

# BANCROFTIANA

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Friends and colleagues of George Peter Hammond, Director of The Bancroft Library from 1946-1965, and Director Emeritus ever since, will be saddened to learn that he died at home on December 5, 1993, at the age of 97. As Director, Dr. Hammond guided The Bancroft Library from being a quiet preserve of advanced scholars concerned with the development and history of Western North America to being a full-fledged, largely independent, modern research library.

During his administration, the collections grew exponentially and Bancroft's staff expanded and evolved into a group of specialists concerned with acquisitions, processing, cataloging, and public service of modern, retrospective, common, rare, and unique resources touching on nearly every aspect of the culture, history, and development of the area of western North America bounded by the Isthmus of Panama on the South, the Pacific Ocean on the West, the northern reaches of Alaska on the North, and the western Plains States on the East.

Hammond's appointment in 1946 was jointly as Director of The Bancroft Library and Professor of History. He proved to be one of the most prolific scholar director's in Bancroft's history, actively pursuing his research, teaching, and writing in ways that maintained strong demand for the remarkable resources at Bancroft. Although his own specialty was the history of New Mexico, amply supported by resources at Bancroft, he was a master of the

history of the entire region, and well acquainted with the archival resources of Mexico and Spain, as well. Recognizing the importance of creating a center for regional scholarship, Hammond actively supported field work at the Archivo General de la Nación in Mexico and the Archivo General de Indias in Spain, arranging for substantial microfilming of records

at both repositories to strengthen resources available at Berkeley.

Just a month after assuming the Directorship, Hammond called a meeting of California bibliophiles in both Southern and Northern California to help him find the Friends

of The Bancroft Library. The Friends, from the outset a statewide organization, became incorporated in the 1950s. The group has provided remarkable support over the years, underwriting the publication of *Bancroftiana*, the publication of an annual keepsake series (handsomely published books often derived from the resources of the Library), and the purchase of individual research items and substantial collections. One of the most remarkable ventures of the Friends under Hammond's leadership was the purchase in 1963 of the Robert B. Honeyman collection of paintings, drawings, original lithographs, and other images documenting the development of California. It was characteristic of Hammond's vision that such a collection might be construed as part of the valid research material that should be at Bancroft. Now, thirty years later, the pictorial collections of Bancroft are inter-

*George P. Hammond*

1896 - 1993

DIRECTOR EMERITUS  
THE BANCROFT LIBRARY



George P. Hammond, ca. 1955. Photography by g. Paul Bishop.

nationally renowned, and are used to illustrate dozens of books and articles on California annually.

Following his formal retirement in 1965, George Hammond maintained an office at The Bancroft Library until the late 1980s. He continued to conduct his research and writing

during that period, publishing several works and leaving other projects sufficiently advanced that others will have a head start when they come to complete them.

Hammond was succeeded as Director by Professor James D. Hart of the Department of English in 1969. Hart assumed responsibility

for a newly expanded Bancroft Library (the former Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, and the Mark Twain Project were merged into Bancroft by the University Library earlier that year). However, Hammond continued his research on a daily basis in an office adjacent to that of the Director. The two scholars maintained a warm and cordial working relationship. Indeed Hart had worked with Hammond for many years as an active member of the Bancroft Faculty Committee, a member of the Friends, and as Acting Director during Hammond's last sabbatical leave.

Hammond's directorship had been so strong and dynamic that it was a real measure of his wisdom and grace that he could relinquish the formal reins to his younger successor. As a young librarian at Bancroft, I had the privilege of consulting with Dr. Hammond countless times. He embraced the new mission of Bancroft because he recognized that the traditional areas he had so strongly developed were not diminished but complemented by Bancroft's new areas of responsibility. Private support for The Bancroft Library continued to expand dramatically during the Hart years, building on the strong foundation for such support that Hammond had established in 1946. Indeed nearly thirty years after Dr. Hammond's formal retirement, Bancroft annually receives bequests and endowments from individuals who established their relationship and regard for The Bancroft Library under his leadership.

Dr. Hammond is survived by his wife, Carrie, and his children Helen, Frances, Charles, and George. Private funeral services were held in Fresno on December 9. The family has suggested that memorial contributions be made to the Friends of The Bancroft Library. The Bancroft Library has extended to the Hammond family the sympathy and regards of the entire campus community, joining them in the celebration of the rich, long, and accomplished life of George P. Hammond.

Peter E. Hanff

### *African Americana: The Muse Collection*

Local bibliophile and collector, Daphne Muse, has presented a portion of her large collection of African American books and journals, including some rare first editions, to The

Bancroft Library. Ms. Muse has requested that her gift be accepted in recognition of the distinguished career of Roy Thomas, an inspired teacher and advisor who has guided the work of thousands of students on the Berkeley campus. In Ms. Muse's own words, "As a testimony to his tenacity and the incredibly rich experiences Roy Thomas has provided thousands of students during his more than twenty years as a member of the faculty in the Department of Afro-American Studies, I am donating my collection of more than 2,000 books and ephemera, primarily documenting black life and culture throughout the Diaspora."

Daphne Muse, a 1967 graduate of Fisk University, came to the Bay Area in 1971, and to the Berkeley campus in 1973, the same year I began work with African American collections here in the Library. At that time Daphne taught writing courses in the Department of African American Studies, and often asked me to lecture to her classes about library resources for research in the field. We have since become life-long friends, and thus it is with considerable pride and pleasure that I write this description of her gift to The Bancroft Library. Daphne Muse has continued to teach, most recently at Stanford University, Mills College and at Merritt College. Over the years she has consistently been among the most active participants in Bay Area literary circles.

In addition to her teaching of African American literature, ethnic studies, and multi-cultural children's literature, Daphne has worked as editor of *The Children's Advocate*, a newspaper which focuses on the needs of children. In 1984, *The Children's Advocate* received the Parents' Choice Foundation Gold Award for best parenting publication in the nation. She has written, often for and about children, more than one-hundred feature articles, essays, commentaries, poems, a screenplay and three children's books, including *Children of Africa*, (translated into KiSwahili).

Daphne Muse has always been a great friend of the Library. She served on the Council of the Friends of The Bancroft Library in 1991 and 1992 and has assisted the University Library in the preparation of numerous exhibits.

Among the bibliographic treasures of the Muse Collection is a first edition of Paul Laurence Dunbar's Lyrics of *Sunshine & Shadow*, 1905, a text not previously available anywhere in the University Library. Such volumes of ear-

ly 20th-century black poetry were published in small editions, and have become very rare. Also present are an autographed edition of the 50th anniversary edition of W.E.B. DuBois's *Souls of Black Folk* and a first edition of actor Clarence Muse's only novel, *Way Down South*, one of an edition limited to 100. There is also a copy of the volume the City of Boston issued in 1889 to honor Crispus Attucks, an African American Revolutionary War hero.

The Muse Collection has strong holdings of the works of authors of the Harlem Renaissance, poetry broadsides, and obscure titles issued by small presses. Harlem Renaissance treasures include a first edition of Countee Cullen's *On These I Stand*. This volume of poetry provided the inspiration for an exhibition curated by Muse for Mills College in 1977.

The collection also includes novels by African authors. In the early days of African independence, decisions on which manuscripts to publish were most often made by non-Africans. Ugandan writer Okot p'Bitek's *The Song of Lawino: A Lament*, published by the East African Publishing House in Nairobi in 1966, is an example of a work rejected initially by a number of European publishers, yet accepted within ten minutes by an African editor. The Muse Collection has a first edition of *The Song of Lawino*.

Ephemeral material in the Collection includes the White House dinner program celebrating Ralph Ellison and Leontyne Price as recipients of the Presidential Medal for the Arts. A copy of *Justice in the Round: The Trial of Angela Davis* documents the involvement of Ms. Muse as secretary and researcher for the defense at the trial. The Muse copy of Jan Faulkner's *Ethnic Notions* fills a long-standing gap in Bancroft collections. The book details Berkeley resident Jan Faulkner's collection of ethnic, particularly African American, artifacts featured at a Berkeley Art Center exhibition. The exhibit led local film producer Marlon Riggs to produce his prize-winning documentary of the same title.

The collection's holdings of popular paperback fiction such as Laurence Blaine's *Sweet Street Blues*, published in 1978 and James Russell Johnson's *Mainboy*, published in the same year, make these texts available on campus for the first time. Paperback novels like these, little known, printed on poor-quality paper and already fragile, are nonetheless es-

sential raw material for the study of American popular literature. This material as well as another of Muse's passions, her collection of multi-cultural children's literature, are of increasing importance to current scholarship, and testify to her good judgment and foresight in book-collecting.

Daphne Muse's collection enhances significantly Bancroft's African American holdings for which intensive collecting has been underway for more than a decade. In the 1995/96 academic year, the Department of African American Studies plans to begin awarding the Ph.D. The Muse Collection will support the research of scholars in this new program, only the second Ph.D. program of its kind in the country. For research in this field, the Muse Collection joins a previous gift, that of the collection of the late James de Th. Abajian, long a member of the Friends of the Bancroft, and other holdings such as the scrapbooks of actress Jesse Coles Grayson, the papers of the 19th century San Francisco family of Jeremiah Burke Sanderson, oral histories of Black Cal graduates collected by the Regional Oral History Office, and manuscripts of Langston Hughes and Amiri Baraka.

The Bancroft Library looks forward to continuing its efforts to develop documentation of the lives and experience of African Americans, particularly in the West.

Phyllis B. Bischof

*Note:* The editor wishes to thank Phyllis Bischof, Librarian for African and African American Collections, for this contribution.

## *The Tebtunis Papyri at The Bancroft Library\**

"Please let them bring me some ink, some pens, and some papyrus. Hurry, hurry!"

— O. DEIR EL MEDINEH 581, 5-6

These words were written by an Egyptian about 1200 BC. And this should not surprise us: papyrus was the most important writing material of antiquity. Originating in Egypt, its use spread to all the countries around the Mediterranean Sea. The only country, however, with a climate dry enough to preserve papyrus, is Egypt. Since the organized search for papyri began little more than a century ago, hundreds of thousands of texts written on pa-



One of the three mummified crocodiles from Tebtunis still preserved at the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum (inventory 6-20101). Photo by Dan Johnston, Library Photo Service.

pyrus, and other more perishable materials such as pot-sherds, wood, and linen, have been found in the dry sands of Egypt.

All languages written in Egypt during the period when papyrus was used, roughly from the beginning of the Pharaonic period to the first centuries of the Arab era, are represented in papyrus documents: hieratic, demotic, Coptic, Aramaic, Greek, Latin, and Arabic. Most documents, however, were written in Greek, the official language of government administration from the time of Alexander the Great (332 BC) until after the Arab conquest (AD 641).

The writing material called papyrus was manufactured from the Egyptian papyrus plant. The stem was cut along its length into strips. The strips were laid crosswise in two layers, then pressed together to form a solid sheet of writing material. Twenty of these sheets pasted together formed the standard papyrus roll whose average length was about 126 inches (320 cm).

The papyrus collection of the University of California at Berkeley consists of the papyri found by the British archaeologists and papyrologists Bernard Grenfell and Arthur Hunt during the winter of 1899-1900 at the site of the ancient city of Tebtunis in the south of the Faiyum in Egypt. The excavation was financed for

the University by Phoebe Apperson Hearst.

The papyri recovered may be divided into three main groups according to their source: 1) papyri used in the cartonnage of mummified crocodiles, dating from the late second and early first centuries BC; 2) papyri found in the ruins of the Roman town of Tebtunis, nearly all from the first three centuries AD; and 3) papyri used in the cartonnage of human mummies, belonging to the third and second centuries BC.

Nearly all the papyri in the collection are legal and economic documents. Among the few literary papyri are fragments of Sophocles' *Inachus*, Demosthenes' *De falsa Legatione*, and a glimpse of the long lost Greek original of Dicitys Cretensis' *Bellum Troianum*. The greater part of the literary texts, however, are fragments of the works of Homer, who was, to judge from the number of recovered fragments, by far the most popular classical writer in Graeco-Roman Egypt.

The documentary texts range from the third century BC to the third century AD, and cover all areas of private and public life in Graeco-Roman Egypt. The bulk, however, consists of late Ptolemaic (second-first century BC) documents from public village archives. As relatively few documents from the late Ptolemaic period have survived, the importance of the Teb-

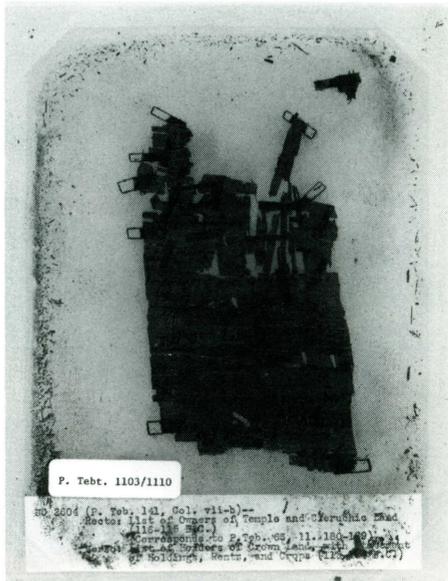
tunis Papyri for our knowledge of this period cannot be stressed enough.

With the exception of some demotic papyri which remained in Egypt, the Tebtunis Papyri were shipped in the summer of 1900, to Oxford, England, for publication. In the following thirty-eight years, three volumes of *The Tebtunis Papyri* (P. Tebt.) were published. Volume I (1902) covered the crocodile papyri, volume II (1907) the papyri from the Roman town, and volume III, which appeared in two parts (1933 and 1938), the papyri from the cartonnage of human mummies. Several famous papyrologists took part in the preparation of the various volumes: Grenfell and Hunt, of course, but also J. Gilbert Smyly, Edgar J. Goodspeed, and C.C. Edgar.

Late in 1938, two large wooden cases containing several tin boxes filled with the Tebtunis Papyri arrived in Berkeley and were stored in the Library. It was apparent that not all the texts in the collection had been published, and more importantly, that nothing had been done about the preservation of the documents: the papyri were simply inserted between the pages of old issues of magazines (in this case, the *Oxford Daily Gazette*) a method still used in several papyrus collections in Great Britain.

In the summer of 1940 the first steps were taken toward the preservation of at least part of the collection. Edmund Kase from Grove City College was hired by the University of California to work on the collection from June 17 till August 14. During this period Kase took both the texts which had been published in one of the P. Tebt. volumes, and texts which were thought large and important enough, from the tin boxes. The rest languished between pages of the *Gazette*.

The 1,705 fragments taken from the boxes received a UC (University of California) inventory number and were mounted by Kase, not under glass, but between sheets of a plastic material called Vinylite. At that time the use of Vinylite seemed to offer nothing but advantages: it was light, unbreakable, easy to store, and cheaper than glass. In the course of time, however, some disadvantages have come to light. Inside the plastic sandwich, fragments of papyrus have broken off due to the flexibility of the mounting and the static electricity attracted by the Vinylite. Another problem is that the sandwiches of Vinylite were heat-sealed so that it is impossible to get to the papyrus for



A fragment of P. Tebt. 63 showing the Vinylite mount and deterioration of the papyrus inside.

cleaning and restoration without breaking the mount. The surface of the Vinylite has become scratched, which renders reading, and especially photographing the papyrus rather difficult.

In 1973, the Tebtunis Papyri came to The Bancroft Library in the merger with the Main Library's Rare Book Department. Also in the 1970s, work on the Berkeley papyrus collection was resumed. The first project was the publication of the fourth volume of *The Tebtunis Papyri* (1976), which gave full treatment to the most important crocodile papyri that had received only brief descriptions at the end of Volume I. In 1979, Elbert Wall, Director of the American Center of the International Photographic Archive of Papyri, took over where Kase left off in 1940. In order to photograph a great part of the collection, he took the fragments which Kase had left in the tin boxes (21,200 fragments, ranging in size from less than one-fourth of a square inch to 200 square inches), and stored them in acid-free folders, or, when he thought that the papyrus could not stand such treatment, in glass sandwiches. He also put under glass some papyri which had suffered severely from being in a Vinylite mounting.

The situation has not changed since funding

for Wall's project ceased in 1980. The tasking ahead is therefore enormous. Most urgent is the restoration, cleaning, and remounting of the pieces presently housed in Vinylite, in order to prevent further physical damage to the papyrus. The larger fragments (14 x 20 inches; UC inventory numbers 3001 and up) are in an especially bad state. Eventually it will be necessary to make an inventory of the fragments in the acid-free folders, and take steps towards their preservation. The story of the Tebtunis Papyri at Bancroft will be continued.

Arthur Verhoogt

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\*This article was conceived during a stay at the Bancroft Library from September 14 till November 27, 1993. The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), and the Faculty of Law of Leiden University provided generous funds to make this stay possible. I would like to thank the staff of The Bancroft Library, and especially Anthony S. Bliss, for the kind assistance I received during my stay. The latter also was so kind as to correct these vain attempts to write English.

*The Editor feels compelled to comment:* The Bancroft Library was delighted to receive Arthur Verhoogt last Fall. Arthur's charm, intelligence, and wit quickly made him a favorite with the staff. In a classic case of Library-Scholar symbiosis, he was able to pursue his research into the archive of Menches, the village scribe of Kerkeosiris near Tebtunis, ca. 110 BC, and at the same time Bancroft benefitted from Arthur's appraisal of the needs for further work on the Tebtunis Papyri. Bancroft intends to follow up on the Verhoogt recommendations, and Arthur calculates that he found enough material for five theses. We certainly hope to see him here in Berkeley again soon.

### 1994 Annual Exhibition: *Family Papers in The Bancroft Library*

Recent newspaper accounts concerning the University of California's efforts to recover some of the personal papers of the late Senator William F. Knowland have fixed the attention of Bay Area readers on the importance of per-

sonal and family papers at The Bancroft Library. Since its founding in 1859, Bancroft has actively collected the papers of California families and in recent years research in family papers at Bancroft has grown dramatically.

Family papers illuminate the human side of history. In such collections we find letters, diaries, memoirs, pictures, business accounts, and legal records documenting private life through the generations. The Bancroft Library's major exhibition this year is based on its collections of family papers. Although the exhibition highlights mostly California families, their correspondence reveals much about their friends and relatives living in other parts of the United States as well as in foreign countries.

Every family has its records, but relatively few people had the foresight to save letters and other ephemeral records for posterity. In the rare documents that have survived, one hears voices that are not conventionally recorded in history books. The Library's founder, Hubert Howe Bancroft, realized this and made a special effort to acquire family histories of Californios, the citizens of Mexican California. Family papers have also proven to be valuable sources for women's history, for in their diaries and letters women reported the family news — often in intimate detail and with unconventional frankness — telling of women's work, paid or unpaid, domestic or philanthropic.

Work is the most prevalent topic in these papers: hard physical labor, performed by immigrant and frontier families, work done by children in school and at home, work on cattle ranches, orchards and farms, in family businesses, in the arts, in academe and the professions. One of the recurring themes of Bancroft's exhibition is the frequent husband-wife partnership in these endeavors.

In many instances family and business papers are mingled together. This melding of family and business is especially true for family dynasties, well represented in the exhibition by the Hearsts. From the Hearst family papers, Bancroft has selected mostly private letters, Senator George Hearst's correspondence with his wife and son and William Randolph Hearst's letters to his mother, Phoebe Apperson Hearst. Writing to his mother from Harvard, William Randolph Hearst says:

"...I shall never live anywhere but in California and I like to be away for a while only to appreciate it the more when I return. I think I shall

take a Political Economy course in hopes that it will teach me to regulate my money affairs better... Harvard is no place for a poor boy."

Another highlight of the exhibition will be material from the Auerbach Family Papers collection. The Auerbachs, originally from Germany, were merchants in San Francisco during the California Gold Rush. Later the family established a strong business presence in Salt Lake City. The family's integrity, and its Jewish heritage, were respected by Brigham Young, and when prohibitions were established against Mormon trade with non-Mormon businesses, Young provided an exception for the Auerbachs. Eveline Auerbach recorded the family's history in her personal reminiscences in the 1920s. The Friends of The

Bancroft Library will publish Mrs. Auerbach's reminiscences as a keepsake for its members in conjunction with the opening of Bancroft's exhibition.

The papers of William F. Knowland and his father Joseph will also be featured in the exhibit. The Knowland family, for many years the owners of the Oakland Tribune, were civic and political leaders in Oakland and California for decades. Their family papers are a window on mid-20th century California.

The exhibition will run from May 15, 1994 through November 1994. Regular gallery hours are Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 1:00-5:00 p.m. Saturdays. For further information, please call The Bancroft Library at (510)642-3781.



*Oil on canvas, 1892*

### James E. Stuart. *Near Chinamen's Fishing Camp, Monterey, Calif.*

James Everett Stuart (1852-1941) came to California as a child in 1860. His artistic talent soon manifested itself in the sketches he made along the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. His art training began in 1868, and included work with Virgil Williams, Thomas Hill and William Keith. He maintained studios at various times in New York and in Chicago as he traveled widely throughout the United States. Stuart produced over 5,000 works during his long career. His studio works are considered elaborate and pretentious compared to his large oil 'sketches' made in the field.

Stuart's painting is a lovely evocation, somewhat romanticized of course, of the quite separate existence led by some of California's Chinese immigrants. The work captures the spontaneity of the moment, depicting the fishermen on a lonely, wind-swept stretch of beach near Monterey. The Chinese fishing camps in this area have been documented in very few photographs.

The Library has been fortunate to acquire this work by Stuart as the gift of Jerry C. Cole and of the Friends of The Bancroft Library. The painting joins another work by Stuart in the Robert B. Honeyman Collection.

*William M. Roberts*

## *The Bancroft Library*

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