

Recommended Books on Monterey's History and Heritage

Walter Colton, Three Years in California. New York, 1850. Several subsequent printings. Unique and charming account of Walter Colton, a naval chaplain who became the American Alcalde of Monterey and his life and times in Monterey, 1846-1849, during the transition period from Mexican to American government.

Connie Chiang, Shaping the Shoreline: Fisheries and Tourism on the Monterey Coast. University of Washington, 2008. Stimulating social and environmental history of Monterey and the twin pillars of its history—fisheries and tourism—up to the present day.

J. D. Conway, Monterey: Presidio, Pueblo and Port. Arcadia, 2003. Good overall account of the Monterey's history in 160 pages!

Richard Henry Dana, Two Years Before the Mast. New York: Harper and Bros, 1840. Dana offers the quintessential irony of the Yankee in Arcadia (Mexican California), critical yet enchanted.

Augusta Fink, Monterey: The Presence of the Past. Chronicle Books, 1972, other printings. Also published as Monterey County: the Dramatic Story of Its Past (1978). Well-written and researched popular history of Monterey and nearby communities.

Kibby M. Horne, A History of the Presidio of Monterey, 1770 to 1970. Defense Language Institute . . . Presidio of Monterey, 1970; reprinted 2000. For sale at the Presidio Museum, Lower Presidio Historic Park, and Colton Hall Museum.

John Steinbeck, Cannery Row. 1945. Doc, Mack and the Boys, and other residents of a unique human "tidepool community" on Cannery Row.

Robert Louis Stevenson, The Old Pacific Capital: From 'Across the Plains,' A Collection of Memories and Essays. Various printings. Stevenson's account of his 1879 stay in Monterey.

John Walton, Storied Land: Community and Memory in Monterey. University of California, 2001. Fascinating overview of Monterey history and the varied patterns in which its history has been retold-- from romanticized Spanish past to contrasting industrial Monterey (fishing and canning) and the shift to historic preservation and tourism.

Other Books to Consider:

Marie Beebe and Robert M. Senkewicz, Editors. Lands of Promise and Despair: Chronicles of Early California, 1535-1846. Santa Clara University and Heyday Books, 2001. Best one-volume translation of reminiscences, reports and documents of early California, including Monterey.

Neal Harlow, California Conquered: the Annexation of a Mexican Province. University of California, 1982.

Michael Hemp, Cannery Row: The History of John Steinbeck's Old Ocean View Avenue. History Co., 2009. Photos and text.

Carol Lynn McKibben, Beyond Cannery Row: Sicilian Women, Immigration, and Community in Monterey, California, 1915-99. University of Illinois Press, 2006. Well-focused study of Sicilian immigration and community of Monterey.

Jean-Francois de Galaup Perouse, Monterey in 1786: The Journals of Jean Francois de la Perouse. Edited and Introduction by Malcolm Margolin. Heyday Books, 1989.

William Tecumseh Sherman, Recollections of California, 1846-1861. The California section of Sherman's Memoirs. Biobooks, 1945.

Scott A. Shields, Artists at Continents End: The Monterey Peninsula Art Colony, 1875-1907. Crocker Art Museum, 2006.

Susan Shillinglaw, A Journey into Steinbeck's California. Roaring Forties , 2006.

Tim Thomas and Dennis Copeland, Monterey's Waterfront. Photo history of Monterey's fishing and canning industry. Arcadia, 2006.

Linda Yamane, When the World Ended: How Hummingbird Got Fire; How People Were Made: Rumsien Ohlone Stories. Oyate, 1998. Other books on Rumsien Costanoan by this author and by Alex O. Ramirez (Tjatjakiymatchan [Coyote]: A Legend from Carmel Valley. 1991)