This drawing with ink wash, made in 1791 and acquired by The Bancroft Library in 1963, is the only known view of the interior plaza at the Presidio of Monterey.

The Pictorial History of Monterey, Capital of California

From its founding in 1770 until the American conquest in 1846, only twenty-two drawings and paintings are known to have been made of the presidio and chapel at Monterey or of the neighboring mission at Carmel. Eighteen of these historical views have survived to the present day, and it is our remarkable good fortune that eleven have come into the collections of The Bancroft Library, either as unique originals or as copies and variants executed by the original artists.

It is surprising to note that the first view reported to have been made of anything in California was created by a French painter, Gaspard Duché de Vancy. In his capacity as official artist for a French global exploring expedition, under the command of Comte Jean Galaup de Laperouse, he made an eyewitness record of the cordial Reception of Laperouse at Carmel Mission in 1786. This incunabulum of pictorial Californiana, left as a memento with Fr. Fermín Lasuén, was created sixteen years after the dedication of the presidio and mission at Monterey by Fr. Junípero Serra, but 244 years had passed since the first discovery of Monterey Bay—Bahía de los Pinos—by Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, in 1542, and 184 years had passed since Sebastián Vizcaíno landed on that sandy beach in 1602, reaffirming Spanish claim to the site which he renamed Puerto de Monterey, to honor the Viceroy of Mexico, Gaspar de Zúñiga, Conde de Monterey.

These early explorers and their successors, including Gaspar de Portolá and Juan Bautista
also completed three watercolors during this time, of which two came to The Bancroft Library in 1993 as the gift of Edith M. Coulter. One of these is so similar to a Beechey view that they were probably painted on the same occasion.

Our next pictures of Monterey are two fine views which Thomas O. Larkin, the American Consul at Monterey, had published at his own expense in 1850. The originals of these views, dating from 1842, are lost, and the artist is unknown, although he may have been Edward Vischer, who had business in the city at that time. The Library owns good examples of these printed views, rarities in themselves, having acquired one from the Honeyman Collection and the other from the original collection of Hubert Howe Bancroft.

The last group of views which record the appearance of Monterey prior to the American conquest in 1846 appear in the manuscript log kept by gunner William Henry Meyers, aboard the United States naval ship, Cyane, during the years 1841 to 1843. This beautifully illustrated journal was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth K. Bechtel, in 1955, and contains three fine views of Monterey, including an illustration of the one-day "conquest" by Commodore Thomas ap Catesby Jones and the U.S. Marines, on November 27, 1842! This journal has recently been restored with funds made available by the El Dorado Foundation, and the watercolor paintings have regained much of their original brilliance.

All the pictures mentioned above as well as selected prints and illustrations, may be seen in our current exhibition, Original Drawings and Paintings of Monterey, Capital of California, mounted in the Administrative Offices of The Bancroft Library where they may be seen through March 1986, final 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., weekdays only.

Lawrence Dinnean

Josephine Miles

Josephine Miles, distinguished poet, scholar, and professor of English on the Berkeley campus, died this past May. For almost thirty-two years she had been placing her papers in The Bancroft Library so that scholars, creative writers, and the interested public would have the opportunity to make use of this material.
taught in its Press Room, is now offered under the aegis of the College of Environmental Design with the catchy administrative sobriquet of Visual Studies 185, section 2. The course had been sponsored by the Library School but was moved to the College of Environmental Design for administrative reasons; its content remains unchanged.

On Friday afternoons, a few select students meet with Wesley B. Tanner to examine examples of book design from the fifteenth century to the present and to discuss the books' history, design, and significance. Then the class moves to the type cases and presses of the Press Room to work on the major project of the semester, a substantial pamphlet drawing on the Library's collections and produced by the students working as a print shop crew. The booklets bear the imprint of The Bancroft Library Press.

Five pieces of printing have been produced by the students over the last three years and each booklet has been selected for inclusion in the Western Books Exhibition, sponsored by the Rounce and Coffin Club of Los Angeles. The latest work was *A Selection of Type Ornamentals: The Merrymount Press Collection*, a handsome quarto of twelve leaves printed on the Merrymount press. "The Merrymount Ornament Book" displays 162 different typecast ornaments selected from The Bancroft Library holdings of material from Daniel Berkeley Updike's Merrymount Press. Productions of The Bancroft Library Press are limited to about thirty copies, distributed to those who participate in each project; none are for sale.

Of related interest, I am pleased to report that Daniel Berkeley Bianchi has recently presented The Bancroft Library with a large collection of original blocks, binding dies, and type used at the Merrymount Press. As time allows, we will proof the blocks and catalog them for the typographical artifacts collection. When processing of this important gift has progressed further, look for a report in *Bancroftiana*.

**A New Serra Document**

Junipero Serra, as founder of California's missions, is a figure of great significance to California history and, therefore, to the collections of The Bancroft Library. The Library, over since the time of Hubert Howe Bancroft, has acquired all relevant printed material and some manuscripts concerning with Serra. Thus over the years it has acquired four signed manuscript volumes; now it has just obtained four more signatures, all on one new piece of manuscript, a remarkably informative two-page text in which Serra records his tour of missions during the period August 3 to September 29, 1783.

The manuscript is an illustration of Serra's long career as a missionary. It began in March 1749 when he obtained permission to join the College of San Fernando in Mexico, where he expected to devote himself to missionary work. He reached the College on January 1, 1750, and from there went to the Sierra Gorda missions, converting and instructing the Pame Indians for nine years. It was not until 1767 that he was named president of the Baja California missions which he immediately proceeded to visit on foot. He eagerly accepted the idea of expeditions to Alta California for the purpose of founding missions at San Diego and Monterey, and indeed proposed to join the land portion of the expedition in person. This he did with Fathers Juan Crespi, a fellow Majorcan, and Fermín Lasuén, leaving at the end of March 1769 on the long northward trek under the protection of Gaspar de Portolá, to arrive on July 1 at San Diego where fifteen days later he founded the first mission in Alta California, naming it San Diego de Alcalá.

In the fifteen years remaining to him, Serra journeyed incessantly throughout California, from north to south, often by land, and sometimes by sea, establishing missions of San Carlos, San Antonio, San Luis, San Juan Capistrano, and San Buenaventura. As first president of the missions, he prudently managed their interests and battled against military and temporal powers to preserve their rights. Serra in his capacity to administer the sacrament of confirmation undertook his last tour of confirmations in the south during the summer of 1783, visiting every mission from San Diego to San Antonio, returning to San Carlos in January of the following year.

It is this tour that is documented in the new manuscript obtained through special funds made available by Clarence E. Heller. The manuscript describes the ceremonies that took place at Santa Clara, San Carlos, Santa Barbara, and San Diego. Here we find listed not only the number of confirmations administered, but also, for the smaller missions, the names of those confirmed, sometimes their age, the names of their parents, and their sponsors. Serra also mentions the names of priests assisting him in the celebration of the mass preceding the confirmation.

It is interesting to note that the seven persons confirmed at San Carlos were all Indians or "gentiles" from outlying rancherias or Indian settlements, their sponsor being Juan Bautista Aguirre, captain of the frigate *Favorita*. Serra includes a few brief personal notes, telling us that he embarked from Monterey on the afternoon of August 4. On September 1 at the presidio of Santa Barbara which he reached by sea, he confirmed nineteen persons, eight boys, nine girls, and two married women whose names were to be recorded in the Book of Confirmations of the Mission of San Buenaventura that served the presidio. On September 14 Serra arrived at San Diego by sea, the very day, he observed, when he had completed fifty-three years of religious service. There he confirmed 124 neophytes, and on the following Sunday thirty-one Indians from rancherias, making a total of 233 confirmations for that mission through September 28. Serra, ever frail in health, visited once more the missions of San Francisco and Santa Clara, returning very ill to the San Carlos Mission at Alcalá. There in his sleep on August 28, 1784, a much loved figure died.

**Elinor Raas Heller—A Vibrant Lady**

“I see a problem and try to solve it. If I think I know the right way, good. I'm not determined to have things my way, but once I've thought it out and think I'm right, I do my best to work it out. That's one of the best roles I can play that I've found in my life.”

Thus did Elinor Raas Heller modestly summarize nearly sixty years of active community life in her recently-completed oral history, *A Volunteer Career in Politics, in Higher Education, and on Governing Boards*.

Skipping over her term as president of the Associated Students while a student at Mills College (1921-1925), her volunteer career could be dated from 1927, when she joined an organization which later became the San Francisco League of Women Voters. She was soon on the board. "I was asked to be the education committee chairman; it was just as simple as that."


In his introduction to Mrs. Heller's oral history, James E. O'Brien has written, "Most of all, when I think of her talents and achievements, I think of Ellie attending a meeting, a pursuit which she has elevated into an art form.
heading into a meeting room at Berkeley, at Stanford, at Mills, and elsewhere, impeccably groomed, her handbag slung over one arm, wrists on her hips, her feet well planted as she strolls into the arena! And what does she bring to such a meeting? Total preparation, a capacity to read the documents with a total understanding of the nuances of what is written and not written. But instead of imposing views or conclusions based on this preparation, she listens, and listens with a wise receptivity, with a mind open to persuasion and always seeking some constructive step or modification on the way to resolution and solution. These are rare gifts: judgment, sensitivity, open-mindedness, forbearance and a total absence of vanity or wish to win.

Mrs. Heller was asked to participate in the Regional Oral History Office’s series on California Women Political Leaders because of her long-time activity in the Democratic Party. The project was designed to understand the role of women in politics between 1920 and 1965, and to consider other significant experiences prior to and after their most active involvement in politics.

Although she never lost interest in politics, Mrs. Heller’s primary focus became higher education, particularly after the death of her husband in 1961. Governor Edmund G. (Pat) Brown appointed her to complete Ed Heller’s remaining term on the University’s Board of Regents. During sixteen years as a Regent she helped to oversee the University grow from four to nine campuses, and she provided wise counsel during the 1960s, when several of the University’s campuses were the scenes of wild demonstrations watched with scenes of wild demonstrations watched with envy throughout the country. She participated in guiding policy as four Presidents—Clark Kerr, Harry Wellman, Charles Hitch, and David Saxon—and numerous chancellors tackled the problems besetting the heretofore relatively stable institution. She noted the differences among the Regents and she also noted how differently Governors Pat Brown, Ronald Reagan, and Jerry Brown approached their roles with respect to the University.

More than a recital of organizations and Mrs. Heller’s developing philosophy of government, her oral history provides an understanding of the family backgrounds in San Francisco of Elinor Raas and Edward Heller, telling, for example, how in a family dominated by Republicans, Edward Heller and his parents were staunch Democrats, backing candidates and contributing generously to those they believed would make good state and national officials. Edward’s grandfather, Izaiah Hellman, was a Regent for thirty-seven years, and, except for a twelve-year hiatus, since 1881 a member of the Hellman/Heller family has served on the board until Elinor’s term ended in 1976.

Throughout the years the Hellers’ contributions to the University have been numerous and generous. Examples are the remodeling in 1973 of The Bancroft Library, whose Reading Room is named for Edward Hellman Heller, the historically important Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics, the Clara Hellman Heller Lounge in the Student Union Building, and another one in International House. Among diverse gifts are many rare books donated to The Bancroft Library, and the cast of a dinosaur footprint donated to the Museum of Paleontology.

Mrs. Heller’s personal interests, aside from her three children and six grandchildren, are book collecting and tennis, which she has played regularly and very well since high school. She is an insatiable reader, interested in books not only for their literary merit but for the quality of their printing and binding. For wedding gifts, Ed and Ellie Heller requested books. With these, they began to build their collection, now housed in a two-story library, a photograph of which is the frontispiece of the oral history volumes. Later, on trips to Europe, the Hellers collected examples of fine French bindings. In the Bay Area they collected fine press examples in 1955, to create the Bibliography of the Grabhorn Press, 1934-1940, with the rare book dealer, David Magee.

Considering the extraordinary range of this oral history, it is little wonder that it required some fifty hours of taping during thirty interview sessions between 1974 and 1980, all in Mrs. Heller’s lovely Spanish-style home in Atherton. Researchers will find in this two-volume 850-page history an exceptional amount of information covering a diversity of subjects although focusing on higher education. Pictures, newsclippings, and memoranda enrich the story. The introductions written by her two long-time friends and associates, William Coblentz and James E. O’Brien, provide a vivid picture of Ellie Heller at work and at her leisure.

Coblentz writes, “What does it all add up to? Ellie is one of the finest, most thoughtful human beings I have ever known. I am fortunate to have felt her imprint personally.”

O’Brien summarizes, “No wonder she is so widely loved, honored and respected, not as an Ancient Monument, but as a vibrant lady who has really made a mark.”

Cobden-Sanderson Binding Rediscovered

Just a few months ago, I had occasion to write that eighty-one of Cobden-Sanderson’s 169 personal bindings were unlocated and that the recent publication of Marianne Tidcombe’s bibliographic history of his work would perhaps bring some of them to light. This statement has been justified with the acquisition by The Bancroft Library of one of those missing bindings.

Blackwell’s of Oxford uncovered a copy of the first edition of Lord Tennyson’s Maud and Other Poems (London: Edward Moxon, 1855) bound by T. J. Cobden-Sanderson in 1889 in red morocco with an over-all design formed of gilt tulips. The binding was originally commissioned by the London bookseller James Bain who sold it to the Irish Secretary, Arthur Balfour. An inscription in the book indicates that it was later presented by one Mary Wemyss to Mary Elcho, but we cannot date the presentation or any other details of provenance.

Cobden-Sanderson’s patterns for his personal work have been preserved, and Marianne Tidcombe reproduced the patterns for Maud as number 67 in her work The Bookbindings of T. J. Cobden-Sanderson. Now that the actual volume has been rediscovered, a full report on it will be sent to Mrs. Tidcombe.

The purchase of this splendid binding was made possible by another example of the generosity of Norman H. Strouse who, with his wife Charlotte, presented the Library with thirty Cobden-Sanderson bindings in 1982. This latest gift reaffirms Bancroft’s preeminence among American collections of Cobden-Sanderson bindings now equal to the British Library’s holdings. We know of no stronger collection in any library in the world.

Cobden-Sanderson’s work enjoys international esteem. During the visit of the International Association of Bibliophiles to The Bancroft Library in October, demand was so great to see this long-lost Cobden-Sanderson binding that it was brought out for a special showing in the Library’s conference room.

Riley Root’s Journal

A major area of Bancroft’s collecting is the journals, diaries, and travel accounts of voyagers across the American continent and to its western shore in the years before and during the great mid-nineteenth-century gold rush. In addition to a vast collection of manuscript materials, the Library possesses hundreds of printed journals. Yet there are always a few more elusive ones to be found. Recently the Library was fortunate to obtain, thanks to funding from the Friends, one
of the scarcest printed pamphlets that was not yet in its collections. Commonly called Riley Root's Journal, it is known in only nine other copies. The full title is Journal of Travels from St. Joseph's to Oregon With Observations of That Country, Together with a Description of California, Its Agricultural Interests, and A Full Description of Its Gold Mines.

Issued in the writer's hometown of Galesburg, Illinois in 1850, the 143-page journal is one of the very few contemporary accounts of the emigration of 1848 to the Oregon country. Root crossed the Platte River in May 1848 and was moved to verse by the experience: One evening at twilight, whilst sitting to view, On the banks of the Platt, to me 'twas quite new, Nor sad or lonely, as one in despair Sees the beasts of the forest just 'merged from their lair, But cheerful and tranquil, I cast my eyes o'er The wide-spreading Platt, where I ne'er roamed before. His party reached Oregon City in September, and he went on to California during the spring of 1849, finally returning home by way of Panama in the winter of 1849-1850.

Root provides a vivid description of the overland journey as well as a report of the massacre of Marcus Whitman lifted from an account that was based upon some eye-witness testimony. He then moves on to tell of his five months from May to October 1849, in California's northern mines and then, via the "St. Wauken" River and "a little cloth town called Stockton" to the southern mines where he witnessed what he calls "Gold Mania" or more colorfully, "Yellow Fever." He provides intimate details about gambling, the high prices of supplies ("green peas preserved in air-tight jars, per pint $4") and lots of other matters revealing of the place and time. Root had a lively mind as indicated not only by his travel account but by later publications about his several curious interests, including a "new process for clarifying Chinese and other cane juices" and his invention described in Root's Musical Transposition Key Board.

The Bascom Collection

William R. Bascom, a member of the Department of Anthropology and Director of the Bancroft Library, is renowned for his work among the Kiowa Indians of Oklahoma and the Gullah Blacks of Georgia and South Carolina, as well as in Ponape in the Pacific, and in Cuba.

During his many periods of residence in Nigeria, Professor Bascom and his wife Berta Monterro Bascom assembled one of the foremost collections of books and art of the Yoruba people, their folklore and history. His collection of four hundred Yoruba language monographs, now part of Bancroft's Rare Book Collection, donated by Mrs. Bascom, places U.C. Berkeley first among national research libraries on this subject. His field notes and ethnographic records, part of the History of Sciences and Technology Collections at Bancroft, comprise what are probably the most detailed accounts extant of traditional Yoruba culture. Indeed, sections of these rich ethnographic records are the only references in existence for certain Yoruba technologies extinct or about to disappear as the result of rapid culture change. The manuscript collection in its entirety is a wellspring of information for scholars of West African folklore, Yoruba material culture, and comparative linguistics.

The large collection of Bascom's field notes, manuscripts, reprints, and correspondence complement Bancroft's holdings of the papers of Anthropologists Alfred Kroeber, Robert Lowie, and Robert Heizer, providing documentation of the development of a scientific discipline based upon a methodology of intensive field work and comparative analysis. Professor Bascom's research notes range in scope from broad analysis of the Yoruba social structure and the economy to detailed description and invention of weaving and calabash design. The progression of his understanding can be observed from the roughly legible notes made at the moment of observation through the thoughtfully typed record of scientific documentation.

In 1937, at the age of twenty-five, Bascom made his first field trip to Nigeria, working for eleven months in Ile-Ife, the city where the world was created, according to Yoruba myth- ontology. Over the next twenty-three years, he spent a total of five years among the Yoruba, learning their complex culture and folklore, describing in exhaustive detail all aspects of their life. The Yoruba, among the most important African ethnic groups south of the Sahara, are highly regarded for their government, art, and religion. Their long tradition of folklore carried to the New World by slaves has contributed to the cultures of the Americas.

Professor Bascom's papers also include his field notes and finished manuscripts related to his work among the Kiowa Indians of Oklahoma and the Gullah Blacks of Georgia and South Carolina, as well as in Ponape in the Pacific, and in Cuba. A one-time president of the American Folklore Society, Professor Bascom was awarded the prestigious Giuseppe Pitre International Folklore Prize for one of his ten books, the monumental study Ifa Divination: Communication Between Gods and Men in West Africa.

To Honor George P. Hammond

Through the continuing generosity of Rosario A. Curletti of Santa Barbara, a unique fourteen-page manuscript documenting the Haciendo [sic] de Santo Domingo, a cattle ranch in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico, has been acquired by The Bancroft Library. It is her most recent tribute to George Hammond and a truly appropriate one to further recognize the life-long scholarly labors of Bancroft's Director Emeritus.

Bound in its original blue-marbled boards, this beautifully handwritten document, dated 4 March 1884, is an opinion by Thomas Ben- ton Catron, well-known New Mexico attorney and United States Senator, concerning a recent survey of the Hacienda. It also contains a brief history of the property from the time it was declared public land in 1816 and sold at auction to one Miguel Ortiz, a description of the original survey, and a comparison of the old and new surveys. This statement is followed by accounting details such as the value of the land; prices paid for cattle, horses, and improvements; and working expenses including fencing, implements, board of men, and salary for four "Cow Boys."

Last year Miss Curletti honored Dr. Hammond by donating to Bancroft a rare manuscript copy of a work published in 1812 titled Ato Christiano Seráfico. This fine volume, in the remarkably legible handwriting of Father Juan Amoros and dated 1814, recounts the lives of the Franciscan saints for study and contemplation and was used at Mission San Carlos in Monterey where the printed copy was unavailable. Although it is likely that padre's charge of missions often had to rely on handwritten copies of books, few of these manuscripts have survived.

Bancroft is indebted indeed to Miss Curletti both for paying deserved tribute to Dr. Hammond and for enriching our holdings with the gift of two such significant manuscripts.

Mary-Ellen Jones

Hall J. Kelley's Oregon Dream

Hall Jackson Kelley, the prophet of Oregon, was one of the earliest and most persistent advocates for the American colonization of the Oregon Territory. As a youthful Boston schoolmaster, he had read the journals of the
Lewis and Clark expedition, which fired his imagination and changed the course of his life. In 1817 he forged his lifelong ambition “to go and labor in the fields of philanthropical enterprise, and promote the propagation of Christianity in the darkest places about the shores of the Pacific.” Kelley published numerous articles, pamphlets, and books on Oregon, all of which are quite scarce today. The Bancroft Library has acquired many of Kelley’s writings on Oregon over the years and has recently added a copy of the very rare second edition of his History of the Colonization of the Oregon Territory (1850). In this History he writes about his plans for a settlement on the Columbia River, his actual expedition to Oregon via Mexico and California, and explains the great hardships he suffered in trying to obtain support for his Oregon dream.

From 1824 to 1844 Kelley was active in the movement to secure the American claim to the Northwest coast. He visited Washington in 1827 and made a bid for national support with his “Memorial of citizens of the United States, praying for a grant of land, and the aid of Government in forming a colony on the Northwest coast of the United States.” His petition was favorably received; however, no action was taken. He continued to lobby for government support in the winters of 1830 and 1831. In the summer of 1831 he published a Geographical Sketch of That Part of North America Called Oregon (1830) which included his hand-drawn map of Oregon, and he also established the American Society for Encouraging the Settlement of Oregon and the Interior of Upper California. Kelley continued for many years to write petitions praying for reimbursement of his losses and recounting the tales of hard usage he had received from the Hudson’s Bay Company’s ship Dryad to the Sandwich Islands, and there he got passage on a whale ship bound for Boston. He reached Boston in September 1836, after an absence of nearly two years. 

Kelley for his 1832 expedition from Boston to Vera Cruz. The Bancroft copy of this work has an additional four pages, numbered 27–30, that do not appear in the original 1849 edition, and describe Kelley’s trip across Mexico, his sea voyage north along the California coast, and the overland journey to San Francisco and Oregon. The only other textual differences between the two editions are in the imprints on the title pages, the substitution of the word “settlement” for “colonization” in the title, and a few minor changes on pages 3–4 of the preface. Kelley wrote two more histories of his travels, A Narrative of Events and Difficulties in the Colonization of Oregon and the Settlement of California, 1842, and A History of the Settlement of Oregon and the Interior of Upper California (1868). He continued to petition government for a “grant of land or a donation of money” for his efforts, but none of his requests was ever granted.

Kelley worked as an engineer upon his return from Oregon and eventually impoverished and blind he lived out his years as a hermit, for his lengthy trip to Oregon even alienated his wife as he recorded in his Letters from an Afflicted Husband to an Astranged Wife (1851). He was one of those curious figures, who appear from time to time in the background of the great scenes of history, influence the course of events somewhat, and then pass on to obscurity, leaving fragmentary and imperfect evidence to support their claims to recognition. Oregon would have been settled had Kelley never lived; still its history is richer for his having lived and labored in its behalf.

The Books as Catches

In many ways, buying books is like fishing; there are always stories to tell of the ones that got away. Perhaps the greatest satisfaction is with those that almost elude the net but are finally landed safely in a collection.

Some books (and accompanying manuscripts, engravings, and pictures) swim into The Bancroft Library as gifts, but they are relatively few, even though often of a particularly rare species. But most of them first come into our pool with the daily tide of mail delivery.

Spilling through the net, usually outnum-

bered, the books themselves, are the bookseller catalogs from which Bancroft purchases a large part of its acquisitions. They come from all over the world and flit about while logged in and speedily circulated among selectors. Selectors must search among hundreds of offered titles each day to decide which are needed to keep the collections of current imprints up to date, and which significant items will enhance the special collections. The time element here is crucial, as the Library must vie on the world market. Inevitably there are lines the Library puts out that hook nothing, even when they hum through the deeps near the speed of light.

The Fernán Núñez Collection is one that almost gave the Library the slip. Fortunately, when it was sold by a British firm, it went to an American dealer who arranged for Professor Faubhaber (of Berkeley’s Spanish and Portuguese Department) to evaluate the Collection. His assessment of the research value made the material irresistible to the Library. (For his account, see issue No. 88 of Bancroftiana.)

Because the Collection was bought from the second rather than the first dealer to own it, the Bancroft and the dealer recognized that afterwards not only its catalogs but also the privilege of advance copies should be promptly dispatched to the Library. This status as favored customer is one the Library enjoys with many American firms, and it is also happy to have with dealers at greater distances. Before long such close ties led The Bancroft
Library to do better fishing and to pick up from the London dealer a copy of Antonio Pigafetta’s account as Magellan’s navigator in his voyage around the world. His *Primo viaggio intorno al globo terraequico* is another book that almost made a watery escape.

This attractive volume, with four beautifully colored maps after the printed text, was belatedly first published in 1800, but this edition was the first complete version—the one that appeared in 1526 was a mere capsule summary in comparison. This big catch was hauled in thanks to funding provided by the Friends. It joins a school of volumes related to Magellan and other early explorers of the Pacific, including the French translation of 1801, a later variant of the text in Italian, a recently acquired eighteenth-century account in Swedish of Captain Cook’s third voyage, and other early literature of men who went to sea.

*D. S. Black*

**The Library’s Fire Insurance Maps**

A wealth of building and other urban data is available in The Bancroft Library’s extensive collection of fire insurance maps of cities and towns in the American West. These plans, most of which were produced by the Sanborn Map Company, show individual buildings complete with construction details such as building material (brick, adobe, frame, etc.), height, number of stories, location of doors and windows, use of structure (dwelling, hotel, church, etc.), and occasionally give the ethnicity of the occupants. The maps show other features including lot lines, street widths, water pipes, hydrants and cisterns, and firefighting facilities. This information was gathered and mapped, usually at a scale of fifty feet to an inch, by or for fire insurance underwriters who used it to determine risks and establish premiums. Today, these maps are used by scholars and researchers in history, urban geography, architectural history, ethnic studies, urban archaeology, and genealogy.

The Sanborn maps are part of a long cartographic tradition. One of the earliest fire insurance maps covers the city of London and was made by Richard Horwood in 1792–1799. The Bancroft holds a copy of this handsomely engraved set of thirty-two sheets. Plans for American cities generally became widely available in the mid-nineteenth century. Almost certainly the earliest example for a western city is S. J. Gower’s map of 1851 entitled, “Map of the Burnt District of San Francisco Showing the Extent of the Fire,” at a scale of 250 feet to one inch. Bancroft has a copy of this map, which is printed as a letter sheet. The first large-scale fire insurance map of a city in the West was Casper T. Hopkin’s “Insurance Survey of All Buildings in the Central Blocks of San Francisco,” dated 1861. Unfortunately, no surviving copies of this multi-sheet lithograph are known.

Coverage of Californian and other western cities is fairly good after the mid-1880s, and Bancroft possesses large numbers of originals, facsimiles or microcopies of many fire insurance maps and atlases from this period onward. Included are works by Sanborn, the company which came to dominate American fire insurance mapping, as well as by others such as the Dakin Publishing Company of San Francisco. Many California plans survive only in the single copies to be found in The Bancroft. This is true of the Sanborn volumes for San Jose (1884 corrected to 1890), and Stockton (1883 corrected to 1894); its Dakin maps of Chico (1885), the Berkeley campus (1888), and the California warehouses volume (1897); J. B. F. Davis & Son's map of the California Sugar Refinery in San Francisco (1883?); and C. A. Swift’s maps of the Hollister Estate Company’s buildings in Santa Barbara County (1919). After the 1950s, the production of insurance maps was greatly restricted because uniform building codes began to serve the purpose previously served by the fire insurance maps.

*Philip Hoehn*

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