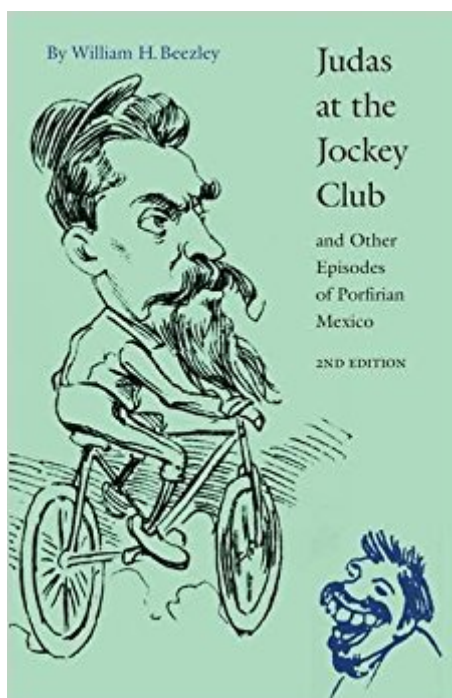


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Judas At The Jockey Club And Other Episodes Of Porfirian Mexico (Second Edition)



Synopsis

This brilliant and eminently readable cultural history looks at Mexican life during the dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz, from 1876 to 1911. At that time Mexico underwent modernization, which produced a fierce struggle between the traditional and the new and exacerbating class antagonisms. In these pages, the noted historian William H. Beezley illuminates many facets of everyday Mexican life lying at the heart of this conflict and change, including sports, storytelling, healthcare, technology, and the traditional Easter-time Judas burnings that became a primary focus of the strife during those years. This second edition features a new preface by the author as well as updated and expanded text, notes, and bibliography.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Just beneath the surface of this seemingly lighthearted little book is a very thick foundation of solid scholarship. The author succeeds admirably in opening a window to the minds of turn-of-the-century Mexicans pursuing the elusive idea of progress. Beezley looks at bicycle riding, cockfighting, sports, and Judas burning, as activities that illustrate the psychological pushes and pulls that characterized this important period of Mexican history. He has provided undergraduates and graduate students with a delightfully written, unique example of what social history is about. Nicholas P. Cushner, History Department, Empire State College, State University of New York at Buffalo
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“In three superbly crafted and incisive essays, William H. Beezley examines the leisure

culture of high society and the traditional culture of everyday Mexicans and their interaction and clash. . . . Witty and entertaining but also thought-provoking. •American Historical Review (American Historical Review) “A book that will be read and enjoyed, and that will illuminate succeeding generations of Mexican history students. . . . A landmark study of Mexican cultural history. •Journal of American Folklore (Journal of American Folklore) “Just beneath the surface of this seemingly lighthearted little book is a very thick foundation of solid scholarship. The author succeeds admirably in opening a window to the minds of turn-of-the-century Mexicans pursuing the elusive idea of progress. . . . A delightfully written, unique example of what social history is about. •Library Journal (Library Journal)

book to use at the university

Great buy

Very interesting!

Only good thing about this book is it is shorter than many of his others. Seriously chapters on Mexicans riding bikes and gambling. Awesome bro.....

Profilo Diaz was the dictator in charge before the Mexican Revolution and the structure of society was clearly coming apart at the seams when he was in power. Beezley does an excellent job of showing how the society was coming apart through various aspects of the culture including religious festivals and life at the Jockey Club. The book is very well written but if you do not know what is happening in Mexico during the Porfirian period then this will be a hard book to follow. For those who know a lot about Mexico this is a must read.

This is one of the books I recommend most frequently when people ask for fun stuff to read, in English, about Mexico. And I frequently assign it to students in intro-level history classes. I'm not entirely convinced by the chapter on rural life, but the book as a whole belongs among the best histories of the late nineteenth/early twentieth century period in Latin America. Dang! Now what will I assign my students? Bring this back into print, please!

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