

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Antiquarian Bookman

Yesterday we wrote of the value of old books and manuscripts, so today we will continue with a review of several of the books included in the Zamorano 80 list and the prices a single copy of those books bring today.

Mr. Harold L. Holmes writes in the Quarterly News Letter published by the Book Club of California, that he was the first book dealer in San Francisco to issue a catalogue, which appeared on September 1, 1905. It listed 1,836 items, with 199 California titles, at a total of \$509; in today's market he states, they would bring a little over \$4,000.

J.D. Borthwick's *Three Years in California* – with eight illustrations by the author – published in Edinburgh and London, was listed in 1902 at the price of \$2.50, now that same book will bring \$50. *Cremony's Life Among the Apaches* will now find buyers at \$20 but in 1905 it brought only \$1.00. *Thompson's and West's County Histories* sold for \$2 and now cannot be purchased for less than \$50 to \$75. *Downie's Hunting for Gold* is now priced with most dealers at \$25 when the original price was \$.25.

The Colonial History of San Francisco by John W. Dwinelle, one of the Zamorano 80 books, now bring \$250 in comparison to \$25 when Mr. Holmes published his catalogue.

This book is a synthetic argument in the district court of the United States for the northern district of California, for four square leagues of land claimed by the city of San Francisco. It was printed by Towne and Bacon in 1863. *Foster's Gold Mines of California* can now be purchased for \$50 against the \$5 which the buyer would have paid in 1906.

It is interesting to read that the most valuable item listed was the first volume of *The Mountain Echo*, published in Downieville, California, from June 19, 1852, to June 11, 1853. Several of the issues were printed on common brown wrapping paper. This was priced in the catalogue at \$25 and today it would easily bring \$1,000, according to Mr. Holmes. The Huntington Library now owns the Downieville papers, having purchased them from A.S. MacDonald in 1915. It is the only known complete year of the *Mountain Echo*.

Mr. Moore reports the purchase of a library at Yankee Hill, above Oroville, where he secured 2,000 volumes which included many rare items. In the collection was a complete set of *The Californian*, published during 1864 to 1866, and perhaps the rarest of all Bret Harte titles. This set was also later acquired by the Huntington Library. The first publication of the *Californian* was made in Monterey.

"It is surprising to realize how often valuable material crops up in unusual places," writes the Antiquarian Bookman. Between the pages of an 1870 copy of the *Statutes of California*, purchased in Sonora, he found a neatly folded program of the celebration of the driving of the last spike at the joining of the Central and Union Pacific railroads, one of the rarest of railroad broadsides. He sent it to the Anderson Galleries in New York and sold it for \$250.

In Columbia, this same book dealer, asked upon entering a small general merchandise store, if the proprietor knew of anyone having a copy of *Heckendorn and Wilson's Business Men's Directory*, published there in 1856. He said no one had a copy unless it was the one-legged constable.

He did not find the directory but he did find an old-fashioned barn filled with books, old letters, etc. The collection was the library of James T. Mandeville who came to California in the ship *Leverett* early in 1849. He settled in Columbia and died there in 1876. He had been state assemblyman and state senator.

Included in the collection were four views of Columbia photographed on what appeared to be an ordinary table oilcloth. These four views are today playing an important part in the restoration of the old town by the California State Parks Commission, which is now being carried on.

The entire Mandeville collection was later purchased by the Huntington Library.