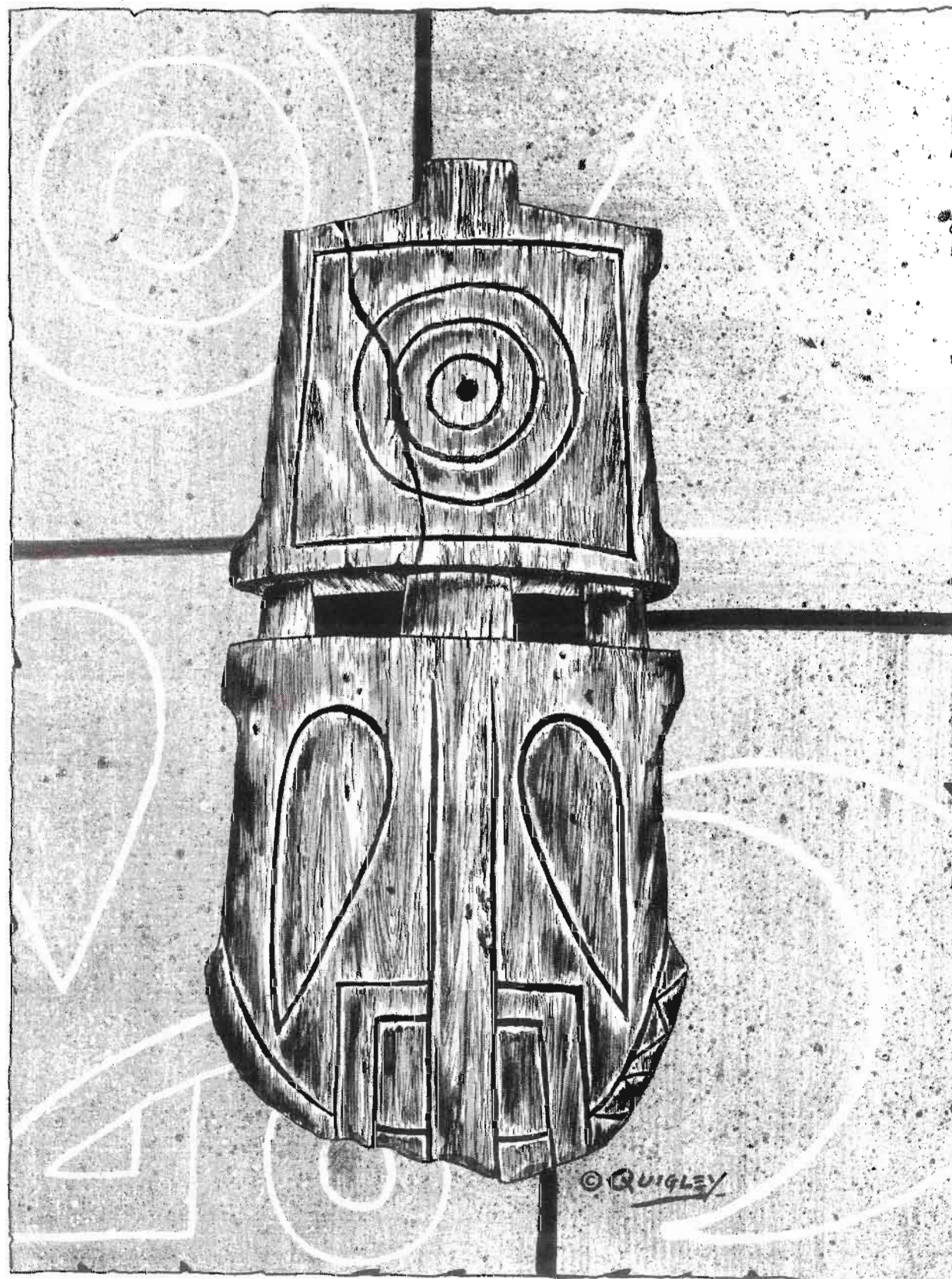


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A History of the Timucua Indians and Missions. John H. Hann, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, 1996. 328 pp., maps, notes, glossary, list of abbreviations, bibliography, index. \$49.95 (cloth).

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A History of the Timucua Indians and Missions by John H. Hann is another sterling edition (number 16) to the Ripley P. Bullen Monograph Series. This volume complements two noteworthy volumes by the prolific author: *Apalachee: The Land Between the Rivers* (1988) and *Missions to the Calusa* (1991), both published by the University Press of Florida. In the words of the author, this book is intended as "a general in-depth study of the Timucua of the historic era." Hann is quick to point out that while he reviews the archaeological evidence of the Timucua, especially that which is contradictory to the written record, the work "is principally historical in approach."

The main body of the text is divided into 16 chapters spanning a total of 328 pages. The book is arranged in a chronological framework, with the first chapters describing the initial contact between the Timucua and the Europeans, the middle chapters describing the establishment of the mission system, and the final chapters detailing the demise of the Timucua. The final chapter is followed by a short Notes section; the need for a longer notes section is obviated by the depth of the documentary review Hann provides with each chapter. A useful and much-needed glossary of Castilian Spanish and Timucuan terms also is provided; Native American and Spanish terms and their functional equivalents are used interchangeably throughout the text. The book ends with a list of commonly used abbreviations, a bibliography, and finally an index. The index is noteworthy in its scope (28 pages) and organization; it is very well referenced and contains the place and person names, as well as the topics, covered in the text.

The historiography and archival work is very thorough; in many cases Hann provides complete translations of entire documents. Each document with relevance to a particular person or event is reviewed and all are carefully referenced. The author is careful to elucidate his interpretations of the text, the interpretations of previous researchers, and the possible shades, nuances, and connotations that each document brings to an event. While the reader is fully informed of the primary interpretation of the author, he/she can still formulate their own opinions. The casual reader may be somewhat put off by the depth and scope of the historical

research, but he/she can easily scan forward to a new section within a chapter. Each chapter is subdivided into approximately a dozen subsections, and the reader can use the index to navigate between these sections.

In general, the chronological framework of the text is pleasantly flexible. The author devotes one chapter to the relatively brief episode of the Timucua revolt of 1656, and he readily digresses into subjects brought out during the course of each chapter. Occasionally the sections do overlap, such as when a very short section titled "Nature of the Indian War" in Chapter 2 is mirrored by a similar section titled "Practices Associated with Warfare" in Chapter 7. I found myself thinking that there had to be more to Timucuan warfare while reading Chapter 2, and later received the additional information in Chapter 7.

For the more in-depth reader, this text poses answers to several questions that are germane to current issues in northeast Florida. Hann asserts that the Ocone were probably a tenth eastern Timucuan tribe (p. 5); he conducts a serious reexamination of the account of Lamhatty (p. 133) and Timucuan linguistic evidence overall; and he provides the most comprehensive examination of Timucuan social customs to date (pp. 103-121). As an archaeologist, I also found his geographical delineation of the territories of each individual tribe especially useful, although I desired to see more primary archaeological data. The direct role friars played in subjugating the Timucuans is also displayed with remarkable clarity throughout the text. The book details the individual acts and policies of friars who were implementing a local system of subordination that emanated from Havana and ultimately Spain. The breadth and scope of this system is made abundantly clear by the sheer number of specific events that Hann recounts.

My only criticism is that the reader might find additional graphics to accompany the text useful. While the standard Le Moyne figures are not included, this does not represent a great loss. Indeed, with the exception of plate 15 (p. 103), Hann discounts the veracity of these figures. However, the figures within the text consist of a total of six maps. The lack of additional maps makes it difficult for the reader to juxtapose the locations of Timucuan and Spanish settlements with modern place names. Not being a native of north Florida, I found myself frequently consulting an atlas to determine what stream the friars had crossed on their journey to an island, river crossing, or mission. While the author is indeed careful to give all distances in leagues, he generally can not give bearings since the original Spanish documents lack this information. It should be noted that Hann does carefully analyze any differences in these distances between the various documents. However, from a locational standpoint, it was occasionally difficult to follow the friars on their treks.

Overall, *A History of the Timucua Indians and Missions* is an excellent synthesis of historical records concerning the Timucua. Simply put, this book is an invaluable research tool for any archaeologist or historian working in north Florida or southern Georgia. Its specific and detailed text

provides the necessary background that will allow the pursuit of archaeological questions. Likewise the book is perfect for the curious reader who wants to look up specific information about a mission or monument near his/her home. I strongly recommend this text to anyone interested in a scholarly account of the vanquished Timucua and the history of post-contact north Florida.