exception of Campania, these are still among the less traveled sections of the country, which makes them some of the most delightful in the author's estimation. He included in his tour such points as Sulmona, home of the poet Ovid, famed today for its colored sugared almonds, sometimes dexterously shaped into petaled flowers.

He writes with affection of several quaint villages, among them the little seaport of Rodi with its blue and pink

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- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. _____ or <i>La Nouvelle Héloïse</i> () | a. Defoe |
| 2. <i>The Great God</i> _____ () | b. Dickens |
| 3. _____ the <i>Wake</i> () | c. Eliot |
| 4. _____: <i>A Biography</i> () | d. Goethe |
| 5. _____, a <i>Tale of the Christ</i> () | e. Hardy |
| 6. <i>The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of</i>
_____ of <i>York, Mariner</i> () | f. Kingsley |
| 7. _____, the <i>Radical</i> () | g. Meredith |
| 8. <i>The Life and Opinions of</i> _____
_____ <i>Gentleman</i> () | h. O'Neill |
| 9. <i>The Mystery of</i> _____ () | i. Rousseau |
| 10. _____ the <i>Obscure</i> () | j. Sterne |
| 11. <i>The Ordeal of</i> _____ () | k. Wallace |
| 12. _____'s <i>Apprenticeship</i> () | l. Woolf |

houses, cobbled lanes, Arabic-looking archways with the blue-green Adriatic beyond. And he dwells at length—perhaps too great length—on the saints and religious festivals of this region. Some of these accounts are picturesque and rewarding, for example his story of the Festival of St. Nicholas at Bari. Morton tells of the “devout” Bari thieves of the eleventh century who wanted the contents of the shrine of St. Nicholas at Myra for their own city; they raided the sanctuary and came away with the relics.

The book is adequately if not amply illustrated, but its charm lies in its author’s intellectual curiosity and generous, unconstrained writing.

Mr. Rodman devotes the entire first half of *The Mexican Traveler* to history, while the second half is travelogue. Perhaps because Mexican history is complex and unfamiliar to most Americans, its summary proves fatiguing. At the end of the 153 pages that lead from pre-Columbian times to the present day one feels a little as if he had been cramming for a final examination. It would have been more entertaining to read about Miguel Hidalgo y Castilla, the parish priest-turned-revolutionary, while being urged to drive to Dolores Hidalgo, where his revolution began with the ringing of a bell, than it is to have to remember the story from Part I or leaf back to it. Similarly, Mr. Rodman’s account of Pancho Villa would have been more relevant as part of his description of the bandit’s escapades in Monterrey than it is coming after the reader is exhausted from trying to assimilate the last days of President Francisco Madero.

On the other hand, Mr. Rodman has perhaps solved the dilemma of the writer who is trying to produce a guidebook that is both rich in historical content and practical for the modern tourist seeking only such specifics as routes, good shops, museums, forthright opinions (“Checkerboard-square Puebla is a bland city architecturally—unless you like tiles.”).

There is a section of black-and-white illustrations. Unfortunately, as in Mr. Morton’s book, these are not sufficiently tantalizing.

Phyllis L. Méras

Phyllis L. Méras is a free-lance newspaperwoman and travel writer.



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Emerging Republicans

Continued from page 31

most obvious symptom of a far more deeply rooted malaise.

Consider the elements of the proposed "Nixon coalition." Phillips has identified an important group of voters in the urban Catholics. America's recent political history is, in a sense, the history of the urban Catholic vote. Since the days of Al Smith, the Irish, the Italians, and the Slavs have made up a significant part of the Democratic vote. In 1952 and again in 1956 these Catholic urbanites bolted the Democratic Party to vote for Eisenhower. The Democrats largely recaptured their votes by running John Kennedy in 1960. In 1964 Barry Goldwater's economic conservatism frightened the basically blue-collar and middle-class Catholic voter, and Goldwater received relatively few votes in predominantly Catholic neighborhoods. Last year substantial numbers of urban Catholics voted for Nixon and Wallace. The Democratic share of the Catholic vote was the lowest it had been in many years. These voters defected from their traditional party because they believed that the Democrats were neglecting their needs while giving preferential treatment to the blacks.

Phillips argues that the urban Catholic voting bloc is most sensitive to the Negro socioeconomic revolution, that it resents the Democratic Party, which is increasingly liberal and increasingly black, and that these voters are a prime target for a conservative, Republican appeal. But politics isn't that simple. One can think of at least two ways in which the Democrats can win back the urban Catholic vote. What would have happened, for instance, if Robert Kennedy had been the Democratic Presidential candidate instead of Humphrey? It is entirely likely that Kennedy would have won a large portion of the urban Catholic vote, while at the same time piling up substantial margins in the black community. Perhaps future Democratic candidates will be able to manage Kennedy's unique balancing act by advocating both "law and order" and a better life for the black and poor. On the other hand, some Democratic candidates may follow the lead of Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty and Mario Procaccino of New York. Such Democratic candidates would swing the party to the political right and run pledged to law and order. This strategy too might win back urban Catholic votes. What is clear is that for the immediate future the urban Catholic bloc will remain a swing vote.

Phillips says the GOP can win the

South's votes without really trying. He believes that a conservative Nixon Administration will almost automatically attract most former Wallace supporters to the Republican Party. But just for good measure, he throws in a truly Machiavellian bit of self-righteousness: "Maintenance of Negro voting rights in Dixie, far from being contrary to GOP interests, is essential if Southern conservatives are to be pressured into switching to the Republican Party. . . ." I'm afraid Mr. Phillips is just whistling Dixie. A recent Harris survey showed that President Nixon's popularity had fallen off dramatically in the South. This decline came shortly after the President had named a "strict constructionist" to be Chief Justice of



the Supreme Court and at a time when the influence of Strom Thurmond and Everett Dirksen seemed everywhere in the new Administration. What was worrying the South at the time of the poll was the federal government's school desegregation suit against the state of Georgia. Many Southern conservatives felt that Nixon was betraying them. (It is not certain that the appointment of South Carolinian Clement Haynsworth to the Supreme Court will allay their fears.) And if Congress passes a Nixon-backed extension of the voting rights act, the President's popularity will decline even further. In fact, it's not hard to see how Mr. Nixon soon could be very unpopular in the South. He must be a "national" President, not just a "regional" leader. And that means the Nixon Administration must be more liberal than either Kevin Phillips or Southern Wallace voters might like.

The third segment of the proposed "Nixon coalition" is the suburbs. Phillips correctly observes that they are a good place to go hunting for votes. America is no longer an urban culture; it has become a suburban society. More people now live in the suburbs than in the central cities. The fastest growing parts of the nation are the suburbs, particularly in what Phillips labels the "Sun Belt" of California, Texas, Arizona, and Florida. In all states the balance of political power is shifting from the increasingly black cities to suburbia, where the voters

hide behind "a crab-grass curtain." Some suburbs, especially in the West and Southwest, are overwhelmingly conservative in their politics: Take, for example, Orange County, California, or the aero-space suburbs of Houston. Yet, other suburbs like Montgomery County, Maryland, and the Route 128 suburbs of Boston remain relatively liberal and Democratic.

The long-term political impact of suburbanization is unclear. Racial tensions may be forcing middle-class and blue-collar families out of the cities. But once they arrive in suburbia they are confronted with a new set of public concerns. If the GOP wants to build a lasting majority in the suburbs, it must demonstrate a concern for such problems as environmental pollution, mass transportation, education, and leisure time. It is still too early to tell whether the Nixon Administration will rise to the challenge of megalopolis.

The key to any future political majority lies in the realization that more is troubling America today than just race. The United States is a tired and ill-tempered nation. Its voters are fed up with black militants and their radical student allies. However, the voters are also fed up with time-saving appliances that wear out and can't be repaired, with garbage that isn't collected, with electricity which fails and telephones which don't work. The list seems endless. The quality of life is the most important public issue. Young people were the first to point out the failings of contemporary society. And, as Robert Kennedy wrote, "Self-assured societies, confident of their wisdom and purpose, are not afflicted with rebellions of the young. . . . If the young scorn conventional politics and mock our ideals, surely this mirrors our own sense that these ideals have too often and too easily been abandoned for the sake of comfort and convenience."

Young people are saying, and the generations over thirty are agreeing, that traditional politics seems unable to cope with the complexities of our post-industrial society. President Nixon was elected because he promised to restore order and bring stability. America needed a respite from excitement. Nevertheless the period of consolidation cannot go on forever.

In 1932 the Democrats came to power and promised to set things right. The political momentum of the New Deal is only now beginning to slacken. The current political system must come to grips with today's problems. Kevin Phillips has offered his party one strategy for the future. The rest is up to President Nixon—and the voters.

Mark Levy



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AN EXPOGOER'S GUIDE TO THE PACIFIC

■ AS OSAKA hustles toward a March 15 opening of Expo '70—the first time a fair of such import has been staged in Asia—the once forbidding prospect of Pacific travel is floating into reach. With the settlement of the Transpacific Route Case, American Airlines has been granted a broad new web of service that extends all the way from three East Coast cities out through Hawaii to Fiji and New Zealand. Four other carriers—Continental, Braniff, Western, and TWA—have won routes to Hawaii with fare reductions of up to 15 per cent. Pan American and Japan Air Lines are jockeying for faster and cheaper flights to the Orient.

Gradually, then, Expo begins to loom larger on the kitchen calendar than another two weeks at the shore. Few will be rooting harder for that switch than the 3,000 delegates to the American Society of Travel Agents' annual World Travel Congress, off and humming this week in Tokyo. As they'll conclude from the following pages, though, it will be eons before developers succeed in conquering all the far lands, let alone finding them. One hopes so anyway. —D. B.