

Bernardo de Gálvez's campaign against Pensacola. Further, they illustrate the problem of the hero in history, a theme that justifies the stunning detail in which these months are covered.

The book begins with a long prolog that summarizes each chapter. This is followed by a thirty-page chronicle of Ezpeleta's life; by discussions of Indian affairs and policy in three chapters (2, 3, 6) and almost 200 pages; by Ezpeleta's policy in the face of the disloyalty of his British subjects (chapter 4 and elsewhere; about 75 pages); by the defense of Mobile (chapters 5, 9; about 200 pages); and by the second and third expeditions against Pensacola (chapters 7, 8, 10–12; 292 pages). Fifty maps and drawings, together with a color reproduction of Ezpeleta's portrait, complete the presentation.

The bibliography and notes reveal a thorough, exhaustive study of all available Spanish, English, and even French sources, including the box of personal papers Ezpeleta was able to save from the 1797 wreck of the ship carrying him to Spain after his term as viceroy of New Granada. For the subjects covered, this study is as close to being definitive as details can make it.

Impressive as it is, the book fails to convince this reviewer that the decisions Ezpeleta made while in command at Mobile were as critical to the success of Gálvez's campaign as the author would have us believe. Further, Ezpeleta's subsequent rise in royal service, while it might have been hampered had he failed at Mobile, seems to have been assured by abilities previously demonstrated, by his patronage relationship with Alejandro O'Reilly, and by his membership in the first class of the Zaragoza Military Academy. Among the cadets of that stellar class was Bernardo de Gálvez, whose liking for Ezpeleta accounts for the latter's appointment to govern Mobile (p. 30). As to the larger philosophical question that underlies this book, each reader will have to judge for himself how much Ezpeleta shaped his times or was shaped by them.

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*La frontera con los indios de Nueva Vizcaya en el siglo xvii.* By GUILLERMO PORRAS MUÑOZ. Mexico City: Fomento Cultural Banamex, 1980. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 457. Paper.

Though not the first regional history of Spanish-Indian hostility on New Spain's northern frontier, *La frontera con los indios de Nueva Vizcaya en el siglo xvii* stands alone as an original examination of seven-

teenth-century Nueva Vizcaya. It is not a conventional treatment of the gap between two divergent cultures. It is too exemplary of the critical scholarship currently being developed by Mexican scholars for that: Guillermo Porras Muñoz gives almost as much space to the Spanish military mission in the Mexican north, for example, as to the missionary orders' noble experiment, without harping on the unreal romanticism of Spanish expansion northward. Nor is this book a sweeping chronicle of flaming battles among Indians, Spaniards, and assorted allies. *La frontera* is detailed narration and thought-provoking explanations of policies that governed relations between Spaniards and Indians; and if these explanations have any interpretative connection, it is that each complex of events is interrelated.

The author discusses five major areas: the northern frontier, in terms of geographic and demographic expansion; the socioeconomic setting; conquest society, including religious and military figures, stockmen, merchants, farmers, miners, and governmental administrators who represented the imperial aims of Spain; Indian society, including the Acaxees, Xiximes, Tepehuanes, Tobosos, Conchos, Salineros, and Tarahumaras; and the Spanish practice of war and diplomacy. Each area is treated as a sequel to the Chichimeca war and peace, or notable events and characteristics of later frontier expansion. In short, the story of fighting and peacemaking in the province of Nueva Vizcaya was a constant repetition of Indian hostility, punitive campaign, appeasement, and strident complaints of missionaries and others who thought military officials were much too lenient with *indios enemigos*.

Porras has a simple thesis: before creation of the Provincias Internas, the crown witnessed resistance that seriously drained the frontier economy. Despite a lack of resources, however, Spain rarely retreated in the face of Indian opposition. Porras elaborates and documents in a thoughtful manner the mechanism of Spanish bureaucracy and its effects on native people. For example, his discussion of tribal responses to increased governmental pressure and their resort to rebellion is a good one. The topic is complex, but his understanding of the Spaniards' long-term organizational superstructure provides great insight into Hispanic perseverance.

The book has its shortcomings. One is the author's failure to integrate adequately the social, political, and economic subordination of Indians into the broader conception of Nueva Vizcaya's marketplace. Although Porras masterfully discusses the important elements that contributed to subordination of Indian society—mining, ranching, and defense spending—he fails to offer an integrated view of how these processes were organically interrelated. Here, a sustained analysis of social transforma-

tion on the frontier would have been helpful. Another problem area is the author's tendency to present a wealth of new historical information drawn from primary sources rather than using that information to build a framework of both covert and overt resistance. In a sense, the documentation speaks for itself, but insightful analysis, especially by way of a stronger conclusion, would have made a more powerful book. Whatever criticisms one may have are merely exceptions, for this study is an excellent presentation of war and peacemaking in the Mexican north.

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*The Viceroyalty of New Spain and Early Independent Mexico: A Guide to Original Manuscripts in the Collections of the Rosenbach Museum and Library.* Compiled by DAVID M. SZEWCZYK. Edited by CATHERINE A. BARNES and DAVID M. SZEWCZYK. Philadelphia: The Rosenbach Museum and Library, 1980. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xviii, 139. Cloth.

The Mexican manuscript collection of the Rosenbach Library contains a wide variety of social and economic documentary material relating to New Spain from the foundation of the colony to the early independence period. This guide represents a significant step in the process of rendering accessible to scholars important colonial Mexican materials housed outside of Mexico.

In introducing the guide, Szewczyk briefly discusses the origins of the Rosenbach Collections. He places the provenance of these valuable records in the context of the alienation of Mexican documents that occurred in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In the course of his discussion, Szewczyk details the regrettable account of the dissolution of the Cortés family archives by the descendants of the conquistador, the sale of individual pieces to manuscript dealers, and the partial reorganization of the alienated records in the Rosenbach Library.

The arrangement of any archival guide must be somewhat arbitrary, based on the judgment of the compiler regarding what is most appropriate for the collection. Here, Szewczyk chooses to reference his documents according to the name of the "leading party," rather than by chronological order or the type of document. The adoption of this system results in some problems of inconsistency in the guide. Some powers of attorney, for example, are referenced by the name of the grantor, while others can be found under the grantee. Powers of attorney are cited according to the name of the contracting parties, but marriage applica-