

El español que exploró California: Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo (c. 1497–1543): De Palma del Río a Guatemala. By WENDY KRAMER. Córdoba, Spain: Diputación de Córdoba, 2018. Appendixes. Bibliography. 237 pp. Paper, €10.40.

Libro segundo del cabildo de la cibdad de Santiago de la provincia de Guatemala comenzado a XXVII de mayo de MDXXX años. Coordinated by WENDY KRAMER.

Edited by JORGE LUJÁN MUÑOZ and WENDY KRAMER. Biblioteca Goathemala. Wellfleet, MA: Plumsock Mesoamerican Studies, 2018. Map. Figures. Index. cxxi, 394 pp. Paper, €30.16.

It may be surprising that anything new could be learned from the Spanish conquistadores and their documents, recently neglected and even maligned as historians seek alternate perspectives on the early contact and colonial period. Two new books from Wendy Kramer show that surprises can still lay hidden within these most European of sources.

No one, including Kramer herself, expected to discover that Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, the first European to explore the upper Californian coast, was Spanish rather than Portuguese. Generations of San Diegans have lauded the “Portuguese navigator sailing under the flag of Spain” whose monument in San Diego Bay was funded in part by the Portuguese government. Cabrillo has also long been known as one of the original conquistadores of Guatemala, on whom Kramer has compiled data her entire career. Reviewing another conquistador’s files, Kramer discovered a court case in which the witness Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo identified his birthplace three times as Palma de Micer Gilio, today Palma del Río in Córdoba, Spain. In *El español que exploró California*, Kramer painstakingly weaves a web of documentary cross-references and relationships among the first generation of Spanish conquistadores to convincingly demonstrate that the witness in the court case is in fact the same Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo of California fame.

This revelation is important enough, but Central Americanists and other historians of the contact period will also gain new insights from the biography of this unusually well-documented but less famous conquistador. Cabrillo and his associates hauled enormous amounts of gold from Guatemala to Spain within only a few years, a true conquistador success story achieved on the literal backs of Indigenous laborers from the Cobán region who later refused to continue such work. The importance of the Pacific coast of Central America as a launching pad for further exploration is reinforced, as is the central role and coercive power of Pedro de Alvarado even after his death.

Most intriguingly, Kramer marshals suggestive but inconclusive evidence, also gathered by Spanish historians Manuel Muñoz Rojo and Antonio García-Abásole in separate essays, that Cabrillo may have been a Morisco. He formed part of the 1514 expedition of converso Pedrarias Dávila to Panama and Colombia along with many other ethnic and religious minorities from the Palma del Río region, who had numerous reasons to leave Spain for America. This may explain why Cabrillo appears to have assiduously avoided creating the genealogical paper trail typically left by the first conquistadores, which allowed for his misidentification as Portuguese by the seventeenth-century chronicler Antonio de Herrera y Tordesillas to go unquestioned—until now.

Likewise, it is hard to overstate the impact of the publication of the *Libro segundo del cabildo de la cibdad de Santiago*, coordinated and edited by Kramer with Jorge Luján Muñoz

and prepared with a team of veteran scholars and paleographers including Christopher Lutz, Edgar Chután Alvarado, Mayda Gutiérrez Rodríguez, and Héctor Concohá. The second and third city council books of Santiago de Guatemala—the first successful Spanish urban foundation in Central America—were rediscovered in 2012, 100 years after their illicit sale from Guatemala. Covering the city's initial planning, destruction by mudslide in 1541, and subsequent relocation to Antigua Guatemala, the council books were considered Guatemalan national treasures worthy of exhibition at the Historical American Exposition in Madrid in 1892. They were subsequently sold by persons unknown to German collector Karl W. Hiersemann, and by Hiersemann to the Hispanic Society of America in New York City in 1913, where they remained unknown to scholars until Mexican historian Sebastián van Doesburg helped identify them in 2012.

Scholars of Guatemala and Central America have eagerly anticipated the publication of a full transcription of the *Libro segundo del cabildo de la çibdad de Santiago* ever since. (The transcription of the *Libro tercero* is forthcoming.) They will not be disappointed. The quality of scholarship and the transcription are excellent. While not containing a full facsimile of the manuscript's 200-plus double-sided folios, the edition does include color reproductions of key pages and important related documents. Introductory essays by Kramer and Lutz preview the *Libro segundo*'s rich contents. More importantly, Lutz and Kramer provide a carefully researched account of the second and third council books' nineteenth-century peregrinations and depatriation. The thief is not identified, but some credible suspects are.

The volume's clear organization increases its utility. Chapters are separated by years, and the year and entry date are additionally replicated on every page. Individual council sessions are easy to locate within the transcription and are also listed in the table of contents. Folio numbers verso and recto are clearly marked. An introductory essay provides transcription norms. Marginal notes from the sixteenth century are included; those interested in marginalia from later centuries will have to consult the original. Some signatures are replicated. An alphabetized list of city council officeholders in addition to onomastic, toponymic, and thematic indexes appear at the end.

These two books by Wendy Kramer represent historical detective work at its finest, carefully uncovering facts and preserving crucial documents for future generations. It is unfortunate that neither book is currently sold in the United States or Mexico, but they are available through the author.

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Blacks of the Land: Indian Slavery, Settler Society, and the Portuguese Colonial Enterprise in South America. By JOHN M. MONTEIRO. Edited and translated by JAMES WOODARD and BARBARA WEINSTEIN. Cambridge Latin American Studies. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018. Tables. Glossary. Notes. Bibliography. Index. xxxii, 254 pp. Paper, \$29.99.

This outstanding and beautifully edited monograph grew and matured from John Monteiro's 1985 University of Chicago thesis and was published in Portuguese in 1994.