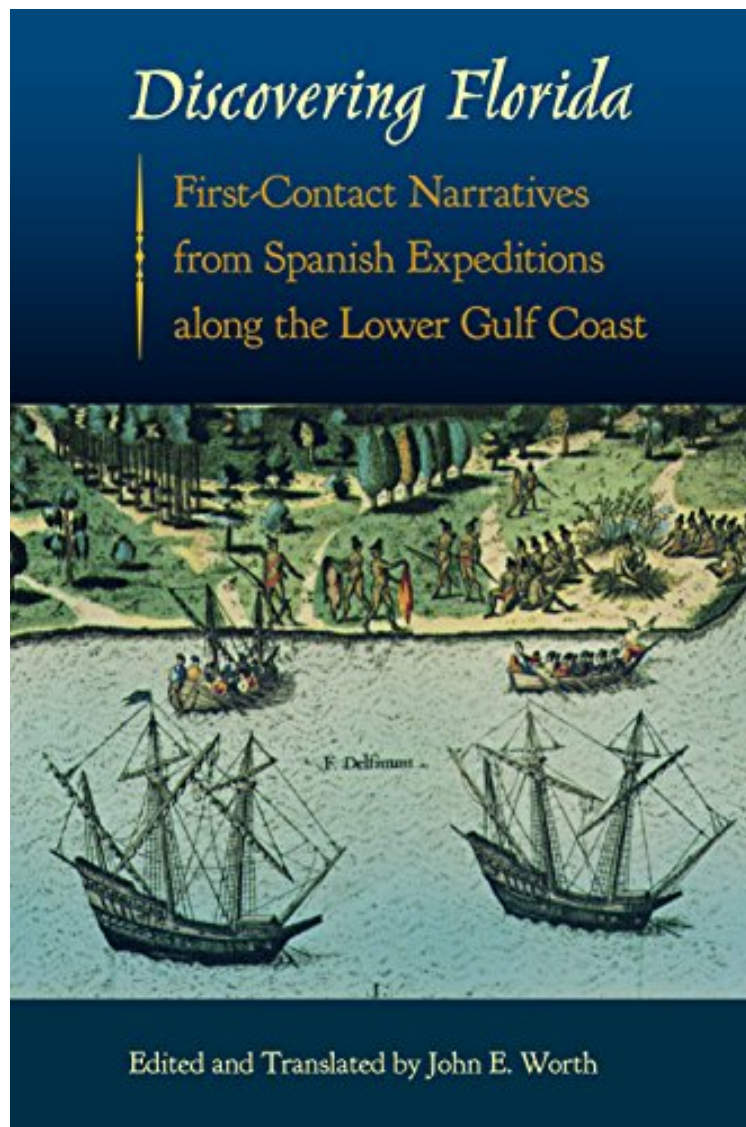


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gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Discovering Florida: First-Contact Narratives from Spanish Expeditions along the Lower Gulf Coast* (Florida Museum of Natural History: Ripley P. Bullen Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I can also add that it is fun to read.
By Vicki S Harris
This is an excellent book for those interested in learning more about the contact between 16th Century Spanish expeditions and the Native groups of South Florida. Dr. Worth is one of the leading experts in translating this type of material in the Southeast, and that is very apparent in this Spanish/ English translation. In addition to the references usually noted in this type publication, he also includes detailed notes on each chapter that identify for the reader definitions of various vessel and weapon types that are specific to that era. For instance, he points out several times that in the 16th century the Spanish term *Bergantin* (translated *Brigantine* in English) referred to a small coastal ship based on the Galley type, quite different than the large square rigged *Brigantine* of the 18th Century. There are many translation details such as this in the book that add greatly to its interest. As a non-academic, I can also add that it is fun to read! A great book for those interested in Southeastern history!
1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Brenda K. Rice
Good reading!

Gives voice to a period in U.S. history that remains virtually unknown, even to specialists in the field.
J. Michael Francis, coauthor of *Murder and Martyrdom in Spanish Florida* With these transcriptions and translations, Worth provides an important service to ethnohistorians, archaeologists, and others who share an interest in the Spanish colonial explorations of the greater Southeast.
Mariah F. Wade, author of *Missions, Missionaries, and Native Americans* A model for how to handle important primary sources. The historical introduction is a treasure in its own right.
Amy Turner Bushnell, author of *Situado and Sabana: Spains Support System for the Presidio and Mission provinces of Florida* Floridas lower gulf coast was a key region in the early European exploration of North America, with an extraordinary number of first-time interactions between Spaniards and Floridas indigenous cultures. *Discovering Florida* compiles all the major writings of Spanish explorers in the area between 1513 and 1566. Including transcriptions of the original Spanish documents as well as English translations, this volume presents in their own words the experiences and reactions of Spaniards who came to Florida with Juan Ponce de Len, Pnfilo de Narvez, Hernando de Soto, and Pedro Menndez de Avils. These accounts, which have never before appeared together in print, provide an astonishing glimpse into a world of indigenous cultures that did not survive colonization. With introductions to the primary sources, extensive notes, and a historical overview of Spanish exploration in the region, this book offers an unprecedented firsthand view of La Florida in the earliest stages of European conquest.

About the Author
John E. Worth is associate professor of anthropology at the University of West Florida. He is the author of *The Timucuan Chiefdoms of Spanish Florida*, volumes I and II, and *The Struggle for the Georgia Coast*.