

Books about New Mexico

<http://www.vivanewmexico.com/books.html>

Just to get us started, I have used blurbs from dust jackets and covers to describe many of the books below. As I get time I will write in my own descriptions (or YOURS if you send me book reviews.)

Don E. Alberts. *Balloons and Bombers: Aviation in Albuquerque (1882-1945)* Albuquerque Museum. Albuquerque, NM. 1988.

John O. Baxter. *Las Carneradas: Sheep Trade in New Mexico, 1700-1860*. Fourth Printing. University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque, NM. 1988. Academic study of the early Spanish sheep economy.

Warren A. Beck. *New Mexico, A History of Four Centuries*. (Fourth printing). University of Oklahoma Press. Norman, OK. 1971. Begins with geology, and works from the dimmest past through the earliest natives, the Spanish invasions, the Indian wars, ranching and farming, and the anglo cultures, industry and government labs. Only covers through 1962.

Dorothy Simpson Beimer. *Hovels, Haciendas, and Housecalls.*" Sunstone Press. Santa Fe, NM. 1986.
Folksy history of the state.

Susan Berry and Sharman Apt Russell. *Built to Last: An Architectural History of Silver City, New Mexico*. Silver City Museum. Silver City, NM. 1988. About the famous mid-19th century buildings that remain from the city's original mining boom days.

Herbert Bolton. *Coronado: Knight of Pueblos and Plains*. Whittlesey House (McGraw-Hill). New York, NY, with the University of New Mexico Press. 1949. Thorough history of Coronado's expedition in the 16th Century from Mexico throughout the Southwest.

Ruth L. Bunzel. *The Pueblo Potter: A Study of Creative Imagination in Primitive Art*. Dover. New York, NY. 1972 (reprinted from original published in 1929). A wonderful book -- a classic. Everything from gathering the clay through firing and marketing the final product. Don't buy a pot without it.

Halka Chronic. *Roadside Geology of New Mexico*. Mountain Press Publishing Company. Missoula, MT. 1987.

"The 'Land of Enchantment,' New Mexico is as varied in its scenery as its nickname suggests. With desert lowlands in the south and high, hoary peaks in the north, with rugged volcanic uplands and colorful plateaus, with high plains along its eastern border, and with a great rift valley that quite literally slashes the state in two, New Mexico presents many faces to its residents and visitors. Faces that in large part can be laid at the doorstep of the state's varied geology." (Blurb off back cover)

Joseph H. Conlin. *Bacon, Beans, and Galatines*. University of Nevada Press. Reno, NV. 1988. All you want to know about frontier eating habits and foods.

William DeBuys and Alex Harris. *River of Traps: A Village Life*. University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque, NM. 1990. A wonderful book about modern life among the old Spanish villages that still huddle in the Sangre de Cristo mountains of Northern New Mexico.

Don Deder. *Navajo Rugs: How to Find, Evaluate, Buy and Care for Them*. Northland Press. Flagstaff, AZ. 1975. Mostly about Arizona (where most Navajo rugs come from), still a good guide to buying genuine Navajo Rugs, which are sold by the thousands in New Mexico stores and trading posts.

Rosalie Doolittle. *Southwest Gardening*. University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque, NM. eighth printing 1989. A local classic. This excellent book won the National Council of Garden Clubs Award. Rosalie is famous for her roses, but the book is a definitive guide to raising flowers and shrubs in the difficult transitional areas of Colorado, northern New Mexico, and northern Arizona.

R. L. Duffus. *The Santa Fe Trail*. Tudor Publishing Company. New York, NY. 1934. Lots of good maps and illustrations. Writing seems a little funky by current standards, but a thorough job and a good read. Kind of a classic.

Richard N. Ellis. *New Mexico, Past and Present: A Historical Reader*. University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque, NM. 1971. A collection of essays from journals and historical reviews. NOT a collection of original sources. Covers everything from Spanish conquest through modern Hispanic activism.

Erna Fergusson. *New Mexico: A Pageant of Three Peoples*. University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque, NM. 1964. First published in 1951, this out of print classic can still be easily found in libraries and used book stores. An entertaining and informative book about the Indians, the Hispanics, and the Anglos.

Harvey Fergusson. *Rio Grande*. Alfred A. Knopf. New York, NY. 1936. An old classic on the river and its influence on events in New Mexico.

William M. Ferguson and Arthur H. Rohn. *Anasazi Ruins of the Southwest in Color*. The University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque, NM. 1986. Absolutely the best book I know on this subject for beginners who are interested in visiting the original sites, or just learning about the great Anasazi culture. Full of excellent photographs, maps, etc. You gotta get this book!

Floyd Fierman. *Roots and Boots: From Crypto-Jew in New Spain to Community Leader in the Southwest*. KATV Publishing House. Hoboken, NJ. 1988. This is a fascinating story of early Spanish Jews who fled the Inquisition and hid out in Northern New Mexico, where they for centuries maintained a secret culture that looked like typical Hispanic Catholicism to outsiders, but carefully maintained their own culture.

Francis L. and Roberta B. Fugate. *Roadside History of New Mexico* Mountain Press Publishing Company. Missoula, MT. 1989 "Within New Mexico we have experienced a variety of unspoiled beauty and natural wonders equaled in few other areas of similar size. But we cannot tell you about them; they have to be seen. Along the highways and byways, we have met a continuing parade of interesting people, the like of which you'll find no place else on earth. But we cannot tell you about them; you have to meet them.

"During the last forty years, we have gone, we have probed the history of the area. Some of the oldest history in the United States and some of the newest scientific developments have unfolded, bringing the land about us to vibrant life. We *can* tell you about these things." (Blurb from back cover)

Paul Horgan. *Great River: The Rio Grande in North American History* (Two volumes in one). Texas Monthly Press, Austin, TX, 1984. This book won both the Bancroft and the Pulitzer Prizes for history. "In his preface to this fourth edition of his historical masterwork, Paul Horgan writes:

In its length of nearly two thousand miles and its cultural evidence encompassing more than ten centuries, the great river remains a unifying vein of history not only of the life adjacent to its banks but also of the greater Southwest. There, although often far afield, the political, social, and geographical significance of the river can be traced through the time of five sovereignties -- those of the Indian, Spain, Mexico, Texas, and the United States. (From the dust jacket notes)

Byron A. Johnson. with Robert Dauner, Joann Pauswang, and Susan Symmes-Westbrook. *Old Town, Albuquerque, New Mexico: A Guide to its History and Architecture*. City of Albuquerque. Albuquerque, NM. 1980.

Robert F. Kadlec, ed. *They "Knew" Billy the Kid*. Ancient City Press. Santa Fe. NM. 1988. A collection of original sources from the archives by people who claim to have known Billy the Kid. Careful with this book, flatlanders. Some of these fellas are pullin' your leg. Luckily the annotations can keep you straight.

Alfred Vincent Kidder. *An Introduction to the Study of Southwestern Archaeology*. Yale University Press. New Haven and London. 1924 (often reprinted). This is it -- the absolutely classic work on Southwestern archaeology. Though old, it still contains a vast wealth of accurate information about the early pueblo cultures. Well illustrated.

Charles A. Lehman. *Desert Survival Handbook*. Primer Publishers. Phoenix, AZ. 1988. OK. So this book isn't about New Mexico or by a New Mexican. You might want to read it anyway if you are considering biking, hiking, camping, or

driving across the desert. Simple but clear tips on survival in hot dry country with nasty critters in it as well as handling common emergencies.

Florence and Robert Lister. *Those Who Came Before*. University of Arizona Press. Tucson, AZ. 1983. Study of the early Indian cultures of New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Utah. The Anasazi, Mogollon, and Hohokam cultures are presented in detail. Also a good source of information about the modern-day pueblo people. Great photographs.

Stephen Metzger. *New Mexico Handbook*. Moon Publications, Chico, CA. 1989. "*New Mexico Handbook* takes a comprehensive look at the state's varied attractions, from prehistoric Indian ruins and 16th-century Spanish settlements to ghosts of Victorian mining towns and 20th-century astronomical observatories, and puts within reach over 100,000 square miles of recreation and adventure. . . [It] offers a close-up and complete look at every aspect of this wondrous state, including:

- A thorough introduction to New Mexico's landscapes, people, culture, and history, from pterodactyls to the nuclear age
- Detailed information on museums, accommodations and restaurants, transportation, and other services
- Particulars on golf, fishing, skiing, hiking, and camping -- from RV parks to hike-in wilderness areas.
- Recipes for great Mexican dishes, like green-chili (sic! -damned Californian author!) stew
- Clear, concise maps to cities, towns, parks, and hikes
- Plus listings of Indian dances, rodeos, balloon festivals, and other annual events."
- Blurb from book jacket.

Lawrence R. Murphy. *Philmont: A History of New Mexico's Cimarron County*. University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque, NM. 1972. History of North Eastern New Mexico from the cavepersons on.

Marian Rodee and James Ostler. *Zuni Pottery*. Schiffler Publishing Ltd. West Chester, PA. 1986. Meet modern Zuni potters and potter-families in person. An interesting little book about the current practitioners of an ancient craft.

Robert Silverberg. *The Pueblo Revolt*. Weybright and Talley. New York. NY. 1979. Story of the famous Pueblo Revolt of 1680, in which the pueblo Indians united to drive the Spanish out of the country. After 12 years the Spanish came back with a vengeance.

Calvin A. and Susan Roberts . *New Mexico*. University of New Mexico Press. Albuquerque, NM. 1988. A exhaustive and authoritative history of New Mexico for those who are serious about it.

Dale A, Marian A. Zimmerman and John N. Durrie. *New Mexico Bird Finding Guide*. New Mexico Ornithological Society. Albuquerque, NM. Revised Edition 1992. The essential little book for anyone interested in birding in New Mexico. It is available at most state parks.

Books by New Mexicans

Rudolfo A. Anaya. *Bless Me, Ultima*. Tonatiuh-Quinto Sol International. Berkeley, CA. 1972.

"Probably no other novel written by a Chicano has had such wide and varied acclaim as has Rudolfo A. Anaya's *Bless Me, Ultima*. . . The admirers of Anaya's work span the public spectrum from junior high school students to universities throughout the nation, from university presidents to readers in England, France, Mexico, and Australia. . . *Bless Me, Ultima* truly can be called a classic in Chicano Literature." (Octavio I. Romano-V, Series editor).

Jimmy Santiago Baca. *Black Mesa Poems*. New Directions. New York, NY. 1986.

"Baca's evocation of this landscape," as *City Paper* noted, " its aridity and fertility, is nothing short of brilliant." The individual poems of *Black Mesa* are embedded both in the family and in the community life of the *barrio*, detailing births and deaths, neighbors and seasons, injustices and victories. Loosely interconnected, the poems trace a visionary biography of place. (Back cover blurb.) *Baca is my favorite Southwestern poet, by far. (Jim Peavler, your host)*

Jimmy Santiago Baca. *Martin and Meditations on the South Valley*. New Directions. New York, NY. 1986.

Winner of the American Book Award, 1988

"Fiercely moving, the two long narrative poems of *Martin and Meditations on the South Valley* revolve around the semi-autobiographical figure of Martin, a mestizo or "detribalized Apache." Abandoned as a child and a long time on the hard path to building his own family, Martin at last finds his home in the stubborn and beautiful world of the barrio. Jimmy Santiago Baca 'writes with unconcealed passion,' Denise Levertov states in her introduction, 'but he is far from being a naive realist; what makes his writing so exciting to me is the way in which it manifests both an intense lyricism and that transformative vision which perceives the mythic and archetypal significance of life-events.'" (Blurb from back cover.)

Don't let the fancy stuff put you off. This is a wonderful book. (Jim Peavler)

[Ken Englade](#) *Brothers in Blood*

This is the fifth in a series of historical novels dealing with the pre-Civil War West from HarperCollins under the general title of "Tony Hillerman's Frontier." It is set in New Mexico in the era just prior to the Civil War and focuses on the Penitentes. Englade has published fourteen books with two major houses (St. Martin's Press and HarperCollins) and has a fifteenth coming from SMP early in 1999.

Santa Fe Readers' Choices: New Mexico and Southwest Books Most popular titles of the last fifteen years

<http://www.santafelibrary.org/swshelf.html>.

Fiction

Edward Abbey, *The Brave Cowboy* (1956), *Fool's Progress* (1988), *Hayduke Lives!* (1989)

Rudolfo A. Anaya, *Albuquerque* (1992), *Bless Me, Ultima* (1972), *Cuentos Chicanos* (1984)

Adolf Bandelier, *The Delight Makers* (1918)

Richard Bradford, *Red Sky at Morning* (1968), *So Far from Heaven* (1973)

Ana Castillo, *So Far from God* (1993)

Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop* (1927)

Fray Angelico Chavez, *The Short Stories of Fray Angelico Chavez* (1987)

Denise Chávez, *Face of an Angel* (1994)

Rick Collignon, *Perdido* (1997)

Max Evans, *Bluefeather Fellini* (1993)

Natalie Goldberg, *Banana Rose* (1995)

Martha Grimes, *Biting the Moon* (1999)

Gerald Hausman, *Stargazer : a Native American inquiry into extraterrestrial phenomena* (1988)

Laura Hendrie, *Remember Me* (1999)

Louis L'Amour, *The Haunted Mesa* (1987)

Oliver La Farge, *The Door in the Wall: Stories* (1965), *Laughing Boy* (1929)

Laughlin, Ruth, *The Wind Leaves No Shadow* (1951)

James Magnuson, *Ghost Dancing* (1989)

Cormac McCarthy, *Cities of the Plain* (1988)

Larry McMurtry, *Anything for Billy* (1988), *Dead Man's Walk* (1995)

N. Scott Momaday, *Ancient Child* (1989), *House Made of Dawn* (1968)

David Morrell, *Extreme Denial* (1996)

P. G. Nagle, *Glorieta Pass* (1999)

John Nichols, *The Magic Journey* (1978), *The Milagro Beanfield War* (1974)

Jake Page, *Cavern* (2000)

Douglas Preston, *Thunderhead* (1999)

Ronald B. Querry, *The Death of Bernadette Left-Hand* (1993), *Bad Medicine* (1998)

Orlando Romero, *Nambe--Year One* (1976)

Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony* (1977)

Martin Cruz Smith, *Nightwing* (1991), *Stallion Gate* (1986)

Elizabeth Tallent, *Museum Pieces* (1985)

Frank Waters, *Flight from Fiesta* (1986), *Man who Killed the Deer* (1970), *People of the Valley* (1941), *The Woman at Otowi Crossing* (1988)

Norman Zollinger, *Road to Santa Fe* (2002)

Mysteries

Rudolfo A. Anaya, *Rio Grande Fall* (1996), *Shaman Winter* (1999), *Zia Summer* (1995)

E. C. Ayres, *Lair of the Lizard* (1998)

Nevada Barr, *Blind Descent* (1998), *Ill Wind* (1995)

Sandra Brown, *Standoff* (2000)

Cecil Dawkins, *Clay Dancers* (1994), *The Santa Fe Rembrandt* (1993)

James D. Doss, *The Shaman Laughs* (1995), *The Shaman Sings* (1994)

J. F. Freedman, *Against the Wind* (1991)

Kathleen O'Neal Gear, *The Visitant* (1999)

Martha Grimes, *Rainbow's End* (1995)

Tony Hillerman,

<i>The Blessing Way</i> (1970)	<i>The Joe Leaphorn Mysteries</i> (1989)
<i>Coyote Waits</i> (1990)	<i>Listening Woman</i> (1978)
<i>Dance Hall of the Dead</i> (1973)	<i>People of Darkness</i> (1980)
<i>The Dark Wind</i> (1982)	<i>Sacred Clowns</i> (1993)
<i>The Fallen Man</i> (1996)	<i>The Sinister Pig</i> (2003)
<i>The First Eagle</i> (1998)	<i>Skinwalkers</i> (1987)
<i>Ghostway</i> (1985)	<i>Talking God</i> (1989)
<i>Hunting Badger</i> (1998)	<i>A Thief of Time</i> (1988)
<i>The Jim Chee Mysteries</i> (1990)	<i>The Wailing Wind</i> (2002)

Joseph Kanon, *Los Alamos* (1997)

Sarah Lovett, *Acquired Motives* (1996), *Dangerous Attachments* (1995), *A Desperate Silence* (1998)

Robert Mayer, *The Search* (1986)

A. E. Maxwell, *The Art of Survival* (1989)

Michael McGarrity, *Hermit's Peak* (1999), *The Big Gamble* (2002), *Hermit's Peak* (1999), *The Judas Judge* (2000), *Mexican Hat* (1997), *Serpent Gate* (1998), *Tularosa* (1996), *Under the Color of Law* (2001),

Jake Page, *The Deadly Canyon* (1994), *The Stolen Gods* (1993), *The Lethal Partner* (1996)

Walter Satterthwait, *Accustomed to the Dark* (1996), *At Ease with the Dead* (1990), *A Flower in the Desert* (1992), *The Hanged Man* (1993), *Wall of Glass* (1988)

Richard Martin Stern, *Tangled Murders* (1989)

Aimée & David Thurlo, *Death Walker* (1996), *Enemy Way* (1998), *Red Mesa* (2001), *Second Shadow* (1993), *Shooting Chant* (2000)

Judith van Gieson,

<i>Ditch Rider</i> (1998)	<i>Parrot Blues</i> (1995)
<i>Hotshots</i> (1996)	<i>Raptor</i> (1990)
<i>Lies that Bind</i> (1993)	<i>The Stolen Blue</i> (2000)
<i>North of the Border</i> (1988)	<i>Vanishing Point</i> (2001)
<i>The Other Side of Death</i> (1991)	<i>The Wolf Path</i> (1992)

Non-fiction

Antonio R. Garcez, *Adobe Angels : the ghosts of Santa Fe* (1992)

Marc Simmons, *Witchcraft in the Southwest; Spanish and Indian supernaturalism* (1978)

Marta Weigle, *Brother of Light, Brothers of Blood : the Penitentes of the Southwest* (1976)

John Nichols, *On the Mesa* (1986)

Stanley Crawford, *Mayordomo : chronicle of an acequia in Northern New Mexico* (1988)

Marc Simmons, *Murder on the Santa Fe Trail : an international incident, 1843* (1987)

Rodney Barker, *The Broken Circle : a true story of murder and magic in Indian country* (1992)

Marta Weigle, *The Lore of New Mexico* (1988)

Jose Griego y Maestas, *Cuentos : tales from the Hispanic Southwest* (1980)

Joe Hayes, *The day it snowed tortillas : tales from Spanish New Mexico* (1982)

Natural History

Halka Chronic, *Roadside Geology of New Mexico* (1986)

Barry Kues, *Fossils of New Mexico* (1982)

Ronald Ratkevich, *Dinosaurs of the Southwest* (1976)

Gail D. Tierney, *Roadside Plants of Northern New Mexico* (1983)

Francis Elmore, *Shrubs and trees of the Southwest Uplands* (1976)

William C. Martin, *Summer Wildflowers of New Mexico* (1986)

James S. Findley, *Natural History of New Mexican Mammals* (1986)

Gardening, Cooking

Los Alamos Garden Club, *High Altitude Gardening* (1967)

Stanley Crawford, *A Garlic Testament : seasons on a small New Mexico farm* (1992)

Rosalie Doolittle, *Southwest Gardening* (1967)

Baker H. Morrow, *Best Plants for New Mexico Gardens and Landscapes* (1995)

Judith Phillips, *New Mexico Gardener's Guide* (1998)

Judith Phillips, *Southwestern Landscaping with Native Plants* (1987)

George Brookbank, *Desert Landscaping* (1992)

Sheila M. Cameron, *New Mexico Magazine's The Best from New Mexico's Kitchens* (1978)

Paul Graham McHenry, *Adobe and Rammed Earth Buildings : design and construction* (1984)

The Arts

Arthur H. Rohn, *Rock Art of Bandelier National Monument* (1989)

Polly Schaafsma, *Indian Rock Art of the Southwest* (1980)

Museum of Fine Arts, *Artists of 20th Century New Mexico* (1992)

Sydney LeBlanc, *Secret Gardens of Santa Fe* (1997)

Anne Taylor, *Southwestern ornamentation & design : the architecture of John Gaw Meem* (1989)

Bainbridge Bunting, *John Gaw Meem, Southwestern Architect* (1983)

Carl D. Sheppard, *Creator of the Santa Fe Style : Isaac Hamilton Rapp, architect* (1987)

Jerome Iowa, *Ageless Adobe : history and preservation in Southwestern architecture* (1985)

Orlando Romero, *Adobe : Building and Living with Earth* (1994)

Dennis Landt, *Behind adobe walls : the hidden homes and gardens of Santa Fe and Taos* (1997)

Christine Mather, *Santa Fe Style* (1986)

Paula Panich, *Desert Southwest Gardens* (1990)

Beverly Spears, *American adobes : rural houses of northern New Mexico* (1986)

Michael Reynolds, *Earthship* (1990-)

John O'Connor, *The Adobe Book* (1973)

Myrtle Stedman, *Adobe Architecture* (1973)

Marcia Southwick, *Build with Adobe* (1974)

Elmo Baca, *Santa Fe Design* (1990)

Nancy Hunter Warren, *New Mexico style : a sourcebook of traditional architectural details* (1995)

J. J. Brody, *Mimbres Painted Pottery* (1977)

Betty Lefree, *Santa Clara Pottery Today* (1975)

Lane Coulter, *New Mexican Tinwork* (1990)

Polly Schaafsma, *Rock Art in New Mexico* (1972)

Robin Farwell Gavin, *Traditional Arts of Spanish New Mexico* (1994)

Frederick Dockstader, *Song of the Loom: new traditions in Navajo weaving* (1987)

Lonn Taylor, *New Mexican furniture, 1600-1940 : ... furniture making in the Hispanic Southwest* (1987)

Elmo Baca, *Rio Grande high style : furniture craftsmen* (1995)

Georgia O'Keeffe, *Works on Paper* (1985)

Mary Carroll Nelson, *Legendary Artists of Taos* (1980)

Sharyn Udall, *Modernist Painting in New Mexico, 1913-1935* (1984)

Sharyn Udall, *Santa Fe art colony, 1900-1942* (1987) *The Sky's the Limit : a defense of the Earth* (1990)

Literature

Marta Weigle, *Santa Fe and Taos : the writer's era, 1916-1941* (1982)

Tony Hillerman, *The Great Taos Bank Robbery, and other Indian country affairs* (1973)

Blue Mesa Review (1989-)

Travel, History

Kay Matthews, *Hiking the Mountain Trails of Santa Fe : a guide to trails, people, places, and events* (1995)

Elaine Pinkerton, *Santa Fe on foot : adventures in the city different* (1994) *Sierra Club guides to the national parks of the desert Southwest* (1984)

John Pen La Farge, *Turn left at the Sleeping Dog : scripting the Santa Fe legend, 1920-1955* (2001)

Joe S. Sando, *Pueblo Nations : eight centuries of Pueblo Indian history* (1992)

Donald Pike, *Anasazi : ancient people of the rock* (1974)

Frank Waters, *Book of the Hopi* (1963)

Bertha Dutton, *Indians of the American Southwest* (1975)

The Zunis : Self-Portrayals (1972)

Stewart L. Udall, *To the Inland Empire: Coronado and our Spanish Legacy* (1987)

Joan Myers, *Along the Santa Fe Trail / photographs by Joan Myers ; essay by Marc Simmons* (1986)

Herbert Eugene Bolton, *Coronado : knight of pueblos and plains* (1949)

Robert Hill Lister, *Chaco Canyon : archaeology and archaeologists* (1981)

Paul Horgan, *Great River : the Rio Grande in North American history* (1954)

William Eno Debuys, *Enchantment and Exploitation--The Life ...of a New Mexico Mountain Range* (1985)

Howard Bryan, *Robbers, rogues, and ruffians : true tales of the Wild West* (1991)

Alice Bullock, *Living legends of the Santa Fe Country; a pictorial guidebook* (1978)

Fra Angelico Chavez, *My Penitente Land : Reflections on Spanish New Mexico* (1974)

Thomas E. Chavez, *An Illustrated History of New Mexico* (1992)

R. L. Duffus, *The Santa Fe Trail* (1958)

Erna Fergusson, *New Mexico, a pageant of three peoples* (1964)

Tony Hillerman, *The Spell of New Mexico* (1976)

Paul Horgan, *The Centuries of Santa Fe* (1956)

Myra Ellen Jenkins, *A Brief History of New Mexico* (1974)

Oliver La Farge, *Behind the Mountains* (1956)

David Muench, *New Mexico* (1974)

Chilton et al., *New Mexico, A Guide to the Colorful State* (1984)

James E. Sherman, *Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of New Mexico* (1975)

Marc Simmons, *New Mexico : a Bicentennial history* (1977)

Marc Simmons, *Coronado's land : essays on daily life in colonial New Mexico* (1991)

Henry Jack Tobias, *A History of the Jews in New Mexico* (1990)

Herbert Ungnade, *Guide to the New Mexico Mountains* (1972)

Nancy Hunter Warren, *Villages of Hispanic New Mexico* (1987)

Thomas Matthew Pearce, *New Mexico Place Names; a geographical dictionary* (1965)

William Eno Debuys, *River of Traps : a village life* (1990)

Nancy Wood, *Taos Pueblo* (1989)

David Grant Noble, *Santa Fe: History of an Ancient City* (1989), *Day Hikes in the Santa Fe Area* (1990)

Susan Hazen-Hammond, *A Short History of Santa Fe* (1988)

Oliver La Farge, *Santa Fe; the autobiography of a southwestern town* (1959)

John Sherman, *Santa Fe, a pictorial history* (1983)

Donald J. Usner, *Sabino's Map : Life in Chimayo's Old Plaza* (1995)

Chris Wilson, *The myth of Santa Fe : creating a modern regional tradition* (1997)

David Grant Noble, *New Light on Chaco Canyon* (1984)

Robert H. Lister, *Chaco Canyon : Archaeology and archaeologists* (1981)

Alex Patterson, *A Field Guide to Rock Art Symbols of the Greater Southwest* (1992)

William M. Ferguson, *Anasazi Ruins of the Southwest in color* (1986)

Biographies

Donald Cline, *Alias Billy the Kid: the Man Behind the Legend* (1986)

Paul Horgan, *Lamy of Santa Fe, his life and times* (1975)

Emily Hahn, *Mabel : a biography of Mabel Dodge Luhan* (1977)

Mabel Dodge Luhan, *Winter in Taos* (1935)

Mabel Dodge Luhan, *Edge of Taos Desert : an escape to reality* (1937)

Susan Peterson, *The Living Tradition of María Martínez* (1977)

Jeffrey Hogrefe, *O'Keeffe : the life of an American legend* (1992)

Christine Taylor Patten & Alvaro Cardona-Hine, *Miss O'Keeffe* (1992)

Marc Simmons, *The last conquistador : Juan de Oñate and the settling of the far Southwest* (1991)

Marion Sloan Russell, *Land of enchantment : memoirs of Marian Russell along the Santa Fé Trail* (1954)

Peggy Pond Church, *The House at Otowi Bridge; the story of Edith Warner and Los Alamos* (1960)

A Selected, Annotated Bibliography of Books about Taos and New Mexico prepared by Arthur J. Bachrach

<http://www.mobydickens.com/selbiblio2.html#anchor568710>

Works Of Fiction

Recommended with enthusiasm is the New Mexico Trilogy by Taoseno John Nichols. All three are fine novels, with a compassionate and insightful portrayal of the area and the people.

Best known is **The Milagro Beanfield War**, on which Robert Redford's motion picture was based and filmed in nearby Truchas. The central figure in the novel is Joe Mondragon, whose diversion of water his family once owned, and which he needs to plant beans, sparks a conflict between the native people and the corporation that plans a large development in the area. Nichols' lifelong dedication to the environment shines clearly throughout this warm novel. The others in the Trilogy, also beautifully written, are **The Magic Journey** and **Nirvana Blues**. Another Taos author, the inspiring, late Frank Waters, was also a leader in the struggle for the preservation of the land and its culture. His excellent works of fiction will enrich the reader's world and understanding of New Mexico.

The Man Who Killed The Deer an acclaimed novel of a young Taos Pueblo Indian and his growing up in two cultures, Anglo and Pueblo.

People Of The Valley

a poignant story of the people of Mora Valley, in the Sangre de Cristo mountains. The leading character is Maria del Valle, an Hispanic herbalist who works with her people to cope with the onslaught of technology in the form of a Government dam.

The Woman At Otowi Crossing

This is a fictionalized account of the life of Edith Warner, who lived near Los Alamos and ran a tea room which the personnel at the secret atomic laboratory were permitted to visit. Waters was a Public Information officer at the laboratory during much of the research. His novel was made into an opera which premiered in St. Louis a few weeks after his death on June 3, 1995. It is sad that he never saw it performed. A non-fiction account of the life of Edith Warner is the excellent biography by Peggy Pond Church, **The House At Otowi Bridge**. A reading of both Waters and Church is *most* rewarding.

The Delight Makers Adolph Bandelier

Written in 1890, while Bandelier was doing archaeological field work in New Mexico, this novel is an enduring story of prehistoric Pueblo Indians.

Death Of Bernadette Lefthand Ron Querry

Querry, a longtime Taos resident, wrote this award-winning novel about the death of a Native American woman. Set in Navajo and Jicarilla Apache country, as well as the Taos Pueblo, it is a strong book.

Death Comes For The Archbishop Willa Cather

This famous novel is based on the life of Bishop Lamy, a French cleric who came to Santa Fe to establish a new Catholic diocese, taking some jurisdiction away from Bishop Zubiria of Durango, Mexico. Durango was 1,500 miles from Santa Fe and Zubiria could not easily supervise the huge region which included New Mexico. Cather's novel depicts Lamy's work in New Mexico. His name in the book is Bishop Latour. His adversary, Taos' Padre Martinez (his real name, as opposed to Lamy's, is used in the book), challenged Lamy in large part because he believed that Lamy was importing European ideas, such as the construction of the Cathedral Of St. Francis in Santa Fe, architecturally not of this new world, while tithing the poor of New Mexico to realize such foreign ideas. In 1857, Lamy was supposed to have excommunicated Martinez, but recent archival research seems to have proven that the papers of excommunication were never completed. It appears that Martinez acted as though he were indeed driven from the Church and set up his own independent parish. In any case, Lamy and Martinez were at odds, largely because of Martinez' importunate behavior such as writing letters in strong

opposition to Lamy in the Santa Fe journal, *La Gaceta*. In many ways the two men of God were of the same mind, both establishing schools to educate girls, a concept not very popular at the time.

Paul Horgan's Pulitzer Prize biography, **Lamy Of Santa Fe** (currently out of print) provides an excellent overview of Lamy's life and of the years in New Mexico, including an account of the Lamy-Martinez controversy. Even though the events occurred almost 150 years ago, there remain strong feelings on both sides.

Whatever view of the affair one may take, Cather's book is a wonderful piece of writing, a lovely picture of New Mexico at a magical time in its history.

Red Sky At Morning Richard Bradford

The classic novel of a young Anglo boy growing up among Hispanic neighbors and friends. An even more enjoyable novel, in my view, is his *So Far From Heaven*, unfortunately out-of-print. The title comes from the old lament: "Poor New Mexico, so far from Heaven, so close to Texas!"

Bless Me, Ultima Rudolfo Anaya

A acclaimed portrayal of Hispanic youth and the world around them.

So Far From God Ana Castillo

A novel set in Central New Mexico with strong visions of Native American, Hispanic and Anglo relationships.

Several by the superb storyteller, Albuquerque resident and former Taoseno, Max Evans:

The Hi-Lo Country

Evans' story of cowhands, made into the motion picture starring Woody Harrelson

Rounders 3 Max Evans, Illustrated by Grem Lee

This well-illustrated edition reprints all the Rounder stories, beginning with **The Rounders**, from which the motion picture of the same name, starring Henry Fonda and Glenn Ford, was made. The ensuing tales, **The Great Wedding** and **The Orange County Cowboys**, follow Dusty and Wrangler through further adventures. Also wonderful stories by Max are **My Pardner** and **Mountain of Gold**. His most recent book is non-fiction. It is a charming account of a colorful character, **Madam Millie: Bordellos from Silver City to Ketchikan**. All of his books will delight readers as only "Ol' Max" can.

Rick Collignon

Collignon is a resident of Taos and has written three fine books. **The Journal Of Antonio Montoya**, is an award-winning first novel, followed by **Perdido** (out of print) and his most recent **Santo in the Image of Cristobal Garcia**. All three works are set in a small New Mexico village and weave past and present in a poignant illustration of the feelings and hopes of the villagers.

Canyon Of Remembering Lesley Poling-Kempes

A novel of inspiration about a group meeting outside Santa Fe to search out their lives.

Skeleton Of A Bridge Robert Mirabal

Robert Mirabal is a Taos Pueblo Indian, whose skills as a storyteller and flautist have won him international acclaim. **Skeleton Of A Bridge** is a fine collection of stories of his life on the Pueblo.

Stygo Laura Hendrie

Hendrie lives in Ojo Sarco, New Mexico and has written two strong novels about the people of small villages, one the award-winning **Stygo** and the now out of print **Remember Me**.

Land Of Enchantment, Land Of Conflict: New Mexico In English Language Fiction David L. Caffey

Caffey's edited collection of fiction is a splendid reprinting of fiction from New Mexico, a broad coverage well chosen.

You Can't Push A Rope Clint Trafton

An award-winning (Frank Waters Foundation) novel of the Chicano struggle for the land. It covers the Tijerina trial.

Taos Massacres John Durand

A fictionalized account of the Taos Massacres of 1847 and featuring historical figures, such as, Lewis Garrard (see Wah-To-Yah and The Taos Trail), Ceran St. Vrain, and Charles Bent.

Works Of Fiction: Mysteries set in New Mexico

The murder mystery has become so important a genre in New Mexican works of fiction that I thought it deserved a special section of its very own.

One of the most rewarding characteristics of these mysteries set in New Mexico is the ability of the various authors to hold the reader's interest in solving the murders while informing them about the people and the culture of New Mexico. Hillerman, of course, is the master of this form. Other writers have been very successful as well. This skillful weaving of a good tale and interesting facts is very much in the style of writers such as the great Australian mystery author, Arthur Upfield, whose half- Anglo, half-Aboriginal detective, Napoleon Bonaparte, could mix anthropology and assassination while entertaining the reader. Indeed, Hillerman has acknowledged his clear debt to Arthur Upfield.

An indication of the growing audience for and interest in good mysteries is the mystery book club in Taos, sponsored by Moby Dickens Bookshop. The club, called " *Who Did It?: A Grammatically Correct Mystery Book Club*," meets one evening a month, now the third Wednesday, to discuss mysteries of all types and to meet with mystery writers. The club is open to all mystery lovers. (Please click on [Mystery](#) for the current schedule and mystery book selection) Further information may be obtained by calling Moby Dickens at (505) 758-3050, or Toll-Free: 1-888-442-9980. A monthly notice of meetings and information about mysteries is mailed to all members. If you wish to receive the mailings, please call or write to Moby Dickens at our address: 124A Bent Street, Taos New Mexico 87571

The major writers of mysteries set in New Mexico:

Tony Hillerman

As we have noted, Tony Hillerman is the undisputed master of the New Mexico-based murder mystery. With the exception of [Fly On The Wall](#), a newspaper mystery set in Santa Fe, and [Finding Moon](#), a man's search in Vietnam, all of Hillerman's mysteries feature two Navajo tribal policemen, Jim Chee and Joe Leaphorn. The books offer a rich flavor of Native American culture and landscape, particularly Hopi and Navajo. In order of publication, the mysteries are: [The Blessing Way](#), [Dance Hall Of The Dead](#), [Listening Woman](#), [People Of Darkness](#), [The DarkWind](#), [The Ghostway](#), [Skinwalkers](#), [A Thief Of Time](#), [Talking God](#), [Coyote Waits](#), [Sacred Clowns](#), [The Fallen Man](#), [First Eagle](#), [Hunting Badger](#), [The Wailing Wind](#), [The Sinister Pig](#), [Skelton Man](#) and his latest [Shape Shifters](#).

In the mystery, [The Dark Wind](#), while weaving a good plot, Hillerman offers one of the best reasoned discussions of the problems over land that have been a source of conflict between the Hopi and the Navajo for years, typical of the thought that underlies his writing. Moby Dickens has an extensive collection of first foreign editions by Tony Hillerman in many languages.

Jake Page

Jake Page is a world-renowned science writer and editor who, with his wife, Suzanne, produced the splendid photo-essays, Navajo and Hopi. His mysteries center around Mo Bowdre, a blind sculptor living in Santa Fe, and his Anglo-Hopi companion, Connie Barnes. The mysteries all have a fine seasoning of art, history and archaeology and, in order of publication, are: [The Stolen Gods](#), [Deadly Canyon](#), [The Knotted Strings](#), [Lethal Partner](#) and [A Certain Malice](#).

Walter Satterthwait

Satterthwait makes his home in Santa Fe a goodly part of the time. His protagonist, a thinking man's private eye named Joshua Croft, is featured in [A Wall Of Glass](#), [A Flower In The Desert](#), [At Ease With The Dead](#), [The Hanged Man](#), [Accustomed To The Dark](#).

Louis Owens

The late Louis Owens was a Native American author and professor who, in addition to publishing works of scholarship,

authored fine mysteries. One example is Nightland, set in New Mexico, in which he subtly demonstrates the Native American sense of humor, not always recognized by Anglos.

Steve Brewer

Brewer, an Albuquerque author, has a protagonist, a likeable Redneck named Bubba Mabry, also a resident of the Duke City. Brewer's books are Baby Face, Lonely Street, Witchy Woman, Shaky Ground, Dirty Pool, Crazy Love and Fool's Paradise. A new protagonist is Drew Garvin in End Run. His latest book is Bullets.

Michael McGarrity

McGarrity is an former Santa Fe policeman, still living there and writing entertaining mysteries whose protagonist is an ex Santa Fe Chief Of Detectives, retired through wounding, named Kevin Kerney. The mysteries, most named for New Mexico geography, are Tularosa, Mexican Hat, Serpent Gate, Hermit's Peak, Judas Judge, Under The Color Of Law, The Big Gamble, Everyone Dies, Slow Kill and his latest Northing But Trouble

Nevada Barr

Nevada Barr, herself a National Park Service Ranger, uses a Ranger named Anna Pigeon as her heroine. Only one of her mysteries is set in this area, in the Guadalupe National Park, spanning Eastern New Mexico and West Texas. It is a well-written book, her first mystery of the series, Track Of The Cat.

Aimee and David Thurlo

The Thurlos' main character is a Navajo, Ella Clah, a former FBI agent and now a special investigator for the Navajo Tribal Police. Their mysteries, which have a good New Mexico flavor, include Bad Medicine, Shooting Chant, Enemy Way and Red Mesa, and their latest Pale Death.

Judith Van Gieson

Van Gieson's heroine, in her first series of mysteries, is a sharp female attorney named Neil Hamel, who resides in Albuquerque (as does Van Gieson). Her books, in order, are North Of The Border, Raptor, The Other Side Of Death, Wolf Path, The Lies That Bind, Hotshots, and Ditch Rider A new series, starting with the publication of The Stolen Blue, features Claire Reynier, an archivist at the University Of New Mexico's Center For Southwest Research. Second in this series is Vanishing Point, followed by Confidence Woman, and her latest, Land of Burning Heat. Both her series of books are well written and filled with interesting characters and events.

Connie Shelton

Shelton lives in Angel Fire in Northern New Mexico, but her main character is a female accountant named Charlie Parker, a resident of Albuquerque. Three of her mysteries are set in New Mexico, including Deadly Gamble, and Memories Can Be Murder.

Rudolfo Anaya

Anaya is best known for his brilliant books of New Mexico such as Bless Me Ultima and has recently turned his hand toward mystery writing. His murder mysteries are: Albuquerque (yes, Anaya put the first "r" back where he says it belonged originally), Zia Summer, Rio Grande Fall, and Shaman Winter.

Martin Cruz Smith

Smith, internationally known for Gorky Park, Polar Star, Havana Bay, and the brilliant Rose, wrote a mystery surrounding the laboratory at Los Alamos, New Mexico and its scientists. The book is Stallion Gate. While lesser known than his other mysteries, it is well worth reading.

Martha Grimes

Famed American writer of British mysteries, Martha Grimes, a part-time resident of Santa Fe, has a book, Rainbow's End, in which she moves Chief Superintendent, Richard Jury, of Scotland Yard, from London to Santa Fe to solve a series of unexplained deaths in England that are somehow related to events in Santa Fe.

Harlan Campbell

Monkey On A Chain, a first mystery by Campbell, features a hero whose image evokes memories of John MacDonald's

Travis McGee and other anti-heroes who take on Paladin quests. The hero, Rainbow Porter, lives in the mountains around Albuquerque and is a *simpatico* rogue.

Sarah Lovett

Lovett, also from Santa Fe, has written three novels with her interesting main character, Dr. Sylvia Strange. The books, Dangerous Attachments, Acquired Motives, and A Desperate Silence, Dante's Inferno, and Dark Alchemy..

Mari Ulmer

A long time resident of Taos, Mari Ulmer's first mystery, Midnight At The Camposanto, is a rich blend of Northern New Mexico culture and a setting of Catholic beliefs surrounding the puzzling murder of a Penitente Brother. Her second Taos Festival Mystery is Carreta de la Muerte involving religious art thefts in Taos.

Susan Slater

The Pumpkin Seed Massacre is the first mystery of a series featuring a Tewa Pueblo Indian, Ben Pecos, employed by the Indian Health Service. It was recently reprinted. The subsequent titles are Yellow Lies, Thunderbird, Flash Flood, and Five O'Clock Shadow.

Steven F. Havill

Havill is the author of the Sheriff Bill Gastner mystery series, set in New Mexico and full of memorable characters. The series includes Dead Weight, Out of Season, Prolonged Exposure, Privileged to Kill, Before She Dies, Twice Buried, Bitter Recoil, and Heartshot. The latest in the series is Bag Limit. His new protagonist, Estella, has taken over the Sheriff's Department in Scavengers.

Pari Noskin Taichert

Her books are The Clovis Incident and her latest The Belen Hitch featuring Sasha Solomon, an entertaining, off-beat protagonist.

Vicki Stiefel

Her book The Bone Man (a Tally Whyte mystery) takes place largely in Chaco Canyon, New Mexico.

Other Reviews

Lamy of Santa Fe

Paul Horgan

Originally published in 1975, this Pulitzer Prize for History-winning biography chronicles the life of Archbishop Jean Baptiste Lamy (1814-1888), New Mexico's first resident bishop and the most influential, reform-minded Catholic official in the region during the late 1800s. Lamy's accomplishments, including the endowing of hospitals, orphanages, and English-language schools and colleges, formed the foundation of modern-day Santa Fe and often brought him into conflict with corrupt local priests. His life story, also the subject of Willa Cather's *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, describes a pivotal period in the American Southwest, as Spanish and Mexican rule gave way to much greater influence from the U.S. and Europe. Historian and consummate stylist Paul Horgan has given us a chronicle filled with hardy, often extraordinary adventure, and sustained by Lamy's magnificent strength of character.

Death Comes for the Archbishop

Willa Cather

Novel by Willa Cather, published in 1927. The novel is based on the lives of Bishop Jean Baptiste L'Amy and his vicar Father Joseph Machebeut and is considered emblematic of the author's moral and spiritual concerns. *Death Comes for the Archbishop* traces the friendship and adventures of Bishop Jean Latour and vicar Father Joseph Vaillant as they organize the new Roman Catholic diocese of New Mexico. Latour is patrician, intellectual, introverted; Vaillant, practical, outgoing, sanguine. Friends since their childhood in France, the clerics triumph over corrupt Spanish priests, natural adversity, and the indifference of the Hopi and Navajo to establish their church and build a cathedral in the wilderness. The novel, essentially a study of character, explores Latour's inner conflicts and his relationship with the land, which through the author's powerful description becomes an imposing character in its own right.

The Milagro Beanfield War: A Novel

John Nichols

When Joe Mondragon illegally irrigates a puny beanfield, he starts WWII and becomes the unwitting, reluctant symbol of this battle between the haves and the have nots. The book is absolutely hilarious with its wry yet rich descriptions of the people and the cultures clashing in Milagro, NM. But underneath, the end is near and everyone knows it, is resigned to it, but will fight to hold on for as long as possible. I've read this book several times and have come away with something new every time. Nichols' description of Kyril Montana's initial stealthy and secret foray into Milagro will always hold a special place in my heart. Que viva, Snuffy! (Review by Hawkeye on Amazon.com)