

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Expedition To Monterey

John Howell Books has made another rare contribution to the library of Western Americana by publishing a handsome, informative illustrated text, "Malaspina in California." All the members and, friends of the Monterey History and Art Ass'n. who attended the week long exhibit of the art of that expedition, which visited Monterey in 1791, would enjoy and appreciate owning this book well illustrated "by artists of the expedition during their stay here in Monterey.

The text of "Malaspina in California" is by Donald C. Cutter of the University of Southern California history department who has been engaged on the project since 1953. Dr. Cutter made the trip to the Museo Naval in Madrid where the original documents are on display and the museum was generous in allowing them to come to the west coast for the first time since they were made here 169 years ago. The Oakland Art Museum, California Historical Society, the Southwest Museum at Los Angeles and the Monterey History and Art Ass'n. were co-sponsors of the California showings.

Drawings by Jose Cadero, an unofficial artist of the party who was a boatswain before the mast, are of particular interest. There are several drawings of the presidio of Monterey, Washer-woman's Bay, Mission del Carmelo de Monterey, Monterey Plaza, Indians of Monterey, the dress of the men and women of that period, Carmel Mission and the visit of La Perouse.

There is a general summary of conditions found here by Malaspina in 1791. At the Presidio of Monterey were listed 123 civilized men and 66 women, 60 Indian men and 7 women, making a total of 202 inhabitants. There were 290 horses and 47 mules. At San Carlos Mission there were 3 civilized men and 3 women, 739 Indians, 339 horses, 15 mules and 1 burro. Over 1,200 sheep and 10 pigs were listed. Fanegas (bushels) harvested were wheat, corn, barley, kidney beans and lentils and garbanzos, to a total of 2,462.

Romantically Malaspina expressed the following impression of Monterey:

"We cannot abandon the description of the pleasant coast of Monterey without a slight sketch of the beautiful appearance that nature gave it upon our first view of the port, when the fog dispersed between 10

a.m. and 2 p.m. and the sun's brilliance and the leafy foliage of the surrounding country joined with the soft zephyrs of the sea breezes from the 'northwest."

Highlights of this chronicle included Malaspina's nautical observations his landing problems, his relations with Fermin Lasuen, Father President of the Franciscan missions; and descriptions of California avifauna and customs of the Spanish settlers, the Indians and wild animals, as well as other reports by his staff of scientists, on which Felipe Bauza was ethnographer. "Malaspina in California" was designed and printed by Lawton Kennedy of San Francisco, the book is bound in full decorated cloth and is limited to 1,000 copies. The price is \$17.50, plus sales tax where applicable.

"It was during the early days of the late recession that a number of Monterey Pioneers of Italian extraction were gathered together in the home of Pietro Ferrante, at 357 Van Buren Street, in Monterey. They were reminiscing and talking of the days of yore - days in Palermo, Sicily, where many of these good people were born and spent their childhood days.

"They were fisherfolk, as they and their kindred had been for many generations in that far-away land, and their thoughts turned to their old homes in Palermo. They spoke of the bounteous catches, of the fiestas and festivals, of the High Masses offered in thanksgiving, and of the blessing of the fleet. They longed for the revival of these joyous fiestas, so they too in distant Monterey, might render a fitting thanksgiving to Almighty God and ask His blessing upon their works of this, the land of their adoption."

This introduction to the beginning of the Santa Rosalia celebration is published in full in "Academy Scrapbook", Vol 5, by the Academy Guild Press of Fresno. The article was written by Frank A. Schilling.

The blessing of the fishing fleet generally is held on the Sunday nearest the full moon after Sept. 4th, the Feast-Day of Santa Rosalia.

The Academy Guild Press intends to turn this series of "Scrapbooks" into a quarterly magazine (at \$10 a year) once it is assured of 400 subscribers.