

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Bolton's New Job

Christmas is over and it was a nice one! Now we must return to serious subjects – books, history and future events.

First of all we thought it might be interesting to inform the many friends of Dr. Herbert Eugene Bolton of his whereabouts, just as the occasional publication of *Bancroftiana* of the University of California has done in the December issue.

Quoting from the publication "Our good friend and mentor has as usual risen to the top – this time of the Library Annex, where he may be found in the southeast corner of the fourth floor. Relocation has left unchanged the old aura of unextinguished cigarettes, scholarships and good will. We found him the other day, still basking in the glow of Coronado's warm and well-deserved reception (Coronado, Knight of Pueblos and Plains), surrounded by papers and sealed under a shiny new plaque presented to him by United Air Lines for having flown 100,000 miles.

Dr. Bolton is at present writing a new book on Escalante, soon to be published by the Utah State Historical Society. He has translated Escalante's diary ("one of the best diaries ever written") describing the 1776 expedition which explored the whole area between the western and middle mountains from Santa Fe to Salt Lake and back. 'It is even a chapter in the founding of California,' he told the reporter. "They started for San Francisco, but they never got there."

Another interesting item from the Bancroft Library at the University of California is the news that the library directors have sent Dr. Robert E. Burke to England to ferret out and film additional records of the English interests and activities in the West. These activities have been of interest since Francis Drake sailed his Golden Hind into "California's fog-shrouded waters, but especially since the time when Britain was bidding for Texas the Columbia, or California before these bits fell to the United States."

Bancroftiana further states that in the final days of Spanish rule in California it was an English consular official in northern Mexico, Alexander Forbes, who wrote the first book in English relating wholly to

California, and other Englishmen played their part in the development of the West's resources.

We hope that Dr. Burke will be able to record some day that Drake actually sailed into Monterey Bay and that he and his men left the lead plaque in the old bottle at the foot of a stream under a tree near the Country Club beach – for that is where such a bottle was found a few years back by a resident of the Peninsula. So far the authenticity of the lead document has not been proven.

The booklet published by the California Centennials Commission in cooperation with the San Diego City and County Centennial Commission and the Fine Arts Gallery of San Diego, has just arrived. The exhibition of Historic Art was held in San Diego from Aug. 1 through Sept. 9, 1950. On the cover is a reproduction of a portrait of Gen. John A. Sutter, loaned through the courtesy of the E.B. Crocker Art Gallery of Sacramento. Sutter was an American pioneer, who arrived in San Francisco in 1839, and the same year established the first white settlement on the site of Sacramento. In 1846 he had accumulated much land and stock, but gradually came to financial ruin following the discovery of gold on his property.

Listed among the contributors who made this exhibition the interesting and historic success it enjoyed, were The Monterey History and Art Association, Thomas W. Norris of Carmel, Mrs. Robin Clark of San Mateo, (who with Mrs. van Antwerp presented the Stevenson House in Monterey to the State of California); and other historical societies and individuals.

Going to the exhibition from the Monterey History and Art Association was a very old painting 'View of Chinatown, Monterey, 1880,' work of Henry Cleenewerck, an artist unknown to the association or to the directors of the southern gallery. It is an oil and hangs in the main center room of the Old Custom House in Monterey. This picture has been reproduced in the brochure.

Thomas W. Norris of Carmel loaned "Stage Holdup at Night" painted by Edward Borein 1873-1947. The oil is reproduced in the book. Edward Borein, a native Californian, was known for his paintings and etchings of men, horses and cattle of the Southwest, as well as for his portrayal of missions of early California.

Mr. Norris also loaned "Threshing Machine" by Wm. Lewis Marple. Marple was considered one of the talented landscapists of San Francisco in the 1870's,

“San Francisco Fishing Fleet” by Chas. Dorman Robinson, 1847-1933 and an etching “Portola’s Conquistadores” by Edward Borein. In the Books, Maps, Etc., section is another loan from Mr. Norris – a printed letter (illustrated invitation) by Edward Borein.

Among the watercolors in the recent historical exhibit was a watercolor painting of the Presidio and Pueblo of Monterey, 1827, by William Smyth ?-1877. In the identification marker on the painting loaned by Edith M. Coulter of Berkeley, is the following information. “An officer in the British navy and an artist of two expeditions, Smyth painted a number of scenes in California. This one is the earliest work in the San Diego exhibit of California Historic Art, and the earliest known view of Monterey. It is also reproduced in California Pictorial.”