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Robert W. Patch, *Indians and the Political Economy of Colonial Central America, 1670-1810*

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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

how Indian *caciques* and *gobernadores* interacted with both Indian *tributarios* and colonial officials. Chapter three details how officials extracted wealth from the Indian community, yet focuses on Spanish officials rather than Indian *caciques* and *tributarios*. Chapter four covers the business dealings of two Spanish merchants, while chapter five is a study of the political economy of Nicaragua, a region where the “non-Indian population was significantly larger” than the Indian population (p. 143). Chapter six analyzes how the colonial bureaucracy fought corruption, guarded against attack, and made colonial governance, especially tax collection, more efficient. Again, this chapter focuses on the actions of colonial officials and offers little insight into the workings of the indigenous population. In the concluding chapter Patch notes that in the province of Chiapa in 1712 colonial officials complained that tax and labor demands were destroying the Indian population (p. 211). Yet the author fails to note that in that same year a massive uprising, the “Tzeltal Revolt,” was carried out by Indians angered over excessive taxes, forced labor and forced sale of goods imposed by colonial officials.

Even where Patch details the workings of the indigenous community he often fails to provide proper documentation. In chapter three, for example, the author’s five-page essay on the province of Chiapa (pp. 79-84) has only two footnotes, and one of them does not deal with Chiapa directly. Instead the reader is provided with a single footnote crammed with citations to archival *legajos* and *expedientes* which only makes more difficult the task of verifying the author’s claims. Lack of proper documentation is found throughout the book.

The paucity of indigenous voices is perhaps due to the fact that the author’s primary research was done in the Archivo General de las Indias in Seville, Spain, while no research was conducted at the Archivo General de Centro América (AGCA) in Guatemala City. Yet the AGCA contains numerous documents concerning the daily lives of the indigenous population. A visit to the AGCA would seem essential to any study on colonial Central America, and the fact that Patch failed to utilize this important archival resource should also be noted.

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Vida de la venerable madre Isabel de la Encarnación. Por Pedro Salmerón. Editado por Robin Ann Rice. (Madrid: Editorial Iberoamericana, 2013. 304 págs. Notas, bibliografía. Precio no disponible.)

La *Vida de la venerable madre Isabel de la Encarnación* narrada por el licenciado Pedro Salmerón, natural de la Nueva España, sale de la imprenta en 1675. Es a 42 años de la muerte de la religiosa que la hagiografía realizada