

George Bryan Souza and Jeffrey S. Turley's edition of the codex. On the contrary, he carefully indicates that some of those reports collected information to be used in an eventual invasion launched from Manila. De Sosa Pinto also engages in an academic discussion with Charles R. Boxer's, and George Bryan Souza and Jeffrey S. Turley's edition of the Boxer Codex regarding the name of Patane, Panaricán.

One of the topics that repeats in the book is the authorship of this collection of reports and images. Juan Cobo's name emerges convincingly in several chapters as the editor of the volume (19, 22, 25, 91–109). Ollé makes a sophisticated contextualization of the role of Juan Cobo in the “complex and plural authorship” of the document (24–25). By emphasizing Cobo's relationship with the manuscript, the roles of other candidates, such as Martín de Rada, are diminished and even marginalized. This way, an implicit answer emerges to the George Bryan Souza and Jeffrey S. Turley edition published in 2016, which makes it clear that their choice for the author (or compiler) is Antonio de Morga Sánchez Garay (23–26). Ollé's opinion is also challenged by Isaac Donoso, also editor of another bilingual version of the Boxer Codex published in 2016, who seems to propose the second of the Dasmaringas governors as the author of the book (129–30).

The Boxer Codex: Colonial Ethnography and Cultural Hybridism in the Philippines demonstrates that there is a vigorous academic debate surrounding the Boxer Codex and the strongest aspect of it is the historical contextualization of this ethnographical compilation. Both students and professionals will benefit from reading this volume, where the authors show the rapidly changing complexity of the South Asian, Chinese, and Philippine realities during late sixteenth-century colonial projects.

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Women at the Early Modern Swedish Court: Power, Risk, and Opportunity.

Fabian Persson.

Gendering the Late Medieval and Early Modern World. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2021. 340 pp. €109.

In this comprehensive study, Fabian Persson examines the lives of royal, aristocratic, and non-aristocratic women at the royal court of two ruling dynasties in early modern Sweden: the House of Vasa (1523–1654) and the House of Palatinate-Zweibrücken (1654–1720). Using a wide range of archival and architectural evidence, Persson investigates three facets of women's experiences at the early modern court: the opportunities available to women who lived and served at court, the complexities of women's agency in court society, and the precariousness of female power. Unlike earlier studies on

gender and power, Persson takes a broader approach by considering the “institutional context” in which women performed specific roles and formed relationships at court (36). This methodology enables him to challenge two common assumptions about gender and power in the early modern period. First, he questions the notion that women at court worked primarily for their families’ benefit and argues that “a number of women had their own agendas rather than their families” (37). Second, he disputes a rigid “dichotomy between formal and informal [power]” since women and men exercised indirect and informal power through family and personal relationships (39). As a whole, Persson’s book offers a new perspective in its methodology, geographical scope, and attention to women’s diverse experiences at the early modern court.

The book is organized into three parts. In part 1 Persson investigates how royal subjects could participate in court life without serving in the royal household itself. Poor petitioners and beggars, for instance, took part in rituals of royal compassion, which became more institutionalized and associated with queenship by the early seventeenth century. Aristocratic families also adeptly gained access to the Swedish royal family through their use of what sociologist Pierre Bourdieu has called cultural capital. The Königsmarck family (particularly Aurora von Königsmarck) was a prime example of aristocrats who achieved unparalleled influence at court in the 1660s and 1670s due to their social savvy and royal connections. In part 2 Persson explores the lives of women who served at court and the benefits of royal service, which included greater personal freedom, an income and perquisites, and opportunities to meet potential spouses on the marriage market. More importantly, he describes how women employed informal power and negotiated the court hierarchy to advance themselves. The careers of three leading Chamberers—Emerentia von Düben, Juliana Schierberg, and Anna Catharina Bärfelt—demonstrate how women could wield considerable power at court and represent the rise of the non-aristocratic elite in Swedish society. Royal mistresses, too, could be very influential at court, though their power was significantly more precarious.

In part 3 Persson examines the royal family itself, especially the queen consort’s role at court. Foreign-born queens faced challenges as they assimilated to Swedish culture and court life, often with mixed success. When their husbands died, they continued to perform as devoted royal widows and tried to control the preservation of their husbands’ memories. Their efforts received mixed responses from the Swedish elite, however, as shown in the cases of Maria Eleonora, wife of Gustaf II Adolf (r. 1611–32), and Hedvig Eleanora, wife of Charles X Gustaf (r. 1654–60). Whereas Maria Eleanora engaged in a long, acrimonious struggle with the royal council over her husband’s burial and daughter’s regency, Hedvig Eleanora successfully memorialized Charles X Gustaf and safeguarded the image of her son, Charles XI. In addition, Persson analyzes how ideas about gender influenced the construction of royal apartments. In the sixteenth century, royal apartments followed the “mirrored system” in which the monarchs’ bedrooms were separate but connected (254–55). By the 1680s, however, a new model emerged that

instituted separate royal apartments on different floors, an architectural change that reflected a growing preference for traditional gender roles in Swedish society.

Women at the Early Modern Swedish Court makes an important contribution to studies on gender and power in early modern Europe. It provides an innovative and thoroughly researched investigation into women's various roles, experiences, and strategies for exercising power and influence at the early modern court. Most of all, it broadens the geographical scope of anglophone scholarship by offering a fascinating look into women and court life in early modern Sweden and other kingdoms in Northern and Eastern Europe.

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Rarities of These Lands: Art, Trade, and Diplomacy in the Dutch Republic.

Claudia Swan.

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In 1596, a Javanese leader gave a cassowary to a Dutch ship captain, who upon his return to the Dutch Republic presented the bird to the States General. The bird was thrice gifted across oceans and between states, ending up in the collection of Rudolf II in Prague. In Amsterdam, the curious could pay a fee to see the creature, and artists and natural historians observed and described this living wonder (21–23). Early modern rarities like this cassowary existed at the intersection of various lines of inquiry, just as this book crosses today's fields of the histories of art, science, politics, and gift exchange. Swan draws on a wide array of sources: accounts in manuscripts and early printed books, visual and material culture, and a range of scholarship expanded upon in detailed endnotes.

Swan's prose brings to life encounters in the Dutch Republic and overseas, as she introduces foreign visitors, travelers, and diplomats who were captured in text and images as they exchanged the types of goods discussed and depicted in this richly illustrated volume. Diplomatic gifts were carefully recorded in lists with varying level of detail. Sometimes an item can still be identified, like a unique suit of armor (fig. 109), while more often only a representative image stands in, like a woodcut of a Seychelles nut vessel (fig. 85), as many documented gifts were consumed, regifted, or reworked, and are therefore lost to us today. Swan asserts, following Arjun Appadurai and others, that these gifts have social lives beyond the moments documented in these inventories, and that so many of the illustrated items are currently in European collections suggests many goods gifted abroad eventually returned, and similar objects also circulated in European channels.

The title, *Rarities of These Lands*, encompasses the tension of these goods. They are exotic, foreign wonders, but at the same time domestic, as Dutch diplomats sought to