

Acknowledgments



The Western Americana Collection at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library of Yale University contains a treasure trove of materials concerning the early history of Texas, quite a bit of it untouched by scholars of the Southwest. Among these materials are the documents written and collected by Jean-Louis Berlandier between 1827 and 1851, many of which were acquired by Yale from Henry R. Wagner.

One of these previously unpublished and seldom-cited documents is the diary kept by Gen. Manuel de Mier y Terán on his 1828 inspection of Texas as a boundary commissioner for the Mexican government. A translation of Terán's diary is herein given, and for this privilege we must extend thanks to George Miles, director of the Beinecke. Over the years he has done much to stimulate interest in and appreciation for the Texas documents in this collection, and we trust that our volume will further the process. He has also generously allowed us to reproduce several facsimile pages and use two Terán letters from the Berlandier papers at Yale.

We especially would like to thank Scooter Cheatham and Lynn Marshall for contributing their botanical observations to the book. Apart from the original inhabitants, people ever since Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca have wandered around Texas wondering about the flora of the countryside—which tubers, fruits, and berries were safe to eat and which ones could kill you, for starters. Scooter and Lynn's ongoing twelve-volume series, *The Useful Wild Plants of Texas, the Southeastern and Southwestern United States, the Southern Plains and Northern Mexico*, will answer many of these questions, and we are glad they were willing to shed some light on the plants that Terán saw on his journey through pristine Texas in 1828. Del Weniger offered his expertise on the fauna mentioned, which is the subject of volume two of his latest book, *The Explorers' Texas*.

Our friend Galen Greaser rendered much help with the Spanish records of the Texas General Land Office, fielded questions about early

survey plat maps, and also passed along copies of several important Texas maps he found in the National Archives. We received advice on different sections of the diary and individuals whom Terán met during the trip from Dorcas Baumgartner, Jim Corbin, Linda Flores, Patricia R. Lemée, Thomas Ricks Lindley, Timothy K. Perttula, and Bill Stein. Betje Klier was gracious enough to let us reprint her translation of Théodore Pavie's view of east Texas, and we wish to thank George Ward of the Texas State Historical Association for similar permissions involving traveler accounts of San Antonio in 1828. Ron Tyler, along with Howard Karno and Joseph Musso, helped us choose illustrations for the book, including several original Claudio Linati watercolors that are little known outside of Mexico. For securing the portrait of Terán on the dust jacket (also used as the frontispiece) we are indebted to Carmen Hernández Piña, and we must thank Engerborg Montero of the Museo Nacional de Historia at Chapultepec Castle for permission to reproduce it. We should also acknowledge Ohland Morton's groundbreaking study of Terán's life and the Texas State Historical Association's beautiful two-volume edition of Berlandier's *Journey to Mexico*, both of which made this project a lot easier to accomplish.



Jack Jackson

John Wheat

Texas by Terán



FIGURE 1

Lithograph of General Guadalupe Victoria, who was president of Mexico at the time of Terán's inspection. From Claudio Linati, Costumes civils, militaires y religieux du Mexique, courtesy of Joseph Musso.