

The Struggle for the Georgia Coast: An Eighteenth-Century Spanish Retrospective on Guale and Mocama. By JOHN E. WORTH. Atlanta: University of Georgia Press, 1995. Maps. Tables. Figures. Appendixes. Notes., Bibliography. Index. 222 pp. Paper. \$23.95.

Since the early twentieth century, discoveries of source material in Spanish-language archives have enriched our knowledge of colonial Florida. By the 1920s, Mary Ross, Herbert E. Bolton, and John Tate Lanning had sufficient available primary documents to begin to write the history of the part of Spanish Florida that included the coasts, sounds, and sea islands of present-day Georgia.

After 1977, David Hurst Thomas of the American Museum of Natural History began extensive excavation on St. Catherine's Island, seeking the Spanish mission of Santa Catalina. He also sought archival data, calling on Grant Jones, Amy Turner Bushnell, and this writer to provide primary documentation about Guale and Mocama, the Native American names for the Georgia coastal areas. At the same time, John H. Hann of the Florida Department of State provided many useful translations of Spanish manuscript materials, some of which related to Guale. Bushnell's 1994 work about the Florida mission system, *Situado and Sabana*, well demonstrates the quality of interpretation that can be drawn from the rich corpus of manuscript materials now at hand.

John Worth's contribution to this growing body of data is significant. In 1991, while researching his doctoral dissertation in Seville's Archive of the Indies, Worth ran across a 233-folio packet of papers, Governor Manuel de Montiano's 1739 report to the Spanish crown. This remarkable collection of documents, thematically related to and preceding Antonio de Arredondo's better-known "Historiographic Demonstration of the Right of Spain to New Georgia," contains materials extracted by Montiano's scribe from St. Augustine's official and ecclesiastical archives. After giving a valuable overview of the Spanish "Retreat of Guale and Mocama, 1655-1685," Worth translates and reproduces many of the Montiano documents. He provides the best narrative yet of the complex story of Spain's retreat from the Georgia coast and of the demographic shifts among the original coastal Native Americans, outside invaders, and newly forming groupings of Yamassees and Creeks. Long before the coming of James Oglethorpe to Savannah, Spain had lost control of its northern frontier above St. Augustine.

Worth's find is not, however, a previously unknown manuscript. The Montiano *expediente* was photostatted more than 60 years ago at the Archive of the Indies by Irene Aloha Wright. It passed into the John B. Stetson Collection of Spanish documents, and it has long been available in Florida. John Worth's achievement lies in his recognition of the importance of the materials and in his translation, publication, and interpretation of the 1739 Montiano papers.

EUGENE LYON, Flagler College