Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Bancroft Library will hold their Tenth Annual Meeting at 4:30 on Sunday afternoon, May 5, in the Library Annex on the campus of the University of California.

Dr. John D. Hicks, noted for his witty and penetrating observations, as well as for his research and writing, will speak on the passing historical scene—but come prepared for anything!

An exhibit prepared by the Bancroft staff, refreshments, and opportunities to look around and visit with old friends, will all be provided.

The Streeter Bibliography

Thomas W. Streeter, most eminent of American book collectors, has been one of the Council of the Friends of the Bancroft Library since its organization ten years ago, and is a warm personal friend of many of our members. We have all known that he was building up an awe-inspiring Texas collection as one part of his library, and that in the course of time he would be publishing a Texas Bibliography which would be a worthy successor to Henry R. Wagner’s *The Spanish Southwest*. Now we hail the appearance of Streeter’s monumental contribution to American bibliography. Parts I and II, in three volumes, have been published, and Part III is soon to come.

Part I, in two volumes, is devoted to “Texas Imprints, 1817-1845,” in which are described 670 individual entries and 24 sub-entries. Although Texas printing began in 1817 with a broadside issued by Francisco Xavier Mina, at the mouth of the Rio Grande (of which no known copy has survived), the earliest surviving Texas imprint, says Streeter, is one of 1823. Of interest to California is the fact that this item is a *Prospecto* of a newspaper to be published in Spanish and English, called *Correo de Texas*, or *Texas Courier*, and bears the “Imprenta del Gobierno de Texas, en San Antonio de Bexar. Abril 9 de 1823.” If this broadside could not be in his own collection, Tom Streeter must rejoice that it is in ours; he regards it as one of five preeminent items on which a Texas collection should be founded. Of the other four, he has copies in his library.

Among a second group of ten major Texas imprints, he and Bancroft have the only known copies of one, published at Columbia in 1836, a *Charter of the Texas Railroad*. Although of lesser note, three unique Texas broadsides are located by Streeter in the Bancroft collections—one of November 6, 1835, published by the Nacogdoches Committee of Vigilance and Safety; one of June 13, 1838, by Samuel Houston, President of the Republic of Texas, concerning regulation of trade in frontier settlements; and one of November 18, 1839, by President Lamar of the Republic of Texas, concerning an election to fill vacancies in the legislature.

Part II of his *Texas Bibliography* records “Mexican Imprints relating to Texas, 1803-1845.” Here are described 356 numbered entries and 21 sub-entries, and again Bancroft is found to own four unique titles, José Antonio Gutiérrez de Lara’s *Proyecto Reglamento de Colonizacion* . . . (Mexico, 1823); a broadsheet published by the Mexican Provisional Government, *Proyecto General de Colonizacion* . . . (Mexico, 1824); a broadside appeal to Texans to oppose attempts to destroy the federal system in Mexico, published by one “Coahuiltecan” at Monclova,
John Muir

WHEN JOHN MUIR accompanied President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903 on a camping trip into the Sierra Nevada, history was made, for he won over the President to his views on saving areas of natural beauty for future generations. During the rest of Roosevelt's term in the White House, more national parks and forest reserves were created than ever before. In Muir's day, conservation was a new idea. Public consciousness had to be awakened to the value of saving unspoiled areas for posterity, and Muir traveled, lectured, and lobbied to spread this idea. The fact that mountains were being mutilated by dredgers for reservoirs, and forests denuded by lumbermen for profit, aroused Muir, and he pleaded the cause of conservation eloquently.

Earlier, in 1892, Muir and a group of his influential converts formed the Sierra Club, famous organization for conservationists and those who love the out of doors. This group backed Muir in his efforts, and many naturally beautiful areas, including the big trees of the Yosomite, were protected as a result of Muir's efforts or theirs.

Not long ago Hale Sparks, the "University Explorer" who broadcasts weekly on the University's activities, devoted a program to John Muir. Many of the facts used in that broadcast were gleaned from the Muir letters and papers in the Bancroft Library. We hope we can add to these records of the famed California naturalist, for his importance in the field of conservation is unchallenged.

Muir has enhanced his Texas Bibliography with essays and appendices on printing in Texas through 1845, Texas newspapers to 1855, and twenty Texas directories for any California county prior to 1927; we need San Francisco directories prior to 1879 and 1926. There are, however, many gaps in our holdings, even for counties and towns in California. With slight exception, notably Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area, we lack directories for any California county prior to 1927; we need San Francisco directories prior to 1899, and Los Angeles-Southern California directories for the years before 1997. Such directories as may be forthcoming from attics, lofts, and barns throughout California and the West would be welcome gifts.

Nor are we less interested in city directories, particularly for localities outside the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles. Unluckily as some of these may have become forerunners of what later became important cities and towns. Many of these can be found today only in the Bancroft Library.

The papers of the Gold Rush period, possibly the rarest of Californiana, are well represented in the collection. These include imprints from the Mother Lode country, the mining camps of Mono and Inyo Counties southward to the regions of Fresno and Kern — in all, a rich source for one of the most exciting eras in journalism. The Columbia Gazette, The Sacramento Age, and The Napa County Reporter, published in the 1850's to '70's, are representative of these early papers; their pages vividly depict the roisterous spirit of the frontier towns. Accounts of the great

From a miniature on ivory of Doña Encarnación Peralta, whose father-in-law Luis Peralta, received, in 1820, the San Antonio land grant, site of Oakland and other towns. Gift of Warren Howell.

Bancroft's Newspapers

In 1859, when Hubert Howe Bancroft began to preserve current newspapers and to gather earlier issues in great quantities, he formed the nucleus of a collection recognized as one of the most extensive in its field. Fortunately, he had the advantage of beginning it during the formative period of the West, and was able to enrich his holdings with the first newspapers of what later became important cities and towns. Many of these can be found today only in the Bancroft Library.

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Indian wars, including the celebrated Custer massacre, stage hold-ups, and the hazards overcome by Pony Express riders are found here, as well as serious editorializing about mining and land reforms. All are recorded in the Bancroft newspaper collection, which includes the Virginia City Territorial Enterprise.

The most important Mexican newspapers in the United States, were acquired from the Bancroft Library, among whose gifts are The Santa Barbara Gazette, and not only the Balance, but the California Public Balance in its various forms, as well. Since the Bancroft newspaper collection was begun almost a century ago, its invaluable value as a primary research source has grown with the years. Scholars, historians, and the general public have consequently consulted its files for unique aspects of local and regional history.

Hold Everything!

We will tell all at the Annual Meeting on May 5! All, that is, about an unusual gift from a Friend of the Bancroft Library. It marks one of the most notable events of the year and promises to be a very wonderful Tenth Anniversary present for the Friends and the University of California.

Money, Money, Money

ACQUISITION of money is not a primary activity at the Bancroft Library, but it happens. Recently the Library was given two Elizabethan sixpences similar to the coin Sir Francis Drake was believed to have placed in the brass plaque known as the Drake Plate.

The first of the coins, dated 1572, was given to the Library in January of this year by the late Dr. Samuel Saklatvala, an agent of India's steel company in London. Ed O'Leary, a representative of Kaiser Engineers in Europe and a friend of Saklatvala, presented the sixpence to the Director of Bancroft. In exchange, O'Leary took a photo of the Drake Plate, and a book describing when and where it was found, to the donor in London, as a gift of the Library.

The second coin, bearing the date 1561, was the gift of Bernard S. Rosen of Oakland, through his son Daniel, a history student at the University in Berkeley. The Rosen coin is in somewhat better condition than the one from London, as the latter has a small hole in it, such as might have been made for the purpose of suspending the coin from a watch fob.

Since the year following its discovery in Marin County in 1936, the Drake Plate has been in the Library at the University of California. The hole for the sixpence is in the lower right-hand corner of the Plate, but the original sixpence itself has never been recovered.

Francis Fletcher, chaplain to the Drake expedition which came to California in 1579, mentions the sixpence in his notes, published in 1628 in the volume titled The World Encircled. Fletcher, describing Drake's "plate of brasse, fast nailed to a great and firme post," gives the details of the inscription on the Plate. His passage ends, "together with her highness picture and arms, in a piece of sixpence currant English monie, shewing itselfe by a hole made of purpose through the plate; vnderneath was likewise engraven the name of our Generall, etc."

The placing of a cross on conquered or discovered lands was a custom usually associated with the Spanish Catholics. Drake, a Protestant, acted in the same spirit when he accepted California from the Californians in the name of his queen, according to the chaplain, but with reference to her "as the mother and nurse of the Church of Christ." An English cross, similarly visible, rises from the top of Elizabeth's crown as she is pictured on the face of the sixpence.

Both coins will be placed on exhibit with the Drake Plate, in the Bancroft Library.

American Heritage

THE BANCROFT LIBRARY would be pleased to receive a back file of American Heritage, the magazine which presents history in such attractive and accurate form. Who will volunteer?

Commission

NOT LONG AGO the Library was given a fragile old document, printed in Mexico, a form used for military appointments, with the usual blank spaces filled in by hand and dated March 10, 1806. In formal official Spanish, the Viceroy of New Spain confers upon a Cadet of the Presidio of Santa Barbara, Don Ignacio Martinez de la Vega, the rank of Second Lieutenant of the San Diego Company.

The single sheet of paper is an unusual bit of Californiania. Most important is the fact that it marks the beginning of the long and honorable career of Don Ignacio Martinez as an officer in the Spanish Army of California.

Succeeding promotions, following his participation in Indian wars and other adventures, eventually advanced Don Ignacio to the post of Commandant of the Presidio of San Francisco, a rank he held for almost a decade, until his retirement in 1831.

About 1836 Don Ignacio and his family established residence on his vast property in Sonoma County, the Pinole Rancho, which was to become famous for hospitality, lavish entertainment, and the beautiful, albeit carefully guarded, daughters of the household. The city of Martinez was named for this distinguished soldier and ranchero.

Thrown in for good measure is the signature of the Viceroy, Don Joseph de Yturri-garay, accompanied by his engraved coat of arms. On the verso are the endorsements and signatures of four other Mexican officials all bearing the same date, March 10, 1806.

Miss Ynes Estudillo, descendant of the pioneer Estudillo family of San Leandro, donated this document to the Bancroft Library.

Blond King Savage

Jim Savage, Blond King of the Tulareos is the most recent volume in the Westernlore Series published in Los Angeles. It re-creates an exciting chapter in the early history of California's great central valley, known to the Spaniards as Los Tulares and to the Americans as the San Joaquin Valley.

James D. Savage took part in the great western migration by joining the Lilburn W. Boggs Company, headed for California, at Independence, Missouri, in 1846. Fever and Indian raids on the trail took their toll, and Eliza, Savage's wife, died in the Nevada desert. But he pushed on to California, joined Colonel Fremont's California Battalion that October, and served in it for a year. During the campaigns he met various Indians from the "Tulares Valley," a fact that was to shape
the rest of his life. He learned the languages of some tribes, married several Indian women (how many is not certain), became known soon as their “Blond King,” and came to exercise great influence and power throughout the Valley.

When war between whites and Indians broke out in 1850-51, Savage was elected commanding officer of the Mariposa Battalion, and in the campaign against the tribes that ensued, discovered the Yosemite Valley on March 25, 1851. The next year, in the midst of efforts to set up reservations for the protection of the Indians and to reconcile the claims of scheming white men for lands, he was accidentally murdered, in August, 1852.

Though Savage gave only six years of his life to the development of California, he played the part like a king. Miss Mitchell has told his story in a clear, straightforward manner, giving illustrations and maps. She has added a delightful chapter to the literature of Central California.

Friends in Print

As is our custom, we continue to note the recent publications of our Friends, and in doing so we should like to enlist their aid. If any items are omitted which ought to be here, please notify us so that the lack may be remedied. It may be due only to the delays of ordering and processing in the library, but in any case it is not intentional. We do want to know about all publications by members of the Friends.

Evans, H. H. Curious lore of San Francisco’s Chinatown.
Fawcett, Paul Ambrose Bierce and the Black Hills.
Goodman, John B. ed. Governor Benloy Riley’s proclamation to the people of the District of San Francisco, June 4, 1849.
Hampden, George P. Romance of the California ranchos. [1956]

Rogers, Fred Blackburn. Filings from an old saw; reminiscences of San Francisco and California’s composite, by “Filings.”—Joseph T. Downey. Edited by Fred Blackburn Rogers. 1956.
Tomkins, John Barr, ed. A voyage of pleasure, the log of Bernard Gilboy’s transpacific cruise in the boat “Pacific” 1881-1882, edited and annotated by John Barr Tomkins. 1956.
...Peter Pond, fur trader & explorer. 1955.
Wells Fargo Bank, San Francisco A brief history of Wells Fargo, told through the mementos in the Wells Fargo Bank History room. [1956?]
Wheeler, Carl I. The 1953 Navajo Canyon expedition; a preliminary report. [1956?]

Timothy H. O’Sullivan Photographs

Transferred to Bancroft by the Rare Book Department of the General Library are two rare sets of the photographs taken by Timothy H. O’Sullivan while associated with the Geological Exploration of the 40th Parallel under Clarence King, 1867-1869, and the Explorations and Surveys in Nevada and Arizona, 1871, under Lieutenant George M. Wheeler. These fine photographs, many of which were not published in the formal reports of the two expeditions, came to the University in 1885 as a gift. The Library Administration, recognizing their great importance and usefulness in a collection such as our own, has turned them over to the Bancroft Library, where they are now being indexed. O’Sullivan, to quote Wallace Stegner, was “one of Matthew Brady’s most spectacular combat photographers, and one of the greatest recorders of the frontier.” His photographs, made with huge plate cameras, are technically and artistically of the highest order. Even those pictures taken to illustrate formations of essentially geological interest are fascinating because of their clarity and their vivid portrayal of really awe-inspiring scenery.

The geological exploration photographs total 144, each mounted on a large printed card, and their condition is excellent. Portraits of Clarence King and other leading figures of the party, scenes at old Fort Ruby in Nevada, and photographs taken along the Central Pacific Railroad, as well as views of Salt Lake City, Gold Hill, and Virginia City, make this group of photographs one that will delight and inform our patrons for years to come.

Our Friends Talk on Fine Printing

FINE PRINTING was the theme of a conference held in the General Library of the University on March 1, 1957, presided over by Donald Coney, University Librarian. George L. Harding, secretary-treasurer of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company and for several years Chairman of the Friends of the Bancroft Library, spoke on Daniel B. Updike, founder of Boston’s famous Merrymount Press, which had a phenomenal influence on fine printing in America. Mr. Harding has assembled one of the most notable collections of Updike works in this country in his library of fine printed materials.

On the same program, Professor James D. Hart, an enthusiastic friend and supporter of the Bancroft Library in the organizing and establishing of its Western Authors Collection, spoke on Fine Printing in Northern California. Dr. Hart has recently assumed his new duties as Vice Chancellor on the Berkeley campus of the University to assist Chancellor Clark Kerr in the administration of academic affairs. The Friends extend their best wishes to Dr. Hart on his appointment to this distinguished post and, at the same time, express the hope that in spite of his new responsibilities he will be able to give leadership to our Western Authors Collection and to guide students in its use.

International Visitors

Not always do we remember the international reputation the University of California has attained through the Bancroft Library. Scholars come from all over the world to consult its rich storehouse of information. A few weeks ago we were reminded of this fact when we welcomed the Reverend Ernest J. Burrus, S.J., to the University of California for a month’s research. The Reverend Burrus is the representative at the Vatican Library in Rome for the St. Louis University Microfilm Center, where some 31,000 of the most precious volumes have been microfilmed for the use of scholars who cannot go to the Vatican in person. During the past year, Father Burrus has surveyed and listed Jesuit materials in libraries and archives in the United States and Mexico.

From Spain, by way of Mexico, came another distinguished visitor, Dr. Francisco Guerra, now professor of pharmacology and head of the department at the National University of Mexico. Dr. Guerra’s interest is in the use of indigenous plants in the manufacture of drugs before the Spaniards reached the New World. Indeed, he has pioneered in this study. We are gratified that he found several unsuspected sources in the Bancroft Library which he described as being exceedingly rare and valuable.

Idaho Gems

A DISTINCTLY NEWSWORTHY ADDITION to Bancroft’s collections is a fine group of the papers of Mason Brayman, Governor of Idaho Territory from 1876 to 1880. Idaho manuscripts are of rare occurrence, and rarer still are those that significantly illuminate the Gem State’s Territorial politics and government. The Brayman Papers are the more welcome at Bancroft in that the Library’s Idaho
newspaper files for the same period are among the best extant.

Mason Brayman was born in Buffalo in 1813 and in early life edited newspapers in New York, Kentucky, and Illinois. He also practiced law in New York, Michigan, and Illinois, in which latter state he settled in 1842. He wrote a valuable introduction to the Illinois Revised Statutes, 1845, and next year served as the Governor’s representative amid the violent scenes which accompanied the Mormon expulsion from Illinois (a number of his papers bearing on these services are preserved in the Chicago Historical Society). During the next decade he was general solicitor for the Illinois Central Railroad. After the outbreak of the Civil War he was commissioned major in the 29th Illinois. Brayman fought at Belmont, Fort Donelson, and Shiloh, and his gallantry in action won him rapid promotion from colonel to brigadier-general to brevet major-general of volunteers. After the war he engaged in railroad projects and in journalism, then in 1873 removed to Wisconsin.

It is apparent from the Papers that Brayman fell upon hard times and in 1876 was deeply in debt. He went to Washington that summer, hoping for a judicial appointment, but his friend, President Grant, named him Governor of Idaho instead. Through many vicissitudes he served out his term and in 1880 returned to Wisconsin. A few years later he moved to Kansas City, where he died in 1895.

The Papers which have come to Bancroft consist of about 150 pieces, two-thirds of which are letters written by Brayman from Idaho to members of his family, especially his daughter Ada and her husband, Major William H. Bailhache. The latter, who had a position in the Pension Office, served as Brayman’s personal lobbyist, intelligence service, and liaison officer in Washington, which gives the Papers distinctive interest as a running commentary upon, and inside history of, Brayman’s official correspondence and relations with the Grant and Hayes administrations. Since he was soon violently embroiled with the “Boise ring”—one of the politically potent organizations of the period—Brayman had great need of just such an agent as he found in his son-in-law. A real history of Brayman’s administration could not be written without these Papers, and they point up the opportunity awaiting an enterprising scholar to make a thorough study of Idaho’s neglected Territorial years.

The Papers include numerous letters from Mrs. Brayman, Mrs. Bailhache, other relatives and friends, and various public officials; newspaper clippings and manuscript copies of some Territorial papers—and, of bibliographical interest, three Idaho imprints of 1877-79. Two of these were not recorded in the Historical Record Survey’s Checklist of Idaho Imprints (1940), and copies of the other were found only in the files of the Idaho Secretary of State.

New Friends

| Baker, Mrs. Laura | Berkeley |
| Belcher, Mrs. Harriet | Atherton |
| Dakin, Mrs. Richard Y. | Belvedere |
| Fleming, Donald | Piedmont |
| Gude, Mr. & Mrs. Erwin G. | Orinda |
| Mitchell, Miss Annie | Visalia |
| North, Mrs. Morgan | Berkeley |
| Perkins, A. B. | Newhall |

Weaverville’s Trinity Journal

Enthusiasts of pioneer journalism will be grateful to Mr. John Steppling, publisher of the Weaverville Trinity Journal, who recently donated almost all the issues necessary to complete Bancroft Library’s file of this paper for the years 1860 to 1905. Founded one hundred years ago, the Trinity Journal unfolds a colorful history of the Weaverville region, from its boisterous mining-camp days to its later development as a lumbering and agricultural center. Duels, disastrous fires, and Chinese riots enlivened the early issues, while in later years the paper lent some fine rhetoric to various political causes.

Weaverville, we recall, is the town that author James Hilton called the closest place to Shangri-La he had seen in all his wanderings. Many readers will undoubtedly be interested in examining a newspaper issued from just this side of Shangri-La.