Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Bancroft Library has been set for Thursday evening, June 5, at 8 o'clock, in 11 Wheeler Hall on the University of California campus. The speaker will be E E Latta, Director of the Kern County Museum. Please reserve this date on your calendar. After the program in Wheeler Hall, there will be open house in the Bancroft Library for all guests.

Gifts from Mexico

In 1942 the United States Department of State founded the Biblioteca Benjamin Franklin in Mexico City to provide an example of a typical American public library. The Biblioteca's free reference and lending services won such approval among laymen and scholars alike that three branches, in Guadalajara, Monterrey, and Puebla, have since been established. As a public service institution the Biblioteca Benjamin Franklin has proved its worth not only in Mexico but by its willing cooperation with libraries in the United States. Within the past few weeks two generous gifts to the Bancroft Library have further strengthened this rapport. The Biblioteca, through its able director, Edward M. Heiliger, has sent the Bancroft over two hundred bound volumes of the Mexican Diario Oficial, the day-by-day record of activities of the various departments of the Mexican national government. This valuable publication began in 1867 and to date is basic to an understanding of the national history of Mexico. It provides an indispensable tool for the researcher in all phases of Mexican domestic economy, foreign affairs, and social legislation. With receipt of this gift the Bancroft Library has been able to fill many gaps in its own file, as well as to pass on to the UCLA Library duplicate volumes not needed on the Berkeley campus.

The Biblioteca's second gift to the Bancroft is a collection of nearly 1,500 doctoral theses, presented before several faculties of the University of Mexico. Within these detailed studies is a wealth of information, much of it on areas which have never before been written up. Medical students have surveyed the water supply and health conditions in rural communities of every state in Mexico; students of architecture have drawn and described many of Mexico's buildings; candidates in the School of Jurisprudence have written on agricultural credit, public law, collective bargaining, and many other national issues.

To the Biblioteca Benjamin Franklin the Bancroft extends its thanks, realizing that continued associations of this kind will go far toward uniting both the scholars and the reading publics of two friendly nations.

New Light on Fremont

To its already extensive materials on John C. Frémont the Bancroft Library has added two groups of letters never before available to scholars. These new papers shed much light on Frémont's last years, from 1873 (when he lost most of his fortune) until his death in 1890.

One set of letters, covering the years 1877–1884, is from General and Mrs. Frémont to Colonel William K. Rogers, private secretary to President Rutherford B. Hayes. During part of this period, Frémont was governor of the Territory of Arizona. Frémont never gave up his attempts to recover his fortune, and his
letters to Rogers tell in detail of his efforts to promote copper and silver mining companies, railroads to ranches. Many of the letters are from Jessie Benton Frémont, written in her capacity as her husband's secretary and New York representative.

The other new collection consists principally of letters from Mrs. Frémont and her daughter, Elizabeth Benton (Lily) Frémont, to an old family friend, Dr. William J. Morton, of Boston. Largely personal, they afford a vivid picture of the Frémont family in its days of adversity. Five letters from General Frémont to Dr. Morton in 1889 and 1890 are also included, one of them written just a few months before Frémont's death.

The Bancroft Library's basic Frémont collection was presented by the family in 1907, through the good offices of Professor Allan Nevins. Nevins had been given full use of the papers by Major Francis Preston Frémont, son of the general, for the preparation of a biography of Frémont. Most of the Nevins materials pertain to the earlier and more dramatic phases of Frémont's career. The Rogers and Morton collections will enable scholars to round out the picture of Frémont's life.

Anne Martin Bequest

Anne Martin, first woman candidate for the United States Congress, daughter of the great battling senator, is, as well, a fine example of the carefully executed views done of many of the military posts during that period of filling in the West.

Camp Douglas, Utah

The Bancroft Library has recently acquired a large original drawing of Camp Douglas, Utah, made in 1876 by Private Charles Hasselfeldt. Done with painstaking care, the pen-and-ink "Bird's Eye View of Camp Douglas, U.T." shows and identifies every building and feature of the camp, including even such details as troops drilling on the parade ground and horses and carriages on the roads.

The story of Camp Douglas itself is an interesting one. In the spring of 1862 a California regiment was ordered to Utah Territory to protect the Overland Mail Route from the depredations of Shoshoni Indians. By autumn the Third Infantry, California Volunteers, had slogged its way into Salt Lake City and in October had set up temporary quarters for the winter on a plateau about three miles from town. The forlorn establishment of adobe, logs, and canvas was named Camp Douglas for the recently deceased Stephen A. Douglas, Illinois' great battling senator.

The following spring permanent barracks replaced the tents and other buildings were added. In 1875-76 the camp was rebuilt and expanded, and eventually became known as Fort Douglas. Founded as headquarters of the Military District of Utah, the camp grew both in size and importance. The post's newspaper, the Union Vedette, was the first paper in Utah other than the Deseret News and it exercised considerable influence both within and beyond the Territory. From its press also came the first magazine published west of the Missouri.

The new drawing is a valuable addition to the Bancroft's materials on Camp Douglas. Our Utah collection already includes photographs showing the post in the mid-1860's, and a file of the Union Vedette. The drawing is as well, a fine example of the carefully executed views done of many of the military posts during that period of filling in the West.

Negro Journalism in San Francisco

IN APRIL, 1862, Philip A. Bell published in San Francisco the first issue of the Pacific Appeal, "a weekly journal, devoted to the interests of the people of color," and promising to be "perceptive, sententious, and argumentative." Bell's experience in the east had earned him the sobriquet of "the Napoleon of Negro journalism," and his new publication soon became a paper of importance in its field. After the Appeal was well started, Bell founded the San Francisco Elevator, in 1865, a weekly which became known as "a journal of progress, devoted to Science, Art and Literature, and also to the Drama." The Appeal continued publication until 1879, and the Elevator was still appearing in 1886. As with most of the Negro journals, however, they were cut off by death; copies passed from hand to hand until worn out, and files of these papers are now extremely rare.

Although the Bancroft Library has long had the major known files of both of these publications, they have been incomplete, particularly for their earliest years. So it was with the greatest of pleasure that we were able recently to acquire the first two volumes, complete, of the Pacific Appeal (April 5, 1862-March 26, 1864), and the first volume of the Elevator (April 7, 1865-March 30, 1866). Now that these have unexpectedly appeared, perhaps others will join them.

The New Book

The Bancroft Library proudly announces the third of the annual publications of The Friends, José Bandini's "Descripción de l'Alta California," a contemporary view of California in 1828. This time we present our book with a double measure of pride, for its translator and editor, Doris Marion Wright, is a member of our own staff. The Westgate Press has made it a thing of beauty as well as of interest—a book that we feel is sure to please our Friends.

Grayson's Birds

Young Andrew Jackson Grayson brought his family overland to California in 1846. He served as an officer for Fremont and was a leader in civic and business affairs of early California. Then, although without training in sciences or art, he began to paint the little-known birds of California and Mexico, with the result that his name ranks high among American ornithologists.

The University of California's art gallery last summer displayed Grayson's beautiful paintings of birds of the Pacific Slope. There are over one hundred and fifty of these magnificent watercolors, done in life size and full color and showing the botanical habit of each bird. These are the property of the Bancroft Library, as are Grayson's field notes, journals, letters, and a manuscript account of his trip across the plains in 1846. As with most of the Negro journals, however, they were cut off by death; copies passed from hand to hand until worn out, and files of these papers are now extremely rare.

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Claypool Donation

Through a generous gift to the University of California from Mr. W. C. Claypool, of Smithfield, Utah, the Bancroft Library has obtained some extremely choice items to augment its already famous Utah collection. Among them are several rare and early Mormon imprints. The oldest of these is an 1847 account of the journey of the pioneer party which left Nauvoo and traveled west to found Salt Lake City. Equally interesting are two pamphlets on drinking addresses by Brigham Young, one in 1857, denouncing responsibility for the Mountain Meadows Massacre, and the other, published in 1862, urging the State of Deseret's admission to the Union. Another rare imprint, of 1854, is the earliest known tract in favor of polygamy to be written by a woman and published in Utah. The Hasselfeldt drawing of Camp Douglas, described elsewhere in this issue, was also made possible by Mr. Claypool's generosity.

Television

The Bancroft Library, accustomed to dealing with things old, is about to become involved in things new. As this issue of Bancroftiana comes off the press, an eight-week's series of television programs, "California Notebook," sponsored by the Extension Division of the University of California, will be getting under way. Designed to acquaint the public with the Bancroft's traditions, resources, and services, the programs will feature movies of the Library in action and guest experts to discuss the various topics. Robert E. Burke, of the Bancroft staff, will act as master of ceremonies. The program will appear on
KRON-TV on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:00 to 10:15, beginning May 6th. Here is our tentative schedule of programs:

May 6—Mr. H. H. Bancroft's Library
May 8—The Library Today: A Tour
May 13—Frank Norris and McTeague
May 15—The Breen Diary of the Donner Tragedy
May 20—The Larkin Papers
May 22—Yosemite, California's Wonderland
May 27—Pictures of California Towns
May 29—Overland Diaries
June 3—Drake's Bay Excavations
June 5—The Drake Plate
June 10—The Bear Flag Revolt
June 12—Using Recent Collections
June 17—Photographing and the Library
June 19—Microfilming Abroad
June 24—Services to the Public
June 26—Friends of the Bancroft Library

Notes and Comment
Dr. Woodrow Borah, assistant professor of speech in the University of California, is in Mexico this year on a Guggenheim fellowship. In addition to his special research on the early history of that country, he represents the Bancroft Library and has been digging into the vast manuscript resources of various Mexican archives. In his investigations, he has found many surprises, one the discovery of some documents from the Archivo del Colegio de Propaganda Fide de San Fernando containing much original correspondence on California missions by both friars and civilian officials. Copies of these treasures will soon be available for research in the Bancroft Library.

Of special interest to many will be Dr. Borah's discovery of an inventory of Hernán Cortés' estates in Oaxaca. So far we have had inventories only of his Cuernavaca and Coyocacán properties, and the new documents provide significant source materials for the study of the conqueror of Mexico.

Dr. Borah's most recent venture has been a tour of cities and villages of Oaxaca, in southern Mexico, accompanied by Mexican scholars. The party located and photographed thousands of pages of historical materials hitherto unknown. In the near future, students will be able to consult copies of these records in the United States in the form of microfilm.

Dr. William Edward Dunn, a friend and former student of Professor Herbert E. Bolton, was a recent visitor to the campus. Dr. Dunn, after many years of service with the Department of Commerce and the State Department, generally in the field of Latin American affairs, has now retired from government work and plans to revise and enlarge his Spanish and French Rivalry in the Gulf Region of the United States, 1678-1702, hitherto the standard work in this field.

Professor James D. Hartz of the English Department of the University of California, in cooperation with Mr. Donald Coney, University Librarian, and Dr. Robert E. Burke, of the Bancroft staff, has initiated a project to collect the writings of California's literary personalities for the Bancroft Library. These sources, consisting not only of old manuscripts but of letters, clippings, pictures, and personal data, will enrich our knowledge of a phase of California's history that is difficult to document.

The rich-looking rubber tile, mottled green in color, that now embellishes the floor of our Public Services Department has been drawing comments from visitors and staff members alike. The new floor is as easy on the feet as on the eyes.

Kentfield Papers
Captain John Kentfield came to California in 1849 and by the 1870's and 1880's had established one of the largest shipping firms on the Pacific coast. By that time, the riches of California's forests had become known and he was engaged in supplying redwood timber for construction in California and the Hawaiian Islands.

The vast accumulation of the business papers and correspondence of John Kentfield & Company, together with family letters, scrapbooks, clippings, etc., form one of our more monumental collections. The Kentfield Papers, approximately 174,000 pieces, have recently been arranged and put in usable order by our manuscripts department.