

BANCROFTIANA

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Friends' Book of the Year

THE FRIENDS OF THE BANCROFT LIBRARY, who annually sponsor publication of some work regarded as significant for the history of the West, have this year chosen José Bandini's "Descrision de l'Alta California," written about 1828. The original manuscript is from the Bancroft Library's own collection. The author, father of the more famous Juan Bandini, was a sea captain who settled in California in the 1820's and his comprehensive description of the territory as it was some twenty years before the Gold Rush should prove a welcome addition to the published source materials for California history. An English translation will supplement the Spanish version. The book, prepared by Doris Marion Wright of the Bancroft staff, is being designed and printed by Alfred and Lawton Kennedy of the Westgate Press. Only four hundred copies will be issued, and all of them are to be reserved for the Friends of the Bancroft Library.

Statistically Speaking

WE HAVE lately come through the labor of producing our Annual Report, so if our thinking seems somewhat statistical it is not without reason. We even feel impelled to pass along a few of our impressive figures to our readers, in as palatable form as we can.

Suppose some morning the Bancroft Library should be visited by one third of the residents of Berkeley, each requesting a book, manuscript, or some other article of our "wares." The chaos would be devastating, but it would approximate the amount of business the Bancroft does annually. During the

past year nearly 22,000 books were taken down from the shelves and almost 15,000 special items (manuscripts, newspapers, maps, etc.) were brought out for the use of our readers. Scholars with assigned desks checked out almost a ton of books for more prolonged investigation.

Lots of materials came into the Bancroft, too. The books cataloged during the year would probably extend at least two hundred feet if stood side by side on a hypothetical shelf, and would be located by several feet of catalog cards. In addition to books, nearly a thousand manuscripts and manuscript collections were cataloged during the year, and we reeled in somewhere between nine and ten miles of microfilm from foreign countries.

Maximilian's Travels

ONE of the most interesting, and certainly the most colorful, of our new acquisitions is the *Reise in das Innere Nord-America in den Jahren 1832 bis 1834*, written by Prince Maximilian of Wied-Neuwied and illustrated by the great Bodmer atlas. Friends who attended our annual meeting in June had the opportunity of hearing the book and atlas described by Dr. Herbert M. Evans, and of examining the beautiful Bodmer drawings. Now, by action of the Council and the generosity of our Friends, the Bancroft Library has its own copy of this rare and important work, with all of the plates in full color.

To our readers who were not present we should explain that these two books recount and illustrate the scientific expedition of Prince Maximilian into the trans-Mississippi area. In the summer of 1833 the Prince and his party steamed up the Missouri River from

St. Louis to Fort Pierre. They visited Fort Union and Fort Mackenzie, spent the winter among the Mandans at Fort Clark, and returned to St. Louis in May, 1834. The exceptionally fine drawings by Charles Bodmer, a young Swiss artist on the expedition, portray the Indians of the region and their native surroundings. Reuben Gold Thwaites has called Bodmer, "in some respects perhaps the most competent draughtsman who has thus far sought to depict the North American tribesmen."

Ide Proclamation

THE STORY of the Bear Flag Revolt is, of course, a familiar one. The town of Sonoma was occupied on June 14, 1846, and on the following day William B. Ide, captain of the group, issued a proclamation to the citizens. A copy of this pronouncement, signed by Ide, and in his own handwriting, is now the property of the Bancroft Library. Because we are so proud of it we are reproducing it here in its entirety for you.

A Proclamation

TO ALL PERSONS, Citizens of Sanoma, requesting them to remain at peace, to follow their rightful occupations without fear of molestation.

The Commander in chief of troops assembled at the fortress of Sanoma gives his inviolable pledge to all persons in California not found under arms against him that they shall not be disturbed in their persons, their properties, or social relations one to another, by men under his command.

He also solemnly declares his object to be—1st to defend himself and companions in arms, who were first invited to this country by a promise of lands on which to settle themselves and families, who were also promised a Republican government, who, when having arrived in California were denied even the privilege of buying or renting land of their friends, who instead of participating in or being protected by a republican government, were oppress^d by a military despotism, who were even threatened, by proclamation of the chief officer of the aforesaid despotism, with extermination if they would not depart out

of the country leaving all their property, their arms and beasts of burden, and thus deprived of the means of flight or defence we were to be driven throu deserts inhabited by hostile indians to certain destruction. — to overthrow a government which has seized upon the property of the Missions for its individual aggrandizement, which has ruined and Shamefully oppressed the laboring citizens of California by their enormous exactions on goods imported into the country; is the *determined* purpose of the brave men who are associated under his command.

He also Solemnly declares his object in the 2^d place to be, to invite all peaceable and good citizens of California to assist him in establishing and perpetuating a Civil government, a republican government, which shall secure to all civil and religious *liberty*; the security of persons and individual property; which shall detect & punish crime; Which shall encourage industry virtue and literature; Which shall leave unshackled by fetters, Commerce, agriculture and Mechenism.

He further declares that he relies upon the rectitude of his intentions, the favor of *heaven* and the bravery of those who are bound and associated with him by principle of self preservation, by the love of truth, & by the hatred of tyranny, for his hopes of success.

He further declares that he believes that a government to be prosperous and happifying in its tendency, must originate with its people, who are friendly to its existence, that its citizens are its guardians, its officers are its servants and its glory their reward.

WILLIAM B. IDE
Commdr.

Head Quarters Sanomo
June 15th 1846

Anglo-Bancroftian Relations

IN OUR last issue we mentioned the Bancroft Library Research Program in England and the excellent microfilming work done by Dr. Robert E. Burke, who was in charge of this activity last year. As Dr. Burke has now returned to become a full-fledged Bancrofter, and Mr. Roland E. Duncan has taken his place as Bancroft's envoy to Great Britain, it

seems a good time to take stock of our progress.

Most of the materials filmed for the Bancroft during the first year of operations in England were from the various repositories of the Companies Registration Office, Bush House, London. These archives contain the corporate records of all English and Welsh limited companies incorporated after 1844. They are rich sources for the history of British capital in the Western Hemisphere during the latter nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During Dr. Burke's stay in England he photographed the records of more than a thousand companies, with investments in Alaska, Western Canada, the United States, Mexico, Central America, and Hawaii. Mr. Duncan plans to complete the microfilming of several hundred more companies in Bush House as well as to turn his attention to other archives. Among these is the Companies Registration Office in Edinburgh, the Scottish equivalent of Bush House.

Artist Shaw

THE PORTRAIT of Thomas O. Larkin which dresses up our forthcoming publication, *The Larkin Papers*, was painted by Stephen William Shaw, a prominent California artist and a gentleman whose past seems sufficiently interesting to merit a few lines here.

Shaw was born in New England, but he roamed the country while he learned and developed his art. At the close of the Mexican War he painted Zachary Taylor in Baton Rouge and Persifer Smith in Mexico. Early in 1849 he succumbed to the lure of gold and boarded a side-wheeler for Chagres. He crossed the Isthmus by the usual trail from Chagres to Panama, and there, with a group which included Collis P. Huntington, took a ship for San Francisco.

Like everyone else Shaw tried his luck in the mines for a short time, but he soon decided that his hand was better suited to the brush than to the pick. The following year, 1850, Shaw again sought adventure—this time with the Laura Virginia Association. The group sailed their schooner north along the coast until they found a harbor, which they named Humboldt Bay. There they es-

tablished a settlement where Shaw remained for several years.

By 1856 Shaw was back in San Francisco, both his studio and his reputation well established. His canvases were on display at nearly every exhibit, and he painted such noted figures as John W. Geary, William Ralston, and General John M. Schofield. His portrait of Larkin was done, presumably from photographs, the year after Larkin's death. Shaw painted more than two hundred portraits of California Masonic leaders which were destroyed when the Masonic Temple, where they were housed, burned at the time of the 1906 earthquake and fire.

Shaw died in 1900 at the age of 83, leaving a pictorial record of famous faces—documentation for half a century of California history.

Larkin Papers

THOMAS OLIVER LARKIN arrived in California from Boston almost one hundred and twenty years ago. He soon became prosperous, respected, and deeply involved in the affairs of his new country. And, fortunately for us, he wrote and received a great many letters, most of which he kept. Larkin's personal, business, and official correspondence came to the University of California with the great Bancroft collection and has always been among the richest of sources for students of California's early years.

The project of publishing these valuable papers was conceived several years ago and the careful transcription of the often faded and fragmentary manuscripts was begun. Many members of the Bancroft staff have contributed to the difficult work of transcribing the documents, solving the inevitable problems of research, and preparing the copy for the printer. Now, in time for Christmas, Volume I of *The Larkin Papers* will be published by the University of California Press. We think the book promises to be very handsome—its green cloth cover will be decorated with Larkin's signature and rubric, and the frontispiece, in full color, is a reproduction of the Stephen William Shaw portrait of Larkin which hangs in the Larkin House in Monterey.

Other volumes of *The Larkin Papers* will

appear at intervals. The important years which they cover include such happenings in California history as the Bear Flag Revolt, the war with Mexico, the constitutional convention, the founding of Benicia, the Gold Rush, and the spectacular growth of San Francisco.

Friends in Print

AGAIN we're pleased to note the appearance in print of some of our Friends. Among the recent books the following names have gladdened our eye:

Glen Dawson, editor of the *Early California Travels Series*.

Henry Herman Evans, *Western Bibliographies*.

Francis P. Farquhar, *The Colorado River*, by J. B. Kipp.

Guy James Giffen, *California Expedition*.

John B. Goodman III, *The Sacramento Placer Times, 1849-1851*.

Roscoe R. Hill, *American Missions in European Archives*.

Rockwell D. Hunt, *History of the College of the Pacific*.

Joseph Henry Jackson, *The Christmas Flower*.

Oscar Lewis, *The Lost Years*.

Dale L. Morgan, joint editor of *West from Fort Bridger*.

Joseph A. Sullivan, editor of Biobooks' *California Expedition* (mentioned above); *California Northeast*, by William S. Brown; and *The Russian Settlement in California*, by Robert A. Thompson.

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to all our scholarly and literary Friends. If we've missed any of you we're sorry and we hope you'll call our errors to our attention.

New Members and Old

TO ALL our new Friends of the Bancroft Library we extend a warm welcome. Our thanks go also to our old Friends for their prompt payment of contributions. The following members have joined our ranks since we last went to press:

Aubertine, Don J. F.
Bransten, Joseph

San Francisco
San Francisco

Breeze, Frank
Fraser, Clarence L.
Hanke, Lewis
Harrison, Michael
Martin, Joseph, Jr.
McDonald, Marshall W.
Nishkian, B. L.
Priestley, Mrs. Herbert I.
Thomas, Raymond
Todd, Joseph Z.
University of Washington
Library
Waine, Dr. and Mrs. Hans
Weston, Will B.
Young, Charles G.

Oakland
Dinuba
Austin, Texas
Sacramento
San Francisco
San Francisco
San Francisco
Berkeley
Walnut Creek
Oakland

Seattle, Wash.
West Newton, Mass.
Santa Clara
San Mateo

Visitors

DURING the past four months, 274 visitors have registered at the reference desk of the Bancroft Library, in addition to regular University users. Their stay ranges from half an hour, to see the Drake Plate and the Codex Leal, to a year or more for detailed research into the fine points of some hitherto-neglected aspect of such subjects as Mexican church history, the actual route taken by the first explorer to set foot on the site of modern Coalinga, or the true story behind the true story behind the "secret papers" of, perhaps, Frémont or some other adventurer. Among these students are the usual numbers tracing ancestors or seeking proof of their own birth, or delving into the history of their home counties, or preparing biographies of pioneers whether noted or previously unknown. Utopian colonies, labor movements, Modoc Indian Wars, opera in Oregon, agricultural implements, and the Donner Party, all have their historians. And we have even had a writer of murder mysteries checking historical background for the next thriller.

Our visitors have represented all ages, from the babe in arms (one) to the octogenarian (several), and all ranks from ROTC private to army general, with captains (both army and navy) for good measure, and conditions of servitude from retired schoolteachers to the President of Ecuador. They have come from twenty-one states, including Texas and Florida, as well as from Alaska and Hawaii. Not only North, South, and Central America have sent us friends, but also Australia, Asia, the Near East, Europe from Italy to Norway, and the British Isles, not including Ireland.