

Color Lithograph of California Powder Works

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The following is a stunning lithograph of the California Powder Works in Santa Cruz, California (c.1875). The illustration was the work of the “BOSQUI ENG. (Engraving) CO. S.F. (San Francisco),” which is marked in the lower left corner of the print. The company was started by Edward Bosqui (1832-1917), a Canadian who was an artist, printer, and prominent patron of the arts. During the gold rush, Bosqui immigrated to California in 1850 from Montreal. He established his company in 1863, quickly gaining a reputation for creating exceptional, high-quality fine-art prints, commercial labels, book bindings, and detailed maps. In 1871, Bosqui organized the San Francisco Art Association, and belonged to the Bohemian Club. In 1893, his printing plant was completely destroyed by fire. In 1897, another fire consumed his personal home destroying a vast number of early California paintings and company records.



The California Powder Works was also a pioneer in the history of the American West. When it began manufacturing gunpowder in 1864, it became the first explosive powder manufacturing company west of the Rocky Mountains. The company became a subsidiary of the DuPont

Company in 1903 and adopted the DuPont name after 1906. The site became a key manufacturing site for DuPont's military contracts with the United States Navy's Pacific divisions, but the completion of the Panama Canal significantly changed shipping considerations between the east and west coasts of the nation. DuPont consolidated its California operations into manufacturing sites in New Jersey, and the complex ceased manufacturing explosive powder in 1914.

With help from Dustin Schillinger and Todd Mitchell, Doug wrote an article about California Powder Works in 2022, which was published in the last online edition of *Eureka!* magazine, and is now available on the *Mineralogical Record* website.¹ A copy of this lithograph from the Hagely Museum and Library in Delaware was used on the first page of that article.

Peter discovered this lithograph in Northern California last year. In its original condition, it had foxing and water stains around the margins. However, Peter found an excellent paper conservator who restored the lithograph to the condition shown above.

¹ Doug Miller, Dustin Schillinger, Todd Mitchell, "California Powder Works," *EUREKA!*, Issue 54 (Sept. 2022), 35-42; <https://mineralogicalrecord.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022-September-EUREKA-Issue-no.-54.pdf>, accessed July 2, 2026.