

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Spanish Exhibit**

History and art enthusiasts will be interested in the announcement that the Monterey History and Art Association is bringing to Monterey and unusual exhibit of historical items from Spain. The exhibition will be on loan from the Royal Historical Society, and the Naval Museum has consented to allow the treasures to leave Spain under condition that they are accompanied by a representative of that country. The exhibition will be set up in Casa Serrano, the Association's headquarters on Pacific street, from June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>.

The showing has been obtained through the efforts of Paul Mills, director of the Oakland Art Museum, and through the cooperation of the Spanish Ambassador and the Museo Naval in Madrid. The exhibit will be accompanied by Lieut. Julio Guillan, director of the Royal Historical Society, who will arrange the paintings, drawings, diaries, ship model and authentic uniforms of the 1780's in Spain.

The Peninsula residents and visitors will have the rare opportunity of viewing items used during the scientific exploring expedition commanded by Alejandro Malaspina, who left Cadiz in July 1789 for a tour around the world. Malaspina sailed in the "Descubierta," and the second ship, the Atrevida, was under the command of Jose de Bustamente Y Guerra.

The expedition made explorations on both coasts of South America, and from Panama to Acapulco. It left Acapulco in May 1791 for the Northwest Coast which it struck a little above 60 degrees. Carefully exploring southward, Cape Mendocino was sighted Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, and on Sept 13<sup>th</sup> the ships anchored in Monterey Bay. Here they remained until the 25<sup>th</sup>. Then the journey was continued down to Cape San Lucas, San Blas, Acapulco, and home to Spain by the Philippines and Cape Good Hope.

The first American to land in California, a gunner named John Groem who accompanied the expedition, died and was buried at Mission San Carlos.

Tomas de Suria, a fine painter, joined the expedition at Acapulco, and made paintings, drawings, etc. of the coast. The earliest known picture of the Spanish Presidio at Monterey was made on this trip.

As far as we know now, the exhibition will be shown only on the West Coast and will appear here for five weeks. The first week of June 13 to 19 will be at the Oakland Art Museum, the second week at the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles, June 20 to 26; and the third week, June 27 to July 4, is being reserved for Monterey, Since most of the material to be shown is of Monterey, we are most fortunate to be able to have it here.

The exhibition will consist of: 50 original drawings made on the trip, oil portraits of the officials on the expedition, a four foot model of Malaspina's ship, several original diaries made on the trip, the original chromometer of the ship and authentic uniforms of the period. Lieut. Gullen will give talks on the exhibits, the artists and other historical data.

Until 1885 the manuscripts of the expedition were never published, and then only six engravings were published in the report "Viaje Politico – cientifico alrededor del mundo por las corbetas Descubierta y Atrevida."