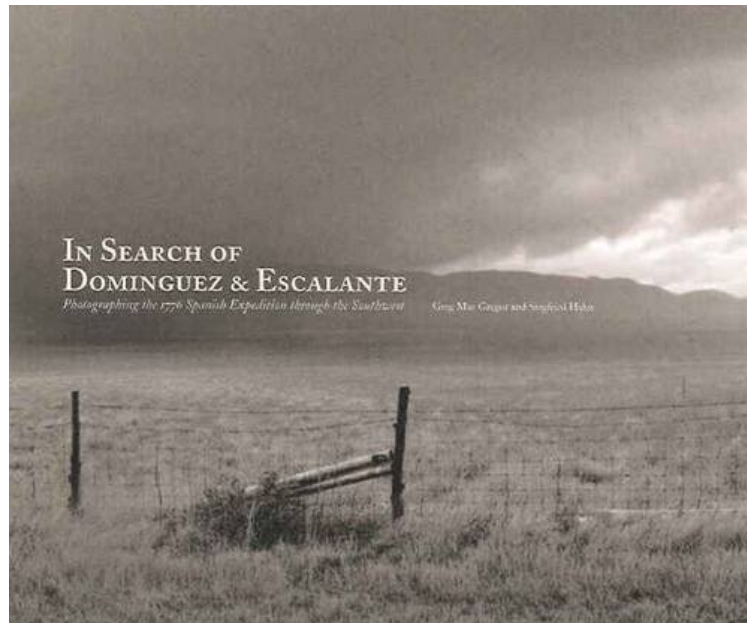


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In Search of Dominguez Escalante: Photographing the 1776 Spanish Expedition Through the Southwest

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On 29 July 1776, Franciscan friars Francisco Atanasio Dominguez and Silvestro Velez de Escalante embarked on an expedition to seek an overland route from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Monterey, California. Although the Spaniards did not reach their final destination, the expedition is widely regarded as one of the great explorations in western U.S. history for its documentation of the land and Native people in the Four Corners. The group--including cartographer Don Bernardo Miera y Pacheco, Ute-speaking guides, and the alcalde (mayor) of Zuni--circumnavigated 1,800 miles of uncharted territory never before seen by Europeans, an arduous five-month trip documented in Escalante's journal, a

widely read historical account of the exploration. More than two hundred years later Greg Mac Gregor and Siegfried Halus have created a remarkable visual record of the expedition. Using Escalante's journal as their guide, the photographers followed the expeditionary route, circling through New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Arizona, and documenting the frontier as first witnessed by the Spanish explorers on horseback. The expedition passed what today are major national parks and landforms: Zion Canyon, Dinosaur Monument, and the Grand Canyon. The photographs show many areas virtually unchanged over centuries; other images reveal the passage of time in pictures of dammed rivers, power lines, and towns where virgin forests once stood. Quoting widely from Escalante's journal, the authors present firsthand accounts of the expedition alongside their photographic narrative. Essays by the photographers discuss their methodology and experiences as modern-day explorers retracing the steps of the friars. In his historical essay, Joseph P. Sanchez writes about the lasting legacy of the Spanish expeditions.

About the Author Greg Mac Gregor is a renowned photographer and educator whose works have been exhibited internationally. Mac Gregor is a professor emeritus of photography at California State University. He is the author of *Overland: The California Emigrant Trail of 1841-1870* (University of New Mexico Press). Siegfried Halus is a renowned photographer and educator whose work has been exhibited internationally. He is the former director of the art department of Santa Fe Community College and the photographer of *Living Shrines: Home Alters of New Mexico* (Museum of New Mexico Press).