

DOCUMENTS

Vessels Trading on the Northwest Coast of America, 1804-1814

Professor Robert C. Clark, of the University of Oregon, has forwarded an important document pertaining to the history of the Pacific Northwest. It is a list of vessels trading on the Northwest Coast of America during the decade, 1804-1814. The list and table of statistics are from a memorial presented to the French Government by J. B. Rives, a Frenchman who returned to France in 1824, after a residence of eighteen years in Hawaii, to urge his Government to plant a colony there.

The document was copied from the French Foreign Office correspondence by George Verne Blue, a Native Sons of California Fellow in History, who is in Paris working on his dissertation: "The Diplomacy of France Toward Spain and England in Regard to the Nootka Controversy."

This new evidence will be of interest and value, not only to the students and historians of the Pacific Northwest but to similar groups in Hawaii as well. Hon. George R. Carter, of Honolulu, formerly Governor of Hawaii, writes that, from printed accounts, an index is being made of vessels and commanders visiting the Hawaiian Islands from the time of their discovery in 1778 to 1850. He adds: "Besides the foregoing, I have made a card index of all vessels and captains mentioned as being on the Northwest Coast, all of which by no means came to the Islands. However, I think there were a number that touched here either on their way from or to the Orient, of which we have no authentic record, but as our historical information develops and broadens by just such work as your *Quarterly*, we will be able constantly to increase the authentic information regarding those which did touch here."

It is clear that Mr. Carter and other historically minded Hawaiians will find the values in this document. They will also be anxious to see a copy of Mr. Blue's forthcoming thesis. If the Rives Memorial of 1824 does not appear in the thesis, the Hawaiians may endeavor to secure a transcript from the French Government. It would certainly be of value in the Hawaiian archives. In the meantime we are all grateful to Mr. Blue and Professor Clark for this extract in the original French.

Côte Nord Ouest. Annees 1804-1814.

| Nom des Batiment | Tonnage | D'ou ils venaient | Ou ils se sont rendus | Objets dont la cargaison se composent | Valeur de la cargaison en Piastres | —Produit de la Vente— en fourrures de premiere qualite | en fourrures inferieures | Montant de la vente en Chine en piastres |
|------------------|---------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| Hazard | 300 | Boston | Côte Nord-Ouest | Couverture | 17,000 | 4000 | 18,000 | 488,000 |
| Amelton | 380 | " | Do | Bure, etc | 28,000 | 5060 | 22,000 | 615,700 |
| Cademosin | 380 | " | " | " | 26,000 | 5112 | 19,000 | 599,640 |
| Atuelphy* | 390 | " | " | " | 19,800 | 6006 | 33,000 | 768,000 |
| Peurle | 360 | " | " | " | 18,000 | 4180 | 15,000 | 487,100 |
| Darby | 448 | " | " | " | 28,000 | 5758 | 14,000 | 631,010 |
| Interprise | 430 | New York | " | " | 34,000 | 5800 | 28,000 | 724,400 |
| Vancouver | 400 | Boston | " | " | 25,000 | 4889 | 22,000 | 596,455 |
| Mantor | 380 | " | " | " | 28,000 | 4317 | 20,000 | 530,115 |
| Cademosin | 300 | " | " | " | 25,800 | 4200 | 19,000 | 513,000 |
| Sultan | 380 | " | " | " | 22,800 | 3000 | 17,000 | 387,000 |
| Otter | 273 | New York | " | " | 16,600 | 3000 | 21,000 | 411,000 |
| Atahuelpy | 390 | Boston | " | " | 25,800 | 4198 | 17,000 | 500,810 |
| Amelton | 380 | " | " | " | 21,000 | 4000 | 16,000 | 476,000 |
| Volunteer | 394 | New York | " | " | 28,000 | 3224 | 18,300 | 416,080 |
| Wm et John | 510 | Boston | " | " | 30,000 | 5000 | 20,000 | 595,000 |
| Catherine | 484 | New York | " | " | 20,000 | 5000 | 13,600 | 553,000 |
| Padler | 300 | Boston | " | " | 20,000 | 4480 | 20,000 | 545,000 |
| Lady | 293 | " | " | " | 30,000 | 4290 | 20,000 | 527,550 |
| Caroline | 300 | " | " | " | 25,000 | 3012 | 10,000 | 346,140 |
| Suzan | 264 | Salem | " | " | 19,000 | 3260 | 17,000 | 411,700 |
| | 7740 | | | | 507,800 | 91,780 | 400,200 | 11,123,300 |

*Ce batiment a pris à bord d'autres navires appartenant aux mêmes armatures une certaine quantité de peaux pour porter à la Chine avant que ces navires eussent achevé leurs operations sur la côte.

(For "Atahuelpy" should be read "Atahualpa," for "Peurle," "Pearl," and for "Padler," "Pedler"; probably also "Hamilton" for "Amelton." G.V.B.)