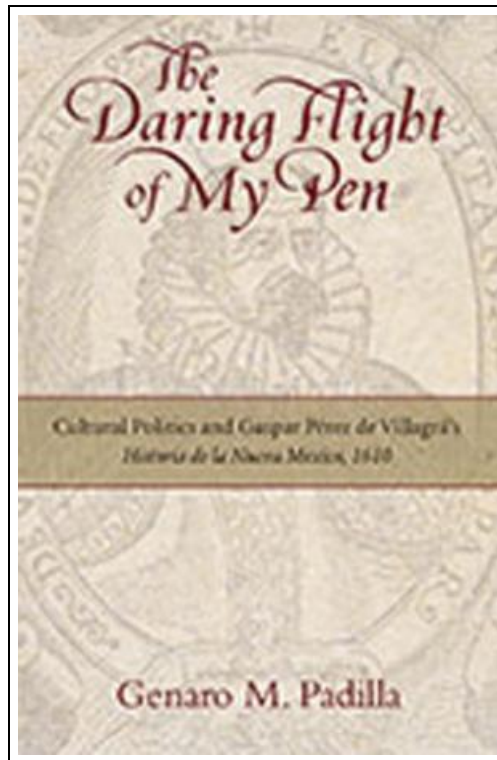


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University of New Mexico Press, United States, 2011. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Doomed from the beginning to be read as history rather than poetry, Gaspar P rez de Villagr s Historia de la Nueva M xico chronicles Captain Juan de O ate s conquest of New Mexico from its inception in 1595 to the battle of Acoma in 1599. Its publication in 1610 was overshadowed by Cervantes s already wildly popular Don Quixote, and fewer than a dozen copies of the original have survived the last four centuries. In April of 1610, the same month that Villagr s Historia was published in Spain, the once powerful O ate, the last conquistador and one who remains a divisive figure among native groups and Hispanics to this day, rode into Mexico City, humiliated, having been banished from la Nueva M xico.In this engaging study Genaro Padilla enters into Villagr s epic poem of the O ate expedition to reveal that the soldier was no mere chronicler but that his writing offers a subtle critique of the empire whose expansion he seems to be celebrating. A close reading of the rhetorical subtleties in the poem, Padilla argues, reveals that Villagr surreptitiously parodies the King and Viceroy for their failures of vision and effectively dismantles O ate as the iconic figure he has become today. Padilla s study is not simply a close reading of this challenging work; it is also a lucid critique of our modern engagement with foundational documents, cultural celebrations, and our awareness of our relationship with New Mexico s complicated multicultural legacies.



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