

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Eighty Great Books

The Zamorano Eighty – a list of 80 books on Californiana – was compiled and published by the Zamorano Club of Los Angeles, a group of about 75 men. Meetings of the club are informal luncheons and dinner groups. Printing of books is only an incidental activity. The club has published few books, only one or two of which are outstanding, including George L. Harding's Don Augustin V. Zamorano, statesman, soldier, craftsman and California's first printer; and Zamorano 80 – which is the list of the 80 books on Californiana.

The members who assisted in formulating the list of 80 books were: Leslie E. Bliss, librarian of the Huntington Library; Homer D. Crotty, the president of the Zamorano Club in 1945; Phil Townsend Hanna, editor of Westways and author of Libros Californianos; J. Gregg Layne, historian and editor of the quarterly of the Historical Society of Southern California; Henry R. Wagner, historian and bibliographer and Robert J. Woods, bibliophile.

The books in the Zamorano Eighty are listed alphabetically; the sequence of their arrangement is not a rating of the books.

"The Splendid Idle Forties" by Gertrude Atherton and Mary Hunter Austin's "The Land of Little Rain" lead off the first page list, followed by Hubert Howe Bancroft's works, published in San Francisco, 1882 to 1891. This history of California is the best extant for it contains more material about the state's past than any other historian has succeeded in amassing.

Frederick William Beechey's narrative of a voyage to the Pacific and Bering Strait, to cooperate with polar expeditions, published in London in 1831; Horace Bell's "Reminiscences of a Ranger" or "Early Times in Southern California, 1881," is followed by "Indian Wars of the Northwest" by Anthony J. Bledsoe. Herbert Eugene Bolton's "Anza's California Expeditions."

J.S. Borthwick's "Three Years in California," published London; "Up and Down California in 1860-1864," by William H. Brewer (principal assistant on J.D. Whitney's California Geological Survey); John Henry Brown's "Reminiscences and Incidents of Early Day San Francisco, 1845 to 1850," are all followed by sketches of

the author, contents of the book and the reason for its incorporation in the list of 80 books.

Number 11 is John Ross Brown's report of the convention in (Monterey) California on the formation of the state constitution, in 1849, at which he was the official shorthand reporter. It was printed in Washington in 1850. In 1846 and 1847 Edwin Bryant wrote "What I Saw in California;" Being the journal of a tour of the emigrant route and south pass of the Rocky Mountains and through California, and the book was deemed worthy of including in the list.

The reminiscences of the first governor of California, Peter Hardeman Burnett, "Recollections and Opinions of an Old Pioneer." published in 1880; "California and New Mexico" a volume which contains the official correspondence and documents relating to California 1847-1849; and "Carrillo's Order," a 16-page pamphlet written in Spanish, concerning the Pious Fund are numbers 13, 14, and 15 on the list.

J.H. Carson's early recollections of the mines, and description of the great Tulare valley was the first book published at Stockton in 1852. Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) was, of course, not left out of Zamorano Eighty. His "The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," and other sketches, the author's first published book, was chosen; and for a second, "Roughing It" by Mark Twain, published in 1872. James Clyman is represented in the list by "American Frontiersmen" 1792-1881."

(More Tomorrow)