

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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A Rare Collector's Item

Would you appreciate owning and enjoying a book just published by the Book Club of California which sells to members for \$47 plus sales to California residents?

This unusual and lavish limited edition is expected to be sold out very soon. The title is "The Great Polyglot Bibles." It is bound to be a best seller among book collectors and will before long be double in price, we predict.

The text is by Rev. Professor Basil Hall, lecturer in ecclesiastical history at the University of Cambridge, England.

It is a scholarly account of the background of Bibles published during the Renaissance, with the same text appearing on each page in several ancient languages. The author also discusses the printing history and the typography of these volumes.

These pages are printed in Hebrew, Greek and Latin, from the first Polyglot Bible, known as the Complutensian, issued from Spain in 1517.

We quote from the publication. "Finally, this is the first Club publication to be produced entirely on a hand press, except for minor contribution to earlier keepsakes. Lewis and Dorothy Allen have created at their Allen Press a folio, 15x10 1/2 inches, of unsewn folded sheets enclosed in a heavy handmade paper and further encased in a heavy paper, all enclosed in a hinged box specially made for this edition. The work is printed on dampened all-rag paper with two or three colors on each page and with many reproductions of relevant woodcuts."

The edition is limited to 400 copies.

During the sorting recently in the Bancroft Library at the University of California of a small group of printed ephemera from the Thomas Wayne Norris collection, a special issue of the Californian for October 24, 1846, was discovered.

A single leaf printed on both sides, at first glance it appeared to be incomplete. However, comparison with another copy of this issue in the regular library showed this was not the case.

Although the regular edition was four pages in length, the Norris copy consists of pages 1 and 4 only, containing the report of the public reception in Portsmouth Square, October 5, 1846, in honor of Commodore Robert I. Stockton, Commander of the Pacific Squadron and Gov. General of California.

Regular issues of California's first newspaper are rare, let alone such a special issue.

Mr. Norris lived in Carmel for a number of years, coming there from Livermore upon his retirement. He was an avid collector of books, manuscripts, etc. Upon his death, the collection was sold. Mr. Norris was the president of the History and Art Association at the time of his death.