I am pleased to present this special issue of *Ethnohistory* dedicated to rethinking the role of the hacienda in Mexico and its borderlands. In particular we are made aware that the institution of the hacienda was both more various in scale and operation as well as more plural in ethnic character, and its economic role more diversified, than might have previously been imagined. The articles collected here make a fine-grain analysis of a number of historical contexts and demonstrate the importance of integrating archaeological, historical, and ethnographic sources. Together the authors reveal a new dimension to the hacienda in history.