

BANCROFTIANA

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Annual Meeting

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, has been set for the Annual Meeting of the Friends, to which you are all cordially invited. We hope you will circle the date on your calendar, for we have something rather special in the way of a guest speaker. Dr. Herbert M. Evans, who directs the Institute of Experimental Biology of this university, has sketched his topic for us as "A Visit to the Prince of Wied and the Archives at the Schloss in Neuwied, Germany, June, 1950." His remarks will also include "Some account of Prince Maximilian's journey into the Upper Missouri in 1832-33 and the great Bodmer Atlas illustrating the expedition."

Dr. Evans' talk will begin at 8 o'clock in Room 11, Wheeler Hall. After the program the Bancroft will hold open house to foster conversation, dispense refreshments, and exhibit rarities.

Bancroft Abroad

MICROFILM, more than a mile and a half of it, has been rolling in since the Bancroft Library Research Program in England shifted into high gear. Great Britain has rich resources for the history of the Western Hemisphere, and we are most pleased that some of them can now be made available to scholars locally.

Dr. Robert E. Burke, the Bancroft's able representative, sailed for England last fall laden with letters of recommendation and long lists of material to be filmed. He could not have arrived there at a more opportune time, for among University-of-Californians on hand to introduce him and make him feel welcome were Mr. Douglas W. Bryant, now director of the United States Information Service Library in the American Embassy,

and Dr. John D. Hicks, until recently head of the history department of the University of California and this year visiting professor at Cambridge.

In microfilming, Dr. Burke's greatest problem has been that of selection, for there is an abundance of useful and valuable material. He was fortunate in obtaining the services of a photographer familiar with the procedure of archive filming, and within a short time regular shipments of film began arriving in Berkeley.

So far, most of Dr. Burke's time has been devoted to photographing documents in Bush House, the Companies Registration Office in London. This valuable archive contains the corporate records of every English joint-stock company organized since 1856. Documents for earlier companies are kept at Hayes, Middlesex, where Dr. Burke has also done some filming. From these records it is possible to reconstruct the story of British economic penetration in every part of the world. Mining, land speculation, colonization, timber, fisheries, and railways are among the enterprises whose files Dr. Burke has filmed. Geographically, these cover the whole Pacific West from the Yukon to the Isthmus of Panama.

Although the work in Bush House will continue, we will soon be receiving film of records from various other British archives.

The long gray winter has not affected Dr. Burke's enthusiasm for England, and he reports that the very generous assistance of the British authorities has facilitated his work in every way.

King's Quest

A FEW DAYS AGO, we were fortunate in being able to separate Dr. James F. King from his re-

search for a few minutes and to prevail upon him for an account of his adventures abroad. The Bancrofters have always considered this amiable faculty member a "close friend of the family," and we have followed with interest the course of his recent trip to Europe in search of the makings of history. Since he labors in this field, we thought our readers might like to share the results of our appeal to "tell us all about it."

Dr. King left Berkeley in mid-September, 1950, bound for Madrid, via Washington, D. C., New York, and Lisbon. From Madrid he went to Seville, to work until early December in that mecca of the historian, the Archivo General de Indias. His research concerns the Negro and colored castes in Spanish America from the late colonial period until the mid-nineteenth century. In Seville he found much of the material he had expected, though not all that he had hoped to find, partly because the archives for that period were badly disarranged by the wars of independence in the Western Hemisphere and the Napoleonic Wars in Europe.

Dr. King returned to Madrid for a couple of weeks of research and then spent ten days in Lisbon, "just as a tourist," in that San Francisco-like city with its hills, narrow streets giving glimpses of the wide Tagus River mouth, and "everything but cable cars."

Arriving in London on Christmas Eve, Dr. King found any apprehensions of a lonely and cheerless holiday quickly dispelled by Dr. Robert E. Burke, who, as noted elsewhere, heads the Bancroft Library Research Program in England. Dr. King spoke with great enthusiasm about his five weeks in England. While he was there he worked with considerable success in the files of the Public Record Office, and in the British Museum, proving his hunch that the British archives contain information on "domestic slavery" in Latin America.

We asked Dr. King to venture a few generalizations about the countries he visited. He found Spain "interesting but depressing," with extreme poverty distressingly evident on all sides, and politics invading even the field of scholarship. England he "enjoyed tremendously"—austerity was apparent but happily he liked fish, and he soon learned how to avoid freezing (particularly recommended is

the English precaution of "wool against the skin"). Portugal he saw only from the pleasant vantage of the tourist.

Dr. King considers his trip a great success, and from his account of it we are inclined to agree. Now he is home again and in his usual state of activity—we might say canning and preserving the fruits of his research.

Robert U. Johnson Papers

LAST YEAR the Bancroft Library purchased the California portion of Robert Underwood Johnson's voluminous correspondence. This group of his papers relates chiefly to the Yosemite Valley, and it seems particularly appropriate that it should have been acquired in time for this year's Yosemite centennial celebration. It consists of approximately a thousand items covering the period from 1889 to 1924.

Johnson was on the staff of the *Century* magazine for more than forty years and was its editor from 1909 to 1913. In the summer of 1889 he visited the Yosemite Valley with John Muir. No one could have had a better guide, and Muir's views on conservation must have influenced Johnson greatly, for the next twenty-five years of his life were occupied with the struggle to protect the Valley. The one hundred and forty letters, notes, etc., from John Muir are the cream of the collection. While most of his letters deal with Yosemite problems, the correspondence is a rich record of his friendship with Johnson.

Letters, and Land Commission reports, describe the deplorable conditions of Yosemite in the early '90's. Most of the important figures in the conservation movement were enlisted in the battle for Yosemite's preservation. There are many letters from Gifford Pinchot and from John Willock Noble, Secretary of the Interior under Benjamin Harrison.

Pardee Collection

WITH the early years of this century came a period of great development in California. Expanding agriculture and industry, the widening network of railroads, and the pressure of great population increases in the cities all contributed to the growing pains. In the midst of it all sat able Governor George C.

Pardee, probably reflecting that not the least of the burdens of public office was the volume of correspondence involved.

About nine thousand letters and an equal number of answers, all from Pardee's general correspondence, have recently been arranged and made ready for use in the Bancroft's manuscript division. This staggering accumulation covers the years from 1903 to 1906, a major part of Pardee's administration.

The public school system, the National Guard, prisons and prison reform, licensing of dentists and pharmacists, irrigation, and the San Francisco earthquake and fire are among the subjects of perennial interest for which there is considerable material in the collection. The letters touch upon a multitude of topics, reflect public opinion, and provide a mass of information for the California historian.

How to Become A Friend

TO ALL who are interested in this institution of ours we extend an invitation to become Friends of the Bancroft Library. We should like to have you share our publications and join in our encouragement of the Library's continued growth and increasing usefulness. Members are asked to contribute ten dollars (or more) a year. Requests for membership may be addressed to the Secretary, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley 4, California.

Drake's Plate

ONE of our attractions and a sure hit with visitors is the "plate of brasse" left by Sir Francis Drake when he visited the California coast in 1579. It is usually to be seen in its own glass case in the Bancroft reading room, although from May 25 to July 10 it will be a well-guarded guest of honor at the opening of San Francisco's new Maritime Museum.

The plate is about five and a half by eight inches, and bears a crudely lettered inscription claiming "Nova Albion" in the name of Queen Elizabeth. Historians do not (and may never) agree in just which "convenient and fit harbor" Drake was at anchor when he nailed the plate to "a faire great poste," nor can they explain exactly how it reached the vicinity of Corte Madera Creek where it

was found in 1936. However, in view of results of exhaustive chemical and metallurgical tests there is little disagreement among them as to the plate's authenticity.

For a number of years the famous relic was displayed on the campus, and then for two years toured with the California Caravan, from which it has recently returned.

Friends In Print

WE'RE always pleased when our Friends break into print, and we can think of several who have kept the presses busy during the past year. Our congratulations to Henry R. Wagner for editing the papers of Albert L. Bancroft, and to Ruth Teiser who performed the same function for *This Sudden Empire—California*. George L. Harding and Bjarne Kroepelien have compiled a fine little book, *The Tahitian Imprints of the London Missionary Society, 1810-1834*, published by La Coquille Qui Chante, Oslo, Norway. Dr. Herbert E. Bolton reports the calm before the page proofs for *Pageant in the Wilderness*, the story of the Escalante expedition, which will be a publication of the Utah State Historical Society. Elizabeth Gray Potter has brought out a new edition of her *Early Mexican Ranchos in the San Francisco Bay Region*. Pleasantly garnished with illustrations of pioneers and their buildings, the booklet came from the press of two more Friends, Lawton and Alfred Kennedy, in April.

Mixed Company

DURING the past year we have entertained guests from at least ten countries and every continent except Africa, as well as many friends from closer to home. We have met directors of libraries, curators of museums, chancellors of universities, and many, many scholars. Among our recent visitors have been Mr. G. R. G. Conway from Mexico, Dr. and Mrs. Leroy R. Hafen of the Colorado State Historical Society, and Mr. Horace M. Albright. Mr. Albright is the president of the United States Potash Company, formerly Director of the National Park Service, and a good friend of Bancrofters Bolton and Hammond.

WE HADN'T thought much about a "Letters

to the Editor" department, but we stick this in here just as a matter of interest. From the University's George A. Pettitt, Assistant to the President and a good Friend, comes a note about our last issue. Mr. Pettitt questions our statement that the Locomobile is "now only a memory," and writes, "Isn't there an agency in the low fifties around Fifth Avenue or Park Avenue, New York? Maybe I am confusing it with some other vestige of the past, but I recall seeing a very fancy car which, if my memory serves me rightly, sold for \$8,000 without a body, which one was expected to buy extra as an accessory."

We admit that we don't know. The New York telephone directory yielded no clue, but maybe this agency is too exclusive for a public listing.

It is gratifying to hear that the diary of Robert Eccleston, which came out last summer, has received added laurels. *Overland to California on the Southwestern Trail, 1849*, has been selected by the American Institute of Graphic Arts as one of their "Fifty Books of the Year." It has also been on display with the Rounce and Coffin Club's exhibit of western books.

DIRECTOR of the Bancroft Dr. George P. Hammond recently spoke to an appreciative audience about the founding and growth of the Bancroft Library. His talk, given at the San Francisco Public Library on April 24, was one of a series of lectures on books and book-collecting sponsored by the Northern California Chapter of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America.

Among the guests were several descendants of the Bancroft family, including Philip Bancroft, Jr., a grandson, and Mrs. Alex A. Graham, a granddaughter of Hubert Howe Bancroft's sister, Mrs. Derby.

Show Case

BANCROFT once again can display selected treasures to the general public. Since November of last year a small show case in the Loan Hall of the General Library has been ours to decorate as we please. And we are pleased.

Grand opening was with the rarities recently returned from a two-year tour with the Cali-

fornia Caravan. Next, a display of handsomely illustrated books, drawn from all parts of our geographical field, suggested the breadth of our interest. Publication of "Maps of the San Francisco Bay" by Neal Harlow, printed by Grabhorn, was celebrated by exhibition of a number of maps used in preparation of the volume. This was followed by newspaper oddities, including some printed on leaves, wallpaper, and silk. The discovery of Yosemite was commemorated by showing photographs of the Valley, from Watkins to Ansel Adams, with the delightful illustrated manuscript journal of fourteen year old Caroline LeConte's trip to the Valley in 1878.

New Members

WE ARE PLEASED to welcome a group of new members and hope this association may be the beginning of a long and happy Friendship:

Andersen, Arthur R.	Oakland
Berry, William C.	Fort Ord
Boyd, W. Harland	Bakersfield
Clark, Ted K.	Monterey
Coffing, Edwina B.	San Rafael
Donnel, Dewey	Sonoma
Drury, Aubrey	San Francisco
Elliott, Amos W.	Los Angeles
Evans, Herbert M.	Berkeley
Forsterer, Harold B.	Berkeley
Gilchrist, Mrs. Guy	Dutch Flat
Greenly, A. H.	Hoboken, N. J.
Gunton, Mrs. Howard M.	Oakland
Haase, Ynez	Berkeley
Henchey, Paul L.	Brisbane
Hill, Helen D.	San Francisco
Hixson, Morris C.	Oakland
Hunt, Rockwell D.	Stockton
Keyston, George N.	San Mateo
Laugenour, Margaret Cross	Sacramento
Marders, W. G.	Berkeley
Mitchell, Stewart	Sacramento
Morgan, Robert N.	Pasadena
Porro, Thomas J.	Tacoma, Wash.
San Francisco Public Library	San Francisco
Schad, Jasper	Pasadena
Small, Wm. A., Jr.	Tucson, Arizona
Southworth, R. C.	San Francisco
Stuart, Reginald R.	San Leandro
Thomas, F. F., Jr.	Berkeley
Titus, Leo G.	Berkeley
Tompkins, John Barr	Berkeley
Turner, Justin G.	Los Angeles
Whitehead, Barry	San Francisco
Willmette, Walter F.	Stockton
Winton, Harry N. M.	Jamaica, N. Y.
Woodward, Arthur	Altadena