

*Recollections for the King: Diego Muñoz Camargo's 'Descripción de la ciudad y provincia de Tlaxcala' and Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala's 'Nueva corónica y buen gobierno.'*

Over half a century after the conquest of Tenochtitlán in 1521, Diego Muñoz Camargo completed the *Descripción de la ciudad y provincia de Tlaxcala* (c. 1585), a monumental text complete with over one hundred and fifty pen and ink drawings recollecting the social, political, military and religious history of the New Spanish province both before and after the arrival of the Spanish. In 1615, over half a century after the conquest of Peru, Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala wrote a letter to Phillip III announcing the completion of his *Nueva corónica y buen gobierno*, an equally monumental illustrated text recollecting the Andean experience of the Spanish conquest and subsequent domination of Peru.

Although Muñoz Camargo and Guaman Poma addressed similar topics and wrote for the same audience, the Spanish King (Phillip II for Muñoz Camargo and Phillip III for Guaman Poma), because the *Descripción* and the *Nueva corónica* were crafted in disparate parts of the Iberian World they have never been studied in relation to one another. However, recent scholarship, including the edited volumes *Pintura de los reinos, identidas compartidas* (2008) and Sanjay Subrahmanyam's work on "connected histories" (2009), provides models for examining local interactions with global phenomena by focusing on how objects, people, ideas and mental constructs flowed across modern geopolitical boundaries during the period of Iberian expansion.

This paper builds on these models in order to unravel the "connected histories" of the conquest and colonization of New Spain and Peru as recollecting through both the text and drawings of Muñoz Camargo's *Descripción* and Guaman Poma's *Nueva corónica*. Both Muñoz Camargo and Guaman Poma explain that they employed images in their texts in order to heighten the interest of their intended audience, the Spanish King. My work ultimately proposes that Muñoz Camargo's and Guaman Poma's global aspirations and shared inheritance of conquest and colonization by the Spanish not only motivated them to write to the king, but also contributed to both the content and structure of their work. Muñoz Camargo's and Guaman Poma's ability to successfully communicate their recollections to the Spanish Crown, who they hoped would be persuaded to take political action on their behalf, was intimately bound to the effective comingling of text and image.

Although local circumstances undeniably contributed to the creation of Muñoz Camargo's *Descripción de la ciudad y provincia de Tlaxcala* and Guaman Poma's *Nueva corónica y buen gobierno*, this paper focuses on the development of an expanded context for these authors, who recollecting the past through text and image in an effort to shape the present.