New Manuscript
Acquisitions from the
Auerbach Collection

Son and nephew of the founders of the Auerbach Company, one of the great mercantile companies of Salt Lake City and the far West, and grandson of Jewish immigrants who crossed the Plains in 1853, Herbert S. Auerbach was fascinated by pioneer lore and the history of the American west. After his death in 1945, the Parke-Bernet Galleries in New York offered for sale the great collection of books, manuscripts, maps, and pictures of the Old West he had amassed over the years. The catalog of that 1947-1948 sale, annotated by Dale L. Morgan, reveals The Bancroft Library’s interest. One of the treasures acquired was a variant copy of Book of Mormon, printed by E. B. Grandin, Palmyra, New York, for Joseph Smith, Jr., in 1830.

Seventy manuscript lots were included in this early sale and two sales in the 1960s offered five additional manuscript lots. Now, in 1992, the remaining manuscript materials held back by the family all these years have come on the market.
Bancroft Library staff avidly read through the advance copy of the catalog listing 282 Auerbach lots of manuscripts, photographs, songsheets, theater programs, broadsides, mining reports, rare printed items, and other materials relating to California, Utah, New Mexico, the Mormons; Native Americans; railroads; and other western topics. Attention focused particularly on manuscripts directly related to the Auerbach family; those concerning La Porte, California, the Sierra mining town where the Auerbachs established their first store; and other California items. By acting quickly, Bancroft was able to secure all of its choices.

Again, there were treasures. For the Auerbach family, there were the unpublished auto­graph memoirs of both Samuel H. Auerbach and his wife Eveline Brooks Auerbach. Samuel Auerbach’s memoir of his life in the West, especially in La Porte, California, and Salt Lake City, Utah, revolves around the family mercantile business. Samuel Auerbach was born in Germany in 1847. He emigrated to the United States with his brother, Frederick and Theodore, in their dry goods business in La Porte. After spending four years there, Samuel joined his brothers once more, this time in Salt Lake City where they had opened another store. There he would spend the next forty years, helping his brother Frederick transform a small tent and storefront business into one of the most prosperous firms in Salt Lake City. Samuel’s narrative describes his life from the time of his birth until shortly after he purchased control of the Auerbach Company from the heirs of Frederick in 1904.

The memoir is rich in the detail of business practices on the frontier and chronicles the problems of obtaining goods, pricing, bartering, securing credit, and dealing with the entrenched power of local religion. This first-hand account is important not only for the pioneer life it records, but also for its account of the Salt Lake City Jewish community in the nineteenth century and of frontier business practices and development.

Eveline Auerbach’s narrative is much more personal, recounting her family life, up through her marriage to Samuel in 1880 and the birth of their first child, Herbert S. Auerbach, in 1882. Her parents, Julius and Fanny Brooks, emigrated from Germany in 1853 and joined an overland train that summer to Cali­fornia, where they tried various dry goods businesses in San Francisco and several smaller gold rush towns, including Timbuctoo where Eveline was born in 1859. During her early life, the family’s business ventures took them to Portland, Boise, New York City, and finally, in 1864, to Salt Lake City. Throughout until she and her children joined him in California in 1882. Of particular note are the series of fifteen letters written on his 1849 voyage to California. Starting in Philadelphia in April and ending with his first letter from San Francisco in December, the letters are a chronicle of life sailing around the Horn. Particularly during the first half of the voyage, his letters home are almost a daily journal. In San Francisco, Sam Brannan bought his brother a ship for $14,000. For a while John worked the coast, then, finding business less profitable than anticipated, he returned to the east. But in 1842 he was back in San Francisco, this time working in his brother’s office, writing back instructions to his family on how to make the trip west.

With these are thirty letters to Mary from other family members, including four letters of condolence on news of John’s death in 1862, family photographs, and ephemeral material relating to the Brannan family.

Acquisition of these fine manuscript groups was made possible through the Peter and Rosell Harvey Memorial Fund.

Bonnie Hardwick

Lasers All Around

In the thirty years since the development of the laser, its applications have come to surround us. Bar codes on nearly every product we buy, as well as on more and more of the books in the campus library system, take advantage of the high-speed controllability of a laser beam. Communications in a variety of forms, from fiber-optic telephone systems to laser printer output of personal computers, exploit the high frequencies and programmable control of the beam. Video disks apply the technology to information storage and entertainment; self-cauterizing surgery reconnects detached retinas. Laser beams permit high-precision leveling of rice fields (which in turn reduces water use) and alignment of tunnels (like the BART Tube); they facilitate monitoring of pollution levels and enemy spacecraft.

The History of Science and Technology Program at The Bancroft Library has recently received an important collection of papers of laser pioneer, Nobel laureate, and University Professor Charles H. Townes. A native of South Carolina, Townes earned baccalaureate degrees in both languages and physics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill before going on to the "beautifully logical structure" of physics. He took an MA in the subject at Duke University in 1936 and followed with a PhD at California Institute of Technology on the eve of World War II.

Wartime found Townes, together with many other American physicists, occupied with the development of microwave radar. As a member of the technical staff of the Bell Laboratories from 1939 to 1947, Townes designed radar bombing systems and subsequently applied the microwave technology derived from radar research to questions of spectroscopy. He continued to investigate microwave physics after his appointment to the physics faculty at Columbia University in 1948, and also retained ties to Bell Labs as a consultant. In 1954 he was appointed to the Department of Columbia that Townes built the first maser. In 1968 he and his brother-in-law Arthur L. Schawlow laid the theoretical foundation for the laser, the first operating system of the laser type was accomplished in 1960 by T. H. Maiman. The studies of the Laser History Project have recently examined the complicated history of masers and lasers and the contributions of Townes, Schawlow, and many other scientific and technical personnel at various universities and public and private research laboratories.

While on leave from Columbia (and on the eve of practical development of the laser), Townes’ interest in military applications of science and technology and in Department of Defense funding for scientific research and development took him to Washington dc, where he assumed the post of Vice President and Director of Research for the Institute for Defense Analysis. Townes would later serve on the influential President’s Scientific Advisory Committee, and would chair the Science and Technology Advisory Committee for the Apollo lunar landing.

The year 1967 found Townes at MIT, with appointments as provost and physics professor; three years later he shared the Nobel prize for physics with a pair of Russian physicists. The award honored his fundamental work in...
quantum electronics that had led to masers and lasers.

He returned to California in 1967 to take up teaching and research at Berkeley, and currently holds the title of University Professor. He has taken an active role in the life of the University as well as in the life of science. In particular, he has exploited the technological possibilities of quantum electronics for astronomical research, and with Berkeley colleagues discovered the first polyatomic molecules in interstellar space.

The term "maser" is an acronym for Microwave Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation; likewise, "laser" means Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation. Both are devices designed to produce electromagnetic energy, indeed a unique kind of radiation, from molecules. It has long been known that atoms and molecules could be viewed as vibrating bodies, which, suitably energized, would emit electromagnetic energy at high frequency. But where, in the case of the ordinary light bulb, the energy is emitted at random, at many frequencies and in all directions, the maser and laser provide energy of essentially a single frequency. Not only are emissions all of the same color, but also each wave is "in step" with every other wave. The product, in the case of the laser, is a "coherent" beam of extremely high-intensity light. Indeed, the intensity of light in a finely focused laser beam can be as much as a billion times the intensity of the sun; the beam is capable of delivering this intense energy at a tiny spot.

The potential of the laser for varied and profitable application has resulted in a history punctuated by litigation. For example, the suit against Spectra-Physics brought by the Research Corporation looked at "the validity of the maser patent and its application to lasers." Research Corporation, a non-profit foundation that had also supported some of Ernest O. Lawrence's cyclotron research at Berkeley, owned the maser patent issued in Townes' name. Royalties received through the Research Corporation program for licensing inventions derived from academic research were then plowed back into universities by Research Corporation grants for scientific research. The Corporation and Spectra-Physics, the latter described as a manufacturer of "laser and optical products used in scientific research, information technology, and construction engineering," eventually reached an out-of-court agreement granting Spectra-Physics a non-exclusive license under the maser patent.

The Townes Papers, which cover the period from the early 1960's through the late 1970's and occupy some five cartons, deal with numerous lawsuits and license negotiations for both the maser and the laser. As Townes himself has observed, patent litigation about the laser has spurred the collection of important and revealing documentation from sources far and wide. These documents and depositions, in Townes' words, "represent a systematic examination of the origins and significance of specific inventive ideas."

The Bancroft Library looks forward to receiving more of Professor Townes' papers over the course of the time, and expects these materials to illuminate diverse aspects of his distinguished career and scientific accomplishments. Staff of both the American Institute of Physics and the Laser History Project have surveyed Professor Townes' papers and have urged their preservation at Bancroft. We are happy to oblige, and to make the papers available to scholars investigating the complex history of science and science-based technology in the late twentieth century. Robin E. Rider

East Bay Fire Pictures

After the initial shock of the East Bay Firestorm had passed and personal snapshots had begun to circulate, Steven Black, Acting Head of the Acquisitions Division, and Lawrence Dinnean, Curator of Pictorial Collections, decided to form a permanent archive devoted to pictorial documentation of the fire. A press release was sent out in early December which stated that "as part of its ongoing effort to document the history of our times, The Bancroft is looking for pictures that emphasize the course of the fire, the work of the fire companies, the actions of individuals, or other subjects of personal interest," and we expressed the hope that "individuals who were present will send copies of their favorite pictures to be included in this 'community album.'"

Six months have now passed since the October fire, and the library has been able to acquire prints in a variety of formats from over fifty individuals. These images will be available for research and study at The Bancroft Library, although copyright is retained in all cases by the original photographers. We wish to acknowledge the generous photographers as well as the John Barr Tompkins Memorial Fund which helped defray expenses for incidental processing and archival storage.

An anniversary exhibition of photographs selected from the Oakland-Berkeley Fire Collection is planned for October 1992 in the Rowell and Sheldon Cases of the Main Library along with an annotated checklist. Laurence Dinnean

News from the Press Room

Readers of Bancroftiana familiar with the small size of the Library's Press Room will be surprised to learn that we have acquired yet another printing press. Through the generosity of Karl Kasten, Professor Emeritus in the Art Department, we have received a small etching press manufactured in the 1890s by M. M. Kelton in New York City. Prof. Kasten has presented the press to Bancroft on behalf of the California Printmakers Society, a group he helped to found.

Bancroft has wanted an etching press for many years to complete its collection of printing equipment. Kelton presses were made for the printing of embossed cards, but they have long been a favorite among etchers for the printing of intaglio plates in sizes up to eight by ten inches. The intaglio process is essentially the reverse of printing from raised letters. The etched or engraved lines below the level of the plate are filled with ink and the surface is wiped clean. The plate is then placed on the bed of the press with the paper over it and specially woven blankets on top of the paper. Then it is cranked through the press with the aid of a large spiked wheel on one side. The machine is essentially an iron and steel laundry wringer capable of exerting 3,000 pounds of pressure where the roller touches the plate. The paper is forced down into the lines in the plate to pick up the ink, thus producing the fine raised lines typical of etchings and engravings.

When students hear intaglio printing described, they find the whole process highly improbable. Now we will be able to demonstrate it for them and give them a greater appreciation of the etcher's art: from Dürer to Rembrandt to Callot to Oudry to Whistler to yes, Kasten. For the moment, Prof. Kasten's press is compelled to wait on a lending until we can make space for it inside the Press Room. It will take a giant shoe horn to get it in, but we will prevail.

From time to time we have reported on the course taught in the Bancroft Press Room. To our students, it is Visual Studies 185, "The Hand-Produced Book in Its Historical Context," offered under the aegis of the College of
The Heller Reading Room has been strangely brighter in recent weeks. All the trees and landscaping in the area north of Bancroft and the Main Library, and east of the Moffitt Undergraduate Library, have been removed in preparation for construction of an enormous underground addition to the Library. The suffusion of new light is a harbinger of a venture that will be affecting Bancroft and its readers in an extended time.

The construction project, designated the Doe-Moffitt Seismic Renovation, is the single largest library building project in the history of the University of California. Formal ground breaking will take place on May 26, marking the beginning of a major five-year program that will provide a massive underground library building for 1.5 million volumes and permit the removal of the seismically unstable book stack from the core of the Main Library.

The project will strengthen the Doe (Main) Library and Moffitt Undergraduate Library buildings against earthquakes, relocate service and delivery points, and ultimately free up sorely needed space for the Bancroft Library. Foot and vehicular traffic have already been affected, for the entire site, including two major parking lots and University Drive, has been fenced off, all but one of the World War II temporary buildings have been removed, and staff and patrons must find new routes to get to and from Bancroft.

Although we all look forward to future benefits, we recognize that there will be numerous disruptions and annoyances during the process. Probably the most persistent problem will be noise and vibration from construction. To help mitigate that, sound barriers will be installed over the windows on the south side of the Heller Reading Room. Special precautions will also be taken to protect the air quality within Bancroft during construction.

Bancroft staff are planning a number of service changes in the Heller Reading Room that will make the day-to-day work of staff and patrons somewhat simpler. We have already introduced direct delivery of printed materials to individual readers to reduce the need to call patrons to the reference desk. Additional computer terminals will be installed to increase access to the GLADIS and MELYVL online catalogs. We are also planning to simplify access to manuscript collections by introducing a new and improved process for access to finding aids and manuscript containers in the Heller Reading Room.

The Bancroft Library staff and patrons will be considerably less affected by the project than our colleagues in the Moffitt Undergraduate Library. Staff and patrons there will be relocated for many months while the seismic reinforcement of the building is carried out.

Primary services for Moffitt will be moved into the Main Library as will a significant number of its reader stations. The Library is rapidly developing plans for re-location of study halls, reader spaces, and services in other parts of the campus.

We at Bancroft may expect to see some increase in the use of our collections by undergraduate readers, but our collections are so specialized we do not anticipate a major change in service demands.

We are committed to maintaining our services as well as we can during the construction project and welcome suggestions from our readers for changes that may make their and our lives somewhat easier during the general disruptions.

Peter Hanff

Regional Oral History Office Reception Honors History Makers

More than 300 interviewees, friends, donors, and advisors filled The Bancroft Library's Heller Reading Room November 3 to celebrate the 1200 eyewitnesses to history who have been interviewed by the Regional Oral History Office (ROHO) since 1972. Sponsored by the Friends of the Bancroft Library, this first-ever event underscored the importance of oral history in building The Bancroft's outstanding collections and acknowledged the substantial contribution interviewees make to the historical record. It also allowed the narrators a chance to admire exhibits of memorabilia from oral histories completed or in progress. Sample vintage wines donated by fourteen wineries in the California Wine Industry Oral History Series, and to get acquainted with their fellow history makers.

Welcoming the steady stream of guests were interviewees from some of the many worlds documented by the oral history office. The honorary hosts for the party included Governor and Mrs. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown (state government); Mark Adams (art); Constance Crowley Hart (maritime history), Marion Sproul Goodin, Carl and Betty Helmholtz, and Adrian Kragen (University history); Sally Lilienthal (Bay Area philanthropy); Sylvia McLaughlin (conservation); and Sidney Roger (labor). Representing The Bancroft Library were Bancroft Library Interim Director Peter Hanff, Wills Baum, Head of the Regional Oral History Office; John W. Rostow, Chairman of the Council of the Friends; Council member Cindy Barber, and sixteen 100th interviewers.

Hanff told how Hubert Howe Bancroft, the Library's founder, initiated the Library's oral history program in 1893 as a part of his ambitious attempt to document the history of western North America. Bancroft identified prominent westerners from many walks of life who were unlikely to write their memoirs. He hired aides to record their recollections and the resulting documents became a part of the Library. These stenographic accounts came to be called Bancroft "dictations."

The idea of continuing Bancroft's dictations was revived in the 1940s by Professor George R. Stewart with support from Professor James D. Hart, who arranged a series of interviews in Paris in 1942 with Alice B. Toklas. Two years later, President Robert Gordon Sproul established the Regional Oral History Office "to tape record interviews with persons who have contributed significantly to the history of California and the West."

Hanff explained that oral histories increase the variety and value of the Library's collections by providing true interpretation of existing papers and attractive valuable archives. Kurt Herbert Adler's papers came to the Library as companion to the Kurt Herbert Adler/San Francisco Opera Oral History Project. The Sierra Club papers have come to Bancroft with an ongoing collection of oral histories with David Brower, Norman Livermore, Ward Leonard, Will Stry, and Edgar Wayburn, to name a few.

Oral histories lend added dimensions to Bancroft's collections of photographs by Ansel Adams, Paul Bishop, Imogene Cunningham, and Dorothea Lange. The papers of Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown are supplemented by a full record of the oral history project with persons prominent in his administration.

In the tradition of Hubert Howe Bancroft,
Johnson cites a "treasure trove" of oral histories. Tape excerpts are used as "voice over" in films used by museums and galleries for quotations to accompany exhibits of her photographs. Heilbron praised ROHO which, under the leadership of Willa Baum, "has become a national and even an international leader in its line of leadership." He commended interviewees and Library friends for their support of The Bancroft's oral history program. Such help, he explained, will be crucial in maintaining the program as state budget cuts are implemented. Rosston announced the endowment of an interview series on California government and social issues by Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown.

Tape excerpts are used as "voice over" in films on the Ronald Reagan presidency, Sleepwalking through History. Dorothea Lange's interview, produced in 1968, is still used by museums and galleries for quotations to accompany exhibits of her photographs. "I'll just sleep for five more minutes. Hmmm. I'm so sleepy. What time is it? Only seven? Don't have to be at Bancroft 'til eight. Rrrrrrrring! Rrrrrrrring! Rrrrrrrring! Rrrrrrring!

Annual Meeting of the Friends set for June 7

This year's Annual Meeting of the Friends will take place on Sunday, June 7 at 3 o'clock in Bechtel Auditorium on the Berkeley campus. Our guest speaker is Wilcomb E. Washburn, Head of the American Studies Program at the Smithsonian Institution. He has chosen as his title "Montezuma's Dinner: Hubert Howe Bancroft and the Debate over the Nature of the American Indian in Nineteenth Century America." Following the meeting, there will be a reception in the Bancroft Gallery for the Friends to preview our new exhibit. We encourage all Friends to join us on June 7.

The annual meeting exhibition, El Encuentro: Early Sources in The Bancroft Library, will display manuscripts, books, and maps from the Bancroft collections selected to give a broad view of the "encounter" of the Spanish with the indigenous peoples of North America. The showpiece of the exhibit will be the Codex Fernández Leal, the Mayan historical codex (dating from about 1400) which formerly hung in Bancroft's Administrative Offices. Concerns over its preservation led to the removal of the Codex from display two years ago, and there are no plans to reinstall it. The upcoming exhibit will undoubtedly be one of the last times that this landmark will be available for public viewing. The balance of the exhibit will focus on 16th-century sources available in The Bancroft Library for the study of Spanish expansion in the New World.

This year's annual keepsake for the Friends will be the first full English translation of the diary of Luis Antonio Argüello. Argüello's diary documents the last exploring expedition in California under the flag of Spain. The expedition left Sonoma in October 1821, and traveled north and west toward the Russian settlements, documenting the Indians and their villages along the route. The manuscript diary is held by Bancroft and has been carefully translated by Vivian Fisher, recently retired head of Bancroft's Microforms Division. The introduction will be by Prof. Arthur Quinn of the Department of Rhetoric on the Berkeley campus.

Increased Support

We are always grateful for the generous support of our many Friends. Your ongoing sponsorship has made possible the purchases of rare and unique books, manuscripts, maps, pictures and other significant materials that maintain The Bancroft Library as a major research institution. Now we look to you for further assistance. We have not raised our rates in over ten years, but due to growing library costs, we must increase the levels of membership in the Friends. Beginning this Spring, renewal notices will reflect this increase. The level of patronage at which you have contributed in past years will be marked and we hope that you will continue to give at this level (or higher if you can).

We sincerely hope that you will not find this too great a burden and trust that you will continue to share in the pleasure that comes with helping to maintain the vitality of one of the world's great rare book libraries.

Dreams of a Bancroft Page

Yes, I'm sleepy. What time is it? Only seven? Don't have to be at Bancroft 'til eight. Mmm. I'm so sleepy. What time is it? Only seven? Don't have to be at Bancroft 'til eight. Rrrrrrrring! Rrrrrrrring! Rrrrrrrring! Rrrrrrring!

Oh, that dumb snooze button........ Phat! Ouch! That hurt! Don't shoot rubber-bands at me you, you... you library assistant! I am not "the lowest form of life at this library!" Just you wait, I'll get even!

Yawn. That welt on my leg sure does hurt. I can sleep for just five more minutes. Hmmm......
I don't want to go to work. Shunt and grunt gets tedious and monotonous, but I guess it can be enlightening, even fun every so often. At least the pay is not so bad, and those occasional fascinating moments are, well, fascinating, and it is nice to be around our fellow efficient staff. Would I get a raise for saying that out loud?

Rrrrrrrr! Rrrrrrrrrr! Rrrrrrrrrrrr! O gimmme just two more minutes. I still have time.

I'm rather fond of this job for, what seems to me, its very timeless quality. As a page, I retrieve books that I've shelved earlier and shelve books that I've retrieved previously. I know it may sound cliché, but with the frantic pace of student life, it's nice to zen (zone?) out hopping from tier to tier on the elevator looking for books. You know, the paging never ends. Sisyphus would have made a great page.

Stretch. Gosh, I'm so comfortable. I don't want to get up.....

Wait! My new job! I now work in the NLRF department in Bancroft. I have to send out and pick up materials that are stored off-campus in our Richmond facility. What if I have to retrieve forty-odd cartons from a pick-up on Friday afternoon? It will take nearly three hours to process and deliver all that stuff. Maybe I'll just stick to paging.

Grrrrrrble. Grrrrrrrrble. I'm so hungry. It wants its breakfast....

Uncontrollable urge for ice-cream. I want my fix. My turn next at the registration desk. Sign in the scholars. There's time to make a run for it! Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough in a cone or a dish? A pint. Mmm. Aahhh. About twenty million people are registering, and here comes a staff member from the reading room. Certain to catch me with my face buried in the pint container. No Food Allowed. My mind is scrambled, ice cream coursing through my veins and now this! I consider myself a fairly good, maybe even average, page. Nothing stands between me and my job, except my weak spot, my Achilles' heel, the bane of my existence, Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough ice-cream.

Come on, wake up! You're going to be late again......

Don't yell at me! Just because you don't want to observe Library rules or are upset because of the waiting list doesn't mean you can yell at me. One guy says this is what people get shot for! Why can't you be one of those patrons who bring in candy for the pages when they finish their research, who send a postcard from whenever they went back towith a Thank You for the pages...the ones who include us in the acknowledgements in their books...even the ones who say a simple 'thank you'? I wonder if it is time to get up yet.....

Things are usually slow at eight in the morning. That's when I get to see everything in the library: things such as The Iliad, papyri from ancient Egypt or more recent pamphlets about the Black Panthers during the sixties. I never knew such things existed.

It's eight o'clock! I'm late! (Again).

The Donner Party
Reaches SFO

From late May and through the summer, members of the Northern California Special Collections Libraries are participating in a special joint exhibition at San Francisco International Airport. The Airport's International Terminal has an exhibition program that mounts displays of interest to travelers and Northern Californians alike. The theme of this exhibition is “Coming to California,” and Bancroft's contribution draws on our remarkable holdings relating to the tragedy of the Donner Party.

Our part of the exhibition emphasizes that the appeal of California was strong even before the Gold Rush of 1849. The captions explain that before the flood of immigration following the discovery of gold, the routes west were not fully developed or known. The most tragic consequence of pioneering new routes to California was experienced by the Donner Party, a group of eighty-seven men, women, and children in twenty wagons that followed George and Jacob Donner westward from Illinois in 1846.

Arriving at the Continental Divide in July, they were persuaded to try a new route south of the Great Salt Lake. This led them over difficult mountain passes and a desert so dry that it cost them oxen and wagons. The delay proved even costlier, for in November, they were caught by heavy snows and could get no farther than the Sierra lake that now bears their name.

They set up a good-sized camp there and James Reed traveled ahead to Sutter's Fort. Unfortunately, they continued and the last of the forty-seven survivors got out late in April 1847. Bancroft will be displaying selections from five items in its collection. The first is a reproduction of a page from the famous Breen diary. Patrick Breen kept a daily record of the Donner Party's experiences from November 20, 1846 until March 1, 1847. His entries are generally quite brief, recording the weather, any unusual events, and the efforts to cope with the dead and dying. The desperation of the situation and the numb quality of the party's plight are readily indicated by the entry of Tuesday, February 23: "Froze hard last night. Today fine and thawey. Has the appearance of Spring, all but the deep snow. Wind S.S.E. Shot Towerer today & dressed his flesh. Mrs. Graves came here this morning to borrow meat: dog or ox. They think I have meat to spare, but I know to the contrary they have plenty of [hides]. I live principally on the same."

The second selection is a copy of Virginia Reed's letter to her cousin, dated May 16, 1847, photographed from the original for The Bancroft Library in 1913. Virginia Reed, one of the survivors of the Donner Party, at age eleven wrote to a cousin just weeks after being rescued. Her account is simple and direct, and although it emphasizes the hideousness of the ordeal, nevertheless concludes on a remarkably optimistic note, revealing the strong attraction of California.

One of the most popular accounts of the Donner Party was C. F. McGlashan's History of the Donner Party, a Tragedy of the Sierras, published in Truckee by Crowley &c McClishan [1879]. A professional journalist, McGlashan made the first serious attempt to survey all the correspondence and manuscript material relating to the Donner Party in order to prepare a well-balanced account. So grim was the actual history that there was no need to sensationalize. McGlashan's work has been reprinted numerous times and remains a major historic record of the subject.

The fourth selection is from Harry Laurens Wills's History of Nevada County, California published in Oakland by Thompson & West in 1880. We will show a copy of the original lithographic illustration of the Donner Camp, 1846. The drawing was based on accounts supplied by survivors of the Donner Party.

The final item in the display will be the dust jacket from the first edition of George R. Stewart's Ordeal by Hunger: The Story of the Donner Party, New York, Henry Holt and Company [1936]. Distinguished California writer and novelist, and professor of English at Berkeley, Stewart undertook a major review of all the sources on the Donner Party amassed at The Bancroft Library and at other research institutions to prepare his account of the ill-fated journey.

So if you find yourself in SFO's International Terminal this summer, scan the display for Bancroft's portion of the "Welcome to California" exhibit. One is tempted to wonder whether our contribution will have an effect on immigration rates.

Peter E. Hanff

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The Bancroft Library: things such as
Desiderata

Bancroftiana from time to time publishes lists of books that the Library needs. We would be particularly pleased to receive gifts of any of the books listed. Dealer quotations are also invited. Please telephone Bonnie Bearden, Rare Books Assistant, in the Acquisitions Division (510-642-8171) or write her a note if you can help us.


Paper ed.