

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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The Manuscript Society

The Henry E. Huntington Library of San Marino is presenting an exhibition of manuscripts through September in honor of the visit of the National Membership of the Manuscript Society, which took place during the early summer in Southern California. The historical items on display tell the story of affairs in Monterey in Spanish days as well as during the Mexican era. We wish the same exhibit might be held for the enjoyment and appreciation of Peninsula residents who will not be able to travel to San Marino to view the priceless original documents.

The exhibition "California Under Three Flags" consists entirely of manuscripts-journals, letters, governmental documents, maps, and original drawings, all executed by hand. Without benefit of the printed word, it presents the history of California from the time of the Jesuit padres to the establishment of the American government and the Gold Rush days.

The exhibition proper begins with the period of Jesuit missionary activity, represented by such manuscripts as the 1681 letter to Father Eusebio Kino, the journal of a voyage up the Gulf of California by Father Fernando Consag, and the draft of certain chapters of the famous "Noticia de la California" of Father Miguel Vengez, in the handwriting of Father Andres Burriel, its co-author.

A great number of manuscripts deal with affairs in Monterey. The period dealing with California as a Mexican province is represented, and a manuscript copy of the Proclamation of Commodore Sloat on raising the flag and taking possession of California in the name of the United States introduced the American period.

Vivid and graphic are the original drawings of the California scene in the 1840s and early '50s by William R. Hutton, and the trek overland to the gold mines at Goldsborough Bluff. Fifteen drawings of Monterey and three of Carmel Mission appear in the Hutton original drawings. Drawings and water-color sketches by Hutton. U. S. Army paymaster's clerk, surveyor, and artist, who lived in California from 1847 to 1852, are most informative. In fact, one of these original drawings was used when a search was made at the Custom

House in 1946 to establish the exact spot where the U.S. flag was raised for the first time over California.

In this special exhibit is a report of a conference convoked by the Visitor General of New Spain, Don Jose de Galvez, at which it was decided to send expeditions from Lower California by land and sea to Upper California to found a settlement at Monterey, from where any attempts "by the Russians or any other northern nation" to establish themselves on the western coast might best be prevented. This report was written at San Blas, Mexico.

Juan Bautista de Anza's Diary, Jan. 8 to May 27, 1774, telling of his journey from Sonora, Mexico, to Monterey, California, and back, which blazed the trail to the newly established missions along the Pacific Coast, attracts much comment. This trek blazed the land trail to the newly established missions along the Pacific Coast. An entry for April 27 briefly notes his encounter with Father Serra.

A letter of Thomas O. Larkin, U.S. Consul at Monterey, written by Abel Stearns at Los Angeles, communicating to him the first "verbal information" he had received of the Bear Flag Revolt, written in Monterey June 18, 1846, is also of interest here. The Proclamation of Commodore John D. Sloat on raising the flag and taking possession of California in the name of the United States of America, dated July 7, 1846; written aboard Sloat's flagship, the "Savanah," at Monterey Harbor and sent to Sutter's Fort, had further historical value for the reason that it was probably General Fremont's own copy.

Another letter of value in the collection is one from Lt. Joseph W. Revere, U. S. Navy to Lt Edward M. Kern at Fort Sacramento, ordering all Americans be called to arms "for the common defense." Lt. Revere was the grandson of Paul Revere, famous for his "midnight ride." It is dated Oct. 17, 1846 at Sonoma, where he was in command. Lt Revere also spent some time in Monterey.

Two items having to do with the Constitutional Convention held in Monterey in 1849, include "Reminiscences of the year 1849" by Elisha O. Crosby, one of the eight delegates from the Sacramento District. "The delegates that met at Monterey Sept 1, '49 were almost total strangers to each other and all were animated with the one desire and object to establish as quickly as possible, but with due deliberation, a

permanent State Government for California," the reports state. The second item is a list of Los Angeles voters on Nov. 13, 1849, who voted at the home of Abel Stearns, when the nearly drafted constitution was submitted for ratification to the qualified electorate of California. Stearns arrived in Monterey In July 1829. He was in the employ of Capt. Cooper for a number of years, later living in Southern California, and dying in San Francisco at the age of 76 years, according to Bancroft's History of California.