

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Casa Serrano Furnishings

The Monterey History & Art Assn. has never before in its 30 years of existence been as full of activity and plans for the future as it is now. It is busy with the continued restoration of Casa Serrano, the association's headquarters, and the furnishing of the building; the purchase and restoration of the Fremont adobe; plans for the annual Merienda on June 3rd and preparation on the annual Adobe House Tour on June 24th. On July 7th there will be the annual reenactment of the landing of John Drake Sloat at Monterey to raise the United States Flag at the Custom House to claim California for the United States.

The furnishing of the Casa Serrano has been made exciting through the gifts of so many kind members and friends who are happily parting with treasured family possessions knowing that they will be preserved and enjoyed by others.

Mrs. Theodore L Bogert of Carmel surprised the directors with a gift of four pair of silk and wool hangings for the windows of rooms across the front of the old adobe casa on Pacific Street. Another friend has given fifty yards of sheer white material for glass curtains for all the windows in the building.

The silk and wool hangings were made to order for Benjamin Waters Jr, Mrs. Bogert's great grandfather, of Alexandria, Virginia, in 1814 or 1815 for his residence, then building on Cameron Street, which is still standing and in excellent condition. The hangings were made in either England or France - the preponderance of opinion in the older members of the family being that they were made in France.

The hangings in one of the parlors, with the furnishings of the parlor, were inherited by Mrs. Bogert's mother. Those of the other parlor were inherited by one of her sisters.

The house was built to be the birthplace of Mrs. Bogert's grandmother, who was born a year later, the hope being that the next child would be a daughter. There are 21 rooms in the house plus a wing which originally contained the slave's quarters. It is Georgian in architecture, of brick, with side entrance; a house of great dignity and charm.

Mrs. Bogert's grandmother married and lived in the house until the "War Between the States," as it was called in the South. There she bore eleven children and Mrs. Bogert's mother was the youngest.

"I am proud to think of the hangings being used in Casa Serrano," stated Mrs. Bogert as she told us in her recorded history of the antique drapes. They will be at the windows for the Adobe House Tour on 9 June 3rd.

Miss Marguerite DeShon has sent to the association from her home in Seattle the gift of a very beautiful garnet red silk shawl

Miss DeShon wrote: "There was a little moment of pang at parting with it but it was followed by a feeling of relief since I have no heirs who might have some sentimental regard for it. Sending it to Monterey gave me a more comfortable feeling than knowing if left to chance it would probably fall into the hands of an indifferent secondhand dealer.

"As for choosing to send the shawl to Monterey it seems rather logical when I tell you what I know of its history. My grandfather, Dan S. Cutting, bought it in San Francisco about 1849, and took it back to my grandmother in northern New York State. It became her summer Sunday shawl which she wore to church. Later it was given to her daughter, my mother, it has no meaning in Washington history but is typical of early California. Hence my decision.

"Thank you for accepting it. Someday I hope to make another trip to Monterey and shall be very happy to see it in its new home."