



THE GUIDEPOST

The Newsletter of the San Francisco Tour Guide Guild

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WHY WAS ANZA BANISHED?

By Renate Coombs

Capitan Juan Bautista de Anza, widely acknowledged as the true founder of the City of San Francisco, has been exiled to a parking lot near Lake Merced – or at least his statue has. Judged by historians as one of the most intelligent and able men ever to serve Spain in the New World, in San Francisco he has nevertheless been relegated to an obscure spot where he is unlikely to be seen by more than a handful of the locals or by any of the millions of annual visitors. Why would a city like San Francisco that likes to think of itself as sophisticated, cosmopolitan and a paragon of diversity decide to heap so much official scorn on a historical figure of his magnitude?

Born in 1736 in Fronteras, Sonora, Mexico, Anza was a white criollo (an American-born Spaniard) of Basque ancestry, destined to become a soldier. Both his father and his grandfather had served as military commanders in New Spain. When he was barely three years old, he lost his father who was killed in a campaign against the Apaches. At age 16, he volunteered for military service. Within half a dozen years he rose to the rank of captain and was appointed commander of the presidio at Tubac, just south of present-day Tucson. (Established in 1752, the Tubac garrison had become a necessity to protect early settlers in the vicinity of Mission San Xavier del Bac founded more than fifty years earlier by Jesuit missionary Father Eusebio Francisco Kino.)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

By the time Anza was in his mid-thirties, the Spaniards had been holding sway over Mexico and large parts of South America for nearly 250 years and had appropriated the Northern Pacific as their own galleon trade route for almost as long. Hernán Cortéz had defeated the last rebellious Aztecs in 1521, the same year in which Fernando de Magallanes discovered the passage later named after him. The Manila galleons had begun regular round trips from Acapulco to Manila in 1565, after Andrés de Urdaneta had demonstrated that there was a relatively safe way back to Acapulco via a very northerly route avoiding typhoons and taking advantage of favorable winds.

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The GUIDEPOST (ISSN 1097-2285) is published quarterly by the San Francisco Tour Guide Guild, a non-profit association established in 1984 to safeguard employment opportunities, promote the integrity of the profession through certification testing and continuing education, and foster a standard of quality, ethics, and professionalism among guides and operators in the San Francisco Bay Area. SFTGG is a member of the San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau and NFTGA.

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Message from the President

At the end of our ninth month as your Board we have accomplished a few goals for you.

We are attempting to put everything of information and value to you on the website.

- The “Board Descriptions and Responsibilities” are now on the website in the “members only” section. You may read just what we do and what is expected of a Board member. It is very simple. We want you to take a look at these descriptions and responsibilities and think about volunteering for the Board. It is a great way to contribute and give back to your Guild.
- We are in the process of putting the most recent Studyguide on the website so that it will be available to everyone everywhere. We will also be looking for volunteers to update this Studyguide in the coming year. Each section can be downloaded independently from the other sections or you can study it right on the website. And this will be free.
- We are now three months away from our November 13th General Meeting where we will be looking for four new Board members. This is a way of seeing the inner workings of the Guild and makes a difference to the organization. Take a moment and go to the website and read the Board Descriptions and Responsibilities.
- One of our goals is to increase the number of Certified guides in the Guild. We currently have 75 Certified Guides. Several of these Certified guides are no longer actively conducting tours. We will have a new Rate Sheet for 2008.
- If we had a larger number of Certified Guides, we would have more clout and be able to command a higher wage for all of our members.
- Take the time now to fill in your verification forms and take them in to your employers for processing.

Barbara White
Board President

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Admittedly, there had been a period of serious concern when in 1577 English pirate Francis Drake sailed through the Strait of Magellan into the Pacific, plundered his way up the coasts of South America and Mexico, claimed the land around Drake's Bay for the Queen and called it Nova Albion. Sailing west, Drake returned home around Africa. He never returned, but he had taught the Spanish a valuable lesson. Having lost untold fortunes in gold, silver and jewels to the man they called El Dragón, the Spanish ships in the Pacific never again sailed unarmed.



Even though Spain could no longer take its supremacy in the New World for granted after the Drake incident, in the long run the Pacific remained very much Spain's own ocean for the next 200 years. It was just too far away for England to become a serious challenger. English vessels sporadically attacked Manila galleons on their long return run, but in the Pacific piracy never became as major a problem as it was in the Caribbean.

Moreover, Drake's exploits in the Northern Pacific also had a bright side as far as the Spaniards were concerned.



Like the Spanish explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo before him, Drake had failed to find any sign of the Strait of Anian, a mythical Northwest Passage allegedly connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The existence of such

a passage would have posed a serious threat to Spanish rule on the west coast of North America, so that Drake's failure to find it was a great solace to Spain.

Matters were not quite as sunny on the Atlantic coast. France and England were busy building empires to rival Spain's. Events like the defeat of the Spanish Armada at the hands of the British - with now-Sir Francis Drake in a leading role - spurred the Spaniards on to some drastic actions to colonize the vast territory to the north of Mexico. Rather than exploring the west coast of North America, they concentrated their efforts on the land they called New Mexico stretching from El Paso to Santa Fe and beyond.

This choice must have been based on perceived priorities, because the need to explore the northern Pacific coast remained of utmost importance for the Manila galleons, even without a serious threat of piracy. Traveling Urdaneta's route added thousands of miles and several

months to the time at sea. Lacking a midway stop to take on fresh water and food, disease and food shortage took a terrible toll on the return journey.

The last attempt to find a safe harbor for the Manila galleons was made in 1602 when Sebastián Vizcaíno undertook a voyage along the entire California coast.

Although he got as far as Cape Mendocino before he decided to turn around, he missed - like everybody before him - San Francisco Bay. His most enthusiastic report recommended Monterey Bay as a settlement to aid the galleons, but nothing came of it for the next 167 years. The Viceroy in Mexico City took comfort in the fact that Vizcaíno had not discovered - like everybody before him - a Northwest Passage. The Manila-galleon captains, skeptical of winds and currents, remained cautious about stopping in Monterey.

Apart from New Spain's scarce human resources being tied up elsewhere, a profound lack of knowledge about California may have contributed to the official willingness to defer its settlement. The strange land described in a 16th century romance called *The Exploits of Esplandian* was believed to be an island inhabited by Amazons. Their weapons were all made of gold and their ruler was warrior



queen Calafia. When Cortéz arrived for the first time at the west coast of Mexico, he heard from the natives of a land across the water. Hoping to find the Amazons and their gold, he found nothing but the harsh landscape of the Cape Region. Nevertheless the name California and the notion of an island stuck. (Cortéz's short-lived colony had actually been near present-day La Paz in Baja Sur.)

It took nearly 200 years before a map appeared showing California not as an island but a peninsula - Baja California - directly attached to the land mass to the north called Alta California. The map would remain the most reliable for the next 100 years. The cartographer was none other than Jesuit Father Kino, a devout priest but also a mathematician, an astronomer and a tireless explorer. He had caused his religious order to build missions both in the bounteous valley of Sonora and in the desert wilderness of Baja. The latter would not have survived without a steady stream of supplies shipped across the Gulf of California. The hazards of this water route caused Father Kino to explore the Gila and Colorado rivers to the head of the gulf, which convinced him that both Baja and Alta California should be reachable from Mexico by land.

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The first time I looked closely at the *Volunteer Firemen Memorial* in Washington Park, I discovered that the sculptor was a Haig Patigian, obviously an Armenian name, recognizable by the “ian”¹ ending. Being married to an Armenian, I was, of course, intrigued. Where did he live and what else did he create? Do you know?



WHO WAS HAIG PATIGIAN?

By Ulla Kaprielian

As it turns out, he was a contemporary of Douglas Tilden (see Guidepost Vol. 21, No.1, March 2006). He spent most of his creative life in San Francisco. He was born in Van, Armenia on January 22, 1876.

Both his parents, Avedis and Marine Hovsepien Patigian, were teachers. The Turkish authorities suspected his father, an amateur photographer, of spying. In 1888, fearing for his life, Avedis fled his homeland.² He finally settled in Fresno. It took about three years before he had enough money to buy a small farm and send for his wife and children.



Haig became an apprentice to a sign painter and, in time, opened his own business. His older brother Horen was living in San Francisco where he worked as a newspaper illustrator. Haig joined him in 1898. He, too, found employment as an illustrator, while growing as an artist. Tragedy struck the family when, in the span of less than two

years, brother Horen, mother Marine and younger sister Rose died.

Haig expressed his sadness in his art, creating *The Unquiet Soul*, his first plaster statue. The piece was displayed at the Press Club and became an instant success. At the urging of his friends, Haig decided to become a fulltime artist. He was not immediately successful, but fortunately, when things looked really bleak, he met George Zehndner, a well-to-do German immigrant from Humboldt County. Zehndner was

looking for an artist to create a statue. He wanted a statue of the late president McKinley to give to the city of Arcata. Haig convinced him that he was the man for the job and was given the commission. On April 18, 1906, the day of the earthquake, the completed statue was ready for shipment at the foundry near the present day Transbay Terminal. To Haig’s great relief, the statue survived the disaster and could be delivered. The money he earned from this commission enabled him to spend a year in Paris honing his craft. While there, he entered a piece titled *History* in the official exposition of the Salon des Artistes Francais and it was accepted. He had made it! This work, in bronze, is now in the possession of the Bohemian Club.

In January 1908 Patigian married Blanche Hollister (the town of Hollister is named after her family). Their marriage would last 42 years. Later the same year he joined the Bohemian Club, became an active lifetime member, participated in many of their Encampment productions and served as president several times.

Various commissions kept him busy during the following years, including a large *Lincoln* head bronze purchased by James Phelan for the Bohemian Club, bronze doors depicting the *Guardian Angel* for the John Dolbeer family mausoleum at Cypress Lawn, *Head of Liberty* pediment above the entryway of the Savings Union Bank (now Emporio Armani at Grant & O’Farrell), and the bronze plaque of *Luisa Tetrazzini* at Lotta’s Fountain on Market Street. The Metropolitan Life Insurance Building (now Ritz Carlton Hotel) pediment dates to 1920 and was done in collaboration with Spanish sculptor Jo Mora. (Mora created the Cervantes group at the entrance to the Music Concourse in Golden Gate Park.) For the Panama Pacific Exposition Haig created sculptural works for the Palace of Machinery, four male nudes representing *Steam Power*, *Electricity*, *Imagination*, and *Invention*; for the Palace of Fine Arts *Diana*, *Apollo Hunting*, and *Vanity*. At the end of the exposition he received a medal for distinguished service along with worldwide acclaim.



By the time daughter Hollis was born in 1914, Haig had earned enough money to build a house for his new family at Francisco & Hyde Streets. It is likely that he designed it himself.

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Spain showed little interest in blazing a land route to either of the Californias and, after Father Kino's death in 1711, there was nobody of his caliber to pursue his ideas. Alta California lay largely forgotten. In 1738, Anza's father submitted a plan for opening an overland route from Sonora in the center of northern Mexico to the California coast, but the plan was dropped when the elder Anza died the following year.

WHY AN OVERLAND ROUTE NOW?

In the 1760s Spain was finally aroused from its apathy. Reports of English and Russian shipping activities near the west coast of North America caused alarm. Worse, Russia expressed an intention to establish settlements there. This was not an idle threat – just twenty years earlier, the Russian admiral whose name they bear had discovered the Bering Strait and Sea. When planning their countermeasures, the Spanish had to admit that practically nothing they knew about the land they had claimed for the Crown. Nearly 200 years after the Drake-were as ever to fend off intruders. All they two promising bays: San Diego, discovered in 1542 by Cabrillo, and Monterey, described in 1602 by Vizcaíno.



JUAN RODRIGUEZ CABRILLO

Faced with these circumstances, José de Gálvez, newly arrived in Mexico from the Spanish court, became the man of the hour. As royal visitor-general, one of his functions was protecting Spain's possessions to the north. Recognizing the urgent need to settle Alta California, he quickly organized the history-making Portolá Expedition of 1769-1770.

The plan was to tackle the formidable task of exploring this vast foreign territory in a two-pronged approach. Starting from the missions in northern Baja, one portion of the expedition party was to proceed overland to San Diego and, from there, follow the coast to Monterey. Another group was to sail supply ships into San Diego Bay to provide the land party with the necessary support in food and materiel.



GASPAR DE PORTOLA

The two men entrusted with the execution of this ambitious plan were the newly appointed governor of Baja California, Gaspar de Portolá as the military commander, and the recently appointed head of the Baja missions, Father Junípero Serra as the spiritual

leader. Between them, the two were to establish presidios to fend off rival nations and to found missions where the newly baptized Indians were to engage in producing the food needed for the presidio soldiers.



In the wake of the Portolá Expedition, two presidios (San Diego and Monterey) and five missions were established: San Diego (1769), San Carlos Borromeo (1770), San Antonio de Padua (1771), San Gabriel (1771) and San Luis Obispo (1772).

Besides achieving this original goal, Gaspar de Portolá and

his men had the great good fortune to make a spectacular discovery. On November 4, 1769, while still puzzled by their failure to find Monterey Bay, they reached the top of Sweeney Ridge and beheld a "magnificent estuary," San Francisco Bay.

Within very few years, the new settlements in Alta California were in dire shape. Communications between Monterey and Mexico City had to travel 1,500 miles south to the southern tip of Baja, across the Sea of Cortez to the mainland harbor of San Blas and a further 500 miles overland to Mexico City. This journey took four to six months one way. Supplies had to come by ship. Sailing north against coastal currents and prevailing winds, the voyage from mainland Mexico to Alta California often took two to three times longer than crossing the Atlantic. The situation of the starving settlers soon was untenable. Unless more settlers could be brought in to build a self-sustaining colony, Spain would have to abandon California altogether.

ANZA'S EXPEDITIONS

When the prospect of having to abandon California had become very real, Anza volunteered to fulfill his father's ambition to forge an overland route from the Mexican mainland to the California coast. At an estimated 2,000 miles, the task was daunting by virtue of distance alone, but the true challenge lay in the 500 miles of totally unexplored territory somewhere in the middle. In 1773 Viceroy Bucareli granted the Tubac commander permission to undertake an exploratory expedition.

For some remarkable aspects of forging the Anza Trail and to find out why Anza was banished, see the next issue of the Guidepost!

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We can find pieces of Patigian art in a number of locations in San Francisco. His *General Pershing* stands near the bandstand in Golden Gate Park though a group of figures originally at the entrance to the De Young Museum was removed in 1949. The Olympic Club owns his statue *Friendship*. His *Thomas Starr King* statue represents California in the nation's Statuary Hall. There is a good possibility that *Starr King* will be replaced by Ronald Reagan. The decision appears to be waiting for the Governor's approval. (*Thomas Starr King* in Golden Gate Park is the work of Daniel C. French.)



The Oakland Museum has 91 pieces of his work, unfortunately all in storage at this time.

Blanche Patigian died on September 10, 1950, Haig followed only 9 days later on September 19. He was seventy four years old.

¹The "ian" or "yan" ending of a name connotes "descendent of."

²The greater portion of the Armenian heartland (Anatolia) came under the rule of the Ottoman Turkish Empire in 1453. This created a Christian enclave surrounded by a Muslim nation. The Armenians were subjected to discrimination that lasted to the end of the 20th century. By the middle of the 19th century the persecution of the Armenian people had become more and more pronounced. During World War I it even aroused the attention of Russia, Great Britain, and France. In order to protect their political and economic interests they discussed a possible solution to the "Armenian Question." However, in July 1908 a coup brought the "Young Turks" to power. One of their objectives was to cleanse the country of non-Muslims. The culmination was the 1915 genocide, when several thousand Armenian intellectuals were rounded up and executed, followed by systematic mass murders.

(Source: *Musa Dagh* by Edward Minasian)

The next time you find yourself at San Francisco City Hall look for the busts of Mayor, later Senator *James Phelan* and Mayor *James Rolph, Jr* to the left and right of the Polk Street entrance, Mayor *Edward R. Taylor*, and *General Funston* are in the Van Ness side lobby.



Lincoln is sitting in front of City Hall. All are the work of Haig Patigian. The *Volunteer Firemen Memorial* dates to 1933. For the Bohemian Club at Taylor & Post he created huge terra cotta panels representing *Literature, Fine Arts, Music, and Drama*. On the exterior of the building is a beautiful *owl plaque*; the owl being the Club's symbol. For the

1939 exposition at Treasure Island, he sculpted large figures, representing *Earth Dormant, Sunshine, Rain, Harvest, and Creation*.



When metal became scarce during WWII, he turned to painting. Many of his watercolors are now in private collections.

Haig Patigian's creations are all around us. Look for the terra cotta panels and owl plaque at the Bohemian Club; the *William Ralston* monument on the Marina Green (near Fillmore Street); the limestone bas relief of *A. P. Giannini* on the parking garage floor of the Bank of America; a bas relief panel of *General Stilwell* in Stilwell Hall at the Presidio (at present not open to the public), the sculpture of famous tennis player *Helen Mills* at UC Berkeley, and a bust of *Herbert Hoover* at the Hoover Institute at Stanford. Could we find more?

Sources:

- Peter Garland's *The Greatest Bohemian of Them All*, (The Argonaut, Journal of the San Francisco Historical Society, Fall 1998);
- Portrait of the artist: Bailey Millard's 1924 *History of the San Francisco Bay Region* with permission of the San Francisco Public Library
- Various websites, Craig Smith contributions;
- Photos by Ulla Kaprielian

Just the Facts!

By Jason Cohen

In this column we publish questions on subjects that have potential for confusion or misinformation. Here are the questions from the last Guidepost, and the answers we have found (with sources cited). Please send questions for future columns to Jason at jcohen1@pacbell.net (don't forget the "1" in the address).

1. What are the proper pronunciations of Boudin, Ghirardelli, Agoston Haraszthy, and André Tchelistcheff?

Boudin—according to the company's PR manager, the original French pronunciation has been Americanized over the years, so the proper pronunciation today is BOO-DEEN.

Ghirardelli—though visitors usually get it wrong, it should be GEAR-AR-DELLY. See their website <http://www.ghirardelli.com/about/ourname.aspx>

Agoston Haraszthy—there are two wineries in Sonoma associated with this "father of the California wine industry." We checked with hospitality staff at Buena Vista (Haraszthy's winery) and Bartholomew Park (the property where his mansion was located), which has a very nice museum. Buena Vista said HAR-ost-tee, while Bartholomew Park gave a similar Hair-ES-tee. The first name is pronounced Augustin.

André Tchelistcheff—this father of the modern phase of the California wine industry spent much of his career at Beaulieu Vineyards (BV). According to the winery's hospitality department, pronounce his name TELL-I-TCHEF. Jarvis Winery, where Tchelistcheff's son Dmitri is winemaker, agrees. On the other hand, Guild member Igor Goroski says in Russia it would be TCHELL rather than TELL (as in Tchaikovsky). Rick Spear reports that Bell Winery staff says Anthony Bell worked with Tchelistcheff for many years and pronounces the name TCHELL also. By the way, pronounce the winery's name BOOL-YOU or BOOLYA.

2. Is it true that James Lick bought the Conservatory of Flowers with the intent of using it as a playhouse for his children?

We don't know where this story came from (though we heard a tour guide tell it), but we find no evidence. In fact, sources indicate that James Lick only had one child, an illegitimate son, and they didn't meet until the son was 37 years old! An article on the Lick Observatory website



http://mthamilton.ucolick.org/public/history/James_Lick.html

says Lick purchased the Conservatory intending it as a gift to the City of San Jose, but withdrew the offer when he felt insulted by a local newspaper, and so left the structure in the packing crates until his death.

3. Did Mark Twain really say "The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco?"

The Bay Area has a great source for all things Twain. UC Berkeley holds the private papers that Twain chose to give to his official biographer, along with many related documents, in its Mark Twain Papers and Project (<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/MTP/about.html>).

According to Harriet Smith, an editor with the Project (in a personal email), "We have no proof that MT said that. He did say something similar about Paris, but he was quoting another source, the actor James Quin, famous in the 18th century. MT wrote to Lucius Fairchild in 1880, "Paris the cold, Paris the rainy, Paris the damnable. More than a hundred years ago somebody asked Quin, 'Did you ever see such a winter in all your life before?' 'Yes,' said he, 'Last summer.' I judge he spent his summer in Paris."

Harriet Smith continued, "Of course, MT may have repeated this remark with variations, possibly switching the city to SF. Often we cannot pin down such quotations simply because they were passed on by word of mouth, and not written down."

Since guests are so proud to know that quote, what I usually say is "We don't know if Mark Twain actually said it, but if he didn't, he should have!"

Here are three new questions:

1. Is it true that a bus once tried to drive down crooked Lombard Street and had to be removed with a crane or cut into pieces?



2. Why do they really plant roses at the end of rows of grapevines?

3. Did Sam Brannan really ride his horse through San Francisco yelling "Gold! Gold on the American River!" after buying all the shovels and tents? Did he really name Calistoga accidentally when he drunkenly tried to say "Saratoga, California"?

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SFTGG PROGRAMS

- Sept. 18 “Two Architectural Gems on Seventh”
A Tour of the US Court of Appeals and the New Federal Building
(The tour is fully booked, call Claire Manhart for a waiting list spot)
- Oct. 24 “Down in the Valley” – A Tour of Hilmar Cheese & Olive Oil
- Nov. 13 General Meeting at the Farallon Room, PIER 39
6 pm – 9 pm
- Nov. 14 “War & Peace” – East Bay Stories – Rosie the Riveter, Port Chicago,
8:30 am – 4 pm John Muir House in Martinez, includes picnic lunch
- Dec. 11 Holiday Party at the Bay View Boat Club
6 pm – 11 pm

For detailed information and registration, check our website at www.sftgg.org/programs.

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