

BANCROFTIANA

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Wagner Award to Dale Morgan

DALE MORGAN'S ACHIEVEMENTS as a scholar of the American West were honored at a banquet on September 27 when the California Historical Society bestowed on him its Henry R. Wagner Memorial Award.

Morgan is well known for his many books, which include *The Humboldt, Highroad of the West* (1943), *The Great Salt Lake* (1947), *Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West* (1953), *Jedediah Smith and his Maps of the American West* (with Carl I. Wheat, 1954), and Rand McNally's *Pioneer Atlas of the American West* (1956). The award recognized these achievements but was specifically granted for his notable editions of *The Overland Diary of James A. Pritchard* (1959) and *California as I Saw It* by William McCollum (1960), in which his lengthy commentaries, placing these works in their historical contexts, represent significant scholarly contributions in themselves.

Since 1954 Morgan has been a valuable member of the Bancroft Library's staff, primarily concerned with the compilation of its monumental guide to manuscript collections of the Pacific Coast and the Western United States. His services go far beyond this project, however, for in many ways he has assisted the Library on its program of manuscript and book collecting. Through his interest, the acquisition of Mormon materials by the Bancroft Library has been greatly increased within the past seven years.

Henry R. Wagner, in whose honor the award is named, was one of the West's emi-

nent historians, a good friend of the Bancroft Library, and a key member of the group that revived and reorganized the California Historical Society in 1922. The award, one of the important marks of recognition in the field of American history, is made to the author



President Francis Farquhar of California Historical Society, Dale Morgan, and Acting Director James D. Hart at Wagner Award Ceremonies

of a major work or works published within the preceding two calendar years in the areas of history, cartography or bibliography which Wagner himself pursued with distinction.

Dr. James D. Hart, Acting Director of the Bancroft Library, told the audience at the third annual Wagner Memorial Award dinner in San Francisco: "Dale Morgan has considerably enriched our understanding of various facets of the Western United States and of that entire frontier itself through his diverse kinds of research and publication which include basic bibliographies, scrupulously and

intelligently compiled; carefully annotated editions of primary documents; knowing cartographic studies of important early maps; and his own firmly based historical studies marked both by breadth of treatment and depth of interpretation."

George Sumner Albee Papers

"SOMEHOW I've never cared about going to California—too late. Would have been fine anytime before the Iowa migration. Maybe I'm wrong and will have to go sometime to see."

The letter is to George Sumner Albee. The date: November 18, 1932. The correspondent: Ernest Hemingway.

A significant addition to Bancroft's growing collection of manuscripts of Western authors, the George Sumner Albee Papers, was presented to the Library last year by Mr. Albee, through the good offices of Professor Benjamin H. Lehman. Consisting of correspondence to and from Albee, as well as many of Albee's own literary manuscripts, the collection offers a revealing picture of the aspirations and problems of an American writer during the late 1920s and 1930s.

Mr. Albee was born in Wisconsin in 1905, grew up in Southern California, and attended the University of California (Class of 1927). He started writing short stories when he was twelve, and his first novel, *Not in a Day*, was published in 1935. Since that time he has written several novels, and his short stories have appeared in *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Scribner's*, and *Cosmopolitan*. "Fame Takes the J Car" was reprinted by Edward J. O'Brien in *The Best Short Stories of 1933*, and later in *Fifty Best American Short Stories*.

Although he has lived in the East since 1934, much of Albee's fiction is set in California. His novel, *The Boys* (1957), recreates his own life in Los Angeles at the end of the First World War. An earlier novel, *Young Robert* (1937), describes the life of a young poet in San Francisco. In reviewing this work, Archie Binns said: "Better perhaps than Frank

Norris, Albee has caught and understood the tremendous, undisciplined vitality which flows deep in the veins of San Francisco." Mr. Albee's most recent work, *By the Sea, By the Sea*, was published in 1960.

Aside from the file of Hemingway correspondence, there are letters from John Steinbeck, William Saroyan, Louis Kronenberger, and Benjamin H. Lehman, and what may well be the last letter written by the novelist Malcolm Lowry before his death in March, 1957. Copies of Albee's letters written during the years 1929-1958 enable the reader to "hear" both sides of the frequently fascinating dialogues on the role of the "serious" writer, and on the nature of art itself.

Among Albee's literary manuscripts are those for two novels, numerous short stories, and the scenario for the film *The Next Voice You Hear* (1950).

Judge Goodman

WE NOTE WITH REGRET the sudden passing on September 15 of a revered friend, Louis E. Goodman, Chief Judge of the U. S. District Court in San Francisco. He was a graduate of the University of California in 1913, and one of the great benefactors of this University, Stanford, and the University of San Francisco. We shall long remember and miss him.

The Terrazas Collection

MR. CORT MAJORS, Chairman of the Council of the Friends, announced at the Annual Meeting last April that President Kerr and the University's Regents had approved the purchase of the correspondence, papers and library of Don Silvestre Terrazas, of Chihuahua, Mexico. This great collection on the Mexican Revolution of 1910 and the years following is now part of the Bancroft Library, and is being processed to make it available for scholarly research by the time of the next Annual Meeting in May 1962. It is too soon to attempt a detailed description; but at least one can now announce that there are 42 cubic feet of manuscripts, substantial files of newspapers from 1902 to 1935, and several thousand books and ephemeral printed items. This

is the first major collection on the Mexican Revolution to become available in the United States, and it is an important one, indeed. Much more detailed information will be presented in *Bancroftiana* when the collection is opened for use.

Newton C. Miller's Letters

EACH GENERATION, it is agreed, writes its own history, for to each generation, the people and events of the past have a new and different significance. Take, for example, the Forty-niner, who deserves more thoughtful study. He has been depicted as a wild, red-shirted rowdy, a dedicated tosspot who spent day after day half-immersed in icy Sierra creeks, living on whiskey and sow-belly, and eventually losing his gold, if not his life, in the bagnios and deadfalls of San Francisco's Sydney-Town, the precursor of the Barbary Coast. "Sturdy and sinful" was the phrase used for him by such a dispassionate scholar as Josiah Royce, and even the Forty-niners themselves, in their declining years, looked back upon their youth as a time of riot and themselves as inordinately raffish fellows.

Flamboyance was indeed a characteristic of the Gold Rush; there were many who took advantage of their freedom to indulge in follies and excesses. Yet the successful Forty-niner was more often sturdy than sinful. He worked hard; sometimes he made his "pile." He returned home with enough to buy the neighborhood butcher shop or to go to college; or he stayed in California, perhaps to become one day a United States Senator, or the owner of a farm, a saloon, a bank. Among these successful ones was Newton C. Miller, ninety-two of whose letters to his family recently came to the Bancroft Library as a gift of the Friends.

A New Englander who served in the Mexican War, Miller returned to his home in Hanover, New Hampshire, for about a year before he sailed, in the fall of 1849, for California aboard the *Richmond*. He only hoped to make enough from the venture to return to his family, and ". . . buy a little place in Hanover, and we will all live there together once more." Instead, he spent a long and use-

ful life in Nevada County, California, and died at French Corral in 1894.

Miller was intelligent and articulate, and his letters, written in the years 1849-1862, cover one of the most important decades of California's history. In March of 1852, writing from Foster's Bar, he told his sister that he now planned to settle in California permanently, and reassured her:

You write that you had been to a lecture upon California by a clergyman who had been here some three years. If the impression conveyed in your letter was the same as received from his lecture, I should say that the three years he spent in the country were to very little purpose. It is a matter of fact that the restraints of society are not felt at all in the mines, and very slight in the cities. And it is also true that there are many persons, not all young and inexperienced, upon whom California may be said to exert a bad influence, but they are not even a respectable (in point of number) minority. The great mass of the miners with whom I have come in contact are of good habits and upright and honorable in their dealings—not only men, but gentlemen. It would be as unfair to judge of society at home by the character of a dozen unprincipled individuals as it would be to do the same here. California, as I take it, shows a person in his true character, and any one made of the stuff of which *men* are made will be a man here as well as elsewhere.

In the following years, he became a pioneer in the development of hydraulic-mining techniques, a member of the State Legislature, and later, in 1878, took part in the establishment of the world's first long-distance telephone line—extending 60 miles from French Corral to Milton, in Sierra County. His reports to his family not only tell of life in the diggings, but also demonstrate that many of the Forty-niners were sensitive and cultured men, who worked in the creeks and tunneled in the hillsides by day—but who planned libraries and read poetry at night.

The Partington Papers

AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, San Francisco was the center of a great upsurge of creative talent in all phases of the arts. The artists and writers—such as Jack London, Frank Norris, Ambrose Bierce, Gelett Burgess, George Sterling, Edwin Markham, William Keith, Arnold Genthe, Joaquin Miller

and Xavier Martinez—who made up her growing artistic colony, found the city's intellectual climate and exuberance hospitable, stimulating and infectious.

Close friends to many of the literati of the period were the members of the Partington family. John H. E. Partington, a well-known English painter, came to San Francisco in 1890, bringing his wife and six children. With a daughter, Gertrude, and a son, Richard, talented artists themselves, he opened the School of Magazine and Newspaper Illustration. The oldest daughter, Blanche, an accomplished pianist, became music and drama critic on the *San Francisco Call*; and the youngest daughter, Phyllis, rose to operatic stardom, singing under the name *Frances Peralta*.

How the Partingtons gained entree into the literary circle is not known, but within two years of their arrival in San Francisco, Ambrose Bierce was their friend, and more than a casual friend. Helpful to both Gertrude and Richard, who were illustrators on the *San Francisco Examiner*, and advisor to Blanche's literary aspirations, Bierce appears engagingly warm and human in his letters to the family. Cynical he could be, too, as he discouraged Blanche's ideas of achieving social reforms through the power of the pen. Such ends were a "prostitution of art," he wrote, and furthermore, helpful writing made dull reading. Literature, he contended, had nothing to do with reform and when used as a means of reform suffered accordingly. It is an interesting comment by an author known for his journalistic social criticism.

George and Carrie Sterling were very close to the family. Friendship aside, Sterling regarded Blanche as an able critic and often solicited her comment on his writings. The Sterlings were invariably included in family parties and outings, and after they moved to Carmel, the Partingtons were their frequent guests. Indeed, Richard Partington witnessed the founding of that bohemian settlement for he helped Sterling put up the tent on the day, June 30, 1905, that marked its beginning. Carrie's gossipy letters to Blanche paint a vivid picture of life in Carmel—the parties, the visitors and the new arrivals—and sometimes voice her complaints about the constant

busy-ness of entertaining. "So you see no matter how quiet you are your kind seeks you," she wrote after one particularly hectic week of visitors. About one of the newcom-



Blanche Partington posing as ship's cook aboard Jack London's boat, the *Snark*.

ers, Sinclair Lewis, she commented, "This Lewis is a Yale graduate and homely as Broadway in Oakland."

Also convinced of Blanche's critical ability, especially in the field of playwrighting, was Jack London. Blanche was his frequent theater companion, and they had long heated discussions on Shaw's plays, London claiming that she found Shaw irritating because truth was "the most irritating thing in life." To Blanche, several times, he confessed his desire to write plays. "I'd like to write half a dozen *real* plays, even if they were unactable and were never acted." The friendship with London continued after his marriage to Charman Kittredge, and Blanche became her confidante.

In 1954, the Bancroft Library purchased the papers of Blanche Partington, and they have proved a very valuable source for some of California's cultural history, with an in-

credible wealth of information about famous writers, artists, musicians, and actors. Additional papers of this truly remarkable family will soon be added to the collection; in all, they will afford an intimate view of a great and creative era.

Keepsake Distribution

THE 1961 KEEPSAKE publication of the Friends—*The Ralston-Fry Wedding Party*—was distributed during October to all members in good standing. This year members were offered a choice of either paperbound or hard-cover books, the latter available at the publisher's binding cost of \$2.50. The response to our notices of sale of the hard-cover edition was both immediate and beyond our expectations, with the result that every one of the 200 books that we had ordered in hard covers was very quickly sold. We regret that we had no stock to fill requests received after October 1.

Our thanks to Francis P. Farquhar for his delightful preface and fine editing and to the Grabhorn Press for its usual beautiful printing. We are sure that each of our members will treasure his copy.

Paperbound copies of this charming diary are still available to those who wish to join the Friends and, upon payment of this year's dues, to those who let their membership lapse.

A Lady's Cape Horn Journal

THE BANCROFT LIBRARY has scarcely a dozen women's diaries among all its varied collections. Only two of these record journeys to California in the early 1850's and these were kept on the overland trek. The Library is therefore fortunate to have acquired recently an account of a voyage around the Horn in '49 by an observant and vivid writer, Ann Willson Booth.

On April 19, 1849, Mrs. Booth commenced her journal on board the *Andalusia*, setting sail from Baltimore for San Francisco. The 250-page quarto volume, bound in maroon morocco with gold tooling, was specially pre-

pared as a report to her family. Daily entries, detailed even to recording latitude, longitude and distance, were written in a firm clear hand. Even in a storm, sitting on the deck between two large, fastened down chests, "with ink in one hand and pen in the other," she faithfully kept up the diary of the long voyage she and her husband made to seek his fortune in a new land.

Daughter of a sea-faring family and niece of the *Andalusia's* Master, Ann Booth enjoyed a somewhat favorable position to be a diarist of the voyage. Knowing something of the routines and problems of shipboard life, she could better adapt herself to them. Housed in an upper cabin she was spared some of the inconveniences of life below decks. Most fortunate of all, she was a good sailor. Moreover, life aboard the *Andalusia* seems to have been singularly free from the discomforts and discontents experienced by many Argonauts. Toward the end of their voyage the passengers united in praise and tribute to Captain Willson and the "happy ship" he created despite the rigors of the passage.

The five-month voyage that ended September 21, 1849, was often tedious but not without a tense moment when, shortly after leaving Valparaiso, the ship was dismasted in a storm. After this near disaster the crew voted and the passengers volunteered to make repairs from the wreckage that could be salvaged and the extra spars carried below, without putting into Callao. In little over a week, progressing under a jury rig, the top masts were in place, and the ship under way again with only her sky sails lacking.

Mrs. Booth faithfully recorded all the activities aboard ship: the Sunday services, the concerts (there were three violins, a flute, clarinet, guitar and tambourine, as well as a number of fine voices), the Fourth of July celebration (with its oration, salutes, and special dinner for passengers and crew), the exchange of greetings with passing vessels, the portrait painting and other artistry, and the lecture series and "gazette" organized to help dispel the tedium.

For almost two months, while the *Andalusia* was at anchor among some three hundred other ships in San Francisco Bay, Ann Booth

lived aboard as the cargo was discharged and her husband made provision for their life on land. Her descriptions now turn to the fast-growing city with its tents and campfires on the hills and bustle of people on the crude, muddy paths and roads. She marvels at the general orderliness of behavior and the number of ladies already making homes here although she is shocked at the exorbitant prices, the gambling, and the filth and bad water.

Using timber that had been part of the below-deck accommodation for the *Andalusia's* passengers, with a sail, the mizzen top-gallant, as a roof, Mr. Booth completed the small cottage ashore; and Ann Booth filled the final pages of her journal on November 6, 1849, so that her uncle could take it to Baltimore. Except for the great loneliness she felt for her family, particularly for her small son left behind with her parents, she gives the impression that she had thoroughly enjoyed her adventures and looked forward to new experiences in California. However, from notes that accompany the diary, we learn that she returned to the East in 1850, and that Mr. Booth died in San Francisco in 1852, presumably without the fortune that his "reverses" had led him to seek in the Land of Gold.

The Chinese in California

ON JANUARY 15, 1877, there appeared the following notice in the *Oriental*, a Chinese newspaper of San Francisco:

CHINESE-ENGLISH PHRASE BOOK FOR SALE
(Printed by J. Hoffman, 821 Washington St., S.F.)

A newly published Chinese-English phrase book is now on sale. Contains various types of conversation and a list of chief California city names. It is very useful for the Chinese. Those who wish to have a copy, please come to the Congregational Church School in Portsmouth Plaza. The price is reasonable. S. WONG

Thus was announced what appears, on the basis of the research of our good friend and bibliographer, Mr. Yuk Ow, to have been the first Chinese printing in book form in California, and, presumably, in the United States.

An excellent copy of this rare volume (only the Huntington Library is recorded as having one, and we found no bookdealers aware of its existence) has just been acquired by

Riverside, Cal.	笠諾洗
Rocklin, Cal.	咯邁
Roseburg, Or.	路市巴
Roseville, Cal.	路市偉魯
Rough & Ready, Cal.	路付
Rutherford's, Cal.	路打科市
Rye Patch, Nev.	孫吧治
Sacramento, Cal.	沙架改度
Saint George, U. T.	山提嗜治
Saint Helena, Cal.	新市起連亞
Saint Joseph, Or.	新提周拾
Saint Louis, Cal.	新提路世市
Salem, Or.	沙蘇
Salinas, Cal.	沙禮亞市

the Bancroft Library to add lustre to its growing collection of materials relating to the Chinese in California.

The English title page reads:

An / English-Chinese / Phrase Book / together with the / Vocabulary of Trade, Law, etc. / Also, / A complete List of Wells, Fargo & Co's / Offices in California, Nevada, Etc. / Compiled by / Wong Sam and Assistants. / San Francisco: / Cubery & Co., Book and General Job Printers, / 414 Market Street, below Sansome. / 1875.

The Chinese title page is slightly different:

Chinese-English Phrase book / 1875 / First Year of Kuang-hsü / in Ching Dynasty / Compiled by Huang, Wu-ti / [Seal] / Hoffman, Printer, Washington and Kearny [streets]

Clearly this book of 299 pages had two printers, one responsible for the English text in letter press, and the other, a lithographer for the Chinese characters, for which no types were then available.

The first section of this intriguing volume contains phrases in English, with their Chinese equivalents; it was apparently assumed that the immigrant Chinese would find these most useful in his daily social and business life. Thus he would learn to say, "I want to

get a vegetable-hawker's license," "You ask too high a price," "He assaulted me without provocation," "He squatted on my lot," "He tries to extort money from me," "He cheated me out of my wages," "I could not help it," and "I did not intend to break it." The book obviously affords an insight into the situation of the Chinese in California at the time.

The second section, which lists the Wells, Fargo & Co. offices, has its own Chinese title page. Literally translated it reads:

Place Names of the Gold Mountain for Back and Forth Letters.

Some of the postoffices thus described are depicted in the accompanying facsimile of a page.

The Results

THE GREATNESS of a research center such as the Bancroft Library is measured not only by the extent and rarity of its books and manuscript collections. It is in a large part to be seen in the published works that emanate from it. To select Western Americana, coming from but one part of our field of interest, we note that in the past three years more than fifty works have appeared whose authors have given credit to the Bancroft Library and members of its staff for significant contributions to their research.

These range from local histories to exhaustive bibliographies, from picture books to scholarly studies. Among their publishers are university presses at Duke, Harvard, Oklahoma, Southern Methodist, Washington, Yale, and our own university. The publishing trade itself is represented by Doubleday & Co.; Harper's; Little, Brown & Co.; Longmans Green; McGraw-Hill; Simon and Schuster; and closer to home by Arthur H. Clark of Glendale, the Champoeg Press of Portland, Howell-North of Berkeley, John Howell Books of San Francisco, and the Talisman Press of Los Gatos. Then too, there are such special publishers as the Huntington Library, the Book Club of California, and the American Historical Association.

We are pleased to have had a hand in works such as: Leonard J. Arrington's *Great Basin Kingdom*, Harvard University Press, 1958;

Charles L. Camp's *James Clyman, Frontiersman*, Champoeg Press, 1960; William H. Goetzmann's *Army Exploration in the American West*, Yale University Press, 1959; Martin H. Hall's *Sibley's New Mexico Campaign*, University of Texas Press, 1960; Robert L. Kelley's *Gold vs. Grain*, The Arthur H. Clarke Co., 1959; Oliver Knight's *Following the Indian Wars*, University of Oklahoma Press, 1960; W. Kaye Lamb's *The Letters and Journals of Simon Fraser, 1806-1808*, Macmillan, 1960; Mark Schorer's *Sinclair Lewis*, McGraw-Hill, 1961; Mellier Goodin Scott's *The San Francisco Bay Area*, University of California Press, 1959; Clark C. Spence's *British Investments and the American Mining Frontier, 1860-1901*, American Historical Association, 1958; Thomas W. Streeter's *Bibliography of Texas, 1795-1845*, Harvard University Press, 1955-1960; and Carl I. Wheat's *Mapping the Transmississippi West*, The Institute of Historical Cartography, 1957-1960.

Space does not permit us to include many other similarly significant authors and works. The above are cited as a sampling to show the nature of published research that has been substantially assisted by this Library.

Phelan and Sullivan Papers

OF GREAT INTEREST to students of California history—political, social, and cultural—will be the James D. Phelan papers, the gift of which was announced in Number 22 of *Bancroftiana*, December, 1959. The collection, now arranged and ready for use, superbly documents the many facets of Phelan's career—his role in state and national politics, his interest in the arts, his participation in the social life of San Francisco, his extensive business and financial affairs and his close ties with his immediate family, particularly his sister, Mary Louise, and his nephew, Noël Sullivan.

Supplementing this rich collection, we now have the papers of Noël Sullivan, the recent gift of Professor Benjamin H. Lehman. Although Sullivan was not active in politics like his uncle, he continued Phelan's tradition of

hospitality to the arts, and his home became one of the notable "salons" in California from the mid-1920's to his death in 1956. A cursory examination of the papers reveals correspondence with such illustrious persons as Gertrude Atherton, Sara Bard Field, Roland Hayes, Langston Hughes, Robinson Jeffers, Kathleen Norris, Elizabeth Rethberg, Lawrence Tibbett and Charles Erskine Scott Wood. There will be more news on the collection in a forthcoming issue, when arrangement of the papers progresses, and has made it ready for scholarly use.

County Histories Wanted

THE TRADITIONAL COUNTY HISTORY has frequently been the butt of humorous comment and ridicule; nevertheless, it offers much information on early local history which is not otherwise readily available. To be sure, factual errors occur; the biographical sketches are admittedly idealized and the pictures of homes, farms, and other establishments are romanticized to please the vanity of the subscribers. Yet for the discriminating historian the county history remains a useful source of obscure data.

The Bancroft Library has a good collection of these histories of California counties, including many of the volumes that have now become rare; but some titles are still lacking on our shelves. Therefore we are providing a list of our lacunae by counties and we now appeal to you as Friends to help us by finding the needed histories of the counties in which you reside. If you live in Orange County, however, and wish to present a volume on Colusa County, you may be assured that your offer will not be rejected. Please address your communications to Dr. James D. Hart, Acting Director.

COLUSA

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CONTRA COSTA

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MERCED

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SAN BENITO See MONTEREY

SAN BERNARDINO See SAN DIEGO

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SANTA CRUZ See MONTEREY

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See also SANTA BARBARA