



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

MS 1082 Mission San Antonio
prayer and song board, 1817

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	MS 1082 Mission San Antonio prayer and song board
Date:	1817
Identifier:	NAA.MS1082
Creator:	Cabot, Pedro, 1777-1836 Sancho, Juan Bautista, 1772-1830
Extent:	1 Item (ink on paper mounted on wood board; 8.5 x 16.75 inches)
Language:	Text is in Spanish, Salinan, and Latin.
Digital Content:	Image(s): MS 1082 Mission San Antonio prayer and song board
Container:	Box 1082

Administrative Information

Provenance

The collection was donated to the Smithsonian Institution by Alexander S. Taylor circa 1860.

Preferred Citation

MS 1082 Mission Antonio prayer and song board, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Variant Title

Prayerboard with Liturgy Written in Spanish and Salinan, Handwritten Ink on Paper Pasted on Wood Board

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Historical Note

Mission San Antonio was founded fifty miles south of Monterey, California by Father Junipero Serra on July 14, 1771. In 1804, Fr. Pedro Cabot and Fr. Juan Bautista Sancho joined the mission.

Prayer boards were used at California missions by Franciscans for teaching indigenous communities the basic elements of Roman Catholic practice and belief through standardized prayers and traditional songs. The boards were designed to be carried, hung up, or inserted in a hymnal stand.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of a wooden prayer and song board. There are prayers and songs (with musical notation) written in the Salinan language, Spanish, and Latin. The front of the board is divided into upper and lower sections. The upper section contains "Acto breve de caridad y contricion" (Brief Act of Charity and Prayer) and "Breve oracion" (Brief Prayer) in Spanish and Salinan. The lower section contains Latin text with musical notations for two antiphons, "Asperges Me" and "Vidi Aquam," and includes detailed instructions to the priest. The reverse of the board contains "Acto de fe" (Act of Faith), "Acto de esperanza" (Act of Hope), and "Acto de caridad, o de amor, y dolor" (Act of Charity, or Love and Sorrow) in Spanish and Salinan.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Local Numbers

NAA MS 1082

NAA INV 09067000

Exhibitions Note

The prayer board was on exhibit in the Museum of History and Technology (now the National Museum of American History) in the "Hall of Every Day Life in the American Past," in a special section entitled "Character of the Old West."

The prayer board was used in hearings before the Senate and House appropriation sub-committees in March 1973 to demonstrate the benefits realized from the modest increases in funds provided by the Congress in recent years to the National Museum of Natural History for additional personnel and resources to support the work of scientific staff.

Publication Note

The prayer board is discussed in detail in:

Ahlborn, Richard E. "The Mission San Antonio Prayer and Song Board." *Southern California Quarterly* 74, no. 1 (1992): 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.2307/41171606>.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Language and languages -- Documentation

Salinan -- San Antonio

Cultures:

Salinan -- San Antonio

Types of Materials:

Works of art

Names:

San Antonio de Pádua (Mission)

Places:

California

North America