

# BANCROFTIANA

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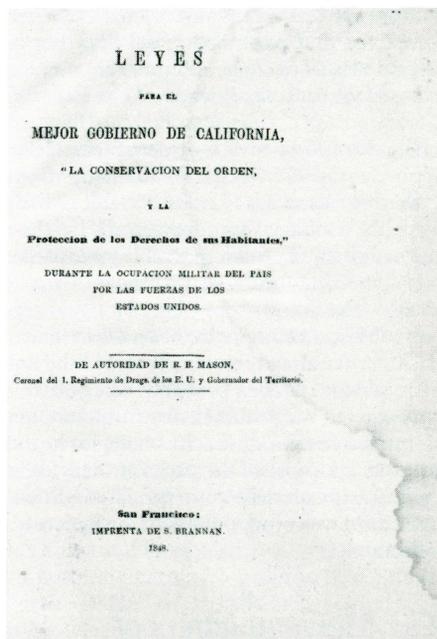
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## A Unique Book

Early in 1848 *Laws for the Better Government of California* was drafted by California's military governor, Col. Richard Barnes Mason. Concerned about the threat of anarchy in the new territory of California at the close of the Mexican War, Mason asked a venturesome journeyman printer, Sam Brannan of San Francisco, to undertake the printing of the document. The publication in English and Spanish of Mason's *Laws* was repeatedly announced in the newspapers but was delayed by the general exodus of people to the gold fields in the summer of 1848, and the thought that a legal code was more a matter for the United States Congress rather than for a military governor of the region. When news of the peace treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo reached him on August 6, 1848, Mason abandoned his projected laws subject to the conditions of the treaty and to the organization of California as a territory of the United States. Thus his book of draft laws became a great rarity.

Until the 1920s, it was thought that no copies of Mason's *Laws* had survived. In 1923, the Huntington Library acquired a copy, and since that time, copies have been located at the California State Library and at Stanford University. These three copies contain only the English text, but it is clear that Mason ordered the document printed in Spanish as well as in English. The Bancroft Library has just obtained a copy that includes the Spanish translation and is therefore the only truly complete copy of *Laws for the Better Government of California*. This crucial document in our state's legal history, one whose bilingual nature has been ignored by previous scholars for want of proof, now becomes one of the great treasures in the Bancroft's collection. Indeed, it comes to us with a



Spanish-language title page for the complete bilingual copy of *Laws for the Better Government of California*.

very distinguished provenance: Charles Maria Weber.

In 1841 the first party of Americans left Missouri intending to settle in California. The company included Charles Weber, aged 27, now far from his native Bavaria. First settling near San Jose, Weber became a naturalized Mexican citizen in 1844 and was granted a ranch of eleven square leagues (over 48,000 acres). His manufacturing and ranching enterprises flourished, and a few years later he founded the city of Stockton at the head of navigation on the San Joaquin River to serve as a business center for the southern mines.

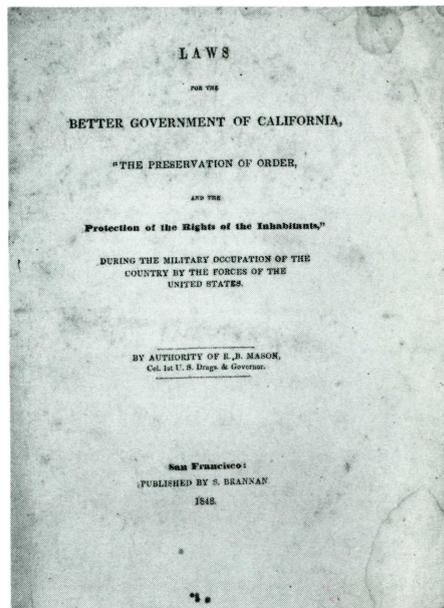
Weber's role in early California history has been documented in many studies conducted at The Bancroft Library by the Library's former Director, George P. Hammond, and by a notable research scholar, Dale Morgan, another Bancroft staff member. These studies would not have been possible without the generosity of Mrs. Gerald Kennedy, the granddaughter of Charles Weber, who presented the family papers for research at Bancroft. Dale Morgan was the first scholar to make use of them, but his work was cut short by his untimely death. George Hammond then took up the task and, with the help of descendants of Charles Weber, completed and published *The Weber Era in Stockton History* in 1982, a volume that was distributed gratis to the Friends of The Bancroft Library.

Now Mrs. Kennedy's four daughters, Helen Kennedy Cahill, Geraldine Kennedy Cole, Katherine Kennedy Cookson, and Moira Kennedy Holden, have presented in their mother's memory this remarkable piece of early Californiana from Charles Weber's own library — the unique copy of the bilingual version of Mason's *Laws for the Better Government of California*, already extremely rare in the English version. Weber probably received this early copy of the document for comment, but his interests evidently lay elsewhere, for he did not even slit most of the pages at their folds. The result is a special copy in special condition, and a most welcome addition to the Bancroft's collections.

### *The Mexican letters of François de Monclar, 1866-67*

In 1864 the Austrian archduke Ferdinand Maximilian von Hapsburg, backed by a coalition of European powers and Mexican monarchists, ascended the throne of Mexico. His reign was to be short lived, crushed barely 3 years later by the combined power of republican sentiment and Mexican nationalism. By August 1867 Maximilian was dead and the dream of a second Hapsburg empire in Mexico was in ruins.

Early in 1866, with the Emperor's fortunes already on the decline, a young French aristocrat, François de Monclar, arrived in Mexico to assume his responsibilities as attaché to the French Legation. In France he had left behind his beloved younger sister, Nina. To lessen the



English version of Mason's Laws.

pain of separation, and to permit her to share in his Mexican adventure, the young François resolved to keep a full account of his life in Mexico. "I intend to write in my journal for you every evening, and I will bring it up to date in the next ten days, so that there will be no interruption [in my account.] I believe that in my letters [written] to you during the trip there are several details which you could combine with the letters that I have written to Papa."

Now, due to the generosity of the Friends of The Bancroft Library, scholars will have an opportunity to study de Monclar's remarkable "journal," in actuality a series of 36 letters, carefully numbered by the author ("The first number in the corner is that of the letter, the second indicates the page") and totaling nearly 600 pages of text. Together the letters contain a detailed, at times daily record of de Monclar's activities from the time he left France until the eve of his return home 18 months later. In particular, they provide an eyewitness, insider's view into the highest ranks of Mexican society during the final months of the Emperor Maximilian's ill-fated reign.

De Monclar's early letters tell a story of life among a glamorous and seemingly carefree cosmopolitan elite, a New World aristocracy composed of prominent Mexican families, ex-

patriate Confederates, diplomats from virtually every Western European country and their families, French army officers and staff, and entrepreneurs from Europe and the United States. In a highly readable, anecdotal style, the young Frenchman describes a seemingly endless parade of private dinner parties and musical soirées; evenings spent at the opera or the theater; informal dances and elegant costume balls; leisurely afternoon strolls in the grand plaza or visits to the bull ring, as well as occasional excursions into the countryside around Mexico City.

De Monclar also attended many formal state occasions at which the Emperor was present. These, as with so many other activities, he attempted to recall in detail for his sister, as exemplified by his account of services held at the cathedral in Mexico City on the 15th of August, 1866. "From [the Legation] we proceeded to the cathedral to attend a high mass and Te Deum for his Majesty Napoléon III . . . It was very impressive, with the entire diplomatic corps in official dress [and] a crowd of officers of all ranks in uniform—French, Austrians, Mexicans and Belgians. All our French nationals, in their most elegant attire, [were] in reserved seats, and behind them a crowd of Indians and of other people of all hues possible from [a mixture of] the Caucasian, bronze and black race."

Initially de Monclar recorded little of the political drama of civil war and international intrigue that was unfolding around him. He generally made only passing references to the "troubles" in the countryside, though special note was taken of the ominous departure of the Empress Carlotta. "The Empress," he wrote in a letter dated July 2, 1866, "left this morning for Europe to see if she cannot improve things for the Emperor in Mexico... Some fear that she will not return [to Mexico] because the situation here is going so poorly. Others only wonder 'Quien sabe.'"

But as the months passed and the Emperor's power, never absolute, continued to be eroded, de Monclar's journal entries reflect an increased awareness and concern about events taking place in the nation at large. A letter dated September 4, 1866, describes "a veritable panic in town caused by recent political events and strange and contradictory reports. Many stores have been put up for sale, and commerce is paralyzed. This is our situation."

By the end of 1866 it is clear that confidence in the ability of the Empire to withstand growing opposition had been severely shaken. "This year," de Monclar recorded in his entry for December 24, 1866, "[Christmas] is a very sad time and [the Posada] was not held because the conservatives, with whom I spend almost all of my time, are too sad to celebrate it. I mention it [the Posada] only to continue my account of this 'other world' which I am recording for you in my journal."

In the course of the succeeding months de Monclar chronicled the gradual but total defeat of the Imperial army, amidst growing anxiety among the ranks of the Emperor's supporters. He tells of the siege and fall of Mexico City and of the subsequent imprisonment of many of his Mexican friends. "There are about 800 persons in prison here, compromised by the Empire. All that is good in Mexico." Finally, there is the execution of the Emperor himself in July. "How much has happened since the 26th of May," François recalled on July 29, 1867, just a few days after learning of the Emperor's death. "What sadness, horrors, and blood!! One trembles to think of it. Alas, it is not over yet."

Within a few weeks of writing those lines the French Legation had left Mexico. There are only a couple of short letters written during the Legation's brief stay in New York before returning to Europe, and then de Monclar's account ends. Presumably he returned safely to his home and family. What is certain is that in so faithfully keeping a promise to a beloved "petite soeur," de Monclar left behind a remarkable, personal account of a crucial chapter in Mexican history. His letters are a welcome addition to the Library's already significant holdings of primary source material for the period.

Nicole Bouché

### *Colorado River Photographs*

In the four decades following the two pioneering expeditions through the Grand Canyon led by John Wesley Powell (in 1869 and 1871-72), only a few others attempted the hazardous journey down through all the canyons and rapids on the Green and Colorado rivers. The fifth party after Powell's second expedition, led by Julius F. Stone of Columbus, Ohio, went from Green River, Wyoming, to Needles, Cali-

fornia, in sixty-nine days in the fall of 1909. The major purpose of the journey was photography, although Stone, an inveterate explorer, was also interested in the geology of the canyons.

Recently Stone's daughter, Mrs. Theodora Stone Sutton, generously donated to The Bancroft Library a huge album containing 940 photographs taken on the 1909 expedition. Stone was a thorough and meticulous man, and the typed key accompanying the album lists the location for every photo. Although there is no information on the type of camera used, it is likely that the party used a 5 x 7 view camera, and thus what we see in the album are contact prints. Stone later published a book containing a single reference to a Zeiss-Tessar lens.

The majority of the photos are of rock formations and rapids. A number of them show the party's boats on the river, running rapids, or being manhandled over the rocks. There is at least one shot of an Indian cliff dwelling and a series of eight photos of Indian pictographs. The album also includes pictures of inscriptions carved on rocks: "D. Julien 16 Mai 1836" and "D. Julien 1836 3 Mai," the latter inscription ornamented by the outline of a small boat with a mast, and an elaborate, arcane winged symbol.

When Julius Stone's parents came from Germany to America following the revolution of 1848, they changed the family name from Stein to Stone. Julius, one of eleven children, was born in 1855 in a log cabin on a farm near Devil's Lake, Michigan. His parents were educated, cultivated people, his father having been a professor of mathematics and astronomy in Prussia and his mother an accomplished linguist and musician. For his part, Julius received only a modicum of formal education: five or six years in a country school while he lived and worked on the farm. He left home at the age of twelve. He soon acquired a knowledge of telegraphy, and with that skill became an itinerant railroad telegrapher. He worked on various railroad jobs until 1880, and thereafter engaged in coal mining in Ohio, West Virginia, Illinois, and Iowa. During these years he also studied physics, chemistry, astronomy, and engineering. Beginning in 1903 he took up business and banking. He served at various times as the president of BancOhio corporations and of four different companies for making chains

and hoists, and was for many years chairman of the board of Seagrave Corporation, one of two major manufacturers of fire engines.

Julius F. Stone was, in the best sense of the phrase, a self-made man: manufacturer, scientist, banker, philanthropist, patron of education, and explorer. He was a member of the board of trustees of Ohio State University for twenty years between 1909 and 1937, for a time as chairman of the board. A university official and intimate friend described him as having "the most marvelous mind of any man I've known." Stone also belonged to the Explorers' Club of New York, and his daughter recalls that some of the renowned explorers, scientists, and inventors of the day visited the Stone residence in Columbus when she was young. Among them were Orville Wright & Matthew Henson, the black man who accompanied Peary to the North Pole (or almost to it) in 1909. On his visit to the Stone household Henson brought along his polar gear, which he donned for the benefit of his fellow guests.

Stone's 1932 book *Canyon Country* should be seen as a companion piece to the photograph album. Although the Bancroft does not have a copy of the published work, it hopes to acquire one soon from Mrs. Sutton. *Canyon Country* is divided into three distinct sections. The first, "A Borrowed Chapter on Erosion," is taken from Clarence E. Dutton's "Tertiary History of the Grand Cañon District." The second part contains the journal, in sixty-nine pages, of Stone's expedition of 1909. The greatest part of the book—325 pages—consists of 300 photographs, together with detailed geological and historical information. These photos are also, of course, to be found in the huge album. Julius Stone's photographic collection, in conjunction with the book, provides fascinating research opportunities for those interested in the history of the region and the types and rates of change of cliffs and other formations. Stone's views of Glen Canyon and of many miles of river above Black Canyon, for example, can be seen no more, since they now lie beneath the waters of lakes Powell and Mead. The photographs thus afford the opportunity to see how altered flows of water have changed the nature of the Colorado's rapids and the appearance of its banks below Glen Canyon.

*Peter Browning*

Peter Browning is the author of *Yosemite Place Names* and is the editor of *John Muir, in his Own Words*.



Photograph no. 184, taken on the 15th day of the Colorado River trip (1909), shows Mr. Galloway's boat in the rapids of Split Mountain Canyon.

### *Annual Meeting June 24*

The Friends of The Bancroft Library will convene their Annual Meeting at 3 o'clock on Sunday, June 24, 1990, in the Bechtel Engineering Center on the Berkeley campus. The meeting theme will be the centennial of the founding of Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks; the featured speaker will be David Brower, former head of the Sierra Club and founder and former head of Friends of the Earth. Those attending the meeting will then be invited to The Bancroft Library for a reception and the opening of an exhibition in the Gallery, which will include photographs of the parks by Carlton Watkins, Eadweard Muybridge, and Ansel Adams, as well as early Sierra Club documents, the LeConte family papers, and printed materials in the Library's holdings.

*Kimberley Massingale*

### *Twenty Years as Director*

On Friday, February 16, the Council of the Friends of The Bancroft Library and Chancellor and Mrs. Ira Michael Heyman hosted a lively reception at University House to honor

James D. Hart and his twentieth anniversary as Director of The Bancroft Library. John Rosston, Chairman of the Council of the Friends, toasted Mr. Hart, his accomplishments, and his vision of the future of Bancroft Library. Mr. Rosston was joined in this tribute by Chancellor Heyman and University Librarian Joseph A. Rosenthal.

At its regular meeting a few days later, the Council of the Friends resolved to "salute Dr. Hart for his tremendous achievements as Director of The Bancroft Library and wish him many more years in the service of the Library and the University." The resolution reads in part: "Over the past twenty years, the Library has grown enormously, acquiring a national and international reputation for the range and richness of its collections and for the scholarship and research done under its roof. All this has been achieved through the extraordinary talents of Dr. Hart, an inspired teacher, scholar, author, bibliophile and printer. His prodigious energy, his encyclopedic knowledge of literature and books, his personal warmth and enthusiasm, have brought the Library widespread support and gifts to the Library of unparalleled rarity and distinction."

*Kimberley Massingale*

## Blake Estate Oral History

How a barren ten-and-a-half acre windswept hill crest in Kensington, California, became a mecca for horticulturists, and how “the biggest three-bedroom house in the world” became in 1967 the home of presidents of the University of California, are stories told in the *Blake Estate Oral History*. The Regional Oral History Office interviews making up this oral history document both the life of the house and the evolution of the gardens.

This drama of house, garden, and University features three main characters: Anson Stiles Blake (1870-1959), his wife, Anita Symmes Blake (1871-1962), and her sister, Mabel Symmes (1875-1962). Anson Stiles Blake, whose grandmother, Ann Jane Waters Stiles, endowed Stiles Hall, graduated from the University of California in 1891 and began to work in the family sand and gravel business. Later he supervised the construction of the Mare Island Drydocks.

Anson Blake married Anita Symmes of San Francisco in 1894, and built a house for his bride on Piedmont Avenue in Berkeley. The property had passed from Anson Gale Stiles, an original trustee of the College of California, to his daughter and then to her son, Anson Blake. Anita Blake enriched the property with her first garden.

In 1923 the Blake property in Berkeley made way for a new stadium for the University of California. The Anson Blakes and Edwin Blakes relocated to a large parcel of family land in Kensington. There Walter Bliss of the firm of Bliss and Faville built for Anson and Anita Blake a Spanish-style house, situated to shelter from the wind the garden Anita Blake and her sister Mabel intended to create.

Mabel Symmes, who had studied in the newly-formed Department of Landscape Architecture at Berkeley in 1914, had built a modest professional practice as a landscape architect. She joined her sister and brother-in-law in the house in Kensington and devoted her life to designing and planting the Blake Garden. The

sisters’ vision of the garden grew to include 2,500 species and cultivated varieties of plants. According to garden historian Linda Haymaker, the Blake property enjoyed “fine outcroppings of Lawsonite rock, a generously rolling terrain, and a beautiful view of the bay below. The area seemed so remote from town...that the Blakes called their new home La Casa Adelante, Spanish for ‘over there’ or ‘far away.’”

More than sixty years later, Blake House, hidden by location and vegetation, still seemed remote. Elizabeth Gardner, wife of the University’s president, therefore asked ROHO to develop an oral history about the Blakes and the estate they deemed to the University in 1957.

Nineteen interviewees contributed to the story. They included nephew Igor Blake, knowledgeable about family history and his uncle’s business; George and Helena Thacher, another nephew and his wife, who shared Anson Blake’s interest in the California Historical Society; Elliot and Elizabeth Evans, family friends with pioneer roots; and Louis Stein, Kensington historian.

President Emeritus Clark Kerr told of accepting Blake House for the University; his wife Catherine described her proposal that the Prytanean Alumnae Association manage the house as a residence hall. Prytanean Janice Kirtledge reported on that short-lived arrangement and recalled activities of Marguerite Johnston, social advisor to five UC presidents. Norma Willer, Tony Hail, and Ron and Myra Brocchini, who were responsible for remodeling the house, and University President Emeritus Charles Hitch, who lived there with his wife Nancy from 1967 to 1975, brought the house’s history up to the present.

A second group of interviewees described the evolution of the garden, which in 1924 contained only grasses and chaparral. Nurseryman Toichi Domoto recalled Anita Blake’s participation in the California Horticultural Society; senior gardener emeritus Walter Vodden

remembered his training in horticulture from Mabel Symmes. Mai Arbegast, former Garden director, explained how she worked closely with Mrs. Blake in the 1950s. Other interviews were conducted with landscape architect Geraldine Knight Scott, who renewed the gardens in the 1960s and created a long-range plan for the estate, and with Flo Holmes, who for twenty years has arranged cut flowers from the gardens for Blake House functions. Linda Haymaker, landscape architect, put the gardens into historical context.

A silent supplement to the oral interviews is an appendix of manuscript materials. Notable among them is a carefully worded letter from Miss Anita Symmes’ father, refusing Anson Blake’s first request for his daughter’s hand in marriage. The oral history itself speaks to the results of Anson Blake’s perseverance!

Suzanne B. Riess



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Accompanying this issue is Vivian C. Fisher’s Index to Numbers 51-100 of *Bancroftiana*.



The Blake family on Piedmont Avenue in Berkeley, 1920.

## Desiderata

*Bancroftiana* from time to time publishes lists of books that the Library needs. We would be particularly pleased to receive gifts of any of the books listed. Please telephone Bonnie Bearden, Rare Books Acquisitions Assistant, in the Acquisitions Division (642-8171) or write her a note if you can help us.

Bent, W. *A General Catalogue of Books in all Languages, Arts, and Sciences, Printed in Great Britain, and Published in London from the year MDCC to MDCCLXXXVI*. London: 1786.

*A Children's Sampler: Selections from Famous Children's Books, Printed with Care & Solicitude by the Ladies of the Distaff Side*. N.p.: 1950.

*The Chinese of Hawaii*. Honolulu: Overseas Penman Club, 1929. Vol. 1 only.

Dillinger, Georg Adam. *Nach dem jezigen Staat eingerichtete Bilder-Geographie*. Nuremberg: [Widow of] Christopher Riegel, 1770.

Forbes, Jack. *The Establishment of D-Q University: An Example of Successful Indian-Chicano Community Development*. Davis: D-Q University, 1972.

Galloway, David. *Tamsen: A Novel of the Tragic Journey of the Donner Party and the Heroism of an Extraordinary Woman*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1983.

Hopkins, Casper T. *Insurance Survey of All Buildings in the Central Blocks of San Francisco*. San Francisco: San Francisco Board of Fire Underwriters, 1861.

Hoppe, Arthur Watterson. *The Martial Arts*. New York: Arbor House, 1985.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Miss Lollipop and the Doom Machine*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1973.

Jackson, William Henry. *William Henry Jackson: Pioneer Photographer of the West*. New York: Viking, 1964.

Kimball, Stanley B. *On the Potter's Wheel: The Diaries of Heber C. Kimball*. Midvale, Conn.: Signature Books, 1988.

Maupin, Armistead. *More Tales of the City*. New York: Harper & Row, 1980.

*The National Cyclopedia of the Colored Race*. Edited by Clement Richardson, etc. Montgomery, Alabama: National Publishing Co., 1919.

[Phillips, George S.] *Amusing and Thrilling Adventures of a California Artist While Daguerreotyping a Continent amid Burning Deserts, Savages and Perpetual Snows*. By J. Wesley Jones, written by John Ross Dix. Boston: published for the author, 1854.

*Philopolis*. San Francisco: 1906-1916. Vols. 11-14 only.

Randall, Margaret. *Sandino's Daughters: Testimonies of Nicaraguan Women in Struggle*. Vancouver: New Star Books, 1981.

Smith, Bonnie L. *Afro-American Archives in California and the West*. San Marcos, Calif.: Palomar College, n.d.

Wheatley, Phillis. *Poems on Various Subjects*. Denver: W.H. Lawrence & Co., 1887. With memoirs by William Henry Jackson.