



La Florida: Five Hundred Years of Hispanic Presence

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Florida Book Awards, Gold Medal for Florida Nonfiction

“A splendid, highly readable collection that reflects substantial new research and findings on Hispanic influence in Florida.”—Ralph Lee Woodward, author of *Central America: A Nation Divided*

“Deeply researched and sweeping across five centuries, *La Florida* is admirably multi- and interdisciplinary in approach and features a truly distinguished lineup of authors. Topics range from flora and fauna to archaeology and early chronicles, to politics high and low, to literature, art, architecture, music, food and foodways, and of course to the diverse and often fascinating people who made them.”—Richmond F. Brown, editor of *Coastal Encounters*

Commemorating Juan Ponce de León’s landfall on the Atlantic coast of Florida, this ambitious volume explores five centuries of Hispanic presence in the New World peninsula, reflecting on the breadth and depth of encounters between the different lands and cultures.

The contributors, leading experts in a range of fields, begin with an examination of the first and second Spanish periods. This was a time when La Florida was an elusive possession that the Spaniards were never able to completely secure; but Spanish influence would nonetheless leave an indelible mark on the land. In the second half of this volume, the essays highlight the Hispanic cultural legacy, politics, and history of modern Florida and expand on Florida’s role as a modern transatlantic cross roads.

Melding history, literature, anthropology, music, culture, and sociology, *La Florida* is a unique presentation of the Hispanic roots that run deep in Florida’s past and present and will assuredly shape its future.

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