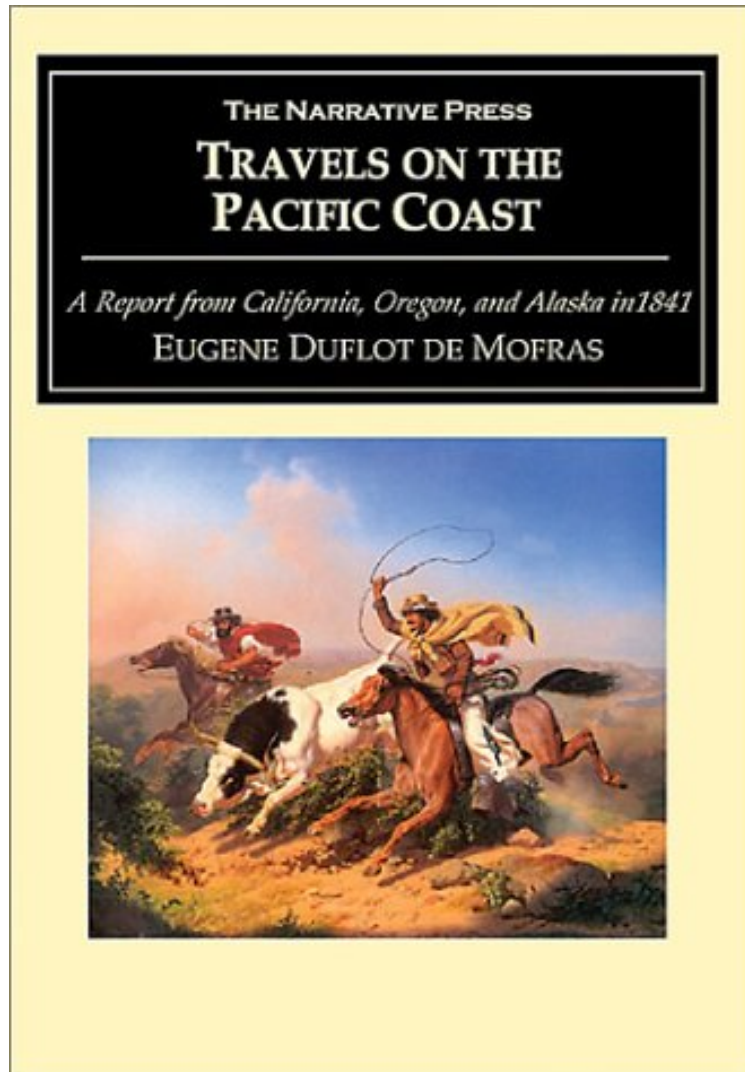


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Travels on the Pacific Coast: A Report from California, Oregon, and Alaska in 1841 (Historical Adventure and Exploration)

Eugene Duflot de Mofras
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Eugene Duflot de Mofras : Travels on the Pacific Coast: A Report from California, Oregon, and Alaska in 1841 (Historical Adventure and Exploration) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Travels on the Pacific Coast: A Report from California, Oregon, and Alaska in 1841 (Historical Adventure and Exploration):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Frenchman's exploits along the Pacific coast of U.S. and Mexico - 1841-3By dave kThe book is amazing in its detail. The author was commissioned by the French government to make a report on the "unknown coast" from the Russians in the north clear down to Acapulco in Mexico. This land, was viewed as possible for good trading and in California, up for grabs for any nation posting 200 troops. The author seems to have followed his brazen personality reputation (showed up 10 days late on the commencement sail date without any excuse; and entered the empty home of a prospective host of whom he had never met). But he dug out the facts of pre-gold rush California like a tough newspaper reporter and it's all there in this little pocket book. If you like to read first hand reports of "how it was 160 years ago", this is one you should not overlook.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I purchased this book for a research project but once ...By loren wolffI purchased this book for a research project but once I began reading it I could not put it down. Eugene Duflot de Mofras was writing this work for the French government and business interests looking to invest in California in the 1840's. It was startling to read this detailed account of the economic and social decline in California after the Mexican government drove out the Spaniards. A most detailed perspective on early California history. Well worth the read.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Please Publish this Important Source Material SoonBy Sandy RiverI finally received the book and it is a reprint of volume one only. The map was not included. Where is volume two?While I am still waiting for this item to ship (four months), I will provide some information in order to generate some demand for this book. I believe this is a reprint of Wilbur's, Marguerite Eyer (editor translator) two volume book published in 1937 which was last available for \$500 at bookfinder.com. A copy of the first French publication sold last year at Sotheby's auction for \$19,200.I did have the experience of reading Wilbur's copy by way of "restricted" inter-library loan. The book had never been read before as evidenced by the uncut pages. It took a couple of days to receive permission to separate the pages. When I was finally able to read the book, I wasn't allowed to remove the volumes from the library. The 65 year old leather binding chafed on to my clothes. And, when I notified them the "fold out facsimile of Pacific coast map" was missing, they wanted a driver's license and credit card on my next visitation with the books. I never finished volume 2 as I perceived the obstacles to be insurmountable.This book is source material for early California and Mexican history. M. Eugene Duflot de Mofras was an official representative of the French legation sent to make a survey of the commercial possibilities in Mexico, California, and the American, English and Russian posts on the Pacific coast in 1841. While the content of his writings are official and mundane, the timing of his visit was not. The Catholic Missions had been secularized. The Russians were planning to leave Fort Ross. Influence from the Government in Mexico was distant at best. The Hudson's Bay Company expanded its fur trading and hunting operations in Northern California. Lt. Charles Wilkes surveyed the San Francisco Bay. The Bartleson-Bidwell party crossed the Sierras. The Workman-Rowland Company arrived from Santa Fe. And Governor Alvarado had good cause to be worried over foreign penetration into California. Perhaps California could become a French Protectorate. At least they were good Catholics!"There is no doubt," wrote Vallejo to Alvarado after this visit "that France is intriguing to become mistress of California." (Myrtle McKittrick, Vallejo, Son of California p. 194) This young Frenchman was a man of the world, debonair, cultured, and fond of the society of charming señoritas. Vallejo was convinced that despite his education and intelligence, Mofras was shallow and conceited. And, this most undiplomatic of diplomats was worthy of all the scandalous tales about amours and arrogance.I don't recall any juicy tales of scandal or love affairs in a distant land, but his report was one of the first accurate portraits of California published in Europe. My question is, how much impact did this report have on France's decision to interfere in Mexico?

In 1839 Eugene Duflot de Mofras was dispatched by the French government to investigate the commercial possibilities (and political and military realities) of the northwest provinces of Mexico and the British, American, and Russian settlements farther north. Along the way he visited most of the California missions. His report was tremendously influential at the time, and remains one of the best portraits of the Pacific coast before the American occupation.