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Notes and Reviews

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NOTES AND REVIEWS

THE PORTRAIT OF VARGAS. The cut at page 179 is from a painting of Don Diego de Vargas Zapata y Luján. Marqués de la Nava de Barcinas (*sic*) as it was reproduced in the work by José Pérez Balsera, *Laudemos viros gloriosos et parentes nostros in generatione sua* (Madrid, 1931). It was contributed by José Manuel Espinosa to accompany his article.

Three of the quarterings on the coat of arms (in the upper left of the picture) correspond with those shown in the Vargas blazonry in Twitchell, *Story of Old Santa Fé*. The fourth appears to be different but it cannot be deciphered.

In the lower right of the painting is a legend which reads:

The Señor Don Diego de Vargas Zapata Luján Ponze de León, Marqués de la Nava de Barcinas, of the Order of Santiago, Governor, Conqueror, Pacifier and Captain General of New Mexico, lost his life in a campaign to liberate the sacred vessels in the siege of Bernalillo [in the] year of 1704.

This legend and the portrait do not agree. From other sources we know that Vargas was born in Madrid on November 8, 1643, and died at Bernalillo on April 8, 1704, from sickness incurred in a campaign against hostile Apaches in the Sandía mountains. At the latter date, therefore, he was in his sixty-first year, whereas in the portrait he appears to be in his thirties or even younger. We must conclude, therefore, either that the legend was added (c. 1705?) to an earlier painting, or that this portrait was copied from an earlier one.

The original may have been painted in Madrid in the summer of 1672 when Vargas was about to start on his first journey to America. He had then been appointed as a special courier of the king, *Cappitán del Pliego del Aviso*, to

carry dispatches to the viceroy in Mexico City. On January 1, 1673, he wrote to the Council of the Indies asking for more funds, stating that he had been awaiting his dispatches at Cádiz for six months ready to sail and had used up not only his salary but all his private means. The Council sent him two hundred pesos and an order for the payment of his expenses. (A. G. I., Mexico 276, Jan. 1, 1673.)

Little is known of Don Diego for the next fifteen years, but in January, 1679, he was *alcalde mayor* of the pueblo of Teutila, New Spain (A. G. I., Contaduría 776). He had been married before he left Spain, but at some time between 1673 and 1679 he contracted a common law marriage in America, because on his death-bed he declared as his sons, "although not by legitimate wife, Don Juan Manuel de Vargas of the age of twenty-four years, and Don Alonso de Vargas of the age of twenty-three years, and their sister Doña María Theresa who is with her mother in the city of Mexico of the age of nineteen years." (Twitchell, *Spanish Archives*, I, 304)

In 1688, Vargas was *alcalde mayor* in the Real de Minas de Talpugujua when, on June 18 of that year, he was appointed governor and captain general of New Mexico, and late that year or in 1689 apparently he returned to Spain on family matters. On August 14, 1690, he executed in Madrid a power of attorney, giving to his legal wife control of their property in Spain. It appears further that he had at least one legitimate son in Spain, for in a testament signed in Mexico City on June 1, 1703, he declared that his oldest grandson was to succeed his first-born son as Marqués de la Naba Brazinas. (Twitchell, *op. cit.*, 307-308)

After giving the above power of attorney, Vargas returned immediately to Mexico City, for on October 12, 1690, he there received his first salary payment as governor of New Mexico for five years. (A. G. I., Contaduría 780)

The portrait may have been painted in Madrid in 1690, but Vargas would then have been nearly forty-seven years of age, whereas the portrait shows him as a young man. It

seems more probable, therefore, that the original was painted in 1672 or earlier.—L. B. B.

THE SANSON MAP. No more curious geographical information (or misinformation) will be found in the Heylyn account edited by Mr. Brayer than will be found on the historical map which has been reproduced to accompany that paper. It is from the first edition of Sanson's *L'Amérique en plusieurs cartes* (Paris, 1657). It has been somewhat reduced from its original size (24.2x20.7 cm.), and a few comments may be of help in studying it.

With some amplification, the legend in the cartouche reads: "Audience de Guadalajara, Nouveau Mexique, Californie, [Floride], &c. Par N[icolas] Sanson d'Abbeville, géographe ordinaire du Roy. A Paris, chez P. Mariette, rue Saint Jacques a l'Espérance. Avec privilège pour 20 ans."

The idea that California was an island was to persist for nearly a century more. The confusion of the Rio Grande with the Colorado was corrected some twenty years later on the Coronelli map. (See NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW, II, 323) At the right edge of the map is shown a bit of the Gulf of Mexico, with Florida where Texas is today, and near Pánuco is "S. Iago de los Valles." Any who have traveled by automobile from Laredo to Mexico City probably remember Valles only as one of the places where they bought gas and oil!

The locating of tribal names and place-names in New Mexico is pretty badly mixed up. It is significant of the lack of correct information in Paris in 1657 about this part of the world.—L. B. B.

HANDBOOKS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY. Director Hewett announces the beginning of publication by the School of American Research and University of New Mexico of a series of *Handbooks of Archaeological History*. The first number to go to press is *The Chaco Canyon and Its Monuments*. The announcement states:

"The Hand Books of Archaeological History are designed to extend knowledge of Ancient America by present-

ing in readable form descriptions of important centers of cultural development of the native American race, with ample illustrations of the monuments that mark the wreckage of its achievements. These descriptions are the result of long and arduous exploration and study on the ground, and of thorough sifting and selection from the work of all reliable investigators. They are sufficiently scientific for elementary text books. They are written also for the many travelers and others who are eager for dependable information about our American antiquities but cannot get it from technical tomes or original sources, who care little about technicalities and much for sound, fundamental knowledge. It is pure culture history, for the race made no literary records, and no mortal of any other race witnessed or described its strivings. No other people helped to build these monuments and none helped to destroy them. They were mainly ruins when the first Europeans came. The American Indian builders had their great days and their decline before white men saw them. This is not saying that the latter did not contribute to the final paralysis of the Indian race. That is another story.

"Titles pertaining to the American Southwest listed for early publication are:

1. Archaeological Monuments of the Southwest (a photographic record)
2. The Chaco Canyon and Its Monuments
3. The Cliff Dwellings of Mesa Verde
4. The Cliff Dwellings of the Pajarito Plateau
5. Archaeological History of the Rio Grande Valley
6. Archaeological History of the San Juan Valley
7. Archaeology of Northern Mexico

"The Hand Books will be kept free from technicalities; free as far as possible from the confused nomenclature of southwestern archaeology, and will furnish authentic material in condensed form for use in this vast Science of Man that so many ambitious thinkers are venturing into.

"Every reader of these books is asked to keep in mind certain objectives. First of all: we want to visualize the *human life* that pervaded these places. Ruins are the forsaken abodes in which the human spirit dwelt and actualized itself. But a certain kind of archaeology dehumanizes this material. Man's conduct is hardly a subject for microscopic study. These ancient ruins reveal how groups of human beings have waxed and waned; mark the roads that men have traveled on the way through their world. In them is embedded the imperishable achievements of their hands and brains. What we want in the study of the Science of Man is facts that will aid in the interpretation of human life.

"Secondly, in this matter of interpretation: remember that while imagination is essential in scientific study it has to be rigidly controlled and that the surest guidance to the understanding of the relics of the past is to be found in living communities of the same breed as those whose debris we are excavating. In other words, the surviving Pueblo Indian, not the ethnologist, is the most reliable source of information about Indian culture in the Southwest, ancient or modern. When it comes to a decision between an unsophisticated Indian's idea in such matters and that of the much educated white man who feels that his scientific training is discredited unless he explains most everything, the Indian has it.

"Lastly, do not expect the archaeologist or the National Monuments custodian to be able to explain everything about these ancient ruins. Only a few reliable conclusions have been reached, the most reliable one being that we know very little about them. Happily, the desire to know, and the determination, have survived the discovery of the errors and illusions of the past, and the fascinating quest goes on, the quest that is summed up in the magic word *archaeology*."

—E. L. H.

Jessie Benton Frémont, a Woman who Made History.
By Catherine Coffin Phillips. (San Francisco, printed by John Henry Nash, 1935. 361 pp. ills.)

Of biographies written by women there are many, especially of late years,—of histories worth mentioning, few if any. One wonders why, especially after reading the admirable volume by Catherine Coffin Phillips portraying the life of Jessie Benton Frémont, a volume which is as much and as good a history as it is a biography. In its scope it covers the nineteenth century in the United States. In telling the story of the wife of General John Charles Frémont, the author draws incidentally a picture of the times, their intrigues,—political as well as military,—their manners and their whims, which is charming and convincing.

It is true that as the wife of the noted path-finder and explorer, the first senator from California, the first republican candidate for the presidency, the course of life of Jessie Benton Frémont “was highly dramatic.” “She was fitted by temperament and education to adapt herself with grace and fortitude to every phase of Frémont’s stormy career.” Says the writer in her introduction: “Her part in that drama carried her from Washington and the courts of Europe to the pioneers’ California of ’49; from a New York mansion to a cabin in a Sierra mining camp; from wealth to poverty.”

It must be remembered that Mrs. Frémont was the daughter of United States Senator Thomas H. Benton and therefore to the manor born in official Washington as well as in the pioneer West, between which she shared much of her eventful life. The author makes skillful use of the abundant material at her command; which included not only official documents, newspaper files but also intimate correspondence and personal acquaintance with the subject of her biography. The reader will value the book not only for the insight it gives to events and their motivation during great epochs in United States history but also for its sprightliness of characterizations and the vividly colorful style with which the trivial but nevertheless significant incidents of family life are woven into the tapestry of tremendous events.

To students of New Mexico history there is especial interest in the references to Kit Carson and Lucien Maxwell, to the story of General Frémont's visit to Carson in Taos, to General Frémont's governorship of Arizona and his life at Prescott in early territorial days. The association of Charles F. Lummis with Mrs. Frémont in her later days, the encouragement and help she gave him in the publication of his volumes appertaining to New Mexico, are sidelights worth while recalling. Among the many fine, full-page illustrations is one of Kit Carson, by far the most impressive portrait of this New Mexico pioneer thus far reproduced.

Typographically the volume is a joy, its wide margins, chapter head pieces and initials making it a masterpiece from the press of John Henry Nash of San Francisco.

P. A. F. W.

El consejo real y supremo de las Indias. Por Ernesto Schäfer. (Spain, Universidad de Sevilla, 1935. xviii-434 pp., to appendices, bibliography, index.)

Professor Ernest Schäfer is a German scholar, correspondent of the Spanish Academy of History, delegate in Sevilla of the Ibero-American Institute of Hamburg. A subtitle limits his study of the Council of the Indies to "its history, organization, and administrative labor to the end of the House of Austria." Volume I, here under review, deals with the organization and early history of the Council and of the House of Trade, and was first written in German for publication by the Institute of Hamburg. At the suggestion of Don Juan Tamayo, chief of the Archivo General de Indias, the author was asked to prepare this Spanish edition.

Dr. José María Ots, director of the Center of Studies in the History of America under the University of Seville, in a prefatory note (pp. vii-ix) emphasizes the importance of the subject treated by Dr. Schäfer and outlines the plan for future publications of the Center.

In a brief introduction, the author traces the unfolding of the Spanish colonial system to 1502. Chapter I discusses

the House of Trade (25 pp.), and the second chapter (54 pp.) treats of the Council in the reign of Charles I. The remaining three chapters (c. 80 pp. each) describe the Council in the reign of Philip II, during the first half of the 17th century, and then to the death of the last Hapsburg king in 1700.

The two appendices will be of especial interest to many students, the first being a tabulation of the members and officials of the Council from 1524 to 1700; the second, of the House of Trade from 1503 to 1700. One of the illustrations is a bird's eye view showing the royal palace in Madrid as it was in 1656, with a section of it assigned to the Council of the Indies.

The author hopes, later, to write a second volume describing the work of the Council in colonial administration and, if life and strength are spared him, a third volume carrying the history and functioning of the Council through the times of the Bourbon kings until its final extinction in 1834. Many will join in the hope of Professor Schäfer that this monumental task may be realized.—L. B. B.