

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Early Publications

The California Historical Society announces two June luncheons for the membership. The first on Thursday, June 14, at 12 noon, will be held in the Empire Room of the Sir Francis, Drake Hotel in San Francisco. The society will play host on that occasion to the Drake Navigators Guild, which will make public their discoveries concerning Sir Francis Drake's visit to California. The speakers will be Chester W. Nimitz, fleet admiral, USN, and A.A. Cummings, F.M.A., curator of Buckland Abbey, Plymouth, England, who is flying to San Francisco for the luncheon.

The second luncheon is set for Friday, June 29, when the 180th anniversary of San Francisco's founding will be celebrated. Monterey observed her 186th on June 2. The society's president, Hon. Joseph R. Knowland, will preside. Dr. A. T. Leonard, will be general chairman and Col. Carl B. Lindquist, and the Rev. Augustine Hobrecht, O.F.M., are to be the speakers of the day.

Mrs. George A. Applegarth, the daughter of the late Mrs. Laura Bride Powers of Monterey, is assistant chairman of the week-long celebration honoring San Francisco's anniversary. Mrs. Applegarth is well known on the Monterey Peninsula where she makes frequent visits.

Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery is holding an exhibition commemorating the birth of Benjamin Franklin, Jan. 17, 1706. The exhibit held in the library at San Marino, Calif., until Sept. 30, includes an original manuscript of the autobiography, in the place of honor. Beside it are several numbers of "Poor Richard's Almanack" and a pastel portrait of Franklin by Joseph Sifrede Duplessis.

Manuscripts and first and early editions are arranged to suggest Franklin as the public servant, patriot, diplomat, cosmopolitan, philosopher, or to illustrate his accomplishments as printer, editor, scientist, and inventor.

From the publicity issued announcing the exhibit we have learned that Franklin was indeed a great printer. It comprises some of the most important of the 150 or more Franklin imprints in the library's collection, from the volume whose type was set by Franklin at the age of 19, through the finest product of his press, the beautiful

Cato Major, to a rare little sheet from his private press at Passy.

Exhibited also are various editions of the "Autobiography," beginning with the first edition, printed in Paris, 1791. The exhibition also includes eulogies and tributes to Franklin and a number of biographies.

The latest volume, and one of the most attractive, in Glen Dawson's "Early California Travel Series" is "Adventures in California by Zakahar Tchitchinoff, 1818-1828," with an introduction by Arthur Woodward, according to the announcement in the Quarterly Newsletter of the California Book Club.

The original manuscript is in the Bancroft Library at the University of California at Berkeley. The edition has been beautifully printed by Mallette Dean, the noted California artist, who has only recently turned his talents to printing. His first book was the "Physiologus," published by the Book Club in 1953; his third book, a Robinson Jeffers text, is on the press now and will be published by the club this fall.

Donald C. Biggs, an active member of the California Book Club, has written an uncommonly interesting monograph on "The Pony Express, Creation of the Legend." It has been privately printed by George L. Harding, Lawton Kennedy, and Carl I. Wheat for presentation to the members of the Roxburghe Club of San Francisco, the Sacramento Book Collectors Club, the Zamorano Club of Los Angeles, and their friends. The edition of 500 copies is illustrated with prints from the Wells Fargo Bank History Room.

The College of the Pacific will open its Library of Western Americana, with the beginning of the school year, 1956-57. The present collection includes some 2,000 bound volumes, 6,000 documents, 5,000 early newspapers, and a nice assortment of rare maps, diaries, reminiscences, business records, and other interesting items.

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald R. Stuart have contributed their very fine collection of Western Americana to the Pacific Library and will be working with the library staff to build up this collection. They have moved from their former home in San Leandro to Stockton and on July 1 will become directors of the California History Foundation. Members of the Monterey History and Art Assn., who have attended the historical society meetings at the College of the Pacific have met the Stuarts and enjoyed

viewing their exhibits of rare books, a feature of each meeting. They were also Monterey visitors when the society met here a year ago.