

Re: Totally OT: Shameless Plug

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- *From:* "t(nospam)kavanagh" <"tkavanag"@nospamindiana.edu>
 - *Date:* Wed, 17 May 2006 19:19:59 -0400
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Tom McDonald wrote:

t(nospam)kavanagh (nospam) wrote:

Kavanagh, Thomas W.
2006 "Los Comanches: Pieces of an Historical Folkloric Detective Story,"
Pt 1. New Mexico Historical Review, 1-37.

1. When will it be available?

Hard copy now; unfortunately not online.

2. Can you give us a little somthin' somthin', a taste of the story?

"The New Mexican folk drama Los Comanches memorializes a historic confrontation between the Comanches and the New Mexican Spaniards. Or does it? Ever since the text was published in 1907, researchers have dated the folk drama Los Comanches to the eighteenth century. However, scholars have also acknowledged that the history associated with the play is "somewhat confused." This essay is an attempt to untangle some of that confusion.

To unravel this confusion, one must be a detective, seeking the earliest documentary sources to answer the basic questions: Who knew what and when did they know it? Who had the story wrong? Who are the usual suspects?

Part 1 of this essay will trace the historical growth of some of those confused threads. The structure is chronological, not in the sense of establishing the sequence of the original historical events, but, rather, in the sense of establishing the sequence of knowledge and publication ?the history of the history. The basic question centers on how authors of documents relating to the history gained knowledge of the events they recorded. Was the information first hand? If not, where did the author get it? In the absence of citations, can lines of influence from one source to another be established?

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A more textual analysis of the play itself is the focus of part 2. The central question in part 2 is whether there might be an entirely different story behind *Los Comanches*? Although scholars have claimed that the play was composed soon after the events it portrays and that it was intended as a dramatization of eighteenth-century Comanche-New Mexican relations, this claim is more often asserted than demonstrated. Focusing on a few overlooked details of the text, part 2 will suggest two conclusions. First, these details suggest a later time frame for the composition of the *Los Comanches* text—first decade of the 19th century. Second, textual details, along with evidence of the probable author of the original play, indicate that the original context of the play was not the localized eighteenth-century relations between Comanches and New Mexicans in their far corner of the Spanish empire, but that the context of the play addressed much greater threats to Spanish sovereignty and authority at home in Iberia."

Like I said. Totally off-topic in an archaeology ng.