



Hubert H. Bancroft

BANCROFTIANA

The Rare Books Collection Turns 50

It was a long and difficult birth. UC Berkeley was one of the last major American university libraries to establish a rare book department. Although there was some recognition that the library had “rare books,” the library administration was loath to do anything about it. The first University Librarian, Joseph C. Rowell, had no interest in them, but by 1930, the second University Librarian, Harold Leupp launched plans for a “treasure room” in the Main Library. Leupp consulted with sister institutions around the country to learn what they were doing with rare books. He learned, perhaps to his relief, that many other libraries were in the same quandary. It was not as if the University didn’t have any rare books. The Doe Library had had a Case R (rare) and a Case B (medium rare) for some years. Leupp established the “treasure room” in 1931 to incorporate Case R and some other material. Christine Price was the librarian overseeing the room, but it could in no way be considered a rare book department; it was more like protective custody. There was faculty interest in establishing a viable rare book department. James D. Hart, Professor of English, and Frederic J. Mosher, Professor of Library Science, were especially active advocates. In 1948, University Librarian Donald Coney appointed the Special Committee on Rare Book Policy. The committee’s report stated that “the Library has accumulated, without sound policy and often without design, a collection of rare books housed in Cases B and R and presumably has many unrecognized in the general stacks,” and concluded “the Committee is of the

opinion that this Library should give attention to the collecting of rare books and manuscripts for scholarly purposes.” Coney was beginning to come around: he wrote “While we have no intention of undertaking the development of a large and outstanding rare book collection, we obviously have reached the time when we must give the rare materials we have special attention and create a situation which will be favorable to the attraction of rare gifts.” The committee’s recommendation led to the establishing of the Rare Book Department in the Main Library in 1954 with Berkeley Library School graduate Kenneth J. Carpenter as its first head.

The department limped along through the 1950s and 1960s with insufficient staff, space, and funding. The core of the collection was formed by gifts of Phoebe Hearst, the John Henry Nash Library (acquired 1945), gifts of Albert M. Bender, the Henry Morse Stephens’ Kipling Collection, the Tebtunis Papyri, the James K. Moffitt gift, the Kofoid gift, and a miscellany of other donations and bequests. Some effort was also made to pull rare and valuable items out of the circulating collections.

Carpenter left Berkeley in 1962, apparently disappointed by the Main Library’s lack of support for the Rare Book Department (for example, the student assistance budget for 1961-62 was cut to zero).

By 1966, it was apparent that the Rare Book Department was not meeting expectations. In its 1965-66 Report, the Academic Senate Library Committee noted, “The Rare Books Department of the Berkeley campus library is deteriorating as an effective agency for preserving, increasing, and facilitating the use of the collections of materials it holds.” University Librarian James Skipper asked Her-

Continued on page 3



James D. Hart, Kenneth Carpenter, and Donald Coney (l. to r.) in the Rare Book Room in 1955 admire the library’s two-millionth book, the Shakespeare first folio of 1623.



From the Director

Henry Morse Stephens

thousand. He generously offered them to his guests; no one ever smoked more than one.

At Berkeley Stephens taught modern European history. He was a spell-binding lecturer, and, in private, a sparkling conversationalist. His colleague Jacob Bowman (1875-1968), describes Stephens thus: "He was slightly under average height, slightly over weight, wore a full beard and mustache, had a very pleasant voice and a very pleasant and engaging manner. Paul, his valet [how times have changed!], said that he had to tell Stephens when to buy a new suit or pair of shoes. . . . Stephens' marked ability seems to have been his great ability to make friends—his affability, friendliness, and conversational interests, readiness to talk informally or formally to individuals and groups. . . . Stephens' popularity was not only with the individual students but also with them collectively. At their request he gave 'pep' talks at their game rallies in the Greek Theater, standing on a raised platform with a student holding his hand for steadiness on the narrow platform."



We do not know when Stephens began actively to pursue the acquisition of The Bancroft Library nor the arguments he used to persuade Wheeler and the Regents to buy it. We do have some record of Stephens' feelings about the library. He is unstinting in his praise:

"Mr. Bancroft's greatest characteristic as a collector was that he had imagina-

tion. He swept in with his dragnet all sorts of stuff—business directories, diaries, handbills, account books. He had the imagination even to see the importance of ship's logs and he took these in. He sent a man to Alaska for all the records of the early fur companies. As a result we have more of these than there are at St. Petersburg. . . . There are five thousand volumes of newspapers, many of them country newspapers at that, many of which exist alone in this collection. There is a magnificent pile of briefs in Spanish land cases; an extraordinary collection of records of the old Missions. We can trace the pious Father Serra, founder of missions, step by step on his journeys. We have also the entire records of the old Presidio in San Francisco; large masses of correspondence of old Spanish families; the actual minutes of the Vigilance Committees, which are under lock and key and not to be opened until all the participants have passed away."

Stephens early on pointed out Bancroft's pedagogical value: "All teachers of history away from the great centres of historical collections realize the impossibility of adequately training their students. They can give them books to read; they can even give them source books; they can occasionally show them some original documents; but they can practically never give them the use of such an amount of diversified material as shall illustrate the various sorts of historical material that the student of history should be able to understand."

Stephens died of a heart attack while taking the California Street cable car down to the Ferry Building after attending Phoebe Apperson Hearst's funeral in the still-unfinished Grace Cathedral. He left all of his property to the university, including his library of over 12,000 volumes, the highlights of which were his Omar Khayyam and Kipling collections, the nucleus of those in Bancroft today.

Charles B. Faulhaber

—Charles B. Faulhaber
The James D. Hart Director
The Bancroft Library

As we celebrate the centennial of The Bancroft Library, it is fitting that we also commemorate the crucial role that Henry Morse Stephens (1857-1919) played in its acquisitions. Stephens was one of the great figures on the Berkeley campus during the presidency of Benjamin Ide Wheeler. In fact, one of Wheeler's first acts after he became President in 1899 was to bring Stephens, his former Cornell colleague, to Berkeley, first to teach summer school in 1900 and then in 1902 as professor of history and director of University Extension.

Born of an Anglo-Indian army family, Stephens studied modern history at Oxford's Balliol College, taking a First in 1880, and then stayed on as a tutor while he completed *A History of the French Revolution*. He also turned his hand to journalism and the preparation of hundreds of articles for the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and the *Dictionary of National Biography*. In 1887 he became librarian of the Leeds Library in Yorkshire, an experience that served him in good stead when he supervised The Bancroft Library.

In 1894 Stephens was offered a professorship at Cornell. He brought with him an immense baggage of knowledge and little else beyond his own tin bathtub, three and one-half feet in diameter and six inches deep. "Some buckets of cold water and a huge sponge completed the preparations for his morning 'tub'." As a child Stephens had read Bret Hart's poems and "first felt a passion for California." Thus he was primed to accept when Wheeler offered him a position at Berkeley. He lived in the brand-new Faculty Club and, as chair of the Department of History, held departmental meetings there. He was never without an Owl cigar, which he bought by the

RARE BOOKS COLLECTION

Continued from page 1

man Liebert of Yale's Beinecke Library to survey the situation and make recommendations. The Liebert Report (February 1969) recommended the merging of the department with The Bancroft Library. Skipper's written comments are clear: "Because of the strong intellectual and bibliographic relationships between the Bancroft Library and the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, the two would be mutually strengthened by an appropriate physical and administrative relationship." James D. Hart, Professor of English, former Vice Chancellor, and the Chair of the 1948 Special Committee, also reacted positively to the Liebert report. By midyear 1969, Hart was named the new director of Bancroft/Rare Books with an official starting date of January 1, 1970.

The hopes of Skipper and Hart were realized in the following years. The University's commitment to a rare book program encouraged gifts, and new endowments for collections were established both for Bancroft and for rare books. Usage of the collection increased markedly. By mid-1980s we were fully engaged in converting the catalogues into machine-readable form. There was a downside to being among the first rare book libraries to put its catalog online. A freshman came into Bancroft one day and wanted to see the Shakespeare first folio. I asked him why and he replied, "I looked it up on the computer. It's the only copy of *Hamlet* in the library."

From pharaohs to beatniks, The Bancroft Library's rare book collection presents research opportunities spanning 3,000 years of written records. An oft-repeated concern of former University Librarians was that collecting rare books in a public university was irresponsible. Rare Books policy and practice, however, is to tie acquisitions to the academic programs of the University. Major purchases are targeted at specific departments, programs, or faculty members. I call this "laying track in front of the scholarly locomotive."

—Anthony Bliss

Curator, Rare Books and Literary Manuscripts

A TALE OF TWO IMAGES

The depth of the collections held at The Bancroft Library sometimes even surprises those of us that work here. My father, Richard Cushing, died during the summer of 2004, and I began the tedious and delightful task of processing his personal documents. In one of his scrapbooks was a picture he had taken of a student antiwar demonstration on the Berkeley campus, with a fiery orator, a crowd, and signs calling for "Schools not battleships" and "Abolish ROTC." This would normally be an unremarkable sight at Berkeley, except that the date was 1935—the photo taken while he was an undergraduate here. Prominently visible in the photograph is an official sign declaring "University of California Campus Limits," a vivid reminder of the constraints on campus activism before the flowering of the Free Speech Movement. Less prominent was a poster affixed to the front of the rickety wooden podium, with the words "Strike Against War" and an image of a strident activist. Of all the placards evident, this was the only one with a graphic image, and as a poster historian it captured my attention immediately. I had never seen it mentioned before, and assumed I'd probably never know what the whole image looked like.

Several months later I was refiling posters from a presentation using



Mexico's Taller de Gráfica Popular collection, and I glanced at a nearby portfolio labeled "Broadside and pamphlets distributed at Sather Gate, 1935-1950." That certainly caught my eye, so I opened it up. Nested among the handful of flyers from the Communist Party and the Bay Area Transportation Union was a magnificent copy of the "Strike Against War" poster. To compound this unusual coincidence, it turned out that this particular portfolio had escaped retrospective conversion when library records went digital and did not exist in the on-line catalog. Serendipity, and the rich collection of The Bancroft Library, conspired that day to reveal a unique artifact of the visual history of the U.S. peace movement.

—Lincoln Cushing
Cataloger, Bancroft Library



THE BANCROFT LIBRARY AT 100

A Celebration 1906–2006

Hubert Howe Bancroft's library on Valencia Street in San Francisco was the only library of any note that did not burn to the ground in the days following the earthquake and fire of April 18, 1906. Although the University of California purchased Bancroft's library in 1905, it was not until early May 1906 that its contents were ferried across the bay to Berkeley. The purchase of The Bancroft Library signaled the beginning of the University as a research institution. At that time, The Bancroft Library consisted of the Western and Latin Americana collections, which to this day are its core collections. One hundred years later Bancroft is a far more complex institution, which also encompasses the Rare Books Collection of the campus, University Archives, the Mark Twain Project, the History of Science and Technology Collection, the Pictorial Collection, the Regional Oral History Office, and the Center for the Tebtunis Papyri.

The Bancroft Library Centennial celebrates not only the survival of the core collections and their arrival on campus, but also Bancroft's evolution as the most accessible and busiest special

collections library in the country. Two major events are planned to mark our centennial year, an exhibition at the UC Berkeley Art Museum, which will open on Saturday, February 11, 2006, and run through December 10, 2006, and a symposium, which will be held concurrently with the opening of the exhibition.

The challenge we have set for ourselves is to create an exhibition that highlights some of Bancroft's treasures and incorporates all the components of the Bancroft collections into a coherent exhibition that not only articulates the library's distinguished past but also envisions its future.

The most difficult but also the most rewarding part of any exhibition is the selection process. How to choose from the cornucopia that is Bancroft? To begin with, the curators drew up lists of manuscripts, books, maps, photographs, paintings, objects, and rarities that they thought should be included in the exhibition. The initial lists were exhaustive, the constraints of time and space daunting.

While discussions regarding the Centennial had been underway for about two years, our collective focus

during this period was on the Summer 2005 move out of the Doe Annex and its renovation. And although the choice of the University Art Museum as the exhibition venue seemed perfectly appropriate to us, museum exhibitions are often planned and gallery spaces scheduled five years in advance. The timing on both fronts was not optimal. Gallery space was restricted and choosing a handful of exhibition items—100 to 200 objects from millions to represent a century of collecting and growth—felt akin to asking parents to choose their favorites from among their children. Nor did imagining the library in flames and asking what each curator would rescue bring much comfort or provide much guidance.

Some choices were obvious. Such seldom-seen objects as the Codex Fernández Leal, perhaps the most valuable item in the Bancroft collection, will be on display. Produced in the mid-16th century, although possibly based on a pre-Columbian predecessor, this codex is a pictographic, double-sided scroll almost 20-feet long written on native amatl fiber paper that describes warfare, conquest, and sacrificial ceremonies in the local region of the Cuicatec, a small indigenous culture in what is now the state of Oaxaca. The "Wimmer" gold nugget, the one that was found by James Marshall and set off the California Gold Rush, is well known to the users of the Bancroft but much less so to the broader public. The Breen Diary, written by a survivor of the ill-fated Donner Party, the earliest known drawings of San Francisco and Yosemite Valley, the first photograph of Mark Twain, as well as a rare volume from the first publication of the complete works of Giovanni Battista Piranesi will also form part of the Centennial Exhibition.

Some choices were less obvious but served to highlight the rich material culture aspects of the library. For instance, Theresa Salazar, curator of the Western



Charles Christian Nahl, *Incident on the Chagres River, Panama, 1867*, Robert B. Honeyman Jr. Collection



Dorothea Lange photographed the Japanese-American Evacuation and Resettlement.

Americana collection, chose her “single most favorite piece of ephemera in the whole collection,” which she found amongst the cartons of Sierra Club records. It is a paper Dial-a-Wheel about the euphemistically named “Upper Colorado River Storage Project.” At the time, the “Aqualantes (water vigilantes)” who created the wheel intended users to spin it and learn the many benefits of damming the Colorado River. Spinning the wheel now teaches us about an era that held an uncomplicated belief in man’s rightful dominance over nature.

Other choices emphasized the synergies that the collection offers researchers: manuscript pages from Frank Norris’s 1899 novel *McTeague* could be shown with a youthful portrait of the author by I. W. Taber, as well as a scrapbook from the making of *Greed*, Eric von Stroheim’s film based on the Norris work. Or, from the History of Science and Technology Collection, Curator David Farrell chose both a manuscript copy of Euclid’s *Elementa Geometriae* from 1460, the words copied by a long-ago hand with surpassing delicacy, and a first edition of the printed version (1482), while nearby, the first printed Periodic Table (by Dimitry Mendeleev in 1869) marks the rise of modern science.

Some items were eliminated for conservation reasons. Photographs and other works on paper cannot be exposed to light for long, so many of those

objects would have had to be removed from display half way through the run of the show and replaced with other items. But even with that precautionary step some objects were too fragile. George Fardon’s album of salt prints of early San Francisco—one of only seven complete copies extant—was regrettably removed. Other decisions to cut items were based on favoring things never seen over those “stars” that have already had their share of the limelight. Thus Anthony Bliss, rare books curator, decided not to show the stunning Kelmscott Press’ *Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*. But he sighed and quoted Leonard Bernstein (to paraphrase, “It brings me great joy to know that every day 100,000 people are born who have never heard Beethoven”) as he struck it from the list.

When The Bancroft Library reopens in its renovated quarters, it will have a state-of-the-art gallery, more than twice as large as its previous display space. Then, those treasures that did not find their way into this show will have their day. In the meantime, visitors to *The Bancroft Library at 100: A Celebration 1906-2006* will find a striking array of books, letters, and works of art—the tip of a culturally rich and historically vital iceberg.

—Jack von Euw

The Bancroft Library Pictorial Collection

—Isabel Breskin

The Bancroft Library Centennial Exhibition

Desiderata

Bancroftiana from time to time publishes lists of books the library needs. We would be particularly pleased to receive gifts of any of the books listed. If you can help, please telephone Bonnie Bearden, Rare Books Acquisitions Assistant, (510) 642-8171, or you may send a fax to (510) 643-2548 or an e-mail to bbearden@library.berkeley.edu. We’ve chosen to focus on California-based writer William T. Vollmann, the recent recipient of the National Book Award for fiction. We are particularly interested in any of the books issued in limited editions by his CoTangent Press:

Grave of Lost Stories.
CoTangent, 1993

Happy Girls.
CoTangent, 1990

Whores for Gloria. 1991
One of 20 copies handcrafted by William T. Vollmann and Ken Miller using the sheets from the Pantheon first edition.

From his Seven Dreams series:

Argall. Viking, 2000

The Rifles. Viking, 1994

Fathers and Crows. Viking, 1992

The Ice Shirt. Viking, 1990

Other, nonseries, work:

An Afghanistan Picture Show; or, How I Saved the World.

Farrar Straus & Giroux, 1992

The Atlas. Viking, 1996

Butterfly Stories. Grove, 1993

Expelled from Eden: a William T. Vollmann Reader.

Thunder’s Mouth Press, 2003

Rising Up and Rising Down.

San Francisco: McSweeney’s, 2003
7 volumes.

Thirteen Stories and Thirteen Epitaphs.
Pantheon, 1993

You Bright and Risen Angels.

Atheneum, 1987 [Bancroft has British edition, which precedes the American]



The San Francisco Earthquake and Fire

I am a fourth-generation San Franciscan raised in a Jackson Street house that my grandfather told me was earthquake safe. A few years before he died in the late 1950s, he took me down to the basement of the house, built only a year after the earthquake of 1906, to show me the cross bracing. When the 1957 earthquake and subsequent aftershocks rocked San Francisco, my father, who knew little about construction, repeated what he had learned from his father: “As long as you are in this house you will be safe.”

A few years after my father’s death and the sale of the house in the 1980s, I began my study of architecture, engineering, and earthquakes in San Francisco. I came to the study as an architectural historian fascinated by earthquakes and engineering. I had examined how cities were ruined and rebuilt after the earthquakes of 1693 in Sicily and 1783 in Calabria. I was welcomed again and again by members of the engineering community who wanted to know what I had to say and wanted to tell me what they knew about the history of engineering in San Francisco. The late Henry Degenkolb, founder of Degenkolb engineers, wanted to teach me what he could in the last months of his life. The late Frank McClure wanted me to sit among the engineers on the Seismic Review Committee of the University of

California, Berkeley, to “know where the bodies were buried,” and I have remained on the committee for almost 20 years. Scores of engineers lent a hand to educate me. I remember with special fondness those who have since died: the late Stan Chekene, cofounder of Rutherford and Chekene engineers; the late Michael Pregnoff, who worked with the legendary Chris Snyder; and the late Nick Forel, cofounder of Forel/Elsesser engineers.

My study of San Francisco earthquakes began and ended in The Bancroft Library with its bountiful manuscripts, books, and photographic collection. I spent hours pouring over the photographs of Andrew Lawson, the notebooks of Charles Derleth, the critiques of Hall, and the Bancroft scrapbooks, trying to untangle what happened not only in the 1906 earthquake, but in earthquakes and recoveries throughout San Francisco’s history. Bancroft Director Charles Faulhaber generously offered to publish my book in partnership with Malcolm Margolin’s Heyday Books. I can imagine no more fitting end for my research, which began 20 years ago, when I first sat down with earthquake photographs in Bancroft’s reading room.

Bracing for Disaster: Earthquake-Resistant Architecture and Engineering in San Francisco, 1838-1933, is the story of the efforts of San Francisco’s

architects and engineers to construct earthquake-resistant buildings before and after the great earthquake and fire of 1906. Covering all building types, this history focuses on the buildings that held the city’s workforce from 9 to 5 and its visitors around the clock in San Francisco’s downtown.

Many books written about the earthquake and fire of 1906 contend that there was a conspiracy to ignore the damage caused by the earthquake in order to protect the city’s economic viability and that building professionals participated in this cover-up. While there is no doubt some people ignored or denied the threat of future earthquakes, many architects, engineers, builders, and their patrons did not. The buildings themselves tell the story of engineers and architects quietly addressing the problem of earthquakes and discussing their solutions with other building professionals. While the *Call* and the *Chronicle* newspapers might have discounted earthquake danger, both the *Call* and the *Chronicle* Buildings were designed to be earthquake resistant. San Francisco’s response to earthquake danger is far more nuanced than previous authors have acknowledged.

Bracing for Disaster recounts how the ground was literally laid for catastrophe by early platting of water lots and filling of creeks in the 1850s

and 1860s. Having acquired a pristine spot from the Spanish, the Americans altered the topography with abandon and an eye toward profit. Six fires in the 1850s led to the usual hazard mitigation: brick buildings. Lessening fire danger by building in brick, San Franciscans unwittingly increased danger from earthquakes. Earthquakes in the early 1860s rattled the brick buildings and then the earthquakes of 1865 and 1868 rolled through the city, causing real damage and six deaths. Architects, engineers, builders, and inventors responded by questioning why the buildings failed and offering a wide spectrum of remedies. Every major new building in the city in the 1870s was designed to be earthquake resistant. When skyscrapers became the fashion in the 1880s and 1890s, they too were built to be earthquake resistant. Partly because of earthquake awareness, a majority of San Francisco's buildings performed satisfactorily in the 1906 earthquake, saving the lives of San Franciscans as they slept.

Boosterism and denial of the extent and potential for repetition of catastrophe is part of the normal cycle of recovery as a city announces its intention to rise again. Witness New Orleans after Katrina in August 2005. Newspapers and politicians are the usual spokespersons. Meanwhile, building professionals intensified their study of earthquake damage and the search for earthquake-resistant construction methods. Their efforts were unaffected by denial or promotional concerns.



Fire enveloped the city, view east down Fell Street toward Market. City Hall in distance, center; Nob Hill, left.



Debris covered Market Street. Palace Hotel and Call building, left center.

Why has denial been such an attractive myth? Many books about the 1906 earthquake and fire are interesting stories about the people of the city, its heroes and scoundrels. Many aspire to be morality plays pointing to the sin of forgetting. And the truism is probably true: we are bound to repeat what we forget. Our attention is fixed on the problem at hand and does not always stay focused on earthquakes. *Bracing for Disaster* covers almost a hundred years of architectural and engineering practice with little evidence of that kind of amnesia. Here the efforts of architects and engineers have been remembered and put in their rightful place as one part of San Francisco's fascinating and complex history.

—Steven Tobriner
Professor, Department of Architecture

An Alternate Route to Patron Satisfaction

Because staff on The Bancroft Library public service desks cannot approve the photocopying of entire volumes of printed works, or the copying of fragile or perfect-bound books, or those that have already been microfilmed, we frequently are witness to frustration and despair on the part of researchers eager to carry home a part of the collections. We've learned to provide an alternative for some situations by showing researchers the wonders of a few of the on-line marketplaces for books. Alibris, Abebooks, and the largest of them all, Bookfinder, provide access to the inventories of thousands of booksellers carrying many millions of titles, new, used, and rare. The stock of some of our local bookstores are included in these databases, and it has been a joy to be able to send a patron down the street to Serendipity Books on University Avenue in Berkeley, for example, to pick up a copy of a book listed at half the cost of what we would have had to charge just for photocopying, had duplication been possible. The researcher gets to own her very own copy of the book, the library's book is not put at risk by excessive and damaging placement on the copier, and we support our ever-dwindling number of independent book dealers. Everybody wins!

Abebooks: <http://www.abe.com/> Alibris: <http://www.alibris.com/> Bookfinder: <http://www.bookfinder.com/>

Treasures Brought to Light

The Maps of Private Land Grant Cases of California Now Online!

When I first began work at The Bancroft Library nearly 10 years ago, I was given a tour of the library's sizeable holdings. One collection that struck me as notable—partly because it was then housed in the deep, mysterious recesses of the library's ground floor—was the Maps of Private Land Grant Cases of California. The collection, dating from about 1840 to about 1892, is made up of over 1,400 maps illustrating early land claims located throughout California. The maps are remarkable for their graphic qualities—all of them hand drawn—and, more importantly, because they represent a rare historical record of land ownership and use in the state. As a native Californian and art historian, I was immediately intrigued by the importance of this unique and somewhat hidden treasure of early California history.

The Maps of Private Land Grant Cases of California were placed on permanent deposit in The Bancroft Library by the United States District Court, San Francisco, in 1951. The maps, or *diseños*, that comprise the land case maps collection originally formed part of the private land claim cases adjudicated by the United States Northern and Southern District Courts of California and the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit during the latter half of the 19th century. The land grant claims were sought by California land owners hoping to establish legal title to property held under Mexican and Spanish law before California statehood in 1851. The case dockets that relate to the maps are also on deposit in The Bancroft Library.

The maps formed part of the evidence in the land cases and, as such, generally include a legend, descriptive information about the property and show boundaries, reference points, buildings, and natural features of the landscape. The maps range in size from letter size to over 30 by 40 inches and

most of the examples are executed in pen on paper, some with color. The quality ranges from simple, crudely drawn maps to beautifully executed maps created by skilled cartographers.

The Maps of Private Land Grant Cases of California are a rich source of information about early California and are therefore one of the Bancroft's most heavily used collections. Researchers and scholars from throughout the state and further afield travel to The Bancroft Library to use the collection to study the history of California land ownership, land use, geology, geography, socioeconomic issues, anthropology, and other topics. According to Susan Snyder, Head of Public Services at The Bancroft Library, the case dockets and land case maps are routinely consulted by legal teams for current land boundary disputes, by scholars seeking the location of early native settlements, and by land management officials for future projects such as wetlands restoration.

Because the maps are over 100 years old and are handled often, their condition and preservation have been issues of concern for the Bancroft staff. In addition, with the move of Bancroft's entire collection during the fall of 2005 and the collection subsequently being stored off site and inaccessible during the three-year renovation of The Bancroft Library building, it was decided that the maps should be digitized and made available online so that patrons would still be able to use this important collection.

In 2002, the Main Library accepted proposals for one-time funding of Digital Library Content Creation projects. Bancroft submitted a proposal to digitize the land case maps collection. The proposal was accepted and, with additional funding provided by The Bancroft Library, the Land Case Map Digital Project began in April 2003.

The project had two primary aims: preservation and access. Because the collection is heavily used, we wanted to survey the collection to determine which maps required attention before being imaged. In preparing for the survey, a project control database was created using catalog records exported from the library's online public access catalog (GLADIS). Fortunately, the entire collection had been comprehensively cataloged during the California Maps Project funded by the Department of Education and the University of California from 1990 to 1993. The rich descriptive metadata available in these map records greatly reduced the overall cost of carrying out the project, as full cataloging of such specialized materials can sometimes constitute the lion's share of a digital project budget.

During the survey, the condition of each map was assessed and any problems were noted. Overall, the maps were in



Diseño del Rancho San Vicente: Santa Cruz County.



Map of northern portion of San Francisco County: compiled from surveys, June 1, 1852 by Clement Humphreys.

good-to-fair condition, but those that needed conservation attention were routed to the Library Preservation Department. In all, 86 maps were treated by our special collection conservation team.

With rich description and a full survey of the collection, the maps were then routed for digitization. The imaging was handled by the Library Preservation Department's Digital Imaging Lab (DIL) whose staff is trained in handling special collection materials. In most cases, both the recto and verso of each map was digitized. For some maps, details were also made of original enclosures or attached notations. To facilitate online presentation, the high-resolution archive files were processed to create three viewing files: a thumbnail, medium-resolution, and high-resolution file for each map. The archive file was also made into a MrSid file, which allows users quickly to zoom in and out of the full-size archival image online, giving users access to very fine details in the maps.

At the end of the land case project, the descriptive metadata records in the project control database were linked with the digital images of the maps to create "digital objects." The digital objects were described as a collection using an electronic archival finding aid and submitted to the Online Archive of California (OAC), a digital resource freely available on the Internet via the California Digital Library (<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/hb8489p15p>). In the OAC, the objects can be searched individually or viewed as a collection. These resources are also linked from within Bancroft's GLADIS records, so that users are able to jump to the digitized

maps on the OAC directly from the library's online catalog.

The Maps of the Private Land Grant Cases Digital Collection was also submitted to RLG Cultural Materials, which is a licensed digital content resource available to all UC Berkeley users. Through Cultural Materials, users can access the same digital objects using a sophisticated search interface, as well as zoom in and out of the high-resolution files to see fine details in the maps (<http://culturalmaterials.rlg.org/>).

The Land Case Maps Digital Project took two years to complete. With the collection now stored off site and unavailable during the renovation period, patrons can now have access to digitized versions of the entire collection of maps online, anywhere, anytime. In addition to providing increased access to the collection, we hope the availability of the high-resolution digital images will reduce the need to handle the original maps. This reduced handling, combined with our having been able to treat those maps most at risk, will contribute significantly to the preservation of this important collection for future generations.

Nearly 10 years after I first saw this intriguing and unique collection of maps stored away in the deep recesses of the library, I am pleased to see it "virtually" come to light and to know that this great treasure of California history is now readily available to all the citizens of our state and beyond for further research, study, and enjoyment.

The Land Case Map Digital Project was made possible by the vision of David de Lorenzo, head of Bancroft Technical Services, and Theresa Salazar, Curator of Western Americana. The Digital Project was managed by Mary W. Elings, Archivist for Digital Collections. The entire collection was processed for digitization by Jeffrey Hookom, Digital Collections Assistant. Conservation treatment was carried out by Lorna Kirwan of the Library Preservation Department. Digital production assistance was provided by the Library's Digital Publishing Group (DPG). Special thanks to Alvin Pollock and Lynne Grigsby-Standfill of DPG and Dan Johnston of the Digital Imaging Lab for their work in completing the project.

—Mary Elings
Archivist for Digital Collections



LARRY KRAMER 1926 – 2005

I first met Larry Kramer in 1995 when I became the Director of Bancroft and Larry was already a veteran member of the Council of the Friends of The Bancroft Library. Larry took me under his capacious and experienced wing, and with wit and wisdom showed me which ropes to pull and which pitfalls to avoid.

He gave me right off the bat his cardinal rule for the duties of members of nonprofit boards, the three G's: Give, Get, or Get Off the Board.

A native of New York City, Larry served in the Philippines during WWII and then studied American history at Antioch College, where he met his wife Sue. He received his M.A. in Chinese history and languages from Harvard but abandoned an academic career in favor of nonprofit management. After working for the American Heart Association in Boston, he came to California in 1956 as executive director of the San Francisco office. When he tired of day-to-day management he founded a consulting firm with his friend and colleague, John Blum. In addition to his work as a consultant, which he continued to practice even after technically retired, Larry was intensely involved with civic affairs, particularly in Marin County. He served on the San Rafael School Board, the Marin Community College District Board, and as a trustee of Antioch College. He initially became involved with Bancroft through his prior service on the Marin County Library Commission. After he completed his term on the Council of the Friends, he remained an engaged and interested supporter, most recently as a member of the Leadership Committee for Bancroft's Centennial Campaign.

We shall miss him.

—Charles B. Faulhaber

O Brave New World

Progress Report on the Mark Twain Digital Project

When James W. Paige completed his automatic typesetter in the early 1890s, having relied heavily on Mark Twain's financial backing to pay expenses, his machine was reported to have 19,000 parts and to be the most complicated mechanical device ever built.

But for true complexity, the Paige machine couldn't hold a candle to even one rather modest modern website.

That somewhat ominous comparison forces itself upon anyone familiar with Mark Twain's experience with automatic typesetting, but it seems especially relevant now because the Mark Twain Project is deep in the process of creating a website that will allow anyone to have access to any of the Mark Twain documents and texts owned by anyone anywhere, as well as to all the editions of those texts produced by the Mark Twain Project—in effect, to anything and everything that Mark Twain wrote, and much else besides. That at least is our goal.

The project has undertaken this task in partnership with the University of California Press and the California Digital Library (CDL), both of which

have provided funds as well as essential expertise for our common purpose. We expect the beta version of our site to be ready in about one year's time. At that point, if all goes as planned, the user will have access to many of the books we have already published (which have now been converted to electronic format), as well as large chunks of the letters and other documents which we have not so far printed, including about 100 letters which have been found since the six volumes of letters were printed and would have been included there if they had been discovered in time.

At this stage in the site's development, we have settled on its overall intellectual structure, or architecture—basically what it will contain, what categories it will be divided into, and how a user can move around in and navigate among those categories without being overwhelmed, lost, or frustrated. For this structure we are indebted to the help of Adele Framer and our former digital project lead editor, Anh Bui. Ms. Framer created for us what are known as “wire frames,” basically schematics of how things will be organized (not how they will actually

appear, which is a matter of graphic design still to come). The illustration is a wire frame that gives just one part of an overview of the site. The goal of this kind of planning, of course, is to make using the site and getting access to the information it contains as easy and intuitive as possible. So the complexity on view in the wire frame is actually all in the background and in the planning for how the site will actually look and work.

There is another kind of complexity that flows from this ambitious electronic plan: hundreds of small changes in the way the editors edit. It is no longer sufficient to be precise and thorough about transcribing all details of a letter. Those details must now be coded in ways that are consistent, uniform, and accessible to the machines and programs that will ultimately deliver the result to the user.

This same basic need for consistency and uniformity is even now forcing us to upgrade our various “home-made” databases to make them more robust and entirely consistent with each other. For the site will call upon these various databases (listing people, bibliographic references, photographs, etc.) when “links” send the user to them. One immediate result of this need is that, thanks to editor Lin Salamo, we now have what amounts to the first complete bibliography of Mark Twain's writings which has ever existed.

Another immediate result of creating a website like this one is to force better and more thorough organization of all the materials to which we want to provide access. Clearly there is major expense of time and effort needed to bring such a thing into being. We are confident that the results will be well worth it.

—Robert H. Hirst
Curator, Mark Twain Papers, and
General Editor, Mark Twain Project

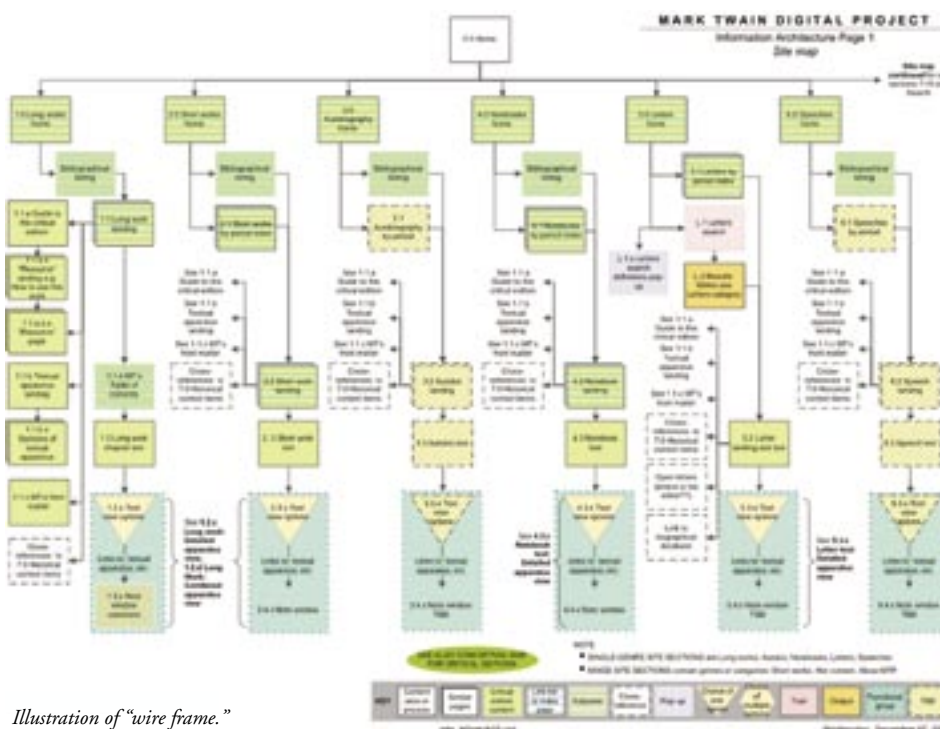


Illustration of “wire frame.”

Regional Oral History Office

African-American Professors UC History Project

In 2002, The Bancroft Library's Regional Oral History Office began interviewing African-American faculty who had come to Berkeley before the late 1970s as part of the African-American Faculty and Senior Staff Oral History Project. The project was conceived by former Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Russ Ellis, and ROHO Director and Professor of History, Richard Cándida Smith, as part of ROHO's long-standing commitment to documenting the history of the University of California.

This collection of interviews explores the experiences of African-American faculty and senior staff at UC Berkeley as part of the broader history of the University of California and its commitment to access and diversity, recognizing that the University of California, as California's premier public educational institution, plays a significant role in the socioeconomic mobility of all of California's residents. The story that we hope will emerge from this project is a story of California—its people and one of its most important public institutions.

The 18 interviews in this series present four distinct generations, each of which had a different relationship to higher education in the U.S. The oldest narrator, David Blackwell, Professor Emeritus of Statistics and world-renowned game theorist, grew up during the height of Jim Crow and completed his university education well before World War II. Despite his tremendous qualifications, his employment opportunities were initially limited to historically black colleges, where he thrived and became one of the leading mathematical theorists of his generation. His account of the failed effort by some faculty at Berkeley to recruit Blackwell in 1946 and the subsequent successful effort in 1952 is a dramatic instance of how deeply racial segregation permeated American life.

The second generation served dur-

ing the war, completed their education under the GI Bill, and launched their careers in a period marked by increasing debate around the nation about racial discrimination. The third generation entered the university during the 1950s. They competed and succeeded in schools that were working to become color-blind and meritocratic. Their stories suggest the dramatic pace of change enveloping university education in the North and West, but the accounts also underline the range of challenges facing the handful of extraordinarily talented black students who entered all-white institutions. The fourth generation emerged as the civil rights movement gave way to demands for black power and the transformation of American institutions so that the mere presence of African Americans could transform into full participation. Five of the faculty interviewed are women, and they discuss the intersection of race and gender in the shaping of their professional careers and personal lives.

The interviews are life histories, ranging from five to twenty hours in length. Family background and education are discussed at length before launching into an in-depth examination of intellectual career, campus service, and community relations. Most, but not all, of the narrators participated in the implementation of affirmative action, faculty and student retention programs, curriculum reviews, and the American Cultures requirement. The stories provide a detailed assessment of how the University of California has confronted the demographic transformation of the state as well as social and cultural movements that questioned how effectively the University was fulfilling its obligations to serve all communities.

These interviews reveal not only the story of individual narrators and the intersection of their lives with this institution. They also contain the story of a generation, different iterations of

African-American identity and social struggle, the birth of African-American Studies and curricular transformation, and our recent history of segregation of higher education in America.



Professor of Statistics David Blackwell teaches seminar, c. 1960.

The Regional Oral History Office has used oral history methodology to document, construct, and explore central areas of inquiry in University history since 1954. Central events in campus history such as the Loyalty Oath, the Free Speech Movement, and the Anti-Apartheid Movement are the subjects of interview series. ROHO has conducted numerous interviews with major figures in University administration and documents the intellectual life of the university with interviews with key faculty figures from Engineering, Anthropology, Forestry, Botany, Biology, and our ongoing series with faculty of the History Department. Bancroft holdings in the area of history of diversity and access at the university include the Prytanean Oral History Project, the University of California Black Alumni Series, and the ongoing Women in University History series.

—Nadine Wilmot
Project Coordinator and Interviewer
Regional Oral History Office

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Preparations for move in the Heller Reading Room.

Spring 2006 Calendar

EXHIBITIONS

January 11–March 31, 2006
1906: THE GREAT QUAKE:
THE HISTORY OF A DISASTER

April–June, 2006
THE GREAT QUAKE:
THE LEGACY OF A DISASTER
*Bernice Layne Brown Gallery,
Doe Library*

February 11–December 10, 2006
THE BANCROFT LIBRARY AT 100:
A CELEBRATION 1906–2006
Berkeley Art Museum
The centennial of Bancroft's arrival on the campus provides an occasion to showcase the variety and richness, scope and depth of the Bancroft collections.

EVENT

February 10–11, 2006
BANCROFT CENTENNIAL
SYMPOSIUM
Berkeley Art Museum
Sessions will explore ancient Egypt, California history, the 1906 earthquake, biotechnology, the environment, Mark Twain, the Beats, and other subjects encompassed by Bancroft's collections.

ROUNDTABLES

All events are scheduled to take place at noon in the Lewis-Latimer Room of the Faculty Club.

Thursday February 16
Bancroft Study Award winner RUBEN FLORES, History, UCB, *States of Culture: The Central Government and Ethnoracial Consolidation in Mexico and the US, 1920-1950.*

Thursday March 16
STEPHANIE GREEN, Comparative Literature and Medieval Studies, UCB, *"Conversion" as a unifying theme in Bancroft MS 106, a 13th century compendium of Marian legends, saints' lives, and Arthurian romance.*

Thursday April 20
HEATHER MUNRO PRESCOTT, Professor of History, Central Connecticut State University, *Free Speech/Free Sex: Sex Education and Reproductive Health at Student Health Services.*

Thursday May 18
Bancroft Study Award winner FRANCISCO CASIQUE, Ethnic Studies, UCB, *The Race of Space in San Francisco's Mission District.*

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IN THIS ISSUE

THE RARE BOOK
COLLECTION
TURNS 50
Page 1



THE SAN
FRANCISCO
EARTHQUAKE
AND FIRE
Page 6

TREASURES
BROUGHT TO
LIGHT
Page 8



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