Sierra Club Records

The Bancroft Library is greatly honored to have been designated as the official repository for the historical records of one of the world’s leading conservation organizations, the Sierra Club, and we are pleased to publicize the arrival in the library of a large quantity of pictorial materials, from among which we have selected the dramatic and pluvial illustration, reproduced below. That the Club’s records will prove an invaluable research collection is without doubt, for this is an archive rich in source material for the history of our national parks and forests, in particular, and of the conservation of our natural resources, in general.

We feel that it is eminently right that these materials are coming “home” to the Berkeley campus, for it was here, in 1890, that Professor Joachim Henry Senger of the University’s Department of German first proposed the formation of an association of those interested in mountain travel, to be known as a “Sierra Club.” Founded in 1892 by Senger, Warren Olney and John Muir, who became its first president, a position he was to hold until his death in 1914, the organization from the outset drew much of its strength from the faculties and students of the neighboring universities, California and Stanford. The Club’s first secretary was William Dallam Armes, Professor of English at Berkeley, and among the initial di-
rectors was President David Starr Jordan of Stanford.

In the University Archives we have found a letter written on September 21st, 1914, to President Benjamin Ide Wheeler by William E. Colby, then serving as the Club's secretary, requesting the use of Hearst Hall for a stereopticon exhibition. President Wheeler replied, in part: "I am glad to be able to tell you that it will be available for the worthy purposes of the Sierra Club..." Patrons of The Bancroft Library will soon be able to examine the documentation of these 'worthy purposes.'

**Staff in Print**

MEMBERS OF THE BANCROFT'S STAFF have been prolific in contributing to the world of scholarship beyond the confines of the library. We are pleased to note the following publications.

Professor Hart, since becoming Director in January of last year, has seen the publication of his edition of Frank Norris' *The Pit* by the Charles E. Merrill Company, and of *A Novelist in the Making*, which includes the themes which Norris wrote while a student at Harvard, by the Harvard University Press. His *A Tribute to Phoebe Apperson Hearst* in "The Best Friend the University Ever Had," which appeared in the first issue of *California Monthly Journal*. Continuing to pursue his interest in the American novelist Harold Frederic, Mr. Kantor also published "Autobiography and Journalism: Sources for Harold Frederic's Fiction" in *The serif* and contributed to "Harold Frederic: Supplemental Critical Bibliography of Secondary Comment" in *American Literary Realism*. His review of the 1968 volume of *The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections* appeared in *The American Archivist*.


**Rose is a Rose**

THE STATEMENT IN *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*, "As I am an ardent Californian and as [Gertrude Stein] spent her youth there I have often begged her to be born in California but she has always remained firmly born in Allegheny, Pennsylvania," reveals not only Miss Toklas' but Miss Stein's great affection for her home in the Bay area. How appropriate it is then that Gertrude Stein's long correspondence with a one-time Berkeley student, Ralph Church, should at long last become a permanent addition to The Bancroft Library's collection of Stein material. Two more "ardent Californians," Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Haas, long-standing friends of the University of California, have made possible this valuable gift.

The Stein-Church correspondence has not yet been fully arranged for use, but a survey of the letters reveals something of its breadth. Gertrude Stein first became interested in philosophy when she studied under William James at Radcliffe. Her letters to Ralph Church, whom she met when he was on his way from Berkeley to Oxford to study for a doctorate in philosophy, show that her interest in philosophy continued with considerable intensity all her life. She occasionally reveals the depth of her introspective nature when she describes her reactions to Church's various articles and to his dissertation. She also relates periods of contemplation made possible when she had retired to the French countryside for a rare, quiet summer.

A lighter side of Gertrude Stein's nature is reflected in a large number of notes and letters to Church's mother, Mrs. Withington Church, which recount the busy social life led by Misses Stein and Toklas during the 1920's and '30's. There are also glimpses of Gertrude Stein's trip to the United States in the 1930's, and of her literary and publishing activities during this period.

The famous "Rose is a rose is a rose is a rose" device (shown above) appears on a large number of the letters, in several styles, and is also preserved in sealing wax on a number of the envelopes in the collection. Miss Stein's penmanship was notoriously bad, but the abundance of letters in the Church collection makes it possible for the reader to become accustomed to her hand. More importantly, one can see the changes in her handwriting as the decades pass; the only effect of aging seems to be an increase in the size of her letters.

Other letters in the collection round out the picture of Gertrude Stein's activities. Several from Alice B. Toklas give an impression of her role in stabilizing the everyday details in the life of the busy writer. Another letter from a visitor who saw Miss Stein just four months before her death in 1946 reveals how active she was to the last.

**Fourth Dakin Lecture**

"THREE APPROACHES to the Art of the West" served as the topic for the fourth Susan B. Bryant Dakin lecture, presented before 200 guests in The Bancroft Library on the evening of November 20th. Supported by a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Zeitlin, the series honors the memory of Mrs. Dakin, long-time member of the Council of the Friends.

The three speakers were Joseph Armstrong Baird, Lecturer in Art at the University of California's Davis campus; Alfred Frankenstein, Curator of American Art in the University's new art museum; and John Reps, Professor of Architecture at Cornell University. The talks were illustrated by slides made from items in the Honeyman Collection of Western American Art, purchased, in part, by the Friends for the library in 1964. In large part, the impetus for this purchase derived from the enthusiasm, persistence and plain hard work of Mrs. Dakin.

Preceding the lectures themselves, a portrait of Herbert Eugene Bolon, described elsewhere in this issue, was presented to the library, and following the program refreshments were served by members of the staff.

**Jose Lopez Ugara**

THE PAPERS OF JOSE LOPEZ UGARA, diplomat and soldier, whose career spanned a tumultuous...
period in Mexican history, have recently been purchased by The Bancroft Library. The collection nicely complements the papers of José M. Magariteta, purchased by the Friends in 1989 and described in the April, 1989 issue of Bancroftiana.

Ugara served as Mexico's representative in Berlin in 1854, and in the early 1860's he promoted the cause of Benito Juárez. With the ascension of Maximilian and Carlota, however, he became a loyal supporter of the new regime, only to find his political career at an end with the downfall of the empire. In 1873, after the election to the presidency of Sebastián Lerdo de Tejada and the granting of general amnesty, Ugara was once again in his government's service, now in Guatemala.

Following the installation of Porfirio Díaz as president, Ugara moved to San Francisco and during his residence at 1250 California Street he conducted a voluminous correspondence aimed at rehabilitation as a Mexican citizen and the securing of the post as Mexican consul in San Francisco. The collection includes a number of letters from Plácido Vega, who in later life also became a member of San Francisco's Mexican emigré colony; Vega's own papers have been in the Bancroft for some years. The situation of these exiles is illuminated by a letter from Díaz, 11 January 1881, in which the president notes that he is personally well disposed toward Ugara, but is unable to arrange for his return to Mexico because the matter must be decided by the congress.

Along with Ugara's papers, the library has gained its first portrait of Zelia Nuttall, whose works on indigenous Mexican cultures are well represented in the Bancroft's catalogue. There is also an undated letter signed by Zelia Nuttall Pinart, written during her marriage to Alphonse Pinart, writer and transcriber of many popular works on indigenous Mexican cultures are well represented in the Bancroft's catalogue.

The Bancroft Library has notable collections of papers for all three of these authors, and its holdings for two of them have been considerably augmented recently with the purchase of additional Coolbrith papers from her grand-niece, Mrs. Ina A. Graham, and the gift of Stoddard material from Dr. Albert Shumate.

Ina Coolbrith in the '60's

Coolbrith an assistant editor, and Stoddard a popular contributor. The three were closely associated, socially as well as professionally. As writers they were just emerging into prominence, and the Overland Monthly days were for, each of them, exciting, happy times. Both Harte and Stoddard left San Francisco, however, to pursue literary fame elsewhere, while Miss Coolbrith remained, her literary ambitions curbed by family obligations.

The Bancroft Library has received a major collection of manuscripts, letters, and other papers from Charles Leland, one of the most important writers of American folklore of his period. In his notebook [no. 15] for the '60's and '70's—Harte, Stoddard, Twain, Miller and Bierce. Volumes of poetry continued to appear, however, and in 1915 California honored Miss Coolbrith by naming her its first poet-laureate. She died in 1928 at the age of eighty-five, the last member of the famed San Francisco literary frontier.

The Garden of Francis Gay

In the March, 1970 issue of Bancroftiana we published an unidentified family photograph in the hope that one of our readers might be able to supply us with information concerning time, place and persons. Miss Isabel B. Faye of Berkeley has provided just such facts as we needed, and we are happy to quote in part from her recent correspondence with Dr. John Barr Tompkins of the Bancroft's staff.

I am happy to be able to identify this photograph from the 1890's, since at the moment I have been working on an old album pertaining to this period on Kauai, Hawaii, and can verify the correctness of my identification & the greater part of the photograph which was probably taken in the garden of Francis Gay of Makaweli, Kauai. Dr. Dugald Campbell had been at Waimea for the greater part of the 1890's as physician for the Waimea district, but left with his wife and two young sons at the turn of the century for his native Scotland. . . . Standing on the right is Eliza Gay Welcker, sister of Francis Gay. It may be of interest to add that she lived for many years in Berkeley (1900-1947) at the "Cedars" on Oxford Street. . . . From time to time we shall select other such unidentified photographs for inclusion in these pages, and shall hope that others of our readers may be similarly helpful.
1880, Mark Twain wrote “Gnaw a file & flee to the mountains of Hepsidam.” Persistent research by the editorial staff could not uncover either the source or the meaning of this note. There was a distinctly Biblical flavor, but why were there no references in the Bible to “Hepsidam”? And, what did “Gnaw a file” mean? Was it perhaps some kind of word-play? If so, was it Mark Twain’s word-play or someone else’s?

An examination of the Koundakjian catalogue, however, revealed the existence of a book written by G. W. Bagby, _A Week in Hepsidam: Being the First and Only True Account of the Mountains, Men, Manners and Morals Thereof_, which had been published a year before Mark Twain’s note had been made. As this title included the first mention of “Hepsidam” outside of the notebook, considerable excitement was engendered. An examination of the volume itself (actually a pamphlet) showed that (1) the work was a political satire on the state of Virginia, (2) “Hepsidam” was a fictive name for Virginia, (3) a character in this satire named Peyton Page spoke the words: “They shall gnaw a file, and they shall flee unto the mountains of Hepsidam . . . ,” and (4) by an obscure and perhaps arbitrary system of symbolism “file” referred to a Virginia legislature “Funding Bill.”

The long-puzzling expression appeared among a list of works which Mark Twain was considering for publication in his _Library of Humor_, and it was apparent that he had at this time considered publishing all or part of Bagby’s satire in his anthology. The discovery of Bagby’s work in the Koundakjian Collection has helped the Mark Twain Papers to solve a problem of annotation, add another title to the list of Mark Twain’s library, and demonstrate once again that Mark Twain’s familiarity with southern and southwestern humorists was remarkably broad.

**Sanborn Insurance Maps**

With a recent gift of some fifty volumes by the Hartford Insurance Group, The Bancroft Library’s holdings of Sanborn Insurance Maps of cities of the western United States has become a major resource collection for historians, city planners, architects and urban geographers. These large (folio and double folio) volumes contain maps of urban areas with the unusually large scale of 1 inch to 50, 100 or 200 feet. Every building in the city is shown, and information concerning type of construction and number of dwellings is included.

The Bancroft’s volumes range in time from an 1883 edition for Stockton to one of Oakland, corrected to 1965. Among cities represented in the collection are Alameda, Berkeley, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, and Everett and Spokane in Washington. Not only major centers, but also such smaller cities as Nevada City in California, Astoria and Baker in Oregon, and Cordova and Ketchikan in Alaska are included. As the library is always interested in acquiring volumes with variant correction dates, we are pleased to learn that the Sanborn Map Company’s San Francisco office will soon be transferring additional volumes to the Bancroft.

**Bolton’s Portrait**

**Herbert E. Bolton**

Herbert Eugene Bolton, who served as Director of The Bancroft Library from 1916 until his retirement in 1942, has been memorialized, on the occasion of the centennial of his birth, by an oil portrait presented to the library by the Friends, together with members of the Bolton family. Created by the Spanish artist Juana Lazcano, the painting, reproduced here, now hangs above the reference desk in the Bancroft’s reading room.

In his remarks prepared for the Friends gathered for the fourth Susanna Bryant Dakin lecture, Director Emeritus George P. Hammond recalled his predecessor’s career—

The Bancroft Library became literally Bolton’s home. Here he gathered about his famous and popular course, “History of the Americas.” His writings, like his teaching, dealt with this subject and area. His point of view was not provincial, but broad and universal. His pioneering studies in “The Borderlands” of Mexico and the United States prepared the way for the scholars of the coming generation to carve out their own areas of specialization in this great field to which he had shown the way.

**Desiderata**

As the major repository for Frank Norris materials, The Bancroft Library would like to complete its holdings of the English first editions of Norris’ works. The following titles are being sought—

_The Pit_. London, Grant Richards, 1901. (Published in the United States as _The Pit; A Deal in Wheat_.)

_Blix_. London, Grant Richards, 1900.

_A Man’s Woman_. London, Grant Richards, 1900.

_The Octopus_. London, Grant Richards, 1901.

_The Pit_. London, Grant Richards, 1903.

_A Deal in Wheat and Other Stories of the New and Old West_. London, Grant Richards, 1903.


We should also like to find _The Pit; A Deal in Wheat_, published as volume 2 of _The Complete Works of Frank Norris_. New York, P. F. Collier & Son, 1905.

Should any of these be available to the Bancroft, please communicate with Miss Patricia Howard, by letter or telephone (642-7781).

We wish to thank those of our readers who have responded generously to our past requests, for the library has been enriched by their gifts.

**Oral History Colloquium**

The BANCROFT’S Regional Oral History Office, in conjunction with UCLA’s Oral History Office, hosted the Fifth National Colloquium on Oral History, held at Asilomar on the Monterey peninsula in mid-November. For the 160 oral historians gathered for workshops and seminars, a high point was the address by Louisiana University’s Professor T. Harry Williams, who discussed his use of the oral history method in his Pulitzer Prize winning biography of Huey Long.

Members of the ROHO staff gave of their time and expertise in several ways. Amelia Fry, director of ROHO’s Earl Warren Project, was instructor in the interviewing process for the pre-conference workshop, while Ruth Teiser acted as official photographer. Harriet Nathan held a group session on tape recording the histories of institutions, a technique she had put to good use as coordinator for the series of interviews dealing with the history of the University of California. Although Willa K. Baum’s two-year term on the National Council of the Oral History Association expired at the time of the colloquium, ROHO’s representation on the Council is continued by the election of Mrs. Fry as secretary.

**The Saga of American Society**

Once or twice in a generation of scholarship a work appears which may be called seminal, from which derives a whole new field of study. One such landmark was Dixon Wecter’s _The Saga of American Society_ (1937). Long out of print, the Wecter book has now been reissued...
in a handsome format by Charles Scribners' Sons, with an introduction by the novelist Louis Auchincloss.

Upon the book's initial publication, Howard Mumford Jones wrote in the *Atlantic* for January, 1938: "Mr. Wecter's volume is the first serious attempt to chronicle the rise and fall of the Four Hundred and of those decimal fractions of the great republic outside of New York City which tread on less enchanted ground. It is an amusing, rich, and juicy chronicle, starred with pungent anecdote and enriched by the sardonic comment of its author."

*The Saga of American Society* was Wecter's first book; he went on to write *The Hero in America*, which is also scheduled to be republished soon. At the time of his premature death in 1950, Dixon Wecter was editor of the Mark Twain Papers, now an integral part of The Bancroft Library. It is good, indeed, to have these works back in print, so that a whole new generation of readers may derive both pleasure and knowledge from them.

**Rube Goldberg Memorial Exhibition**

One of the first graduate students on the Berkeley campus in 1873 was Frederick Slate; from 1875 until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 1918 he taught physics, including a course in analytical mechanics. And one of his students in the latter class was Reuben Goldberg '04. Recalling the educational experience at the University of California in the early years of this century, Rube Goldberg wrote in 1968:

> Analytic mechanics and Freddy Slate were exactly suited to each other. In analytic mechanics you were introduced to the funniest-looking contrivances ever conceived by the human mind and in Professor Slate you met a human with a red beard, large Adam's apple, and big gold-rimmed spectacles perched on his head. . . .

Professor Slate had devised a machine by which the weight of the earth could be determined. It was a system of tubes, retorts, hoses, and what appeared to be odds and ends. . . . He called it a Barodik. . . . In the course of years thousands of letters have reached me asking how I ever happened to get started on my line of drawing strange-looking inventions designed to perform commonplace but annoying tasks, such as catching a mouse or getting an olive out of a long-necked bottle. Well, the inspiration was Freddy Slate’s Barodik. Perhaps this is a prime example of art imitating nature; it was the start of an unparalleled career in American journalistic art, one which was brought to a close only last month with Goldberg’s death in New York City at the age of 87. Now the University Art Museum and The Friends of The Bancroft Library are presenting “Rube Goldberg: Memorial Exhibition—Drawings from The Bancroft Library,” on view in the museum from January 19th through February 28th. The materials are all from the collection of his original drawings which Goldberg presented to the Bancroft in 1964, upon the occasion of his sixtieth class reunion.

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