

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Old Book Collection

The Monterey History and Art Association acquired in November 1949, a valuable collection of early Monterey books and items of historical interest from the estate of Mrs. Martha Bolton, formerly of Pacific Grove. The items had been the property of Escolastica Rodriguez de Dye, wife of J. F. Dye, a partner of Thomas Oliver Larkin in the merchandise business in Monterey in 1848. Mrs. Dye was the mother of Mrs. Bolton.

The book collection is now displayed in an antique secretary-desk in Casa Serrano, the headquarters of the History and Art Association. There are 100 small books, all bound in leather, beautifully printed in Spanish and many containing steel engravings and illustrations in color - a typical small library of an educated woman of the period. All of the books were printed before 1850 with the exception of two, and these bear the dates 1855 and 1856. Twenty-two of the books, were published in Spain, 26 in Paris, France; two in Valparaiso, three in New York and one in Boston. The oldest, in three volumes, is entitled "Poesias de El Dr. Juan Melendez Valdes" and was published in Madrid in 1821.

One of the most interesting in the collection is a small book "Calendario of the Mexican Senoritas," including chapters on the modes of the day, a play, poetry, a short story and patterns and instructions on embroidery with colored pictures.