

# BANCROFTIANA

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## *Annual Meeting, May 3*

MR. PAUL MILLS, curator of the Oakland Art Museum, will speak at the Friends' Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 3, at 2:30 P.M. His subject is, "California pictorial history and the Honeyman Collection." An extensive exhibition of Honeyman and other material will mark the occasion. Come and bring a friend.

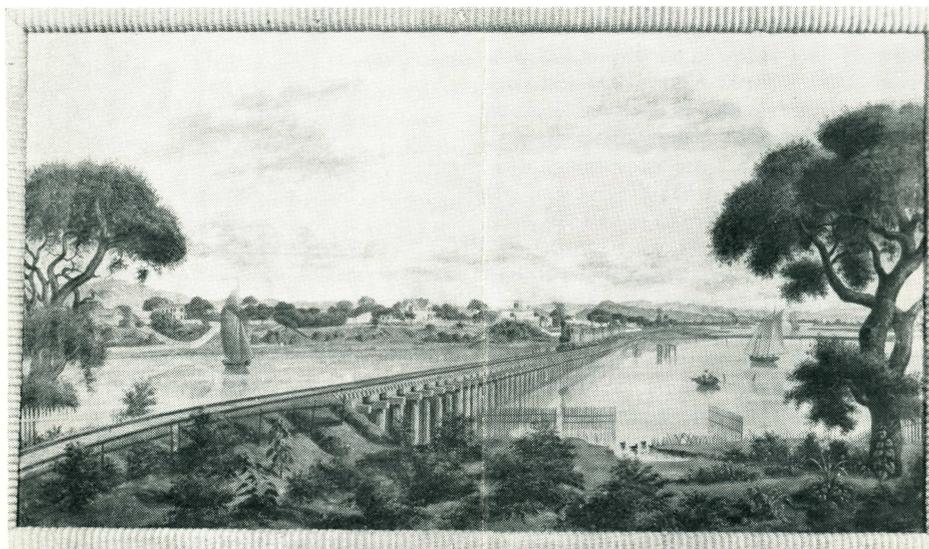
## *Rapid Transit—Yesterday*

WOULD YOU BELIEVE that this is a picture of Lake Merritt and Oakland Estuary painted before the camera replaced the artist's brush? Joseph Lee stood on the west side of the lake, captured on canvas a moment in local history, and made it memorable. The painting is in the Honeyman Collection.

The train in the foreground provided the only "rapid transit" from East Oakland to connect with the San Francisco ferry. The ferry boat in the picture, probably the *San Antonio*, is shown backing out into the estuary for its trip to San Francisco. Roy D. Graves, now of San Francisco, remembers the scene well, as does Arthur R. McPhail of Oakland. (See the *Oakland Tribune's* Knave for March 29, 1964.)

## *Cort Majors Joins University Staff*

MR. O. CORT MAJORS, Chairman of the Friends for the past four years, retired at the end of 1963 as vice president and director of sales, Fibreboard Paper Products Corporation,



*Lake Merritt and Oakland Estuary—Circa 1870*

San Francisco, and has now joined the Chancellor's staff on the Berkeley campus as a special assistant.

Mr. Majors, graduate of the Class of 1921, was captain of the 1920 "Wonder Team" in football. During 1956-58, he was president of the California Alumni Association and an ex officio regent of the University.

## Honeyman Collection

THE FRIENDS' project to acquire the Robert B. Honeyman, Jr., pictorial collection for the Bancroft Library is progressing satisfactorily. The completion of the funding campaign is in sight, with about 85 per cent of the money pledged. Several of the pictures will be dedicated to various California pioneers by the donors. The Finance Committee, headed by O. Cort Majors, Allan Sproul, and Susanna B. Dakin, are doing a splendid job. They ask the help of friends of the University to obtain the additional gifts necessary to complete the purchase this spring.

## Class of 1914

THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY of the Class of 1914, the last to graduate in those golden years before the First World War, is almost upon us, and looking through the roster we note many familiar names. The late Aubrey Drury, often a visitor in our Reading Room, served as Sergeant-at-Arms when the class organized itself in the Fall of 1910. Grace Bird, donor of much of our Porter Garnett collection, began her academic career with this class, as did Albert Wieslander, now engaged in writing a history of the Department of Forestry at the University.

The late Francis William ("Rip") Rubke was to become a legendary captain of the baseball team; his autographed baseball and blue and gold cap have recently been given to the University by his sister, Mrs. Lulu D. Landweer. And just a few days short of a half-century ago, at the commencement exercises in the Greek Theatre on May 13, 1914, the University Medal was awarded to Miss Clotilde Grunsky, with honorable mention for Donald McLaughlin, now a regent of the

University. To our friends in the Class of 1914, our heartiest congratulations.

## Hammond's Retirement Deferred

THE PRESENT DIRECTOR of Bancroft has agreed to the Chancellor's request that he remain on duty another year, instead of retiring this coming June 30th as he had planned.

## H. H. Bancroft Redivivus

THE MOST PROLIFIC current member of the Bancroft staff, readers are beginning to appreciate, is that experienced old hand, Hubert Howe Bancroft. In 1959 he got out two volumes, a *History of Arizona and New Mexico*, published at Albuquerque with twin introductions by Senators Clinton P. Anderson and Barry Goldwater, and a *History of Alaska*, published at New York with an introduction by Senator Ernest Gruening. More recently, two different publishers have announced a seven-volume *History of California*, the same text competitively published at New York and at Santa Barbara. The first volume of this latter edition bears an introduction by Governor Edmund G. Brown.

Yet another publisher, from his Baltimore base, has announced early publication of the veteran's *Pioneer Register and Index, 1542-1848*, taken from the end pages of the first five volumes of the California history. We hear rumors of other large works to appear soon, immense in their scope and staggering in their detail. The new generation cannot begin to compete with this stalwart gentleman who, in an otherwise unoccupied moment, founded the Bancroft Library in 1860.

## The West of Wm. H. Ashley

SUPPOSEDLY the ambition of historians is to write a "definitive book," but Bancroft's long-time staff member, Dale L. Morgan, in his just-published *The West of William H. Ashley, 1822-1838*, a handsomely styled book printed for Fred A. Rosenstock of Denver by Lawton Kennedy of San Francisco, disclaims



Dale L. Morgan

any such idea. Although Morgan has incorporated into text or notes almost every presently known document relating to Ashley's experiences as a fur trader and as a major figure in Western exploration, he insists in his preface that no work of history can ever be more than a beginning. He reasons that the "definitive" book starts coming apart at the seams the first time a previously unknown document is found after publication, and that a book usually brings to light new or hitherto unknown sources. He frankly hopes that discoverers of new documents will be quick to write him at the Bancroft Library, "not even delaying to wash off the dust that may have accompanied them down from the attic." We will be delighted to share in any such joys of discovery.

## New Staff Member

ON JANUARY 2, 1964, Frederick C. Lynden joined the Bancroft Staff as a reference librarian. He holds the B.A. and M.A. degrees from Stanford University (International Relations and History), and the M.A. degree in Library Science from the University of

Minnesota. Members of the Friends are invited to make themselves known to Mr. Lynden when they visit us.

## Book Collector Graff

THE MANY FRIENDS of Everett D. Graff, Chicago steel executive who for more than forty years was one of the most notable of American book collectors, will be saddened to hear that he died on March 11, in his 79th year, while visiting in Rome, Italy. A long-time member of the Friends, and a benefactor of the Bancroft Library, Graff was noted for the intelligent interest he took in his vast collection. He was ever generous in affording scholars access to the many rarities he had assembled in the field of Americana; and, within the past few years, gave his entire collection to the Newberry Library, where it will be preserved intact, a perpetual monument to his memory.

## May Dornin Retires

ON JUNE 30TH, Miss May Dornin, University Archivist, will retire after almost 44 years of service on the Berkeley campus. First as a student assistant in the Fall of 1916, later as Senior Assistant in the Catalogue Department of the General Library, Miss Dornin worked with the University's first Librarian, J. C. Rowell, in setting up and classifying the materials of the Archives. In 1946 she was appointed to head both the Rare Books and Archives Departments, and since 1949 has continued as University Archivist. When the Archives were transferred to the Bancroft Library in 1962, she joined our staff as well.

Possessed of a knowledge of the University's development equalled by few, May Dornin has functioned as unofficial University historian for many years—sharing her wisdom not only with Presidents and Chancellors, but also with the freshman pledges who have knocked at Room 303 of the Library, asking about hard-to-find dedicatory plaques and almost-forgotten traditions. Letters have come to her desk from all parts of the world with requests for information relating to academic history, bequests to the Regents, honorary degrees, and the like, and

have been answered only after patient searching for seemingly unrecorded data.

One of Professor Herbert E. Bolton's graduate students in history, May Dornin wrote her M.A. thesis on "The Emigrant Trails into California." Her continuing interest in Californiana is explained, in part, by her pioneer heritage—her grandfather, Newton C. Miller, settled in Grass Valley in 1850, and she hopes to spend some of her time in examining his papers, now housed in the Bancroft Library.

## *Overland in 1846, with Morgan*

How DO BOOKS come to be? Here is an example. Ten years ago, Dale Morgan and Bancroft's Director, in discussing some ideas for a Friends' keepsake publication, ventured to suggest that a thin volume (it had to be small because of printing costs) could be built around the 1846 diaries of Nicholas Carriger, James Mathers, George McKinstry, Jr., Patrick Breen, and possibly additional bits and pieces to bind them together.

Time passed. The pressure of other activities increased. But Dale Morgan, building on such background works as his *The Humboldt, Highbroad of the West* (1943), *Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West* (1953), and *Jedediah Smith and his Maps of the American West* (1954), the latter with Carl I. Wheat, did not forget. The idea of the 1846 diaries flourished in his mind. Late in 1963, the fruit appeared in a two-volume *magnum opus*, printed and published by Robert Greenwood at his Talisman Press in Georgetown, California.

## *The Bidwell-Farquhar Party, 1964*

ONE OF THE SCARCEST titles in Californiana and Western Americana, John Bidwell's *A Journey to California*, has been selected by the editorial committee of the Friends for republication as the 1964 Keepsake. The Bancroft Library's copy of the original book, printed in western Missouri about 1843 and

recounting Bidwell's overland journey of 1841 as a member of the Bartleson party, is the only one that has ever come to light despite years of intensive search by bibliophiles. In 1937, Herbert I. Priestley, then librarian of the Bancroft Library, edited and John Henry Nash printed, a limited edition of the Bidwell journal which has become almost as hard to find as the original.

The new Keepsake for the Friends will have an introduction by Francis P. Farquhar and will be printed by Lawton Kennedy in handsome style. It will represent a definite contribution to the literature of the West, embodying the record of the first emigrant journey to California by wagon train, and will be prized as a Keepsake for its significant content as well as for its fine printing.

## *Caroline LeConte*

SOMETIMES CALLED CAROLINE, sometimes Carrie, Joseph LeConte's daughter in 1878 was a mischievous 14-year-old who delightfully undertook to write a diary of a "Camping trip to Yosemite." Two years later, an unsubdued 16-year-old, she expanded the diary and illustrated it with pen and ink sketches which wonderfully expressed the spirit of her written text. Such a manuscript, written in the morning of life, deserved a better fate than to be hidden away in the Bancroft Library's collection of LeConte Family Papers. Accordingly, Susanna B. Dakin has undertaken to edit it for fall publication by the Book Club of California. Mrs. Dakin, as her friends are well aware, has an appreciative eye for notable members of her sex.

Caroline's father was Professor Joseph LeConte, one of the "giants" of the faculty in the early history of the University of California. LeConte was a Southerner, professor of geology and chemistry at South Carolina College in Columbia (later the University of South Carolina) whose career there was ruined during the Civil War. Through Harvard friends, in 1869 he moved to Berkeley. Thrilled by the natural beauty of the State, he became a member of the Sierra Club and visited the great Yosemite valley no less than eleven times. Caroline's diary relates one of these fascinating trips.