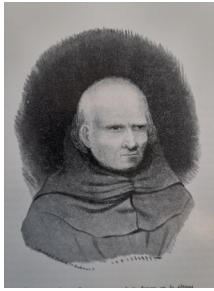


Fra Jeroni Boscana, from Lluçmajor to the missions of California



J. Boscana's legacy for the knowledge of the Californian tribes

Jeroni Boscana Mulet was born in Lluçmajor on May 27, 1775, the son of Miquel and Pedrona, both from wealthy families in the town. J. Boscana's family had ties to the Franciscan order, so it is not surprising that he began his education in the classrooms of the nearby Sant Bonaventura convent, which was also close to his home.

He was ordained a priest in 1799 and later responded to a call from the Franciscans to meet ecclesiastical needs in the Viceroyalty of Nueva España (now Mexico).

He arrived in Veracruz in 1803 and three years later sailed to Alta California, where he worked in several of its missions. Father Juníper Serra, also from Mallorca, founded nine of the twenty-one missions in those territories between 1769 and 1782.

A highly cultured religious figure, during his ministry in San Luis Rey and San Juan de Capistrano (1811-1826), he made detailed notes on the customs and traditions of the indigenous peoples of those areas with the intention of providing a guide for other friars in their evangelizing work. His description has turned out to be one of the best works produced during the missionary period for understanding the tribes of that place, and is recognized by various specialists in the field as the first ethnographic study of the Californian tribes. Naturally, these writings must be placed in their historical context and understood in accordance with the norms and mentality of that era.

J. Boscana also began the parish records of the church of Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles in 1826, a town founded in 1781, which was the seed of the current North American city. The proclamation of October 9, 1973, by the mayor of Los Angeles, Thomas Bradley, recognizing the work of the missionary Boscana and Friar Juníper Serra, is preserved in the cloister of Sant Bonaventura. Father Boscana continued to work until shortly before his death at the San Gabriel mission in 1831, where he is buried in the presbytery.

He was named Favorite Son of Lluçmajor at the end of 1965.



Church of Ntra. Sra. de los Ángeles, California, ca. 1869.



“Historical account of the beliefs, customs, traditions, and eccentricities of the Indians of this Mission of San Juan Capistrano, known as the Acagchemen nation” 1812-1822. Manuscript preserved in the Bibliothèque National de France, Paris.

Proclamation from the city of Los Angeles. San Gabriel Mission Church and tombstone.

