

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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According to an article in Time magazine a member of an old Monterey family is still winning fame in the world of art. That artist is DeWitt Petters, son of the late Charles Rollo Peters, an artist of the very early days here, and for whom Peters Gate, one of Monterey's residential districts, was named, and brother of Rollo Peters, well-known actor. The senior Peters' former studio is the home of Mrs. Jane Todd and Rollo Peters, now retired from the stage, lives close by.

The art critic in Time reports that a basement room of a Third Avenue gallery in New York last week hung the second Manhattan exhibition of contemporary Haitian art. DeWitt Peters went to Haiti six years ago to teach English and remained to open the first and only art center in Port-au-Prince. To Peters' surprise, Haitians flocked to the new Center d' Art with pictures for his approval. Peters supplied his proteges with painting materials, judiciously refrained from criticizing their work.

Eventually he teamed up with American Poet Sheldon Rodman, whose "Renaissance in Haiti," published last year, helped trumpet the new primitives abroad.

Friday afternoon in the studio of A. G. Warshawsky in Monterey, a group of friends gathered to witness the unveiling of a portrait of Noel Sullivan, Carme Valley resident art collector and musician, who recently portrayed, exceedingly well, the role of Father Junipero Serra in the Centennial pageant. "Beginnings of Statehood." The artist had chosen to paint Mr. Sullivan in the robes of the Franciscan Father who lies buried before the altar in Carmel Mission. This Mission and the blue bay at Point Lobos form the background for the three-quarter length figure. So life-like was the face, and so sincere the painting depicting the famed Catholic priest, that those present could not quickly and audibly express their appreciation as the finished picture was presented by Mr. Warshawsky, the artist.

On Saturday evening Mr. and Mrs. Warshawsky entertained at dinner in their studio home. Sharing honors were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hill Gilbert, Mrs. Martha Ewing Newcome and her niece, Mrs. Deleon Campbell, who is making her home with Mrs. Newcome in Pebble Beach, Mrs. William M. O'Donnell and Mr. and Mrs. Alex Szabo, residents of Carmel Highlands. Mr. Szabo is a noted painter of ecclesiastical subjects.

The Monterey History and Art Association, Ltd., has acquired through purchase a valuable and prized collection of early Monterey books and items of historical interest from the estate of Mrs. Martha Bolton, formerly of Pacific Grove. Mrs. Bolton passed away a few years ago at the home of friends in King City. The items purchased had been the property of Escolastica Rodriguez de Dye, wife of J. F. Dye, a partner of Thomas Larkin in the merchandise business in Monterey in 1848.

There are one hundred small books in the collection, all bound in leather, beautifully printed in Spanish and many containing steel engravings and illustrations in color – a typical small library of an educated woman of that period. All of the books were printed before 1850 with the exception of two, and these bear the dates 1855 and 1856. Twenty-two of the books were published in Spain, 26 in Paris, France, two in Valpariso, three in New York and one in Boston. The oldest in the three volumes, is entitled, "Poesia de El Dr. Juan Melendez Valdes" and was published in Madrid in 1821.

One of the most interesting in the collection is a small book, "Calendario de Las Senioritas Mexicanas," (Calendar of the Mexican Senioritas); including chapters on the mode of the day, a play, poetry, a short story and patterns and instructions on embroidery with colored pictures of an elaborate embroidery frame popular in that day. This volume bears the date 1839.

Other items in the Bolton collection acquired by the Association are a large leather-covered, colorfully-decorated camphor chest, two Chinese lacquer boxes, probably brought from China and used as sewing and jewel boxes; a Comal (griddle) of unusual design used for baking in the early days, and many fine old photographs and historical papers.

Another item of interest to friends of history on the Peninsula is the recording of the visit here of Miss Mary Goodwin of Richmond, Virginia, and Mrs. J. W. Ballard of Charlottesville, Virginia. The two travelers were house guests of their cousin, Mr. Vernon Goodwin and Mrs. Goodwin of the Monterey Peninsula Country Club. The visitors and Mr. Goodwin are, in turn, first cousins of the Rev. W. A. R. Goodwin, rector of Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg, Virginia, who remembered the glories of Williamsburg's past and kept others from forgetting. He dared dream that some day somehow, Williamsburg's famous old buildings might rise again on their original foundations so that from them future

generations might catch something of the spirit of the nation's founders. Eventually an opportunity came to him to share his dream with Mr. John D. Rockefeller Jr., who caught his vision and enthusiastically provided the means and leadership to bring about this modern miracle.

It was Miss Mary Goodwin who went to England in the early 1930's to do research there for the reconstruction of England's American colony in Virginia. It was Miss Goodwin who discovered in the Bodleian Library at Oxford the copperplate engraving which showed the Governor's Palace as it appeared in 1732. This copperplate was later presented to Colonial Williamsburg and is now one of the prized historical items to be seen by visitors to Williamsburg, the capital of one of the most influential of all of England's 13 American Colonies.