

# BANCROFTIANA

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## *Annual Meeting*

MRS. GUY GILCHRIST, chairman, announces that the speaker at the Annual Meeting on May 4, 1958, will be Dr. Lawrence Clark Powell, Director of the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library and Librarian of the University of California Library at Los Angeles. Dr. Powell is widely known throughout the Southwest as speaker, writer, administrator, raconteur. He will talk on the subject, "Landscapes and Bookscapes."

The meeting will be held in the reading room of the Bancroft Library. Please note the new hour. Mrs. Gilchrist will rap the gavel at 3:00 P.M., in order to adjourn before the ringing of the chimes. Special parking areas will be available.

## *Mexican Tour of the Gilchrists*

AFTER A MONTH at Palm Springs, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Gilchrist have started south for warmer climes, some fishing in Mexican waters, and a tour of historic spots throughout western Mexico. The Gilchrist party is traveling by way of the Santa Cruz Valley in Arizona, site of the Kino missions such as San Xavier del Bac; thence to Hermosillo, beautiful capital of the State of Sonora; and on southward to modern Ciudad Obregón and the ancient mining city of Alamos. Here the mountains disorged a fortune in silver over a long period before it finally played out. Now the beautiful buildings of the city are falling into decay.

After this visit the Gilchrists will go southward to Mazatlán and the primitive port of

San Blas, from which various ships set sail with men and supplies for the founding of California. The towns of Tepic and Guadalajara lie on the return route.

We hope that the Gilchrists, surfeited with travel, will be back in the Bay Area in time for the Annual Meeting on May 4.

## *Ambrose Bierce*

AMBROSE BIERCE, caustic and imaginative writer and critic, is the author of four holograph letters written between 1894 and 1897, part of a collection recently purchased by the Bancroft Library. In it were also eleven scrapbooks relating to Bierce, compiled between 1882 and 1902 by his physician, Dr. Edmond J. Overend, of Oakland, California. They consist largely of Bierce's articles clipped from his column "Prattle," which appeared in *The Examiner*, reviews of his books, and news stories about him.

Written during a period characterized by personal journalism at its best and worst, "Prattle" presented Bierce's observations on politics, society, religion, literature, and other matters, in terms more often condemnatory than commendatory. The column, which appeared originally in *The News-Letter* in 1869 under the title, "The Town Crier," went with Bierce to *The Argonaut* in 1877, to *The Wasp* in 1881, and to *The Examiner* in 1887, where it appeared, somewhat spasmodically, until Bierce departed for Washington, D. C., in 1899. Although the column was not absolutely independent of the paper's editorial policy, Bierce used "Prattle" to inveigh sarcastically, with little restraint, against politicians, millionaires, socialists, amateur poets, clergymen, reformers, suffragists, social climb-

ers, etc., and to editorialize the news. It was journalistic writing, but writing which some consider to be the best reflection of the "inner Bierce."

Among the most interesting news stories included in the collection of clippings are those written by Bierce from Washington in 1896 when he represented *The Examiner* during its opposition to the railroad funding bill, then before Congress.

The Bierce letters are addressed to William Chambers Morrow, short story writer and novelist. The first, dated September 16, 1894, was written from St. Helena, California, and the other three, dated from 1895 to 1897, from Los Gatos. In them Bierce refers mainly to Morrow's literary work, but in one he complains of his difficulties with *The Examiner*, explaining that he was "on strike," obviously a reference to one of the periods when, angered by Hearst's editing, he ceased to send copy to the paper.

## Alfred B. Kennedy

MRS. ALFRED B. KENNEDY has presented two beautiful books to the Bancroft Library in memory of her husband, who died in May, 1957. Both were printed at the Grabhorn Press for the Book Club of California—the celebrated *Letter of Amerigo Vespucci, describing his four voyages to the New World, 1497-1504*, and the *Silverado Journal* of Robert Louis Stevenson. These books, selected from Alfred Kennedy's personal library, are an expression of his devotion to the art of fine printing and bookmaking. They will be cherished in remembrance of a friend who contributed generously of his talents to the benefit of the Friends of the Bancroft Library and their publication program.

## Eleanor Bancroft Memorial

MORE THAN a hundred friends of the late Eleanor Ashby Bancroft have expressed their appreciation of her long and distinguished service to the Bancroft Library by contributing to a memorial fund created shortly after

her death in 1956. At the end of last December the total amount received was \$3,168.00. It is hoped that all those who wish to share in this memorial will be reached by the end of the summer, and that it will be possible to publish a roster of donors in the fall issue of *Bancroftiana*.

The memorial fund will be used for the purchase of rare and valuable printed items and manuscripts, carefully selected to reflect the particular interests of Mrs. Bancroft. Plans are being made to exhibit some of these selections at the Spring meeting of the Friends of the Bancroft Library.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to contribute and wish to do so, please mail your gift either to the President of the University of California or to the Director of the Bancroft Library. If in the form of a check, it should be made payable to the Regents of the University of California. Gifts to the University are deductible for income tax purposes.

## Perc Brown's Gift

AMONG THE TREASURES of the Bancroft Library is an exceedingly fine copy of Captain George Vancouver's *A Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific, and Round the World*, three volumes and *Atlas*, London, 1798, first issue, in the original boards and in perfect condition. This magnificent set is part of a gift of rare books recently presented to the University of California by Perc S. Brown, of Orinda, in honor of his wife, Tamara Brown.

The gift includes also first-edition copies of several additional works of historical and literary importance: Bret Harte's *The Luck of Roaring Camp*, Richard Henry Dana's *Two Years Before the Mast*, Henry George's *Progress and Poverty*, a pre-publication copy signed and inscribed by the author, Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* (first issue), Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* (first American edition), and Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*.

Mr. Brown is a well-known business man and bibliophile, a member of the Council of the Friends of the Bancroft Library, and Chairman of the Building Committee of the Orinda Public Library.

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## About the Author of "The Purple Cow"



Self-Portrait of Gelett Burgess

BANCROFT'S GELETT BURGESS Collection, the largest holding in existence of the author's papers, has recently been extended by the addition of twenty-nine letters. These were written by Burgess within the three years before his death in 1951 to the British novelist, Oliver Onions, whom Burgess started on his career when both men were working for London journals in the late 1890's. The letters contain reminiscences, the details of Burgess' activity near the end of his life and some uncompromising words of criticism and advice by which Burgess, at the vantage point of more than eighty years, still sought to instruct his slightly younger colleague.

The letters were presented to Bancroft by Mr. Onions through the negotiations of Professor James D. Hart; they were brought to Berkeley by Professor James J. Lynch of the University's English Department, who visited Mr. Onions and his wife, Berta Ruck, in Wales during August, 1957. Accompanying the letters is Professor Lynch's interesting ac-

count of Mr. Onions' discussion of Burgess and himself.

Another recent acquisition in the Burgess Collection is a two-page letter from Brigadier General Eustace Peixotto to Professor Hart. General Peixotto tells about his acquaintance with Burgess during the "Purple Cow" period in San Francisco of the late 1890's and about the origin of Burgess' well-known Goops.

The Burgess Collection, now including more than 2,000 items, was begun in 1953 with the purchase from Burgess' estate of his personal papers. It has been supplemented by further purchase and contribution, such as the Burgess memorabilia given by Mrs. Will Irwin, a lifelong friend of Burgess and the widow of his collaborator, and Burgess' long letters about fantasy writing given by Mr. Anthony Boucher.

Besides the manuscripts of many of Burgess' short stories, articles and poems, the collection includes an almost complete set of Burgess' sixty-eight pocket notebooks (1891-1935), in which he wrote the first drafts of much of his finished work. The collection also includes all of Burgess' diaries (1917-1951), the beginning of his autobiography, and many miscellaneous letters, papers, drawings, photographs, and clippings. Bancroft also possesses all but eleven of his nearly fifty volumes of published works.

The Burgess Collection gives a comprehensive picture of an author who was closely identified with the West in the most inspired of his work. Burgess' first important literary venture was the founding and editing in San Francisco of *The Lark* (1895-1897), one of the most original and charming of little magazines. Among his novels, *The Heart Line* (1907) and one section of *Lady Méchante* (1909) have the city's Bohemia as their settings; and the two works on which Burgess collaborated with Irwin, *The Reign of Queen Isyl* (1903) and *The Picaroons* (1904), are collections of California tales.

In his life, as well as in his work, Burgess associated himself with California. In the rarefied creative atmosphere of *fin de siècle* San Francisco, he said, he first recognized the "hailing sign of my clan"; and these kindred spirits encouraged Burgess, then an instructor of mechanical drawing at the University

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of California, to try his hand at writing. Born in Boston in 1866, Burgess lived a total of twelve years in California during some of his most productive years. In 1950 he returned, to "live and die" at Carmel.

To complete our collection of Burgess' printed works, Bancroft needs the following, and would welcome them as gifts:

*Bayside Bohemia* (The Book Club of California, San Francisco, 1954).

*The Burgess Nonsense Book* (Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York, 1901).

*Chant-Royal of California* (The Channing Auxiliary, San Francisco, 1899).

*The Goop Directory* (Stokes, New York, 1913).

*Goop Tales* (Stokes, New York, 1904).

*Goops and How to Be Them* (Stokes, New York, 1900).

*The Lively City o' Ligg* (Stokes, New York, 1899).

*The Master of Mysteries* (published anonymously) (Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, 1912).

*The Romance of the Commonplace* (revised edition) (Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis, 1916).

Volumes with introduction by Burgess:

*My Maiden Effort* (Doubleday, Page and Company, New York, 1921).

*The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, Jr.* (by Wallace Irwin) (Paul Elder and Company, San Francisco, 1902).

## Stockton Boyhood

THE REMINISCENCES of C. Ewald Grunsky's *Stockton Boyhood* will be the subject of the next publication of the Friends of the Bancroft Library. Mrs. Clotilde Grunsky Taylor, daughter of the eminent civil engineer, has edited her father's memoirs and provided reproductions of his drawings to illustrate the book. This handsome volume is being printed by Lawton Kennedy of San Francisco. It is scheduled for distribution in June, 1958.

## Guide to Bancroft's Manuscripts

THE NEED for a guide to the manuscript collections of the Bancroft Library has long been recognized, not only by scholars from all over the country, but by the administrative officers of the University. Plans were crystallized during the California Centennial Celebration, beginning in 1948, when scholars again brought the need to the attention of Presi-

dent Robert Gordon Sproul. Both Donald Coney, who had just taken over the responsibility of University Librarian, and Dr. Hammond, who had been appointed Director of the Bancroft Library, strongly endorsed the idea, and Samuel Farquhar, then Director of the University Press, expressed interest in publication.

In response to the President's proposal, we in the Bancroft Library developed a scheme for a comprehensive guide to our manuscript collections. To help chart our course, Dr. Roscoe R. Hill, then a senior member of the staff of the National Archives in Washington, D. C., was employed to study our situation and make a concrete recommendation. Following Dr. Hill's report, the President and the Regents made a special appropriation to launch and publish the guide.

Now, after many years of hard work, Part I of this Guide will soon go to press. During the intervening years the project has taken on much greater proportions than was first planned. Our new manuscripts staff, organized in 1948, soon realized that there had to be a comprehensive reorganization of the whole system of processing our manuscripts in order to meet the needs of the future as well as the present. As a result a practical scheme has been devised that makes it possible to locate the manuscripts already in the collection, and to add new acquisitions in an orderly fashion.

In this project many minds had a part. For several years Miss Doris M. Wright made special studies contributing to this project. After her departure, Dale L. Morgan took over the task, aided by Mrs. Julia H. Macleod, Miss Estelle Rebec, Miss Gwladys Williams, and other members of our manuscripts staff.

## Wyatt Earp: Bookman-Minister?

PERHAPS the last image of Wyatt Earp that would occur to today's television viewer is one of the noted frontiersman going home after knocking off the day's quota of bad men, and signing up for a set of the *Works* of Hubert Howe Bancroft. However, one should

never underestimate the ubiquity and efficiency of a Bancroft book agent. Proof is found among the Bancroft Library's Arizona Dictations.

The agent in question, G. W. Caldwell, caught up with Earp in 1888. The notes Caldwell set down while signing up his customer are terse but enlightening. "To him more than any other man is due the credit for driving out the banditti of [Arizona] Territory. He is tall, slim, florid complexion, blue eyes, large nose, and quick as a cat. Socially he would be taken for a Minister. He has a heart as big as an ox and feelings as tender as a child. Is worth \$30,000, owns property in San Diego, Tombstone, and has about \$6000 or \$7000 cash." There were some knowing characters in the Bancroft business office, for when this dictation was received, it was endorsed, "a high grade man of the green cloth."

Two years earlier, another of the celebrated Earp brothers, Virgil, had been interviewed by a Bancroft agent at Colton, California, where the Earp family located in the 1860's. After reciting some of his adventures as a peace officer in Kansas and Arizona, the agent noted that Virgil Earp had been wounded nine times in defense of life and property, and, now again living at Colton, was "respected and admired in the Community . . . as a man of sterling worth, strong sense of justice and fearless in the discharge of his duty."

Meanwhile, "back at the ranch," or at any rate, over in Texas, Luke L. Short, one of Earp's contemporaries, was giving to another Bancroft agent a dictation that puts to shame the purely imaginative efforts of the present-day Western writer. Short managed to get into just about all the trouble that blew up in the cattle country, as even a bare summary of his career reveals. He was a Texas and Kansas cattle dealer, and later a freighter and miner in the Black Hills in 1876; a scout for the Army at the time of the Thornburgh Massacre in Colorado in 1879; he was active in Leadville and Tombstone during their wild-est boom days; and later he operated at Dodge City. As George Morrison set down the tale of Short's Dodge City experiences:

"April 7th 1883. Trouble began between

Short and the (at that time) Mayor of the [city?] Larry Deger who was engaged in rival business to him, by which Short was incarcerated [sic] in the jail at Dodge City, Kansas, and all his friends were beguiled into the Jail and after being disarmed they were then told that Short must leave the City or they would kill him. This he refused to do till he began to fear that the legalized mob would burn the Jail down over his head. He finally concluded to walk out of town and leave his business in the hands of his partner who was Vice President of the Bank. . . . After leaving the City he consulted with the Governor, J. W. Glick, who advised him that no such an outrage had ever been perpetrated and advised him to return, which he did. . . . Wyatt Urp, W. B. Masterson, M. F. McLean, William Tillman, Charles Bassett, Mil Brown & W. H. Harris and W. F. Pitillon went with him and he maintained his standing against all the plans that were brought to eject him. Even the Governor was called on for Troops, but knowing that Short was in the right he told them to form a posse and protect themselves. Finally a settlement was had and Short sent away his armed posse and matters moved along harmoniously — He now has a suit against Dodge City for \$20,000 growing out of this with every prospect of winning it. . . ."

Short knew how to protect himself in Dodge City, but was defenseless in Fort Worth; he too was signed up for the *Works*.

## Wheat Maps the West

VISITORS to the University of California Library in recent weeks have had the pleasure of seeing the Bancroft showcases devoted to an exhibition of the majestic first volume of Carl I. Wheat's *Mapping the Transmississippi West*, which issued from the Grabhorn Press late in the autumn. More than a quarter of a century in preparation, and an ample prospectus of the four volumes yet to come, the book is at once a triumph of scholarship and a superb specimen of the bookmaker's art. If some Friend has been sojourning in darkest Africa, or hibernating in whitest Antarctica, he may not have heard of this publishing milestone, and will trot off forthwith

to his bookseller, taking measures to protect himself.

The handsome volume contains a highly readable narrative account of the mapping of the American West from Coronado's day to the Louisiana Purchase, 1540-1803, accompanied by a bibliocartography giving detailed descriptions of more than 275 individual maps, and with reproductions of no less than 50 rare manuscript and printed maps.

Volume II, now in the hands of the printer, will appear early in the fall; it will cover that fabulous era in Western history from Lewis and Clark to Frémont, 1804-1845. Later volumes are to bring the story down to the Civil War, by which time, as Mr. Wheat says, reasonably accurate maps of the Transmississippi West were becoming available.

Publication of Mr. Wheat's book has been signalized by a noteworthy gift to the Bancroft Library, in that he has given to the Library—as an incentive for the building of a vastly expanded map collection—his own extraordinary collection of original maps pertaining to California and the West, assembled first in preparing his great monograph of 1942, *The Maps of the California Gold Region*, and subsequently in the broader studies to which all his time has been devoted the last few years. This gift supplements his previous donation of an extensive collection of photostatic copies of maps found in various repositories in Europe and North America, in all about 1200 maps! Added to Bancroft's own collection, these gifts will afford students unrivaled opportunities for intensive studies on aspects of American cartography.

## Annual Report

AT THIS TIME of year, stockholders of all great corporations anxiously scan the annual reports mailed to them, and check their newspapers for the current earnings of their companies.

In the Library we, too, keep statistics in order to measure the year's work. These figures indicate the magnitude and quality of new materials received, how many have used the library and who they are, and other interesting sidelights on the year's activities. If you would like to have a copy of our Annual

Report, drop a note to the Director of the Bancroft Library (University of California, Berkeley 4) and we will be pleased to send you one while the supply lasts.

## Parkman-Jedediah Smith Papers

DR. HAMMOND'S visit to Guanajuato during his stay in Mexico three years ago, when he was the guest of Don Pablo Parkman, as recorded in pictures and story in *Bancroftiana* for May, 1955, has a most gratifying sequel in the presentation to Bancroft by Don Pablo of many cherished Parkman family papers. Since the Bancroft Library, like the Parkman family, has deep roots in both Mexico and the United States, we rejoice in this recognition of a mutual bond.

The founder of the family in Mexico was Samuel Parkman. Born in New York in 1804 and reared in the Western Reserve of Ohio—one of his relatives was that celebrated Fortyniner, Alonzo Delano—Parkman went to Missouri in the 1820's, and to the Rocky Mountains with William L. Sublette in 1829. There he found many things in common with Jedediah S. Smith, and when Smith left the mountains in the summer of 1830, Parkman went with him as amanuensis and clerk. He worked with Smith in the winter of 1830-31, preparing his journal and map for publication, and also accompanied Smith on the journey to Santa Fe the next spring which cost the explorer his life. Afterwards Parkman entered into a mercantile partnership with Smith's younger brother, Peter. In the fall of 1832 he went down into Old Mexico and soon settled at Guanajuato, where he married Sra. Antonia de Vega and became prominently identified with silver mining. He died at Guanajuato in 1873.

The Parkman Papers well display the career of the enterprising man who became better known in Mexico as "Pablo" Parkman. They include early commissions as an officer in the Ohio militia and as postmaster at Petit Saw Bluffs, Missouri, 1823-1828; the original draft of the will of Jedediah S. Smith, 1831; Parkman's diary of November 6-30, 1832, while traveling south through Chihua-

hua, Durango, and Zacatecas; a letter by A. W. Storrs, 1836; a diary recounting a journey by Robert Watson Noble from Chihuahua to Pueblo de San José, California, April 10-August 1, 1849, while on a joint trading venture with Parkman; a letter by Noble from San José, August 14, 1849; documents pertaining to mining affairs in Mexico, 1805-1849; letters from his sons, 1855-1869; and many other items of interest. The gift comprises, as well, nine letters from President Porfirio Díaz to Sra. Parkman, 1884-1893; a letter of 1810 by the revolutionary hero, Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla; a document signed in 1814 by another revolutionary leader, José María Morelos; and a pamphlet published by Venustiano Carranza at Vera Cruz in 1914, *Plan de Guadalupe y Decreto del 12 de Diciembre de 1914*.

## Friends in Print

WE PAY TRIBUTE to our Friends who continue to translate, edit, and write books in the field of Western Americana. Among recent acquisitions we have noted the following, and if by chance we have missed your book, please let us know, so that we may include it in our next list of Friends in Print.

- Baker, Laura N., joint author. *Snowshoe Thompson*. Scribner's, 1957.  
Beebe, Lucius, joint author. *The Age of Steam*. Rinehart, 1957.  
—, joint author. *Steamcars to the Comstock*. Howell-North, 1957.  
Berlin, Ellin Mackay. *Silver Platter*. Doubleday, 1957.  
Boyd, William H., joint ed. *Spanish Trailblazers in the South San Joaquin*. Kern County Historical Society, 1957.  
Dentzel, Carl, ed. *Diary of Titian Ramsay Peale*. Glen Dawson, 1957.  
—, ed. *The Drawings of John Woodhouse Audubon*. The Book Club of California, 1957.  
Evans, H. H. *San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf*. The Porpoise Bookshop, 1957.  
Farquhar, Francis P. *Place Names for Bobemians*. Silverado Squatters, 1957.  
Harding, George L., ed. *The Hand of Zamorano*. Zamorano Club, 1956.  
Holmes, Mrs. Harold H. (Hazel Snell Schreiber). *Coastland Curfew*. Printed by Lawton Kennedy, 1957.  
Hunt, Rockwell D. *California Firsts*. Fearon, 1957.  
Hussey, John A. *The History of Fort Vancouver*. Washington State Historical Society, 1957.

- Jackson, W. Turrentine. "British Interests in the Range Cattle Industry," in *When Grass Was King*. University of Colorado Press, 1956.  
Jamison, Judith N. "Regional Planning," in *Metro-politan Los Angeles*. Haynes Foundation, 1952.  
Lewis, Oscar. *Here Lived the Californians*. Rinehart, 1957.  
Magee, David and Dorothy. *Bibliography of the Grabborn Press, 1940-1956*. Grabborn, 1957.  
Myrick, David F. [Introduction to] Thompson and West's *History of Nevada*. Howell-North, 1958.  
Perkins, Arthur B. *Rancho San Francisco*. Historical Society of Southern California, 1957.  
Putnam, Frank B. *First Bank in El Pueblo*. Los Angeles, Security-First National News, 1956-7.  
Robinson, W. W. *The Story of Riverside County*. Riverside Title Co., 1957.  
—, *The Story of San Luis Obispo County*. San Luis Obispo Title Insurance and Trust Co., 1957.  
Rogers, Fred B., ed. *A Navy Surgeon in California, 1846-1847*. J. Howell, 1957.  
Rudkin, Charles N., tr. *Voyage of the Venus*. Glen Dawson, 1956.  
Sullivan, Joseph A. [Foreword to] *Indian Wars of the Northwest*, by A. J. Bledsoe. Biobooks, 1956.  
—, [Foreword to] *Notes on California and the Placers*, by James Delavan. Biobooks, 1956.  
—, [Introduction to] *Washoe Revisited*, by J. Ross Browne. Biobooks, 1957.  
Turner, Justin G. *The Signers of the Declaration of Independence*. Los Angeles, 1955.  
Wheat, Carl I. *Mapping the Transmississippi West, 1540-1861*, Vol. I. Institute of Historical Cartography, 1957.  
Woodward, Arthur, ed. *Man of the West*. Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society, 1956.

## New Friends

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Anderson, Mrs. Flora F.   | Oakland              |
| Beebe, Lucius             | Virginia City, Nev.  |
| Cline, Mrs. Gloria G.     | Berkeley             |
| International Bookfinders | Beverly Hills        |
| Jamison, Miss Judith N.   | Los Angeles          |
| Kilgore, Bernard          | New York City, N. Y. |
| Pitman, Richard           | Oakland              |
| Putnam, Mrs. George P.    | Death Valley         |
| Waybur, Mrs. R. R.        | Dutch Flat           |

## Mission Accomplished

THE OTHER DAY a young man with a mission arrived at our Library to ask about the original manuscript journal of Amos Batchelder. Did we know where it could be found? The typescript copy given some years ago to the

California Historical Society, he said, lacked entries prior to June, 1849, and he believed this was a magnificent record of an overland journey, well worthy of publication.

Our answer was that the Batchelder journal might be found about 25 feet from where he was then standing! As recently as last spring it was given to Bancroft with other papers of the Batchelder-Nelson families by Mrs. Alvene Pettee Nelson and her daughter, Mrs. Daniel H. Hutchinson, of Berkeley. Dr. Batchelder's journal is worthy of the praise, for it is remarkably full and has the additionally attractive feature that the New Hampshire man's party, guided by a one-time associate of Nathaniel Wyeth, attempted a short cut north of the Sublette Cutoff in Wyoming—a trail which had never been traveled before, and has probably not been attempted since.

The young man with a mission was J. S. Holliday, who is writing a Forty-Niner book for Houghton-Mifflin. When he arrived he brought a much-appreciated gift to the Library's Jedediah Smith Family collection: 19 letters about the explorer, written to Frederick Dellenbaugh between 1911 and 1919 by a grandnephew, E. D. Smith, whose own papers were given to Bancroft several years ago by his daughter, Miss Lura Smith, of Meade, Kansas.

## *Papers of Viceroy Revilla Gigedo*

RANKING among the most important gifts the Bancroft Library has ever received are the papers of the second Count of Revilla Gigedo, viceroy of Mexico (1789-1794), which were presented to the Library by Irving W. Robbins, Jr., Palo Alto art patron. Announcement of the gift was made at the annual meeting of the Friends in May, 1957. Discovered in Spain in the possession of the heirs of the viceroy, this collection of papers had been, until recently, comparatively unknown. Valued at \$30,000, it was purchased from Kraus, a bookdealer in New York, through Warren Howell, of San Francisco.

The papers, which cover the years of Revilla Gigedo's viceroyalty, are in 37 folio vol-

umes, 26 of which are correspondence and related indexes, and 11 of which are reports and monographs by administrators, explorers, and scientists in government employ. The volumes were bound for the viceroy's library and many of them bear his monogram and the signature of the viceregal secretary, Antonio Bonilla.

The correspondence, mainly copies of letters to the various ministries in Spain and to the Council of the Indies, is in two parts: "correspondencia pública" and "cartas reservadas," the latter being confidential correspondence. The letters not only illustrate the many problems of colonial administration with regard to defense, trade, education, and religion, but also chronicle the uneasy international situation during this critical period, when France was being torn by the revolution which began in 1789, and when Spain was plunged into a controversy with the British over the Nootka Sound question for possession of the rich fur trade and territory of the Northwest Pacific Coast.

The remaining volumes include several works of importance: Revilla Gigedo's detailed study of the intendant system in the New World; Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra's diary giving a full report on the Nootka Sound expedition of 1792, accompanied by a volume of original wash drawings and maps of the Pacific Northwest coast and the Nootka region; José Moziño's *Noticias de Nutka*, dealing with the natives of Nootka and including a dictionary of their language; and a monograph written in 1792 on utilizing quicksilver in extracting silver from ore.

The gift has already proved to be of value. In studying the effectiveness of the system of intendancies established in New Spain, Señorita Isabel Gutiérrez del Arroyo, a member of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, has found the papers of the viceroy, whom she considers the most enlightened and able ruler under the system, of prime importance. Of "inestimable" interest to her work was a topographical description and map of New Spain made in compliance with the Royal Ordinance of Intendants. The viceroy entrusted this work to Coronel D. Carlos de Urrutia, a well-known name to students of the economic history of New Spain.