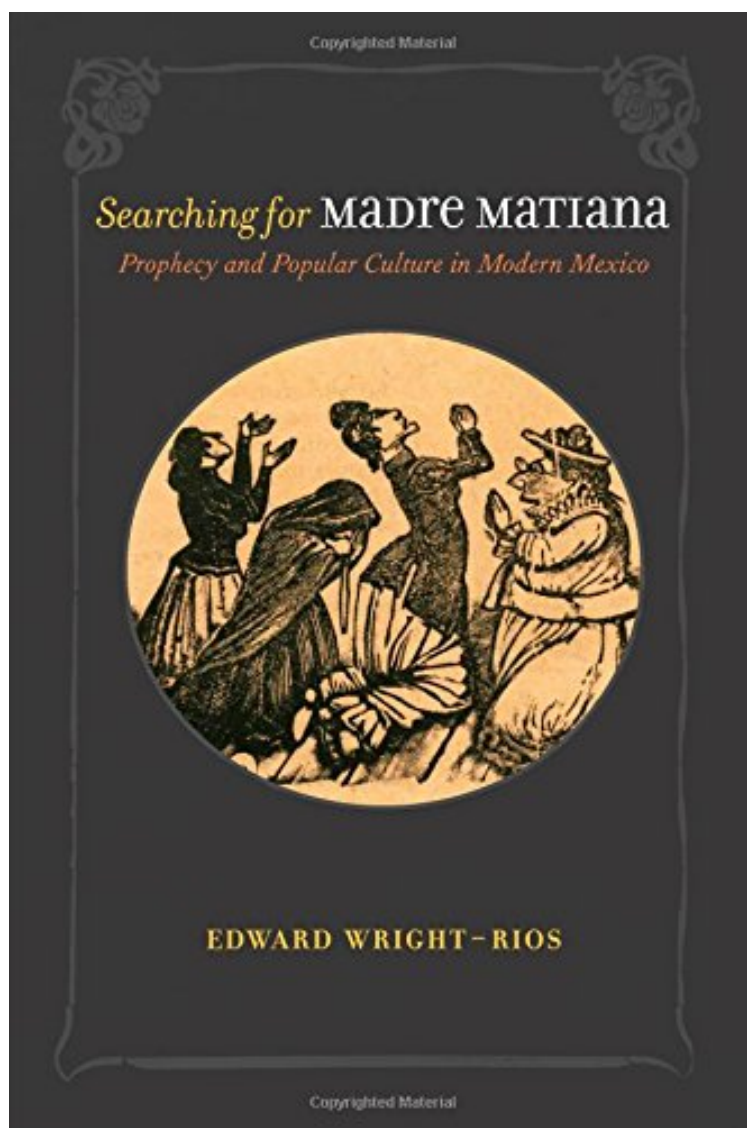


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Searching for Madre Matiana: Prophecy and Popular Culture in Modern Mexico (Dilogos Series)

Edward Wright-Rios

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Edward Wright-Rios : Searching for Madre Matiana: Prophecy and Popular Culture in Modern Mexico (Dilogos Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Searching for Madre Matiana: Prophecy and Popular Culture in Modern Mexico (Dilogos Series):

In the mid-nineteenth century prophetic visions attributed to a woman named Madre Matiana roiled Mexican society. Pamphlets of the time proclaimed that decades earlier a humble laywoman foresaw the nations calamitous destinyforeign invasion, widespread misery, and chronic civil strife. The revelations, however, pinpointed the cause of Mexicos struggles: God was punishing the nation for embracing blasphemous secularism. Responses ranged from pious alarm to incredulous scorn. Although most likely a fiction cooked up amid the eras culture wars, Madre Matianas persona nevertheless endured. In fact, her predictions remained influential well into the twentieth century as society debated the nature of popular culture, the crux of modern nationhood, and the role of women, especially religious women. Here Edward Wright-Rios examines this much-malignedand sometimes celebratedcharacter and her position in the development of a nation.

With imaginative leaps and careful excavations across two centuries of written and visual cultures, Edward Wright-Rios search for Madre Matiana dissects Mexicos ongoing cultural cleavage around religion, revealing its essential ties to gender, politics, and national identities. John Lear, author of *Workers, Neighbors, and Citizens: The Revolution in Mexico City* About the Author Edward Wright-Rios is an associate professor of history at Vanderbilt University. He is also the author of *Revolutions in Mexican Catholicism: Reform and Revelation in Oaxaca, 1887-1934*.