Guide to the Amador, Yorba, López, and Cota families correspondence
MS.R.032


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Title: Amador, Yorba, López, and Cota families correspondence

Creator: Amador family

Creator: Cota family

Creator: Yorba family

Creator: López family

Identifier/Call Number: MS.R.032

Physical Description: 0.4 Linear Feet (1 box)

Date (inclusive): 1853-1897

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.

Language of Material: Spanish; Castilian

Access

The collection is open for research.

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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.
### Subjects and Indexing Terms

- Letters -- California -- 19th century.
- Letters -- Mexico -- Baja California (Peninsula) -- 19th century.
- Mexican American families -- California, Southern -- Correspondence.
- California, Southern -- Correspondence.
- Mexican Americans -- California, Southern -- Correspondence.
- Baja California (Mexico : Peninsula) -- Correspondence
- Amador family -- Correspondence
- Yorba family -- Correspondence
- López family -- Correspondence
- Cota family -- Correspondence

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