

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Books

The Monterey City Library now has two valuable and historic microfilms which will probably be put to use by researchers and historians of the future. One is a file of the Monterey Gazette for the period of 1863-69 and the Monterey Argus for 1876-89. These newspapers in the original are in the Bancroft Library at Berkeley, and it was through that source that the Monterey History and Art Assn. was able to acquire the copies. They can be read through the reader which the association gave to the library a couple of years ago in memory of the late Thomas Wayne Norris, the president of the History and Art group at the time of his death.

Invitations have been mailed to friends of the University of California Library announcing the acquisition of the Library's two millionth volume and the opening of the new, Rare Book Room at 4 p.m., October 3, 1955, in the Morrison Room of the General Library. Pres. Robert Gordon Sproul, Chancellor Clark Kerr, Prof. James D. Hart, chairman of the library committee, and Donald Coney, the librarian, will speak briefly on various aspects of the place of rare books in the University program.

Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Crocker, the invitation states, the library is singularly fortunate in being able to celebrate the event by formally accessioning as number 2,000,000 a copy of the first collected edition of the plays of William Shakespeare, the 1623 First Folio which, except for the Bible, is probably the single most influential book of the English-speaking world.

Simultaneously with the accessioning of the two millionth volume, the occasion will mark the opening of the library's Rare Book Room. The first concern of a university library is to acquire for scholars and students the books and periodicals they need for their daily work, the librarian states. But the library also has an obligation for the future, he believes, and the plans are to discharge this by preserving for the future the best of the past. That is to be the responsibility of the new Rare Books Department.

The history of the University of California dates back to 1868 when it was founded, but it was not until 1871 that its library procedures were formulated to the

extent that records of acquisitions were kept. Accession number one, it is interesting to note, was assigned to the "Poetical Works of Mark Akenside" in October 1871.

It was in 1938 that a celebration was held for the one millionth volume. Joseph C. Rowell, the first librarian of the University, was prevailed upon to write his memoirs, of the early years of the library. Accession number 1,000,000 was assigned to the manuscript, "Beginnings of a Great Library", by Joseph C. Rowell, on June 29, 1938.

In 84 years, the library of the University of California has grown from nothing to the sixth largest university in the United States. Through the foresight of California's University regent and president, state governors and legislators, and through the generosity of such friends of the University as those who have made possible this latest acquisition, this library has become great as well as large.

The Book Club of California has just announced the title of its fall publication—a volume that will make a strong appeal alike to readers and collectors of Californiana and to admirers of fine typography, according to the announcement just received by the members of the club. It is "The Ambitious Projects of Russia," written by an anonymous Englishman.

The ambitious projects are in regard to northwest America, with particular reference to New Albion, and New California. The introduction is written by George P. Hammond, director of the Bancroft Library at the University of California. The book, presented for the first time since its original publication in 1830, is historically important, and a virtually unknown account of the Mexican province of California and of the Pacific Northwest. It vividly describes both the physical attractions of the region and the life of its inhabitants, the author's purpose being to arouse his countrymen to the danger of this rich territory falling into the hands of Russia, writes Carl I. Wheat, the president of the Book Club.

Oscar Lewis is chairman of the publication committee for the California Book Club. This latest book is produced by the L. D. Allen Press of Kentfield, California. Since the edition is limited to 350 copies, a heavy demand is anticipated from collectors of Californiana.