C. Hart Merriam working with Wuk-sa'-che Indian near Badger, California. August 12, 1935. Photo by Jean Carr.

Preservation of the C. Hart Merriam Papers and Photographs

The Bancroft Library is currently engaged in a two-year project funded by a Department of Education Title II-C grant to improve access to and preserve the papers and photographs of Clinton Hart Merriam (1855-1942), one of the great naturalists of his generation. He was the founder of the U.S. Biological Survey, co-founder of the National Geographic Society, and served in many other scientific organizations during his long career. Merriam accompanied several early surveying expeditions to the western United States (beginning in 1872 at the age of 17) and for more than twenty-five years documented the natural history of the
rural West. In 1910, with the support of a trust fund set up by the widow of railroad magnate E. H. Harriman, Merriam was able to leave the Survey to pursue his own research. He continued his studies on North American mammals, but the primary focus of his research became the Native American cultures of California. Merriam was especially interested in documenting and preserving the languages of California Indian tribes, which were disappearing due to the death of older tribe members and the assimilation of surviving members into Anglo-American culture. Merriam actively pursued this work until 1939 when failing health forced him to retire.

The papers of Dr. Merriam were received over a period of several years from different donors. One of these collections donated by the Department of Anthropology here at U.C. Berkeley, (BANC.MSS 80/88 c), documents Merriam's work with Native Americans of California. Merriam conducted extensive interviews with surviving tribe members, recording their language in printed vocabulary schedules, and noting tribal names and boundaries in California. The collection also contains his subject files on ethnology and Indian welfare in California in the early decades of the century. Merriam's papers and photographs contain a wealth of primary information on California tribes and often provide the last remaining links for many Native Americans to their ancestors. This collection, with its finding aid prepared by professor of Anthropology Robert F. Heizer (the guide has been revised and expanded as part of the project), has been the most frequently used of the Merriam collections.

Six other collections of Dr. Merriam's papers acquired by The Bancroft Library over the course of approximately twenty years have been consolidated into a single collection as part of the project. These collections have had much less use than the Native American papers because they were largely unarranged and inadequately described. The consolidated collection (BANC.MSS 83/129 c) documents Merriam's career as the founder and head of the United States Biological Survey. It includes Merriam's personal and professional correspondence (including correspondence about his work with Native Americans), manuscripts of the more than 500 titles he published during his career, papers from work undertaken by the Survey, and personal and financial papers.

The newly consolidated Merriam collection is a rich source for studies in the history and development of American science, particularly the natural sciences. The collection's extensive correspondence file, a veritable Who's Who of the scientific world, spans a period of more than 70 years from 1871-1942. Among the more notable correspondents are Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir. The correspondence provides historical information on the scientific societies and institutions emerging at the turn of the century, about the individuals associated with the scientific community of the time, and on the private and public funding of science. The topics covered range from natural history, ornithology, zoology, ethnology and linguistics to geography and conservation.

The collection provides first-hand information on Merriam's participation in scientific surveys and expeditions. Merriam served as a naturalist on the Hayden Survey, a government-sponsored exploration of the Rocky Mountain West at the age of 17. His personal diary recounting his work and experiences on the survey is preserved in the collection. The collection also follows Merriam on the Harriman Alaska Expedition of 1899, one of the last great expeditions into the uncharted wilderness of the West. E.H. Harriman funded the expedition and hand-picked some of the nation's most distinguished scientists to make a thorough reconnaissance of the region. The official photographer of the Expedition was Edward S. Curtis, and a substantial number of his photographs are included in the pictorial portion of the collection.

The project undertaken by The Bancroft Library in conjunction with the Conservation Department of The Library is ambitious: the papers and photographs have been given full preservation treatment and all of the papers (approximately 160 boxes, cartons and volumes) are being microfilmed so that the original materials are preserved in high demand. All of the manuscript and pictorial material have been arranged and described in finding aids, the first time much of the material has had a full description. The Merriam project represents a very successful coordination of preservation and archival processing on a collection-wide basis. The success of this model of project development and execution has depended upon close cooperation between the staffs of the Conservation Department and The Bancroft Library. We have just learned that a similar project involving the papers of U.C. Berkeley anthropologists Alfred A. Kroeber and Robert F. Heizer has also been funded by a Title H-C grant. The final phase of the project, microfilming the Merriam papers, is slated for completion in early 1995.

Terry Boom,
Project Archivist

Australia & The Bancroft Library

From time to time Bancroft's curators are invited to homes of private collectors to review items that may be of interest to The Bancroft Library. Not every visit results in additions to the collections, but invariably the collector and the Bancroft have the pleasure of discussing collection building and other developments at Bancroft. And once in a while we make a totally unexpected discovery.

Recently, I visited Stuart Chaffey in Carmel Valley to inspect his family's collection of California and Australian flora, fauna, and historic artifacts. Mr. Chaffey wanted to know what I thought of the book. I was dazzled, and although I didn't know the specific work, I knew that in recent years early books on Australia have become much sought after by collectors and institutions, especially Down Under. I also told him that Bancroft has long had an interest in Australia, because of the relationship between the California Gold Rush and the discovery of gold in Australia in 1851 by a California gold-miner.

I offered to do a bit of digging into the history of South Australia Illustrated and back at Bancroft found that recent auction prices were indeed impressive. I reported this to Mr. Chaffey by letter and a few days later he telephoned to say that he wished to donate the book to The Bancroft Library if we wanted it. Indeed we did.

Mr. Chaffey delivered the book to Bancroft in late August, and he and I had the pleasure of admiring it once again. We are delighted by Mr. Chaffey's generosity, for in addition to the book's substantial monetary value, it adds substantially to our holdings on early Australia.
Thus an excursion to see books on California led half-way round the world and resulted in a wholly unexpected addition to our holdings.

Peter E. Hanff

Mark Twain Exhibition at the Blackhawk Museums

For the first time in nearly a decade, the Mark Twain Project has mounted an exhibition of its manuscripts and other treasures outside the walls of The Bancroft Library. On September 16, “Mark Twain: A Life in Writing,” curated by Project editor Robert Pack Browning, opened at the U.C. Berkeley Museum of Art, Science & Culture at Blackhawk (Danville). The exhibition is scheduled to close on January 29, 1995, although public interest in it has proved great enough to warrant an extension of several months, now under discussion.

The last time any of Mark Twain’s private papers were permitted outside Bancroft’s security perimeter was in 1984, when Chevron U.S.A. sponsored “Whoopjamboreehoo!” a month-long exhibition in the lobby of Chevron’s Market Street building in downtown San Francisco. The Chevron building offered the Project roughly twice the exhibition space available in Bancroft itself, and its location allowed these Mark Twain artifacts to be seen by a larger and more diverse public than is likely ever to visit the Berkeley campus, let alone Bancroft.

The exhibition space at Blackhawk is approximately five times as large as the space available in Bancroft, and therefore permits an even more generous sampling of manuscripts and artifacts, many of them seen only rarely even within the Library. The treatment accorded these irreplaceable documents by the Museum staff (under the direction of Kate Elertsen) conforms to a very high professional standard. And the result is that this glimpse of Mark Twain at work can now be seen by an indefinitely large audience in the Bay Area, including many schoolchildren.

Editor Browning has divided the materials into eight sections devoted to various facets of Clemens’s literary and personal life: Mark Twain as letter-writer, lecturer, humorist, so- lot, and world traveler. Among other items on display are his working notes for the Adven- tures of Huckleberry Finn (which show him planning all sorts of adventures that never came to pass, as well as crucial moments in the story which did); letters to various correspondents, including a postcard addressed to his nephew Charles L. Webster: “Far Rockaway—somewhere off the port of New York, in New Jersey, or New York, or Staten Island, or Hell-gate, or one of those states around somewhere. Keep on trying and from time to time, send for more postage.” There are also examples of Mark Twain’s inventions and patents, numerous photographs and drawings of him, and a brilliantly edited slide- show with voice-over commentary drawn from his still unpublished autobiography. In addition to letters and literary manuscripts there are many first editions, and several rare association items, such as the carved marble head which Clemens brought back from the Acropolis on his first trip abroad. The effect of these selections from the massive files in Bancroft is to give the visitor a highly concrete, intelligible overview of Mark Twain’s career as a writer and public figure.

Side by side with these original objects is an exhibit of the more than thirty scholarly and trade editions published since 1967 by the Mark Twain Project through the University of California Press. There is even a lounge area within the exhibition space where visitors can sit and thumb through a complete set of the Project’s books, copies of which may also be purchased in the Museum shop or at the entrance to the exhibit. The underlying point here is easily grasped: not all the exhibitions in the world, even ones as generous as this one, can give Mark Twain’s readers the kind of access they require to his papers and published works. To give them that access, it is necessary to publish an edition, and, ideally, to make the most interesting parts of that edition even more widely available through inexpensive reprints of the edited texts, which is exactly the role of the Project’s Mark Twain Library series. The exhibition is thus quietly enlisted in the Project’s ongoing effort to alert the world at large to the existence of these carefully edited texts, and to the continuing need for financial support. A complete list of past donors to the Project is therefore part of this exhibit.

The Museums at Blackhawk are located at Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Road in Danville. They are open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Admission is $7, but only $4 for students and seniors.

New Mark Twain Letters and Manuscripts

Through a fortuitous combination of gifts and purchases, the Mark Twain Project has recently acquired several important new documents — significant additions to the Mark Twain Papers, even though not all of them were written by Mark Twain himself.

In honor of Willis S. Slusser (long a major benefactor of the Council) upon his retirement from the Council of Friends, the Library purchased Mark Twain’s original manuscript of his first public lecture, the so-called “Sandwich Islands lecture” given in San Francisco in October 1866 (and repeatedly thereafter). The purchase was made possible by the Margaret I. and Augusta M. Higginson Fund.

This very early manuscript comes quite literally home to the Papers for the first time in more than 50 years. Albert Bigelow Paine removed it from them and did not return it during his tenure as Mark Twain’s literary execu-

The original manuscript of this lecture was...
very likely the longest continuous narrative that Clemens wrote before he undertook his first real book, *The Innocents Abroad* (1869). Access to it constitutes a major new resource for Mark Twain biographers, editors, and scholars.

Bancroft has also recently purchased a dozen letters Clemens wrote to Paine in 1909 and 1910, near the end of the author's life. Paine was then acting as Clemens's private secretary even as he prepared himself to write the official biography. Most of these letters were dictated, and are thus in the handwriting of Clemens's young friend and amanuensis, Helen Schuyler Allen, but a few are in his hand, and all are signed (and some even corrected) by him. Paine published only a few brief passages from them, in part because they were written when Clemens was quite ill with heart disease and consciously facing his own imminent death. (Several of these letters appeared in Bancroft's recent exhibition, "Family Papers.")

Last but far from least in this recent infusion of new material are two gifts of letters written not by or to Clemens, but by and to his in-laws. The first gift comes from Marie Snow Doyle of Elmina, N.Y., and consists of 22 letters written by Charles J. Langdon (who would become Mark Twain's brother-in-law) to his family in Elmina during his 1867 excursion on the steamship *Quaker City* — the excursion Mark Twain wrote about in *The Innocents Abroad*. The second gift, quite serendipitously, comes from Robert Daley of Agua Dulce, California, who has just given the Project an additional 15 letters from Charlie Langdon, also written during the *Quaker City* trip. These comple-

ment the letters given by Mrs. Doyle, and they bring together for the first time since their dis-
persal in 1964 all of the surviving letters young Langdon wrote at this time. This correspond-
ence provides a major new resource for the editors of *The Innocents Abroad* and for our un-
derstanding of Clemens's relationship to his wife's family. Still further light is shed on this latter subject by an additional 68 letters also given by Mr. Daley. These were written by or to Olivia Lewis Langdon between 1830 and 1867, and they include her courtship letters with Jervis Langdon, as well as many letters from her sisters and brothers. These provide scholars for the first time with detailed and highly reliable documentation of the Langdon and Lewis families of upstate New York — in short, the origins and background of the family to which Samuel Clemens joined his fortunes when he married Mr. and Mrs. Langdon's daughter Olivia in February 1870. —

Robert H. Hirst

**Quill Pens to Pixels: Bancroft's Catalog Evolves**

In a lonely corner of Bancroft's third tier stacks are two folio volumes. They are massive and expensive bound and filled with writing in an elegant hand. They are heavy too, and lifting them requires a good deal of strength.

These are the two volumes that comprise *The Valencia Street Catalog* — the first comprehensive catalog of The Bancroft Library, begun by Henry Labs Oak in the 1880s. It was Oak, originally a magazine editor, who undertook the first thorough cataloging of Hubert Howe Bancroft's extensive library on Valencia Street in San Francisco. His handwriting can be seen on the pages of the two volumes, and also on the cards and slips of paper he used in his cataloging work.

Today, if you wanted to find *The Valencia Street Catalog*, you might sit at a computer termi-
nal and conduct a search on Gladis, U.C. Berkeley's on-line catalog. You would find the volumes by searching under their official title, *Catalogue of The Bancroft Library of Pacific Coast Books, Maps and Manuscripts.* Or you might find them with a subject heading, like "Libraries — California — San Francisco — History." If you knew it only as the "Valencia Street Catalog," you could also use that phrase to search with. Your search would then produce a bibliographic record — a description of the item with its call number.

Both Gladis and *The Valencia Street Catalog* have served the same function for The Ban-
croft Library: they are the tools that provide researchers with intellectual access to the li-
brary's extensive holdings. They each represen-
t important points in the evolution of the cata-
l. The evolution continues now with Our ma-
taining the most recent catalogue and initiative, the Berkeley Finding Aids Project.

Between the handwritten volumes and the computerized catalog were other important points in this evolution. By the time The Bancroft Library was installed on the Berkeley campus in 1907, it came with a card catalog that could be easily updated simply by inserting or removing cards — a simple idea, but a great im-
provement over the bound ledger volumes. By the 1920s, the Library of Congress was issuing pre-printed cards that saved an immense amount of cataloging time. These cards represen-
ted books that might be held by numerous libraries, and so the description for these items was standardized.

The Library's card catalogs grew and devel-
op into sophisticated access tools, but one im-
portant drawback was the simple fact that they were unique: researchers could only con-
sult them in person inside the building itself. In attempts to address this problem, several publications were created. One was the *Guide to the Manuscript Collections of The Bancroft Li-
brary* by George P. Hammond and Dale L. Morgan, issued in two volumes between 1963 and 1972. The other was G.K. Hall's "*The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley: Catalog of printed books*" (begun 1964), which contained photocopies of actual cards from the library's catalog. Still, these represented only a small proportion of Bancroft's holdings. Up-
dating them was impossible without the pub-
cation of additional supplements, and the G.K. Hall volumes were so bulky and expen-
sive that only large libraries could acquire them.

A great breakthrough came in the 1970s with the establishment of regional and nation-
wide computer networks for bibliographic in-
formation. By the 1980s there were two major systems: OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) and RLIN (Research Libraries Infor-
mation Network). The University of Califor-
nia had its own network, Melvyl, and individu-

al campuses were developing local systems that were linked to these larger networks. Gladis was the local system developed at U.C. Berkeley.

These systems used a standard interchange-
able format for information about library ma-
terials, MARC (Machine Readable Cata-
logging). Now, with Bancroft's MARC records in nationwide databases, researchers at com-
puter terminals throughout the U.S. (and worldwide) could search the holdings of The Bancroft Library from their own desks.

Of course, such a change required a great deal of thinking, planning, and physical labor. Perhaps the most difficult task was the conver-
sion of manual information (e.g., catalog cards) into machine-readable form. To carry out this conversion, typists were required to examine each catalog card and to transcribe the information into a computer database, properly coding it for accurate retrieval. For Bancroft, work was accomplished through a contract with OCLC and financed through several major grants from the U.S. Depart-
ment of Education's Title II-A program. Last year the conversion of the entire manuscript catalog was completed, thanks largely to the efforts of Dr. Bonnie Hardwick, Curator of
The Bancroft Collection, and Jack von Euw, Head of Bancroft Technical Services. Only one major portion of the collection is now left to convert, the Pictorial Collections, and efforts are currently underway to do so.

Although most of the materials at Bancroft are now represented by electronic records, there is yet another area that is in great need of improvement: archival finding aids. These paper lists serve as detailed inventories or calendars of large collections of papers, such as the Joseph Knowland papers or the records of the Sierra Club. Most of them can only be used in the reading room of The Bancroft Library. Since these finding aids are too large and complex to be converted into bibliographic records on Gladis, a new and innovative approach has been developed by the Berkeley Finding Aids Project, under the direction of Daniel Pitti.

To understand this problem, imagine the efforts required to search The Bancroft's manuscript collections for letters written by an individual, or the records of the correspondence (if any). Finding aids to individual collections may list Oak as a correspondent, yet the researcher must look through many different finding aids to uncover the desired materials. An attempt to address this problem was made in the 1960s through what is called the "Analytic Index." However, this manual approach has proven far too cumbersome and labor intensive to be maintained, and its use was discontinued many years ago.

To remedy this problem, the Berkeley Finding Aid Project has developed a method for converting manual finding aids into searchable electronic texts. These texts can then be accessed from any computer terminal anywhere in the world, assuming the terminal is linked to a standard network, like the Internet.

Funded by a Department of Education Title II-A grant, the Berkeley Finding Aid Project will revolutionize the way researchers locate primary source materials, such as archives, manuscripts, and photographs. The project is being carried out in collaboration with other institutions, including the Getty Center for the History of Art History and the Humanities and Duke University in North Carolina. When it is finished, researchers everywhere will be able to carry out detailed searches for names or other words that may appear anywhere in hundreds of different finding aids. One computer search lasting perhaps thirty seconds will take the place of several hours work in pouring over many typewritten lists.

Of course, accomplishing this magic will involve a bit of labor and ingenuity. To begin with, the project staff has converted all paper finding aids into electronic form through a process called scanning, in which the computer "reads" a printed text and converts it into a text file. Then, this electronic text is "marked" with a series of codes using a recently devised format called SGML. After marking with SGML, the text of an individual finding aid will then be added to a growing database of all the other finding aids, and these can be searched and indexed in ways similar to the Gladis on-line catalog. In fact, the two systems will eventually be linked, so researchers can switch from a Gladis record for a particular collection to a detailed listing of the collection's contents.

So, a simple search for letters from Henry L. Oak will be both easier and more comprehensive than it is now. When finding aids for the Pictorial Collections are added to the database, researchers will be able to locate such things as photographs and paintings at the same time they search for manuscripts. And, to make the collections even more accessible, experiments are currently underway to link visual images to the electronic texts in the database. Those who attended this year's annual meeting of the Friends of The Bancroft Library were treated to a demonstration of Selected Images of the Roy D. Graves Pictorial Collection, one of the first finding aids to be published electronically. This demonstration showed the ability to attach computer surrogates of pictorial, graphic, or manuscript material to a corresponding finding aid.

Obviously there have been some changes since the time of Hubert Howe Bancroft and Henry L. Oak. Yet all of the work they did then is still useful to us now as it was to earlier generations of researchers. The information painstakingly recorded in handwriting by Mr. Oak has been preserved and updated, and now it exists in electronic form available quickly throughout the world at any time. The old Valencia Street Catalog has not been discontinued or superseded, but rather it has evolved into the electronic databases we have today. As you search The Bancroft Library catalog from the comfort of the computer in your home or office, imagine a trip to San Francisco, 100 years ago, a long cable car ride to the end of Valencia Street, a visit to a two-story brick building with metal shutters, the lifting of a massive folio volume, and the searching of page after page of handwritten catalog entries. Perhaps the cable car ride might have made it all worthwhile – if the weather was nice.

Marilyn S. Bolak and Geoffrey Weder
Bancroft Technical Services

Earthquake Relief

The devastation of the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906 is familiar to us all through the many images we have seen in books and periodicals. Most comprehensive histories of California contain at least one picture. In more focused books, we also see refugee tents in Golden Gate Park and other locations. We are not as familiar, however, with the relief efforts of the Red Cross, and these are now richly documented in a suite of remarkable albums recently given to the Library by Harold A. Wollenberg. The albums were compiled by C. N. Wollenberg, Harold Wollenberg's father, who became the director of the Relief Home for the Aged and Infirm.

One of these albums contains many photographs, both professional and amateur, of Camp Ingleside, built by the Red Cross on the side of a racetrack in the western part of the city. There are views of the numerous cottages built to house the refugees, as well as shots of the refugees themselves engaged in various activities. There are even photographs of cottages being removed to private property, presumably when the camp was closing.

In the same album, there are many photographs of the Relief Home for the Aged and Infirm, also built by the Red Cross. The Relief Home replaced an almshouse, dating from 1878, which had been destroyed by the earthquake. It was itself replaced by Laguna Honda Home in 1927, which is well documented in another of the albums. Other albums contain additional photographs of Camp Ingleside, as well as of many other relief camps throughout the city. Yet another album shows an emergen-
cy temporary hospital in Civic Center during the influenza epidemic of 1918.

Not only do these albums provide documentation of the relief efforts immediately after the earthquake and fire, they also inform us of the continuing work to provide health care, both emergency and regular, in the early part of this century in San Francisco.

William M. Roberts

Bancroft Fellowship Awards

For more than twenty years, The Bancroft Library has offered two fellowships through the Graduate Division of the Berkeley campus. Ten years ago, a third award was made possible by the generous donation of Kenneth and Dorothy Hill. The fellowships are open to graduate students at all nine U.C. campuses. A Berkeley faculty committee selects the three applicants who have best demonstrated how their research projects are supported by Bancroft's collections. Each student receives an award of $6,000, and the Graduate Division adds an additional $3,000 for U.C. Berkeley students. This year, all three students are from the Berkeley campus.

William McGregor is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in the History of Art. His area of interest is the role of printed images in seventeenth-century French training manuals and their impact on culture. His dissertation is entitled *Prints and Pedagogy in Seventeenth Century France: Sébastien Le Clerc's Illustrated Handbooks*.

Greg Mullins is pursuing his Ph.D. in English at U.C. Berkeley. His dissertation, *Tricking Tangier: Encounters with Morocco in the Writings of Paul Bowles, Alfred Chester, and William S. Burroughs*, explores the role of twentieth-century European colonialism in United States culture and the place of homosexuality in that colonialism, focusing on American expatriate writers in Tangier in the 1950s and 1960s.


A reception was held on November 7 for the new fellows and library staff to get acquainted. At the same time, each Bancroft fellow was presented with a gift of the Wilma Seavey Ogden Purse, a memorial gift generously established by her husband, Paul Ogden. We expect to see a great deal of our special scholars in the coming year.

Kelly Penhall-Wilson