

BANCROFTIANA

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"The Gentlest of Women"

"I HAVE DECIDED to resign from the Board of Regents and will do so at once." So wrote Phoebe Apperson Hearst from Cairo in a thirty-two page letter dated February 10th, 1905, addressed to Benjamin Ide Wheeler, President of the University of California. And thus she proposed to end an association which had begun in 1891 when she offered to contribute funds to be used for scholarships for women students and continued in 1897 when she was appointed to the Board to fill the unexpired term of Regent Charles F. Crocker.

Her reasons were several—her ill health which would force her to live abroad for a number of years, returning to California only during the summer months, and her conviction that it was not right to hold the office when she could not attend more than three meetings a year.

Someone should be appointed who can do the work required. I feel as deep an interest in the University as ever, and this is why I feel I should no longer hold the office.

This interesting, hitherto unknown letter came to light recently when offered for sale at the annual auction sponsored by the San Francisco television station, KQED. It was purchased from the successful bidder by William Randolph Hearst, Jr., who presented it to the Bancroft as an addition to the voluminous Hearst Collection which he had given earlier—including the papers not only of his grandmother, Phoebe Apperson Hearst, but also of his grandfather, Senator George Hearst.

Fortunately, Mrs. Hearst kept most of her correspondence with President Wheeler, for



Phoebe Apperson at the time of her marriage to George Hearst.

his files were destroyed by the Berkeley fire of 1923. Wheeler presented her letter at the first meeting of the Board of Regents after its receipt, and the Regents were unanimous in formally voting to request that Mrs. Hearst withdraw her resignation and give such service as she could during the three months of the year when she expected to be in California. Reporting this to her, Wheeler added: "I honestly think . . . that you can do more work and be of more service to the University during the three months of your presence here, joined with the touch with University affairs you are able to maintain at a distance, than most of the

Regents are able to render." His entreaty was obviously successful and Mrs. Hearst continued as a Regent until her death in 1919.

Her many benefactions to the University are well known—the financing of the international competition to determine the best architectural plan for the Berkeley campus; funds for several campus buildings, notably Hearst Memorial Mining Building, at its completion in 1907 the largest building in the world then devoted to mining education, and Hearst Hall, the Maybeck-designed gymnasium and union for women students; scholarships for women (the recipients of which came to be known as "Phoebes"); financial assistance to many departments, including the Department of Anthropology and the Museum of Anthropology, both of which she established, and the University Library; and funds for archaeological expeditions to Mexico, South America, and Egypt, from the last of which came Bancroft's fine collection of papyrus.

Less well known perhaps is how deep her commitment was to the cause of education throughout her life. Before her marriage to George Hearst in 1862 she had taught school in Missouri, and after settling in San Francisco she devoted much of her time and money to the establishment of kindergartens in the city. Moving to Washington, D.C. in 1886 when her husband became United States Senator from California, she continued her interest in the kindergarten movement, establishing several in that city and endowing also a training school for kindergarten teachers. In Washington, too, she helped found and helped support financially the National Cathedral School for Girls.

In Lead, South Dakota, and Anaconda, Montana, where the Hearst mining interests centered, she built and equipped free libraries, and, in Lead, a kindergarten as well. She assumed direct financial responsibility for the education of whole families of children, some known by her personally, but many known only on the basis of their need. Through scholarships and direct financial assistance she supported many student artists and musicians in their studies both at home and abroad.

Welfare activities also occupied a dominant place in Mrs. Hearst's life. She gave liberally to hospitals, orphanages, and other institutions helping the needy, and she was equally generous in her private philanthropy, which, in those pre-welfare state days, aided many people directly.



Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Benjamin Ide Wheeler, University Commencement, May, 1913.

With the exception of her gifts to the University of California, there is no formal record of these deeds. Only a careful sifting and perusal of the thousands of letters in the Hearst Collection give some idea of the extent to which this remarkable woman used her wealth in helping others to shape useful lives. Aside from her philanthropic activities, there is rich documentation on both her family life (with several amusing letters written by her son, William Randolph Hearst, while an undergraduate at Harvard) and her many civic interests; in addition, there are literally hundreds of letters from friends, many of them famous. From this great mass of material emerges the portrait of an extraordinary, compassionate woman, who, in the words of one of her oldest friends, "never failed in the graces and amenities which adorn the gentlest of women."

Bancroft Remodeling

THE REOCCUPATION of our expanded and remodeled quarters has for various reasons been delayed but we are now planning ceremonies and a celebration this spring when we will welcome the Friends to the new Reading Room, Exhibition Gallery, and other parts of an enlarged and enhanced Bancroft. The day will also include the affairs of our annual meeting, rather than attempting to hold two major events close together. Invitations will be in the mail within the next few weeks.

Staff Changes

SINCE JULY, 1950, when he resigned from the faculty of the School of Librarianship, John Barr Tompkins has been Head, Public Services for The Bancroft Library. Concurrent with his duties as the Library's chief representative to its patrons, Dr. Tompkins has been engaged in evolving a scheme whereby the Bancroft's ever-growing picture collections might be effectively controlled for use by scholars and researchers; countless credit lines in publications of the past two decades as well as personal acknowledgments to him in forewords and prefaces attest to his assistance in relation to the pictorial materials in the Library.

At a staff meeting on October 4th, Professor James D. Hart announced that Dr. Tompkins would now assume the position of Curator, Pictorial Collections of The Bancroft Library. In his new post he will be able to spend more time both processing and servicing this vast body of illustrative material, now numbering more than one million items, including photographs, drawings, lithographs, and paintings. One of the first collections to engage his attention has been that of Roy D. Graves, consisting of some 25,000 pictures, including that of the Mill Valley & Mt. Tamalpais Scenic Railway locomotive reproduced in this issue of *Bancroftiana*.

Succeeding to the position of Head, Public Services is Irene Moran, who has been a Bancroft staff member since August, 1964, first in its Catalog Division and more recently as a

member of its Public Services Division. A graduate of San Francisco College for Women and of Berkeley's School of Librarianship, Ms. Moran has been responsible, during the past two years, for the Bancroft's exhibitions program, most notably the displays of the books printed by Mardersteig at his Officina Bodoni press and of the collection of first editions and letters of Theodore Dreiser loaned to the Bancroft by Mr. and Mrs. John W. Otvos. She brings to her new assignment both a secure knowledge of the Library's resources and a particular charm quite evident in her dealing with the Library's patrons.

Papeles Varios Nuevos

THROUGHOUT HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT'S *History of Mexico* one encounters again and again in the footnotes citations to *Pap. Var.* which proves to be an abbreviation of *Papeles Varios*, a collection of several thousand pamphlets and other ephemeral publications, covering a variety of subjects over a period of three centuries. *Papeles Varios* became partially dispersed throughout the Bancroft Collection, but several years ago Robert H. Becker, now the Library's Associate Director, succeeded in identifying and returning all but a handful of items to their original order.

Bancroft stopped collecting Mexicana following the publication of the six-volume *History of Mexico* in 1886, and for some time after the University acquired The Bancroft Library in 1905 it did little to add Mexican materials, with the result that there has always been a gap in our documentation of Mexican history between the period of the mid-1880's and the end of the depression in the late-1930's. Now we are pleased to announce that the Library has purchased a truly outstanding collection of Mexican pamphlets which we have entitled *Papeles Varios Nuevos*. Numbering more than six thousand items, extending in time from the 1880's to the 1960's, these new *Papeles Varios* primarily reflect political and economic activities, and is particularly strong for the years of the Mexican Revolution, 1910-1925.

Following the overthrow of Porfirio Diaz in

1910 and the subsequent coup against his successor, Francisco I. Madero, Major General Victoriano Huerta became chief of state. In 1914 the United States, under the administration of Woodrow Wilson, occupied the port of Vera Cruz, not improving Huerta's position as a strong Mexican leader. Reflecting upon the tense situation is a typed report, included in the *Papeles Varios Nuevos*, submitted to Huerta by Brigadier General M. M. Velasquez, on the organization and condition of the army of the Japanese Empire, which had recently defeated the Russian armies. Somehow, it seemed, the generals had hope that Japan could, in 1914, effectively engage in hostilities with the United States, possibly involving the Panama Canal. This desired event was delayed for several decades, and in the meantime, according to Lesley Byrd Simpson, "Huerta fled across the border and drank himself to death in peace."

Nonetheless, we have a document, formerly unknown, which not only reveals the desperation to which General Huerta and his associates were driven, but also will provide a Japanese military historian much insight on the state of the armed forces of the Japanese Empire at the time of her successful emergence into the modern world. The Mexico of Porfirio Diaz was utterly different from that of General Huerta, and these two Mexicos are only vaguely recognizable in the Mexico of today. *Papeles Varios Nuevos* will help the scholar to trace the changes.

"Best Book" of 1971

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING held in Santa Barbara last August, the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association bestowed its yearly prize for the best book in history on Roger Hahn for his *The Anatomy of a Scientific Institution: The Paris Academy of Sciences (1666-1803)*, published by the University of California Press. Professor Hahn, a member of the Berkeley campus Department of History, also serves as Special Advisor on Scientific Affairs to the Bancroft's Director, and has been instrumental in building the History of Science Collection.

The Paris Academy of Sciences was the first in Western Europe to provide salaries to scientific specialists and to set national standards and to exercise regulatory power. It served the government in a consulting capacity regarding technical matters, while at the same time added a glittering jewel to the royal reputation as a patron of culture. Professor Hahn's study, based on extensive archival research, made use, as well, of the Bancroft's Rare Books Collection in which are to be found, he says, "one of the finest groups of old science books in the country."

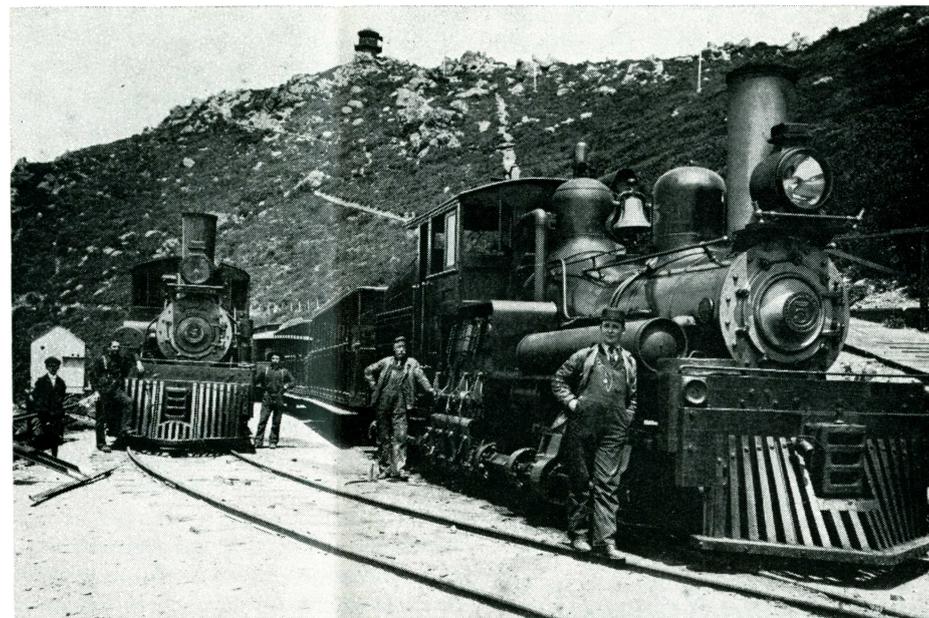
John Marsh Family Papers

A SUBSTANTIAL ADDITION to the John Marsh Family Papers has come to the Library as the generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. James O. Sperry of Berkeley, collateral descendants. Including correspondence and legal papers, these new documents provide fresh information regarding both Marsh's career in California and the operation of his ranch in Contra Costa County.

Following his graduation from Harvard in 1823, Marsh was attracted by the lure of the west, particularly that area which was later to become Minnesota. At Fort Snelling he was engaged in teaching the children of officers, and at the same time studied medicine. Although he never completed the medical course, when he arrived in Los Angeles in 1836 it was with the sobriquet Doctor John Marsh.

The earliest letter in the collection, written from Prairie du Chien in 1832, gives an account of the Indian wars then underway in that part of the continent. By 1842, the time of the next of this series of letters, Marsh was well established on his ranch near Mt. Diablo, where his affairs prospered. In 1851 he married Abigail Tuck of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, and two short letters written in 1852 contain the good news of his daughter's birth and of her progress. The last of the seven letters is also the final letter Marsh wrote before he was murdered by a disgruntled employee near Martinez in September, 1856.

Aside from Marsh's own letters, the collection contains correspondence from members



Mill Valley & Mt. Tamalpais Scenic Railway, July, 1907. Roy D. Graves standing in foreground, beside "Shay" engine built by Lima Locomotive and Machine Works in 1906. From the Roy D. Graves Collection, described in the March, 1965 issue of *Bancroftiana*.

of his family and from business associates, as well as legal papers concerning both the custody of his daughter Alice and the Marsh estate, shedding new light on the operations of the ranch. Also included are a statement by R. M. Fulgate concerning cattle rustling in 1855, his nephew James' account of Marsh's activities during the years 1823 to 1835, and a proclamation issued by Governor John Neely Johnson asking for information on the whereabouts of Marsh's murderer. Rounding out the collection are three folders of letters written during the period 1856 to 1874 to James Marsh, and a logbook kept by another nephew, John B. Marsh, during a journey undertaken in 1852 and 1853.

W. H. Chaney Rarity

THE LIBRARY is once again indebted to one of its friends for the addition of a bibliographic rarity, in this case a small pamphlet entitled *Astrological Definitions: Being an Accompaniment to the The [sic] Nativity of ——— by Prof.*

W. H. Chaney. Published for the author in 1872 by E. M. Waite, Book and Job Printer, Salem, Oregon, the title does not appear in the Library of Congress' National Union Catalog of Books.

This copy comes to the Bancroft as a gift of Mr. Laurance Cone of Sacramento, donor of a collection of papers of his grandfather, Henry Fairfax Williams, a '49er who settled in San Francisco and became prosperous as a developer of real estate. In 1878 Williams provided Hubert Howe Bancroft with his *Statement of Recollections of Early Days of California by the Pioneer of 1849*. In the "Nativity" which Chaney provided for Williams he noted: "The constitution is very enduring, rarely subject to illness, promising long life." Williams died in San Francisco shortly after celebrating his 83d birthday in March, 1911.

Chaney, born in Maine in 1821, took up the practice of astrology in New York in 1866, and soon after followed his fortunes on the west coast. He lived in Salem during the years 1871 and 1872, and later wrote—

While in Oregon I enjoyed the friendship, *in private*, of U. S. Senators, Congressmen, Governors, Judges of the Supreme and lower courts, etc., but they were timid about recognizing me in public, except to salute me pleasantly.

Timidity, one might say, was not restricted to the mighty, for some years later, in 1876, when Flora Wellman of San Francisco gave birth to a son and named Chaney as its father, he demurred. And it was not until that son, Jack London, was in his teens that he learned the identity of his real father. It is ironic, as Joan London points out in the biography of her father, that Chaney died "in poverty and obscurity almost at the moment when his son, whom he never acknowledged, was receiving worldwide acclaim as the author of *The Call of the Wild*."

Bancroftiana Reprint

A LIMITED NUMBER of copies of the volume reprinting *Bancroftiana* 1-50, March 1950-September 1971, with Index, are available postpaid at \$37.50, plus sales tax, per copy. Orders may be sent to the attention of Mrs. Ethel Buell, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, 94720. Invoices will be included in shipped copies.

"Of Sterner Stuff"

A GIFT OF FUNDS from the Save-the-Redwoods League has made possible the completion of a two-volume oral history of the career of Newton Bishop Drury, former Director of the National Park Service and Chief of the California State Beaches and Parks, head of the Save-the-Redwoods League, and one-time assistant to University of California President Benjamin Ide Wheeler. The grant was made to the Regional Oral History Office by way of some benevolent duplicity between the League's Assistant Director John DeWitt and its Board of Directors, without Drury's knowledge, and it culminates thirteen years of off-and-on collaboration between the noted conservationist and ROHO. Along with the well-illustrated



Honorary Chief Ceremony for Newton B. Drury (Three Bears), Black Feet Tribe, Glacier National Park, 1940.

manuscript, entitled *Parks and Redwoods 1919-1971*, with its own supplement of papers, the Bancroft will receive the entire collection of Drury's personal papers as well as those of the League from its founding in 1918, some of which are already in the Library.

As ROHO's first interview in the field of conservation, Drury's memoirs began a long series of tape recordings with men prominent in the development of policy in the United States Forest Service and in the growth of the Sierra Club, whose archives are now included in the Library's holdings. During the course of this interview Drury's efforts made possible a joint interview with him and another former Director of the National Park Service, Horace M. Albright, a fellow member of the University of California's Class of 1912. Their long and close friendship with yet another classmate, Earl Warren, resulted in a project, now well underway after almost a decade of planning, to document by tape the memoirs of numerous persons who played a part in California government and politics during the Warren era. This extensive program has been funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, by the Friends and by many individual gifts.

The Drury interview represents a certain genius of time-management on the part of the subject, since during the years of taping and

proof-reading he managed to raise over ten million dollars, which has been spent to preserve more than 25,000 acres of prime redwood groves, and also assisted in the creation of the Redwood National Park. These accomplishments produced not only two major addenda to the "completed" interview but also resulted in a folder of wry correspondence between the delightfully articulate Drury and ROHO—usually concerning the comings and goings of rough transcript sections. On February 17th, 1966, he wrote—

Thanks for yours of February 15. You heap coals of fire on my head. I have intended to call you and tell how Henry Morse Stephens was harried to his end by the unfinished history of the 1906 earthquake.

I am apparently of sterner stuff, for although I wake up in the middle of the night with guilty recollection of the unfinished proof reading job, it has not undermined my health, so far as I know.

I'll call you and arrange for us to talk, so that I can present my newest alibis. . . .

If Drury's eloquence was equalled by his tolerance of the whole ROHO process, it was somewhat exceeded by his modest image of his own contribution to the era. In September, 1966, he noted, "Inevitably, I suppose, one becomes an 'historic relic,' notable principally for longevity." But while he may view the years of work with a benign sigh and a shake

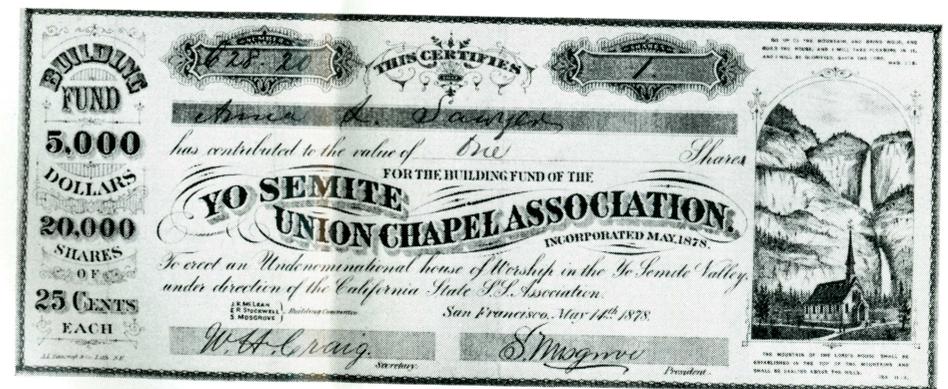
of the head, his memoirs, as here recorded, give testament to a life spent, to borrow wording from the text of the honorary degree bestowed upon him by his grateful Alma Mater in 1947, as "a conservationist who has applied rational imagination and boundless industry to the public service of his State and Nation."

Langdon Twainiana

WRITING TO HIS FUTURE sister-in-law Susan Langdon Crane in 1869, shortly after his engagement, Mark Twain thanked her "for the generous interest you manifest in *our* future, whose slow-lifting curtain is already revealing soft-tinted visions of the mysterious land we are approaching." Two years later, following the birth of his first son, he again wrote to his "Dear Susie"—

Livy drinks ale, now, for a tonic—suggested it herself & the Dr. as usual agreed. She was tight as a brick this afternoon (as the historian Josephus would say.) She talks incessantly, anyhow, so the ale hadn't any advantage of her there, but it made her unendurably slangy, & that is what we grieved for.

The comments are taken from but two of the seventy letters written by Twain between 1869 and 1910 and recently presented to the Mark Twain Papers by members of the Langdon family—Mrs. Eugene Lada-Mocarski, Mr. Jervis Langdon, Jr., Mrs. Robert Pennock, and



This unusual certificate was presented to the Library, along with other Sierra Club materials collected by her late husband, by Mrs. William F. Badé of San Diego.

Mrs. Bayerd Schieffelin, all grandchildren of Olivia's brother Charles. These letters substantially extend previously available information about the author's family, as well as about his literary and business affairs from the early days of his career to the year of his death. According to Frederick Anderson, Editor of the Mark Twain Papers, they also "document the warm, often playful, relationships which existed between the author and various members of his wife's family."

Nicely complementing the files of Twain's letters already housed in the Bancroft's pre-eminent collection, these letters will be included in the ninth volume of the Mark Twain Papers series currently being published by the University of California Press.

Brainard Journal

FORTY-NINE JOURNALS are increasingly scarce in the marketplace and therefore it is with a certain joy that the Bancroft has obtained a new account of the overland journey to California, the David Brainard Journal. Spanning the bustling period from March to December, 1849, Brainard, who seems to have disappeared from recorded history after completing his journal, catalogs the events and hardships of the route across the prairies to the gold fields with unusual vitality and descriptive ability.

After leaving Delaware with the Walworth County Mining Company, Brainard and his companions traveled to Galena, Illinois, then downriver to St. Joseph, Missouri, a popular jumping-off point for the California-bound emigrant. While on the Santa Fe Trail the Company endured the typical difficulties: lack of adequate food, water, and grass, death from accident and disease, as well as poor, sandy roads. One also senses the emigrant's despair, clearly noted in that section of the journal written as the party approached Death Valley in early November—

I presume that not only a large amount of property will be left but many a poor fellow will become discouraged and the last spark

of hope will leave him and he will lay himself down happy when death shall give him rest from his fatigue and trouble.

Since the Santa Fe route was less frequently used than the more popular Oregon Trail to California, this remarkably descriptive and observant diary is of all the more historic importance. The manuscript can be favorably compared with the standard work for the time, H. M. T. Powell's *The Santa Fe Trail to California*, although it is somewhat shorter and ends rather abruptly on the California side of the Colorado River. Having been brought thus far, the reader glances ahead to the blank pages and wonders what fortune lay in store for David Brainard.

Friendly Praise

WE ARE PLEASED to share with our readers these remarks included by John C. Broderick in his "Locating Major Resource Collections" which appeared in the Spring 1972 issue of *American Studies, An International Newsletter*—

The foreign visitor fortunate enough to settle in California will gravitate to the San Francisco area to take advantage of the holdings of The Bancroft Library in Berkeley, the premier collection for Western history, assembled by Hubert H. Bancroft over a period of nearly forty years in the late-nineteenth century and supplemented in the twentieth. The voluminous papers of Samuel L. Clemens are also housed here.

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