Guide to the Amador, Yorba, López, and Cota Families Correspondence

**Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Amador, Yorba, López, and Cota families correspondence  
**Date:** 1853-1897  
**Collection Number:** MS-R032  
**Creator:** Amador family  
**Creator:** Cota family  
**Creator:** Yorba family  
**Creator:** López family  
**Extent:** 0.4 linear feet (1 box)  
**Languages:** The collection is in Spanish, with some materials in English.  
**Repository:** University of California, Irvine. Library. Special Collections and Archives. Irvine, California 92623-9557

**Abstract:** This collection comprises hand-written correspondence among members of the Amador, Yorba, López, and Cota families in the region of Orange County, San Diego County, and Baja California from 1853 to 1879. Items include personal letters and business receipts. The collection documents the family matters of several prominent Californio families in the decades following the Mexican-American War (1846-1848) and the admission of California to the Union (1850). The correspondence largely concerns the health of family members, births, deaths, family events, family visits, and business transactions. Several letters also contain references to national boundaries, language problems, military movements, and epidemics. Members of the López family in San Diego are the recipients of more than half of the letters, while members of the Amador family, some of whom were based in San Juan Capistrano, are the largest group of letter writers, accounting for one-quarter of the collection.

**Access**
The collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights**
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**Preferred Citation**

For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.

**Acquisition Information**
Acquired, 1974.

**Processing History**

**Historical Background**
The Amador, Cota, Yorba, and López families were four prominent Californio families who received land grants and settled in California in the nineteenth century. Bernardo Yorba was granted Rancho Yorba, Jose Antonio Yorba and Juan Pablo Peralta were granted Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana, Francisco Cota inherited Rancho de Ballona in present-day Los Angeles, José María Amador was granted Rancho San Ramón, and Cornelio López and Bernardo Higuera were granted Rancho Rincón de los Bueyes.

**Collection Scope and Content Summary**
This collection comprises hand-written correspondence among members of the Amador, Yorba, López, and Cota families in the region of Orange County, San Diego County, and Baja California from 1853 to 1879. Items include personal letters and business receipts. The collection documents the family matters of several prominent Californio families in the decades following the Mexican-American War (1846-1848) and the admission of California to the Union (1850). The correspondence largely concerns the health of family members, births, deaths, family events, family visits, and business transactions. Several letters also contain references to national boundaries, language problems, military movements, and epidemics. Members of the López family in San Diego are the recipients of more than half of the letters, while members of the Amador family, some of whom were based in San Juan Capistrano, are the largest group of letter writers, accounting for one-quarter of the collection.
Collection Arrangement
This collection is arranged first by format, then chronologically.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Amador family -- Correspondence.
Yorba family -- Correspondence.
López family -- Correspondence.
Cota family -- Correspondence.
Mexican American families -- California, Southern -- Correspondence.
Mexican Americans -- California, Southern -- Correspondence.
California, Southern -- Correspondence.
Baja California (Mexico : Peninsula) -- Correspondence
Orange County (Calif.) -- Correspondence.

Genres and Formats of Materials
Letters -- California -- 19th century.
Letters -- Mexico -- Baja California (Peninsula) -- 19th century.

Contributors
Amador family.
Yorba family.
López family.
Cota family.

Box : Folder 1 : 1  Letters 1853-1860
Box : Folder 1 : 2  Letters 1861
Box : Folder 1 : 3  Letters 1862
Box : Folder 1 : 4  Letters 1863
Box : Folder 1 : 5  Letters 1864
Box : Folder 1 : 6  Letters 1865-1866
Box : Folder 1 : 7  Letters 1869
Box : Folder 1 : 8  Letters 1871
Box : Folder 1 : 9  Letters 1872
Box : Folder 1 : 10  Letters 1873-1874
Box : Folder 1 : 11  Letters 1875-1879
Box : Folder 1 : 12  Transcripts of letters without originals 1860-1864
Box : Folder 1 : 13  Unidentified undated
Box : Folder 1 : 14  Unidentified fragments undated