

PACIFIC NORTHWEST AMERICANA

A New Record of Prices

At the Anderson Galleries, December 3, 4 and 5, 1923, occurred an important sale of Western Americana. The offerings included books, maps, broadsides, manuscripts and newspaper files, many of the items being of great scarcity. The sale comprised 922 lots on which a total sum of \$32,713.30 was realized. The average price per lot exceeds \$35.00 each and furnishes scant comfort to buyers of limited means.

As usual at such sales some standard items brought small prices. The following are examples: Brouillet's *Dix ans sur la Cote du Pacifique*, \$2.50; Chittenden's *Settler's and Prospector's Guide* (1882), \$1.00; Farnham's *History of the Oregon Territory* (1844), \$3.00; Kip's *Army Life on the Pacific* (First Edition), \$4.00; Riddle's *Early Days in Oregon*, \$1.50; De Smet's *New Indian Sketches*, \$3.00; Sturgis' *The Oregon Question*, \$1.00; Twiss' *The Oregon Territory*, \$3.00; and Victor's *Early Indian Wars of Oregon*, \$2.50.

The following are samples of the higher prices:

<i>Daily Victoria Gazette</i> , Volume 1, Numbers 10-102 (1858)	\$840.00
<i>An Act to Charter the City of San Francisco</i> (1850).	
Pp. 4 -----	850.00
McLoughlin, John, <i>Autograph Letter to Doctor Tolmie</i> . Pp.	
4. Dated 4th July, 1845-----	375.00
<i>Deseret News</i> (Great Salt Lake), Volumes 2 and 3, 1851-	
53 -----	2015.00
Dimsdale, <i>Vigilantes of Montana</i> (First edition)-----	160.00
Disturnell, <i>Emigrant's Guide to New Mexico, California</i>	
<i>and Oregon</i> (1849)-----	270.00
Douglas, James, <i>Proclamation by His Excellency, James</i>	
<i>Douglas, Governor of Vancouver Island</i> . Pp. 8. Dated	
August 25, 1858-----	380.00
<i>Portland Times News Letter</i> . An oblong folio broadside	
relating to the mines in Idaho. Printed in Portland	
February, 1862-----	180.00
Mathews, Alfred E. <i>Pencil Sketches of Montana</i> . A series	
of 31 lithographs published by the author in 1868----	770.00
Nobles, William H. <i>Speech of the Hon. Wm. H. Nobles</i>	
<i>together with other documents relative to an Emigrant</i>	

<i>Route to California and Oregon, through Minnesota Territory.</i> (St. Paul, 1854)-----	510.00
Newspaper. <i>Puget Sound Courier</i> (Olympia). Volumes 1-3, 1872-74-----	367.50
Newspaper. <i>Daily Courier</i> (Olympia). Volume 1, 1877--	180.00
Newspaper. <i>Northern Star</i> (Snohomish), Volumes 1, 2, 1876-77 -----	136.00

European Stocks of Americana

The writer has been asked to comment on the European book situation so far as the purchase of Pacific Northwest Americana is concerned. This he will undertake to do, although it should be stated that his efforts of the past summer were directed primarily towards the purchase of complete sets of periodicals and the publications of academies and learned societies.

Obviously, Europe is a poor place to buy American imprints. When found, the price is usually higher than in America. On books published in Europe relating to America, however, one can usually find better stocks and lower prices than in America. The really first class items are becoming scarce even in Europe and are to be had only of the dealers who specialize in Americana. These dealers sell their materials for the most part as soon as found to American patrons on standing orders. A visit to the bookstores of the specialists in American books is most discouraging. Their stocks contain little besides second-rate material which can always be found. The best opportunity to secure bargains is with the large general dealers who do not specialize closely. Here one can often secure standard material in excellent condition and at comparatively low prices.

Additions to the University of Washington Library

It was the writer's privilege during the past summer to purchase several hundred volumes of Americana for the University of Washington Library. The highest prices were encountered with Americana specialists in London, closely followed by dealers in Paris. A considerable amount of excellent material was secured at reasonable prices in Florence, but the lowest prices of all were those of Leipzig. About one hundred volumes were here secured at prices ranging from one dollar down to twelve cents apiece. A considerable number of these were substantial items not listed in the *Checklist*. The following are sample titles: