

# BANCROFTIANA

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## *"With Generous Spirit and Prophetic Vision"*

"CITIZENSHIP IN A DEMOCRACY" is the title for the Harry L. Kingman memoir recently completed by the Bancroft's Regional Oral History Office. Made possible by the successful fund drive organized by Walter Frederick and Daniel E. Koshland, Sr. for the California Alumni Foundation, the series of interviews was conducted by Mrs. Rosemary Levenson during several months of 1971 and 1972. The transcript, numbering 292 pages, is now available for consultation in the Heller Reading Room.

Harry L. Kingman was born in Tientsin, China in 1892, and educated in Claremont, California, where his father had become pastor of the college church. Following graduation from Pomona College in 1914 he joined the pitching staff of the New York Yankees, but left the world of professional baseball for the position of Freshman Secretary at Stiles Hall, the University of California's off-campus Y.M.C.A. Kingman served in the U.S. Army during the first World War and from 1921 to 1927 he worked with the International Y.M.C.A. in China. In 1931 he became General Secretary of Stiles Hall, a position he was to hold until his retirement in 1957.

Almost coincident with his taking up the directorship of Stiles Hall was the beginning of student cooperative housing at Berkeley, and the Y.M.C.A. provided strong support for this prototypical movement born in the Depression years of the 1930's. About this time, too, Stiles Hall offered its facilities to politically active campus groups who, by University regulation,



*Ruth and Harry Kingman*

were not permitted to meet on campus; for this the Directors received a goodly share of adverse criticism, but, Kingman notes, the free speech policy was "run by a student cabinet which set out rules."

We had an advisory committee, of course, of older men, professors, business and other professional men who were of great help. They always stuck with the students and supported the free speech policy.

During the years from 1930 to 1950 Kingman also served the University's athletic program as coach of the Freshman baseball team.

When Harry Kingman retired as General Secretary in 1957 he received the gratitude and praise of students, alumni, faculty, and the community at large. Among the letters he received upon the occasion of a luncheon ten-

dered him in International House on March 9th of that year was one from the University's President, Robert Gordon Sproul, long a close friend of both the Kingmans. In part, Bob Sproul wrote:

With generous spirit and prophetic vision you have walked a sometimes lonely path of current usefulness, and at the same time have pointed and led the way to a finer future for all men, yet to be realized. . . . Largely because of you, a host of students have gone out from the University with a wider understanding of the philosophical justification of democracy, and of interracial and international relations, than they might otherwise have known, and the fruits of this understanding in daily living have been legion.

Retirement at the age of sixty-five did not mean inactivity, for Mr. and Mrs. Kingman moved to a one-room apartment in Washington, D.C. and there established the Citizens' Lobby for Freedom and Fair Play. As Mrs. Kingman recalled during the course of the interview:

We had one room and a bath—for everything. We had our beds in that room; we ate in that room; there was a little venetian blind on one side, about three feet long that hid the kitchen, which was nothing but a stove and refrigerator set behind the blind. Harry had his desk, his office there. We entertained there, sometimes having as many as sixteen to dinner.

The two-man force immediately put its energies into support of the upcoming civil rights bill, which, upon passage, would be the first such law since the post-Civil War Reconstruction days. Initially, contact was made with California's Senator William F. Knowland, then Minority Leader, and Kingman notes "that he was the key man in the victory that we finally won after four months of effort in the 1957 session of Congress."

Ruth and Harry Kingman became early supporters of the presidential candidacy of John F. Kennedy and were asked to join the train during the pre-convention whistle-stop campaign in California. Following JFK's nomination in

Los Angeles, both the Kingmans spoke throughout the state on behalf of their candidate. After the close election of 1960, the couple returned to Washington to continue their lobbying activities in the fields of integration of cooperative housing, civil rights, and world peace. In 1970, for reasons of health, the Kingmans moved back to Berkeley and now conduct a modified lobbying program from their home.

Writing in the *California Monthly* for June, 1963, the radio commentator Edward P. Morgan noted that possibly nobody would raise a monument to honor Ruth and Harry Kingman or their Citizens' Lobby.

One is not needed. The Lobby is a moving monument unto itself in the momentum it has created in the direction of human decency.

If one were to ask what impelled this couple to embark upon such a strenuous course of action so late in life, an answer might be found in one of Harry Kingman's letters, written in 1962:

A famous citizen of Athens once was asked when he thought justice could be established. He replied, "When those who are not injured feel as indignant as those who are."

## Dane Coolidge Photographs

THE LIBRARY's large Dane Coolidge Collection, consisting of literary manuscripts, diaries, correspondence, and photographs, received from his widow, Mary Roberts Coolidge, in 1945, has recently been enriched by the gift of 3,760 of his photographs from Mills College, through the good offices of the College Librarian, Miss Flora Elizabeth Reynolds. While Mills College retains its own fine collection of Coolidge manuscripts, it was felt that all of the photographs might better be housed and used in one depository. Covering the period from the turn of the century to the 1930's, and including views of cowboys, prospectors, and Indians, from which latter group the accompanying illustration has been selected, these negatives and prints make a splendid addition to the Bancroft's pictorial collections, now being organized by Dr. John Barr Tompkins.

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Seri Woman, Baja California

Dane Coolidge was born in Natick, Massachusetts on March 24th, 1873, and spent his boyhood in Riverside, California, where he dreamed of becoming a writer of stories. He later recalled that all his leisure time was "spent in hunting and trapping and observing wild animals, so that every stream, arroyo, mountain-side and field in the vicinity" became vividly familiar. He entered Stanford University in 1894, more than earning his expenses by working and still having time for track, editing the *Sequoia*, managing the Camp, a dormitory for working students, and playing cello in the University orchestra. During his summer vacations he joined zoological expeditions into the southwest, collecting animals for the parks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

In 1900, Coolidge bought one of the first speed cameras made and began the taking of photographs throughout the southwest and in Mexico. His first flower picture was printed in *Country Life in America* and in 1903 he sold his first round-up pictures to *Sunset*. In a memoran-

dum written in July, 1938, Mrs. Coolidge noted that her husband

used photography as a disguise. The men to whom he talked and from whom he got history and stories thought he was merely a photographer and did not know he was a writer.

The pictures were used to illustrate many of his books, which include *The Navajo Indians* (1930), *Fighting Men of the West* (1932), *Arizona Cowboys* (1938), and *The Last of the Seris* (1939), the latter two co-authored with his wife.

## Press Room

ONE OF THE FEATURES of the remodeled and enlarged Bancroft which has been attracting a great deal of attention is the new Press Room, contiguous to the Seminar Room and separated from it by folding doors, allowing the two rooms to be used individually or as one large work area. On its handsome parquet floor stands the Albion Press, presented by Roger

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Levenson to the University's Rare Book Room in 1956, the first gift of many which now grace the new room. A working press room, these new quarters will be utilized during this academic year for special studies for a limited number of students, under the joint sponsorship of The Bancroft Library and the School of Librarianship, appropriately enough with Roger Levenson, Lecturer in Librarianship, as instructor.



James D. Hart, Roger Levenson and Albion Press

Also housed here are the many pieces of printing equipment of the late Frederick Folger Thomas of Berkeley, presented to the Library by his widow and described in the issue of *Bancroftiana* for April, 1971. By coincidence, the basic type face used by Thomas was Centaur, designed by Bruce Rogers, which was also the face chosen for use with the Albion Press in 1956. Thus, the two complement each other to great advantage. Thomas' small Pilot Press (6½" x 10") will also provide another outlet for student creativity.

Many artifacts which have long been scattered throughout the Library's stack area for lack of space have now been brought into the Press Room. These include a beautiful French standing (bookbinder's) press, as well as one of the cabinets from the printing office of the late John Henry Nash, a gift of Mr. Charles E. Ross and Mr. James A. Brooks, proprietors of the

Westgate Press, Inc. of Oakland. Another Nash cabinet, acquired by the San Francisco printer from the American Type Founders Company, contains his collection of German type founder's ornaments which will now be used by the student printers.

Hanging on the walls of the Press Room are more than a dozen fine engravings of major printers of the past—such men as Bodoni, Caslon, Estienne, Moxon, and Plantin—which also came as a gift from Mr. Ross and Mr. Brooks. These engravings had been collected by the late Alfred B. Kennedy, former owner of the Westgate Press.

### *The Moyer Collection of Frederic Remington*

THROUGH THE GENEROSITY of Mr. and Mrs. Harry S. Moyer of Atherton, The Bancroft Library recently received their fine collection of the printed works of Frederic Remington. From this collection an exhibition was prepared by Irene Moran and Diane Clardy in the Library's new gallery and opened to the Friends and their guests on Tuesday evening, August 14th.

Remington's prints, especially the artist's proofs and early editions of lithographs, were represented by "The Cossack" and by "Radisson and Groseilliers," the first white men to explore the area which is now Minnesota. The artist also wrote several books that naturally include his own illustrations; among those selected for exhibition were *Pony Tracks* (1898), *Stories of Peace and War* (1899), and *The Way of an Indian* (1906).

Also shown were selections from the 150 books in the collection containing Remington drawings. *Ranch Life and the Hunting-Trail* and *The Rough Riders* by Theodore Roosevelt are particularly appropriate examples of Remington's illustrations of other men's ideas and experiences since Roosevelt expressed a great admiration for the artist's work.

The Moyers' collection includes some seventy-five volumes of magazines containing hundreds of illustrations by Remington. Among these journals are *The Century*, *Cos-*

*mopolitan*, *Harper's*, *Outing*, and *Scribner's*, whose issue of October, 1902 contains Remington's famous colored depiction of "Four Western Types." Of particular interest to Remington collectors are twenty-two single magazines containing outstanding stories and illustrations; one of these, the issue of *Collier's Weekly* for March 18th, 1905, is known as the "Remington Number."

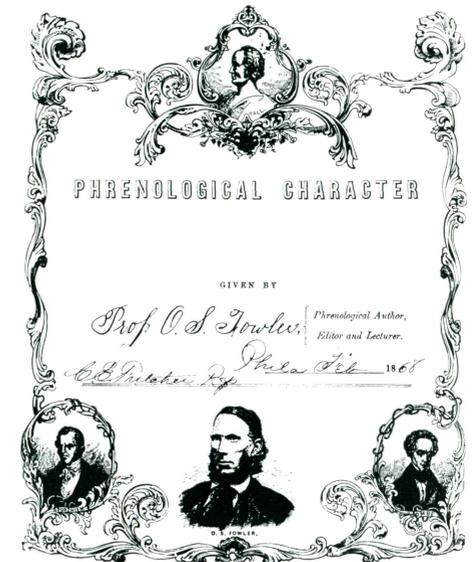
Many of these stories and illustrations are being reissued today by the Imprint Society and by other publishers in limited editions. The Library is indeed fortunate in being able to provide Remington scholars with such a wealth of material in its originally issued form.

### *Phrenological Exempla*

PHRENOLOGY IS LOOKED ON today as one of the eccentric fads and fancies of the nineteenth century, but in its time it was hailed as a new mental science, not only by its practitioners but also by a number of eminent writers and educators as well. Originating in Europe, it was taken up in the United States in the 1830's, and its enthusiastic advocates believed that mental faculties and traits of character were revealed by the shape of the skull. The two foremost figures in the American movement were the brothers Lorenzo and Orson Fowler, who in 1835 established in New York an office which gradually evolved into a publishing house, lecture bureau, and museum, where character readings were given.

Samuel R. Wells joined the firm in 1843 and the name was subsequently changed to Fowler and Wells, with a branch opening in Philadelphia ten years later. In 1863 Lorenzo Fowler moved to Boston, establishing a shop there under his own name. Wells stayed in the New York firm. Business thrived for all three, and each offered public and private phrenological examinations, the private ranging from oral statements, with accompanying charts, to full written descriptions. Readings were also available by mail, if the customer provided a photograph—a three-quarter pose, or profile, preferred.

That the interest in phrenology did not appeal only to eccentrics is borne out by two character readings recently found in two of the Bancroft's manuscript collections. Both were done for people who subsequently became famous.



The first phrenological examinee was a man in the prime of life but not yet at the peak of his career. He had two readings, one by Samuel Wells himself in March, 1865, the second by C. E. Fritchie at the Philadelphia establishment in February, 1868. A San Francisco resident, he was temporarily in the east both times on special assignments, so it is likely he appeared in person for his readings. Unlike the two widely divergent reports Mark Twain received from Lorenzo Fowler within the space of a few months, these two readings show marked agreement in delineation of character and aptitudes. Both phrenologists recognized that the subject had been thrown on his own resources early in life; both indicated he was especially adapted to the study and practice of law (which was *not* his chosen profession); and both recognized his special talents, as shown by these random quotations from the two reports:

... have every requisite for the study and prosecution of the natural sciences and one

of the clearest and very best of minds I examine . . . Recollect places always. 'A No. One' in practical geography . . . Ought to be a Professor in some scientific department . . . Have 'A No. One' mathematical talents . . . You are excellent in geology, surveying, astronomy or all these united . . . Most admirable in preparing scientific documents . . . You would appreciate machinery and could improve it . . . You could have become a good surveyor or navigator . . . You seem to have all the elements of toughness and great endurance; you could go through hardships which would break an ordinary man down . . .

Our man? George Davidson—geodesist, astronomer, geographer, who came to be acknowledged as one of the most eminent American scientists of the nineteenth century. He left no record of his sessions, like those Mark Twain recorded in his *Autobiography*, and there is nothing in our Davidson Papers which indicates whether he believed or disbelieved, or whether he undertook the examinations in the spirit of scientific enquiry. But there is one clue: he had readings done for his two sons!

Our second subject was a boy at the time of his examination, which was made presumably by Orson Fowler himself, in the course of one of his lucrative western lecture tours. The phrenological report is undated, and the shorthand reporter identified himself only as R. P. Lewis, La Porte, Ind. If the reading was conducted in the midwest, we can assume the date was either 1868 or 1873, for those were the years the boy accompanied his mother on trips east, stopping off in Missouri and Illinois on the way. Fowler was in San Francisco in the early part of 1872 so there is also a possibility the examination took place there and the notes were transcribed later. But 1873 seems to be the outside date when the boy was ten years old. Fowler, as was his wont, combined analysis of character with a great deal of advice for the dotting mother.

Take books from him, but give him playmates . . . he needs their hardening influence. He has nowhere near combativeness enough. He is too tame and good . . . He is too good for his own good—not so good as to be good

for nothing but so good that he would be better if he were worse . . . Should be taught lessons in sharpness and policy . . . Is also wanting in confidence and self esteem. Is too humble, deferential and respectful . . . Will live a pure, good, virtuous and religious life. He has a head good enough to make an A No. [1] Minister. Will strongly preincline to religion . . . Will be a natural theologian and better adapted to the ministry than to anything else . . . Inherits his mother's cast of intellect and love of knowledge. I wish he had inherited more force from his father . . . Fortunately has considerable love of money—this will prove his great salvation because it will inspire combativeness in him to fight for his dollars and in general furnish a strong motive for effort. But for this he would be really tame. Is too awfully cautious, afraid of his shadow . . .

The name of this seemingly weak young boy was William Randolph Hearst!

## Langston Hughes Manuscripts

LANGSTON HUGHES, who died in 1967, was a prolific poet, playwright, lyricist, short story writer, and also a popular lecturer. Coming to fame in the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920's, Hughes was one of the foremost artistic spokesmen of his race, and his life was spent portraying the beauties, ironies, misfortunes, and joys, not only of the American Negro, but eventually of oppressed peoples of all places and times.

Complementing the important group of 179 letters Hughes wrote between 1932 and 1956 to the San Francisco art patron Noel Sullivan, whose papers the Bancroft received in 1961, is a small but exciting collection of manuscripts, correspondence, inscribed editions, photographs, and lecture programs which the Library recently purchased from Mr. Roy Blackburn of Oakland, who was Hughes' secretary for a time. To Mr. Blackburn Hughes wrote forty-seven letters during the period from 1934 to 1966, spanning a major part of his literary career.

Among the literary manuscripts is that of the



Langston Hughes

play "Mother and Child," showing the quiet determination of the Negroes to remain in Boyd Center, Ohio, despite a scandal involving a black man and a white woman. Interesting, too, is the note attached to the manuscript to the effect that any non-profit organization might use the play without fee. Two of the short stories, the typescripts heavily corrected in Hughes' hand, illustrate opposite sides of the same coin. "The Professor" is a respected Negro educator who has finally managed to save enough money to spend the summer in Europe, where he and his family "just once wouldn't need to feel like Negroes." "The Negro in the Drawing Room" also treats a respected leader who, we finally learn, does not care about the downtrodden of his race.

Hughes' realistic style once brought forth cries against his "exaggeration," but now there is recognition of the haunting poignancy in his poetry in which the eternity of the race problem is expressed. Without resorting to the sentimentality of some earlier Negro writers or to the dialectal or other stylistic devices of another generation of writers, in his own quiet way Hughes captures the essence of the black experience of his time.

In his later years, Langston Hughes became a defender of all persecuted peoples. His can-

tata, "Let Us Remember," one of his last major works, was commissioned by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and had its premiere in San Francisco in 1965. Perhaps his whole attitude can be summed up in a few lines from the final section of the cantata: "Let the song be not a dirge . . . a new world's in the making."

## De Quincey's "California"

NOW IT HAPPENED that the bad Barnums took charge of the California swindle. They stationed a first-rate liar in San Francisco, under whom, and accountable to whom, were several accomplished liars distributed all the way down to Panama, and thence to Chagres. All along the Atlantic seaboard, this gathering volley of lies and Californian "notions" raced with the speed of gunpowder trains up to New York; in which vast metropolis (confounded amongst its seven hundred thousand citizens) burrowed the central bureau of the swindle. Thence in ten days these poetic hoaxes crossed over to a line of repeating liars posted in Liverpool and London; from which cities, of course, the lies ran by telegraph in a few hours over the European continent, and thence by Tartar expresses overland to Indus and the Ganges. When the swindle got into regular working order, it was as good as a comedy to watch its mode of playing.

With this wryly satiric approach, Thomas De Quincey, author of the autobiographical *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*, dealt with the economic follies of the California gold rush in two essays first published in the early 1850's. The Bancroft Library recently acquired the major part of De Quincey's original manuscript for "California," the first of the two essays dealing with the economic impact of large-scale gold mining on world currencies. Accompanying this manuscript is a preliminary draft of a postscript to the second essay, "On the Final Catastrophe of the Gold-Digging Mania."

De Quincey was a prolific writer despite his practically life-long addiction to opium which

plagued him from the age of eighteen until his death at the age of seventy-four in 1859. His writing interests were diverse, ranging from autobiography to political economy. His contributions to the latter subject are numerous, comprising an entire volume of his collected writings. It was his concern with political economics that led him to view with grave misgivings the great gold rushes of California and Australia in the mid-nineteenth century. Thus, his two essays on the subject are of interest not only as literary or historical works, but as examples of meticulous political and economic analysis by a major English writer.

The essay "California" was originally published in the Scottish *Hogg's Instructor* in 1852, and the second essay, "On the Final Catastrophe of the Gold-Digging Mania" was published in 1853 in the same journal. Both essays were next published in the United States by Ticknor, Reed, and Fields of Boston in 1854 in a volume titled *Letters to a Young Man and Other Papers*. This volume was part of the collected edition of De Quincey's writings then being produced by the American firm.

De Quincey was simultaneously editing and revising his works for publication in Britain. In the American and the later British editions of his works the two gold-rush essays were combined under the titles "California and the Gold Mania" and "California and the Gold-Digging Mania." The former title was chosen when the essays were republished in the Colt Press series of "California Classics" printed by the Grabhorn Press in 1945.

## Exhibition Announcements

COMMENCING WITH THE Remington Exhibition, described elsewhere in this issue of *Bancroftiana*, post card announcements are being sent in advance to the entire membership of the Friends. The first card was printed by Lawton and Alfred Kennedy and subsequent cards will be designed and printed by different local printers. The Friends may wish to preserve these announcements as examples of fine printing in which each typographer presents essentially the same sort of text in the same format but in his individual style.

### Council of The Friends

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Editor, *Bancroftiana*: J. R. K. Kantor

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