

Their full report and all of Professor Bolton's comments were fascinating to read. Bolton confirmed where the Plate had been found by Beryl Shinn in 1936, and that the text of the inscription on the plate corresponded closely with the data cited in the book, *The World Encompassed*, based from the logs of Sir Francis Drake and compiled by his nephew, published in London in 1628, with additional notes by chaplain Francis Fletcher, one of Drake's party on his voyage around the world from 1577-1580. Bolton stated, "*In all probability, the plate submitted to us for authentication is the one that had been fastened to a post by Drake's order during his stay at California in 1579,*" and further added that a thorough examination of the Plate had been nevertheless warranted because although the text of the inscription closely corresponded with Fletcher's data in *The World Encompassed*, anybody could have referred to that book and composed an inscription based on its contents then carved it onto a brass plate.

The report goes into great detail regarding each of the tests the Plate was subjected to. For reasons you will discover as you read on, of particular interest to me was the following: "*In regard to the lettering,*" the report stated, "*it is also possible that, due to limited equipment on board Drake's ship, some unusual, homemade mechanical device was used in cutting the letters into the plate.*" Those who examined it also noted that the surface of the plate had many indentations, large and small, scattered over it seemingly at random. Their examination showed that these were not accidental markings, but were made by a tool of some sort. It was their opinion that "*practically all of the indentations were made after the letters had been engraved.*"

The last page of the 25-page report gave the following summary:

1. There is no doubt whatsoever that the dark coating on the surface of the plate is a natural patina formed slowly over a period of many years.
2. Numerous surface defects and imperfections usually associated with old brass were found on the plate.
3. Particles of mineralized plant tissue are firmly embedded in the surface of the plate. This is likewise a very positive measure of the age of the plate.
4. Cross-sections of the brass plate show a lack of homogeneity, and significant amounts of chemical impurities as well as variations in the grain size. All three of these characteristics indicate an object of old origin.
5. Among the impurities found in the rest of the plate there is magnesium, which is present far in excess of the amount occurring in modern brass.
6. There are numerous indications that the plate was not made by rolling, but rather by hammering, as was the common practice in Drake's time.

On September 16, 1938 they submitted their report to the University of California and concluded: "***It is our opinion that the brass plate examined by us is the genuine Drake Plate referred to in the book, The World Encompassed by Sir Francis Drake...***"

For decades the Plate was put on display all around the world and it was considered by many to be the most famous historical artifact ever discovered in the Western United States. There was no question as to its authenticity.