

1939

### Book Review: "Spanish Approach to Pensacola." Mark F. Boyd

Mark Boyd



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BOOK REVIEWS

*Spanish Approach to Pensacola, 1689-1693.* Translated with Introduction and Notes by Irving A. Leonard, The Rockefeller Foundation. Foreword by James A. Robertson, Florida State Historical Society. Pp. i-xvii, 1-323. 3 plates and folding map, boards, uniform with the Society's series. Quivira Society Publications, Vol. IX, Albuquerque (New Mexico) 1939. (\$6).

The rumors of the French approach to the Gulf from the interior in the latter 1680's were received with consternation by the Spanish authorities, and stimulated a period of hectic expeditionary activity to verify them, as well as to establish an outpost on Pensacola bay to check the eastward expansion of the French interlopers, as they were regarded.

The twenty-one documents selected and translated by Dr. Leonard deal with the latter phase of the reaction. They fall naturally into three categories: I. Those dealing with the development and authorization of the colonization project; II. The report of the maritime expedition to Pensacola bay from Vera Cruz, lead by the notable Mexican scientist, Don Carlos de Siguenza y Gongora; and III. The overland expedition from Apalache, lead by Governor Torres y Ayala.

While all the documents are of extreme interest, those in the third section have the greatest appeal to the reviewer, since they describe what was probably the first direct Spanish overland journey from Apalache to Pensacola bay. They complement the reports (see this *Quarterly*, July 1937) of the prior expedition of Marcos Delgado from Apalache into central Alabama, the organization and dispatch of

which was a scene from the same drama. This section includes the journal of the Governor of Florida, Don Laureano de Torres y Ayala, the leader, as well as a journal kept by one of his companions, Friar Roderigo de la Barredo. The overland expedition was supported by a coasting vessel piloted by Don Francisco Milan Tapia whose narrative is illustrated by quaint thumbnail sketches of the landmarks and headlands.

The volume closes with a facsimile reproduction of Siguenza's map of Pensacola bay.

Historically minded Floridians may hope that the appearance of this volume indicates an expansion in the sphere of interest of the Quivira Society from the limited area of the southwest to the broader zone of the entire Spanish frontier in North America.

MARK BOYD.

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*Woodward's Reminiscences of the Creek, or Muscogee Indians, Contained in Letters to Friends in Georgia and Alabama.* By Thomas S. Woodward. Foreword by Peter Brannon. Alabama Book Store, Tuscaloosa, Ala., 1939. Reprint of the Original Edition of 1859. (\$5.00).

The publishers deserve the gratitude of persons interested in the history of the old southwest, in making this fascinating rarity available to a wide circle of readers. Woodward seems to have known nearly everyone, Indian, half-breed, or white, on the frontier; and to have personally participated in many of the stirring episodes of the eighteenth-twenties. His account of Jackson's Seminole campaign, of particular interest to Florida readers, is a valuable supplement to the official reports of Jackson and his aides. The sketches of many of