

BANCROFTIANA

PUBLISHED OCCASIONALLY BY THE FRIENDS OF THE BANCROFT LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

MARCH, 1950

I

Foreword

WITH THIS ISSUE we hope to begin answering the familiar query, "What's going on in the Bancroft?" The Library has long dreamed of an occasional publication to convey news and information to its many friends. Now, with much to tell about our activities and new quarters, *Bancroftiana* makes its debut.

The choice of a name for our publication gave us some uneasy moments, but after much mulling over of dictionary and thesaurus we found a definition that took our fancy: "-ana: a suffix added to proper names to form nouns denoting items of bibliography, anecdotes, literary gossip, or other facts or pieces of information, concerning the designated object . . ." So *Bancroftiana* it is. We hope you like it.

Down From the Attic

SINCE 1922 the Bancroft has been on the fourth floor of the University Library, wedged under the eaves in cramped quarters which not only provided improper housing for the Library's fine and rare materials, but hampered scholars in their research because of lack of facilities. Shelf space was exhausted, and the manuscript room overflowed with accumulated miscellany. Staff and students

alike have welcomed the relocation, which meant more room for the proper arrangement and accessibility of materials, and enlarged and more comfortable work space for research. The Bancroft Library has now completed its sixth move since its creation by Hubert Howe Bancroft. It is to be hoped that this is the last step before the Library is finally established in a permanent building of its own at some not-too-distant date.

The move to Bancroft's new quarters was not accomplished without mixed feelings and many backward glances on the part of various old-timers who had "grown up" (academically speaking) in the crowded and well-worn old Bancroft. Scholars and researchers who sought it as an "Ivory Tower" in the midst of a busy and impersonal University will remember the generations of graduate students who periodically emerged from the dimly lit stacks for cigarettes and discussion in small groups on the balconies. More recent students and staff who gathered there to peer at excavations for the Annex watched sadly as the mammoth new building rapidly grew between them and the unexcelled view of campus and Berkeley hills. The benefits of square footage and modern equipment are not to be ignored, however. Even the most sentimental of those who once hung their hats informally on the bust of Hubert Howe Bancroft will admit the

advantages to the new generation—who will henceforth write their dissertations in surroundings of chromium and fluorescent light.

The New Bancroft

FIRST OF ALL, it's cheerful. There's lots of color, and lots of light, and so much more space that it still seems almost unbelievable. The new Bancroft occupies three levels, and it is now possible for each department to have its own headquarters. On the lower floor are the manuscript reading room, with its workroom and storage shelves; the elaborate new map cases; newspaper files; and stacks for rare books. There is also one room, still unfurnished, which will be used for the reading of microfilm. On the main floor are the general reference desk and reading room, more stacks, and workspaces for reference librarians, book cataloguers, and those who take care of periodicals. Additional general stacks are on the mezzanine floor. Since the Bancroft houses over a mile and a half of books, measured as they stand neatly upright on the shelves, a great deal of stack space is necessary. Special fluorescent lighting, known as "slim-line" installation, provides continuous lines of light along the aisles.

In the old Bancroft there were 48 tables available for individual assignment. Now there are 58 places, 24 of them in the general reading room, 15 in the manuscripts department, and 19 in the carrells on the lower floor. Much of the wooden furniture was designed by Mr. John Takeuchi to meet the special needs of the Library.

In order that friends of the Bancroft may know something of its "inner workings," a brief description of each department is given below.



THE HANDSOMEST PART of the Library Annex is Bancroft's main reading room. Its turquoise walls, Venetian blinds, marbled floors, and custom-built furniture of blonde oak tempt all visitors to stay. A determined effort, however, is being made to reserve the individual desks and the unassigned tables for those actually using Bancroft materials. Air-conditioning and fluorescent light make research more comfortable. The stacks, of bright canary yellow, are well lighted, and the bottom shelves are left vacant for present comfort and future expansion. Stair and elevator areas are a rich, ripe tomato red, for easy visibility among the mazes of yellow. Exhibit cases in the section open to the public would be desirable but have not thus far been provided.

Old-timers in the library are quickly adjusting themselves to the new elegance, and many new-comers are attracted to it. Circulation shows promise of being almost double what it was when Bancroft was on the fourth floor. Supervision of the reading room is now possible at all times, due to an increased staff of pages, convenient location of the catalogue, and installation of telephone and intercommunication system at the desk. A locked entrance to stacks and manuscript reading room permits double-checking of all who pass the inner portals. The staff is rapidly becoming adjusted to new routines and hopes to continue the same old friendly service.



THE MOVE to new quarters has made possible the creation of a department of manuscripts, where special facilities for the care, use, and supervision of rare materials have been provided. This new section accommodates about forty readers, and provides a place where all manuscripts, rare books, newspapers, maps, and pictures may be consulted. An adjoining room is being adapted for the use of microfilm reading

machines, and for storing the Library's rapidly growing collection of microfilm, soon to be classified.

With this new arrangement it has become possible to set up special equipment and special regulations. Custom-made tables make it easier to use newspapers and large collections of manuscripts. Tables and desks are assigned to regular readers but places are always available for those who come for shorter periods. There is constant supervision of the reading room from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is hoped that readers who wish to consult rare materials at other times will let the staff know their needs in advance.

Room for storage has been greatly increased. All maps will now be available in one place. Specially constructed shelves have been provided for rolled maps, and eight new cases will allow not only for the expansion of overcrowded sheet-map facilities, but for the safekeeping of pictures and large documents. Additional stack space means that fragile items and volumes can now be placed flat upon the shelves instead of standing on edge. For the first time room can be set aside for the uncatalogued material coming in.

The preparations area for manuscripts has been carefully considered. Specially designed furniture includes even a viewing table, illuminated from below, to aid in deciphering faint and difficult handwriting.

With adequate elbowroom, and additional staff, Bancroft Library should soon be well on its way toward making its rich store of information more readily available to readers.



THE BANCROFT cataloguers process a monthly average of 250 volumes, representing 150 or 160 titles. Because of the special interests of the Bancroft Library and the rarity of some of its acquisitions, Library of Congress cards are not available for many of the titles.

In the new quarters, additional shelving makes it possible to place the uncatalogued part of the Crook collection, which consists of several thousand volumes on Colombia and Venezuela, in stacks adjacent to the cataloguing room. A few hundred of these books have already been catalogued, and it is expected that the project will be resumed in the near future.

At the present time the greater part of the work is concentrated upon a recent Mexican purchase of about 1100 volumes, of which more than half are already in process.



THE BANCROFT'S current periodicals have withstood the transition from former gopher hole to present canary-yellow cage in true stoic fashion. Though they do not seem to be particularly affected by the move, the attending staff at least is rejoicing in having their wards housed together in one compact locale.

At present about 450 periodicals are received, ranging in frequency from daily government gazettes to the extremely irregular publications of some institutions and societies. Of this number the Library subscribes to 52; the rest are donated through the generosity of publishers and individuals. Each day's mail brings periodicals from most of the area included in the Bancroft's collecting field, and the content of the material varies almost as widely as the place of origin. Some regions are represented among the current periodicals primarily by historical reviews and archival guides, publications which supplement the existing historical collection. The coverage in a few areas, California in particular, is much more intensified, and the aim is to achieve a representative sampling of current activities as reflected in business organs, government publications, religious journals, and the like. Here the thought is not so much for the present user as for the historian of the

future. It is difficult to anticipate his needs, but it is hoped that today the Bancroft is preserving at least some of the periodicals that he will be searching for fifty years hence.



THE FOUR ADMINISTRATIVE and editorial offices of the Bancroft are small but well-equipped, and full-length windows provide plenty of good light and a fine view of the Campanile and Campanile Square. Spurred on to greater efforts by our improved surroundings, we offer here the first tangible evidence of increasing activity: our own publication, *Bancroftiana*. Whether this is a step forward or in reverse is a question we must ask our readers to decide. At any rate, we are in motion.

Gifts

DURING THE FIRST two months of this year the Bancroft Library has benefited from the generosity of almost half a hundred of its good friends. Among the gifts received are books, pamphlets, newspapers, government publications from various countries, manuscripts (including letters, the first draft of a book, the typescript of an early diary, etc.), pictures, photographs, and songs. The following is a list of the donors:

Baker, Wakefield
Bekeart, Phil B.
Bolt, Richard A.
Bowman, Jacob N.
California, University of, Biology
Library
Chabaneau, Enrique
Clark, Max A. X.
Donnelley, R. R.
Eddy, Clyde
Fisher, Lillian E.
Foster, Mrs. E. Ronald
Gauld, Charles Anderson
Giffen, Mr. and Mrs. Guy

Gorrill, Mrs. William
Hannon, Mrs. Jessie Gould
Harrison, Michael
Hayes Memorial Library
Heeser, August
Hicks, John D.
Higgins, F. Hal
Hinman, Stanley
Hittell, Elgin T.
King, James F.
Mulford, Walter
O'Neil, Marion
Pepper, S. A.
Perrigo, J. C.
Pomeroy, Earl S.
Pond, Elizabeth K.
Price, Evelyn Olive
Reed, Howard S.
Ross, Mary
Sauer, Jonathan D.
Sluiter, Engel
Taft, Robert
Taylor, Lois Chambers
Tays, George
Voelker, Frederic E.
Votaw, Homer C.
Waste, William E.

Mexicana

DURING THE SUMMER of 1949, Dr. Woodrow W. Borah, an assistant professor in the University of California, searched the bookstores of Mexico City for desirable additions to the Bancroft Library. As a result, approximately 1100 volumes, covering a wide range of subjects within the Bancroft field, have been purchased. These include a major portion of such books published in Mexico during the last three years as well as many printed during the war or earlier, with a considerable number from Spain and other countries. This acquisition brings the Library up to date as far as recent Mexican publications are concerned and helps substantially to fill in the gap of the war years, when purchases were almost at a standstill.

The Larkin Papers

TWO YEARS AGO the Bancroft Library embarked upon the work of transcribing the nine volumes of manuscripts in the Larkin Collection. These contain the letters and papers of Thomas Oliver Larkin—more than 4000 individual items. Until now the only guide to these manuscripts has been the references of Hubert Howe Bancroft. It was felt that publication, making this valuable material accessible to scholars, would be a significant contribution. The collection is of primary importance as a source of historical information for California in its formative years.

Now, with transcribing of the last volume well under way, editorial work on the Larkin Papers turns into the home stretch. While no date has been set for publication, and while considerable work remains to be done in the way of checking, proofreading, and indexing, the end is at least in sight.

Guides to Manuscripts

THE LIBRARY is now in the process of working out a solution to one of its oldest and most pressing problems: that of making some record of individual manuscripts. Although no one doubts the importance of the Bancroft collections, thousands of letters and documents lie idle and unconsulted simply because no one knows they exist. Relatively few of the manuscripts have been catalogued, and researchers have had to rely largely upon the footnote references of Hubert Howe Bancroft and others. The *Guide to the Henry Delano Fitch Papers*, soon to be published, is our initial experiment with a streamlined method of listing individual items. We shall welcome the opinion of scholars as to its usefulness.



Visitors

IN THE PAST MONTH, Bancroft has been visited by librarians from places as distant as the American University of Beirut (Mr. Jibran Bikhazi) and the University of Melbourne, Australia (Miss Jean Waller). Among researchers newly settled in our reading rooms are the Rev. Albert B. Nieser, O.P., from Fenwick High School, Oak Park, Ill.; Dr. Agapito Rey of Indiana University; and John C. McKenzie, Curator of Fort Ross, California. The Library has had an "open house" for the Staff Association, and tours have been arranged for the Library School, a history class from Fremont High School in Oakland, members of a course in the campus Speech Department, and a genealogy class from Stockton College, Adult Division.

Acknowledgments

WE HOPE, as a regular feature, to list new books whose authors make acknowledgment to the Bancroft Library for materials used or services rendered. Until our reporting system is in order our bibliography will necessarily be incomplete.

Altrocchi, Julia Cooley. *The spectacular San Franciscans*. N.Y., Dutton, 1949.
Bolton, Herbert Eugene. *Coronado on the turquoise trail, knight of pueblos and plains*. Albuquerque, University of New Mexico press, 1949. (Coronado cuarto centennial publications, 1540-1940, ed. by George P. Hammond. v. 1.)
Collins, Carvel. *Sam Ward in the gold rush*. Stanford, Stanford University press, 1949.
Denhardt, Robert Moorman, ed. *The horses of the conquest*, by R. B. Cunninghame Graham. Norman, University of Oklahoma press, 1949.
Egenhoff, Elisabeth L., comp. *The elephant as they saw it; a collection of contemporary pictures and statements of gold mining in California . . . a centennial supplement to the California journal of mines and geology for October, 1949*. [S.F., Calif. Dept. of natural resources, Div. of mines, 1949.]

Gudde, Erwin G. *California place names*. Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California press, 1949.

Hammond, George Peter, ed. *Campaigns in the west, 1856-1861; the journal and letters of Colonel John Van Deusen Du Bois, with pencil sketches by Joseph Heger*. Tucson, Arizona pioneers historical society, 1949.

Hungerford, Edward. *Wells Fargo; advancing the American frontier*. N.Y., Random House, 1949.

Jackson, Joseph Henry. *Bad company*. N.Y., Harcourt, Brace, 1949.

———. *Gold rush album*. N.Y., Scribner's, 1949.

Kinnaird, Lawrence, ed. *Spain in the Mississippi valley, 1765-94. Translations of materials from the Spanish archives in the Bancroft Library*. Wash., D.C., U.S. govt. print. off., 1949. 3 v. (Amer. hist. assn. *Annual report*, 1945, vol. II.)

Leonard, Irving A. *Books of the brave, being an account of books and men in the Spanish conquest and settlement of the sixteenth-century new world*. Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University press, 1949.

Lewis, Oscar. *California heritage*. N.Y., Crowell, 1949.

———. *Sea routes to the gold fields; the migration by water to California in 1849-1852*. N.Y., Knopf, 1949.

Warren, Sidney. *Farthest frontier: the Pacific Northwest*. N.Y., Macmillan, 1949.

Wynn, Marcia Rittenhouse. *Desert bonanza; story of early Randsburg, Mojave desert mining camp*. Culver City, Calif., M. W. Samelson, pub., 1949.

Notices

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Friends of the Bancroft Library will be held on June 15 in the Bancroft Library. The program will be announced later.

Members of THE COUNCIL will meet on May 17 at 8:00 p.m. in Room 276 of the new Library Annex.

Regulations governing the use of the Bancroft Library

1. The use of the Bancroft Library is limited to those who consult its resources.
2. The Bancroft Library is open from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday; from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Any change in this schedule, such as the five o'clock closing during academic holidays and between semesters, will be posted in advance.
3. All materials are noncirculating and must be consulted within the Bancroft Library. Readers must handle them with care and must not use ink while reading manuscripts, newspapers, or other rare materials. Typewriting is permitted in both manuscript and general reading rooms.
4. The manuscript reading room, for the use of manuscripts, rare books, newspapers, maps, microfilm, and pictures, is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is hoped that readers who wish to consult rare materials at other times will let the staff know their needs in advance.
5. Material may not be transferred from one reader to another without first being discharged.

