

PREFACE

Spanish and French diary accounts of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century expeditions into Texas provide the early primary sources of information relating to the historic Native peoples of the state. European chroniclers preparing the diaries and journals were highly competent scribes who recorded daily the compass directions followed and the number of leagues traveled. Chroniclers also noted the names and lifeways of the Indian groups encountered and the fauna and flora observed.

The original diary accounts were handwritten in sixteenth- or seventeenth-century Spanish or French, utilizing military or clerical terminology, symbols, and abbreviations of the period. Today the services of specially trained professional Spanish and French translators of manuscript documents are required to meet the needs of most contemporary American scholars.

During the past decade, academic presses in Texas have published over twenty new or fresh English translations of diary and journal accounts of early European expeditions into Texas. These recent translations were prepared by professional translators with highly competent editors who often had available several copies or versions of the original diary manuscript. The published translations generally include an introduction that gives a comprehensive historical context to the expeditions, full and informative annotations, and accurate expedition route maps prepared by skilled cartographers.

The recent publication of this unprecedented number of English translations of accounts of early European expeditions into Texas provides an excellent opportunity to present a fresh, comprehensive overview of the historic Native peoples of Texas.

As indicated in the present study, the historic Indians of Texas followed a wide diversity of lifestyles and cultural patterns during the

study period, ca. AD 1528 to 1722. Caddoan farmers in the piney woods of northeast Texas were successful horticulturists and mound builders in the tradition of the American peoples of the Southeast. In far West Texas, many Native groups were associated with the Pueblo agriculturists of the American Southwest and with tribes south of the border deep into Mexico. Most Native groups in Central and South Texas followed a hunter-gatherer lifestyle like their ancient ancestors who first settled North America.

Although the lifestyles of Texas Indians differed across the state, all Texas Native groups, both sedentary and nomadic, shared a cosmopolitan disposition to engage in broad networks of interaction and trade. From the present study we find that during the historic period Texas Indians served as the pivotal central link connecting Pueblo and other Indian groups in the American Southwest with late Mississippian and other cultural centers in the Southeast.

To compare historic and prehistoric cultural patterns of the Native peoples of Texas from an anthropological and archeological perspective and also to strengthen the overall study, I invited Alston V. Thoms to review and comment on the manuscript and to prepare the foreword. Alston Thoms is an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology at Texas A&M University and one of the most distinguished academic and field archeologists in Texas. Professor Thoms presently teaches courses on the prehistoric Native population of North America and the Native peoples of Texas. The present work would not have been published without the knowledgeable contributions and guiding hand of Alston Thoms.

I would like to express my deep appreciation also to the two highly competent archeologists, Stephen L. Black and Mariah F. Wade, who served as readers of my original manuscript for the University of Texas Press. Stephen Black is editor of the highly acclaimed educational Web site *Texas Beyond History* (www.texasbeyondhistory.net), associated with the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at the University of Texas at Austin. Mariah Wade is an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin. It is most appropriate that Mariah Wade served as a reader of my manuscript because her supervising professor during her studies in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Texas was Thomas N. Campbell, to whom this work is dedicated. Thomas Campbell was the principal reader of *Spanish Expeditions into Texas, 1689–1768*, my first book published by the University of Texas Press.

Others made valuable contributions to the present study. Molly O'Halloran expertly prepared the special area maps, and Reeda Peel cre-

ated the major illustrations. Dorcas Baumgartner assisted with her computer and editorial skills and with her continuing personal support. Gary E. McKee conducted research on numerous subjects associated with the present work and edited, reviewed, and updated each of the numerous versions of the present manuscript. To him I owe my most profound expression of gratitude.

Before he passed away last year, Jack Jackson, at my request, read and commented on the introduction to the present work. Jack reviewed and commented on all or parts of every manuscript that I prepared for publication during the past decade. I am pleased that this manuscript is no exception.

For over a decade I have been guided and encouraged in my research and writing by my special friend Theresa May, the assistant director and editor-in-chief of the University of Texas Press. Theresa has been patient with me throughout the past eight years, relying only on my word that, for her, I would eventually complete my study of the historic Native peoples of Texas. And now, thanks to Theresa, it is done.

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HISTORIC NATIVE PEOPLES OF TEXAS

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