

# BANCROFTIANA

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## *Annual Meeting*

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Friends of the Bancroft Library was held on the Berkeley campus the evening of June 5. We were fortunate in having Mr. Frank F. Latta, historian and folklorist of the San Joaquin Valley and Director of the Kern County Museum, as our speaker for the occasion. Mr. Latta drew upon his great fund of information and anecdote about that area to entertain and instruct his audience. The Library held open house after the program, giving our friends a chance to "mingle" and to look at the various exhibits that had been arranged.

## *Norris Anniversary Program*

THE BANCROFT LIBRARY played a major role in the University's commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Frank Norris by exhibiting its first editions, manuscripts, and memorabilia in the showcases of the main library during the latter part of October.

Professor James D. Hart of the Department of English, who has shown remarkable zeal and ingenuity in the gathering of Frank Norris materials, presided at a meeting in Wheeler Hall where Kathleen Norris, widow of Frank's brother Charles, discussed the author's family, and Professor Franklin Walker of Mills College, author of the only Norris biography, presented a critical estimate of his work.

A near-capacity audience in Wheeler Auditorium saw the realistic silent movie of 1924, "Greed," based upon the Norris novel *McTeague*. Mr. Jean Hersholt, one of the stars

of the movie, recently presented to the Bancroft Library an attractive annotated scrapbook of still photographs from "Greed."

## *Niles Searls Diary*

THE DIARY of an 1849 pioneer who later became Chief Justice of the California State Supreme Court has been presented to the Bancroft Library by May Searls Heuer of Berkeley. Written in an unusually literate and tongue-in-cheek style, the diary was published by the family of the pioneer, Niles Searls, in 1940, but the original copy was kept in their possession until recently.

It is the story of the young New York-born attorney's 105-day trip from Independence, Missouri, to California—originally scheduled for 60 days—across the common overland route by way of South Pass.

## *The Well-Rounded Figure*

AS USUAL at this time of year we are just getting up and around after that recurrent affliction known as the Annual Report. Last year we imposed on our readers a few of the statistics we thought impressive, but this year everything seems somehow bigger, longer, and more.

Well over 50,000 items (that's several tons of material, by our calculations) were circulated to our readers during 1951-52—half again as many as were used last year. Another couple hundred feet of books were catalogued, and nearly 8,000 manuscripts found their way into the Library. We acquired almost twice as much microfilm from foreign countries as we did last year—more than seventeen miles of it, representing at least a million and a half pages.

## Bidwell Papers

THE BANCROFT LIBRARY is pleased to announce the recent gift of the Annie E. K. Bidwell Papers. This extensive collection of the private papers and family records of John Bidwell's wife was given to the Library by Mrs. Bidwell's grandniece, Mrs. Roy C. Anderson of Berkeley. The collection provides an extremely valuable supplement to the Bidwell materials already in the Bancroft Library.

Few of California's pioneers can rival John Bidwell in his prominent and diverse activities in the state's development, and few indeed witnessed so many years of such great change. In 1841, at the age of twenty-two, Bidwell arrived in California, a member of the first emigrant train to cross the continent from Missouri. Already experienced as a schoolmaster, he worked several years for John Sutter as a clerk and agent, part of the time in charge of the Fort Ross property. In 1844, he became naturalized and received a grant of land from the Mexican government. He took an active part in the Micheltorena revolution and in the Bear Flag revolt. After the discovery of gold, Bidwell made the first strike on the Feather River, where Bidwell's Bar was named for him. In 1849, he acquired the 22,000-acre Rancho Chico, a hundred miles north of Sacramento, where he made his permanent home, developing the ranch to a high state of productivity during the next fifty years. He was a pioneer in the growing of vines and fruit trees in that area; his experimental orchard contained more than four hundred varieties of fruit. Later, under the influence of his wife, an ardent prohibitionist, he converted his flourishing vineyards to the production of raisins.

Bidwell continued his interest in education by the encouragement of public schools and as an early regent of the University of California, as well as by the donation of land for the Chico State Normal School (now Chico State College). More a public-spirited citizen than a politician, he nevertheless was active in politics during most of his long life. He was a senator in the first California legislature, a delegate to the national Democratic convention of 1860 and to the national Union convention in 1864, and a representative in Congress the following term. Several times

he ran unsuccessfully for the governorship of California, and in 1892 he was the Prohibition Party's candidate for president of the United States.

Bidwell's many activities resulted in the collection of records of all kinds. Among them are legal papers, accounts, and school reports, as well as a large amount of family correspondence, including many letters from Bidwell to his wife. In their home the Bidwells frequently entertained distinguished visitors, particularly botanists, and among the papers there are clippings and pamphlets on botany, in addition to many letters from scientists and naturalists such as Sir Joseph Hooker, Asa Gray, C. C. Parry and John Muir. As the papers have been sorted, a number of interesting items have turned up—Bidwell's notes on the Bear Flag revolt, and letters from James W. Marshall in "Culloma," from Jack London, and even from Phoebe Apperson Hearst, requesting a sample of Mrs. Bidwell's blue dress, which had caught her fancy.

## Dr. Bolton

WE ARE very sorry to report the prolonged illness of our revered Professor Herbert E. Bolton, who was taken sick in July. We know all our Friends join in wishing him a speedy recovery and return to his well-loved work.

## Book Notes

WE REJOICE with our good friends, Edith M. Coulter, Professor of Librarianship, Emeritus, and Eleanor A. Bancroft, of our own staff, over the Book Club of California's Christmas publication, *Account of a Tour of the California Missions*. Edited by Miss Coulter and Mrs. Bancroft, this publication contains the journal and drawings of Henry Miller, the previously unidentified artist of *13 California Towns*. The new book, designed and printed with the special genius of the Grabhorn Press, is a real work of art.

OF THE BOOKS recently announced by the University of California Press, at least nine give us a pleasant feeling of participation, since their authors have drawn upon our Library for some of their material.

Charles L. Camp's *Earth Song; a Prologue*

*to History* is one of the handsomest books we've come across in some time. It is an "outline of the history of land and life in California" which we found intriguing, and it has received good reviews by far more competent critics than we. Volume III of *The Larkin Papers*, edited by George P. Hammond, our own Director, will be published in January. This volume covers most of the year 1845, a period of Mexican neglect in California, when the influx of American immigrants, plus the effect of Texas' impending annexation, led to a growing sentiment for independence. *Wagon Roads West*, by W. Turrentine Jackson of the Davis faculty, is a good-looking and scholarly treatment of the role of the federal government in the development of wagon routes in the Trans-Mississippi West before the railroad era.

Somewhat outside our usual field is Ernest Mundt's *Art, Form, and Civilization*, for which some of the historical research was done here in Bancroft. It deals with art as a unifying force in society and its relation to contemporary thought. *Old California Houses*, by Marion Randall Parsons, grew out of "a painter's quest for subjects," and covers four different periods of California history: the Spanish, the early movement of American settlers into Mexican territory, the years between the gold rush and silver speculation, and the age of the bonanza kings. These "thumbnail sketches" of houses and their people include seventeen reproductions of the author's paintings, each one illustrating a chapter; they are designed to depict very briefly the swift evolution of California's social history.

*Soldiers, Indians & Silver*, by Philip Wayne Powell of the Santa Barbara faculty, tells of the northward advance of New Spain from 1550 to 1600, and is the story of the Spanish-Indian struggle on the silver frontier. Lesley B. Simpson's *Many Mexicos* is more than just a third edition of this excellent book; it has been completely revised, with much new material added. It is still one of the most absorbing books we know of to sit down and read, whether for pleasure or instruction.

Clarke Chambers, now of the University of Minnesota but a former graduate student of the University of California, has written *California Farm Organizations*, a comprehen-

sive study of the California Farm Bureau Federation, the Grange, and the Associated Farmers, during the depression years of 1929-1941. More than just what its title indicates, it provides the first real study of California political history for the period. Another old Bancroft friend, Father Peter M. Dunne, S.J., of the University of San Francisco, has brought out *Black Robes in Lower California*, an "epic of missionary adventure in Baja California" which deals with the activities of the Jesuits in that area from 1697 until their expulsion in 1768.

WE CALL our readers' attention to "Books of the California Centennial: A Review Article," in the *Pacific Historical Review* for May, 1952. Not only was the article checked against our collection by its author, Glenn S. Dumke of Occidental College, but most of the books listed in it had some pre-publication connection with the Bancroft Library.

## Western Authors' Collection

THE BANCROFT LIBRARY recently decided to extend its holdings to include manuscripts of the literary history of this region. In the past six months there has been extensive activity in gathering the original manuscripts, correspondence, and memorabilia of Western authors, past and present.

The first such collection to be stressed is that concerned with Frank Norris. The project was developed by Professor James D. Hart of the Department of English, and thanks to the assistance of Norris's family and friends, and of book collectors and scholars, the Bancroft Library now has a greater assemblage of materials by and about Frank Norris than can be found in any other collection, public or private. Among the many important items accumulated are all of Norris's first editions, inscribed by him; some seventy books from Norris's library, inscribed and annotated; more than fifteen percent of the only known complete Norris manuscript, that of *McTeague*, one page of which was included in each set of the Argonaut Manuscript Edition of his collected works; his composition themes written at Harvard, which are essentially first drafts of two of his novels; the original notes for *The Pit*; the notes for revision of *Vandover and the Brute*; his scrap-

book concerning incidents fictionized in *The Octopus*; the map which he drew for the frontispiece of *The Octopus*; some manuscript pages from *The Pit*, *The Octopus*, and *Vandover and the Brute*; letters from Norris to family, friends, and publishers; drawings by Norris; and photographs of Norris taken at various times in his life.

The nucleus of our Norris collection was a generous gift by Professor Franklin Walker of Mills College. Professor Walker donated the correspondence and notes that he had gathered in preparing his biography of this famous California author.

We have given much attention to reassembling the pages of the *McTeague* manuscript which were so unfortunately scattered in the Argonaut Edition, and so far we have had amazingly good luck. It is hoped that any of our friends who may have leaves of the manuscript will donate them to the Library or allow them to be photostated.

Major emphasis has been placed on the acquisition of Norris materials, but the Norris collection is only one of many. Other regional literary items collected include manuscripts by George R. Stewart, Wallace Stegner, Joseph Henry Jackson, and other eminent contemporary writers.

## Waterman Papers

THE BANCROFT LIBRARY has long been collecting the papers of gold-miners, ranchers, businessmen, and governors—and now all four classifications are combined in one collection, that of the enterprising Robert Whitney Waterman. Making his start in the California mines in 1850, he returned east in 1852 and spent some twenty years in business. After this he came back to settle in San Bernardino County as a machinery salesman. In 1880 he discovered the Waterman (Calico) Mine, and later he acquired the Cuyamaca Ranch with its Stonewall Jackson Mine. Mining and ranching, there and on the Waterman Ranch at Barstow, raising the first California herd of Holstein cattle, developing the Waterman Hot Springs, building the San Diego, Cuyamaca and Western Railway, and serving a term first as Lieutenant Governor and, after the first year, as Governor—occupied his time until his death in 1891 and led

to the accumulation of a tremendous amount of documentary material. In addition to account books, ledgers, letter books, diaries, and scrapbooks relating to his various interests, the Waterman papers include a large body of family correspondence, beginning with a group of letters written to him by his brother and friends in the early days of the Northern Mines.

This splendid collection of business and family papers fortunately was preserved by Mr. Waterman's son-in-law, the mechanical engineer Irving M. Scott. After Mr. Scott's death recently, the Waterman Papers came to the Bancroft Library through the generosity of his nephew, Professor C. Emlen Scott.

## Friends in Print

SINCE we last spoke of our scholarly Friends, at least seven more of them have broken into print. The following have come to our attention:

- WILLIAM HARLAND BOYD, *Land of Havilah, 1854-1874*. Bakersfield, 1952.
- EDWIN CORLE, *The Gila, River of the Southwest*. New York, 1951; and *The Story of the Grand Canyon*. Second edition, New York, 1951.
- LEWIS HANKE, *Historia de las Indias*, por Fray Bartolome de las Casas. Mexico, 1951.
- PHIL TOWNSEND HANNA, *The Dictionary of California Land Names*. Revised and enlarged, Los Angeles, 1951.
- THOMAS WINTHROP STREETER, *Americana—Beginnings; a Selection from the Library of Thomas W. Streeter, Shown in Honor of a Visit of the Hroswitha Club on May 3, 1951*. Morristown, N. J., 1952.
- REGINALD R. STUART, *San Leandro, a History*. San Leandro, 1951.
- HENRY R. WAGNER, "Hispanic Americana in the John Carter Brown Library," in *Essays Honoring Lawrence C. Wroth*. Portland, Me., 1951.

As always, we offer our compliments and good wishes on these recent publications and add a hope for many more to come. If we have missed the publications of any of our Friends, we hope they will write us a note and bring us up to date.

## What Others Say

A FRIEND in Michigan writes: "Many thanks for *Bancroftiana*. Your little pamphlet is full of interesting items, as well as being an editorial model." Such kind words cheer us immensely, and make us humble, too.