

ANNOUNCEMENT

Evocation de Junípero Serra, Fondateur de la Californie (The Unknown Serra, Founder of California). BY MAXIMIN C. J. PIETTE.

This title perfectly summarizes the first work of a trilogy devoted to the "Founding Father" of California, which will be published later also in English.

The book re-creates with vividness, accuracy, and also with originality the background of Serra's life, the battle-field on which he fought, suffered, and died for the glory of God and for the salvation of the poor Indians, for whom his love was limitless.

Another volume will follow, a biography: *Le Secret de Junípero Serra, Fondateur de la Californie (The Secret of Junípero Serra, Founder of California)*, in which it will be clearly seen that Junípero possessed a rich and well-balanced soul, and was a mighty apostle of Christ among the Gentiles. Serra succeeded in producing a deservedly celebrated achievement, which can only be accounted for by his titanic personality, a personality that proves to be infinitely more beautiful and more charming than the ten Missions which he founded in that enchanted land of California, at the price of heroic labors known only to God.

Historians have hitherto been unable to evoke the authentic figure of Serra as he really was in flesh and blood, for they lacked the direct contact with him that can be attained only by persevering study of the thousands of pages of his unpublished correspondence. Only in his letters does his personality stand out as though clearly projected on a silver screen. And it is a joy to behold.

In these two works, readers will experience an extraordinary charm and will acquire a unique spiritual enrichment, and it will then be possible for them to enter into direct contact with Serra and to enjoy *Les Lettres de Junípero (The Letters of Junípero)*, a complete collection of his neat manuscripts, a total of two hundred and seventy-one which have been discovered up to the present time. All these original writings will soon appear in both Spanish—English, and Spanish—French critical editions.

The author and editor earned the sympathy and respect of the scholarly world with his book entitled *John Wesley in the Evolution of Protestantism*, which has been published in several French and English editions [Sheed and Ward]. This work, which was crowned by the French Academy in 1927, still enjoys a unanimous reception and is considered authoritative in all Catholic and Protestant circles.

As a result of extensive research in Harvard University on the religious evolution of North America, Father Maximin Piette, who came to the New World in 1927, under the auspices of Louvain University and the Herbert Hoover C.R.B. Educational Foundation, was well equipped to study early California history. In 1940 his attention was attracted, charmed, and won over by the noble personality of Fray Junípero Serra, the pioneer apostle of the Golden State.

The present study is a work of pure historical criticism—patient, objective, and honest. Written in a clear, fluid, concise, humanistic style, it reads like a moving epic. It will captivate all who love the Missions, California, history, and truth.

A large in-8 volume, 450 pages, with seven engravings.

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