

BANCROFTIANA

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Hart, Acting Director

ONE OF THE PRIVILEGES of University service is the opportunity given the faculty for intensive research and writing during a sabbatical leave of absence. On July 1, 1961, Dr. Hammond, Director of the Bancroft Library and Professor of History, will begin a year's leave to prepare for publication some of the Larkin Papers and a volume for the Coronado Historical Series, *From Coronado to Oñate*.

In his absence, the Bancroft Library will be guided by the experienced hand of Dr. James D. Hart, Professor of English, whose devotion to the Library is well known. His many books and articles include *The Oxford Companion to American Literature*, 1941, his address delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Friends in 1954, "What Did the 49ers Read?", and his book, *American Images of Spanish California*, distributed as the Bancroft keepsake for 1960. Dr. Hart has done much to build the Bancroft collections while serving as chairman not only of the English department but of the faculty committee on the University Library, and during a three-year term as Vice-Chancellor. With his knowledge of books and his wide-ranging interests in Western history and literature, his appointment will alike profit the Library and gratify the Friends.

The Rose of Castile

AMONG THE ROSES that beautified the speaker's stand at the Annual Meeting on April 23, none was more appropriate than the pale pink Rose of Castile. Three varieties were represented, offspring of plants brought to California's missions and ranchos from Spain

or Mexico. Friends who grow this historic flower in their gardens include Mrs. Ralph H. Cross and Mrs. J. N. Bowman of Berkeley and Mrs. E. P. Schlichtmann of San Leandro, who brought the delicate blooms to honor Susanna Bryant Dakin and the early women of California about whom she spoke.

Assistant Director of Bancroft

RESOLVED on preparing himself for a career in teaching, Dr. J. S. Holliday has resigned as Bancroft's Assistant Director after two and one-half years of yeoman service, during which he has won a host of friends for himself and the Library. Before moving out of his office, Jim was sagacious enough to see to it that he was assigned a strategically located desk in the main reading room, and his friends may look for him there, working like a true Bancrofter on some of the books that form part of his plan for the future. Although sorry to have Jim leave the staff, we are happy that he has escaped no farther than the reading room for the present.

Bancroft's newly appointed Assistant Director is the popular and knowledgeable Robert H. Becker. Bob was born and educated in Portland, served in the U.S. Army from 1940 to 1945, then got his A.B. from the University of Oregon in 1948. The same year he moved to California to begin graduate studies in history at the University of California, but soon embarked on a library career and in 1951 was graduated from the University's School of Librarianship. From 1951 until his new appointment, he served on Bancroft's reference staff. With a rare enthusiasm, he has dug into

every province of Bancroft's historical empire, and has a remarkable over-all command of its collections. His *Some Reflections of an Early California Governor* was one of the notable books of 1959, printed by the Grabhorn Press for the Sacramento Book Collectors Club, of whose Book Selection Committee he is presently a member. Along the way Bob has acquired one (1) wife and three (3) children, uniformly attractive.

"Retired"

Professor Ira B. Cross

"TO ERR IS HUMAN, to forgive divine." Fortunately for us, our good friend, Dr. Ira B. Cross, recalled this saying—since we had referred to him in a recent issue of *Bancroftiana* as "the late Professor Cross." To his thousands of friends and former students, we meant simply that he is now retired from active duty, as he has been for the past ten years.

Professor Cross at the present time is enjoying his hobby as a specialist in the culture and propagation of chrysanthemums, instead of exploring the subject of "Money and Banking," for which he was famed in his classes at the University of California.

"Cheyenne" Dawson

THE YEAR 1841 is memorable in California history for the arrival of the Bartleson party, the first overland emigrant company to arrive in quest of permanent homes. There had been a trickle of emigration over southern routes in prior years, but with 1841 and the arrival of the Bartleson party, the history of California took a new direction.

The Bartleson party included such notables as John Bidwell, Charles M. Weber, Josiah Belden, and Joseph Chiles. Well remembered by these men was one Nicholas "Cheyenne" Dawson, but so self-effacing and independent was he that even H. H. Bancroft could learn nothing certain of him, and Bancroft's Pioneer Register completely mixed up "Cheyenne" with another member of the party, James "Bear" Dawson.

After a second trip to California in the Gold

Rush, Nicholas Dawson settled in Texas. There, in 1901, he published his reminiscences, but with characteristic modesty, for his family only, in an edition of 50 copies. This delightful work remained unknown to students of California and Western history until Charles L. Camp edited a new edition for the Grabhorn Press in 1933.

All this is by way of prefacing an announcement that will bring delight to scholars everywhere. "Cheyenne" Dawson's granddaughter, Mrs. V. G. Okie of Austin, Texas, has given to the Bancroft Library a veritable treasure trove of his papers. The gift includes a copy of the rare book of 1901, the original manuscript of these reminiscences, which Dawson began to write in 1894, a little pocket book Dawson carried with him to California in 1841, in which he made a daily record of campsites and miles traveled, and in which, after reaching his destination, he wrote the discerning account of "California in 1842," later incorporated into his book; the original diary of a second journey to California in 1849 through Texas and Mexico; and, with much else, a sizable collection of his correspondence and other family papers.

Dawson died in 1903. So far as is known, he was the last survivor of the Bartleson party. Now, through the generous gift of his granddaughter, his papers give him a further immortality. Students of American history will find them surprising in their range, from the economic development of Pennsylvania (including the early oil business) to the misadventures of the Mormons in Missouri; from conditions in California during the turbulent Forties, to those in Arkansas and Texas during the Fifties and Sixties. It is appropriate that his papers have come to a final home in that California where twice he traveled in search of health and fortune, and where he would have been happy to end his days.

At the Grabhorns

THE NEW KEEPSAKE, *The Ralston-Fry Wedding Journey to Yosemite, 1858*, edited by Francis P. Farquhar, is now at the printers and will be sent to members at the close of the summer vacation season.



The Plate of Brass, left on these shores in 1579 by Francis Drake, since 1937 has been a famed possession of the Bancroft Library, but rarely does it attract two famous admirals to share the emotions aroused by sight of the Plate. This year Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, an eminent Drake enthusiast, escorted to the Library Lord Louis Mountbatten of Burma, chief of the United Kingdom Defense Staff. Above, the two admirals, Lord Mountbatten at center, view the Plate with Bancroft's Director, to whom Admiral Nimitz presented copies of his articles on Drake.

When Bancroft Began

GREAT OAKS from tiny acorns grow, but—when was the acorn planted? In the December, 1959, issue of *Bancroftiana*, we quoted H. H. Bancroft's own statement as to the origins of his library, and thought ourselves safe in giving 1859 as the natal year. As Bancroft recalled the event, William H. Knight, an editor, then was engaged in preparing the *Hand-Book Almanac* for 1860. To aid him, Bancroft assembled his books pertaining to the Western States and Territories. This act constitutes the genesis of the Library.

The master, however, was fallible, for we now learn that Knight did not enter his employ until 1860. Knight came to California in August, 1859, soon began working for the San Francisco booksellers, Lee & Carl, and in October entered the service of another bookseller, George H. Bell. He was still working for Bell when, on July 22, 1860, he wrote his mother that he had recently begun publish-

ing a new periodical, *The Bookseller*, for Mr. Bancroft. Sometime between the appearance of the August and September, 1860, issues of *The Bookseller*, Knight's address changed from Bell's premises to those of Bancroft, and the prospectus-questionnaires sent out by A. L. Bancroft & Co. for the *Hand-Book* indicate that this part of the project began in August, 1860. By December, Knight was writing his mother that "The Hand Book of travel which I am compiling and of which I wrote you is a great undertaking."

The undertaking was far greater than Knight could have conceived, in view of what grew out of it. But it is now fully evident that the event must be dated a year later than Bancroft's remembrance of it. Consequently we find 1860 to be the year of the Bancroft Library's birth. We have got successfully through our first hundred years, and are enthusiastically training our sights on the second.

Generous Tribute

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Friends on April 23, Dr. J. S. (Jim) Holliday, Assistant Director of the Bancroft Library from 1958 to 1961, spoke in appreciation of Bancroft's Director. No one has had a better opportunity to see George P. Hammond in action at close range over a considerable period of time, and we are sure Dr. Holliday's eloquent remarks will be read with interest by all the Friends. In full, he said:

"On this occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Bancroft Library and the Annual Meeting of the Friends, I believe with all of you that this would be and is an appropriate occasion to pay tribute to George Hammond, who for fifteen years has served this Library and this University with unflinching devotion and with an astonishing energy. The Bancroft Library, since its purchase by the University of California, has had great leadership—the leadership of scholars, of men who have combined the talents of teacher, historian, collector, writer. This great and, to the Library, vital tradition has certainly been enhanced and reinigorated by Dr. Hammond's directorship—a directorship guided by his conviction that there is no greater asset of the Library than its close and purposeful relationship and

association with this great University. Among the many evidences of Dr. Hammond's achievements, we have here a fine, if not the outstanding, example—the growth and development of the Friends.

“And so on this occasion of the Library's one hundredth anniversary and this Annual Meeting, I want to join with all of you—with the hundreds of scholars and students who have worked here in the past and who will work in the Bancroft Library in the future, with the Council and with the staff who best appreciate Dr. Hammond's achievements and efforts—join with all of you in paying tribute, in expressing our thanks to Dr. Hammond, and in voicing the hope that he will take satisfaction and a great pride in the sure knowledge that because of his achievements and his hard work this Library, through the next hundred years, will flourish and thrive in its service to this University, to the State, and, indeed, to the Nation!”

Warren R. Howell

ONE OF THE MOST beautiful catalogues issued by an American bookseller is *Catalogue 33* of John Howell—Books. Distributed this spring, it marks the fiftieth year of the noted San Francisco bookselling firm, and features an appealing, reminiscent introduction by Rebecca Richardson Howell, paying tribute both to her late husband and to her stalwart son, Warren, who today carries on the Howell tradition.

This reminds us that last year, when Everett D. Graff, one of America's eminent book collectors, paid one of his periodic visits to the Bancroft Library, he paused to reflect upon the vigor and distinction of the Bay Area's rare bookselling, and in the course of his remarks he singled out one dealer in particular. “Warren R. Howell,” he commented, “is becoming the Dr. Rosenbach of American history.” This was high praise indeed, in view of the late A. S. W. Rosenbach's unique place in the American bookselling scene.

We were scarcely surprised, therefore, to pick up the morning paper sometime afterwards and read that the mysterious buyer who recently purchased two manuscripts of Captain Cook at the highest price (\$148,400.00)

ever bid in a London auction for a work of history, was none other than our neighbor, the public-spirited and exceedingly effective Warren R. Howell. He has been a member of the Council of the Friends since 1957.

Grolier Club Visit

BIBLIOPHILES have long been accustomed to the peregrinations of those California lovers of the printing arts, members of the Roxburghe and Zamorano clubs. But something new was seen on this Coast when on April 22 a group from the Grolier Club of New York boarded a jet plane for a nine-day visit to California.

An evening reception by the Roxburghe Club on the 22nd at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor was followed by a trip to Stanford on the 23rd, and an extended visit the following afternoon to the University of California to view the centennial exhibition at the Bancroft Library and special displays at other departments of the University's General Library. Later, Chancellor and Mrs. Edward W. Strong entertained at a reception in University House. After touring San Francisco Bay, the Grolier Club guests took off on the 26th for Carmel, San Simeon, and that interesting country south of the Tehachapis—Los Angeles and environs—prior to returning to New York.

Bancroftiana— Article of Commerce?

A CURRENT CATALOG distributed by a New York bookseller includes the following offering:

“BANCROFTIANA. Published occasionally by the Friends of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley. Nos. 1-10 (1950-1954), 8vo. \$8.00.

“Many interesting notes on rare books and manuscripts in this great library of Western Americana.”

This shows that we are on our way. Perhaps we can start planning a volume for Bancroft's bicentennial, *The Best from BANCROFTIANA, 1961-2060.*