

*French Activities in California: An Archival Calendar-Guide.* By ABRAHAM P. NASATIR. (Stanford University, California: Stanford University Press, 1945. Pp. xiii, 559. \$10.00.)

For its contribution to historical research, Dr. Nasatir's *Archival Calendar-Guide* deserves to be ranked with the great series of guides to materials for the history of the United States in foreign archives published by the Carnegie Institution. In the field of Pacific Coast history there has been nothing comparable to it since Charles E. Chapman's *Catalogue of Materials in the Archivo General de Indias for the History of the Pacific Coast and the Southwest* which appeared in 1919.

The work has a much broader scope than the compiler claims for it. Actually "French Activities in California" is only the central theme which is developed in a concise and well documented introductory essay. Materials in the *Calendar-Guide* are distributed chronologically from the seventeenth to the twentieth century, although the majority belongs to the period 1786 to 1850. The book is useful for the study of many subjects besides "French Activities in California." Early French voyages into the Pacific; the westward advance of the French from Canada and Louisiana toward the Pacific and Spanish territory; the French in Mexico and Central America, 1808-1857; history of the Hawaiian Islands, 1819-1870; and French observations concerning the American westward movement, the Mexican War, and the occupation of California are a few of the obvious topics for which Dr. Nasatir's work would serve as a valuable guide and source book. It should also be mentioned that, from the historian's point of view, one of the most significant activities of Frenchmen in both official and unofficial capacities was the writing of the manuscripts, books, and articles listed in the *Calendar-Guide*. Collectively they did a tremendous job of historical reporting.

Naturally, Dr. Nasatir's book is devoted chiefly to materials in the archives of France, but a ninety-eight-page appendix lists items in the archives of Great Britain, Spain, and the United States Department of State which have a bearing upon French interests and activities in the Pacific Coast area. The largest section of the work is the catalogue of manuscripts in the archives of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The compiler found that the series "Correspondance Politique: États-Unis, Mexique, et Îles Sandwich" contained the most extensive materials for his study. Special mention should be made of his chapter which contains a catalogue of papers of the French consulate in Monterey for the period of 1842-1851. French consular records are not generally open to research students after the year 1789, but Dr. Nasatir fortunately secured permission to catalogue and copy the Monterey manu-

scripts, which are of unusual value for California history. The *Calendar-Guide* also contains extensive materials from the Archives du Service Hydrographique de la Marine, Archives Nationales, Bibliothèque National, and several other French archives and libraries of lesser importance to the subject.

The *Calendar-Guide* is organized by chapters with each chapter devoted to an archive or division. For each chapter the compiler has written an introduction which includes pertinent information about the archive and a list of the most serviceable guides. The space allotted to an individual item is based upon the compiler's judgment of its historical value. Documents may be quoted at length, summarized, or merely listed. In the same manner some books and articles receive extensive comments and others do not. This method of presentation indicates a careful analysis of the materials catalogued. The excellent summaries of manuscripts and the large quantity of documentary text make the work valuable as a source book as well as a guide.

It seems to the reviewer that the only adverse criticisms of the *Calendar-Guide* worth mentioning bear upon the economy of its publication, and for this the author-compiler cannot be held responsible. The omission of an index, the apparent condensation of the original manuscript, and the use of the photolith process, all appear to stem from the same source. It is regrettable that the consideration of printing costs should have been permitted to detract from the appearance and usefulness of an important book that represents the results of more than ten years of research.

Despite these criticisms, the volume is one which any university press might be proud to have upon its list. Dr. Nasatir in several places modestly explains that his *Calendar-Guide* is not complete, but the reviewer hazards the prediction that the present generation of historians will not live to see a more definitive work in its field.

LAWRENCE KINNAIRD.

University of California,  
Berkeley.

*A Guide to Materials Bearing on Cultural Relations in New Mexico.* By LYLE SAUNDERS. [Inter-American Bibliographies, III.] (Albuquerque: The University of New Mexico Press, 1944. Pp. xvi, 528. \$5.00.)

Various bibliographies of the literature relating to special phases of New Mexico history have been published, but none of these works is either thorough or up-to-date. The volume under review is the first