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Northern New Spain: A Research Guide.

Thomas C. Barnes, Thomas H. Naylor, and Charles W. Polzer. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1981, 147 pp., illustrations, maps, \$9.95 (paper).

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This unpretentious, loose-leaf-bound volume will be of immediate practical value to anyone beginning to utilize documents in Spanish relating to northern Mexico and the American Southwest. It will also inform those who are quite experienced in such research and even those concerned with other parts of Spain's colonial empire. The volume is a by-product of an extensive and ongoing research project at the University of Arizona: The Documentary Relations of the Southwest. In the course of examining all the documents relating to the history and ethnohistory of their area that they could locate, with the goal of microfilming all useful ones and selecting particularly valuable ones for translation and publication, members of the project developed substantial information about, among other things, where documents are and a set of tricks by which one can find pertinent material buried in an extensive formal legal document, recognize and translate the abbreviations with which they abound, and even identify accurately their curiously formed Arabic numerals. Project members decided that their research tools were worth assembling and would be of value to other students. They are.

The volume begins with a discussion of the computer access bibliography being developed by the Documentary Relations of the Southwest project. It didn't turn me on. Then follows an exciting discussion of the kinds of documents that were produced in colonial New Spain, noting where in such documents

valuable ethnohistoric information might be located. This is of worth to a researcher who might face 20 or 30 long documents that begin with administrative formalities in hard-to-decipher script and then wonders whether scores of hours of study will yield any nuggets of ethnohistoric value.

The section on paleography concludes with facsimile reproductions, along with full transcriptions and translations, of the mysterious abbreviations that appear in manuscripts of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. A discussion of the holdings of archives in Mexico, Spain, other parts of Europe, and the United States is incisive, and to it is added what seems to be an inclusive bibliography of the published guides to each of these archives. One could use these data to make a pretty sound decision as to whether an archive was worth visiting on a given research project.

Then follows a series of brief factual summaries of the structure of colonial government, the political evolution of New Spain, money and currency, weights and measures, and lists of colonial political and religious officials who held office in the various political units in northern New Spain and those in Mexico and the United States up to the cut-off date of 1850. These lists do not claim to be impeccable, but most of them are correct, and they afford a good historical framework. An extensive nomenclature of native groups and an equally extended list of colonial racial characterizations, effectively synonymies, are included. The one-degree-square map grid developed by the Documentary Relations of the Southwest is of value in a region where there may be scores of San Ignacios or San Franciscos.

The general bibliography, broken down by topic, is perhaps the weakest part of this work. While most of the classics are mentioned and some more obscure titles are noted, many important works are missed and several citations are inaccurate, e.g., Engel-

hardt's *Missions and Missionaries in California* is four massive volumes, not two, and a classic work may be cited only to its most recent reprinting rather than to the original paper.

As one who battled his way through a mass of 18th-century documents on Baja California without guidance, I can say with some security that perusal of *Northern New Spain: A Research Guide* would have saved me at least six months of hard work and probably improved my product significantly.

REFERENCE

- Engelhardt, Zephyrin
1908-1915 *The Missions and Missionaries in California*. 4 vols. San Francisco: James H. Barry.



Kawaiisu Ethnobotany. Maurice L. Zigmond.
Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press,
1981, 102 pp., 1 map, photos, \$25.00
(paper).

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This volume of 102 pages is attractively printed in large format (8½x11 in.) with paper binding. According to the introduction, the work is a "by-product of generalized field work among the Kawaiisu" undertaken first in 1939-1940, and then resumed in the early 1970s after a 30-year hiatus. The earlier field work, in part, provided the basis for Zigmond's doctoral dissertation (Zigmond 1941).

After a brief introduction, the main body of the text consists of an alphabetical listing of each taxon (given by currently acceptable genus and species) followed by a discussion of Zigmond's observations of Kawaiisu knowledge and uses for each plant. Several tables supplement the written text, including a

summary table of the plant usages, a list of Kawaiisu plant names, a list of common names of plants, and an inventory of the genera and species grouped according to plant families. Also included are a list of plants which the Kawaiisu recognized and applied names to, but did not use, and a list of the plants found in or near the Kawaiisu homeland that were neither named nor used. Several interesting photographs, mostly taken by Zigmond during the late 1930s, are also provided.

Zigmond states that the Kawaiisu had a high regard for their plant world, which provided them with food, medicine, intoxicants, clothing, shelter, and many utilitarian items. Some plants were especially highly regarded and used by the Kawaiisu in their rituals and religious practices. It is noted in the introduction that the Kawaiisu way of naming plants reveals no coherent pattern for recognizing what are obviously related plants. Thus, although there is a common name for acorn, there is no apparent interrelationship between the designations for the seven species of the genus *Quercus* which were known and used. For a full discussion of nomenclatural problems Zigmond directs the reader to his publication "Kawaiisu Plant Name Categories" (1971).

Zigmond's discussion of Kawaiisu plant usages is both well written and informative. He provides a considerable amount of detail about two plant groups in particular, *Nicotiana* and *Datura*. Plants belonging to these two genera were central elements in Kawaiisu ceremony and religion, as well as important plant medicines. The discussion of the ownership, care, pruning, and gathering of *Nicotiana bigelovia* and the specialized preparation of its leaves by fermentation, is one of the more important passages, for it shows that plant "usage" is a complex process requiring very specific knowledge of numerous details. Zigmond amplifies and clarifies many points