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## Book Review: The Coronado Expedition from the Distance of 460 Years

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*The Coronado Expedition from the Distance of 460 Years*. Edited by Richard Flint and Shirley Cushing Flint. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2003. xiii + 338 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, references, index. \$50.00 cloth, \$39.95 paper.

The remarkable descriptions of places and people produced by Francisco Vázquez de Coronado's expedition constitute the verbal baseline for measuring historical change in southwestern America. Those descriptions are most useful, however, when linked to modern locations. Many of the writers in this essential volume have set themselves to that task.

William Hartmann and Betty Graham Lee survey poorly studied ruins in southeastern Arizona in search of a landmark, "Chichilticale"—a ruin in Coronado's day, and John H. Madsen describes his search for artifacts in private and public collections that might help delimit Coronado's route from Sonora to Zuni. In New Mexico, Anne Ramenovsky combines archaeology with other sources of knowledge to try to identify the site of Yuque Yunque, on the Rio Grande. Farther east, Harry Meyer suggests Coronado's probable route between Pecos Pueblo, in New Mexico, and Blanco Canyon, in west Texas—two points where archaeologists have found his traces. When we lack such traces, Richard Flint argues, we must know where Coronado was in time in order to know where he was in space. And Flint tells us, by cleverly reconciling conflicting documentary evidence. Donald Blakeslee and Jay Blaine describe the Blanco Canyon site, discovered in 1995, and its implications for solv-

ing the riddle of Coronado's route through Texas. Frank Gagné explains the rarity of the copper dart points (fired by cross bows) that associate Coronado with Blanco Canyon, and Dee Brecheisen describes other metal artifacts of Coronado's era which might yet be found.

Essays in this rich volume go beyond efforts to reconstruct Coronado's route. In a revisionist piece, William Hartmann and Richard Flint argue that a widespread belief in riches to the north antedated the reports of Cabeza de Vaca and Fray Marcos de Niza. Shirley Flint calculates the pesos invested in Coronado's expedition, discovering that the sum was astonishingly high by standards of the day. Using Coronado's often-published muster as an example, Richard Flint explains why previously published documents need to be retranscribed, retranslated, and recontextualized. Maureen Ahern reinterprets Pedro de Castañeda's well-known chronicle as a verbal map of a strange new world, which often left him at a loss for words. Félix Barboza-Retana reminds us that Coronado's nephew, Juan Vázquez de Coronado, was the conquistador of Costa Rica. John Kessell and John Miller Morris offer provocative meditations. If Coronado was the first non-Indian to enter the Southern Plains, Miller wonders who will be the last to leave his farm or ranch when the water runs out.

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