

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 6, 1950

An extended and interesting meeting of the board of directors of the Monterey History and Art Association was held Wednesday afternoon in the Old Custom House, with Carmel Martin, the president, presiding. The agenda was packed with matters of importance for the directors to discuss and decide upon in preparation for the annual meeting of the association's entire membership to be held at the Stevenson House on Monday evening, January 16.

Members of the board present were Mrs. W. K. Fisher, Mrs. Christine Raynsford, Mrs. Mary Greene, Mrs. Harry Lusignan, Mrs. William O'Donnell, Clyde Dorsey, D.R. Jeffers, Frank Work, E.B. Green, Guy Curtis, Thomas W. Norris, William C. Begen, Myron Oliver, Colonel Charles Mason, Ted Clark, and Mr. Martin.

The association heard a report from the committee appointed to arrange for the possible purchase from the members of the late Jo Mora's family, of a document dated 1834, which, written in long hand in Spanish, described the plans and specifications for Monterey's first city hall and jail. The plan for the interior of the council chamber is a beautiful drawing in color It is signed by Governor Figueroa. After some discussion as to ways and means, the members of the board voted to purchase the document, which will be a prized possession, and a great attraction for historians and students of design and architecture.

Mrs. Mary Greene spoke on the history of a cameo brooch, with a surrounding frame made from the first gold discovered in California, presented by Sutter to Thomas Larkin. On the back of the cameo is a small glass-enclosed daguerreotype of Thomas Oliver Larkin. The date 1849 and a motto engraved in Spanish "Do Not give up old friends for new," surround the cameo. The brooch was presented by Mr. Larkin to Escolastica Rodrigues de Dye, wife of J. F. Dye, who was his business partner in Monterey. The directors voted to purchase the brooch from the present owner in order that it might be preserved in the historical archives of Monterey.

The association directors also adopted a suggestion from Mr. Norris, chairman of the History and Art Association committee to work with the State Park Commission and the curator of the Stevenson House, that the association purchase an antique walnut

bookcase for the reception room at the Stevenson House. It is the hope that in a short time the case may be filled with authentic historical material for interested tourists and students to use.

The Monterey History and Art Association directors also voted to have printed, under the chairmanship of Norris, a certificate of good-looking design and printing, to sell for various denominations to tourists, souvenir hunters and collections. The funds thus derived would be used to further the work of the association in its restoration program and acquisition of valuable historical documents and material.

The president appointed Fritz Wurzmann, A.C. Hughes and Mrs. Charles Simpson as members of a nominating committee to nominate 10 directors whose terms of office expire this month, the election to take place at the annual meeting.

The following were elected to membership: Mrs. Eleanor Bancroft and Mrs. Eva M. Bradway of Berkeley, Mrs. Elizabeth Teaby, Mrs. John B. Morse, Mrs. Alice Stafford, E.D. Yount, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Morrill, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Faw, Mr. and Mrs. W.R. LaPorte, Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Greenwald, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Greenwald, Mr. and Mrs. D.B. Turrentine, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Goldsworthy, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Grabill and Mrs. Margaret Ross.

The Custom House State Museum has just acquired an antique Chinese table of carved teak inset with a marble top, presented by Mrs. Agnes Burge of Santa Cruz. Mrs. Burge's father was Joseph Boston, who came to Monterey about 1849 from Philadelphia and started a store in the adobe building now known as "The House of Gold."

Mrs. Burge relates that her mother always told her that the table was purchased by her father from a ship anchored in Monterey Bay which had recently come from China either in 1849 or '50. It could have been the Evalina which Larkin and Leese had chartered and in which Leese sailed for China and brought back merchandise in 1849.

Boston's father was a member of the family of Josiah Wedgewood. When he came to Monterey he brought a knock-down wooden house, all pieces numbered for ease in assembling. This house became the first home of the David Jacks family. David Jacks, after arriving in Monterey, went to work for Boston in the store. Later the store was transferred to the Pacific Building.

Boston was a member of the town council of Monterey and upon his resignation when he moved to Santa Cruz, the members of the council passed a resolution honoring him, and a copy of that resolution still remains in the family. He passed away in 1874.