

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Books of Early California

The Zamorano 80, of course, would not be complete without Walter Colton's Three Years in California.

Colton was the first alcalde of Monterey under American control, he was a minister, built Colton Hall and was one of the founders of the first American newspaper in California, The Californian, established here in 1848.

Ina Coolbrith's Songs of the Golden Gate, Ella Sterling Cummins' The Story of the Files, a review of California writers and literature; and Miguel Costanso's diary, written in Spanish, of instructions and sailing directions along the coast (there are translations to be had); follow one another.

Other books following in alphabetical order are: a bibliography of the history of California and the Pacific Coast by Robert Ernest Cowan; The Ashley-Smith Exploration (1822-1829) by Harrison Clifford Dale; Two Years Before the Mast by Richard Henry Dana, probably the most widely read book on California, published in 1840; and Sixty Years in California (1889) by William Heath Davis, an account of life in pastoral California before the American conquest. The author came to California in 1831.

Winfield J. Davis' History of Political Conventions in California 1848 to 1892, was published in Sacramento in 1893. He was the historian of the Sacramento Society of California Pioneers. Old Block's Sketch Book by Alonzo Delano, are tales of California life as told by the miners. Two books, printed in Spanish, are included in the Zamorano 80 – Eugene Deflot de Mofras book of explorations in Oregon and California (1840) and Auguste Dehaut-Cilly's voyages (1826), both of which can be procured in translations.

John W. Dwinelle wrote a colonial history of San Francisco in 1863, William Hemsley Emory wrote of the Thirtieth Congress in 1848, and Father Zephyrin Englehardt, O.F.M., wrote The Missions and Missionaries of California (1908-1915), which are included in the Zamorano list.

Estracto De Noticias Del Puerto De Monterrey is the report of the first news of the occupation of Monterey as it was brought to Mexico City on August 10th, 1770, by Portola and Costanso. It is the earliest known,

printed piece to contain any information regarding what is now known as Upper California, since Torquemada's Monarchia Intiana.

Travel in California by Thomas Jefferson Farnham (1844), Jose Figueroa's Manifesto (1835); Alexander Forbes' California (1839), the first book printed in English to relate exclusively to California, and remarkable for the fact that the author did not see California until long after its publication; John Charles Fremont's report of the exploring expedition to the Rockies in 1842; and Lansford W. Hastings' The Emigrants' Guide to Oregon and California (1845) are all deemed worth a place in the Zamorano Club's list.

Francis Bret Harte is represented by The Luck of Roaring Camp (1870). Henry Theodore Hittell's The Adventures of James Capen Adams, mountaineer and Grizzly Bear Hunter and his History of California (1897) are in the list. Reports of Land Cases by Ogden Hoffman and a biographical sketch of the life of William B. Ide, leader of the Bear Flag movement at Sonoma; Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada by Clarence King, and Helen Hunt Jackson's Ramona are all worthy of places in the list of eighty best books on California history.

La Perouse, A Frenchman, was the first foreign visitor to arrive in California, after its founding in 1769. He landed at Monterey and stayed ten days in September 1780. His account of this trip is listed, William Lewis Manly wrote Death Valley in '49, the London edition of Samuel Francis Marryat's Mountains and Molehills or Recollections of a Burnt Journal (1855) is a collector's item, and Charles Fayette McGlashan's History of the Donner Party is widely read. These three books were chosen by the Zamorano Club as worthy of listing in Zamorano Eighty.