

# BANCROFTIANA

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

No. 88

April 1985

## The Fernán Núñez Collection

I felt, that sweltering day last August, as though I had stepped back two hundred years from the steaming asphalt streets of New York into the elegantly appointed eighteenth-century private library of a great Spanish family. I had been retained by the firm of H. P. Kraus, dean of American rare bookdealers, to help identify the individual items in a large collection of Spanish manuscripts, mostly of the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries. Now, as I stepped into the presence of the two hundred and twenty-odd manuscripts comprising the collection, I stepped also into the presence of the Gutiérrez de los Ríos family. Tracing its ancestry back to the conquest of Cordova in 1236, the family was ennobled in 1639 with the title, counts of Fernán Núñez; various members held important posts as servants of the Spanish Crown in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The collection itself was apparently assembled primarily by the sixth count of Fernán Núñez, Spanish ambassador to Portugal and France, philanthropist, art collector, and bibliophile; but it seems clear that many of the sixteenth- and early seventeenth-century materials came from the library of Juan Fernández de Velasco, duke of Frías and count of Haro, hereditary constable of Castile and viceroy of Milan between 1592 and 1612.

I approached the leather- and vellum-bound volumes with a sense of eager anticipation. First, of course, there was the thrill of the chase. Who knows what unsuspected treasures, what unknown texts, lie hidden between the covers of the most innocent-looking *tomo de varios*? More importantly, the library of such a family opens like a window into their

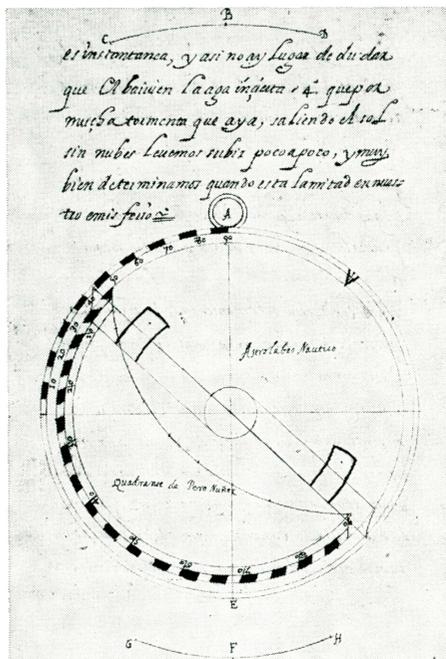


Diagram of a nautical astrolabe and quadrant from the *Cosmographia Nautica* by Antonio Parisi Moreli, a seventeenth-century Spanish manuscript included in the 225 volumes of the Fernán Núñez archives.

lives. It throws light decade by decade on their intellectual interests, literary tastes, professional duties, artistic sensibilities, illuminating the whole spectrum of their activities. The intellectual context provided by the collection as a whole increases the value of the individual manuscripts many times over as research and instructional tools. Such a collection is a movable archaeological site in which the scholar can trace the intellectual interests of a Spanish

noble family during the period of its greatest influence. One can study the literary works against the background of the theological and political texts in the same library, and juxtapose the theological works with those on philosophy. The whole is very much greater than the sum of the parts.

Consider the example of Fray Luis de León. To most students of Spanish literature he is a major poet of the seventeenth century, one of the brightest stars in the literary pleiad of Spain's Golden Age. But for his contemporaries he was first and foremost a professor of the theology at the University of Salamanca, a Hebrew scholar—which got him into trouble with the Inquisition—and an accomplished biblical exegete. The Fernán Núñez collection shows both sides of Fray Luis, for it contains an early manuscript of his poetry and one of his commentaries on the *Summa theologica* of St. Thomas Aquinas.

As I began to work my way through the collection, my excitement grew. In the five days of intensive study I devoted to it, one manuscript after another revealed sophisticated literary and historical interests, with a special concern for Spanish history and genealogy.

The literary manuscripts are of signal importance. The manuscript of Fray Luis de León and others of Francisco de Figueroa will have to be taken into consideration in any future editions of those poets. There is also a poetic miscellany compiled in Zaragoza during the period ca. 1610–1625 which reflects the interests and tastes of the Aragonese poets of that period, of whom the most famous are the brothers Bartolomé and Lupercio Leonardo de Argensola. Regional poetic schools are an important feature of the Spanish literary landscape of the period; this manuscript is a key document of the Aragonese school.

Another *cancionero* of religious poetry appears to have been put together over a period of years in the important Madrid convent of the Discalced Carmelites (las Descalzas Reales) as a record of the poems composed by members of the convent for the various celebrations of the liturgical year, especially Christmas and Easter.

Perhaps the most important poetic manuscript of all—pending a more leisurely study of the collection—is a sixteenth-century Italian

copy of the corpus of medieval Galician-Portuguese lyric poetry. This poetry, written between the end of the twelfth century and the middle of the fourteenth, has survived in only three other manuscripts, one from the fourteenth century and two, of Italian origin, from the sixteenth.

The collection of historical works is even larger and more significant. The *Crónica del rey don Rodrigo* or *Crónica sarracina*, one of two fifteenth-century manuscripts in the collection, is a fictionalized history of the conquest of Spain by the Moors. The work, which should actually be considered as a chivalric romance, has not been published since 1587. It is in fact the longest fictional text from fifteenth-century Spain and potentially one of the most important, although its true place in the evolution of Spanish literature has been obscured by the lack of a modern edition. The manuscript, written in a formal round gothic book hand and probably dating from the third quarter of the fifteenth century, is an important witness to the textual tradition. It has an interesting provenance, since it was owned in the seventeenth century by Bernardo de Alderete, the first historian of the Spanish language.

Other historical texts include the *Crónica de los Reyes Católicos* of Fernando de Pulgar, followed by continuations gathered together from a variety of sources and in turn continued until the beginning of the reign of Charles I by Lorenzo Galíndez de Carvajal, who makes some interesting parenthetical observations on the writing of history during the period. In addition there are three volumes of the history of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem by Juan de Foxa (unpublished?), the *Crónica de Fernando IV* attributed to Fernando Sánchez de Valladolid and last edited in the nineteenth century, several copies of the *Crónica de João* by Fernão Lopes, the greatest historian of medieval Portugal, a copy of the *Crónica de Navarra* of Carlos, prince of Viana, and an unpublished (?) history of the town of Medina del Campo, which among other things purports to tell the "true" story of the *caballero de Olmedo*, the hero of a famous play of the same name by Lope de Vega.

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There are extensive genealogical materials, some obviously prepared as ammunition in lawsuits over inheritances, others elaborately illuminated "coffee-table books" celebrating the nobility and antiquity of a given family. Among the former are a respectable number of earlier—mostly fifteenth-century—documents, both originals and copies. Some of these genealogical materials are extant in holograph copies prepared by José Pellicer y Osau Ovar, the greatest genealogist of seventeenth-century Spain.

Among documentary sources I found a manuscript of *relecciones* (lectures) given by a number of well-known Salamancan theologians—e.g., Francisco de Vitoria, Gregorio Gallo—during the 1530s and '40s, including several on the theological problems raised by the Spanish conquest of the New World. Some of these lectures are entirely unknown; others, while known, have never been published. They are primary sources both for the history of the University of Salamanca and for Spanish policy toward the Indians.

I was not able to examine the eighteenth-century materials in detail, but a cursory inspection revealed that some of them deal with the American colonies. There is also a collection of original letters to and from Ricardo Wall, minister of finance under Charles III. Nor did I look at the sixty-five *tomos de varios* in detail, but the ones I did examine looked as potentially interesting as the rest of the collection. As the name indicates, they are primarily composite manuscripts of the most heterogeneous materials. The first volume, for example, contains an immense collection of late sixteenth- and early seventeenth-century materials: a fifteenth-century Spanish translation by Martín de Avila of a speech given by the French humanist Jean Jouffroy de Luxeuil, ambassador of the duke of Burgundy, to Afonso V of Portugal in 1449; original documents of Ferdinand and Isabelle, Joanna the Mad, and Charles I; inventories of books acquired in Italy during the 1530s and '40s; a compilation of citations from classical and medieval authors, particularly canon and civil lawyers, organized alphabetically by subject matter.

There are also many manuscripts in Portuguese, a smaller number in Italian, one in

Greek, together with several sixteenth-century commentaries on Aristotle. Other manuscripts deal with architecture, economics, royal household expenses and personnel in the seventeenth century, astrology, mathematics, navigation, etc., etc.

When I returned to Berkeley this fall, I alerted my colleagues to the collection. They, especially Arthur Askins, former chairman of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, explored with Anthony Bliss and James D. Hart the possibilities of acquiring it for Berkeley. Colleagues in other departments, particularly History and Comparative Literature, added their support. Our fund-raising efforts were crowned with success, thanks to the generosity of Chancellor Heyman and Professor John T. Wheeler, director of Summer Session; and the collection arrived at the Bancroft at the end of September, barely a month after we first brought it to the attention of the campus.

The broad support mobilized for the acquisition of the Fernán Núñez collection reflects its value both for research and for instruction. A large number of individual manuscripts relate directly to the research interests of the faculty. For example, Arthur Askins has already begun to study the collection of medieval Galician-Portuguese poetry, and has discovered that the Berkeley manuscript is original and therefore considerably more important than if it were a copy of one of the three other extant manuscripts. The manuscript of Salamancan theological materials has likewise already attracted the attention of Bancroft research associate Helen Rand Parish and Thomas Izbicki, research fellow at Boalt Hall's Institute of Medieval Canon Law.

This collection will also provide starting points for dozens of doctoral dissertations in the coming years as students in a number of departments investigate its importance and relevance for understanding Spanish history, literature, society, politics, and fine arts.

It is a superb teaching collection as well, an unparalleled resource for training graduate students in medieval and Renaissance Spanish literature and history. Its value as a tool for teaching Spanish codicology (the study of manuscripts as physical objects) and the related science, paleography (the study of handwriting and its evolution), is obvious. The collection

contains representative samples of the most common types of codices found in Renaissance Spain and of all the important book and secretary hands used there from the second half of the fifteenth century to the end of the eighteenth. Thus codicology and paleography can now be taught on the basis of first-hand examples rather than from photographs and facsimiles, making it possible to set realistic manuscript exercises for students. Before, students often avoided many interesting and important dissertation topics simply because they lacked experience in handling primary materials. Now we can introduce students to the kinds of problems they will face while working with manuscript sources in Spain or Latin America, and thereby broaden the range of research that they are qualified to do.

While one does not normally think of the Bancroft as a resource for undergraduate instruction, it can and should serve that purpose as well. Manuscripts and early printed books convey to students more vividly than any lecture the reality of literature in the Middle Ages and Renaissance: the way texts circulated and how they were perceived by their readers. Direct contact with a physical object three or four hundred years old is light years distant from the sanitized version of literature found in anthologies and modern editions. Exposure to primary sources as artifacts helps students to perceive the difference between 1585 and 1985, and gives them a sense of history. Moreover, manuscript work is *exciting*; it gives the student a sense of the difficulties, and rewards, of original research in a way that nothing else can.

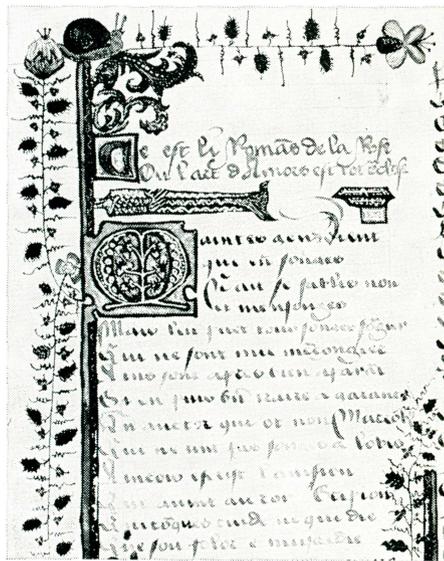
This collection dovetails neatly with the Bancroft's strength in manuscript materials from colonial Latin America and from medieval Catalonia. In contrast to those materials, which are mostly archival in nature, this collection is much more diverse, with a good representation not only of archival materials from Castile, but also of literature, history, philosophy, theology, fine arts, science, politics—in sum, of the entire range of human achievement during the Spanish Renaissance. We are fortunate indeed to have the Fernán Núñez manuscripts in The Bancroft Library.

Charles B. Faulhaber  
Professor of Spanish

## Many Happy Returns: Le Roman de la Rose

To honor the eightieth birthday of their mother, Elinor Raas Heller, Alfred E. Heller, Clarence E. Heller, and Elizabeth H. Mandell presented to The Bancroft Library a beautiful fifteenth-century manuscript of *Le Roman de la Rose*. This extraordinary gift of a gift adds an important text to our holdings of medieval manuscripts in French, already one of the major collections in the country.

Of all the works of medieval literature, the allegorical poem *Le Roman de la Rose* was perhaps the most popular, the most influential, and the most ambiguous. It comprises two distinct parts. The first—by Guillaume de Lorris, who completed the initial 4000 lines in about 1230—represents the “courtois” tradition in its tale of a lover’s pursuit of his lady, personified as the Rose. The second—by Jean de Meung, who completed his work between 1268 and 1285—is quite separate and indeed antithetical. It belongs to a bourgeois tradition of skepticism mingled with didacticism in its encyclopedic treatment of diverse subjects. The *Roman de la Rose* had something for every



Initial page of the French manuscript, *Le Roman de la Rose*, ca. 1475.

taste: from Guillaume de Lorris’s glorification of women in the courtly troubadour tradition to Jean de Meung’s satirical diatribes against them, the clergy, the nobility, and life in general. The tremendous length of the work—22,000 lines in all—proved to be no barrier to its popularity; over 200 manuscripts survive today, 21 in the United States, not counting this one.

The influence of *Le Roman de la Rose* extended far beyond France and its own century of composition. Six editions were printed in France before 1500, with numerous others appearing during the sixteenth century in both verse and prose versions. Early printings of Chaucer’s works kept his translation of the first part of the text before an English audience throughout the sixteenth century; the original *Roman* is arguably the most important single literary influence on Chaucer’s writings.

The Bancroft Library already had a very important related manuscript titled “Le Débat sur le Roman de la Rose.” Written between 1402 and 1410, it records the literary debate between the celebrated Christine de Pisan, the first woman to make a living by writing, and Gontier Col, secretary to the Duc de Berry and a member of an early humanist group in France. Christine de Pisan criticized Jean de Meung for his crude attitude toward women; Gontier Col defended him. This manuscript represents the first French literary quarrel and forms an essential companion piece to the manuscript of *Le Roman de la Rose*.

The manuscript acquired in honor of Elinor R. Heller is written on 135 vellum leaves in a French “batarde” script and dates from the third quarter of the fifteenth century. Its text appears to be complete and, despite its relatively late date, retains a number of archaic spellings and expressions, leading us to suppose that it was copied from a much earlier exemplar. The large number of surviving manuscripts of *Le Roman de la Rose* makes a study of the transmission of the text an important though difficult undertaking. The new Heller manuscript offers an opportunity for faculty, graduate students, and visiting scholars to evaluate the lineage and authority of this particular copy.

This copy will be of great interest to Berkeley scholars not only for the reading of the

text but also for the composition of the physical object itself. For example, there is a blank leaf where the scribe has fully prepared the page for writing but inexplicably left it blank (verso of the title page). The prickings and the ruling in lead are very clear throughout the volume, and in places catchwords and phrases are still evident at the end of the quires. There are also annotations in the margins, including a puzzling “no-” in a contemporary hand of which the meaning is not yet clear.

It is especially gratifying to receive this important manuscript as a tribute to Elinor R. Heller. The support of the Heller family for The Bancroft Library is well known; Mrs. Heller’s eightieth-birthday gift was a particularly imaginative way for the children to honor their mother and to continue that support.

Anthony S. Bliss

## California Archaeology

Professor Robert F. Heizer, a member of the Department of Anthropology at Berkeley from 1946 until his death in 1979, was a pioneer in developing an understanding of the dynamic prehistory of California. The full range of Heizer’s interests in archaeology and anthropology is reflected in the large collection of his manuscripts and papers, part of the holdings assembled by the History of Science and Technology Program at the Bancroft.

Born in Denver, Colorado, in 1915, Heizer was raised in Lovelock, Nevada. With youthful enthusiasm he began as a young boy to collect artifacts and to conduct interviews with local Indians. He took both undergraduate and graduate degrees in anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley, and while a student raised funds to permit him to direct excavations in the Sacramento Valley and in Nevada. Although he had wished to write his Ph.D. dissertation on Central Valley archaeology, Alfred L. Kroeber persuaded him to choose instead the subject of “Aboriginal Whaling in the Old and New Worlds.” Very soon he returned to the regional archaeology in which he became so distinguished.

Heizer is best known for his research in Nevada and California, including the extensive excavations of Miller Mound (in the Sacramento Valley) and Humboldt Cave (near

Lovelock). This work demonstrated, even to skeptics like Kroeber, that the prehistory of California was not static and simplistic, as previously supposed.

When Heizer returned to Berkeley as an assistant professor after World War II, it was with the understanding that a separate program in archaeology would be established. He soon helped to found the innovative and influential University of California Archaeological Survey (later the Archaeological Research Facility) and served as its director until his retirement in 1976. Between 1947 and 1976 the Survey recorded some 13,000 archaeological sites in California and sponsored active programs of excavation and publication. Heizer eagerly explored the use of such new methods of dating material as neutron activation analysis and x-ray fluorescence, and collaborated with the physiologist Sherburne F. Cook in research on bone fossilization and in other population and nutrition studies.

Heizer's interest in the history of the American West led him to edit the voluminous fieldnotes of C. Hart Merriam, first director of the United States Biological Survey, who had spent decades studying California Indians. Heizer also investigated Sutter's mill in Coloma, where the gold rush began, and led a dig to determine where Drake might have landed in northern California. He summarized the latter work in his book on *Elizabethan California*.

Robert Heizer's interest in California Indians translated into a concern with the survival of Native American culture, and prompted him, with Kroeber and other anthropologists,



"Camp Wendover No. 3," site of one of Robert Heizer's archaeological excavations in Nevada during the 1930s.

to testify in the California Indian Land Claims cases in the mid-1950s. This legal battle over century-old unratified treaties forced a recognition of Indian claims and a negotiated settlement. Among dozens of books and hundreds of articles by Heizer was *The Other Californians*, describing the mistreatment of Indians.

The large collection of Heizer's manuscripts, reprints, correspondence, notes, maps, and photographs complements the manuscripts and papers of his colleagues, Alfred Kroeber and Robert Lowie, and enriches the Library's holdings of Californiana. Funds contributed in his memory have also permitted the Library to purchase books in his field.

### Special Friends

Among its many devoted friends and supporters The Bancroft Library counts with gratitude the Institutional Members of the Friends. These corporations and foundations, each of which contributes \$1000 or more annually, help to make possible activities and acquisitions beyond the range of state funding and other support:

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In several instances these institutions and others also match gifts to the Bancroft from their employees and associates, thereby extending their valued support of Bancroft programs.

### Property Sale

A broadside for September 19, 1874, now in the University Archives, documents the last ties between the College of California and the present University of California. The broadside, which announces the sale of three square blocks of property in what is now downtown

Oakland, was acquired through the thoughtfulness of Mrs. Marguerite Toghil of Dunedin, New Zealand.

The College of California, originally established as the Contra Costa Academy in 1853, had acquired property in Oakland for the College and for its Preparatory School, eventually administered by Isaac Brayton. Under the leadership of Henry Durant and a strong board of trustees, the College anticipated future expansion by acquiring extensive property some four miles north of Oakland, in a locale later named Berkeley. At the time of the Morrill Land Grant Act in 1862, it was proposed that the state establish an agricultural, mining, and mechanical arts college on a site one mile north of the Berkeley land held by the College. Durant and the trustees suggested instead that the state establish a full-fledged university which would embrace the aims both of the College and of the proposed state institution; in return the College would turn all its assets over to the new university. The California Legislature authorized this arrangement in March 1868.

The University operated on the Oakland property of the College of California until the completion of South and North Halls on the present Berkeley campus. In the meantime the Regents also acquired the estate of Isaac Brayton, adjacent to the College lands; together, the Brayton estate and the College lands amounted to four square blocks in Oakland. In 1872 the Legislature allowed the Regents to renew the loan on the Brayton property and authorized them to sell the property when it ceased to be necessary for the purposes of the University.

Soon after the move to Berkeley, the Regents took advantage of this authorization and arranged with E. C. Sessions and Company for a public auction of the Oakland property. Prompting the Regents' decision to sell was a need for capital: the Legislature had failed to make provision for appropriations to cover the University's expenses from March to June 1874. Although funds were found to carry on normal operations, the fast-growing institution needed to plan for expansion. The sale of the Oakland property was thus especially timely. Three blocks were auctioned in September 1874; the fourth, in February 1875.

Because of existing loans on some of the property, the monetary gain was not as great as the prime location of the land might suggest. The Regents' *Biennial Report* for 1873-1875 emphasizes, however, the value of these transactions for the educational mission of the University: "the Regents were enabled to proceed with the legitimate work of the University without delay, at a time when the growth of the institution and its financial condition threatened serious embarrassments."

William M. Roberts

### New Microcomputer

The mission of the Bancroft's History of Science and Technology Program—to document the development of modern science and technology—has been facilitated by a product of the fruitful interaction of science, technology, and business in the twentieth century. Through the generosity of the Corporate Contributions Committee of Digital Equipment Corporation, the Program recently acquired a Rainbow microcomputer system.

The Rainbow's power, versatility, and "user-friendliness" enhance its utility in a library setting, where it can be deployed both for standard word-processing applications and for the management of information on growing collections. The text-editing program makes production of final transcripts of oral history interviews faster and easier, and assists with the generation of Program correspondence and reports. The Rainbow's ability to handle and sort large amounts of information has also proven useful in reducing the time and repetition involved in processing large manuscript collections. Program staff are now developing a system that will take the processing of a collection from the initial inventory to the final guide and indexes, generating working inventories and even folder labels along the way. The same database management application aids in maintaining records of Program activities and in projecting future tasks. In order to take advantage of the multiplicity of available information systems, the Rainbow can also function as a terminal, linking the Program to machine-readable cataloging systems like RLIN and to other relevant databases. The leading role played by the History

of Science and Technology Program in collecting documentation of the growth of science and technology makes it especially fitting that the Program benefit from one of the outstanding technological achievements of the late twentieth century. *Jennifer Snodgrass*

## Science Journalist Par Excellence

Gobind Behari Lal, whose career with the Hearst newspapers spanned nearly six decades, characterized himself as “a believer in and pursuer of freedom, science, art, and love. I tried to serve the first two.” His oral history, titled *A Journalist from India, at Home in the World*, celebrates his respect for knowledge and his revolutionary idealism.

Lal was born in Delhi in 1889 and died in San Francisco in 1982. Obituaries written by his friends and colleagues in journalism all speak to his determination, his warmth, and his uniqueness. In his oral history, Lal explained that he took on the challenge of interpreting science for newspaper audiences because “We must make science accessible, of the people, for the people. Otherwise it is dangerous.” For his brilliant, perceptive writing he was one of four science writers awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1937.

Lal’s interview opens with the young Indian boy in his native state of Bikaner, where rain turned the dunes into a magic carpet covered with watermelons, gourds, and yellow flowers. Young antelopes, “moving like beautiful music,” were silhouetted against crimson sunsets. His older brother gave Lal an Urdu translation of *Black Beauty*, which he read to his horse: “And the horse went on, munching his fodder.” The young Lal grew up in an enlightened family that encouraged his curiosity; he came to vegetarianism for his own reasons; he challenged his teachers, the “real Englishmen,” at St. Stephens College, Delhi.

In his late teens Lal came under the influence of Har Dayal, “considered the most brilliant man in the whole province of the Punjab, in the whole university system. I became a nationalist with him. I took him as my leader. He began to educate me in European history by sending me books on Irish civil independence, and the Italian liberation movements, and the rise of the German empire, Bismarck.”

In 1908 Har Dayal launched a campaign of absolute non-cooperation with the British government. Friends among the police warned him of imminent arrest, so he left for America. Lal followed, becoming a graduate student at Berkeley from 1912 to 1917. There, he and other young Indian exiles launched a newspaper, *The Great Rebellion (Gadar, in Urdu)*, which mobilized the several thousand Indians in the area—“tough proletarians, farmers”—by spreading news of the Indian independence movement. Many went back to India and joined the armed revolt.

For Lal the transformation of India was “a wonderful example, to my mind, of the power of university education. It was the university-educated men—and Gandhi was one of them—who dissolved the mighty British empire of power.” Indeed, the oral history is a paean to education, speaking appreciately of Benjamin Ide Wheeler, anthropologist Alfred Kroeber, economists Carleton Parker and Jessica Peixotto, Sanskrit scholar Arthur Ryder, and socialist Anna Strunsky Walling.

After travel and a stint as reporter for the San Francisco *Daily News*, Lal secured a position in 1925 with the Hearst paper, the *Examiner*. Through Wheeler, Lal met Phoebe Apperson Hearst, and according to the oral history’s introduction by William Randolph Hearst, Jr., she was “intrigued by the quiet student who spent his spare time firing printed broadsides demanding that the British give India its freedom.”

The introduction also points out that the senior Hearst gave Lal “a long leash and a massive canvas for his stories. And he was not found wanting.” All told, Lal interviewed sixteen Nobel laureates in science. He was an effective advocate of science journalism. Although the subject of cancer was taboo as far as Hearst was concerned, Lal carefully mustered his evidence to convince his boss that the cancer research of Walter B. Coffey deserved a story. The story ran. “It was like exploding a bomb. Mr. Hearst was so pleased with the way the story was handled that he gave me an award of \$500 and raised my salary . . . and I was sent to Washington” to report on a Senate subcommittee meeting on the subject. This was typical of Lal, who is described in the introduction as “physically

diminutive, courtly in his manner, but tenacious and thorough in pursuit of a story.”

In late January 1982 the oral history transcript was sent to Lal for his editing, but he was already having to husband his failing strength. A letter in February complained, “I have been possessed by some sort of illness. Pragmatically, it has been a work-interrupting nuisance, and has pulled me down. I have started reading what you have sent, and shall make corrections as to names, etc., but shall do nothing to change the basic style. I agree with you about the value of oral spontaneity. I’ll telephone you next week. Meanwhile my love, Ever Gobind.” He died a month later.

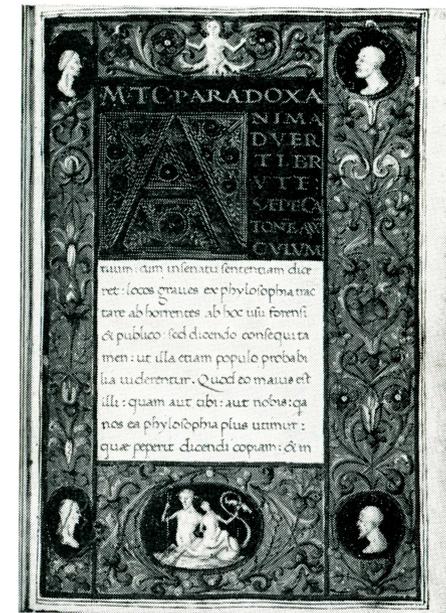
At a presentation of the volume by the Regional Oral History Office in July 1984, plans were announced for a Gobind Behari Lal Chair of Scientific Journalism, a fitting tribute to Lal’s accomplishments and influence, and it was determined that his papers should come to The Bancroft Library. *Suzanne Riess*

## Cicero: In a Humanist Hand

Just as an early manuscript book may be counted beautiful for its decoration and important for its text, the Cicero manuscript recently given to The Bancroft Library by an anonymous donor is remarkable for its calligraphy. Cicero was probably the most often copied classical author in the Middle Ages, but his texts did not generally receive the superb decoration and illumination given to religious texts. By the early fifteenth century, however, Italian humanists had developed a series of graceful calligraphic styles for copying classical texts—the *lettera antiqua formata*. Great care was often taken in the writing of Cicero’s texts in the finest humanistic script, as befitted such a model of Latin style and eloquence.

The Cicero manuscript now at the Bancroft (MS UCB 142) is a fine example of this deluxe treatment of a classical work. It was written in northern Italy, possibly Ferrara, about 1480, and contains three works: *De Amicitia* (On Friendship), *De Senectute* (On Old Age), and *Paradoxa*. The volume is small, measuring less than 5½ inches high, with 128 leaves of fine white vellum. The text is written with a thin-nibbed quill in brown ink, 17 lines to a page. The page margins are generous and propor-

tioned to give a very pleasant effect. By the simple elegance of its layout, this manuscript asks to be read. The calligraphy is very legible: slightly rounded and open with clear serifs and very few ligatures or abbreviations. One senses that the scribe was an experienced professional, proud of his work.



Title page for the Cicero text, *Paradoxa*, written in an Italian humanist hand.

While the primary interest of this manuscript is its calligraphy, its decorative elements also deserve comment. Each of the three texts opens with a highly ornate page bordered in gold. White-on-black cameos are placed in the corners of the page with floral decoration between them. Initial letters are rendered in gold on a colored or multi-colored ground; the initial Q of the book contains a miniature portrait of Cicero. The first few lines of each work are written in gold ink on blue, red, green, or purple grounds. The ornate effect created by these three pages contrasts sharply with the quiet elegance of the text pages that follow. Within the text itself, a few letters are rubricated, usually gold on red or blue, and the name in red occasionally indicates a change of speaker. The text is otherwise unadorned.

The Cicero manuscript previously belonged to the famous nineteenth-century French printer, publisher, and bibliophile, Ambroise Firmin-Didot, from whose collection it was sold in 1879. It is bound in blind-stamped calf over boards, now lacking its two clasps. The binding is undoubtedly early, but perhaps not quite of the same vintage as the manuscript itself.

This beautiful gift dates from an era of extraordinarily fine Italian calligraphy, work that inspired the classic roman typefaces introduced by such printers as Jenson and da Spira. In this single manuscript volume are combined the best of medieval bookmaking technology and the esthetics of humanism; the volume as artifact thus belongs to both the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, and constitutes a precious addition to the Library's collections.

Anthony S. Bliss

## Annual Meeting of the Friends, May 5th

The Friends of The Bancroft Library will convene their annual meeting at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall on May 5, 1985. The meeting will celebrate the hundredth anniversary of Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, first published in New York City on February 18, 1885, and now carefully edited from manuscript by the Bancroft's editors. Instead of the customary speaker, a panel of experts has agreed to "tell all they know, and then stop": Wright Morris, novelist; Professor Alan Dundes, folklorist; Robert H. Hirst, editor of the Mark Twain Project; and Victor Fischer, co-editor (with Walter Blair) of Bancroft's new edition. The panelists have agreed to confine themselves strictly to the *truth*, even though (as Huck says) "a body that ups and tells the truth when he is in a tight place is taking considerable many resks." Following their comments and discussion, questions from the audience will be welcomed.

After the meeting, members of the Friends are invited to the Bancroft to view an exhibit of manuscript and rare materials bearing on the composition, publication, and reception of *Huck Finn*, all drawn from the riches of the Mark Twain Papers and the inquiries of its

editors. For the annual keepsake Professor Edgar M. Branch, who with Frederick Anderson gave us *The Great Landslide Case*, has written an equally illuminating commentary on the famous Grangerford-Shepherdson feud in *Huck Finn*, a feud which Mark Twain claimed to have made "historical and correct" in all its details.

Robert H. Hirst

## Readers' Roundtable

To enhance their research at the Bancroft, library users now have the opportunity to participate in a Bancroft Readers' Roundtable. With the help of Georgia Wright of the Institute for Historical Study, monthly meetings have been organized to encourage Bancroft patrons and staff members to discuss their work and to share insights and information. Recent topics of discussion have included "Technical Problems of Interdisciplinary Research" and "Pictorial Collections at the Bancroft." Announcements of forthcoming meetings will be posted in the Library.

## International Congress of History of Science

Historians of science on the Berkeley campus, including the staff of the History of Science and Technology Program at the Bancroft, will play host to the XVIIth International Congress of History of Science, Berkeley, July 31-August 8, 1985. The first such international meeting in history of science took place in Paris in 1929, with a few dozen participants. Since then fifteen similar congresses have been held in various parts of the world. Only one of these meetings, the tenth, took place in the United States: it was held at Ithaca and Philadelphia in 1962. The most recent Congress brought 1225 registered participants to Bucharest, Rumania, in 1981. There will not be another International Congress of History of Science in this country until well into the next century.

The theme of the forthcoming Congress is "Cross-cultural Perspectives in Science and Technology." The meeting will bring together historians, philosophers, sociologists, and other scholars and policy-makers interested in the

development of science. It will afford foreign participants the opportunity to gauge the depth and extent of contemporary American work on history of science and technology, as well as the chance to visit local institutions of importance in the growth of twentieth-century science.

We anticipate that many scholars attending the Congress will find time to mine the rich resources for history of science and technology at the Bancroft. A tempting sample of rare books and manuscripts, ranging over five centuries of scientific progress, will be on display in the Gallery during the Congress.

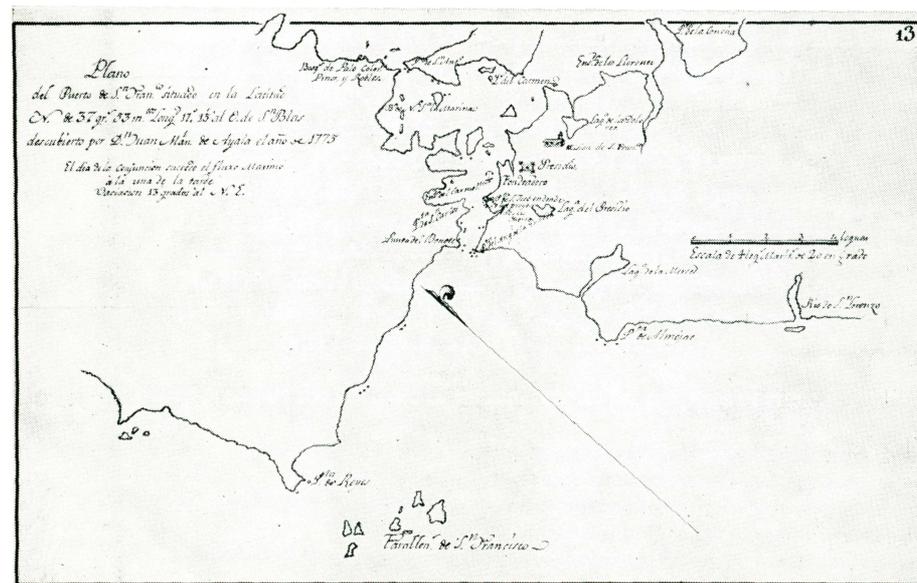
## Early Map of the Bay

In his role as a representative to the joint settlement discussions which in 1790 resolved the "Nootka Sound Controversy" in the territorial dispute between England and Spain, Captain Juan Francisco Bodega y Quadra documented the discoveries by the Spanish on the northwest coast of North America. Included in his report was a map titled "Plano del Puerto de S[a]n Fran[cis]co . . . descubierto por Dn. Juan Manl. de Ayala el año de 1775." A Spanish manuscript version of this map made in

1792 was recently added to the collections of The Bancroft Library, acquired through a generous grant of funds from the National Maritime Museum Association.

At first glance, this outline map, which locates major features in and near the Bay, bears little resemblance to modern San Francisco Bay: it is oriented with north toward the upper left, and the surveying instruments available to the Spaniards did not facilitate accurate charting. Many place names, however, are familiar: Punta de Reyes, Punta del Boneta (Point Bonita), Laguna de la Merced (Lake Merced), the Presidio, Mission Dolores, and Farallon de Sn. Francisco (the Farallones). Other features, more or less correctly located, are now known by other names: they include Punta de San Jose (Fort Point), Punta de San Antonio (Point San Pablo), Punta de la Concha (Hunters Point), Ysla del Carmen (Brooks Island), and Laguna del Presidio (Mountain Lake).

The pen-and-ink map measures 42 x 25 centimeters. No listing or description of it has been found in scholarly studies or cartobibliographies. The cartographer is not identified, but the plan may have been drawn by Captain Bodega himself. A variant exists in the Museo



Hand-drawn map of San Francisco Bay, 1792.

Naval in Madrid, differing in minor details from the Bancroft's version; both differ significantly from earlier charts of the Bay.

*Philip Hoelm*

## *Book Artifacts Collection*

Recently published is a guide to the Bancroft's Book Artifacts Collection, prepared by Elizabeth Reynolds, Librarian Emeritus of Mills College and Associate of The Bancroft Library. The collection, which ranges from a hieroglyphic inscription of the third century B.C. to examples of book technology of the mid-twentieth century, illustrates the development of writing, the history of printing, and various book arts.

The guide contains a general description intended for beginning students and the uninitiated, and a convenient record of the varied holdings making up the Book Artifacts Collection (known by the acronym BART). More complete descriptions and subject and name indexes are available in the BART register in the Heller Reading Room at the Bancroft. The register also features references to published books in which woodcuts, engravings, electrotypes, and other artifacts have been reproduced.

This valuable guide reflects both the diversity of the book arts and the wealth of the Library's holdings. Cuneiform writing on Sumerian clay tablets, miniature and microscopic books, bookbinding and printing equipment, engraving tools and plates, molds and accessories for papermaking, and prints and proofs typifying various production methods are all identified in the outline of holdings. The guide, produced by the George Lithograph Company of San Francisco, is now available for purchase (at \$5.00 per copy) through The Bancroft Library.

## *Spreading the Word*

The Bancroft Library's rich and diverse manuscript holdings and its continuing success in acquiring new manuscript collections in a variety of fields pose a challenge: how to inform researchers about Bancroft collections. The two volumes, *A Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the Bancroft Library*, have often guided

researchers to some of the Library's holdings; so have Bancroft entries in the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections, published periodically by the Library of Congress. Now a new technology provides further means to help meet the challenge.

Beginning in 1984 it became possible to use the Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN), a nationwide bibliographic database established by the Research Libraries Group (RLG), to record information on archival and manuscript materials. The Bancroft Library has joined a small set of university libraries in a pilot RLG program designed to create machine-readable collection descriptions for its manuscript holdings. Like the RLIN database for book holdings, to which the Berkeley libraries routinely contribute entries, the archives and manuscripts database is an online, union catalog, intended to assist both research libraries and scholars in an era of rapidly expanding information and library materials. The automatic indexing capabilities of the system, like a set of manual card files, allow users to search the database for subjects and personal and corporate names of interest; this information is readily available nationwide and can be updated easily. The system thus increases the efficiency and range of a scholar's search for relevant manuscript collections.

The Bancroft Library will enter information on a thousand of its manuscript collections, beginning with four hundred collections pertaining to science and technology, in this pilot project.



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Editor, *Bancroftiana*: Robin E. Rider

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