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Tricentennial Symposium explores Spain’s encounter with the New World

Bexar County is hosting a symposium of Spanish Colonial and Texas historians and researchers on May 6 and 7 in connection with the “Nuestra Historia - Our History” exhibit opening in May and the city and county’s upcoming Tricentennial Celebration. The symposium is free to attend and teachers will receive six credit hours of in-service training in social studies.

The symposium will open with a reception and keynote address from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 6, and continue with a full agenda of presentations from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 7. Both parts of the symposium will be in the historic Double-Height Courtroom on the second floor of the Bexar County Courthouse, 100 Dolorosa St.

Joseph P. Sánchez, director of the Spanish Colonial Research Center at the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque, will present “Performing the King’s Business: Forts, Towns, and Missions along El Camino Real de los Tejas and other Caminos Reales,” as the keynote address from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday.

The symposium on Saturday will be chaired by Paul T. Rigenbach, vice chairman of the Bexar County Historical Commission. Presenters on Saturday include Félix D. Almaráz, Jr. of the University of Texas at San Antonio; Steve Tomka of Raba-Kistner Consultants; Gilbert Cruz of the San Antonio Historical Association; Licenciado Enrique Cervera of the Archives of San Juan Bautista; and Amy Porter of Texas A&M University at San Antonio will close the symposium with commentary.

A full list of the presenters and topics as well as a pre-registration link can be found at www.bexar.org/2101/Tricentennial-Symposium.