

General Biennial Reports (Noticias) of the Missions

Scope and Content: The president of the missions filled out these printed forms with information about the twenty-one missions of California biennially. The information in the forms include: the number of missionaries serving at each mission, their annual stipend, the number of Native Peoples at each mission (men and women in separate categories), and the number of Spaniards at each mission (men and women in separate categories). The reports also include the president's comments on the statistics and adds notes of importance concerning various missions, noticias, mission operations, projects, etc. The collection is organized chronologically.

Extent: 19 folders

Inventory:

1. Report for 1793-1794 written and signed by Fermín Francisco de Lasuén and dated March 11, 1795, Mission San Carlos. The notes contain details on the churches of missions San Carlos, Buenaventura, Santa Bárbara and Purísima, the teaching of doctrine, trades and industries, animals and agriculture, the Indian tribes of San Carlos and San Francisco and Indian languages. Lasuén suggests the founding of more missions. 4 pp. [Zephyrin #265]
2. Report for 1795-1796 written and signed by Lasuén and dated February 6, 1797, Mission San Carlos. The notes detail church goods of Missions Santa Bárbara and Purísima, the building of churches at San Gabriel, Santa Bárbara and San Buenaventura, doctrine, industries, animals and agriculture, the unwillingness of the Indians of Santa Inés Valley to enter missions along the coast, and the killing of horses and cattle by Christian and pagan Indians especially at Mission San Antonio. 4 pp. [Zephyrin #295]
3. Report of 1797-1798, two copies, one written and signed by Lasuén and dated February 20, 1799, Mission San Carlos. The notes contain details of church goods, dedication of the new church at Mission San Carlos, continuing work on the churches at Missions San Gabriel, San Buenaventura and San Juan Capistrano, doctrine, industries, animals and agriculture, Indian tribes and languages, Indian instability and runaways, need for a mission in the Santa Inés Valley, and need for faculty to administer confirmation. 4 pp. With typewritten transcription. [Zephyrin #353]
4. Report of 1799-1800 written and signed by Lasuén and dated February 25, 1801, Mission San Carlos. The notes treat of continuation of building at San Gabriel and San Juan Capistrano, then the same remarks as in the foregoing report. 3 pp. [Zephyrin #392]

5. Report of 1801-1802 written and signed by Lasuén and dated February 21, 1803, Mission San Carlos. The notes contain details of the development of the churches of Missions San Gabriel, San Buenaventura and San Juan Capistrano and repeats the remarks of the biennial of 1797-1798. 3 pp. [Zephyrin #419]
6. Report of 1803-1804 written and signed by Estevan Tapis and dated February 21, 1805, Mission Santa Bárbara. The notes treat of repairs at Mission San Gabriel after an earthquake, the founding of Mission Santa Inés, the difficulty of attracting island Indians to the mainland, suggests the founding of a mission near Cajatsa on island of Limu (Santa Cruz), insufficient number of soldiers to guard missions and presidios, runaway Indians, and strife near Mission San José between runaway Indians, pagans and soldiers. 4 pp. [Zephyrin #483]
7. Report of 1805-1806 written and signed by Tapis and dated March 13, 1807, Mission San Carlos. The notes tell of the dedication of the churches at Missions San Juan Capistrano and San Fernando, a new church begun at Mission San Juan Bautista, a fire at Mission San Miguel, need for a mission on Island of Limu (Santa Cruz), recent decimation of the natives on Limu through a pestilence, four military expeditions in 1806, each accompanied by a missionary into the interior of California, their reception by pagans friendly, only four or five sites favorable to mission establishments found, 192 baptisms administered during the expeditions, urges establishment of missions and a presidio in the interior, other remarks similar to biennial of 1797-1798. 4 pp. [Zephyrin #512]
8. Report at 1807-1808 written and signed by Tapis and dated February 16, 1809. Mission Santa Cruz. Notes detail the new churches at Missions San Buenaventura, San Juan Bautista and San Juan Capistrano and a new one started at San Diego, and urges a new mission in the interior valley. Other data as in biennial of 1797-1798. 3 pp. [Zephyrin #528]
9. Report of 1809-1810 written and signed by Tapis and dated May 25, 1811, San Luís Rey. The notes tell of the churches finished at Missions San Buenaventura and San José, the unfinished Missions San Diego and San Juan Bautista, a mission for the interior urged, Missions San Gabriel and San Fernando exposed to raids of pagan Indians, Indian attack at San Gabriel repelled, killing of animals by pagans, need for military reinforcements. 3 pp. [Zephyrin #539]
10. Report of 1811-1812 written and signed by José Seán and dated April 9, 1813, San Buenaventura. The notes state that the church at Mission San Juan Bautista was finished,

those at Missions San Diego and San Antonio far advanced, the revolutionary spirit of Mexico had not penetrated into California, aid no longer came from Mexico with consequent suffering caused for the Indians and military, severe and long lasting earthquakes in southern California from Dec. 8, 1812 until Febr. 1813, damage sustained at missions Santa Bárbara and San Fernando where new churches were needed, and at Missions San Gabriel, Santa Inés, San Buenaventura. Purísima was destroyed and fine church at San Juan Capistrano was destroyed. 4 pp. [Zephyrin #603]

11. Report of 1813-1814 written and signed by Señán and dated May 13, 1815, Mission San Buenaventura. The notes state that the churches at Missions San Diego and San Antonio were finished and that of San Luís Rey nearly so, new church at Santa Inés begun, California quiet despite the Mexican revolution this situation due partly to the missionaries, need for better spiritual care of Los Angeles, violent death of Andrés Quintana at Mission Santa Cruz, missionary at San Juan Bautista in danger of Indian assault, life of Indians in paganism, need for a mission in the central valley and for another north of San Francisco, California threatened by Russian and Anglo American settlements, and the need for the faculty to administer confirmation. 6 pp. [Zephyrin #649]
12. Report of 1813-1814. A biennial report by José Argüello, dated May 1815, Santa Barbara, on Missions, presidios and pueblos, with additional remarks on the general situation. Photostat. 3 pp.
13. Report of 1815-1816 two copies with one written and signed by Mariano Payeras and dated May 2, 1817, Purísima. Notes state that the church at Mission Santa Inés was finished, those at missions Santa Bárbara and San Miguel were progressing, Indian raids on northern missions need for a mission in the central valley, Russian settlement at Bodega and an English settlement on the Columbia River. 4 pp. With typewritten transcription. [Zephyrin #704]
14. Report of 1817-1818 signed by Payeras and dated May 4, 1819, Soledad. Notes tell of a new church at Santa Clara, new Chapel added to Mission San Carlos, the church at Mission Purísima finished, that at Mission San Miguel nearly finished, that of Santa Inés dedicated on July 17, 1828, church at Mission Santa Bárbara still unfinished, Church of San Buenaventura and its chapel of San Miguel finished, developments at other missions and the founding of the asistencia of San Rafael, need for a mission in the central valley for safety of the coastal missions. 4 pp. [Zephyrin #754]

15. Report of 1825-1826 signed by Narciso Durán. Statistics only. Each 1 p. [Zephyrin #934] Report of 1825-1826 signed by Narciso Durán and dated April 10, 1827, San Jose. The notes tell of methods used at the missions, the absence of paganism along the coast, need for a new chain of missions and presidios in the central valley, and the lack of an Episcopal curia in California. 4 pp. [Zephyrin #935]
16. Report of 1827-1828 written and signed by José Bernardo Sánchez and dated March 20, 1828, San Gabriel. It concerns missionary changes. 2 pp. [Zephyrin #955]
17. Report for 1831-1832 signed by Narciso Durán. Zacatecas College Document. Photocopy. 1 p.
18. Noticias of the Provincia de la Nueva California, which included the Missions, presidios and pueblos with additional remarks on the general situation of by José Argüello for the years 1813-1814 signed at Santa Barbara on May, 1815. Photocopy. Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. 1 pp.
19. Estadística de las Misiones. Unsigned and undated.