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Front Cover: “Crystal Chapel, one of the chambers in Alabaster Cave, El Dorado County.” This dramatic lithograph reproduces a drawing by Maud Needham (Latimer). See article by John Allen, pages 2-7.
Back Cover: Gary Kurutz gratefully accepts the prestigious Hubert Howe Bancroft Award from Bancroft Library Director, Elaine C. Tennant.
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"Crystal Chapel, one of the chambers in Alabaster Cave, El Dorado, County. This beautiful 18 x 12 inch lithograph reproduces the drawing of Maud Needham (Latimer)."
“This New California Wonder”

The Alabaster Cave, El Dorado County

By John E. Allen

“This natural curiosity is situated in Eldorado county, nine miles north [sic] of Auburn . . . . This cave was discovered on the 18th of April, 1860, by some workmen who were excavating in the side of a mountain for a lime kiln . . . . At first it was called Coral cave, but . . . . it is generally known as Alabaster cave.”

CAROLINE M. CHURCHILL. OVER THE PURPLE HILLS OR SKETCHES OF TRAVEL IN CALIFORNIA, 1882

As a teenager my friends and I were always trying to find out-of-the-way places at Folsom Lake to hang out. One of them proved to be a particular favorite. It was not only quite isolated, located on a winding country road northwest of Pilot Hill, but also very mysterious with old ruined buildings and an operating quarry. Better yet, it had an entrance to a cave which we would crawl into and explore. Little did we know at the time that it was the location of one of the Golden State’s largest limestone quarries and home to a famous nineteenth century resort and hotel.

Some years later, I returned to find the quarry was closed down and the opening to the cave covered up. I started to research the site to learn more about its lost story. My visits to the California Room at the California State Library helped me greatly in filling out the story of Alabaster Cave. I was amazed to find out how popular this now forlorn and lonely site had been at one time. My research led me to

EDITOR’S NOTE

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a particular lithographic poster in the collection that especially caught my attention and imagination. It has always remained in my memory over the years and has continued to inspire me in doing further research into one of the Gold Country’s least known historic places.

El Dorado County was home to numerous limestone quarries and kilns. The Alabaster limestone quarry and kiln was a major producer of lime, the burnt limestone used for making mortar and plaster. It was quarried on a site located on Kidd Ravine near the north fork of the American River. William Gwynn and H. T. Holmes operated the Alabaster limestone mine for many years after its discovery in 1860. Holmes would also operate the nearby Alabaster Hotel.

The Alabaster quarry and kiln supplied San Francisco and Sacramento with large volumes of processed lime. The kiln produced forty barrels a day, requiring more than three cords of wood. The burnt lime was loaded into wagons to be shipped across Rattlesnake Bar cable suspension bridge to then be freighted down to Sacramento for further shipment across
California. Alabaster lime was used in the construction of numerous brick and stone buildings throughout the state — including the California State Capitol. The quarry was in operation for over a century.

Along with the discovery of the Alabaster limestone quarry itself, came the opening up of a series of underground caves and caverns. As word spread about subterranean marvels, interest developed among the public in the “Alabaster Caves.” As newspaper reports and then magazines and books spread the news about its wonders, demand to visit the caves grew. This soon led to the rerouting of stage lines from Folsom so visitors could make the round trip in a day to visit the site. Two promoters, George S. Halterman and a man named Smith, who were the lessees of the property, began providing tours of the Alabaster Cave after its opening in April 1860. Well over 600 visitors toured the caves in just the first month.

There were two separate chambers in the caves. Visitors were greeted as they entered the first by the “Coral Cave” register which contained the names of 2,714 visitors for the first four months. Various remarkable features were quickly assigned imaginative names on account of their varied shapes: “Agate Hall,” “Mystic Gallery,” “Sea-shell Pass,” “Lot’s Wife,” “Hercules’ Club,” and “Mrs. Lincoln’s Handkerchief.” One area, the “Crystal Chapel,” with its very own “Pulpit,” was even used for religious services and choral performances.

One of the many visitors was Maude Needham (Latimer), a California woman artist and the wife of Judge Lorenzo Dow Latimer. The Yreka resident entered drawings in the 1860 State Fair. These later became the basis for illustrations in the 1860 Hutchings’ California Magazine article about the cave’s many underground wonders. These were copied in later publications such as Scenes of Wonder and Curiosity in California.

One of the cave’s earliest and most famous visitors was Thomas Starr King. Starr King was a prominent San Francisco Universalist minister who played a crucial role during the Civil War in helping to maintain California’s loyalty to the Union. The preacher, turned mountaineer and naturalist was the first person of note to visit the caves in August of 1860.

King’s riveting account of his visit to the cave first appeared in the Boston Evening Transcript and reprinted in Christian Ambassador, 1860.
One of Needham’s illustrations also served as the inspiration for the State Library’s striking lithograph poster advertising the caves. In it, the woman standing with her back to the viewer in the foreground reminds one of the famous Caspar David Friedrich’s painting, *Hiker above a Sea of Mist*, with a man standing at the edge of an abyss. Only in this case the abyss is subterranean. Part Gothic fantasy, part mystical reverie, the scene reflects the Romantic artistic trends of the day, which place humans on a much smaller scale in the face of a seemingly overpowering backdrop of nature.

Alabaster even had its own post office for a time which operated from February 23, 1883, to July 10, 1888. The Alabaster Post Office was probably connected with the Alabaster Hotel. William E. Donahoo was the first and only postmaster. To date, no postal cancelations or correspondence have been reported from the five years when it was in operation.

One of the cave’s earliest and most famous visitors was Thomas Starr King. Starr King (1824–64) was a prominent New England Universalist minister who played a crucial role during the Civil War in helping to maintain California’s loyalty to the Union. The preacher, turned mountaineer and naturalist, was one of the most eloquent spokesmen for the state’s natural beauty. He became a pioneering champion of California’s natural treasures. Through his many writings, the “Bostonian Californian” often spoke eloquently of creating “Yosemite’s of the soul.” He helped to influence President Abraham Lincoln and Congress to make Yosemite Valley into California’s first state park in 1864.

During his numerous visits to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, Starr King was the first person of note to visit the caves in August of 1860 and to write a glowing account of “this crystalline museum”:

The reports of its beauty, we were glad to find, had not been exaggerated . . . . The variety and detail in the cavern . . . are the most fascinating specimens of color I have ever seen . . . . It would be impossible, without prolix and wea- risome minuteness, to describe the varieties of ornament and colors on the walls of the main cave. Every step takes the visitor to some new quaintness of device, or charm of crystallization, or delicacy of tinting which puts a fine edge on his delight.

Starr’s visit was followed the next month by the reporter from *Hutchings’ California Magazine* who wrote about “this New California Wonder” and in particular about the “Crystal Chapel”: “The most beautiful chamber of the whole suite, entitled the ‘Crystal Chapel,’ is impossible to find suitable language or comparisons to describe this magnificent spot . . . . The sublime grandeur of this imposing sight fills the soul with astonishment . . . . Every imaginary gracefulness possible . . . is here visible, ‘carved in alabaster’ by the Great Architect of the universe.”

He ended with the following encouraging words for other visitors of his day, “As the ride is agreeable; the fare cheap; the coachman obliging; the guides attentive; and the spectacle one of the most singular and imposing in the State, we say to everyone, by all means, go and see it.”

Sadly this is no longer possible as all that remains today of the limestone mining operation and the Alabaster Cave is a substantial, three-arched stone ruin with a much worn inscription: “W. Gwynn 1862.” So now, we can only make the visit to this early California wonder in our imagination, but happily aided by Maude Needham’s wonderful illustrations and the reports of the cave’s early visitors.

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**SHORT READING LIST**

- Caroline M. Churchill. *Over the Purple Hills or Sketches of Travel in California*. 1882.
- G. W. Pine. *Beyond the West*. 1871.
isit all the mining regions,” the president advised Schuyler Colfax, Speaker of the House of Representatives. “Tell the miners I have not forgotten them nor their interests.”

The meeting in the White House that evening of April 14, 1865, was of necessity brief. The President and Mrs. Lincoln were expected at Ford’s Theatre.

In May, Colfax departed for the West, repeating across the country what may have been Lincoln’s last words on a public subject. Traveling in company with Illinois Lieutenant-Governor William Bross and two journalists, Samuel Bowles and Albert Richardson, Colfax spoke ten times in Colorado, seven in Utah, eight in Nevada. A journey two thousand miles by stage undoubtedly cemented his conviction that the nation desperately needed the continental railway finally under construction.

When the travelers reached Carson City, on June 29, a military band greeted their arrival and fireworks lit the sky that night as Colfax addressed its citizens.

The fun had only just begun.

Early the next morning a six-horse coach “specially provided by the Pioneer

**By JoAnn Levy**

JoAnn Levy is the author of the highly acclaimed *They Saw the Elephant: Women in the California Gold Rush*, *Unsettling the West: Eliza Farnham and Georgiana Bruce Kirby in Frontier California*, *For California’s Gold: A Novel* and several scholarly articles. *She is a member of the California State Library Foundation’s board of directors.*
The Honorable Schuyler Colfax, Speaker of the House of Representatives.
Colfax’s trip to California was eloquently reported by journalist Samuel Bowles in his famous overland account, *Across the Continent*, 1865.

Line” awaited them. “The ride to the summit of the mountain, and then to Lake Tahoe, was accomplished at a terrific rate of speed,” reported the *Daily Alta* of July 2, “as it was the design of Col. Bee, of Placerville, who had the matter in charge, to see that the party obtained an adequate idea of California stage driving.” At the reins were Spalding and Taylor, of whom it was said “more daring or more skillful drivers never lifted whip.”

A “sumptuous” breakfast at the Glenbrook House preceded a trip across Lake Tahoe, “delayed somewhat by the disarrangement of the machinery of the steamer, but was greatly enjoyed by the whole party.” Time was not to be wasted. Col. Bee and the six-horse coach, having gone round the lake, waited to welcome the party into California. From there, it was a swift clip down the mountain to Strawberry for lunch, with cheers at every stage station along the road, and a final dash into Placerville. There “the mayor, military and citizens en masse” received them at 7:30 that evening with “salutes and music.” Colfax spoke, was cheered, and feted with a 10 p.m. banquet.

Little rest for the weary. At 6:30 the next morning Placerville’s delegates handed Colfax and friends off to the Sacramento reception committee waiting at White Rock with a “special train” on the Sacramento Valley line. At noon, following a champagne breakfast at Sacramento’s Orleans Hotel on 2nd Street, Colfax mounted a stand arranged on the sidewalk outside and addressed at length a large crowd waiting in the sun. He first amused them with tales of his trip across the plains, then relayed the late president’s message and, finally, assured them of his opinion that the “product of the mines should not be taxed until it became part of the commerce of the world.” Taxes. That was the worry. Rumor had it that Washington intended to tax California’s fabled mining wealth to refill coffers emptied by the war that saved the Union. What could Easterners know of the West, of mining, of how things were here? California wanted someone to come see. Colfax had come.

And now he was hurried to the steamer *Chrysopolis*, waiting at Front Street, departing Sacramento at 2 p.m.

At San Francisco’s wharf, that city’s mayor and a reception committee greeted the Colfax party in befitting style with a coach and four cream-colored horses with black manes and tails, “Furnished by the Fashion stables—the only stables in town where such a turnout could be found.” Then it was off to the opulent four-story Occidental Hotel on Bush and Montgomery Streets (*see image on p. 14*), a “quiet centrally located house where civility and attention are its principal characteristics.” And so to bed.

Such a fortuitous arrival, July. A grand parade was, of course, planned for the glorious Fourth. Colfax must speak. He demurred, but on the great day spontaneous demand prevailed.

“I am unwilling to interrupt the har-
monious progression of the exercises which you have arranged,” he said, “but I can bring to you the assurances of the love of our dead President, of the affectionate regard of President Johnson. I can assure you that my present visit to California has its origins in the intense desire of myself and of the Government, to learn by our own eyes the conditions, the resources and the necessities of the people of the vast Pacific Empire of the American Republic.

Of the event itself, a telegram to the Sacramento Morning Union reported: “It is conceded on all hands that the military portion of the procession was by far the finest ever seen here . . . . Judge Dwinelle, at the conclusion of his oration, called upon Colfax to read the message to the miners and people of the Pacific States given him by Abraham Lincoln, which he did, adding a short speech, which was received with
great applause. The literary exercises were very successful, but the fireworks entirely unsatisfactory."

The next day, July 5, Colfax visited an uncle in Petaluma and — keeping his hand in, as it were — while there reportedly gave an unscheduled but stirring speech.

Plans had been made, of course, to show Colfax and company the state’s considerable attractions. “The mint will be revealed to them, and the various asylums and other public institutions and curiosities thrown open to their gaze; and if the Cliff and Ocean Houses, the Bay View Park, and a drive to Thorpe’s behind a spanking team of sorrels, are not shown them, they are cheated of more fun than all the balance of the programme combined can furnish!”

In turn, the visitors spoke for their suppers. On July 9, both Colfax and Bross addressed a San Francisco audience at Platt’s Hall, corner of Bush and Montgomery. The building, the *Alta California* reported, was “literally jammed.” “We have never seen it so full . . . . The compliment was one which we are sure these gentlemen will appreciate. It was paid not only to them, as the firm friends of California, but as the counsellors of the National Government . . . . Mr. Colfax is an entertaining and fluent speaker, and was frequently and enthusiastically applauded.”

Meantime, Sacramento prepared for his expected return there with something better than the hasty champagne breakfast served on his initial visit: an excursion aboard the Central Pacific Railroad frantically under construction. On July 11, the *Sacramento Daily Union* published the upcoming agenda:

Schuyler Colfax will arrive in the city this morning by the San Francisco boat. Soon after four o’clock he will leave the city on a special train for Clipper Gap, accompanied by L. Stanford, E. B. Crocker, and C. Crocker. From Clipper Gap the party will proceed to Illinoistown on horseback. At that point they will take the
stage for Donner Lake. Returning in a day or two, Colfax will leave Illinoistown for Nevada [City] and Grass Valley, thence to Marysville, thence to Oregon, thence by sea to the place of beginning — San Francisco.

Charlie Crocker's predominantly Chinese work crews, under the able supervision of James Strobridge, had rails operational as far as Clipper Gap, currently the end of the line. But, wait, here's an idea! How about naming the next station for Colfax!?

No sooner said than done!

On July 15, the Auburn Placer Herald reported the news:

We learn that the Pacific Railroad Company have purchased a tract of land adjoining Illinoistown, and have this week been surveying it off into lots. The location is a beautiful flat and will make an excellent site for a town.... Already has the price of property materially advanced, and many persons are preparing to settle and build in the town. What a change the railroad will make.

Ten days later the Sacramento Morning Union advised readers that surveying for the town of Colfax was complete and lots would be offered for sale on Saturday the 29th.

On that date, Colfax himself, having bestowed his presence upon the citizens of Illinoistown, Dutch Flat, Grass Valley, Nevada City, Marysville, Orroville, Shasta, Yreka, Salem, Portland, Olympia, and Victoria, was aboard the steamship Sierra Nevada arriving in San Francisco in two days.

In his absence, property in the town bearing his name was selling like the proverbial hotcake. "About thirty lots were sold at auction," the Placer Herald reported. "The lowest price paid for any lot was $100, and the highest price $450. A number of the residents of Folsom were present and purchased lots for business purposes."

And California hadn't finished impressing Colfax and company. No sooner had they returned to San Francisco than they were whisked off to the grandest attraction of them all. They must see Yosemite! And off they went, welcomed there by Frederick Law Olmstead whose campsite they shared, the occasion memorialized by Yosemite's noted photographer Carleton E. Watkins.

On August 14, returning from Yosemite, Colfax and company stopped at Hornitos. Colfax spoke, then Bross, "a fine stump speaker," opined the Mariposa Gazette, whose "anecdotes and apt illustrations created much applause." Between speeches, ladies sang "John Brown" and "Marching through Georgia." And then the party was off again, taking the late stage to Stockton where they were met by that city's mayor, visited the Odd Fellows, and partook of a gathering at the Weber House. Their Stockton visit was brief. They were due back in San Francisco for a dinner designed to put all others in the shade, to cap the climax, as it were.

The Chinese knew a thing or two besides how to build a railroad.

"The grand complimentary dinner to Hon. Schuyler Colfax and party," reported the Alta California of August 18, "tendered by the 'Six Chinese Companies in California,' which has been in contemplation for some weeks past, took place last evening at the Hang Heong Restaurant, 808 Clay Street . . . . The hour fixed for the commencement of the dinner was six p.m., and at a few minutes past that time the company sat down to the tables. It is, of course, next to impossible to give a description of such a dinner which would be intelligible to those who have never attended one, and to those who have enjoyed that pleasure no description is needed."

Nor hardly possible. "The dinner proper consisted of 336 dishes, forming 130 courses...into the composition of which entered fish, flesh, fowl and vegetable substances, in a thousand forms undreamed of to French cooks and Caucasian house wives generally. . . . As soon as one dish had been passed around and tasted by each guest, it was removed and a new one brought on by the attendants."

No expense was spared. "Those birds' nests, by the way," reported a guest, "are said to cost forty dollars a pound, so that they went very well with the tea, which was served us at an expense of fifty dollars a pound."

The feast continued to midnight. "More fun than was compressed into those six hours I never remember to have enjoyed in my life," a privileged diner observed, adding, "it is surprising how good shark's fins are when well cooked; one feels no compunctions of conscience either in eating them, for it is tolerably certain that were the tables turned they would eat you."

Guests laughed and joked. "Over those chop-sticks we had rare fun . . . . Think of a party sitting down to eat with knitting needles. One of the guests, however, utterly failed to acquire any dexterity whatsoever, and so sharpened one of them off, using it as a spear." The dignified, courteous hosts looked on behind polite smiles. . . . "the wonder which must have filled the minds at the outrageous behavior of the barbarians whom they condescended to entertain . . . . violating every principle, probably, of Chinese etiquette."

Likely so.

"At the end of the third and last sitting a Committee of the Companies again approached Mr. Colfax and party, and repeating the thanks for the honor of their company, expressed their regret at not being able to furnish a more sumptuous repast. Mr. Colfax replied that the pleasure was all upon his side."

Likely so.

No rest for the weary as yet. On Sunday, August 20, in San Francisco, Colfax and Bross individually addressed the teachers and scholars of the Sabbath School attached to the First Congregational Church. "At the close of the exercises a little girl from the school gracefully presented to Colfax
and Bross copies of *Hutchings’ Illustrated Wonders of California.*”

On Tuesday, the 22nd, Colfax was back in Sacramento. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) of several lodges had arranged a special meeting at which the visiting dignitary consented to officiate in conferring the Degree of Rebekah “for all entitled to it.”

On the 24th, Colfax and company, having returned to San Francisco, visited Mare Island where marines paraded and salutes were fired, followed by “a collation at the Commodore’s residence” and inspection of the sloop-of-war *Jamestown.* From there the party toured Alcatraz “where they received another salute and partook of another collation.”

On the 25th, San Francisco’s I.O.O.F members gathered at their hall to present Colfax with “a magnificent gold-headed cane... engraved with the emblems of the Order, and scenes from California life, with nine settings of gold bearing quartz from the mines of Mariposa, Virginia City, Amador, Nevada City, Grass Valley, Oroville, Shasta, and other places on this coast.”
Then, finally, after two months in the West, Colfax and company prepared to leave. But of course they must be seen off in style with a ball and banquet at the Occidental Hotel.

The supper will be spread in the spacious halls of the hotel, which will be specially draped for the occasion, the dining-room, decorated with flowers, flags and birds, serving as the ballroom. To enable everyone to attend, the price of tickets has been put down to twenty-five dollars, and to secure comfort as well as elegance, only a limited number of invitations has been issued; so that, taken all in all, it promises to be a most recherché entertainment. Five thousand dollars is to be the total expense of all, and if it be not the very king-pin of all affairs of the kind ever given on this coast the intention of the designers will be frustrated.

On the evening of August 31, a privileged attendance of the state’s most distinguished citizens heard Colfax’s final address:

Just two months ago, after journeying over thousands of miles of mountains and valleys and deserts and plains, your honored Mayor and a Committee of your Supervisors met us in the cabin of the steamer Chrysopolis, and gave us an official welcome to this seven-hilled city. Since then, in all our travels upon this coast, we have been accustomed to speak of San Francisco as home. And now, though I came here a stranger and a traveler, I feel like one who is indeed about to leave his home and hearthstone . . . .

Our party came hither to learn, by actual observation, more of this Pacific portion of the republic, its resources and its wants; and you can testify that the grass has not grown under our feet. We have seen your varieties of mining—placer, hydraulic and quartz. We have seen many of your rich agricultural valleys—the Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Jose, Petaluma, Napa, Sonoma, Alameda, and others. We have traveled on nearly every mile of your 200 to 300 miles of railroads, closing with the delightful excursion to-day on the Alameda Railroad...

We have enjoyed visits to your great natural curiosities, the world-renowned Yosemite Valley . . . . the Big Trees, the Geysers and your neighbors, the sea lions.

We have examined with interest many of your manufactures, and...I am prouder of the suit in which I am clothed to-night, of California cloth, from wool on the back of California sheep, woven by the Mission Woolen Mills, and made here, than of the finest suit of French broadcloth I ever owned.

When applause abated, Bross expressed his thanks, concluding, “Nowhere have we ever seen hospitality so generous and princely. You have overwhelmed us with kindness.”

Then Richardson rose, adding: “Foremost among my pleasant memories of this pleasant Summer trip will ever be the universal, generous and unbounding hospitalities of the people of California. We have found your hearts as large as your mountains, and as warm as your climate; your kindness as irresistible and searching as the Summer winds of San Francisco—which I think about the strongest comparison in the English language.”

The observation eliciting the laughter he anticipated, Richardson closed the show.

California, at great expense, had done its best to impress. As the steamer Golden City departed for Panama with its well-feted visitors, San Francisco’s Daily Alta California observed: “The visit is one which cannot fail to be productive of much good to the State.”

But, as things turned out, words perhaps more hopeful than predictive. Although Schuyler Colfax’s political star rose prominently in 1869 with his election to vice-president under Ulysses Grant, it plummeted in 1873. During his campaign for reelection a Congressional investigation discovered Colfax had accepted shares of stock and cash bribes from Credit Mobiclier, a dummy construction company set up by the Union Pacific Railroad. Even worse was the revelation that he had received $4,000 from a contractor who supplied envelopes to the federal government while he was chairman of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

Colfax’s political career was over. He was left with the lecture circuit.

And California was left with a town called Colfax.

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Weekly Colusa Sun: July 16, 1865.
Retirement Celebration and *Bulletin* Dedication in Honor of Gary F. Kurutz

The Board of Directors of the California State Library Foundation hosted a retirement gala in honor of Gary F. Kurutz who served as the organization’s executive director since 1998. The event was held on January 24, 2019 at the beautiful Sutter Club in downtown Sacramento. Kurutz chose the date of January 24 as it marked the 170th anniversary of the gold discovery at Sutter’s Mill. Foundation Board Members President Kenneth Noack, Jr., Vice-president Marilyn Snider and Treasurer Tom Vinson along with Brittney Cook, the new executive director, organized the celebration. Over eighty Foundation members and State Library staff attended. A tempting array of refreshments and hors d’oeuvres was provided. President Noack served as master of ceremonies and he read tributes sent by Gary E. Strong, former State Librarian and Foundation founder, and Alan Jutzi, a close friend and colleague of Kurutz. Board Member Gary Noy read a special resolution given by the Board of Directors summarizing Kurutz’s contributions not only to the Foundation but also to the State Library and his efforts to preserve California history. Kurutz, holding back emotion, expressed his deep gratitude to all who came.

President Noack commenced the celebration with the following eloquent tribute to Kurutz and to announce the decision of the Board of Directors to dedicate the present issue of the *Bulletin* to him.

I have come to know Gary F. Kurutz through our collective service on the California State Library Foundation Board of Directors and have come to appreciate his vast depth of knowledge with respect to most every aspect of the wonderfully colorful history of this great state and the many world events which have transpired here changing our world.

I always looked forward to running our quarterly Foundation board meetings in school-childlike anticipation of what gem from the Library collections Gary was going to show and tell (and maybe even let us hold), what rare artifact he was able to negotiate for the collection through his infinite contacts around the world, or what marvelous factoid he will share that perhaps changed the course of history unbeknownst to most.

I always worked to push the board meeting along so that there was plenty of time for the executive director’s report. Gary is a wonderful and entertaining storyteller, always enriching each member of his audience’s lives.

It has and continues to be my distinct privilege to work alongside this living library!

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors of the Foundation, we dedicate this issue of the *Bulletin* to Gary Kurutz in recognition of his decades of dedicated service to the California State Library and the California State Library Foundation.
The Foundation’s Board of Directors presented this beautifully designed resolution to Kurutz at the retirement celebration. It eloquently summarized his career with the Foundation and the State Library.

As Curator of Special Collections, Kurutz took great pleasure in working with the State Library’s extraordinary collections. He is holding the 1501 Bible that many state officials used for their swearing-in ceremonies.

At the Sutter Club celebration, a grateful Kurutz stands next to the elegant resolution presented by the Foundation’s Board of Directors.
Whereas, Gary F. Kurutz, a native of La Cañada, California, earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees in history at the University of San Diego, and his M.L.S. degree at the University of Southern California, and

Whereas, he has served with the greatest distinction for the Huntington Library as Assistant to the Curator of Rare Books and as Bibliographer of Western Americana; for the California Historical Society as Library Director; for the Sutro Library as Head Librarian; and for the California State Library, most notably as Director of Special Collections, and

Whereas, he has provided matchless expertise as President of the Book Club of California and as Chair of the Book Club Publications Committee, where he upheld the highest professional standards and fostered preeminent research and publications highlighting bibliographic, historical, and cultural attributes of California, and

Whereas, he has been instrumental in the accomplishments of the Sacramento Book Collectors Club, the California Historical Society, the California Historic Records Commission, and the Sacramento County Historical Society, and

Whereas, he has been a long-standing active member and respected counsel for numerous bibliographic and professional organizations such as the Society of American Archivists, the Bibliographical Society of America, the Society of California Archivists, the Zamorano Club of Los Angeles, the Roxburghe Club of San Francisco, the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the American Library Association, and the Western History Association, and

Whereas, he was the 2018 recipient of the prestigious Hubert Howe Bancroft Award for significant achievement in support of historical research and scholarship, the highest award granted by the University of California, Berkeley, Bancroft Library, and

Whereas, he has written dozens of books and monographs, hundreds of articles, and provided many essays, chapters, forewords, and introductions to books that have greatly enhanced our appreciation and understanding of California history and culture, and

Whereas, he has made innumerable fascinating and entertaining presentations to professional societies, civic associations, learned institutions and the general public, and

Whereas, he has edited and overseen the publication of more than a hundred issues of the California State Library Foundation Bulletin, and

Whereas, he, as Executive Director of the California State Library Foundation since 1998, has guided the Board of Directors through the intricacies and undertakings of the Foundation with grace, good humor, endless enthusiasm, and consummate professionalism, and

Whereas, he has been a major influence and ongoing inspiration for thousands of historians, authors, independent scholars, and lovers of California history.

Resolved, that the Board of Directors extends its utmost gratitude and deepest thanks to Gary F. Kurutz for his extraordinary decades-long contributions to the California State Library and the California State Library Foundation.
As a new staff member in the early 1980s, Kurutz enjoyed exploring the stacks for treasures. In this photograph, Kurutz turns the leaves of an elegantly decorated facsimile of the Gutenberg Bible.

Kurutz is best known in rare book circles for his monumental bibliography of eyewitness accounts of the California Gold Rush. It was published by the Book Club of California in 1997 in an edition of 1,000 copies produced by noted printer W. Thomas Taylor of Barksdale, Texas.

In 1989, the Windgate Press published this handsome volume on the famous terra cotta company of Gladding, McBean in Lincoln California. It was co-authored by Kurutz and fine photographer Mary Swisher. The company donated to the Library their early archive and a massive collection of glass plate negatives.
A Letter from a Great Friend and Colleague

By Alan Jutzi

My dear friend Gary,

I am deeply disappointed I am not in Sacramento today to thank you directly and publicly for everything you have done for the California State Library Foundation, for the State Library, and for all of us who care about books, libraries, and the understanding of our state’s history.

Having known you since we began our careers in the early ’70s at the Huntington Library I can attest to the wide impact of your contributions.

Your collection building at the California Historical Society and the State Library has been daring and insightful and created richer depositories which historians, researchers, and students will consult for generations to come.

Your writing and editing, particularly for those publications dealing with the use of photography, graphic materials, and ephemeral printing, promoted new ways of looking at our past.

Your bibliographical publication on the California Gold Rush is a landmark work. Your State Library publications are thoroughly informative, timely, and enjoyable.

Your willingness to speak and lecture to students, local civic organizations, bookish groups, and anybody interested in the state’s history has been remarkable. Your energy is boundless. How did you do it?

You have supported library users and scholars everywhere, and they have benefited from your assistance and advice in so many significant ways.

Your shining achievement may indeed be your work with the California State Library Foundation where one has seen a great library grow and become an inspiration for libraries in the state and for those who believe that a knowledge of history is essential to handling the challenges of the future.

Thank you for all you have done. Many of your friends in Southern California could not make it today, but you must know we are thinking of you. With deepest admiration and CONGRATULATIONS.

Alan Jutzi
South Pasadena, CA

EDITOR’S NOTE

This letter was read at the retirement event by President Noack. Alan Jutzi served as curator of rare books at the Henry E. Huntington Library in San Marino. He enjoyed a truly remarkable career and retired in 2016. Jutzi divides his time between his home in South Pasadena and his daughter’s home in Hillsborough, New Hampshire.
Gary Kurutz and the Foundation Bulletin
By Gary E. Strong

The following is a segment of Strong’s introduction to his second edition of the Bulletin Index that so eloquently summarized his collegial relationship with Mr. Kurutz in publishing this well received periodical. It, too, was read at the retirement celebration.

My first acquaintance with Gary Kurutz was when I became state librarian in 1980 and was handed a pamphlet Treasures of the State Library. I knew then I would “treasure” working with him. His knowledge of what a unique piece of California history is embodied in the State Library was a valuable resource to the state of California. Gary introduced me not only to California history but also to the incredible heritage of the state’s first “public” library. His introduction to Herb Caplan would begin my education on California history. Those sessions at Herb’s shop are treasured memories and from that I began to build my own collection of Californiana.

Together we worked to build the reputation of the State Library and its place among the great collections of the state. Being part of state government was an almost insurmountable challenge. Faced with the impact of Proposition 13 and subsequent budget reductions did not stop Gary from reaching out and bringing in outstanding collections and resources. Together we started the California State Library Foundation and its Bulletin. Gary carried on the editing and publication of the Bulletin following my departure in 1994.

Gary’s contributions to the content include more than one hundred thirty articles which carry his by-line and many articles that do not. Exploring these provides a guide to the special collections and resources of the library but also an insight into his efforts to build a collection for the people of California. On our many trips to promote the State Library and the foundation, Gary would hold audiences spellbound with his talks, always carefully researched and expertly delivered. I was always fascinated with his ability to dig out the most interesting of details drawing on his extensive knowledge of the collection and its contents.

As Gary retires, California can be thankful for this “native son.” Many thanks Gary and Godspeed. Do NOT stop writing and sharing your knowledge!

Gary E. Strong
At the Stronghold near Potlach, Idaho
January 2019

EDITOR’S NOTE
Gary E. Strong is a former state librarian of California and founder of the California State Library Foundation and its Bulletin. After leaving the Library he became the director of the Queens Borough Public Library and university librarian and director of libraries at the University of California, Los Angeles. In addition, Strong is a passionate collector of books. An avid supporter of the Foundation, he has made a generous annual cash donation to the Foundation and many years ago donated his fantastic collection of murder mysteries set in California. Since his retirement, he now lives in his native state of Idaho and is active with the Potlach Historical Society. He also created a new index to the California State Library Foundation Bulletin. Please see a description of the index in the Notes section of this Bulletin.
On June 2, 2018, the Council of the Friends of the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley honored Kurutz as the recipient of the Hubert Howe Bancroft Award.
Kurutz in this candid photograph expresses his gratitude to the Friends of the Bancroft Library for bestowing on him this prestigious award.

Elaine C. Tennant, Director of the Bancroft Library, congratulates Kurutz upon receiving the Bancroft Library Award in the Library’s handsome Heller Reading Room.

At the award luncheon, Kurutz and Margaret Vinson engage in conversation with Foundation dignitaries.

Kurutz in this candid photograph expresses his gratitude to the Friends of the Bancroft Library for bestowing on him this prestigious award.
The large trash containers in Yosemite Valley with their Half Dome-like tops caught the attention and imagination of Kennedy.

California’s Cathedral of Spirit

Yosemite Valley Photographs

By Gene Kennedy

Sentinel Rock and Falls, Yosemite Valley.
THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S STATEMENT

Yosemite Valley, the beating heart of Yosemite National Park, has served as the literal stomping ground of millions of visitors over the years. For photographers, young and old, experienced and novice, it is a special place. I visited the valley with my parents in the 1950s, camping in a cramped site surrounded by four blankets for privacy and watched the Firefall from the trampled Stoneman Meadow every night.

In the '60s, I began a series of pilgrimages that have produced fifty years of photographs of Yosemite. I have always considered Yosemite Valley a cathedral, a place where the spirit of nature had its most profound effect on me, allowing me to escape the crowds and lose myself in the trees and meadows, as well as in the quirky sacreligious scenes I found in the man-made landscape of Yosemite that shares the space with the natural. The exhibit that is currently on display on the first floor of the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building is a result of those visits covering a half-century in the cathedral. The exhibit is on display from April 1st, 2019 through September 30th, 2019, and as always, entry to the California State Library is free. Please come out and enjoy!

MORE ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Gene Kennedy recently became a part of the team at the California State Library Foundation. He is recognized nationally for his photography of the contemporary American landscape. He is best known for his black-and-white documentary images about suburban land development in California and his sixteen years photographing the Gladding, McBean ceramics factory in Lincoln. He has a significant body of work in the collection of the California State Library, and prints at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, among others.

From 1986 to 1996, Kennedy owned and taught photography at The Darkroom, a do-it-yourself photography lab located in Sacramento. He was managing editor of View Camera and Camera Arts magazines from 1998 to 1999.

He taught photography at numerous colleges and universities in San Diego County and in the Central Valley from 1970 to 2002. He currently teaches traditional black-and-white photography at Butte College in Oroville.

From 2003 through 2008, Kennedy served as executive director of Viewpoint Photographic Art Center in Sacramento. From 2015 to 2018 he continued his active role at Viewpoint as the gallery coordinator.
In April 2019, the California State Library Foundation awarded the inaugural Mead B. Kibbey California State Library Fellowships to Michelle Trujillo and Moriah Ulinskas.

The Mead B. Kibbey California State Library Fellowship was established in 2018 to honor Mead B. Kibbey, a business leader, historian, photographer, sculptor and philanthropist who was an important figure in preserving and protecting Sacramento and California historic assets for decades. He was also a major benefactor of the California State Library. Mead B. Kibbey passed away in September 2018 at the age of 96.

Presented annually, the Kibbey Fellowship supports projects at the California State Library by formally enrolled college and university students, regardless of academic degree sought. Special consideration is given to applicants from California State University, Sacramento, enrolled in courses offered by the Photography Department and/or associated with the Public History Program of that institution. Projects focus on the history and culture of the North American West, with preference given to areas of special interest to Mead B. Kibbey: the cultural and artistic landscapes of Sacramento and California, and the history and preservation of photography.

Michelle Trujillo is a graduate student in the M.A. program in Public History at CSU Sacramento. A former small business owner, she is a photographer, and videographer with experience in historic preservation and archiving. Michelle’s Kibbey Fellowship project is entitled A Stone’s Throw from Here: Sacramento’s Own Internment Camp at the Walerga Assembly Center. In her fellowship application, Trujillo describes her proposed research:

The story of Japanese internment is often told through the lenses of the larger camps at Tule Lake and Manzanar, however the regional scale of Walerga’s inmate population does not diminish the scale of injustice, nor of suffering and solidarity…. While my research is aimed at the granular, individual experience of Japanese American internment at the Walerga Assembly Center, I also intend to explore the larger scope of the evolution of land use and how, in this case, the contrasts of military contingency and municipal planning shape and often simplify local and national history.

In recommending Michelle Trujillo for the Kibbey Fellowship, Dr. Tom Clark, CSU Sacramento history professor and principal counsel for the Assembly Committee on the Judiciary, California State Legislature, noted that Michelle is a “thoughtful, intelligent, motivated, and genuinely curious student … [whose scholarship is] consistently insightful, well-reasoned, and gracefully written.”

Moriah Ulinskas is pursuing a joint Ph.D. in Public History through CSU Sacramento and the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is a photographer and videographer with wide-ranging experience in historical preservation and archiving with institutions such as the San Francisco History Center, Oakland Planning Commission and the Bay Area Video Coalition. Moriah’s Kibbey Fellowship project is entitled Ordinary, Yet Extraordinary: Voices of Resistance from Urban Renewal Programs in California Cities. Ulinskas states that her fellowship will illuminate narratives of resistance and grassroots organizing in California cities during the urban redevelopment era of the 1960s and 1970s, specifically in communities of color .... My research will seek to amplify
Foundation Executive Director Brittney Dawn Cook presents to a very pleased Moriah Ulinskas her Kibbey Fellowship award. This young scholar is simultaneously working on advance degrees in public history at Sacramento State University and UC Santa Barbara.

Outgoing Executive Director Gary F. Kurutz proudly gives Michelle Trujillo her Kibbey Fellowship award. Trujillo is pursuing an M.A. in public history at Sacramento State University.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Gary Noy is a former member of the California State Library Foundation's board of directors and conceived the idea of the Mead B. Kibbey Fellowship. A popular speaker, Noy teaches history at Sierra Community College in Rocklin and has written award-winning books including Sierra Stories: Tales of Dreamers, Schemers, Bigots, and Rogues (2014) and Gold Rush Stories: 49 Tales of Seekers, Scoundrels, Loss, and Luck. Heyday and Sierra College Press published both titles.

the voices of those who fought to stop, slow, or steer the reshaping of their cities and, in doing so, played a role in the reshaping of urban identities of Californians in the 21st century.

Dr. Paula Austin, Professor in the CSU Sacramento Public History Program, recommended Moriah Ulinskas for the Kibbey Fellowship. Dr. Austin observed that “Moriah is an exceptional researcher, with a keen eye for visual artifacts. Her analytical and interpretive skills continue to evolve and grow as she continues her research and preservationist work. I am very excited for her future scholarship.”

Michelle Trujillo and Moriah Ulinskas each received a “Certificate of Award” and $3000 for their Mead B. Kibbey California State Library Fellowship. The awards were announced at the April 5, 2019, meeting of the California State Library Foundation Board of Directors.
Pony Express Exhibit Cases Celebrated

On April 4, 2019, Joe Nardone, the Master Historian of the Pony Express, with joy in his voice acknowledged the donors who made possible the creation of two custom-made exhibit cases to display several of the treasures he has donated to the State Library over the years. Foundation President Kenneth Noack, Jr. welcomed the guests and expressed his appreciation to Nardone for his efforts to preserve these materials. To everyone’s delight, Nardone wore a buckskin jacket and hat. On hand were eight of Nardone’s friends, all enthusiastic supporters of his efforts to document the Pony Express and its parent company of Russell, Majors, & Waddell, and to correct much of the folklore that surrounds the famous equestrian cross-country mail service to and from California.

The exhibit cases are located in the State Library’s California History Room. One “flat” case contains rare Pony Express postage stamps issued by Wells, Fargo & Company, belt buckles, and commemorative medallions issued to honor anniversaries and reenactments of Pony Express rides. In the center is a rare 1858 Bible that company partner Alexander Majors gave to employees. On top of this case is a striking 200-pound bronze statue of a Pony Express rider by Avard T. Fairbanks. Fastened to the outside of the case is a handsome bronze plaque commissioned by Nardone to commemorate his collection. It is decorated with a Pony Express rider and the route of the company from St. Joseph, Missouri, to San Francisco. The second and larger case houses a life-size leather saddle and mochila. A mochila is the pack that riders used to carry the mail. As a rider came into a station, he could easily throw the mochila onto the saddle of a fresh horse. The mochila came with four cantinas or pockets that held the letters, telegrams, and waybills. Each case includes interpretive labels written by Nardone designed to educate visitors about the compelling story of the heralded, but short-lived, express company.

ENDNOTES

1. Nardone selected the date of April 4 as it was the 150th anniversary of the first Pony Express rider’s departure on horseback eastbound from Sacramento.
2. For a list of the names of the generous donors see the Contributors List at the end of the Bulletin.
3. To learn more about Joe Nardone and his fascination with the Pony Express see “Joe Nardone’s Long Ride on the Trail of the Pony,” CSLF Bulletin, No. 87, (2007), pp. 2–9 and “Pony Express Historian Joe Nardone’s Gifts from the Trail,” CSLF Bulletin, No. 121, (2018), pp. 2–9. Both informative articles were beautifully written by M. Patricia Morris, the Foundation’s talented copy editor and historian.
4. The historic Sacramento firm of Burnett & Sons constructed the exhibit cases following the instructions of Nardone and the Foundation. This year the company is celebrating its 150th anniversary.
Gary E. Strong Creates Index to the California State Library Foundation Bulletin

Former State Librarian of California Gary E. Strong and founder of the California State Library Foundation and its Bulletin, has compiled a stupendous and invaluable index entitled Discovering the Treasures within the California State Library Foundation Bulletin, 1982–2018. As noted in the summary of the lead article in this issue of the Bulletin, Strong enjoyed a storied career as a librarian and scholar. Following his retirement as director of libraries in 2013 at the University of California, Los Angeles, this “biblio-dynamo” moved back to his homeland or “Stronghold” near Potlach, Idaho. Never lacking energy, Strong embarked on several projects documenting the history of Potlach and recollections of his life as a librarian and book collector. One of the projects was the creation of this index.

Discovering the Treasures is actually the second edition. In 2014, Strong gave a limited number of copies to the Foundation and State Library. For this latest edition, he sent an electronic copy which was transformed into a hard copy bound in soft covers. It was presented to me on the occasion of my retirement as executive director. Appropriately, the index bears the imprint of the “Stronghold Press” and includes an excellent introduction giving a history of the Bulletin since its first issue appeared in 1982. The Foundation will make this wonderful key to the Bulletin available for searching on the Foundation’s website.

The following two paragraphs, written by Strong for the 2014 edition, serve as a wonderful summary as to how the Bulletin came to be.

Believing in the value of the California State Library and its hidden treasures, the California State Library Foundation was established in 1982. One of the greatest challenges to overcome was “how to get the word out.” I recalled that Librarian of Congress Jim Billington was often quoted saying, “getting the champagne out of the bottle.” The State Library collections are rich and delicious champagne.

A State agency is hampered by its own bureaucracy. The “official” communications from the State Library were just that, official. The California State Library Foundation Bulletin was conceived as a mechanism to communicate with the Foundation’s growing membership, but also to tell the story of the vast and wonderful collections of the Library.
The California History Section of the State Library makes available an extensive collection of miniature books. Most, if not all, are characterized by their creativity and eye-popping beauty. Printing historian Dr. Ethan B. Lipton1 sent me a well-protected package early this spring. Upon opening the padded envelope, I discovered that it protected a handsome miniature book authored by Lipton with the provocative title, Why Richard Hoffman Said, “I Hate Miniature Books.” The tiny cloth bound volume measures 2 3/4 x 2 3/4 inches in size and includes over ninety pages of text and illustrations. This gift represents a delightful addition to the Library’s extensive collection of over 375 Richard J. Hoffman imprints.2

By way of introduction, Hoffman ranks as one of California’s and America’s most important master printers and typographers and was active as a printer from 1927 to 1989. But, as articulated by Lipton in a past article published in issue 116 of the Bulletin, “he remained in the shadows” when compared to the acclaim received by many of his California peers like the Grabhorn Brothers and Saul Marks of the Plantin Press. Nonetheless, the Los Angeles printer and professor enjoyed a long and distinguished career in the book arts but surprisingly did not take up designing and printing miniature books until late in life.

Lipton’s book addresses with a touch of humor the question of why Hoffman supposedly distained such books. Various reasons were given including just the time and effort to print a tiny book using metal type that was almost microscopic in size. Based on hearsay, one person thought that Hoffman complained that miniature books could not be shelved with standard size volumes, they were awkward to hold, and the miniscule type made them a challenge to read. However, as Lipton points out, “Richard Hoffman used well-mastered rules of typography coupled with good taste and great design sensibilities in the making of all of his books and he did not bend the rules for his miniatures. The small format presented many opportunities for particularly innovative typographic design and consistency through each book.”

Published in 2018 in an edition of 200 copies, the volume includes a delightful illustrated bibliography of Hoffman’s twelve miniature books and two broadsides loaded with information on the type, paper, illustrations, ornamentation, binding, and number of copies printed. This is further supported by a short essay titled “Most Representative of His Style.” Lipton wrote: “When pressed for an answer, in my opinion the book that most characteristically shows his work on his own handmade paper is Edward Petko’s Fine Printing and the 80’s. Its proportions and traditionally justified format on Hoffman’s own all-rag, handmade paper compel much of my choice. It is like many of his full size books.”

This handsome gift, Why Richard Hoffman Said, “I Hate Miniature Books,” was designed and composed by Dr. Lipton, Soaring Eagle Imprenta. The volume with its gold-stamped binding was printed by Norman Clayton of Classic Letterpress and beautifully bound with gold-stamped title and ornamentation by Mariana Blau in an edition 200 copies.

ENDNOTES

1. Dr. Ethan Lipton is professor emeritus in the Department of Technology at California State University, Los Angeles, and has authored many books and articles on the printing arts. The Foundation published his superb article, “Richard J. Hoffman: One of America’s Master Printers and Typographers” in the Bulletin, Number 116 (2016): 8-17.

2. Dr. Edward Petko, a friend of Lipton and Hoffman, donated this impressive collection to the Library. In addition to the books, the Hoffman Collection includes an impressive array of individual broadsides, invitations, and other ephemera.
It is with sadness that I report the death of author, bibliographer, printer, antiquarian bookseller, and good friend Robert K. Greenwood in September 2018. We learned of his death when the Foundation received a sizeable check from Rodger C. Jenkins, the executor of his estate. Greenwood was an avid supporter of the California State Library, and in particular, helped add many important collections and rarities to the California History Section including the archive of his publishing and antiquarian book business known as the Talisman Press. Fortunately, this great bookman left us with a compelling autobiography issued by the Book Club of California in 2007 titled A Valiant Enterprise.1 Filled with rich anecdotes, it stands as a truly remarkable history of publishing and bookselling in the American West during the second half of the twentieth century.

Growing up in Kansas, Greenwood learned the printing trade and operated a linotype machine for a newspaper. While pursuing his college degree, he met Newton Baird and the two became lifelong business and domestic partners. The two loved poetry and contemporary fiction and founded in 1951 the Talisman Press in Denver, Colorado. The first title that rolled off their press was called Talisman, a quarterly poetry magazine. Bob, with his training in printing, used his artistic and mechanical skills to produce the quarterly. Both Greenwood and Baird enjoyed not only modern literature but also developed a keen interest in rare Western Americana and with a rich stock of books entered the antiquarian book business.

Wishing for a change of environment, Greenwood and Baird moved from Denver to San Jose. Greenwood was offered and accepted a job as a librarian at San Jose State College (now University), and Baird became a school teacher in Sunnyvale. This gave them the opportunity to continue printing and publishing poetry and collecting more books and related material such as maps, historic photographs, manuscripts, and prints. The partners issued the Talisman from 1952 to 1959 publishing and critiquing such important American poets and essayists as Edmund Wilson, Yvor Winters, William Stafford, Harold Witt, and Ann Stanford. As mentioned in the prospectus for A Valiant Enterprise, “Greenwood provides an astute commentary on the Beat era.” The State Library is one of the few institutions to make available a complete run of the Talisman.

As their collections and business expanded, the partners needed more room, operating first out of a home in the Santa Cruz Mountains and then in Los Gatos. These locations proved to be short-lived. In 1962, after a delightful trip to California’s northern gold country, they purchased a house in historic Georgetown, in bucolic El Dorado County. There the partners had a print shop built, and when their equipment arrived, began producing documentary books on California and the West and printing catalogs representing their significant stock of antiquarian books. This new location enabled them to scout for documentary gold in these once booming mining towns, and their booths at antiquarian book fairs displayed the extraordinary treasures they discovered rummaging around in attics, basements, roadhouses, and old barns.2

In addition to poetry and literary criticism, the Talisman Press must also be regarded as a very important publisher of books devoted to California and Western history. From 1958 to 1967, the press produced twenty-four titles, many of which were designed and printed by Greenwood himself. Their imprint carried the names of California’s most important scholars as authors or editors of that time period. Examples include Governors of California from Peter H. Burnett to Edmund G. Brown by Benjamin F. Gilbert; The California Gold Rush: Sources by Rodman Paul; Overland in 1846: Diaries and Letters of the California–Oregon Trail, edited by Dale Morgan; Jack London: A Bibliography by George H. Tweney; James W. Marshall:
In 1952 Greenwood and Baird began publishing *Talisman*, a now very rare literary and poetry periodical. As booksellers and publishers, the Talisman Press issued outstanding catalogs of rare Western Americana filled with important historical and bibliographic data.

Through these gentle and generous partners, we acquired outstanding collections of manuscripts, maps, prints and photographs documenting California history.

In conjunction with the output of the Talisman Press, the partners started the Talisman Literary Research, Incorporated to distinguish these titles from the more history oriented works mentioned above. From 1971 to 1991, seven books carried this name including Greenwood’s 1985 publication of a book of short stories called Arcadia and Other Stories. Under this imprint, the partners wrote and printed a key work of Californiana, An Annotated Bibliography of California Fiction, 1664–1970 (1971). The annotations as well as citations of book reviews won the partnership much acclaim.


Personally, I got to know the partners as antiquarian booksellers at book fairs, and we became very good friends. Their displays of rare Western Americana can only be described as thrilling. My wife and I made several trips to Georgetown and enjoyed seeing the printing equipment including an antique iron press and their wonderfully decorated home. Baird liked to collect china plates decorated with themes in California and Western history and devoted a large wall to its display. Through these gentle and generous partners, we acquired outstanding collections of manuscripts, maps, prints and photographs documenting California history. Greenwood also donated important materials to our collection over a long span of time starting in the 1980s. One impressive example is the archive of Maude Hulbert Horn and her daughter Amy Horn Drysdale. Both served as the editor of the Georgetown Gazette, and Maude was the first woman newspaper editor in California. She also did much of the printing. The archive includes family papers and Maude’s daybooks as editor. Greenwood and Baird’s legacy lives on through their generous donations and the extraordinary output of the Talisman Press.

ENDNOTES


2. On one of his scouting trips, Greenwood discovered in a mining town attic what is known in the book trade as a “ghost book,” as no copies were known to exist. The book was an early Mormon guidebook written by Brigham H. Young and John Edgar in 1849.

3. The Talisman Press Archives, consisting of sixty-four boxes, is available for research in the Library’s California History Room.


5. The Supplement to California Imprints found in A Valiant Enterprise consists of over 200 entries.

Dr. Robert J. Chandler: The Passing of Celebrated Historian, Clamper and Library Donor

Our necrology continues with the death of historian and Foundation member Dr. Robert J. Chandler on March 13, 2019. Dr. Chandler, a resident of Lafayette, California, served for many years as the principal historian of Wells Fargo Bank. He gave scores of lectures, wrote brilliant books and articles, and actively participated in numerous historical and book related organizations. As a hyperactive member of E Clampus Vitus, Bob, as he was best known, loved to entertain his audiences by wearing a Clamper hat and regalia. In recognition of his devotion, he served as the X-Noble Grand Humbug of the Yerba Buena #1, the Mother Lodge of the Clampers. He supplemented his talks with artifacts and documents collected over the years. In addition, Chandler served as president of the Book Club of California and as five-time sheriff of the San Francisco Corral of the Westerners. Last year, in recognition of his leadership, the Westerners International honored him as a “Living Legend.” He was an energetic collector and adorned his spacious home with thousands of books, pamphlets, manuscripts, maps, lithographs and photographs. Demonstrating his passion for Western history, he expanded his home to include handsome wooden library-like book stacks and built-in file cabinets. Each shelf included small eye-catching artifacts.

He was a dear friend and frequently sent attention-getting emails loaded with photographs from his many historical expeditions. Chandler always offered support and encouragement. Showing his Clamper side, however, you could count on him interjecting an enthusiastic “hurrah” during your presentation. Moreover, you had to be on guard when engaging him in conversation as he loved to interject puns into the dialogue.

In 2014, the prestigious University of Oklahoma Press published his San Francisco Lithographer: African American Artist Grafton Tyler Brown (1841–1918). Over the years, Chandler donated materials to the State Library on Brown including a precious and unusual artifact, a soap box that had a Brown-produced label glued to its top advertising the Standard Soap Company of San Francisco. On August 15, 2012, Dr. Chandler gave a highly entertaining lecture at the State Library on Brown. Because of his illness, this scholar contacted me to turn over to the State Library Foundation all his original documents and artifacts that he acquired in researching Brown. Kathy Correia, recently retired head of the California History Section, and I made several trips to the immense Chandler home to gather these precious items. We brought back car-

One of the amazing artifacts donated by Dr. Chandler is this lithograph stone used by Grafton Tyler Brown for printing billheads and invitations.
loads of letters, billheads, stock certificates, cancelled checks, business cards, and other ephemera all carrying the imprint of Brown. A highlight is an original lithographic stone used by the artist. His donation, with the help of his wife, Susan Chandler, has added a truly significant collection on the African American experience in California.

Dr. Chandler will be sorely missed, but his legacy will live on through his publications and gifts to the Foundation on behalf of the State Library. Those who knew him will always remember and cherish his beaming smile, Clamper adornments, and his charismatic presentations.

ENDNOTES

1. For a partial record of the books, pamphlets, and keepsakes authored by Dr. Chandler visit the California State Library’s website at http://www.library.ca.gov and scroll down to online catalog, select author, and type in Chandler, Robert J.

2. The Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus is a fun loving fraternal organization devoted to the preservation of Western American history. Harkening back to the days of the California Gold Rush, members typically wear red shirts, vests, and hats decorated with buttons, badges, and ribbons. There are several active chapters in the Western U.S.

Artist and printer Grafton Tyler Brown received many commissions from fraternal organizations as shown by this handsome certificate of the International Order of Odd Fellows Grand Lodge of Oregon. Dr. Chandler, with a keen eye, acquired a rich array of Brown certificates and billheads.

G. T. Brown created this eye-catching chromolithograph for the Standard Soap Company of San Francisco. This label, along with an actual soap box, was given to the Library in 2016.
Recent Contributors

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Gwendolyn Gibbs, Redding
Bing Provance, Chico
Doug Rose, McKinleyville
Jaclyn Rusch, Fremont
Marilyn P. Sherrard, Clio
Geraldine Soderlund, Creagle

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AJ & Susana Watson, Rancho Murieta, Contributor
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Cox Black & White Lab, Rancho Cordova
Floyd Hembree Family, Dixon
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