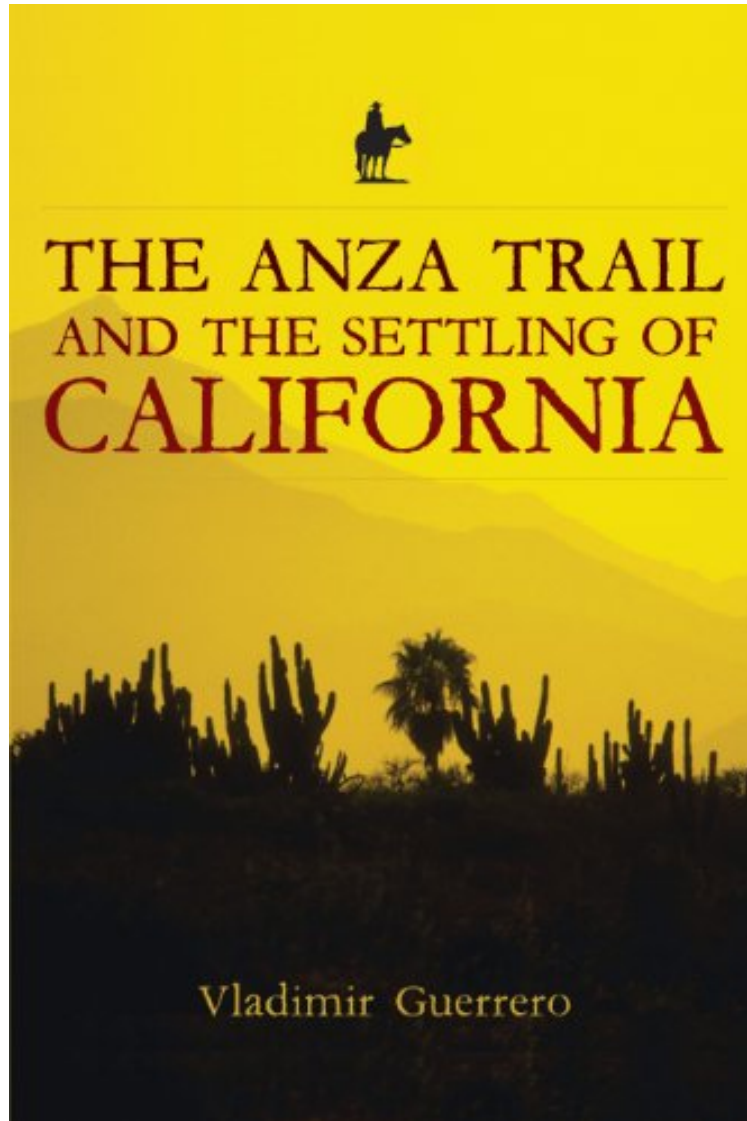


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## The Anza Trail and the Settling of California

*Vladimir Guerrero*

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**Vladimir Guerrero : The Anza Trail and the Settling of California** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Anza Trail and the Settling of California:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. New Spain, California and a Good BookBy Hugh MacMullanAlthough The Anza Trail . . . is textbook-true and I am mostly a reader of fiction, this is one of those books with plenty of adventure - narrated well enough to give me saddle sores, wondering where my next water stop will be. The (very) detailed accounting of two expeditions that began in 1774 and 1776 include everything writers attempt to include in their novels: plot (getting men, women, horses, mules, supplies and the Catholic Church from Northern

Mexico through unmapped challenging terrain to the San Francisco Bay area); theme ( the Spanish and the Church civilized California first, with much difficulty); characters (Captain/Lt.Col. Anza, Father Garces, Sebastian Tarabal and Salvador Palma - to name just four - each with personalities, opinions and tasks of their own and relating to each other in complex ways); and especially settings (dry sand dunes with only bad water nearby, mountains, rivers galore to ford, the Pacific Ocean and places we still know today by the name given by men on this expedition). This is a good and readable book, and I'm a hard grader - Huckleberry Finn, Moby Dick and Blood Meridian would rate five stars, for example. I can't wait to show off some of my new-found knowledge on the settling of California, pre-gringo. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I would highly recommend this book for it's novel interpretation of the early ...By Diane Barrett This book was surprisingly gripping ( for a translation of historical journals) and I looked forward each night to the adventures of Anza, Font and the other key characters. Being a native Californian, there was a lot I didn't know, and it was enlightening to hear about the Spanish, black, mestizos and other early Californians. I would highly recommend this book for it's novel interpretation of the early settling of California and the author's ability to paint the story with vibrant colors, while simultaneously being true to his sources. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love SLO County? Read and Then Walk the De Anza Trail By Debbie Peterson An insight into how our landscape was, and a story of exploring it on foot, Very useful for understand mother nature and human nature, and the very early days of California. A particularly good read for those who live in San Luis Obispo County, as the De Anza Trail is currently being resurrected so we can take a personal journey through history.

The epic true story of the journey to colonize San Francisco In 1774, as the American colonies were preparing to break away from the powerful British crown, Spain was trying to strengthen its hold on Alta California. The Spanish viceroy of Mexico sent Juan Bautista de Anza, captain of the Presidio at Tubac (in what is now Arizona), to lead two expeditions: the first to find a safe overland route to Monterey, and the second to return Anza to California with 240 men, women, and children to establish a colony in San Francisco. But where the Mayflower had carried only Anglo passengers, the Anza expeditions brought together a diverse group, including Spaniards, criollos (American-born Spaniards), mestizos (mixed-race "citizens"), and Native Americans. And whereas the United States' policy of manifest destiny had led to the subjugation and extermination of native peoples on the continent, New Spain's needs demanded a more mixed--even tolerant--society. The Anza Trail and the Settling of California synthesizes firsthand documents and diaries from the Anza expeditions to retell the story of the exploration of the Southwest and the settlement of the San Francisco Bay Area. But it also tells, on a more personal level, the story of four very different characters--Anza, the criollo commander; his partner, Francisco Garcia, a Spanish priest and explorer; Sebastian Tarabal, a Native American and accidental guide; and Salvador Palma, chief of the Yuma nation--men who overcame and in many cases benefited from their differences to ensure the success of the expeditions. Vladimir Guerrero's original translations and fresh commentary illuminate this little-known chapter in the history of American immigration.

About the Author Vladimir Guerrero, a life-long student of the language, literature and history of Spain, holds a Ph.D. in medieval Spanish from the University of California, Davis. He has taught Spanish language and literature at UC Davis, the University of Oslo (Norway) and Michigan State University. His publications include academic articles on medieval literature as well as short fiction and *Mission to Monterey: the Californios of 1776*, a full length history book.