MISSION SPANISH VOCABULARY OF CALIFORNIA

Reverend Arthur D. Spearman, S.J.

University of Santa Clara
Bibliography for Mission Spanish Vocabulary of California


Hubert Howe Bancroft. California Pastoral

Inventory of Santa Clara Mission 1851

Haffen, Old Spanish Trail

Palou

Zephyrin Engelhardt


Mary Walsh. Mission Bells of California

Bancroft, Hubert Howe History of California

Edith Webb Indian Life at the Old Missions

Dwinelle,

Older

Judge Hayes Memories of a Pioneer
Arroba  2.5 pounds of weight

Acetre  (Azetre from Fr. assiete) Holy water bowl with handle, for aspersario (aspergil).

Atril  missal or altar-card stand

Blandon  candlestick; Blandecitos

Arandela  
  Bobechon or wax pan of candle-stick head or socket; sconce;
  Bobechon  ... if with pointed iron into candle base

"Abadesa, Madre" Married woman in charge of single girls of the "Monjerio" quarters

Atajalero  board for diverting zanja water; also called "La llaveva" (BC C Past. 232;

Artenejal  artenejales

Atole  roast barley water; breakfast "postum" (BC C. Past. 233)
  acorn mush of Pala Indians = "wee-weesh"

Arras  (cf subarrhavit me Ps. -) "Frena y senal de contraclo", 13 coins.
  cf: Inventory of Sta. Clara Mission 1851; blessed with ring or rings in marriage rite.

Arrieros  Mexican muleteers (1829).

Ajunte  quarters of the mission boys and single men

Bulto, de  statues full fashioned, in the round; not just head and shoulders supports. for dressing.

Baratero  blastin and pick and shovel miner at New Almaden-Miner at New Almaden who does blasting and uses pick and shovel.

Borregada  Brood ewes and their ram

Caponera, Cavallada (Palóu), Cabalgada  bunch of extra horses or mules for a trip.

Capataz  supervisor of a work crew.

Interpreter, Secretary to Padres (BC C. Past. p. 232)
2.

- Calesa: literas "litter", covered seat on poles with low wheels in early California.
- Cabib: a coin of 3 to 5 piastres each
- Calabacillas: little wild squashes
- Comales: flat earthenware pans for cooking tortillas - a hot cooking surface
- Coton de jerga: serge blouse or petticoat
- Ceja: ridge, eyebrow
- Chellon: creek ("Old Spanish Trail", p. 25)?
- Champurrado: breakfast porridge of maize (atole) with chocolate flavoring! (Bf., C. Pastoral, p. 232; served with Dulces and bread or tortillas?)
- Cobertones: serapes, jergos
- Dado arriba: frieze. Dado Abajo: "footboard design", or wainscoting.
- Deposito: 1. Reserva del Santisimo Sacramento
               2. Waking room for Remains of Deceased
               (Lower left belltower at Mission Santa Clara, or Majordomo's house known as California Hotel in 1849.
- Deshilado: Spanish drawn-work
- Ejido, Ejido: Vacant lots or commons (Engelh. III, 474, 476; Dvinelle. II)
- Estofado: Statues carved in full, burlapped, seized, 12 coats enamel rubbed, real hair, glass eyes, gold leaf. on the cuffs and borders of garments.
- Esquilas: bells; rotary wheel of small bells hand-turned
- Esquilones: large bell-tower bells rolled over by wheel ropes (cf., Maria T. Walsh, M. Bsb. of Calif., p. 84)
- Estoppilla, Estopa: fine linen thread or possibly Estoquillo of agave, one of the many maguey species.
- Imafronte: Step approaches to base of large main door pillars = lower fachada or lower facade.
Ermita  
a roadside or chapel shrine

Flor de San Jose  
The hollyhock (from apocryphal marriage pod flowering).

Fanega  
1 fanega = 1 1/2 bushels
5 fanegas = 8 bu (Bc. Calif. Pastoral, p. 795)
8 fanegas = 12 bu. (Bc. C. Past., p. 795)

Faja  
embroidered scarf or "belly band" worn by men.

Gorguez  
California ox goad; Gorgue, colloquial expression of gorguz or pointed instrument.

Gaño  
yoke of oxen

Galeron  
Infirmary at missions

Mangas  
two blankets, bed clothes, sleeve, covering clothing

Mecate  
a rope

Matraca  
Holy Week Crotalus, wooden knocker even in Spanish Church bell towers! (Bc. C. Past., p. 231)

Meriendas  
Mission Indian picnics (cf. Webb, etc."

Milpitas  

Mojonera  
meze-mark for beginning land measure by throw of a riata

Nacar  
iridescence of mother of pearl of a dove's neck; and imitation marble

Molenderia  
room for metates (fine grinding) and molecajeles (coarse grinding)

Manada de yeguas  
blood mares and their stallion

Mantilla  
a head or shoulder scarf of silk brocade, or lace or drawn-work usually triangular in shape.

Reboso  
long shoulder scarf sometimes used to protect head and face from the wind.
Marco Sources silver for $7.00
200 unts. = $1400.

✓ Nixtamal maize zancochado en agua de Cal = hominy!

✓ Jicara, taza pequeña, huevo de chocolate, small cup used for drinking chocolate.

✓ Habilitado de habilitación paymaster or quartermaster

✓ Hijados sons-in-law? (cf. Judge Hayes of San Diego)

✓ Hornacines furnaces? (and side-naves of a church?)

✓ Hueros California Spanish for palidos = light - complected Mexicans
     Tipton - or light - haired.

✓ Jacal Indian temporary hut of tules
     Tipton slightly different

✓ Jergas serapes, cobertones

✓ Ojita small spring of water; an "eye" of water

✓ Panete linen cloth about the loins of a crucifix. Faldita?

✓ Petate grass mat or kneeling cushion in church, or house
   "Tejido de tinas de palma etc.

✓ Pichacho peak of a range of mountains or hills.

✓ Porton gateway into a patio, or "close", or entrance of carretas, horses;
   a zaguan, enter on horseback. (cf. Webb, p. 103, 114).

✓ Pozole thick soup of cornmeal or pulse with vegetables, seasoning and meat
     Tipton has stew, broth

✓ Pozolera outdoor kitchen, and ladrillo fireplaces for cooking pozole.
Palabrerro  a prayer card e.g. mass, cards on altar  
(c.f. Bc. H of C.I., p. 725)

Preste  presiding cleric of a liturgical function, not necessarily celebrant.

Quadrilla  a mission work-crew under an Alcalde or Capataz  
(c.f. Webb, p. 236)

Rastra  a drag to level ground;/cover seed?

Remuda  a string of horses for remounts (c.f. Caponera, Caballada, etc.)

Retablo  reredos of altar; of wood carved, or of shawls and boughs for an Ermita or shrine - La Ermita de San Saturio!

Reboso  scarf over the head

Salibrosa  or saliboza  alkaline

Sauzal  a clump of willows

Sancocher  to parboil

Sancocho  South American breakfast dish of yucca meat, plantains, cocoa

Sillar epigraphico

Sotobanco  altar pediment of wood

Tahona  grain mill worked by mule or horse - arabic word

Tapalo  a shawl (Reboso = scarf over the head. Mantilla if lace or silk brocade)

Tejamanil  shake or shingle

Tejolote  mano de un molcojete, pestil of a mortar or a molinillo
Templete: a small church

Teja acanalada: the ridge tiles

Tequio: the task of work for mission neophytes after which they were allowed to rest

Tonelete: tasselled end of a cincture

Tanatero: carried 200 - 300 pound ore sacks up ladders 20 to 30 times daily at New Almaden.

Siembras de riego: plowed with stick! sowing of seed for later irrigation.

Siembras de temporal: scatter seed on surface for rains (De Mofras: )

Sitio, Mission: Engelhardt III, 475. nu Puente

Unqualified = one square league (Dwinelle #11)

--- de ganado mayor, 5000 square varás (Spanish yards) (Eng. IV, p. 265)

--- de ganado menor, e.g. sheep, 333-1/3 square varás.

--- transferred meaning like "my 640, my section, my 40! etc.

Wickiup: Indian round hut, large, of willows and uprights, mudded (Mrs. Older, p)

Xemez, Jemez: where x or j = h; x in 16th century also = sh in Xochimilco lake of Mexico City.

Vihuela: California guitar (often homemade)

Zagalejo: falda corta sin pleitos; short skirt without pleats.

Zaguan, Porton: Patio gateway for carretas or horseback riders entry.
7.

Arribeños, Nortenos
Abajenos, Sudenos

Northern Californian
Southern Californian

Adarga?

Fundas?

Underwear, leather

Coxinillo?

Mochilla

leather skirt under saddle

Armas

Arms

Chupa

Calzon
Chaleco
Medias

pants
vest
socks

Corbatas

Ties

Camisas

Shirts

Sombreros

Hat

Calzoncillos

Underdrawers

Botas

Boots

Zapatos

Shoes