



Archaeological Institute of America Columbus Society



Nobles and Slaves in a Mexican Sacred Landscape

Dr. Byron Hamann

Department of the History of Art,
The Ohio State University

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242 W 18th Ave OSU Campus

After examining Prehispanic books that tell sacred histories about the Oaxacan landscape, Dr. Hamann located these sacred places on the ground. These identifications helped to interpret a 1540s Inquisition trial that targeted these sacred locations and the practices held at them: a method combining indigenous and European sources and linking documents that talk about landscapes to the actual landscapes themselves. Read together, these sources suggest that indigenous nobles and indigenous slaves (that is, potential sacrificial victims) had very different perspectives on the "same" sacred landscapes.