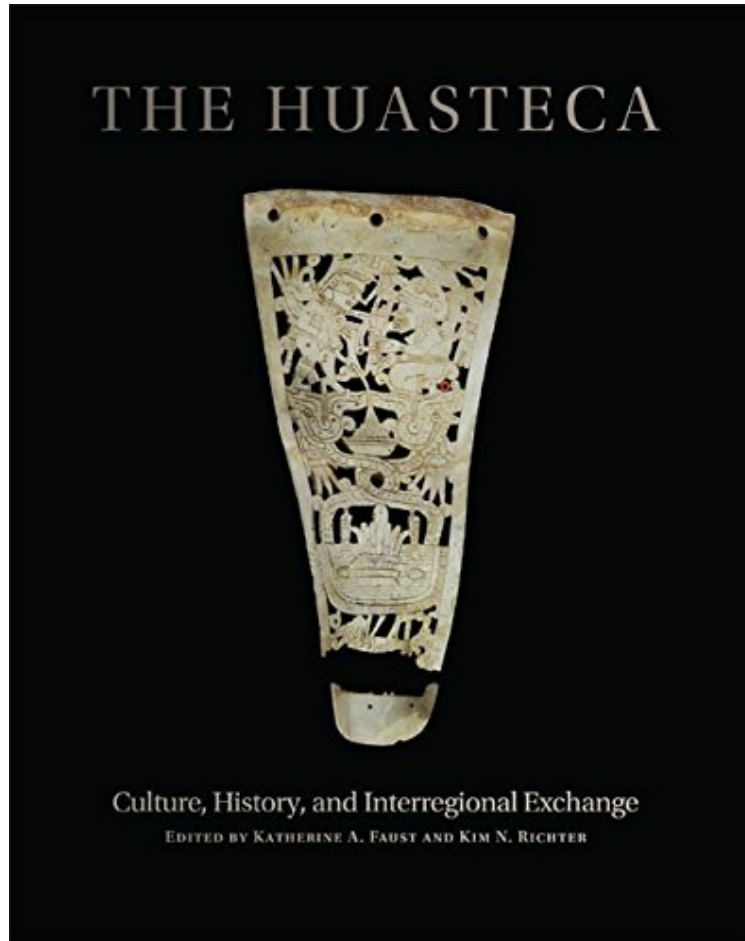


The Huasteca: Culture, History, and Interregional Exchange

From University of Oklahoma Press

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From University of Oklahoma Press : The Huasteca: Culture, History, and Interregional Exchange before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Huasteca: Culture, History, and Interregional Exchange:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A significant and welcome discussion of a (largely unknown - ...By John A. LebenA significant and welcome discussion of a (largely unknown - at least in our country) people who made, and continue to make, important contributions to cultural development in Mexico.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a great follow up to the previous tomesBy P. C. FaustA captivating read, a great follow up to the previous tomes.

The Huasteca, a region on the northern Gulf Coast of Mexico, was for centuries a pre-Columbian crossroads for peoples, cultures, arts, and trade. Its multiethnic inhabitants influenced, and were influenced by, surrounding regions, ferrying unique artistic styles, languages, and other cultural elements to neighboring areas and beyond. In *The Huasteca: Culture, History, and Interregional Exchange*, a range of authorities on art, history, archaeology, and

cultural anthropology bring long-overdue attention to the region's rich contributions to the pre-Columbian world. They also assess how the Huasteca fared from colonial times to the present. The authors call critical, even urgent attention to a region highly significant to Mesoamerican history but long neglected by scholars. Editors Katherine A. Faust and Kim N. Richter put the plight and the importance of the Huasteca into historical and cultural context. They address challenges to study of the region, ranging from confusion about the term "Huasteca" (a legacy of the Aztec conquest in the late fifteenth century) to present-day misconceptions about the region's role in pre-Columbian history. Many of the contributions included here consider the Huasteca's interactions with other regions, particularly the American Southeast and the southern Gulf Coast of Mexico. Pre-Columbian Huastec inhabitants, for example, wore trapezoid-shaped shell ornaments unique in Mesoamerica but similar to those found along the Mississippi River. With extensive examples drawn from archaeological evidence, and supported by nearly 200 images, the contributors explore the Huasteca as a junction where art, material culture, customs, ritual practices, and languages were exchanged. While most of the essays focus on pre-Columbian periods, a few address the early colonial period and contemporary agricultural and religious practices. Together, these essays illuminate the Huasteca's significant legacy and the cross-cultural connections that still resonate in the region today.

"The Huasteca amply displays the richness and conflicting interpretations of recent scholarship on the Huasteca—a combination that should electrify new research efforts. In carefully crafted and well-illustrated chapters, the authors highlight ways in which different threads of evidence can best be addressed or reconciled. This volume is a must-have for Mesoamerican and Gulf lowland scholars."—Barbara L. Stark coeditor of *Olmec to Aztec: Settlement Patterns in the Ancient Gulf Lowlands*