California Missions

Spain claimed the land we now call “California” in 1542 but did not do much to colonize that land until the first landing parties arrived near present-day San Diego in 1769. For the next 54 years, Spanish religious leaders established 21 missions throughout the state—mostly along the coastal areas. The missions’ goals were to establish a religious presence in California and to convert the thousands of Native Californians whose ancestors had lived in California since time immemorial. Conversion was rarely voluntary, and Native communities were forced to work at the missions. Crowded and unsanitary living conditions, the trauma of forced labor and separation from families led to a variety of health issues among the Native communities, including death.

Object images and descriptions are on next page with hyperlinks to the objects on Autry Collections.
California Missions

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M26491;type=101
Object Name: Drawing
Maker: John Woodhouse Audubon
Title: The Mission Indian
Date: 1849-1851
Object ID: 22.G.978U

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=EISI116528;type=106
Object Name: Article
Maker: Edwin L. Sabin
Title: "The Mission Indians—as They Were, and Are"
Call Number: MIMSY EPH.970.33.114
California Missions

Object ID: 970.33.114
Notes: Article published in *Touring Topics*, July 1931

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M562470;type=103
Object Name: Map
Maker: Nicolas de Fer
Title: *La Californie ou Nouvelle Caroline/Teatro de los Trabajos, Apostolicos de La Compa e Jesus en la America Sept.*
Date: 1720
Object ID: 90.138.141
Notes: In 1701, Father Francisco Kino discovered that California was not an island. This map was published in 1720. It still depicts California as an island, as geographic knowledge spread slowly in Europe during the 18th century. Includes illustrations of North American Indian life and Spanish missions in Sonora, Arizona, and Baja California.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M276247;type=102
Object Name: Lantern slide
Title: *Map Showing the California Missions, Pueblos and Presidios, and Their Dates of Establishment*
California Missions

Date: late 1800s to early 1900s
Object ID: LS.2865
Notes: Lantern slide of a map showing the settlement of Spanish California, late 1800s to early 1900s. Lantern slides are photographs made on glass and viewed with an early version of a projector.

[Image of a map]

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M43924;type=102
Object Name: Photograph
Date: early 1900s
Credit Line: Gift of Mr. George Wharton James
Object ID: P.18695
Notes: Photograph of a mission document circa late 1700s with the signature of Father Junipero Serra, California, documenting marriage laws at Mission San Luis Obispo and a fire that destroyed books and documents in 1776.

[Image of a mission document]

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M40657;type=102
Object Name: Photograph
Title: Baptismal register
California Missions

Date: late 1800s to early 1900s
Object ID: P.17775
Notes: Photograph of the first page of the baptismal register from Mission San Buenaventura, California.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M552972;type=101
Object Name: Painting
Maker: Richard Brydges Beechey
Title: *The Mission of San Carlos, Monterey*
Date: 1827
Object ID: 92.6.1
Notes: British Navy officer Richard Beechey sketched the Mission of San Carlos (Carmel) while stationed in California. Just left of center, Beechey depicted a group of Native Americans.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M276262;type=102
Object Name: Lantern slide
Maker: N/A
Title: *Building a Mission*
Date: late 1800s to early 1900s
Object ID: LS.2868
Notes: Lantern slide of a drawing by Alexander Harmer.
California Missions
Object Name: Soap root brush
Culture: Diegueño
Date: collected circa 1900
Object ID: 873.G.10
Notes: Brushes made from the root of the yucca plant were used to gather ground foods (such as acorn meal) during processing, as well as to scrub cooking baskets. Soaproot brushes were also used for hair grooming.

Object Name: Kettle
Date: 1807
Object ID: 93.21.179
Notes: Kettle was owned by Rita Bermudez, who was born at the San Gabriel Mission.
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http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M549173;type=101
Object Name: Bell
Maker: N/A
Title: Horse bell
Date: early 19th century
Object ID: 93.235.5
Notes: Horse bell found near the San Fernando Mission, California.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M75633;type=101
Object Name: Net
Maker: N/A
Culture: Luiseño
Date: 1889
Object ID: 54.X.13
Notes: Luiseño carrying net with handles, knotted and plied nettle cordage.
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http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M40525;type=102
Object Name: Photograph
Maker: Unidentified artist
Date: late 1800s to early 1900s
Object ID: P.17734
Notes: Photograph of painting of Mission Santa Cruz, California.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M49190;type=102
Object Name: Photograph
Maker: C.C. Pierce & Co.
Title: Interior of Mission Santa Ines, Solvang, California
Date: 1904
Object ID: P.20057
Notes: Photograph of the interior of Mission Santa Ines, Solvang, California.
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Object Name: Lantern slide
Date: late 1800s to early 1900s
Object ID: LS.2864
Notes: Lantern slide of a floor plan of an unidentified California mission, California.

Object Name: Photograph
Title: Diagram of Mission La Purisima Concepcion, Lompoc, California
Date: early to mid-1900s
Object ID: P.20048
Notes: Photograph of a diagram by W.C. Penfield, depicting the general plan of Mission La Purisima Concepcion, Lompoc, California. This diagram illustrates the general disposition of the mission buildings circa 1835.
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Object Name: Lantern slide
Maker: Unidentified photographer
Title: Women of San Luis Rey Mission
Date: late 1800s to early 1900s
Object ID: LS.2654B
Notes: Lantern slide of three elderly Native American women at Mission San Luis Rey de Francia, California.

Object Name: Photograph
Maker: J. Ed Bacon
Date: 1886–1927
Object ID: P.351
California Missions

Notes: Photograph of a Native Californian man. The handwritten caption on the back says “The Monterey Indian/Old Gabriel 145 years old. He helped build the Carmel Mission.”
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http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M276266;type=102
Object Name: Lantern slide
Date: late 1800s to early 1900s
Object ID: LS.2869
Notes: Lantern slide of a drawing by Alexander Harmer, *Sunday at a Mission before the Gringos Came*.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M47663;type=102
Object Name: Photograph
Title: *Father O’Sullivan Receiving Primicias from Acu*
Date: early 1900s
Object ID: P.19516
Notes: Photograph of Father O’Sullivan receiving primicias at Mission San Juan Capistrano. Primicias are offerings of the first fruits of the harvest.
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http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M28935;type=102
Object Name: Photograph
Maker: Charles Chester Pierce
Title: Mission Cattle Brands
Date: early 1900s
Object ID: P.15112
Notes: Photograph of mission cattle brands.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M42565;type=102
Object Name: Photograph
Title: Artifacts at Mission San Diego
Date: 1960s
Object ID: P.18373
Notes: Photograph of artifacts recovered during excavations at Mission SAn Diego de Alcala, San Diego,
California Missions

California.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M45778;type=102
Object Name: Postcard
Title: The Asistencia of San Antonio de Pala
Date: circa 1934
Object ID: P.19128
Notes: Photograph postcard of the Mission San Antonion de Pala, Pala, California.

http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=EISI115573;type=106
Object Name: Brochure
Title: California’s Mission Trails from Los Angeles to San Francisco Along the Coast
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Object ID: EPH917.94.2
Notes: Travel brochure along coastal California.