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## Murder and Martyrdom in Spanish Florida: Don Juan and the Guale Uprising of 1597

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**Murder and Martyrdom in Spanish Florida: Don Juan and the Guale Uprising of 1597**

J. MICHAEL FRANCIS &amp; KATHLEEN M. KOLE

New York: American Museum of Natural History, 2011

154 pp. (ISBN: 9781939302205)

In 1597 there was an Indian revolt in Spanish Florida. It was violent and bloody. It led to the killing of Franciscan friars and the destruction of a series of missions in the province of Guale. It is a remarkable story of intrigue, murder, and clashing personalities. But unfortunately only a handful of historians are even aware that this event took place. Michael Francis and Kathleen Kole seek to change that. They have produced a careful study of this Indian revolt. The authors begin with a brief history of Spanish Florida and its mission system, and provide an impressive chronology as well as maps and charts that help decipher the events of 1597. The bulk of the book (seven of eight chapters) contains a series of newly translated and transcribed documents, some of which had never been published before, concerning this revolt. Francis and Kole argue for a more sophisticated rendition of the uprising that properly accounts for the complexity of Spanish-Indian relations and the importance of inter-Indian connections.

The historiography of the North American Southeast has been growing rapidly. Particularly strong are the works on American Indians in this region. With the efforts of Robbie Ethridge, Steven Hahn, Claudio Saunt, Joseph Hall, and Josh Piker (to name only a handful), Indians of the North American South have earned an important place in the historiography. Spanish Florida and the Indian groups who most closely associated with this colony have not received the same level of historical scrutiny as Indian groups who interacted with the English. The fact that the reigning interpretation of the Guale uprising comes from a 1619 text speaks volumes to the amount of work that Francis and Kole have to do.

After an introductory chapter on the main players and events of the Guale uprising, Francis and Kole delve into the primary documents they have uncovered. Chapter 2 has excerpts from Luis Gerónimo de Oré's classic text, *The Martyrs of Florida* (1619). Chapter 3 provides the captivity narrative of Fray Francisco de Ávila (the lone Franciscan survivor of the uprising). Chapter 4 contains some of the jewels of this book: documents compiled by Governor Gonzalo Méndez de Canzo in the immediate aftermath of the revolt. Chapter 5 offers insight into the inter-Indian rivalries of the region with a letter from Don Juan of San Pedro, an Indian cacique who used this moment of rebellion to lobby for increased power. Chapter 6 offers two very different documents. The first is a letter by the governor, which, in addition to explaining his decisions, exposes the deep tensions between the Catholic Church and the government in St. Augustine. The second document, and one of the richest in the entire book, offers the testimony of seven Guale captives. Part of the great value of this book comes from the rescue of these Indian voices. The remaining two chapters

include a wide-ranging set of primary documents, from letters that show the contentious political atmosphere of St. Augustine to an account of the murder of Don Juanillo, the supposed instigator of the uprising. In all these chapters, each document is carefully introduced and interrogated. Francis and Kole explain the limitations and complexities of their sources. For those of us who seek rich primary materials to teach European-Indian relations, this book offers a great deal to choose from.

My quibbles with the book are minor. Some have to do with organization (I was not sure why some documents were grouped together and others stood alone), others with repetition (some of the same questions are posed time and again), but my main concern came from the presentation of the primary documents. I was not sure how much of the actual text had been translated. What was missing? Were the headings provided part of the original texts? Also, there wasn't a single document offered in both English and Spanish; I would have enjoyed reading some of the original Spanish texts.

*Murder and Martyrdom in Spanish Florida* provides documents from a virtually unexplored indigenous American rebellion. Although neither of the authors is interested in pushing their findings beyond Florida, many of the themes they uncover—violence, confusion, identity, church-state tension—resonate well beyond the walls of St. Augustine. This book highlights the possibility of Spanish Florida, showcasing both the treasures that are waiting in the Spanish archives and the rich, important histories that have yet to be written about this neglected colony.

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### **Vintage Moquegua: History, Wine, and Archaeology on a Colonial Peruvian Periphery**

PRUDENCE M. RICE

Austin: University of Texas Press, 2011

365 pp. (ISBN: 9780292728622)

Despite the flourishing of scholarly interest in South America's colonial frontiers in recent decades, the rural peripheries of southern Peru in the era of Spanish rule remain relatively neglected. The historical archaeology of the post-conquest Andes, above all in the context of the colonial countryside, has been similarly overlooked. And, although scholars of other regions and time periods now accord serious attention to the history of winemaking, this theme remains largely absent in the historiography of colonial Peru, despite widespread cultivation and consumption of wine in the region from the conquest era onwards. Empirically founded on archaeological data collected in the Moquegua Valley between 1985 and 1990, *Vintage Moquegua* is a theoretically informed and highly interdisciplinary study that