Spanish relic discovered near Guemes Island!

by Bill Ritchie, Fiction writer

Was there a secret mission in 1780 sent from Spain to what is now called the Pacific Northwest? George Vancouver, the renowned British captain, was not the only explorer who was charting these waters and islands about that time. The truth may never be known. And what calamity could sink a Spanish Galleon in the calm channels in the San Juan area?

Anacortes, WA: An intern at the Anacortes Museum of History and Industry found a brass medallion that she believes might have come from a Spanish galleon which the think may sunk not far from here.

Rosetta Ortez, a student at Western Washington University, was cleaning a yet unidentified rusted object when she uncovered the medallion, which was adhered to a piece of iron wood.

The wood was part of an oddly-shaped item about the size of a small microwave oven, that was thought at first to be a navigational device until she uncovered the image on the medalion. A museum conservator removed layers of corrosion to find the words *Emeralda Cadiz 1780* engraved on the medallion, which is brass.

The find, about the size of a silver dollar, was attached to the wood portion of the object. The museum was given it by the county appraiser who bought it from an anonymous Guemes Island resident who died recently.

“The guy was a recluse. He was very secretive,” said Ms. Ortez, “and I had a little display box, too, that people liked.” She purchased a unique model of the Mini Perfect Press from the Anacortes Printmakers, which is used at street fairs as a traveling printing press.

(Ms. Ortez, in my way, made a drypoint of the tree."

One of the things I like about the Mini Perfect Press is the fact that I can take it with me when my family wants to get away from the city. The first time I tried this was when, on the spur of the moment, we decided to go on a picnic. But it was right when I was itching to try the first Mini. No problem. I simply stuffed a few essentials in my art box, put the press in the car trunk next to the cooler, and we headed for the lake.

When we arrived, the family packed the picnic and cooler, and I set up my art box in one hand and the Mini in the other. Under the shade of a tree, I set up my outdoor printmaking studio on an extra picnic table. Using one of the copper plates I brought along I made a drypoint of the tree that was shading our little party.

A project in Emeralda Works Perfect Press Division

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### New Halfwood Press Model 9 in the Works

The first Halfwood Press has a 24-inch bed. The Mini Halfwood Press has a 12-inch wide bed, was launched. If you're familiar with the Mini Halfwood Press; think twice-the-size. Each dimension of the Mini—from the 6-inch wide bed to the 8-inch stainless steel driving wheel—is twice that size in the Mariner.

About one year after the release of the Mini Halfwood Press (also known as Model 6), the Mariner—a Halfwood Press with a 12-inch wide bed, was launched. You're familiar with the Mini Halfwood Press; think twice-the-size. Each dimension of the Mini—from the 6-inch wide bed to the 8-inch stainless steel driving wheel—is twice that size in the Mariner.

However, there are some necessary changes. One of the fact that the Mini is easy enough to use without gears to prevent the press from slowing down. With the press driving wheel 16 inches in diameter, but gears prove to make the press a pleasure to use.

The Mini, the press is “half wood”. The steel gears are housed in a nicely crafted box made of mahogany and ironwood. Brass is used to accent the colors of dark wood, steel and black enamel paint.

If you read the fictional story on page 4, you will find an interesting appointment on the wood “hood” that covers the upper structure across the top rollers. A brass medallion simulates the illustration in the fictional story; this may give you an idea why the press was dubbed Mariner.

Pressing at release time is $2,850, fab Seattle, plus $150 crating and packing charge. Of course press blankets, a user's manual and a 16-page copper test plate. 8 X 10 inches, is included to help you get started.

### Making Artist Trading Cards

The Mini Halfwood Press is ideal for creating Artist Trading Cards of a special kind. Most of the Halfwood Press Traders Cards (ATC) are paintings, collages, rubber stamps, digital prints and combinations. If you know printmaking, you can join an Art circle with drypoints, etchings, engravings, aquatints—plus the kind of relief prints you such as linoleum cut and collages.

An Artist Trading Card (or ATC) is a project started by A. M. Vanci Sternmenn in 1997. The unique feature of this art form are that 1) they are not to be exchanged for money or any other form of value, only other ATC, 2) they are 2 1/4 X 3 1/4 inches, 3) they may be originals (unique) or multiples (numbered editions). In general they are to be exchanged in face-to-face meetings, but sometimes they're exchanged by mail.

### How and Why of Laser Print Etching

It's funny how things happen sometimes. Take the example of how and why I started doing laser print etching. Actually I started in 1968 when I wanted to incorporate a photograph in a tree in a print (The Children’s Game). That's when I began using photo etching.

I tried about four or so processes that use a light-sensitive gelatin. It has been around for over a hundred years and it's still used in some studios; you can take classes in private workshops. Kodak, however, had an easier system called KPR, which stands for Kodak Photo Resist. That's what I settled on, despite its noxious chemistry. It was good for my art because I use copper and zinc.

### Demonstrations Scheduled at Daniel Smith Inc.

Daniel Smith, Inc., the art supply store with branches in Seattle and Bellevue, Washington, has scheduled three of my demonstrations of printmaking in the forthcoming months. Of course at these show-and-tell events I'll be using my Halfwood Press for printing from small plates.

This is the third time I will have demonstrated at Daniel Smith, Inc. In the past I showed Drypoint and SolarPlate printing. Next was Chine Collé and Artist Trading Cards. The theme and topic of the third demonstration is Laser Print Etching.

For each demonstration I create a little book, a 12-page playing-card sized one people can take away with them. These contain the essentials of my demo. Some of the little books are digital, online at my Emeralda Web site, www.emeralda.com.

The first of the Laser Print Etching demos is on August 5, Thursday, at 12 and 2:45. The Daniel Smith Knockout announcement reads: “Your black and white laser prints can be etchings when you follow Bill’s innovative method. He prints an image on photo paper, transfers it to a metal plate, soaks off the paper and etches the image into the metal with ferric chloride. Explore a way to use your computer skills to make tradional prints.”

You can use your Internet connection to get a preview at www.emeralda.com/minidemo. The next demonstrations are in the Daniel Smith Bellevue store on October 1st and, returning to the Seattle Store, on November 12th. Addresses of the Daniel Smith Stores are: 1415 First Avenue South, Seattle, which is two miles south of Safeway. In Bellevue the store is at 1515 NE 24th Street, which is northeast of the Overlake Sears store. To get on the mailing list for SalesCall (206) 223-9599 or contact them via email at info@danialsmith.com.