

Explorations in Sights and Sounds, No. 13 (1993)

the story, with its trickster characteristics of Fox, belies the actual experience of reading this visually stunning, bilingual, timeless tale.

Lois Ehlert's illustrations, inspired by ancient Peruvian textiles, jewelry, ceramic vessels, sculpture, and architectural detail, dominate and enhance the oversized pages of this book. Perhaps especially appealing is Ehlert's decision to use a glimmering silver as the color of the fox, rope, and moon. This idea came from a pre-Columbian legend mentioned in *Sweat of the Sun and Tears of the Moon: Gold and Silver in Pre-Columbian Art* (University of Washington Press, 1965) by Andre Emmerich. In this legend, gold was depicted as the sweat of the sun, and silver, the tears of the moon. Enhancing the visual appeal is the fact that the story appears, page by page, in both English and Spanish. The result is a more multicultural experience than that usually found in children's books, and the story comes alive for children of all ages (including the adults who read to them).

Moon Rope is adapted from the Peruvian tale, "The Fox and the Mole," in the Spanish collection by Enriqueta Herrera Gray, *Leyendas y fabulas peruanas* (Lima, Peru, 1945). Genevieve Barlow's *Latin American Tales from the Pampas to the Pyramids of Mexico* (Rand McNally & Co., 1966) contains an English translation of this tale.

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Arthur S. Evans, Jr. and David Lee. *Pearl City, Florida: A Black Community Remembers*. (Boca Raton: Florida Atlantic University Press, 1990) xii, 162 pp., \$22.95 cloth.

This is a delightful book. Using the words of over two dozen individual residents of Pearl City, Florida, the authors have put together a group autobiography with both historical and sociological significance. A brief introduction provides background and methodology, and two final chapters by Evans and Lee provide analytical insights and theoretical perspectives on questions of history, sociology and social geography.

The blending of voices in the narrative chapters is an effective technique; one gets a strong sense of Pearl City as a community. In these eight chapters the residents of Pearl City reminisce about such diverse subjects as the early years of the community (from before World War I to the years of the heaviest settlement in the twenties and thirties), opportunities for work (mostly farm labor in the early years, employment on nearby military bases in later years), making use of local resources for food (fish, turtles, and alligators) and

recreation (fishing, swimming, picnics and beach parties). Insights are also provided into the development of churches and schools in the community and access (or relative lack of it) to medical care. A discussion of relations with whites emphasizes how these have changed over the years, and the recollections regarding housing emphasize how segregation has affected the availability of land for the African American residents of the region and, in turn, has affected the growth patterns of Pearl City itself.

A chapter on community brings home the strong sense of community that developed in Pearl City over the years and hints at how well this sense of community may serve future generations. The narrative chapters alone provide a strong sense of how Pearl City developed and what it must feel like to have been a member of this remarkable community. Two analytical chapters conclude the book and provide an excellent counterbalance to the narrative chapters, effectively highlighting the major themes that emerge from the narratives. Most important seems to have been self-reliance: That Pearl City had its own church, school, and recreational facilities seems to have made it possible for its inhabitants to develop and maintain a strong sense of community stability, while existing on the "margins" of Boca Raton. It will be interesting to see how current economic pressures will affect this community in the future. A principal question is whether these localized institutions will break down as land is sold to outside commercial interests. Evans and Lee are not particularly optimistic about the future for this community. One hopes they are wrong. One fears they are right.

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Carlos Fuentes. *The Buried Mirror: Reflections on Spain and the New World*. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1992) 399 pp., \$34.00 cloth.

The marvelous narrative ability of Carlos Fuentes has already been discovered by the many readers of his fiction. They will find here how well he has turned his remarkable talents to the writing of history.

Many books have been published in 1991 and 1992 in commemoration of the quincentennial celebration of the "discovery" by Europeans of the "new world." Fuentes's work, I feel, will be the history that is remembered and reread by historians. We find a work written by a humanist, a writing about a "rich cultural heritage"