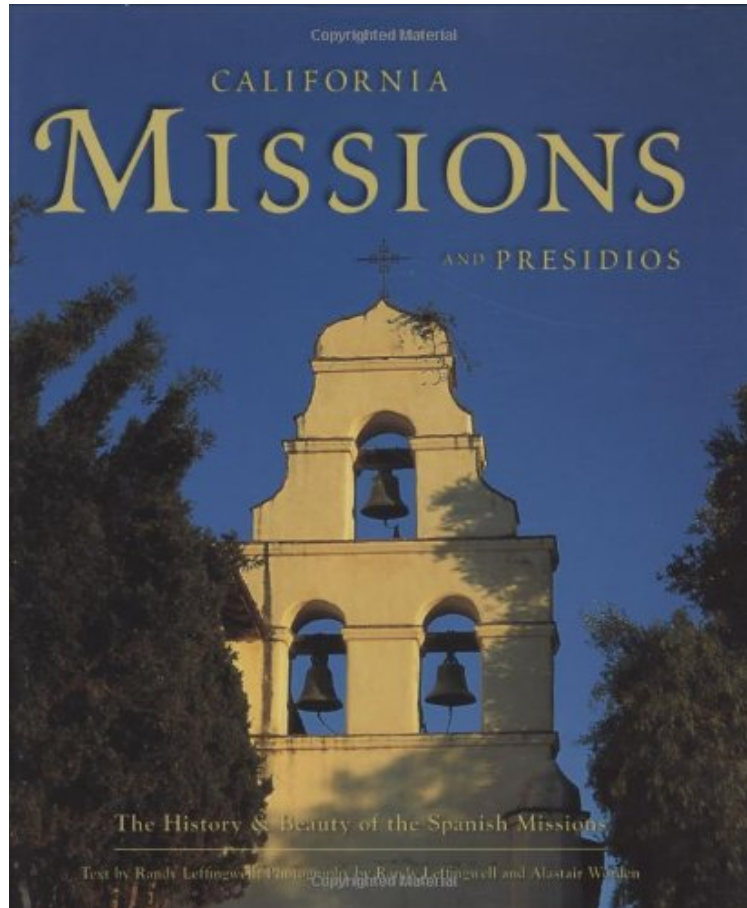


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California Missions and Presidios

Randy Leffingwell

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A BlessingBy Paul EhrmannBeautiful photos and text that evoke a distant time in California history, yet makes that period accessible by infusing the golden light of recollection with history and geography to lead us back to the places that make that history come alive.I know Randy Leffingwell as a fine automotive writer, but obviously, he does real well when he parks the Porsche and takes a walk around a mission.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not a strong reference text for a 4th grade California Mission projectBy D. ArnettA picture book for tourists. Not adequate for a fourth grader's use on his Mission project (reviewing the scope and range of a California Mission's impact upon the native population.)0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy BubblesGreat book. Beautiful pictures. Just the right amount of information for me.

The missions and presidios of California are among the states oldest structures and are the most visited historical monuments. These notable buildings are an integral part of Californias history. The states recorded history essentially began with the Spanish missions along the ambitious chain of 21 missions on El Camino Real (The Royal Highway) and the men who founded them. California Missions and Presidios is a gorgeous book that presents the history of these intriguing sanctuaries of peace and beauty. The eye-popping photography of Alastair Worden and Randy Leffingwell captures their unique character, while Leffingwells accessible text brings to life the overall history of Californias conquest by the Spanish; the construction and operation of the missions, presidios, ranchos, and adobes; and the background of the mission architecture and style. Seemingly unchanged, these missions and presidios have survived the centuries remarkably well still welcoming visitors as a refuge of serenity and splendor while providing a glimpse into the lives of the spirited pioneers who built these structures and lived and worked there.

Internet Bookwatch, March 2006 (circ. unavailable)