

BANCROFTIANA

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Annual Meeting

THE CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS of the Friends of the Bancroft Library announce that the Annual Meeting (our Eighth) will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 22, 4:30 p.m. at the Bancroft Library, Library Annex, on the University campus at Berkeley.

Mr. Carl I. Wheat, author, bibliophile, explorer and humorist, will speak on the "Riches and Poverty of the Bancroft Library," on the 50th anniversary of its acquisition by the University of California.

Jedediah Smith Family Papers

THE COLLECTION of Jedediah Smith Family Papers founded at the Bancroft Library in March, 1954, with the gift of the papers of Jedediah's younger brother, Peter, by his grandson, Mr. F. R. Bacon of South Pasadena, has grown apace during the past year, and is now an archive numbering more than 500 pieces, of high interest to students of the exploration and development of the early West. Miss Lura Smith and her brother, the late Ira Delos Smith of Meade, Kansas, contributed a large group of the papers of their father, E. D. Smith (including the manuscript of his pioneer biography of the explorer who first traveled overland from the Missouri to California), and of their great-grandfather, Ralph Smith, Jedediah's elder brother. Other papers from the Ralph Smith branch of the family were given Bancroft as originals or photocopies by Dr. Matthew D. Smith, President

of Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, South Dakota, Mrs. Florence Skaug of Atlantic, Iowa, and the El Paso County Pioneers' Museum, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Mrs. Stella D. Hare of Manchester, N. H., a descendant of Jedediah's eldest sister, Sally Smith Jones, added to the collection a large group including the papers of her grandfather (Sally's youngest son, Peter Jones), which are interesting not only for the glimpses they afford of Smith family history but for California and Civil War letters written by a namesake nephew, Jedediah Jones. Mrs. A. C. Bondurant and Mrs. William Bondurant of Hillsboro, Ill., contributed papers of their grandfather, Ira G. Smith, Jedediah's younger brother who was also the administrator of his estate—a responsibility with which his papers are primarily concerned. Photocopies of letters and a family Bible were added by Mrs. A. J. Sturzenegger of Los Angeles, a great-granddaughter of Jedediah's elder sister, Eunice Smith Simons. Other accessions may further enlarge this collection of the papers of a remarkable American family.

A Reminiscence

PERC S. BROWN—a good Friend indeed—has given us thirty copies of *A Reminiscence* by Samuel Hopkins Willey, member of the Class of 1845 at Dartmouth College, which he had prepared for a meeting of Dartmouth Alumni in San Francisco in 1898. Dr. Willey, who came to California in February, 1849, organized the movement which led to the founding of the University of California. Copies of this pamphlet will be mailed to Friends on a first-come first-served basis.

Carl I. Wheat

CARL I. WHEAT, Chairman of the Friends of the Bancroft Library, who will deliver the address at the Annual Meeting on May 22, makes history faster than we can record it. Our outpaced shorthand notations for the past year, his first as Chairman, yield memoranda that he spoke before the Roxburghe Club, the American Antiquarian Society, the Zamorano Club, and the California Historical Society, on various aspects of a ruling passion, the mapping of the American West; that he had published by the American Antiquarian Society a long and striking monograph, *Mapping the American West, 1540-1857*, and followed it up immediately with a book written in collaboration with Dale L. Morgan of the Bancroft staff, *Jedediah Smith and His Maps of the American West*; that, himself bitten by the bug of exploration, for the third successive year he participated in reconnaissances of the Navaho Canyon area in Arizona; that he has just been named president of the Book Club of California; that he is a director of the California Historical Society; that he has been appointed a member of the Advisory Board of the National Park Service; and that all the while he has carried on a very busy and successful law practice. No better qualified person could be found to take a good long look at the Bancroft Library, and on the occasion of its fiftieth year at the University of California, offer a broadscale cultural inventory, with wise and witty comment, of the Library's strengths and weaknesses.

The Fort Bridger Story

THE MOST significant addition to Bancroft's collection of manuscript Wyomingana yet made, more significant than anything gathered by Hubert Howe Bancroft himself, are the William Alexander Carter Papers, which from many sources have been coming to the library since 1937.

Judge Carter, who may be regarded as Wyoming's first modern settler, traveled to Fort Bridger with Johnston's Army in the fall of 1857, established himself as sutler at the new army post, and made Fort Bridger his

home until his death in 1881. The Bancroft Library acquired fourteen volumes of Judge Carter's daybooks and ledgers eighteen years ago, picked up another seven volumes of correspondence and papers in the second Auerbach sale in 1948, and within the last year has received many valuable papers from members of the family.

Mr. Edgar N. Carter of South Pasadena, California, now in his 83rd year, the only surviving child of Judge Carter, who has been working on a biography of his father, contributed an extensive collection of letters written to W. A. Carter by an uncle, W. H. Foote, in the 1830's and 1840's, a journal kept on the overland trail in 1866 by James Van Allen Carter (no blood relation, but subsequently the Judge's son-in-law), an 1879 letter by Jim Bridger, and numerous other items of interest. Mr. Carter Corson Camp of Napa, California, the son of Roberta Carter Camp, donated several diaries, many letters and miscellaneous papers, and a hundred early photographs. Dr. Charles L. Camp, well-known University of California paleontologist, bibliographer, and writer on Western themes, a cousin of C. C. Camp though not a descendant of Judge Carter, contributed still other Carter papers acquired at Fort Bridger nearly 40 years ago. And from beyond the limits of California, Dr. Edward F. Corson of Plymouth Meeting, Pa., son of Judge Carter's eldest daughter Ada, has given Bancroft an extraordinary number of family papers. These include more than a hundred letters by Judge Carter and his wife to Ada and her husband, Dr. Joseph K. Corson, and letters by prominent personalities to the Judge and his son-in-law, including E. V. Hayden, R. B. Marcy, W. S. Harney, and Edward D. Cope. W. A. Carter went overland to California during the Gold Rush, not then dreaming of the place Fort Bridger was to have in his life, and among the most attractive of the letters in the Corson gift is one written to his wife from Placerville, August 11, 1850.

Dr. Corson has also permitted Bancroft to film the memoirs of his father, who as an army surgeon lived for many years in the West; and he has been instrumental in securing for Bancroft an unrelated but valuable

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Wyoming manuscript, notes of conversations with the Shoshoni chief, Washakie, by Capt. P. H. Ray, made on the Wind River Reservation in the 1890's. In giving all these papers to the library, Dr. Corson confessed that had he not made medicine his career, he might have liked to be a research librarian or an archeologist. On the spot we commissioned him an Honorary Research Librarian and an Honorary Ethnologist of the Bancroft Library. Assuming these new dignities with characteristic humor, Dr. Corson quipped that he was pleased to accept "the Honoraries sans Honoraria."

Emigrant Register Given to Bancroft

A UNIQUE "Emigrant Register" of names and dates of the pioneers who inscribed their names in stone along the overland trails to California has been presented to the Bancroft Library by Mr. Charles Kelly of Torrey, Utah.

Mr. Kelly, custodian at Capitol Reef National Monument, is the author of *Salt Desert Trails, Old Greenwood, Outlaw Trail*, and other works on Western history. For nearly 20 years he has pursued his hobby of visiting sites along the overland trails and copying for his register all names that have survived the ravages of erosion. The results of this effort, nearly 3,000 names, have been recorded in alphabetical order in the "Emigrant Register."

The oldest markings recorded by Mr. Kelly are those at Inscription Rock in New Mexico, where the Spanish carvings date from 1605, when Don Juan de Oñate, first governor of the province, left his name on the cliff. The oldest American inscription, the initials O. R., also on Inscription Rock, is 1836. Most of the "registrations" found by Mr. Kelly along the overland trails date from the discovery of gold in California.

Mr. Kelly's name-seeking activities have led him down the canyoned Colorado River on four excursions where he discovered the names of trappers, including Denis Julien, dating back to 1836. He says that names cut

in sandstone, regarded as a "soft" rock, survive better than those in granite, owing to exfoliation of the latter.

The venturesome hobbyist reports that most of the early inscriptions on the northern trail to California, by way of South Pass, have weathered away, few before 1849 now remaining.

Microfilm Guide

IN RECENT YEARS the Library has added many thousands of film reproductions of its great collection of original materials for historical research. Microfilming programs have been carried on in the archives of France, Great Britain, Mexico, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain, and additions are constantly being made to the Library's microfilm collection. These new sources provide information for studies on many topics relating to California and the entire Pacific slope of North America, Mexico, parts of Central and South America, and the Hawaiian Islands.

To inform users about these resources the Library has issued a "Preliminary Guide to the Microfilm Collection in The Bancroft Library," prepared by Mary Ann Fisher, who has the responsibility for keeping order in our vast store of films. The 28-page, mimeographed report is designed to present a general summary of the character and scope of the Library's microfilm holdings. The guide describes briefly the various archives from which film has been received; gives an indication of the extent, subject matter, and inclusive dates of material from each source; and lists a few bibliographic aids which have been found helpful in working with the film.

Congratulations

AS WE GO TO PRESS, the flash reaches us that Mrs. Irene D. Paden, author of *The Wake of the Prairie Schooner*, Macmillan, 1943, *Prairie Schooner Detours*, Macmillan, 1949, and other works on California and the West, has received a Guggenheim fellowship for the year 1955-56. We extend our congratulations and wish her well with her new project, most of which she expects to carry on in the Bancroft Library.

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Dn. Pablo Parkman, Dr. Hammond, and the Rogers Bros. muzzle loader

Hammond's Adventures

GEORGE P. HAMMOND, director of Bancroft Library, has now been back in the library for about two months, after a sabbatical leave which packed business enough for eighteen months into a mere half-year. First he finished editorial work on volume V of *The Larkin Papers*, which was issued early this year by the University Press. Then in November and December, he made his headquarters at the University of New Mexico, ranging thence through documents and sites marking the trail of Spain in the Southwest. During this time he also wrote the major part of two articles which should see publication this year. One concerns the investment of the Crown of Spain in the founding of New Mexico, and the other reviews the relations of Spaniards and Indians under Spanish administration. Both studies are based on documents selected from the Spanish and Mexican archives by Lansing B. Bloom, France V. Scholes, and Dr. Hammond himself.

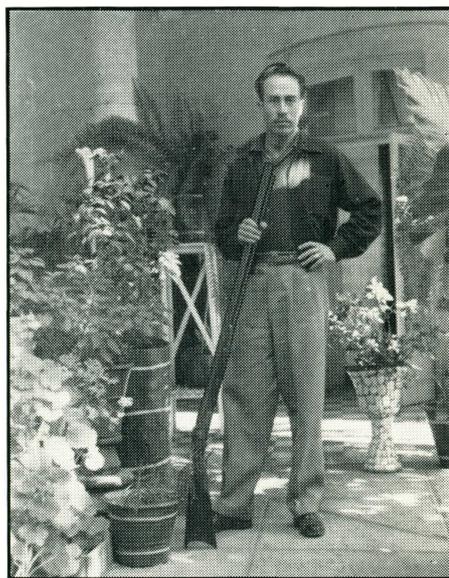
With the new year, Dr. Hammond went on to Old Mexico, becoming more familiar with the terrain and the problems faced by

the writers of the diaries he knows so well. Along the way, he searched for more documents—in Chihuahua City, where he vainly tried to find the archives themselves, more or less destroyed by fire in 1941, and in Parral, where he was given complete coöperation in the use of an extraordinarily rich collection of documentary sources for the history of the north-central region of northern Mexico.

In Mexico City, where the rest of his leave was spent, Dr. Hammond delved in odd corners of the Archivo General de la Nación and arranged to have microfilms made of a large number of documents relating to California and the Southwest. Through the Mexican historian, Ing. Vito Alessio Robles, and the director, General Rubén García, Dr. Hammond was given entrée to the Archivo Histórico Militar of the Ministry of National Defense. After examining several hundred bundles of documents he selected some 50,000 pages of manuscript for microfilming; his request was relayed as far as the General Staff, which graciously granted permission.

On another hunt for information, Dr. Hammond traced the descendants of Jedediah Smith's agent, Samuel Parkman, who entered the Mexican trade after Smith's

Dn. Pablo Parkman y Parkman



death in 1831, and of whom virtually nothing was known after 1835. He found Parkman descendants in Mexico City and in Guanajuato, and, with the help of a grandson, Don Pablo Parkman, was able to bring a substantial collection of documents to the Bancroft Library for microfilming. Dr. Hammond also "hefted" and photographed Parkman's rifle, a 55-inch Rogers Bros. muzzle loader still carefully preserved in the family.

Dibblee Papers

THE PAPERS of the pioneer San Francisco merchant, Albert Dibblee (1821-1895), have settled down at last in the Bancroft Library, after their own trip to the East Coast and back. The Baker Library of Harvard University, where the Dibblee Papers had been deposited some time ago, decided that the Bancroft Library would be a more convenient location for the scholars who might be interested in them and generously offered them to us.

Dibblee, a New Yorker by birth, came around the Horn on the ship *Martha* with a varied stock of merchandise, including confectionery, paints, butter, pork, office fixtures, portable houses, and a 36-foot sailboat. At Valparaiso he invested in potatoes, which he sold in San Francisco at a handsome profit upon his arrival in 1850. After a succession of partnerships—with J. H. Chichester, Charles W. Crosby, and William C. Hyde—Dibblee carried on his commission agent firm under his own name. As shipping declined, he gave more and more of his time to stock-raising in various parts of the state. Long interested in the explosives business, Dibblee was president of the Giant Powder Company for many years. He was an active member of the Vigilance Committee of 1856 and helped to organize the Home Guard in 1861.

The collection is a large one, consisting of 327 manuscript volumes of correspondence, journals, ledgers, cash books, ships' accounts, etc., as well as several cartons of vouchers and memoranda. When fully arranged and catalogued, the Dibblee Papers will be an important storehouse of information on the commercial life of California during the second half of the last century.

Jones Papers Reunited

BANCROFTERS take a special satisfaction in effecting a reconciliation between papers that have become estranged if not actually divorced, and our good offices have lately been exercised toward the restoration of wholeness and harmony to the papers of Elbert P. Jones, who as lawyer, real estate operator, editor of the *California Star*, member and secretary of the town council, tavern keeper, practicing politician, &c., &c., was a highly colorful and ornamental fixture of the San Francisco scene from 1846 to 1851.

In 1933, through the generous efforts of sixteen depression-proof friends of the Bancroft Library, we acquired a group of 143 Jones manuscripts, 1846-51 business papers of a remarkably busy man, and now, 22 years later, we have purchased a far more extensive lot, numbering 757 pieces, of precisely the same character.

The Jones Papers comprise a kind of Pioneer Register in miniature, especially for San Francisco before the Gold Rush, and hereafter will be a happy hunting ground for scholars stalking elusive quarry through the foggy jungles of time.

Lexington Documents

AN INTERESTING addition to the many original records in the Bancroft Library relating to the conquest of California and to naval operations off the Pacific Coast of Mexico is a recently purchased group of 142 letters and documents comprising the papers of Lieut. Theodorus Bailey from June, 1846, to June, 1848, while in command of the U. S. S. *Lexington*.

The earliest papers in the collection relate to the fitting out of the *Lexington* at the Navy Yard in New York for the cruise around the Horn. By November, 1846, with a company of the 3rd Artillery aboard, she had reached Valparaiso whence she was ordered to Monterey. After remaining at Monterey till mid-March, the *Lexington* was ordered to San Francisco to bring down some U. S. volunteers, and was subsequently detailed to sail Gen. S. W. Kearny to San Pedro and back.

On June 18, 1847, the *Lexington* was ordered to Santa Barbara to pick up Lieut. Col. H. S. Burton and a detachment of troops for operations on the Gulf of California. Burton established himself at La Paz, Lower California, and Bailey stayed in support until September, when he was relieved by the U. S. S. *Dale*. In October he was ordered to join Commodore W. B. Shubrick at Mazatlán. When Shubrick undertook to blockade Manzanilla and San Blas, Bailey's ship was stationed at the latter port, and she remained from January 11 to early June, 1848, when her commander was given passage home on the U. S. S. *Cyane*.

The papers include twenty-eight official and unofficial letters from Commodore Shubrick, seven by Capt. James Biddle, three by Capt. Thomas ap Catesby Jones, one by Gen. S. W. Kearny, and others who figured prominently in events of the period. Burton, who made a heroic defense of La Paz shortly after Bailey was relieved at that port, is represented in the collection with seven interesting letters; and items of note are communications attendant on the blockade of San Blas, including letters from the French vice-consul Joseph Calvo, Alex Forbes, G. W. P. Bissell, John Horton, and other businessmen located at Tepic and San Blas.

Utah Manuscripts

HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT'S work on his history of Utah and the library's collection of manuscripts relating to Utah were recently described at length in two articles by Dr. S. George Ellsworth. Ellsworth's "Hubert Howe Bancroft and the History of Utah," published in the April 1954 issue of the *Utah Historical Quarterly*, serves as an introduction to his "Guide to the Manuscripts in the Bancroft Library Relating to the History of Utah," published in the same journal in July.

Bancroft's assembling of material and his methods of compiling and writing the history have been described in detail by Ellsworth. Bancroft endeavored with success to be fair to both the Mormons and the "Gentiles." He gained the confidence of the Church leaders and secured their full cooperation. He and Mrs. Bancroft visited in Utah,

and entertained the Church dignitaries who came to San Francisco. Mrs. Bancroft recorded most of the "dictations" from Mormon ladies.

Ellsworth's guide to the manuscripts lists not only the manuscripts collected by Bancroft but the more recent acquisitions of the library as well. Manuscripts are listed alphabetically, with their call or location numbers, an analysis of their contents and a physical description which includes notes on handwriting and signatures.

Dr. Ellsworth, assistant professor of history at Utah State Agricultural College, worked closely with Mrs. Julia Macleod of the manuscripts division in the preparation of the guide.

Thomas W. Norris Collection

IN OUR LAST ISSUE we ran articles on *Thomas W. Norris and the Spanish language manuscripts in his great collection, recently acquired by the library. We conclude our brief survey of the Norris manuscripts in this number.*

Californiana—American Period

Mr. Norris' collection of manuscripts relating to the American period of California history is exceedingly complex, and no brief summary can do anything like justice to it. His chief fields of interest were the conquest and the establishment of civil government, the Gold Rush (particularly the southern mines), and the San Francisco of the 'fifties and 'sixties. The arrangement of his "scrapbooks," which contain broadsides, pamphlets, pictures, and other materials as well as manuscripts, is sometimes by subject (Sutter, Folsom, California Constitution and Signers) and sometimes by geographic area (San Francisco, Alameda County). A considerable number of manuscripts never got placed in books, although many of these appear to have come from the same sources.

The most notable groups of documents relating to the earliest period of American rule are those concerning Joseph Libbey Folsom, Stephen W. Kearny, John C. Frémont and

William T. Sherman. Much of the Folsom correspondence relates to the Quartermaster Corps and to his tenure as Collector of Customs at San Francisco. One of the Kearny letters is to the Secretary of War and refers to his famous quarrel with Commodore Robert F. Stockton and Frémont. In the volume relating to Frémont are a number of papers concerning claims against the government for damage done to civilian property by troops, as well as a letter from Frémont to William Workman thanking the latter for his support against Kearny. Of interest in the Sherman collection is a letter written early in 1846 requesting western service as "a more active kind of life," and a number of letters written from Monterey discussing the high prices of supplies and the effect of the gold rush on commerce and the armed forces.

A number of letters and proclamations from Governor Bennet Riley relate to the Constitutional Convention, including one outlining procedures for submitting accounts and a copy of Riley's proclamation establishing the ratified constitution, signed for him by H. W. Halleck. Related documents are concerned with the chartering of a ship to carry delegates to the convention, and with the costs of printing both the constitution and Riley's proclamation submitting it for ratification. One Halleck letter advises delay in transferring the public archives to San José since "the Archives are quite bulky and exceedingly valuable, involving the titles of most of the real estate in California. It would therefor be improper to risk their loss in crossing the swollen streams in the winter season."

The volume relating to Sutter is among the most interesting in the whole Norris collection. Three Sutter manuscripts tell the heart of the Sutter story: a letter to W. A. Leidesdorff in 1846 gives a rather full account of life at New Helvetia; a letter to a Monterey tailor (dated May 12, 1848) offers to pay for a new suit with pure gold and tells of early mining successes; and an 1849 letter to Governor Riley asking aid in evicting squatters, bearing an endorsement by Halleck: "Not acted upon by Gen. Riley, but turned over to his successor." Other gold rush manuscripts include a considerable number of let-

ters from miners to their families in the east and a round-the-horn journal. Among the southern mines documents is a large collection of the papers of the Tuolumne County Water Company, including correspondence, payrolls, vouchers, stock certificates and the papers of predecessor companies.

Papers of prominent residents of San Francisco include those of Folsom, Edwin Bryant, George Hyde, Washington A. Bartlett, T. M. Leavenworth, and Jasper O'Farrell. A substantial collection is that of accounts of the Tehama House, 1850-1855, both residence and maintenance. Miscellaneous papers relate to the customs house, the mint, fire companies, churches, schools, and the vigilance committee of 1856, as well as to early mayors, sheriffs, and police chiefs. Noteworthy is the sizable collection of billheads of prominent merchants. Important legal leaders are also represented, including James McHall Jones, Judge John McHenry, John T. Doyle and the firm of Halleck, Peachy and Billings. In all, Mr. Norris had five scrapbooks relating to San Francisco, two of them for the period before 1860, as well as many hundreds of other items.

Literary Manuscripts

The Norris Collection contains eight important groups of materials for the literary history of California. Chiefly manuscripts, they include as well a substantial number of inscribed photographs, some rare ephemera, and a very large number of clippings. Here is a brief sketch of these literary collections:

One of Mr. Norris' books, entitled "Francis Bret Harte U. S. Mint," contains six documents relating to Harte's service as clerk at the San Francisco mint. Another, called simply "Bret Harte," contains 66 letters by him, chiefly in longhand; 2 letters to him; 11 letters from contemporaries about him; three poetry and four prose manuscripts in his hand. Of particular interest are 24 letters from Harte to Ina Coolbrith between 1865 and 1869, most of them demanding new poems from her for the *Overland Monthly*.

The largest of the literary collections, the correspondence and papers of Charles Warren Stoddard, seems to have reached Mr. Nor-

ris after having been long in the possession of Ina Coolbrith, who collected Stoddard's poems for publication but never managed to find time to do Stoddard's biography; 132 letters are included, almost all from the last decade of Stoddard's life, and all but ten written to him. Correspondents include Isobel Field (who sent Stoddard four charming pen sketches of her surroundings in Samoa), Porter Garnett, Daniel Coit Gilman, James Hopper, Joaquin Miller and Rudyard Kipling. Of major interest are 29 letters from Yone Noguchi, the Japanese poet who was one of Stoddard's proteges and who was an important figure in San Francisco's turn-of-the-century literary flowering. Also in the Stoddard Papers are five manuscript journals and notebooks, three scrapbooks, and a very large number of clippings. In addition there are copies of his poems gathered by Ina Coolbrith.

A group of 33 letters to Ina Coolbrith include 2 from William Dean Howells, 2 from Joaquin Miller (plus 7 from Miller's relatives), and 4 from Stoddard. These supplement the many hundreds of letters to her already in our Ina Coolbrith Collection. Of interest is her thirty-page manuscript obituary of Miller.

One of Mr. Norris' large "scrapbooks" is devoted to the "Poet of the Sierras" and contains many examples of Joaquin Miller's notoriously unreadable handwriting. There are 59 longhand letters, of which 10 are to Miss Coolbrith and 1 is to George Sterling; 13 letters to Miller; and 8 letters about him. In addition there are a number of prose and poetry manuscripts in Miller's hand.

The book devoted to Jack London contains 14 London letters, 6 of them handwritten, including 1 to Joaquin Miller and 3 lengthy ones to his old friend Fannie K. Hamilton. A noteworthy letter is a four-page autobiographical sketch written for Houghton, Mifflin in 1900. A letter written by London from Tasmania enclosed a two-page typescript "brief explanation" for the abandonment of the cruise of the *Snark*. Also in this group are a leaf from Charmian London's journal describing Maui as they found it in 1907, and a leaf from the logbook of the *Snark*.

Among the printed ephemera are programs for a "London night" celebrated by the Ruskin Club of Oakland in 1906, and one of the Londons' leaflets of instructions for guests at Glen Ellen.

An extensive collection of literary manuscripts of the famous California poet, George Sterling, was gathered by Norris and inserted in five of his books. In all there are 115 poems, some in manuscript and others in typescript, signed, a substantial number of which are unpublished. The manuscript of Sterling's story "Rejuvenation," fifty-nine pages long, is contained in one of the volumes, and also in the collection are the manuscripts of two short plays, "The Flight" and "The Vision of Portolá." There are 10 letters from Sterling to Ina Coolbrith written between 1907 and 1923. Of considerable importance are the 75 letters to Sterling in the collection: 4 from Louis Alexander Robertson, the San Francisco publisher; 7 from Benjamin de Casseres, poet and essayist; 7 from Vachel Lindsay; 4 from Edgar Lee Masters; and 53 from H. L. Mencken, who published Sterling in *The Smart Set* and *The American Mercury*.

Mr. Norris acquired a small collection of the correspondence of Harry Lafler, assistant editor of *The Argonaut* and prominent figure in the literary life of pre-earthquake San Francisco. Of great importance are 6 letters from Lafler to the short-lived Carmel poet, Nora May French, and 8 from Miss French to Lafler. Also of interest are two letters from Lafler to Bertha Newberry, poet and playwright, and two from her to Lafler. The Lafler collection is a valuable addition to our manuscript holdings relating to the California literary scene around the turn of the century.

In his volume devoted to the great California poet, Robinson Jeffers, Norris placed 18 letters from Jeffers to George Sterling and 3 letters from Mrs. Jeffers to Sterling, written between 1924 and 1926. The first Jeffers letter is a reply to one from Sterling and one sentence indicates its spirit: "But how can I thank you for a letter that has the eagle-sweep and the clear sweetness of your odes, and such generosity as I think isn't recorded before in the dealings of poets with each other?"