Guide to the Dutilleul Mission Valley Journal MS 268

Finding aid prepared by Samantha Mills
Collection processed as part of grant project supported by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) with generous funding from The Andrew Mellon Foundation.
San Diego History Center Document Collection
1649 El Prado, Suite 3
San Diego, CA, 92101
619-232-6203
August 1, 2012
Title: Dutilleul Mission Valley Journal
Identifier/Call Number: MS 268
Contributing Institution: San Diego History Center Document Collection
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1.0 Linear feet(1 box)
Date: 1912
Abstract: This collection consists of one journal written in French and English by Fernando Dutilleul to his mother. It contains an essay on the history of the San Diego Mission and numerous drawings of the plant and bird life of Mission Valley, California.
Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English and French.
creator: Dutilleul, Fernando
Biographical / Historical Notes
In 1912, Fernando Dutilleul walked through Mission Valley, California. He made sketches of local plant and bird life and wrote down notes on their environment. He supplemented his walks with research at the public library, and wrote and illustrated an essay on the history and discovery of the San Diego Mission. He was particularly interested in the daily life of the mission and the relationship between the missionaries and their “Indian converts.”

Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
The San Diego History Center (SDHC) holds the copyright to any unpublished materials. SDHC Library regulations do apply.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
All pages are detached from binding. Pages are very thin, and ink is fading to brown. Fold-out map on inside front cover is cracked along the fold crease. (August 1, 2012)

Processing Information
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Immediate Source of Acquisition
Accession number 950105.

Preferred Citation
Dutilleul Mission Valley Journal, MS 268, San Diego History Center Document Collection, San Diego, CA.

Arrangement
Journal is arranged by four sections: introductory note, essay (French), illustrations, and essay (English translation).

Scope and Content
This collection consists of one journal written by Fernando Dutilleul to his mother. The journal has four distinct sections. The first section contains an introductory note to Fernando’s mother and the essay titled “Histoire – Decouverte,” both of which are in French. This section has three full page illustrations plus assorted smaller sketches in the margins of the essay. The second section is titled “Flora de la Vallée.” There is an introduction in French, followed by 25 full-page, colored sketches of local flowering plants. Most sketches are accompanied by notes on their formal name, their local name, and a physical description of the plant. The notes are almost entirely in French, though a few have phrases in English. The third section is titled “Les Oiseaux de la Vallée.” This section consists of four full-page sketches of birds. Only the first sketch is colored and noted with the name of the bird. The final section of the journal is a separate booklet tucked in at the end. This booklet contains an English translation of the introductory note to Fernando’s mother and the essay “History – Discovery.” There are several discrepancies between the French and English essays, including full sentences only in the French version or only in the English version. The English essay is the only section of the journal with page numbers. Finally, the journal contains a hand-drawn map of Mission Valley, pasted inside the front cover, and two photographs of Fernando Dutilleul in the valley.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Dutilleul, Fernando
San Diego Mission.
Entries of interest:

**Section: “Histoire – Decouverte” (French)**
- Photo of Fernando standing in front of “Hedge of Cacti near the Mission” comes directly after the introductory note to his mother, facing the first page of “Histoire – Decouverte.”
- Colored sketch of “La Mission de San Diego de Alcala 1852.”
- Colored sketch of Indians gathered by riverside.
- Black and white sketch of “Ruines de la Mission S. Diego 1912.”

**Section: “Flora De La Vallée” (some in French)**
- Entries that have descriptive notes in English and French: Columbine (Aquilegia truncata); Blue eyed grass (Sisyrinchium bellum); California live oak (Quercus agrifolia); California laurel (Oreodaphne Californica); Madroña (Arbutus menziesii); (Opuntia augustata); (Opuntia occidentalis).

**Section: “Les Oiseaux de la Vallée” (some in French)**
- Only the first bird is colored and labeled: “Famille Icteridae, Meadow Lark, Sturnella Magna.”

**Section: “History – Discovery “ (English translation)**
- Translation of letter to his mother.
- Description of the first mission built in California: “Here was the beginning of the city of San Diego, called by the Indians Cosoy and Old Town by the moderns.” (page 3)
- Description of an incident in which two Indian converts fled the mission after a feast day and were accused of stealing food. There is a parenthetical note that is only in the English essay: “(why should they have stolen food, during every celebration they always had double rations of everything etc. it is not plausible perhaps they had a sister and some soldier!!!!).” (page 6)
- Description of a night-time walk Fernando took up to the Mission. While thinking on all this history he envisioned the building in his imagination as it had been before. This corresponds to the first illustration in the French essay. (page 7)
- Description of the rebuilding of the Mission after its destruction, as well as the building of a reservoir on the river. The French essay has a more detailed description of the layout of the building, the whitewashed clay exterior, and tiles Fernando found buried in the ground (pages 10-11)
- Fernando responds to some historians’ claim that the treatment of Indians was akin to slavery: “But in the case of the Missions in California I do not think the Padre could have allowed such a thing they were too small number and the soldiers in the Mission were under the orders of the Franciscans, who without doubt were men of intelligence and education far superior to those Spanish Conquistadors.” (page 15)