
Descriptive Summary

Title: Cuaderno de Cuentas dela Casa del J[os]e Amesti del Año de 1840 a 1850

Date (inclusive): 1840-1866

Collection number: 170/541

Creator: Amesti, Jose

Extent: 128 leaves : paper ; 32 x 22 cm

Abstract: Accounting book of Jose Amesti, an merchant in mid-nineteenth century Monterey, California.

Language: Finding aid is written in English

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.

Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Restrictions on Access

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Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Ex libris Robert Ernest Cowan.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Cuaderno de Cuentas dela Casa del J[os]e Amesti del Año de 1840 a 1850 (Collection Number 170/541). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

Processing Note

Cataloged by Citlali Sosa-Riddell, with assistance from Laurel McPhee, Winter 2005, in the Center For Primary Research and Training (CFPRT).

Biography

Jose Amesti was a Spanish Basque who arrived in Monterey, California in the early nineteen hundreds. In 1822, he married Prudenciana Vallejo, daughter of Jose Vallejo, and the sister of Mariano Vallejo. Governor Alvarado granted Amesti the 15,400-acre Corralitos Ranch in 1827. Within a few years, Amesti had leased portions of his property for timber cutting, and established his own whipsaw lumber mill on the upper portion of the rancho. Jose Amesti and his wife Pudenciana Vallejo de Amesti had four daughters, Carmen, Santa, Celedonia and Tomasa Madariaga y Vallejo, who was adopted. All shared equally in the estate.

Scope and Content

This ledger is comprised of customer, client and employee names, orders, and inventories from Amesti's mill enterprise from the period of 1840 to 1866. Payments are recorded in pesos and silver; customers include the Mission San Diego and other California ranchos. The manuscript also contains information about Amesti's personal life, such as notes about life on the ranch, his feelings on the U.S.-Mexican War, the dowry of his adopted daughter, and the Mission Indians that the ranch employed. The record includes their wages, clothing items, and descriptions of labor. Following the description of the Mission Indians, there are ledgers concerning clothing items and food--possibly deductions taken out of their wages for clothing, liquor, and food. The manuscript also contains an inventory of harvested produce, and tools used in the mill. Some of the goods mentioned include garbanzos, pinto beans, lard, dried meat, chiles, potatoes, corn, and molasses.

Indexing Terms

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

Genres and Forms of Material

Manuscripts.

Related Material

[Bound Manuscripts Collection \(Collection 170\)](#) . Available at the Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.