

THE LOCAL GREENWAYS AND A DETAILED HISTORY OF THE MINES, FOUNDRYS, CABLES, RAILWAYS AND SHIP LOADING ACTIVITIES IN MOJÁCAR, GARRUCHA, LOS GALLARDOS AND BÉDAR, SPAIN FROM 1840 TO 1970.

With a combined over 20 years of research, we have written and produced a book on the local greenways and the historical industrial activities. Our goal here was to create a lasting “tribute to over 130 years of hardship and effort to all those involved”.

The first chapter features the spectacular walks in this area that pass many of the mining and railway relics such as tunnels, stone bridges and stunning iron ore mines that are positioned in beautiful mountain scenery.

Some of the mining and transport projects in this area were initiated by George Clifton Pecket the English Vice-Consul based in Garrucha as was the mining railway that transported iron ore from Bédar to the coast between Garrucha and Mojácar. It operated between 1896 and 1930.

French mining companies, German aerial cable design, Belgian steam locomotive engineering, English initiatives and Norwegian Engineers are also prominently featured.

The book is based on exhaustive research from primary sources located across numerous different countries. It gives a comprehensive analysis of all of the mining activities and the development of the different transport systems including a record-breaking aerial cable installed by the firm J. Pohlig that functioned between 1888 and 1919. Further a narrow, one metre-gauge mining railway line 17.2 km long together with its two subsidiary branches, features the original plans/cross section and even the original design drawings for the bridges together with stunning newly discovered photographs of the locomotives and railway facilities.

The local lead/silver foundries from the 1840's, a blast furnace from the 1850's and a huge lead smelter from the 1860's are all included together with the largest mineral washing plant in Europe that operated in the 1880's. These developments are set out using eye witness descriptions, photographs and original drawings from the 19th century.

The social/human aspects are also considered including the diet/lifestyle, pay and living conditions etc. Further, the evolution of the Spanish medical system, the role of the company doctor, the medical facilities available together with the accidents/diseases suffered by the thousands of men, women and boy workers are featured. Strikes, acts of sabotage and even robberies from the mining companies are set out using hundreds of original newspaper reports.

The rudimentary hand loading of the steam ships and an export analysis are included together with the works for the construction of the first Port of Refuge at Garrucha between 1931 and 1936.

The books final chapters are devoted to the last phase of iron ore mining in the Bédar area from 1952 to 1970 and to the current initiatives designed to help increase tourism.

Over 8.5 million tons of iron ore together with a large tonnage of Lead, Copper and Silver were exported from this area and we demonstrate how it was achieved.

We have a Publisher that wants us to test the market prior to printing the English and Spanish edition copies. The finished book will be large format, high quality paper 31 cm x 24 cm, with over 320 pages, 120,000 words, over 450 photos (50% from the late 19th and early 20th centuries) and maps/plans/technical drawings etc. Expert colour renditions by the lead author of some of the more spectacular 19th and early 20th century photos help to demonstrate what those working at the time were all too familiar with.

This book will only be available to those whose subscribe by adding their names to the list. They will get a copy at about 30 Euros, obviously there be an additional cost of post and packing to those living in other countries.

As a Chartered Mining Engineer/Expert Insurance Investigator and a Doctor/Professor of Industrial Diseases we have been able to commit every aspect of our professional skill sets and experiences into this unique project.

Andy Devey & Juan Antonio Soler Jódar - July 2019.