Territories of History: Humanism, Rhetoric, and the Historical Imagination in the Early Chronicles of Spanish America (Hardback)

By Sarah H. Beckjord

Pennsylvania State University Press, United States, 2008. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 231 x 157 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Sarah H. Beckjord s Territories of History explores the vigorous but largely unacknowledged spirit of reflection, debate, and experimentation present in foundational Spanish American writing. In historical works by writers such as Gonzalo Fernandez de Oviedo, Bartolome de Las Casas, and Bernal Diaz del Castillo, Beckjord argues, the authors were not only informed by the spirit of inquiry present in the humanist tradition but also drew heavily from their encounters with New World peoples. More specifically, their attempts to distinguish superstition and magic from science and religion in the New World significantly influenced the aforementioned chroniclers, who increasingly directed their insights away from the description of native peoples and toward a reflection on the nature of truth, rhetoric, and fiction in writing history.Due to a convergence of often contradictory information from a variety of sources eyewitness accounts, historiography, imaginative literature, as well as broader philosophical and theological influences categorizing historical texts from this period poses no easy task, but Beckjord sifts through the information in an effective, logical manner. At the heart of Beckjord s...

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