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## Editor's Introduction

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## Editor's Introduction

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As we remember in the following pages two exceptional historians of colonial New Mexico and New Spain—Eleanor B. Adams and France V. Scholes, both deceased—I and members of the *NMHR* staff, present and recently past, take pleasure in dedicating this July 2000 issue to a third, who has been and remains our colleague and friend—Robert Himmerich y Valencia, editor of the *Review* from 1992 to 1998.

Adams and Scholes would have been greatly interested in Himmerich y Valencia's award-winning book, *The Encomenderos of New Spain, 1521–1555* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1991), since all three of them had met up with these contentious relatives, friends, and enemies of Hernán Cortés. Yet, unlike either Adams or Scholes, Bob Himmerich y Valencia had come to history in mid-life, unpredictably, after a daring, twenty-year career as an aviator in the United States Marine Corps.

Born in Ipswich, South Dakota, on 13 December 1932, and raised all over the American West, Bob Himmerich joined the Marine Corps Reserve as a seventeen-year-old private in 1950. He fought in Korea, graduated from the Special Officer Candidate Course as a second lieutenant, and married Eva Valencia in California in 1953. Completing pilot training, he returned to Korea, flew combat patrols, and stayed on after the armistice.

With a regular OCS commission, Himmerich y Valencia served stateside and abroad as a communications officer, transport and fighter pilot, unofficial aircraft maintenance specialist, and Tactical Air Control instructor. He fought again in Vietnam and was wounded. Throughout his service, Himmerich y Valencia took courses, in person or by correspondence, so many that in 1968 the Marine Corps sent him



“Saddle Up!!” Lt. Robert Himmerich during the Korean War. Photo courtesy of Eva Himmerich de Valencia.

to California State University-Fullerton to complete a bachelor's degree, which to his surprise ended up in history with an emphasis on Latin America. Assigned once more to Vietnam, he flew combat missions, but this time was badly wounded on the ground. Finally in 1973, Major Robert Himmerich y Valencia retired from the Marines.

An M.A. in history from Cal State Fullerton followed (1975); then, with numerous adventures along the way, the Ph.D. from UCLA in 1984. The following year, Bob Himmerich y Valencia came to UNM. Teaming with Professors Paul A. Hutton and Linda B. Hall, he taught a Vietnam-era course that proved as popular and sobering as anything ever offered by the

Department of History. At the same time, the approachable Professor Himmerich y Valencia became a favorite with graduate students in history and Latin American studies, mentoring, counseling, preparing them for their comprehensive exams in colonial and modern Latin America, and serving on their M.A. and Ph.D. committees. Many admit today that without Bob Himmerich y Valencia's encouragement, they would never have completed their programs.

In 1992, at the department's invitation, Robert Himmerich y Valencia became the ninth editor of the *New Mexico Historical Review*. Not only did he erase the *Review's* large financial debt and craft its cost-effective, in-house production, but he also enabled graduate student assistants to learn every step along the way, transforming the *NMHR* into one of the few professional teaching journals in the country. In recognition and as a token of our continuing esteem, we dedicate this mostly colonial issue to the cordial, soft-spoken, and versatile Bob Himmerich y Valencia.

In addition to biographical essays on Eleanor B. Adams by me and on France V. Scholes by Richard E. Greenleaf, there are articles touching all three colonial centuries. Chronicling Governor Juan Manso's varied enterprises during the 1650s and 1660s, Rick Hendricks and Gerald J. Mandell suggest not only the value of the Archivo de Hidalgo del Parral for the study of New Mexico, but also the financial ties that bound this remote colony to Spain's world empire. Ross Frank, noting the proliferation and relative prosperity of New Mexico's colonists in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, explains how Franciscan missionaries encouraged and handed over to them the devotional art of saint-making. Next, John O. Baxter warns that no dictionary definition of the *surco* as a measure of running water serves as well as a muddy pair of boots and shovel. And finally, the late Eleanor B. Adams relates in a brief, previously unpublished paper how one badly damaged artifact survived the uprising of 1696 while two of its owners did not.

At the end of my interim, year-long tenure as editor, I want to thank heartily every member of the *Review's* good-humored and hard-working staff and to express my confidence in the future.

Durwood Ball's editorship will only enhance the journal's honored seventy-five-year history.

John L. Kessell  
for the *NMHR* staff