

**THE ADVENTURES OF TORQUA: BEING  
THE LIFE AND REMARKABLE  
ADVENTURES OF THREE  
BOYS, REFUGEES ON THE ISLAND OF  
SANTA CATALINA (PIMUG-NA) IN THE  
EIGHTEENTH CENTURY**

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The Adventures of Torqua: Being the Life and Remarkable Adventures of Three Boys, Refugees on the Island of Santa Catalina (Pimug-Na) in the Eighteenth Century by Charles Frederick Holder

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**CHARLES FREDERICK HOLDER**

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## The Adventures of Torqua



TORQUE'S FLEET SAILING FOR KINKIPAR.

# The Adventures *of* Torqua

Being the Life and Remarkable Adventures  
of Three Boys, Refugees on the Island  
of Santa Catalina (Pimug-na) in  
the Eighteenth Century

*By*

Charles Frederick Holder, 1851-1915

Author of "Along the Florida Reef," "The Treasure  
Divers," "Charles Darwin, his Work," "The  
Ivory King," "Life of Louis Agassiz," etc.

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## PREFACE

WHEN, in 1542, Rodriguez Cabrillo sailed by the "Bay of Moons," now Avalon Bay, Santa Catalina Island, California, he named the island, known to the natives as Pimug-na, La Vittoria, after his flagship, and the other island (Kinkipar) San Salvador, after his second caravel, and these are the correct Spanish names. But in 1602 Philip III ordered Gaspar de Zunega, Conde de Monterey to equip an expedition. Sabastian Viscaino led it and reached Santa Catalina in December of that year. The historian of the voyage was Father Torquemada, who has left a description of the temple and the people. He describes the latter as being light, ruddy, and a superior race, having many rancherias, and canoes holding twenty men. Viscaino disregarded the name given by Cabrillo and re-christened Pimug-na, Santa Catalina, and San Salvador, San Clemente, naming them after the

patron saints of the days of their arrival. The islands were then well populated, but later, about the last of the eighteenth century, the natives were forced to leave and were gathered around the various missions, as virtual slaves, the beginning of the end. La Perouse states that the domesticated Indians about the missions of Upper California in 1786 were five thousand. Humboldt gives the number in 1812 as sixteen thousand. To-day but a pitiful handful of natives can be found in all Southern California, living on desert lands, robbed of their heritage and doomed to extinction.

It may be of interest to the reader to know that I have excavated in the stone cavern where Torqua and his friends concealed themselves, finding various curious implements. I have rowed through the ocean cave where the boys made their sensational escape; have brought to gaff the huge fishes caught by them; followed in the wake of Torqua's canoe fleet to Limun (Santa Cruz Island); located the ancient town sites; floated in the darkness of the marvellous cave where Torqua fought his

underground battle, and visited Cueva Valdez where his men rested. I have traced them to wind-swept San Nicolas; seen the despoiled remains of the islanders and the great shell mounds which mark the place; and on Santa Catalina, San Clemente, and all the islands have excavated in the ancient town sites, finding scores of implements, and for years have been familiar with the cañons and mountains of these romantic islands—once savage empires on the Sea of Balboa.

C. F. H.

PASADENA, CAL., 1902.