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The Faces of Honor: Sex, Shame, and Violence in Colonial Latin America. Edited by Lyman L. Johnson and Sonya Lipsett-Rivera. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1998. ix + 240 pp. Illustrations, glossary, index. \$40.00 cloth, \$19.95 paper.)

In the last decade, gender, sexuality, and power have reinvigorated the study of women and men in colonial Latin America. Lyman Johnson and Sonya Lipsett-Rivera have gathered a body of papers focusing on the question of honor. Recent studies by Patricia Seed, Ramón Gutiérrez, Ann Twinam, Asunción Lavrin, and Steven Stern have analyzed honor, an area studied earlier by Julian Pitt-Rivers. This collection assesses the honor system in relation to ideology, legislation, practice, and resistance across classes, races/castes, genders, and sexuality. How honor is related to incest, rape, domestic violence, and infanticide is also briefly addressed.

What exactly is honor? In the book's introduction, the editors settle on a definition by William Ian Miller. But Miller's definition is a historical one that does not allow for change over time and is not specific to the Iberian Peninsula or Latin America; it does not tell us how the ideology of honor was constructed or how it operated in Spanish America. Each contributor, nevertheless, uses a varied definition in her/his essay (including each editor) or approaches her/his topic differently.

Mark A. Burkholder provides a general overview of the making of honor in Spain as it relates to nobility. His piece is a general introduction explaining how honor operated as an "organizing principle" and how it relates to hierarchy and privileges associated with race, blood lines, and class, though not to gender and sexuality (p. 42).

Ann Twinam quotes Elizabeth S. Cohen's thoughts on honor as distinguishable by region, class, era, or city/village and as a phenomenon "subject to negotiation" (p. 72). Twinam's essay is part of her recently published book. She analyzes collective eighteenth-century biographies of 244 elite families across Latin America whose life histories are revealed in *gracias al sacar* (legal petitions for legitimation). Twinam presents the ideology of honor as a gendered ideology in which women must be concerned with courtship rituals, "loss" of virginity, pregnancy, children out of wedlock, and paternity. "Masculine honor," she argues, "was threatened neither by sexual activity nor by the birth of illegitimate offspring," thus creating a double standard (p. 85). Still, both heterosexual women and men could negotiate their situations and re-establish or reconfigure their honor and "pass" as legitimate, honorable people.

Geoffrey Spurling's essay on Dr. Gaspar González de Sosa in seventeenth-century Peru is an excellent case study of the honor system's flexibility around the variable of class. On two separate occasions spanning several years, cleric Dr. González expressed his love to men below his social

class and was able to escape punishment for "sodomy." Spurling's piece adds significantly to the discussion of gayness in the colonial era. Lesbians' "queer" or shameless expressions of love and dishonor still require attention from researchers.

Muriel Nazzari addresses gender, class/race, and parents of illegitimate children in late-eighteenth-century Brazil. Concerned with honor and shame, she found that white mothers were more likely to abandon their illegitimate children than were *pardo* (colored) women. A second essay on Brazil, by Sandra Lauderdale Graham, utilizes several divorce court cases by ex-slaves in the nineteenth century to examine how non-elites dealt with "a slave code of domestic and marital honor" (p. 224). In one case, husband Rufino beat his wife Henriqueta for what he called her lack of being "honesta" (p. 222).

Some questions, however, still remain. How is honor tied to the conquest of the Americas and ensuing gendered violence? How does honor differ from machismo? Johnson and Lipsett-Rivera have gathered a number of excellent essays on this important topic. This work is useful for courses on women, gender, sexuality, and ideology.

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