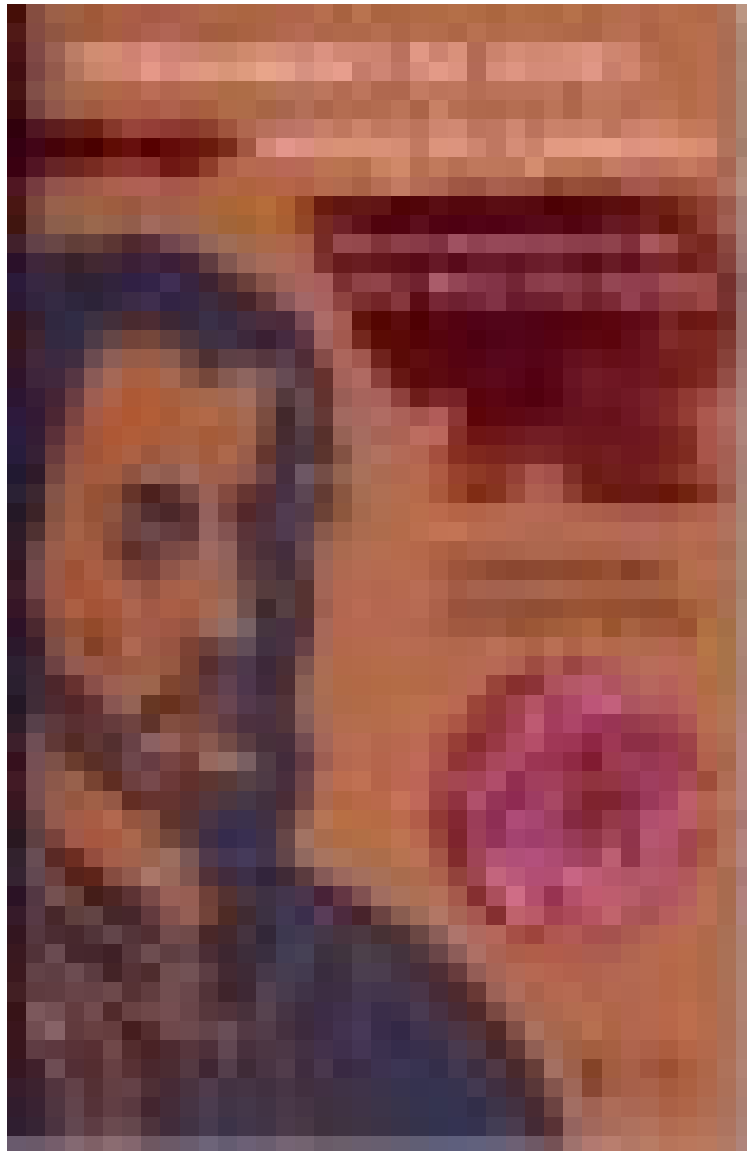


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## **Hernando de Soto Among the Apalachee: The Archaeology of the First Winter Encampment (Florida Museum of Natural History: Ripley P. Bullen Series)**

*Charles R. Ewen, John H. Hann*  
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**Charles R. Ewen, John H. Hann : Hernando de Soto Among the Apalachee: The Archaeology of the First Winter Encampment (Florida Museum of Natural History: Ripley P. Bullen Series)** before purchasing it in order

to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Hernando de Soto Among the Apalachee: The Archaeology of the First Winter Encampment* (Florida Museum of Natural History: Ripley P. Bullen Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent read for history lovers  
By RobRoyEnjoyable and informative. Three main sections. First, interesting overview of the first four Spanish conquistadors who explored the southeastern region. Secondly, the archeological challenge and findings. Archaeologists rushed to dig ahead of real estate development in an urban setting, Maps, dig diagrams, and photos of relics (trade beads, shards of Spanish olive jars, armour mail links, and coins). Huge find, constitutes the only site of a De Soto camp. Third, author includes translations of the De Soto journals kept by members of the expedition, that describe this part of De Soto's incredible journey. I made me want to read the entire De Soto expedition journal.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very thorough history of forgotten events  
By Culper, Jr.While a bit dry, this history of de Soto's first winter in America is a fascinating look at a part of our past that is almost unknown. Every American knows about the First Thanksgiving, but how many have ever heard of the First Christmas, when de Soto and his entrada wintered over with the Apalachee natives of north Florida?

"A genuine tour de force for the integration of anthropology, archaeology and ethnohistory at this first, unequivocal de Soto expedition site."--Russell K. Skowronek, Santa Clara University  
"Indispensable. . . . Will be of interest to southeastern archaeologists, historians of Hispanic America, scholars interested in the early exploration of the Americas . . . and laymen in Florida and surrounding states."--Charles Hudson, University of Georgia  
Charles Ewen and John Hann chronicle the discovery and excavation of the only known campsite of Hernando de Soto's ten-state odyssey in La Florida during the 16th century. Located in downtown Tallahassee in sight of the state capitol, the site was rescued at the last minute from developers a story almost as compelling as that of de Soto's expedition. The book has three parts: historical background, archaeological excavations at the site, and a retranslation of the 16th-century narratives relating to the winter encampment. A prologue and epilogue fit the work into the wider context of the Contact Period. John Hann has retranslated the narratives of the De Soto expedition in Apalachee Province--with startling results. Small liberties taken with the original translations presented a misleading picture of the Apalachee and their culture. These versions, coupled with evidence recovered from the winter site, give a new view of the impact of Europeans on the native inhabitants of La Florida. Of particular interest are the discovery, excavation, and preservation of the site. Showing how luck and timing are crucial factors in some important discoveries, Ewen and Hann describe the interaction of archaeologists with private developers, state and city government, and the public and the media. Although it contains information that will be useful to scholars, the book is written in a popular style that makes it accessible to general readers.  
Charles R. Ewen, associate professor of anthropology at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, is the author of *From Spaniard to Creole: The Archaeology of Cultural Formation at Puerto Real, Haiti*. John H. Hann is a research historian at the San Luis Historical Site and a leading scholar on the missions of Spanish Florida. He is the author of *Apalachee: The Land Between the Rivers* (UPF, 1988), *Missions to the Calusa* (UPF, 1991), and *History of the Timucua Indians and Missions* (UPF, 1996).