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In this Spanish South Texas there is historical information uncovered that suggests an intensely interesting situation. By organization our best intelligence surely can be interested. I can see how a very interesting travel and tourist interest can be fostered to bring people to Texas in the Centennial year. And this interest will be such that, if we cared to, Monterrey and Mexico City would join in...the highway to Mexico City will be completely paved before then. There is a possible pulling power in all this to draw the Nation's travelers southward. Our highway department would have little to do to prepare the ~~xxxxxx~~ Spanish trails for light travel (not for expensive commercial and truck travel) and a land rich in old Spanish atmosphere would be opened. All South Texas cities would be interested in this. Moreover, bringing this old Spanish history out instead of letting it be buried forever in oblivion would be a finer contribution to Texas than even the purchase of the Alamo. I can show you many things when you arrive.

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For years I have believed there was something big in Spanish activities in Texas to cause such missions as at San Antonio to be constructed. San Jose "the greatest in all New Spain," and New Spain embraced Mexico, and this northern territory, and Central America, and South America around the Gulf, and the West Indies, and the Philippines. Great minds and considerable money in a period of weakening power and scarcity of funds, were concentrated here; not on one mission but on five missions and a royally supported city. Such mission structures were not for Indians alone; they were built with greater thoughts in mind. Today, in their neglect and in the little history that is in print, they are not much for a Centennial to tie to, but all these South Texas Spanish localities, if given their true historical setting, can be made a power of interest for the Centennial.

I enclose a map outline of the Spanish arteries; these trail courses will change history if historically established. I have established a number of wilderness control points, and there is important material at a number of places along these trails. The map at least will give you a mental picture.

The reason the rich history of the San Antonio missions has never been written is because this background is unknown, and much local history is scattered or unknown. Our studies of San Jose uncovered many leads and much history

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California, Santa Fe, and New Orleans, have an extensive array of modern books that steadily interest people in those centers. San Antonio and South Texas will also have an extensive history literature when the basic Spanish history is dug out, woven together and made accessible, and not until then.

This is but a hasty letter. Yours has but just arrived. You will understand more clearly when you can see maps and data. There is no question but there is a rich field for organized cooperation.

Sincerely,