

The Historical Society of Southern California

printed by the Ward Ritchie Press, and except for the overly small pictures already mentioned its design is admirable. Overall it is a fine piece of work, and it is especially appropriate that this first significant appreciation of the history and development of San Diego Bay should have appeared in the year of the two hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the first Spanish settlement there.

Professor Kemble, chairman of the Department of History in Pomona College, is a foremost authority on Pacific Coast maritime history.

THE ENDURING DESERT. *A Descriptive Bibliography*. By E. I. Edwards. Foreword by Russ Leadabrand. (Los Angeles: The Ward Ritchie Press, 1969. 316 pp. \$27.50). Reviewed by Homer Aschmann.

One expects a published bibliography to be a sober capitulation of titles on a defined subject. Its selectiveness or exhaustiveness and the degree and character of annotation will be similarly clearly identified and consistent. This large and handsomely produced volume fulfills none of these criteria. Books, magazine articles, and ephemeral promotional pamphlets are included if they refer in any way to the desert portion of California. There is a bias in favor of early travellers' accounts and local history and one against science and natural history. No item has been included that is not published in English. The annotations may be merely discussion of all or part of the contents, highly subjective personal appreciations of a work, book collectors' notes on how to distinguish editions, or all three.

Mr. Edwards is a book collector rather than an historian and *The Enduring Desert* is directed at persons with similar interest. He also gives evidence of having read with care each of the items he cites. Going through the volume is like spending a long evening in the author's library as he successively takes off the shelf and comments on each volume or pamphlet in his treasured collection. Often the comments are interesting, informed, and insightful, in large measure because they are uninhibited personal reactions. On other occasions they simply miss the point or express a prejudice. The attitude toward Indians is consistently that of the frontiersman.

Aside from its undeniable merit as an example of fine printing, this book will appeal primarily to those who share the author's interests and attitudes. A student interested in the history of Southeastern California, however, will want access to the volume. Though it makes no pretense to completeness, rare items and ephemera are noted in abundance. The annotations may be sufficient to let one know whether he wishes to run the reference down. In a considerable number of cases this may involve a special trip to the author's residence in Yucca Valley, and I get a strong feeling that if the visitor likes to talk about books he will be welcome.

The reviewer is professor of geography in the University of California, Riverside.

THE HENRY E. HUNTINGTON LIBRARY AND ART GALLERY FROM ITS BEGINNINGS TO 1969. By John E. Pomfret. (San Marino: Huntington Library, 1969. 241 pp. \$8.50). Reviewed by Kenneth M. Nesheim.