THE MERCURIO VOLANTE OF DON CARLOS DE SIGÜENZA Y GÓNGORA

AN ACCOUNT OF THE FIRST EXPEDITION OF DON DIEGO DE VARGAS INTO NEW MEXICO IN 1692

TRANSLATED, WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES, BY

IRVING ALBERT LEONARD, PH.D.
University of California

THE QUIVIRA SOCIETY
LOS ANGELES
1932

HP22933

F799
S58
1967

First Published by
THE QUIVIRA SOCIETY
1932

•

Republished by
Arno Press
1967

•

Library of Congress Catalog Card
Number: 67-24715

•

Manufactured in the U.S.A.
Arno Press Inc.
New York

HP22934

453

CONTENTS

PAGE

List of plates 11

Introduction 13

Forerunners of newspapers in New Spain 14

Sketch of Sigüenza y Góngora 21

Conditions in New Spain at the time of Vargas' reconquest of New Mexico 28

Vargas and the motives of his reconquest of New Mexico 31

Conclusion 43

Translation of *Mercurio Volante* 49

Note on the Fer map, by Henry R. Wagner 89

Facsimile of the original edition of *Mercurio Volante* 91

Index 129

square of the pueblo, where he made a barricade. There a cross was set up, and, when the natives were convinced by effective arguments regarding what it was their duty to do, they were consecrated anew to God and swore allegiance to their lord and king.

When the infants were baptized, Chief Antonio also invited the General to be godfather, and, after receiving this favor, invited him to dine. Despite the fact that the excitement noted among Antonio's domestic servants and the admonitions of Chief Miguel argued against this step, the General accepted the invitation, trusting somewhat to luck and, by suitable precautions, guarding himself against surprise. Accompanied by the missionaries and several of his officers, he went into the house. The feast was limited to roasted eggs and some watermelons.[122] Expressing his thanks with a happy countenance, the General went on to the pueblo of Moxonavi [Mishongnovi], which is not far off. Here our men and the Indians did exactly the same thing as in Gualpi, except that, in addition, they found, on entering the public square, three of the chiefs with crosses in their hands to which the General (in order to set them a good example) knelt three times. The large crowd from the whole pueblo assembled there asked for absolution (having laid aside their weapons), and, when their oath of allegiance had been received, the Spaniards moved on.

In a very short time the pueblo of Jongopavi [Shongopovi] was reached, and, without a single person remaining inside of the houses, everyone came out with evident rejoicing and obsequious greetings to meet the General.[123] What took place in all the other pueblos was quickly re-

[122] That watermelons should have been served late in November is not surprising as the Indians still preserve them until midwinter by burying them in damp sand in a cold dark room.

[123] The men were lined up on one side and the women and children on the other. (*Ibid.*, 38.)

HP22935