

300

# NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW

## *Editors*

LANSING B. BLOOM

PAUL A. F. WALTER

## *Associates*

FRANK T. CHEETHAM

E. DANA JOHNSON

FRANCE V. SCHOLES

REV. THEODOSIUS MEYER

VOLUME VI

1931

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY  
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO  
AND  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

many maps, so named due to the color of its sands or perhaps because in its sands are found pieces of coral; which in truth is found but little and thin on this western Pimería coast, although I have seen it and have had it in my hands, although it was not entirely hard or mature.

To the east, where it draws apart from the Colorado, and on the other side of the Gila, there are joined with this river, which is composed of them, two others, called the Salado and the Verde, the first because it is salty, and the latter perhaps because it runs among greenish slopes or rocks.<sup>9</sup> And these rivers run, the Salado from the east to the west and to the south from Moqui; and the Green or Verde from the northeast of the said province to where they are joined, as has been said. But toward the last and most easterly part of this Pimería, there are two other rivers, really arroyos without any particular names; of which the first,<sup>10</sup> which starts twenty-five leagues to the north of this Mission,<sup>11</sup> runs to the north until joining with the Río Gila, and is bordered with fields of the Pimas, among whose *rancherías* is situated the great [mission] *ranchería* of San Javier del Bac. In a little hill close by this mission, there is a hollow or hole, which according to the tale cannot be fathomed; the Indians have it covered, because they say that if one opens it, such a strong wind will arise, that it will cause a tempest that will destroy them and their crops. This may be an air volcano, and not the first which has been found in the two Americas.<sup>12</sup> Another similar hole there is in a hill near the village of Imuri, which they call Uburiqui, that is, house of air; which houses another secret of nature, of which they do not lack superstitions as to its effects. As to volcanoes of fire, we do not know whether any are to be found, although there are some signs of one having violently erupted in the neighborhood of San Marcelo de Sonoita.<sup>13</sup>

9. The Salt and Verde rivers of Arizona. The Salt River was also known to Kino as the Río Azul.

10. The Río de Santa Cruz, whose source is in the Huachuca Mountains, near the present international boundary line.

11. Kino's chief mission, Nuestra Señora de los Dolores, where Velarde was Kino's assistant and successor.

12. Manje relates an incident at San Xavier del Bac in October, 1699, connected with this phenomenon. See H. H. Bancroft, *North Mexican States and Texas* (2 v., San Francisco, 1884-1889), I, 269-70, *Arizona and New Mexico* (San Francisco, 1889), 358.

13. Doubtless referring to the volcanic cone of the Sierra del Pinacate (Kino's Sierra de Santa Clara), some fifty miles west of the present town of Sonoita, Sonora.