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Nicole von Germeten, Violent Delights, Violent Ends: Sex, Race, and Honor in Colonial Cartagena de Indias

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sacar, donations offered with hopes of removing the stain of illegitimate birth and lower social status so that donors or their family could experience greater social mobility, as well as Susan Socolow's study of merchants in the Río de la Plata, their families and their socio-political strategies.

Unlike some who developed generalizations based upon European political models, particularly that of Great Britain, Grieco's study of all the extant donations reveals that Bourbon Spain had few prospects of raising taxes without representation, and the donations supplied many funds, particularly during war time. In a clear analysis of comparative historiography, the author concludes that Spain did not need the constitutional monarchy of the British to fund its projects. For those who are unfamiliar with economic history, Grieco carefully and clearly covers the appropriate historiography, as well as the complex set of laws that defined commercial transactions. The donations themselves, granted before a notary public to show it was done of free will, often followed public festivities of a religious or secular nature. They did not have to present such gifts in the form of scarce currency, but often came from material donations in the form of animals, cash crops, or textiles, or the hopes of future income or payments. The differences could be seen in a regional breakdown as well as a change in donors over time. By the revolutionary period, Spanish merchants contributed far less, while military groups and less wealthy members of the community, as well as women and non-whites, began to appear as contributors. These statements are supported by clear diagrams of donors and amounts contributed across the viceroyalty for each region.

What Viviana Grieco has done for the Río de la Plata needs to be undertaken for other parts of the empire to determine if this viceroyalty had a typical experience with *donativos* or whether it was exceptional. Furthermore, these loans need to be contextualized further to determine whether they provide an indicator of which area would continue to support Spain, rather than support independence. In this way we will be able to ascertain how valid her assumptions are regarding Spanish imperial rule.

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Violent Delights, Violent Ends: Sex, Race, and Honor in Colonial Cartagena de Indias. By Nicole von Germeten. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2013. xi + 304 pp. Notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95 paper.)

The allure of archival work lies in retrieving voices from under the shadows of official records. Nicole von Germeten's exhaustive research of the civil and inquisitorial archives of Cartagena de Indias sheds light on the role sexuality, honor, and violence played in women's lives through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. *Violent Delights, Violent Ends* explores

how women managed to control their sexual lives by means of negotiating sex and creating rhetorical strategies before colonial authorities.

The book's eleven chapters can be roughly parceled out in civil and inquisitorial cases. Chapter one analyzes how a formulaic suit in the name of honor at the beginning of the seventeenth century resulted in an influential nobleman's imprisonment and downfall in order to discuss the relationship between the exposure of female sexuality in court and the political arena. This discussion continues in chapters three through five. Chapters three and four explore the violent and political consequences of affronts against elite women's sexuality and the rhetorical strategies men used to legitimize their brutal vindication of the honor code. Conversely, Chapter five examines the story of a nobleman's attempt to reconstitute his household authority over his niece and slave by appealing to legal means instead of using violence. Furthermore, the chapter looks at the niece's confessions and the slave's defendants to illustrate how socio-economic status and origin influenced female choices, seduction strategies, and prosecution outcomes.

Chapters two, six, seven, and eight are devoted to inquisitorial trials for sorcery and witchcraft in the first three decades of the seventeenth century after the establishment of the Holy Office in 1610. The second chapter examines how a *doña's* love affair with a government official results in the latter's downfall, while emphasizing the use of love magic and rhetorical strategies to negotiate their sentencing in Cartagena's first *auto de fe*. This case illuminates female extra-marital sex practices of seventeenth century and the social circles created around their sorcery.

Paula de Eguiluz, a black freewoman well known as a healer and master of love magic, is at the center of chapters six, seven, and eight. After being tried three times, De Eguiluz perfected her confessional skills and succeeded in manipulating inquisitors. Case after case, her descriptions fed European conceptions of witchcraft and expanded them by introducing new colonial practices. Chapter eight analyzes the inquisitorial inventories of women implicated by De Eguiluz's confessions to illustrate the emotional and economic uses of female sexuality and the role played in them by luxury, embellishment and appearance.

The three final chapters of the book analyze cases of murder, prostitution, and slander in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Against the wide-held belief of the lack of prostitution in Cartagena by the mid-seventeenth century, chapter nine examines a prostitute's uxoricide which makes visible the legality of the sexual practice and the networks of solidarity surrounding it. Chapters ten and eleven analyze the legal channels women used to protect their honor and virtue in the eighteenth century. On the one hand, chapter ten turns toward cases of divorce that record the complaints of wives who voiced their discontent with regards to their husbands' incapacity of fulfilling marital responsibilities due to drunkenness, violence, impotence, and abandonment. On the other hand, chapter eleven focuses on an attempt to smear the reputation of a captain's wife through the suggestion of her possible

involvement in adultery and prostitution and the subsequent recovery of her good standing after being put through the incisive scrutiny of military and civil courts.

The book's main contribution to the field of Colonial Latin American Studies is its articulation of violence and honor with female perspectives in colonial Cartagena. Von Germeten's emphasis on the role women's sexuality played in the public and private realms of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries dialogues with Colombian scholarship on Cartagena that has focused on female quotidian life, social interactions, and urban dynamics. Despite the excellent use of primary sources and its contribution to the archival recovery of colonial Cartagena's social history, the arguments regarding the relationship between sexual practices and pleasure could have benefitted from a more nuanced and critical approach to questions of affect, sex and agency. *Violent Delights* will be of interests to historians of colonial Latin America, literary scholars, and art historians for its comprehensive archival work and its discussions of female sexual practices, violence, and political conspiracies in Cartagena de Indias.

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Indians and the Political Economy of Colonial Central America, 1670-1810. By Robert W. Patch. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2013. xi + 284 pp. Maps, tables, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. \$36.95 cloth.)

Robert Patch's study follows in the footsteps of works by Miles Wortman and Murdo MacLeod to provide an updated review of the political economy of colonial Central America. The book is clearly written and informative, with discussions on taxation, forced labor, the forced sale of goods, military defenses and the business dealings of a colonial economy that will inform scholar and student alike. Starting with its misleading title, however, there are a number of problems with this work, which is in fact as much a study of the political economy of non-Indians as of Indians. On page 20, for example, Patch notes that in the southern half of the kingdom of Guatemala a majority of the population was non-Indian, and much of his book is devoted to the political economy of the Spanish and other non-Indians. Chapter one deals with the economic activities of a wide variety of ethnic groups, including slaves, mulattos, mestizos and even Chinese merchants.

While Patch promises that the remainder of the book will be devoted to the "commercial dealings with the indigenous people" (p. 41), the following chapters focus more on the commercial activities of non-Indians. Chapter two details the government bureaucracy of the Spanish-creole population with little discussion about the functioning of the Indian bureaucracy and in particular