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Book Reviews

Calendar of Documents in the Santa Barbara Mission Archives. Maynard J. Geiger. Washington, D. C., Academy of American Franciscan History, 1947. Pp. xiv, 291. (Publications of the Academy of American Franciscan History, Bibliographical Series, I).

In 1944, the Academy of American Franciscan History was founded for the purpose of "the discovery, editing and publishing of documents, bibliographies and original historical works pertaining to the history of the Franciscan Order in the Americas."

One of the major contributions of the Franciscan Order to American history was the establishment of missions in California, and the outstanding leader in this work was Fray Junípero Serra. It is fitting, therefore, that the first publication of the Academy of American Franciscan History stands to a large measure as a memorial both to the California missions and to Father Junípero Serra.

Since the Santa Barbara Mission was the only one in California to remain continuously in the hands of the Franciscan Order, it was natural that the documents of the other missions should find their way to Santa Barbara. Interested and energetic administrators have increased the value of the archives by transcripts and photostatic copies of related documents.

In the *Calendar* the documents have been grouped into six sections. The first and possibly the most significant of these is the Junípero Serra Collection. Since the *Calendar* went to press many more items have been added to this part of the Mission archives. To complete the record of documents, therefore, a second volume of the *Calendar* is being prepared for publication. At the present time the documents in this section are not available for scholars, since these materials are being used in the canonization cause of Fray Junípero Serra. It is expected that ultimately this collection will be opened to scholars.

The second section is the California Mission Collection, 1640-1853. This and the collections of reports, tables, and lists from 1768-1934 in the fourth section contain materials of considerable value to the historian of early California. Of special interest are the reports of the *presidentes* of the missions and the annual and biennial reports of the individual missions. Source materials are available for many aspects of California life. A listing of a few documents, taken more or less at random, will illustrate this point:

20. Nov. 17, 1768. *Puerto de la Paz*.
Gálvez to Lasuén on preparations for the California expedition. Lasuén's remarks. Entire document in Lasuén's hand. 4 pp.
48. May 25, 1774. *Mexico*.
Antonio Bucareli to Palou on various California mission affairs. 7 pp.
70. July 15, 1780. *San Francisco*.
Invoice of goods received from the missions of Lower California. Hand of Palou. 7 pp.
125. July 20, 1787. *Monterey*.
Pages to Lasuén on Indian labor. Lasuén's reply, San Carlos de Monterey, July 23, 1787. 3 pp.
236. Feb. 23, 1795. *San Carlos de Monterey*.
Circular letter of Lasuén to the California missionaries on teaching the Indians the Spanish language. 3 pp.
279. Dec. 20, 1796. *Mexico*.
Branciforte to Lasuén concerning artisans. Lasuén's reply, San Carlos de Monterey, April 26, 1797. 4 pp.
591. Dec. 31, 1812.
Description of the earthquake of 1812 at Mission Purísima by Fathers Payeras and Ripoll. Tr. 1 p.
710. c. 1818.
List of mules belonging to Mission Santa Bárbara, and concerning payment for same. 2 pp.
784. 1818-1820.
Number of cattle branded. 1 p.
891. Oct., 1822.
List of contributors from the missions to the governor of California. Memorandum in hand of Payeras. 1 p.
927. Jan. 8, 1824. *Monterey*.
Plan of government for the department of California, 4 pp.
963. April 23, 1825. *San Carlos de Monterey*.
Sarría to Durán on the oath of allegiance. 24 pp.
1210. Jan. 27, 1833. *San Luís Obispo*.
Gil to Durán concerning disease at San Luís Obispo. 3 pp.

1565. Aug. 28, 1846. *Santa Inés*.

Circular letter of Fray José Jimeno to the missionaries from Santa Bárbara to San Diego on relations with the Americans in California. Urges moderation and prudence. 6 pp.

Another section of the archives contains documents dealing with the Apostolic College of the Santa Barbara Mission from 1853 to 1885. These documents are of primary interest to the Franciscan Order and are reserved for use by the Order and by Church authorities. The remaining sections of the archives contain various documents unrelated to California history and a miscellaneous collection of newspapers and other printed materials.

Father Maynard Geiger deserves credit for an excellent editorial achievement in the preparation of this *Calendar*. His descriptions of the documents listed will be of great service to scholars. The Academy of American Franciscan History has made a significant contribution to bibliographical literature.

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The Government of New Mexico. Thomas C. Donnelly. Albuquerque, The University of New Mexico Press, 1947. Pp. vi, 330. \$4.00.

The objective of a textbook writer in the field of government, it has been said, is largely twofold; first, to make a clear and intelligible analysis of the existing organization of the governmental unit under consideration, and second (probably the more important), to examine critically the bases upon which the structure rests. In those instances where the writer differs or disagrees with the fundamental logic of the governmental set-up, it is proper that he advance opinions as to what he believes the basic structure should be, setting out his reasons for them.

Viewed in the light of these objectives, Dr. Donnelly's book on the government of New Mexico serves its purpose well. The state's functions and powers are comprehensively

covered and the book is rich in historical background material. The author has not hesitated to criticize the organization of existing departments and agencies where he believes criticism is warranted. He views with concern the state's penal system and rather severely criticizes organization of the district attorney's office. He regards the county as the "weak sister" in the governmental structure. His suggestions for governmental reorganization in many instances will bear serious study and consideration.

Not to be ignored in discussing the value of a new treatise is its actual need in the particular field. As Dr. Donnelly observes in the preface, "very little information can be found in any of the standard textbooks about the government of the state in which a student resides." Since, as he further points out, the government of the state in which a student lives is the one in which he is most interested, and because no other comprehensive general textbook has been available for some time, there remains no question of the need this treatise fills. The only major question remaining is how well it fills this gap.

The opening chapters adequately trace governmental organization of New Mexico before statehood and the framing of the state constitution. Pertinent provisions of the constitution are next discussed, others are briefly noted or summarized. In explaining the elective franchise in New Mexico the writer rather cogently calls attention to the disenfranchisement of those voters who find themselves absent from home precincts due to barriers which the constitution itself sets up. He outlines comparative advantages and disadvantages of the convention and primary systems for nomination of political candidates and speaks optimistically about the gradual improvement in the tone and conduct of political campaigns since statehood, attributable, he believes, to an expanding independent vote. He regards as a serious weakness in the elective process, the appointment of election officials on a basis of partisanship rather than of competence and integrity, but defends the often criticized scheme of blackened, tucked-under ballot numbers as a means of avoid-

ing ballot box stuffing, preventing chain voting frauds, and as aids in making recounts.

Material in the book with a few minor exceptions was brought up to date to the point of publication. Unfortunately books of this kind which must of necessity include changing factual data and statistics tend to become out of date rather quickly. Furthermore, inasmuch as books of this type seek to cover much material in limited space, shortened statements sometimes become misleading. Dr. Donnelly's book, it may be observed, appears freer from these flaws than the average treatise of its kind. Several may perhaps be noted as warnings to the student.

In dealing with the duties and qualifications of state officials the text recites that the lieutenant governor is the only elective state official who is not required to reside in Santa Fe during his term of office. This statement is correct if it is construed as applying only to the executive branch of the government, since neither the legislative nor judicial branches are covered by the requirement. The text echoes a common but erroneous impression that taxable property, real and personal, must be listed with the county assessor by the owner in January of each year, and this is the customary procedure. Technically, however, it is the assessor who should view the taxpayer's property, and in any event the taxpayer has at least until March 1st to report property subject to taxation. (See Sec. 76-210, N. M. 1941 Compilation). The writer summarizes various political arguments frequently advanced in support of the state and federal income tax, but does not mention its recognized inequities. Salutary as the income tax may be on the whole it leaves much to be desired in the case of persons with widely fluctuating incomes or those who are forced to dispose of capital assets temporarily during a period of inflation. The combination of "bunched income" and graduated tax rates, despite their apparent advantages from an over-all standpoint, often do result in unnecessarily harsh inequities. Only because the New Mexico income tax rate is comparatively low, as in the case of individuals who work for long periods

of time without pay and receive their full compensation at the end, subjecting them to the income tax burden in a single year, these inequities have not been more actively brought to the public view.

On the subject of improving the legislative process, the writer expresses definite views. He observes rather pointedly that enough time has already been spent criticizing and in trying piecemeal expedients, such as the split session experiment. He suggests a unicameral house with from fifteen to about twenty members, each to be paid around \$1,200 a year and to be elected from a district based on population. He further recommends that the constitution should be amended to permit annual sessions of the legislature on the unicameral basis without time restrictions.

Dr. Donnelly explodes the popular belief that the governorship in the past has been a stepping stone to high federal office. He observes that from 1912 until 1947 only Larrazolo was elected to the United States Senate after serving as governor, and further notes that the public career of the other governors has gone into "total or partial eclipse."

In reviewing the New Mexico educational system the author points out the most glaring deficiencies and advocates, particularly, the establishment of a county-wide school district system, thereby vastly reducing the present number of districts and eliminating the overlapping of extant municipal, rural and independent districts. He would at the same time provide a more adequate system of supervision than presently is possible under the dual control of elected superintendents and appointed boards of education which, at the county level, has on occasions led to serious conflicts.

Dr. Donnelly sees merit in an appointive system to replace the election of certain state and county officials. Particularly because of the nature of the duties involved he advocates an appointive secretary of state. To obtain and then to keep qualified school superintendents he favors their appointment. Though not belittling the evils of political appointments in certain governmental positions, he recognizes advantages in the system, such as a greater likelihood of

close cooperation between individuals belonging to the same political party.

In the excellent discussion of the judiciary a couple of matters should perhaps be clarified. He points out that one justice of the peace can be elected in each precinct. It is to be observed that actually only a little over 300, or about a third of the state's 900 precincts, elect a justice. This number is ample since jurisdiction of the justice of the peace is coextensive with the limits of the county. It may be noted further that while the legislature can rearrange the state's judicial districts as the text explains, the constitution restricts this power to the first session of the legislature after each regular United States census. (N. M. Const. Art. 6, Sec. 16).

The book concludes with a selected bibliography which provides ample opportunity for supplementary reading on the state's governmental structure, and, of course, an index. It is a text which is to be welcomed, both as a tool in the academic process in the high schools of the state and as a milestone in the pathway of governmental reform in New Mexico, for it contains much that is suggestive of improvement.

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