

5. Nogales to Tucson, Arizona, beginning 1691. A large group of missions was built below and above the present Mexican border. Mission San Xavier del Bac, 9 mi. south of Tucson, ranks with San José at San Antonio in stateliness; it still stands in solitary grandeur on the desert serving the Yuma Indian descendants of the Pimeria Alta of the padres. Tumacacori mission, near Nogales, is now a National Monument.

Tucson is a gem of the mystic desert, home of the University of Arizona, a city of Spanish tradition and atmosphere, a resort loved by many.

6. San Diego, California, settled 1769, first mission and first settlement in California, two centuries after Saint Augustine, Florida. California was inaccessible and barren; generations of failures preceded this successful effort, then privation, famine and disease beset the settlers. The padres brought in seeds, palms, shrubs and livestock and the missions became estates of hospitality and abundance.

California was the latest supreme effort of the Spaniards in America. Their period there lasted hardly a half century before Mexican independence destroyed Spanish power northward, and then followed the years of turmoil before the Americans entered and finally succeeded in reducing the country to orderly government.

The padres built twenty-one missions from San Diego northward to San Francisco and above. Some are destroyed; some preserved. The Californian's love of beauty, sentiment and history has led them to preserve in song, story and works, the culture, legends and lays of those years of the Spanish grandees.

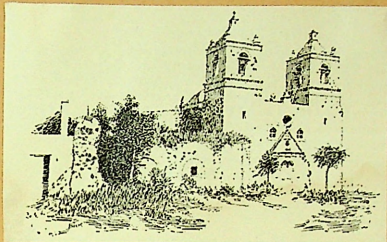
The conquerors were often cruel, the explorers heroic, the colonizers were empire builders, the padres with their Government cooperating built temples to their God seeking the temporal and spiritual good of their red brothers.

The Spanish empire in the Americas, true to the principles of all life, rose from the soil through travail and turmoil to flourish and flower then to decay and die.....but they left a heritage of romance, culture and works for the people of today and for the years to come.

"Old Conquistadores, Oh brown priests and all,  
Give us your ghosts for company as night begins to fall;  
There's many a road to travel, but it's this road today,  
With the breath of God about us on the King's Highway."



DAM OF THE MISSION IRRIGATING SYSTEM, SAN DIEGO  
THE MOTHER MISSION OF CALIFORNIA,  
SAN DIEGO DE ALCALA.



See collection of  
stamps in other  
books.

See also following contains many suggestions for or of  
old Spanish mission, and other things - some  
for sale at 50¢ each.