

PACIFIC NORTHWEST AMERICANA

An Oregon Item Brought to Light

In the Diary of Colonel Philip L. Edwards published in Sacramento in 1890 (*Checklist*, No. 1083) an introductory statement is made to the effect that Edwards published a pamphlet descriptive of California after his return to the East in 1837. The existence of this pamphlet has been called in question, even so diligent a bibliographer as Mr. H. R. Wagner having stated (*Plains and the Rockies*, p. 31), "I think this must be a mistake as no pamphlet is known that could very well have been written by Edwards."

Mr. Wagner has now come into possession of a copy of this pamphlet which had fortunately been preserved by the Edwards family but it turns out to relate to Oregon not to California. The title page reads as follows: *Sketch of the Oregon Territory; or Emigrants' Guide. By P. L. Edwards, Esq., of Richmond, Mo. Liberty, Mo: printed at the Herald Office. 1842.* The pamphlet is a small octavo of twenty pages and the subject matter takes the form of a letter written to Dr. T. M. Bacon, Liberty, Missouri. The information of this first far-west emigrants' guide is presented with a dignity and restraint quite in contrast with modern publicity literature. It awakens new interest in the author. A valuable article on Colonel Philip Leget Edwards contributed by Charles L. Camp is to be found in the current issue of the Quarterly of the California Historical Society, Vol. 3, Pp. 73-83.

A Rare Dictionary of the Chinook Jargon

After more than ten years' endeavor the University of Washington Library has obtained a copy of the Chinook Jargon Dictionary compiled by Thomas W. Prosch and published in Seattle by Griffith Davies in 1888. This item is described in Pilling's *Bibliography of the Chinookan Languages*, Pp. 60-61, and a copy is contained in the Library of Congress. Strangely enough no copy has hitherto been available in the libraries of the Pacific Northwest and the present copy is the only one known to exist in the West. The practical disappearance of this 40 page pamphlet affords an extreme illustration of the ephemeral nature of pamph-

let literature. According to the preface of a revised but unpublished edition now preserved in the University archives, Mr. Prosch states that "The first edition of this Dictionary—consisting of fifteen hundred copies—was printed in 1888, and came to the publisher early in the following year for sale. A few copies had been disposed of, when all that remained—more than fourteen hundred—were destroyed in the great fire of June 6, 1889". It is surprising to find that neither author nor publisher preserved copies. The copy in hand was secured by Mr. Davies from a friend and was donated to the University by Mrs. Davies shortly after her husband's death. The copy examined by Mr. Pilling may have been the one supplied to the Library of Congress in compliance with copyright regulations. Here is an example of a pamphlet issued in an edition of fifteen hundred copies so recently as 1888 of which but two copies are now known to exist.

Auction Sales

Since the April issue of the *Quarterly* was printed, two sales of Americana have taken place at the Anderson galleries. On April 2 and 3, a collection of 632 items was sold bringing a total of \$5,071.00. Among the more notable items may be mentioned a copy of Milton and Cheadle: *An Expedition Across the Rocky Mountains into British Columbia*, issued in London in 1865. The price paid was \$280. This rare pamphlet of 37 pages is stated to have been issued in an edition of but 50 copies and to have been suppressed at the request of the Hudson's Bay Company. Wagner states (*Plains and the Rockies*, page 180) that he has not seen a copy and refers to it as a report preliminary to the well known *Northwest Passage by Land*, also issued in London in 1865. Another interesting item was the *Oregon Memorial*, reported by Mr. Deady of the Council from the Joint Committee to Memorialize Congress (8vo. Pp. 8. Salem, Oregon, 1851). The amount paid was \$37.50.

On May 6 an Americana collection from the library of the late William S. Lambert of Brooklyn was sold. The sum of \$5,147 was realized for the 362 lots offered. The most important item was a set of the *British Colonist*, volumes 1-8, 1858-1862, for which \$425 was paid.