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 ***Came Men on Horses: The Conquistador Expeditions of Francisco Vásquez de Coronado and Don Juan de Oñate by Stan Hoig (review)***

Donald J. Blakeslee

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REVIEW

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In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:

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Came Men on Horses: The Conquistador Expeditions of Francisco Vázquez de Coronado and Don Juan de Oñate. By Stan Hoig. Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2013. xi + 344 pp. Notes, maps, illustrations, photographs, tables, bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth.

This is likely to be the last work we are apt to see from the journalist and historian Stan Hoig, who died in 2009, four years before this book was published. I mention this because it is clear that his manuscript was finished by someone who was working, in part, from some rough notes.

The title promises less than the book delivers, as Hoig also describes the expeditions of Chamuscado, Espejo, Castaño de Sosa, and Bonilla and Humaña. Most of the book, however, concerns the 1540 to 1542 Coronado expedition and the 1598 to 1607 Oñate colonization of New Mexico and exploration of adjacent regions. Hoig emphasizes the motivations of the main participants, their personalities, and the political maneuvering involved. He also pays particular attention to the routes Coronado and Oñate took during their *entradas* onto the Plains.

This is a good read, but it is marred by numerous small errors and a few larger ones. The former derive from lack of thorough editing by a historian familiar with the era. Thus the Mixton War becomes variously the Mixon War or the Mixen War, Marcos Farfán de los Godos is called Marcos de los Farfán Godos, the title of alferéz is mistaken for a Christian name, and the Apaches live in pueblos.

Unfortunately, several serious errors have to do with the routes taken into the Great Plains. Some involve misplacement in time and space of events critical to an understanding of Coronado's route. For instance, after about nineteen days of travel into the Plains, Ysope, a native of Quivira, threw a loud fit, declaring that Coronado's guide the Turk was leading the army astray. The fact that he had not complained previously implies that, until that point, the army had been heading in the general direction of Quivira. Hoig places the event at about the thirty-fourth day

of travel, two weeks and hundreds of miles from where it actually occurred.

Hoig's analysis of Oñate's route includes one novel thought that has a good chance of being correct. He has the expedition heading north from the Canadian River near Borger, Texas, rather than in the vicinity of the Antelope Hills. His interpretation of the Kansas end of the route, however, is highly unlikely. Finally, the huge settlement and the dense hardwood forest described in the documents are in the vicinity of the Oklahoma border, not in Rice County where Hoig places them. **[End Page 395]**

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Book Reviews

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