

**Julia Madajczak, Katarzyna Granicka, Szymon Gruda,
Monika Jaglarz and José Luis de Rojas, *Fragments
of the Sixteenth-Century Nahuatl Census from
the Jagiellonian Library. A Lost Manuscript* (Leiden
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This volume presents a groundbreaking study of previously unpublished 16th-century Nahuatl census fragments from the Marquesado del Valle, currently housed in the Jagiellonian Library in Krakow, Poland. The work offers a comprehensive analysis and publication of these important primary sources, shedding new light on early colonial Nahua society. Through a multidisciplinary approach combining historical, linguistic, and anthropological methodologies, the book provides valuable insights into indigenous social organization, economic practices, and administrative structures in 16th-century central Mexico.

The volume is the result of collaborative efforts by an international team of scholars specializing in Mesoamerican studies, colonial history, and Nahuatl linguistics. Julia Madajczak and José Luis de Rojas serve as the primary editors and contributors, bringing their extensive expertise in Nahuatl language and colonial Mexican history to bear on the transcription, translation, and analysis of the census documents. Their work is complemented by contributions from other scholars, including Monika Jaglarz, who provides crucial information on the history and provenance of the manuscripts, and Szymon Gruda, who offers palaeographic analysis of the various hands present in the documents.

The corpus of documents analysed in this work consists of fragments of 16th-century censuses in Nahuatl from the Marquesado del Valle, currently housed in the Jagiellonian Library in Krakow, Poland. These documents are part of the Berlinka Collection, which comes from the Prussian State Library in Berlin. Specifically, this corpus includes Mss. Amer. 3, 8



and 10, which are related to other Marquesado census fragments preserved in Mexico and France. The census recorded detailed information on demographics, household composition, land distribution, and tribute payments in Tepoztlán and provides a picture of the social, economic, and administrative structure of Nahua society in the early colonial era.

The first section of the book, comprising chapters 1-5, provides a comprehensive historical context for the Nahuatl census fragments and their journey to the Jagiellonian Library in Krakow. This section lays the groundwork for understanding the significance of these documents within the broader framework of early colonial Mexican history and archival studies.

Chapter 1, authored by Monika Jaglarz, delves into the fascinating history of the Berlinka Collection, of which these census fragments are a part. It traces the wartime evacuation of materials from the Prussian State Library in Berlin, their subsequent discovery in Poland after World War II, and the complex legal and diplomatic issues surrounding their current status. This chapter provides crucial information on the provenance of the manuscripts and the circumstances that led to their presence in Krakow.

Chapters 2 and 3, co-authored by Monika Jaglarz and Julia Madajczak, focus on the Manuscripta Americana collection within the Berlinka holdings. These chapters detail the specific provenance of the census fragments (Mss. Amer. 3, 8, and 10) and their relationship to other known fragments of the Marquesado census held in Mexico and France. The authors meticulously reconstruct the history of these documents from the 16th century to their acquisition by European collectors and institutions in the 19th century.

Chapter 4, written by Szymon Gruda, presents a detailed palaeographic analysis of the census fragments. This chapter identifies and describes the various hands present in the documents, providing valuable insights into the process of creating and revising the census. Although it consists primarily of texts written in Nahuatl, the palaeographic analysis carried out by Szymon Gruda in chapter 4 reveals the presence of different authorial hands in the documents, suggesting a gradual process in the compilation and revision of the census. The document itself does not contain the pictographic elements commonly found in other Mesoamerican codices, but instead uses a written register that reflects early colonial administrative practices in which the indigenous Nahua recording system was adapted to European conventions. This analysis is crucial for understanding the document's internal structure and the phases of its compilation.

Chapter 5, co-authored by Julia Madajczak, Szymon Gruda, and Monika Jaglarz, synthesizes the findings from the previous chapters to reconstruct the creation and history of the Tepoztlán census. It discusses the historical context of census-taking in early colonial Mexico, the methods used in compiling this particular census, and its subsequent history. This chapter provides a bridge between the archival history of the documents and their content analysis in the following sections.

The second part of the book, encompassing chapters 6-9, focuses on the detailed analysis of the census data, providing a comprehensive examination of the social, economic, and administrative structures of early colonial Tepoztlán as revealed in the manuscript fragments.

Chapter 6, authored by José Luis de Rojas, presents a quantitative analysis of the census data. This chapter offers a wealth of statistical information, including demographics, household composition, land distribution, and tribute payments. De Rojas meticulously breaks down the data into various categories, providing tables and figures that offer a clear picture of the socio-economic landscape of 16th-century Tepoztlán. This statistical foundation serves as a crucial reference point for the more qualitative analyses that follow.

Chapter 7, written by Katarzyna Granicka, delves into family relations and social structures as depicted in the census. This chapter examines household composition, marriage patterns, and intergenerational relationships. Granicka's analysis sheds light on important social phenomena such as child marriages, polygamy, and the treatment of widows and orphans. The chapter also explores the process of Christianization as reflected in naming practices and family structures.

Chapter 8, authored by Julia Madajczak, focuses on the administrative structure and social groups in Tepoztlán. This chapter provides a detailed examination of the *calpolli* system, analysing its hierarchical structure and its role in organizing tribute collection and land distribution. Madajczak also investigates various social categories mentioned in the census, including nobles, commoners, and dependent groups such as slaves and land renters. This analysis offers valuable insights into the complex social stratification of Nahuatl society in the early colonial period.

Chapter 9, written by José Luis de Rojas, examines land ownership and tribute payments as recorded in the census. This chapter provides a thorough analysis of the various types of tribute —*tlacalaquilli*, *tetlacualtilli*, *nemapohpohualoni*)— and their material composition. Rojas also investigates

land distribution patterns and their correlation with social status and administrative roles. The chapter concludes with a discussion of the economic implications of the tribute system for both the indigenous population and the Spanish colonial administration.

The final section of the book, comprising chapters 10–12, is dedicated to the presentation and explication of the primary source material itself, providing readers with direct access to the census fragments and the necessary tools to interpret them.

Chapter 10, co-authored by Julia Madajczak and José Luis de Rojas, presents a comprehensive glossary of Nahuatl terms encountered in the census. This chapter goes beyond a simple list of translations, offering detailed explanations of key concepts and their cultural contexts. The authors discuss the nuances of terms related to administrative structures, social categories, land measurements, and tribute payments. They also explain their translation choices, providing insight into the challenges of interpreting 16th-century Nahuatl documents. This glossary serves as an invaluable resource for readers engaging with the primary text and for scholars working with similar documents.

Chapter 11, also by Madajczak and de Rojas, outlines the conventions used for the transcription of the Jagiellonian Library census fragments. This chapter details the palaeographic principles applied in rendering the manuscript into a readable form, explaining decisions made regarding orthography, abbreviations, and textual layout. The authors discuss how they balanced the need for fidelity to the original document with the requirements of clarity and accessibility for modern readers. This chapter is vital to understanding the methodology behind the transcription and for scholars who may wish to consult the original manuscripts.

Chapter 12 presents the core of the primary source material: the transcription and translation of the census fragments. This extensive chapter provides a side-by-side presentation of the original Nahuatl text and its English translation. The transcription adheres to the conventions outlined in chapter 11, offering a diplomatic rendering of the manuscript that preserves its original features while making it accessible to modern readers. The translation, while striving for accuracy, also aims to convey the meaning and structure of the original Nahuatl. Extensive footnotes provide additional context, explain translation choices, and highlight points of linguistic or historical interest.

In conclusion, this volume not only brings to light invaluable primary sources from 16th-century central Mexico, but also provides a meticulous analysis that deepens our understanding of early colonial Nahua society, setting a new standard for interdisciplinary approaches in historical and anthropological research while opening avenues for future studies in the field. The first section offers a thorough examination of the historical and archival context of the census fragments, setting the stage for the detailed analysis of their content in the subsequent sections of the book. This comprehensive approach ensures that readers have a full understanding of the documents' significance and the complex journey that brought them to light for modern scholarship. Then, the second part offers a multifaceted analysis of the census data, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches to provide a comprehensive picture of Tepoztlán's social, economic, and administrative structures in the 16th century. This section not only contributes significantly to our understanding of early colonial Nahua society but also demonstrates the rich potential of census documents as historical sources. The final section of the book is of paramount importance, as it makes these previously unpublished primary sources available to the wider scholarly community. By providing not only the transcription and translation but also the necessary linguistic and methodological context, these chapters enable readers to engage directly with the historical material. This approach allows for a more nuanced understanding of the census data and opens up possibilities for further research and interpretation. The combination of the glossary, transcription conventions, and the actual text makes this section an invaluable resource for scholars of Nahuatl, colonial Mexican history, and Mesoamerican studies in general.