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BANCROFTIANA

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Susanna Bryant Dakin

THE TRAGEDY AT CHRISTMAS, 1966, when eight members of the Dakin family were blotted out by a plane crash in Baja California, brought special grief and horror to both the staff and The Friends of the Bancroft Library. For many years we have all been very close to the heads of the family, Richard Young Dakin and his wife, Susanna Bryant Dakin. None of us could have conceived a violent and simultaneous end not only for the Dakins, but their elder son, Roger, and their daughter-in-law, Joan Bundy Dakin, and four of their five cherished grandchildren. The fifth grandchild survived because he was vacationing in Austria. The annals of California history scarcely record a comparable family disaster.

In particular, The Friends have had occasion to know and love Susanna Bryant Dakin, who as Secretary of the Council would be editing this issue of *Bancroftiana*, as she did those published last year, had not the skein of her life been cut on December twentieth. Susanna was a woman of rare taste, astonishing energy, far-ranging cultural interests, and compassionate understanding. She worked long and hard for causes she believed in, never let herself be diverted into blind alleys, and always had constructive solutions to offer for knotty problems. She also had a deep affection for her friends and rare insight into their qualities; one thinks of her meditation on the death of Freda Kennedy, a year before her own death, reprinted in *Bancroftiana* last April. Susanna had had to live with, understand and accept death, since the poignant passing of her young daughter Sara, in 1961.

"Death rims life with the beauty of transiency. It is because beauty is always passing—clouds moving, waters flowing, leaves scat-

tering, youth aging—that it so pierces our hearts. The valley of life is shadowed with death but we separately can say 'This is my valley and I will live at peace in it.'"

We shall have more to say about Susanna's life at a later date. For now, Susanna, we dwell in your valley, seeing it with your eyes. You will never be wholly gone from among us.

DALE L. MORGAN

Council of The Friends

THE TERMS OF four members of the Council expire on June 30, 1967. By pleasant happenstance, all are serving their first terms and are therefore eligible for reelection. Mr. Francis Farquhar, Chairman of the Nominating Committee of the Council, will thus present to The Friends at the Annual Meeting the following nominations, loyal Council members, familiar to you all: Mr. De Witt Alexander, Mr. Joseph M. Bransten, Mr. Harold Gilliam, Mr. George R. Stewart.

The Council, in somewhat inbred fashion, selects its own working officers. They continue, however, to be stellar. Dr. Albert Shumate is retiring as Chairman, and will be succeeded by Dr. J. S. Holliday, Mrs. David Potter will carry on as Vice-Chairman, and Mrs. Joseph Henry Jackson has gallantly agreed to serve as Secretary. Mr. De Witt Alexander will again serve as Treasurer.

The two vacancies on the Council, Dr. Shumate has filled by appointment, and these two new members are herewith introduced to you. Mrs. John Hatfield of Berkeley was born in San Francisco, but moved across the bay after The Fire. She is a graduate of Wellesley, and also a graduate of the University of California School of Librarianship. She served for four years on the University of California Alumni Council—with Cort Majors. Her volunteer life has been an active

and varied one, but the University YWCA has been her dearest project. Her interest in history, especially of the West, is lifelong, and she has been a stalwart member of the California Historical Society. Mr. Peter Haas is also a native San Franciscan and a graduate both of the University of California and Harvard Graduate School of Business. His contribution to the cultural and civic projects of the area is outstanding, and includes service on the Executive Committee of the United Bay Area Crusade. He has also served as Trustee of Children's Hospital and of the University of California Alumni Foundation. His family and business connections are part of our western history. We remind you of the famous photograph of General Grant as visitor to Virginia City—clad in Levis. Mr. Haas is the Executive Vice-President of Levi Strauss and Company.

Governor Brown's Papers

LAST DECEMBER before leaving office, Governor Edmund G. Brown designated the Bancroft Library as the repository for his papers covering his twenty years as a public official. Accordingly, between Christmas and New Year's, three large truckloads of records arrived at the Library—slightly more than 1,000 storage cartons, weighing approximately 17 tons! Governor Brown had written President Clark Kerr on December 22, noting that for the immediate future, the papers would remain his personal property, with access limited to the staff of Bancroft Library and to his designated representatives. Since the first of the year, we have added about 200 more cartons to the collection, and Miss Estelle Rebec, Chief Manuscripts Cataloguer, has begun to process some of the unarranged papers. The major part of the collection is already in systematic order, and will require a minimum of processing.

Governor Brown based his decision on the excellence of Bancroft's collection concerning modern political history, and on the convenience for research, both doctoral and post-doctoral, that our centralized location affords. Although some segments of the Brown papers may be restricted for some time to come, we hope that we will be able to announce the opening of portions within the next few months.

ROBERT H. BECKER

Zeitlin Gift—Susanna Dakin Memorial Lectures

RESPONSE TO THE NEWS OF the Dakin tragedy reflected the breadth and depth of the family's influence and friendships. Among those who sought immediately to preserve the spirit and sustain the work of Susanna Dakin was her friend, Jake Zeitlin of Los Angeles.

Knowing of her close and fruitful association with the Bancroft Library and with The Friends, Mr. Zeitlin wrote to the Council of The Friends to advise that he and Mrs. Zeitlin had determined to create a fund sufficient to sustain for five years an annual lecture to be given at the Bancroft Library and to be known as the Susanna Dakin Memorial Lecture. The Zeitlin gift will make possible an annual invitation to an eminent scholar to speak on a topic of major interest to Mrs. Dakin—which opens a wide and challenging scope.

To implement the wish of Mr. Zeitlin, the Council of The Friends appointed Mrs. Dixon Wecter and Mr. Francis Farquhar—in consultation with Mr. Zeitlin—to act as a committee responsible for the selection of the speaker who will inaugurate the Susanna Dakin Memorial Lecture series in the fall, 1967. Thanks to the creative generosity of Mr. Zeitlin, some of the work that would have been produced by the vitality and imagination of Mrs. Dakin will be carried on by other scholars—and their lectures will nourish those who seek to meet the challenge left by Susanna's death.

Annual Meeting

ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, May fourteenth, at 2:30 o'clock, the twentieth Annual Meeting of The Friends of the Bancroft Library will be held in Room 101 of California Hall. Ansel Adams, member of the Council of The Friends, author, famed photographer, will be the speaker of the day. Mr. Adams will discuss some of the great photographers of California: Eadweard Muybridge, Carleton Watkins, Edward Weston, and by our insistence, one Ansel Adams. Following Mr. Adams's talk, the meeting will adjourn to the Bancroft Library where an exhibit of the

work of these and other photographers of the West, prepared by the staff will be presented, and refreshments will be served. Do plan to be present, and friends who perhaps yearn to be Friends, are most welcome.

The Friends' 1967 Keepsake

One of the most rewarding and significant traditions of The Friends has been the publication of an annual "keepsake." The authors and editors of these books make up a galaxy of Bancroft Friends and scholars, including Charles Camp, Susanna Dakin, Francis Farquhar, George Hammond, James Hart, George Stewart, Doris Wright and others—each of whom gave generously of time and creative skill. Their efforts have produced fourteen books that have added a meaningful dimension to the history of California and the West and to the achievements of The Friends.

The "keepsake" for 1967, to be distributed at the time of the May 17th annual meeting, will be an overland diary of unusual interest. Indeed, it is a unique document—the only

known day-to-day eye-witness account of the little band of forty-niners who lost their way and finally escaped from the desert fastness known since their passage as Death Valley. Written by a German immigrant named Louis Nusbaumer, this diary was purchased in 1965 by The Friends and added to Bancroft Library's pre-eminent collection of hundreds of diaries and letters that preserve for us today that great national experience, the California Gold Rush.

The Nusbaumer diary, covering a year's overland journey from New York to Pueblo de Los Angeles (March, 1849 to March, 1850) has been edited for Friends' publication by George Koenig, a Los Angeles businessman-scholar, whose avid interest in gold rush trails has produced in recent years a number of articles and a guide to the Mother Lode country. In preparing to edit the Nusbaumer diary, George Koenig searched beyond the riches of libraries to the realities of Death Valley itself, where he has explored more of the desert and surrounding mountains than most Old Prospectors.



Death Valley from Zabriskie Point.

Ansel Adams

The product of this energetic and imaginative research is entitled *Valley of Salt, Memories of Wine—A Journal of Death Valley in 1849*, a title that contrasts the desolation of the weeks Nusbaumer spent in the valley with his memories, longingly recalled, of good living in Germany. Illustrated by photographs of Death Valley by Ansel Adams, a contemporary portrait of Louis Nusbaumer, a reproduction of a double-page spread from the manuscript diary and a map by Robert Becker; with a foreword by J. S. Holliday, the Nusbaumer-Koenig record of the tragic Death Valley story of 1849 needed but one more dimension to make it a worthy publication for The Friends' twentieth anniversary—and that was the magic of Lawton and Alfred Kennedy. Once again The Friends are indebted to those very best of friends who have created another superlative book.

J. S. HOLLIDAY

O. Cort Majors

A FAMILIAR FIGURE on the Berkeley campus these many years past has been Cort Majors, going to his office or strolling along Campanile Way to keep an appointment. Impeccably dressed, with dark blue suit and well-groomed, steel-gray hair, always when he stopped to chat or respond to a greeting, he was a self-assured, thoughtful and affectionate friend. It was amazing to observe his grasp of a University problem, his ability to appreciate and assess the point of view of the man in the street as well as of the academic community. With endless patience he would probe an issue under consideration—and seek a constructive solution.

Known to everyone as "Cort" since his undergraduate days, 1917 to 1921, during which he won letters in three major sports, four years in succession, and was captain of the "Wonder Team" of 1920. On graduation, he went into business, and achieved distinction, being director of national sales for Fibreboard Corporation's Paperboard Division when he retired in 1964.

Through it all, Cort never forgot his Alma Mater or the University community. The California Alumni Association provided an opportunity for him to keep in touch and take an active part in University affairs, notably as its president in 1957 and 1958,

when he was also a member of the Board of Regents.

Among Cort's numerous interests, his association with The Friends of the Bancroft Library meant much to him. As chairman of The Friends Council from 1961 to 1966, he presided over its meetings with a cheerful, informal efficiency. Early in his tenure, he proposed a membership drive among the University's alumni, strongly supported by Edward H. Heller, who was a Regent as well as a member of the Council. The campaign, an overwhelming success, cheered everyone when more than five hundred alumni responded to the invitation to become Friends.

While Cort was a key factor in The Friends for a decade, he was also active in other community affairs; chairman of the San Francisco chapter of the American Cancer Society, officer of the State Scholarship and Loan Commission, and in recent years, co-chairman of the great centennial fund campaign on behalf of the University's Berkeley campus. Just before he was stricken, Cort had returned from a long trip on behalf of this program.

In all these associations, Cort's greatest satisfaction, I believe, came from the intimate part he played in the life of The Friends. He had a vital feeling for California and Western history and for the intellectual stimulus they provided. For him it was sheer pleasure to help the University acquire some outstanding treasure for the Bancroft Library, such as the Terrazas or Honeyman collections. This quality was an integral part of his legacy to the University and State of California. So, though we say "Farewell," Cort, your memory will live in the hearts of the Friends and Alumni with whom you worked with such joy and cheerfulness.

GEORGE P. HAMMOND

Herbert Gaytes's Photographs

A LARGE COLLECTION of prints and of photographic negatives, both film and glass, from the cameras of the late Herbert Gaytes of Oakland, has just entered the Bancroft's rapidly growing photographic collection. These photographs, systematically arranged and indexed, span an area marked in the

east by the British Isles, and in the west by the Pacific States and Mexico, and cover the years between 1892 and 1941. There are nearly two thousand pictures and nearly as many negatives. The prints are, for the most part, in albums, identified and dated (very uncommon!), and the negatives are boxed in carefully labelled covers. Since the arrival of the collection in the Bancroft, the negatives have been listed and stored by size, so that access to any material desired is a matter of minutes.

Before Herbert Gaytes had a car, perhaps even before he owned a horse and carriage, he did much of his touring on a bicycle that was fitted especially to carry his cameras. We have excellent photographic records of such tours from San Francisco to Monterey, during a visit he made to the west while still an undergraduate.

By 1897 he was on the West Coast, established in Oakland, and working with the Oakland Transportation Company. His photographs of power houses, cable lines, track-laying and rolling stock, are of prime interest. Many of his pictures, taken to reveal special phases of his own work, also contain invaluable views of Oakland streets and houses.

Not alone did street railways occupy this man's energies. He became interested in mining, and has left excellent photographs of mines in Tuolumne County: The Black Oak, Grand View, and Turkey Hill. He was also an early visitor to Yosemite Valley and other reaches of the great Sierra to which he returned time and again over the years. The earlier trips were made by horse and carriage; the later by a succession of motor cars each more elegant than its predecessor. This long picture record of the mountains

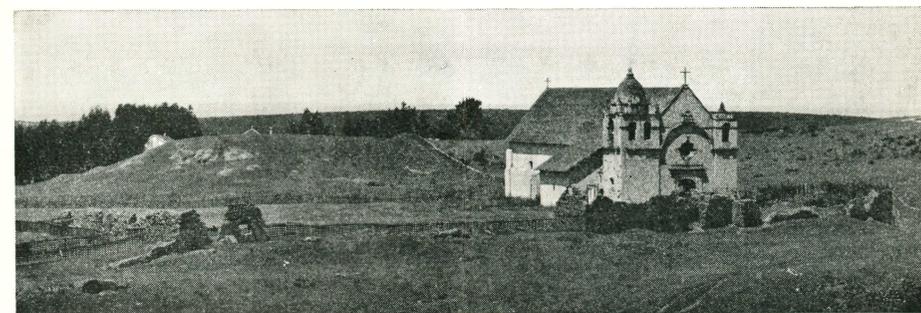
reveals changes in the roads, the vehicles and the country itself, as the years went by.

The Gaytes assemblage of pictures may well be regarded as one of the most important accessions of its kind in recent years. It has already attracted the attention of specialists in street and rail transportation, and many photocopies have been made in the last month. Thus the reputation of the Bancroft grows, and hopefully its fame.

J. B. TOMPKINS

Edward Weston

IN THE FOREWORD to Edward Weston's *Daybooks*, Beaumont Newhall makes the statement that seldom has an artist written about his life as vividly, as intimately and as sincerely as Edward Weston. This same intensity is reflected in the Western letters which The Friends recently purchased for the Bancroft Library. Written to Miriam Lerner, the "M" of his daybooks, the letters chronicle their relationship from 1925 through 1956. Weston's loves were reportedly many and short-lived, but this love affair deepened to a rare and understanding affection which did not lessen with the years. The letters written after he went to Mexico and she to Europe to study art, are particularly revealing, for the years in Mexico were years of tortuous self-analysis and growth. In them he comments on his work, "the start of a new period in my approach and attitude towards photography," the Mexican artists who welcomed him, his attempts at writing, his exhibits, and his views on art and philosophy of life. In some he enclosed selections from his daybooks, which differ somewhat from the published version—especially interesting since the original manuscript of the *Daybooks* for the Mexican period was destroyed.



Mission San Carlos in 1897.

Herbert Gaytes

In 1937 Weston became the first photographer to receive a Guggenheim Fellowship and he happily informed Miriam of the award. "The Guggenheim Fellowship is of course one of the great events of my life because it gives me for the first time a chance to work free from immediate financial worries." This resulted in the publication in 1940 of *California and the West*, a series of photographs made during his two years of travel and a log of the journey written by his wife, Charis.

The last letters, written two years before his death, reveal the inroads made by Parkinson's disease, and he apologizes: "... every pen stroke has to be planned in advance... I have to make up my mind to write weeks in advance, and those I care for most I treat the worst." In all they represent a remarkable self-portrait of a great artist.

ESTELLE REBEC

John Galen Howard

THE NAME John Galen Howard immediately evokes images of dignified classical buildings of the University campus at Berkeley, and of stately business edifices and charming brown shingle private residences of graceful proportions scattered throughout the Bay Area. The architect's initial reaction to California, formed while working in Los Angeles in 1887 and 1888, was not a wholly favorable one, however, and only after many years of apprenticeship and study in the East and in Europe, accumulating a solid reputation in his field, did Howard return here.

Early in 1899, he made his first visit to Berkeley to study the land allocated to the new university. He pronounced the site of "unrivalled beauty," and two years later from Washington, D.C. he wrote his wife, "... I have just come to my room after a long talk with Mrs. Hearst. She has asked me to take up her building, the first of the great building scheme..." Thus, with the construction of the Hearst Mining Building, began an association destined to endure many years, giving to the University of California its architectural form by adding the Library, Wheeler Hall, Hilgard Hall, the Campanile, the Sather Gate, and many other halls.

John Galen Howard was not only a builder, he was also a teacher, and took great pride

in the establishment of a full-fledged Department of Architecture for the University. To these activities he added that of poet, publishing *Brunelleschi* in 1913 and *Pheidias* in 1929.

The papers of John Galen Howard, given to the Bancroft Library by his daughter, Mrs. R. W. Wallace, in August 1966, reflect the busy life of the eminent architect, with its warm family background, and present a valuable portrait of the University community of Berkeley from 1902, and also of Carmel in its early days. The collection, consisting of correspondence, manuscripts of poems and articles, diaries, sketches and photographs, has been arranged and is now available for use.

MARIE BYRNE

Staff Activities

THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS have seen the addition of two new members to the Bancroft Library's staff. Miss Dorothy Jones came to us from the Sutro Library, first as book cataloguer and now as assistant acquisitions librarian. In the University Archives, Mr. James Sisson became Mr. Kantor's assistant, replacing Miss Cheryl Wong, who resigned her position early this year.

Miss Jones, from Port Townsend and Seattle, Washington, holds B.A. and M.A. degrees and her degree in Librarianship from the University of Washington, with her subject major in literature. She organized the library of the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, in San Francisco, upon coming to the Bay Area. Subsequently she was for several years cataloguer in the Sutro Library. Among her other interests, Miss Jones is an enthusiastic member of the Sierra Club.

Mr. Sisson, a native of Vernon, Alabama, holds a B.S. degree from Florence State College in Alabama, the B.S. and M.S. degrees from Auburn University, did graduate work at Duke University, and was for four years an Instructor in English at Georgia Tech, in Atlanta, Georgia. He is currently a doctoral candidate in English at Berkeley, and is interested chiefly in Jack London. The London collections of the Bancroft Library have been enriched in the past by his many contributions of rare and unusual items by or about Jack London.

The Bancroft Library was well represented at the Western History Association's meeting in El Paso on October 13 through 15, 1966. Helen Bretnor, Willa Baum, Robert Becker and Dale Morgan attended the conference. Mrs. Baum read a paper entitled "Oral History: An Old-New Research Tool," while Mr. Becker appeared on a seminar panel to discuss the Bancroft Library's resources for Western history.

Earlier that month, on October 5, 1966, Mr. James R. K. Kantor flew to Atlanta, Georgia to deliver a paper on the history and organization of the University of California Archives, at the 39th annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists.

Dale Morgan has continued his usual brisk pace through the world of Western history, giving a paper before the Jedediah Smith Society, at the University of the Pacific, on March 18, on "Jedediah Smith Today"; and another, on "The First Wealth of the West," at the Missouri Historical Society's Centennial Conference, in St. Louis, on March 30, 1967. His paper before the American Fur Trade Conference in St. Paul on November 3, 1965 was published, somewhat expanded, in the *American West* for Spring, 1966, under the title "The Fur Trade and Its Historians."

The versatile staff of the Regional Oral History Office has been prolific in publications and public speeches this past year. In addition to her speech at the El Paso conference, Mrs. Baum talked to the San Mateo County Historical Association on February 7, 1967, urging that group to start its own oral history program. She has also prepared an article for the April issue of the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, entitled "Oral History: A Revived Tradition at the Bancroft Library." Incidentally, Robert Burke, under whom the Regional Oral History project was begun, when he was in charge of the Library's Manuscript Division, is now the managing editor of the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*.

Miss Ruth Teiser published an article on Warren Howell, based on her Oral History interview with him, in the "This World" section of the *San Francisco Chronicle* for March 19, 1967. Amelia Fry, in addition to speaking at the Fresno Unitarian Church on "Oral History and the Double Generation

Gap," wrote two articles derived from her interviews with Samuel Trask Dana, who has been called the Dean of American Conservationists. They were published first in the *Forest History Journal* for Fall, 1966; and then in the *American Forest* for November and December, 1966.

In September and October of 1966, Joanne Ariff, a multi-talented member of the Oral History Staff, had an exhibit of her prints, both woodcuts and etchings, and drawings at The Artificerie.

C. L. CHASE

Miscellanea and Mirth

As editor of a new edition of Laura Fish Judd's *Honolulu*, the Lakeside Classic for 1966, Bancroft Dale L. Morgan was asked to summarize his views on Hawaiian history—a new field for him—to enlighten The Friends.

Morgan obligingly commented: "K-k-k-k-k-k-k-k-k-k—"

He reflected further, and added: "K-k-k-k-k-k-k-k-k—"

These symptoms sound alarming, but we think Morgan has just had a temporary over-exposure to some characteristic Hawaiian culture, extending from Kaahumanu through Kalakaua, Kalanimoku, Kamehameha, and Kaumualii to Kawaihau, Kealakekua, Ke-kauluohi, Kekuanao, and Kuakini. The K portion of the index, we observe, runs to 2½ pages.

Regional Oral History Office

A VARIETY OF subject fields are included in the oral history interviews presently in progress under the auspices of the Regional Oral History Office: fine printing, The Mexican Revolution, food and wine technology, Russian emigration to California, and University housing and athletics, to name but a few. Equally varied are the sources of funds for these tape recorded interviews.

For example, The Friends of the Bancroft Library have taken steps to launch a small program with considerable potential by granting \$1000 to ROHO in support of a "Diverse Memoirs Series." ROHO interviews persons who have made a significant contri-

bution to the development of the West, usually in a series with several persons focussed on a single theme. Such a series must be funded by outside grants which often take months to obtain, grants which quite understandably spell out exactly the way funds are to be spent and on whom. Differing from the usual grant, The Friends' new "Diverse Memoirs Fund" permits interviews with extraordinary persons who do not already fit into an on-going series, who might spark a new series, and who represent interviews of immediacy, a now-or-never chance to capture on tape a personality who may not be available again.

A major memoir with Dr. Walter Clay Lowdermilk, internationally famed soil erosion expert, has been made possible through a grant from Prof. Arthur F. Pillsbury, Director of the Water Resources Center, UCLA. Of particular interest to historians is the fact that Dr. Lowdermilk wrote extensively during his active career, and still finds time to write as a consultant for the Save the Redwoods League.

Also being recorded under the auspices of the Water Resources Center are interviews with Harvey Banks, former State Engineer; S. T. Harding, Professor Emeritus of Irrigation; and Sam Leedom, former Executive Officer of the California Water Commission. These last three are being handled jointly by the Water Resources Archives and ROHO.

Another extensive memoir in the field of natural resources is underway with Emanuel Fritz, Professor Emeritus of Forestry at UC Berkeley, long known throughout the world as "Mr. Redwood." The grant for the oral history memoir was made by the California Redwood Association to the Forest History Society of Yale University, which in turn commissioned ROHO to do the oral history work. The grant included funds for the preparation of a register of the personal papers of Professor Fritz, and their deposit in the Bancroft Library. The Fritz memoir is one of a number of interviews in forestry being done in cooperation with the Forest History Society.

An earlier series of four memoirs of Russian émigrés has been expanded through the

support of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies, directed by Professor Gregory Grossman. This includes oral history interviews with Professor George Guins, Mr. Valentin Fedoulenko, and Mr. Alexander Lenkov, and the establishment of the California Russian Emigré Collection in the Bancroft Library. Professors Oleg A. Maslenikov and Nicholas V. Riasanovsky are faculty advisors.

For the second year a grant from the Alumni Foundation has made possible a continuation of the series of interviews on University history. A detailed account of the interviews in this series will be given in a later issue.

WILLA BAUM

Henry Lebbeus Oak

UPON HIS DEATH IN 1905, Henry Lebbeus Oak, for many years Librarian of the Bancroft Library and H. H. Bancroft's chief assistant in his literary workshop, left to his brother Ora a bound set of the *Works of Henry L. Oak*.

There is in the Bancroft Library a letter dated July 31, 1906, from Ora Oak to J. C. Rowell, then Librarian of the University of California. "Your favor of 23d came duly. I have the bound set of my brother's works referred to, and Dartmouth College has the other set. While I thank you for your kind offer of preservation in your fireproof library, I cannot bring myself to give them up. Moreover, I have four boys growing up which I hope in some manner to induce to read them, if not for their own sake because their uncle wrote them."

Now, over sixty years later, through the generosity of Harold L., Alfred H., and Liston M. Oak, the surviving sons of Ora Oak, this set of the *Works of Henry L. Oak* has come to the Bancroft Library. Contained in the eleven leather-bound volumes are the portions of Bancroft's *Works* for which Oak had been assigned the primary responsibility, and the pamphlet written after his break with Bancroft, "*Literary Industries*" in a *New Light*. Also included in the gift is Oak's diary of a trip through California in 1887.

PATRICIA HOWARD