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Charles Atwood Kofoid Collector and Benefactor

One of the most distinctive bookplates to be found in Bancroft Library books identifies volumes from the library of Charles Atwood Kofoid, longtime chairman of the Department of Zoology at Berkeley. Along with other symbols, the bookplate depicts protozoa as viewed through a microscope, reflecting Professor Kofoid's outstanding research in protozoology. The plate, crowned by a scene of the Campanile seen through the windows of a library, also illustrates Kofoid's strong ties to the University of California at Berkeley.

The Bancroft Library has recently undertaken a project to transfer approximately 7,000 rare and valuable books from the campus Biology Library to more secure surroundings at Bancroft. Most of these additions to our rare book holdings bear the Kofoid bookplate, and enrich significantly an already strong collection for the history of science and technology.

Charles Atwood Kofoid earned his doctorate in zoology at Harvard in 1894. He then spent half a dozen years in the Midwest teaching and doing biological research, including a statistical study of microscopic life of the Illinois River in connection with lawsuits over water quality and the proper disposal of Chicago's sewage. In 1901 Kofoid came to Berkeley, where he taught for the rest of his career. He was named professor of zoology in 1910 and for most of the next quarter-century served as chairman of the Zoology Department. Sixty students completed Ph.D. dissertations under his direction, and many students, graduate and undergraduate alike, benefited from the courses he introduced in protozoology, parasitology, and the biological study of water.

Not long after his arrival in Berkeley, Kofoid was invited to accompany the eminent Harvard scientist Alexander Agassiz on an extended expedition in the tropical Pacific. Kofoid's research during this voyage resulted in a multi-volume monograph on protozoa, which addressed such subjects as the microscopic sources of the marine phosphorescence we call red tide. In related work with what was then Scripps Institution for Biological Research (later Scripps Institution for Oceanography), Kofoid deployed clever apparatus, such as self-closing water bottles and silk nets, in order to retrieve delicate protozoa from deep-sea environments. A silk net is also featured in his bookplate.

Professor Kofoid was a prolific scholar (his bibliography lists 250 original contributions) with wide-ranging scientific interests and an abiding concern for biology and human welfare. As consulting parasitologist for the State of California, he worked in 1916 to suppress an outbreak of hookworm among gold miners; this experience would soon prove useful to him as an officer in the U.S. Army Sanitary Corps during World War I. Kofoid later directed a research project dealing with the biology of termites, a topic in California of both practical and economic significance—then as now. He was also commissioned to study the teredo, or shipworm, which attaches itself to marine pilings: in 1920 alone the teredo had caused some \$15 million in damage to port facilities and bridges in San Francisco Bay. Other Kofoid research projects concerned the fauna that inhabit the digestive tract in animals and humans, their physiological effects, and their control or eradication.

In the course of his work and extensive travels, Kofoid found occasion to assemble an impressive library, numbering nearly 80,000

volumes. He housed many of the books in the Biology Library; others remained at his home on Etna Street, just a few blocks from campus. As early as 1938 Professor and Mrs. Kofoid expressed to President Sproul their intent to donate the collection to the University, though Kofoid would retain "full power and responsibility to sell, exchange, give or otherwise dispose of items in the interests of increase and betterment of this library and its main purpose, namely a library of the biological sciences and the history of science." The gift was to remain secret until further notice.

In 1947, five years after Mrs. Kofoid's death (and shortly before his own), Professor Kofoid deemed the time appropriate for a public announcement of this extraordinary gift. A description of the Kofoid library prepared for this purpose in February 1947 speaks of an "outstanding" collection "gathered from provincial bookstores throughout the world over a period of forty years." The scope of the collection, which Kofoid permitted "to be located in whatever parts of the University Library they are most appropriate," was highlighted in a recent exhibit in Doe Library.

Many of the Kofoid volumes long housed in the Life Sciences Building are now being added to the history of science holdings at The Bancroft Library. Most of the titles fall into the general classes of zoology, botany, human anatomy and physiology, natural history, and microscopy, and many are beautifully illustrated. The topics they address reflect Kofoid's own scientific interests, as well as his appreciation of important developments in the history of science.

For example, Kofoid's research in protozoology made him acutely aware of the significance of microscopy. Thus numerous treatises in the Kofoid collection deal with microscopy, reflecting the understanding of optics and the technical skill necessary for the construction of microscopes and delighting in the instrument's various applications. One such volume is Henry Baker's *The Microscope Made Easy: or, I. The Nature, Uses and Magnifying Powers of the Best Kinds of Microscopes . . . II. An Account of What Surprising Discoveries Have Been Already Made by the Microscope* (London, 1742). Baker, who styled himself a "philosopher in little things," viewed the microscope as a tool

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Bookplate of Charles Atwood Kofoid, printed from the original block.

for revealing "the infinite Power, Wisdom, and Goodness of Nature's Almighty Parent." He was well acquainted with the work of Leeuwenhoek, having studied carefully the 26 microscopes Leeuwenhoek bequeathed to the Royal Society, and was eager to inform lay audiences of the wonders they disclosed.

Kofoid also owned a copy of Antoni van Leeuwenhoek's *Opera Omnia, seu, Arcana Naturae, ope Exactissimorum Microscopiorum Detecta . . .* (Leyden, 1715-1722). A draper turned microscopist, Leeuwenhoek first published his observations and experiments in 375 letters to the Royal Society of London, though he never visited London and knew no languages other than Dutch. His work contained the first full description of protozoa and spermatozoa, providing convincing evidence against the theory of spontaneous generation, and demonstrating his expertise as both optician and observer.

Kofoid's appreciation of the history of the sciences of anatomy and physiology led him to acquire landmark titles in these fields, including works by Galen and Eustachii. The teach-

ings of Galen (ca. 129-ca. 199 A.D.) in anatomy and physiology, grounded in experiment and guided by teleological principles, served as the basis for anatomical studies well into the 16th century. His *Opera O[mn]ia, quae Post Quinti Nostrum Voluminis Editione* (Venice, 1533) appeared just ten years before Vesalius published his *De Fabrica (On the Fabric of the Human Body)*, which began to point out errors in the Galenic system.

In 1552, with the help of artist and relative Pier Matteo Pini, Bartolomeo Eustachii (ca. 1500-1534) prepared a series of 47 anatomical illustrations for a book which never saw print. The first eight plates did appear in his *Opuscula Anatomica* (Venice, 1564); the others were lost after his death. They were rediscovered and first published as a complete set in 1714, reprinted in 1722 and often thereafter. Kofoid's library contained the first reprinting: *Tabulae Anatomicae Clarissimi Viri Bartholomaei Eustachii . . .* (Amsterdam, 1722). The plates represent a notable departure from standard practice in anatomical illustration in the early 16th century, and the volume is a valuable addition to Bancroft Library holdings.

Kofoid's interest in larger questions of natural history is evident in his collection of works by Buffon. Georges-Louis Leclerc, comte de Buffon (1707-1788), once observed, with regard to the multiplicity of species in nature, that "It would appear that everything that can be, is." The extent of this variety in nature is amply and richly illustrated in Buffon's multi-volume account of natural history, so much so that purchasers of the full series needed a wheelbarrow to carry the books away. Buffon headed the Jardin du Roi for the half-century preceding the French Revolution, at a time when natural history was all the rage in Paris. His energy and prestige helped to create an autonomous discipline of natural history free from theological influence. His compendium of natural history, *Histoire Naturelle, Générale et Particulière* was published in Paris from 1749 to 1804, eventually running to 44 volumes. Bancroft already had a complete set of the first edition but the Kofoid library adds great depth to the Buffon collection.

With the preservation in The Bancroft Library of these and other volumes from Kofoid's gift to the University of California, we help to assure their availability to successive generations of scholars, all of whom should be

grateful for Kofoid's commitment to the "increase and betterment" of Berkeley's holdings in the history of the life sciences.

Robin E. Rider

When Mr. Petrov Made History

For a quarter of a century after the Alaska Purchase of 1867, Ivan Petrov was one of a small group of experts on the new American possession. Although not of the scholarly caliber of Henry W. Elliott, William Healey Dall or George Davidson—Petrov was more of a journalist—he wrote a substantial part of Hubert Howe Bancroft's classic *History of Alaska* (1886) and the chapter about the Russians in Bancroft's *History of California*. He also served Bancroft by seeking materials in Washington D.C. and Alaska for his great collection. In addition, Petrov acted as a Special Agent for the U.S. Census of 1880, and again for the Census of 1890, compiling for each a volume on Alaska much studied since and still used. Bancroft paid Petrov a warm tribute in his *Literary Industries*, citing Petrov's genius with languages, and his war record, stating that Petrov had enlisted in the Union Army as a private, and had been discharged as a major. Petrov also wrote many articles about Alaska for newspapers and magazines, was a member of the California Academy of Sciences, had interviews with Presidents Grant and Hayes, and in 1880 testified before a Senate Committee on Territories hearing on civil government for southeastern Alaska. His comprehensive knowledge of Alaska, much of it obtained firsthand, helped acquaint Americans with the territory and even helped to shape government policy.

Prominent in the extensive core of manuscript holdings in The Bancroft Library left over from Hubert Howe Bancroft's massive, multi-volume history of the west, are Petrov's translations of Russian printed works on Alaska, grouped under the heading "Russian America." Of equal interest are the manuscript translations of old but unprinted records which Petrov is said to have found in Alaska during a field trip made for Bancroft in 1878. They include the "Journal of Reverend Father Juvenal," quoted extensively in Bancroft's *History of Alaska*, an account ostensibly by one of the earliest missionaries to Alaska, "killed in 1796 by Indians who objected to his attempt to



Ivan Petrov, right, working on the Alaska census of 1890.

abolish polygamy," but actually a fabrication by Petrov. Other spurious documents include the statement of a supposed Russian hunter, Vassili Petrovitch Tarakanov, and "Papers Relating to the Trial of Fedor Bashmakov for Sorcery at Sitka in 1829," telling of an Indian convert accused of witchcraft; but "Bashmakov," his purported case, and all of his persecutors and witnesses are otherwise unknown to history. There also are transcriptions of interviews with eye witnesses of events and ways of life in pre-1867 Alaska, among them "Adventures of Zakahar Tchitchinoff, an Employee of the Russian American Fur Company 1802-1878," a fictional account attributed to a real person, though he was more properly named Zakhar Chichenev, who recalled experiences at Fort Ross and on the Farallon Islands. Other fabrications are the "Voyage of Alexander Markoff from Okhotsk to California and Mazatlan in 1835," by Vassili Sokolov, and "Early Times on the Aleutian Islands. Life of Peter Kostromitin 1798-1878." As the work of a pioneer in the techniques of oral history, the Petrov manuscripts have been studied, cited, discussed, and quoted by grateful historians, anthropologists and ethnographers unfamiliar with the Russian language, who have eagerly but too ingenuously used this unique trove of early-day Californiana and Alaskana.

Nevertheless, over the years scholars occasionally pointed out one thing or another in

Petrov's writings and career which did not quite add up. By following clues in old California newspapers, San Francisco directories and other materials at hand in The Bancroft Library, by close examination of Petrov's manuscripts themselves, and finally by tracking down Petrov's family papers, including letters to his wife and family photographs, which the writer found in the hands of distant relatives (who at his suggestion donated them to The Bancroft Library in 1965), it has been possible to assemble some of the pieces in the jigsaw puzzle of Petrov's life and works.

Petrov was probably of Russian birth, though discrepancies in some of his comments about the Orthodox Church would seem to indicate foreign influence. It is possible that he was brought up in Switzerland. Apparently he had good schooling; an acquaintance later spoke of his "air of education and refinement." In 1861, when about 19, he seems to have emigrated to the United States. Two years later, in 1863—the first definitely known fact—he enlisted in the Union Army as a private, under an assumed name, and three months later he deserted. Then there are three blank years. There may have been other enlistments, under other names—"bounty-jumping" was common during the Civil War. In July 1867 we pick him up again when he reenlisted, but in June of the following year, when his unit was about to be shipped to the new territory of

Alaska, he deserted once more. Restored to duty in September—his unit needed a Russian interpreter—he was sent to Alaska and remained there until discharged in July 1870. He went to California; times must have been hard, for early in 1871 he reenlisted in the army, and soon again became a deserter. His whereabouts for the next two years are unknown, but in 1873 he was a compositor on the *San Francisco Evening Bulletin*. In 1875 he was arrested for his desertion from the army in 1871, but was freed through the intervention of A. A. Sargent, the United States senator from California. Soon afterward he began his employment with H. H. Bancroft, then starting his celebrated series of histories of the American West. On the side, Petrov wrote articles for the *San Francisco Chronicle* about the Russo-Turkish War then raging, which attracted national attention until his old employer, the *Bulletin*, showed the parallel between an editorial he had printed and one on the same subject from the *London Times*.

Though said to be "forever disgraced in journalism," Petrov nevertheless was able to continue his work for Bancroft, making the three-month trip in 1878 to Alaska that yielded the unreliable manuscripts and interviews with old timers that are well known to scholars, but require careful scrutiny. On the other hand, Petrov's translations of printed works are fairly reliable, though too far on the liberal rather than literal side to be safe for scholarly use.

Petrov worked for Bancroft until 1880, when he was appointed to take the Alaska census. From 1883 to 1887 he served as deputy collector of customs on the island of Kodiak. In 1890 he was once more with the U.S. Census, again traveling extensively, in two trips to Alaska. At the end of 1891 he was in Washington where he compiled his second volume on the territory. In the following summer he was loaned to the Fur Seal Arbitration to translate documents from the Russian-American Company records to support the U.S. case in the arbitration proceedings then in progress over pelagic sealing. For several months he devoted himself diligently to his new task. Then, at the beginning of November, a State Department clerk, to practice his Russian, checked some of Petrov's translations against the original documents, and found a number of alterations and additions. He reported the matter. Secretary of State John W. Foster

wrote at once to Sir Charles Tupper, head of the British delegation, announcing that the United States had been "grossly imposed upon by a person employed on the work of translation." The story appeared in newspapers throughout the country.

Confronted, the wretched Petrov signed a confession, giving the lame excuse that by making the false translations and interpolations he had hoped to ingratiate himself into favor and impress on the government the importance and value of the Alaskan archives so that he might be employed to classify, translate and index the documents.

Petrov then dropped from sight. Living in Philadelphia he tried to support his wife and daughter by translations and by writing short stories. He died there of peritonitis at age 54 in November 1896. The gaps in his biography are matched by the unexplained qualities of his mind and impulses. Despite his faults, however, Petrov was clearly a man of talent, a diligent public servant when his imagination was controlled, and sometimes an able historian.

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Robert H. Becker, 1915-1987

Readers of *Bancroftiana* will be saddened to learn of the death of Robert H. Becker on December 18, 1987.

Bob Becker served in numerous capacities at The Bancroft Library from 1951 until 1979, including a tenure as Associate Director from 1970 to 1974. During that time and after his retirement in 1979, Bob was the author of several important books on western Americana. Published by the Book Club of California, his *Diseños of California Ranchos* (1964) and *Designs on the Land: Diseños of California Ranchos and Their Makers* (1969) firmly established his position as the leading authority on California land grants. His last major project was the preparation of the revised and enlarged fourth edition of Henry R. Wagner's and Charles L. Camp's classic bibliography, *The Plains and the Rockies* (1982), a book no western Americana collection can do without.

Bob Becker will be missed for his kind good humor and his generous assistance to scholars. A memorial fund has been established at Bancroft in his name by his wife Marjorie and his son Miles.

Before the Hammer Falls: the Doheny Sale

The excitement of auction day, with collectors, dealers and nervous clients waiting expectantly for desired lots to be presented, hoping that the bullish mood will not carry over to their choices, taking care not to get caught up in the whirl of bidding for items not on their list, is the grand finale of preparations both painstaking and intuitive. The recent, long-awaited sale of the third portion of the Estelle Doheny Collection at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo—one of the largest auctions ever held in California—well illustrates the process.

Noted philanthropist Estelle Doheny began collecting in Los Angeles in the 1930s. At her death in 1958, her collection included more than 8,000 books, manuscripts, and autograph letters. While Bancroft staff routinely scan auction catalogs for sales on the East Coast or London, with bids called in to representatives and reports phoned back the day after the auction, the magnitude of the Doheny library made advance notice imperative. We anxiously watched the incoming mail for announcements about the auction and even more closely for advance copies of the sale catalog. Finally, with a draft copy of the catalog in hand, selectors pored over the lot descriptions to put together their “wish lists.”

The Rare Books Librarian and the Head of Acquisitions found about thirty books of interest. The strength of the Bancroft's collection was evident when checking revealed that all but one title was already in the Library. A request from a library school faculty member added a group of printing artifacts to our list of possibilities. The General Editor of the Mark Twain Project examined the lode of Twainiana being offered—rich both in content and in expected price—and decided to husband his resources, for Bancroft's policy is to fund the editorial program in preference to the purchase of rare materials. Most attractive were the manuscripts, for Mrs. Doheny had collected widely and wisely in the areas of literary manuscripts and Californiana, resulting in a “possibles” list of eighteen lots. At a meeting with the Director, staff compared notes, established priorities, made a preliminary calculation of potential bids, and dis-

cussed possible funding. Then, for the Head of the Manuscripts Division, the hard, but absorbing, work began.

Each of the manuscript lots needed to be compared to existing materials in the collection, with an eye towards what they complemented, what lacks they filled, what areas they strengthened. Lot 288, an early John A. Sutter letter written 4 May 1848, shortly after the discovery of gold at Sutter's Fort, for example, proved quite similar to one, written a week later, already in the collection. Where drafts or typescripts, such as George Sterling's *Lilith*, or valued lettersheets such as one showing Michigan City, were involved, further checking for possible duplication ensued.

A check of the *National Union Catalog of Manuscripts Collections*, national databases, and guides to other libraries revealed where other relevant collections exist, indicating perhaps a more appropriate repository for the manuscript in question as well as providing clues to possible competition. In one case it showed that a particularly attractive item, the autograph manuscript of Schuyler Colfax's account of his 1865 overland journey to California and north to Vancouver Island, was also in the Indiana Historical Society Library. A call to Indiana for comparison not only led to the conclusion that these were very similar, contemporary drafts but revealed that two more copies, written and revised in 1878, were at the Library of Congress. Also at the Library of Congress were the James B. McPherson Papers. McPherson's final report, “Memoirs of a Military Reconnaissance of the Coast . . . from San Francisco to Monterey, California,” present in the sale as a manuscript draft, was not, however, among them. Only after a series of phone calls to various sections of the National Archives, was the final report of James B. McPherson, together with accompanying maps, located.

Although not diminishing the intrinsic value of a manuscript, prior publication is also a factor to be considered when determining purchase priorities for a research library. An attractive literary manuscript like Bret Harte's “How I Went to the Mines,” published in 1900, would be a joy to have in the collection. More important for research, on the other hand, would be a series of unpublished Gold Rush letters or literary correspondence.

With background research completed, it

was time to examine the manuscripts themselves. A quick flight to Los Angeles and drive to Camarillo a week prior to the sale, when Christie's graciously consented to advance viewing as they completed unpacking and shelving the library, resulted in a pleasant, if not exactly leisurely, day of careful perusal. Descriptions in the fresh-off-the-press catalog were checked against the items to insure correct lot numbers. The thorough descriptions and handsome illustrations were annotated with additional observations, reactions, and questions.

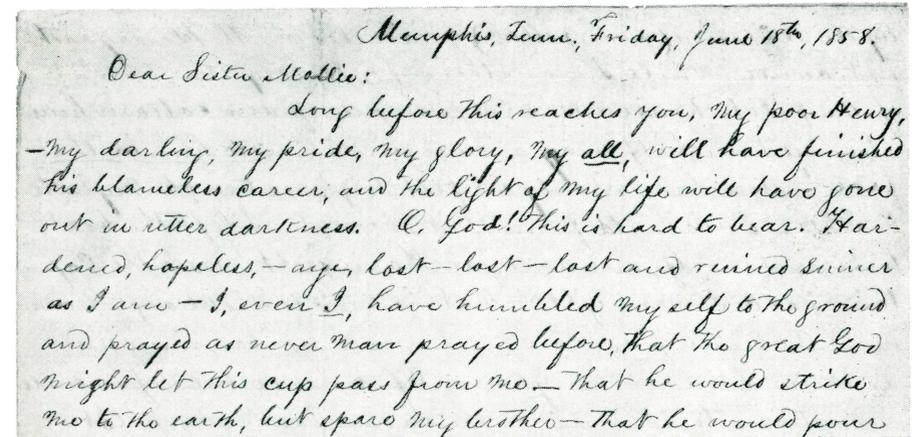
Back at The Bancroft, further research followed up leads until, at a last meeting, Director and staff affirmed priorities and set final bids. Here, in the end, the question asked was not so much “How much is this worth?” but rather “How much is this worth to the Library?”—balancing potential cost against research value. There is hope, too, that, guided

by inspiration and blessed by luck, the ledger will balance out in the end: a little less for this manuscript (for which we were willing to pay more) leaves a little more for another (for which we had hoped to give less).

The bustle of auction day, intense and invigorating at the scene, little affects stay-at-home staff, except for the aura of anticipation and curiosity it casts. The awaited telephone call tells disappointment over those that got away but also spells the joys of the day—a couple new Ambrose Bierce letters for the collection, a cache of Gold Rush letters, fifteen Charles Warren Stoddard letters, and literary correspondence of Bret Harte, Joaquin Miller, and Gertrude Atherton.

After all this preparation, by the time the manuscripts themselves arrive at the Library, they come more as old familiar friends than as new additions.

Bonnie Hardwick



Letter of 18 June 1858 from Samuel L. Clemens to his sister-in-law, Mary E. (Mollie) Clemens, about the death of his brother Henry, who died from injuries sustained from a boiler explosion on the steamboat *Pennsylvania* (The Bancroft Library).

Mark Twain's Letters, Volume I

“If my letters do not come often, you need not bother yourself about me; for if you have a brother nearly eighteen years of age, who is not able to take care of himself a few miles from home, such a brother is not worth one's thoughts: and if I don't manage to take care of No. 1, you will never know it.”

So Samuel L. Clemens advised his sister, Pamela Moffett, in a letter of 8 October 1853. The manuscript of this letter, the earliest by Clemens known to survive in holograph, is in

The Bancroft Library. It is among the letters published in *Mark Twain's Letters, Volume I: 1853-1866*, which has just been issued by the University of California Press. The work of Mark Twain Project editors Michael B. Frank, Kenneth M. Sanderson, Harriet Elinor Smith, Lin Salamo, and Richard Bucci, in collaboration with Edgar Marquess Branch, emeritus professor of English at Miami University, this volume of 616 pages is the first installment of the only complete edition of Mark Twain's letters ever undertaken. Eventually the edition will extend to twenty volumes and include

some 10,000 letters, two-thirds of them never previously published. Many of the letter texts in the first volume, and in the succeeding volumes now in preparation, derive from manuscripts in The Bancroft Library.

Volume I contains every letter Clemens is known to have written between the ages of seventeen and thirty-one, providing fresh and invaluable detail about this formative, but largely unstudied, period of his life. During these years, Clemens left his Hannibal, Missouri, home to work as an itinerant printer in St. Louis, New York, Philadelphia, and elsewhere; he became a steamboat pilot on the Mississippi River; he went west to Nevada Territory to make his fortune as a gold and silver miner, but instead adopted the pen name Mark Twain and became a rambunctious reporter and editor for the Virginia City *Territorial Enterprise*; he moved on to San Francisco where, while scraping out a living as a journalist, he wrote "Jim Smiley and His Jumping Frog," the story that brought him his first national recognition; and he explored the Sandwich Islands as a travel correspondent, afterwards initiating a lucrative lecture career with a San Francisco discourse on his Hawaiian experiences.

In effect, the letters gathered in Volume I constitute a biography of the young Mark Twain while preserving, in his own lively and entertaining language, the raw matter of some of his best later works, particularly *Roughing It* (1872) and *Life on the Mississippi* (1883). The letters are presented exactly as Mark Twain wrote them, with his cross-outs and other revisions legibly in place, and are complemented by a variety of documentary materials, including extensive historical annotations, new maps of Nevada Territory, a calendar of Clemens's piloting assignments, a genealogical chart of his family, contemporary photographs of his family and friends, and a selection of letter manuscripts in facsimile. All editorial work on this volume, as on every Mark Twain Project volume, was supported by donations to the Friends of The Bancroft Library, matched by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. *Michael Frank*

Friends Annual Meeting

On Sunday afternoon, May 15, 1988, earlier in the year than usual, the Annual Meeting of

the Friends will be held on the Berkeley campus. It will be held for the first time down the hill from The Bancroft Library in Dwinelle Hall, an appropriate locale since John W. Dwinelle, a 19th-century state senator, not only wrote the bill that created the University of California but was a historian of the Spanish and Mexican era of the present state.

The theme of this year's meeting is the Mexican Heritage of the Far West. The speaker will be Regent Vilma S. Martinez, by profession a lawyer, born in Texas but long resident in California. Among other posts she has held is that of President and General Counsel of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Among her honors are an honorary LL.D. from Amherst College, the University Medal for Excellence conferred by Columbia University, and tenure as a John Hay Whitney Fellow.

The exhibition, overseen by Peter Hanff, Coordinator of Bancroft's Technical Services, will draw upon the Library's great resources in the area of Mexican contributions to the life and culture of the American Far West, during the 19th and 20th centuries, concentrating particularly on the impact upon California.

As usual, the Keepsake that will be published will relate to the Annual Meeting's basic theme. In a handsome illustrated booklet it will print for the first time in the original Spanish and in English translation the memoirs of three persons of Mexican heritage who recalled for Hubert Howe Bancroft their everyday experiences of life in mid-19th-century California.

Voices of the Reagan Administration in Sacramento

"It's your duty, boy," said Holmes Tuttle in 1966 when he urged James Hall, Verne Orr, and undoubtedly several other bright young men to accept appointments in Governor-elect Ronald Reagan's new administration.

"I was talked into it. I didn't want to go," Hall (LL.B., U.C., 1962) recalled in an interview for the Reagan gubernatorial Era Project, recently completed by the Regional Oral History Office. At the time, Hall was a young attorney in San Diego thinking of a partnership and Orr was a partner in a Los Angeles automobile dealership who was interested in making a career change.

Tuttle and other California businessmen had seen Reagan's potential as a candidate during Barry Goldwater's 1964 presidential campaign and convinced him to run for governor in 1966. Tuttle felt that they had "spent a lot of money to get this man up here" in Sacramento, "and now he's got to have some people around him" to help him do the job. A brief interview in the series with Reagan himself recalls that it was an uncomfortable job at first.

Like Orr and Hall, many of the men Reagan named to cabinet-level agency positions and to head departments had little or no previous experience in public administration. How and why appointments were made was one of the major topics which the Regional Oral History Office sought to document.

Along with Holmes Tuttle, Reagan asked Justin Dart and Henry Salvatori in southern California, Jaquelin Hume in the Bay Area, and a few others to seek out and recruit appropriate people for key jobs. In their oral histories, these close advisors have described their assistance during the 1966 campaign as well as their work on appointments. They served as an informal advisory committee that became known as the kitchen cabinet.

When Reagan took office, there were only about 120 major appointments to be made. To fill them, the committee drew up lists of prospects and even employed some personnel-recruiting firms. Interviewees report that a flood of unsolicited applications also arrived, which kept the small transition staff busy sorting and screening. One experienced screener wryly remarked that the more eager the applicant, the less likely he was to be selected.

Some members of Reagan's cabinet who were interviewed for the project were not previously acquainted with the Governor or his advisors, and were not sure how they happened to come to Reagan's attention. Nonetheless, they served in significant positions for several years.

Hall, for instance, progressed from the banking department to Secretary of Business and Transportation and then, reluctantly, to Secretary of Health and Welfare. Orr took on a reorganization of the Department of Motor Vehicles, often a thankless reward for a political supporter, and then became director of the Department of Finance, a cabinet-level post which has been described as the first among equals. After Reagan became president, Orr



March 13, 1968: the Save-the-Redwoods League presents \$1,575,000 to the State of California for the acquisition of Pepperwood Forest from Pacific Lumber Co. Governor Reagan on the left, Norman Livermore, Resources Administrator, third from left.

was Secretary of the Air Force from 1980-1986.

Another major appointee was Norman B. "Ike" Livermore, who came in to head the Resources Agency in 1967, when establishing a redwood national park in California was a major issue. At the time, Livermore was treasurer for Pacific Lumber Company, which specialized in logging redwoods and had sold many acres of timber land for park use. Earlier, Livermore had operated pack trains in the Sierra, served on the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club, and begun a life-long crusade to keep roads out of the High Sierra. During his eight-year term as Resources Secretary, he saw the establishment of Redwood National Park in 1968 and went on to persuade Reagan to drop plans for building Dos Rios Dam in Round Valley and a Minaret Summit road across the Sierra.

James Stearns's experience was as a rancher when he was invited to join the administration. In his oral history he explains that he had been flying "coyote control" when he got the call from the Governor's office, piloting a light plane over the sheep ranges around Susanville with a California Fish and Wildlife gunner in the back seat.

The phone call was to ask if Stearns would

take the Department of Conservation. "Well, I went in to meet the Governor for the first time, and I said, 'You know, Governor, I think it's only fair to tell you that I've got a bunch of friends that can lie faster than a dog can trot, and you ought to divide everything they've told you by at least four.'"

Reagan replied, says Stearns, "Well, you don't know me either. I'll take a chance on you, if you'll take a chance on me." Stearns's shoot-from-the-hip style apparently appealed to Reagan. Stearns succeeded Earl Coke as Secretary for Agriculture and Resources and later served in several capacities with Reagan in Washington, and remains today an ardent member of the "Ronald Reagan crusade."

Probably the youngest member of Reagan's administration was Earl Brian. A medical doctor, Brian was briefly secretary to the State Social Welfare Board and went on to head the Department of Health Care Services at age 28. Later, he was named Secretary of the Health and Welfare Agency, where he instituted major changes in the Medi-Cal program which "had gone from nothing to a billion and a half dollars in three years (1969-1972)."

"I came to the attention of a man named Ned Hutchinson who was the San Mateo County chairman for Reagan" [and then appointments secretary in the Governor's office], says Brian. "I was recommended for a job when I was at Stanford Medical Center.

"I went off to Vietnam in the army and won some medals and got a lot of publicity, which I didn't seek and didn't care for," he continues. "People in the Governor's office became interested in my coming back because the welfare/Medicaid situation had gone from a state of anxiety to a state of chaos with a potential for bankrupting the State of California."

The oral history project has explored many aspects of Reagan's human services policies and programs in interviews with a selected sample of the Governor's appointees, elected officials, and career civil servants. Reflecting the range of debate on these and other public issues, the 114-interview series includes narratives by both Democratic and Republican legislators as well as party officials. A number of the Governor's office staff were also interviewed, providing yet another perspective on the Reagan years in California.

Now completed, the Regional Oral History Office's Reagan Series totals 7,500 pages of

transcribed, indexed interviews. As Reagan's presidency draws to a close, there will be increased scholarly interest in his early career in government. This oral history project will give researchers a whole series of insiders' views of Ronald Reagan as Governor of California.

Gabrielle Morris & Ann Lage

William Hammond Hall: An Engineer with Vision

In 1985 The Bancroft Library acquired the papers of William Hammond Hall, a civil engineer best remembered as the creator of San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Consisting of correspondence, writings, diaries, maps, photographs, notes, and clippings, the collection is a superb record of the fifty-year career of a pioneer in the fields of irrigation, reclamation, and conservation.

Hall was born in Hagerstown, Maryland on February 12, 1846, the son of Anna Maria and John Buchanan Hall. The family came to San Francisco in 1850 but their losses in the fire of 1851 led them to relocate in Stockton where John Hall reestablished his law practice and became legal advisor to Charles M. Weber, the city's founder. Hall's education in a private academy was designed to prepare him for West Point but the outbreak of the Civil War caused his parents to abandon this plan. He remained in the Stockton academy until 1865 when he began his professional career as a draftsman and surveyor for the United States Corps of Engineers. He quickly advanced to assistant engineer with increasingly complex assignments, and as chief engineer, conducted the first survey for a ship canal to bring deep-sea vessels to the port of Stockton. Early in 1870 he was appointed by the first San Francisco Board of Park Commissioners to conduct a topographic survey of the Golden Gate Park site. His plan for the development of the Park was adopted by the Commission and he was charged with the seemingly-impossible task of converting a thousand acres of sand dunes into a verdant park. Hall knew that work could not begin until he had stabilized the drifting sand. He believed that sowing an initial crop of lupine would be the best and least expensive method for doing this but first he had to solve the puzzling problem of how to keep the seeds from blowing away before they could take



William Hammond Hall in 1883. Photo by Kiemann & Co., San Francisco.

root. The solution came through a fortunate accident when a horse refused to eat some barley which had spilled onto the sand. Rain came that night and the barley sprouted. Hall realized that he had the answer: quick-growing barley would hold the sand until the lupine could take over. In the next six years most of the roads were built, trees were planted, picnic grounds and a children's play area were laid out, and dancing pavilions and other rustic buildings were constructed. The great landscape architect of New York City's Central Park, Frederick Law Olmsted, wrote to Hall:

I can not too strongly express my admiration of the spirit and method which characterizes your undertaking, and I do not doubt that it will be rewarded with results such as I have not hitherto thought it reasonable to expect under the circumstances. There is no like enterprise anywhere else, which so far as I can judge, has been conducted with equal foresight, ingenuity and economy.

Hall resigned in 1876 but served without compensation as consulting engineer to the Park Commission for many years. In this capacity he designed and built numerous buildings and other improvements and selected and trained John McLaren to be the new superintendent. Hall served as chief engineer for several major irrigation projects, and in 1878 he was appointed the first State Engineer of

California by Governor William Irwin and served under four successive governors until the office was abolished by the legislature. Outstanding examples of his work during this period include an investigation of the San Francisco sea wall construction, an extensive examination of Yosemite Valley with detailed recommendations for its preservation and use, and the modernization of drainage systems for state prisons and asylums. Hall hired and trained numerous young engineers including three who later achieved prominence and whose papers are in The Bancroft Library: Carl Ewald Grunsky, Marsden Manson, and James Dix Schuyler. In 1889 he was appointed supervising engineer for the United States Irrigation Survey (the predecessor of the United States Reclamation Service) to oversee all of its investigative work west of the Rocky Mountains. He was also its district engineer for the state of California. His detailed report on the extensive Carson River basin project became the basis for Francis G. Newland's successful campaign for Congress.

In 1890 Hall went into private practice as a civil engineer. His first major undertaking was as chief engineer of the Bear Valley Irrigation Company in San Bernardino County. The American Society of Civil Engineers awarded him its Norman gold medal in 1895 in recognition of this notable work. As supervising engineer of the Yakima Investment Company (a subsidiary of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company), he constructed the Yakima Canal, one of the largest irrigation projects of its time. Hall also designed and built dams and canals for the diversion of the Feather River above Oroville as well as hydroelectric projects for major California rivers including the Pitt and the San Joaquin. One plan which included the transmission of electricity to San Francisco, a distance of about one hundred and twenty miles, was rejected because experts believed that electricity could never be transmitted such a great distance!

In the last years of the century, Hall worked on projects in England, South Africa, and Russia. Back in California, he made a study of the proposed Panama Canal and wrote a report which convinced Senator George C. Perkins to change his mind and advocate the lock system instead of a sea-level canal. He continued with numerous hydro-electric and irrigation surveys, and, in 1908, acquired proper-

ties in the Lake Eleanor and Cherry Creek watersheds which he sold to the city of San Francisco for its water supply.

Hall was an innovator throughout his career. His solutions to irrigation and reclamation problems were generally ahead of their time but they did the job and were often adopted by others. Largely thanks to Hall, California became the major agricultural state it is today. His methods of reclaiming sand dunes to build a park were not only unique, they were successful. Golden Gate Park remained his constant love and concern throughout his life. His unpublished manuscript, "The Romance of a Woodland Park," is both a detailed account of his struggles with nature and politicians to create the Park and an exposition of his belief that a park should be a place for quiet retreat from city life, not a place for entertainment.

He died in 1934 still fighting those who sought to turn Golden Gate Park into a Coney Island.

Mary Ellen Jones



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Editor, *Bancroftiana*, Anthony S. Bliss

Desiderata

From time to time *Bancroftiana* publishes lists of books that the Library needs. We would be particularly pleased to receive gifts of any of the books listed here. Please telephone Patricia Howard, Head of our Acquisitions Division (642-1320) or write her a note if you can help us.

- Akeroyd, Joanne V. *Where Are Their Papers? A Union List Locating the Papers of Forty-Two Contemporary American Poets and Writers*. Storrs: University of Connecticut Library, 1976.
- Battershall, Fletcher. *Bookbinding for Bibliophiles, Being Notes on Some Technical Features of the Well Bound Book for the Aid of Connoisseurs, Together With a Sketch of Gold Tooling, Ancient and Modern*. Greenwich: The Literary Collector Press, 1905.
- Bontemps, Arna Wendell. *Drums at Dusk*. NY: Macmillan, 1939.
- . *Fast Sooner Hound*. (with Jack Conroy). Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1942.
- . *Frederick Douglass: Slave, Fighter, Freeman*. NY: Knopf, 1959.
- . *Popo and Fifina* (with Langston Hughes). NY: Macmillan, 1932.
- . *Sad-Faced Boy*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1937.
- Childress, Alice. *A Hero Ain't Nothin' But a Sandwich*. NY: Coward McCann, 1973.
- Hammon, Jupiter. Many titles wanted.
- Harris, M. A. *The Black Book*. New York: Random House, 1974.
- Heyl, Erik. *Early American Steamers*. Buffalo, NY: s.n., 1953-1969?
- Limited Editions Club. *Quarto-Millenary: the First 250 Publications and the First 25 Years, 1929-1954, of the Limited Editions Club*. New York: Limited Editions Club, 1959.
- San Francisco*. San Francisco: John A. Vietor, 1957-1986?. Bancroft lacks v. 1-5 (1957-1962), v. 27, no. 6 & 7 (1985), and v. 28 (1986). Were there any published in 1986? A slightly different magazine began publishing v. 1, no. 1 in 1987.
- Whitman, Albery Allson. *Not a Man, Yet a Man*. Springfield, Ohio: Republic Print Co., 1877.
- . *The Rape of Florida; poems*. St. Louis: Nixon Jones, 1884.

Thanks to the generosity of readers of *Bancroftiana*, two items from the previous desiderata list were received. We even had two offers of the Maxine Hong Kingston book. Many thanks again to Mr. Michael Griffith for giving us a copy of *The Woman Warrior*. Dawson's Books in Los Angeles called about the Helen Hunt Jackson title and we were able to purchase not that exact edition, but a slightly later edition that we did not have. Dealer quotations are invited and appreciated.