



Gallant Outcasts: Texas Turmoil 1519-1734

Ben Cuellar Ximenes

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"The most highly significant contribution to Texas history to appear in two decades," is the consensus of historians who read this book in manuscript. And, possibly, it is the most controversial, for Ximenes has uncovered much new material not included in other histories of Texas in the 17th Century. By translating old diaries of the early explorers of Texas for the first time, he has also found evidence that many accepted statements of historians do not conform to reports written by the explorers themselves. For these reasons, all serious readers as well as professional historians and members of historical associations throughout the Southwest will find 'Gallant Outcasts' an illuminating and absorbing book. In contradiction of statements made by other historians, Ximenes claims, to cite only a few examples, that: - San Antonio was actually founded in 1715 and not by Alarcon. He only made its founding official. - La Salle's Fort St. Louis couldn't possibly have been located where other historians have placed it. His means of proving this make one of the most interesting sections of this book. - In his search for La Salle in 1686, Alonso de Leon did not enter Texas. He first crossed the Rio Grande in 1687. - The route of Fernando del Bosque's expedition did not take him into Edwards County but to the Medina River. Ximenes also gives data not included in other histories on de Leon's last three expeditions; on Fray Masanet's 1691 expedition; on de Leon's capture of Jean Henri, French king of an Indian tribe; on the whole wide span of Texas history from 1519 to 1734. With scholarly research, original translation of diaries, and personally retracing the actual routes of the explorers, Ximenes brings the whole blurred picture of early Texas history into focus. Rare photographs, charts and maps, bibliography and index add great interest for historians. -- Jacket design by Donald M. Yena, frontispiece by Louis W. Dunn.

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