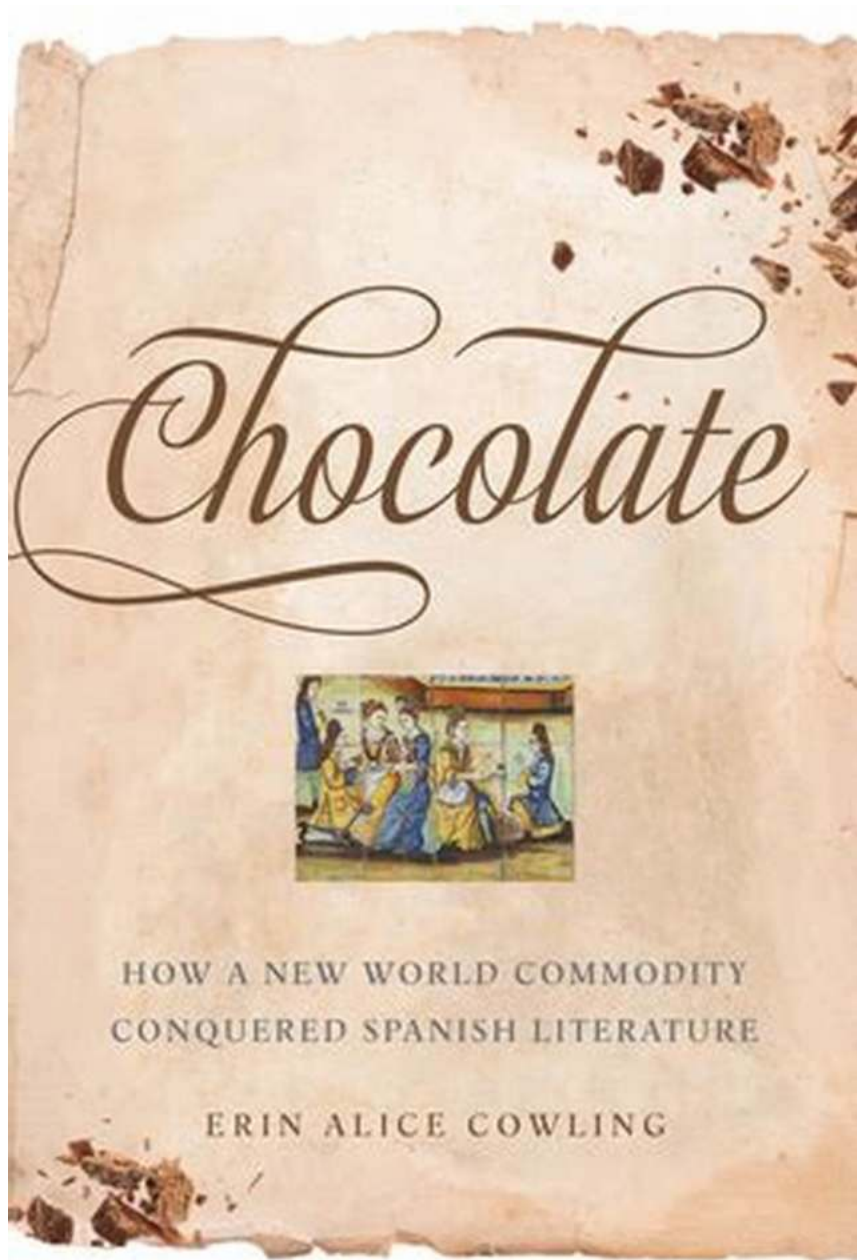


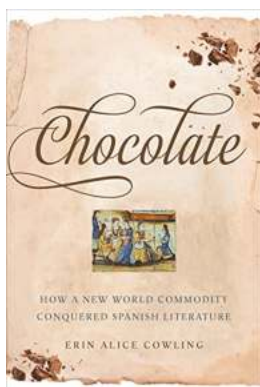
How New World Commodity Conquered Spanish Literature



For centuries, trade has shaped the course of human history. The exchange of goods and commodities has not only driven economic growth but has also influenced various aspects of culture and society. One such influential commodity

of the past was the discovery of the New World and its impact on Spanish literature.

When Christopher Columbus stumbled upon the Americas in 1492, he inadvertently discovered a land rich with resources previously unknown to Europeans. This newfound abundance of commodities, predominantly from Central and South America, would dramatically reshape trade routes and economies across the globe. However, the influence of these New World commodities extended much further than just economic aspects.



Chocolate: How a New World Commodity Conquered Spanish Literature (Toronto Iberic)

by Daniel Humphreys (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2321 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 208 pages



Spanish literature, like other forms of art and expression, was greatly influenced by this influx of New World wealth. Writers and poets in Spain began incorporating descriptions and ideas related to these newfound commodities and their associations into their literary works. The allure of the exotic and novel captivated the Spanish imagination, providing an endless stream of inspiration.

One of the most significant New World commodities to conquer the realm of Spanish literature was tobacco. With its origins in the Americas, tobacco quickly

spread throughout Europe, becoming a fashionable commodity that captured the attention of writers and society at large. As tobacco became a symbol of wealth and luxury, Spanish writers sought to incorporate its allure into their works.

El Cigarro, a prominent Spanish literary masterpiece, perfectly showcases the integration of tobacco into the fabric of Spanish culture. Written during the 19th century, *El Cigarro* tells the tale of a young Spaniard who ventures to the New World in search of fortunes in the tobacco trade. The novel paints a vivid picture of the tobacco plantations, the tobacco manufacturing process, and the societal implications of this newfound commodity.

Another New World commodity that captivated the Spanish literary scene was chocolate. Indigenous to the Americas, chocolate was brought back to Spain by explorers and became a highly valued and sought-after commodity. It soon became associated with indulgence and pleasure, and Spanish writers wasted no time in incorporating it into their works.

The renowned Spanish playwright, Lope de Vega, featured chocolate extensively in his play "*La Dama Boba*." The story revolves around two sisters, one highly intelligent and the other rather foolish. The intelligent sister ultimately tricks her naïve sibling by offering her a hot chocolate drink, using it as an aphrodisiac to lure her into a love affair. This literary inclusion of chocolate not only demonstrates its desirability but also its power to manipulate emotions and desires.

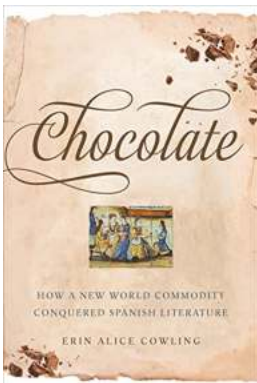
The impact of New World commodities on Spanish literature was not limited to just tobacco and chocolate. Through the spread of trade and exploration, other commodities such as corn, potatoes, and tomatoes found their way into Spanish culture and literature. These ingredients became integral to Spanish cuisine and

were frequently mentioned and utilized in literary descriptions of meals and banquets.

The discovery of the New World and the subsequent exchange of commodities opened a whole new chapter in trade, culture, and literature. As Spain established colonies and built an empire, the of these exotic commodities forever changed the way Spanish writers expressed themselves.

The incorporation of New World commodities into Spanish literature brought a sense of wonder and excitement to readers. The use of these commodities in literary works helped shape the cultural identity of Spain and influenced subsequent generations of writers and artists alike.

Despite the passage of time, the legacy of these New World commodities in Spanish literature remains an enduring testament to the impact of trade on societies and the power of imagination.



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In terms of its popularity, as well as its production, chocolate was among the first foods to travel from the New World to Spain. *Chocolate: How a New World Commodity Conquered Spanish Literature* considers chocolate as an object of collective memory used to bridge the transatlantic gap through Spanish literary works of the early modern period, tracing the mention of chocolate from indigenous legends and early chronicles of the conquistadors to the theatre and literature of Spain.

The book considers a variety of perspectives and material cultures, such as the pre-Colombian conception of chocolate, the commercial enterprise surrounding chocolate, and the darker side of chocolate's connections to witchcraft and sex. Encapsulating both historical and literary interests, *Chocolate* will appeal to anyone interested in the global history of chocolate.



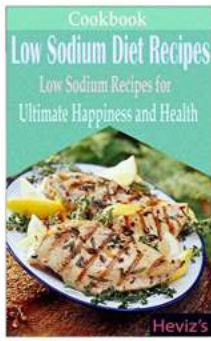
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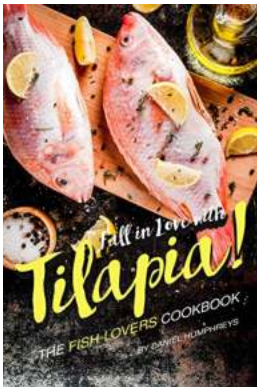
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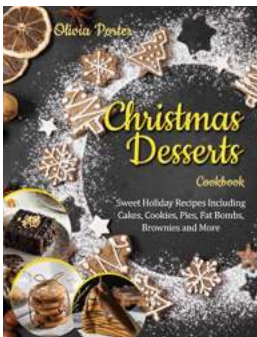
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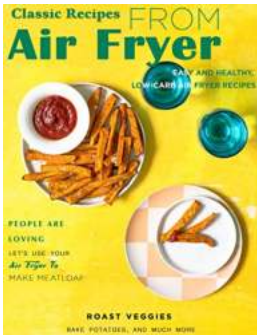
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