

BANCROFTIANA

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California's "First Nugget"

ONE OF BANCROFT'S most unusual acquisitions in many a year is the lump of gold which, for more than a hundred years, has been exhibited as the original nugget found near Sutter's Mill at Coloma on January 24, 1848. Preserved by Elizabeth Jane Wimmer, who, as the wife of Peter L. Wimmer, cooked for the men building Sutter's Mill in 1848, the nugget has figured since 1855 in the Wimmer family's claims to a large share of the fame attendant on the gold discovery. It comes to Bancroft with supporting affidavits sworn to by Mr. and Mrs. Wimmer in 1885.

The Wimmers were overland immigrants from Missouri in 1846. It is well known that, after James W. Marshall found gold specimens in the tail race of Sutter's Mill, they were tested according to one method of the day: Mrs. Wimmer had been making soap, and the gold was boiled in a kettle of this home-made soap, coming out untarnished. With the genuineness of the gold thus determined, Marshall rode off to tell Sutter of his find. The various accounts of the discovery given by Marshall, some as early as 1856, are contradictory, and have led to the conclusion that the original piece of gold was a flake. He told James Hutchings in 1857 that the first piece he found "weighed about fifty cents." Marshall also said that Wimmer bought a stock of merchandise late in the spring of 1848, and "Mrs. Wimmer being my treasurer, used four hundred and forty dollars of my money to complete the purchase; among which was the first piece of gold which I had found."

Nevertheless, as quoted in the Coloma *Empire County Argus* of that time, the Wimmers as early as 1855 claimed to have retained pos-

session of the epoch-making find. As the *Argus* put it, "This first piece of gold is now in the possession of Mrs. Wimmer, and weighs six pennyweights, eleven grains. The piece was given to her by Marshall himself." For many years Mrs. Wimmer wore the nugget like a necklace in a little buckskin bag. When in 1887 she disposed of it to California attorney W. W. Allen, it was in consideration of his promise to publish a book setting forth the Wimmer story—a promise made good in the *California Gold Book* (San Francisco and Chicago, 1893), a work he wrote in collaboration with R. B. Avery. Allen exhibited the nugget at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, and that same year sold it to the noted Chicago collector, Charles F. Gunther, in whose family it was afterwards preserved.

As reported in 1855, the nugget weighs six hundredweights, eleven grains, which by present gold values would give it an intrinsic worth, if pure, of about \$14.00. Its value in

Annual Meeting

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Friends of the Bancroft Library will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 20, at 4:30 o'clock, at the Bancroft Library, Library Annex, on the University campus at Berkeley.

Speaker will be Edgar Eugene Robinson, eminent author, lecturer, and for many years head of Stanford University's history department. His address, entitled "Material for the Diary of a Great People," will present his views on the significance to the community and the nation of a regional collection such as the Bancroft.

1893 was \$5.10. The "Wimmer nugget" is about the size of the tip of a woman's forefinger, though only half as thick. It will be exhibited at the Friends' Annual meeting on May 20th.

Regent Dickson

WITH THE DEATH of Regent Edward A. Dickson on February 22, 1956, at the age of seventy-six, the Friends lost a former Council member and loyal colleague.

Born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, August 29, 1879, Mr. Dickson came to California before the turn of the century and attended Sacramento schools. He was a member of the Class of 1901 at the University of California. In 1913 he was appointed a Regent of the University—the only representative from Southern California at that time and the youngest regent ever appointed. To him goes the credit for sparking the establishment and growth of the University's southern campus at Los Angeles.

Last May the Friends of U.C.L.A. published Mr. Dickson's book, *The University of California at Los Angeles*.

Our own Friends organization, in its early years, is indebted to Mr. Dickson for wisdom and guidance when he served on our Council. We shall miss him.

Class of '86 Portraits

THANKS TO C. EMLÉN SCOTT of Berkeley, the Bancroft Library can now boast of having portraits of seventeen of the twenty-four "regular" members of the University of California's Class of 1886. Among these are likenesses of young James K. Moffitt, later to become one of California's most distinguished businessmen, a University Regent, and a Friend of the Bancroft Library; and of Waldo S. Waterman, son of California's seventeenth governor, whose personal papers came to the Bancroft Library several years ago through Mr. Scott's efforts.

The portraits for the most part are from the Flaglor Studio in San Francisco. Seven of the men sport the class pin—a large "U C" interlaced with equally large numerals—in their broad four-in-hand ties which are worn

with standup collars; two others wear fraternity pins in the same way: Francis Oury, a Delta Kappa Epsilon pin, and Robert C. Chester, one of Beta Theta Pi. The heavy, high-buttoned coats with braided lapels date the subjects as unmistakably as do the legends backing the portraits.

To Sea in a Barrel

EVIDENTLY BALBOA was not the only sailor in the history of the New World who tried to stow away on a ship by hiding in a barrel. It is a familiar story how he escaped from a debtor's prison on the island of Santo Domingo in 1513 by concealing himself in a cask on a ship going to the Isthmus of Panama. There is a similar story in Samuel J. Corbett's "Journey to California by way of Cape Horn in the year 1858," but it lacks the successful ending. Three days out to sea, Corbett wrote in his journal:

... this morning about 11 o'clock they found a man stowed away in the store house, in a flour "Barrell." I forgot to state that on Friday just before the steam Tug came alongside they made a search to see if they could find any stowaways and succeeded in finding 3 stowed away in the chain locker. They put them into a Boat and sent them ashore. They looked in the very same place that they found the last stowaway while making their search but they did not see him for he was in a Barrell and all headed up, and as the barrell was standing with the rest it past observation. He must have had friends on Board for he must have been in the Barrell 3 days.

This sailor, although he copied Balboa's tactics, did not achieve a like success, nor has time distinguished him with remembrance. His story is just one of many events related in the first of two journals by Samuel J. Corbett given to the Bancroft Library by his grandson, John M. Corbett, of Virginia.

The second journal concerns experiences in the "California Hundred," a group of volunteers who enlisted to fill the Massachusetts quota for California in the Civil War. These men were mustered into service on December 3, 1862, and sailed the following week from San Francisco on board the *Golden Age*.

Bound with this diary is a broadside with the names of "the original roll of the California Hundred." There is also a sheet, printed in 1890, listing the survivors of this brave contingent.

The Hiram Johnson Papers

THE PAPERS of Hiram W. Johnson, California's great reform governor (1911-1917) and long-time United States Senator (1917-1945), have been purchased by the Regents from Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., of San Francisco, for the Bancroft Library.

The Johnson Papers are the latest and, in many ways, the most important of our collections on modern California, and their acquisition is a particular source of gratification to everyone who has had a hand in the University's program of collecting the papers of California's governors.

Hiram W. Johnson was the first governor of California to be elected under the direct primary system. He was a fighting leader who secured the passage of a vast program of social and economic legislation, making his administration the very quintessence of the progressivism of its period. Johnson was himself both a great orator and a masterful prose stylist. He could make complex issues meaningful to the people in a manner that has left him without a rival in the history of the state. Colorful, dramatic, and dynamic, Johnson was perhaps the most successful of all American progressive governors in the pre-World War I reform era.

Elected as a Republican in 1910, Johnson helped form the Progressive (Bull Moose) Party of 1912, and ran for vice-president as the running mate of Theodore Roosevelt. Johnson secured the formation of the Progressive Party of California, and in 1914 he won reelection as governor on the new party ticket. By 1916 the Progressives were dying as a separate national party, and Johnson reentered the G.O.P., winning the Republican nomination for the United States Senate after a bitter battle with his old enemies, the conservatives. Johnson's alleged lack of enthusiasm for the candidacy of Charles Evans Hughes has long been cited as the chief reason for President Wilson's reelection in 1916, at the very time Johnson won his seat in the Senate.

As United States Senator, Hiram W. Johnson was a leading national figure for many years, although he never reached the creative heights he attained as governor. As leader of



HIRAM W. JOHNSON

the isolationist "bitter-enders," he fought Wilson and the League of Nations with all his great oratorical powers. Twice Johnson sought the Republican nomination for president. In 1920 he won most presidential preference primaries, but was unable to secure a majority of the delegates at the convention. He flatly refused the offer of the vice-presidential nomination with Warren G. Harding. In 1924 Johnson lost the primaries he entered, even the one in California, to President Calvin Coolidge, and he never again was a serious contender for the presidency, although he retained his seat in the Senate until his death in 1945. A bitter opponent of Herbert Hoover, Senator Johnson supported Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932, and through the first administration of F.D.R., Johnson was in general agreement with the New Deal policies and close to the President himself. He broke with Roosevelt permanently in the Supreme Court fight of 1937, and strongly opposed Roosevelt's foreign policy during the period preceding the Pearl Harbor attack.

The Johnson Papers are thus of great interest to historians of 20th Century America, as well as to those interested particularly in

recent California history. Never before available to scholars, the large collection of Johnson Papers consists of three major elements, the gubernatorial papers, the senatorial papers, and the "diary." The gubernatorial papers, long presumed lost, turned up about two years ago. They comprise Johnson's high-level political correspondence as governor, and include letters to and from Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, Charles Evans Hughes, Chester H. Rowell, Harold L. Ickes, Edward A. Dickson, Arthur Arlett, Marshall Stimson, John D. Works, Meyer Lissner, and hundreds of others. The senatorial papers contain Johnson's principal correspondence, scrapbooks, and a collection of books to which the Senator was attached. The "diary" consists of letters written to his son, usually a letter a week, describing the unfolding of events in Washington. Written in Johnson's characteristically vigorous prose, the "diary" is a first-rate source for the political history of the United States between 1917 and 1945.

The Johnson Papers will be made available to qualified scholars when they have been arranged and catalogued.

Governor Merriam's Papers

THE LONG and remarkable political career of Frank Finley Merriam, in Iowa, the Indian Territory, and California, is documented in the collection of his papers which he gave to the Library shortly before he died in the spring of 1955.

Merriam, the eldest of eleven children of a Civil War veteran, was born in Delaware County, Iowa, in 1865. After graduation from Lenox College he taught school in several small towns, and in the early '90s he purchased the *Hopkinton Leader*. Entering into politics as well as journalism, he worked for the Republican State Central Committee of Iowa and served as a clerk for the legislature. Twice elected to the lower house, Merriam in 1898 became State Auditor and served in this office for two terms.

In 1904 he abandoned his Iowa political career to seek his fortune in the booming Indian Territory. He settled in Muskogee, where he bought the *Muskogee Times*, later be-

coming editor and business manager of the *Muskogee Phoenix*.

Prompted by a family illness, Merriam moved in 1910 to Long Beach, and went to work in the advertising department of the *Press*. Active in civic and fraternal affairs, in 1916 he ran for the State Assembly as an ardently "Dry" Republican and was elected to the first of five successive two-year terms. In 1922 Merriam managed the successful gubernatorial campaign of Friend W. Richardson in Southern California. During both of Richardson's terms, Merriam was Speaker of the Assembly. In 1926, as the running mate of Governor Richardson, he was defeated for the Republican nomination for Lieutenant Governor. Throughout the 1920's Merriam was at the same time active in banking and real estate, and also found time to manage the Coolidge and Hoover campaigns in Southern California.

Merriam returned to the legislature for the 1929 session, having been elected to the State Senate. In 1930 he was elected Lieutenant Governor, and succeeded to the governorship upon the death of James Rolph, Jr., in 1934. Merriam's administration coincided with the depths of the Great Depression and was consequently a stormy one. After a tremendous campaign for the governorship in November, 1934, he defeated Upton Sinclair in one of the greatest state political contests in American history. The Democratic upsurge in California could not be stemmed permanently, however; two years later the Assembly went Democratic for the first time in the twentieth century, and in 1938 Governor Merriam went down to defeat at the hands of State Senator Culbert L. Olson, who became California's only New-Deal governor.

The Merriam papers include correspondence covering the many phases of his career — clippings, correspondence, photographs, pamphlets, and political ephemera of all sorts.

Discovery

WHEN DR. GEORGE P. HAMMOND, Bancroft's Director, was in Mexico City last winter he tried to ferret out additional material on the first recorded trip of the opening of trade between New Mexico and California. This trip,

made by Antonio Armijo in the winter of 1829-30, was from Abiquiu, New Mexico, to San Gabriel Mission, California. The printed account, published in the *Registro Oficial* of the Mexican Government, was translated and published by LeRoy R. Hafen. But it is a thin and threadbare narrative. Surely, reasoned Dr. Hammond, there must be collateral information on the subject, or perhaps a more complete diary in the Mexican Archives.

But there is not! Dr. Hammond did, indeed, find the original manuscript copy of the diary, together with the letter of transmittal written by Governor José Antonio Chávez of New Mexico, in an obscure section of the Archivo General known as *Caminos (Roads)* — only to discover that the editor had printed it as he received it. There were no editorial changes! *Qué lástima!*

Harvey Fergusson

BANCROFT'S outstanding collection of materials on the history and culture of the Southwest has been greatly enriched by Harvey Fergusson's deposit in the Library of his personal papers, research notes, and literary manuscripts. As American man of letters, and as novelist, historian, and interpreter of the New Mexican scene, Mr. Fergusson has made a distinct impression on contemporary literature. Bancroft is honored in this disposition of his papers.

Mr. Fergusson's books are too numerous to be done justice in brief compass. His *Wolf Song* (1927) was a pioneer work in presenting the mountain men of the early West as fit material for serious fiction. Other novels treating of early New Mexico, *The Blood of the Conquerors* (1921), *In Those Days* (1929), *Grant of Kingdom* (1950), and *The Conquest of Don Pedro* (1954), strikingly express his feeling for the tides of American history: his understanding of history as a pattern of human relationships and of history as a process of immutable change. Other novels have dealt with the Southwest of Mr. Fergusson's own time and the modern scene generally. No less distinguished have been his works of non-fiction. *Rio Grande* (1933) directly anticipated in theme and treatment the Rivers of America series. *Modern Man* (1936) and

People and Power (1947) are striking explorations of ideas, while *Home in the West* (1945) is an autobiography with all the flavor of the author's novels.

For many years Mr. Fergusson has made his home in Berkeley. His papers, which will constitute a closed collection during his lifetime, include journals kept from 1906 to 1953, research notes, manuscripts of published short stories, articles, and essays, literary correspondence, and private papers.

Portrait of a Man

MRS. HELEN S. GIFFEN, for many years Secretary of the Society of California Pioneers, has presented to Bancroft the interesting original manuscript of her "Life of General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, the Portrait of a Man of his Time," written in 1937-40 and serialized in the *Pony Express Courier*, 1939-1940. The manuscript contains notes and bibliography not included in the published version.

Adventures in the Rocky Mountains

ONE OF THE REASONS history when written does not "stay put" is that new documents come forth continually. Thus it follows that one of the principal joys of life at Bancroft is our close-range view of history coming apart at the seams. Many examples in support of this point could be cited, but for this issue of *Bancroftiana* we will remark a truly extraordinary narrative by Robert Campbell, a copy of which has just come into our hands.

Campbell went to the Rocky Mountains with Jedediah S. Smith in the fall of 1825, and remained until the summer of 1829. He was again active in the fur trade, chiefly as a partner of William L. Sublette, from 1832 to 1835, when he settled down in St. Louis to become one of the first millionaires of that city. Some contemporaneously published letters by him, written in 1832-34, were found and printed late last year, but until now no account of his earlier mountain experiences was known. This new narrative, dictated in 1870, brief though it is, makes mandatory an extensive rewriting of what befell Jedediah

Smith's partners in the Rocky Mountains while Smith himself was going through his extraordinary ordeals in California and Oregon. Devotees of Jim Beckwourth, "the gaudy liar," will be delighted also to hear that certain adventures to which Jim laid claim belonged (as might have been expected) to others—including Campbell himself.

Tribute to Miss Coulter

ONE OF THE distinguishing events of Bancroft's semicentennial year at the University of California is a gift which is among the most impressive ever made to the Library, and at the same time an act of friendship and warm personal appreciation. The remarkable, illustrated log kept by Gunner William H. Meyers aboard the *Cyane* at the time of the premature American seizure of Monterey in 1842 has been given to Bancroft by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth K. Bechtel of San Francisco as a personal tribute to Miss Edith M. Coulter.

California has been the love of Miss Coulter's life, and she has made notable contributions to its pictorial history. In 1937 she published *An Artist in El Dorado, The Drawings and Letters of Daniel Wadsworth Coit*, illustrated with pencil sketches of the San Francisco Bay region made in 1840-1852, the originals of which are in the Bancroft Library. In 1941 she presented Captain F. W. Beechey's *An Account of a Visit to California 1826-'27*, illustrated by four watercolors of California scenes made by William Smyth of Beechey's expedition. The originals of two of these paintings, delightful views of Monterey, Miss Coulter had purchased in London in 1931, and she has since given them to Bancroft. In collaboration with Jeanne Van Nostrand, in 1946 Miss Coulter edited *A Camera in the Gold Rush*, which featured photographs of California and Nevada scenes by Robert H. Vance. The following year Miss Coulter joined with Eleanor A. Bancroft to produce *13 California Towns from the Original Drawings*, a selection from a collection of original pencil drawings in the Bancroft Library which they identified as being by Henry Miller and dating from 1856-57. In 1948 Miss Coulter again collaborated with Mrs. Van Nostrand in publishing *California Pictorial, a History*

in Contemporary Pictures, 1785-1859; and in 1952 the fruitful collaboration with Mrs. Bancroft further extended the Henry Miller record in *Account of a Tour of the California Missions, 1856; the Journal and Drawings of Henry Miller*, illustrated with another 19 drawings from the Bancroft Library collection. All of these works have notably enriched our knowledge and understanding of the early California scene.

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WILLIAM H. MEYERS, whose illustrated log of his 1841-44 *Cyane* cruise is noticed above, has had a unique place in California history since the publication in 1939 of *Naval Sketches of the War in California*, a work from the Grabhorn Press which reproduced in color 28 sketches by Meyers then owned by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Meyers, in 1846-47, was a gunner on the U. S. Sloop-of-War *Dale* and an active participant in the War with Mexico, but he is remembered now as an artist. As President Roosevelt commented, his sketches are "exceedingly interesting and historically valuable." The place of Meyers in the history of California and the Pacific Coast is richly enhanced by the gift to Bancroft of his log aboard the *Cyane*.

Going Up

BANCROFT STUDENT ASSISTANTS go on to a variety of careers after they leave the sacred precincts. Many of them, of course, become professors or librarians, and one that we know of is credit manager for a large department store, while another is head of a firm of "cooling and heating engineers." The other day one of "our boys" dropped in to see us on his return from four years in Puerto Rico, and confessed (the amazement still fresh in his voice) that he had just sold four stories to the *Saturday Evening Post!* ^{Hb}

Will you look around?

ONE OF THE most obvious and often-stated facts about the people of the United States is that they are highly mobile. This is as much as to say that, since the time of the Model T, they have been "highly auto-mobile." For this reason the history of highways and of automobile travel will some time have to be

extensively investigated, and it will certainly prove to be an interesting and important phase of the whole development of the American people.

Yet many of the materials upon which such a history must be based are ephemeral and have already become extremely scarce. Just try to find early road-maps, or touring guides, or "blue-books" in a large university library! Or in a second-hand bookstore! Most of us can remember such volumes around the house, but they may have gone into the junk-heap when we moved, or bought an encyclopedia and had to clear shelf-space.

But perhaps not! Possibly a few of them survived—saved for some now forgotten reason, or just accidentally. The Bancroft Library wants to build up its collection of such materials. Would you be good enough to look around a bit? Naturally we would be a little more interested in material dealing with California and the West, but we would be glad to have materials on other regions too. After all, don't *all* roads lead to California? Call the Bancroft Library, ASHberry 3-6000, Extension 781, if you have an item of interest.

Jedediah Smith, Sr.

AN ACCOUNT BOOK kept between 1827 and 1839 by Jedediah Smith, father of the celebrated fur trader and explorer who was the first man to reach California overland from the Missouri River, is the latest gift by Mrs. Stella D. Hare, Manchester, N. H., to the Jedediah Smith Family Collection built up at Bancroft during the past two years.

Except for a few documents in scattered court files, Bancroft has acquired all the known manuscripts in the hand of the elder Jedediah Smith, including a letter of 1830. The account book donated by Mrs. Hare, a great-great-granddaughter, shows that the elder Smith was a tailor, living then at Ashtabula, Ohio, or in a neighboring village, Kingsville. Very little has been known as to the paternal ancestry of the explorer, Jedediah S. Smith, but in recent months it has been established that the American progenitor of the family was Lieutenant Samuel Smith, who came to Watertown, Massachusetts, on the ship *Elizabeth* in 1634. He lived for a time at

Wethersfield, Connecticut, and was later one of the founders of Hadley, Massachusetts. The elder Jedediah, the sixth generation from Samuel, was born at Granby, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, on April 21, 1767, but moved to the Susquehanna Valley in New York prior to the birth of his distinguished son in 1799. Later the family moved to the Western Reserve of Ohio, where the father remained until his death in December, 1849, more than eighteen years after his exploration was killed by Comanches on the Santa Fe Trail.

Viva President Sproul!

FRIENDS who are TV "aficionados" were delighted to recognize our Director on the January 30th presentation of *Science in Action* when this program, called "A Great University," saluted President Robert Gordon Sproul on his twenty-five years as head of the University of California. Representing the humanities, Dr. Hammond gave viewers a glimpse of the famous Drake Plate, of various early maps, etchings of California Missions, and of Villagra's *History of New Mexico*, 1610. Besides President Sproul and Dr. Hammond, participants included Chancellor Clark Kerr; Glenn T. Seaborg, Professor of Chemistry; Wendell M. Stanley, Director of the Virus Laboratory; and Norman B. Akesson, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Engineering. The series is produced by the California Academy of Sciences and is sponsored by the American Trust Company. ^{Hb + ?}

The Rustler

THROUGH the generous gift of Mr. Norris W. Hetherington, of Berkeley, and Mr. Joseph Genser, of El Cerrito, California, the Bancroft Library has received the publisher's file of *The Rustler*. This independent newspaper was edited by Joseph Hetherington and associates in Watsonville, California, from December 8, 1888, to June 25, 1897.

Journalism in Watsonville at that time produced many rivalries. It is interesting to notice that *The Rustler's* boast of being "independent in all things, neutral in none," brought it into conflict with the Republican *Pajaronian* and the Democratic *Transcript*.

This may have contributed to its demise in 1897. *The Rustler* should prove to be an important source of information, for it presents a lively and authentic picture of life in the Pajaro Valley of Santa Cruz County. Although the issues for the years 1891 and 1893 have disappeared, the Bancroft Library's file of *The Rustler* is very likely the most complete, if not the only one in existence. Bancroft is pleased with this valuable gift, a worthy addition to its early California newspaper collection—one of the most extensive in the world.

Printed Rarities

MANY ATTRACTIVE ADDITIONS have been made in the year just past to Bancroft's collection of rare and unusual books. The gift by the Friends of a superb copy of the rare *Book of Commandments* (1833), described in the last issue of *Bancroftiana* was widely publicized in the press, and brought the Library letters of inquiry from all over the nation. The Mormon collection, of which Bancroft has one of the best, has been further enhanced by a copy of William M. Daniels' *A Correct Account of the Murder of Generals Joseph and Hyrum Smith, at Carthage, on the 27th Day of June, 1844*, a scarce eyewitness narrative published by the Mormon press at Nauvoo early in 1845. Of earlier date is a bibliographical curiosity printed in New York in 1841, *Anti-Mormon Almanac for 1842, containing a variety of interesting and important facts, showing the treasonable tendency and the wicked imposture of that great delusion, advocated by a sect lately risen up calling themselves Mormons*. (We have in our anti-Mormon collection titles both longer and angrier, but this one steams along breathlessly enough.)

Our literature of exploration has been agreeably enlarged. Charles de l'Ecluse's *Aliquot Notae in Garciae Aromatum Historiam*, a botany of Sir Francis Drake's voyage around the world, generally known as the first printed reference to the voyage, was published in Antwerp in 1582, only three years after the great explorer stopped off in California to prepare his brass plate for the Bancroft Library.

Heinrich Zimmermann's *Reise um die Welt* (Mannheim, 1781) is the original edition of

an account of Captain Cook's third voyage around the world, written by one of the crew, which reached print ahead of the official accounts. *A Brief Memoir of the Life of Mr. David Douglas, with Extracts from his Letters* (London, 1836), is an early narrative of the great English botanist who named the Cascade Range and first described the fir tree which bears his name. Abel Aubert du Petit-Thouars' *Voyage autour du Monde sur la Frégate la Vénus, pendant les Années 1836-1839* (Paris, 1840-1855), is a fine work of which we formerly had only a small part; we now have acquired five volumes of text and three folio atlases.

We rejoice in the possession of three Mexican broadsides by José Figueroa, later Governor of California, concerning his early life; two were printed in Hermosillo and one in Alamos, in 1829. Spanish items in which we take particular pleasure are five seemingly unique reports by Antonio Rodríguez de Robles to King Philip III, printed in Madrid about 1606, relating to such topics as the treatment of the Indians, salt mines and their administration, tithes, and officials and employees of the crown. A notably rare and early history of the Philippine Islands is Brother Juan Francisco de San Antonio's *Chronicas de la Apostolica Provincia de S. Gregorio de Religiosos Descalzos de N. S. P. S. Francisco en las Islas Philipinas* (Manila, 1738-44).

A sometimes forgotten fact that Texas might constitutionally be divided up as five new states is brought to mind by an unusual addition to our Texas collection, *Constitution of the State of West Texas* (Austin, 1868), a document prepared by resolution of the Texas Constitutional Convention, appointing commissioners to present to the U. S. Congress a request for the division of Texas into two or more states. (It will be remembered also that Texas, one of the seceding Southern States, was not readmitted to the Union until 1870.)

Of later date than any of the other titles mentioned, but by no means lacking in interest, is *The Memoirs of Captain Jonathan Shinn* (Greeley, Colorado, 1890). Bancroft recently obtained a copy of this uncommon pamphlet relating pioneer experiences in the upper Mississippi region and in Colorado.