Rare Pahlavi Texts Now at Bancroft

An extraordinary collection of ancient manuscripts from the Near East, datable to the 7th or 6th centuries, now resides at The Bancroft Library. With great pleasure I join the Bancroft staff in announcing this rare Pahlavi Archive. As one of the largest known collections of its kind uncovered in recent times, the archive comprises texts, many with clay seal impressions, written in Middle Persian, or Pahlavi, the language of the Sasanian dynasty of pre-Islamic Iran.

Who were the Sasanians?
As the last great Iranian monarchy before the Arab conquest of Western Asia, the Sasanian dynasty (AD 224-651) is best remembered for its distinctive cultural expressions and for its longevity. The Sasanians came to power when Ardashir, a provincial sovereign of Persia, in present-day Fars province in southwestern Iran, defeated his Parthian overlord to become ruler of a new dynasty in Western Asia, named after an ancestral figure (Figs. 1-2). By the mid third century, ambitious Sasanian kings extended Persian rule across almost 2,000 miles, from the Persian Gulf to the Black Sea, and from Syria’s Mediterranean shore to Afghanistan. Along with territorial expansion, the Sasanian age was a dynamic period of cultural and economic revival (Figs. 3-4). The Persian Empire enjoyed intensified trade and exchange and served as a major gateway to the Silk Road that linked the West with China and the Far East.

The Pahlavi Archive at Berkeley: History and Content
The Pahlavi Archive at Berkeley comprises 260 silk and leather manuscripts, 82 of which still have one or more clay bullae (seals) attached. This collection is currently being cataloged by Professor Philippe Gignoux and Dr. Rika Gyselen, both directors at the CNRS in Paris, in preparation for their eventual publication and digitization for a Bancroft Library website. The documents so far examined by Dr. Gignoux appear to be economic texts, and receipts for goods, dated to years from an, as yet, undetermined era.

The Pahlavi Archive was presented to the University of California as the gift of an anonymous donor in May 2001. After its receipt by The Bancroft Library, a sample of leather from the collection was sent for carbon-14 testing to Dr. Timothy Jull at the University of Arizona. Dr. Jull’s report on the result of the test, sent to Anthony Bliss, Curator of Rare Books and Literary Manuscripts, gave the radiocarbon age of the manuscript as 1,323 BP (Before Present), plus or minus 77 years. This equates to a date range of 651-776 AD (with 68% confidence), and 600-888 AD (with 95% confidence). A smaller number of documents and bullae (mss #217 – 260 and 63 unattached bullae) was placed on permanent loan to the library in January 2002.
That's how much we need to raise from private and foundation sources for the renewal of Bancroft's home, the Doe Annex. This is approximately half of the cost of the total renovation project. The rest ($17 million for seismic work and $4 million for moving into and out of temporary quarters) will come from campus resources and from last year’s Proposition 47 bond act.

Much of my time over the past six months has been devoted to the twin efforts of defining the scope of the renovation and organizing a capital campaign in support it. Piggy-backing on the seismic funding will allow us to gut the building down to the bare walls and floors and reconfigure it so that it functions more efficiently for Bancroft’s special uses, provides greater security for both collections and people, and addresses urgently needed deferred maintenance problems. Bancroft will acquire 25% more storage space, chiefly on the first two floors of the building, because the current occupant of those floors, The Newspaper/Microfilm/Periodical Library, will move into the Doe building. The ground floor will be dedicated to public services, with an enlarged reading room, a bigger exhibition gallery, and new seminar rooms. Upper floors will be reserved for semi-public and back-office space. Collections will be concentrated on the three floors below ground level; while the entire building will be outfitted with state-of-the-art climate control and security systems to provide for the long-term preservation and conservation of the collections. If funding permits, a roof-top addition will provide an additional 8,000 square feet of new space.

We held several meetings over the summer with a core group of the leadership committee in order to get the campaign off to a flying start. Because of the intense nature of the campaign, which must have all of the money in hand by the start of construction in spring 2005, we shall focus initially on the Committee itself, the Library Advisory Board, and the Council of the Friends. Our goal is to achieve 100% participation from these core constituencies. At the same time, we shall start to schedule meetings with potential major donors in order to shape proposals that will interest them.

In addition to Chancellor Heyman and Vice Chancellor Laetsch, the committee consists of members of the Development Committee of the Friends of The Bancroft Library and the Advancement Committee of the Library Advisory Board. The latter is especially important, since it represents full support of the project by University Librarian Tom Leonard as the Berkeley Library’s highest priority. We are still adding members to the committee, but those who have agreed to serve so far include Paul (Pete) Bancroft III, Jesse Choper, Bob Coblembtz, Mollie Collins, Harry Conger, John Davies, Mike Drew, Peter Frazier, Gordon Getty, Bob Haas, Paul Hazen, Jim Holliday, Al Johnson, Russell Keil, Larry Kramer, Mel Levine, Charlene Liebau, Bill Lyman, Rocky Main, Sylvia McLaughlin, Bob O’Donnell, Terry O’Reilly, Dick Otter, Connie Peabody, Lila Rich, Jack Rosston, Steve Silberstein, Bruce Smith, Camilla Smith, Cathy Spieker, R.G. Sproul III, Carl Stoney, Dan Volkmann, Ann Witter, Sheryl Wong, and Tom Woodhouse.

Every single person on this list has committed untold amounts of time, effort, and in many cases significant amounts of money in support of Bancroft, of the Library, or of Cal. Neither Bancroft nor Cal could survive without this kind of selfless devotion to the common good. I stand in awe of their energy and dedication.

Charles F. Faulhaber
The James D. Hart Director
The Bancroft Library
Moving The Bancroft Library: 1950

The feature article in the premier issue of Bancroftiana, published in March 1950, reported at great length on the recent opening of lush, new quarters for The Bancroft Library. As Bancroft contemplates a move to temporary quarters (2005–2007), to accommodate the seismic retrofit and renovation of its current Doe Library Annex quarters, we could not resist the opportunity to reprint portions of this story.

Down from the Attic

Since 1922 the Bancroft has been on the fourth floor of the University Library, wedged under the eaves in cramped quarters which not only provided improper housing for the Library's fine and rare materials, but hampered scholars in their research because of lack of facilities. Shelf space was exhausted, and the manuscript room overflowed with accumulated miscellany. Staff and students alike have welcomed the relocation, which meant more room for the proper arrangement and accessibility of materials, and the enlarged and more comfortable work space for research. The Bancroft Library has now completed its sixth move since its creation by Hubert Howe Bancroft. It is hoped that this is the last step before the Library is finally established in a permanent building of its own at some not-too-distant date... The benefits of square footage and modern equipment are not to be ignored, however. Even the most sentimental of those who hung their hats informally on the bust of Hubert Howe Bancroft will admit the advantages to the new generations - who will henceforth write their dissertations in surroundings of chromium and fluorescent light.

The New Bancroft

FIRST OF ALL, it's cheerful. There's lots of color, and lots of light, and so much more space that it still seems almost unbelievable. The new Bancroft occupies three levels, and it is now possible for each department to have its own headquarters.

On the lower floor are the manuscript reading room, with its workroom and storage shelves; the elaborate new map cases; newspaper files; and stacks for rare books. There is also one room, still unfurnished, which will be used for the reading of microfilm. On the main floor are the general reference desk and reading room, more stacks, and workspaces for reference librarians, book catalogers, and those who take care of periodicals. Additional general stacks are on the mezzanine floor. Since the Bancroft houses over a mile and half of books [Ed. Note: Today this figure is estimated at more than seven miles], measured as they stand neatly upright on shelves, a great deal of stack space is necessary. Special fluorescent lighting, known as “slim-line” installations, provides continuous lines of light along the aisles. In the old Bancroft there were 48 tables available for individual assignment. Now there are 58 places, 24 of them in the general reading room, 15 in the manuscripts department, and 19 in the carrels on the lower floor. Much of the wooden furniture was designed by Mr. John Takeuchi to meet the special needs of the Library.

In order that friends of the Bancroft may know something of its “inner workings,” a brief description of each department is given below.

THE HANDSOMEST PART of the Library Annex is Bancroft's main reading room. Its turquoise walls, Venetian blinds, marbleized floors, and custom-built furniture of blond oak tempt all visitors to stay. A determined effort, however, is being made to reserve the individual desks and the unassigned tables for those actually using Bancroft materials. Air-conditioning and fluorescent light make research more comfortable. The stacks, a bright canary yellow, are well lighted, and the bottom shelves left vacant for present comfort and future expansion. Stair and elevator areas are a rich, ripe tomato red, for easy visibility among the mazes of yellow. Exhibit cases in the section open to the public would be desirable but have not thus far been provided.

Old-timers in the Library are quickly adjusting themselves to the new elegance, and many new comers are attracted to it. Circulation shows promise of almost being doubled what it was when Bancroft was located on the fourth floor. Supervision of the reading room is now possible at all times, due to the increased staff of pages (student assistants), convenient location of the catalogue, and installation of telephone and intercommunication system at the desk. A locked entrance to the stacks and manuscript reading room permits double checking of all who pass the inner portal. The staff is rapidly becoming adjusted to new routines and hopes to continue the same old friendly service.

Whether this is a step forward or in reverse is a question we must ask our readers to decide. At any rate, we are in motion.
Some Physical Characteristics

The Pahlavi Archive in its entirety includes 308 detached bullae and 82 bullae still attached to manuscripts. Of the 82 bullae found on manuscripts, 27 are on silk and 55 on leather documents. The majority of the bullae at Berkeley are made of buff to light gray tempered clay, resembling potter’s clay, but a few specimens are made from reddish clay, and a fraction from a coarse, friable clay with organic particles. The small bullae were seemingly rolled between the thumb and the index and middle fingers into a roughly cone-shaped lump, about 2 to 3 cm long and 1 to 2 cm wide.

Archival and Administrative Practices

Occasionally several documents, each bearing a bulla below the bottom line, are bound together at the top center of the page with an additional bulla with one or more seal impressions (ms #43). Carefully cut slits found at the top center of many unbound manuscripts from the Berkeley collection suggest that a bulla originally bound together other documents in a similar fashion.

Concluding Remarks

In offering a summary of the history and content of the Pahlavi Archive at Berkeley, I take this occasion to thank Philippe Gignoux, for his untiring effort toward the decipherment of the Pahlavi documents, and Rika Gyselen for her excellent work on the classification of the Archive’s seals. I wish to express my deep gratitude to The Bancroft Library staff for their interest in the housing the Pahlavi Archive and in planning for its conservation and future publication. We are particularly indebted to Director Charles B. Faulhaber and to Anthony Bliss, Curator of Rare Books and Literary Manuscripts, who were instrumental in negotiating the transfer of the Pahlavi documents to the Bancroft and who arranged for the digitization of the collection in preparation for a website publication. Dr. Todd Hickey, Assistant Research Papyrologist, Center for the Tebtunis Papyri at The Bancroft Library, offered invaluable assistance toward the classification and digitization of the collection. I am also grateful to my friends and colleagues, Martin Schwartz and Denise Schmandt-Besserat, Professor of Near Eastern Art, University of Texas, for their invaluable advice and inspiration on the preservation and study of the Archive from the very beginning of its history at Berkeley.

—Guitty Azarpay

Department of Near Eastern Studies
Towards Estimating the Demand for California Wine: 1870–1920

Economists define the demand for a good as the quantity of a good one is willing to buy at alternative prices, holding one’s income, tastes, and the price of related goods constant. To estimate an empirical demand model for California wine, we need actual data on wine quantities, wine prices, income of consumers, the price of substitutes or complements for California wine, and a proxy for tastes. In addition, since the price of wine and the quantity of wine are determined simultaneously, we have two unknowns in a single equation, i.e., we cannot know price without knowing quantity, and vice versa. This is called the identification problem. To solve it, we need to have instruments. Instruments are exogenous random shocks that are correlated with the price of wine, but are not otherwise related to the quantity demanded.

I became interested in estimating a demand model for California wine for the latter half of the 19th century because of the availability of two instruments: phylloxera and the sharpshooter. Phylloxera is a root louse that erodes the productivity of certain vines. Phylloxera was first observed in California at Sonoma in 1873. Other things remaining equal, the effect of phylloxera is to reduce the supply of grapes and thus raise the price of wine. The sharpshooter eats succulent plant tissue; thus, it destroys a vine quickly. The sharpshooter struck Southern California vineyards in 1884, and by the mid 1890s it had destroyed almost 25,000 acres of vines. From the 1860s through the early 1880s, Southern California had produced more wine grapes than Northern California.

On my first trip to The Bancroft Library last September, I learned that having good instruments was not, by itself, a sufficient condition for completing the research. While I was checking in, the receptionist asked what I was searching for, and I told her California consumer wine prices from 1850 to 1900. She found only three sources of wine prices, and all were from hotel restaurant wine lists.

I learned that week that almost all California wine from the 1850s through 1906 was made, aged, blended, and bottled in San Francisco near the Embarcadero. Grapes or wine were shipped by boat or, later, rail from vineyards or wineries to the city. With the exception of Inglenook, wineries did not bottle their wine at their winery until 1944. At that time, the defense department took over all rail and water transportation capacity in the Bay Area to fight World War II. For the most part, before 1944 consumers in the city or the wine country brought jugs to the wineries and their jugs were filled. The upshot of this crude distribution system to the consumer is a dearth of price data for estimating a demand model for California wine.

California has shipped the majority of its wine production out of state since the 1860s, and price and quantity data are available on shipments by sea and rail; thus, wholesale prices are readily available. Starting in 1890, the Pacific Wine & Spirits Review (PWSR) began publishing retail prices of California and French wines in San Francisco outlets. Articles in PWSR explain the relationship between wholesale and retail prices so we can construct a consistent set of prices from 1890 to 1920. Published reports from the California State Board of Agriculture provide production levels of wine from 1850 to 1923.

In 1906, the San Francisco earthquake and resultant fires that lasted three days destroyed most of the large wineries in the city. In addition, 25 million gallons of wine were lost. The earthquake is clearly another instrument that will help us estimate the demand curve. In addition to price, our demand curve will include the price of substitutes (French wine) and income changes in New York, New Orleans, and California, respectively.

By the end of 2003, I will have preliminary estimates of the determinants of the demand for California wine. I would like to thank the staff at Bancroft for their help and guidance.

—Douglas Brown
Collecting Baedeker Travel Guides

Baedeker travel guides—officially “handbooks for tourists”—have so entrenched themselves that dictionaries now carry the word “Baedeker” as the generic term for a travel guide. Baedeker guides have been recognized as being authoritative, well written, and well designed, featuring superb maps and being of uniform and convenient size. They are readily identified by their standard red covers. Collectively, they constitute a graspable, ordered universe—a very large “set.” Their publication in classic form stretched from the 1830s to the beginning of World War II. They have turned out to be eminently collectible. My foray into Baedeker collecting is described below.

But first, some further background about these “handbooks” may be helpful.

Karl Baedeker (1801-1859) took over his father’s publishing business in Coblenz, Germany. A handbook for parts of northern Europe was published by the British firm, John Murray, in 1836. One story is that Karl Baedeker was impressed with these red-covered Murray guidebooks brought by British tourists, and he decided to compete. The Baedeker firm published its first handbook, Rheinlande, in German in, we think, 1839. Baedeker handbooks in French date from 1846; Baedeker handbooks in English date from 1861. There were 31 different English-language series, with new editions periodically for each series.

The Baedeker firm moved their travel publishing to Leipzig in 1872. Production was interrupted during World War II, although Baedeker was commandeered into producing a special travel guide to Occupied Poland for German troops entitled Generalgouvernement. A further World War II story, perhaps apocryphal, is that the invasion of Norway came on such short notice that German military officers depended on the Baedeker for Scandinavian countries and had to round up copies in a hurry from book stores or other sources. Allied bombing destroyed the Leipzig Baedeker plant and its files, map plates, and equipment. That ended any prospects of continued production of the traditional Baedekers. The later postwar Baedekers were adapted for auto travel and represented distinctly new and different guidebooks.

The classic Baedeker handbooks established very high standards for detailed, accurate, and informative content and for fine maps. They must have served contemporary travelers well. They now provide valuable historic information about the regions and the cities they covered and inform us about travel patterns during those earlier years. While other Baedeker staff no doubt collected the information, wrote up the texts, and prepared the maps for the very early handbooks, Karl Baedeker himself is said to have sometimes traveled incognito to doublecheck a handbook’s accuracy.

My best recollection is that I started collecting Baedeker “Handbooks for Tourists” while in Britain during a sabbatical leave, probably in the 1970s. My wife and I enjoyed browsing used bookstores and occasionally taking in book...
fairs, and somehow Baedekers came to intrigue me. I kept at this periodically during the 1980s after retiring and picked up additional Baedekers here in the U. S. and during some further visits to Britain.

As I recall, at least the more common Baedekers could be found at reasonable prices during much of my collecting period. Condition, however, was a constant problem. Used Baedekers often reflected heavy use. The foldout maps, in particular, might have been sloppily refolded and be dog-eared around the edges. Maps consigned to pockets might have been lost. Owners sometimes marked up their guidebooks. Dust jackets were often missing or, if present, in very poor shape. So obtaining Baedekers in fine condition was a challenge and, if found, they usually sold at a premium.

It took a while to catch on to which editions were the scarce ones. I gradually located or put together lists and indications of scarcity. But I don’t believe I ever had an authoritative complete catalog providing the relative monetary values of various titles and editions.

I collected mainly English-language guides, but had some German- and French-language guides as well. I managed to obtain a few relatively scarce Baedekers including good editions for Russia and Egypt. But I don’t believe I ever owned any of the very earliest Baedekers.

One of my reliable early sources in Britain was a young dealer termed “the school boy” by fellow dealers at the London book fairs where he sold books. Indeed, during school hours his grandmother tended his booth for him, and I would sometimes buy from her. That “school boy” was Bernard Shapero who was to become a well-known London dealer and a leading specialist on Baedeker travel guides. When in 1989 I decided to give up the collection, I sold the bulk of it, quite appropriately, back to Shapero at a San Francisco International Book Fair. Recently, a small group of remaining Baedeker guides, some John Murray guides, and several early British “almanacks” made their way to The Bancroft Library.

Each collector develops and operates within his own style. My style, I’d say, was to be happy with representative examples while also building a solid backup of reference materials (histories, lists, catalogs, etc.) that provided a comprehensive grasp of the universe being collected. Lacking the money and the inclination to purchase the rarest (and most expensive) examples, I was happy to purchase what we could afford. This still permitted me to enjoy the collecting and to have the enormous satisfaction that comes with fitting one’s collected items into a meaningful gestalt.

—Donald L. Foley

On Saturday April 19, 2003, members and guests attended the 56th annual meeting of The Friends of the Bancroft Library in the Heller Reading Room. On a perfect Berkeley afternoon, the Friends gathered to celebrate a number of accomplishments and honor a select group of award winners.

The day's events began with refreshments and a viewing of the current exhibition, "Then and Now: Student Photographs of the Berkeley Campus," a photographic display that documents campus life from the late 1800s to today. The myriad images included views of fraternity life from yesteryear and statements of contemporary culture and politics, as exemplified in a photo of a young woman leaning by Sather Gate with her lip ring and an environmentally friendly coffee mug.

Following the luncheon, Charles Faulhaber, the James D. Hart Director of The Bancroft Library, and Tom Woodhouse, Chair of the Friends of The Bancroft Library, convened the business meeting. In his report, Charles Faulhaber acknowledged the support and hard work of many members of the Friends and highlighted a few Bancroft acquisitions and activities during the past year. He also outlined the plans to renovate and enhance the Doe Library Annex, home to The Bancroft Library, and the fundraising effort needed for this crucial project.

The presentation of the Hill-Shumate Prize, for undergraduate student book collecting, followed. Bill Brown, Associate Director for Public Services, presented cash awards to Cal students Danielle Peterson (first place), for her collection relating to the poet, John Ashbery; Anabel Odisho (second place), for his collection of Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology books; and, in absentia, to Mai Der Vang (third place) for her books on the Hmong culture of Southeast Asia.

The meeting concluded with the presentation of the sixth Hubert Howe Bancroft Award, to noted bookseller and scholar Bernard M. Rosenthal. This year's recipient, known as “Barney” to
his many friends, was recognized for his distinguished career as a bookseller, for his continuing support of The Bancroft Library, and for his years of meritorious service to the Friends. Barney reminisced about his long and storied career as a bookseller and scholar, and recalled many amusing anecdotes. With predictable modesty, Barney minimized his many contributions to Bancroft and to the Friends, but those in attendance enjoyed the opportunity to acknowledge his decades of service to both organizations.

Tom Woodhouse delivered the Treasurer’s Report, in the absence of Peter Frazier, and Chair of the Nominating Committee John Briscoe introduced the new slate of candidates and acknowledged outgoing council members.


—Bill Brown
Louis Leakey was born 100 years ago this fall, and to mark the centennial, the Regional Oral History Office has joined with the Leakey Foundation, based in San Francisco, and National Geographic science writer, Virginia Morell, to interview important paleoanthropologists and ape behavior scientists who knew and worked with Louis Leakey and his wife, Mary, during his life.

The group of 16 international scientific luminaries includes Jane Goodall, Louis’s son Richard Leakey, Kimoya Kimeu, Phillip Tobias, Irv Devore, and UC Berkeley’s Garnis Curtis, the geochronologist who dated the Leakeys’ hominid fossils with a new technique that pushed back the origins of humankind from 600,000 to 1.75 million years. Interviewer, Virginia Morell, is the author of Ancestral Passions, a biography of the Leakey family which was recognized by the New York Times as one of 1995’s notable books.

The Leakey Foundation sponsored this series of interviews to coincide with a celebration of Louis Leakey’s centenary celebration, October 10-11, 2003, which will take place in collaboration with The Field Museum of Chicago. This exceptional gathering of paleoanthropology’s leading scientists will trace the trajectory of the Leakey legacy up to the present day. A pioneer in the new science of ancient hominid fossils, Louis Leakey was an often controversial figure. However, he set in motion the study of early hominid fossils, asserted that the human species came out of Africa, and encouraged the study of apes which has yielded much information about the differences and similarities between homo sapiens and their closest living relatives.

The recorded interviews have taken place from Europe to South Africa, Kenya and Tanzania, as well as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Arizona, and Massachusetts. Many stories and insights have already been collected.

Virginia Morrell explains one interview: “Mary Smith was Louis and Mary Leakey’s editor at National Geographic Magazine. She recounts how Louis always brought some bit of fossil or stone tool (usually a cast) to his annual meetings with the magazine and the National Geographic Society’s research committee. ‘He always had one tucked away in his pocket. And at some point during the meeting, he’d pull it out, wrapped in a dirty handkerchief.’ She recalled how he would pass it around the room like a kid with a new toy, all the while telling the committee members how this new broken bit of bone was going to ‘overturn everyone’s ideas’ about human origins.

‘He loved doing that and it never worried him that he might be wrong or that what he said in the past was wrong. And he’d dismiss with a wave of his hand anyone who raised any objections or concerns.’ Others have mentioned this about him as well, and I think it’s one of Louis’s attributes that made him so important to the field. He was never held back by his old ideas, always ready to embrace something new, and did not worry that others would criticize him for this.”

David Pilbeam made an important observation: “David suggested that Louis was ‘probably the first paleoanthropologist’ —the first scientist to embody all of the fields of research (anthropology, archaeology, geology, primatology, animal behavior, evolutionary biology, etc.) that are now key to the study of human origins. These are all separate fields, but a paleoanthropologist needs to be familiar with aspects of all of them—or needs to be able to bring together a team of scientists encompassing these disparate subjects.”

Morell’s interviews will be available to the public through the Regional Oral History Office at the University of California at Berkeley in 2004.

—Camilla Smith
MARK TWAIN PAPERS

“A beautiful dream and vividly real”
New Mark Twain Notebook, Letters, and Other Items

On Sunday, 24 September 1905, more than a year after the death of his wife of nearly 35 years, Olivia (“Livy”), Samuel Clemens recorded in his little notebook a dream he had that morning: “At 8 a. m. a beautiful dream & vividly real. Livy. Conversation of 2 or 3 minutes. I said several times, ‘Then it was only a dream, only a dream;’ she did not seem to understand what I meant.” The little “Excelsior Diary” for 1905 was the only Mark Twain notebook known to be in private hands and until now its contents were unknown to the editors of the Mark Twain Papers. It is just one of the items acquired by The Bancroft Library at the recent auction of the collection of Nick Karanovich at Sotheby’s, New York.

Among hundreds of items, the Karanovich collection contained nearly two score manuscript letters and documents and another two score books from Mark Twain’s library previously unknown to the Mark Twain Papers (or known only through listings in catalogs for previous auctions). When the final hammer fell at Sotheby’s, a good many of these items belonged to The Bancroft Library, thanks to the timely generosity of Friends of the Bancroft and Mark Twain Luncheon Club members Ben Shapell, Kimo Campbell, Robert Middelkauff, and Robert Corbett, as well as the Margaret I. and Augusta M. Higginson Fund, the Joseph Z. and Hatherly B. Todd Fund, and the James D. Hart Memorial Fund. In addition to the notebook, the new acquisitions include nine letters by Clemens; 17 letters by other correspondents (among them Olivia L. Clemens, Clemens’s daughter Clara, his lecture agent James Redpath, and his biographer, Albert Bigelow Paine); two contemporary documents; a first edition of The Innocents Abroad, a rare sales prospectus, and a still rarer publisher’s advertising pamphlet for Innocents; and a book from Clemens’s library, David Augustin de Bruey’s L’Avocat Patelin (London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1905), given him by Samuel F. G. Whitaker, the translator, and heavily annotated by Clemens.

The letters show Clemens in a variety of circumstances and moods. An undated letter by J. H. (“Jack”) Hoagland, the landlord of Clemens’s rooming house in Washington, D.C., in 1868, gives a firsthand look at some of Clemens’s friendships of the time. Hoagland reports a breakfast conversation between Sam Clemens and fellow newspaper reporter John Henry Riley: “He told Riley that he would write his obituary some day—Riley said he would write his Son of obituary—thus they had it.”

A letter of 12 March 1893 from Clemens in Settignano, Italy, to his daughter Clara (“Ben”) in Berlin, about the advent of good weather and the impending loss of a beloved servant, attests to the warm and affectionate relationship they shared: “Ben, dear, the summer has arrived. The sun is gratefully hot & the song-birds keep up a harmonious riot in the trees the other side of the fence. A couple of nightingales sing an hour or two, at dawn, close to the house. Jean keeps the place wealthy in wild flowers. The almond trees are in bloom, but to me it is the same as peach-bloom. . . . Bettchen is to be lost to Mamma I am afraid; & the whole house, even to the horses, grieve about it. The old mother is sick & wants her—is homesick for her, too, I guess. Betty is not as effective as some people, but amply makes up for it with a sweetness of spirit which is rare in heaven & unknown in hell: the other place. . . . Take good care of yourself sweetheart, & don’t forget who loves you—which is Papa.” These are just a small sample of the new additions to the collection.

—Victor Fischer
Mark Twain Project

Clemens in 1904, Mark Twain Papers, The Bancroft Library.
Bancroft Partners with Zazzle.com

Now everyone can enjoy images from Bancroft’s fabulous pictorial collections at home and help fund the Bancroft collections at the same time. The Bancroft Library recently formed a partnership with Zazzle.com, a Web-based business that reproduces images “on demand” for greeting cards, note cards, posters, T-shirts, and sweatshirts. The Bancroft Library entered into this partnership because Zazzle.com offers a unique opportunity to maximize mainstream public awareness of Bancroft’s outstanding collections and to generate revenue.

Zazzle.com delivers the vast reach of e-commerce on the Internet to The Bancroft Library. Partnering with a Web-based for-profit company is unusual for a library, but The Bancroft Library while very traditional is at the cutting edge of today’s technology. Recognizing the value of global Web traffic, other institutions such as the California State Library, the Hoover Institution, and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco have followed Bancroft’s example by becoming partners with Zazzle.com.

Zazzle.com’s proprietary software affords The Bancroft Library complete control over which images are offered and how they are marketed. Currently over 200 digitized images are licensed for use. The Bancroft Library receives a percentage of each sale without the burden of manufacturing, selling, handling, or providing service. Zazzle.com was chosen because of their state-of-the-art reproduction techniques, product quality, 24-hour shipment time, and exemplary track record.

Bancrofiana readers may access The Bancroft Library’s individual “Collections Gallery” at Zazzle.com by employing this link: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/friends/zazzle.html. Using this link rather than proceeding directly to Zazzle allows The Bancroft Library to receive a higher royalty with no additional cost to the purchaser. It should be noted that Zazzle is a volume business, thus, prices are low for the quality provided. Additionally, images may be printed on seven different kinds of paper or canvas in almost any size desired from very small to as large as 52” by 78”. Reproductions of rare or historic images using high-end archival materials are excellently suited for framing. Additionally, the purchaser is not limited to only Bancroft images or those of other Special Collections. Customers can upload personal images; anything from family pictures to simple drawings. Once uploaded, a customer can design his own shirt, card, or poster. If the purchaser follows the link above, The Bancroft Library also will earn income on these sales.

The Bancroft Library welcomes your comments as potential consumers. Any suggestions to improve or to enhance the “Collections Gallery” at Zazzle will be appreciated. The Bancroft Library will be adding more images over time, but if there are images currently not available, let us know and they can be added to the list. Please contact us at bancref@library.berkeley.edu. We hope you will enjoy browsing Bancroft’s “Collections Gallery” at Zazzle.com.

—Connie Loarie
Chair, Friends Publications Committee

William T. Ranney. The Trapper’s Last Shot. This oil painting on canvas depicts a man on horseback, wearing buckskin clothing and holding a rifle, as he pauses to look over his left shoulder. Two Indians on horseback appear as faint figures to the left. This image, and many others are available for order as notecards and posters, with varying sizes and paper quality options.
Irving Stone’s Lust for Learning

The Birth of a Biographical Novel

Paris, 1926. Irving Stone, recently graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, was taken by a friend to an exhibition of works by an obscure Dutch painter named Vincent van Gogh. The vibrant canvases of Vincent van Gogh transfixed the young writer who was spending 15 months in Paris, Antibes, and Florence trying to master the art and craft of the playwright. Upon his return to New York, he became obsessed by the story of van Gogh and determined to write the artist’s story. In order to fund a return trip to Europe to study van Gogh, Stone turned to crime fiction, writing six murder stories in six days. Five of them sold and Stone had enough money to follow Vincent’s trail. After six months of research, and another six months of writing, Stone believed his manuscript, a biographical novel entitled Lust for Life, was ready for publication. Over the next three years, 17 different publishers rejected it.

Meanwhile, Stone was still trying to make a living in the theater. While directing a play, he met a young amateur actress named Jean Factor. They began dating and, since she had previously been a private secretary, Stone gave her the manuscript to edit. She cut it by ten per cent and in January 1934, on the 18th try, it was accepted for publication. The publisher’s advance paid for Irving and Jean’s honeymoon, and the book came out to critical and popular acclaim that September.

The Development of a Writer

Irving Stone was born in San Francisco on July 14, 1903, the son of Charles and Pauline (Rosenberg) Tannenbaum. His parents divorced when he was seven years old, and he legally changed his last name to housing the Irving Stone Collection, Jean Stone’s library of her husband’s works. The principal feature of the room, located on the second floor of Bancroft, is The Stone Wall, which is populated with nearly 500 editions and translations of Stone’s books, along with a portion of his impressive research library.

This year, in addition to being the centennial of Stone’s birth and the 70th anniversary of the publication of his first book, Pageant of Youth (a fictional account of Stone’s days as an undergraduate), marks the completion of the cataloging of the Irving Stone Collection. Not only can visitors to the Stone Room view the full range of Stone’s literary output, but also all of the books shelved on The Stone Wall and his entire research collection may now be located in the library catalogs of the University of California.

The Friends of The Bancroft Library joined with KQED Radio (FM 88.5) to record and broadcast four lectures on the history of California. Noted historians James J. Rawls and J.S. Holiday each delivered two lectures to audiences gathered at The Bancroft Library. The presentations were recorded by KQED Radio and broadcast this summer. The four lectures built upon important collections housed at The Bancroft Library and reflect the wide scope and unique content of our holdings.

An Entrepreneurial Genius Recounting the Career of Henry J. Kaiser as an Outstanding Example of California’s Culture of Risk-Taking and Innovation

(Holiday), August 14, 2003

This presentation recalled the daring, innovative engineering methods of Henry J. Kaiser and his major role in constructing the massive projects that reshaped California and the West including Hoover and Parker dams on the Colorado River; the San Francisco Bay Bridge; and the Bonneville, Grand Coulee, and Shasta dams. During World War II, Kaiser’s shipyards launched more cargo ships than any such enterprise in history—in 1943 one “Liberty Ship” every ten hours. After the war, he challenged Detroit with his automobile production, and his health care program—Kaiser Permanente—pioneered prepaid medical insurance, a forecast for modern HMO’s.

Kick out the Southern Pacific Recounting Hiram Johnson’s Campaign for Governor and the Long Term Impact of Reforms Achieved Under His Leadership

(Rawls), August 21, 2003

This lecture followed Hiram Johnson’s 1910 campaign for Governor of California and centered on his condemnation of the entrenched power of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Johnson’s surprising victory and dynamic leadership produced an astonishing array of reforms, described by Theodore Roosevelt as “the most comprehensive program of constructive legislation ever passed at one session of any American legislature.” Not least among his legacies has been the role of the initiative as a means for voters to propose statutes and even constitutional amendments, a reform that remains a powerful influence in modern California politics.

Water Imperialism, California’s Great Thirst: A Glance at the Contentious History of California Water

(Rawls), August 7, 2003

This lecture examined the story of California’s development and use of its water resources, including how giant construction projects, conceived by daring, innovative engineers (backed by public support) created water delivery systems for the state’s urban and agricultural growth: the Owens Valley aqueduct for Los Angeles, 1908-1913; the Hetch Hetchy aqueduct for San Francisco 1913-1929; the Colorado River aqueduct for Southern California, 1922-1935; and the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, 1933-1960s.

A Library for California: Describing The Bancroft Library From Its Origins with Hubert Howe Bancroft to the Present

(Holiday), August 28, 2003

This talk traced the career of Hubert Howe Bancroft, following his success as a pioneer publisher-bookseller in San Francisco. In 1859 Bancroft began collecting books, journals, maps, and documents that recorded the history of California and the western states and territories. By 1905, when he sold his library to the University of California, Bancroft’s astonishing collection—including government and church archives—encompassed the region from Alaska to Panama. During the almost 100 years since that fortunate purchase, The Bancroft Library has expanded in size and focus to become not only the foremost resource for the study of California and Western American history, but as well one of the greatest research libraries in the world—thanks to the imaginative, often risk-taking leadership of its four Directors. Yes, only four in nearly 100 years, 1905-2005: Herbert E. Bolton, George P. Hammond, James D. Hart, and the present Director, Charles B. Faulhaber.
“Old books are cool,” remarked one undergraduate math major after examining part of Bancroft’s collection of rare editions of Euclid. She was one of some 30 students who studied “History of Mathematics” (Math 160) with Professor Robin Hartshorne last spring.

The course covered the origins of algebra, geometry, analytic geometry, and calculus from ancient times through the 19th century. It is generally regarded as one of the department’s more rigorous classes because it requires students to read some Greek or Latin and understand math as Classical and Renaissance mathematicians practiced it.

In keeping with this objective, Hartshorne eschews modern textbooks and requires, instead, that his students study early math from the historical texts themselves.

For one of the class exercises, Hartshorne assigned each of his students a different edition of Euclid’s *Elements of Geometry*, the landmark book in which he invented geometry and the axiomatic method of instruction. Still relevant to the curriculum, the *Elements* may well be the earliest textbook in use today.

Bancroft was ideal for the assignment because the history of science and technology collection holds more than 50 rare Euclid editions. These include a unique manuscript copy, beautifully inscribed and illustrated on lambskin (“vellum”) in Italy about 1460, and two copies of the first printed edition of Euclid, which was published by Erhard Ratdolt in Venice in 1482. In addition, the collections include 15 editions from the 16th century, 13 from the 17th century, and 13 from the 18th century.

Elia Van Lith, a senior math major who plans a career in librarianship, was especially excited about the Bancroft exercise.

“Usually the class is taught from a modern textbook in a classroom,” she remarked. “What I loved about Prof. Hartshorne’s approach was his use of the original texts and The Bancroft Library. Reading the original editions in the austere, almost monastic, reading room gave my classmates and me an indescribable sense of the time in which these important mathematical discoveries were made. Holding these beautiful old objects, I could see and feel the historicity of mathematics.”

Prof. Hartshorne, a collector of rare Euclid editions himself, readily concurred with his students’ enthusiasm. “We are indeed fortunate to have such an excellent collection of early mathematical texts at Bancroft. Many of the students had never set eyes on a really old book before, and I think for many it was a transformative experience.”

Some of the students made another important discovery when they realized that the edition they were studying didn’t match the catalog record. They reported the error, and the record has been corrected, to the benefit of the Library and future scholars.

—David Farrell
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EXHIBITS

Through November 21
Toward a Sustainable Earth: Issues, Challenges, and Leadership in the Environmental Movement

The exhibition documents a wide range of issues relating to conservation of the environment from the 19th century to the present. Illustrated with materials from several collections in The Bancroft Library, the exhibition explores the preservation of the American wilderness and the use of water resources.

December 6 –March 23, 2004
Gifts to The Bancroft Library
Selections from recent gifts and acquisitions include rare books, manuscripts, photographs, illustrations, letters, diaries, and other documents and publications acquired to support the teaching and research interests of UC faculty and students.

ROUNDTABLES

An open, informal discussion group, Bancroft Roundtables feature presentations by Bancroft staff and scholars. All sessions are held in the Lewis-Latimer Room of The Faculty Club at noon on the third Thursday of the month.

September 18
Dulcinea Lara, Bancroft Fellow 'Culture of Conquest’ Cast in Bronze: Exploring the Politics of Cultural Representation and Identity Formation in New Mexico

October 16
Susan Snyder, The Bancroft Library Bear in Mind: The California Grizzly

November 20
Rose Marie Beebe, Professor, Santa Clara University Recovering Female Voices and Perspectives