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Review of Maps of Texas and the Southwest, 1513-1900 By James C. Martin and Robert Sidney Martin

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Maps of Texas and the Southwest, 1513-1900. By James C. Martin and Robert Sidney Martin. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press for the Amon Carter Museum, 1984. Maps, illustrations, sources cited, further reading, index. x + 174 pp. \$50.00.

Frequently old maps are gathered and reproduced in folio volumes that have little scholarly value but that make handsome coffee table displays. In *Maps of Texas and the Southwest, 1513-1900*, James and Robert Martin have produced an excellent book on the

history of cartography that will be of benefit to current and future collectors and students but that is much more than another coffee table volume. The book goes beyond a simple reproduction of old maps on Texas and the Southwest. The authors have done an admirable job of researching the historical record, not only for old maps, but also about: 1) the history of cartography and cartographers, 2) the problems of printing maps, 3) map trade, and 4) the history of exploration, colonization and settlement in Texas and the Southwest.

Few historians have bothered to organize a set of maps systematically and chronologically and then to analyze them carefully to document changes that have occurred through time. It is exactly here that Martin and Martin's book makes a contribution for they have diligently researched the maps, the cartographers who drafted them, and the technology available. This information is presented with an analysis of those maps, showing in particular how geographic knowledge of the region accrued over time. It is these points that make this volume an important contribution.

After useful sections on the science of cartography, map printing, and the map trade, the authors turn to the history of Texas and the Southwest from the period of earliest Spanish exploration to statehood. In these sections the authors do an admirable job integrating discussion of various map plates in the book into the developing history. The historical sections are followed by a set of eight extremely well-reproduced color plates. These are arranged somewhat in chronological order from an Ortelius map of 1587 to a Colton map of 1873.

The bulk of the book is taken up with fifty map plates chronologically arranged and reproduced—I am sure for economic reasons—in black and white. The analyses of these maps in the accompanying text pages are the most important contributions the book makes. The maps reproduced in these plates are of course of widely varying size and some were originally in color. Most have been reduced to fit the

page format of the book. Some of these black and white plates have been reduced in scale so much that I could not read some of the print even with the aid of a magnifying glass. As a result it is sometimes hard to relate the discussion in the text to the places on the accompanying map. This is the single greatest criticism of the book—but not one that significantly detracts from its value or scholarly contribution.

Most of the maps in this volume were drawn at small scale, 1:1,000,000 or smaller. Perhaps it would have been interesting to have included some larger scale maps of the area for this period. Although most of the cartographers at this time worked at small scale, large scale maps would undoubtedly entail reproducing some of the surveys of the period, such as those of the Austin colony or the Dewitt colony. Finally, it might have been of value to reproduce a modern or current map of Texas or the Southwest so the reader would have a comparison between modern and older mapping and printing techniques.

My criticisms are mostly minor and technical in nature. They are not significant enough to detract from the contribution the volume makes to historical cartography and historical development of the Southwest and Texas. I urge anyone interested in maps, cartography, the history of mapping, or Texas and the Southwest to acquire a copy of this book.

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