

# *OLD SPANISH MISSIONS HISTORICAL RESEARCH COLLECTION – DOCUMENTARY SERIES*

The Old Spanish Missions Historical Research Collection began its life as a library in 1967 at San Jose Mission in San Antonio, Texas. The founders of the Old Spanish Missions Historical Research Library collected 600 microfilm letters of Franciscan missionaries from Franciscan archives in Mexico. The collection expanded with the acquisition of more microfilm, photographs, and other materials pertinent to the Spanish colonial era in Texas and the Southwest.

Since 1980, the library has been located at Our Lady of the Lake University and the collection has joined other special collections at the [Center for Mexican American Studies and Research](#).

The OSMHRC consists primarily of microfilmed copies of archival documents from Mexico, Spain, and other European countries relating to the Spanish colonial missions and presidios (1680-1820) and Spanish shipwrecks off the Texas coast (1550-1556). Other materials concern the southwestern region of the United States and northern Mexico.

Reference: materials, maps, slides and photos also are part of the collection. Most of the materials in the collection are in the Spanish language, but some have been translated into English.

Among the goals of the founders of the Library was the publication of documents and materials from the collection. In 1976, Benedict Leutenegger, O.F.M., published the first of the "[Documentary Series](#)." He transcribed and translated *Guidelines for a Texas Mission*.

The small book has been revised four times; the latest edition (1994) was edited by Howard Benoist and Maria Eva Flores, CDP; both faculty members at Our Lady of the Lake University.

Leutenegger and his associates, Marian A. Habig, O.F.M., Mary Christine Morkovsky, CDP, Carmelita Casso, IWBS, produced seven titles in the documentary series. Except for the latest edition of number 1 of the Documentary series all have been sold out.

The Center for Mexican American Studies and Research is currently preparing Documentary Series, [numbers 2–7](#) for electronic publication.

Each of the numbers will be available in the original Spanish and an English translation. Each of the numbers presents the original transcription by Leutenegger and the translation by him and his associates. No attempt has been made to correct or modernize the Spanish.