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DRAKE LANDED
IN
SAN FRANCISCO BAY IN 1579
The Testimony of the
PLATE OF BRASS

By

WALTER A. STARR

Reprinted from the
CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY
VOLUME XLI • NUMBER 3
SEPTEMBER 1962



Manuscript
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... I have been in the General Library
at the University of California at Berkeley since
1954. FINDING OF THE DRAKE PLATE, published in
the Journal of the American Numismatic Society,
A Tape-Recorded Interview with
Leon Bocqueraz
" "

... Leon Bocqueraz ...

... January 1960 ...



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DECLARATION

I, Leon Bocqueraz, do hereby certify that the manuscript transcribed from an interview conducted on November 9, 1955, concerning my part in the finding of the Drake Plate, is a true and correct copy of the original manuscript.

I hereby assign to the General Library of the University of California at Berkeley all rights and title to the manuscript transcribed from an interview conducted on November 9, 1955, concerning my part in the finding of the Drake Plate.

Name (signed) Leon Bocqueraz

Date January 10, 1956

I hereby assign to the General Library
of the University of California at Berkeley all
rights and title to the manuscript transmitted from
an interview conducted on November 9, 1952,
concerning my part in the founding of the Delta
Club.

John (signed) Leon Goodman

Date January 10, 1956

INTRODUCTION

Annually numerous visitors, including many school children and their teachers, come to Bancroft Library at the University of California to view a small, crudely carved brass plaque. This modest plaque, Drake's Plate of Brass, is perhaps the most prized relic of California's historical past. In June of 1579 Sir Francis Drake's Golden Hinde, heavy with Spanish loot, anchored somewhere near the Golden Gate. The exact location is still a subject of controversy. According to three narratives written or told afterwards by members of the crew, Drake took possession of the land in the name of Queen Elizabeth by an impressive ceremony during which he affixed a metal plaque to a heavy post. Chaplain Francis Fletcher in World Encompassed, written 49 years after the event, described the Plate as being made of brass and bearing an inscription very similar to that on the Plate encased at Bancroft Library.

In 1936 Beryle Shinn, an Oaklander out on a picnic, chanced upon the Plate of Brass, polished it up and was persuaded by a friend to take it to Professor Herbert E. Bolton of Bancroft Library.

INFORMATION

Amongst numerous visitors, including many school children and their teachers, came to Bancroft Library at the University of California to view a small, crudely carved brass plaque. This plaque, known as Drake's Plate of Brass, is perhaps the most prized relic of California's historical past. In June of 1874 Sir Francis Drake's Golden Hind, heavy with Spanish loot, anchored somewhere near the Golden Gate. The exact location is still a subject of controversy. According to three narratives written by this author's by members of the crew, Drake took possession of the land in the name of Queen Elizabeth as an aggressive ceremony during which he affixed a metal plaque to a heavy post. The plaque's location is World Discoveries, written 14 years after the event, described the plate as being made of brass and bearing an inscription very similar to that on the plate housed at Bancroft Library.

In 1936 Sir Francis Drake, an Englishman out on a plateau, anchored near the Plate of Brass, polished it up and was surrounded by a friend to take it to Professor Herbert S. Bolton of Bancroft Library.

Dr. Bolton was convinced that this was the long-lost plaque left by Sir Francis Drake. At a meeting of the California Historical Society in the spring of 1937, Dr. Bolton announced the discovery of the Plate and its purchase from Mr. Shinn for Bancroft Library by a group of public-spirited gentlemen led by Allen L. Chickering, president of the California Historical Society.

The finding of the Plate near San Quentin seemed to indicate that it was in a small bay near there that Drake had anchored. However, the site was again cast into doubt when shortly after the announcement of the discovery William Caldeira came forward to state that in 1933 he had found a similar brass object on the shore of Drake's Bay. According to Mr. Caldeira, he had chauffeured his employer, Leon Bocqueraz, out to Drake's Bay for an afternoon of hunting. While Mr. Bocqueraz was in the field, Mr. Caldeira had wandered along the road and had come upon a brass object. He had shown the object to his employer on his return but it was almost dark, Mr. Bocqueraz was tired, and neither one of them had thought much about it. Mr. Caldeira carried the plaque in the car for some weeks and then threw it out of the car window near, but not at the

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The finding of the plate near San Quentin
seemed to indicate that it was in a shell bay near
Point San Pedro and anchored. However, the site was
again cast into doubt when shortly after the
announcement of the discovery William Galbraith came
forward to state that in 1913 he had found a
similar brass object on the shore of Drake's Bay.
According to Mr. Galbraith, he had transferred his
object, then discovered, out to Drake's Bay for
an afternoon of hunting. While Mr. Galbraith was in
the field, Mr. Galbraith had searched along the shore
and had come upon a brass object. He had shown the
object to his employer, to his neighbor but it was
almost lost. Mr. Galbraith was killed, and neither
one of them had thought much about it. Mr. Galbraith
carried the plate in the car for some weeks and then
threw it out of the car window near, but not at, the

exact same location, where the Plate was later picked up by Mr. Shinn. If the object Mr. Caldeira had found was the Plate, then in all probability Drake had stopped on Drake's Bay and also, someone had handled the Plate between 1933 when Mr. Caldeira threw it away and 1936 when Mr. Shinn found it at a somewhat different location.

Numerous questions were raised as to the authenticity of the Plate. The crude carving, the spelling of the words, the condition of the brass, Drake's signature all became factors in the controversy. A detailed physical and chemical analysis of the Plate was authorized and the results published in 1938 in Drake's Plate Authenticated by Colin Fink and E. P. Plushkin, who verified that the Plate was genuine. While there are still a few who suspect the Plate is a clever forgery, most historians have accepted its authenticity, but the original location of the Plate is still in doubt.

For Drake's Plate Authenticated Allen Chickering wrote a preface which described the finding of the Plate and recorded Mr. Caldeira's account. The importance of Mr. Caldeira's remarks was increased when in 1947 a careful sifting of the soil around the site where the Plate was picked up by Mr. Shinn

failed to disclose any evidence of a post hole or anything that might pertain to Drake's visit or to the native culture. In 1953 Mr. Chickering's foreword, including Mr. Caldeira's account, was reprinted in the California Historical Society's publication, Plate of Brass, with a statement to the effect that the spot at which the post was erected and the Plate affixed to it had still not been definitely determined. In the meantime, Mr. Caldeira had died.

With the problem of the original location of the post and the Plate in mind, we called on Leon Bocqueraz, who was Mr. Caldeira's employer at the time he found the brass object, to tape-record a verification of Mr. Caldeira's story. For all of his almost 84 years, Mr. Bocqueraz, at the time the following interview was made, still went hunting, kept regular hours at his office in San Francisco and had just returned from a trip to Europe. His memory of the evening in 1933 when his chauffeur showed him the brass object was clear and his account straight-forward and unadorned.

This interview with Mr. Bocqueraz was tape-recorded at the Bocqueraz home on November 9, 1955, as part of the work of the University Library's

failed to disclose any evidence of a lost hole or anything that would pertain to Hilda's visit or to the native culture. In 1953 Mr. Chickering's research, including Mr. Galbraith's account, was reported in the California Historical Society's publication, State of Affairs, with a statement to the effect that the spot at which the hole was located was the place alleged to be still not been definitely determined. In his opinion, Mr. Galbraith had died.

With the purpose of the original location of the hole and the time in mind, we called on Earl Bogardus, who was Mr. Galbraith's neighbor at the time he found the brass object, to help conduct a verification of Mr. Galbraith's story. For all of his about 80 years, Mr. Bogardus, at the time the following interview was made, still went during that regular hours of his office in San Francisco and had just returned from a trip to Europe. His memory of the evening in 1933 when his neighbor showed him the brass object was clear and his account almost word-for-word and unchanged.

This interview with Mr. Bogardus was recorded at the Bogardus home on November 2, 1957, as part of the work of the University Library.

Regional Cultural History Project directed by
Lorraine Gill. Mrs. J. L. Gill called to our
attention the evidence which Mr. Woodruff was
able to give.

Willis Horn

General Library
University of California at Berkeley
Berkeley, 2, 1956

From WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA

Bocqueraz, Leon Edward - banker, born San Francisco, California, Dec. 31, 1871; s. Antoine and Mathilde (Girod) B.; student Lycee Janson de Sailly and Ecole de Droit, Paris; Bach Litt. and B. S. U. of Paris. Married Claire Chabot, July 28, 1908; one daughter Suzanne (Mrs. Lewis G. Carpenter, Jr.). Secretary of the French American Bank, San Francisco 1902-07, vice-president 1907-17, president 1917-27; president United Bank & Trust Company 1927; chairman Board Bank of America of California 1928; now member Board Directors Bank of America N.T. & S.A.; chairman Board of Merchants Nat. Realty Corp., director Capital Company, Pacific Nat. Fire Ins. Co., South San Francisco Land and Improvement Co., Cosummes Gold Dredging Co., director Pacific Oil & Gas Development Corp., president of Kimble Oil Company, Past Pres. Fed. French Alliance, U.S. and Canada, Decorated Comdr. Legion of Honor (France). Member Calif. Hist. Soc., American Soc. French Legion of Honor, California Acad. Science (life). Democrat, Catholic. Clubs: Pacific Union, Burlingame Country, Claremont Country, Cercle de L'Union, Press & Union League, Union Interalliee (Paris). Home: 250 MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland, California. Office: 110 Sutter Street, San Francisco, California.

* * * * *

Baum: You were born in San Francisco?

Bocqueraz: Yes.

Baum: Then you are a native Californian.

Bocqueraz: Yes.

Baum: It's very fitting then, that you should have been the first living person, now that Mr. Caldeira is dead, to have seen the Plate. Did you go to the University of California?

Bocqueraz: No, I never did. I was born December 31, 1871, and the family moved over to France at the end of '79. From that time then, I went to school and college in France and passed my examinations there. In the meantime my father had kept his interests here and he used to make trips occasionally to attend to business here. In 1890 I came back and became a resident of California until the present, with, of course, many trips to Europe in between.

Baum: Yes, I understand you just got back from Europe.

Bocqueraz: Yes.

Baum: What was your position in 1933?

Bocqueraz: In 1933 I was with the Bank of America. I was Chairman of the Board.

Baum: What was the occasion of your being over at Drake's Bay that day?

Baron: You were born in San Francisco?
 Goodenow: Yes.
 Baron: Then you are a native Californian.
 Goodenow: Yes.
 Baron: It's very interesting that you should have
 been the first living person, now that
 Dr. Calbraith is dead, to have seen the White.
 Did you go to the University of California?
 Goodenow: No, I never did. I was born December 11, 1891,
 and the family moved over to France at the end
 of '98. From that time then, I went to school
 and college in France and ceased my education
 there. In the meantime my father had kept his
 interests here and he used to make trips
 occasionally to attend to business here. In
 1910 I came back and became a resident of
 California until the present, which, of course,
 may trip to Europe in between.
 Baron: Yes, I understand you just got back from Europe.
 Goodenow: Yes.
 Baron: What was your position in 1933?
 Goodenow: In 1933 I was vice the Bank of America. I was
 Chairman of the Board.
 Baron: What was the occasion of your return over at
 Dr. Calbraith's death?

Bocqueraz: To shoot.

Baum: You had gone out shooting?

Bocqueraz: Shooting quail. I was a member of a country club that had shooting rights on about 15,000 acres of land between Point Reyes Station and the Pacific Ocean (including a strip of land on Drake's Bay). The country club owned a clubhouse located on the road between Point Reyes and the lighthouse.

Baum: This country club was a part of the Pacific Union Club?

Bocqueraz: Not exactly a part. It was an off-shoot of it. None but members of the Pacific Union Club were eligible for membership in the country club. At that time it was down to very few members. They were all, of course, Pacific Union Club members.

Baum: You have listed here as members, Mr. Frank Anderson, President of the Bank of California.

Bocqueraz: Yes, he was a member.

Baum: And Mr. Harry Fair.

Bocqueraz: Yes. Mr. Anderson has died since but Mr. Fair is living.

Baum: Mr. H. W. Van Sicklen.

Bochner: To shoot.

Bochner: You had some out shooting?

Bochner: Shooting drill. I had a number of a country club that had shooting range on about 12,000 acres of land between Point Reyes Station and the Pacific Ocean including a series of land on Drake's Bay). The country club owned a club house located on the road between Point Reyes and the lighthouse.

Bochner: This country club was a part of the Pacific Union Club?

Bochner: Not exactly a part. It was an off-shoot of it. Some part members of the Pacific Union Club was affiliated for membership in the country club. At that time it was down to very few members. They were all, of course, Pacific Union Club members.

Bochner: You have listed here as member, Mr. Frank Anderson, President of the Bank of California.

Bochner: Yes, he was a member.

Bochner: and Mr. Harry Parr.

Bochner: Yes, Mr. Anderson was died since Mr. Parr is living.

Bochner: Mr. J. W. Van Sicken.

Bocqueraz: Yes, he was a member of both the Pacific and the country club.

Baum: And Mr. Volkmann, Mr. Allen Chickering, and yourself. Did they all go out shooting there quite often?

Bocqueraz: Oh yes, they all went shooting there often.

Baum: At the time you went out there, the day the Plate was found, were any of your friends with you?

Bocqueraz: No, not at that place. They were shooting on other parts of the property.

Baum: So you were out alone.

Bocqueraz: I was alone there with one of the club men and with my chauffeur.

Baum: What was your chauffeur's name?

Bocqueraz: We used to call him "Kelly," but his real name was...

Baum: I noted in one account that it was William Caldeira.

Bocqueraz: Caldeira, yes. But everyone called him "Kelly."

Baum: Had he driven you there often?

Bocqueraz: Yes.

Baum: He was familiar with the terrain?

Bocqueraz: Yes.

Baum: Did he go shooting?

Bocqueraz: No.

Bookman: Yes, he was a member of both the Pacific and the country club.

Sam: And Mr. Williams, Mr. Allen Chiswick, and yourself. Did they all go out shooting there quite often?

Bookman: Oh yes, they all went shooting there often. As for time you went out there, how long that was long, were any of your friends with you?

Bookman: No, not at that place. They were shooting on other parts of the property. So you were out alone.

Bookman: I was alone there with one of the club men and with my shotgun.

Sam: What was your shotgun's name?
Bookman: We used to call him "Kelly," was his real name was...

Sam: I noted in one account that it was William Caldwell.

Bookman: Caldwell, yes. But everyone called him "Kelly."
Sam: Did he drive his own car?

Bookman: Yes.
Sam: He was familiar with the terrain?

Bookman: Yes.
Sam: Did he go shooting?

Bookman: No.

- Baum: He waited in the car?
- Bocqueraz: He waited, and while waiting he'd pick up shells, generally, rocks. That interested him. Poor fellow, he had nothing else to do for hours, so he'd walk along the shore and if he saw something of interest to him, he'd pick it up and generally he'd show me when I came back. He'd show me all the things he had.
- Baum: So you'd been shown many, many things that he had?
- Bocqueraz: Yes.
- Baum: I noticed in one account it called this place the Laguna Ranch. Was that the name of it? At the time?
- Bocqueraz: Yes, the Club called that place the Laguna Ranch.
- Baum: That was the name of the Club. Who was the owner?
- Bocqueraz: Leland S. Murphy.
- Baum: Were there many people out at this ranch often, or was it rather isolated?
- Bocqueraz: Absolutely isolated. Never saw anybody except some cattle on the way down, because it was all cattle; no production of any kind.
- Baum: This was right near Drake's Bay, wasn't it?
- Bocqueraz: Right on Drake's Bay.

He waited in the car?
 He waited, and while waiting he'd pick up
 shells, generalists, rocks. That interested him.
 Poor fellow, he had nothing else to do for
 hours, so he'd walk along the shore and if he
 ran something of interest to him, he'd pick
 it up and generally he'd show me when I came
 back. He'd show me all the things he had.
 So you've been shown many, many things that he had?
 Yes.
 I noticed in one account he called this place
 the Laguna Islands. Was that the name of it?
 At the time?
 Yes, the Club called that place the Laguna Islands.
 That was the name of the Club, was it?
 Comment
 Laguna S. Murphy.
 Was there any mention of it in the book?
 Or was it better isolated?
 Absolutely isolated. Never was anybody except
 some cattle on the way down, because it was all
 cattle; no production of anything.
 The rest of the main group's far, wasn't it?
 Right on Wake's Bay.

Baum: Would you consider Drake's Bay a good spot for a small ship to anchor?

Bocqueraz: Probably they didn't actually anchor there, but a short distance away, and then probably would go ashore in small boats. It was a great place for smugglers, especially during Prohibition.

Baum: Then it was possible to land and use the harbor?

Bocqueraz: Yes, you see, out at the Point various fellows would go there and pick up liquor which was left from ships a little distance away, which they could sell at a very good price.

Baum: But otherwise very few people went out there.

Bocqueraz: Very few people there.

Baum: That might account for the fact that the Plate wasn't found before.

Bocqueraz: Yes, that was the reason, for sure.

Baum: Do you remember, was it summer or winter?

Bocqueraz: Probably, as it was the hunting and shooting season, it was from October 15 to December 31. Must have been in November that this occurred.

Baum: Do you remember what "Kelly" told you when you got back to the car? He evidently showed you these things all the time.

Sam: Would you consider...
a small thing...

Goodman: Probably they...
a short distance...
no reason in...
for...
then it was possible...

Sam: ...
hardly

Goodman: Yes, you see, but...
would go there...
left from...
they could tell...

Sam: But otherwise...
Very few people...

Sam: That...
would...

Goodman: Yes, that...
Do you remember...

Goodman: Probably...
mean, it was...

Sam: ...
you remember...

Sam: ...
these...

Bocqueraz: He showed me things all the time. When I got back to the car, I asked him, "Well, what did you get today?" He said, "Today I got this," and he showed me the thing, and it was so late that it was almost dark, so I couldn't see very well. All I could see, as I remember, was brass, and I said, "Well, that might be interesting. When we get back to the clubhouse, show it to me. Let's take it along." And when we got back to the clubhouse, I was kind of all tired out, and he evidently had forgotten about it, and he didn't give it to me. I didn't ask for it; I had forgotten about it. I didn't attach much importance to it. But anyhow I thought it might be worth looking at. I had no idea at all that it was what it turned out to be.

Baum: Did you hold it in your hand when he showed it to you?

Bocqueraz: I held it, yes, and felt it.

Baum: Since that time, have you had occasion to see the Plate when it was polished?

Bocqueraz: No.

Baum: You've never seen it, as it is now? So you couldn't be sure it was the same thing. Do

He showed me things all the time. When I got
 back to the car, I asked him, "Well, what did
 you see today?" He said, "Nothing I can tell."
 and he showed me the things, and it was so late
 that it was almost dark, and I couldn't see very
 well. All I could see, as I remember, was
 grass, and I said, "Well, that might be
 interesting. When we get back to the clubhouse,
 show it to me. Let's take it home." And when
 we got back to the clubhouse, I was kind of all
 tired out, and he evidently had forgotten about
 it, and he didn't give it to me. I didn't
 see for it; I had forgotten about it. I didn't
 attach much importance to it. But when I
 thought it might be worth looking at, I had
 no idea at all that it was what it turned out
 to be.

Did you hold it in your hand when he showed it
 to you?

I held it, yes, and left it.

When that time, have you had occasion to see
 the plate when it was collected?

No.

You've never seen it, or it is now? Do you
 couldn't be sure if not the same thing. No

you think "Kelly" saw the Plate after it was polished up?

Bocqueraz: I think he must have. He was interested. I think he must have, because naturally, when it became famous, he claimed having found it, and he thought he should get some reward. He did get a little reward from the, I think, the California Historical Society, of which I am a member.

Baum: Did he tell you where he found it?

Bocqueraz: No; he simply said, "Oh, I picked this up today." He didn't attach very much importance to it himself. And then, as I said, I thought it might have something interesting about it, and told him, "As soon as we get back to the clubhouse, show it to me." And I forgot all about it. I was very sleepy.

Baum: Did "Kelly" tell you where he found it after he knew what it was? Or was he working for you at that time?

Bocqueraz: Oh, I know where he found it. It must have been right there.

Baum: Right near the car.

Bocqueraz: Yes. Not near the club. Near Drake's Bay, on the shore of Drake's Bay.

you know "Lull" and the plates after it was
finished up?

Response: I think he was here. He was interested.
I think he was very, very interested, when
it became known, he claimed having found it,
and he thought he should get some reward. He
the way a little reward from me, I think, was
California Historical Society, of which I am
a member.

Response: He is (I think) you were in town till
for me right, said, "I didn't like to today."
He didn't like to very much because to be
historic, and then, as I said, I thought it
might have something interesting about it, and
I'll see. "As soon as we get back to the
-response, there is no way. And I thought all
about it. I was very busy.

Response: "Lull" said you were in town if after
in town that is what he was in looking for
you are done here!

Response: It is some more in town. It was done
very early time.

Response: Yes, but not the other. Well, I think, but, on
the same as you're here.

Baum: Oh, right on the shore is where you think he found it.

Bocqueraz: Yes.

Baum: I have a map along. Do you think you would be able to point out the spot?

Bocqueraz: Of Drake's Bay?

Baum: Yes.

Bocqueraz: Does it show the roads?

Baum: It's a 1937 surveyors' map.

Bocqueraz: That ought to show it.

Baum: It's awfully big.

Bocqueraz: I'll put it on the table.

(Go to table and spread out maps.)

Baum: Here's a smaller map. I think that would be too small. Here's a larger one.

(Look at traffic map of Marin County, Division of Highways, California Department of Public Works, Sheet 2. In Bancroft Library, F 866 1937 .C2 No. 123.)

Bocqueraz: Here's Point Reyes here. It doesn't show the road.

Baum: Let me get a pencil so we can mark the place.
(gets pencil.)

Bocqueraz: Were there many roads here that aren't shown on this map?

Bocqueraz: No, there weren't many roads.

This is the Point Reyes Station. That road goes to Inverness. This was the country club.

Baum: This one called Rancho Punta De Los Reyes on the map?

Bocqueraz: Yes. What is this?

Baum: (Looks at legend.) Oh, a primitive road.

Bocqueraz: A primitive road.

Baum: That's probably what you were on. (both laugh).

Bocqueraz: That's all right. This is a road too?

Baum: This says an "unimproved road." This was in 1937. There might have been a change made since 1933.

Bocqueraz: That road must be the road I came on and went back on. There was only that one road.

Baum: You don't think it was this primitive road.

Bocqueraz: That's on the Estero De Limantour. You probably didn't know the names if you were only hunting on them.

Bocqueraz: No.

Baum: This little mark says "a farm unit," and there seems to be one here. Was there a farm there?

Bocqueraz: Yes. What is this, a farm unit too?

Baum: According to the legend it would be a farm unit in use. And this says a "camp or lodge" and that mark looks like one.

Bocqueraz: I wonder if that wouldn't be the country club.

This is the same river station. That road goes
 to Inverness. This was the country club.
 This was called "The River" in the days of
 the war?
 Goodness: Yes, what is that?
 (Loudly at length.) Oh, a relative road.
 Goodness: A relative road.
 Goodness: That's probably what you mean. (This is a
 relative road.)
 Goodness: That's all right. This is a road too?
 This says an "unimproved road." This was in
 1937. There might have been a change made
 since 1937.
 Goodness: That road was in the road I saw on my way
 down on. There was only that one road.
 You don't think it was this relative road.
 That's on the River De Linn. For
 probably didn't know the name at that time
 only hunting on them.
 Goodness: No.
 This little says "a farm unit," and there
 seems to be one here. Was there a farm there?
 Goodness: Yes, what is that, a farm unit too?
 According to the legend it would be a farm
 unit in one, and this says a "camp or lodge"
 and that says "like one."
 Goodness: I wonder if that would be the country club.

Baum: Maybe so. It looks like a camp unit plus a farm house. Would that sound like the country club?

Bocqueraz: Well, there was the country club, the house itself. It wasn't much of a house. And then kennels for the dogs.

Baum: It certainly sounds like that.

Bocqueraz: I think that is the house and the kennels were on the other side of the road. That's the country club, I think. Then to go to Drake's Bay, this is probably the road we took.

Baum: This primitive road is the road you drove down.

Bocqueraz: Yes, I think so.

Baum: Then you think he would have found it somewhere near this road?

Bocqueraz: Near this road, yes.

Baum: Do you remember if you were parked right near the water?

Bocqueraz: Yes, pretty near the water.

Baum: Then you think it was found somewhere near here.

Bocqueraz: Yes, right around here. (See mark on map.)

Baum: That's the place they ought to dig then. Did you know about this farm house over here?

Bocqueraz: Yes, I knew there was a farm house there.

Baum: So that all fits right in.

Bocqueraz: Yes.

Person: It looks like a car with a...
 Person: Well, there was the country club, the house
 itself. It wasn't much of a house. And then
 remains for the dogs.
 Person: It certainly sounds like that.
 Person: I think that in the house and the remains were
 on the other side of the road. That's the
 country club, I think. When we go to Drab's
 day, this is probably the road we took.
 Person: This primitive road is the road you drove down.
 Person: Yes, I think so.
 Person: When you think he would have found it somewhere
 near this road?
 Person: Near this road, yes.
 Person: Do you remember if you were parked along near
 the street?
 Person: Yes, pretty close to the street.
 Person: Then you found it was found somewhere near here.
 Person: Yes, pretty close to here. (See map on page.)
 Person: That's the place that you found it?
 Person: You know about the letter from your father?
 Person: Yes, I know there was a letter from him.
 Person: So that all fits right in.
 Person: Yes.

Baum: Did they ever call that Rancho Punta De Los Reyes at that time?

Bocqueraz: No.

Baum: I wondered why they had these names here.

Bocqueraz: I don't know.

Baum: They called it Laguna?

Bocqueraz: Yes, Laguna Ranch. I went to the club this way, then along this way. (indicating on map).

Baum: Is that still a club?

Bocqueraz: No. That was the road. I'm guessing now. I may not be true. It seems to me that was the road we took to get to the club and then from the club we came this way.

Baum: I think Mr. Caldeira said something about finding it below the Y where the clubhouse was and that would be that. He said something about finding it below that area, so that must be right there. Too bad we don't have a record of the exact spot.

Bocqueraz: No. I've never been there since.

Baum: Never?

Bocqueraz: No, not on the exact spot. After that the club gave up. I don't think I shot there anymore, not in that place.

Baum: Did Mr. Caldeira tell you what he did with this Plate? Later?

Bocqueraz: He kept the Plate, as I say, and then the following week...When we got back to the club (Pacific Union Club) he didn't give me the Plate. He kept it and I forgot about it, about his having it.

A week or two later, I couldn't say, I went to the country club again and he drove me. We used to drive first to Richmond from Oakland and then cross the Bay on the ferry and land then at San Quentin and then to San Rafael, Point Reyes and then the clubhouse. Maybe two weeks after this finding he drove me again. I hadn't seen the plaque since at all. After we had crossed the Bay...before reaching San Quentin, he took, he had the plaque in the car all the time, and he threw it away. That's how it happened to be found there later on. Some man, I forget his name, who came to the conclusion that that's where Drake had landed.

Baum: Which you don't think is true.

Bocqueraz: Oh, I'm sure it's not true. That I do know.

Baum: Did "Kelly" tell you later that he threw the plaque out there?

Sam: Did Mr. Delbridge tell you what he did with
 the letter? Later?
 Bookman: He says the letter, as I say, and then the
 following week... then he got back to the club
 (Pacific Hotel Club) he didn't give me the
 letter. He says it and I forgot about it, about
 his leaving it.

A week or two later, I couldn't see, I
 went to the country club again and he drove
 me. We used to drive first to Richmond, from
 Oakland and then across the Bay on the ferry
 and land there at San Quentin and then to San
 Rafael, Point Reyes and then the clubhouse.
 About two weeks after this finding he drove
 me again. I hadn't seen the letter since that
 day. After we had crossed the Bay... before
 reaching San Rafael, he took me to the
 bridge in the car all the time, and he threw
 it away. That's how it happened to be found
 there later on. Some day, I forgot his name,
 who came in the conclusion that that's where
 the letter had landed.

Sam: What you don't think is true.
 Bookman: Oh, I'm sure it's not true. Just I do know.
 Sam: Mr. "Lally" tell you later that he threw the
 letter out there?

Bocqueraz: Oh yes, that he had thrown it. Then this man picked it up and the plaque was recognized, identified and they said, "Well, Sir Francis Drake never dropped it near Drake's Bay. It's all a mistake. He left it right where I found it." You remember there was quite a controversy then.

Baum: Oh yes, there was.

Bocqueraz: So my opinion was asked and I gave it. And "Kelly," of course, who was the man who had found it, insisted that he had picked it up at Drake's Bay, which was the truth.

Baum: I understand that the Plate was found at a different location from the place where "Kelly" said he threw it out. Not very far away, but where you couldn't have thrown it from the road.

Bocqueraz: Is that so? That, I don't know.

Baum: It was found up a hill a little bit. I wondered if you had any theories as to how it might have gotten up there.

Bocqueraz: No, except that some boy maybe picked it up and attached no importance to it, carried it for a little while and dropped it. That's all my guess would be.

Witness: On the 1st of May, 1934, I saw the man
 placed it up and the picture was recognized,
 identified and they said, "Well, the picture
 Blake never dropped it near Irwin's Bay. It's
 all a mistake. He left it right where I found
 it." You remember there was quite a controversy
 then.

Witness: On the 1st of May, 1934,
 Blake's opinion was asked and I gave it. And
 "Well," of course, who was the man who had
 found it, insisted that he had picked it up
 at Drake's Bay, which was the truth.

Witness: I understand that the photo was found at a
 different location from the place where "Lally"
 said he found it was. Not very far away, but
 where you couldn't have taken it from the
 road.

Witness: I don't know. I don't know.
 Witness: It was found on a hill a little bit. I
 wondered if you had any theories as to how
 it might have gotten up there.

Witness: Well, except that some boy picked it up
 and attached to it, carried it for
 a little while and dropped it. That's all we
 would say.

Baum: What kind of man was "Kelly"?

Bocqueraz: Oh, he was a fine fellow. Somewhat a little ignorant. Of Portuguese descent. The best natured man, honest, devoted. He would have jumped in Drake's Bay for me.

Baum: Would you have taken his word...

Bocqueraz: Absolutely. He was incapable of lying.

Baum: Did he ever like to play practical jokes?

Bocqueraz: Oh, he might have. Everyone liked him very much.

Baum: Do you think there might have been any reason why he would come forward and say he had found this previously if it weren't true?

Bocqueraz: No, no.

Baum: You don't think he would be capable of a thing like that?

Bocqueraz: Absolutely not.

Baum: You would take his word absolutely?

Bocqueraz: I would take his word absolutely.

Baum: Then I take it that you believe Drake landed at Drake's Bay?

Bocqueraz: Yes, I do now.

Baum: You haven't seen the Plate since that time?

Bocqueraz: No.

Baum: You should come over to Bancroft Library and see it.

Ben: What kind of man was "Daddy"?

Boopert: Oh, he was a fine fellow. Successful & wise
 ignorant. Of fortune & descent. The best
 natured man, honest, devoted. He would have
 jumped in Daddy's way for me.

Ben: Would you have taken his word...

Boopert: Absolutely. He was incapable of lying.

Ben: Did he ever like to give practical jokes?

Boopert: Oh, he might have. I've never liked him very
 much.

Ben: Do you think there might have been any reason
 why he would come forward and say he had found
 this provisionally if it weren't true?

Boopert: No, no.

Ben: You think it's possible he would be capable of a thing
 like that?

Boopert: Absolutely not.

Ben: You would take his word absolutely?

Boopert: I would take his word absolutely.

Ben: How I take it that you believe there is
 a certain way

Boopert: Yes, I do now.

Ben: You haven't seen the place since that time?

Boopert: No.

Ben: You should come over to General's library and
 see it.

- Bocqueraz: Yes, I must.
- Baum: It's just small.
- Bocqueraz: Yes, about this size. (indicates with his hands.)
- Baum: Yes. I think "Kelly" said he saw the word "Drake" on it when he had the thing in his hand.
- Bocqueraz: He did? Can one see it now?
- Baum: Yes, you can see it now, but of course now it's all cleaned and polished. It must not have looked like that at all when it was found.
- Bocqueraz: Certainly not. When I saw it you couldn't see anything on it. Of course, I only saw it in the evening when it was already dark and I have never seen it since.
- Baum: It just looked like a piece of heavy black metal, I suppose.
- Bocqueraz: Yes, that's what I thought. I had no idea that it came from Drake himself. I thought it came from some ship or another.
- Baum: Were you a member of the California Historical Association in 1937?
- Bocqueraz: Yes.
- Baum: Were you at that banquet in April, 1937, where Professor Bolton announced the discovery?
- Bocqueraz: No. April? I was in Europe.

Questioner: Yes, I must.
 Answer: It's just small.
 Questioner: Yes, about this size. (Indicates with his hands.)
 Answer: Yes, I know "jelly" and he saw the word
 "jelly" on it when he had the thing in his
 hand.
 Questioner: He didn't see it?
 Answer: Yes, you can see it now, but of course not if it
 all cleaned and polished. It just had some
 like that at all when it was found.
 Questioner: Certainly not. When I see it you couldn't see
 anything on it. Of course, I only see it in
 the evening when it was already dark and I
 have never seen it since.
 Answer: It just looked like a piece of heavy glass
 material, I suppose.
 Questioner: Yes, that's what I thought. I had no idea that
 it was your Greek glass. I thought it was
 from some ship or another.
 Answer: Have you a meter at the University's geological
 Association in 1937?
 Questioner: Yes.
 Answer: Have you at that museum in Paris, 1937, where
 Professor Collins announced the discovery?
 Questioner: No, I think I was in Europe.

Baum: Did "Kelly" talk to you about the Plate after he knew what it was?

Bocqueraz: Oh yes. Then he became very much interested.

Baum: Was he still working for you then?

Bocqueraz: No, he had left my employ, as a matter of fact, not long after.

Baum: But he came back and talked to you about it?

Bocqueraz: Oh yes.

Baum: I telephoned Mrs. Dunn (Mrs. J. P. H. Dunn, sister-in-law of Mr. Bocqueraz and his immediate neighbor) and she said he talked to her about it too.

Bocqueraz: Oh, no doubt. You see, we go to Europe so often. Of course, Mrs. Dunn knew him very well and she liked him so probably he called on her and told her.

Baum: Did she tell you any details that he told her, more than he told you?

Bocqueraz: No.

Baum: Have you done any reading about the Plate?

Bocqueraz: No, not since. We spent a year and a half in Europe then.

Baum: You haven't read the Plate of Brass? I believe in the Plate of Brass that came out in 1953 they did tell "Kelly's" story and we wanted to get your further documentation on it.

Jones: The "Daily" talk to you about the "Daily" after
 no more than it was?
 Woodruff: Of yes. Then he became very much interested.
 Jones: Was he still working for you then?
 Woodruff: No, he had left my employ, as a matter of fact,
 not long after.
 Jones: But he came back and talked to you about it?
 Woodruff: Oh yes.
 Jones: I telephoned Mr. Dunn (Mr. L. F. H. Dunn,
 attorney-in-law of Mr. Woodruff and his
 immediate neighbor) and she said he talked to
 her about it too.
 Woodruff: Oh, he talked. You see, he is to be kept so often.
 Of course, Mr. Dunn knew his very well and she
 liked him so probably he called on her and
 told her.
 Jones: Did she tell you any details that he told her,
 more than he told you?
 Woodruff: No.
 Jones: Have you ever any recollection about the "Daily"?
 Woodruff: No, not since. We spent a year and a half in
 Europe then.
 Jones: You haven't read the "Daily" since? I believe
 in the "Daily" of 1922 that came out in 1922?
 they did tell "Daily's" story and he wanted
 to get your father's document/in on it.

Bocqueraz: Yes. I've told you about all I know, that he did pick up that Plate at evening and that I didn't see it after that. A week or ten days later he threw it...I saw him throw it.

Baum: Oh, you saw him throw it away?

Bocqueraz: Oh yes, I saw him throw it.

Baum: Well, I think that covers the story. I'm sure Dr. Hammond, the director of Bancroft Library, would be most happy to show you the Plate.

Bocqueraz: Yes, I shall call him in a week or so and come over to see it.

Baum: Thank you very much, Mr. Bocqueraz.

Boggs: Yes, I've told you about all I know, that he
 did pick up that plane at Stanton and that I
 didn't see it at that point, a week or two days
 later he took it... I saw that time it.
 Sam: Or, you saw his flight in any?
 Boggs: Oh yes, I saw the flight it.
 Sam: Well, I think that covers the story. I'm sure
 Dr. Kessner, the director of Belmont Library,
 would be most happy to know you for that.
 Boggs: Yes, I shall call him in a week or so and come
 over to see it.
 Sam: Thank you very much, Dr. Boggs.

On February 1, 1956, Mr. Bocqueraz visited Bancroft Library and Dr. George P. Hammond, director of Bancroft Library, showed him the Drake Plate. The following was recorded in Dr. Hammond's office that same afternoon.

Baum: Mr. Bocqueraz, you have just seen the Drake Plate. Do you think it was the same object as you saw back in 1933?

Bocqueraz: Yes, I'm sure it is, but I would hardly have recognized it now, it is so bright and clean. What I saw that night was all covered with mud.

Baum: Do you think it was about the same size?

Bocqueraz: The size was just about the same. Seeing it reminds me exactly of that evening, of my holding it in my hand and trying to see something and unable to see anything but a piece of metal.

Hammond: Do you recall at all how thick it was or how much mud there was on it, how much there was stuck to it?

Bocqueraz: Yes, but by rubbing it just a little it came off and I could see it was brass.

Baum: Could you see the hole in it or was that all caked up with mud?

Bocqueraz: No, I didn't see that. I remember my foolish remark when my chauffeur handed it to me. I said, "Oh, that certainly came off a ship."

Hammond: Well, you hit it pretty straight on that.

transcribers: WB & KW

typist: KW



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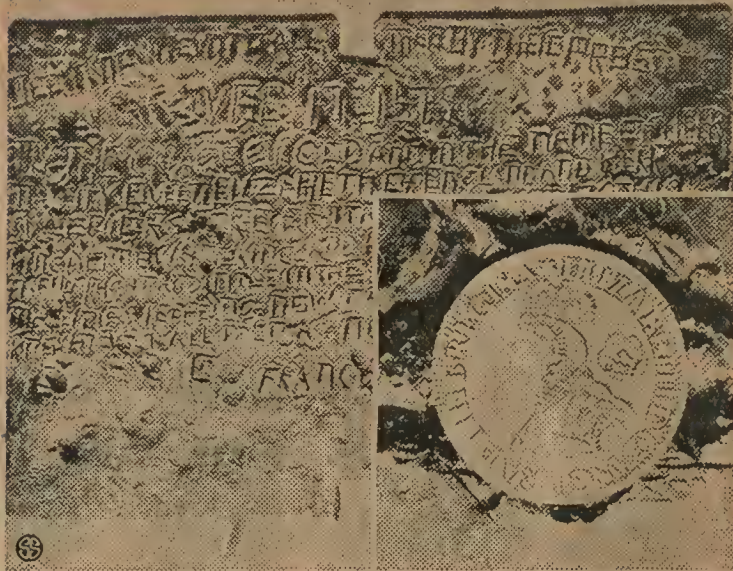
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Raw Material for Historians



THE COIN FITS. Notice how an Elizabethan sixpence fits the hole in the Drake plate, helping prove its authenticity.

NEW YORK.—"Sir Francis Drake's Brass Plate" has passed six stiff chemical tests and graduated into secure position as an authentic American history document. Lively controversy as to genuineness of the plate followed its discovery on the California coast by a picnicker in 1936.

Prof. Col'n G. Fink and E. P. Polushkin at Columbia University made the tests, and report: The

patina is a natural, slowly formed coating. The brass was hammered, not rolled, another "old" sign. Its composition and surface defects are those of old brass. Bits of mineralized tissue are a sign of age. An Elizabethan sixpence fits a jagged hole—where in 1579 Drake inserted just such a coin to make official his claim of the California coast as a kingdom for Queen Elizabeth.

Letters to the Editor

THE ELIZABETHAN PRELUDE

WAS NEW ALBION BRITISH COLUMBIA?

Sir,—At the time of the Imperial Conference of 1926 you raised the question of the date and occasion of the founding of the British Empire overseas. This, you suggested, was marked by the planting of Sir Humphrey Gilbert's "pillar" in Newfoundland in 1583. In THE OBSERVER of October 10, 1926, I drew attention to Drake's acts of possession on the Pacific Coast of America in 1579. It now appears that the ideas and acts of Gilbert and Drake were interlinked; see, for instance, the Gilbert "charte" and other evidence described in September, 1928, in the "Geographical Journal."

Gilbert had applied for the right to trade by the North-West Passage as early as 1566, basing his ideas on the Ortelius map of 1564, which shows an open sea to the west of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, extending at a low latitude to the Pacific Ocean. Gilbert proposed that we inhabit, as a base for trade with the East, the western coast of America; his "Discourse" and map were published in 1576, the year before Drake's departure; Drake searched for the passage from the west, and took possession of the country. Gilbert's "colonisation charter" was granted soon after Drake left England, and, according to Exeter records, his final voyage to Newfoundland was intended for "the westren parte of America," where Drake had taken possession.

DRAKE'S INSCRIPTION

Drake caused a plate of brass to be nailed to a "great and firme post," together with the Queen's picture and arms, "in a piece of sixpence currant English monie." The plate of brass has now been found a few miles north of San Francisco, and it bears the following inscription:—

BEE IT KNOWNE VNTO ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS
IVNE 17 1579

BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND IN THE NAME OF HERR MAIESTY QVEEN ELIZABETH OF ENGLAND AND HERR SVCESSORS FOREVER I TAKE POSSESSION OF THIS KINGDOME WHOSE KING AND PEOPLE FREELY RESIGNE THEIR RIGHT AND TITLE IN THE WHOLE LAND VNTO HERR MAIESTIES KEEPING NOW NAMED BY ME AN TO BEE KNOWNE VNTO ALL MEN AS NOVA ALBION.
FRANCIS DRAKE.

The California Historical Society has risen promptly and adequately to the occasion—for there seems to be no reason to doubt that the relic is genuine. The finder has been rewarded, the plate deeded to the University of California, and a reproduction published with comments, maps, and a bibliography (Special Publication 13, 2 dollars). There are copious extracts from accounts of the voyage, and the descriptions given in these are compared with the plate itself by Dr. Herbert Bolton, Professor of History at the University.

HAKLUYT'S ACCOUNTS

The fullest account, The World Encompassed, describes the sixpence as "shewing it selfe by a hole made of purpose through the plate," which was of "brasse"; in abridged accounts the sixpence is "under" the plate, and brass is not mentioned. From these and similar passages Dr. Bolton concludes that the abridged accounts (such as those published by Hakluyt) convey imperfect impressions by leaving out essentials. Now the Hakluyt accounts leave out the passage describing Drake's anchorage in 48 degrees, and convey the impression that he merely reached 42 or 43 degrees (the latitude of Oregon); from this it was argued, at the time of the boundary question, that Drake did not reach any part of the coast not already discovered by the Spanish. California historians have continued to maintain that the Hakluyt accounts are correct, but there is a great deal of evidence to support Dr. Bolton's views as to the accuracy of The World Encompassed, and to settle the question in favour of the higher latitude.

In writing to THE OBSERVER in 1926, I mentioned that, according to early maps, Drake's conception of New Albion extended well beyond the northerly anchorage, which, apparently, was on Vancouver Island. I suggested that the history of the Empire overseas must commence with this anchorage, followed as it was by the ceremony in which Drake took possession of the whole of New

Albion. Neither Canada nor the United States can lay exclusive claim to Drake's New Albion. But this seems very appropriate when the history of the New World is taken into consideration. When Drake entered the Pacific New Spain had existed for the greater part of the century, New France had been on the map since the days of Cartier; now there was to be a New England. Apparently the Spanish ambassador objected to Drake's presence in the Pacific, and to his acts of possession as well, for (according to Camden's Annals), the Queen informed Mendoza that other princes had a right to navigate that vast ocean, and that the use of the sea, like that of the air, is common to all; that "a title to the ocean cannot belong to any people or private persons, inasmuch as neither nature nor public use or custom permiteth any possession thereof." The Queen also asserted her right to convey colonies to those parts of America where the Spanish occupation had not extended.

Alexander Brown in "The Genesis of the United States," suggests that the struggle with Spain for a footing on the continent was the most important fact in North American history. May it not, then, be said that the British Empire and the United States had their joint foundation in Drake's New Albion, and in the assertion of the principle of the Freedom of the Seas in time of Peace?

Nova Albion appears, on most of the early maps, along the line of the present international boundary, a most appropriate position if it is regarded as common to the two countries. The letters, about two degrees high, record the latitude of Drake's northerly anchorage, and the name in this position probably gave rise to the northern boundary of New England, which extended along the forty-eighth parallel from sea to

sea. The connecting link—"Nova Albion (that is to say) new Englande"—is found in Blundeville's Exercises, 1594, printed during Drake's lifetime.

DRAKE AS PIONEER

Drake's latitude of 48 degrees, if obtained by dead reckoning, may have been a degree or two from the actual position. He may, then, have anchored on the coast of Vancouver Island. It can, in my opinion, be proved that he did so, but to deal fully with this question it is necessary to reproduce several maps and charts and to weigh a variety of evidence, local, historical, and geographical. It is best, perhaps, to pave the way by showing that the abridged accounts, which limit the Golden Hind to the latitude of Oregon, are incorrect. I hope to do this by an article in the "British Columbia Historical Quarterly," if possible, in July.

It has, meanwhile, been assumed that Drake was the pioneer of the North Pacific Coast, and the idea of commemorating naval history through the names of mountains in the coast range has been extended. A really suitable opportunity may not occur again. The names Queen Bess, Gilbert, Raleigh, Grenville, and Sir Francis Drake appeared on the map of British Columbia a few years ago, and have been approved by the Geographic Board of Canada. These mountains are over ten thousand feet in height, except Sir Francis Drake, which is distinguished in another way. Queen Bess, the highest, was named in commemoration of the Freedom of the Seas in time of Peace. The highest group in the Province, about twenty miles to the west, might well be named the Albion Mountains, and it has been suggested that the highest mountain on Vancouver Island should be called the Golden Hind.—Yours, etc.,

R. P. BISHOP.

1118, Langley-street, Victoria, B.C.
May 22, 1937.



