

Seven Cities of Mud Title Data

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Publisher: Twilight Times Books

Complete Title: Seven Cities of Mud

Complete Subtitle (if any): Series Volume

Edition:

Author (Use Nom de Plume if Applicable): Florence Byham Weinberg

Author's Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Author's Biography (60 words max):

A native of New Mexico, Florence traveled with her military family during World War II. Travels continued after marriage to scholar/critic Kurt Weinberg in Canada, France, Spain and Germany. After earning her PhD, she taught for twenty-two years at St. John Fisher College, Rochester, NY, and for ten at Trinity University, San Antonio. She continues to travel and write books.

ISBN (if assigned):

Previous Edition ISBN (if any):

Publication date (mm/yyyy): November 15, 2007

Retail Price: \$18.95

Number of Pages:

Size (in inches): 5.5x8

Synopsis of Book (175 words max):

Poli, a widowed Pueblo woman from Puaray on the Río Grande, is wooed by aggressive, sadistic Mákta. Franciscan Fray Agustín wheedles permission to mount an expedition to evangelize the Pueblo Indians of the Río Grande. He recruits two priests, Friars Francisco and Juan, and nine soldiers, commanded by Captain Chamuscado. This is the second expedition up the river after Coronado's. The small party arrives near Puaray and persuades Poli to guide them. Two men fall in love with her: Fray Francisco and Cantor, the Indian interpreter. The soldiers mutiny, turning the expedition into a gold-and-silver hunt. The priests become prisoners. Mákta begins a relentless pursuit: Poli has spurned him for these outlanders; he will have his revenge. Fray Juan starts back to Mexico to denounce the captain to the authorities but is mysteriously killed. The party ranges eastward to the Pecos where they hunt buffalo and westward to Zuñi, but winter weather drives them back to Puaray. The captain decides to return to Mexico; the Franciscans stay. Mákta returns to Puaray with explosive results.

Bulleted Points (25 words max each):

- This historical novel, almost "creative non-fiction," follows the scribal account of the expedition. Pueblo Indian life is modeled on the Hopis, least influenced by European culture.
- Cultural clashes and misunderstandings take center stage here, along with typical European dichotomies: the spiritual vs. the material life; Christianity vs. gold-lust.
- The story, set in 1581-82, should appeal to all those interested in the Southwest as first explored and exploited by Spanish missionaries, miners, and slavers.

Marketing Points (Budget & Plan) (25 words max): National and local media—print, broadcast and electronic. Media interviews, library and bookstore appearances and signings.

Local print media, local/regional broadcast and electronic media, blogs, *Publishers Weekly*, national magazines (*St. Anthony Messenger*), local/regional signings in book stores and libraries

Is This a New Title? Yes xx No ___ If Yes, Describe the book in 50 words

Two radically different cultures, 16th-century Spanish and ancient Pueblo Indian, collide. Franciscan Fray Agustín leads an expedition to evangelize the Pueblo Indians of the Rio Grande. He persuades Poli, a widowed Pueblo woman, to be their guide, but Captain Chamuscado and the soldiers take charge, make prisoners of the Franciscans, and begin to seek gold. Conflicts and passions explode—love and faith oppose anger, brutality, hatred, lust, greed and ambition—with tragic consequences.

Comments:

This book has already sparked interest in New Mexico and Texas. The author has already given a paper to the Historical Society of New Mexico on the Chamuscado Expedition and will speak to a meeting at the Coronado State Monument on November 19, 2007. The Carlsbad Historical Association will host a similar talk, and the El Paso Library Association/Friends of the Library will also invite the author to a series of readings, discussions, and signings.