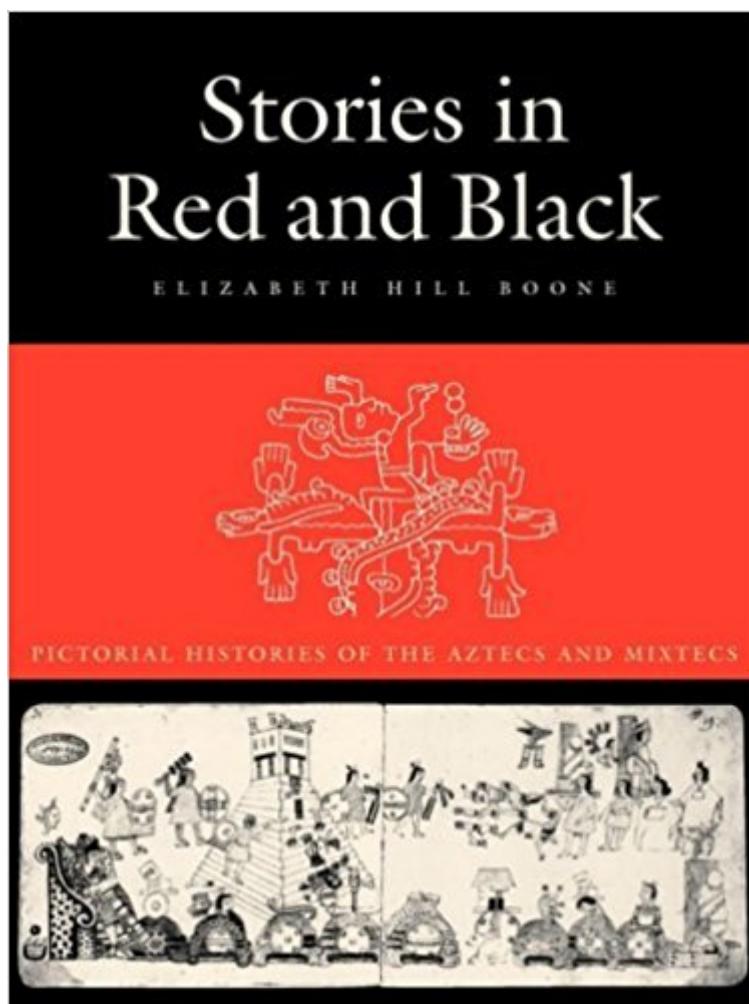


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# Stories In Red And Black: Pictorial Histories Of The Aztecs And Mixtecs



## Synopsis

Winner, Arvey Award, Association for Latin American Art, 2001 Honorable Mention, Honorable Mention, George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award, Art Libraries Society of North America, 2001

The Aztecs and Mixtecs of ancient Mexico recorded their histories pictorially in images painted on hide, paper, and cloth. The tradition of painting history continued even after the Spanish Conquest, as the Spaniards accepted the pictorial histories as valid records of the past. Five Pre-Columbian and some 150 early colonial painted histories survive today. This copiously illustrated book offers the first comprehensive analysis of the Mexican painted history as an intellectual, documentary, and pictorial genre. Elizabeth Hill Boone explores how the Mexican historians conceptualized and painted their past and introduces the major pictorial records: the Aztec annals and cartographic histories and the Mixtec screenfolds and lienzos. Boone focuses her analysis on the kinds of stories told in the histories and on how the manuscripts work pictorially to encode, organize, and preserve these narratives. This twofold investigation broadens our understanding of how preconquest Mexicans used pictographic history for political and social ends. It also demonstrates how graphic writing systems created a broadly understood visual "language" that communicated effectively across ethnic and linguistic boundaries.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Elizabeth Boone has written a book that is remarkable in many ways, a work that historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, and art historians will realize they have been in need of once they have delved into it. In an unparalleled effort, she takes the reader through dozens of central

Mexican and Oaxacan manuscripts, broadly speaking, â ´the pictorial histories of the Aztecs and Mixtecs,â ™ according to her subtitle; most of them were made just before the Spanish invasion of Mexico in 1519, or in the first few generations after. At the end, the reader not only knows what is in any given manuscript, according to Booneâ ™s reading, but also how to find oneâ ™s own way through a manuscript." (Hispanic American Historical Review)"Professor Boone has spent the better part of the last two decades at the forefront of our discipline. I am delighted to report that this book lives up to her high reputation and even surpasses it. . . . [It] is a tour de force." (Stephen D. Houston, author of *Hieroglyphs and History at Dos Pilas: Dynastic Politics of the Classic Maya*)

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This is a great scholarly resource, but certainly not for the casual reader. It moves very slowly and is at times long-winded about the minutia of manuscripts. That said, I think Boone's close study is the go-to source for an introduction to central Mexican manuscript painting. Read for the summary content at the beginning and ends of chapters, but try not to get bogged down in the details, which are lavished generously.

If you've always been curious but baffled by Aztec or Mixtec illustrations, this is the text for you! Fantastic descriptions help a visual learner. In some places it's a little difficult to find the illustration that is being described. But overall, a fascinating and useful text.

Quick delivery. Exactly as promised.

The book is fine, but it had a strong smell of cigarette smoke, I suspect from the bookstore.

This book received Arvey Prize, Association for Latin American Art, and also Honorable Mention, George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award, Art Libraries Society of North America. Book design: Heidi Haeuser.

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