

1: Project MUSE - A Culture of Everyday Credit

*A Culture of Everyday Credit: Housekeeping, Pawnbroking, and Governance in Mexico City, (Engendering Latin America) [Marie Eileen Francois] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Pawning was the most common credit mechanism in Mexico City in the nineteenth century.*

In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: Stevens A Culture of Everyday Credit: Housekeeping, Pawnbroking, and Governance in Mexico City, â€” By Marie Eileen Francois Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, Marie Francois uses pawnshops to tell us a great deal about housekeeping, gender, ethnicity, technology, consumption, crime, honor, economics, culture, and political power in Mexico over a period of a hundred and seventy years, from the Bourbon reforms of the late eighteenth century to the Revolution of 1910. In her first six chapters, Francois alternates chapters devoted to borrowers with chapters focusing on lenders in three major historical periods: Her seventh chapter looks at pawning and borrowing in Mexico City during the turbulent years between 1820 and 1850. Francois combines a wealth of detail and statistical summaries of archival documents with apt illustrations from literary and narrative sources. She provides a wealth of statistics in the 27 tables included in the seven chapters along with 40 additional tables organized into three appendixes at the back of the book. Readers with quantitative inclinations will find much to ponder in these pages, but the statistically impaired have nothing to fear here. Francois writes with skill and intelligence, ably managing the web of complex social and ideological relationships all of which were grounded in the daily reality of managing a household and putting food on the table. She ends each chapter with a concise summary pulling together the strands that she has developed. Her language is precise and, at times, passionate. In the rhetoric of colonial administrators, pawnshop customers were poor and needy women, and Francois finds there were plenty of these, who needed to hock their clothes for their daily sustenance. The average size of a loan in private pawning, most often in corner stores, was just enough to feed a family of five for one day. Although literate men saw pawning as a clear indicator of vice and focused their attention on the most wretched cases, it was not only indigents who were taking out loans secured by their possessions. Material goods functioned as savings accounts; Francois notes the example of one woman who [End Page] bought pearls for her necklace as her business waxed and hocked them as it waned. In Mexico, pawnshops were patronized by the middle class and even the elite. Throughout all three periods, the greatest numbers of those pawning their possessions were women and most of the pawnbrokers were men, particularly Spanish men. By the second half of the nineteenth century, shopkeepers had stopped asserting that they were benevolent patriarchs aiding and protecting poor women; instead, they asserted their rights to run their businesses as they pleased without government interference. You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles:

2: A Culture of Everyday Credit : Marie Eileen Francois :

A Culture of Everyday Credit shows how Mexican women have depended on credit to run their households since the Bourbon era and how the collateral credit business of pawnbroking developed into a profitable enterprise built on the demand for housekeeping loans as restrictions on usury waned during the nineteenth century.

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