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## Book Review - Modeling Entradas: Sixteenth-Century Assemblages in North America

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## Off the SHELF

**Modeling Entradas: Sixteenth-Century Assemblages in North America** edited by Clay Mathers (University of Florida Press, 2020: ISBN 9781683401582, \$95)

The University of Florida Press's Ripley P. Bullen series, named after the Florida Museum of Natural History's former curator and "dean of Florida archaeology," has produced dozens of academic titles about archaeology in the southeastern United States. With *Modeling Entradas*, editor Clay Mathers has contributed a compendium of important new archaeological scholarship that is characteristic of this series.

In the early- to mid-16th century, the conquistadors Francisco Vazquez de Coronado, Hernando de Soto, Tristan de Luna y Arellano, and Juan Pardo began to lead entradas, or expeditions, into the North American interior. Archaeologists are interested in this era because these conquests left behind some of the earliest traces of material evidence of contact between indigenous North Americans and Europeans.

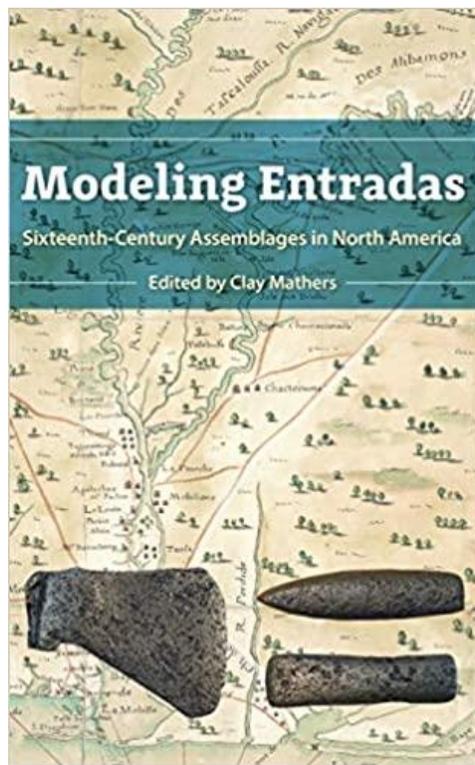
Concentrating mostly on the southeastern United States, contributors discuss many types of excavation sites, including a farm in eastern Mississippi, a fort in western North Carolina, and evidence of a shipwreck in Pensacola Bay, Florida. One author posits that a region of northeast Alabama and northwest Georgia may contain the largest collection of 16th century European artifacts in the Southeast. Artifacts

found in the region vary widely, including nailed timber fragments, horseshoes, iron chisels, and even something as small as a glass bead. New techniques such as lead isotope analysis and X-ray fluorescence, which measures elemental composition, are minimally invasive to the physical integrity of the artifact and can help archaeologists discriminate bead types from specific periods and entradas.

As Mathers writes in the introduction, a profound challenge for archaeological scholarship around the 16th century entradas and the study of early colonialism and globalization is "connecting a fine-grained understanding of individual objects to wider patterns of cultural activity and long-term historical trajectories." In addition to technological advances, new models are presented from quantitative, spatial, and cartographic analysis. These essays detail how new applications of interdisciplinary methods of inquiry, like primary source historical research and ethnohistorical data, provide insight into the travel routes taken by traveling entradas

and the complex interactions between the entradas and Native Americans. This contact included gift-giving, material exchange and reuse, and of course, disease and immense violence brought by Spanish conquest.

Maps, tables, and graphs accompany each chapter and provide helpful context and data, but photographs and illustrations of the actual



sites and excavated artifacts are too scarce. More visual content could boost readers' understanding and interest and may serve to break up sometimes-tedious academic writing.

This book is decidedly written by and for archaeologists who are interested in new technologies and modeling methods. However, the topics explored in *Modeling Entradas* may

also be compelling to enthusiasts of archeology, anthropology, the history of Georgia and the southeastern United States, and the history of the Spanish entradas and early North American colonialism.

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