

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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A Note On New Books

The Book Club of California has published a book that it believes will appeal to the members of varied interests: Californiana, typography, literary history, and first editions.

The book is titled "The Private Press Ventures of Samuel Lloyd Osbourne and Robert Louis Stevenson" and is written by James D. Hart.

It is Californiana because it was in this state that eleven-year-old Sam Osbourne printed his first publications, aided by Robert Louis Stevenson, who had just married Sam's mother.

"It is of typographic interest because it gives a complete account of an unusual private press, though certainly not one to be remembered for aesthetics achievement," writes the editor.

It is literary history because it presents the full story of Stevenson's associations with the youngster for whom he later wrote "Treasure Island," and with whom he still later collaborated on 'The Wrecker' and 'The Wrong Box,' It is a first edition because it identified and puts into book form the first time some of the writings by R.L.S., although admittedly of no great importance.."

The book also contains photos of Osbourne and Stevenson in the years of the printing collaboration and of the press itself, but also as handsome reproductions as the smudged originals will permit of twenty-five Osbourne-Stevenson publications. These range from broadsides and newspapers to a "novel" ostensibly by Osbourne and booklets of poetry written and illustrated Stevenson. Thirteen of these are reproduced as separate leaflets or pamphlets, looking just like the little originals that young Sam and his stepfather created.

The book itself has been designed and printed by Lawson and Alfred Kennedy. The edition is limited to 500 copies priced at \$18.50, plus sales tax.

"Historic Spots in California" by Mildred Brooks Hoover, Hero Eugene Rensch, and Ethel Grace Rensch has been republished in a third edition revised by William N. Abeloe.

The Reverend William N. Abeloe is a member of the Board of Directors of the Alameda County Historical Society and is an Associate Member of the Conference

of the California Historical Societies. He has also taught courses in California History.

This book is perhaps the only complete guide to the historical landmarks of the State of California. This standard work has now been revised, enlarged, and brought up to date. The new edition has been enriched by the addition of a separate map for each county, eight detail maps of especially important areas, and over 200 photographs.

Since the last revision in 1948, enormous changes have taken place; many landmarks and buildings are no longer in existence, the condition of others has greatly altered, highways have been renumbered or rerouted; many new roads and highways have been built. Every attempt has been made to record the present condition of the landmarks, and to provide clear and accurate descriptions of their locations.

The Rev. William N. Abeloe, who revised this second edition, sent me a copy, autographed, thanking me for the help I had given to him and to his brother while the book was yet unpublished, for which I am deeply grateful.