

# University of Arizona

ARIZONA STATE MUSEUM  
TUCSON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

January 7, 1932.

Mr. Harrall Ayres,  
The Gunter,  
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Mr. Ayres:

Some years ago a pamphlet was issued by Mr. Hilsinger of Tucson in which he claimed that a charter for the establishment of a town at Tucson was granted by the King and Queen of Spain in 1552, and said that the charter, or copy of it, was in the Congressional Library in Washington. However, no one has since been able to locate such a charter even though careful search has been instituted at the Library. We feel very doubtful if such a charter was ever issued at that early date. An Indian settlement undoubtedly existed, where Tucson now stands, when the Spanish adventurers and padres first came to this region but it is very questionable whether any Spanish settlement was established here until many years later. You will find in Dr. Dolton's translation of the account of Father Kino's visits to this region that there were fields of grain and fruits of several kinds growing in this vicinity, indicating cultivation and, also, that seeds had been brought by earlier Spanish padres into this region and distributed to the Indians; but when this was done and by whom still remains very uncertain. There is still plenty of agricultural land in the vicinity of Tucson and it is located where Indian trails north and south and east and west must have crossed. These favorable conditions are present but do not demonstrate the presence of a Spanish town.

Any additional information that we may be able to give will be gladly sent you.

Sincerely yours,

*Byron Cummings*  
Director of  
Arizona State Museum.