

BANCROFTIANA

PUBLISHED OCCASIONALLY BY THE FRIENDS OF THE BANCROFT LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

Number 2 • JUNE, 1950

A Hearty Thank You

WHY DIDN'T WE do it long ago? The first number of *Bancroftiana* has received such enthusiastic response and so much generous encouragement that we wish we hadn't waited all these years. One member of the Friends wrote, "My wife and I know of no other organization which better deserves the contribution you ask. Now that you 'are in motion,' please keep going and in the same direction."

Among the Manuscripts

A FACULTY MEMBER recently informed us mournfully that the Bancroft Library was "taking all the fun out of research." We know that he longs for the days when certain drawers of the manuscripts room bulged with undiscovered treasures, when no researcher was worth his salt until he had spent days pawing through this mass of potential "finds," and when the rewards were limited only by the stamina of the scholar. For some time this neglected corner of our manuscripts department has caused us anguish, and we have recently set out to reorganize it.

Now each day finds the dust being blown from a new lot of manuscripts and documents. As these find their way into labeled folders, the miscellany of the ages—and of several old filing cabinets—begins to shake down into recognizable categories. Within the past few weeks a Castro collection has begun to take shape, as well as an additional group of Larkin manuscripts, consisting mainly of commercial correspondence. We now have likely-looking

nuclei for Spear and Hartnell collections, and are bringing together what proves to be an extensive and very valuable set of papers of J. L. L. F. Warren. Material on the early San Francisco law firm of Halleck, Peachy, & Billings emerges as another important unit. Letters and accounts of William A. Leidesdorff, Jacob P. Leese, and others are being classified.

We apologize for thwarting our would-be Sherlock Holmes, but he can be assured that we have left him plenty to do. At the same time we respectfully suggest that we may turn up remarkable things in some drawer that he didn't quite get to.

Scott Collection

THE DEPARTMENT of manuscripts has recently been engaged in sorting and arranging the papers of the Reverend William Anderson Scott, Presbyterian clergyman, educator, and author, a native of Bedford County, Tennessee.

Scott was born on January 31, 1813, and received a license to preach when he was seventeen. Afterwards he attended Cumberland College, took his degree at Princeton Theological Seminary, and in 1835 was ordained by the Presbytery of Louisiana. Following his work as a missionary in Louisiana and Arkansas, he was elected president of the Seminary at Nashville and served as pastor at the Hermitage Church on the estate of Andrew Jackson.

Dr. Scott was called to San Francisco in 1854 to organize the Calvary Presbyterian Church, which grew into one of the largest

congregations in the city. When the Civil War came his southern sympathies brought him into conflict with members of his congregation, and he left California to travel abroad. On his return to the United States he accepted a temporary post in New York. In 1870 he answered another call to San Francisco and until his death in 1885 was actively engaged in church affairs on the Pacific Coast.

The collection of Dr. Scott's papers consists of more than three thousand pieces covering the period from 1817 to 1885. In it there are about 1,000 letters, chiefly to and from fellow ministers, but including a few from Andrew Jackson, Lewis Cass, Henry Haight, and others prominent in American politics during the mid-nineteenth century. There are seventeen interesting journals and diaries, 1832 to 1851; eleven account books, 1841 to 1864; manuscripts of his writings, his printed works, and personal papers; and books of marriages and baptisms recorded during his ministries. The collection is a valuable source of information on the religious history of the West.

BALANCE Comes to Bancroft

TODAY there are only a few surviving remnants of one of the most historic feuds of San Francisco journalism, aptly labeled "Balance vs. Balance" by George L. Harding in his interesting account of this verbal duel. ("Balance vs. Balance, An Episode in Pioneer San Francisco Journalism," *Essays for Henry R. Wagner*, San Francisco: Grabhorn Press, 1947.) Recently, however, while browsing about Ed. Eberstadt's bookstore in New York, Mr. Harding was proudly shown a very extensive collection of these papers. Telephone calls to Dr. Hammond ensued, and ultimately a well-padded bundle was delivered to the Library. Clad in tailor-made green slip cases, the papers show no evidence of nearing the century mark, and are in perfect condition except for a few incisions made by a too active pair of scissors. Rarities, though, demand their price, and when it was found that the cur-

rent book budget was nearly exhausted, the Friends of the Bancroft Library came to the rescue and at a recent meeting of the Council voted to contribute half of the purchase price. Through the generosity of the Friends, therefore, and the scouting efforts of one of their number, *Balance* has come to Bancroft to stay.

Both parties to this journalistic dispute are well represented in the new acquisition. The first of the *Balances* established was Eugene Casserly and Company's *Public Balance*, later issued as *Daily Balance*. The Bancroft's file begins with the third number of this paper, December 10, 1850, and extends with only one interruption until January 18, 1851, with a few issues for later dates and Extras and Steamer editions included as well. The Library previously had two copies of the *Public Balance*, neither of which was duplicated by the recent purchase. The file of the rival paper, the *California Public Balance*, issued by B. R. Buckelew and later by Matthewson, Russell and Company, is even more extensive. Beginning with Volume I, Number 1, it includes the first seventy-nine issues, covering the period from January 20 to April 21, 1851. Only thirteen additional issues of this paper are known to have been published. The copies of the Weekly or Sunday edition of the *California Public Balance* exceed the number the experts estimated to have been published, or were able to locate. The *Union List of Newspapers* mentions only three numbers of this series, Mr. Harding accounts for two more, but the Bancroft Library file contains Numbers One through Ten, with only one issue missing. The Library's holdings of the *Public Balance* and the *California Public Balance* now total 125 issues, comprising by far the largest collection of these papers in the West.

Boutwell Dunlap Collection

WHEN the Boutwell Dunlap Collection of Californiana recently appeared on the market, the Bancroft Library was given first refusal on all items. The collection had been

widely known for years among collectors, but its location, condition, and extent had become the subject of rumor and legend. We all knew that part of it was in the Freeman Hotel in Auburn, part in the History Room of the Wells Fargo Bank, some in the hands of members of Mr. Dunlap's family.

The matter was cleared up when Mr. Warren Howell, of the John Howell Book Shop, purchased the whole collection a few months ago. Through his cooperation the Bancroft Library has acquired some valuable things.

The manuscripts were of special interest to us. There were two that related to Henry Lebbeus Oak, Mr. Bancroft's librarian for many years; two volumes of short biographies and narratives of 48 California pioneers; two letters by the mother of Lillie Hitchcock Coit telling of her life in California; and others (not all going two by two, as this may imply).

The files of newspapers were early and rare. Those of outstanding merit from our point of view were: the first volume of the *Grass Valley Telegraph*, published in Grass Valley in 1853 and 1854; the *Contra Costa Gazette*, printed in Martinez from 1860 to 1862 and in Pacheco for the following two years; the first volume of the *Petaluma Weekly Journal and Sonoma County Advertiser*, 1855 to 1856; twelve 1859 issues of the *California Police Gazette* from San Francisco, and others of importance.

Book of Visitors

ANNE BANCROFT came in the other day bringing as a present the old guest book kept by her grandfather when the library was his private collection in San Francisco. On the first page is the heading, "Visitors to the Bancroft Library." The first entry, dated January 24, 1876, is "Juan B. Alvarado, San Pablo." It was certainly no accident that Governor Alvarado was so honored by that first place. For several years Hubert Howe Bancroft and his friends had used their wiles to overcome the Governor's hatred of the Grin-

gos and persuade him to contribute his valuable reminiscences to the library. At last, in 1875, he began to dictate the five-volume "Historia de California," now one of the Bancroft treasures.

The evidence from the Guest Book substantiates previous conjectures that visitors to Mr. Bancroft's library of Pacific Coast History came from many parts of the world. The registered San Franciscans include: Col. Warren, "editor of the California Farmer," E. J. Molera, Hall McAllister, Stephen J. Field, Horatio Stebbins, William Ingraham Kip, J. L. Flood, Arthur McEwen, George Davidson, Mrs. Peter Donahue, many more ladies, and even a whole Normal School class.

Intermingled with these are the signatures of those coming from some distance, such as M. G. Vallejo, Lachryma Montis; Jacob P. Leese, Salinas; Harrison Gray Otis, Santa Barbara; Phineas Banning, Wilmington; J. E. Doolittle, Volcano; Josiah Royce, Cambridge, Mass.; James G. Fair, Virginia City, Nevada; F. McClatchy, Sacramento; and Bernard Moses, Berkeley.

Well, the entries stop with the year 1892 and there are many pages left empty. It has been decided to put the book back into active service and, after more than a half century, to use it once more as the Guest Book of the Bancroft Library. Please be advised, Friends, that signing this book obligates you, just as it did Governor Alvarado in 1876, to give your efforts to the continued growth of the Bancroft Library.

Pony Express Bible

WHEN is Pony Express material to be classified as religious literature and when as history? One hardly thinks of the speeding horseman as a Bible-toting evangelist. Yet Russell, Majors, and Waddell presented a small but complete Bible to each new employee when he took the following oath:

"I do hereby swear before the great and living God that during my engagement with Russell, Majors & Waddell, I will under no

circumstances use profane language; that I will drink not intoxicating liquors; that I will not quarrel nor fight with other employes of the firm; and that in every respect I will conduct myself honestly, be faithful to my duties, and so direct all my acts as to win the confidence of my employers. So help me God."

The Bancroft Library is now the proud possessor of one of these Pony Express Bibles, the gift of Ott F. Heizer through the courtesy of his son, Dr. Robert F. Heizer. *HB*

Gift Book for 1950

AS A major contribution to the California Centennial celebrations, the Friends of the Bancroft Library are sponsoring publication of Robert Eccleston's diary of a journey to California in 1849. Young Eccleston and his brother Edward, both members of the Frémont Association of gold seekers, went by sea from New York City to Lavaca, Texas, and then traveled overland by way of El Paso to the West Coast, discovering en route the shortcut that was afterwards known as the Tucson Cutoff. The diary is distinguished by a detailed account of each day's events, which, though often humdrum, faithfully reflect the joys, the sorrows, and the endless succession of perplexing problems that inevitably fell to the lot of a Forty-Niner.

The Eccleston diary, *Overland to California on the Southwestern Trail in 1849*, will be published by the University of California Press. It will be distributed early in July to all active members of the Friends of the Bancroft Library.

Annual Meeting

DOROTHY HUGGINS, the secretary, reminds us that the Annual Meeting of the Friends, to which you and your friends are all cordially invited, will be held on Thursday night, June 15, at 8 o'clock.

Guest speaker will be Dr. Carl P. Russell, Superintendent of the Yosemite National Park. The announced title of his talk is "Fóo

feraw and Honeydew from Taos Town to the Oregon." It will be illustrated by a number of colored slides and a motion picture film.

Membership Campaign

A NUMBER of Friends have urged that we double our strength within another year, and with this in view a membership campaign has been launched. Invitations to join us have been sent to many lovers of California and Western history, and we hope that you will lend your efforts to this drive. Last year our membership reached the very satisfactory number of 163. As this issue of our paper goes to press, we are happy to welcome 43 more Friends for the Bancroft Library:

Bailey, Philip A.	San Diego
Bangs, E. Geoffrey	San Francisco
Bethel, Mrs. Jonathan B.	Thomaston, Georgia
Bieber, Ralph P.	St. Louis
Bixby, Mrs. Fred H.	Long Beach
Black, Raymond B. F.	San Francisco
Bryant, Dolores W.	Berkeley
Buckley, Mrs. Neil	San Francisco
Burk, Mrs. Naglee	Greenfield, Mass.
Cabaniss, George H., Jr.	San Francisco
Charnock, Donald A., M.D.	Los Angeles
Cohen, George W.	Beverly Hills
Corle, Edwin	Santa Barbara
Curtner, Mrs. Arthur D.	San Jose
Ehrenfels, Mrs. Camille	San Francisco
Fletcher, Henry	New York
Girdner, Margaret V.	San Francisco
Goodman, Judge Louis E.	San Francisco
Hanna, Phil Townsend	Los Angeles
Hooker, Marian O.	Santa Barbara
Jackman, J. C.	San Francisco
Litven, Michael	Oakland
McFarland, Mrs. H. B.	Berkeley
Mills, J. Ogden	Mill Valley
Murphy, Dwight	Santa Barbara
Myrick, David F.	Berkeley
Nolan, Webster K.	San Francisco
Norris, Thos. W.	Carmel
Oakland Public Library	Oakland
O'Donnell, Mrs. N. M.	Monterey
Ogden, Adele	Berkeley
Reager, Frank S.	Glenn
Ryker, Mr. and Mrs. H. C.	Oakland
Schutt, Harold G.	Lindsay
Stoddard, Walter E.	Sacramento
Swenson, Mrs. Bert E.	Stockton
Thelen, Max	Berkeley
Thompson, Barbara Beach	San Mateo
Turner, Emily Louise	Berkeley
Van Nostrand, Jeanne	Berkeley
Wahrhaftig, Matt	Piedmont
Wells, William S., Jr.	Oakland
San Francisco College Library	Santa Barbara