

plexities of the sector, with its different types of entrepreneurs and laborers, as well as the assorted types of arrangements between productive units and muleteers. The second part of this study centers on the jurisdiction of Cuautla Amilpas, using a 1791 *padrón* (census) to determine the demographic distribution of muleteers. It underscores the struggle between miners and sugar hacendados for access to transportation. The author successfully demonstrates that the muleteers, far from being a marginal group, were solidly integrated in the local community through business links (and conflicts), kinship networks, and family life.

“Trabajadores y cambios tecnológicos en los ingenios azucareros (siglos XVII y XVIII),” by Beatriz Scharrer Tamm, is a thorough description of the technical aspects of sugarcane cultivation and sugar production, based on secondary sources and documents, mainly hacienda inventories. The author points out that technological changes in the eighteenth century were concomitant to the change from slave to wage systems. Also, transformations in agricultural notions and labor organization modified the harvest cycle and productivity in the second half of the century. “La organización del trabajo en los molinos de trigo,” by Gloria Artís Espriu, depicts the work process in central Mexican mills, using documentation from the Archivo del Antiguo Ayuntamiento de México and the Archivo General de la Nación. The author argues that mills were primarily instruments oriented to allow their owners to participate in the commercial speculation of grain. She supports her view by resorting to an analysis of production expenses and of the labor organization in the mills.

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Haciendas y comunidades indígenas en el sur de Zacatecas: sociedad y economía colonial, 1600–1820. By AGUEDA JIMÉNEZ PELAYO. Córdoba, Mexico: Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, 1989. Illustrations. Maps. Graphs. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. 228 pp. Paper.

This is a solid regional monograph that presents new empirical findings on a well-worked theme of rural Latin American colonial history. Agueda Jiménez Pelayo’s study is centered on land tenure as viewed through two principal institutions of agrarian life: the Indian community and the hacienda. Her research focuses on Los Cañones y Teocaltiche in southern Zacatecas, a frontier region of Nueva Galicia that faced the Chichimec nomads to the north. The sedentary Caxcanes of this area shouldered the burdens of tribute and repartimiento labor to benefit local hacendados. Caxcanes pueblos held on to village lands throughout the colonial period; and in their category of *indios fronterizos*, they successfully appealed to the crown, through the Audiencia de Guadalajara, for rather generous allotments of land under the headings of *fundo legal* and *tierras de comunidad*. However, as Jiménez Pelayo demonstrates, their retention of communal land was achieved only through a prolonged history of confrontation and litigation between Indians

and Spaniards and among ethnic communities. Echoing Eric Van Young's earlier work, Jiménez finds that Indian pueblos most tenaciously defended the *monte* of woodlands and pastures and opposed hacendados' claims to this land, even while deeply divided among themselves.

The strength of *Haciendas y comunidades* is the author's impressive archival research. She consulted ten different archives, some of them divided into different repositories, and she has included a helpful description of their respective holdings at the end of her book. She has ably woven together a wealth of detail from these different sources on the extension of landholdings, the succession of land tenure through inheritance and sale, encumbrances (*censos* and *capellanías*), and credit. Furthermore, she reconstructs a history of litigation and clarifies the distinctions between *fundo legal*, *tierras de comunidad*, and *mercedes* granted to Indian communities.

Jiménez draws carefully documented comparisons of the landholding patterns she found in southern Zacatecas with those researched for other regions of Mexico and the Andes. She confirms earlier findings by scholars working on these same questions, but emphasizes the importance of local variations. Her work is of interest to all historians working on colonial agrarian structures in Hispanic America, and it leaves a number of questions to explore further. How do we distinguish between provincial elites and oligarchies? If the hacendados of southern Zacatecas did not constitute an oligarchy, as Jiménez argues, then what is the wider significance of their ties to merchant and mining families and their use of political office? How did the material conditions of Indian pueblos change over the two centuries covered by Jiménez' study? What are the linkages between demographic growth and perceived land shortages that provoked increased litigation during the latter seventeenth and eighteenth centuries? What is the deeper meaning of contentious divisions in Indian communities along cultural and political lines?

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Indian Payment in Kind: The Sixteenth-Century Encomiendas of Guatemala. By LAWRENCE H. FELDMAN. Culver City: Labyrinthos, 1992. Illustrations. Tables. Figures. Notes. Bibliography. Index. ix, 92 pp. Paper. \$18.00.

The tribute assessments, *tasaciones de tributos*, carried out under President Alonso López de Cerrato between 1548 and 1551 are a key source for any study of the economic and demographic history of Central America and the Yucatán. They have been consulted by many scholars, often to great effect, despite their inherent problems as a reliable guide to the tribute-paying capacity of local populations from Chiapas to Nicaragua.

Working predominantly with these records, Lawrence Feldman aims "to provide a geographical, economic, and demographic framework to study the facts from the past" (p. ix) for sixteenth-century Guatemala. Additional archival sources are