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readily explain the changes in the cultivated plant in spite of introgression from its wild relative. In this same discussion he points out that cultivated maize might have hybridized wild maize out of existence, giving his source as Flannery (1973). P. C. Mangelsdorf, R. S. MacNeish, and W. C. Galinat mention this possibility in 1964 (*Science* 143: 538–545). Although one might fault Rindos for overlooking other pertinent literature, he has on the whole done a fine job. His bibliography runs to 25 pages.

His discussion of the coevolution of various plants and animals leading to “domestication” also deserves favorable comment, and his attack on the dogma that has grown up concerning the origins of domestication and agriculture, although misdirected at times, is refreshing. Although there is hardly agreement today concerning the causes leading to the development of agriculture, his book will force us to reexamine the various ideas that have been put forth on the subject. This work is perhaps most remarkable in that it was done by a graduate student.

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Passage Through El Dorado: Travelling the World's Last Great Wilderness. Jonathan Kandell. William Morrow & Co., 6 Henderson Dr., West Caldwell, NJ 07006. 1984. 312 pp. \$15.95.

Not many travel books are so laden with historical, geographical, and sociological material nor are they so engagingly written as Kandell's *Passage Through El Dorado*. As an Amazon plant explorer of many years' residence in the area, I recommend the book as an authentic document by a competent and widely experienced expert on South American affairs.

There are—as I suppose any book of this size and scope will contain—a number of points that I would consider errors, poor judgment, or misinformation. And as a reviewer ready to urge the reading of this book to anyone expecting to travel in a nontourist manner in the Amazon, I feel that I must call attention to several of these points. In so doing, I hope merely to set the record straight and certainly not to detract from the value of what I believe to be one of the best nontechnical books on the Amazon in recent years.

It is obvious in page after page that author Kandell was helped and befriended by many local people, yet in his acknowledgments he cites only a few American institutions and persons, and almost all of them are New York-based! As an American who has spent at least a third of his life abroad, I realize how sensitive the rest of the world can justifiably be to the all-too-common American provincialism.

In his discussion of the preliminary failure of Ford's rubber plantation experiences, he fully misses the problem of the prevalence in South America of the leaf blight and the eventual Ford triumph over this hindrance by the discovery of top-budding with resistant crowns. Kandell, in his correct analysis of the failure of the recent Jari fiasco, does not point out that Ludwig was warned time and again by both foreign and Brazilian botanists against the establishment of pure stands of one species of imported trees—the real basis of his failure.

It is curious to find in the whole book only one tangential reference to Colombia, one third of the territory of which Republic lies in the Amazon and represents probably the least known part of the Amazon basin. The one reference deals with the illicit traffic in cocaine, much of which incidentally is transported through Colombia from Peru.

The author constantly refers to the haphazard rubber *estradas* or tapping circuits as “estates,” as if he were writing about the well-run Asiatic plantations. These trails from one rubber tree to another are hidden away in the forest hinterlands with no control, worked by unskilled Indians or poor uneducated half breeds yearning but never able to earn a living on these “estates.”

Perhaps the gravest misgiving of this book has do with repetition of the so often discredited myth of the British "seed steal" of rubber by Sir Henry Wickham. Like so many periodically perpetuated stories, it is hard to dispel, primarily because, I suppose, it is interesting and partly because Brazilians are habituated to its repetition *ad nauseum*. Reference is made in several places to the British "perfidy for having stolen rubber seeds," to the locality "where . . . Wickham had collected the rubber seeds that he smuggled to Kew Gardens" and how Wickham "for a handsome commission . . . smuggled more than seventy thousand rubber seeds on a ship . . . past the Brazilian customs authorities" and who "like Drake and Raleigh, pirates who plundered South American riches in another era, Wickham was rewarded for his daring with a knighthood from the British Crown." It has been repeated time and again that the seeds were collected and exported openly, legally, declared in customs, and that it was not the first time that rubber seeds had been taken from Brazil, albeit it was the first successful introduction of seed.

But there are also many more parts of the book worthy of the highest commendation. Kandell does not in the least hesitate to tell the truth and the whole truth about the nefarious Peruvian Casa Arana and its torture, murder, and tribal annihilation of thousands of defenseless Indians in the Putumayo during the rubber boom of the early part of this century. Nor does he try to cover up the atrociously ill-planned trans-Amazon highway scheme of the Brazilian government and the later government-blessed projects to fill millions of acres of virgin forest for pasture destined to agronomic disaster. These and many other aspects of Amazonian happenings and events indicate that the author is endowed with a keen sense of analysis of what he sees, and any reader will agree that he is a writer of the highest excellence and convincing style. I am happy to recommend the book.

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Perspectives on Plant Population Biology. Rodolfo Dirzo and José Sarukhán (eds.). Sinauer Associates, Sunderland, MA 01375. 1984. 478 pp. \$45.00 (cloth), \$27.50 (paper).

In August 1982, plant population biologists assembled at Oaxtepec, Mexico, on the occasion of the centenary of Charles Darwin's death. This volume is a direct product of that gathering; it comprises 19 chapters by 23 scholars covering a broad spectrum of current population level research and thought.

The scope of the book is slightly reminiscent of the 1980 collection of chapters, *Demography and Evolution of Plant Populations*; indeed, over half of the contributors to that volume also appear in *Perspectives*. However, the present volume is not a restatement or update of previously circulated research or ideas. It is a comprehensive survey of the current status of plant population biology in several different areas, and it will provide a baseline resource for many students and researchers, both population biologists and others.

The editors have generously gone beyond merely collecting manuscripts and collating them. The breadth of topics attempts a complete coverage of population biology. The editors have partitioned the chapters into four sections: (1) New and contrasting approaches to the study of plant populations, (2) The interface between ecology and genetics, (3) Plants as integrated physiological units, and (4) Agronomic implications of plant demography. They have written thoughtful introductions to each section that help to locate individual chapters within the context of population biology, and ease the transitions between chapters and sections.

As with any collection of essays, there is some unevenness from chapter to chapter in approach, depth, style, and readability. Some chapters clearly excel. However, since topics are diverse, the level of interest to the reader of a particular chapter may be the most important variable.