



Figure A-34. Pot handles from San José Mission, Bexar County, Texas. These handles are pictured here to show that they are identical in technique to ones found at Aranama Mission, Goliad County. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-64.

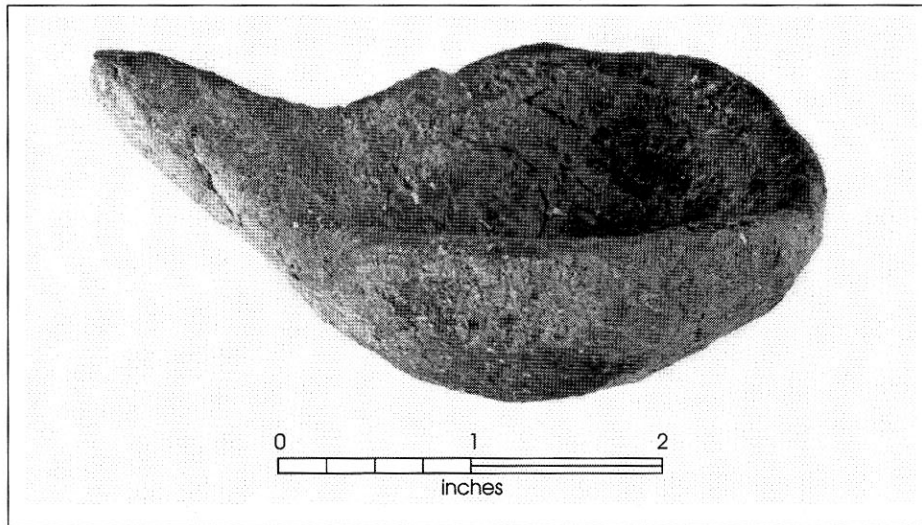


Figure A-35. Earthenware ladle. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-43.

These facts, no doubt, are largely explained by the statement of Solis that “at the mission their food consists of beef and cooked corn” (Solis Diary of 1767, page 14). With regard to corn and other crops, Solis further states: “It (Espíritu Santo Mission) has also large corn-fields. On these lands cotton, melons, potatoes, various kinds of peaches, figs, etc. are grown in large quantities” (Solis Diary of 1767, page 16) [Figure A-41].

“The mission has dwelling quarters for the religious, the soldiers and the Indians, and all these structures are respectable and sufficiently large” (Solis Diary of 1767, page 16).

If the Indians lived inside the mission yard part of the time, as we may infer from above, it accounts for the presence of a certain amount of midden material inside the walled yard. In digging a garbage pit inside the yard, at time of establishing our camp, we encountered camp refuse to a depth of 20”.

There is also much camp refuse, in the form of animal bones, broken pottery, flint chips and an occasional arrowpoint and flint scraper, just outside the stone yard fence. This, in a number of places, seems to have resulted from tossing rubbish over the fence in the process of cleaning the yard. This condition is especially pronounced along a portion of the north wall, which runs along the edge of the hill adjoining a ravine; and is least in evidence just outside the eastern or front side of the mission yard.

But every indication, particularly the midden mounds, seems to suggest that the Indians for long periods of time lived outside the yard to the west (near river) and to the south. The mound to the west of the fence is more than twice as large as that to the south, being a favored location, no doubt, on account of its proximity to the river.

At depths of 16” to 38” were found a few sheep and goat bones. This is not surprising, since Solis’ diary of 1767 states that this mission had 1,500 head of sheep and goats (Solis Diary of 1767, page 16).

Eleven gar scales, from a depth of 18”, suggests another item on the Indians’ menu.

The teeth of a gar were found on the same level as the heap of gar scales previously mentioned, but some 10 feet south. Sixty-three gar scales, some large (as much as 1 ⁵/₁₆” long) were in a heap at a depth of 12”. None showed evidence of work.

Also a few turkey bones and some large fish vertebrae tell of other meats that were eaten.

Anaque seeds were found in small deposits at several locations in the midden deposit. These berries, which taste somewhat like the hackberry, were doubtless eaten by the Indians. A row of these trees still grows at the “royal presidio” of La Bahia, ½ mile south of Aranama Mission

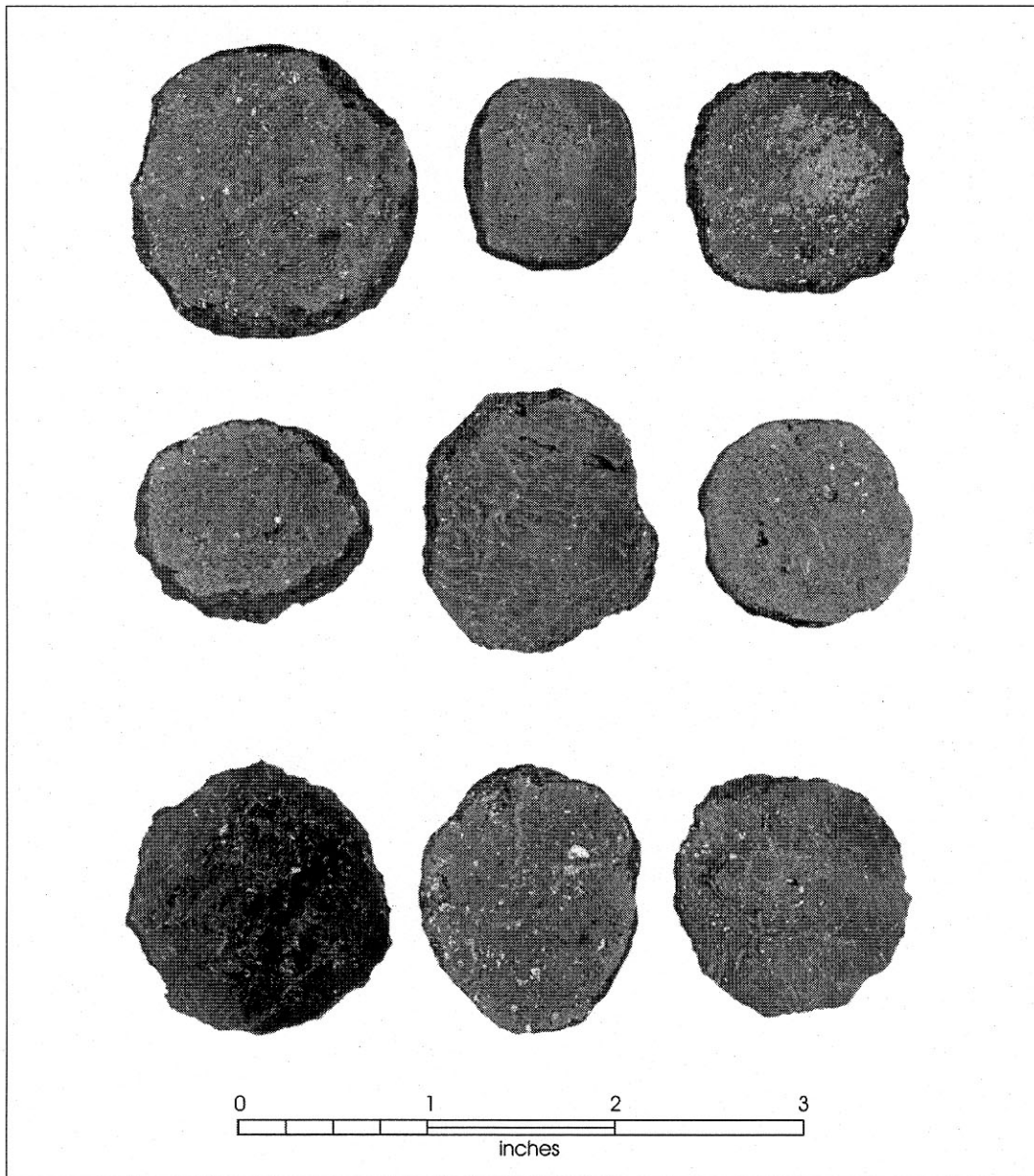


Figure A-36. Pottery discs recovered from midden deposit. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-49.

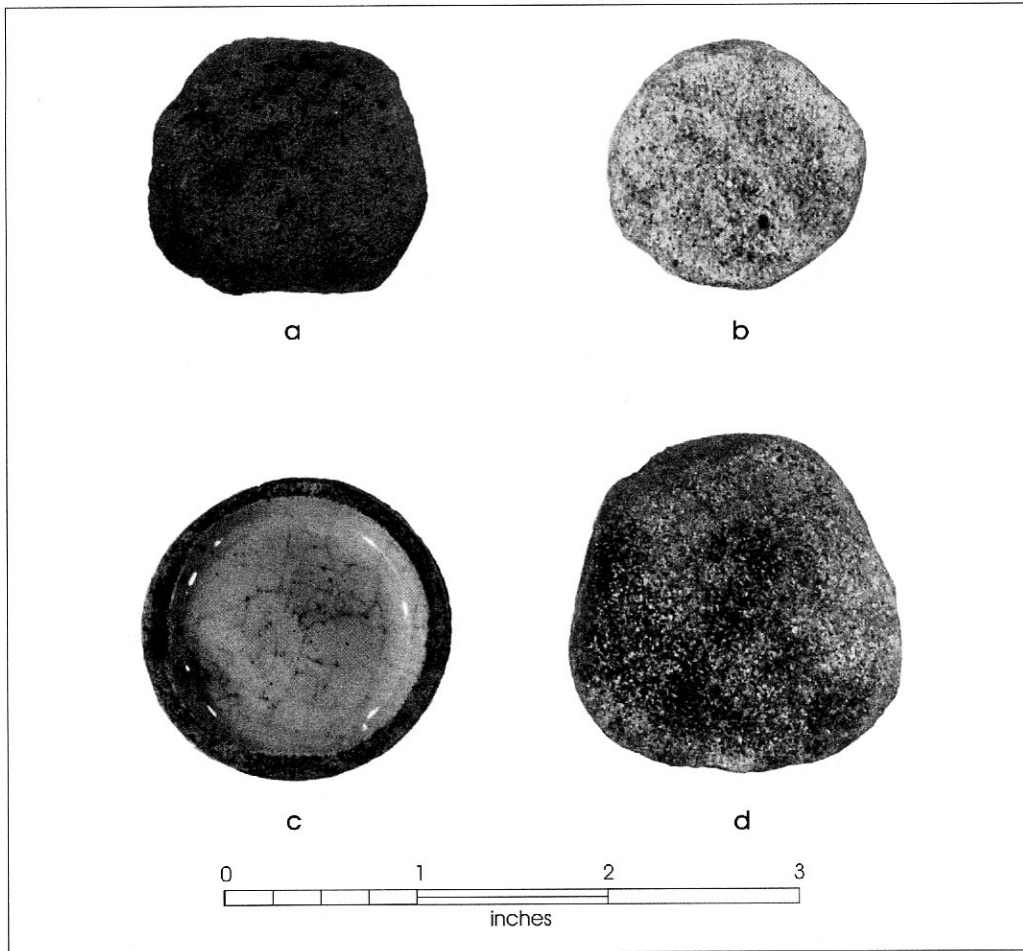


Figure A-37. Undrilled discs recovered from midden deposit. a) tempered, unfired clay; b) sandstone; c) European pottery; d) sandstone. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-47.

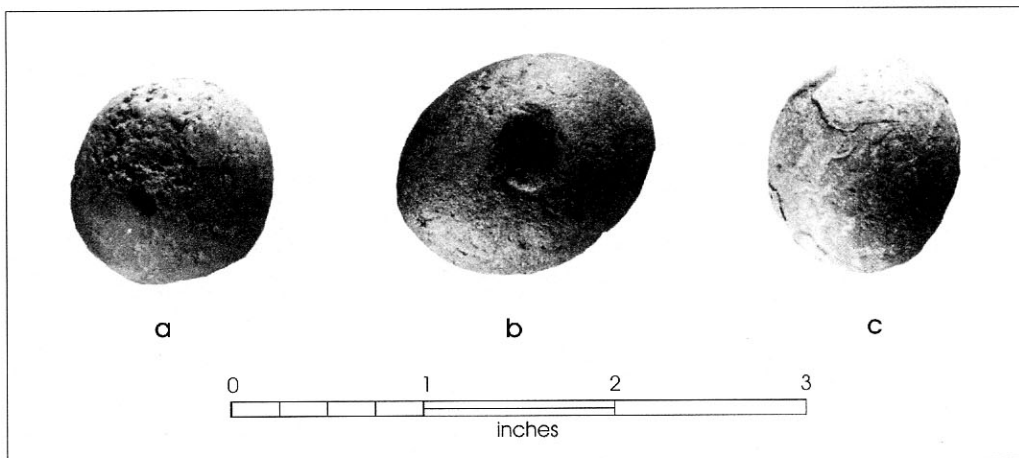


Figure A-38. Game pieces or "marbles". a) clay; b-c) stone. Note pit in specimen b. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-57.

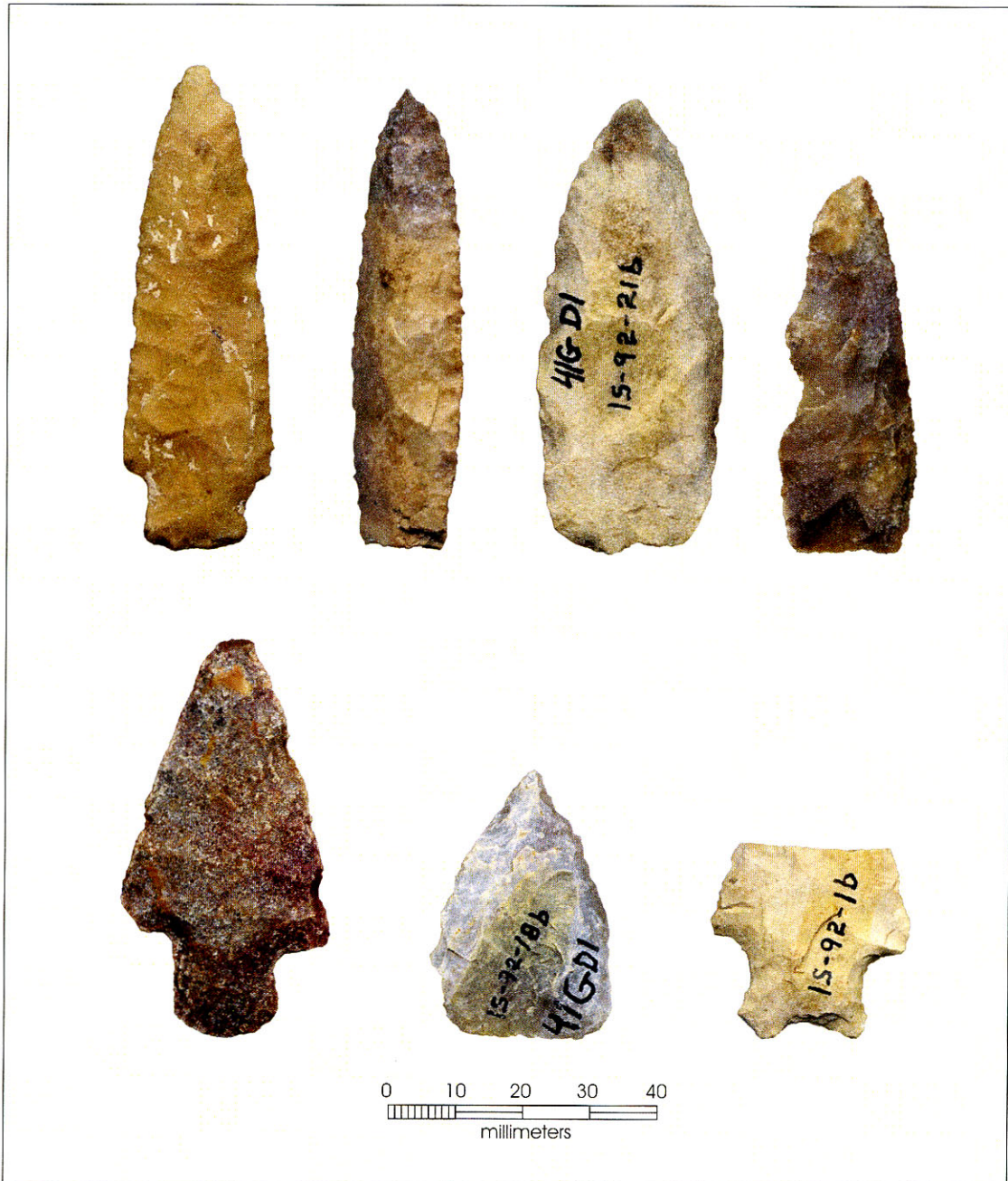


Figure A-39. Flint projectile points recovered from midden deposits. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, cat. numbers, left to right, (top) 1S-92-8, -31, -21B, -19E, (bottom) -7, -18B, -1B.



Figure A-40. *Metal projectile points recovered from midden deposits.* Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, cat. numbers, left to right, 1S-92-94C, -95C, -95B.

[Figure A-42]; and 88 now grow around and within the yard of Aranama Mission. They are most plentiful along the west and south sides just outside the rock fence, or wall, adjacent to the dense midden deposits [Figures A-43, A-44, and A-45]. The largest and oldest of the anaque trees here is one growing 17 feet southeast of the southwest corner of the mission. Its trunk is 89 inches in circumference, or $28\frac{1}{3}$ inches in diameter. The ones on top of the midden mound to the west of the fence range from 12 to 38 inches in circumference, or $3\frac{4}{5}$ to 12 inches in diameter. The ones on the mound have, no doubt, attained their full growth since the abandonment of the mission.

A spot near the south edge of the mound contained a number of freshwater mussel shells, one of which was unusually large. There were a few snails on the surface, but no evidence of snail eating.

A few exceedingly small conch shells came from different depths in the midden.

Remains of a few mesquite beans were found in the midden deposit. There are many mesquite trees near. A number of black or Mexican persimmon trees grow on the mound.

A turkey leg bearing spur, from south edge of mound.

At 35" to 37", and 35 feet inward from N.W. edge of mound were found approximately 600 gar scales scattered over a space some 3 feet wide.

Deer bones seemed to be more numerous in the southern part of the mound. Also turkey bones.

At a depth of 40", and 41 feet inward from west center of mound, were found fragments of a corn cob. It was imbedded in a thin layer of charcoal, and in association with animal bones.

A few pecans of medium size were found in ash deposits at depths of 14" and 38". One squash seed was preserved in a deposit of ashes.

Animal bones were more numerous around edges than in central part of mound. This confirms the theory of the Indians having lived on the knoll. Bones naturally would be tossed to edge.

Inside and around the yard for some distance are plants of Mexican pepper, of small, round red type.

Bones present in the midden indicate the eating of the "soft-shell" turtle.

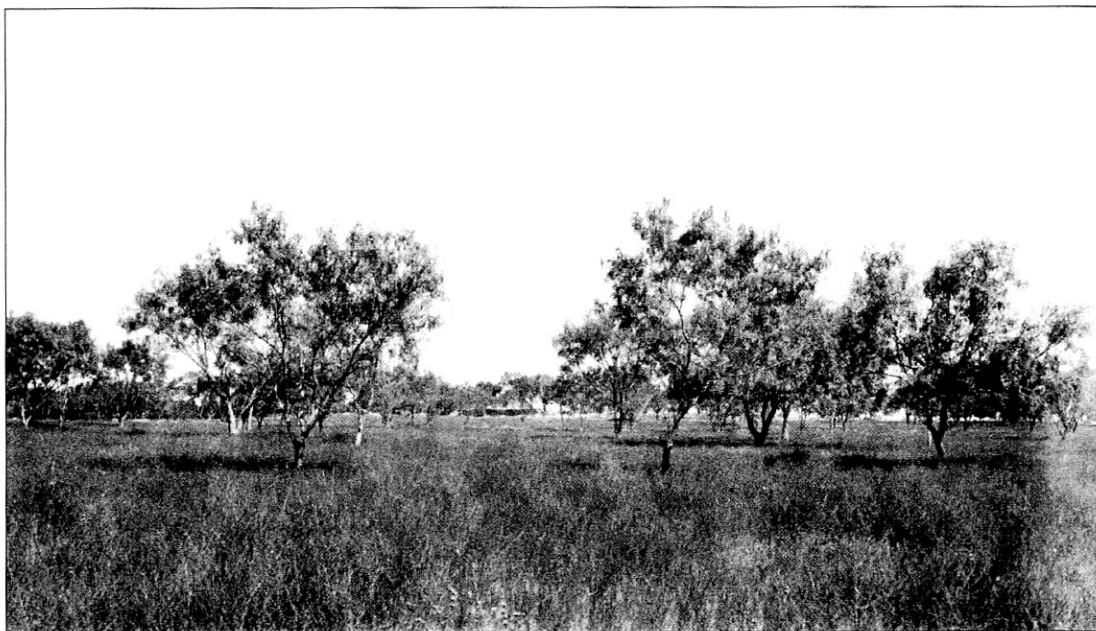


Figure A-41. Land formerly cultivated by Indians at Aranama Mission, Goliad County, Texas. Mission ruins in background. The growth seen here consists of mesquite trees. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-9.

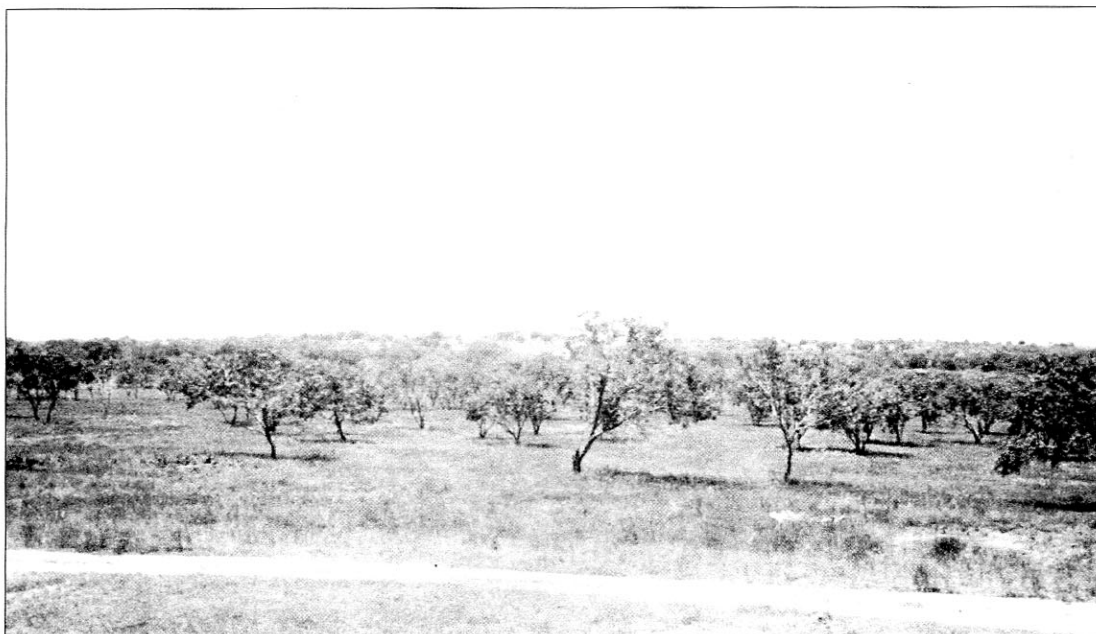


Figure A-42. La Bahia, or Royal Presidio, as viewed from Aranama Mission about 1/2 mile to north, Goliad County. These missions, as may be here noted, were built on elevated sites that commanded a view of the surrounding country. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-10.

At a depth of 20" was a dog skull complete; but no other bones near. Dog may have been eaten.

The jaws of two dogs (possibly coyotes) may indicate another food.

Many of the animal bones were broken into splinters, no doubt incident to securing the marrow for food.

An alligator tooth pendant indicates alligator meat to eat.

Fragments of several deer skulls in the mound suggest the breaking into the skulls to obtain the brains.

Bones of rabbit and squirrel were not numerous.

At the southeast edge of the mound, very near the fence in the upper 3" to 5" of the deposit, were a number of cow bones with sawed ends. This sawing instead of breaking may indicate refuse from the mission at time occupied since the Civil War, and have no connection with the Indians.

Condition of Bones: It is interesting to note the condition of the bones from the bottom and top of the deep midden deposit. The bones from all depths were soft, brittle and somewhat decomposed at the ends; but there seemed to be little, if any, appreciable difference in the state of preservation of the oldest and the most recent ones. It is known that the mission activities were extended over a period of some 50 years. That was the period during which the midden mound was built up. These facts, then, would seem to indicate that 50 years makes no great difference in the state of preservation of midden bones.

Depths of Mound Deposit

Figure A-46 shows excavation of the midden deposits.

The depths of the mound or midden deposit through the highest, or central, portion are as follows:

Western edge	5"
9 feet inward (to east)	27"
15 feet inward (to east)	52"
20 feet inward (to east)	53"
23½ feet inward (to east)	47"
30 feet inward (to east)	49"
32 feet inward (to east)	56"

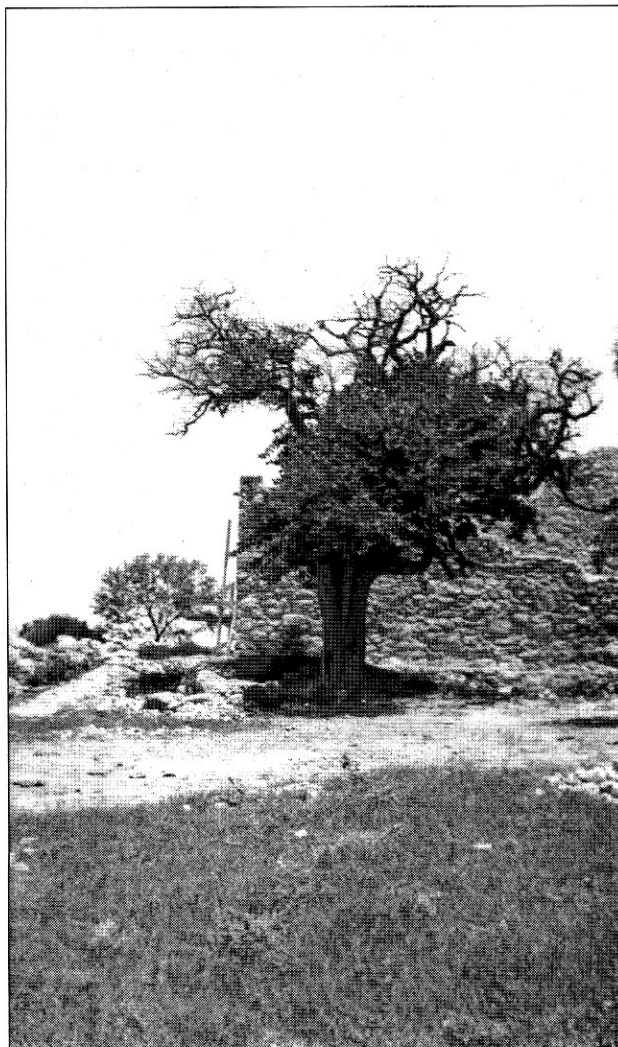


Figure A-43. Large anaque tree at corner of Aranama Mission, Goliad County. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-11.

39 feet inward (to east)	51"
42 feet inward (to east)	53"
48 feet inward (to east)	48"
54 feet inward (to east)	46"
56 feet inward (to east)	49"
62 feet inward (to east)	44"
66 feet inward (to east)	41"
68 feet inward (to east)	48"
73 feet inward (to east)	43"
76 feet inward (to east)	47"
80 feet inward (to east)	47"
85 feet inward (to east)	40"
87 feet inward (against wall)	40"

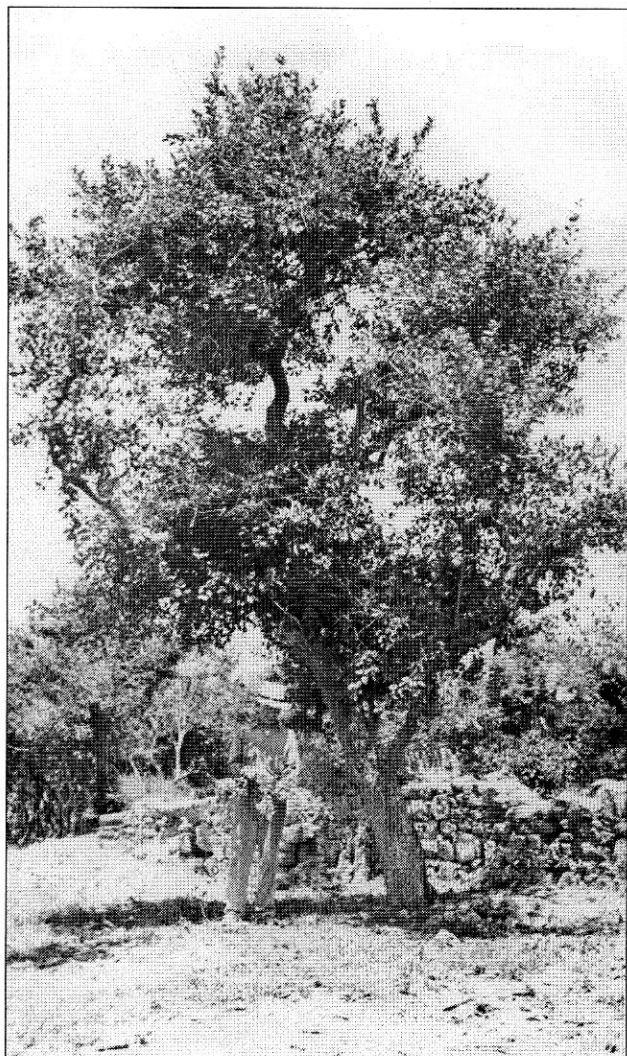


Figure A-44. *Anaque tree loaded with berries just outside stone fence that encloses mission.* Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-12.

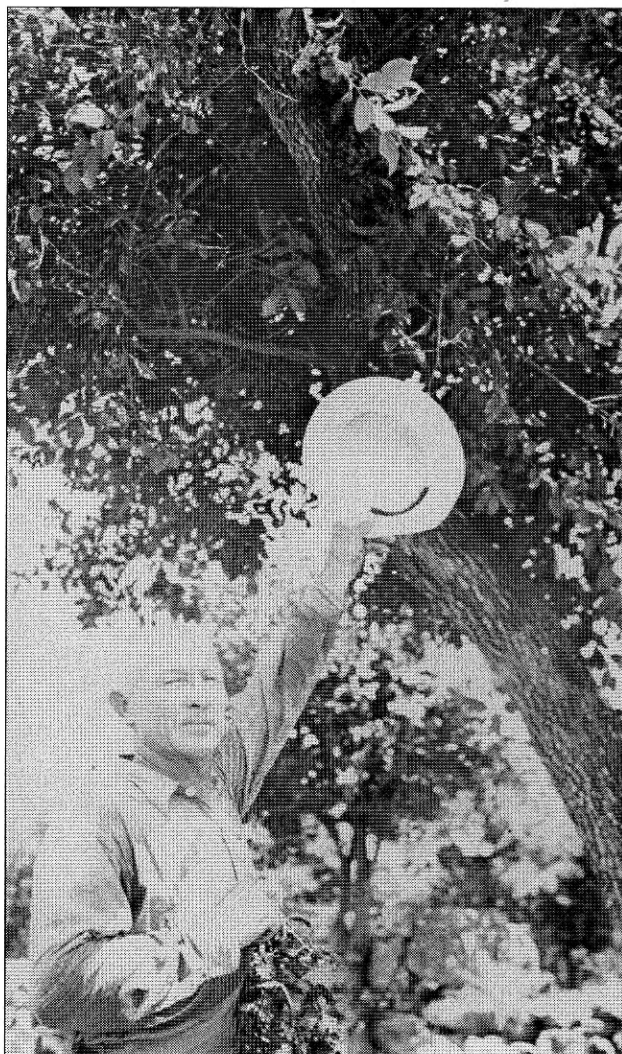


Figure A-45. *Anaque tree loaded with berries beside stone fence.* Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-13.

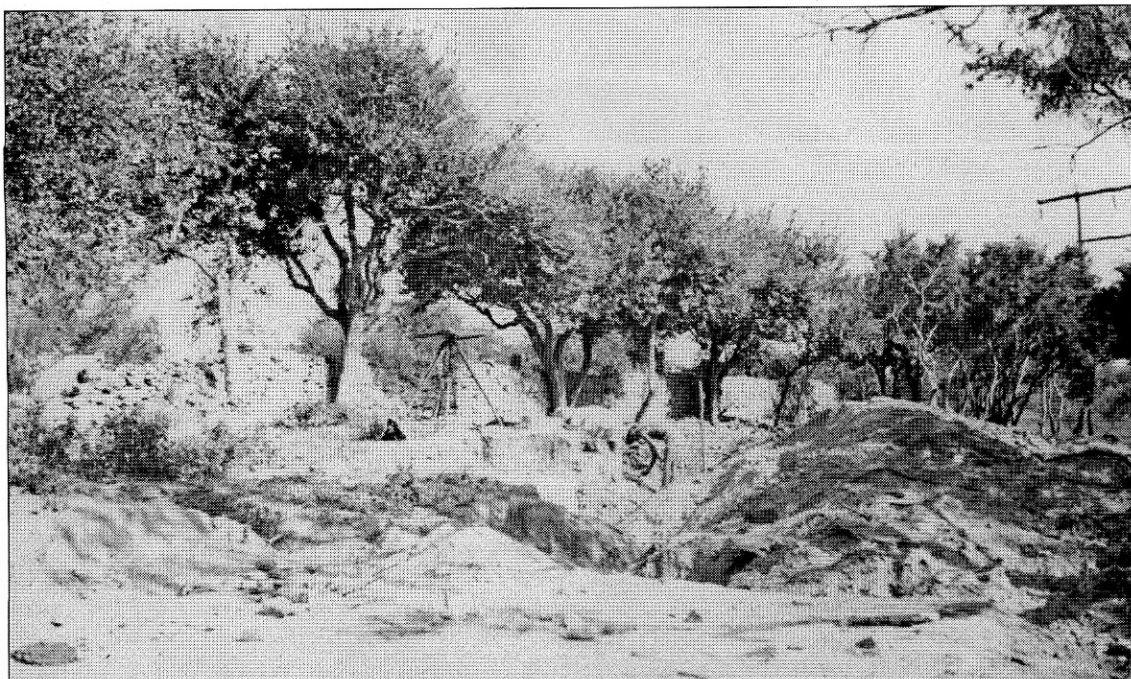


Figure A-46. Excavating midden mound, Aranama Mission. Courtesy TARL, UT-Austin, photo 41GD1-14.

Against the wall or fence at the S.E. edge of the mound the deposit was 40" deep, with the wall extending above 46". The deposit, as well as the wall foundation, rested on bedrock. At this point the wall is 7'2" high [Figure A-47]. Apparently the wall was completed before the mound began to be built. Before the midden material accumulated, thus gradually lessening its height, the fence would have presented quite an obstacle to hostile Indians on the outside.

Mission Quarters and Grounds

Solis states in his diary of 1767 that this mission had "dwelling-quarters for the religious, the soldiers and the Indians, and all of these structures are respectable and sufficiently large" (Solis Diary of 1767, page 16).

The only building with any part of walls now standing is the church building, or mission proper. It is located near the center of an enclosed yard that is approximately 300 square feet. The mission, of the usual thick-wall (33" to 42") stone structure, was partly demolished a number of years ago to secure stone for other building purposes in the town of Goliad [Figures A-48 through A-52].

Judge J. A. White, now County Judge of Goliad County, who has been untiring in his efforts to have the mission restored, tells me that the old building has had a varied and colorful history. After abandonment of mission activities, about 1790 to 1800 (?), the mission was secularized. It was the scene of a battle on March 18, 1836, the day before Fannin's retreat from La Bahia. Prior to the Civil War, Aranama College was located adjacent to the mission, and the latter occupied. All the students enlisted in the Confederate Army and the college was abandoned. For some years, around 1900, the mission was occupied as a residence. At that time it was converted into a two-story building. Later it was used as a storage place for hay. Then it was almost dismantled for its stones. In recent years local enterprise has resulted in securing the property by the town and county and having the site set aside as Goliad State Park. State of Texas has made small appropriations for clearing the undergrowth around the place. R.F.C. funds have been utilized to begin the restoration of the building. If and when completed, it is intended for the mission to house a small museum, including specimens gathered around the mission environs. Such is the reason for the Goliad crew working with U. of T. crew.