

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### A Supply of Dollar Marks

The first shipment of printing materials to arrive in Monterey seems to have been limited in extent as regards type. There was available but one size of text letters – small pica – with capitals, small capitals, and figures of the same size. There were, also, braces in two sizes, line units, a plentiful supply of dollar marks, and two or three varieties of small decorative units. There were no italics. And there were no accented letters.

To overcome the lack of the latter – so necessary when printing in the Spanish language – an effort was made to use the accented letters from the old style font accompanying the Zamorano or old Monterey press. All of which shows that Zamorano was the owner of the old material, in addition to some new material and that he was probably the printer of the sealed-paper headings and letterheads which are in the Bancroft Library and dated July 28, 1834, with a heading printed in new type. So the new equipment must have been, at the latest, set up and in use by that date.

Sometime in the spring of 1836, additional typographical material must have arrived in Monterey, which greatly augmented the facilities of this pioneer printing office. The first use, according to "A Census of California Spanish Imprints 1833-1845," of the new additions was in Governor Chico's "Discursos" of May 20 and May 27.

Augustin V. Zamorano apparently retained control of the Monterey printing office, all evidence points to it having been his personal property, until November 4, 1836, when the success of the revolution headed by Juan Bautista Alvarado and Jose Castro sent all the personnel of the old departmental government into exile.

In 1836 the printing office became the property of the new government, by purchase, or, more probably by confiscation, and one Santiago Aguilar was placed in charge. From the appearance of the printing of that date, Aguilar had not been one of Zamorano's printers for his copy was not so well executed, but probably was more ambitious in plan.

Aguilar soon made the mistake, against the authority of Alvarado of giving his support to a revolt that broke out in Monterey on July 1, 1837. The result seems to have

been the loss of Aguilar of his position as public printer and his banishment to the northern frontier, and very soon to Mexico.

Soon thereafter The Monterey Press was moved to Sonora and the last known piece printed at Sonora is dated Aug. 15, 1839. The press then came back to Monterey and on March 1, 1840, printed a broadside proclamation by Governor Alvarado and another on April 26. It is thought that both items, well executed, had been the work of printers who had worked with Zamorano.

From April of 1840 until the spring of 1843 there probably was no printing done on the Zamorano press except one item, the death notice of Jose Tiburcio Castro, dated San Juan Bautista July 10, 1841. The only known copy of this notice is the Coronel collection in the Los Angeles Museum.

On January 9, 1843, and again in March of the same year, Brigadier General Manuel Micheltoarena wrote from Los Angeles to Manuel Castanares, administrator of the Custom House at Monterey, inquiring as to the condition of the Monterey or Zamorano Press – at least it is presumed that that was the press referred to. Castanares replied, under date of May 6, 1843, that the equipment consisted of "a press in good condition, requiring small repairs, and four boxes of type illy supplied" and that "in company with the director of the establishment of education Henri Cambustin" **[CORRECT SPELLING: Cambuston]** he would undertake the operation of the press "until an intelligent person be found for that purpose."

Cambuston was taught to set type by Castanares. The work of these men does not rate high in technical excellence. They were followed by Jose de la Rosa who operated The Monterey Press in 1844-1845. His chief claim to remembrance is that a letterhead printed by him for Thomas O. Larkin as United States Consul at Monterey appears to be the first printing in English in California.

The new governor, Pio Pico, made Los Angeles his headquarters and no further use was found for the old printing press at Monterey. So it remained in storage until it was unearthed by Colton and Semple and used by them in printing the Californian in August, 1846.