Janus-like, Bancroft faces forward to the past and backward to the future. As an institution dedicated to conserving the past as well as making it come alive for the future, we must every so often re-examine both our roots and our route, where we have come from and where we are going.

These thoughts are motivated by the year just past, my first as the James D. Hart Director of The Bancroft Library. It has been both exhilarating and exhausting. I am profoundly grateful to the Bancroft staff and to the members of the Council of the Friends, particularly to Chair Tom Worth, who has been a tower of strength, and to Peter Hanff, who has guided me through the intricacies of the management of a large research library. Bancroft owes Peter a special debt of gratitude for having led the library through very difficult times after the death of Jim Hart and during the University of California's worst budget crisis.

I have been impressed by the willingness of Tom and the other members of the Council to invest their time, energy, and talent in helping me to carry out Bancroft's mission. I have learned much from them and from the Bancroft staff; but possibly the most important lesson is the realization that I still have much to learn. I know that I shall receive the same kind of help and advice from the officers of the Council, Cindy Barber (chair), Dorian Chong (vice chair), and Bill Barlow (treasurer).

Strategic Plan

One of my first actions last fall was to set in motion a process leading to a comprehensive review of Bancroft's relations with the Berkeley campus and the larger scholarly community, as the first step toward the creation of a strategic plan to deal with the issues most critical to Bancroft as we head into a new century. The review committee was chaired by David Farmer, Director of the DeGolyer Library at Southern Methodist University; other members were Genaro Padilla, Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Affairs, Joe Duggan, Associate Dean of the Graduate Division, Bill Simmons, Dean of Social Sciences, Richard Walker, Chair of the Department of Geography, Ling-Chi Wang, Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies, Elizabeth Witherell (UC Santa Barbara), General Editor of the Papers of Henry David Thoreau, and Charles Weiner (MIT), Professor of History of Science.

The committee's report served to guide our deliberations during a retreat held at the end of May and attended by all Bancroft staff, members of the Council of the Friends, library staff from outside Bancroft, faculty, and users. After two days of intensive discussions, we identified three critical issues facing Bancroft: collection policy, outreach, and the physical plant.

A Strategic Planning Committee has just finished a comprehensive plan for dealing with these issues over the next five years. Collection policy must reflect the dramatic demographic changes of contemporary California so that the twenty-first century can understand its immediate past. Outreach is concerned with a reinvigoration of Bancroft's engagement with the campus, the scholarly community, and the general public. However, neither of these initiatives can be successful without an adequate facility for the library. The State of California will provide funds for seismic upgrading of our building, but for nothing else. All of the other
Our activities the next day with a continuous showing of selected Beat Films in the Pacific Film Archive and the 49th Annual Meeting of the Friends of The Bancroft Library. The business meeting was followed by a reading by Ferlinghetti himself to a standing-room-only crowd of over 500 people. After the annual meeting, we formally opened the exhibition on “Ferlinghetti, City Lights, and the Beats in San Francisco,” drawn from Ferlinghetti’s papers as well as Bancroft’s rich holdings in manuscripts and letters from other writers of the period. The next keepsake will serve as a permanent record of these events.

This past fall we mounted a special exhibition, “California Arrivals: the International Heritage of the State,” at the bookfair of the De Young Museum’s exhibit “Beat Culture and the New America,” and in November we sponsored a lecture by Stephen Tobriner, Professor of Architectural History, entitled “The

From the Wilkes Journal: “The Costume of the Californios is peculiar, but beautiful...”

Calculating the cubic capacity of a barrel without calculus. From Regole di Geometria, ca. 1520.
The Mexican Inquisition documents: legal cases in their original leather covers.

Phoenix Rises: the Aftermath of the 1906 Earthquake and Fire.

FUTURE

I look back on the past year with a good deal of satisfaction. I think that because of the groundwork laid, Bancroft is well poised to meet the challenges of the future. As we put into effect the strategic plan, the Friends of The Bancroft Library can expect to see a heightened program of events and exhibitions and a strengthened publication program. Just one example: our annual meeting this coming spring will feature Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien as the speaker, reflecting on his years at Cal. Fittingly, it will be held on Cal Day, April 19th, 1997. The accompanying exhibition, curated by University Archivist Bill Roberts, will be dedicated to the Berkeley chancellors, 1952-1997, the men responsible for this remarkable period in Cal’s history.

Charles Faulhaber
sargeant, three corporals, fourteen soldiers, seventeen women, twenty-five boys, and sev­enteen girls. The domestic animals were forty tamed horses, fifteen mares, twelve head of cattle, eleven sows, and fifty-six mules. There were eighteen wooden houses, a church, and a ware­house. The presidio had two four-pounder can­nons.

The mission had two priests and a garrison of one corporal and five soldiers, with six sea­men as servants and one hundred new Chris­tian Indians. There were six wooden houses “beautifully arranged, especially the house of the reverend fathers” (f. 43v–44v). He listed the number of mares, tamed horses, oxen, cows, sheep, sows, goats, and mules. Crops included cabbage, lettuce, mint, parsley, onions, radish­es, turnips, beets, broccoli, cauliflower, hazel­nuts, strawberries, pears, cherries, apples, or­anges, and grapes. He apparently did not go to Mission Santa Clara, but he did say that there had been a flood the past winter, which had obli­gated the fathers to move the mission.

While Martinez was preparing to leave San Francisco, the ebb tides were so strong that the frigate pulled loose from her moorings, and “... what we could see was that the lowest part of the cliff of San Carlos [ Lime Point in Marin County], which we hit three times but without damage” (f. 45v). The next day the force of the current twisted the rudder. There was no blacksmith or forge at the San Francisco pre­sidio to repair it, so they used the cooking stove on the ship to make temporary repairs. While the captain and the boatswain were recovering from the damage, the second pilot made observations about the landmarks and the compass and cargo. The descriptions given by the captain again described the landmarks and domestic animals. The presidio had some buildings of adobe with flat roofs. Two were whitewashed in the interior. The garrison of fifty-one soldiers, with one lieutenant, one sergeant, and two corporals, also defended the mission had. Nevertheless, we now have much more information about that 1779 supply voy­age than Mr. Bancroft had.

The captain’s style of writing and spelling make translating the diary somewhat of a chal­lenge, but his handwriting was very good, es­pecially considering that the ship was always rocking to and fro and at times in San Francis­co, at the ebb tides, “shivering from stem to stern.” When published, this diary will give re­searchers many useful details of the missions and presidios of California in 1779. Attempting to piece together Martinez’s career during this
one of the brief sketches of Martínez’s life and career, said in conversation with another maritime historian, “Era un gran marinero!” (“He was a great mariner!”).

Vivian C. Fisher

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———. Desert solitaire: a season in the wilderness / by Edward Abbey; drawings by Edward Abbey; photos. by Gibbs Smith. Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith, 1981.
———. Down the river; with drawings by the author. New York: Plume, [1991].


Gaede, Marc. Images from the Great West / photographs by Marc Gaede; essay and quotations by A.B. Guthrie, Jr.; tribute by Edward Abbey; foreword by Charles Bowden; edited by Marnie Walker Gaede. 1st ed. La Canada, Calif.: Chaco Press, c1990.

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