Mr. Fahey writes that Zamorano may have brought with him from Mexico only the wood blocks mentioned, while a small type outfit was evidently delivered to Monterey in 1829 or early in 1830. The new material consisted of a small font of type and a few ornaments. Their impression or “presswork” being extremely uneven and varying widely between the individual pieces, likely no press was available and impressions were taken in a manner similar to the way in which a printer take a proof.

The first letterhead printed from type in California was dated Monterey, August 25, 1830. Letterheads and sealed-paper, which gave formality and validity to all legal documents, were printed with the outfit.

Two other items only are now known to have been printed with the above equipment. First was Governor Figueroa’s announcement of his arrival January 16, 1833. The second piece consists of a heading and closing impressed on a proclamation that was previously printed in Mexico. This was imprinted in May, 1834.

The little book continues to tell the story of early printing in Monterey, as follows:

Late in the month of May, 1833, the ship Lagoda sailed from Boston Harbor, bound for the Sandwich Islands and the coast of California. A copy of the invoice of the ship’s cargo and outfit supplied to one of the owners, James Hunnewell, is preserved among the papers of this New England maritime merchant in the Hunnewell Papers, Harvard College Library. The article of greatest interest on the invoice of the Lagoda’s cargo was the entry: One case printing press, type and apparatus complete. Tha Lagoda was bringing the first printing press to California, where its earliest use was in printing a sealed-paper heading which read, Seilo Cuarto De Oficio/Habilitado provinancialmente por la Administracion de la Aduana maritima de Monterey de la alta California para/los anos de mil ocho cientos treinta y cuatru y mil ochocientos treinta y cinco/Figueroa. A. Ramirez. This document dated July 28, 1834, is in the Bancroft Library.

Therefore the new equipment was set up and in use by that date at the latest.

(Continued tomorrow)