

I steadily think of this work of mine as a research library or laboratory, and pray that it can hold as such until there is broad knowledge to support historical writing. I steadily think of your work as broadly basic. I hope the day may come when St. Mary's here may feel warranted in coordinating with this South Texas local study....research. There is much helpfulness possible there.

You speak of small groups of real workers gathered around the table. That is my thought. Here at this 301 GUNTER
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times were normal that table would be here. I am sure in all space for large map display; some of the maps are in my
Dr. Paul J. Poik,
St. Edward's University,
Austin, Texas.

My dear Doctor Poik:

Your letter to me discussing Spanish history problems and principles was nicely responsive to mine of the 19th. I thank you, and pay tribute to you for what I believe to be a sound mental background for your work as chairman of the K.C. Commission. Your letter does not necessarily call for reply, nevertheless it may help both of us in our thinking ahead if I write this. Our thoughts are so much alike I am sure I can express myself in this letter so that this sort of correspondence need not be kept up. The time you have already given has been gracious.

Basically, we are in agreement that this Spanish history must be built on exhaustless research and a capacity to properly interpret that which is turned up.

Your analysis of the Yanaguana Society and mine are in accord and need not be discussed further.

Concerning Chabot, whatever merit he may have for finding source material, he nevertheless lacks broad historical knowledge and geographical understanding. It happens that I have had fourteen years of contacts between St. Augustine, Florida and San Diego, California....the Old Spanish Trail. This has given me unusual geographical understanding and an unusually broad Spanish history background. Here in South Texas a group of us have our understandings buttressed by intimate acquaintance with the field, and by the detailed and complete maps in our possession. I am therefore qualified, I think, to observe quite easily the crude blunders Chabot makes as to general history. The local material he turns up therefore cannot be accepted, but must be studied. He understands Spanish quite well, I am told. He translates fairly well, I assume. I am not qualified to judge of these phases. His translations of botanical terms in his Morfi Memorias is criticized severely by an Agricultural Department scientist here. It is a pity therefore not to have a real history authority here and Chabot's virtues developed and his errors controlled.