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Review of the book Hispanic Surnames and Family History

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Platt, Lyman D. **Hispanic surnames and family history.** Genealogical Publishing, 1996. 349p bibl ISBN 0-8063-1480-X pbk, \$19.95

This is the first volume of a multipart work to be called "The Hispanic Book of Generations," written by a leading authority in the field and the president of the Institute of Genealogy and History for Latin America. Despite

its title, however, this book provides *no* genealogical information per se, and also gives *no* meanings of surnames. Rather, Platt provides data on the geographical dispersion of surnames in Latin America and the Hispanic US, as well as an impressive bibliography of 1,800 sources cross-referenced with the 1,500 Hispanic surnames about which those sources give genealogical information. Platt neglects to mention that the bibliography was self-published in 1990 as *Una bibliografía de historias familiares de Latinoamérica y los Estados Unidos*. Because of the patronymic origins of many Hispanic surnames, however, the odds seem slim that the bibliography will provide a source for an individual user's family history. Libraries seeking "how to" manuals should consider *Hispanic American Genealogical Sourcebook*, ed. by Paula K. Byers (1995), to which Platt was a major contributor. Recommended only for comprehensive Hispanic studies collections.—*J. A. Drobnicki, CUNY York College*