

Book Reviews

CALIFORNIA CALLIGRAPHY. Edited by Maynard Geiger, O.F.M. (Ramona, Calif.: Ballena Press, 1972. 59 pp. \$4.50.) Reviewed by Francis J. Weber.

This collection of almost 200 signatures, excerpted from the voluminous published works of Zephyrin Engelhardt, O.F.M., represents the outstanding personalities associated with the political, military and ecclesiastical phase of California life during the Spanish, Mexican and early American periods. To each of the alphabetically-arranged entries is added the person's full name, title or occupation and dates of influence on the local scene.

Signatures have always had a peculiar fascination, for a host of reasons. Ranging from the highly-artistic to the almost indecipherable, these chirographic remains provide valuable clues to the writer's temperament, age, debility and/or illness. Whether the lineal markings are rapid or slow, vertical or sloped, large or small, compressed or expansive, simple or ornate, slipshod or consistent, often sheds light on a wide assortment of character and personality traits.

Of special interest to collectors are the *rubricas*, those post-signatorial flourishes which frequently comprise the most conspicuous features of a page. This study of signatures in the Santa Barbara Mission Archives encompasses a broad spectrum of *rubricas* used by early California celebrities. The intricate variety of loops, circles and zigzag lines reveal a wide variety of "lattice work," some of it quite artistic. In fact, the *rubricas* are wonderfully-constructed calligraphic devices used principally as a precaution against forgery in subscribing, signing or sealing letters and statements. As can readily be seen, each writer developed his own rubric which he practiced until memorizing fully its curves, figures and scroll work. The device, so essential an ingredient that its absence questioned the validity of a document, was the only recognized manner by which a writer could "certify" or guarantee the authenticity of his signature.

The handsomely-prepared text, printed throughout in dual tones, is issued in a limited edition of 750 copies, by the Ballena Press, through cooperation with Santa Barbara's respected bookdealer, W. T. Genns.

Rev. Francis J. Weber, archivist for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, is an authority on the history of the Catholic Church in California. He has recently authored biographies of Archbishop John J. Cantwell and Bishop Francisco Garcia Diego.

THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST: ITS PEOPLES AND CULTURES. by Lynn I. Perrigo. (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1971. 469 pp. \$8.95.) Reviewed by Dennis E. Berge.

This book is a revised version of a textbook in southwestern history published by the same author with Banks Upshaw Company in 1960 under