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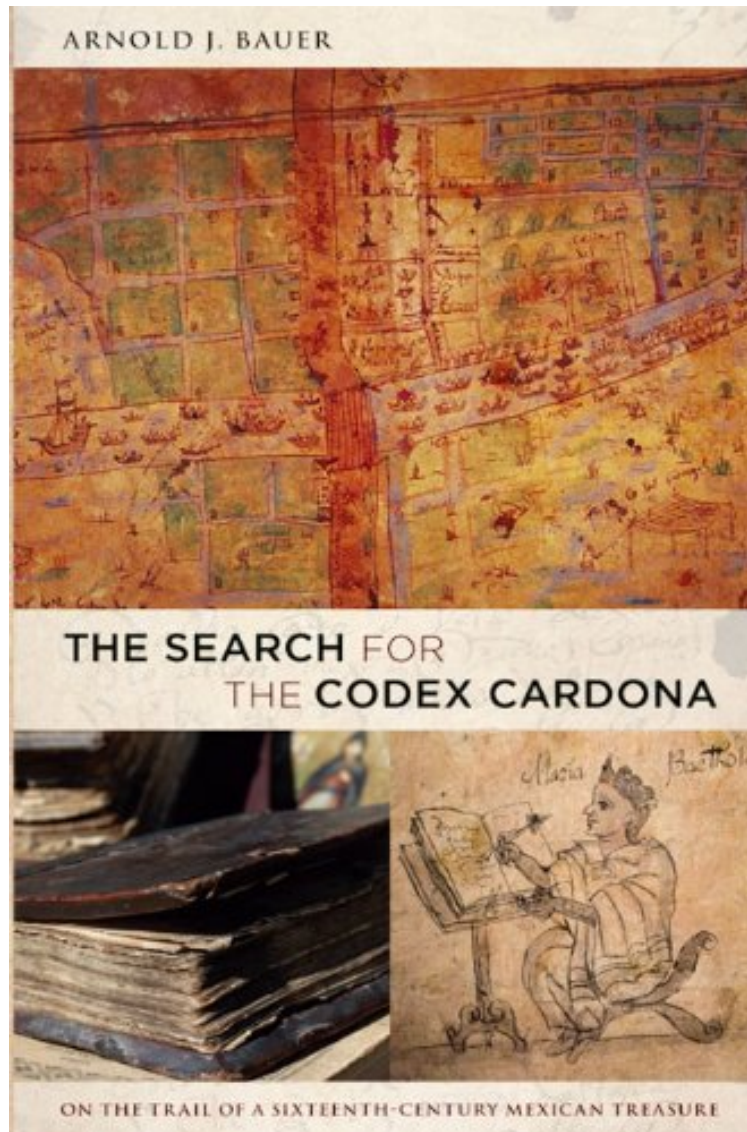


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(Free pdf) The Search for the Codex Cardona

The Search for the Codex Cardona

Arnold Bauer : The Search for the Codex Cardona before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Search for the Codex Cardona:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting Account of What is Possibly an Amazing Discovery By FozwortA fascinating account of what may have been the only undocumented ancient Aztec Codex in existence. The author traces the events and persons involved in the rare occurrences when this codex, or portions of it, surface publically to be briefly examined by experts. This narrative is convincing, and the book includes photographs of the

supposed codex that the author also examined. Whether this document still exists in the hands of some collector, or has been broken up, or was a counterfeit item to begin with, remains uncertain. For readers who enjoy a good mystery and are interested in the possibility of the existence of an undocumented Codex manuscript, this book presents a unique and enjoyable read. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. enthralling
By Priscilla High
This true story reads like the very best mystery fiction. Bauer is a stunning writer, with the subtlest characterizations of the people who show up in his quest and a sense of timing that is delicious. The book has an exquisite ending. It is an international romp, suspenseful and colorful, and in another sense, a travelogue through Mexico, its upper crust, its lower depths. A page turner.
Priscilla High
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed this book
By La Cardona
I enjoyed this book. It was factual without being taxing to read. It was a fast read, that felt like I had had a long chat with a very interesting historian regarding an unsolved puzzle! I would read more by this author and more on this topic.

In *The Search for the Codex Cardona*, Arnold J. Bauer tells the story of his experiences on the trail of a cultural treasure, a Mexican painted book that first came into public view at Sothebys auction house in London in 1982, nearly four hundred years after it was presumably made by Mexican artists and scribes. On folios of amate paper, the Codex includes two oversized maps and 300 painted illustrations accompanied by text in sixteenth-century paleography. The Codex relates the trajectory of the Nahua people to the founding of the capital of Tenochtitlan and then focuses on the consequences of the Spanish conquest up to the 1550s. If authentic, the Codex Cardona is an invaluable record of early Mexico. Yet there is no clear evidence of its origin, what happened to it after 1560, or even where it is today, after its last known appearance at Christies auction house in New York in 1998. Bauer first saw the Codex Cardona in 1985 in the Crocker Nuclear Laboratory at the University of California, Davis, where scholars from Stanford and the University of California were attempting to establish its authenticity. Allowed to gently lift a few pages of this ancient treasure, Bauer was hooked. By 1986, the Codex had again disappeared from public view. Bauers curiosity about the Codex and its whereabouts led him down many forking paths from California to Seville and Mexico City, to the Firestone Library in Princeton, to the Getty Museum in Los Angeles and Christies in New York and it brought him in contact with an international cast of curators, agents, charlatans, and erudite book dealers. *The Search for the Codex Cardona* is a mystery that touches on issues of cultural patrimony, the workings of the rare books and manuscripts trade, the uncertainty of archives and evidence, and the ephemerality of the past and its remains.

The Search for the Codex Cardona is an amusing, informative, and novelistic scholarly book. It develops its topic rapidly with concise and short sentences, which makes it easy to read. This book could serve undergraduate students and lay readers as an introduction to Mexican painted books and graduate students and scholars as an introduction to the virtually unknown and now lost Codex Cardona, a possibly invaluable source of information about the Aztecs. In this sense, *The Search for the Codex Cardona* makes a unique contribution in that it focuses not on an available scholarly resource but on one that has never been available and that may no longer exist. - Jongsoo Lee, *The Latin Americanist*