

BANC MSS C-A 40 — Departmental State Papers, Benicia (Commissary & Treasury), Tomos I–V

Finding aid · 89 records · 1825–1833 · Archives of California: A Documentary Calendar of the Savage Transcripts

Provenance. Thomas Savage's 1876–77 copies (for H.H. Bancroft) of the Spanish- and Mexican-era government records of Alta California, made at the U.S. Surveyor-General's office; the originals burned in the 1906 San Francisco fire, leaving these transcripts the sole record. Manuscripts: Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley (BANC MSS C-A 40); digitized microfilm on the Internet Archive (168036070_81_2). This calendar is an independent, AI-assisted index with published error rates — verify any record against the manuscript scan before citing (searchable, with scan links: archivesofcalifornia.com). **Coverage:** Discovery pass 2026-07-16: Tomo I item-read leaf-by-leaf (Docs 1–87, 1825–1828); Tomos II–V (1829–1836) gap-sampled with two marquee docs itemized (88 Híjar colony budget, 89 presidio/ranchos-nacionales budget) and routine fiscal bookkeeping bounded. Volume actually spans 1825–1836.

Date	Doc	Record	Orig. p.	Scan
1825-07-15	1	Postal service between the two Californias: mails to leave Loreto the 1st & 15th of each month; possible monthly communication with Álamos	1–5	n1
1825-09-07	2	Transmits nota of *efectos* (part of the *memoria* for Cal.) carried by the national warship *Morelos* to Monterey, Sta Bárbara & San Diego; asks return of receipted vou...	—	n1
1827-08-09	3	Tobacco (*estanco*); handover of the habilitación at month's end to incoming habilitado Anastasio Carrillo; what to do with the *tabaco estancado* and *averías* (damaged...	11	n2
1827-08-22	4	Reply on tobacco: skeptical Sta Bárbara's troops/townsfolk consumed no tobacco in nearly a year while Monterey/SF/San Diego spend the same tobacco without complaint; dem...	12–13	n2
1826-12-18	5	Presidio—mission accounts: tithes (*diezmos*) on grain & cattle, taxes on wine/*aguardiente*; asks whether the *comisión honoraria* is deducted as in the *cuenta de diez...	14–15	n3
1825-12-06	6	Fiscal-system reform: Herrera brought a \$22,000+ cargo/cash from Mexico to distribute among the five presidios of both Californias to cover arrears (*alcances*), part di...	19–20	n3
1825-11-17	7	Customs on the Am ⁿ brig *Nilo*: \$122.4.2 duties exacted (re Luis Argüello); complaint that an advance-collection *convenio* by Herrera cost the *Hacienda* ~600. △ Savage...	29–30	n5
1825-11-17	8	Mission accounting of supplies to presidios (settled annually); resists central procurement; asks that purchases of *efectos* be left to him as the company's *apoderado*	35–36	n6
1825-11-05	9	Am ⁿ frigate *Jackman* collecting *frutos del país* to export + pailebot *Spy* (bought effects), supercargo Guillermo (William) A. Gale: customs 25% on sales less 12½%; p...	38	n7
1825-10-12	10	Pay claims of Alférez Luis M ^a Ramírez, Subt ⁿ Juan Rocha & civilian Vicente Gómez; pay left with Agustín V. Zamorano (acting habilitado at San Blas/Tepic); daily ration f...	48–52	n7
1825-10-12	11	Armament: force embarked on the war-brig *Morelos* handed to the Monterey artillery officer; 25 carbines + 25 swords ordered to Alférez Ramírez	53	n8
1825-02-17	12	Pay of Lt.-Col. Echeandía (as Comandante Gen ⁿ of Cal.) to continue via his corps' budget to support his wife; prior advances to be discounted at his new post	70–71	n9
1825-09-14	13	Pay/arrears + \$100/mo office allowance for Juan M ^a Ruiz (military cmdr of Baja Cal.); President grants his retirement at full Lieutenant's infantry pay	78–79	n10
1825-11-25	14	*Bagajes* (transport-animals) regulation: allotment per corps/officers, 10 *arrobas* per load, troops & officers to pay, reimbursed by the treasuries	80–81	n10

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1825-12-03	15	On the surrender of the castillo de San Juan de Ulúa (last Spanish holdout, Nov 1825), the govt awards armed troops three days' double pay from September	84–85	n11
1825-08-04	16	Shortage of *papel sellado* (stamped paper, a treasury item): none in the province, common paper used; habilitated 300 sheets of the 4th seal provisionally	93–94	n11
1825-08-04	17	Reports taking possession of his post as Comisario Subalterno for both Californias on 3 Aug (arrived 27 Sept prior); awaits orders	95–96	n12
1826-05-02	18	Muster/*revista* of the marine dept (carpenter, smith, patrones, guardián, sailors, grumetes — 26 men, many absent); reviewed before Comisario sub ⁿ ; names José M ^a Padrés...	99 / 135	n13
1826-08-05	19	Company muster: 2 sgts, 1 drummer, 16 corporals, 18 soldiers = 37 men; reviewed before Herrera & Cap ⁿ Luis Ant ^o Argüello	136–137	n13
1826-12-30	20	Order: treasury chiefs publish monthly income/expense statements; Herrera to send a duplicate monthly *planilla* to be printed in the Gazeta de Guadalajara	138–139	n14
1826-12-16	21	Order: maritime customs houses collect the derecho de avería separately in each	140–141	n14
1827-02-24	22	On the office of Comandante Militar de distrito: proper supreme-govt appointment required; the officer obliged by law to furnish *auxilios* for the conservation of the N...	166–167	n15
1826-06-28	23	Held personally liable by the Min. de Hacienda (via Comis ^o Gen ⁿ de Occidente) for having let foreign ships trade 'against the laws,' Herrera orders the habilitados to ba...	169–170	n16
1826-03-25	24	Creditors of the govt (*erario público*) to register their credits dating from independence in the Comisaría	191–192	n17
1826-12-25	25	Utterly lacks resources to maintain troops/sailors; threatens to evacuate the territory within a month, leaving it *acéfalo*; near-physical impossibility of provisioning...	—	n17
1826-03-03	26	Baja-supply-crisis dossier: govt drew \$12,000 on the Sinaloa treasuries (\$8k Rosario/\$4k Arizpe) but couldn't fulfill; granular disbursements via habilitado of Loreto Jo...	176–187 / 193–194	n18
1826-09-11	27	Enforcement of fiscal accounts: habilitados responsible for import/export duties, alcabalas on foreign goods, and the *quinto* on pearl-fishing (*pesca de perla*); order...	195	n23
1826-09-11	28	Jurisdiction war: on Herrera's 30-Jul complaint that Echeandía disposes of public funds arbitrarily (moving caudales between points, paying clerks/secretariat) with no r...	196–197 / 232–233	n24
1826-09-11	29	Customs-jurisdiction + politics: Echeandía suspended (by circular) the *derecho de internación* & *avería* on foreign goods; Riesgo defends collection citing soberano de...	198–202 / 210–214	n26
1826-09-11	30	Demands muster/account statements for the 100-man Mazatlán squadron under Cap ⁿ Pablo de la Portilla in Alta Cal.; habilitados Santiago Argüello & Domingo Carrillo to ren...	203–204	n30
1826-09-11	31	Jurisdiction: Echeandía named subaltern comisarios (Luis Cuevas/Loreto, Antonio Navarro/San Blas) — 'notoriously mistaken; it is the exclusive faculty of the Comisario';...	205–209 / 254–259	n31
1826-03-12	32	Monthly office allowances for permanent infantry corps: \$8 colonel / \$6 1st adjutant / \$2 2nd / \$16 per company + \$120/yr to captain-*cajeros*	215–216	n34
1826-04-26	33	No officer paid without a validated commission (*despacho revalidado*); militia officers paid only with proof the govt called them to arms	217–218 / 536	n35
1827-01-20	34	Secretaries of the Comandancias Generales need supreme-govt appointment to draw their \$40/mo gratification	219–220	n35

Date	Doc	Record	Orig. p.	Scan
1826-11-07	35	California officers exempted from the validated-commission pay rule (President grants they be paid regardless); patentes to be sent, veterans separated from active milit...	225–226	n36
1826-08-16	36	Spanish-restoration conspiracy + anti-friar: warns of plots to overthrow the Republic & restore Spain; the paper *El Sol*'s writers 'salaried by the King of Spain'; Cali...	264–265	n36
1826-08-16	37	Private note: rumor that the California missionaries are strongly devoted to Fernando VII	266	n39
1826-06-07	38	Arrival of the Am ⁿ schooner *Rover*, Cap ⁿ Juan (John R.) Cooper, from Canton; unloads & sells goods, pays import + tonnage + silver-extraction duties	248–249	n39
1826-04-06	39	Requests the LA cattle-tithe (*diezmo*) collection be transferred from Sta Bárbara to San Diego to fund the San Diego company's national rancho (cavalry horses)	272–273	n40
1826-05-14	40	Accepts the habilitación & subaltern subcommission; asks for pay/help	274–275	n40
1826-06-22	41	*Prorratio* (distribution) of the *Rover*'s duties; some to the artillery detachment (△ first part of the *oficio* missing)	276–277	n41
1826-04-07	42	Accusations vs. Lt. José M ^a Estudillo (Monterey mil. cmdr): soldier mail-carriers lost letters; Estudillo confessed to illegally distributing the mail, defended it, and ...	280–288	n41
1826-07-11	43	The full Open-Door defense. Quoting the Comis ^o Gen ⁿ 's 7-Dec reprimand (for letting the brig 'Anglo-Am. N ^o 8' sell 'breaking the laws that absolutely prohibit this') and ...	284–295	n42
1826-01-02 △	44	Admit in muster & pay 2nd Adjutant José M ^a Cossío, reinstated by the Supreme Govt △ *(date/attribution odd — Gutiérrez as Comand ⁿ Gen ⁿ fits 1836 better than 1826; verify...	296–297	n47
1826-11-03	45	Supreme Govt assigns ~\$109,000 of tobacco (raw/manufactured) for the territory's consumption; ordered to ensure no tobacco enters except from the *Dirección Gen ⁿ * (monop...	298–299	n47
1827-04-10	46	Reiterates his query on what to do with damaged/bad cigars & tobacco in his habilitación	300–301	n48
1826-07-17	47	On collecting duties from foreign ships: the 25% (licensed) / 15% *internación* structure per decreto N ^o 79 of 12 Feb 1825; *internación* + *avería* on goods leaving the...	305–306	n48
1826-06-07	48	Authorizes habilitating *papel sellado* (4th seal) for the 1826–27 biennium	308–309	n49
1826-06-11	49	Asks whether farm & craft implements (*instrumentos de labranza y de artes*) are import-duty-exempt — the supercargo of the Am ⁿ ship *Harbinger* at San Pedro refused to ...	316–317	n49
1829-07-22	50	On unbranded stray cattle (*ganado orejano*) per art. 13 of the *bando de buen gobierno*: does its product belong to municipal funds, and does the Comisaría collect it &...	323–324	n49
1828-08-14	51	Vicente César appointed by the Supreme Govt to an \$800/yr treasury post — to head a maritime customs house at a busy port + oversee the Monterey *vista*	328–331 / 169–170	n50
1826-07-22	52	Reversal circular: by the Gefe Político's (Echeandía's) authority and 'the impracticability of the laws on the matter,' foreign ships may continue trading as before unti...	332	n51
1826-03-31	53	Transcribes Herrera's order: no extraordinary payments without the Comisario's consent (re public works the Comandante ordered under Subt ⁿ Romualdo Pacheco)	333–334	n52
1826-05-01	54	Receipt for \$450 tonnage duties from the Am ⁿ frigate *Harbinger* (from the Sandwich Islands), 118 tons; conditioned on continuing to the NW coast & returning within a ye...	335	n53
1826-05-09	55	Certifies the *Harbinger* left without sales, bound for San Pedro & the NW coast	334	n53

Date	Doc	Record	Orig. p.	Scan
1826-03-31	56	Herrera disapproved account items: the Comandante's clerks' salaries can't be paid from the Treasury; only Padrés's secretary gratification is authorized — and if Padrés...	337–338	n54
1826-10-14	57	Won't pay Lt. Antonio Valle or any suspended officer without a validated commission — else it defies supreme orders	341–342	n54
1826-10-19	58	San Diego mission refused 50 steers for the troops (claiming none, though it had ~4,000 head) because it wasn't given its tithes by the habitación — mission-presidio s...	343–344	n55
1826-10-14	59	The presidial self-financing model laid bare: can't pay militia without supreme order; defense-works & garrison costs exceed San Diego's income; California's income 'gen...	345–354	n56
1826-10-23	60	Brig *Bravo* from Acapulco lands 210 *tercios* raw tobacco + 230 boxes cigars; now that the monopoly can supply, orders commanders to help suppress foreign tobacco — 'be...	355–356	n60
1826-10-23	61	Maritime customs to bar impious pamphlets & obscene pictures attacking the Church	359–360 / 261–262	n61
1826-10-28	62	Vigilance vs. defrauding the Treasury of *internación* duties on casks (*pipas*) & other goods	363–364 / 365–366	n62
1826-12-31	63	*Aguardiente* excise account: 27 barrels @ \$8 = \$216, less 5% comisario commission = net \$205.25	389	n62
1826-06-05	64	Prohibits commanders from ordering advance pay to officers without supreme orders	395–396	n62
1826-09-22	65	A British merchant frigate entering to buy *frutos del país*; ordered vigilance vs. fraud	401–402	n63
1826-12-31	66	Account of mission supplies to the SB presidial company (1826): La Purísima \$1109 · Sta Inés \$1618 · Sta Bárbara \$454 · S. Buenaventura \$686 · S. Fernando \$915 = \$4,782	465	n64
1826-12-31	67	Tithe (*contribución decimal*) collected from the SB missions w/ production data (e.g. La Purísima: 105 fan. wheat = 10% of 1050 harvested; 210 of 3,102 cattle) = \$2,644...	465–466	n64
1826-12-31	68	Complete 1826 customs ledger for the port of Santa Bárbara, ship-by-ship: *Washington* \$193 · *Spry[?]* \$723 · *Jackman* \$448 · *Eliza* \$1112 · *Fígaro* \$533 · *Thomas N...	466 / 471	n65
1826-12-31	69	SB postal revenue: \$133 gross, less official-mail costs → net \$63	471–472	n66
1826-12-31	70	SB tithe (*diezmo*) account: \$2,641 collected, 5% comisario commission	471–472	n66
1826-12-31	71	SB presidial company roster: Cap ⁿ José de la Guerra y Noriega, Alférez Maitorena, sgts Anastasio Carrillo & Dámaso Rodríguez, cadet Francisco Tapia, 57 soldiers = 69 men...	467–468	n67
1826-12-31	72	Balance owed to the SB company = \$89,911 (accumulated arrears)	472	n67
1827-08-04	73	Juan Pablo González appointed *oficial contador* of the Comisaría (took office 1 July)	478	n67
1827-08-21	74	Customs rates confirmed: 15% *internación* on buyers of *licores de fomento*, 8%/7% on foreign sellers (per 1824/1826 determinations)	481–482	n68
1827-08-24	75	Ack. order on the *aforo* (appraisal) of raw/narrow cotton cloth	483	n68
1827-12-29	76	Tariff *aforo* of English & American cotton cloth: narrow 2 reales/vara, wide 3, surcharges by width — protectionist valuation schedule	485–492	n68
1827-12-18	77	President's resolution on 67 retired troops across the Californias' presidios: revalidate their Spanish-era retirement *cédulas*	495–496	n69
1827-11-17	78	Revives a 1765 reglamento of Viceroy Marqués de Croix on guard-post lighting (treasury to furnish oil lamps/candles per guard)	503–507	n70
1827-09-09	79	Resolves the tobacco puzzle (cf. Docs 3–4): SB townsfolk won't smoke the monopoly tobacco — it's bad quality — so they get better by 'other means' (contraband); San Dieg...	518–519	n71

Date	Doc	Record	Orig. p.	Scan
1827-01-10	80	Export duties: national goods free except coined/worked gold (2%) & silver (3½%)	513–514	n71
1827-07-12	81	Diputación Territorial's liquor tax: the *contribución de licores* approved by the Diputación & published by *bando* is to be invested per the Diputación's own agreement...	633–634	n82
1827-01-22	82	Codified *Reglamento* for foreign-ship traffic: a year's experience showed the harm of letting ships trade 'at discretion' from where they anchor on their own word; now ...	634+	n82
1827-08-06	83	Sends each a copy of the instructions for governing maritime customs houses — 'although there is no established customs house, since foreign ships in fact trade at these...	633–634	n86
1827-08-07	84	Rate schedule: 25% on foreign goods landed where trade is permitted (+ *internación* rules, mission exemptions)	634+	n86
1827 (late)	85	Half of the California district's maritime-customs revenue to be remitted monthly to the General Treasury in Mexico City (in *libranzas* or silver bullion), per the Pres...	—	n90
1828-05-12	86	*Internación* duty on foreign goods reduced to 8% on the *aforo* (per the law of 16 Mar 1827), payable in numerario within 11 days of the decree's publication at each po...	571–577	n95
1828-12-15	87	Cap ⁿ of Artillery José Bustos (posted to Alta Cal.): confirm the \$10/mo deduction for his family's support	758–759 / 877–878	n95
1833-07-01	88	Itemized budget for the Híjar–Padrés colonization expedition to California: scientific instruments (barometers, chronometers, thermometers, math/astronomical instruments...	—	n165
1833–34	89	Establishment budget for the Monterey & SF presidios + founding of 'Ranchos Nacionales': monthly/annual costs for provisions (frijol, manteca, flour, soap), clothing/gea...	—	n195

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