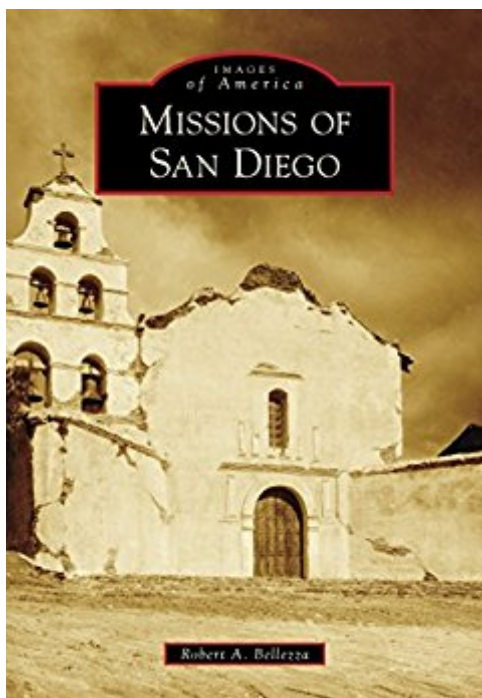


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Missions Of San Diego (Images Of America)



Synopsis

California's first settlement began on a trail called El Camino Real, or The Royal Road, that was traveled by missionary pathfinders, soldiers, and conquistadors on a dramatic journey into a mysterious land. Monterey was discovered in 1603, leading to the quest. Explorers Don Gaspar de Portolá and Juan Bautista de Anza, along with ambitious Franciscan missionaries, founded 21 monumental Spanish missions and several asistencias and chapels for native neophytes, travelers, and visitors to Alta California. Following the initial landing in 1769 at San Diego's seaport, Fr. Junípero Serra founded Mission San Diego de Alcalá, California's first landmark, at the original presidio site. The mission stands today exactly where it was moved, rebuilt, and completed in 1813. The native populations of California witnessed years of change from a sleepy province to the status of US statehood. The Spanish missions forged the powerful underpinnings of the Golden State's earliest settlements 80 years prior to the world's largest migration to California, the 1849 Gold Rush.

Book Information

File Size: 92456 KB

Print Length: 128 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0738596833

Publisher: Arcadia Publishing (September 16, 2013)

Publication Date: September 16, 2013

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00MFWFLS2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #430,348 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #31

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Specialty Travel > Spas #37

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