

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Monterey's Chinatown Recalled

Two special honors have come to Monterey this week. We might again change that statement and say they are compliments. One is a letter from the Los Angeles County Centennials Celebrations, Inc., asking for pictures of the interior of Colton Hall. The other letter is from the San Diego City and County Centennial Commission, bearing the news that the painting of Monterey's old Chinatown (which burned in 1906), borrowed from the Monterey History and Art Association, had arrived and had been greatly appreciated by all who had seen it. The picture has hung in the old Custom House and was a gift from Mrs. Felton, wife of Senator Felton.

The pictures of Colton Hall will be used to produce one of the stage sets for "The California Story" to be produced in the Hollywood Bowl, September 8 to 12, in association with the California Centennials Commission. The pageant is a spectacle of history in commemoration of California's Centennial of Statehood.

While the pictures were being taken in Colton Hall – to include both ends of the room and the fireplace. John Anson Ford, a member of the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles, walked in to see the hall where the state constitution had been drafted and [?]. His remark was: "Colton Hall is the most important historical building on the whole West Coast."

The "View of Chinatown, Monterey" by Henry Cleenewerck, an early-day Monterey artist, was sent to the San Diego Fine Arts Gallery in Balboa Park, San Diego, to be shown at the exhibition during the Centennial Celebration August 1 through September 9. Ivan Messenger, assistant director Historic Art Exhibit, writes: "You will be interested to know that the head of the Library of Congress whose installation adjoins our historic exhibit, considers this Monterey Chinatown painting his favorite. Thank you for letting us have it and for getting it down here in such speedy delivery!"

The very first copy of the Academy Scrapbook, Vol. I, No. 1, has arrived. The scrapbook is to be published monthly by the Academy of California Church History, Fresno, California. There will be 10 issues to the volume. The cover design, both front and back, is a copy of the title page of California's oldest book, Volume 1,

Baptisms, San Carlos Mission. The page was written by Father Junipero Serra in 1770.

As explained in the Scrapbook, the publication is tentatively intended as a vehicle which will bring to the general public, in a readable manner, historical material which is now beyond its reach – stories from the files of old newspapers and other periodicals, documents that have never been published in English, pertinent extracts from rare books, and articles which have appeared recently but in journals not intended for the general reader.

It is also tentatively proposed by the publishers to print or give reference to the general history of religion in California during the last half of the 19th Century, local church history, including that of several old missions, California Indian material especially insofar as it illustrates the relations between Indians and whites and biography of persons who played a part in the religious or moral life of the state.

In the recent first issues there is an article on the history of Carmel Mission printed from a manuscript written by Father Serra some months before his death; the story of Father Accolti, Jesuit priest, written by a Methodist minister; the Parish Missions in 1885, and Indian Treatment – Spaniard vs. Anglo-Saxon, and Mission San Miguel in 1889 by Charles F. Wilcox. All these articles we will review more fully within the next few weeks.

The Friends of the Bancroft Library have just received a very interesting, well-printed book "Overland to California on the Southwestern Trail – 1849." It is the diary of Robert Eccleston, edited by George P. Hammond and Edward H. Howes, and published by the University of California Press.

In the introduction it is explained that when word of the California gold discovery had reached the East during the summer of 1848, at once thousands of men seized the first opportunity to head west for the reputed easy riches. Some came individually, or formed partnerships, others joined groups especially organized to make the California trip and to engage in mining as a cooperative enterprise. Such a group was the Fremont Association of New York, which Robert Eccleston and his brother, Edward, joined early in the spring of 1849. It is Robert's Diary that the Bancroft Library has chosen to print. The author was but 19 years of age at the time he left home to make the journey. This book will also be chosen for a feature of this diary within a few days.

Last year's choice for the gift book to the Friends of the Bancroft Library was a beautifully edited volume, "The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, February 2, 1848," edited by George P. Hammond, and printed by the Grabhorn Press of San Francisco. With it came "The Disturnell Map of the United States and Mexico."