



## Franciscan Frontiersmen: How Three Adventurers Charted the West (Paperback)

By Robert A Kittle

University of Oklahoma Press, 2018. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book. Pious and scholarly, the Franciscan friars Pedro Font, Juan Crespi, and Francisco Garces may at first seem improbable heroes. Beginning in Spain, their adventures encompassed the remote Sierra Gorda highlands of Mexico, the deserts of the American Southwest, and coastal California. Each man's journey played an important role in Spain's eighteenth-century conquest of the Pacific coast, but today their names and deeds are little known. Drawing on the diaries and correspondence of Font, Crespi, and Garces, as well as his own exhaustive field research, Robert A. Kittle has woven a seamless narrative detailing the friars' striking accomplishments. Starting with a harrowing transatlantic voyage, all three traveled through uncharted lands and found themselves beset by raiding Indians, marauding bears, starvation, and scurvy. Along the way, they made invaluable notes on indigenous peoples, flora and fauna, and prominent eighteenth-century European colonial figures. Font, the least celebrated of the three, recorded the daily events of the 1775-76 colonizing expedition of Juan Bautista de Anza while serving as its chaplain. Font's legacy includes some of the earliest accurate maps of California between San Diego Bay and...



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