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BENE
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NEWSLETTER
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News from The Bancroft Library

Three New Grants Support Work to Make Important Resources More Accessible

Peter E. Hanff, deputy director, The Bancroft Library

From time to time we like to share information about outside funding that supports Bancroft Library. Indeed, gifts from private and corporate donors, and government grants, provide Bancroft with the resources that enable us to plan and implement projects important for the world of scholarship.

The **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)** has announced its continued support of Bancroft's Mark Twain Project through a grant of \$160,000 to be supplemented by matching funds for an additional \$288,000 over the next two years. With this grant, a new edition of *Huckleberry Finn*, taking into account the recently discovered first half of Mark Twain's original manuscript, will be produced as well as the completion of work on the sixth volume in the continuing series of the *Mark Twain Letters*.

NEH also has provided a grant of \$340,000 to support the UC Berkeley/Columbia University Digital Scriptorium project. The work will produce an illustrated union catalogue of medieval manuscripts. New partners, The Henry E. Huntington Library of San Marino, and the New York Public Library, will provide digital images of major medieval manuscript documents in their collections.

The **Library of Congress**, through funding provided by the Ameritech Corporation, awarded Bancroft \$150,000 to create digital images of holdings on the Chinese in California from the earliest immigration to 1920. Complementing the digitization of Bancroft's holdings will be a comparable effort with the holdings of the California Historical Society. The digital results will be mounted as part of the American Memory website of the Library of Congress and as part of the Online Archive of California. This project will begin in September 1999.

A private donor has approached Bancroft with funds proposing to augment the LC/Ameritech Project through digitizing historical documents, images, and records at a repository elsewhere in California. This proposal indicates the importance of Bancroft's approach to

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promoting access to its collections and those of comparable institutions and builds on our own experience in developing funded projects. The Bancroft Library is also working with the UC Berkeley Ethnic Studies Library to develop a proposal focusing on their holdings to support the Chinese American Archives Control and Access Project.

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