

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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First Printing

A copy of what is believed to be the first printing done in California, has been returned to this state. The broadside, *Alviso Al Publico*, one of only four known copies, announces the opening of the press of Don Agustin Zamorano and is dated Monterey, 1834. It was purchased for \$4,000 by the California Historical Society at a public auction in New York City of the celebrated collection of Americana formed by the late Thomas Winthrop Streeter of Morristown, N.J. In his will Mr. Streeter bequeathed the society \$13,000 to be used in the bidding for his prized collection.

The Streeter auction is the largest sale of Americana to date and is being conducted by Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc., New York. It has already realized more than \$2 million in 12 sessions. Warren Howell of John Howell Books, San Francisco, acted as the society's agent.

Thomas W. Streeter, successful financier and internationally renowned bibliophile and bibliographer, created one of the greatest collections of Americana extant. He was a long-time member of the California Historical Society and in 1962 received the society's Henry R. Wagner Memorial Award for his scholarly three-volume bibliography of Texas, 1795-1845.

The 1834 item purchased by the society is a product of the first press established in California by Don Agustin V. Zamorano, statesman, soldier, craftsman and California's first printer. The printing equipment was first in operation in Monterey sometime between May 28 and July 28, 1834. At the sale of Western Americana items, the society also purchased the following seven California items of exceptional value:

Address by Gov. Mariano Chico, dated Monterey, May 27, 1836, three pages on two leaves.

One of three known copies of best example of typography from the Zamorano Press.

Castanares' account of the rich gold placers near Los Angeles, 70 pages. Dated Mexico, 1845. Perhaps the first account in pamphlet form of mining operations in California and one of the principal sources for the period 1844-45.

An address delivered to the Companies of California Adventurers of Taunton, on Sunday, Feb. 4th 1849 by

Rev. Charles H. Brigham. Taunton, Mass., 1849. Eight pages.

Constitution of the Bunker Hill Trading and Mining Association adopted Jan. 13, 1849. Boston, 1849, 11 pages.

Preamble and bylaws of the Sacramento Navigation and Mining Company. Broadside, Cherryfield, Maine, 1849.

Constitution of the Sagamore and California Mining and Trading Company, Lynn, Mass., 1849, eight pages.

Form of co-partnership and bylaws of the Tallman Mining and Trading Association, of Providence, 1849. 12 pages. The printed partnership, agreement and bylaws have stringent provisions against gaming, drinking, and working on the Sabbath and a less usual provision requiring each member to pay very particular attention to his personal cleanliness by bathing his person often."

George L. Harding was present at the auction and obtained for the Edward C. Kemble Collections on American Printing & Publishing two issues of the *Pacific News*, published in San Francisco in 1849. Only incomplete files of this newspaper are known, and these issues will be valuable additions to the Kemble Collections.