

# BANCROFTIANA

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*Eight Friends of the Bancroft at dinner, Mark Hopkins Hotel, San Francisco, February 17th, 1949. Seated from left: George L. Harding, Henry R. Wagner, Thomas W. Streeter, Herbert M. Evans. Standing, from left: Charles L. Camp, Kenneth K. Bechtel, Francis P. Farquhar, George P. Hammond.*

## *HRW: A Scholar's Correspondence*

Writing to his old friend Thomas W. Streeter on August 12th, 1946, Henry Raup Wagner noted: I spent a week, or a little less, in San Francisco, and started something that is going to be a lot of trouble to somebody else. We had a luncheon at the Bohemian Club and organized The Friends of The Bancroft Library. I may as well confess that I suggested it but I found most hearty supporters, and we finally wound up with a provisional organization of Francis Farquhar as Chairman and George Harding as Secretary-Treasurer. . . . I saw Charlie Camp . . . and in fact everyone I wanted to see, including Dr. Evans, who insisted on my coming to his house in the afternoon and when I got there insisted on my drinking Daiquiri cocktails. It was about the hottest day of the year and I managed to get off with one.

This long, chatty letter documents not only the beginning of the Friends' organization but also

the close friendship which existed between these several bookmen of the American West whose interests over a long period of years centered in The Bancroft Library. It is included in a collection of Wagner's correspondence covering the last forty years of his life, portions of which he gave to the Bancroft from time to time and portions of which came by bequest following his death in 1957.

Henry Raup Wagner was born in Philadelphia on September 27th, 1862, earned an A.B. at Yale in 1884, and two years later, with a Yale law degree, headed west. In Kansas City, Missouri he formed a partnership with two other attorneys who soon talked him into investing in a silver mine in New Mexico. Wagner began reading about metallurgy, and the course of his career gradually shifted from law to mining. In 1888 he volunteered to take charge of the mine while the superintendent was on vacation, and soon afterward he moved to Denver, becoming an ore-buyer for the Globe Smelting and Refining Company. When this position vanished in the Panic of '93, Wagner went to Mexico to sell mining machinery. At the same time he became seriously interested in the history of this area, began to examine documents in the National Archives, and started to collect books dealing with the history of mining and metallurgy as well as Mexican broadsides. Finally, in 1898, he joined the Guggenheim family firm and until his retirement some twenty-two years later was in charge of their interests in Chile, Spain, England and Mexico.

With retirement came the leisure to pursue his scholarly interests, and the first of the many publications which resulted from his fresh interpretation of historical documents: *The Plains and the Rockies, A Bibliography of Original Narratives of Travel and Adventure, 1800-1865*. Published in a small edition in 1920, it was revised by Professor Charles L. Camp in 1937 and again in 1953, and an enlarged edition by Robert H. Becker, who retired from the Bancroft in 1979, will appear later this year. A second major bibliography, *The Spanish Southwest, 1542-1794*, appeared in 1924, followed by *Sir Francis Drake's Voyage Around the World in 1926*.

*Cartography of the Northwest Coast of America to the Year 1800*, published in 1937, is based on a fifteen-year study of original documents, many of which Wagner translated and printed for the first time. Of these books Francis P.

Farquhar stated in 1955: "No greater contribution has been made in the past hundred years to the knowledge and understanding of the Sixteenth Century in America. . . ." In this year also, Wagner published his last work, *Peter Pond, Fur Trader and Explorer*, a copy of which he sent to Camp whose acknowledgment includes the note: "The maps are certainly intriguing—I had no idea you had found so many of them."

Along with the correspondence, now arranged in fifteen boxes, the collection comprises several cartons of manuscripts, including first drafts and notes for such books as *The Life and Writings of Bartolomé de las Casas*, and a scrapbook of clippings about Wagner and his career. The Library is pleased to hold such a comprehensive body of material documenting the life of this outstanding historian and bibliographer who contributed so much to its own affairs.

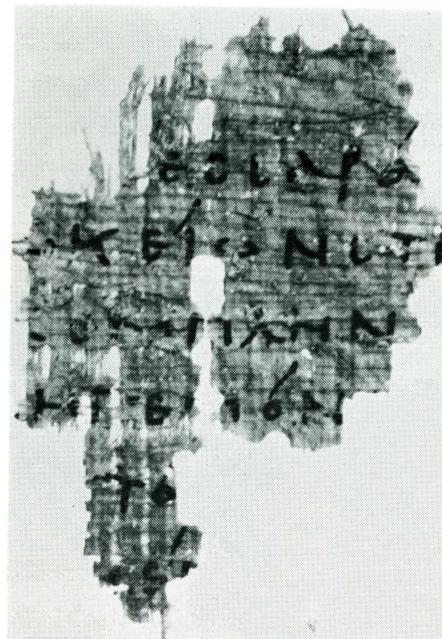
M.-E. J.

## Two Fragments of the Iliad

The reexamination and microfilming of the Library's fine collection of papyri from Tebtunis, which came to the University of California as the gift of Regent Phoebe Apperson Hearst, was publicized in the issue of *Bancroftiana* for February, 1980. With an additional grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Mr. E. W. Wall of the American Center of the International Photographic Archive of Papyri at Urbana, Illinois returned to the Library this past fall to continue the project. He has now discovered two previously unknown fragmentary manuscripts of Homer's *Iliad* in the large mass of uninventoried pieces which has lain virtually untouched for nearly half a century.

Both can be dated to the second century of this era on the basis of handwriting, and both come from the "Catalog of Ships" in *Iliad* II. Lack of writing on the versos indicates that both come from rolls rather than codices, which had not yet found general acceptance. The first, a single fragment (P. Tebt. frag. 21,009) in a smallish handwriting of superior draftsmanship, is distinguished by its careful attention to accents, a nicety ignored by most ancient scribes. Breath marks are omitted. The text (*Iliad* II, 524-529) presents a minor variant, spelling the word for "Phoceans" with epsilon-iota rather than eta at line 525.

[ 2 ]



P. Tebt. frag. 21,009

The second manuscript survives in three fragments (P. Tebt. frags. 21,013, 21,018b, and 21,138) and was written in a larger and less elegant hand than the first manuscript, on an inferior grade of papyrus. Though there is no whole word remaining, the traces are sufficient to establish the source as *Iliad* II, 720-730, and to demonstrate that the original lacked accents and presumably breaths as well. The margins indicate that we have the lower right-hand corner of a column, and the text shows no deviation from the standard text of Homer.

Homeric manuscripts outnumber those of other authors in Tebtunis and throughout Egypt in the Graeco-Roman period; the new fragments help to clarify the state of *belles lettres* in Ptolemaic Egypt while raising significant questions. Of the Bancroft's eighteen Homeric manuscripts, fourteen are from the *Iliad*, and only four from the *Odyssey*. More surprisingly, *Iliad* II is represented by five different manuscripts, *Iliad* I by two, and other books of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* by only one each. Furthermore, twelve of the manuscripts may be dated from the second century of this era, paralleling the sharp rise of Greek letters elsewhere in Egypt at that time.

It is difficult to explain this renaissance in Egypt. The Greek-speaking population consisted partly of natives who had learned the language from the bureaucracy, partly of descendants of the garrison left by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C. Why did the rise in literacy occur after Egypt became a satellite of Rome and why was the revival so explosive? Was this Egyptian renaissance an isolated phenomenon or part of a larger intellectual movement throughout the Mediterranean basin? And what was the charm of the "Catalog of Ships?"

At this point the story line of the epic bogs down in a roll-call of the Greeks who went to Troy, and the passage makes dry reading for most modern students. It would appear from our new aggregate of evidence that the Greek-speaking people of Egypt somehow found a renewed sense of their heritage in the second century, and through that nation's great literature sought some indication of their ties to a cultural homeland which most had never seen. Finally, they especially sought to ally themselves with one or another hero of the Trojan War by poring over the "Catalog" in *Iliad* II.

E.W.W.

## Basic Research at Los Alamos

Five oral history interviews with former administrators of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, recorded in 1976 by Dr. Arthur Norberg for the Bancroft's History of Science and Technology Program, have recently been catalogued and are available for research in the Library's Heller Reading Room. The interviewees are: Norris E. Bradbury, director of the Laboratory for twenty-five years following World War II; Darol K. Froman, assistant director for weapons development; John E. Manley, associate director; J. Carson Mark, theoretical division leader; and Raemer E. Schreiber, technical associate director. These typescripts deal with personal background as well as the organization of the Laboratory and its various projects and programs. An ongoing administrative problem discussed by all the interviewees was the way that the Laboratory accommodated itself to the necessity of following its mandated task of doing research on weapons and at the same time satisfying the desires of the staff to pursue many forms of basic research.

[ 3 ]

The responsibility of Los Alamos was fixed in 1947 by the newly-formed Atomic Energy Commission: it was to be a first-rate weapons laboratory. Initially this meant that Los Alamos was expected to create a stockpile of weapons roughly based on the design of existing atomic bombs, but it became apparent that to retain scientists with academic research backgrounds the Laboratory would have to offer a more challenging task than weapons engineering. To ensure this, a commitment to basic research was made by confining weapons production to a special unit which, in 1949, was completely separated from Laboratory management.

On the whole, in the immediate postwar years many scientists found Los Alamos an appealing place in which to work. The Laboratory had amassed a good deal of prime equipment, was steadily funded by the Federal government, and was perhaps the best place in the country to study fission. Not only had a wealth of information accumulated during wartime studies, but also all classified fission research had been terminated at other World War II laboratories. Moreover, plenty of basic research was needed just to be able to produce effective weapons. As Norris Bradbury admitted, at that time America had "lousy bombs." Thus, scientists could feel that they were doing pioneering work and helping the country's defense effort as well.

Younger scientists found Los Alamos attractive after the war because the "big men" had returned to their university posts, giving the juniors a chance to show what they could do. As Darol Froman notes:

I felt at the time that the government has got so much invested in this place, if Bradbury can pull it off and keep a reasonable staff which he can build up, it's bound to be a first-class laboratory. So what's better than working in such a place. Nothing, as far as I'm concerned.

But this is not to say that the Laboratory remained satisfied only doing research necessary for weapons development. John Manley best expressed the thoughts among the staff when he said:

... a lot of our mission, so to speak, was not solely concentrated about the weapons business, but the possibility of using this place, this location and equipment and so on, somehow, as a cooperative effort, or whatever you want, to further the general

cause of science—nuclear science and atomic energy primarily, because that's what it was built for.

And in response, steps were taken to promote non-weapons research, including the establishment of a nuclear reactor program.

Norris Bradbury himself was sympathetic to changing the thrust of Laboratory research. As he states:

I guess I'm always of the opinion, and always have been, that the only object of a laboratory like this is to put itself out of business as far as bombs are concerned. You don't work on weapons just for the pure fun of making bombs and killing people, you do it because you hope you could provide the country with some time.

In 1954, when Washington was talking about test-ban treaties, he proposed alternate programs based upon the expertise of Laboratory personnel. Raemer Schreiber aptly describes the director's feelings when he says: "Bradbury was a great proponent of the idea that the same talents, the same capabilities, that will do good weapon design and engineering, can be applied to other projects that have not the least thing to do with weapons." By the 1970's, a forceful, continuing commitment to all forms of basic research led to a greater emphasis on medium energy physics and the solution of energy problems. Not only had the Laboratory never become just a weapons factory, but by that time only half its programs were still devoted solely to weapons development. A.P.—D.

## Views of the Mailliard Family

For more than a century the Mailliard family has been prominent in California affairs, both in business life and in the public sector. Adolph Mailliard arrived in California in 1868 and settled at San Geronimo Ranch in Marin County. In 1896 his son, John Ward, founded the food brokerage and importing firm of Mailliard and Schmiedell, which has continued to be run by members of the family, particularly by John Ward III and by James, until his death in 1974. William Somers Mailliard, their brother, after naval service in World War II, chose to exercise his talents in the political arena, acting as private secretary to Governor Earl Warren from 1948 to 1951, an association documented recently by

the Bancroft's Regional Oral History Office in its Earl Warren series. W. S. Mailliard was then elected to the House of Representatives in 1952 and reelected to serve ten consecutive terms in Congress. Various members of the family have been prominent in community organizations ranging from the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce to Bay Area Educational Television. The ranching tradition, begun by Adolph, continues at the Mailliard Ranch in Mendocino County.



Mr. and Mrs. John Ward Mailliard with their five children, Belvedere Island, c.1908.

William Somers Mailliard and his relatives recently presented to The Bancroft Library a great collection of family papers and a substantial group of family photographs. Consisting of several hundred items, this new pictorial collection documents all aspects of the family's history from Adolph's French ancestors and connections with the Bonapartes down to the recent past. There are, as well, pictures from the families into which the Mailliards married, particularly the Petersons (John Ward, Jr. married Kate Peterson of San Francisco). Not only are there the formal portraits one expects to find, but there are also pictures of informal family groups and outings, as well as views taken with business associates and with the armed forces in World War II. The majority of the collection consists of photographs, but there are a significant number of daguerreotypes and even a few painted miniatures.

The Library is fortunate to have received from one of this area's leading families such a complete collection which will both provide documentation of the Mailliards and aid scholars attempting to illustrate particular ways of life and styles in our social history. w.r.

## Through Women's Eyes: Diaries at the Bancroft

On September 19th, 1849, Sarah Carpenter Swain, on board the bark *George Champlaine* in the South Pacific, recorded in her diary the birth of her daughter Emeline:

Captain Swain had charge of affairs. He got out his doctor book and followed directions. All went well.

On August 13th, 1853, Harriet Sherril Ward described another day in her journey from Wisconsin to California:

To day we have been horribly annoyed by the finest black dust imaginable, and the heat of the sun intense—We were on our way at an early hour, and at eleven o'clock found ourselves at the ferry at Bear River where we met a part of the tribe of Boonach Indians from fort Hall who were removing to the Mormon fort near Salt Lake. They have suffered much from the ravages of the small pox the present season, and indeed have been nearly destroyed [sic] by it. They have hundreds of horses which they intend selling to the Mormons for provisions.

Twelve years later a young woman en route from Mississippi to California scribbled hastily:

Wednesday November 29th, 1865—Took the wrong road lost several mile [sic] met large company of movers returning to their farms in Geo. refugees of the war, they gave us a bad account of Texas. I lost my tucking comb.

Another two generations later the western scenery still elicits admiration, heat and dust still annoy the intrepid traveler, but earlier remarks about the quality of drinking water are now replaced with comments about fine showers. In 1937, Mrs. Frank Kettlewell began her trip from Piedmont to the Grand Canyon with the entry: "June 19—50508 mileage—3:15 [p.m.] Full tank of gas—Fresno 9 p.m. 50685 mileage, 12 gallons of gas." We learn that she arrived at the Boulder City Auto Court on June 21st, rose the next day at 5:45 and left her cabin at 9:45, that she bought Kodachrome film for her Retina Kodak camera, that she paid fifteen cents for apple pie and eighty cents for a three-course lunch.

Historians glimpse from such diaries a wealth of detail about the conditions of travel as well as specific information on economic and political changes in various geographic areas. The Bancroft's large collection of overland journals enables a scholar to compare different versions of the same pioneering venture. Most diaries were written during short periods of time and for particular reasons, such as a move to a new place. Young girls kept diaries for a year or two before they were married. Rather typical is that of Margaret Cameron Pierce, who describes her eighteenth birthday on August 15th, 1868, and her courting days before her marriage. Her daughter, Mary Eugenia Pierce, kept a diary during a seventeen-day cruise from San Francisco to Yokohama when she was about the same age. For Jane Gardner Waterman, wife of California's Governor, a rest cure in 1887 at Walter's Park Sanitarium in Pennsylvania warranted a diary in which her nurse faithfully entered daily treatments with electricity, sea-salt, massages, and fresh air. A brochure for Dr. Walter's establishment is included in Mrs. Waterman's papers, making this diary of particular interest to medical historians. The cure was a success, for according to the diary when Mrs. Waterman returned home she was soon able to entertain the Republican Convention at the family ranch in San Bernardino County.

Among many groups of family papers held by the Library are diaries which span several generations. Often these include calling cards, clippings from society pages, and other ephemera illustrating the social life of young ladies and prominent matrons. Much rarer, however, is the testimony of a working girl such as Anna L. Ogden, who recorded experiences as a domestic servant from 1888 to 1895. Born in Berlin, she emigrated to the United States with her family and regularly contributed to their income from her meager wages. Her daily chores, the various tempers and exigencies of her employers, her constant want of money, her frequent illnesses, and her frankness about what it meant to belong to the "downstairs" part of the house make this a moving and historically valuable document.

Equally rare are diaries which speak of the emotional turmoil of a woman's life. For Anna Fader Haskell the diary was more than a registry. On January 1st, 1884, she wrote:

For a long time I have merely recorded the

little events of every day with never a thought. I have come to the conclusion that if I can think things I need not be afraid to face them. God knows or I know that I have tried to do the best I could and have done the best I could.

Anna had married Burnette Haskell the previous June and found life difficult with the controversial socialist leader. A year later the pattern of her life looks ominously clear:

Every night Burnette promises to come home, and every night he comes home late, it makes me sick at heart. It is always the same—always the same.

She had begun her daily reckonings, as one might call her confessions, in 1876 at the age of eighteen, and she continued to write every day for sixty-six years until her death in 1942. An unhappy love before her betrothal, a stormy marriage which included sharing her husband's life at Kaweah, a socialist cooperative in Tulare County which failed, her separation when Burnette could no longer control his alcoholism, her experiences as a country schoolteacher, and as a mother and as a member of the Socialist Party—all of this weaves through volumes of soul-searching analysis, each volume concluding with a special evaluation at the end of the year and opening with a hopeful resolution at the beginning of a new one. This diary preserves a unique, lifelong stream of consciousness.

Often it is the mixture of public and private history which makes a diary noteworthy. When Dorothy Swaine Thomas collected documentation on the Japanese-American Relocation Camps, she commissioned a number of diaries to supplement the records and statistics with real-life accounts. Among them is the diary of an American daughter of Japanese parents who must come to terms with both her national and her familial heritage, with anti-Americanism in the camp and with racial prejudice outside its fences, and—to further complicate the situation—with the conflict between Issei and Nisei. The fact that her political comments are mingled with her private opinions about parental authority, girl friends, smoking, and Sigmund Freud makes them that much more poignant. For example, the anonymous diarist wrote on February 2d, 1943:

Anyone who proclaims pro-American is quite unpopular now, but I think that as

long as we're in this country it is to our disadvantage to develop this attitude of anti-Americanism. As far as I'm concerned, I think it was a gross mistake on the part of the government to treat aliens and citizens alike with apparent racial prejudice. However I feel that mistakes are made by everyone, and if there was some economic selfish motive behind this cry for evacuation, we would be accepting defeat by allowing it to make us bitter. Some people have been hit much harder by evacuation than I have, so I have no right to say such things, but I think that we should face the problem squarely without being handicapped by bitter prejudice.

Besides historical documentation, women's diaries offer biographical information about artists, writers, and politicians of note since mothers, wives, and sisters usually commented on family members, some already famous, others well known later. So it was that baby Gertrude's measles and other ailments are faithfully recorded by her conscientious mother, Amelia Stein. The little one has a cold in June and a sore foot in November and suffers from poison oak on March 4th, 1884. That some of the children's illnesses and lessons and walks occur in Vienna and Paris, others in Oakland, matters little, for Mrs. Stein is concerned more with her offspring than with the places to which they traveled. Her entries are as centered on the home as the general household accounts they

include. In January 1881 she took bookkeeping classes in Oakland and immediately jotted down how much she spent at the bakery and at the dry goods store. "All is well" is a frequent comment, but hardly a word appears about her own failing health. Amelia Stein died of cancer in 1888. By that time, according to Gertrude, her mother had been ill a long time, "so that when she died we had already had the habit of doing without her."

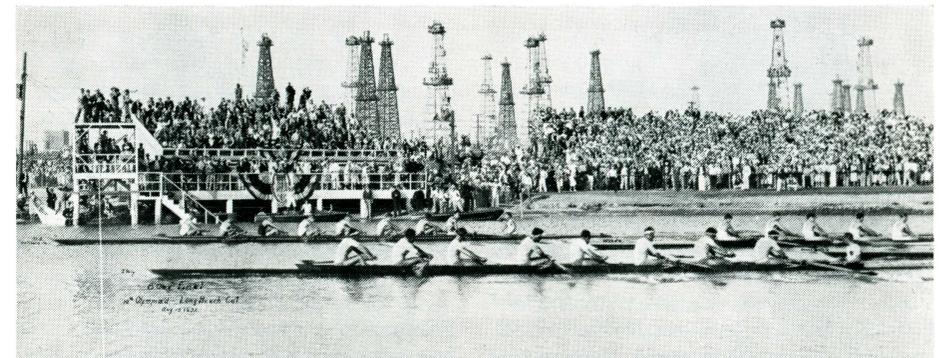
Diaries also provide unexpected information about women whose papers are housed in the Library. Professor Catherine Bauer Wurster's Paris diary reveals her journalistic ambitions during the year 1926-27. Her spirited impressions of Capri and Brittany and her description of Englishmen at Oxford give a vivid portrait of a young American woman long before she embarked on her distinguished career in urban planning.

I don't know why the Englishman likes this public institution, la jeune fille Americaine abroad. We are undoubtedly one of his most poignant vices. For another thing, we are likely to be healthy. Once an Englishman was in love with me. He watched me walk across the room & remarked in a tremendously flattering tone: My but you must swim well.

Along with oral history interviews, diaries, such as Mrs. Wurster's, represent one of the unique archival resources on women in this country.

A. O.

## University of California Crew Photographs



California's varsity shell winning first place at the finish line of the 1932 Olympic Games held at Long Beach Marine Stadium, August 13th, 1932.

It is noteworthy that there has been but one rowing coach in the modern period, that is from 1896 on, who can be credited with three Olympic crews: Carroll M. "Ky" Ebright, whose career at Berkeley established its own record—1924 to 1959. In his introduction to an oral history interview which he conducted with Ky in 1968, Arthur M. Arlett of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics described his subject:

Small of stature, as befits a coxswain, he is affectionately known as "The Little Admiral" but he has been a giant in his profound influence on the young men who learn to love rowing. Of all the sports in which student athletes compete, none is more demanding in maximum effort and total dedication, or in self-effacement and working as a team, yet as individuals over the years men in crew have learned from Ky Ebright and his successors to compete with equal vigor in the classroom. Their remarkably high scholastic averages testify to his teaching.

Four years after his arrival at the University of California, Ky's varsity eight travelled to Amsterdam to represent the United States in the 1928 Olympiad, and came home to a huge victory celebration. Again in 1932 at Long Beach and in 1948 at Henley-on-Thames, the Berkeley crews came in first. But there were victories elsewhere: in the Poughkeepsie Regattas (Intercollegiate Rowing Association) of 1934, 1935, 1939, and 1949.

Although rowing did not take on its glamorous mantle until the Ebright years, the sport itself is perhaps the oldest at Berkeley, for the original University of California Boat Club was established on October 25th, 1873 when a group of students, including Charles L. Tilden for whom the local park was later named, "in labor and money assessed each one \$40, during the week vacation following they erected a boat house on San Antonio Creek at a cost of over \$300.00." In January, 1904 the Boating Association of the University of California was organized, and racing on the Oakland Estuary began in earnest. One of the early coaches was Dean Witter, a graduate in the Class of 1909.

After twenty years of happy retirement with his family, Ky Ebright died on November 25th, 1979 in Redmond, Washington. A few months ago his widow presented to the University Archives a substantial collection of photo-

graphs documenting in large part Ky's long career at Berkeley. These views nicely complement the wealth of materials already held on the history of this particular sport which has brought so many honors to the University.

### *William E. Siri: Environmentalist*

William E. Siri, the University of California biophysicist and director of the Energy Analysis Program at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, leads a triple life: in addition to his scientific career, he is an accomplished mountaineer and a leading environmentalist. His multifaceted life has been documented in an oral history memoir, sponsored by the Sierra Club History Committee and completed by the Bancroft's Regional Oral History Office. This interview is one of a series dealing with the Sierra Club which complement the growing collection of that organization's papers in the Library.

Recounting his experiences as deputy leader of the successful First American Expedition to Mount Everest in 1963, Siri speaks with candor about the stresses of expedition climbing on team members, the weaknesses in leadership on Everest, and the difficulties of molding strong individualistic drives of highly motivated climbers into a team effort. Of the Everest expedition he says:

Expeditions tend, if anything, to generate enduring enmities, but perhaps this isn't too surprising. For several months a team like this is under intense stress, not only environmental factors—hypoxia and cold and abnormal diets and cultural shock and everything else—but the intensity of their expectations, and perhaps failure to achieve them, the competition, and the anxieties. There is a lot at stake in terms of peer recognition and self-fulfillment, and the worst in men may come out even in high-principled mountaineers.

Like many mountaineers, Siri moved from a leadership role in climbing expeditions to leadership positions in the environmental movement. He returned from Mount Everest to a two-year stint as Sierra Club president in 1964 and 1965; since 1967 he has served as president of Save San Francisco Bay Association. From a perspective of nearly twenty years of active

participation in Sierra Club affairs (he was a member of its board of directors from 1956 to 1973), Siri comments on the Club's major conservation campaigns, its explosive internal affairs, and its dramatic expansion in scope of interests and in membership nationwide during these years. In conjunction with his papers in the Bancroft, the interview sheds light on two continuing controversies in California politics in which he was involved from their beginnings—the siting of a PG&E power plant at Diablo Canyon and the opposition to the Peripheral Canal—and documents his contributions to Club policy on the conservation and environmentally safe development of energy. In the latter area, Siri's environmental interests influenced his move into a new career at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in 1974. As director of the Energy Analysis Program he now brings his scientific background to bear on a key problem, in analyzing the social, cultural, and environmental impacts of energy development.

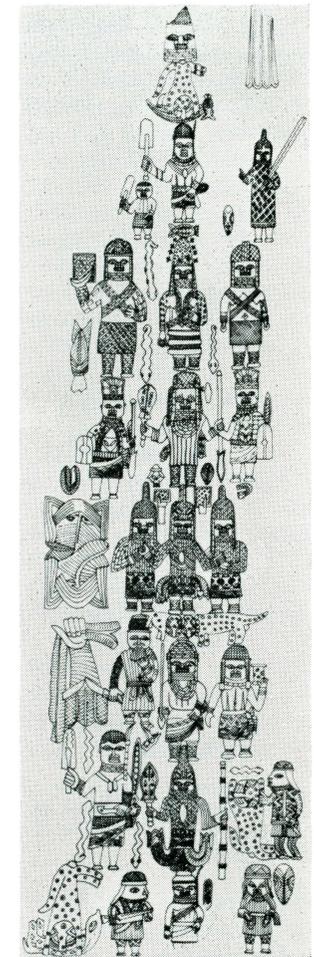
Many other Sierra Club leaders, including former Club executive director David R. Brower, who later became president of Friends of the Earth, and honorary Club president Richard M. Leonard, have been interviewed for the Sierra Club History Committee, which provides the overall direction for the Club's Oral History Project. The Committee has also been responsible for the transfer to The Bancroft Library of the Club's archives, consisting of more than four hundred cartons of written records as well as Club photographs, films, publications, and tape recordings. Under a new grant which the Club has received from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Regional Oral History Office will complete some twelve to sixteen new interviews, including, as subjects, former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and former Club executive director Michael McCloskey. These will aid scholars of the history of the modern environmental movement who will seek out the Bancroft as a national center for conservation research.

A. L.

### *Scrolls of Benin Tusks*

Ivory altar tusks, once the property of the West African Kings of Benin, have come to The Bancroft Library in the form of twelve scrolls, made in the 1960's, inscribed with drawings of

the carvings created prior to the British invasion of that country at the turn of the century. When the British seized Benin they also seized the bronze and ivory treasure of the Bini (Edo) people and scattered it to collectors and museums throughout the western world. The Library's scrolls may help in the systematic study of African writing which has been hard



to work out because other tusks are so widely dispersed. Today, ten of the twelve drawings are considered unique representations of the tusks.

Mrs. Kathleen Hau of Berkeley, the donor of the scrolls, has worked for many years to decipher the meanings of the carvings. First becoming interested in West Africa while studying at the London School of Economics,

she needed drawings of the carvings in order to work with them at home. The directors of the Hamburgisches Museum für Volkerkunde und Vorgeschichte and the University Museum at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as the Trustees of the British Museum recommended artists whom Mrs. Hau commissioned to make accurate drawings of the symbols of men, animals, and objects carved on the tusks.

In the course of her investigation, Mrs. Hau has become convinced that the symbols are a form of hieroglyphics, probably sound symbols accompanied by word symbols. She discovered that West Africans, slave and free, used syllabaries composed of letters and combinations of letters taken from South Semitic scripts, singly or in combination utilized to create scripts adapted to African languages. Not only do South Semitic letters frequently occur in West African scripts but hundreds of South Semitic letters singly, in combination, and with variants have been recently found on rocks far away in the lower Congo Valley by two Belgian scholars, Paul Raymaekers and R. F. Hendrik. Many of these same signs have also been found in Angola and in Brazil's Amazon basin; the latter signs were inscribed on rocks by escaped slaves of African origin.

During this year Barbara Blackmun, a student on the University's Los Angeles campus, plans to visit a number of collections of Benin tusks in order to obtain pictures of them; her travels will also take her to Benin. The Bancroft's scrolls are a welcome addition to the Library's manuscript resources, adding another subject area which is supportive of University-wide academic programs. P. B.

## Lawton Kennedy, 1900-1980

With sadness we note the death of Lawton Kennedy, the Bay Area's fine printer, whose work for The Friends of The Bancroft Library left his distinctive mark on so many of our publications, including, of course, *Bancroftiana*. He died in his sleep at his home in Berkeley on October 20th, having completed a full day in the shop.

Kennedy was born on May 19th, 1900 in San Francisco, but his father's career as a Methodist minister soon took the family to San Jose, Berkeley, and Santa Clara before they finally settled

in Oakland. At a young age Lawton helped to distribute his father's church bulletin and was fascinated by the presses on which it was printed; when he was thirteen he was setting type for the bulletin in an Oakland print shop. The following year a small printing venture, the first Kennedy Press, was established in the family garage, and Lawton, working with his older brother Reuel, embarked on the profession he was to follow the rest of his life. In 1916 he became a full-time printer.

Following employment by several distinguished Bay Area printers, in 1933 Lawton opened his own business in the Nash Building in San Francisco. Among other commissions he printed the *Quarterly* of the California Historical Society for thirty-one years. In 1935 he moved his business to 242 Front Street, and then in 1944, in partnership with his younger brother Alfred, to Oakland, where they called their firm the Westgate Press.

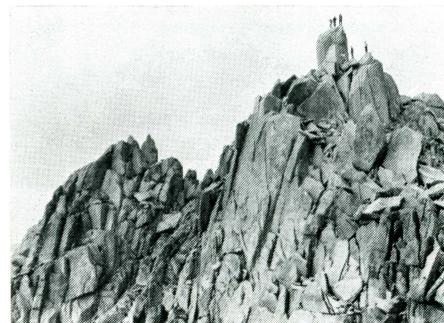
It was at this time in Lawton's career that I first met him, not long after I became Director of The Bancroft Library in July, 1946. He would occasionally invite me to lunch with his brother and himself at a cafe near their firm, where we discussed the issues of the day, especially any publication projects that might be undertaken through The Bancroft Library. One of the ideas that materialized into book form was *Overland to California on the Southwestern Trail, 1849. Diary of Robert Eccleston*. It was issued in 1950 by the University of California Press, but the design, printing, and binding of this volume was the work of the Westgate Press. This was an especially significant occasion for it marked one of the first major ventures sponsored and financed by The Friends of The Bancroft Library.

For me it was an inspiration to work with Lawton Kennedy. His knowledge of printing, together with his fine sense of book design, the choice of paper for printing and binding, the proper shade of inking, and altogether the concept of an elegant book, will always remain a cherished memory. G.P.H.

[Note: A Lawton Kennedy Memorial Fund has been established in The Bancroft Library.]

## An Ansel Adams Rarity

The Bancroft Library has recently received as a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Davis of Tiburon a rare portfolio of original photo-



"On the Hermit" by Ansel Adams

graphs by Ansel Adams entitled *Sierra Club Outing, 1930*. Number 2 of an edition limited to eight copies, and containing twenty-three of the original twenty-five photographic prints, this publication complements other collections of original Ansel Adams photographs held by the Library: *Parmelian Prints of the High Sierras* (1927), *Taos Pueblo* (1930), *Portfolio One; Twelve Photographic Prints* (1948), *Portfolio Three: Yosemite Valley* (1960), and the unique archive of some six hundred original photographs Adams made in preparation for the publication of the University of California Centennial volume, *Fiat Lux* (1967).

This portfolio of the 1930 outing is important also as historical documentation for the Sierra Club, whose archives are housed at the Bancroft, and it joins numerous collections and scrapbooks of original photographs—many by Adams—which have been compiled for over three-quarters of a century as a pictorial record of the Club's outings and activities. This particular outing, the twenty-eighth to have been undertaken by the Club, is amusingly described by William E. Colby in his "Twenty-nine Years with the Sierra Club" which appeared in the *Sierra Club Bulletin* for February, 1931. Colby recounts the route of the group through the passes and canyons of the "Range of Light" until they arrived at a camp site on the Middle Fork of the Kings River where

some youthful enthusiasts, including Glen Dawson, Jules Eichorn, and John Olmsted, swarmed over everything that looked formidable in the way of a mountain peak. They successfully ascended the highest Devil's Crag, which had been climbed only once before. . . . At this camp we were entertained in delightful fashion by a pres-

entation of a clever "Greek" play, *Exhaustos*, written for the occasion by that versatile genius, Ansel Adams.

In addition, this issue of the *Bulletin* is illustrated with a number of reproductions after Adams' photographs, some of which, for example, "Tree Pattern—Sierra Juniper" and "Summit of the Hermit," duplicate images which had been published three months earlier in *Sierra Club Outing*, (1930).

The twenty-three photographic images from *Sierra Club Outing, 1930*, each measuring about six by eight inches, are printed with generous margins on sheets of cream-colored charcoal paper which was hand-sensitized with silver bromide by W. E. Dassonville, a leading San Francisco photographer of the time. Their subdued value range, slightly soft-focus printing, and wide margins combine to recall the traditional format of etching and fine printing which had also influenced the *Parmelian Prints of the High Sierras*, Adams' first published portfolio. However, the choice of subject matter and dramatic composition anticipate the classic imagery which appeared several years later in *Sierra Nevada; the John Muir Trail* (1938).

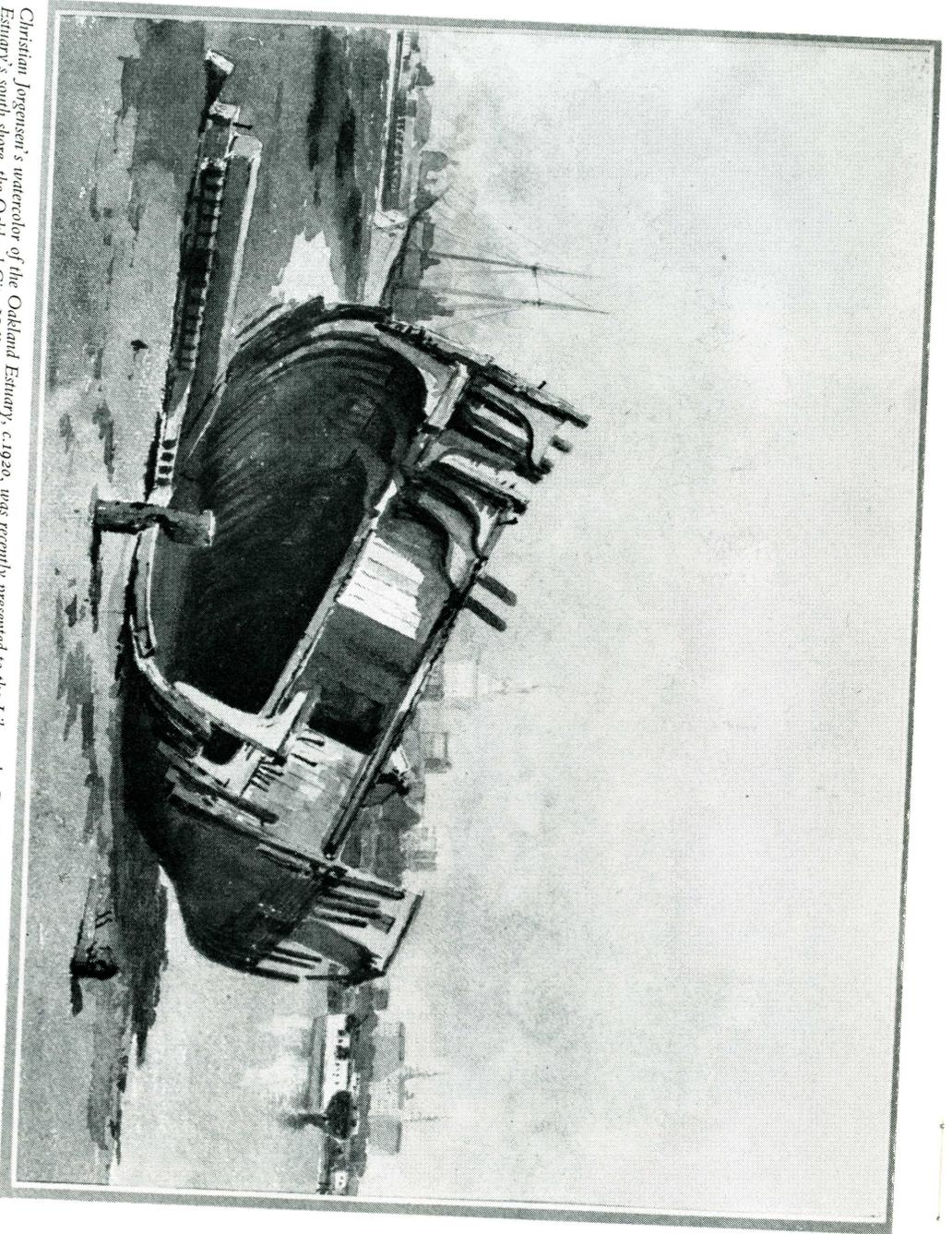
This handsome portfolio, bound in green buckram by Hazel Dreis and supplied with an overleaf title page, printed in two colors by Johnck and Seeger, makes a fine addition to our collection of rare books and brings us one step further toward a complete representation of Ansel Adams' published *œuvre* at the Bancroft. L.D.

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*Christian Jorgensen's watercolor of the Oakland Estuary, c.1920, was recently presented to the Library by Dr. Katherine M. Littell of Sonoma. Viewed from the Estuary's south shore, the Oakland City Hall as well as the twin towers of the Hotel Oakland may be seen in the distance.*