



SOUTHWESTERN MISSION RESEARCH CENTER

an affiliate of the
ARIZONA PIONEERS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SMRC-NEWSLETTER

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DESCENDE CAELO ET DIC AGE TIBIA! Horace, Odes, Book 4, Ode 3.

There's really nothing like a classical beginning. And we've been planning this announcement for such a long time those who have heard of the Southwestern Mission Research Center think it's ancient history. Well, our concerns aren't quite that old and we know the activation of the Center is really news. In case you haven't heard of the Southwestern Mission Research Center (SMRC), it is a non-profit corporation whose primary goals are the support and encouragement of research and publication on the missionary past of the American Southwest.

Scholars and interested persons have remarked for many years that a central coordinating agency would really benefit historical and anthropological studies in the mission and colonial phases of the region. Documents and microfilms have been deposited in numerous universities and museums, but ignorance of their availability and contents has hampered their efficient utilization. Many researchers have often duplicated work already done or in process.

We hope that through the SMRC we will be able to function as a clearing house of information which will not bring us into conflict or competition with the independent aims of libraries or universities. We feel that by encouraging significant research and publication, much of the work that remains to be done can be done more effectively and profitably.

Consequently, we of the Southwestern Mission Research Center intend to solicit funds for the translation and the preparation of manuscripts for publication. We hope also to accumulate microfilms of primary sources which are not otherwise available. And as time goes by, we will support adequate archaeological investigations of historic mission sites. Where restoration projects seem feasible and desirable, we will offer professional level assistance.

The SMRC has been incorporated in Arizona and affiliated with the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society where our central office will be located. The SMRC will remain independent in its own operation and internal organization, however.

THE NEWSLETTER: From time to time during the year the SMRC will issue a newsletter, as yet nameless, to inform members and interested persons about current, completed, or planned research projects. And we invite you to use the Newsletter to inform others about your own work, to raise questions, to offer suggestions, all to further mission oriented studies.

We are presently planning to include current bibliographical information on pertinent books and articles. Experience has shown that many of us miss out on some good pieces of work because they were inaccessible or perhaps never widely published.

These are some of our ideas about the Newsletter, but we would like to hear your comments and suggestions on what you would like to see in such an occasional publication. Feel free to state your opinions.

MEMBERSHIP: You may be wondering who we are at SMRC. Someday we'll publish a membership roster, but for right now we are people from all walks of life with some degree of competence or interest in the mission past of the region. We have not been privately endowed or financed, except for generous contributions of time and talent by several scholars and interested persons. In order to keep the newsletter in circulation, to pay for printing and secretarial costs, and for mailing, we are asking those who wish to become active members for a membership fee of two dollars (\$2). Naturally any contributions are welcome and will find immediate use in furthering current projects. And just in case you want to put more than your dues to work, the SMRC is a tax-deductible, non-profit, educational corporation.

CURRENT PROJECTS: Rev. Charles Polzer, S. J. is now compiling a 15,000 card IBM file on the mission sites of Sonora, Arizona and Baja California. Don't worry; the computer hasn't come to history yet. The file is essentially a space-time record of each mission and will be available at the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society when completed. The individual mission sites are entered in the system with each year of the mission's chronology recorded on a separate card. The year-card will give brief information sketches for that year and where further information is available. Research scholars are invited to enter information on the cards whenever they are used at the A. P. H. S. library.

Also in the works is the completion of the translation of the Life of Padre F. X. Saeta, S. J. written by P. Eusebio Kino, S. J. and edited by Rev. Ernest Burrus, S. J. Fr. Polzer is the man doing this translation and hopes that the manuscript will be ready for the publisher by early spring.

A short, popular account of the life of Kino and a summary of the recent discovery of his grave, together with a guide to the missions will be published in late March by the Westerners' of Tucson. The booklet was written and designed by Fr. Polzer.

A new series of Kino letters was discovered in Guanajuato in the possession of a Mexican Province Jesuit. According to reports they date from around 1709 which will make them some of the most recent information we have on Kino in his later years. The letters are being edited and published by Fr. Pedro Alonso, S. J.

The discovery of the grave of Padre Kino was the archaeological highlight of 1966. The discovery team under the direction of Prof. Wigberto Jimenez-Moreno accomplished what at first appeared to be an impossible task. The Mexican Government is now planning the construction of a large monument, museum and mall in Magdalena de Kino (even the town's name has been officially changed!).

Currently Dr. Jorge Olvera of the National Institute of Historical and Archaeological Investigation is transferring the artifacts from the "dig" to the University of Arizona where the collections will be rigorously studied, identified, and reported. The artifacts will be returned to Mexico where they will become part of the museum collection in Magdalena de Kino.

While it may seem some time ago, the news on Guevavi is still not widely known. In the fall of 1964 members of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society, under the direction of archaeologist William J. Robinson and with the permission of ranch owners Ralph and Marjorie Wingfield, began excavations at the site of the Mission of Los Santos Angeles de Guevavi. The site, on the east bank of the Santa Cruz River in southern Arizona, is presumably not that of Kino's Guevavi, but is that occupied in 1732 by Padre Johann Grazhofer. The adobe church and adjoining structures were built in the later 1750's; as a mission settlement the place was abandoned about 1774.

Excavations were suspended in April, 1966, in the face of a disheartening lack of money to complete the work. But in the meantime, many architectural details of both priests' and Indians' quarters were uncovered; an incomplete casting of a church bell was found; and hundreds of fragments of Indian and non-Indian pottery were exhumed from the ruins. The "dig" was back-filled before the summer's rain as the only sure way of preserving the architectural remains. Guevavi lies temporarily buried again.

Rev. Kieran McCarty, OFM, is now the resident historian at Mission San Xavier del Bac and is making great headway on his dissertation on the Indian Administration of Sonora from 1774 to 1809. He is making ample use of modern techniques in using oral interviews of scores of Mexican and Indian residents in the region. Curious and revealing traditions are still preserved in their legend and folklore.

WORTH NOTING: Julian D. Hayden and Ronald L. Ives, who have kicked up their fair shares of desert dust, have recently kicked up a written storm concerning the routes taken by Padre Kino in the Pinacate Mountain area of northwestern Sonora. Ives' original article, "Kino's Explorations of the Pinacate Region," and Hayden's "rebuttal," which includes a Bufkin-drawn map that is no doubt the best map of the Pinacate area yet to appear in print, are published in the Journal of Arizona History (Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society, Tucson), Volume 7, number 2, pp. 59-75, and Volume 7, number 4, pp. 196-200. And for those of you who may have missed it, Ives also published an article entitled "Population of the Pinacate Region, 1698-1706," in The Kiva, Volume 31, number 1, pp. 37-45, using Kino and Juan Manje's data for his facts.

The Kiva is published by the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society, Arizona State Museum, The University of Arizona, Tucson.

Another one you may have overlooked: "Four Letters of Lambert Hostell: Jesuit Missionary of Lower California (1737-1768)," translated by Ernest Burrus, S. J., in the Western Explorer (Cabrillo Historical Association, Point Loma, California), Volume 4, number 1, pp. 10-25.

George Eckhart has written the article and Don Bufkin has drawn the maps for Eckhart's dictionary history of the missions of Texas. It is to be published in The Kiva, Volume 32, number 3 (February, 1967).

That's all the news for now. We've hardly scratched the surface of all that's going on, we know. But we invite you to notify us of what you're up to and how any of us can assist you through the pages of this newsletter. Just drop a line to:

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