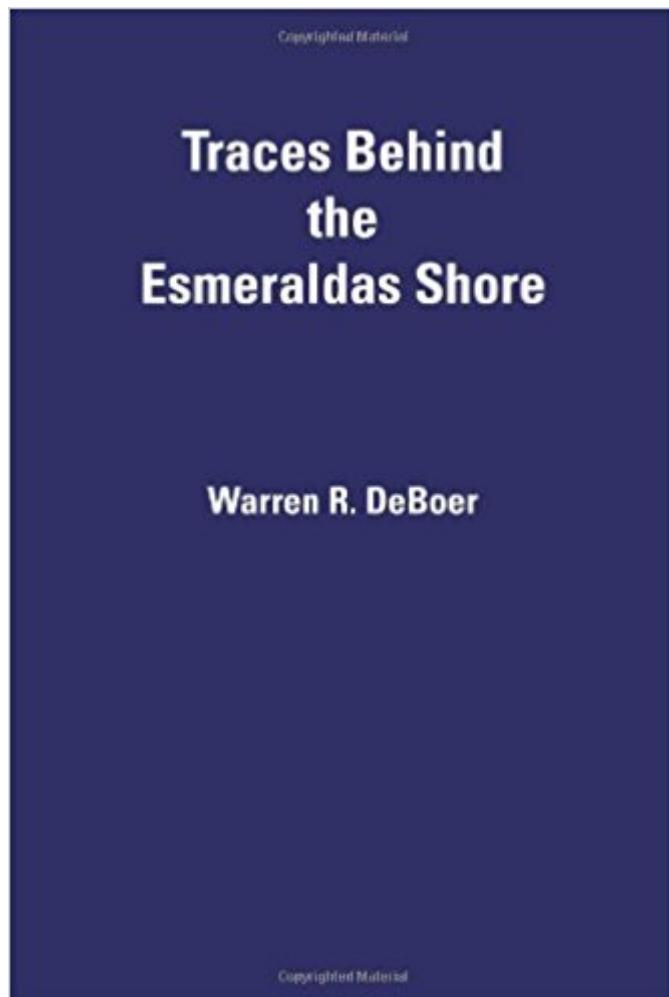


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# Traces Behind The Esmeraldas Shore



## Synopsis

Although long famous for its antiquities—“notably intricate goldwork, elaborate pottery, and earthen mounds”—the Santiago-Cayapas region of coastal Ecuador has been relatively neglected from the standpoint of scientific archaeology. Until recently, no sound chronology was available, and even the approximate age of the region’s most impressive monument, the large and much-looted site of La Tolita, remained in doubt. Building on evidence obtained during the last decade, this book documents an eventful prehistory for Santiago-Cayapas that spans three millennia. A highlight of this prehistory was the reign of La Tolita as a regional center from 200 B.C. to A.D. 350. Archaeological data from La Tolita’s hinterland indicate a complex and changing social landscape in which La Tolita’s hegemony was never absolute nor uncontested. Abundantly illustrated and written in a crisp, witty, and occasionally irreverent style, *Traces Behind the Esmeraldas Shore* will stimulate debate and rattle interpretive conventions about those social formations that archaeologists gloss as ‘chiefdoms.’

## Book Information

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"A model for how archaeological data and interpretations ought to be presented. This book is the most thoroughly documented and useful work to appear in the archaeological literature on Ecuador. DeBoer's writing style is a gift. He writes with clarity and wit and has a knack for choosing just the right word."—J. Scott Raymond, University of Calgary "DeBoer artfully . . . makes a series of well-reasoned inferences regarding dramatic social and political change during the long sequence as well as periods of cultural continuity. . . . A truly unique archaeological study."—Latin

## American Antiquity

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