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***Key Marco's Buried Treasure; Archaeology and Adventure in the Nineteenth Century*** by Marion Spjut Gilliland

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Hispaniola. In his opinion, French officers took their mess too seriously; even the men got freshly baked bread. Moreover, it was difficult to keep the peace in port between French and Spanish sailors, despite their being allies.

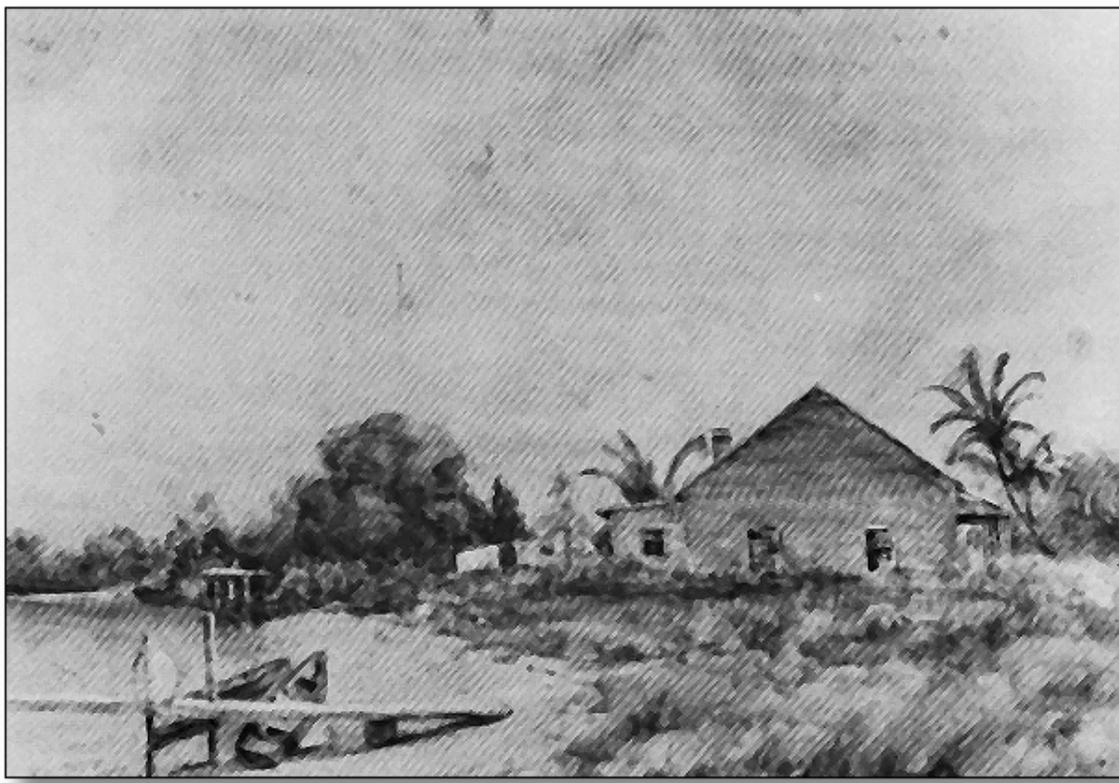
The publishing of Saavedra's journal is itself an example of the problems of joint command. Francisco Morales Padron of Seville selected, transcribed and arranged the materials; Spain's Ministry of Culture underwrote their publication. The late Aileen Moore Topping of Miami translated and annotated them. Her translation was reviewed by Francis C. Hayes and her translation and notes were reviewed by James A. Lewis and Allan J. Kuethe at late stages of the book's production – too late to supply chapter headings or to assemble a translator's introduction out of the extensive material. Lewis and Kuethe did not, unfortunately, review the editor's introduction and notes nor apparently did anyone else. The author's elegant prose is encased in a scholarly apparatus marred by masses of irrelevant data, repetition, missing attributions and inconsistencies. The illegible reproduction of several rare maps from the University of Florida Map Library is a gratuitous irritant. What the project badly needed behind the scenes was someone of standards and style, armed with the power to pull it all together – someone extraordinary, like Saavedra.

Amy Turner Bushnell

*Key Marco's Buried Treasure; Archaeology and Adventure in the Nineteenth Century.* By Marion Spjut Gilliland. Gainesville, Florida. 1989. University of Florida Press. Illustrations. Cloth. \$25.00.

The image of a dashing adventurer going to exciting extremes to recover valuable, ancient artifacts is far from the reality of the daily drudgery of archaeological field and lab work. Though there may still be some romance in digging up unknown relics in remote places, there was certainly much more excitement at an earlier time in American archaeology. This captivating book brings that period to life in the story of the 1895-1896 excavations into the Key Marco shell mounds. The Key Marco investigation detailed in this volume was sponsored by the Bureau of American Ethnology and the University of Pennsylvania Museum. The ancient wonders recovered were remarkably well preserved items of carved wood, fiber, shell and bone, painted masks, figures and images never before seen in the material culture of the aboriginal Southeast.

The prehistoric record of Key Marco (Marco Island) in southwest Florida shows that native Americans lived well amid the rich coastal/estuarine environments. Their discarded mollusc shells were built up over millennia into mounds, canal walls and constructions for habitation on high ground in the mangrove wetlands. The Calusa, as these aboriginals were called historically, had powerful tributary chiefdoms supported only by the collection of wild resources, not by agriculture. They were the least hospitable natives to the Spanish and the last to be conquered. The next permanent settlement on Marco was in the mid-nineteenth century by William T. Collier, a millwright, who had traveled widely. His son William D., a boatbuilder and trader, was host to the 1895-1896 expedition, and he was thrilled to have the thick, black mud from diggings to fertilize his orange groves.



A watercolor by Wells Sawyer shows an early house (possibly the Collier house) on Key Marco.

Photograph from *Key Marco's Buried Treasure*.

Foremost among the colorful characters of this book is Frank Hamilton Cushing, the sickly, controversial, yet intrepid leader of the expedition. Gilliland gives an excellent background of Cushing's work for the Smithsonian. Appointed Curator of Ethnology by age nineteen, he studied Zuni ethnology and material culture in New Mexico, persevering for six years despite rivalries, fragile health and miserable living conditions. His acceptance by the Indians and real participation in their lives provided him with a wealth of new information.

Among the other enchanting characters of the Key Marco expedition was Wells Sawyer, a young artist whose landscapes and artifact paintings grace the book as beautiful plates. In some instances, his depictions of the wooden sculptures, masks and painted boards are all that is left of the original artifacts. Frequently there was no way to preserve these perishable items once they were taken from the watery ground. Constant ill health, lack of sufficient funds, notable procrastination in writing up the findings and accusations of artifact fabrication plagued Cushing's efforts. The author combines good narrative with excerpts of vivid prose from original diaries and letters of many primary and secondary characters. Gilliland is thus able to describe effectively the day-to-day labors of the excavations, as well as the response in the outside world. She also explores the events after Cushing's death which included difficulties in dividing the collection between institutions and clearing Cushing's name of misconduct charges.

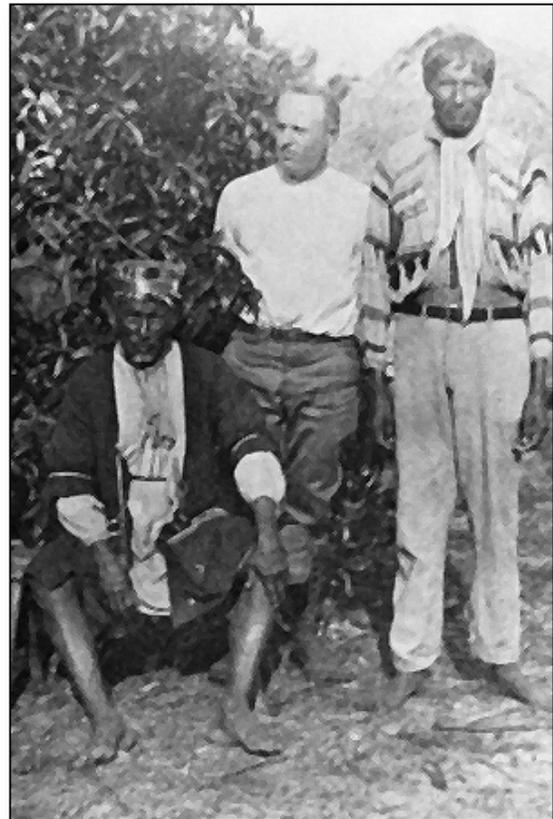
The book is an excellent companion to Gilliland's 1976 volume on the Key Marco artifacts. It is a true adventure story as well as a scholarly treatise. She closes with a brief discussion of the dating on the site (now estimated to have been occupied from at least A.D. 750 to 1500), and she describes the advances in technology that now allow us to dig wet sites with better scientific controls and to preserve marvels of ancient craft. As more of Florida falls to commercial development, we need greater vigilance to protect those wonders of prehistoric culture which might lie in the next swamp or estuary scheduled for destruction. Preservation of the archaeological record will allow us to understand how earlier peoples lived on this land we now enjoy.

Nancy Marie White

*The Florida Seminoles and the New Deal, 1933-1942.* By Harry A. Kersey, Jr. Boca Raton, Florida. 1989. Florida Atlantic University Press. Pp. xv, 214. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Cloth. \$24.00.

The field of Seminole Indian history has attracted the talents of some of Florida's finest historians. John Mahon's magisterial *History of the Second Seminole War* (1967) and James Covington's *The Billy Bowlegs War* (1982) come to mind. And for several decades Harry A. Kersey, Jr., has offered consistently high scholarship. His latest book, *The Florida Seminoles and the New Deal, 1933-1942*, comprises the second volume of an expected trilogy. In 1975, Kersey wrote his much acclaimed work, *Pelts, Plumes and Hides: White Traders Among the Seminole Indians, 1870-1930*. The monograph traced the beleaguered and embattled Seminoles in the decades following the Third Seminole War (1855-58), analyzing the emerging social and economic bases of survival by the remnant tribes. By 1930, the completion of the Tamiami Trail, the draining and diking of the Everglades and the drastic depletion of migratory birds and native animals had wrought a new chapter in Seminole history.

The Great Depression and New Deal signaled fundamentally new challenges in federal Indian policy. The Seminoles seemed to succeed where other tribes failed in the new alignment. The era opened auspiciously with the appointment of John Collier as commissioner of Indian affairs. In 1934 Collier helped promote and pass the Indian Reorganization Act, the cornerstone of the Indian New Deal. Several positive accomplishments resulted from new state and national legislation.



**Bill Fewel, J.L. Glenn and Wilson Cypress.**

Photograph from *The Florida Seminoles and the New Deal*.