

BANCROFTIANA

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Wagner Award

THE CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S highest honor, the Henry R. Wagner Memorial Award, was given September 25 to Dr. George P. Hammond, director of the Bancroft Library since 1946, in recognition of the completion this year of *The Larkin Papers*. This ten-volume work, in course of publication since 1951, has been published by the Bancroft Library, in association with the University of California Press, and is regarded as a significant contribution to Western history.

At the banquet in the Society's mansion, Dr. J. S. Holliday, formerly Bancroft's assistant director and now associate professor of history at San Francisco State, spoke eloquently of Dr. Hammond's life-long scholarly labors, the many books and series of books of which *The Larkin Papers* constitute merely the most recent specimen, his imaginative building of the Bancroft Library, and his fruitful influence in creating a climate of scholarship in and out of the Library. In his modest response, Dr. Hammond told of the inception of the project to publish the magnificent archive of Thomas O. Larkin, acquired three-quarters of a century ago by H. H. Bancroft, and of some experiences attendant on his long and arduous work. Other speakers were Dr. Lawrence Clark Powell of the University of California, Los Angeles, who recalled associations with the highly individualistic Wagner, and A. R. Tommasini, head of the U. C. Printing Department, who described the formidable problems attendant on the printing of *The Larkin Papers*.

The Wagner Award is made annually to the author of the work published within the

preceding two calendar years in the field of Western or Spanish American history, cartography or bibliography regarded as most worthy of recognition. Previous recipients are Carl I. Wheat, Rev. Maynard J. Geiger, O.F.M., Dale L. Morgan, and Thomas W. Streeter. Dr. Hammond had earlier been honored by the Society, having been named one of its first Fellows in 1958.

Honeyman Collection

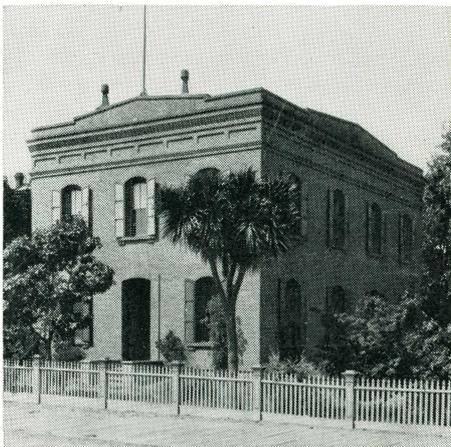
A YEAR AGO the Friends set out in quest of a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. What was being sought was no vain myth but a treasure describable in minute detail, the Honeyman Collection of California and Western Pictorial History, which would magnificently round out the collections of the Bancroft Library. Financing this acquisition, priced at \$550,000, was the most ambitious project the Friends have ever embarked upon, more than twice as large a sum to be raised (at least in today's dollars) as was paid by the University of California in 1905 for the Bancroft Library itself.

The effort to round up funds has been an arduous one, but with over half a million dollars pledged, the University and the Friends have exercised their option to purchase a collection that will become one of the glories of the statewide University. There remains a difficult and rocky piece of road to get over, en route back from rainbow's end. Approximately \$42,000 must be rounded up to complete the purchase. The Friends are urged to visit the Bancroft reading rooms, where a representative selection from the more than 2,000 paintings, etchings, lithographs, and drawings is currently displayed.

We are sure they will marvel over the range and quality of the collection, and those Friends able to contribute to the final fund-raising endeavor are urged and invited to do so.

Commemorative Plaque

SHORTLY BEFORE this issue of *BANCROFTIANA* reaches them, the Friends will have been apprised by the press that on November 24 their representatives joined with the Califor-



The Bancroft Library, 1881-1906

nia Historical Society and St. Luke's Hospital in dedicating California Registered Historical Landmark No. 791 at 1580 Valencia Street, where H. H. Bancroft's great library was housed from 1881 to 1906. Dr. Hammond, to whom the library is currently entrusted as director, was designated as principal speaker. Earlier kept at various places in San Francisco, especially the Bancroft business establishment at 721 Market Street, the library was several times imperiled by fire. After weighing the advantages of different sites, H. H. Bancroft erected a fireproof building on Valencia Street and moved his vast collection into it, well ahead of the 1886 fire that gutted his Market Street property. Whether the new library building could have withstood the firestorm of 1906 is a question; but fortunately it was outside the fire area, and the Bancroft Library alone, of San Francisco's great libraries, emerged

intact from the holocaust. The "Valencia Street" structure has now disappeared, but the photograph of it here reproduced has been preserved in the library it housed for a quarter of a century.

Western History Association

DR. GEORGE P. HAMMOND, Bancroft director, was named an honorary member of the Western History Association at that organization's annual meeting in Oklahoma City on October 29-31. He also presented a paper, "Who Saw the Elephant," a study of the origin and meaning of the popular Gold Rush phrase.

A joint session with the American Association for State and Local History, the convention was attended by some 700 people from all over the country. "Bancrofters" present, besides Dr. Hammond and Mrs. Helen H. Bretnor, included former staff members Robert E. Burke and Richard Berner (now of the University of Washington), and J. S. Holliday (from San Francisco State). WHA's retiring president, Oscar O. Winther of Indiana University, the incoming president, Robert Athearn of the University of Colorado, and the vice-president, John Francis Bannon, S.J., of St. Louis University, as well as many of the 97 scheduled speakers, chairmen and commentators, had done graduate research or had prepared books in the Bancroft Library.

Forty-seven formal papers were presented. Areas considered ranged from the Spanish borderlands to Alaska, with emphasis on the host state. Much interest was evident in problems of minorities in the West: Indians, Negroes, and Women. (But are women not a majority now?)

Oakland's Mormon Temple

ONE OF THE BAY AREA'S notable events of the autumn was the completion of the beautiful Oakland Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In accordance with the Mormon custom, the temple was opened for public inspection, then forever closed, except to members in good standing. Some 16,000 visitors a day thronged the

temple from October 5 to 31, conducted in large groups, each with a volunteer guide. Most impressive was the silence as hundreds of viewers filed through the building, for silence is not a characteristic of crowds.

Mormon temples are designed as sacred places in which important rituals may be performed, including marriage and baptisms for the dead. Identifying ancestors, and lines of ancestry preliminary to such baptisms, has always been an important activity of church members; hence one result of the building of the new temple will be increased resort to the genealogical resources of such institutions as Bancroft, the California Historical Society, the Sutro Library, and the San Francisco Public Library.

The Keepsake

LONG AND EXPECTANTLY awaited, the beautiful 1964 keepsake for the Friends, John Bidwell's 1841 account of *A Journey to California*, with an introduction by Francis P. Farquhar, has just come from Lawton Kennedy's press for distribution to members.

Xmas Bonanza

IN KEEPING with a long-standing tradition that the patrons of a library such as Bancroft can best be served by librarians who are themselves experienced in the rewards and frustrations of serious research, two members of the staff have produced significant historical works offered as Christmas publications by California book clubs.

Coming from the Book Club of California is *Diseños of California Ranchos, Maps of 37 Land Grants, 1822-1846*. Written by Assistant Director Robert H. Becker, and printed by the Grabhorn Press, this large and beautiful book presents for the first time reproductions in full size and color of a selection of the sketch maps (now in the Bancroft Library) which Mexican law required in connection with petitions to the Governor for grants of land. Mr. Becker has accompanied each reproduction with an explanatory essay and a sketch based on modern topographic maps; in his introduction he describes the procedures required under Mexi-

can law, and points out some of the realities of life in legendary pastoral California.

The Sacramento Book Collector's Club has delighted its members with *Grimshaw's Narrative: Being the story of life and events in California during Flush Times, particularly the years 1848-1850*, designed and printed by Roger Levenson at the Tamalpais Press in Berkeley. The title was applied by H. H. Bancroft to the narrative written for him in 1872 by William Robinson Grimshaw, a New Yorker who reached California by sea in 1848 and soon after got a job as bookkeeper in Sam Brannan's store on the Sacramento Embarcadero. His vivid and dramatic account of doings there and in the diggings has been edited by J. R. K. Kantor, a member of the Bancroft staff since 1955 who is presently Keeper of University Archives at Berkeley.

Annual Meeting 1964

THE ANNUAL MEETING of The Friends of the Bancroft Library was held on Sunday, May 3, in the Library's reading room. O. Cort Majors, Chairman of the Council of The Friends, presided. The principal speaker was Mr. Paul Mills, curator of the Oakland Art Museum; and Chancellor Edward W. Strong and Director George P. Hammond made brief remarks. Mr. Mills' outstanding talk was concerned with "California pictorial history and the Honeyman Collection." By ingenious use of projected slides, reproducing small details in some of the prints and paintings, he graphically demonstrated the ways in which contemporary pictures can be used as documentary source material in historical interpretation.

An exhibit, prepared by the Bancroft staff, emphasized the Honeyman Collection, but included examples of the work of the late Gerald Cassidy, artist of the Southwest.

Cartoons as History

AT LEAST from the time of William Hogarth, and especially in America since the era of Thomas Nast, the power of the cartoon as an instrument of social satire has been well recognized. The Bancroft Library is fortunate in the recent acquisition of the papers

of two extremely popular modern cartoonists, Jimmie Hatlo and Rube Goldberg.

Hatlo, born in Rhode Island in 1898, studied at the California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco, was a sports and editorial cartoonist on various Los Angeles and San Francisco papers for many years, and eventually originated, from his home at Pebble Beach, the immensely popular syndicated features, "They'll Do It Every Time," and "Little Iodine." The papers that came to Bancroft through the courtesy of Mrs. Hatlo after his death last year include proofs of his two principal series from 1942, originals of some cartoons, and letters from the general public, who enthusiastically suggested foibles for his gently cauterizing attention.

Reuben Lucius Goldberg, though fifteen years Hatlo's senior, is still very much with us, and his papers, including some 2,000 original cartoons, have come to Bancroft as his own gift, reminding us that he is one of U. C.'s distinguished alumni, Class of '04. Though born in San Francisco and educated here, Rube soon migrated in the other direction, to New York. His B.S. degree in engineering may have contributed something to the fabulous series of cartooned "inventions" which as early as the 1920's made his name an American byword. Such additions to the language as "You don't know from nothin'," "Baloney," and "I'm the guy," evolved in such popular Goldberg comics as "Foolish Questions," "Mike and Ike—They Look Alike," "Boob McNutt," "Side Show," and "Lala Palooza." In 1938 Rube began drawing political cartoons, sometimes purely comic but as often with the satirist's special bite. Among many honors that have come to him is the Pulitzer Prize award for a 1947 cartoon, "Peace Today."

The extraordinary Goldberg collection now being arranged in Bancroft includes his books and magazine articles; photographs of stills from the movie, "Soup to Nuts," which he scripted; a film of the "Person to Person" television show which featured him; albums of records (radio interviews and songs with lyrics by him); testimonial albums with photographs, clippings, and letters from people in all walks of life, including Adlai Stevenson, Walt Disney, Al Capp, Bernard

Baruch, Walter Winchell, and Harry Truman; and correspondence dating from the 1930's to the 1950's.

Elisabeth Gudde Retires

MRS. ELISABETH K. GUDDE, member of the Bancroft staff since 1956, retired in August. She came to the Bancroft Library eight years ago as an assistant to Mrs. Eleanor Bancroft, who was critically ill, and on Mrs. Bancroft's death succeeded her as chief bibliographer and acquisitions librarian.

Mrs. Gudde's retirement will enable her to devote more time and energy to helping her husband, Dr. Erwin G. Gudde, with whom she has co-authored some memorable contributions to the history of the American West: *California Place Names*, 2nd. ed., 1960; *Exploring with Frémont, the Private Diaries of Charles Preuss*, 1958; and Heinrich Lienhard's 1846 narrative, *From St. Louis to Sutter's Fort*, 1961.

The Guddes are now translating Gerstaecker's gold stories, and completing "California Gold Camps, a Gazetteer and Geographical Dictionary," a project on which Dr. Gudde has been engaged for a number of years. Both Mrs. Gudde and her husband will continue their close identification with the Bancroft Library.

Welcome to the Ranks!

LATEST to join Bancroft's array of specialists is Dr. Joseph A. Baird, Jr., who in October came to the Library as Curator of Pictorial Western Americana, with the University of California, Davis, claiming part of his time as lecturer in art history.

Dr. Baird is the author of *Time's Wondrous Changes*, a study of San Francisco architecture, 1776-1915, and *The Churches of Mexico*, both published in 1962. Widely traveled in Europe and Mexico, and with a rich background in art history, Dr. Baird is well equipped to deal with the cataloging of the Honeyman Collection and similar holdings of the Bancroft Library. The Friends and visiting scholars generally will find his interest and enthusiasm, not less than his professional knowledge, a welcome enlargement of the Library's resources.