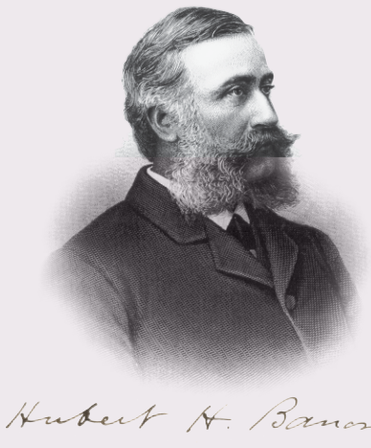

Newsletter of The Friends of The Bancroft Library

BANCROFTIANA

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BEYOND WORDS: *Two Hundred Years of Illustrated Diaries*

The diaries in the Bancroft stacks have long been both one of my favorite parts of the collections to read and wonderful resources for recreating our past. They contain three centuries' worth of journals carefully compiled by people famous and unknown, of diverse age, origin, education, and occupation, providing personal interpretations of life as they saw it. Humans have long marked time, distance, sequence, and discoveries in real and virtual diaries. They have created maps of geographic and life milestones, fixing experiences, thoughts, and feelings into the ink and onto the paper of protected volumes, creating indelible truth. A journal is compact and modest, yet it is also vast and deep, containing the life that kept it. And when diarists have worked a drawing, a doodle, a decoration, a photograph in amidst the words of a day's pattern, they have greatly enhanced the capture of that day. Vivid detail is the key to description, and drawings provide dimension often lost to words. Drawings are born of a combination of introspection and outward observance that lends verisimilitude to the outrageous and unthinkable events in one's world. Interwoven, text and illustration form a union that makes for resplendent journals, calling to memory what words or pictures alone cannot entirely encapsulate. The page becomes a work of art with style and composition, a priceless miniature, a focused and concentrated glimpse into a time and place long past.

The past was lived by individuals, and their intimate diaries are valuable precisely because they supply the rich cinematic particulars of personal experience not available to historians who vainly follow, trying to reconstruct events. The attempted recovery of the past in large and general terms will not persuade anyone that it was in fact inhabited by human beings. Journals provide the authentic lifeblood of our past. They do not transcribe reality, but create a common language with which we understand each other's lives. As Wallace Stegner wrote, "It's all of it not true, and it's all of it true." The last 200 years have seen a growing flood of vernacular autobiography. The first flow was the result of a general literacy, and now blogs, social networking, and gossip columns have taken us to full torrent. These are all about individuals taking stock, telling stories, pursuing perspective, and distilling great quantities of information into a rich elixir of truth and meaning.

Keeping a diary is a mechanism for coping with misfortune, a way to honor memory, a pastime or exercise for the mind, an aid to concentration, or comfortable good company. Keeping a diary is a way to live with intention or to pose and chatter. There are benefits to keeping track of where one is, one day at a time. It is a way to remember and a way of defining one's life, a clasp-locked legacy, something to leave behind. In a diary one is free to express prejudices, unpopular opinions, and unspoken longing. Diaries may or may not be secret or private, but they are always intimate, honest, self-conscious, and aware.

Continued on page 4

Bancroft's illustrated diaries visually enhance the intimate personal history they capture.

From the Director

"Ave atque vale"

"Hail and farewell."

I had mixed emotions last summer when I told University Librarian Tom Leonard that I plan to retire from the University of California, Berkeley, at the end of this coming June, after 42 years in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and 16 years as the Director of The Bancroft Library.

I have spent my entire career at Cal, and it has been an enormous privilege to serve what I firmly believe is the greatest university in the world.

I want to thank you for your generous and loyal support of The Bancroft Library. Most recently it has enabled us to renovate our building, enhancing long-term storage for Bancroft's precious collections, improving access for Bancroft's indefatigable researchers, and providing suitable work space for Bancroft's extraordinary, and extraordinarily hard-working, staff.

You have also helped to put Bancroft's world-class research programs on a sounder financial footing. It was your support, for example, that enabled the Mark Twain Project to publish the smash hit of last fall's publishing season, the *Autobiography of Mark Twain,* now in its 15th week on the *New York Times'* non-fiction bestseller list and already in its 8th printing—500,000 copies.

It would be impossible to name here all of the people who have made my job at Bancroft so much easier than it might have been. First and last, my wife Jamy, who has made it possible for me to devote almost every waking hour to Bancroft by taking care of everything else. On top of that, she has also been serving on the Events and Program Committee of the Friends of The Bancroft Library.

I shall always be grateful to the late Peter Lyman, who as University Librarian in 1995 proposed me for the directorship, and to Carol Christ, at the time The Vice Chancellor and Provost, now President of Smith College, who despite misgivings over my relative lack of administrative experience, decided to take a chance on me.

I am enormously gratified by the loyalty and enthusiasm of the Friends of The Bancroft Library, who give so much thought, energy, time, and pelf to Bancroft. Council members devote untold hours each year to Bancroft and its programs. I should particularly like to mention the various Chairs of the Council, starting with Tom Worth in 1995, Cindy Barber, Larry Kramer—my mentor in fund-raising—, Ann Flinn, Vickie Fong, Tom Woodhouse, Camilla Smith, Peter Frazier, Craig Walker, Dick Otter, Connie Loarie, and now Fred Gregory. Each of them has focused on different aspects of Bancroft's operations, but they have all made signal contributions *ad majorem gloriam Bancroftii.* There are scores more Friends whom I should like to name, but I shall limit myself to the Bancrofts: Pete Bancroft, great-grandson of Hubert Howe, his wife Monica, and their daughter Kim, are firm supporters of Bancroft. It is wonderful to have members of the Bancroft family so deeply involved with the institution more than 150 years after its founding. More important, for Jamy and me, is that they have also become close personal friends.

My colleagues at Bancroft are amazing. Not the least of my respect and affection for them is due to their remarkable loyalty to this institution. Many of them have been here for decades. Deputy Director Peter Hanff has been a rock of stability as well as Bancroft's institutional memory. My predecessor Jim Hart brought him to Bancroft in 1970 to oversee the integration of the old Rare Book Room and The Bancroft Library. During his illustrious career he has held virtually every senior administrative position at Bancroft, including five years as Acting and Interim Director from 1990 until 1995. I am deeply indebted to him not only for his wise counsel but also for taking care of the myriad mind-numbing administrative details that are inevitable with a bureaucracy as large as Cal's.

Susan Snyder, Head of Public Services, has been running Bancroft's Edward Hellman Heller Reading Room since 1994 with aplomb and cool efficiency. In addition, she has taken advantage of her unparalleled knowledge of Bancroft's collections to write several of Bancroft's most acclaimed recent publications, *Bear in Mind: The California Grizzly* (2003) and *Past Tents: The Way We Camped* (2006).

David de Lorenzo came to Bancroft in 2001 as Associate Director and Head of Technical Services after stints at the Harvard Law Library and the Maryland Historical Society. With at least a third of Bancroft's staff on soft money, his expertise as a grant writer has been

Charles Faulhaber presented the Hubert Howe Bancroft Award to J.S. Holliday and wife Belinda for his contributions to the history of the West.

absolutely essential. He leads Bancroft's largest unit, with a solid core of professionals who manage the technical staff and the flood of materials that come into Bancroft every year without breaking a sweat: Steven Black in Acquisitions, Pictorial Archivist James Eason, Principal Cataloger Randy Brandt, Digital Collections Archivist Mary Elings, Teresa Mora, Head of Manuscript Processing, and Terry Boom, who graciously volunteered to serve as acting head of technical services before David was appointed.

The members of the curatorial group are simply outstanding, with broad experience both in and outside of Bancroft. Their dean is Tony Bliss, Curator of Rare Books and Literary Manuscripts, whose grandfather was Henry Huntington's private librarian and whose father served as curator of rare books at the Huntington Library. Jack von Euw, born in Switzerland and reared in Brazil, came to Bancroft from the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art, originally as a project manager, then became head of technical services and now serves as Pictorial Curator. David Farrell worked at the University of Kentucky and Indiana University before coming to Berkeley as Associate University Librarian for Collections and then moving to Bancroft as Curator of the History of Science and Technology Program and University Archivist, where he is joined by Associate University Archivist Kathi Neal, who came to us from the University of San Diego and, the University of Minnesota. Theresa Salazar, as Curator of the Bancroft Collections of Western Americana and Latin Americana, is responsible for over half of Bancroft's collections. Fortunately her training at the University of New Mexico and stints at the Library of Congress, New York Public Library, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the University of Arizona have given her the experience and expertise needed to handle the multitudinous aspects of these collections. These long-time curators have now been joined by Alla Efimova and Francesco Spagnolo to care for the Magnes Collections.

Jamy and Charles Faulhaber at his investiture as Director of The Bancroft Library, with the symbol of his office, Hubert Howe Bancroft's walking stick.

Bancroft's research programs are blessed with outstanding leaders and staff: Professor of History Richard Cándida-Smith, Director of the Regional Oral History Office, Associate Director Vic Geraci, and senior interviewers Sally Hughes, Ann Lage, Caroline Crawford, and Lisa Rubens; Associate Professor Todd Hickey, who splits his time between Classics and Bancroft's Center for the Tebtunis Papyri; and of course the remarkable Bob Hirst, Curator of the Mark Twain Papers and General Editor of the Mark Twain Project. He and his fellow senior editors—Harriet Smith, Vic Fischer, Mike Frank—after decades of patient and dedicated scholarship are now reaping much merited success with the *Autobiography of Mark Twain.*

Finally, there are the people who keep me out of trouble—Liz Gardner and Diana Vergil in Bancroft's administrative office, Meilin Huang, who knows to the penny how much money we have to spend, and our indefatigable and quietly efficient Kate Pope, secretary of the Friends of The Bancroft Library.

I also remember fondly colleagues who have retired or passed from the scene. University Archivist Bill Roberts still remains active at Bancroft as a volunteer. I overlapped for more than five years with Willa Baum, legendary head of the Regional Oral History Office from 1958 to 2001, as well as with her colleagues Lee Swent, Gaby Morris, Suzanne Riess, Malca Chall, Germaine LaBerge, Harriet Nathan, Julie Shearer, Eleanor Glaser, Carole Hicke, and Merrilee Proffitt. Bonnie Hardwick, Curator of the Western Americana Collections when I arrived, retired to Santa Fe and promptly unretired to become head of the Hewlett Library at Berkeley's Graduate Theological Union. Latin Americana Curator Walter Brem fostered significant research collaborations with Mexican institutions. Tim Hoyer was a dynamo as Head of Bancroft Technical Services, leading Bancroft into the brave new world of digital scholarship in the 1990s. Lin Salamo, Rob Browning, and Ken Sanderson at the Mark Twain Project each left their mark and their memories.

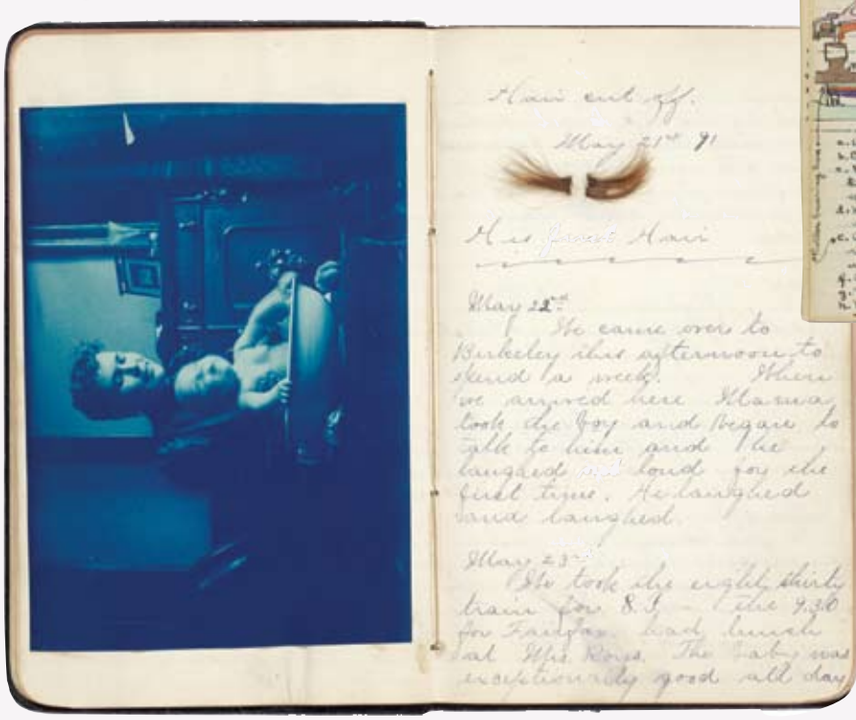
I do not know what the future holds. I do know that I shall still be spending a good deal of time in Bancroft, working with the collections. When I started 16 years ago I thought that I would have at least a couple of hours every week to spend with medieval manuscripts and early printed books. Now I will have that luxury, and my colleagues already have an extensive to-do list for me!

Charles F. Faulhaber

The James D. Hart Director
The Bancroft Library

BEYOND WORDS *continued from page 1*

Most diaries on our earth have been lost, discarded, or destroyed. Relatively few survive to be read and savored by subsequent generations. The journals in Bancroft reside in acid-free boxes, arranged on shelves in temperature-controlled darkness, and have come as donations, tag-alongs, bequests, purchases, or hotly contested auction lots. They have been selected by curators to chink the house of history, to put a name and face to a time and place, to supply humor, pathos, grime, existential angst, and vision to the entirety of the human record. Hubert Howe Bancroft was a great believer in the validity of the personal and humble view, so it is appropriate that his namesake library now houses a magnificent assortment of journals. Once in a while a diary is called up into the light of the library reading room by a researcher who wants to listen to a voice from the past, or who needs to see from an individual perspective, or who is curious about the mind meanders of a particular person. Often bland, worn, and featureless on the exterior, they glow with an unforgettable illumination when viewed historically. It is the diaries that speak the loudest in the empty library at night.



Bancroft diaries have contributed generously to two previous Bancroft publications, *Bear in Mind* and *Past Tents,* and now 72 of the illustrated ones among them will live on in their own dedicated volume, *Beyond Words,* to be published by Bancroft and Heyday Press next fall as the Friends Keepsake for 2010-2011.

Susan Snyder
Head of Bancroft Public Services

A California "Ghost" Revealed

In 1943 Edith Margaret Coulter published an article in the *California Historical Society Quarterly* entitled "California Copyrights, 1851-1856, With Notes on Certain Ghost Books," in which she gave a complete record of all books, maps, prints, and labels registered in the *Copyright Record Book of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California* for the years 1851 to 1856. Coulter found that during the five-year period from October 25, 1851, to December 4, 1856, 119 copyrights were registered in the Northern District, of which 60 were for books. Of those 60 registered book titles, 22 could not be located and were deemed "California ghost books." Coulter noted that some may have been published but in such small editions that, if they still exist at all, only a single copy remains. Others may simply never have been published at all.

One of those elusive ghosts has now made its belated appearance.

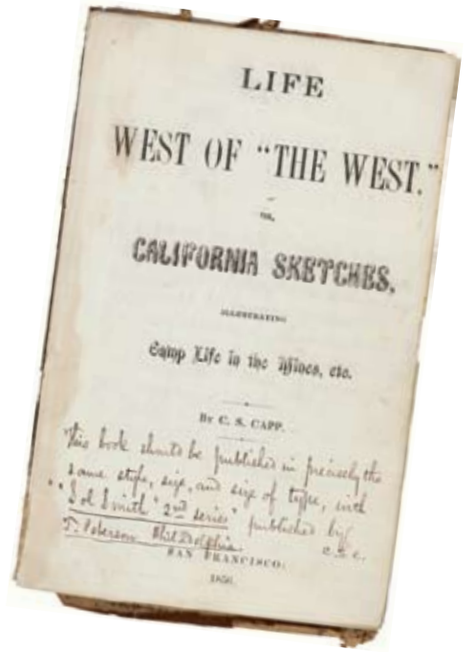
In December 2009, a copy of a little book called *Life West of "the West," or California Sketches Illustrating Camp Life in the Mines,* by C.S. Capp, arrived at The Bancroft Library. That title was registered for copyright on May 19, 1856, and was subsequently listed as one of Coulter's phantoms.

Hand-drawn illustration for the story Crevicing, With a Grizzly for Overseer.

Bancroft's copy, the only known example, consists of a printed title page, cut-and-pasted newspaper clippings, manuscript text, and hand-drawn illustrations. This unique volume appears to be a proof copy, or prototype, for the printer.

Charles Singer Capp (1831-1912) was born in Philadelphia and came west to California in 1849. After failing to make his fortune in the mines, Capp turned to the practices of law and journalism. He edited and published *The Golden Era,* established in 1852, which G.P. Rowell & Co.'s *American Newspaper Directory* called "the oldest and best literary paper on the Pacific coast." He also wrote for and edited the early San Francisco paper *The Wide West,* established in 1854, and was an entrepreneur, entering into a partnership with Philip Hinkle and patenting a "centrifugal ore grinder and amalgamator" for use in the mines. Capp held memberships in several influential San Francisco organizations, such as the San Francisco Pioneer Association, the Society of California Pioneers, the California Immigrant Union, the San Francisco Homestead Union, the Railroad Homestead Association, and the San Francisco Realty Board. Capp Street, in San Francisco's Mission District, is named in his honor.

Life West of "the West" provides contemporaneous accounts of life in the California camps and mines during the Gold Rush. As Capp notes in the handwritten preface: "The following stories were some of them actually told, as here related and jotted down at the time, by the author, then himself a miner. . . . They are given as they appeared in the winter of 1855-6 in the weekly 'Wide West,' an ably conducted paper in San Francisco. The flattering reception they met with at the time among the friends of the author has suggested their republication in this form." The longest story,



LIFE

WEST OF "THE WEST."

OR

CALIFORNIA SKETCHES,

ILLUSTRATING

Camp Life in the Mines, etc.

By C. S. CAPP.

SAN FRANCISCO:

1856.

Author C.S. Capp hand wrote instructions for publication on the printed title page of Life West of "The West."

the nine-part "Proceedings of the Gas Association of Donkey Bar," relates the adventures of the "Gas Association," a debating society formed by a group of miners, including the author, during 1848-49. Other episodes have such romantic titles as "Crevicing, With a Grizzly for Overseer," "Joe Salter's Donkey (The Donkey the Bar was Named After)," "How Flint Lost His Scalp," and "The Leaden Coffin, or, Mrs. Jones's California Marriage."

To compile his text, Capp carefully cut up and pasted down on the pages of the book the original newspaper articles, making corrections and providing instructions for printing and illustrations in the margins. The volume also includes five hand-drawn illustrations, presumably also by Capp, depicting images of miners and mining, grizzly bears, Native Americans, and a buffalo hunt. The whole is bound in parchment-covered boards, with the title lettered by hand on the front cover and illustrations of mining tools—cart, pan, shovels, axe, trug, and tray—drawn on the back.

Why Capp abandoned this project will likely remain a mystery. The mystery of the existence of this California "ghost" book, however, has at long last been solved.

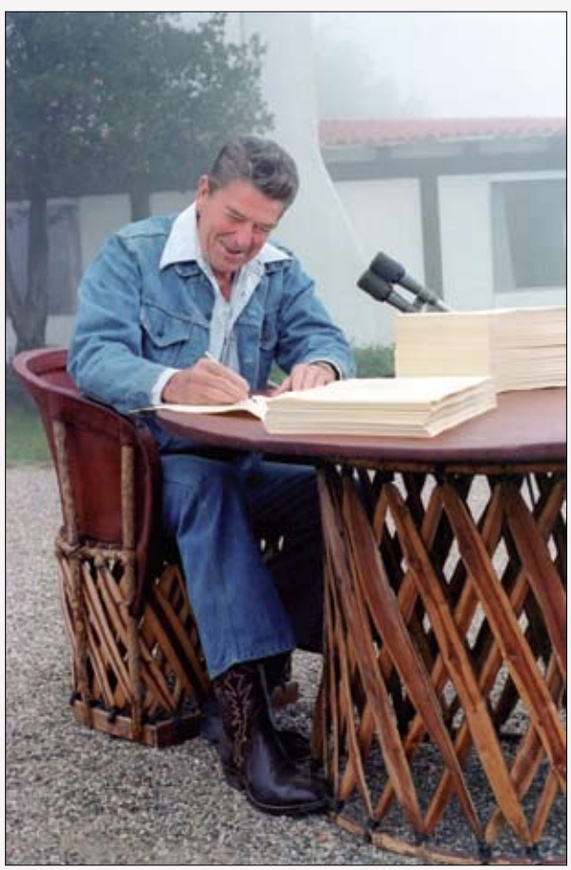
Randal S. Brandt
Principal Cataloger

The Regional Oral History Office's National Debt Oral History Project

SLAYING THE DRAGON OF DEBT

With the publication in early December of the report by President Obama's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, the issue of our staggering national debt again was on the lips of journalists, politicians, and pundits across the country. Although many note that our massive annual budget deficits and the resulting mounting national debt—approaching $14 trillion—are now reaching heights unknown outside of periods of all-out war, the current debt crisis has been a long-time in the making. What better time, then, to launch a major new oral history project exploring federal deficits and national debt?

"Slaying the Dragon of Debt: Fiscal Politics and Policy from the 1970s to Today" is just a such a project and is now operating in full swing at The Bancroft Library's Regional Oral History Office. Funded by Walter Shorenstein shortly before his death at the age of 95 this past June, "Slaying the Dragon of Debt" was initially charged with examining not only deficits and debt but also why and how it was that the U.S. was able to produce four consecutive years of budget surpluses in the late 1990s. As the project's two main investigators, Shorenstein Fellow Patrick Sharma and I soon found, however, American's preoccupation with balanced—and unbalanced—budgets dates to the very birth of our country when the Founding Fathers struggled with the question of how to pay off the debts incurred by the states in the Revolutionary War. That initial crisis was solved and in the 19th century the federal budget was balanced more often than not. But deficits remained a concern of politicians and the American people, even though at critical times there was a broad willingness to spend the country into deep debt, as it did during the Great Depression and World War II.



President Reagan signed the Economic Recovery Tax Act HR 4242 and Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act HR 3982 in 1981. The legislation marked the beginning of the Reagan Revolution as well as the big budget deficits of the 1980s. Photo courtsy of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.

We begin our project with the 1970s, when a series of domestic and global shocks shifted the terrain upon which our economy rested. These included the end of the Bretton Woods economic order, oil crises, the related explosion of inflation, the increase of government spending as a portion of the GDP, and the related rise of a conservative political movement determined to shrink the size of the federal government. Although the U.S. national debt hit a postwar low at the very end of the administration of President Jimmy Carter, we set out to interview well-placed individuals to get a sense of the degree to which policy-makers were concerned with deficit spending in the 1970s. We started with Alice Rivlin, the first director of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), Charles Schultze, who served as President Johnson's budget director and as Carter's chair of the Council of Economic Advisors, as well as James McIntyre, who served as Carter's second budget director. These interviewees draw a picture of an era in which inflation, not deficits, was the main concern, but also of a president who sought budget balance and who might well be called the first "New Democrat" as a result of his efforts.

Interviews with Jim Miller and Annelise Anderson, both of whom served in President Reagan's Office of Management and Budget (OMB), have provided us with eye-witness accounts of the Reagan Revolution and an insider's perspective on the rise of supply-side economics, the theory that posits that tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans would spur the economy and result in greater receipts for the federal government. These partisans, along with two former congressmen we've interviewed who voted for Reagan's economic plan (Republican Warren Rudman and Democrat Tom Daschle), now generally concede that supply-side ideas were largely a ruse and that tax cuts meant less money for the federal government, necessitating a shrinking of nondefense discretionary spending—which was the Reaganites' goal to begin with. Declining tax revenues in the 1980s, combined with a severe recession in 1981-1982 and bolstered defense spending, brought about the upward trend in budget deficits, from $700 billion at the outset of Reagan's presidency to over $2 trillion by its conclusion. These mounting deficits set the stage for important pieces of legislation designed

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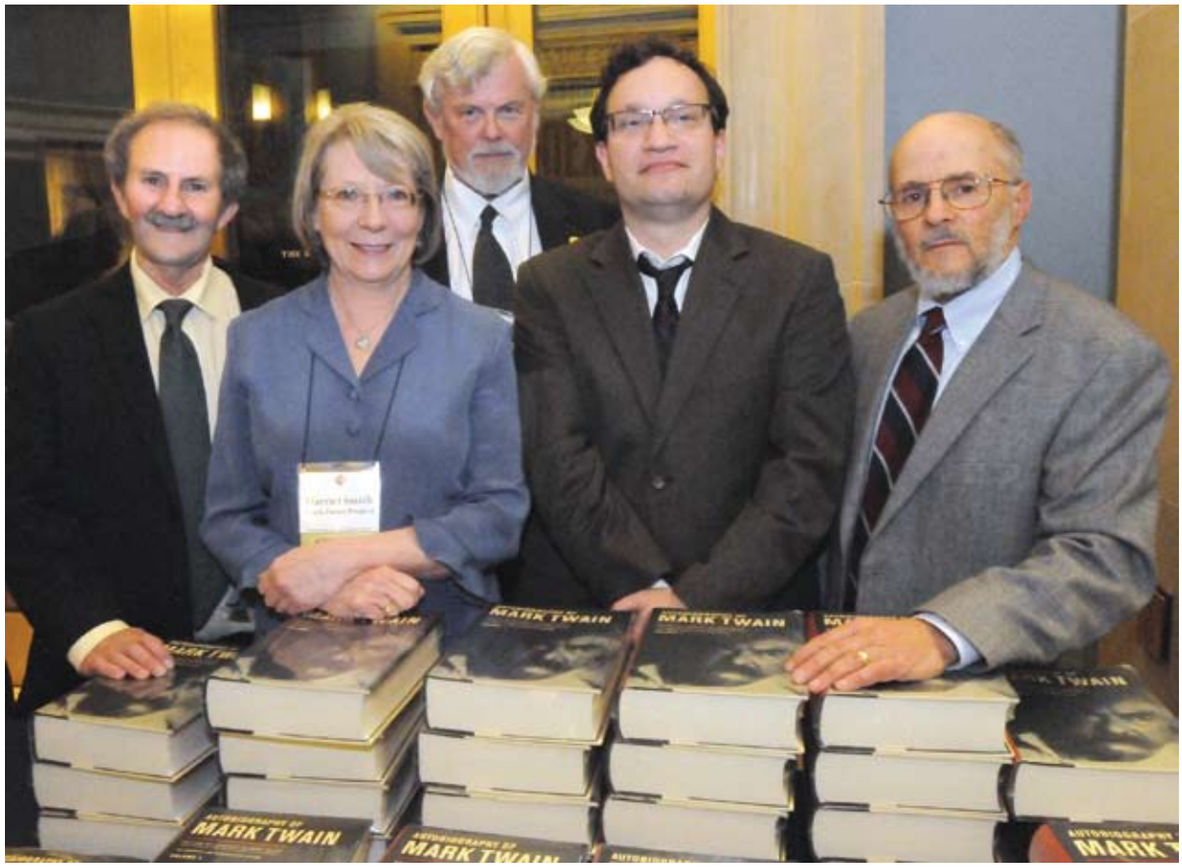
A Toast to Mark Twain



Editors Vic Fischer, Harriet Smith, Bob Hirst, Ben Griffin, and Mike Frank proudly present the Autobiography of Mark Twain.

On November 17 the Library sponsored "A Toast to Mark Twain" to celebrate the publication of Volume I of the *Autobiography of Mark Twain.* Almost 200 guests gathered in Bancroft for a reception and viewing of a selection of manuscript materials designed to illustrate the production of the authoritative edition of the text.

Colleen Haas, Elizabeth Heyman, and Margaret and Bob Hirst laugh at Rita Moreno's account of Clemens' social faux pas.

The reception was followed by readings in the Doe Library's grand Heyns Reading Room of delightful and moving passages from the *Autobiography* and *Huckleberry Finn* by Michael Chabon, Bob Haas, Bob Hass, Chancellor Emeritus Ira Michael Heyman, Maxine Hong Kingston, Val Kilmer (via recording), Eric Karpeles, Rita Moreno, Walter Murch, Mary Roach, and Ayelet Waldman.

The success of the *Autobiography,* now in its eighth printing—500,000 copies— has pleased and gratified the editorial staff of the Mark Twain Project, their supporters in the Mark Twain Luncheon Club, and all of us at Bancroft.

The readers assemble: (rear, l. to r.) Bob Hass, Bob Haas, Ayelet Waldman, Eric Karpeles, Mary Roach, Walter Murch, Michael Chabon; (front, l. to r.): Rita Moreno, Ira Michael Heyman, Maxine Hong Kingston.

Friends of Bancroft Establish the California Mormon Collection

A group interested in the California history of the Latter-day Saints (Mormons) has donated $100,000 to The Bancroft Library to establish and curate the California Mormon Collection.

On July 31, 1846, the ship *Brooklyn* and its Mormon passengers, under the leadership of 27-year-old Samuel Brannan, arrived in San Francisco Bay. Brannan's group of 70 men, 63 women, and 101 children had left New York City six months earlier, on February 4, 1846. Coincidentally, this was the same day that the first Mormon immigrants from Illinois, under the leadership of their prophet, Brigham Young, headed for the West by land in covered wagons.

The east coast Mormons were too poor to collect the funding necessary for the covered wagons and teams needed to move west, so Young advised them to go by ship around Cape Horn. Once they arrived in California they planned to plant crops to help Young's overland group; but that never happened, since Young decided to stop in Utah and Brannan became more interested in the entrepreneurial opportunities in California than in pursuing the spiritual life in the dry Utah wilderness.

The *Brooklyn* saints traveled down the east coast of South America, around Cape Horn, up past Valparaiso, Chile, and then across to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), where they delivered commercial cargo and stayed 10 days to take on supplies, and then sailed back across the Pacific to San Francisco Bay. They arrived three weeks after John B. Montgomery, captain of the U.S. sloop *Portsmouth* raised the U.S. flag on the central square of what had been a Mexican town. On landing, the Mormons saw a small hamlet of about 30 buildings, including nine adobes, arrayed about what today is Portsmouth Square in downtown San Francisco.

Sam Brannan joined partners in commerce (l. to r., back to front) Samuel J. Hensley, Sam Brannan, Jacob Leese, Thomas O. Larkin and W.D.M. Howard. Photograph by Moulin Studios.

Later that year, Brannan's group was joined by other Mormons from southern California, where they had served at President James Polk's request in a U.S. Army Mormon Battalion to secure the border with Mexico. Members of the battalion arrived in San Diego in December and January that winter and headed north to San Francisco to join their Mormon friends. By the end of 1846, California historian Hubert H. Bancroft wrote, "San Francisco became for a time very largely a Mormon town. All bear witness to the orderly and moral conduct of the saints, both on land and sea. They were honest and industrious citizens, even if clannish and peculiar" (*History of California* [San Francisco: The History Company, 1886], 5:550).

A printer by trade in New York, Brannan not only led his group of Mormons to California but also brought his press and enough printing supplies for two years. Although the *Californian,* printed in Monterey, was California's first newspaper, Brannan founded the first one in San Francisco, *The California Star,* which began regular publication on January 9, 1847. The *Star* gained national notoriety for its April 1, 1848, account of the discovery of gold in California. Brannan sent this issue back east by express riders and by ship around Cape Horn. He and his partners in commerce intended the paper as a booster issue to attract settlers to California. Indeed, Brannan's printed announcement was widely circulated and reprinted.

In 1846, the entrance to the San Francisco Bay looked quite different from today. Fritz Wikersheim, 1845–1851.

Continued on page 11

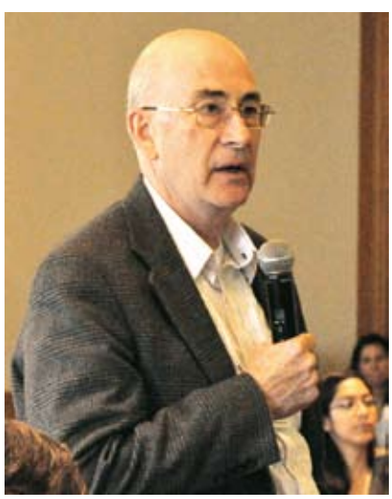
1810 ~ 1910 ~ 2010
Mexico's Unfinished Revolutions

John Mraz, speaks on the photography of the Mexican Revolution.

Last October, in honor of the bicentennial of Mexican Independence and the Centennial of the Mexican Revolution, Bancroft sponsored a two-day symposium, whose webcast is now available on line: http://tinyurl.com/mexicansymposium. Fifteen distinguished scholars from this county, Mexico, and Australia (University of Chicago, Columbia, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, University of Michigan, Colegio de México, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Universidad de Puebla, University of the South, Vanderbilt, Latrobe University, and UT Austin) offered analyses and commentaries on the Independence of Mexico from Spain (1810-1820), the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920), and the idea of Mexico today. Paper topics included the image of the revolution in contemporary photographs, Indians and revolution, gender, politics, and the Catholic Church, visions of the future in the Independence era, and Mexico as a geographical hub of revolutionary, radical, and anti-imperialist networks.

Patrons peruse the exhibit, Celebrating Mexico.

The symposium was cosponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies, the Townsend Center for the Humanities, and the Consulate General of Mexico in San Francisco, thanks to the good offices of Ambassador Carlos Félix Corona.



John Gibson, one of our generous sponsors, asks a question during the Q and A session.

Andrea Paniagua and Jonathan Chait visit the exhibition with its co-curators, Theresa Salazar and Jack von Euw, and Peter Hanff.

Brian Connaughton, Edward Wright-Rios, and Matthew O'Hara attend and speak at the symposium.

Charles Faulhaber discusses the symposium with Andrea Paniagua and Jonathan Chait, of the Mexican Consulate of San Francisco, and Xochiti Castañeda, Program Director of the UC Berkeley Health Initiative of the Americas.

From Wheeling to Windfalls
JOSEPH WILSON'S GOLD RUSH JOURNAL

Imagine that you are 28 years old, raised on a farm near Wheeling, West Virginia, having never heard or seen much of the world and about to embark on a trip by boat and on foot that would cover thousands of miles, take nearly six months to complete, and along the way you would encounter people, sights, and events that would startle and challenge even today's toughest and most seasoned adventurers. Traveling by the less common route to the California gold fields via the Ohio River to New Orleans and across Nicaragua, instead of Panama, the diary of the young Joseph Wilson begins in a calm and succinctly descriptive style that would come to characterize it:

> *March 5, 1850: "Started from home for California staid [sic] in Wheeling all night and bought a trunk and some other articles for the trip the next morning. The Silas Wright came in and got aboard ... arrived in Cincinnati in the morning of the eighth. Turner and Armstrong went out in town and Gavin Atkinson and myself went upon the hill above the town and watched the cars start out ... it was a beautiful sight. . . . "*

There would be many other beautiful sights for Wilson along the way. But there would also be much that was not beautiful, like the common afflictions of cholera and dysentery that caused the deaths of many, identified by name, whose bodies were thrown overboard, if at sea, or buried on land. Throughout, Wilson combines a keen eye for detail with cogent observations of human behavior. While waiting onboard the ship *Genobia* [sic] just before putting out to sea from New Orleans, he wrote on March 23:

> *"Great confusion. Wm. Baggs very sick with colery [sic], 3 or 4 others sick, Woolf goes on shore and is very sick. . . . Wm. Baggs died. . . . human nature was shown here in its various forms, some cursing Woolf, some themselves, and some everybody else."*

Once under way many passengers wanted to abandon the trip and urged the Captain to put in at Key West. Others swore vengeance if they did. The majority won, and despite illness the ship sailed on:

> *April 1, ". . . nearly all sea sick but little attention is paid the sick."*

> *April 5, ". . . Davison died and was thrown overboard."*

On April 13 in San Juan [del Norte], Nicaragua, Wilson notes the racial diversity of the people, writing

> *"all kinds of people are here . . . they are perfect amalgamations. They marry through one another red, black, yellow, white, and spotted are the colors."*

Crossing Nicaragua with ox teams and carts, he and his companions made their way to the Pacific coast. Here on land he feasts on better fare than at sea: eggs, corn cakes, and chocolate. He gives us details of a local church, including its architecture, history, and the role it played in an 1840 revolution. In León, the capital, he and some others are invited to meet with the American Minister at a reception with local dignitaries. A general invites them to call on him and they oblige. Wilson writes that they are treated much better by the general than they had been by the minister.

On May 24 Wilson toured the cathedral [of the Assumption], describing it as

> *"decorated in stile [sic] with artificial flowers and 7 or 8 large wood Gods and a grate [sic] many little ones."*

A week later (May 30) he describes a large religious celebration involving the bishop. On May 31 he writes that there is concern for a revolution, and they arm themselves in preparation for an uprising that never comes.

All in all it was quite the journey for the young man from West Virginia, one which, additionally, had taught him a healthy skepticism about the character of some of his fellow travelers. He observed on June 4, after arriving in El Realejo, that

> *"Woolf and Priest has told more lies than would send them to hell for a thousand years."*

Continued on next page

The first page of Wilson's Journal.

Still in El Realejo on June 24, Wilson was enough of a celebrity hound to note a famous passenger disembarking on a stopover from Panama: the bare-knuckle boxing champion Tom Hyer, who had defeated Yankee Sullivan in 1849. Sullivan would later be thrown into prison by the Vigilance Committee in San Francisco and commit suicide. He is buried in Mission Dolores Cemetery.

On July 1 Wilson set sail for San Francisco. The ocean trip up the Pacific coast proved uneventful. Most of Wilson's observations during the seven-week voyage concern passing ships and the weather. On August 21 Wilson arrived in San Francisco and the very same day boarded another ship for the gold fields:

> *"Wensday [sic] morning we left the ship and took a boat for Stockton at 6 we started the hills looks fine."*

On August 27 Wilson arrived at his destination, the Wood's Creek area and the Stanislaus River. He bought a pick and shovel and "went to work at mining," but the pickings were meager at first. On August 30 he writes,

> *"we come to the conclusion that mining wassent [sic] very profitable business."*

Nevertheless, he and the others kept at it and finally did have enough success to change their minds:

> *September 14, ". . . we counted our weeks work it amounted to $294.25;" and on September 21, ". . . our weeks work amounts to 423.50."*

The final entry of Wilson's diary, November 4, reads simply "Monday morning." We shall never know why he stopped keeping it. We do know that he remained in the gold fields another 17 years before settling in Santa Barbara.

Joseph Wilson traveled far and saw much after leaving home in rural West Virginia. The remarkably complete and compelling journal of his quest for gold in California offers a rare opportunity to go along for the entire ride.

Ken Fisher
Manuscript Archivist

SLAYING THE DRAGON *continued from page 6*

to address the problem, including Gramm-Rudman-Hollings (1985) and the Budget Enforcement Act (1990), but also, arguably, for the political stalemate that makes addressing the current debt crisis so difficult. That is, in the 1980s we see the ossification of the Republican rejection of all tax increases and the Democratic rejection of entitlement reform—political positions that together seem to have doomed the recommendations of Obama's fiscal commission and to promise that the national debt will continue to rise unabated.

In 2011 we plan to augment the dozen interviews that we already have conducted with at least another dozen more. We have it in our sights to interview every former director of the CBO (we've interviewed three thus far) as well as top-ranking officials from the Carter through the Clinton and George W. Bush administrations. Although the interviews do contain some of the partisan grandstanding that one would expect, they also are filled with unanticipated insights, such as the Republican criticism of Reagan's tax cuts. We shall also launch a robust, content-packed website for this project. In additional to containing full-text transcripts and short video clips from the interviews, the website will include a dynamic, interactive timeline with links to short articles written by our team explaining key pieces of legislation and historical events. We hope that university students, journalists, and even seasoned scholars will come to see the "Slaying the Dragon of Debt" website as an essential resource for learning about the history of debt and deficits and, perhaps, it might also help provide our citizenry, and our politicians, the tools needed not only to understand the problem but to move toward its resolution.

Martin Meeker
Academic Specialist
Regional Oral History Office

MORMON COLLECTION *continued from page 8*

When President Polk quoted it in his State of the Union message, Brannan's announcement of gold spread internationally.

In addition to the interviews and writings of Brannan and the early Mormons, The Bancroft Library holds many photographs of him and his colleagues as well as a photographic copy of the April 1 newspaper that started the Gold Rush.

Selected highpoints among The Bancroft Library's Mormon holdings include the following:

Mormon Pioneers and Leaders: John Smith, *Autobiography,* 1885; Wilford Woodruff, *Pioneer Incidents,* [1884]; Isaac Pettijohn diary, 1847-1848; Lorenzo Dow Young, *Early Experiences: Salt Lake City,* 1884; Henry William Bigler, 1815-1900, *Memoirs and Journals;* John R. McBride, *The Route by Which the Mormons Entered Salt Lake City Valley in 1847,* 1884; Daniel Hanmer Wells, *Narrative . . .* [Salt Lake City, 1884]; Brigham Young collection of papers, 1844-1857; Heber Jeddy Grant, *Autobiography;* Israel Evans, "Dictation concerning the Mormons in Missouri and Illinois, the Mormon Battalion, and the Gold Rush."

Also of note are the Bancroft Dictations (oral histories) that Matilda Bancroft took with Mormon women in the 1880s, including Eliza Roxcy Snow, Phebe Whittimore Woodruff, Sarah A. Cooke, Lucinda Dalton Lee, Mary Isabella Horne Hales, Mary Ann Hyde Price, Mary Bennion Powell, Jane Snyder Richards, Margaret Thompson McMeans Smoot, Nancy N. Alexander Tracy, and Clara Decker.

The Bancroft Library also has an extensive collection of primary and secondary sources, books, newspapers, and ephemera, on Mormon history in California and the American West. Thanks to the generosity of these Bancroft supporters, this extensive and interesting collection will be gathered together and properly catalogued to make it more easily available to researchers.

Camilla Smith
Editor, Bancroftiana

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Ambassador Carlos Félix Corona (3d from l.) Consul General of Mexico in San Francisco, joins Charles Faulhaber (to his left) and the Consuls General of Spain, Brazil, Guatemala, Colombia, Peru, and Chile in a visit to the Celebrating Mexico *exhibition.*

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The Bancroft Library
University of California,
Berkeley, CA 94720-6000

The Friends of The Bancroft Library

Spring 2011 Calendar

EXHIBITIONS

March 2 – July 1

GAINED IN TRANSLATION: Jews, Germany, California circa 1849

The Bancroft Library Gallery
10am – 4pm, Monday through Friday

April 8 – September 30

ALMA MATER DEAR: A Century of Cal Souvenirs and Memorabilia

Rowell Cases, Doe Library, Floor 2

EVENTS

Wednesday, March 2, 5pm, Morrison Room

EXHIBIT OPENING PROGRAM AND RECEPTION

John Efron, *UC Berkeley*
Marc Dollinger, *SF State University*

Tuesday, April 12, 5:30pm, Morrison Room

LECTURE, Richard Janko

The Ancient Library From the Villa of the Papyri at Herculaneum: Origins, History, Prospects

ROUNDTABLES

An open informal discussion group featuring presentations by scholars engaged in Bancroft research projects. Sessions are held in the Lewis-Latimer Room of the Faculty Club on the third Thursday of the month at noon .

Thursday, February 17

Tara McDowell, Ph.D. candidate in the History of Art, UC Berkeley, Bancroft Study Award Recipient

Householders

Thursday, March 17

Funie Hsu, Ph.D. candidate in the Graduate School of Education, UC Berkeley, Bancroft Study Award Recipient

Colonial Lessons: English Instruction in the Philippines and the Benevolence of U.S. Overseas Expansion, 1896–1916

Thursday, April 21

Hannah Jane Haynie, Ph.D. candidate in Linguistics, UC Berkeley; Bancroft Study Award Recipient

Linguistic Landscapes of the Sierra Nevada

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