

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Old French Maps

Colton Hall Museum has received a number of gifts recently to add to the growing collection of authentic items in that historic building. Among the interesting items are three maps given by Gilbert P. Mandelik, first assistant director and production manager of the Daris Dan "Julie" production, part of which was shot in the museum last month.

When Mr. Mandelik visited the museum and inspected the exhibits there, he thought quickly of the old maps and promised to send them to Mrs. Pauline Barbour, the curator. A letter accompanied the gift in which the donor writes: "Here are the promised maps. They are from an atlas dating back to 1803, which I bought in Paris five years ago. Map XXVI is probably the most interesting. It shows quite a few points around Monterey and the bay of Carmel; it also indicates that Comte de La Perouse, the French navigator, made a stop in Monterey during his exploration trip of the Pacific coasts and isles.

"I send you Map XXV as well, as it goes with XXVI and bears the date. Map XXXII is not quite as pretty but shows the first accurate mapping of the whole Pacific Coast of the United States. I do hope these maps will be of some use to the museum. I have translated as correctly as possible the French caption of each map on the attached sheet."

The translated information follows: Map XXXII, Map of the part of the North West Coast of America. Recognized during the summer of 1792, 1793 and 1794 from 29° 54' Northern Latitude and 244' 33' Eastern Longitude, By Capt. Georges Vancouver, commanding the Discovery and the Chatham. Drawn by Lieut. Edward Roberts from the identifications and observations.

Map XXVI, Northern part of the Pacific Ocean on which one has marked the discoveries and the routes of MM de la Perouse and Cook. By J. B. Poirson, Geographical engineer (1802).

Map XXV, Reduced Map of the Big Ocean, southern part. Drawn by J. B. Poirson, Geographical engineer during the rainy month, year 11, (1802).

Mr. Mandelik also makes this note: "Longitudes and Latitudes relative to the Paris Meridian. On Maps XXVI

and XXXII, Monterey appears at the lower right. Monterey does not appear on map XXV which however is dated. The expression Rainy Month," "Pluvioso," of the French revolution calendar and the "Year II" "An XI" date these maps. XXVI shows that De la Perouse stopped at Monterey.

Four years before the Royal Presidio Chapel was built. Gov. Fages and Dona Eulatia, his wife, gave a ball in honor of the great French scientist, M. De la Perouse. It was the first reception to a foreign visitor ever held in Monterey. Jean Francois de Galaup de la Perouse had cast anchor in Monterey Bay on Sept. 14, 1786. On Sunday, Sept. 15, 1797, M. Andre Rousselet, vice consul of the Republic of France at San Francisco, came to the Peninsula and unveiled a plaque commemorating the visit here of "Jean Francois de Galaup, Comte de la Perouse" placed in the garden at Carmel Mission. The plaque was a gift from the De la Perouse who introduced the potato into California.

After De la Perouse, the next foreign visitor to Monterey was Capt. George Vancouver of the British navy. Vancouver dates this visit as of Dec. 2, 1792, with another in Nov. and Dec. 1794. With Vancouver came an artist. J. Sykes, who made drawings of what he saw. These are the first plates that enable us to glimpse the condition of the buildings toward the end of the century.

Vancouver, the British skipper writes: "In consequence of a very polite invitation (Sunday,) I paid my respects to the Mission of San Carlos, accompanied by Senor Quadra, Senor Arguello (the acting governor), Senor Camano, Mr. Broughton, and several other English and Spanish officers.

"Some of them (Carmel Indians) were at this time engaged under the direction of the fathers, in building a church of stone and mortar. The former material appeared to be of very tender, friable nature, scarcely more hard than indurated clay: but I was told, that on being exposed to the air, it became hardened, and is an excellent stone for building. The lime they use is made from seashells, of large size and in great numbers on the shore."