

Guide to Serrana

At the
Santa Bárbara Mission
Archive-Library

A Summary of the
Documentation about

Blessed Junípero Serra, OFM

Santa Bárbara Mission Archive-Library
Santa Barbara, California

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US-CaStbMAL

On the Occasion of

The **800th Anniversary** of the
Founding of the Franciscan Movement by
Saint Francis of Assisi in 1209

And

The **225th Anniversary** of the
Death of Blessed Junipero Serra in 1784,
The Founder of the Franciscan Movement in California

AD 1209-2009

CONTENTS

PREFACE	5
GLOSSARY	6
Chapter INTRODUCTION	8
PART I: SERRA DOCUMENT ORIGINALS AT SBMAL	
1. Serra Autograph Letters	11
2. Archives of the Friar Presidents	12
PART II: SERRA DOCUMENTS IN FACSIMILE AT SBMAL	
3. Collection of Junipero Serra Documents in Facsimile	14
4. Collection of California Mission Documents in Facsimile	15
5. De Groot Collection of Serra Documents in Facsimile	16
PART III: DOCUMENTATION FROM THE CAUSE	
6. Serra Cause Vice Postulator Records	18
7. Serra Cause Vice Postulator Albums	19
8. Serra Cause Historian Collection	20
9. Serra Cause Roman Process Documents	21
10. Collection of Serra Photographs	22
11. Collection of Serra Souvenirs and Ephemera	23
PART IV: COLLECTIONS RELATED TO THE SERRA CAUSE	
12. Friar Eric O'Brien, OFM Papers	25
13. Friar Maynard Geiger, OFM Papers	26
14. Friar Zephyrin Engelhardt, OFM Papers	27
APPENDIX	
1. The Saint-Making Process Summarized	29
2. Applied to the Cause of Junípero Serra	30
3. Understanding the Canonical Process	31
4. Further Reading	34

PREFACE

This *Guide* provides an overview of materials at the Santa Bárbara Mission Archive-Library (SBMAL) with relevance to the life, works and legacy of Blessed Junípero Serra (1713-1784).

This *Guide* provides only an overview or summary. Scholars seeking greater detail should consult the Mission Archive-Library web site (www.sbmal.org) or phone (805-682-4713) to inquire about a specific collection.

The occasion for the compilation of this *Guide* is the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Franciscan movement in 1209 by Saint Francis of Assisi. Junípero Serra and his companion friars were members of the Franciscan religious fraternity. Their arrival in California in 1769 marked the extension of Franciscan influence to the Pacific Coast of North America.

The Santa Bárbara Mission Archive-Library (SBMAL) is an educational, non-profit corporation established by the Franciscans of the Saint Barbara Province. The mission of the SBMAL is to provide research access to the historic documentation accumulated by the Franciscan Order during its ministries in California, the American Southwest, the Philippines and China.

The preparation of this *Guide* was made possible by a grant from the Academy of American Franciscan History (www.aafh.org). The Academy is a research institute affiliated with the Franciscan School of Theology at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California. The Academy is dedicated to the encouragement of the study of the Franciscan Order in the Americas. It does this through the publication of monographs, documents and a scholarly journal, as well as sponsoring seminars, conferences, and public lectures.

GLOSSARY

Articuli—literally “the parts,” these are a series of statements or propositions about the holiness of life of the candidate that are composed by the postulator and must be proved in court.

Autograph—a manuscript written in part or at least signed in the author’s handwriting. See also holograph

Congregation for the Causes of Saints—is a subdivision of the Roman Curia charged with investigating the holiness of candidates proposed for canonization. Before 1969, this task was entrusted to the Congregation of Rites. The Latin term *congregatio* should be understood as a permanent committee of officials.

Canonization—is a solemn proclamation by the Pope that a person lived a life of heroic virtue in fidelity to God’s grace. The canonized person is given the title of “saint” and is proposed as a model of life and as a heavenly intercessor in prayer. (The term derives from the official list called the “Canon of the Saints.” To “canonize” is to add someone to that official list).

Curia—refers to the body of officials who assist a bishop in the administration of his responsibilities. The Pope’s assistants are called the Roman Curia. Those of any other bishop are called a diocesan curia.

Devil’s Advocate See Promoter of the Faith

Diocese—is a subdivision of the worldwide Catholic Church. It is a community of the Christian faithful who are in communion with the duly constituted bishop for that diocese. A diocese usually has territorial boundaries. (The term derives from a Greek word for an administrative division).

Fama Sanctitatis—this is a reputation for sanctity during one’s lifetime and after.

Heroic Virtue—virtue lived to a heroic degree is understood to involve striving unceasingly against evil, living with all one’s strength according to the precepts of the Gospel, and accepting any sacrifice for the love of God.

Historical Commission—is a body appointed by the bishop in charge of the diocesan process. The commission must have at least three members. These can be men or women of any creed but who are experts in history and archival investigation. Their task is to gather all primary historical sources concerning the candidate for sainthood.

Holograph—a document written wholly in the handwriting of the person whose signature it bears. An “autograph” document might be written in part or only signed by the writer.

Miracle—is an effect that appears unexplainable by the laws of nature and so is held to be supernatural in origin or an act of God. A candidate for sainthood must give evidence of having performed miracles.

Processus Ordinarius—or “ordinary process” is the term used for the procedure that occurs in the diocesan locality under the direction of the local bishop. The process in Rome is called the “apostolic process.”

Processus Super Non Cultu—this is an investigation to ascertain that no unauthorized public veneration has been given to a candidate for sainthood.

Processus Rogatorialis—is the part of the diocesan investigation during which witnesses are questioned on a series of prepared questions or *articuli*.

Processiculus Diligentiarum—is the first process conducted in a Cause. Its purpose is to authenticate the documentation collected by the Historical Commission.

Positio—is a compendium of all the documentation offered by a Cause in support of the claim of holiness of life for a candidate for sainthood. The *Positio* consists of the *Informatio* and the *Summarium*. The *Informatio* is the exposition of the life and virtues of the candidate. The *Summarium* is the summary of the depositions of witnesses questioned during the diocesan investigation.

Postulator—is an official of the Cause who assumes the primary responsibility for obtaining the necessary documentation and making the required arrangements.

Promoter of the Faith—is an official of the Congregation of Saints who serves as an overseer in the examination of the Cause to guarantee that proper norms are met and to raise every possible objection to the proofs offered.

Relator—is an official of the Roman Congregation of Saints at the Vatican who works with the postulator of a cause to prepare the *Positio* according to accepted norms.

Summarium see *Positio*

INTRODUCTION

The term “Serrana” is used to mean any form of document with relevance to the life, works and legacy of Blessed Junípero Serra (1713-1784).

“The Serra material in the Santa Barbara Mission Archives forms the largest body of Serrana in any one archive in the world.” This is the claim made by Father Maynard Geiger in 1950 after having spent the previous thirteen years scouring the repositories and private collections of the New World and the Old looking for Serra related manuscripts.

Where did the documents in this “largest body of Serrana” come from?

The core Serra documents were found among the archives of the presidents of the California Missions. These documents were the survivors of the suppression of the old missions. Santa Barbara Mission was the last stand of the group of Franciscan missionaries known as the “Fernandinos” whose first leader was Junípero Serra. Friar Narciso Duran, the last Fernandino president, moved to Santa Barbara Mission and brought with him the archives of the old missions dating from the time of Serra. These archives are the first stratum in the deposit.

To these were added the second stratum of Serra documents collected by the legendary Friar Zephyrin Engelhardt, OFM. From approximately 1901 to 1905, Engelhardt copied by hand original documents from the Spanish Archives of California which were soon after destroyed in the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906. A true pioneer of California mission studies, Friar Zephyrin scouted documents from any notable source including the archives of the bishops and the private collections of Alexander S. Taylor, Hubert H. Bancroft, Charles Lummis and others.

The third and greatest augmentation of the Serra documentation resulted from the work of the Serra Cause personnel. Between the years 1941 and 1949 Father Eric O’Brien and Father Maynard Geiger located and copied 905 documents gathered from sixty archives, libraries and private collections. During their search they canvassed over 100 repositories in the United States, Mexico, Spain and Italy. The 905 documents discovered totaled 7440 facsimile pages of material added to the Serrana at the Santa Barbara Archive-Library (SBMAL).

Next in succession, the canonical proceedings for the Cause of Junípero Serra added the fourth stratum of Serrana. This layer of documentation consists of witnesses to Serra’s reputation for holiness (in Latin *fama sanctitatis*). Among these documents are compilations of literary witnesses from any source and in any genre since 1784 that attested to Serra’s reputation for holiness and for miracles.

The progress of the Cause through canonical channels occasioned a host of historical writing on contested matters in the form of monographs, reports, data compilations,

definitive biographies and edited compilations of writings. This great accumulation of research and writing formed the fifth stratum of Serrana at the SBMAL.

The records of the vice-postulators of the Serra Cause and the personal papers of the friar collaborators comprise the sixth layer of Serrana. Contained among these records and papers is a comprehensive correspondence that allows the reader to glimpse moments frozen in time. This correspondence reaches both up to canonical authorities and out to persons from every stratum of civic society.

Finally, a collection of Serra souvenirs, Serra ephemera, and even Serra kitsch completes the historic record on the last and most pedestrian stratum of the deposit.

Not only is the Serra material at Santa Barbara the largest deposit, it is also the most comprehensive. Nevertheless, at its core are those documents either written by Serra, written to him or written about him during his lifetime or shortly thereafter by persons who knew him. In other words, they are the **literary witnesses** to the life, work and legacy of Junípero Serra. They are the closest we can come to the living testimony of eye witnesses.

PART I
SERRA DOCUMENT ORIGINALS AT SBMAL

1. Serra Autograph Letters at the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library

Institutional Code: US-CaStbMAL
Reference Code:
Inclusive Dates: 1773-1784
Extent: 30 items
Compiler: Junípero Serra
Languages: Spanish
Circumstances of Creation: The letters contained in this series fall entirely within the dates of Junípero Serra's tenure as president of the missions in New California and concern the execution of the duties of that position.
Scope and Content: The *Writings of Junípero Serra* edited by Father Antonine Tibesar, OFM, includes 270 letters written by Serra. Of this total, the SBMAL possesses 30 which are holographs; that is, they are wholly written and signed in the hand of the Serra. These 30 letters are listed in the table below by their document numbers in the JSD Collection. There are other letters as well at SBMAL that were dictated by Serra and signed by him (and are thus "autographs") but were written in a hand other than his own. These are not included in this list. The letters were written mostly from Mission San Carlos Borromeo in Carmel. Among the recipients, Friar Fermín Lasuén received 18; Governor Felipe de Neve 3; Don Pedro Fages 2; one each to Friars Pieras and Figuer and one each to Bucarelli and De Croix. Three were circulars to all the missions.
Conditions of Access Researchers are directed to use the facsimiles
Finding Aids See *La Gazeta del Archivo*, Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Archive-Library, (Fall 1989) pages 1-7 for a description.
Summary:

Holograph Letters of Junípero Serra at the SBMAL

Document 331	Document 791	Document 858
Document 419	Document 807	Document 879
Document 732	Document 824	Document 890
Document 738	Document 826	Document 893
Document 739	Document 827	Document 899
Document 741	Document 830	Document 906
Document 760	Document 832	Document 954
Document 777	Document 836	Document 958
Document 779	Document 847	Document 959
Document 786	Document 853	Document 975

2. Archives of the Friar Presidents of the Missions of Alta California

- Institutional Code:** US-CaStbMAL
- Reference Code:**
- Inclusive Dates:** 1785-1853
- Bulk Dates:**
- Extent:** 3000 items
- Compiler:** Narciso Durán, OFM
- Languages:** Spanish and Latin
- Circumstances of Creation:** Creation of the documents began with the Spanish *Entrada* into “New California” in 1768. The missions of New California were entrusted to the Franciscan friars of the College of San Fernando in Mexico City. Consequently, these friars were called the “Fernandinos.” In 1833, Fray Narciso Durán, president of the Fernandinos, moved from Mission San José to Santa Bárbara. The documents remained at Santa Bárbara ever since. This collection continued to grow by natural accretion until the 1853. In that year, a new collection began with the establishment of the College of Our Lady of Sorrows (1854-1885) at Mission Santa Bárbara, which was the successor to the College of San Fernando, Mexico City.
- Scope and Content:** Excluding Serrana, these are the original Fernandino documents preserved by the presidents of the missions from 1785 to 1853.
- System of Arrangement:** Arranged by Maynard Geiger, OFM
- Conditions of Access:** Researchers are directed to use the facsimiles
- Finding Aids:** See the California Mission Documents Calendar
- Summary:**
01. Annual and Biennial Reports by Missions
 02. General Annual Reports
 03. *Noticias*
 04. Reports on Spiritual Matters by Missions
 05. General Reports on Spiritual Matters
 06. *Cumplimiento de Iglesias—Gente de Razon*
 07. Marriage Investigations and Parental Permissions
 08. Missionary Lists and Biographies
 09. Financial Accounts between Presidios and Missions
 10. Questions and Answers Concerning the Neophytes
 11. Diaries and Chronicles
 12. *Confesinarios*, Sermons, Addresses
 13. Mission Music
 14. Inventories
 15. Registers and Miscellaneous
 16. *Libro de Patentes*
 17. *Libro de Ordenes*

PART II
SERRA DOCUMENTS IN FACSIMILE AT SBMAL

3. Collection of Junipero Serra Documents in Facsimile

Institutional Code:	US-CaStbMAL
Reference Code:	JSC
Inclusive Dates:	1698-1948
Bulk Dates:	1713-1784
Extent:	10, 000 pages approximately
Compiler:	Maynard Geiger, OFM
Languages:	Spanish, Latin, Mallorquin and English
Circumstances of Creation:	Father Maynard Geiger, OFM, compiled this collection to satisfy a requirement of the canonical process for the sainthood of Junípero Serra. Beginning in 1937, as archivist of Santa Barbara Mission, he sought to locate and copy all extant writings pertaining to Serra. This task required visiting numerous record repositories on two continents. In 1941 he visited the <i>Archivo General de la Nación</i> (AGN) and the <i>Biblioteca Nacional</i> (BN) in Mexico City to photocopy relevant documents. From 1943 to 1947, with the aid of Franciscans in other countries, he made an intensive search to gather every “scrap of evidence documentary and traditional” connected with Serra’s life. Geiger visited Mexico again in 1943, 1945 and 1946. He visited Spain in 1946 and Italy in 1947. Over 125 repositories both public and private were visited. The governments of the United States, Spain, Mexico and the State of California participated in an official way. The mass of documents collected from around the world amounted to about 10,000 pages.
Scope and Content:	The Collection of Junípero Serra Document Facsimiles as described by Father Maynard Geiger: “Comprises the original documents of the Fernandino Archives: the writings of Serra, letters written to him and documents concerning him. Added to these are the copies of documents in the same categories most of which were obtained in the search between 1941 and 1949 in reference to his cause for eventual canonization. In the main these documents were composed between the years 1713 and 1784 though some of them extend down to the present century. A small number of documents not relating to Serra but which fall within his period are also included in this category. The Serra material in the SBMA forms the largest body of Serrana in any one archive in the world.”
System of Arrangement:	According to an explanation written by the compiler in 1947: “All documents have been integrated to avoid proliferation of collections and to serve better the needs of archivists and researchers. Material that belongs together is found together regardless of its place of origin.” The compiler divided the mass of documents into three collections and arranged each in chronological order. He then compiled a calendar for each collection. The Collection of Junípero Serra Documents is first of these three. The second is the Collection of California Mission Documents (CMD) and the third is the Collection of Our Lady of Sorrows College Documents (OLSCD).
Conditions of Access:	Facsimiles of all items in these collections are available for normal research access. Access to the document originals is restricted.
Finding Aids:	Calendar for the JSC is available at www.sbm.al.org

4. Collection of California Mission Documents in Facsimile

Institutional Code:	US-CaStbMAL
Reference Code:	CMD
Inclusive Dates:	1521-1853
Bulk Dates:	1785-1853
Extent:	4199 items
Compiler:	Maynard Geiger, OFM
Languages:	Spanish, Latin and English
Circumstances of Creation:	Creation of the documents began with the planing for the Spanish <i>Entrada</i> into “New California” in 1768. The missions of New California were entrusted to the Franciscan friars of the College of San Fernando in Mexico City. Owing to the name of their headquarters these friars were referred to as the “Fernandinos.” Junípero Serra and his companion missionaries were among these. The father president kept the mission archives at his place of residence. For many years that was at San Carlos Mission, Carmel. When the Zacatecan missionary friars assumed direction of the northern missions in 1833, Fray Narciso Durán, president of the Fernandinos, transferred his place of residence from Mission San José to that of Santa Bárbara. Ever since that day the documents have remained there. This collection continued to grow by natural accretion until the year 1853. In that year, a new collection began with the establishment of the College of Our Lady of Sorrows (1854-1885) at Mission Santa Bárbara, which was the successor to the College of San Fernando, Mexico City. The friars most noted for maintaining the records in the collection of California Mission Documents are Theodore Arentz, Zephyrin Engelhardt, and finally, Fr. Maynard Geiger, who provided the current arrangement of the collection.
Scope and Content:	The collection of California Mission Documents is described by Father Maynard Geiger in these words: “The California Mission Collection, excluding Serrana, comprises the original Fernandino documents preserved by the presidents of the missions between 1785 and 1853. With these have been integrated copies of the Alexander S. Taylor Collection from the Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, the Bancroft Library, the original California Archives in San Francisco (destroyed in the fire of 1906), and various Mexican archives. The Taylor Collection in particular, constituting correspondence between the missionaries and civil officials, called for needed integration.” This collection is included in the <i>Guide to Serrana</i> because so many of the Serra Documents came from it.
System of Arrangement:	The collection is arranged in chronological order as explained by the compiler in 1947: “All documents, originals and copies have recently been integrated into categories to avoid proliferation of collections and to serve better the needs of archivists and researchers. Material that belongs together is found together regardless of its place of origin.”
Conditions of Access:	Access to facsimiles is unrestricted.
Finding Aids:	Calendar available at www.sbmal.org

5. De Groot Collection of Serra Documents in Facsimile

Institutional Code:	US-CaStbMAL	
Previous Codes:	Serra BH 50 and MS 22	
Reference Code:		
Inclusive Dates:	1532-1784	
Bulk Dates:	1719-1784	
Extent:	0.4 cubic feet	
Compiler:	Brother Henry De Groot, FSC	
Languages:	Spanish and Latin	
Circumstances of Creation:	The exact circumstances for the creation of this collection are not recorded. Brother Henry, a professed religious of the La Salle Christian Brothers (FSC), functioned in California during the 1950s and 1960s. He resided at the Christian Brothers Institute in Napa, California. A collection of historical materials bearing his name exists at Saint Mary's College of California, Moraga.	
Scope and Content:	This collection contains facsimiles of documents at the <i>Biblioteca Nacional de Mexico, Departamento de Manuscritos, Estampas e Iconográfica</i> . The documents cover the history of California from the earliest exploration to the death of Father Serra.	
System of Arrangement:	It is arranged in fourteen folders. Folders five and six are facsimiles of holographs of Fr. Serra. The documents are generally in chronological order within a folder.	
Conditions of Access:	Unrestricted access	
Finding Aids:	Inventory available	
Summary of Contents:		
Folder 01	Document 4/63	1774
Folder 02	Document 4/78 to 4/79	1775-1776
Folder 03	Document 4/72 to 4/77	1775
Folder 04	Document 4/64 to 4/71	1774-1768
Folder 05	Unnumbered Serra holographs	1769-1777
Folder 06	Unnumbered Serra holographs	1777-1784
Folder 06	Document 3/32 to 3/33	1700s
Folder 07	Document 3/35 to 3/38	1596-1759
Folder 08	Document 3/39 to 3/43	1683-1700
Folder 09	Document 3/47 to 3/51	1719-1720
Folder 10	Document 3/52 to 3/53	1721-1722
Folder 11	Document 4/54 to 4/63	1724-1740
Folder 12	Document 4/80 to 4/84	1776
Folder 13	Untitled fragment	no date
Folder 14	Document 3/34	1777

PART III
DOCUMENTATION FROM THE CAUSE

6. Serra Cause Vice-Postulator Records

Institutional Code: US-CaStbMAL
Reference Code:
Inclusive Dates: 1927-1998
Bulk Dates: 1941-1991
Extent: 16 cubic feet
Compiler: Office of the Vice-Postulator
Languages: English, Spanish, Latin, and Mallorquin
Circumstances of Creation: The inclusive dates range from the first discussions among the Franciscan superiors in California in 1927 to the end of Fr. Noel Moholy's tenure in September 1998. These are the records of the activities of the first three vice-postulators in support of the Cause.
Scope and Content: Included is correspondence with Franciscan officials, with Catholic Church authorities, with Franciscan peers, with government officials and with the general public. Related formats include press releases, public addresses, audio-visual presentations, and ephemeral publications, field notes of document safaris, analytic card files, reports, monographs, and interviews with witnesses.
Conditions of Access: Open to access under normal conditions.
Finding Aids: Inventory
Summary:

During the Tenure of Fr. Eric O'Brien, 1941-1958

- Series 01 Correspondence
- Series 02 Subjects
- Series 03 Publicity, Public Addresses and Publications
- Series 04 Serra Documents Research
- Series 05 *Articuli* Research
- Series 06 Exhumation of 1943
- Series 07 Diocesan Process in California
- Series 08 Fr. Eric in Rome
- Series 09 American Administrator of the Cause

During the Tenure of Fr. Noël Moholy, 1958-1998

- Series 10 Correspondence
- Series 11 Subjects
- Series 12 Public Addresses and Writing
- Series 13 Process of the Cause in Rome
- Series 14 Serra 175th Anniversary, 1959
- Series 15 Santa Barbara Projects
- Series 16 Historic Landmarks Advisory Committee
- Series 17 Serra 250th Anniversary, 1963
- Series 18 1960s and 1970s
- Series 19 Serra Bicentennial Commission, 1984
- Series 20 Pilgrimages and Excursions

7. Serra Cause Vice-Postulator Albums

Institutional Code:	US-CaStbMAL
Reference Code:	
Inclusive Dates:	1879-1900, 1920-1982
Bulk Dates:	1948-1964
Extent:	40 linear inches
Compiler:	Eric O'Brien and Noel Moholy
Languages:	English and Spanish
Circumstances of Creation:	Fr. Eric O'Brien began the series during his tenure. Fr. Moholy continued it expanding both page size and content. During at least Fr. Moholy's tenure, volunteers assembled the albums under his direction.
Scope and Content:	The albums contain mostly news clippings from both English and Spanish language publications about Serra events in the Americas and in Europe. Next in frequency is printed matter such as event programs, flyers, and brochures. Appearing with the least frequency are photographs. There are Serra stamps, commemorative covers and cancellations. Items cited by Geiger in his compilation "Serra's Virtues" appear along with three portfolios of typewritten research notes. Father Moholy included the renovation of Old Mission Santa Bárbara, the history of his home town San Francisco, as well as his personal career and family history.
Arrangement:	The albums retain their original order. Some are topical, some are chronological and some are not discernable.
Access:	Staff assistance required to turn pages
Finding Aids:	Preliminary Inventory
Summary:	
01) <i>The Cause of Padre Junípero Serra, 1950</i>	Jan 1950-May 1955
02) <i>Father Serra Cause, 1952</i>	Jan 1952-Dec 1953
03) <i>Junípero Serra Cause</i>	1952-1960
04) <i>Junípero Serra</i>	1920s-1960s
05) <i>Fray Junípero Serra, Articles in English</i>	1951-1969
06) <i>Fray Junípero Serra, Articles in English</i>	1963-1964
07) <i>Fray Junípero Serra, Articles in English, The Cause and Historical</i>	1913-1981
08) <i>Junípero Serra, Articles in Spanish</i>	1944-1958
09) <i>Fray Junípero Serra, Spanish Articles</i>	1950-1974
10) <i>Fray Junípero Serra, Articles in Spanish</i>	1949-1963
11) <i>Junípero Serra Cause</i>	1944-1963
12) <i>Junípero Serra, Articles in Spanish and English</i>	1963-1964, 1982
13) <i>Fray Junípero Serra Articles in Spanish,</i>	1949-1963
14) "Moholy Book"	1879-1976
15) "Moholy Book"	1974-1977
16) "Serra Book"	1913-1965
17) "Serra Book"	1966-1977

8. Serra Cause Historian Collection

Institutional Code:	US-CaStbMAL	
Reference Code:		
Inclusive Dates:	1853, 1891-1965	
Bulk Dates:	1942-1960	
Extent:	6 linear feet	
Compiler:	Fr. Maynard Geiger, OFM	
Languages:	Eng., Span., Latin, Mallorquin, German and Dutch	
Circumstances of Creation:	Father Maynard Geiger, OFM, Ph.D. was active in the Cause of Junípero Serra in several capacities from 1937 until his death in 1977. The documents in this collection result from his many activities. From 1942 to 1948, he was a member of the Diocesan Historical Commission for the Serra Cause.	
Scope and Content:	The collection is extremely heterogeneous so the term “Serrana” is used when needed as a generic reference. Included is any genre about Junípero Serra including scripts for dramas, broadcasts and films; poetry; essays and lectures; book reviews and news clippings. There is extensive correspondence including the famous exchange between Charles Lummis and Friar Zephyrin Engelhardt about Serra and the sensational claims made by novelist Anne Fisher about the legend of the removal of Serra’s remains. Included are the various studies made by Geiger on contested subjects such as the admitting of Indian converts to the reception of Holy Communion. Records from Geiger’s membership on the Diocesan Historical Commission include his letter of appointment; a manual of procedures, correspondence with commission members, reports and minutes.	
System of Arrangement:	At some point in the past this material was bound into anthologies arranged roughly by theme. Each anthology has a table of contents.	
Conditions of Access:	Appointment needed	
Finding Aids:	Inventory	
Summary:		
<i>Serra Articuli Series Longior</i>	Case for Serra’s Sainthood	1941-1958
<i>Serra Cause</i>	Diocesan Historical Commission	1940-1950
<i>Serra Virtues</i>	Witnesses to Serra’s Virtues	1771-1946
<i>Serra Burial</i>	Authenticity of Serra’s Remains	1943-1955
<i>Serra Documents</i>	Chronological Table of Documents	1713-1882
<i>Serra Collection of Documents</i>	Abstract of Subjects of Documents	1713-1882
<i>Serrana Anthology, Volume I-</i>	Writings about Serra	1891-1934
<i>Serrana Anthology, Volume II-</i>	Writings about Serra	1909-1959
<i>Serrana Anthology, Volume III-</i>	Poems about Serra	1871-1946
<i>Serrana Anthology, Volume IV-</i>	Book Reviews about Serra	1955-1965
<i>Serrana Anthology, Volume V-</i>	Screen Play for Sword and Cross	1953-1954
<i>Serrana Anthology, Volume VI-</i>	Thesis about Early Life of Serra	1922

9. Serra Cause Roman Process Documents

Institutional Code: US-CaStbMAL
Reference Code:
Inclusive Dates: 1981-1985
Extent: 2.75 linear inches
Compiler: Congregation for the Causes of Saints
Languages: Spanish, Italian and Latin
Circumstances of Creation: These documents represent the entire extent of the proceedings in the papal curia regarding the Cause of Junipero Serra. The proceedings of the Roman or “Apostolic Process” for the cause of a candidate for sainthood are routinely issued in printed form for use by the consulters of the congregation.
Scope and Content: The three documents include the presentation of the case for Serra’s sainthood, the deliberations and votes of the historical office on the fitness of the documentation and finally, the deliberations of the congregation about the case made for the heroic degree of Serra’s virtues.
Conditions of Access: No restrictions
Finding Aids: Tables of Contents
Summary:

Document 90

Positio super Vita et Virtutibus ex Officio Concinnata, 1981
This document contains the case or *Positio* for the sainthood of Junipero Serra.

Document 91

Relatio et Vota sulla Seduta dei Consultori dell’Ufficio Storico tenuta il 17 Feb1982
The questions in this document are:
On historical the documentation—is it accurate, adequate and credible?
Does the documentation constitute a genuine reputation of holiness?
Do the documents and adjoining commentary support the virtues of the Servant of God?
To each question the consulters voted “yes.” The Report includes the discussion of the issues and the observations of the consulters regarding these including “difficult” aspects in Serra’s history.

Document P N 658

Relatio et Vota Congressus Peculiaris Super Virtutibus, 12 Feb1985
The deliberations regarding the degree of the virtues lived by Junipero Serra

10. Collection of Serra Photographs

Institutional Code: US-CaStbMAL
Reference Code:
Inclusive Dates: 1880s-1990s
Bulk Dates: 1949-1979
Extent: 7 cubic feet
Compiler: Archive-Library Staff
Languages: English
Circumstances of Creation: The vice-postulators and the historian of the Cause accumulated photographs for research, to record the activities of the Cause and to document public events.
Scope and Content: The subject matter includes depictions of Serra, geographic places associated with Serra, monuments; public events, the activities of the canonical process; historical documents associated with Serra and public celebrations. Formats include classical photographic prints, negatives, transparencies and albums.
Conditions of Access: Appointment needed. Negatives not available.
Finding Aids: In preparation
Summary:

Classical Photographic Prints

- Series 1: Collection of Portraits of Serra
- Series 2: Collection of Monuments of Serra
- Series 3: Collection of Places Associated with Serra
- Series 4: *Serra Trail* Photograph Collection
- Series 5: Junípero Serra Documents Collection Photo Facsimiles
- Series 6: Vice-Postulator Collection of Photographs

Photograph Negatives

Transparencies

- Slide Show: Serra, the Founder of California
- California Missions

Photograph Albums

- Fray Junípero Serra Album, 1940s-1950s
- Father Noel Moholy Photo Album, 1941-1963
- Cities of Spain and Mallorca
- Mallorca, Spain—Birthplace of Friar Junípero Serra

11. Collection of Serra Souvenirs and Ephemera

Institutional Code:	US-CaStbMAL
Reference Code:	
Inclusive Dates:	1884-1998
Bulk Dates:	1934-1988
Extent:	4 cubic feet
Compiler:	Mission Archive-Library
Languages:	English and Spanish
Circumstances of Creation:	By the time Serra's Cause was accepted in 1937 by the Vatican, the body of Serra related objects in public circulation was already large, widely diverse and growing. The ephemeral and souvenir items in this collection were accumulated from several sources including the vice-postulator, private donors and the Franciscan friars.
Scope and Content:	A <i>souvenir</i> is something serving as a reminder and can include a limitless range of formats. This collection includes items intended for religious devotion, items for informing the public, items issued by governments for public observances, items offered to commemorate anniversaries and commercial items arising from the open market. <i>Ephemera</i> are items made of paper and intended for a one-time use. Examples of ephemera are cards, programs and tickets to public events, decals and theme calendars. <i>Souvenir objects</i> include three-dimensional items such as buttons, pins, pennants, mugs and figurines.
Conditions of Access:	Appointment needed
Finding Aids:	In preparation
Summary:	

Series 01: Serra Anniversary Observances

Series 02: Public Events Other than Anniversaries

Series 03: Numismatic Collection

Series 04: Philately

Series 05: Art on Paper

Series 06: Posters

Series 07: Post Cards Collection

Series 08: Pamphlets

Series 09: Newspapers and News Clippings

Series 10: Ephemera

Series 11: Souvenir Objects

Series 12: Audio and Video Recordings

PART IV
COLLECTIONS RELATED TO THE SERRA CAUSE

12. Friar Eric O'Brien, OFM Papers

Institutional Code: US-CaStbMAL
Reference Code:
Inclusive Dates: 1941-1984
Bulk Dates: 1941-1958
Extent: 2.2 cubic feet
Compiler: Father Eric O'Brien, OFM
Languages: English, Latin and Spanish
Circumstances of Creation: Father Eric O'Brien served as vice-postulator of the Serra Cause from 1941 to 1958. Afterwards he was assigned to retreat preaching and to writing about California mission history. He continued to interest himself in the Serra Cause until the time of the beatification.
Scope and Content: Included are his copies of some documents generated during his tenure as vice-postulator such as field research notes from visits to Europe and Mexico; notes and text of the *Serra Articuli* (or propositions regarding Serra's virtue and sanctity); limited correspondence regarding his role in the Cause; scripts or notes for 29 lectures and sermons about Fr. Serra.; the names of officials and of witnesses giving testimony at the diocesan court sessions and finally, an inventory and an audit prepared by Fr. Eric at the end of his tenure as vice-postulator. There are as well research notes on topics related to the history of the California missions.
System of Arrangement: According to the file folder titles created by Fr. Eric
Conditions of Access: Appointment needed
Finding Aids: Inventory available
Summary:

Series 1: Sermons and Lectures to Various Groups	1939- 1958
Series 2: Serra <i>Articuli</i> ,	1940s
Series 3: Field Research Sierra Gorda (Mexico)	1946
Series 4: Diocesan Process (<i>Processus Ordinarius</i>)	1948-1949
Series 5: Fr. Eric's Talks on Radio Vatican, Rome	1950-1951
Series 6: Correspondence with Franciscan Postulator General, Rome	1958
Series 7: Research notes	1940s- 1980s
Spanish America	
Mexico	
Serra Topics	

13. Friar Maynard Geiger, OFM Papers

Institutional Code: US-CaStbMAL
Reference Code:
Inclusive Dates:
Bulk Dates: 1936-1970
Extent: 16 cubic feet
Compiler: Friar Maynard Geiger, OFM
Languages: English, Spanish, German and Latin
Circumstances of Creation: Father Geiger succeeded Friar Zephyrin Engelhardt, OFM as archivist at Mission Santa Bárbara in 1937. In the same year the Franciscan provincial authorities assigned him to collect historical documents concerning Junípero Serra. This work continued until 1948. After that time, Geiger used the documents to write a definitive biography of Serra and to research numerous matters of controversy about Serra.
Scope and Content: Documents collected by Geiger for the Junípero Serra Cause are arranged under a separate title. This grouping contains the personal correspondence, research notes, manuscript drafts, academic awards and personal documents of Father Geiger. The correspondence includes his decades-long exchange with Harry Downie, the curator of Camel Mission and location of Serra's grave.
System of Arrangement: Arrangement was supplied after Geiger's death and is according to format of record.
Conditions of Access: Appointment needed.
Finding Aids: In preparation
Summary:
Correspondence to Geiger and Replies
Correspondence from Geiger and Replies
Financial Records
Dossiers on Mixed Subjects
Public Addresses
Church History Lectures
Research and Writing
 Monographs and Articles
 Index Cards for Biographical Dictionary
 Typescript of Biographical Dictionary
 Manuscript Bibliography of Franciscan Books
 Typescript for Life and Times of Serra
 Typescript for Junipero Serra Documents Calendar
 Typescript for California Mission Documents Calendar
Scrapbooks
Academic Awards
Photographs
Geiger Obituaries
Slide Lecture on Geiger's Life by Dr. Billington

14. Friar Zepheryn Engelhardt, OFM Papers

- Institutional Code:** US-CaStbMAL
- Reference Code:**
- Inclusive Dates:** 1790-1976
- Bulk Dates:** 1885-1934
- Extent:** 6 cubic feet
- Compiler:** Friar Zephyrin Engelhardt, OFM
- Languages:** English, Spanish, German and Latin
- Circumstances of Creation:** The papers emerge from two principal activities of Friar Engelhardt, his missionary work among American Indian tribes and his defense of the missionary efforts of his fellow Franciscans in previous centuries.
- Scope and Content:** Among the papers are correspondence with leading figures in Southwest US history such as Charles Lummis; manuscript and printed matter in American Indian languages, hand written transcriptions of historical documents, drafts of monographs on historical subjects, diaries, original documents, photographs and news clippings.
- System of Arrangement:** Father Maynard Geiger, OFM assembled the papers during the 1940s and arranged the correspondence alphabetically. He found the papers scattered and without an original order. Archives staff at a later date assigned series.
- Conditions of Access:** Appointment needed. The diaries and Indian language materials are too fragile for normal handling. Researchers should use the published edition of the diary in the *Provincial Annals*.
- Finding Aids:** Inventory
- Summary:**
- Series 01: Biographical Documents
- Series 02: Correspondence
- | | | |
|-----|----------|-----------|
| 2.1 | Received | A-K |
| 2.2 | Received | L-Z |
| 2.3 | Sent | 1900-1934 |
| 2.4 | Topical | |
- Series 03: Diaries
- Series 04: Photographs
- Series 05: Document Specimen Collection
- Series 06: Indian Missionary Work, 1894-1910
- Series 07: Mission History Publications, 1897-1934
- Series 08: California Research
- Series 09: Extracts from California Mission Registers
- Series 10: Texas and Florida Research
- Series 11: New Mexico Research

APPENDIX

Appendix 1: The Saint-Making Process Summarized

At the Diocesan Level

Diocesan process on orthodoxy of writings (*Super scriptis*)
Diocesan process on lack of public veneration (*Super non cultu*)
Diocesan process on reputation for holiness (*Super fama sanctitatis*)
Interrogation commissions (*Procesos Rogatorias*)

At the Vatican Congregation Level

Recognizing the orthodoxy of the writings
Recognizing the absence of public veneration
Accepting the cause for adjudication—candidate titled “Servant of God”
Recognizing the validity of the diocesan processes
Examination of the virtues of the candidate
Declaration of the heroism of the candidate’s virtues
Papal ratification of the declaration
Candidate now titled as “Venerable”

Declaration of Beatification

Diocesan process in the locality of the reputed miracle
Vatican recognition of the validity of the diocesan inquiry
Vatican consultation regarding verifiability of the reputed miracle
Vatican investigation into attribution of the miracle to the candidate
Decree of approbation confirming the miracle
Candidate declared “Blessed” by the Pope who then specifies to what degree limited public veneration might be allowed.

Declaration of Sainthood

The inquiry process is repeated for the newly reputed miracle
If a miracle is confirmed on the same conditions as above then the Pope issues a Bull of Canonization.
The candidate is now addressed as “Saint” with public veneration allowed throughout the world.

Appendix 2: Applied to the Cause of Junipero Serra

At the Diocesan Level

The Bishop of Monterey-Fresno asks Rome to initiate the cause	1934
The Vatican initiates the Cause	July 17, 1937
Appointment of Fr. Augustine Hobrecht, OFM as vice-postulator	1934
Appointment of Fr. Eric O'Brien, OFM as vice postulator	Dec 9, 1941
Appointment of diocesan historical commission	Dec 17, 1943
Collection of documentation from all places Serra lived	1943-1947
Diocesan tribunal convenes at Fresno <i>Super scriptis</i>	Dec 12, 1948
Tribunal convenes at Carmel <i>Super non cultu</i>	Dec 16, 1948
Tribunal reconvenes at Carmel <i>Super fama sanctitatis</i>	Jan 18, 1949
Interrogation commission convenes at San Francisco	May 2-Jun 27, 1949
Interrogation commission convenes at Los Angeles	April 4-Jun 27, 1949
Interrogation commission findings certified for transfer to Rome	July 5-7, 1949
Fr. Noël Moholy, OFM assists vice postulator as secretary and publicist	April 1950

At the Vatican Congregation Level

About 8,700 pages of documentation transferred by courier to Rome	Summer 1950
Roman process opens with acceptance of the documentation	Oct 17, 1950
Appointment of Fr. Noël Moholy, OFM as postulator	July 2, 1958
Preparation of the <i>Positio</i> resumes by Isaac Vazquez (third attempt)	1973
<i>Positio</i> finished by Fr. Jacinto Fernández-Largo, OFM	1981
<i>Postio</i> accepted by the Vatican	Feb 17, 1982
Determination that Serra lived a life of virtue to an heroic degree	Feb 12, 1985
Pope John-Paul II formally declares Serra's virtues to be heroic	May 9, 1985

Declaration of Beatification

Vatican accepts claim of a miraculous healing at Serra's intercession	July 8, 1987
Canonical recognition of Serra's relics at Carmel Mission	Nov 12-13, 1987
Pope John-Paul II approves beatification	Dec 12, 1987
Serra beatification ceremony in St. Peter's Square at Rome	Sept 25, 1988
Appointment of Fr. John Vaughn, OFM as vice postulator	Dec 4, 1998

Declaration of Sainthood

These steps are yet to be attained in the cause of Blessed Junípero Serra

“The remains of Padre Serra were secretly exhumed on September 1, 1943, at Mission San Carlos in Carmel, by order of Bishop Scher. This was not part of the canonization process. But the complete scientific and photographic record is expected to help the Cause when the process of law requires exhumation.” [From Bulletin No. 4 (March 6, 1944) *For the Cause of Fr. Junípero Serra*]

Appendix 3: Understanding the Canonical Process

A Series of Hurdles

The process for making a saint is an exacting judicial process, adversarial in nature, but according to Roman Law procedure not the Common Law procedure familiar to American audiences of *Perry Mason*. (In either case, there is a lot of Latin) The candidate moves through various stages from Servant of God, to Venerable, to Blessed and finally to Saint. These stages are like hurdles that have to be surmounted with specific investigations prescribed to pass each hurdle. The process is exacting precisely because at its successful conclusion the Church will formally declare that a particular person is, as far as we can know, in heaven. This is why miracles are sought at the end of the process as the ratification of heaven, as it were.

Historical Causes

Normally, the process begins in whatever localities the candidate has lived. The purpose is to uncover all witnesses favorable or unfavorable to the candidate's life. Ordinarily both the postulator and the defender of the faith will publish announcements calling for witnesses to present themselves. The first looks for witnesses in favor of the candidate while the latter looks for those in opposition. This works well if the candidate died within living memory, such as in the case of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. But what if the candidate died long enough in the past that no living witnesses remain? Such is the case with Father Junípero Serra. Then the process recognizes the written testimony of the deceased. This is exactly what Pope Pius XI provided for in 1930 with an option for so-called historic causes [*motu proprio* *Gia de qualche tempo*, Feb. 6, 1930]. This provision led to the establishment of an office called the historical section to do the work of authenticating and publishing the historical documentation used in place of living witnesses in the deliberations. The historic section also prepared historical studies on controversial questions relating to a cause. We will see that both of these aspects will play essential parts in advancing the cause of Fr. Serra.

The Local or Diocesan Process

The cause begins at the local level in the diocese in which the candidate is buried. Later it is extended to any other locality in which the candidate may have lived. The local process, called the "ordinary process," must follow a formal procedure defined in church law as a way of guaranteeing due diligence. The process seeks answers to three questions:

- 1) Did the candidate have a well-deserved reputation for sanctity during life?
- 2) Has a diligent search been made for all the writings of or about the candidate and are those by the candidate free of any errors on matters of faith or morals?
- 3) Has there been any unauthorized public veneration given to the candidate?

Once the local process is completed, the findings are signed, sealed and delivered to the Vatican where they are reviewed according to another formal process.

The Cause Moves to Rome

This process occurs before a Vatican department called the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Again the entire process is formally prescribed to guarantee due diligence. An official in favor of the candidate, called the postulator, supervises the preparation, presentation and defense of the cause before a panel of competent judges. He uses the services of an advocate-procurator to present the case. The judges decide whether the evidence collected by the diocesan process followed the legal procedure and whether there is enough to make a case for sanctity. If they decide affirmatively, they notify the pope of their decision. If the pope deems it opportune, he may then decree the so-called introduction of the cause. At this point the cause passes from the competency of the local bishop to the exclusive jurisdiction of the papacy. The Congregation for the Causes of Saints then begins the process for determining whether the candidate attained the heroic practice of virtue. Now the real work begins (and the most Latin).

The entire process begins again this time under the direction of a panel of judges. The promoter-general of the faith (or the so-called “devil’s advocate”) prepares a list of questions for interrogating witnesses. The witnesses who testified previously may be called again in addition to new witnesses. Again the testimony is recorded, authenticated and if necessary translated before being sent to Rome. The postulator receives a copy of the entire proceedings and from this must prepare a new study (or *positio*) that will serve as a basis for the investigation into the heroic practice of virtue by the candidate. The promoter-general of faith formulates matters of doubt (*dubio*) and raises formal objections (*animadversiones*) to the case presented in favor of the candidate. He solicits a formal reply (*responiones*) from the postulator. The initial study together with all of these motions and responses are then collected into a printed volume that is distributed to all the members of the Congregation who study it and then pronounce their judgements at a gathering called the Antepreparatory Congregation.

Three Strikes and You’re Out

But the end is not yet. The postulator is obliged to collect difficulties and reservations expressed in the course of the deliberations into another printed volume called the *New Objections* (or *novae animadversiones*). The postulator then writes responses to all of these new objections for a second round of deliberations this time conducted in the actual presence of the cardinals, officials and their consultants. This second gathering is called the Preparatory Congregation. After all this, the procedure calls for a yet another but final gathering called the General Congregation. This third and final gathering takes place in the presence of the pope and is the showdown vote. The cause either passes or fails on the third try. In preparation for this supremely important vote, the remaining difficulties together with the postulator’s responses are printed in the *novissimae animadversiones* or the *Newest Objections*. If the General Congregation ends with a majority voting in favor, then the Congregation issues a Decree of Heroism of Virtues. If the pope ratifies it, then the candidate advances from the status of “Servant of God” to that of “Venerable.”

Miracles

Miracles are an unequivocal proof of the approval given by God to the life of a future blessed or saint. A candidate for sanctity must have a reputation for sanctity for a cause to begin. Because of that reputation believers often address requests to that Servant of God for divine favors. Postulators of causes generally inquire among the faithful in areas where a candidate is known and notify the local bishop of any such claims. The diocese begins a formal process of inquiry to establish 1) whether God truly performed a miracle and 2) whether the miracle can be attributed with some certainty to the intercession of a particular candidate for sanctity. The diocese passes along any evidence to the Sacred Congregation for Causes. The Vatican employs a process similar to that described above for the heroism of virtues. In the case of miracles, there is an additional step of consulting scientific experts about the evidence. By definition, a miracle must be beyond the explanation of science. Cures are the most commonly used miracles in causes because people are more motivated to ask for such favors especially for others and because they are the most easily confirmed with scientific evidence.

From Venerable to Blessed

Once the discussion on the miracles is favorably concluded, the way is open to beatification. Even then, the process requires a final General Congregation held in the presence of the pope to determine “whether it is possible to proceed safely to the beatification of the Servant of God.” The pope hears the opinion of the cardinals, officials and consultants and then decides if and when to publish a decree (called *de tuto*). Finally, the date is set for the formal celebration of the beatification in the Vatican basilica. When this occurs, the candidate can now be addressed as “Blessed,” and public devotion can be accorded the candidate but restricted to a particular city, diocese, region or religious family. Devotion throughout the world comes only with sainthood.

Finally, Sainthood

The cause is resumed if information arrives concerning further miracles. The process is again applied to the alleged miracles. If it is proved that God performed miracles through the intercession of the blessed, then the Vatican proceeds to solemn canonization. By this final decree, the veneration of the new saint is extended to the universal Church.

Appendix 4: Further Reading

On the Canonization Process

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Department of Communications, “Backgrounder: Making Saints,” www.usccb.org/com.

This document is in the form of a “backgrounder” intended for journalists. Find it at www.usccb.org. From the menu select “News Reviews & Video” then select “Media Relations” then “Backgrounders” and finally “Making Saints.”

P. Molinari, “Canonization of Saints (History and Procedure),” in *New Catholic Encyclopedia*, 2nd Edition

On Junípero Serra

DeNevi, Don and Noel Francis Moholy, *Junípero Serra, the Illustrated Story of the Franciscan Founder of California’s Missions*, San Francisco: Harper & Row Publishers, 1985

Geiger, Maynard, (OFM), *Life and Times of Fray Junípero Serra, OFM or The Man Who Never Turned Back (1713-1784), A Biography*, in 2 volumes, Washington, DC: Academy of American Franciscan History, 1959

Geiger, *Palóu’s Life of Fray Junípero Serra*, translated and annotated by Maynard J. Geiger, OFM, PhD, Washington, DC: Academy of American Franciscan History, 1955.

Geiger, *Serra Trail in Picture and Story*, published by the Franciscan Fathers of California, printed by the James K. Barry Co., San Francisco: 1960. Printing limited to 500 copies distributed by the Serra Cause at the Old Mission Santa Barbara.

Tibesar, Antonine, (OFM), *Writings of Junípero Serra*, in four volumes edited and Translated by Antonine Tibesar, Washington, DC: Academy of American Franciscan History, 1955-1956, 1966.

The publications of the Academy of American Franciscan History can be obtained at <http://aafh.org/>.

On the Cause of Junípero Serra

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