

BANCROFTIANA

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

Number 3 • DECEMBER, 1950

Bolton Carries On

WE HAVE been besieged with so many questions regarding the whereabouts of Dr. Bolton since our move to the Annex that a squib about that august scholar seems not out of place.

At any rate, our good friend and mentor has as usual risen to the top—this time of the Library Annex, where he may be found in the southeast corner of the fourth floor. Relocation has left unchanged the old aura of unextinguished cigarettes, scholarship, and good will. We found him the other day, still basking in the glow of Coronado's warm and well-deserved reception (*Coronado, Knight of Pueblos and Plains*), surrounded by papers and seated under a shiny new plaque presented to him by United Air Lines for having flown 100,000 miles.

"Today I'm an archaeologist," we were informed, and he explained that he was filling in the background for his new work on Escalante, soon to be published by the Utah State Historical Society. Dr. Bolton has translated Escalante's diary ("one of the best diaries ever written") describing the 1776 expedition which explored the whole area between the western and middle mountains from Santa Fé to Salt Lake and back. "It's even a chapter in the founding of California," he told us. "They started for San Francisco, but they never got there."

No ivory tower historian, our favorite scholar has covered practically every foot of Escalante's trail himself, in the same painstaking way in which he followed Anza and Coronado. However, fourscore years have been too short a time to do everything he'd like to, and he is somewhat distressed that there is one section of the route he has not

been over. We left him pondering the idea of reconnoitering it by helicopter.

Our Codex

AS YOU ENTER the reading room of the Bancroft Library, you will probably be attracted by an ancient Mexican codex, known as the Codex Fernández Leal, one of those rare bits of Mexican picture writing that has survived to our day from the time of Cortés. Only one other of these Mixtecan-Zapotecan manuscripts, the Codex Porfirio Díaz, is known to exist in the western hemisphere, and it is probably a copy of the Bancroft's document.

The 18-foot pictorial writing is a history of the combined migration and warlike invasion by a Mexican Indian tribe, believed to have taken place from about 1100 to the 1300's of our era. Its graphic information on warfare, dress, and ceremonials is of great value.

Interest in one of these ceremonials led to the rediscovery of the Codex in 1940. Mis-trust of reproductions, published in Mexico in 1895, spurred a search for the original, which had dropped from sight after 1906. Paradoxically, the trail ended in a storage room of the Crocker First National Bank of San Francisco, and the Codex was subsequently presented by its owner, W. W. Crocker, to the Bancroft Library, where it could be used and protected.

Since its acquisition by the University, the Codex has been displayed twice at the De Young Museum. On the first occasion the Museum built a handsome display case, which their director, Dr. Walter Heil, graciously turned over to the library. Recently a removable light filter has been placed over it to protect the delicate earth colors. Thus decked

out, Codex Fernández Leal may be seen in the general reading room of the Bancroft Library at any time.

Russians, Then and Now

"WHOEVER is conversant with history, and has paid the least attention to the course of recent political events, must have remarked the steady march of that ambition, which has given to the Russian empire an extent unparalleled, either in ancient or in modern times. Its boundaries have been enlarged to the west, to the south, to the east—in short, on every side where Nature has not placed an impassable barrier; and, like the fabled giant-polypus, it is still stretching out its mighty arms to grasp everything within their reach. Sweden and Poland, Persia and Turkey, have successively felt the effects of this inordinate lust of dominion; but, it is to the less obtrusive advances of Russia in another quarter—on the north-west coast of America—that the following pages are designed to awaken attention."

Thus begins a book recently acquired by the Bancroft Library, but it is not a new publication. It was, in fact, printed in 1830, in London, and bears the following title:

On the ambitious projects of Russia in regard to North West America, with particular reference to New Albion and New California: an appeal to the government, the legislature, and the people, of Great Britain. By an Englishman.

The small volume, which is the only known copy of this work, has been handsomely bound, in full red morocco with gold tooling, by Sangorski and Sutcliffe.

The body of the book is a description of the Pacific coast, culled partly from Vancouver but mainly from Kotzebue, with extended quotations from the latter's *Second Voyage*. The unidentified author fears that Kotzebue's exposure of the weakness of Spanish rule in California will tempt the Russians to presume on the foothold they had gained in Fort Ross and take over the whole of the territory from under the British nose. This, as he proceeds to show, would not only be against right and justice but against the best interests of the Indians. He concludes:

"If the British Government could . . . obtain possession of those Missions only which are situated on the magnificent, and, as Kotzebue emphatically calls it, the *enviable* bay of St. Francisco—a bay spacious enough to receive all the navies of Europe—they might at once lay the foundation of a colony, which, enjoying extraordinary natural advantages, and well situated for traffic with the richest countries of the globe, must, in a very short period, be raised by the efforts of British enterprise, industry, and skill, to a degree of prosperity which it is impossible to calculate."

On the Lyman Purchase

LAST JUNE, at the annual gathering of the Friends, you saw on display a few of the rarities acquired from the Library of the late Dr. George D. Lyman, a purchase that totaled over two hundred beautiful and significant bibliographic gems.

The addition of these fine items was made possible by the foresight and judgment of President Robert Gordon Sprout. Representing the Bancroft Library in the negotiations with Mr. David Magee, of San Francisco, who had bought the whole Lyman Library, were Mrs. Eleanor Bancroft and Mr. Lindley Bynum, special assistant to the President.

Of our selection, the most famous book is the first edition of Zenas Leonard's *Narrative*, published at Clearfield, Pennsylvania, in 1839. This copy is of special bibliographic interest in that years ago it was owned by Henry R. Wagner; thereafter it was owned successively by the Yale Library, the great collector of early American rarities Herschel V. Jones, then by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, and finally by Dr. Lyman, before coming into our possession. It is basic to any great collection of books on California.

The most beautiful book of the lot is *Sketches in North America and the Oregon Territory*, by Captain Henry James Warre, printed in London in 1848. It is an "elephant" folio containing twenty scenes of the Willamette country, Vancouver Island, and Puget Sound. The "Sketches" are delicately colored and in perfect condition.

A valuable small piece, said by Robert E. Cowan to be one of the rarest of printed

works relating to San Francisco, is a pamphlet entitled *The Presidio of San Francisco*, by George H. Elliott, including Bret Harte's poem *Concepción de Argüello*. The Lyman copy has a slip of paper pasted to the front cover bearing the handwritten words, "Last Copy. Please return to George H. Elliott." Poor Mr. Elliott!

Mr. Magee, in his first catalogue of the Lyman Library, has this to say, "This catalogue . . . is a memorial to the taste and discrimination of a great scholar and book collector."

Local Boy Makes Good

OUR LAST ISSUE contained but passing mention of Robert Eccleston, the young Forty-niner with whom the Friends of the Bancroft have all become acquainted through our new book, edited by our ubiquitous director, and Edward H. Howes, another Bancroftian in good standing. Being fond of the lad Eccleston, we are naturally pleased to tell you now of the attention he is receiving, for he is indeed being warmly greeted in the best of circles. Joseph Henry Jackson, literary editor of the San Francisco *Chronicle*, has spoken most kindly of him in his review, and the *Saturday Review of Literature* gave him a pat on the head in the October 14, 1950, issue. We have no doubt that Robert will conduct himself laudably in the company of such notables, and we quote with pride from the September 30 issue of *Antiquarian Bookman*:

"Number 2 in the Bancroft Library Publications by the University of California Press is the Diary of Robert Eccleston: 'Overland to California on the Southwestern Trail, 1849.' Editors' notes by George P. Hammond and Edward H. Howes are particularly valuable. Typography is superb. A magnificent production . . ."

Preparedness Parade, 1916

"OUR PROTESTS HAVE BEEN IN VAIN IN REGARDS TO THIS PREPAREDNESS PROROGANDA, SO WE ARE GOING TO USE A LITTLE DIRECT ACTION ON THE 22ND WHICH WILL ECHO AROUND THE EARTH

AND SHOW THAT FRISCO REALLY KNOWS HOW, AND THAT MILITARISM CAN'T BE FORCED ON US AND OUR CHILDREN WITHOUT A VIOLENT PROTEST . . ."

This is what Fremont Older, editor of the San Francisco *Bulletin*, found on his desk when he came to work, July 21, 1916. The next day a Preparedness Parade was held in the city. A bomb exploded and some people were killed. Older, when the day had quieted down, remarked to his city editor, "I think Mooney did it. Mooney is the only 'red' rascal enough to do a thing like this." Later, Mooney was tried, convicted, and sent to prison; but the seven signers of this note, crudely printed in indelible pencil—TH DETERMINED EXILES FROM MILITARISTIC GOVERNMENTS—remained anonymous. Who were these seven men who called themselves U. S., HOLLAND, ITALY, RUSSIA, ITALY, GERMANY, RUSSIA? The answer to that would go far towards solving the Mooney puzzle.

The note that Older received on that morning before the Preparedness Parade is now in the Bancroft Library. With it are a group of his manuscript editorials, drafts of letters to Charles Erskine Scott Wood, Lincoln Steffens, and Rose Wilder Lane; and some miscellaneous materials concerning the San Francisco Graft Prosecution and the Mooney Trial.

The Cortés Society

A PART of the publication program of the Bancroft Library is its sponsorship of the Cortés Society, founded in 1917 by Marshall H. Saville of New York, but which, after the publication of five books, dissolved into inactivity in 1924. Its purpose was the publication in English translation of documents and more general works relating to the Spanish conquest of Mexico.

In 1939, Henry R. Wagner, local bibliophile, and Herbert I. Priestley, Librarian of the Bancroft, with the approval of survivors of the earlier group, revived the name and started a new series of Cortés Society Publications, under the sponsorship of the Bancroft Library of the University of California. Dur-

ing the next five years, the Society issued three volumes, all works of Mr. Wagner, and all of which went out of print almost immediately on publication.

Volume IV of the New Series has just been published. It is Father Toribio Motolinía's *Historia de los Indios de la Nueva España*, translated and edited by Dr. Elizabeth Andros Foster, of Smith College. This book, written by one of the most distinguished Franciscan missionaries in 16th century Mexico, consists of observations written on the spot in the years immediately following the Conquest. For the first time, this primary historical source is available in English, with useful notes, bibliography, and index.

Motolinía was both a zealous missionary and an acute and intelligent reporter on the New World. He realized the impossibility of making true converts without knowledge and understanding of the ancient customs, and therefore he soon learned the languages and made friends with the natives, dedicating the moments he could snatch from his arduous journeys and labors to recording his impressions of the country and its people. In his writings he preserved for us invaluable information which might never have been known.

The History of the Indians of New Spain was designed and put through the press by George P. Hammond, managing editor of the Cortés Society. The Granjon type used in the book is handsome and easy on the eyes. Especially attractive are the six vignettes in red, adapted from the Lienzo de Tlaxcala, in which Indian artists depicted Cortés, Doña Marina, and many phases of the Conquest. *The History of the Indians of New Spain*; published at \$10.00, is still available. Information may be obtained from Eleanor Bancroft, Secretary-Treasurer, Cortés Society, Bancroft Library.

Old Strawberry Register

A RECENT "dull" acquisition by the Bancroft Library, the Strawberry Hotel Register, gives new evidence of how well-hidden historical information may be. The early entries in this register go back to the stage-coach days of 1865, while those at the turn of the century reveal the joys and sorrows of early-

day motoring. The present hotel at Strawberry, as many of our readers may recall, is located near Highway 50 connecting Sacramento and the south end of Lake Tahoe. This old highway, once the main road to Virginia City during the boom, was an important vacation route in the early motor days, as it is today.

Those with "new fangled" automobiles used the register to record such facts as the make of car they owned, the running time from Sacramento, and the amount of trouble-free mileage they had logged.

These side-notes on motoring began about 1904 and were still much in evidence when the register ended in 1915. In addition to the notes already mentioned, such matters as gasoline mileage, the superiority of this or that make of automobile, and whose car was the first of the season to go over the summit "under its own power," all make their repeated appearances in the "Arrival Time" column of the old Strawberry Register. Many of the automobiles whose virtues are extolled, such as Locomobile, Dayton-Stoddard, Thomas Flyer, White Steamer, Stephens-Duryea, and Pope-Hartford, are now only memories of the past.

Students of early California motoring days will probably find the Strawberry Resort Register both interesting and valuable.

Microfilming In England

ENGLISH INTERESTS and activities in the West have been important since Francis Drake sailed his *Golden Hind* into California's fog-shrouded waters, but especially since the time when Britain was bidding for Texas, the Columbia, or California before these bits of real estate fell to the United States. In the final days of Spanish rule in California it was an English consular official in northern Mexico, Alexander Forbes, who wrote the first book in English relating wholly to California, and other Englishmen played their parts in the development of the West's resources. Now the Bancroft Library has sent Dr. Robert E. Burke to England to ferret out and film additional records, and word comes that he has been graciously received and his work has begun well.