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***Indian Traders of the Southeastern Spanish Borderlands: Panton, Leslie & Company and John Forbes & Company, 1783-1847* by William S. Coker and Thomas D. Watson**

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BOOK REVIEWS

Indian Traders of the Southeastern Spanish Borderlands: Panton, Leslie & Company and John Forbes & Company, 1783-1847. By William S. Coker and Thomas D. Watson. Pensacola, Florida. 1986. University of West Florida Press. Pp. 428. Illustrations. Maps. Bibliography. Index. Cloth. \$30.00.

During the period of the Second Spanish occupation of Florida lasting from 1783 to 1821, the Florida-based trading firm of Panton, Leslie and Company (later John Forbes and Company) dominated the fur trading activities of the Indians in the southeastern portion of the present United States. The business was founded by Scots who had been traders in the region, and when the American Revolution blazed forth, the five “founding father” merchants fled from Georgia and South Carolina to St. Augustine where they made a fresh start. When Spain regained control of Florida, William Panton, with the help of Alexander McGillivay, was able to gain ascendancy over other competing firms in the competition to supply goods to the Creek and Seminole Indians.

Moving from this opening wedge, the firm established warehouses at St. Marks, Pensacola, Mobile and Chickasaw Bluffs. Soon Pensacola became the headquarters from which pack horse trains carried various articles into the interior to be traded for deerskins, furs and other forest products obtained by the Indians. In addition, the firm sold food supplies and goods to the civilian population and military outposts in Florida and acquired large tracts of land from the Indians. When competition arose in the form of William Bowles during the 1790-1800 period and Robert Ambrister and Alexander Arbuthnot in 1817-1818, the company was able to by-pass such obstacles with ease.

Research for writing of *Indian Traders of the Southeastern Spanish Borderlands* has been extensive. Two hundred thousand pages of documents copied from collections throughout the world have been assembled to form the papers of Panton, Leslie and Company at the University of West Florida Library. With the availability of this fine collection the two authors have written an excellent account of the company which became a frontier Sears and Roebuck. The index and maps are thorough and exact. In summary, this is a definitive work that will be a standard reference for scholars and lay readers for many years.

James W. Covington

The Immigrant World of Ybor City: Italians and Their Latin Neighbors in Tampa, 1885-1985. By Gary R. Mormino and George E. Pozzetta. Urbana, Illinois. University of Illinois Press. 1987. Photographs. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Cloth. \$24.95

This study is a welcome and important overview of immigrant life in Tampa, which treats the material at two levels. First, and foremost, the work focuses on Italians in Ybor City. But it also examines their experience within the context of their neighbors: Cubans and Spaniards. Through