

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Jean Hersholt's Collection

A few weeks ago in the City of New York there was an important sale of rare books and manuscripts featuring the private collection of actor Jean Hersholt, a well known collector. His collection of Hans Christian Andersen – his speciality he gave last year to the Library of Congress, including manuscripts, letters, presentation copies, first editions, etc., and along with that his collection on Hugh Walpole and Sinclair Lewis.

Some of his Danish Library he gave to the University of California at Los Angeles. Aside from these he gave more than 600 different English editions of Hans Christian Andersen to the Andersen Museum in the author's birthplace, Odense, Denmark.

In the catalogue Mr. Hersholt announced that he was keeping his books on the theater and motion pictures which some day will be very valuable, but that all the rest of this collection would be sold at the auction, adding this note: "No, I'm not broke."

In a report of the sale we have read that the first section consisted of Western Americana. A high spot was: Figueroa's "Manifesto" (English edition 1855) with a letter of Figueroa's written to Juan Bandini and mentioning Zamorano, California's first printer brought \$400.

The late Thomas W. Norris of Carmel was also the owner of an original manuscript of the translation of the "Manifesto" as made by Alexander H. Taylor, and printed at the San Francisco Herald office in 1855. Zamorano and Taylor both lived in Monterey. The former came here from Mexico in 1834 and for six years commanded the most important military post within the territory, the Presidio of Monterey. Taylor came in the middle 1850s and wrote for the Monterey Sentinel from June 1, 1855 to June 1, 1856. He owned a drug store during his residence here.

While in Monterey Taylor acquired a large collection of Spanish documents relating to the history of California from 1770 to 1846, among which were some 40 or 50 letters written by Padre Junipero Serra. There were 6,000 documents in this collection alone, 800 of which were known to have been dated before 1800 and 4,500 before 1840 [?]. The collection was offered by Taylor to

Congress without remuneration only asking that they permit the publication of them under his supervision.

After vainly waiting for three years Taylor presented the entire collection to the archbishop of the Catholic Church in California and in the diocesan residence in San Francisco they rest – we are told a priceless collection.

The University of California has Taylor's personal library, and also now owns the valuable collection of Thomas W. Norris.

Glen Dawson of the Dawson's Book Shop in Los Angeles has published an interesting book which will be added to the "Early California Travel Series," titled "Snowshoe Thompson" by Dan De Quille. It is a biographical sketch reprinted from the original essay, "The Skiing Mailman" as it appeared in the Overland Monthly for October 1886.

Carroll D. Hall, the curator at Sutter Fort State Historical Monument in Sacramento, has written the introduction in which he classifies Thompson as one of the great regional folk-heroes – referring to Mike Fink, Johnny Appleseed and Davy Crockett. De Quille writes that Thompson, who was also known as "Snowshoe" was "the most wonderful living mountaineer on the Pacific Coast and perhaps in the world," and many still think he did not exaggerate.

The book is No. 21 in the "Early California Travel Series." It was printed by L.D. Allen Press, is hand-set, limited to 210 copies and sells for \$7.50.