

BANCROFTIANA

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Annual Meeting

DR. JOHN W. CAUGHEY, professor of history at UCLA and one of California's eminent writers of Western history, will be the guest speaker at the ANNUAL MEETING of the Friends on SUNDAY, MAY 5, at 3:30 P.M.

Dr. Caughey's theme will be, "The Years of Neglect," the time span following publication of Bancroft's monumental histories. He is the author of such books as a *History of California* (1940 and 1953); *Gold is the Cornerstone* (1948); and very recently *California Heritage; an Anthology of History and Literature* (1962); and many others. There will be an exhibit featuring "Women in the History of the West." *Guests are invited.* Refreshments.

This Year's Keepsake

SUSANNA B. DAKIN has expanded her delightful talk presented to the Friends two years ago, and now, under the title, *Women Emergent in California — Rose or Rose Thorn?* it will soon be distributed to members. Elegantly designed by Lawton Kennedy, with graceful decorations by Lois C. Stone, and bound in cloth, the book will appear in a limited edition available only to the Friends of the Bancroft Library. The text sparkles with Mrs. Dakin's wit and charm while maintaining a solid footing in fact, as it considers the lives of three representative but very individual women of early California.

Prince Philip Visits Bancroft

ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, escorted by President Clark Kerr, Chancellor E. W. Strong, and Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, visited the Bancroft Library to view the Drake Plate. An honor guard of Naval ROTC



Prince Philip and Admiral Nimitz viewing the
Drake Plate

cadets flanked the entrance to the Library building, hundreds of students peered in through the Reading Room windows, and inside more than two dozen photographers flashed bulbs continually as Admiral Nimitz

recounted at some length the story of Drake's landing on the California coast in 1579. A special exhibition of notable treasures—the Meyer Journal, the Breen Diary of the Donner party, among others—attracted the royal visitor, Sir David and Lady Ormsby-Gore, and other members of the party. When Director Hammond pointed out the Wimmer Gold Nugget to him, the Prince exclaimed: "Oh, so that's what started it all!"

Alice Larkin Toulmin

ALICE LARKIN TOULMIN, one of the founding members of the Friends, died in her home in Santa Barbara on February 13, 1963, at the age of 83. Mrs. Toulmin was the last surviving granddaughter of Thomas Oliver Larkin, the first and only United States Consul in California. Tremendously proud of her heritage, and deeply interested in California's history, she bought the old Larkin home in Monterey in 1922, restored it as an historic shrine, and in 1957 presented it as a gift to the State of California.

Her grandfather, a New Englander, settled here in 1832. Within a year after his arrival, Larkin opened a store in Monterey, and soon became the town's foremost merchant, as well as friend and confidant of every Mexican governor. In 1844, he was appointed United States consul, and subsequently a confidential agent. Shortly after the American conquest, he moved to San Francisco, where he lived until his death in 1858. He was universally respected as a man of great ability and integrity.

Mrs. Toulmin was active in the organization of the Friends of the Bancroft Library. She served on its Council for eight years, and made several notable gifts. Energetic, gracious, and a zealous Californian, we pay her tribute as a distinguished representative of a great pioneer family.

Coblentz Papers

THE CORRESPONDENCE and papers of the late Edmond D. Coblentz, one of America's most prominent newspapermen, have been presented to the Bancroft Library by Mrs. Coblentz, as a memorial to her husband, whose entire professional life was spent in the service of William Randolph Hearst.

In 1900, after one day on the University of California campus as a freshman, Mr. Coblentz was offered and accepted a position as a reporter on the San Francisco *Examiner* at the beginner's salary of \$10.00 per week. From this start he advanced rapidly, from waterfront reporter to city editor, until in 1913 he became Managing Editor of Mr. Hearst's San Francisco *Call*. In 1915 he returned to the *Examiner* as its Managing Editor, a post that he filled for ten years, when he became that paper's Publisher. In 1927 he was made Editor of the New York *American*, and in 1934 its Publisher. Three years later he was named Supervising Editor of all Hearst morning papers, and in 1940 he returned to San Francisco as Publisher of the San Francisco *Call-Bulletin*. When he retired in 1950, he was appointed Editorial Consultant to the entire Hearst newspaper chain. In this capacity, and still very much in harness, he was overtaken by death in April, 1959.

The Coblentz papers provide an intimate insight into the activities of this exceptional newspaperman, and reveal through his correspondence with the nation's leaders much of the influence he exerted on the national scene. The Hearst-Coblentz correspondence begins in 1925, and not only shows the close relationship that existed between the two men, but also clearly reveals the degree to which Mr. Hearst personally supervised his people and through them his remarkable journalistic empire.

A Century of Hawaii

THROUGH THE COURTESY of Mr. DeWitt Alexander of Berkeley, the Bancroft Library has microfilmed the extensive Alexander Family Papers, covering more than a century of the history of the Hawaiian Islands. Two of Mr. Alexander's great-grandfathers, Dwight Baldwin and William P. Alexander, arrived in Honolulu in the early 1830's. They and their descendants devoted their lives to missionary work and teaching, and were closely identified with the famous Punahou School for many years.

After the papers were arranged and filmed, they were sent to the Library of the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society in Honolulu,

where they will remain permanently. The film in the Bancroft Library will add greatly to our source materials concerning the life and culture of the Fiftieth state.

Edith M. Coulter

1880-1963

It is with real sorrow that we report the passing of Miss Edith M. Coulter, Professor Emeritus of the University of California and a founding member of the Friends of the



Edith M. Coulter

Bancroft Library, who died suddenly in January after a long and productive career. For many years she was a familiar figure at Bancroft; her cheerful smile and witty comments always made the day brighter, and her careful research brought her recognition as a bibliographer, scholar, and authority on the pictorial history of California.

Her best known works are: *A Camera in the Gold Rush*, and *California Pictorial*, which she edited with Mrs. Jeanne Van Nostrand; *13 California Towns*, and *An Account of a Tour of the California Missions*, which she edited with the late Eleanor A. Bancroft; *The Drawings and Letters of Daniel W. Coit*; and Captain F. W. Beechey's *An Account of a Visit to California, 1826-'27*.

As a tribute to Miss Coulter and her writings on the history of California, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bechtel, in 1955, presented to the Bancroft Library in Miss Coulter's name the beautiful manuscript journal of William A. Meyer, Gunner aboard the U. S. S. *Cyane*, 1841-1843, illustrated with sketches in vivid color. Other friends and admirers are now contributing to a book fund as a memorial to one of California's outstanding women.

University Archives to Bancroft

ON OCTOBER 1, 1962 the custody of the University of California Archives was transferred from the University Library at Berkeley to the Bancroft Library. A program of remodeling and readjustment of space within the Library building must be completed before the physical shift of the collections can be made, so for the present the Archives will remain in its old quarters in the north-west corner of the third floor of the General Library under the care of Miss May Dornin, long-time head of the department.

The value of the collection lies in its completeness. Few universities have such a fully documented account of their origins and early history; the unbroken files of official bulletins, circulars and reports from all departments; the complete runs of student newspapers and magazines; and so representative a collection of faculty writings in the entirety as that with which the University of California is blest.

To Joseph C. Rowell belongs the credit for the building of the Archives. Appointed University Librarian upon his graduation in 1874, he immediately began to lay away file copies of each University publication, each student paper and magazine, and to impress upon the faculty the desirability of contributing copies of their writings "for permanent preservation." On his retirement from the librarianship in 1919, he was given the honorary title of "University Archivist" and spent the remaining nineteen years of his life developing the collections in every way. To those who now benefit from his foresight, perseverance and industry, his name ranks

high among alumni who have made major contributions to the life of the University.

Fifty Years a Printer

LAWTON KENNEDY, one of the chief contributors to San Francisco's fame as a center for fine printing, is celebrating in 1963 his fiftieth year in the craft. He has pioneered the application of modern techniques and equipment to the art of producing beautiful books; his work is characterized by an attractive simplicity that is the mark of a sensitive artist and dedicated craftsman.

Products of his press have been published under the auspices of the Book Club of California; the California Historical Society; the Champoeg Press; John Howell, Books; David Magee; the Roxburghe Club of San Francisco, and many others. He has done a number of keepsakes for the Friends, including last year's *Mexico: Ancient and Modern*, as well as the keepsake for this year, described elsewhere in this issue of Bancroftiana. We are indeed proud to be represented by such a distinguished printer.

Carl Wheat's Recovery

FRIENDS OF THE BANCROFT LIBRARY know Carl I. Wheat as past Chairman of their Council, busy and successful lawyer, co-founder of E Clampus Vitus, the Roxburghe Club, and numerous other historically-oriented organizations, editor of the California Historical Society *Quarterly* and of the *Quarterly* of the Historical Society of Southern California, author of such monumental contributions to Western history as *Maps of the California Gold Region* and *Mapping the Transmississippi West, 1540-1861*. Many also know and value Carl as a plain, lower-case friend. All will be gratified to hear that he has triumphed over a fourth stroke which laid him low in November, and is now recuperating at his home, fully in command of his life again.

The fifth and concluding volume of Carl's *Mapping the Transmississippi West*, covering the period from the opening of the Civil War to the founding of the Geological Survey, is at the bindery as we go to press, and will shortly be in the hands of eager readers.

Josiah Belden, 1841

THE BANCROFT LIBRARY has been exceptionally fortunate in recent years in being given collections relating to the men who traveled overland to California in 1841 as members of the Bartleson Party, the first who attempted to reach California with wagons. Through the good offices of Clyde Arbuckle of San Jose, a long-time friend, Josiah Belden's correspondence and papers, 1832-1892, have now come to swell this distinguished archive. Belden became a wealthy and influential citizen of San Jose, having extensive commercial associations with Thomas Oliver Larkin, Henry Mellus, William D. M. Howard, and prominent Californians of the 1840's and 1850's. Other familiar names in a group of some 500 items include J. B. R. Cooper, James Frazier Reed, Job F. Dye, David Spence, A. G. Toomes, Nicholas Den, C. V. Gillespie, and Talbot H. Green.

The Bancroft Guide

A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE in the long life of the Bancroft Library will be reached this spring with the publication of the first volume of the Guide to its Manuscript Collections. Conceived soon after Dr. Hammond assumed the directorship of the Library in 1946, this project for making the holdings of the Bancroft Library more accessible to scholars has preoccupied the manuscript staff ever since, and has been a primary responsibility of Dale L. Morgan.

This first volume describes all manuscripts in the "Pacific and Western" category; later volumes will be concerned with Mexican and Colonial Spanish American sources and with those relating to California. An extensive index brings out all the geographical interrelationships of the various manuscripts; the index is in itself a reference tool of remarkable range.

One thousand copies have been printed by the University of California Press. Benefactors who have created a Bancroft Library Publications Fund to aid in the publication of just such works as this make it possible to sell the volume for \$15.00, bringing it within reach of individual scholars.