

BANCROFTIANA

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

Number 10 • MAY 1954

Annual Meeting

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Friends will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 16, at 4:30 o'clock in the Reading Room of the Bancroft Library. Dr. James D. Hart, Professor of English at the University of California, will address members and their guests, his subject being "What Did the 49ers Read?"

There will be a short business meeting for the election of new members of the Council, following which much interesting material from the Gelett Burgess, Thomas W. Norris, and other important new acquisitions, will be on display.

William G. Paden:

1883-1954

THE DEATH of Dr. Paden on April 6, 1954, not only deprived the Friends of their presiding officer and valued associate, but in his passing the community as a whole lost an able school administrator and a long-time student of California history. Born in the San Luis Rey valley of San Diego County on May 21, 1883, Dr. Paden had been city superintendent of schools in the city of Alameda since 1925, during which period he had become known throughout the nation for his wise and progressive leadership. In addition, he was well versed in California history, being recognized as a leading authority on the routes followed by the early explorers of the area, both Spanish and American. He helped Professor Herbert E. Bolton chart the trails of Anza's expedition to California and, with his wife, Irene, carefully traced the routes of the pioneers over the Sierra Nevada.

The Friends mourn his passing and extend to his widow their deep sympathy.

Achievement

IT IS PLEASANT to report that three-fourths of the titles on the want lists in our last issue have come in to the library, thanks to our very good Friends.

Joseph Bransten embarked upon a one-man campaign in our behalf and to date has supplied us with no less than nineteen books, some of them very rare indeed. Others who have contributed volumes are: Professor Nellie Barnes, Helen MacKnight Doyle, Joseph Henry Jackson, Theodora Larsen Killinger, Dr. Albert Shumate and Frank Schwabacher.

For those interested—and we hope there will be many such—we include elsewhere in this issue our Gelett Burgess want list.

The Larkin Papers

UNDER the able editorship of Dr. George P. Hammond, *The Larkin Papers*, one of the most ambitious publishing projects ever undertaken by the University of California Press, is proceeding on schedule. Volume IV, which appeared early this year, covers the period of 1845-46, during the uneasy rule of Governor Pio Pico. Larkin, in addition to his many other activities, was appointed confidential agent by the State Department to win over the Californians to the idea of separation from Mexico, and the policy of peaceful annexation is delineated in the correspondence between Larkin and Secretary of State Buchanan. This latest volume contains also the Consul's detailed report to his government on the geography, commerce and inhabitants of the province, together with notes on its leading citizens, bringing the narrative down to the end of May 1846, only two weeks before the dramatic raising of the Bear Flag at Sonoma.

Gertrude Atherton Papers

THE PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE of Gertrude Atherton, world-famed San Francisco novelist and dean of American women writers until her death in 1948, has been presented to the library, a gift from the author's daughter, Muriel Atherton Russell of San Francisco.

The Atherton papers represent much of her most important correspondence from publishers, agents, and film companies, dating from the mid-1920s. Such prominent names as Erskine Caldwell, Rupert Hughes, Edgar Lee Masters, Kathleen Norris, Upton Sinclair, Ida M. Tarbell and Stewart Edward White figure among the correspondents in the voluminous collection. Among the manuscripts are her autobiography, *Adventures of a Novelist* (1932); *The Jealous Gods* (1928); *The Sophisticates* (1929); and two later works devoted to her beloved Bay Area region, *Golden Gate Country* (1945) and *My San Francisco* (1946).

This prolific California writer, who produced some 60 books in all, shocked San Franciscans with *The Doomsdancer*, one of her early novels published in 1892, which revolved about a local society scandal. Gertrude Atherton was herself a noted San Francisco society belle when her first books appeared. A number of her novels, considered "advanced" by Americans of that era, first won acceptance with British publishers and readers, leading to her eventual position as one of the most widely-read American authors. Her *Black Oxen* (1923)—a story of rejuvenation—caused a sensation during the turbulent 1920s.

She is, however, best remembered today for works of quite another genre: a series of novels depicting life in her native State, from Spanish times to the present, including *The Californians* and *Before the Gringo Came*. She wrote, in addition, a fictionalized study of Alexander Hamilton, *The Conqueror*. Among the many honors bestowed upon her during her long career was a doctor of laws degree given by the University of California in 1937.

Commenting on the value of the Atherton papers, Dr. James D. Hart, long active in the Bancroft Library's literary research program,

recently stated: "It is fitting and gratifying to have this collection at the University of California, for in her person and writing Gertrude Atherton spanned the major part of California's literary history. Her interests were extensive, for the subjects of her novels range from classical Greece to modern America. But much of her widely read fiction is devoted to her native California, and one of her signal distinctions is her power of popularizing the sense of romance that she identified with this region."

Because Mrs. Atherton avoided making—or at any rate, keeping—carbon copies of her own letters, Dr. Hart has written to her correspondents in search of original Atherton letters. So far his search has been highly successful, yielding to date:

- 151 letters to Dr. Harry Benjamin
- 1 letter to Eyre & Spottiswoode
- 7 letters to editors of the Houghton Mifflin Company
- 8 letters to Idwal Jones
- 2 letters to Thomas H. Uzzell.
- 1 letter to Appleton-Century-Crofts
- 4 letters to Doubleday, McClure and Doubleday, Page & Co.

It is to be hoped that Friends having Atherton letters, or knowing where such exist, will help make possible further substantial additions to this growing collection.

An exhibition of the Gertrude Atherton Papers will be held in the University of California Library from June 6 to July 4. All Friends are cordially invited to view it.

The Norris and Bolton Collections

IN RECENT WEEKS two extensive collections of historical manuscripts and other documents have come to the library: those of the late Thomas W. Norris, noted Californiana collector, and of Dr. Herbert E. Bolton who, until his death last year, was the universally admired dean of Western historians. Some of the highlights of these notable acquisitions will be described in the next number of *Bancroftiana*.

Waterhouse's Paper

EIGHT ISSUES of an intriguing but apparently short-lived California political journal have been given to the Bancroft Library and we are asking our friends to help us complete the series. *Waterhouse's Paper*, published at Sacramento in 1908 by the well-known journalist, Alfred James Waterhouse (1855-1928), contains a good deal of material on California and San Francisco politics and on the prohibition movement. We now have Volume I, Numbers 2-7 and 16-17.

California Fiction

JOSEPH HENRY JACKSON, the literary editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle* and active Friend of the Bancroft Library, has been appointed Honorary Curator of the Library's California Fiction Collection. This group of materials has been transferred to the Bancroft from the Rare Book Room of the University Library, and the Bancroft has been given the responsibility of filling in the gaps and of adding new books as they are published. At present the collection is being assimilated into Bancroft's California fiction section, and detailed plans for expanding it are being worked out. The Bancroft Library will endeavor to collect all fiction in book form by Californians published before 1900, and by Northern Californians after 1900.

For those who may wish to help in the task of filling in the gaps, we include the following want list:

- Atherton, Gertrude
 - The Living Present*. New York, Stokes, 1917.
 - Transplanted*. New York, Dodd, Mead, 1919.
- Barry, John D.
 - A Daughter of Thespis*. Boston, Page, 1903.
 - The Intriguers*. New York, Appleton, 1896.
 - Mademoiselle Blanche*. New York, Stone & Kimball, 1904.
 - Our Best Society*. New York, Putnam, 1905.
- Bashford, Herbert
 - Stories of Western Pioneers*. San Francisco, Harr Wagner, 1928.
 - The Tenting of the Tillicums*. New York, Crowell, 1906.
- Foote, Mary Hallock
 - Edith Bonham*. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin & Company, 1917.

- Friend Barton's Concern*. New York, Scribner, 1919.
- The Ground Swell*. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin & Company, 1919.
- A Picked Company*. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin & Company, 1912.
- The Royal Americans*. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin & Company, 1910.
- A Touch of Sun, and Other Stories*. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin & Company, 1903.
- The Valley Road*. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin & Company, 1915.

"Dan De Quille"

ONE OF the most interesting and historically valuable recent additions to the library's manuscript collections are the papers of the pioneer Nevada journalist William Wright who, under his pen name of Dan De Quille, was for many years the faithful recorder of events transpiring in Virginia City and the other towns of that state's fabulous Comstock Lode.

Dan, as he was known to his multitude of friends, was for more than thirty years a member of the staff of the *Territorial Enterprise*, long one of the leading newspapers of the West, and it was in its columns—and under the guidance of De Quille—that, as is well known, Mark Twain served his literary apprenticeship and laid the foundations for his world-wide fame. It was largely due to the urgings of Twain that, in the mid-1870s, Dan spent several months at the humorist's house at Hartford, Conn., and there wrote *The Big Bonanza*, the book on which his fame chiefly rests, and which remains to this day the standard work on the history of the Comstock.

The De Quille papers, rich in material relating to Virginia City both during its boom period and the years of its decline, are the gift of Henry L. Day, a Berkeley graduate of the year 1923 and now a resident of Wallace, Idaho, where he is president of a mining company. The collection contains, besides numerous letters—including several from Mark Twain—many De Quille manuscripts as well as copies of magazines and newspapers on both coasts to which he contributed both fiction and factual articles relating to the Comstock and its mines. He died at West Liberty, Iowa, in 1898.

Story of a Novel

THE CASE HISTORY of a popular Western novel—from rough draft to completed book—is provided by a unique gift recently received at the library.

Thomas Thompson, Santa Rosa author, and one of the nation's top writers of Western stories and novels, has turned over the original and revised manuscripts, marked galley proofs and complete correspondence with his agent and publishers regarding his latest book, *King of Abilene*. The entire collection provides a down-to-earth and fascinating insight into the processes and negotiations involved in the writing and publishing of a popular novel. *King of Abilene* was issued last fall by Ballantine Books.

Revealed in the letters of the 40-year-old California writer are the initial proposal from his agent to write a novel; contract negotiations with the publisher and terms of payment; submittal of the first draft and subsequent criticisms and suggested changes by the editor; arrangements for simultaneous pocket book and hard cover publication; the agent's efforts to get the story serialized in one of the magazines, and many other "inside" details surrounding the publication of a popular novel.

The *King of Abilene* materials were recently on display in the Bancroft showcase of the main library as an illustration of the complex processes involved in popular book publishing.

Smith Family Papers

ONE OF the truly heroic figures of the American West is Jedediah Strong Smith. He and his family are the subject of an important collection, the Smith Family Papers, presented to the Library by Mr. F. R. Bacon of South Pasadena, grandson of Jedediah's younger brother, Peter Smith. They shed new light on the greatest of the "Mountain Men," recently the subject of a biography by Bancroft's own Dale Morgan.

Peter Smith was himself an early California pioneer, coming to the coast in 1831-32 on a mule-buying venture out of Santa Fe. Until

1836 he had been a merchant in Santa Fe, then returned to his Ohio home and married, but he moved to Iowa in 1840, made a journey into Mexico in 1843, and came back to California during the gold rush, in 1850. By family tradition, his daughter Lina was the first white child born in Amador County. He soon returned east, though he twice revisited California in later years. Much of his later life was spent in Iowa and Nebraska, where he died in February, 1879. Two of his daughters subsequently moved to California, and here a number of his descendants now live.

Especially interesting among the papers are letters written to Peter Smith in 1829-30 at St. Louis, where he had gone in search of his explorer-brother, then rumored killed on the Pacific Coast; one of these is the only known letter by Jedediah Smith, Senior. His papers at Santa Fe include documents relating to such well-known figures in Western history as Antoine Robidoux, John Gantt, Governor of New Mexico Santiago Abreu, Augustus Storrs, Samuel Parkman, and others. Parkman, who had been Jedediah's clerk on the fatal journey to Santa Fe in 1831, and who took charge of his business interests after he was killed by the Comanches, later went down into Mexico, from which he wrote six notably interesting letters between 1833 and 1835.

Letters by any of Jedediah Smith's family are exceedingly scarce, but this collection includes two by his brother Benjamin, one by his brother Ira, and one by S. A. Simons, husband of his sister Eunice. Of special interest to Californians are two letters written to Peter Smith by W. L. McKim in 1852 from the vicinity of Dry Creek and Jackson in the mother lode country. A later letter by a son-in-law, George W. Thummel, interestingly describes the boom conditions that prevailed in southern California in 1887.

Nearly sixty letters written to Peter's daughter, Evelyn Bacon, by E. D. Smith, a cousin in Kansas who between 1907 and 1916 did extensive research into the life of Jedediah Strong Smith, preserve much Smith family tradition.

This significant collection will be exhibited at the Annual Meeting on May 16.

Gelett Burgess

THE GAIETY and high spirits that characterized much of the output of the group of San Francisco writers and artists who flourished in San Francisco prior to the earthquake and fire of 1906 are reflected in the manuscripts and other papers of Gelett Burgess, which have recently been added to the library's growing collection of materials relating to the literature of the area.

Writer, humorist and cartoonist par excellence, Burgess has long been recognized as a leading figure in San Francisco's turn-of-the-century literary renaissance. Between 1895 and 1897 he edited *The Lark*, the lively little magazine that attracted attention all over the country, and the files of which are now highly prized by collectors. For on its pages first appeared two of Burgess' creations with which his name has ever since been linked; namely, "The Purple Cow," a nonsense verse, and "Goops," the rhymed manuals of manners for children which became national nursery classics. Burgess, who died in September 1951, was widely known too for his more serious works, which included novels, plays, essays, social studies, and much else.

In 1894, while serving briefly as an instructor of engineering on the Berkeley campus, he achieved local notoriety when he overturned the Cogswell temperance statue on Market Street in San Francisco, explaining that it offended his artistic and liquid sense of values. The incident culminated in his hasty resignation, but his deeds, literary and otherwise, earned him honorary membership in the Class of '94, marked by a gilt-edged parchment scroll which is included in the new Bancroft materials.

Commenting on the significance of the papers, Dr. George P. Hammond, director of the library, states that "While Burgess' contributions to Western literature may be on the lighter side, they are nonetheless important, both in their intrinsic worth as humor, and in piecing together the larger picture of literary life in an era that produced such giants as Jack London and Frank Norris. The Bancroft Library is fortunate to possess what is now the largest collection of Burgess mate-

rials in existence." He added that the library is attempting to assemble the correspondence of Burgess, and to that end would be interested in contacting persons possessing letters by him.

An effort is also being made to complete the library's file of published works by this prolific writer; hence this Burgess want-list:

- Chant-Royal of California*. San Francisco, The Channing Auxiliary [1899].
The Lively City O'Ligg. New York, Frederick A. Stokes Co., 1899.
Goops And How To Be Them. New York, Frederick A. Stokes Co. [1900].
A Gage of Youth. Boston, Small, Maynard & Co. [1901].
The Burgess Nonsense Book. New York, Frederick A. Stokes Co. [1901].
More Goops And How Not To Be Them. New York, Frederick A. Stokes Co. [1903].
Goop Tales Alphabetically Told. New York, Frederick A. Stokes Co. [1904].
Blue Goops And Red. New York, Frederick A. Stokes Co. [1909].
The Master of Mysteries. Indianapolis, The Bobbs-Merrill Co. [1912].
The Goop Directory of Juvenile Offenders. New York, Frederick A. Stokes Co. [1913].
Burgess Unabridged. New York, Frederick A. Stokes Co. [1914].
War the Creator. New York, B. W. Huebsch, 1916.
The Goop Encyclopedia. New York, Frederick A. Stokes Co. [1916].
Why Be a Goop? New York, Frederick A. Stokes Co., 1924.
Why Men Hate Women. New York, Payson & Clarke Ltd., 1927.
The Bromide And Other Theories. New York, The Viking Press, 1933.
Look Eleven Years Younger. New York, Simon and Schuster, 1937.
Look Eleven Years Younger. [New York, Home Institute, 1941.]
New Goops And How To Know Them. New York, Random House [1951].

New Friends

THE FOLLOWING have been added to the membership roll since the last number of *Bancroftiana* appeared:

Brehm, James R.	Pasadena
Burke, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph A.	Oakland
Cahill, Mrs. John Edward	Kentfield
Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander E.	Oakland
Luhrs, H. E.	Shippensburg, Pa.
Magee, David	San Francisco
Mansfield, W. E.	Walnut Creek
Ross, Dudley T.	Oakland
Starr, W. A.	San Francisco

Marshall Papers

THE PAPERS of Colonel Robert Bradford Marshall, chief geographer of the U. S. Geological Survey and "father" of the Central Valley Project, have been given to the library by his daughter, Miss Virginia Marshall of San Francisco. These papers will shed much light upon the origins of the CVP and the great water-and-power struggles of the 1920s.

Marshall was born in Virginia in 1867, a direct descendant of Chief Justice John Marshall. In 1889 he passed a civil service examination and entered the U. S. Geological Survey. Though not a trained engineer, Marshall rose rapidly. He became a topographer in 1890, a geographer in 1905 and chief geographer in 1908. He is credited with "securing a nation-wide appreciation for the value of topographic maps."

He came to California in 1891 and made a great series of maps of the state. In 1902 he was placed in charge of all topographic work in the state and his territory was extended until in 1907 it included California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Arizona and Nevada.

In 1919, Colonel Marshall presented to the people his plan for the transfer of surplus water from the Sacramento Valley to the arid San Joaquin. The project was both comprehensive and imaginative, for the colonel was of the opinion that "small ideas have no place in California." The plan was the basis for intensive studies between 1921 and 1933 and its basic ideas were incorporated in the Central Valley Project Act of 1933.

Colonel Marshall died in 1949.

On Writing "Pistol Pete"

MUCH OF the drama, excitement, and plain hard work that go into the writing of a first book are reflected in a recent gift to the Bancroft Library. Eva Gillhouse, Las Vegas housewife who realized a long-standing literary ambition with the publication of her first book, *Pistol Pete*, has turned over the complete correspondence pertaining to the writing of her non-fiction Western, together with the first and revised manuscripts, galley

proofs, pictures and other materials. The entire collection—like that of Thomas Thompson's *King of Abilene*—comprises a full account of how a modern book is written and published, from conception to cover jacket.

An insight into the painstaking research involved in the writing of *Pistol Pete* is provided by Mrs. Gillhouse' letters to historical societies, chambers of commerce, libraries, newspapers, educational institutions and government agencies in her attempts to locate materials and verify persons, places and events.

Santa Cruz Mission Correspondence

A GROUP of eleven letters from three early missionary priests at Santa Cruz has been acquired by the library. These cover the years 1806-1816, and were written by the mission fathers to their superiors at the Colegio de San Fernando de Mexico.

Fr. Andrés Quintana (3 letters) came to Santa Cruz in 1805 and was treacherously murdered by the Indians in 1812. Marcelino Marquinez (4 letters) came in 1811 and remained until 1817 when he retired to the Colegio. The third Fr. Domingo Carranza (4 letters) was in Santa Cruz from 1798-1808.

The correspondence concerns primarily the problem of supplying the mission with merchandise to carry on the religious work and to use in bartering with the Indians. As Fr. Carranza wrote, "... *la manta no la suspendas del todo enbianos cuatro piezas de manta listada pa comprar nutrias a los Yndios...*" ("Do not stop sending the cotton cloth entirely. Send us four pieces of striped cotton cloth to buy otter skins from the Indians.")

Their astute business sense is best demonstrated in a letter of Fr. Quintana in transacting the sale of otter skins, "... *nos es preciso saber quien es el que las recibe en San Blas y se hace cargo de ellas a que precio paga las de marca de 7 a 8 quartas lo mismo las que no tienen de largo mas que cuatro a 5 quartas suponiendo ser las grandes de buen color esto nos es preciso saber para no exponer la mision dura perdida notable...*" ("It is necessary

that we know who receives and takes charge of them [otter skins] in San Blas. And also what he pays for those that are 7 to 9 quartas as well as those that are no more than 4 to 5 quartas, assuming the large ones are of a good color. It is important that we know this so as not to cause the mission any notable loss.")

The collection will be a valuable addition to other mission records already in the Bancroft.

The Next Friends' Book

PLANS for the forthcoming book to be published by the Friends have been actively under way for some time and, although substantial progress has been made, it is felt that any formal announcement of its subject-matter and publication date should be withheld until all the details have been worked out. At this time, therefore, we shall merely state that the material seems to us extremely interesting, and hazard the guess that the book will make a highly prized addition to the members' libraries.

Dale L. Morgan

IT IS A pleasure to report that Dale L. Morgan, writer and historian, has joined the staff of the Bancroft Library and will undertake the preparation of a general guide to its manuscript collections.

Morgan is the author of *Jedediah Smith*, considered a definitive biography of the early-day trader and explorer, which received wide notice upon its recent publication. He has previously written studies of the Humboldt River and the Great Salt Lake.

Born in Salt Lake City, he is a descendant of Orson Pratt, one of the original Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in the Mormon Church. He has compiled bibliographies of the Mormon churches in dispersion, and is currently working on a history and general bibliography of Mormonism.

Through his writings on Mormon history, Morgan developed an interest in the fur trade and the exploration of the West. In 1941 he began the research which eventually led to the publication of *Jedediah Smith*, and

which extended from coast to coast and from the archives of Mexico to those of the Hudson's Bay Company in London. The biographical study has been acclaimed the only book that ties together all the scattered events and personalities of the West in the 1820s.

The Marion Parsons Bequest

YET ANOTHER welcome gift to the library came from the estate of Marion R. Parsons, of Berkeley, who died last July, and which consists of some 700 books, together with forty pieces of music pertaining to California. Among the items included are signed limited editions of books by John Muir and Joseph Le Conte, Shore's *Animal Life in the Yosemite*, Jepson's *Flora of Western Middle California* and other publications in natural history. Other noteworthy works include Saussure's *Voyages dans les Alpes* (1796), first editions of Twain's *Gilded Age* and *Innocents Abroad*, and Colonel Evans' *Sketches of Life in the Golden State* (1874). Mrs. Parsons was a director of the Sierra Club for twenty-five years and the author of several books of Californiana.

Bale Collection

THE DIVISION OF MANUSCRIPTS has recently been engaged in arranging the papers of Dr. Edward Turner Bale, which came to the library as a gift from Mrs. Stephen C. Clark. Born in London, England, in 1811, Bale was reared and educated for the medical profession. He was commissioned as surgeon of the English ship *Harriet*, which in the year 1837 came to the California coast and ran aground at Monterey. Bale remained in Monterey where he practiced medicine for five years and in 1840 was appointed surgeon in chief of the Mexican Army. In 1841 he married General Vallejo's niece, María Ignacia Soberanes, whose personal and business papers make up the bulk of the collection.

In 1843 Dr. Bale was given a grant of four leagues of the finest land in Napa County, called the Carne Humana, or Colijolmanes Ranch, much of which he sold to early settlers

in the valley. From that date until his death in 1849, he resided at St. Helena where he began his work as one of the early promoters of industry north of San Francisco Bay. One of his important accomplishments was the construction of a water-power flour mill in 1846, which kept the inhabitants supplied with flour for many years, and the erection of a saw mill in 1848.

The Bale papers number approximately 900 items covering the period from 1841 to 1888. Included are about 550 letters, chiefly to and from Mrs. Bale, but containing too some from such prominent early-day residents as Salvador and Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, Bishop Alemany, John Bautista Rogers Cooper, Thomas Oliver Larkin, Jacob Primer Leese and Nathan Spear.

The value of the collection lies primarily in the land and legal material, which includes leases and mortgages to portions of the Carne Humana Ranch, transacted by Bale's widow, and accounts of the operation of the flour and saw mills. It is of value also as a supplement to the Bale material contained in other collections in the Bancroft.

Henry Sager's Memoirs

A COPY of the unpublished reminiscences of Henry Sager, an employee of the Western Sugar Refinery in San Francisco for forty-six years (1891-1937) and for most of the period the chief spokesman for its workers, has recently been presented to the Bancroft Library through the good offices of the indefatigable Dan Gutleben, a long-time friend.

The Sager memoirs, "From Memory's Files: Episodes in the Life of a Western Sugar Refinery Employee," are vividly written and give an unexcelled picture of day-to-day operations at the refinery, as well as an inside view of its labor relations. After many years as the head of the local union chartered by the American Federation of Labor, Sager in 1916 led a movement to disaffiliate and for twenty years thereafter headed the informal "Committee on Information," an employees' grievance group. He retired when the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union succeeded in organizing the refinery with the support of the A. F. of L.

More Muir Letters

BANCROFT'S extensive collection of John Muir letters has been augmented recently by the purchase of eleven additional originals. Six of these, dated between 1897 and 1902, were written to George G. Kip of Morristown, New Jersey, who had been a fellow passenger on a trip to Alaska in 1896. Four were to Professor James Davie Butler of the University of Wisconsin. One of these tells of Muir's eye accident (1867) and another (written in 1904) recalls Muir's famous psychic experience in Yosemite in 1869 when he felt compelled to descend from the North Dome to find Professor Butler a visitor in the valley. One letter was written to Professor Butler's son, Henry, shortly after Muir's arrival in Indianapolis in 1866.

All are in Muir's characteristically charming style and reveal his warm personal character, his feeling for friends, and his constant love of the natural world about him.

The Telephone Directory

OF THE MANY VARIETIES of source material generally available to the researcher, few are more often overlooked than the prosaic and bulky telephone directory. Not only as a storehouse of biographical information, but also as a reflection of the history and development of a locality, the telephone book can be an invaluable aid.

The Bancroft Library's large collection of telephone directories is currently being revised by members of the Reference Staff, and a guide is being prepared to make the use of the collection easier and more efficient. Although there are directories from every major city in the West, the point of concentration of the collection is California, more than 900 of the 1,500 volumes being from California points. The areas best covered are those around Los Angeles and San Francisco. For Los Angeles we have a virtually complete run of more than forty years, and for the San Francisco region of more than fifty.

We should be pleased if some of you, in other parts of the state, would drop us a card, when about to discard an old directory, and ask if the Library would care to have it.