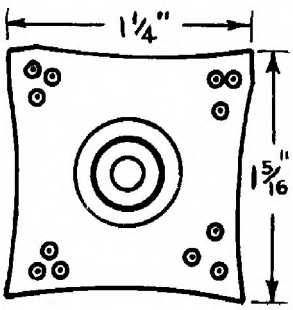
SOUTHWESTERN MISSION RESEARCH CENTER

SMRC-NEWSLETTER

VOLUME III, NO. 2 JUNE 1969

PARADE REST IN PIMA COUNTY: This is the story of a Spanish presidio that is about to become a hole in the ground. Part of it at least. What is presumed to be the parade ground of Tucson's Spanish presidio is the site of Pima County's underground parking garage, planned for construction this summer. James Ayres, Assistant Archaeologist in the Arizona State Museum, and his crew of volunteer diggers have been working weekends through March, April, and May to rescue the artifactual evidence of history from Spanish and Mexican-period trash pits. The Presidio de San Agustín del Tucson was begun in 1776; it was located where downtown Tucson is today. Archaeologists, working hurriedly to stay ahead of backhoes and bulldozers, have uncovered stratified deposits of Mexican majolica pottery, Chinese porcelain, metal buttons and musket balls, materials which date from the late 18th century to about 1840 or a bit later. Prospects are excellent that archaeologists will also be able to work eventually in the presidial burial ground and that they will find evidences of the south wall of the original Spanish presidio.



What is it? This flat object, shown above, carved out of bone, was found by archaeologists digging in Tucson's urban renewal area. It has an identical design incised by hand on the other side. If you can tell him what it is, write to James Ayres, Assistant Archaeologist, Arizona State Museum, the University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721.

GLASS BEAD PHOTO ARCHIVE: And apropos of archaeology, Dick P. Hsu, State Building Commission, P. O. Box 12172, Austin, Texas 78711, would like to hear from those of you who are interested in a photographic archive of glass trade beads. The State Building Commission is considering the establishment of a master color slide file for the identification of these omnipresent markers of European dealings with Indians. Persons with ideas on the subject or who would like to learn more about what is planned should write to Hsu.

Those Texans continue to stay busy with mission archaeology. The most recent mission report to emanate from the State Building Commission is Volume 2 of Mardith K. Scheutz's "The History and Archaeology of Mission San Juan Capistrano, San Antonio, Texas." Published in February 1969, as Report No. 11, it has a section describing the Coalhuitecan Indians of Texas and it is liberally sprinkled with photographs of artifacts: pottery, religious medals, colonial ornaments, iron artifacts, and many more. It is a bargain at the $2.00 price set by the State Building Commission.

BOOKS AND ARTICLES: Elsewhere on the publication front, Ronald L. Ives has come up with "From Pitic to San Gabriel in 1782: The Journey of Don Pedro Fages," in The Journal of Arizona History, Vol. 9, No. 4 (Winter 1968), pp. 222-244, Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society, Tucson. The Smoke Signal, No. 18 (Fall, 1968), published by the Tucson Corral of The Westerners (1937 E. Blacklidge Drive, Tucson Arizona 85719).

has seen fit in its infinite wisdom to print "Legends of Lost Missions and Mines," by Father Charles W. Polzer, S. J., along with William W. Wasley's "Ravaged Ruins: The Destruction of Our Cultural Heritage." Both pieces concern themselves with the history and effects of treasure hunting in the Spanish missions of northern Sonora and southern Arizona. Father Polzer has won himself no friends among the counterfitters of silver bars and purveyors of treasure legends with this one. There are 16 photographs and two Don Bufkin-drawn maps.

On the New Mexican scene, E. Boyd has done it again, this time with "The New Mexican Santero," published by the Museum of New Mexico in El Palacio, Vol. 76, No. 1 (Spring, 1969), pp. 1-24. "El Pal" is out in a new format, 8 3/8" x 10 3/4", and a photograph of a carved crucifix adorns the front and back cover. Thirty-nine additional pictures, nineteen references, and E. Boyd's authoritative discussion of more than a dozen santeros and their products are in store for the reader. We also learn of E. Boyd that, "Her major book on the arts of colonial New Mexico is currently in process and is expected to be published in about a year by the Museum of New Mexico Press." Which proves again what distinguished people SMRC members are.

In an earlier issue of El Palacio (Vol. 75, No. 4 (Winter, 1968), pp. 35-40), Alden Hayes tells us about "The Missing Convento of San Isidro." This article, complete withffour photographs and a plan of the Pueblo de las Humanas, concerns itself with the Pueblo Indian dwellings appropriated by Fray Francisco Letrado for his convento while he built his church of San Isidro (ca. 1629-1632). In this same issue, SMRC board member Charles C. DiPeso writes of "Casas Grandes and the Gran Chichimeca" (pp. 45-61). He presents here an extremely condensed version of his view of the prehistory and history of the Greater Southwest from 7,000 B.C. to A.D. 1821 as viewed from Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, where the Amerind Foundation, Inc., carried out extensive archaeological and historical researches.

Sonoran missions for the Franciscan period (1768-ca. 1841) get some of their due in "Sonora in 1773: Reports by Five Jaliscan Friars." Published in Arizona and the West, Vol. 11, No. 1 (Spring, 1969), pp. 39-56, these are reports by five Franciscan friars written in 1773 concerning the various missions under their jurisdiction. Translated by Charles R. Carlisle and edited and annotated by Bernard L. Fontana, part 1 of these documents has five photographs of Sonoran missions and one map, another example of Bufkin cartographic skill.

"Bottles and History: The Case of Magdalena de Kino, Sonora, Mexico," examines the bottles dug up in Magdalena during the successful search there in 1965-67 for the remains of Father Eusebio Kino, S. J., correlating their history with that of Magdalena. Written by Bernard L. Fontana, it appears in Historical Archaeology, 1968 (pp. 45-55), published by the Society for Historical Archaeology.

Yet another distinguished SMRC member, Pál Kelemen, has back in print his classic Medieval American Art. The 3rd revised edition, 1969, is published in two volumes by Dover Publications, Inc., of New York. This presentation of "Masterpieces of the New World before Columbus" sells for a modest $3.75 per volume. There are a total of 308 photographic plates and 418 pages of text, bibliography, and index.

MISSIONARY SIDE OF ARIZONA CONVENTION: The annual Arizona Historical Convention held in Tucson May 2-3 paid its share of attention to southwestern mission subjects. Father Kieran R. McCarty, O.F.M., Superior of Mission San Xavier del Bac, told conferees about "Garcés as an Observer," and University of New Mexico graduate student Mary Lou Moore discussed "Juan Bautista de Anza: Soldier and Diplomat." James E. Officer, Coordinator of International Programs at the University of Arizona, was banquet speaker for the Westerners' convention kickoff dinner. Jim spoke on "The Ramirez Family: A Saga of Kinship on the Spanish-Mexican Frontier," the genealogy of one of the earliest Arizona-descended non-Indian families, some of whose members were tutored by Spanish friars. The first Arizona Ramirez was born in Tubac in the 1750's; many descendants continue to live in southern Arizona.

In a more modern tone, Father Francis J. Fox, S.J., detailed an argument of the 1870's that developed between Bishop Jean Salpointe and Indian agent R. A. Wilbur over work being done at Mission San Xavier del Bac. "Discord at San Xavier" was based in part on interviews with living members of the Wilbur family Father Fox has located in Tucson and elsewhere.

SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE: San Diego's Spanish Borderlands Conference, March 6-8, resulted in several excellent papers. The University of San Diego sponsored the event to set San Diego's second centennial celebration in motion. Under the direction of Dr. Ray Brandes the conference attracted Spanish colonial scholars from across the nation and even from Europe. The Californios were a bit astonished to learn how deep and wide-spread the interest is in early Spanish-American history, ethnology and archaeology.

Nothing has been mentioned as yet with regard to the publication of the papers read at the conference, but a sound bet would be that some of the research items will be published in the Journal of San Diego History, available from the Serra Museum in Presidio Park, San Diego. The city plans many events throughout the summer of 1969 to commemorate the founding of the pueblo by Fray Junipero Serra in 1769.

SEGESSER VS. KINO: VERY INTERESTING BUT PERPLEXING: The first installment of the typescripts of the Philip Segesser, S.J., correspondence has arrived from Germany where paleographer-philologist Ansgar Hillach has been working on it. These first four letters, all written in the early 1730's (one from Guevavi and two from San Xavier del Bac), seem to indicate, among other things, that when Father Segesser arrived at San Xavier in 1732 there was no church. This means either that the Kino church begun here in 1700 was never finished or that it disappeared in 32 years. As we archaeologists say, "Very interesting!" Daniel S. "Colony on the Move" Matson is working on the translations. Efforts involving the Segesser letters are being sponsored by a grant from the University of Arizona Foundation.

PASSING OF A RENOWNED ARCHAEOLOGIST: Mrs. Jean C. Pinkley, who was in charge of the archaeological work at Nuestra Señora de Porciúncula de Pecos, Pecos National Monument, New Mexico, died February 18, 1969, following surgery in Houston, Texas. Before her death she discovered the ruins here of the largest mission church ever built in New Mexico.

MORE SOUTHWESTERN MISSION BOOKS OF RECENT VINTAGE: John Upton Terrell, Estevanicio the Black (Westernlore, $6.95), tells about Fray Marcos de Niza's 1539 guide to the Seven Cities of Cibola. ... Travelers in Texas, 1761-1860 (U. of Texas Press, $5.00), by Marilyn M. Sibley, includes observations of Spanish priests on life in Texas. ... Father Marion A. Habig, O.F.M., San Antonio's Mission San Jose (Naylor, $7.95), was published in 1968 to commemorate 250 years of San Antonio, the city, and 200 years of San Jose, the church. ... The Story of St. Thomas Indian Mission (P.O. Box 1790, Yuma, Arizona, $2.00), by Charles R. Quinn, covers the history of this site next to Yuma Crossing and of the church built here in 1923. ... Marquis McDonald and Glenn N. Oster describe the state of preservation (or lack thereof) of 37 missions in Baja: Land of Lost Missions (Naylor, $4.95). ... Soldiers of the Cross, by Jean B. Salpointe and first published in 1898 to tell about the Catholic Church in the Southwest, has been reprinted in a facsimile edition with a modern foreword by the Most Reverend Francis J. Green, Bishop of Tucson (Calvin Horn, $7.50). ... Chester V. Kielman has compiled The University of Texas Archives: A Guide to the Historical Manuscripts Collections in the University of Texas Library (U. of Texas Press, $25.00). There are 2,430 entries and an index.

Southwestern mission roundup: Roger Dunbier's The Sonoran Desert: Its Geography, Economy, and People (U. of Arizona Press, Tucson, 1968), has a section concerning the Spanish mission period of this great desert, one which includes parts of the modern states of Sinaloa, Sonora, and Arizona. ... Robert Goss has written a Master's Thesis concerning the retablo (rererdos) of Mission San Xavier del Bac, "The Principal Retablo of the Church of San Xavier del Bac," under the direction of University of Arizona professor of art, Robert M. Quinn.

SUMMER SLOW DOWN AT SFX; ODDS AND ENDS: Archaeological work at Mission San Xavier, although not stopped, has come to a summer slow down. ... Ray Ringenback, after an absence of several years, is now back as superintendent of Tumacacori National Monument, Arizona. Welcome home Ray. ... Louis C. Caywood, now virtually retired from the National Park Service, is waiting until his report on Mission Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Zuni, New Mexico, is off to press before he vacates permanently his office at the Southwest Archaeological Center in Globe, Arizona. Happy retirement, Louis, and may you now write up your work on Tumacacori for publication! ... The Smithsonian Institution's authority on Spanish colonial art, Richard Ahlborn, is now Curator of the Smithsonian's new Division of Ethnic and Western Culture History. Richard plans to be in Arizona for awhile this summer to continue his study of the statues in Mission San Xavier del Bac. He also hopes to visit churches in northern Sonora while he's here.

SMRC DUES: Members are reminded that 1969 dues are still due! Several memberships are not yet paid up for 1969. With postage rates running as they are we would appreciate prompt payment of dues. The SMRC Newsletter would also appreciate hearing from members concerning their mission-oriented projects and works over the summer months. Please contact any of the following:

SMRC Newsletter
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