



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Before there was a Los Angeles or a San Francisco, there was Spain's first colony in upper California, El Presidio de San Diego. Founded in 1769, this small fortress and mission was the seedling for the twenty-one missions and four presidios that followed. It was here that Franciscan priest Junípero Serra planted the first Catholic cross in what became Alta California. The nearby harbor provided a safe port for sailing ships from all over the world, ensuring a steady stream of goods and supplies. Over its many decades, the San Diego Presidio was home to Spaniards, Mexicans, Native people and, toward the end, Anglo-Americans. Its cemetery became the final resting place for many of them. Author and historian Richard Carrico provides insights into San Diego's beginnings.



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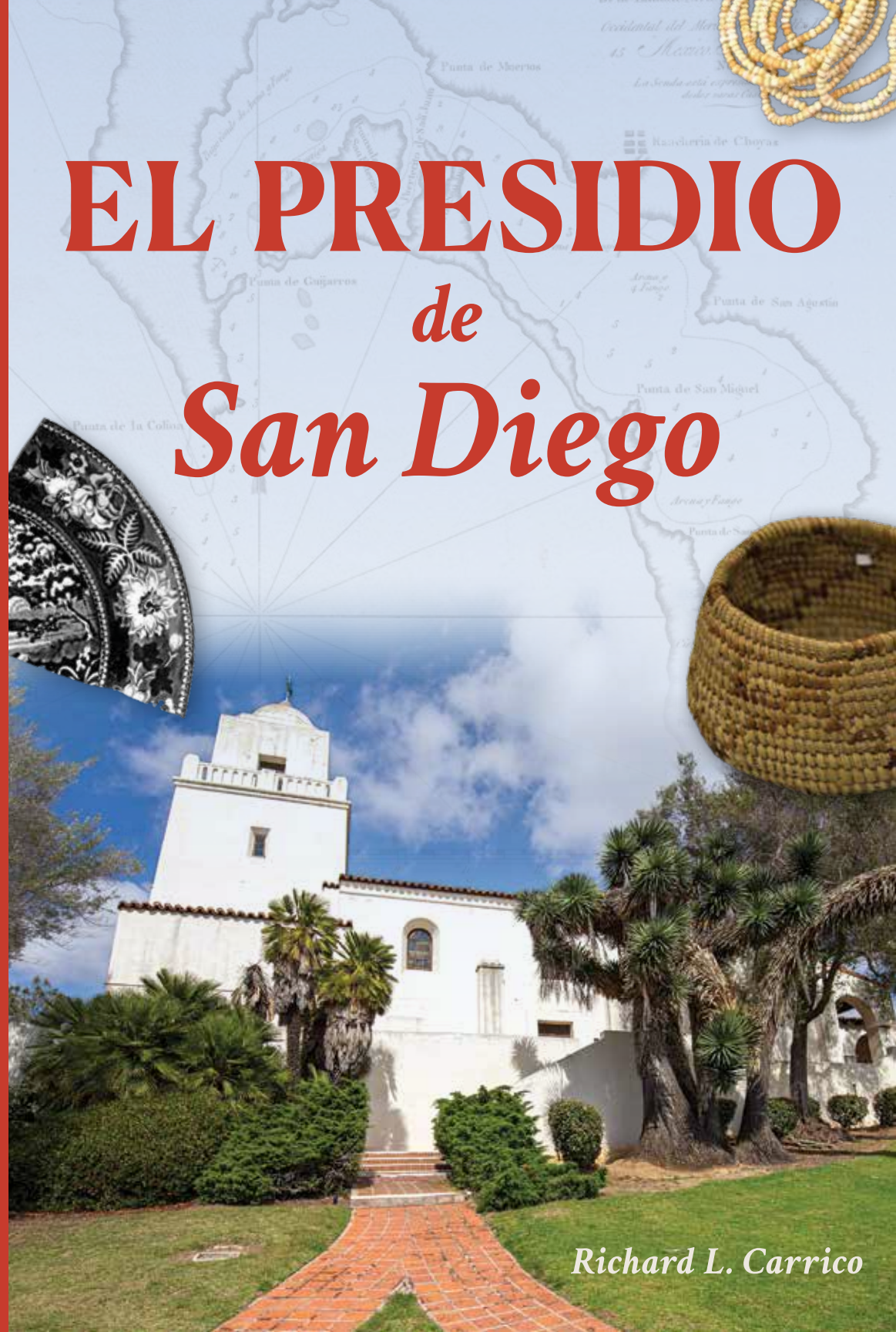


El Presidio de San Diego

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EL PRESIDIO de San Diego



Richard L. Carrico