

Books From Tabasco

Las Tierras Bajas en el Sureste de Mexico (2nd Edition),(The Lowlands in south-east Mexico); by R.C. West, NP Psuty and B.G. Thom; Biblioteca Básica Tabasqueña, Gobierno del Estado de Tabasco; Villahermosa, Tabasco, Mexico, 1985, 409 pgs.

This monograph describes and interprets the principal physical, geographical and cultural characteristics of the Tabascan low lands: a humid and tropical section of south-east Mexico that borders on the extreme southerly part of the Gulf and incorporates the largest coastal alluvial plains in the Republic. The authors present here the outstanding physical aspects of these plains and trace the development of the colonization of man in this area. A special emphasis on the historic point of

view is made in the presentation of the human aspects of this study.

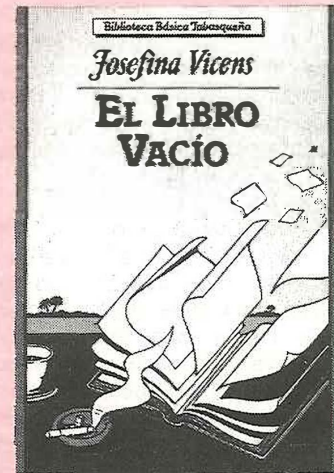
Muestra de la Flora de Tabasco. (Samples of the Tabascan Flora). Illustrations by Elvia Esparza Alvarado; text by Angeles Guadarrama Olivera and others. Gobierno del Estado de Tabasco; Villahermosa, Tabasco; Mexico, 1987, 103 pgs, 47 color plates.

Because of its situation in the tropical region of Mexico, Tabasco offers a large number of vegetable species; it is calculated that there are some five thousand phanerogams in existence in, at least, twelve different types of vegetation. A large quantity of these plants satisfy a combination of alimentary, medicinal, timber-yielding and ornamental needs. Only a small sample of

the wealth of species and knowledge of the Tabascan flora has been used in this work but this is valuable in itself if it acts as an introduction to readers to the range of resources in this state.

El Libro Vacío (The Empty Book) by Josefina Vicens, Biblioteca Básica Tabasqueña; Gobierno del Estado de Tabasco; Villahermosa, Tabasco; Mexico 1985, 171 pgs.

Reading this book produces the opposite effect to that suggested by the title. The reader, on formulating the void with the words of the book, fills it up. Because this book of Josefina Vicens is only empty of what is not life, love, death. The Mexican poet, Octavio Paz states in his letter-preface to the author: "What is it that your hero tells us, this



man who has 'nothing to say'. He tells us 'nothing' and this nothing —which is everybody's nothing— is converted, from the mere fact of its adoption, into everything: it is an affirmation of the solidarity and fraternity of men"