HRW: A Scholar’s Correspondence

Writing to his old friend Thomas W. Streeter on August 12th, 1946, Henry Raup Wagner noted: I spent a week, or a little less, in San Francisco, and started something that is going to be a lot of trouble to somebody else. We had a luncheon at the Bohemian Club and organized The Friends of The Bancroft Library. I may as well confess that I suggested it but I found most hearty supporters, and we finally wound up with a provisional organization of Francis Farquhar as Chairman and George Harding as Secretary-Treasurer. . . . I saw Charlie Camp . . . and in fact everyone I wanted to see, including Dr. Evans, who insisted on my coming to his house in the afternoon and when I got there insisted on my drinking Daiquiri cocktails. It was about the hottest day of the year and I managed to get off with one. This long, chatty letter documents not only the beginning of the Friends’ organization but also
the close friendship which existed between 
these several bookmen of the American West 
whose interests over a long period of years cen-
tered in The Bancroft Library. It is included in 
a collection of Wagner’s correspondence cov-
ering the last forty years of his life, portions of 
which he gave to the Bancroft from time to 
time and portions of which came by bequest 
following his death in 1937.

Henry Raup Wagner was born in Philadel-
phia on September 27th, 1862, earned an A.B. 
at Yale in 1884, and two years later, with a Yale 
law degree, headed west. In Kansas City, Mis-
souri he formed a partnership with two other 
attorneys who soon talked him into investing in 
a silver mine in New Mexico. Wagner began 
reading about metallurgy, and the course of his 
career gradually shifted from law to mining. 
In 1888 he volunteered to take charge of the 
mine while the superintendent was on vacation, 
and soon afterward he moved to Denver, be-
coming an ore-buyer for the Glommer 
Mixing and Refining Company. When this position 
vanished in the Panic of ’93, Wagner went to 
Mexico to sell mining machinery. At the same 
time he became seriously interested in the 
history of this area, began to examine documents 
in the National Archives, and started to collect 
books dealing with the history of mining and 
metallurgy as well as Mexican broadsides. 
Finally, in 1898, he joined the Guggenheim 
family firm and until his retirement some twenty-
two years later was in charge of their interests 
in Chile, Spain, England and Mexico.

With retirement came the leisure to pursue 
his scholarly interests, and the first of the many 
publications which resulted from his fresh in-
terpretation of historical documents: The Plains 
and the Rockies, A Bibliography of Original Nar-
ratives of Travel and Adventure, 1800-1863. 
Published in a small edition in 1920, it was revised 
by Professor Charles L. Camp in 1937 and 
again in 1953, and an enlarged edition by Rob-
tert H. Becker, who retired from the Bancroft 
in 1979, will appear later this year. A second 
book, The Spanish Southwest, appeared in 1926, 
followed by The Plains and the Rockies, A Bibliography of Original Nar-
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book, The Spanish Southwest, appeared in 1926, 
followed by

The second manuscript survives in three 
fragments (P. Tebt. frags. 21,013, 21,018b, and 
21,138) and was written in a larger and less ele-
gant hand than the first manuscript, on an 
inferior grade of papyrus. Though there is no 
whole word remaining, the traces are sufficient 
to establish the source as Iliad II, 720-730, and 
to demonstrate that the original lacked accented 
and presumably breaths as well. The margins 
indicate that we have the lower right-hand cor-
er of a column, and the text shows no devia-
tion from the standard text of Homer.

Homer's manuscripts outnumber those of 
other authors in Tebtunis and throughout 
Egypt in the Graeco-Roman period; the new 
fragments help to clarify the state of belles lettres 
in Ptolemaic Egypt while raising significant 
questions. Of the Bancroft's eighteen Homeric 
manuscripts, fourteen are from the Iliad, and 
only four from the Odyssey. More surprisingly, 
Iliad II is represented by five different manus-
cripts, Iliad I by two, and other books of the 
Iliad and Odyssey by only one each. Further-
more, twelve of the manuscripts may be dated 
from the second century of this era, paralleling 
the sharp rise of Greek letters elsewhere in 
Egypt at that time.

It is difficult to explain this renaissance in 
Egypt. The Greek-speaking population con-
sisted partly of natives who had learned the lan-
guage from the bureaucracy, partly of descend-
ants of the garrison left by Alexander the Great 
in 332 B.C. Why did the rise in literacy occur 
after Egypt became a satellite of Rome and 
why was the revival so explosive? Was this 
Egyptian renaissance an isolated phenomenon 
or part of a larger intellectual movement 
throughout the Mediterranean basin? And 
what was the charm of the "Catalog of Ships?"

At this point the story line of the epic bogs 
down in a roll-call of the Greeks who went to 
Troy, and the passage makes dry reading for 
most modern students. It would appear from 
our new aggregate of evidence that the Greek-
speaking people of Egypt somehow found a 
renewed sense of their heritage in the second 
century, and through that nation's great liter-
ature sought some indication of their ties to a 
cultural homeland which most had never seen. 
Finally, they especially sought to ally them-
sew with one or another hero of the Trojan 
War by poring over the "Catalog" in Iliad II, 
E.W.

Basic Research at 
Los Alamos

Five oral history interviews with former ad-
mistrators of the Los Alamos Scientific Lab-
oratory, recorded in 1976 by Dr. Arthur Nor-
berg for the Bancroft's History of Science and 
Technology Program, have recently been cata-
logued and are available for research in the 
Library's Heller Reading Room. The inter-
viewees are: Norris E. Bradbury, director of 
the Laboratory for twenty-five years following 
World War II; Darol K. Froman, assistant di-
rector for weapons development; John E. Man-
ley, associate director; J. Carson Mark, theo-
retical division leader; and Raemer E. Schrei-
ber, technical associate director. These type-
scripts deal with personal background as well 
as the organization of the Laboratory and its 
various projects and programs. An ongoing ad-
mnistrative problem discussed by all the inter-
viewees was the way that the Laboratory ac-
commodated itself to the necessity of following 
its mandated task of doing research on weapons 
and at the same time satisfying the desires of 
the staff to pursue many forms of basic research.
The responsibility of Los Alamos was fixed in 1947 by the newly-formed Atomic Energy Commission: it was to be a first-rate weapons laboratory. Initially this meant that Los Alamos was expected to create a stockpile of weapons roughly based on the design of existing atomic bombs, but it became apparent that to retain scientists with academic research backgrounds the Laboratory would have to offer a more challenging task than weapons engineering. To ensure this, a commitment to basic research was made by confining weapons production to a special unit which, in 1949, was completely separated from Laboratory management.

On the whole, in the immediate postwar years many scientists found Los Alamos an appealing place in which to work. The Laboratory had amassed a good deal of prime equipment, was steadily funded by the Federal government, and was perhaps the best place in the country to study fission. Not only had a wealth of information accumulated during wartime studies, but also all classified fission research had been terminated at other World War II laboratories. Moreover, plenty of basic research was needed just to be able to produce effective weapons. As Norris Bradbury admitted, at that time America had "lousy bomb designers." The Laboratory could feel that they were doing pioneering work and helping the country’s defense effort as well.

Younger scientists found Los Alamos attractive after the war because the "big men" had returned to their university posts, giving the juniors a chance to show what they could do. As Darol Froman notes:

I felt at the time that the government had spent so much invested in this place, if Bradbury can pull it off and keep a reasonable staff which he can build up, it's bound to be a first-class laboratory. So what's better than working in such a place. Nothing, as far as I'm concerned.

But this is not to say that the Laboratory remained satisfied only doing research necessary for weapons development. John Manley best expressed the thoughts among the staff when he said:

"...a lot of our mission, so to speak, was not solely concentrated about the weapons business, but the possibility of using this place, this location and equipment so on, somehow, as a cooperative effort, or whatever you want, to further the general cause of science—nuclear science and atomic energy primarily, because that's what it was built for."

And in response, steps were taken to promote non-weapons research, including the establishment of a nuclear reactor program.

Norris Bradbury himself was sympathetic to changing the thrust of Laboratory research. As he states:

"I guess I'm always of the opinion, and always have been, that the only object of a laboratory like this is to put itself out of business as far as bombs are concerned. You don't work on weapons just for the pure fun of making bombs and killing people, you do it because you hope you could provide the country with some time."

In 1954, when Washington was talking about test-ban treaties, he proposed alternate programs based upon the expertise of Laboratory personnel. Raeher Schreiber aptly describes the director’s feelings when he says: "Bradbury was a great proponent of the idea that the same talents, the same capabilities, that will do good weapon design and engineering, can be applied to other projects that have not the least thing to do with weapons." By the 1970’s, a forceful, continuing commitment to all forms of basic research led the Laboratory to quantum energy physics and the solution of energy problems. Not only had the Laboratory never become just a weapons factory, but by that time only half its programs were still devoted solely to weapons development. A.P.-D.

**Views of the Mailliard Family**

For more than a century the Mailliard family has been prominent in California affairs, both in business life and in the public sector. Adolph Mailliard arrived in California in 1868 and settled at San Geronimo Ranch in Marin County. In 1896 his son, John Ward, founded the food business which they intend selling to the Mormons for provisions. Twelve years later a young woman en route from Mississippi to California scribbled hastily: Wednesday November 29th, 1865—Took the wrong road lost several mile [sic] met large company of movers returning to their farms in Geo. refugees of the war, they gave us a bad account of Texas. I lost my tuckingcomb.

Another two generations later the western scenery still elicits admiration, heat and dust still annoy the intrepid traveler, but earlier remarks about the quality of drinking water are now replaced with comments about fine showers. In 1957, Mrs. Frank Kettlewell began her trip from Piedmont to Grand Canyon with the notation: "June 19—5008 mile—3:15 p.m. Full tank of gas—Fresno 9 p.m. 50685 mile, 12 gallons of gas." We learn that she arrived at the Boulder City Auto Court on June 21st, rose the next day at 5:45 and left her cabin at 9:45, that she bought Kodachrome film for her Retina Kodak camera, that she paid fifteen cents for apple pie and eighty cents for a three-course lunch.

William Somers Mailliard and his relatives recently presented to The Bancroft Library a great collection of family papers and a substantial group of family photographs. Consisting of several hundred items, this new pictorial collection documents all aspects of the family’s history from Adolph’s French ancestors and connections with the Bonapartes down to the recent past. There are, as well, pictures from the families into which the Mailliards married, particularly the Petersens (John Ward, Jr. married Kate Peterson of San Francisco). Not only are these the formal portraits one expects to find, but there are also pictures of informal family gatherings and outings, as well as views taken with business associates and with the armed forces in World War II. The majority of the collection consists of photographs, but there are a significant number of daguerreotypes and even a few painted miniatures.

The Library is fortunate to have received from one of this area’s leading families such a comprehensive collection which will both provide documentation of the Mailliards and aid scholars attempting to illustrate particular ways of life and styles in our social history.
Historians glimpse from such diaries a wealth of detail about the conditions of travel as well as specific information on economic and political changes in various geographic areas. The Bancroft Library's large collection of overland journals enables a scholar to compare different versions of the same pioneering venture. Most diaries were written during short periods of time and for particular reasons, such as a move to a new place. Young girls kept diaries for a year or two before they were married. Rather typical is that of Margaret Cameron Pierce, who describes her eighteenth birthday on August 15th, 1868, and her courting days before her marriage. Her daughter, Mary Eugenia Pierce, kept a diary during a seventeen-day cruise from San Francisco to Yokohama when she was about the same age. For Jane Gardner Waterman, wife of California's Governor, a rest cure in Mrs. Waterman's papers, making this diary of particular interest to medical historians. The cure was a success, for according to the diary when Mrs. Waterman returned home she was soon able to entertain the Republican Convention at the family ranch in San Bernardino County.

Among many groups of family papers held by the Library are diaries which span several generations. Often these include calling cards, clippings from society pages, and other ephemera illustrating the social life of young ladies and prominent matrons. Much rarer, however, is the testimony of a working girl such as Anna L. Ogden, who recorded experiences as a domestic servant from 1888 to 1895. Born in Berlin, she emigrated to the United States with her family and regularly contributed to their income from her meager wages. Her diary, the various tempers and exigencies of her employers, her constant want of money, her frequent illnesses, and her frankness about what it meant to belong to the "downstairs" part of the house make this a moving and historically valuable document.

Equally rare are diaries which speak of the emotional turmoil of a woman's life. For Anna Fader Haskell the diary was more than a registry. On January 1st, 1884, she wrote:

For a long time I have merely recorded the little events of every day with never a thought. I have come to the conclusion that if I can think things I need not be afraid to face them. God knows or I know that I have tried to do the best I could and have done the best I could.

Anna had married Burnette Haskell the previous June and found life difficult with the controversial socialist leader. A year later the pattern of her life looks ominously clear:

Every night Burnette promises to come home, and every night he comes home late, it makes me sick at heart. It is always the same—always the same.

She had begun her daily reckonings, as one might call her confessions, in 1876 at the age of eighteen, and she continued to write every day for sixty-six years until her death in 1942. An unhappy love before her betroth, a stormy marriage which included sharing her husband's life at Kaweah, a socialist cooperative in Tulare County which failed, her separation when Burnette could no longer control his alcoholism, her experiences as a country schoolteacher, and as a mother as a member of the Socialists' Party—all of these weaves through volumes of soul-searching analysis, each volume concluding with a special evaluation at the end of the year and opening with a hopeful resolution at the beginning of a new one. This diary preserves a unique, lifelong stream of consciousness.

Often it is the mixture of public and private history which makes a diary noteworthy. When Dorothy Swaine Thomas collected documentation on the Japanese Relocation Camps, she commissioned a number of diaries to supplement the records and statistics with real-life accounts. Among them is the diary of an American daughter of Japanese parents who must come to terms with both her national and her familial heritage, with anti-Americanism in the camp and with racial prejudice outside its fences, and—to further complicate the situation—with the conflict between Issei and Nisei. The fact that her political comments are mingled with her private opinions about parental authority, girl friends, smoking, and Sigmund Freud makes them that much more poignant. For another thing, we are likely to be healthy. Once an Englishman was in love with me. He watched me walk across the room & remarked in a tremendously flattering tone: My but you must swim well.

Along with oral history interviews, diaries, such as Mrs. Wurster's, represent one of the unique archival resources on women in this country.

University of California Crew Photographs

California's varsity shell winning first place at the finish line of the 1932 Olympic Games held at Long Beach Marine Stadium, August 13th, 1932.
It is noteworthy that there has been but one rowing coach in the modern period, that is from 1896 on, who can be credited with three victories elsewhere: in the Poughkeepsie Regatta of 1912 at Long Beach and in 1948 at Henley-on-Thames, the site of the 1928 Olympiad, and came home to a huge communion and abnormal diets and cultural shock and environmental factors—hypoxia and cold enduring enmities, but perhaps this isn't work out because other tusks are so widely dispersed. Today, ten of the twelve drawings are considered unique representations of the tusks.

Mrs. Kathleen Hau of Berkeley, the donor of the scrolls, has worked for many years to decipher the meanings of the carvings. First becoming interested in West Africa while studying at the London School of Economics,

**William E. Siri: Environmentalist**

William E. Siri, the University of California biophysicist and director of the Energy Analysis Program at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, leads a triple life: in addition to his scientific career, he is a co-founder of the Sierra Club History Committee and completed by the Bancroft's Regional Oral History Office. This interview is one of a series dealing with the Sierra Club which complement the growing collection of that organization's papers in the Library.

Recounting his experiences as deputy leader of the successful First American Expedition to Mount Everest in 1963, Siri's account of the stresses of expedition climbing on Everest, and the difficulties of molding strong individualistic drives of highly motivated mountaineers into a team effort. Of the Everest expedition he says: Experiments tend, if anything, to generate enduring enmities, but perhaps this isn't too surprising. For several months a team like this is under intense stress, not only environmental factors—hypoxia and cold and abnormal diets and cultural shock and everything else—but the intensity of their expectations, and perhaps failure to achieve them, the competition, and the anxieties. There is a lot at stake in terms of peer recognition and self-fulfillment, and the worst in men may come out even in high-minded mountaineers.

Like many mountaineers, Siri moved from a leadership role in climbing expeditions to leadership positions in the environmental movement. He returned from Mount Everest to a two-year stint as Sierra Club president in 1964 and 1965; since 1967 he has served as president of Save San Francisco Bay Association. From a perspective of nearly twenty years of active participation in Sierra Club affairs (he was a member of its board of directors from 1956 to 1973), Siri comments on the Club's major conservation campaigns, its explosive internal affairs, and its dramatic expansion in scope of interests and in membership nationwide during these years. In conjunction with his papers in the Bancroft, the interview sheds light on two continuing controversies in California politics in which he was involved from their beginnings—the siting of a PG&E power plant at Diablo Canyon and the opposition to the Peripheral Canal—and documents his contributions to Club policy on the conservation and environmentally safe development of energy.

In the latter area, Siri's environmental interests influenced his move into a new career at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in 1974. As director of the Energy Analysis Program he now brings his scientific background to bear on a key problem, in analyzing the social, cultural, and environmental impacts of energy development.

Many other Sierra Club leaders, including former executive director David R. Brower, who later became president of the Save the Earth, and honorary Club president Richard M. Leonard, have been interviewed for the Sierra Club History Committee, which provides the overall direction for the Club's Oral History Project. The Committee has also been responsible for the transfer to The Bancroft Library of the Club's archives, consisting of more than four hundred cartons of written records as well as Club photographs, films, publications, and tape recordings. Under a new grant which the Club has received from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Regional Oral History Office will complete some twelve to sixteen new interviews, including, as subjects, former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and former Club executive director Michael McCloskey. These will aid scholars of the history of the modern environmental movement who will seek out the Bancroft as a national center for conservation research.

**Scrolls of Benin Tusks**

Ivory altar tusks, once the property of the West African Kings of Benin, have come to The Bancroft Library in the form of twelve scrolls, made in the 1960's, inscribed with drawings of the carvings created prior to the British invasion of that country at the turn of the century. When the British seized Benin they also seized the bronze and ivory treasure of the Bini (Edo) people and scattered it to collectors and museums throughout the Western world. The Library's scrolls may help in the systematic study of African writing which has been hard to work out because other tusks are so widely dispersed. Today, ten of the twelve drawings are considered unique representations of the tusks.

Mrs. Kathleen Hau of Berkeley, the donor of the scrolls, has worked for many years to decipher the meanings of the carvings. First becoming interested in West Africa while studying at the London School of Economics,

| [8] | [9] |
she needed drawings of the carvings in order to work with them at home. The directors of the Hamburgisches Museum für Volkerkunde und Vorgeschichte and the University Museum at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as the Trustees of the British Museum recommended artists whom Mrs. Hau commissioned to make accurate drawings of the symbols of men, animals, and objects carved on the tusks.

In the course of her investigation, Mrs. Hau has become convinced that the symbols are a form of hieroglyphics, probably sound symbols accompanied by word symbols. She discovered that West Africans, slave and free, used syllabaries composed of letters and combinations of letters taken from South Semitic scripts, singly or in combination utilized to create scripts adapted to African languages. Not only do South Semitic letters frequently occur in West African scripts but hundreds of South Semitic letters singly, in combination, and with variants have been recently found on rocks far away in the lower Congo Valley by two Belgian scholars, Paul Raynaeckers and R. F. Hendrik. Many of these same signs have also been found in Angola and in Brazil’s Amazon basin; the latter signs were inscribed on rocks by escaped slaves of African origin.

During her summer at Blackman, a student on the University’s Los Angeles campus, plans to visit a number of collections of Benin tusk in order to obtain pictures of them; her travels will also take her to Benin. The Bancroft’s scrolls are a welcome addition to the Bancroft Library’s manuscript resources, adding another subject area which is supportive of University-wide academic programs.

P. B.

Lawton Kennedy, 1900-1980

With sadness we note the death of Lawton Kennedy, the Bay Area’s fine printer, whose work for The Friends of The Bancroft Library left his distinctive mark on so many of our publications, including, of course, Bancroftiana. He died in his sleep at his home in Berkeley on October 20th, having completed a full day in the shop.

Kennedy was born on May 10th, 1900 in San Francisco, but his father’s career as a Methodist minister soon took the family to San Jose, Berkeley, and Santa Clara before they finally settled in Oakland. At a young age Lawton helped to distribute his father’s church bulletin and was fascinated by the presses on which it was printed; when he was thirteen he was setting type for the bulletin in an Oakland print shop. The following year he started a small printing venture, the first Kennedy Press, was established in the family garage, and Lawton, working with his older brother Reuel, embarked on the profession he was to follow the rest of his life. In 1916 he became a full-time printer.

Following employment by several distinguished Bay Area printers, in 1931 Lawton opened his own business in the Nash Building in San Francisco. Among other commissions he printed the Quarterly of the California Historical Society for thirty-one years. In 1935 he moved his business to 242 Front Street, and then in 1944, in partnership with his younger brother Alfred, to Oakland, where they called their firm the Westgate Press.

It was at this time in Lawton’s career that I first met him, not long after I became Director of The Bancroft Library in July, 1946. He would occasionally invite me to lunch with his brother and himself at a cafe near their firm, where we discussed the issues of the day, especially any publication projects that might be undertaken through The Bancroft Library. One of the ideas that materialized into book form was Overland to California on the Southwestern Trail, 1849. Diary of Robert Ecleston. It was issued in 1950 by the University of California Press, but the design, printing, and binding of this volume was the work of the Westgate Press. This was an especially significant occasion for it marked one of the first major ventures sponsored and financed by The Friends of The Bancroft Library.

For me it was an inspiration to work with Lawton Kennedy. His knowledge of printing, together with his fine sense of book design, the choice of paper for printing and binding, the proper shade of inking, and altogether the concept of an elegant book, will always remain a cherished memory.

G.P.B.

[Note: A Lawton Kennedy Memorial Fund has been established in The Bancroft Library.]
Christian Jorgensen's watercolor of the Oakland Estuary, c. 1930, was recently presented to the Library by Dr. Katherine M. Lund of Somona. Viewed from the

Estuary, south shore, the Oakland City hall as well as the train turrets of the H Just Oakland may be seen in the distance.