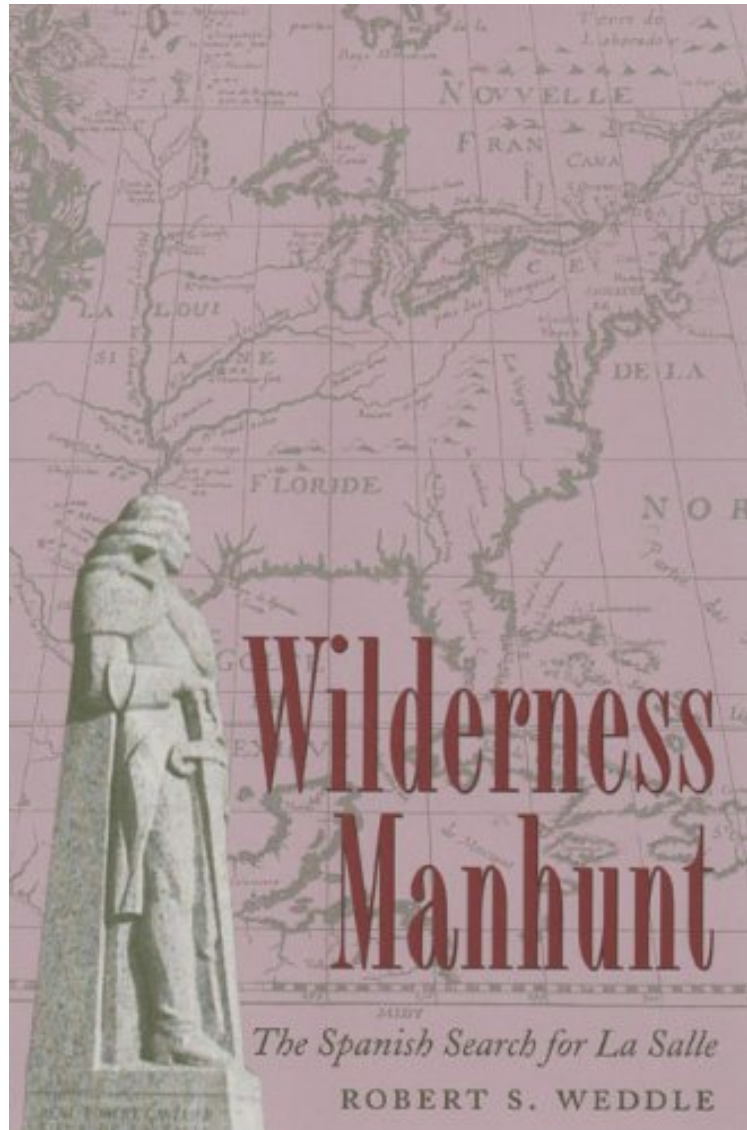


[Download] Wilderness Manhunt: The Spanish Search for La Salle

Wilderness Manhunt: The Spanish Search for La Salle

Robert S. Weddle

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Robert S. Weddle : Wilderness Manhunt: The Spanish Search for La Salle before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wilderness Manhunt: The Spanish Search for La Salle:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By David R. Chapman Good condition. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Searching for La Salle By Readalots Robert Weddle's "Wilderness Manhunt: The Spanish Search for La Salle" (1999 291-page paperback) presents a riveting recount of Spain's manic searches (from 1685 to 1690) for the first French settlement in New Spain. This informative text is well researched with nine pages of bibliography, 16 pages of black and white photographs (of period maps, drawings, writings, and contemporary aerial

shots of the Texas coastline), and dozens of footnotes in each brief chapter. Weddle documents almost a dozen sea and land expeditions searching for La Salle's Ft. Saint Louis near Lavaca Bay in south Texas. Although La Salle group's 1685 landing was ultimately destroyed by the native Karankawas in 1689, the Spaniards failed to discover the French interloping until after the fort's destruction (Spaniards torched its six buildings in 1690). The book presents Spanish strategy and efforts to locate La Salle from primary sources (the journals of most who were involved in the searches). The story is exciting, informative, and helpful. Weddle answers many questions with this very good history. Weddle is crisp and clear in his recounting of 17th century life. The reader feels the slow movement of the sailing ships, mule trains, wilderness marching, and hand-carried correspondences. One experiences explorer fears of unknown natives, unseen before locales, and suddenly harsh weather. Spanish anxiety for finding the elusive French becomes understandable. The stories of La Salle's Texas explorations looking for the Mississippi, the building of Ft. Saint Louis, and the murder of the great French leader are comprehensively analyzed. All the Spanish authorities (Viceroy Monclova, Admiral Palacios, General De Leon, Captain Rivas, Father Massanet, and many more) are introduced with resumes presented. This excellent history shows how Spanish authorities began to take their new world holdings (from Florida to Mexico) seriously. It sets the stage for early 18th century Franco-Spanish clashes across the modern southern USA. Weddle's book is convincing and brilliant. This book is recommended to everyone interested in Texas history, what happened to La Salle, and late 17th century New Spain. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book of historic research!! Not a bodice ripper. By Ken L Lawrence I have read a multitude of books over the years that are derived from research and historic documents. This is one of the better ones that I have encountered. The book solely focuses on the efforts and political forces surrounding the Spanish reaction of French settlers along the Gulf Coast. At the time (late 1600s) the Gulf was part of Spanish territory. The Spanish at the time were motivated more out of a fear of losing their territory, but the outcome of this reaction resulted in some of the first exploration of the Gulf Coast. Thus, this book is an excellent resource that would be a much-needed addition to anyone's library if they have a historic interest of European exploration of the Gulf of Mexico. So, if you are a reader looking for a 'bodice ripper' or similar drivel then move along as you will probably have a hard time staying awake. However, if you are looking for an extensively referenced resource then get this book.

A vibrant account of the Spanish search for the French colony on the Texas coast (1685-89), Robert S. Weddle's *Wilderness Manhunt* is an indispensable source on Spain's rediscovery of the Gulf of Mexico's northern coast. Weddle's narrative documents the Spaniards' six land expeditions and five sea voyages that sought the French settlement from points as widely scattered as San Augustine, Florida, and El Parral, Chihuahua. It also examines the schemes of Spanish expatriot Pealosa, whose treason augmented Spanish determination to find La Salle's settlement. A new introduction includes recent insights gleaned from the excavation of La Salle's sunken ship *La Belle*. Weddle has a firm grasp of the setting for the search for La Salle in the power struggle that left France and Spain grappling for control of the Gulf Coast. He shows how early Spanish expeditions had produced little in the way of easy fortune and, therefore, little interest. Rumors of French activity along the Mississippi, however, coupled with Pealosa's allegiance to France and to La Salle, inspired the leaders of New Spain to bypass royal authority and take matters into their own hands. *Wilderness Manhunt* won the Presidio La Bahia Award, presented by the Kathryn O'Connor Foundation, when it was first published in 1973. Weddle's narrative contributed to the rebirth of interest in the La Salle expedition and laid the foundation for his own future investigation. Described here is the finding, by Spanish seamen in 1686, of La Salle's ship *La Belle*, the wreckage of which was found in 1995 by the Texas Historical Commission and has since been excavated and preserved. Told also are the later lives of the few colonists who survived the tragic La Salle expedition. This classic is enhanced by sixteen illustrations, including reproductions of maps and documents from the period. *Wilderness Manhunt* is filled with vivid battle scenes, pirate tales, and intricate details of the Spaniards and their quest. It is as timeless as the story of La Salle himself and is a worthy addition to any library.

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