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***A New Andalusia and a Way to the Orient: The American Southeast During the Sixteenth Century* by Paul E. Hoffman**

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BOOK REVIEWS

A New Andalusia and a Way to the Orient: The American Southeast During the Sixteenth Century. By Paul E. Hoffman. Baton Rouge, 1990. Louisiana State University Press. Pp. xiii, 353. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Cloth. \$42.50.

Paul E. Hoffman is a meticulous scholar and a recognized expert on sixteenth-century southeast America, which at that time was totally claimed by Spain. He has combed Spanish archives for documentation not yet available in this country. Although not a comprehensive account of the Spanish Southeast of the sixteenth century, this book already has won some historical prizes, and it further enhances Hoffman's reputation. For the amateur it is a difficult work and not recommended for pleasure reading. For the expert it still is heavy reading but revealing for its originality, based heavily on sound primary sources.

The thrust of the book is the expectation of the Spanish presence in the early 1520s on the South Carolina coast – what became known as Chicora. A Chicora legend was created, portraying the Chicora region as a New Andalusia. While all attempts by three nations (Spain, France and, lastly, England) to settle the region failed in the sixteenth century, it constituted a powerful geographical magnet that radiated to all the North American Atlantic coast. This also meant that the search for a passage to the Pacific (leading to Asia) was an important corollary to the settlement of this coast.

Basically, Hoffman tells us that there was a direct relationship between the “earliest Spanish voyages to the American Southeast in 1521-1526 and the later French and Spanish activities during the 1560s.” This is covered in the first two parts of the book. The sequence is continued in part three, covering 1562 to 1590 which is the beginning of the tri-national struggle in the Southeast with the entrance of the English at the end of the century.

In my estimation, Hoffman has not totally succeeded in making the reader aware of the consequences and continuity. This is what makes the monograph a bit tedious and the central theme not too easy to follow. Close attention and backtracking are necessary to really appreciate Hoffman's valuable contribution.

The author avoids events which have been extensively covered, such as the Ponce de Leon voyages, the Narvaez and De Soto expeditions, the establishment of St. Augustine and its first years of struggle. Hoffman brings to attention more neglected events, such as the Nicolos Strozzi voyage of 1576-1577. Here he gives much new information, but this obfuscates clarity and chronology.

To develop his central themes, cartographic information is a must. Maps were the linchpins for the Chicora legend and the search for the passage. Much of this information is included and has been adequately integrated in the text.

Hoffman has excellent knowledge of Spanish archival material and a solid understanding of sixteenth-century Spanish paleography. The part of his book dealing with Spain is firmly based on original documentation with very little attention to secondary material. (He does not even cite the 1944 pioneer work of Verne E. Chatelain.) The French and English episodes are drawn on pivotal sources, but basically primary printed material. The same goes for the cartographic data, aided by excellent secondary sources, such as Lawrence Wroth's 1970 book on Verrazano.

There is no use of French archives. My own contention has always been that we have thoroughly neglected them. I believe that important unused French documents regarding the early North American Southeast rest in the French archives. This is basically because few historians of the so-called colonial Spanish Southeast are competent in French paleography, to which must be added (I draw on my own experience) the greater difficulty, including bureaucratic obstacles, of working in French archives, compared to those of Spain and England.

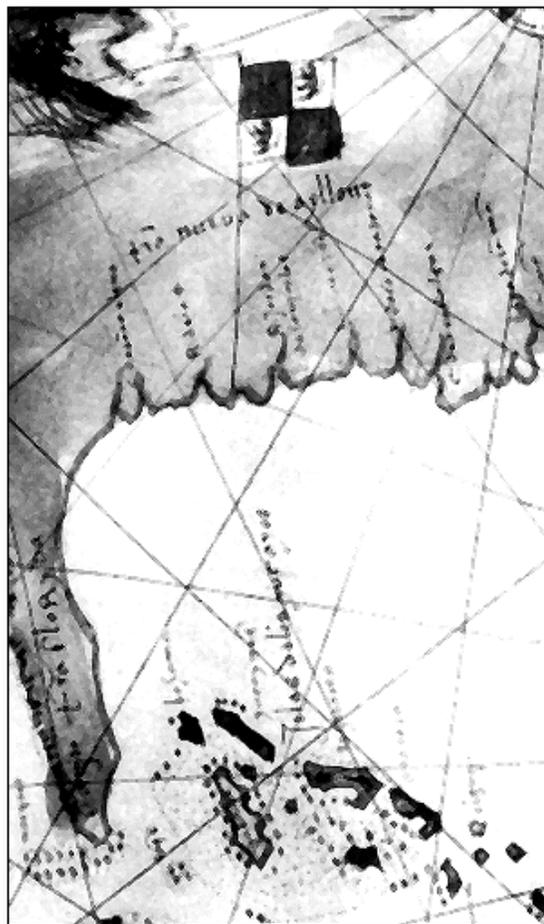
The book has twelve good maps; more would be welcomed. Notes (at the bottom of the page) and the bibliography are in traditional presentation for a research monograph. The index appears well done.

Finally, for the Florida history student Hoffman defines the term "La Florida" as all of the Spanish Southeast (including the important Chesapeake Bay). The term "Florida" is used to designate the area of what is today the state of Florida.

Charles W. Arnade

Excavations on the Franciscan Frontier: Archaeology at the Fig Springs Missions. By Brent Richards Weisman. Gainesville, Florida. 1992. University Press of Florida. Florida Museum of Natural History/Ripley P. Bullen Series. Pp. xvii. 252. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Cloth. \$29.95.

By now the Columbus quincentenary has inspired so many new works, scholarly and popular, concerning the interaction of Europeans and Native Americans that one might think there is little left to say. In reality, of course, we are just beginning to learn the right questions to ask and



The southeastern coast of North America, as depicted by Juan Vespucci in 1526.

Photograph from *A New Andalusia*, by Paul E. Hoffman.