

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Zamorano y Compania**

We would so enjoy being in Southern California during the months of June or July where, at Huntington Library, we would be privileged to view a complete collection of the "Zamorano 80," now on exhibition there.

The "Zamorano 80" means eighty books which can be considered the foundation stones of any collection of Californiana. This is the first time that the entire list has been shown. In 1945 a small group of collectors, who were interested particularly in the literature and history of California, set about to compile a list of distinguished and important books in the field of Californiana. The compilers, members of the Zamorano Club of Los Angeles, included such noted bibliographers as Robert Cowan and Henry R. Wagner. After serious thought and amiable conferences, they agreed on 80 titles. The list was subsequently published in book form as the "Zamorano 80".

The visitor to the exhibit will be fascinated by such a display of first editions of these cornerstones of Californiana. For instance, there is the stocky little volume (No. CVI of Harper's Family Library) published in New York in 1840 which is the first edition of Dana's "Two Years Before the Mast." Mark Twain's "Roughing It" was first published in 1872, issued "by subscription only and not for sale in bookstores." Helen Hunt Jackson's "Ramona," as it was first printed in 1884, is included in the collection. Robert Louis Stevenson's "The Silverado Squatters" is shown along with the actual manuscript written at St. Helena and later slightly revised into the delightful essays finally printed. The California Book Club published this journal, the original manuscript, as its Christmas book in 1954.

The Zamorano Club was named in honor Augustin Zamorano, California's first printer. Membership is limited to men, of whom there are about 75. Meetings are informal luncheon and dinner groups. The printing of books is only an incidental activity. The club has published two books worth mentioning here - George L. Harding's "Don Augustin V. Zamorano, Statesman, Soldier, Craftsman and California's First Printer": and "Zamorano 80" which is the list of the Zamorano 80 books.

The members of the club who assisted in formulating the list of 80 books: Leslie E. Bliss, librarian of the Huntington Library; Homer D. Crotty, the president of the club in 1945; Phil Townsend Hanna, editor of Westways and author of Libros Californianos; J. Gregg Layne, historian and editor of the quarterly of the Historical Society of Southern California; Henry R. Wagner, historian and bibliographer, and Robert J. Woods, bibliophile.

The first locally printed broadside to be published in California was the "Aviso al Publico" issue by "Imprenta de Zamorano y Compania" in Monterey in 1834.

Don Augustin Vicente Zamorano, captain in the Mexican army, commandant of the Monterey Presidio and secretary of the territorial government of Alta California, imported California's pioneer printing press. It is known that the press was received from the Boston ship Lagoda and set up some time during the two months between May 28 and July 28, 1834. It would then appear to be a reasonable assumption that the "Notice to the Public" was one of the first products of the press and was printed and issued during the same two months or very shortly thereafter.

The free translation of the first paragraph of the broadside was given in "Attention Pioneer" - the 15th of the annual series of Keepsakes issued for members by the Book Club of California, edited by Oscar Lewis. It read as follows; "The printing office of the Citizen Augustin V. Zamorano and Company, located in this capital city, offers to serve the public with the greatest exactness and care, accepting all work permissible under the rules established by the laws governing the liberty of the press, at the following rate's but offering to discuss more equitable prices with gentlemen who may wish to publish a periodical."

The prices applying to various types of work are quoted. The next to the last item states: "The paper used shall be paid for separately according to its worth or shall be supplied, at the pleasure of the gentlemen who wish their writing printed." The last line states: "The character of the type that will be used is illustrated by that used in the printing of this announcement."

The original of this historic broadside is in the collection at the Bancroft Library, University of California.