

ANONYMOUS

ACCOUNT OF THE VOYAGE OF THE SPANISH SCHOONERS SUTIL AND MEXICANA (1792)

The port of Monterey offers a very good haven of rest and refreshment. Our crews, tired from the continual labor and the compactness of the vessels, even when in the best of health, viewed it with all the pleasure that can be expected . . . We spent the time of our stay in Monterey drawing the map of our explorations made from our departure from Nootka to our return to that port.

The presidio building, which is located near the ocean in the southeast part of the port, is nothing more than a square space fenced by a low wall with a second concentric wall, in between which are the living quarters of those employed in it. The church, of the proper size and decency, is located opposite the entrance.

This is the main presidio of New California; therefore, the commander of all of them resides in it. He is normally a lieutenant colonel. The lieutenant and ensign of the 63-man company that garrisons them also live here. Most are married. The presidio provides separate, though small, living quarters for each of these families. The lack of colonists of any other kind has obliged these soldiers to employ themselves in all of the occupations necessary for a civilized population. As a result, one can be seen acting as sentinel of the guard; another herding livestock, roping an animal, or driving a cart; still another building a wall, making a door, or sewing shoes; yet another arming himself to go into the interior along the roads to carry information to other presidios or missions.

A handful of these soldiers is enough to cause troops of gentile Indians to disintegrate when they come to invade the missions, or when it is decided to punish them for having committed some treachery or other grave offense.

Near the banks of the Carmel [River] and the seashore, and about two leagues from the presidio, is the mission of San Carlos [Borromeo]. Its buildings are a moderate-size church, the hospice for the religious with accompanying offices, one storeroom for the shipments and farm tools and another for the grain, a small house for the corporal and four or five soldiers assigned to the mission guard and for other necessary uses. It was founded in 1770. It is administered by three apostolic missionaries of Propaganda Fide of the College of San Fernando de México.

With flattery and presents they attract the savage Indians and persuade them to adhere to life in society and to receive instruction for a knowledge of the Catholic faith, the cultivation of the land, and the arts necessary for making the instruments most needed for farming.

One of the religious is in charge of instructing the converts and the children in the Spanish language and in the dogma of our religion, and the other of the direction and instruction in cultivation of the soil, the mechanical skills, and domestic service . . .

Anonymous, "Account of the Voyage of the Spanish Schooners *Sutil* and *Mexicana* Dealing with Operations from Nootka Sound, Vancouver Island, to San Blas on the Coast of Nayarit Late August to Late November, 1792," in *California in 1792: A Spanish Naval Visit*, ed. Donald C. Cutter (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1990): 109, 111, 121, 124, 128–129, 131.