A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE PUBLICATIONS
OF THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA
& A HISTORY OF THE CLUB
BY DAVID MAGEE

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PREFATORY NOTE

IBLIOGRAPHIES are seldom solo performances. A man’s name may appear on a title-page, but that tells only one half of the story. It is the purpose of this prefatory note to tell the other half.

When I agreed to compile a bibliography of The Book Club of California publications, with an accompanying history of the Club, I thought I was in for a fairly easy job. I understood that the archives were in existence and, of course, on the shelves at headquarters were complete files of Club books, keepsakes, Quarterly News-Letters, etc. It should be simple, merely a matter of collating and checking and trying to make of a bibliography something more than a catalogue of titles. How wrong can a person be?

To begin with, it must be understood that for many years the Club was run by amateurs, devoted, splendid citizens who attended monthly board meetings and when it was necessary gave generously of their time and energies for the welfare of the Club. But they were still amateurs, and so long as the organization was not in danger of collapse or actual decease they were content to let things jog along. What matter if the records of their meetings were sketchy; they knew pretty well what was going on. This casual approach was particularly true of the very early days when the Club was run by W. R. K. Young, Albert Bender and Alfred Sutro, a long-lived triumvirate who came dangerously close to being an oligarchy. To be sure, minutes of meetings were kept, but they have the look of memoranda typed out from notes hastily scrawled on the backs of envelopes. As often as not one comes across a reference to some former business of which there was no mention in previous minutes.

This informal method of keeping records makes things a bit difficult for an historian writing almost fifty years afterwards. To complicate matters further, the
The Book Club of California was born in 1912—just six years after San Francisco's calamitous fire and earthquake. The city, virtually rebuilt, was preparing to show off her new beauty for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition at which in three years she was to play hostess. But fresh bricks and mortar were surely not enough. San Francisco had been, and still was, proud of her cultural attainments, and for more than half a century she had been the literary and artistic center of the West. How was she to show this aspect of her life to the expected visitors?

A small group of San Franciscans thought they had the answer. They would suggest to the Exposition's Committee on Exhibits that a collection of fine printing and rare books be displayed at the Fair. San Francisco had always been a city of printers, and an exhibit of their handiwork alongside that of the master printers of Europe, such as William Morris and Cobden-Sanderson, would be not only an attraction but visual evidence of a thriving local talent.

The prime mover of this group was Dr. Edward Robeson Taylor, physician, poet and one-time mayor of San Francisco. Supporting him were W. R. K. Young, ardent book collector and business executive, John Henry Nash, whose printing was already known beyond the borders of California, and James D. Blake, then an assistant in Newbegin's Book Shop, later to be the West Coast representative of the well-known publishing house of Harper Bros. Together these men approached Charles C. Moore who had recently been appointed president of the Exposition. Moore, himself a keen collector, gave the suggestion his blessing but was
Somewhat later the constitution was amended to permit life membership at a cost of two hundred and fifty dollars. Honorary memberships, too, were bestowed, and with a profligacy that seems staggering in the light of present-day Club practices. Hardly a meeting went by in those early days that some person or other was not proposed for and unanimously voted this honor. Among the recipients of it, to mention only a few, were Edwin Markham, Cobden-Sanderson, Margaret Anglin, Witter Bynner, Seymour de Ricci, Bruce Rogers and Robinson Jeffers. One can hardly accuse the Club’s directors of provincialism in this respect. Indeed, one gentleman from Philadelphia who had presented a collection of Burns’ manuscripts to the Scottish nation was thus rewarded for his generosity. A certificate was sent to these honorary members, accompanied by a handsome bronze medallion, specially designed for the Club by Edgar Walter. Nowadays, on the rare occasions when the Club wishes to show its appreciation of some outstanding achievement, the recipient merely receives a formal letter. O tempora, O mores!

The first few meetings were held at the Commonwealth Club which kindly lent its quarters at 153 Kearny Street, San Francisco, but in 1913 the Club found its own home in Room 337 of the Phelan Building. Here it stayed until 1916 when a move was made to Room 725, Foxcroft Building (68 Post Street). Three years later the Club found larger quarters at 110 Sutter Street where it stayed—in Room 810 for the benefit of the shrine-minded—for just over twenty years.

Little time was lost in putting the aims and ambitions of the Club into action. The first year it launched a series of lectures on book-collecting and allied subjects. Edward Robeson Taylor spoke on William Morris, Robert E. Cowan on California history and its literature, Dr. W. H. Brewer on bookplates, and Frederick S. Myrtle on the origins of the alphabet. Exhibitions were held—one of fine bindings at the galleries of Vickery, Atkins and Torrey, and as early as the third meeting the board

of the opinion that the idea would bear more weight with an exhibits committee if it came from an organization rather than a handful of enthusiastic individuals. But there was no organization. Well, that could be remedied. And it was. Over a luncheon table—and perhaps a Pisco Punch or two—The Book Club of California came into being.

As it happened, the plan for an exhibition of fine books at the Exposition never materialized, but by December of that year of 1912 the Club was an entity, complete with an imposing constitution, by laws, and a charter membership of fifty-eight. Of these founding fathers all but four were San Franciscans or residents in the Bay Area, a preponderance of local representation that suggests a touch of provincialism. It would, however, be kinder and surely more accurate to attribute this to geography. The first officers of the newly-founded Club were Dr. Edward Robeson Taylor, president, W. R. K. Young, vice-president, Albert M. Bender, treasurer, and Will Sparks, secretary. The balance of the board of directors consisted of James D. Blake, Alfred Sutro, Isaac O. Upham and Mrs. Laurens Maynard.

Many names for the Club were suggested, among them “The Gutenberg Society,” “The Aldine Club,” and “The Elzevir Association.” These no doubt sounded too imitative of those long-established sister book clubs, the Grolier of New York and the Caxton of Chicago. Wise-ly, the founders finally chose the less historical-sounding but more descriptive name which the Club bears today.

The aims of The Book Club of California were, as they still are, to encourage fine printing in California and to further “the study of letters and the promotion of the arts pertaining to the production of books”—to quote from Article I of the Constitution. Lectures were to be given, exhibitions held, and books were to be published. There was to be no initiation fee and the annual dues were to be ten dollars—a sum, incidentally, that was not increased until 1947.

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It showed great courage and foresight on the part of those early directors to sponsor such a book. It is a volume of over 350 pages, handset and printed on handmade paper, all of which necessitated a price of twenty dollars per copy for an edition of 250. This was a considerable sum in those days, equivalent to possibly fifty dollars today. Membership, it must be remembered, was under a hundred at the time and collectors of Californiana were by no means as numerous or as keen as they are now. There was, naturally, some grumbling at the price, and one member asked indignantly why he was required to pay twenty dollars for what was, after all, nothing but a glorified catalogue. There must have been moments when the directors had qualms among themselves, for the book was a very slow seller. In the Annual Report of 1915 W. R. K. Young, who had succeeded Dr. Taylor as president, announced that 138 of the 250 copies printed had been sold. In the light of present-day Club publishing, when if an edition has not been exhausted within a month of publication the directors begin to look gloomy, this showing is nothing short of disastrous. But at the time, considering the small number of members (Young records in this 1915 report that membership stood at one hundred and twenty), these figures are not as bad as they sound on paper. Still, the Publications Committee must have been worried about their first child, for we find in 1916 a proposal, which was acted upon, to offer public institutions an opportunity to buy the volume, one of very few instances where a Club publication has been offered outside the membership. This expediency does not seem to have been very effective, for the book lay on the Club’s shelves for years. In fact, Oscar Lewis tells of how he never bothered to add Cowan’s *Bibliography* to his collection of Club books, figuring that there would always be a copy on hand, so why hurry. History proved him wrong. Somehow the book drifted out of print, for in a 1923 catalogue of Club publications this title bears an asterisk (surely it should have been printed in gold) indicating that it was no longer available.

The next few books the Club was to publish were, sensibly, nothing like as ambitious as the first. They were, in the main, pretty little volumes of a more literary than historical nature, priced at from two to three dollars. These were printed, with one exception, by either Taylor & Taylor or John Henry Nash. In fact, until the Grabhorn brothers arrived in San Francisco in 1920 these two firms, who had printed Cowan’s *Bibliography* as partners, were responsible for all but one of the Club’s publications to that date.

The first chairman of the Publications Committee was Albert M. Bender. A charter member of the Club, he was one of its most tireless boosters, and to him much credit must be given for the Club’s survival during these critical years. He remained chairman of the Publications Committee, and held the office of treasurer, until he died in 1941. An article he wrote for the *News-Letter* tells of the interesting and certainly unorthodox tactics employed by him and his fellow committeemen. Whenever a new publication was planned these amiable but determined pirates would raid the downtown offices of members and “depart with orders for more copies than the men visited were ever likely to use, and with their checks in full payment.” Thus the early publications were financed, and without such ruthless methods the Club, as Bender suggests in his article, could scarcely have survived. Printers, too, cooperated. They would receive, if they were lucky, a small payment on receipt of a contract and then have to be content with monthly checks as, and if, the books were sold.

A glance at these early publications recalls how strongly they represent the taste, both in content and format, of the period. They have a certain archaic charm, but few of them can be said to have any great originality.
in design. The productions of Taylor & Taylor show the influence of Cobden-Sanderson, while those of John Henry Nash possess at once the best and worst features of William Morris. At times Nash even descended to the typographical mediocrity of Elbert Hubbard, that most notorious imitator of the Kelmscott Press. With the advent of the Grabhorns a truly fresh and original talent appeared on the Pacific Coast, one that the Club was quick to recognize and employ.

Despite the Club’s avowed intention of encouraging young printers, it is interesting to note that in the first seventeen years the Publications Committee relied on only three printers: Taylor & Taylor, Nash and the Grabhorns. During this period these shops between them printed no less than thirty-one books for the Club, not to mention keepsakes, announcements of lectures, advertisements and the like. In 1920, however, we find the Committee broadening its outlook, for that year The Final Stanza by Lewis Browne was printed by Johnck & Seeger, and the following book, Witter Bynner’s The Persistence of Poetry, bore the imprint of the Windsor Press, owned and operated by James and Cecil Johnson.

Again at the risk of accusing the Club of provincialism, it must be recorded that, aside from a few keepsakes, it was not until ten years later that a Southern California craftsman was invited to print for the Club. True, in the twenties there was little or no choice, but by the early thirties Ward Ritchie had returned from France to set up shop in Los Angeles, and Bruce McCallister, whose books for some years were designed by Grant Dahlstrom, was in full operation, as were Saul and Lillian Marks at their Plantin Press.

By 1920 the Club had grown sufficiently to warrant a paid secretary. Heretofore this exacting and least rewarding of offices was relegated to whomever felt amiably inclined to accept the job. The first volunteer was Will Sparks, noted California painter, followed by James D. Blake, Robert Cowan and Pierce A. Drew. Then came the salaried Bertha Clark Pope (better known today as Bertha Damon) who edited one of the Club’s most important publications, The Letters of Ambrose Bierce, in 1922. There is no record extant—perhaps mercifully—of this lady’s stipend, but Oscar Lewis, who was soon to take her place, recalls that the figure was seventy-five dollars. Of this sum sixty dollars was donated by six members of the board and the balance came from the Club’s treasury—a rather sad commentary on the Club’s resources at the time.

There were a couple of pro-tem secretaries for a while, Maude L. Fellows and Clarkson Crane, the novelist; then in 1923 Oscar Lewis took over. He had been a hard-working member for some years, but now he was to become the backbone of the Club. If ever there was a one-man band it was Oscar Lewis. He sent out the bills, wrapped the publications, swept out the Club rooms, and, in extremis, probably washed the windows. Besides these janitorial and office boy services, he wrote all the Club’s correspondence, composed the prospectuses for forthcoming publications, and whenever a Club book looked a bit thin for the price he supplied a preface or introduction to pad it out. Later, single-handed, he wrote most of the copy for the early numbers of the Quarterly News-Letter and edited many of the annual keepsakes. His value to the Club was—and still is—inestimable, for aside from the tangible services recorded above he was during his long term of secretarship a wise counselor to many boards of directors. A glance at the faded carbons of his letters in the Club’s archives shows him to have been not only level-headed but a man of rare tact. His correspondence with disgruntled members (such characters do exist) demonstrate a rare diplomacy.

Oscar Lewis was secretary for more than twenty-five years, but this long term in office was the rule rather than the exception in the early days of the Club’s history. Albert Bender was treasurer and chairman of the Publications Committee for almost thirty years. W. R. K. Young, the Club’s second president, held the post from 1914 to 1925, while Alfred
by the middle of the twenties the maximum membership of 500, the goal set by the founders, had been reached. It was a period of great national prosperity in which the Club, naturally, shared. More and more books were published, sometimes as many as three in a year, and collectors from all over the country vied with one another to possess them. The Club's name and reputation had by now reached far beyond the confines of California, and applications for membership were received from such distant places as London, Paris and Hawaii. Travellers to Dublin were—and possibly still are—surprised to see in the library of Trinity College, only a few steps from the hallowed Book of Kells, a collection of California printing, many items of which were Club publications. Closer to home, public institutions were giving these books the dignity of glass-case display, and the ultimate honor came when the Club's edition of The Letter of Amerigo Vespucci (Grabhorn Press, 1926) was awarded a gold medal by the American Institute of Graphic Arts.

Optimism had always been the watchword of the Club's directors and it continued to be despite the stock market crash of 1929. Indeed, two of the Club's most expensive books were scheduled for 1930 and 1931. This optimism was, surprisingly, partly justified. The Nuremberg Chronicle, an imposing volume printed by John Henry Nash, sold well and, in fact, the special copies, priced at twenty-five and thirty-five dollars, were oversubscribed. But by the following year membership began to dwindle and the prospects for a brisk sale of The Santa Fé Trail to California did not appear to be very bright. This handsome and important book, a folio of close to three hundred pages, with sixteen full-page illustrations, was costly to manufacture, and at a price of thirty dollars it can hardly have been expected to sell out rapidly. Nor did it. It was admired, praised and longed for, but three years passed before the edition was finally exhausted.

By April of 1932 the Club had lost over a hundred members and in the following year was experiencing serious financial difficulties.
tors realized that if membership continued to drop at so alarming a rate the Club could scarcely survive. Something had to be done. Publications were restricted to small inexpensive books, and it was proposed, but never put into action, to reduce the annual dues to six dollars. A sale of existing Club publications was put on at a reduction of twenty-five per cent to all members, which netted some five hundred dollars in the first month, and a plan to offer the books to other book clubs, such as the Grolier, Caxton, Carteret, etc., met with some success. But these measures were only palliatives, not cures. The money raised, while it helped to pay current expenses, was not enough to give any sense of future security. Membership was the important thing. How, in the teeth of the nation's worst depression, was the Club to gain new members and, equally important, hang on to its existing ones?

The directors decided on a bold course of action. The Club would not restrict its operations any longer, it would expand them. And it would make joining the Club so attractive no bibliophilic-minded person could resist, money or no money. On the principle that everybody likes something for nothing, a quarterly house organ was projected, to be followed by a series of monthly keepsakes—all to be sent free to members.

The first number of the Quarterly News-Letter of The Book Club of California appeared in May, 1933. Its eight pages dealt solely with Club activities (later it was to include articles of a more general bibliographic nature), edited and mostly written by Oscar Lewis. The printing was by the Grabhorns who have continued, with the exception of nine numbers, to print the News-Letter to date. Carl Purington Rollins, for many years printer to Yale University, wrote of the early numbers: “Printed in Centaur and Lettre Batard (it) is as nice a piece of printing as one could ask for. ‘Modernism’ in typography will have to go far to better it.”

In November of 1933 Part One of The California Mining Town Series was sent to members. Its reception was gratifying. Several members wrote enthusiastically about this first keepsake, one stating, with prophetic truth: “We feel that twelve such views will more than repay us what our membership cost.”

It would not be true to say that publication of the News-Letter and the series of keepsakes alone saved the Club during these difficult years, but they were certainly instrumental in recapturing old friends and acquiring new ones. Membership increased steadily until in 1936 it stood at four hundred and fifty, the highest figure since 1930. By the spring of the following year, when, incidentally, the Club celebrated its silver anniversary with an exhibition of its publications at the Huntington Library, the directors were optimistic enough to raise the limitation of membership to six hundred.

In 1939 the Club moved to more elegant quarters in the Russ Building, situated in the heart of San Francisco's financial district. To help defray the cost of moving and at the same time reduce inventory of unsold Club publications, a sale at greatly reduced prices was advertised in the News-Letter. It is surprising to find no less than seventeen titles, in varying numbers of copies, still on hand at the beginning of that year, among them such fine books as A Brief and Accurate Treatise of Tobacco and A Printer's Garland. These two productions of the Windsor Press, so much sought after today, were offered at $2.00 and $92 respectively!

According to the June 1939 issue of the News-Letter, membership stood at this time at “well over 575” though by the end of the year it had dropped slightly. 1940 saw a further decline which, while not too serious, was a definite indication that the Club had been affected by the war in Europe and that the dream of reaching the maximum membership would not be realized. A note of anxiety creeps into the News-Letters of this period, as more and more resignations are recorded, and in a June 1940 editorial appeared a no-nonsense threat that if membership continued to drop the Club's activities would have to be drastically curtailed.

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Unfortunately the threat became a reality. The News-Letter ceased to be a quarterly and during the war years appeared only sporadically. Keepsakes for 1941 and 1942 were never completed, and for the next three years were dropped entirely. Only one book was published in 1941, and, again, only one in 1942; then, unprecedented in the Club's history, two years elapsed with no publication whatsoever. Alfred Sutro in an earlier editorial in the News-Letter had written: "Book collecting is essentially a peacetime activity. It thrives best in the soil of security, warmed by the rays of tolerance and freedom." To this truth must be added a concrete fact: membership dropped so alarmingly during these war years that in 1945 there were only three hundred and fifty regular members on the books, the lowest figure in more than twenty-five years.

The Club had successfully weathered a previous world war and a crippling depression; it was to emerge from this storm, too. And with a rapidity that is quite astonishing. It would seem almost as if during the enforced inactivity of the war years the Club had been merely marking time, storing its strength, waiting the opportunity to prove itself a still vigorous and enterprising concern. A bold program was planned, a program tempered, however, with prudence. First, with the post-war rise in rents in the financial district, new and less expensive quarters had to be sought. These were found a few blocks away, 'south of the slot,' on the second floor at 549 Market Street. Here, under clear-headed leadership and with the assistance of a full-time secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth Downs, the Club moved into action. The News-Letter was once more published regularly, enlarged now both in format and content, and a new series of keepsakes was projected. Two important books, Heraldry of New Helvetia and A Sojourn in California by the King's Orphan, were published in 1945, succeeded in the following year by The Diary of Patrick Breen and The Discovery of Florida.

This immediate return to full-scale operations had its effect. Old friends returned and new ones were enrolled. By 1947 it was obvious that the maximum membership would soon be reached, as indeed it was, and a compromise was made whereby library and institutional members were placed in a special category and the six hundred maximum was to apply only to individuals. This expediency still proved inadequate to accommodate the flood of applications to join the Club, so in 1949 the roll was increased to seven hundred and fifty, the figure at which it stands today.*

The new quarters on Market Street, while adequate for the Club's need at the time, could hardly have been called attractive. They consisted of one square room large enough to take the secretary's desk and filing cabinet, a small bookshelf, and an exhibition case to display the Club's most recent publications. The place was, essentially, a business office with little about it to encourage visits from members or would-be members. To remedy this it was decided in 1949 to remodel the premises. Non-profit organizations, however successful, always have a hard time raising ready cash. The Club was—and still is—no exception. So means had to be found whereby the cost of curtains and chairs and more exhibition cases could be met. Normally, the Club does not plan to make money from its books, but with the publication of A Short Account of the Life and Work of Wynkyn de Worde this policy was, for once, ignored. A modest profit was asked for the book, and in addition members were requested, though not required, to pay for it in advance. The response was immediate. The book was sold out before publication and "checks with order" rolled in most gratifyingly.

Mention is made of this not so much to record a fact as to show the loyal and willing spirit of the membership. Persons living far afield, who had little prospect of enjoying the amenities their money was making possible, paid as cheerfully as those who lived around the corner. It is a case in point, too, to indicate the gradual change over the years in the

*As this book was in press, the Board of Directors voted to increase the membership to eight hundred to accommodate a part of the applicants waiting to join the Club.
It is an anomaly of prosperous times that the better the business, the harder it is to stay alive. Membership was at the limit, with an ever-increasing waiting list, yet the overhead kept creeping up. In addition, of course, at this time the Club had to bear the heavy costs of moving, to say nothing of furnishing rooms that were two and a half times the size of the old. There were new exhibition cases to be made, shelves to accommodate a fast-growing library, and, equally important, comfortable furniture to be bought, so that the Club for the first time could offer its members an adequate and harmonious place to visit. To help pay for and maintain this elegance dues were once more raised, this time to fifteen dollars.

At this point in the Club’s existence it was decided to review the whole structure of the organization and plan a long-range program for the future. To this end Carl I. Wheat, then president, lent his considerable energies and talent. He appointed a committee, composed of past presidents, which still functions, to determine Club policy. One of the most constructive recommendations that this committee has made so far was a plan to restrict the terms of office for directors. In the old days, as has already been recorded, board members served with limpet-like tenacity for unconscionable lengths of time, thus denying a place to younger and possibly more fertile brains. Under the suggested system, which was immediately adopted, the number of board members was increased to fifteen, no director to serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. This method of rotating directorships worked out very well, and is still in operation.

Another problem which has been the concern of the Policy Committee, and as yet not fully resolved, is the Club library. As far back as 1914, Edward Robeson Taylor, reviewing the activities for the previous year, wrote: “The question of the Club beginning to acquire books of its own is important and worthy of serious attention at this time.” The

Club’s attitude toward its membership. In the early and middle periods of the Club’s existence it made no special effort to know its members. They were, so to speak, so many nephews and nieces with whom a distant and benevolent uncle exchanged Christmas cards. But with the new finery installed Uncle could invite his relatives to visit. And did so. The Club premises soon ceased to be merely an office where the tedium of business was transacted and became a regular meeting place for members and their friends to enjoy “the amenities of book-collecting.”

To encourage this closer contact between members and management, open house was held on Saturday afternoons, presided over by the Club’s genial and gracious secretary, Mrs. Downs.* And once more, after a lapse of many years, exhibitions were held. These have become an important feature of the Club’s activities, and will, no doubt, continue to be so. They are, as might be expected, devoted to printing and allied subjects.**

In 1947 the Club was thirty-five years old, verging on middle age, and going strong. For all these years it had maintained the same annual dues (surely a record for any non-profit organization), but the rising cost of management finally forced the directors to increase them to twelve dollars. Despite this increase membership continued to grow, until in 1952 not only was the maximum reached but by the end of that year there was a waiting list.

Meanwhile the Club rooms on Market Street were proving inadequate to take care of this rapid expansion, for since the move from the Russ Building, seven years before, the membership had more than doubled. It was imperative that the Club seek larger quarters, preferably north of noisy Market Street and closer to the main shopping center of the city. These were not easy to find in overcrowded downtown San Francisco where rents are not geared to non-profit concerns; it was not until late in 1954 that suitable premises were finally found at 545 Sutter Street (second floor), a block from Union Square.

(*These were discontinued in 1952 when it was found more convenient for members to meet on Monday evenings.)

(**For a complete record of exhibitions held up to August 1955 see the News-Letter, Vol. XX, No. 4.)
following year Dr. Taylor's successor as president, W. R. K. Young, said in his annual report: “A Book Club without books is an anomaly. We shall begin without delay to acquire good examples of good works so that in time we may possess a creditable collection. . . . A special committee will be named to care for this particular feature.” Such brave words were heard intermittently throughout the years to follow. Committees were constantly being named. Yet somehow nothing very much of them. As this writer has remarked elsewhere* the Club library, like Topsy, “just growed.” Members gave generously, but not always with discrimination, from their own collections, and through these gifts alone was any kind of a library formed.

In 1949 a questionnaire was sent to members asking their preference as to the type and/or types of book which they felt was most needed in building up a Club library. The replies were as follows: Bibliographies, 108; Books about Books, 120; Books on Printing and Presses, 117; Examples of Western Printing, 158.* At this time the Club owned, aside from a complete file of its own publications, a fairly representative collection of Western printing, but in the other categories it was woefully lacking. The questionnaire was a commendable beginning, and with the preference of the membership recorded one might think that some action would have been taken. But this Library Committee, like its predecessors, seems to have folded its hands, or perhaps just washed them of the whole affair. In any event, nothing definite was done and the library continued to garner books by gift, a hit-and-miss procedure which led nowhere.

Apathy might have persisted had not an unexpected and magnificent gift come from an anonymous member. This came at the right psychological moment, for the Club had recently moved into its new quarters where there were two unoccupied walls just waiting for book shelves. Here was the needed incentive to reactivate the then slightly moribund Library Committee, for with one blow the gift more than doubled the Club’s existing holdings. The collection given was rich in fine examples of the great presses—Ashendene, Kelmscott, Doves, Gregynog, to mention but a few—and those of lesser known but equally important printers throughout the world. These additions to what the Club already owned made the library begin to look impressive. But it was still only a beginning. There were—and still are—many gaps. It is the aim of the present Library Committee to fill in these gaps and make of the library a bibliographical center unrivelled on the Pacific Coast. It may take many years, but the Club is still young.

As the Club nears its golden anniversary it can look back with justifiable pride at the accomplishments of the past forty-six years. It was the first of its kind to be established west of the Mississippi, and it has moved steadily forward ever since, trying always to live up to the aims and ambitions of its charter members. The Club has spread the gospel of fine printing far beyond the confines of the State where it was born; it has sponsored no less than a hundred books, all of which to the best of their printers’ ability have exemplified the concepts laid down by those founding fathers. The Book Club of California today may surely look with content and confidence to a future as rich and fulfilling as its past.
OFFICERS OF THE CLUB
1912 – 1958

1912 –14
President: Edward Robeson Taylor
Vice President: W. R. K. Young
Treasurer: Albert M. Bender
Secretary: Will Sparks

1914 – 25
President: W. R. K. Young
Vice President: Alfred Sutro
Treasurer: Albert M. Bender
Secretary: James D. Blake, P. A. Drew, Robert E. Cowan,
Bertha C. Pope, Maude L. Fellows,
Clarkson Crane, Oscar Lewis

1925 – 45
President: Alfred Sutro
Vice President: Robert E. Cowan (1925–30)
Flodden W. Heron (1930 ?–1945)
Treasurer: Albert M. Bender (1925–41) No record of
his immediate successor
Secretary: Oscar Lewis

1945 – 46
President: Flodden W. Heron
Vice President: Morgan A. Gunst
Treasurer: George L. Harding
Secretary: Oscar Lewis
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Elizabeth Downs

1946 – 49
President: Morgan A. Gunst
Vice President: Oscar Lewis
Treasurer: George L. Harding
Secretary: Flodden W. Heron
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Elizabeth Downs
1949 – 52
President: George L. Harding
Vice President: Oscar Lewis (1949–51)
Mrs. John I. Walter (1951–52)
Treasurer: Carroll T. Harris
Secretary: Mrs. Elizabeth Downs
Honorary Secretary: Flodden W. Heron

1952 – 55
President: Mrs. John I. Walter
Vice President: Albert Sperisen
Treasurer: Carroll T. Harris
Secretary: Mrs. Elizabeth Downs

1955 – 57
President: Carl I. Wheat
Vice President: James D. Hart
Treasurer: Paul Bissinger
Secretary: Mrs. Elizabeth Downs

1957 –
President: James D. Hart
Vice President: Oscar Lewis
Treasurer: Martin S. Metau
Secretary: Mrs. Elizabeth Downs

THE HUNDRED BOOKS

10 ½ × 8. 356 pp.—title (i), copyright notice (ii), author’s note iii–iv, Dwinelle’s address (v–vi) vii–xxx, blank (xxxii), fly-title (xxxiii), blank (xxxiv), text 1–318, colophon (319), blank (320), errata (321), blank (322).

Two initials in red. Type Kennerley, handset. Paper handmade. Bound in pale blue boards with linen back, white label printed in black and ruled in red on back. 250 copies printed by Taylor, Nash and Taylor. Price $20.00.

This first publication of the Club was a highly ambitious project. Except for Powell’s Santa Fé Trail to California (No. 41), no other book so far issued by the Club has approached it in length and importance. It is the first real attempt at a bibliography of California and despite a greatly expanded edition in three volumes (1933) this edition remains a standard work of reference, esteemed for the notes which in many instances were dropped from the enlarged version.

It will come as a shock to the present generation to realize that the book was printed during the lifetime of Cobden-Sanderson and Hubert Howe Bancroft—seemingly giants from another era—both of whom wrote enthusiastic letters to the Club about its first publication.

The book was a slow seller. More than a year after publication 112 copies remained to be sold and it was not until around 1922 that the edition was finally exhausted. Then, as so often happens to books of lasting value, there came a demand for the volume and the original price of $20.00 began to look like a bargain.

Though copyrighted in 1914, through an oversight a second term of copyright was not applied for. Thus the book passed into the public domain and in 1952 was reprinted by Long’s College Book Company of Columbus, Ohio, with supplemental notes by Robert G. Cowan and an introduction by Henry R. Wagner. The Club had no connection whatsoever with this publication, despite the fact that its name appears on the title-page. Indeed, the Board of Directors authorized a strong letter of protest to those concerned. In this letter the Board, while approving a reprint in principle, deplored the appropriation of the original typographical design, which had been executed and paid for on the Club’s order.

In 1931 the Club was offered the opportunity of publishing the revised and heavily expanded edition, but before any decision could be reached, John Henry Nash withdrew the offer, feeling that the work deserved a wider audience than the Club could give it.
THE MAN WITH THE HOE | BY | EDWIN MARKHAM | WRITTEN AFTER SEEING MILLET’S | WORLD-FAMOUS | PAINTING | SO GOD MADE MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE, IN THE IMAGE OF GOD | MADE HE HIM. | GENESIS 1:27. | [decoration] | SAN FRANCISCO | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | MDCCCCXVI

Introduction by the author.

11 × 7¾. 14 pp.—blank (i), frontispiece portrait (ii), title (iii), copyright notice (iv), introduction (v–x), text (1–3), colophon (4).

Frontispiece portrait, decorative border (repeated on each page) by Ray F. Coyle. Decoration on title, two opening initials in red; each page within blue rules. Type Original Old Style Italic and Caslon Old Style, handset. Paper handmade. Bound in pale blue boards with linen back, white label printed in black on back. 300 copies printed by John Henry Nash. Price $2.00.

Accompanying the book is a photograph by Gabriel Moulin of Millet’s famous picture which inspired the poem. This is tipped in a four-page sepia folder with text on the first page within a floral border in blue, rules in gold, printed by John Henry Nash. As the folder for the Moulin photograph is a trifle larger than the book itself it could not be laid in. Consequently it got separated from the parent volume and mislaid; hence its scarcity today.

Two letters from Edwin Markham to Albert M. Bender were printed (single folded sheets). One gives permission to the Club to use his poem and the other asks that a change “after all these years” be made in The Man with the Hoe.

The author was delighted with this new presentation of his most famous poem. In a copy inscribed for W. R. K. Young, now in the Club library, he wrote: “... the HOE-man and I now make our grateful—if not graceful—bow as a slight recognition of the high honor that you and your literary circle have conferred upon us. We have appealed to Oberon to send his fairies to dance with dreams upon your nightly pillow ...”

The book was sent free to the Club membership, numbering around 200 at that time. Of the remaining 100 copies, 75 were offered for sale at $2.00 each. The balance of 25 were reserved for the benefit of new members.

BRET HARTE | THE LUCK OF ROARING CAMP | THE OUTCASTS OF POKER FLAT | TENNESSEE’S PARTNER | [portrait] | SAN FRANCISCO | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | MDCCCCXVI

[Number 1]
Portrait on title and decoration on opening page of each story by Ray F. Coyle.


For this publication the members of the Club were given an opportunity of choosing their favorite Bret Harte story. A list of twenty stories was sent out to the membership with a request that the three most typical of California literature be selected.

Of these thirty-five sonnets all but four had appeared in previous volumes of Sterling's poetry. Romance, To Life, and the two sonnets on The Skull of Shakespeare were printed here for the first time in book form.

It was through the good offices of Albert M. Bender, a charter member of the Club and a life-long friend of the author, that the book was published. George Sterling was a minor poet, but he will always be remembered by San Franciscans as the beloved though unofficial poet-laureate of “the cool grey city of love.”

This book was not a fast seller; copies were still available to members as late as 1935.
1917

NATIONALISM | SIR RABINDRANATH TAGORE | NATIONALISM IN THE WEST | NATIONALISM IN JAPAN | NATIONALISM IN INDIA | THE SUNSET OF THE CENTURY | [decoration] | SAN FRANCISCO | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | MDCCCCXVII

8 ¼ x 5 ½. 160 pp.—half-title (i), blank (ii), title (iii), copyright notice (iv), dedication (v), blank (vi), preface 7, blank (8), contents 9, blank (10), text including divisional titles (11–12) 13–159, colophon (160).

Type Caslon Old Style Linotype. Paper handmade. Bound in pale blue boards with linen back, white label printed in black on back. 250 copies printed by the Norwood Press. Price $2.00.

This book was electrotyped by the Norwood Press for Macmillan and Company who allowed the Club to issue this special edition on handmade paper. It has the dubious distinction of being the only Club book not printed by a California press, and with one exception (Le Porte de Malétroit, 1952) the only book not actually printed in California.

The announcement for the book was printed by John Henry Nash.

1918

CALIFORNIA | [decoration] | BY | INA COOLBRITH | SAN FRANCISCO | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | MDCCCCXVIII

[within decorative ruled border]

Introduction by the author.

10 ¼ x 7 ½. 14 pp.—frontispiece portrait; title (i), copyright and printer's notices (ii), introduction i–ii, text 1–9, blank (10).

Green ruled borders throughout with orange floral decorations by Lawrence B. Haste; frontispiece portrait of the author, printed in green, by Dan Sweeney. Type Cloister Old Style Italic, handset. Paper handmade. Bound in pale green boards with linen back, white label printed in black on back. 500 copies printed by John Henry Nash. Price $2.00.

This poem was originally written for a University of California Commencement Day. It has the distinction of being the first such effusion ever written by a woman for any university.

The Publication Committee must have been very optimistic indeed to have printed 500 copies of the book—an optimism scarcely justified, for it was many years before Miss Coolbrith's love-song to her native State finally went out of print.

There was a leak in the Club offices some time in 1920 which ruined a portion of the edition. Without this intervention of nature who knows but what the book might still be available.
ODES • AND • SONNETS

CLARK • ASHTON • SMITH

THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA • SAN FRANCISCO—MCMXVIII

Introduction by George Sterling.

10 × 7 1/2. 38 pp.—title (i), copyright notice (ii), preface iii–iv, contents v, blank (vi), half-title (vii), blank (viii), text 1–28, blank (29), colophon (30).

Each page within a wide pictorial border by Florence Lundborg, printed in green; title in red and black, decorations in green. Type Kennerley, handset. Paper handmade. Bound in pale blue boards with linen back, white label printed in black on back. 500 copies printed by Taylor & Taylor. Price $3.00.

It was courageous of a young and struggling book club to publish a volume of verse by a little-known poet. But George Sterling thought highly of these poems, commenting on the astonishing maturity of an author who had written most of them before the age of twenty.

THE KASÍDAH • (COUPLETS) • OF HÂJÍ ABDÛ EL-YEZDÎ: • A LAY OF THE HIGHER LAW • TRANSLATED AND ANNOTATED • BY HIS FRIEND AND PUPIL • F. B. • (SIR RICHARD F. BURTON)

SAN FRANCISCO • THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA • MDCCCCXIX

Introduction by Aurelia Henry Reinhardt.

12 1/2 × 9 1/2. 64 pp.—title (i), quotations (ii), introduction iii–vii, blank (viii), 'To the Reader' (ix), blank (x), text 1–52, colophon (53), blank (54).

Title in red and black; decoration on title and eleven headpieces by Dan Sweeney. Type Caslon Old Style, handset. Paper handmade. Bound in yellow marbled boards with vellum back, title stamped in gold on back. 500 copies printed by John Henry Nash. Price $8.00.

A few weeks after publication members received a four-page printed leaflet incorporating a letter from W. R. K. Young, then president of the Club, quoting in part an encomium of the book by Professor Jastrow, and in full a letter from Cobden-Sanderson in which the owner of the Doves Press says: "The Book itself is beautifully printed and built up. The title page is beautiful, beautifully balanced and enriched with color and design, and I have nothing but thanks to offer you for your kindness in permitting me to see and possess it ..." Accompanying this leaflet is a facsimile of Cobden-Sanderson’s letter, executed by John Henry Nash.
AMBROSE BIERCE \ A HORSEMAN IN THE SKY \ A WATCHER BY THE DEAD \ THE MAN AND THE SNAKE \ [with decorative border] \ SAN FRANCISCO \ THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA \ MDCCCCXX

8 ¼ × 5 ½. 58 pp.—title (i), publisher’s notice (ii), text including divisional titles (1–2) 3–53, blank (54), colophon (55), blank (56).

Decoration on title (with monogram in red) and headpieces for each story by Ray F. Coyle. Type Caslon Old Style, handset. Paper machine made. Bound in green and orange marbled boards with green cloth back, white label printed in black on back. 400 copies printed by John Henry Nash. Price $3.00.

THE VINTAGE FESTIVAL: \ A PLAY PAGEANT & FESTIVITIES \ CELEBRATING THE VINE IN THE \ AUTUMN OF EACH YEAR \ AT ST. \ HELENA IN THE NAPA VALLEY \ [decoration] \ BY SARAH BARD FIELD \ [decoration] \ PRINTED \ BY JOHN HENRY NASH \ FOR THE \ BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA \ [decoration] \ SAN FRANCISCO \ [decoration] \ MDCCCCXX \ [decorations] \ [title on first page of text, the whole within floral border]

7 ½ × 5 ¼. 28 pp.—copyright notice (i), frontispiece (ii), title and text (1) 2–24, colophon (25), blank (26).


LILITH \ A DRAMATIC POEM \ BY \ GEORGE STERLING \ [illustration] \ SAN FRANCISCO \ THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA \ 1920

8 ¼ × 5 ¼. 84 pp.—title (i), copyright notice (ii), dedication (iii), blank (iv), dramatic personae v, blank (vi), half-title (1), blank (2), text 3–76 (77), colophon (78).


Bruce Rogers was originally asked to print this book. In his letter declining the offer he wrote: “It does not appeal to me sufficiently to inspire any very definite idea of typographical treatment. I would much prefer that my first bit of work for the Club should be something which lent itself to typographical beauty more happily than blank verse or dramatic writing does...”

Lilith, considered by many to be Sterling’s best sustained work, was published the previous year by A. M. Robertson of San Francisco. But the printing job was wretched and so full of errors that the Club’s edition was issued to give the dramatic poem a corrected text and a handsome and lasting format.

There is an interesting letter extract from Sterling to “Dear Mitchell” (Kennerley?) dated Apr. 8th 1924, enquiring if his correspondent would care to print a cheap edition of the book and intimating that the Club edition was too expensive for the ordinary mortal. He added a postscript that “Powys said that ‘Lilith’ would be ‘read 500 years from now!’”

A GRACIOUS VISITATION \ WRITTEN BY \ EMMA FRANCES DAWSON \ WITH AN APPRECIATION BY \ AMBROSE BIERCE \ [decoration] \ SAN FRANCISCO: \ THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA \ MCMXXI

9 × 5 ¼. 78 pp.—title (i), blank (ii), appreciation by Bierce (iii–v), quotations (vi), text (1) 2–69 (70), colophon (71), blank (72).

Title in red and black, captions in red. Type Garamond, handset. Paper handmade. Bound in black and orange marbled boards with russet cloth back, title stamped in gold on back. 300 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $4.00.

The first book to be printed for the Club by the Grabhorn Press.

This long-short story of San Francisco originally appeared in An Itinerant House and Other Stories, published by William Doxey in 1897. Bierce says of A Gracious Visitation: “It is indeed a marvellous creation ... I should say it is unsurpassed and unsurpassable...” This is real praise, for Bierce was a notoriously harsh critic of his fellow writers.

Emma Dawson was still alive in 1921, the year of this reissue of her story. Albert Bender discovered her living in genteel poverty in Palo Alto, and the reason for publishing the book lay as much in giving the author some financial assistance as in rescuing a minor masterpiece from oblivion.

PRAYER \ BY CHARLES KELLOGG \ FIELD \ WITH A FOREWORD \ BY DAVID STARR \ JORDAN \ THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA \ 1921 [within ornamental border]
A poem written at Stanford University, October 13, 1906, for the Phi Beta Kappa Society. The author is better known to a later generation as "Cheerio," whose radio program was directed towards shut-ins.

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**The | Sermon on | the | Mount**

1921

7⅞ × 5⅛. 16 pp.—title (i), acknowledgment (ii), foreword (iii–v), quotation (vi), text (1–8), quotation (g), colophon (10).


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**The | City of the Golden Gate | a Description of San Francisco in | 1875 | Written by | Samuel Williams | [seal] | San Francisco | The Book Club of California | MCMXXI**

1921

9⅝ × 5⅛. 48 pp.—title (i), blank (ii), text (1) 2–44, colophon (45), blank (46).

Five full-page illustrations not included in pagination, headpiece on opening page of text. Type Peignot Gothic, handset. Paper handmade. Bound in pale yellow boards, orange label printed in black with gold border and blue decoration on back, extending on to both front and back covers. 300 copies printed by John Henry Nash. Price $5.00.

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**The | Letters of Ambrose Bierce | Edited by | Bertha Clark Pope | with a Memoir by | George Sterling | [decoration] | San Francisco | The Book Club of California | 1922**

1922

8⅞ × 6⅜. 256 pp.—frontispiece portrait; title (i), copyright and editor's notices (ii), divisional title (iii), blank (iv), introduction v–xxix, blank (xxx), divisional title (xxx), blank (xxxii), memoir by Sterling xxxiii–xlvi, blank (lvi), text including divisional title (1–2) 3–204, colophon (205), blank (206).
THE SONG OF SONGS [decoration] BEING LOVE LYRICS FROM ANCIENT PALESTINE [decoration] TRANSLATED BY MORRIS JASTROW MCMXXII

Preface by Helen B. Jastrow; introduction by Franz Cumont.

7 7⁄8 x 5. 138 pp.—title (i), blank (ii), preface (iii), blank (iv), introduction (v–x), half-title (1), blank (2), text (3–17), colophon (18).


Unfortunately, Dr. Jastrow, the eminent Hebrew scholar, did not live to see his translation of The Song of Songs in this handsome format.

In January of 1923 the American Institute of Graphic Arts held the first of its “Fifty Books of the Year” exhibitions. This volume was among the selections.

OSCAR WEIL LETTERS AND PAPERS [design] THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO MCMXXIII

Introductory memoir by Flora J. Armstrong, Albert I. Elkus and Stewart W. Young.

11 1⁄2 x 7 1⁄4. 140 pp.—frontispiece portrait; title (i), blank (ii), table of contents (iii–iv), divisional title (v), blank (vi), memoir (vii–xiii), blank (xiv), text including divisional titles (1–2) 3–119 (120–125), colophon (126).

Design on title, divisional titles, initials, marginal notes, colophon, all in red; some initials in blue. Photographic frontispiece, mounted within double-ruled and decorated border in gold-color, by Dorothea Lange from a painting of Oscar Weil by Olga M. Ackerman. Design on title by H. von Schmidt. Type Garamond, handset. Paper mold made. Bound in maroon boards with black cloth back, red labels printed in gold on back and on front cover. 400 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $10.00.
One of the Fifty Books of the Year.

For present-day readers, Oscar Weil was a well-known musicologist who spent much of his life in San Francisco. He died in 1921.

1923

THE LETTER OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS CONCERNING HIS FIRST VOYAGE TO THE NEW WORLD DONE INTO ENGLISH & PROVIDED WITH A FOREWORD BY DONALD B. CLARK

8 1/4 x 5 3/8 pp.—title (i), foreword (ii–viii), half-title and engraving (i), text (2–22), colophon (23), blank (24).

Six line engravings redrawn from contemporary woodcuts by Donald McKay. Title, captions, printer's device in red; two hand-colored initials in blue-green. Type Poliphilus, handset. Paper handmade. Bound in blue boards with tan cloth back, brown medallion printed and illustrated in gold on front cover. 250 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $5.50.

This is the first use of Poliphilus type in America.

The Grabhorn Press intended to publish the book itself, but after it was completed the Club took over the edition. Two copies, at least, exist with the colophon giving the Grabhorns as publishers.

One of the Fifty Books of the Year.

1924

One of the Fifty Books of the Year.
ALDUS | PIUS | MANUTIUS | WITH AN ESSAY BY THEODORE | LOW DE VINNE TOGETHER | WITH A LEAF FROM THE ALDINE | HYPNEROTOMACHIA POLIPHILI | PRINTED AT VENICE IN 1499. | SAN FRANCISCO : THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA : 1924. [within architectural border]

11 3/4 x 8.32 pp.—title (i), blank (ii), note (iii–iv), divisional title (v), blank (vi), divisional title (vi), blank (vii), text (viii–xxiv), colophon (xxv), blank (xxvi).

Original leaf inserted after p. (vi); decorative headpiece on p. (iii); illustrations reproduced from the original edition on pp. (v), (xii), (xiv). Type Poliphilus, handset. Paper handmade. Bound in brown boards with black cloth back, title stamped in gold on back, black label decorated in gold on front cover. 250 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $10.00 with an inserted leaf of type; $12.50 with an inserted leaf having ornamental borders; $15.00 with an inserted leaf having a woodcut; or more, depending on the value of the woodcut.

Although the colophon reads "250 copies," actually only 192—the number of leaves available for insertion—were distributed to members. Fifty copies with a facsimile leaf in place of the original were offered for sale at a much later date—1955, to be exact. These were sold for $8.00 each.

One of the Fifty Books of the Year.

OLD FRENCH TITLE PAGES | BEING A CHAPTER FROM BOOKS AND BOOKMEN BY ANDREW LANG. | [woodcut used as printer's device] | PRINTED AT SAN FRANCISCO, IN FEBRUARY, MCMXXIV, FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA.

5 3/4 x 3 3/4. 24 pp.—title (i), blank (ii), text (i–xxii).

Title in red and black, caption title and printer's device in red, initials hand-colored in gold, red and blue; six illustrations (included in pagination), two printed in red and black. Type Gothique Ancienne, handset. Paper mold made. Bound in blue and tan batik boards with parchment back, title in red on back. (Other bindings have been noted but this is the most common.) 725 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press.

Printed for presentation to members. This was a joint publication with the American Institute of Graphic Arts. A special title page was printed for the A.I.G.A. issue. According to the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting the Club took 260 copies of this book.
CONTINENT’S END | AN ANTHOLOGY OF | CONTEMPORARY CALIFORNIA | POETS | [decoration] | EDITED, WITH INTRODUCTIONS, BY | GEORGE STERLING | GENEVIEVE TAGGARD | & JAMES RORTY | [decoration] | PRINTED FOR | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | BY JOHN HENRY NASH | SAN FRANCISCO | MCMXXV | [within ruled and decorated borders]

9 3/4 × 6 1/2. 278 pp.—frontpiece poem, title (i), blank (ii), copyright notice (iii), blank (iv), dedication (v), blank (vi), half-title (vii), table of contents viii–xii, divisional title (xiii), prefatory note by Albert M. Bender xiv–xv, introduction by George Sterling xvi–xxiv, introduction by Genevieve Taggard xxv–xxxvi, introduction by James Rorty xxxii–xxxvii, divisional title (i), text 2–237, blank (238), colophon (239), blank (240).

Title and frontpiece poem in red and black; running titles within ruled and decorated borders. Type Garamont monotype. Paper machine made.

Bound in brown boards with vellum back, title and decorations in gold on back. 600 copies (500 for sale) printed by John Henry Nash. Price $15.00.

One hundred copies were reserved for contributors to the anthology. To imagine that the Club membership, which probably did not number more than 350 at this date, could absorb 500 copies of a book of verse betokened an almost foolhardy optimism—an optimism, alas, scarcely justified: the Club still has copies on hand. Despite its poor showing as a seller, Contintent’s End is a real contribution to California literature. It represents the best of the younger poets of the day, such as Robinson Jeffers, who might not otherwise have found a hearing.

Unfortunately the vellum in which this book was bound was improperly seasoned and the binding tends to buckle.

PHILOBIBLON | OF RICHARD DE BURY | [decoration] | BISHOP OF DURHAM | 1 | [coat-of-arms]

15 × 10. 44 pp.—title (i), blank (ii), text (i) 2–40 (41), blank (42), colophon on last page of text.


The text is from the English translation by John Bellingham Englis printed in London in 1832. This work is generally considered to be the first book about book-collecting, written by the first recognized English bibliophile.

One of the Fifty Books of the Year.

The Grabhorns had printed an edition of The Book of Ruth the previous year in a larger format with double columns. The type for this edition was not reset; the double columns were merely reduced to one.

At least two copies exist with a variant colophon and bound in vellum.

One of the Fifty Books of the Year.

THE TESTIMONY OF THE SUNS | [decoration] | BY GEORGE STERLING | INCLUDING COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS AND ANNOTATIONS | BY AMBROSE BIERCE | A FACSIMILE OF THE ORIGINAL TYPEWRITTEN MANUSCRIPT | WITH THE MARGINAL NOTES BY GEORGE STERLING IN BLACK INK | AND THE COMMENTS BY AMBROSE BIERCE IN RED INK | TOGETHER WITH AN INTRODUCTION | BY OSCAR LEWIS | AND A MEMOIR OF AMBROSE BIERCE | BY ALBERT M. BENDER | [decoration] | SAN FRANCISCO : | PRINTED FOR THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | BY JOHN HENRY NASH | 1927

14 7/8 x 9 5/8. 48 pp.—title (i), publisher’s and printer’s notices (ii), text including divisional titles (3) 4–33, blank (34), facsimile of original manuscript, including divisional title (35–47), blank (48).


This poem was Sterling’s first published work. The poet was a protege of Ambrose Bierce whose annotations and suggestions, reproduced here in facsimile, show how closely student and mentor worked together. Comparison of the manuscript and printed text proves that Sterling abided by most of Bierce’s advice.

AROUND THE HORN IN ’49 | THE JOURNAL OF THE HARTFORD UNION MINING AND TRADING COMPANY | DECEMBER, 1848 TO SEPTEMBER, 1849 | [decoration] | WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY | OSCAR LEWIS | SAN FRANCISCO | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | 1928
POEMS | BY ROBINSON JEFFERS | INTRODUCTION BY B. H. LEHMAN | THE | BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | SAN FRANCISCO | 1928
9 ½ × 7. 64 pp.—page of limitation, frontispiece not included in pagination; title (i), copyright notice (ii), table of contents (iii), blank (iv), introduction v–xi (xii), text including divisional title (1–2) 3–49, blank (50), colophon (51), blank (52).
Of the fifteen poems printed in this volume, five had previously appeared in book form and five in magazines; the remainder appeared here for the first time.

AN | INVOCATION | BY | AMBROSE BIERCE | WITH A CRITICAL INTRODUCTION BY | GEORGE STERLING | AND AN EXPLANATION BY | OSCAR LEWIS | [decoration] | PRINTED FOR | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | BY JOHN HENRY NASH | OF | SAN FRANCISCO | 1928
11 × 7 ½. 30 pp.—title (i), printer's and copyright notices (ii), explanation iii–viii, introduction ix–xvi, text 1–13, blank (14).

This poem, written for a Fourth of July celebration in San Francisco, was considered by George Sterling to be Bierce's best. It first appeared in the San Francisco Examiner and was reprinted in Shapes of Clay (1903).

One of the Fifty Books of the Year.

1929

THE FINAL STANZA | A HITHERTO | UNPUBLISHED CHAPTER OF | “THAT MAN HEINE” | BY | LEWIS BROWNE | [decoration] | SAN FRANCISCO | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | 1929
8 × 5 3/8. 18 pp.—page of limitation, half-title, title, copyright notice, not included in pagination; dedication (i), blank (ii), foreword iii–vi, text including fly-title (1–2) 3–8, blank (9–10), colophon (11), blank (12).

Opening initials of foreword and text in blue. The page of limitation is signed by the author. Type Cloister, handset. Paper mold made. Bound in blue decorated boards with vellum back, title in gold on front cover and in blue on back. 400 copies printed by Johnck & Seeger. Price $3.50.

This short piece, relating the burial of Heine, was intended to form an introductory chapter to Lewis Browne’s biography of the poet. It was omitted from that book and is printed here for the first time.

1929

THE | PERSISTENCE | OF | POETRY | BY | WITTER BYNNER | [decoration] | SAN FRANCISCO | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | MCMXXIX
10 1/4 × 7 5/8. 40 pp.—page of limitation (i), blank (ii), title (iii), copyright notice (iv), dedication (v), blank (vi), half-title (vii), blank (viii), text (i) 1–29, colophon (30), blank (31), acknowledgment (32).


Part of this essay appeared in the author’s introduction to The Jade Mountain, and a portion was printed in The Dial under the title Poetry and Culture. In 1946 copies of this book were still on hand. They were used at that time as premiums to gain new members.
MEMORIAL ADDRESS ON THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN DELIVERED AT THE REQUEST OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES BEFORE THEM IN THE HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BY THE HONORABLE GEORGE BANCROFT ON FEBRUARY TWELFTH 1866 WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY JOHN DRINKWATER PRINTED FOR THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA BY JOHN HENRY NASH SAN FRANCISCO 1929

THE BOOK OF THEL BY WILLIAM BLAKE THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA . . . 1930 [on decorative background]

This book brought quite a few complaints from members. One wrote that it was merely a booklet and a bad one at that—"enough to make Blake turn in his grave." The most vigorous protest, however, came from Mr. Rockwell Kent, calling attention to the marked similarity of Julian Links' illustration to one of his own published in Bookplates and Mark of Rockwell Kent.
37

MR. STRAHAN’S DINNER PARTY | A COMEDY IN ONE ACT | WITH PROLOGUE AND EPILOGUE BY | A. EDWARD NEWTON | AND A NOTE BY | EDWARD F. O’DAY | [rule] | SIR, THE GREAT END OF COMEDY | IS TO MAKE AN AUDIENCE MERRY. | DR. JOHNSON. | [rule] | SAN FRANCISCO: | PRINTED FOR THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | BY JOHN HENRY NASH | 1930

14 1/4 × 9 1/4. 54 pp.—page of limitation, double-spread frontispiece not included in pagination; title (i), copyright notice (ii), “The Celebration at Lichtfield” (iii) iv–ix, text including half-title (1) 2–43, blank (44).

The double-spread frontispiece portraits of Dr. Johnson and Benjamin Franklin are etchings by William Wilke. Title in red and black. The page of limitation is signed by the author. Type Caslon, handset. Paper mold made. Bound in blue boards with linen back, white label printed in red on back. 350 copies (355 for sale) printed by John Henry Nash. Price $15.00.

This play was written by A. Edward Newton on the occasion of his election as President of the Johnson Society of Lichfield, and was read by him upon his installation in that office, September 20, 1930. This is its first printing.

38


19 × 12 1/2. 26 pp.—original leaf, reproduction of original title, frontispiece, not included in pagination; title (i), copyright notice (ii), text (3) 4–25 (numbered IV–XXV), blank (26). Colophon on last page of text. Double column.

Original title-page, frontispiece and twenty-two smaller reproductions of text and illustrations throughout text taken from the 1493 Latin edition of the Nuremberg Chronicle. Type Cloister Old Style, handset. Paper mold made. Bound in orange and brown marbled boards with brown leather back, red leather label printed and ruled in gold on back. 300 copies printed by John Henry Nash. Price: 280 copies with a single original leaf—$12.00; 18 copies with two original leaves—$25.00; 2 copies with four original leaves—$35.00.

Except for its awkward (though unavoidable) size, a handsome volume and a worthy successor to the Club’s earlier “leaf” book—the Aldus Pius Mansutius. Unlike the Aldus, which reprinted Theodore de Vinne’s article, this publication contained an essay especially commissioned by the Club. In 1935 Henry Bullen suggested that he write a supplementary article, giving proof of certain statements that he had made in this earlier work. The Club did not publish this.

39

THE ORIGIN OF THE CELEBRATED JUMPING FROG | OF CALAVERAS COUNTY | BY OSCAR LEWIS | [decoration and rule] | SAN FRANCISCO: THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

9 1/2 × 7. 50 pp.—title (i), copyright notice (ii), foreword (iii–iv), half-title (1), blank (2), text (3) 4–27, blank (18), appendix (29–43), blank (44), colophon (45), blank (46).

Title in green and black, decorations and decorative initials in green by Valenti Angelo. Four-page facsimile of the Sonora Herald inserted after colophon. Type Janson, handset. Paper mold made. Bound in blue, green and tan marbled boards with green cloth back, decoration on front cover and title on back in gold. 250 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $6.00.

This account of the printing of Mark Twain’s famous story traces the history of the origin of the tale back to the Sonora Herald of 1853—twelve years before Twain’s version appeared in the Saturday Press.

40

A BRIEFE AND ACCURATE TREATISE OF TOBACCO | IN WHICH THE IMMODERATE, IRREGULAR, & UNSEASONABLE USE THEREOF IS REPREHENDED, AND THE TRUE NATURE AND BEST MANNER OF USING IT, PERSPICUOUSLY DEMONSTRATED. | BY TO. VENNER, DOCTOR OF PHYSICK. | [illustration and rule] | SAN FRANCISCO: THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | 1931

12 1/4 × 9 1/2. 30 pp.—title (i), blank (ii), half-title (1), blank (2), text (3) 4–27, colophon (18).
THE SANTA FÉ TRAIL to California 1849-1852

THE JOURNAL AND DRAWINGS OF H. M. T. POWELL
EDITED BY DOUGLAS S. WATSON
SAN FRANCISCO: THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA
13 1/2 x 9 1/2. 288 pp.—frontispiece; title (i), blank (ii), printer’s and copyright notices (iii), blank (iv), foreword (v–vi), information about members of the Company (vii–xii), list of drawings and maps (xiii), blank (xiv), half-title (xv), blank (xvi), text (1) 1–272.

Title in red and black, initials and some marginal dates in red. Frontispiece and fifteen other illustrations, some folding, two folding maps, not included in pagination; seven small drawings throughout text. Type Centaur monotype. Paper mold made. Bound in tan cloth with natural niger back, title stamped in blind on back. 300 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $30.00.

Probably the most important book the Club has published to date. The journal covers three years of travel from Greenville, Illinois, to St. Louis, to San Diego, then up the California coast to San Jose, the gold fields and San Francisco, and back to Greenville via the Isthmus. It is a vivid day-by-day account, supplemented by the author’s drawings which are reproduced in the exact size of the originals. The journal is a genuine contribution to the historical annals of the West.

The cost of producing this handsome book was considerable, and members were asked to enclose with their order an advance payment of 25% to help finance the printing. History does not record how many obliged. It is mentioned here as an indication of how seriously the Club was feeling the effects of the Depression. The book sold slowly, which was to be expected considering its price and the bad times, and it was several years before the edition was exhausted. Today it is among the most sought-after and expensive of the Club’s publications.

One of the Fifty Books of the Year.

IN HONOR OF THE SIR WALTER SCOTT CENTENARY | [rule] | SIR WALTER SCOTT : 1832–1932 | A CENTENARY ADDRESS (20)

Foreword by Oscar Lewis.

9 × 5 ½. 34 pp.—facsimile; title (i), copyright notice (ii), foreword (iii–iv), divisional title (v), blank (vi), text 1–27, colophon (28).
Facsimile, folded, of a Walter Scott letter inserted before title; three illustrations on two leaves inserted and not included in pagination. Type Baskerville linotype. Paper handmade.
Bound in green boards with red niger back, title in gold on back and in green within green double-ruled border on front cover. 350 copies printed by Johnck & Seeger. Price $3.00.

John Buchan, the well-known Scottish novelist, historian and diplomat, delivered this address at the Scott Centenary Exercises held June 18, 1932. This is the first printing of it.
William Van Antwerp, collector of Sir Walter Scott, lived in California. His famous collection of Scott first editions is now in the Pierpont Morgan Library.

THE CITY THAT HAS FALLEN | BY WILLIAM MARION REEDY | REPRINTED FROM REEDY’S MIRROR, APRIL 26, 1906 | [illustration] | SAN FRANCISCO | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | 1933

Foreword by Oscar Lewis.

7 ½ × 4 ½. 20 pp.—title (i), reprint notice (ii), foreword (iii–v, numbered I–III), blank (vi), text 1–13, colophon (14).

The author was the well-known owner and editor of the St. Louis weekly, Reedy’s Mirror. He did not see San Francisco until 1920, fourteen years after the disaster about which he writes—a fact which may account for his solecism of referring to “Frisco” throughout his article. He died in San Francisco soon after his arrival. Could there be a moral in this?
CHARLES WARREN STODDARD'S | DIARY | OF A VISIT TO
MOLOKAI IN 1884 | WITH A LETTER FROM FATHER | DAMIEN
TO HIS BROTHER IN 1873 | INTRODUCTION BY OSCAR LEWIS |
[rules] | SAN FRANCISCO | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | 1933
6 7/8 x 4 7/8. 68 pp.—frontispiece, title, printer's notice not included in pagination;
introduction i–xi (xii), divisional title (xiii), blank (xiv), text 1–52 (53), blank (54).
Title in brown and black, initials and rules on running heads in brown. Frontispiece portrait of Father Damien from a photograph; facsimile of a page of
Stoddard's diary inserted before first page of text. Type Scotch Roman monotype. Paper machine made. Bound in brown and blue marbled boards with tan
cloth back, tan label printed in black on back. 250 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $2.25.
The author was the first man to bring the attention of the world to this leper colony and its famous priest, Father Damien. This is the first printing of the
diary as it was originally written. Presumably parts of it were used by Stoddard in his *The Lepers of Molokai*, published at Notre Dame in 1885.

THE VOYAGE OF | SEBASTIAN VIZCAINO |
TO THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA, TOGETHER WITH A MAP |
& SEBASTIAN VIZCAINO'S LETTER WRITTEN |
AT MONTEREY, DECEMBER 28, | 1602. | [decoration] | SAN FRANCISCO |
THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | MCMXXXIII
Foreword by Oscar Lewis.
8 7/8 x 6 3/8 pp.—title (i), blank (ii), foreword (iii–vi), text 1–49 (50), colophon (51), blank (52).
First word of foreword, first two words of Vizcaino's letter in orange; three headpieces and title illustration by Arvilla Parker, in orange; title illustration
repeated in black above colophon. Folding map inserted before first page of text. Type Franciscan, handset. Paper mold made. Bound in blue decorated boards
with tan cloth back, white label printed in black on back. 240 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $1.00.
The text follows the English edition of Venegas, 1759.
This is the first book to be printed throughout in Franciscan type which was
specially designed for the Grabhorn Press by Frederic Goudy.

[Number 43]
BIERCÉ | AND THE POE HOAX | BY CARROLL D. HALL | WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY CAREY McWILLIAMS | [decoration] | SAN FRANCISCO | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | 1934

10 × 7 ¼. 32 pp.—frontispiece, title, copyright notice not included in pagination; half-title (i), blank (ii), introduction iii–vi, text (1) 2–24, colophon (25), blank (26).

Title in maroon and black, opening word of subtitle and opening initial on first page of text in maroon. Photographic frontispiece portrait of Bierce; photograph of Bierce and Herman Scheffauer on first page of text, facsimiles on pp. 8–9. Type Baskerville, handset. Paper handmade. Bound in dark blue cloth, maroon label printed and ruled in white on front cover, white label printed and decorated in maroon on back. 250 copies printed by the Windsor Press. Price $3.00.

Not a very popular publication—perhaps deservedly so. Bierce's hoax, which involved trying to palm off a poem by Herman Scheffauer as Poe's, is not very amusing.

THE | HEATHEN CHINEE | PLAIN LANGUAGE FROM TRUTHFUL JAMES | BY BRET HARTE | WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY INA COOLBRITH | AND A BIBLIOGRAPHY BY ROBERT ERNEST COWAN | ILLUSTRATED BY PHIL LITTLE | SAN FRANCISCO | IMPRINTED BY JOHN HENRY NASH FOR THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | 1934

14½ × 11½. 44 pp.—frontispiece; title (i), copyright notice (ii), divisional title (iii), introduction iv–xii, text including divisional titles (13–35), bibliography 36–41 (numbered xxxvi–xl), blank (42), colophon (43), blank (44). Printed on double fold, Chinese style. Frontispiece and ten illustrations by Phil Little. Type Bulmer, handset. Paper machine made. Bound in Chinese blue boards, sewn with yellow cord, white label with title in black Chinese characters within rules on front cover, enclosed in natural linen folder with bone fasteners, title label repeated. 500 copies (200 for the Book Club of California) printed by John Henry Nash. Price $15.00.

The copies not taken by the Club were printed for Suttonhouse, Ltd. in 1936. These can be distinguished from the Club edition by the imprint on the title, lack of colophon, and a simple orange slip-case.

One of the Fifty Books of the Year.
1935

PRENTICE MULFORD'S | CALIFORNIA SKETCHES | EDITED, WITH | AN INTRODUCTION, BY | FRANKLIN WALKER | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | BY JOHN HENRY NASH | 1935

9 1/4 x 6 1/4. 128 pp.—title (i), copyright notice (ii), table of contents iii, blank iv, divisional title v, introduction vi—xxi, text including divisional title (1)—120, colophon (126).


The first appearance in book form of these sketches by a journalist who was a friend of Mark Twain and Bret Harte.

One of the Fifty Books of the Year.

1935

A PRINTER'S GARLAND | BEING A MISCELLANY OF TYPOGRAPHIC | FANCIES BY CECIL & JAMES JOHNSON. | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA : 1935

5 1/2 x 3 1/2. 38 pp.—half-title (i), title (ii), text 1—15, colophon (16).

Title in red and black, text printed throughout in red and black; headpiece on first page of text on yellow background; pages showing printer's ornaments, initials, etc., in various colors. Type, various. Paper mold made. Bound in mulberry decorated boards with vellum back, title in gold on back. 500 copies printed by the Windsor Press. Price $2.75.

A charming production and one of the Club's most elusive publications. The Johnson brothers selected a group of early literary works such as Anacassin and Ninolette, Confessions of Saint Augustine, etc., and designed specimen title pages and pages of text to accompany them.

1936


Preface by Oscar Lewis.

15 3/4 x 10. 24 pp.—frontpiece; title (i), blank (ii), preface (iii)—v, blank (vi), text (1)—16, colophon (17), blank (18).

Frontpiece and seven illustrations (not included in pagination) reproduced in color from the original illustrations by Louis Choris. Type Bauer Bodoni, handset. Paper machine made. Bound in orange boards with red cloth back, title in gold on back. 250 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $5.00.


One of the Fifty Books of the Year.

1937

A LEAF FROM THE 1611 KING JAMES | BIBLE | WITH "THE NOBLEST MONUMENT OF ENGLISH PROSE" | BY JOHN LIVINGSTON LOWES & | "THE PRINTING OF THE KING JAMES BIBLE" | BY LOUIS I. NEWMAN | PRINTED FOR | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | BY THE GRABHORN PRESS, SAN FRANCISCO, MCMXXXVII

15 3/4 x 10 3/4. 26 pp.—title (i), blank (ii), text 1—22 (numbered I—XXII), notes (23—24), colophon on last page of notes.

Double columns, printed in red and black throughout, initials hand-illuminated in red, blue, yellow and gold. Original leaf inserted before p. XVII Type Franciscan, handset. Paper machine made. Bound in grey-green boards with tan cloth back, white label printed in red on back. 300 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $6.00. (35 copies containing specially ornamental original leaves, $9.00.)

An extremely handsome book which drew praise from both contributing essayists and many Club members, some of whom found in this volume a relief from the Western Americana theme which had predominated in the Club's publications of the past five years.

One hundred and sixteen orders were received for the thirty-five special copies; a drawing was held for these.

15 3/4 x 10 3/4. 64 pp.—title (i), copyright notice (ii), preface (iii—iv), biographical sketch (v) vi—xi, blank (xii), divisional title (xiii), blank (xiv), text (1)—31, blank (32), plate captions (33—47), all versos blank, colophon (48), blank (50).
Eight reproductions of drawings by Coit, not included in pagination. Type Lutetia, handset. Paper machine made. Bound in blue boards with tan cloth back, blue labels lettered and ruled in gold on front cover and on back. 325 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $4.50.

Seven of the illustrations are views of San Francisco, among the earliest known drawn by a '49er; the eighth is of Benicia. The originals are in the Bancroft Library.

Mark Twain's letter to William Bowen, Buffalo, February Sixth, 1870. Prefatory note by Clara Clemens Gabriowttsch. Foreword by Albert W. Gunnison. The Book Club of California, San Francisco: 1938. 10 × 7 ½. 22 pp.—title (i), blank (ii), prefatory note (iii–iv), foreword (v–viii), text including half-title (1–3), 4–11 (12), colophon (13), blank (14).

Five illustrations, including that on title, reproduced from the first edition of Tom Sawyer. Type Lutetia, handset. Paper machine made. Bound in blue boards with blue cloth back, lettered and decorated in black and gold on front and back covers, blue label printed in black on back. 400 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $2.00.

A hitherto unpublished Twain letter. It is addressed to: “My first and oldest and dearest friend.” Twain drew heavily on William Bowen in creating the character of Tom Sawyer.

An original leaf from the Polydronicon printed by William Caxton at Westminster in the year 1482. The Life and Works of William Caxton, with an Historical Reminder of Fifteenth Century England by Benjamin P. Kurtz, together with a Note on the Polydronicon by Oscar Lewis & an Appreciation of William Caxton by Edwin Grabhorn. Printed by the Grabhorn Press for the Book Club of California. San Francisco, MCMXXXVIII. 11 ½ × 9. 60 pp.—title (i), blank (ii), original leaf tipped on (iii), blank (iv), text 1–52 (53), blank (54), colophon on last page of text.

Title in red and black; caption titles, initials, paragraph marks, colophon, all in red. Caxton's printer's device used on title. Original leaf mounted within red ruled border. Type Deepdene Text, handset. Paper mold made. Bound in red-
brown boards with linen back, red-brown label printed in black on back. Device repeated in black on front and back covers. 297 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $15.00.

It is not surprising, considering the very low price of this book, to find that the edition was fully subscribed before publication. It has become one of the most sought-after of the Club's productions.

[55]

THE HELMET OF | MAMBINO | BY CLARENCE KING
WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY FRANCIS P. FARQUHAR
[rule]
[illumination]
SAN FRANCISCO | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | 1938

7 3/4 x 5 1/4. 46 pp.—half-title (i), blank (ii), title (iii), copyright and printer's notices (iv), divisional title (v), blank (vi), introduction vii–xx, divisional title (xxi), blank (xxii), text 1–21, blank (22), colophon (23), blank (24).

Title in red, blue and black, ornamental rules in blue on first page of introduction and text; one initial in blue on first page of text. Type Baskerville linotype. Paper machine made. Bound in blue, green and dark grey marbled boards with parchment back, title in gold on back. 350 copies printed by the University of California Press. Price $2.00.

The first separate publication of this essay which had originally appeared in the Century Magazine of 1886 and a privately printed volume on King in 1904.

The book was designed by Samuel T. Farquhar.

[56]

AN ORIGINAL ISSUE OF | “THE SPECTATOR” | TOGETHER WITH | THE STORY OF THE FAMOUS ENGLISH PERIODICAL | AND OF ITS FOUNDERS, | JOSEPH ADDISON & RICHARD STEELE | BY ERIC PARTRIDGE
[illustrations]
THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | MCMXXXIX

13 3/4 x 8 1/4. 48 pp.—printer's notice (i), blank (ii), title (iii), copyright notice (iv), divisional title (v), blank (vi), original leaf tipped on (vii), blank (viii), text including editor's note and facsimile (1–3) 4–49 (50).

Title and caption title in red and black, original leaf mounted within red ruled border. Portraits of Addison and Steele within decorative frame on title. Type Baskerville monotype. Paper mold made. Bound in yellow, brown and green marbled boards with linen back, yellow label printed in black on back. 455 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $6.00.

The original numbers of this famous 18th century periodical were obtained through the courtesy of one of the Club's members, M. S. Slocum of Pasadena. Christopher Morley had been invited to contribute an essay to this publication,
but pressure of work (he was finishing *Kitty Foyle* at the time) precluded his accepting the invitation. Eric Partridge, the well-known English lexicographer and authority on the period of Addison and Steele, who finally obliged, was paid 50 guineas for his work—a sum pleasingly archaic in sound, as befits the price of an essay on the 18th century.

The book sold reasonably well, but the large number printed, coupled with declining membership during the early years of World War II, held the volume in print for a considerable time. The last hundred copies were used as a premium for obtaining new members.

57.

CATO’S | MORAL DISTICHES | REPRODUCED FROM THE EDITION PRINTED | IN PHILADELPHIA IN 1735 BY | BENJAMIN FRANKLIN | TOGETHER WITH A FOREWORD BY | CARL VAN DOREN | [rule] | [illustration] | [rule] | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | MCMXXXIX

9 × 6½. 40 pp.—half-title (i), blank (ii), title (iii), printer’s notice (iv), foreword (v) 6–11, blank (12), original leaf tipped on (13), blank (14), divisional title (15), blank (16), text in collotype (17–40).


The first Latin classic to be translated and printed in the British colonies of North America. The original from which the collotype was made is in the Huntington Library.

The original leaf inserted in this volume is from Franklin’s edition of the *Church of Scotland Prayer Book*, Philadelphia, 1745. Eight of the leaves were half-titles and contain Franklin’s imprint. No extra charge was made for the copies containing these. They were distributed by a drawing.

This is the first book printed for the Club by a Southern California printer.

58.

FIRE AND OTHER POEMS | BY D. H. LAWRENCE | WITH A FOREWORD BY ROBINSON JEFFERS | AND A NOTE ON THE POEMS BY | FRIEDA LAWRENCE | [illustration] | PRINTED AT THE GRABHORN PRESS FOR | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | MCMXXXX

6½ × 6½. 54 pp.—title (i), copyright notice (ii), foreword iii–vii (viii), note ix–xii (xiii), table of contents (xiv), blank (xv), text 1–36 (37), blank (38), colophon (39), blank (40).

Eagle in New Mexico was published in a different version in Birds, Beasts and Flowers; otherwise all these poems appear in print for the first time in this volume. They belong to Lawrence's New Mexico period and all were written during his stay there.

59

BALLADS OF ELDORADO | SELECTED, WITH AN INTRODUCTION | BY EARLE V. WELLER | WITH DECORATIONS BY BARSE MILLER | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | SAN FRANCISCO | 1940 | [illustration]

8½ × 6¼. 58 pp.—half-title (double spread illustration) (i), title (double spread illustration) (ii–iii), copyright notice (iv), acknowledgments (v), blank (vi), contents (vii), blank (viii), foreword ix–x, text including divisional title (1–2) 3–46, colophon (47), double spread illustration (48).

Illustrations by Barse Miller printed throughout in brown; decorated endpapers. Type Caslon linotype. Paper machine made. Bound in cream boards with decorations on front and back covers by Barse Miller, title in black on back. 300 copies printed by the Ward Ritchie Press. Price $3.00.

Like most anthologies of verse, this book did not sell well; it was some years before it finally went out of print.

60


12½ × 9½. 96 pp.—frontispiece; title (i), blank (ii), list of plates (iii), blank (iv), introduction (v–vi), blank (vii), text (viii–2–74 (75–81), blank (82), colophon (83), blank (84).

Title in red and black, heading of text in red. Four illustrations, including frontispiece, in color, not included in pagination; map. Type Lutetia, handset. Paper handmade. Bound in red cloth with vellum back, title in gold on back; also a few copies in green-tan basket weave boards, linen back, tan label printed in red on back. 350 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $8.00.
Excerpted from A Narrative of a Voyage to the Pacific and Beering's Strait... 1825-1828. The importance of this reprint lies in the reproduction of the three drawings of Monterey by William Smyth which have never appeared before in their original color; the first printing of Beechey's map of San Francisco Bay, and a series of letters relating to the voyage, printed here for the first time.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).

THE | BEAUTIES OF BOSWELL | BEING A SERIES OF DRAWINGS | SATIRIZING DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON'S VISIT WITH JAMES BOSWELL | TO THE WESTERN ISLES OF SCOTLAND | BY THOMAS ROWLANDSON | [decoration] 1942 | [decoration] | SAN FRANCISCO : THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

11 1/2 × 15 (portfolio), 8 pp. (plus 11 loose plates)—title (i), blank (ii), text (1–4), colophon (5), blank (6).

Title in red and black, opening initial in red. Ten plates in color and facsimile of original title page all laid in portfolio. Type Baskerville, handset. Paper hand-made. Portfolio of blue and tan marbled boards with red leather back, white label printed in red and black on front cover. 250 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $6.00.

The reproductions were made from the originals in the possession of Mr. Moore S. Achenbach.

The war was beginning to take a toll of the membership and it was some time before this item went out of print. It was used as a premium and sent free to new members.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).


10 1/2 × 7. 94 pp.—half-title (not included in pagination), title (i), copyright notice (ii), note (iii), blank (iv), index (v), blank (vi), foreword (vii) 8–23, blank (24), divisional title (25), text including illustrations (26) 27–91, blank (92), colophon (93), blank (94).

Title in brown, grey-green and black; opening initial, decorations against pagination, printer's device beneath colophon, all in brown; paragraph marks in grey-green. Thirty-three facsimiles. Type Bulmer, handset. Paper mold made. Bound in grey-green cloth with brown calf back, title in grey-green on back, decorated in grey-green and brown on front and back covers. 250 copies printed by the L-D Allen Press. Price $4.50.

More than two years lapsed between the publication of this book and its predecessor, due to the difficulties of production during the war years and the marked decline in membership. The book, on an important and little known phase of early California life, sold slowly at first but now has become one of the Club's publications most difficult to find.

The title page calls for thirty-two reproductions; actually there are thirty-three.

One of the Fifty Books of the Year.


13 × 9. 104 pp.—frontpiece; title (i), copyright notice (ii), introduction (iii) iv–x, list of illustrations (xi–xii), text (1) 2–85, blank (86), indices (87–90), colophon (91), blank (92).

Title in red and black, opening initial of introduction in red, heading on opening page of text in red and black; twenty-seven illustrations, four in color, on nineteen leaves; three maps. Type Centaur, handset. Paper machine made. Bound in grey-green cloth with brown calf back, white label printed in red on back. 100 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $22.50. Also 25 copies on cream handmade paper and 5 on white handmade paper; these were not for sale.

Sold in conjunction with the Society of California Pioneers which offered 60 copies of this publication for sale to its members. It is a highly interesting account of California in the 1840s.

One of the Fifty Books of the Year; also included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).
1946


8 7/8 x 5 1/4. 70 pp.—half-title (i), copyright notice (ii), title (iii), blank (iv), introduction and text (5) 6–38, divisional title (39), facsimiles (40–68), colophon (69), blank (70).

Half-title in green on pale green background, decorations in green and brown throughout; portrait and twenty-nine facsimiles. Type Bulmer, handset. Paper mold made. Bound in green, brown and white decorated boards with vellum back, title in brown on back. 300 copies printed by the L-D Allen Press. Price $4.00.

The announcement erroneously states that this is the first printing in book form of this memento of the tragic Donner Party; actually several versions of it, mostly garbled, had already appeared in books, and Professor Teggart reprinted it, accurately, from the original manuscript in the Bancroft Library in 1910 (No. 6 of Vol. I of the Publications of the Academy of Pacific Coast History). The distinction of the Book Club edition lies in the reproduction in facsimile of the entire manuscript.

1946


13 1/2 x 9. 116 pp.—title (i), blank (ii), introduction iii–vi (vii), blank (viii), text including epigram and table of contents (1–4) 5–105 (106), colophon (107), blank (108).

Coat-of-arms on title, forty-seven initials and special printer’s device, all in red, yellow and black, designed and cut by Mallette Dean. Decorations in chapter headings in red. Type Franciscan, handset. Paper handmade. Bound in yellow decorated boards (designed by Mallette Dean) with white cloth back, yellow label printed in red and black on back. 280 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $27.50.
The translation of this important 16th century Spanish chronicle of exploration was made by Buckingham Smith in 1866.

In an article entitled "Fifty Books, 1947: A Commentary," written for the Publisher's Weekly, Maurice S. Kaplan says in part: "From the Grabhorn Press comes the most dazzling book in the show, The Discovery of Florida. The yellow paper covers printed in orange-red and black set the pace that is followed throughout the title pages and specially drawn pictorial initials and decorations. . . . The whole gives the effect of a parchment on which a talented scribe has done a beautiful and painstaking job and on which then an uninhibited illuminator went on a delicious spree. It is unfair to look at another book immediately afterwards." If in somewhat inelegant prose, this is high praise.

One of the Fifty Books of the Year; also included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).
1947

10 x 6 ½. 98 pp.—quotation (not included in pagination); title (i), copyright notice (ii), printer’s notice (iii), illustration (iv), editor’s foreword (§ 6, text 7–97, blank (98).

Printed throughout in green, brown and black; ruled throughout in brown. Three facsimiles and two illustrations included in pagination. Type Janson linotype. Paper mold made. Bound in brown, green and yellow decorated cloth with green cloth back, title in yellow on back. 350 copies printed by the L-D Allen Press. Price $7.50.

An important publication, supplementing the Club’s earlier edition of Patrick Breen’s diary and commemorating the centenary of the most tragic episode in early California history. This volume prints for the first time three other diaries relating to the Donner Party, those of Miller-Reed, James F. Reed, and the first Relief Party. In addition there are some forty-five documents, all appearing in print here for the first time. Among the illustrations is a photograph of the little wooden doll which consoled five-year-old Patty Reed during her months of incarceration in the Sierra.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).

1947


Introductions by Edith M. Coulter and Eleanor A. Bancroft.

11 x 17 ¼. 36 pp.—title (i), copyright notice (ii), introduction (iii–v), blank (vi), list of plates (vii), blank (viii), text (g) (11) (13) (15) (17) (19) (21) (23) (25) (27) (29) (31) (33), all verso blank, colophon (35), blank (36).

Title in light brown and black; text headings, plate captions and borders in light brown. Thirteen tinted plates. Type Goudy Modern, handset. Paper machine made. Bound in tan, yellow and green marbled boards with buff cloth back, green label printed in gold on back. 300 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $16.50.

The drawings in this book are from a collection in the Bancroft Library and were probably obtained by Hubert Howe Bancroft in 1874 when he acquired the papers of Judge Benjamin Hayes. It was conjectured by the editors of this volume that the drawings were made by Henry Miller. Proof of this came later when the Club published this artist’s Account of a Tour of the California Missions 1856 (see No. 81).

The subjects of the drawings are as follows: Folsom, Benicia, Vallejo & Mare Island, Martinez, Alviso, Santa Cruz, San Juan Bautista, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, San Diego.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).
A blood-and-thunder story of no literary or historical merit but nonetheless highly diverting. It is one of the few Beadle's Novels with a California locale. Will Ransom, at this time book designer at the University of Oklahoma Press, sent a copy of Ace High to Albert Johannsen who was at work finishing his monumental history and bibliography of The House of Beadle. Mr. Johannsen wrote: “I am delighted to have it, and think I shall add a sentence somewhere in my own book that at least one Half-Dime Library has achieved colored illustrations and handmade paper in a limited edition.”

Edna Beilenson (Peter Pauper Press), reviewing the Fifty Books of the Year exhibit in the Publisher's Weekly, says of Ace High: “(It) is lively, amusing and typographically successful. I wish I'd designed it myself!”

One of the Fifty Books of the Year; also included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).

This is the last book the Club submitted to the American Institute of Graphic-Arts for its "Fifty Books" show. Due to the great popularity of these shows and consequent demand from all over the country to exhibit the books selected, the Institute requires seven copies of each book chosen. As Book Club of California publications usually go out of print within a month or so of issuance, it became impossible to comply with this request. Club books which have been selected by the A.I.G.A. since Ace High were submitted by their printers, not the Club.
1949


Introduction by Edith M. Coulter.

9 x 6. 18 pp.—frontispiece; title (i), blank (ii), facsimile of original title page (iii), blank (iv), introduction (v-vi), text 7–16, colophon (17), blank (18).

Title in red and black, headings of introduction and text between red rules, colophon in red. Frontispiece map and one plate; facsimile of original title page; two other facsimiles, smaller than page size, on buff paper inserted opposite pages 12 and 14. Type Scotch Roman linotype. Paper machine made. Bound in orange and red decorated cloth (designed by Paul Q. Forster), title in red on back. 300 copies printed by the Black Vine Press (Harold Seeger and Albert Sperisen). Price $1.00.

Reprinted from the scarce original in the possession of the Bancroft Library. The book was published first in New York by Nafis & Cornish in 1850.

The announcement calls for 350 copies; actually only the 300 stated in the colophon were printed. The book sold out on publication.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).

1949

THE ESTIENNES | A BIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY BY MARK PATTISON | ILLUSTRATED WITH ORIGINAL LEAVES FROM | BOOKS PRINTED BY THE THREE GREATEST | MEMBERS OF THAT DISTINGUISHED FAMILY | [illustration] | SAN FRANCISCO : THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | 1949

Introduction by Robert Grabhorn.

13 x 9¼. 58 pp.—title (i), blank (ii), original leaves with explanatory pages (iii–xi), introduction (xii–xiii), blank (xiv), text (i) 1–42, colophon (43), blank (44).

Family tree on title, explanatory pages of original leaves, decorations throughout text (Estienne printer's devices), all in red. Type Centaur monotype. Paper mold made. Bound in light maroon boards with white linen back, white label printed in red and black on back, Estienne printer's device in gold on front cover. 390 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $1.50. Of the edition of 390,
50 were special copies. These differ as follows: 1. the original leaves of extra ornamental quality; 2. printed on Crown and Sceptre handmade paper; 3. size 14 × 9; 4. bindings, blue marbled boards with white canvas back, white label printed in red and black on back; 5. special limitation added to colophon; price $25.00.

The essay by Mark Pattison was written in 1865 for the *Quarterly Review*.

Over a hundred members ordered the special edition of 50 copies so a drawing was held at the Club's offices.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).

It seems fitting that this book should have been printed by Taylor & Taylor, who own one of the three known Columbian hand-presses in the United States.
The book was issued as a joint venture with the Typophiles of New York. Though an excellent piece of scholarship and research, the book somehow failed to appeal to members. Possibly the large number printed, counting both clubs’ editions, or perhaps the very specialized subject matter, mitigated against a successful sale.

One of the Fifty Books of the Year; also included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).

MULEBACK TO THE CONVENTION | LETTERS OF J. ROSS BROWNE | REPORTER TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION | MONTEREY, SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1849 | [illustration] | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA • SAN FRANCISCO • 1950

Introduction by Lina Fergusson Browne; acknowledgments by Lindley Bynum. 9 ¾ × 6 ¾. 68 pp.—title and copyright notice (not included in pagination); introduction i–xxi, divisional title (xxiii), portrait (xxiv), text 1–42, acknowledgments (43), colophon (44).


All but one of these letters were written to Browne’s wife, Lucy, on his voyage to California in 1849 and before and during the Constitutional Convention at Monterey that year. They have never appeared in print before. The introduction is based on an unfinished life of J. Ross Browne by his grandson and contains much new biographical material. The three illustrations in the text were reproduced from the originals in the Thomas Gilcrease Foundation, Tulsa, Oklahoma. The sketch on the title page is from a letter to Lucy; it illustrates a “typical California hacienda.”

One of the Fifty Books of the Year; also included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).
THE MAPS OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY FROM THE SPANISH DISCOVERY IN 1769 TO THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION. BY NEAL HARLOW [printer's device] THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA 1950

12 1/2 × 9. 154 pp.—title (i), blank (ii), contents iii–vi (vii), blank (viii), preface ix–xi (xii), text including divisional titles, notes and bibliography (1–2) 3–140, colophon (141), blank (142).

Title and text in red and black throughout. Facsimiles of twenty-one maps on nineteen sheets, some folding. Type Deepdene Text, handset, and Janson linotype. Paper mold made. Bound in tan, red and black decorated boards with red morocco back, title in gold on back. 375 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $30.00; pre-publication $26.50.

This book, which was three years in preparation, is of outstanding historical importance. It is the first and only work in its field. Maps of San Francisco Bay is a good instance of the reason for the existence of book clubs which publish books. No commercial publisher could have afforded to issue this one.

The book went out of print on publication and has since become very difficult to procure.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).

SAN FRANCISCO IN 1866 BY BREIT HARTE [rule] BEING LETTERS TO THE SPRINGFIELD REPUBLICAN EDITED BY GEORGE R. STEWART AND EDWIN S. FUSSELL [rule] 1951 THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA : SAN FRANCISCO

9 3/4 × 6 1/4. 100 pp.—title (i), blank (ii), table of contents iii–iv, introduction v–x, divisional title (1), blank (2), text 3–88, colophon (89), blank (90).


A group of eleven long and interesting letters dealing with San Francisco just after the Civil War. They are among the earliest of Harte’s writings and have never appeared before in book form.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).
SKETCHES OF SCENERY AND NOTES OF PERSONAL ADVENTURE IN CALIFORNIA & MEXICO

BY WILLIAM MILVAINE, JR.

WITH A FOREWORD BY ROBERT G. CLELAND & REPRODUCTIONS OF THE SIXTEEN LITHOGRAPHIC PLATES

PRINTED AT THE GRABHORN PRESS FOR THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA:

1951

13 1/2 × 9 92 pp.—title (i), blank (ii), foreword iii–ix, blank (x), list of plates (xi), blank (xii), text including divisional titles and plates (1–4) 5–78, colophon (79), blank (80).

Decorations on title, throughout text, and on colophon in red. Sixteen illustrations in black and white within red ruled border. Type Bauer Bodoni, hand-set. Paper mold made. Bound in red marbled boards with linen back, red label printed in gold on back.

400 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $16.50.

A reprint of a scarce book originally published in Philadelphia in 1850. Ten of the lithographs are views of California as seen by a '49er; the remaining six are of Mexico.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).

THE COPPA MURALS

BY

WARREN UNNA

A PAGEANT OF BOHEMIAN LIFE IN SAN FRANCISCO AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

INTRODUCTION BY JOSEPH HENRY JACKSON

[illustration] THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA:

1952

8 1/2 × 9 1/2. 74 pp.—illustration (i–ii), title (iii), copyright notice (iv), introduction (v–vii), blank (viii), acknowledgments (ix), illustration (x), text (1) 1–61, blank (62), colophon (63), blank (64).

Title and colophon in red and black; chapter headings and numbers, pagination, all in red. Eight reproductions of photographs within red rules. Type Centaur monotype. Paper machine made. Bound in red pictorial boards (designed by Mallette Dean) with black cloth back, red label printed in black on back. 350 copies printed by Adrian Wilson at the Sign of the Interplayers. Price $7.50.

Coppa’s Restaurant—the one destroyed in the earthquake and fire of 1906—was a famous hangout for the bohemian set in San Francisco at the turn of the century. Artists who frequented the place made murals for its walls. This book is the story behind these murals, the identification of their painters and in general the history of Coppa’s and its patrons. The frieze of black cats, reproduced here to adorn the flyleaves and chapter headings, was the work of Xavier
Martinez, friend of Gelett Burgess, Porter Garnett and a host of others who combined to make their favorite restaurant a place of great originality.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).

1952

LA PORTE DE MALÉTROIT / BY / ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON / 1952 / PRINTED FOR THE / BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA / BY THE L-D ALLEN PRESS / CAGNES-SUR-MER, FRANCE [within decorative border]

8 x 5 3/4. 60 pp.—blank (i–ii), half-title (iii), blank (iv), title (v), blank (vi), printer's notice (vii), blank (viii), text (g) 10–66.


The second book printed for the Club outside California and the only one to date printed outside the United States. Issued in the French style, as befits the subject matter, this famous medieval tale was designed and printed by Lewis and Dorothy Allen while they were spending a year in France. The book was printed on a hand-press, Gallic and temperamental, which caused the Allens considerable anguish, though the aid of a French typesetter who knew no English added to the gaiety of the proceedings.

The announcement for the book was printed by Mallette Dean.

1952

KELMSCOTT • DOVES / AND ASHENDENE [illustration] / THE PRIVATE PRESS CREDOS WITH / AN INTRODUCTION BY WILL RANSOM / THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA / 1952

7 x 9 1/4. 204 pp.—half-title (i), blank (ii), title (iii), copyright notice (iv), contents v–vi, fly-title (v), blank (vi), text 3–197, colophon (198).

Title in red and black; chapter headings and marginal captions in red. Type Janson linotype. Paper machine made. Bound in pale grey-green boards with tan cloth back, white label printed in black on back. 700 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $16.50; pre-publication $15.00.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).

1953


12 x 9 1/4. 48 pp.—map; title (i), blank (ii), contents (iii), blank (iv), introduction (v) vi–xii, text including divisional titles (1–7) 4–34, colophon (35), blank (36).

Decoration on title and opening initial of each "letter" stamped in gold, folding map in color, one facsimile letter-sheet. Type Bauer Bodoni, handset. Paper mold made. Bound in black and white marbled boards with black cloth back, title in red on back. 175 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $16.50; pre-publication $15.00.

These drawings of the Missions are among the earliest known. The one of Soledad is probably the only authentic picture ever made, since it was allowed to go to ruin shortly after the secularization of the Missions in 1835. Henry Miller was the artist who made the drawings for 13 California Towns (see No. 68). The book was a great success and was sold out immediately on publication.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).


Introduction by Edith M. Coulter and Eleanor A. Bancroft.

11 3/4 x 8 1/4. 72 pp.—title (i), blank (ii), introduction (iii–v), blank (vi), list of plates (vii), blank (viii), half-title (ix), illustration (x), text (1) 1–29, blank (60), colophon (61), blank (62).

Title and initials in red and black; decorations and plate captions in red. Nineteen reproductions of pencil drawings (plates 2–19 not included in pagination), Type Centaur monotype. Paper machine made. Bound in red, white and brown decorated boards with vellum back, title in red on back. 375 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $16.50; pre-publication $15.00.

The last letter in this book is of great interest and importance. It was written to go to ruin shortly after the secularization of the Missions in 1835. Henry Miller was the artist who made the drawings for 13 California Towns (see No. 68).

The character of Sutter he leaned heavily on Bidwell's opinion of this famous pioneer. Swasey, it will be remembered, published a book by John Bidwell to Captain W. F. Swasey, obviously in answer to a request for the former's opinion of Sutter. Swasey, it will be remembered, published a book entitled The Early Days and Men of California and no doubt in evaluating the character of Sutter he leaned heavily on Bidwell's opinion of this famous pioneer.

The announcement for the book was printed by Mallette Dean.
1953

PHYSIOLOGUS | THE VERY ANCIENT BOOK OF BEASTS, PLANTS, AND STONES, TRANSLATED FROM GREEK AND OTHER LANGUAGES BY FRANCIS J. CARMODY | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | SAN FRANCISCO, MCMIII

11 x 7 ¾. 76 pp.—title (i), copyright notice (ii), introduction (iii–x), list of chapters (xi–xii), text including half-title (1–61), blank (62), colophon (63), blank (64). Title in red and black. Fifty-four illustrations, including those on title and half-title, all drawn and hand-colored by Mallette Dean. Hand-colored initials throughout, some decorative. Marginal headings and printer’s device on colophon in red. Type French Elzevir, handset. Paper mold made. Bound in white parchment with an over-all decorative pattern in grey-blue, title in red on back. 325 copies printed by Mallette Dean. Price $22.50; pre-publication $19.50.

This handsome book took a year to print. Much of the time, of course, was consumed in hand-coloring the illustrations. One enthusiastic member from Chicago wrote: “In many respects Physiologus is the most exciting book to go on my shelf... I salute the Deans and the great state of California that has done and is doing so much toward maintaining the art of bookmaking at a high level.”

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).

1954

A FACSIMILE EDITION OF CALIFORNIA’S FIRST BOOK | REGLAMENTO PROVISIONAL | PRINTED AT MONTEREY IN 1834 | BY | AGUSTIN V. ZAMORANO | TRANSLATION BY | RAMON RUIZ & THERESA VIGIL | A NOTE ON THE PRINTING | GEORGE L. HARDING | AN HISTORICAL NOTE | GEORGE P. HAMMOND | SAN FRANCISCO | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | 1954

8 ¾ x 6 ½. 30 pp.—title and table of contents (not included in pagination); notes i–vii, blank (viii), divisional title (ix), blank (x), title of translation (xi), blank (xii), text 1–16, printer’s notice (17), blank (18).

Title in red, blue and black within red and blue borders, printed in red and black throughout. Decorations at beginning of notes in blue. Facsimile of original edition in pocket inside back cover. Type Van Dijck monotype. Paper machine made. Bound in red cloth, illustration in blue on front cover, title in gold on back. 400 copies printed by Lawton Kennedy. Price $5.75.

Of the original of this first book to be printed in California only two copies are known to exist—those in the Bancroft Library and the Los Angeles County Museum.
It was planned to make this the first of a series of translations and facsimiles of Zamorano printing. But, as a certain Scottish poet once wrote, “the best laid plans” etc. etc.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).


10 ¼ × 8. 44 pp.—title (i), copyright notice (ii), contents (iii), blank (iv), introduction v–ix (x), half-title (xi), illustration (xii), text 13–42, colophon (43), blank (44).

Title in red and black, section numbers in red. Illustrations on title and one plate by Gelett Burgess. Four facsimiles inserted, two folding. Type Caslon Old Style linotype. Paper machine made. Bound in tan cloth, title in brown on front cover and back. 375 copies printed by the Black Vine Press (Harold Seeger and Albert Sperisen). Price $7.00.

The first appearance in complete form of these sketches of literary activities in San Francisco at the turn of the century. The printers endeavored to follow the typographical style of The Lark and other fin de siècle publications, and succeeded admirably.

One of the Fifty Books of the Year; also included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).


11 ¼ × 8½. 168 pp.—frontispiece; title (i), blank (ii), quotation (iii), blank (iv), table of contents (v), blank (vi), acknowledgments (vii viii, introduction (ix) x–xxi), text including divisional title and quotation (1–41) 5–95, colophon (96).

Title and text in red and black throughout. Three facsimiles on four pages. Eleven inserts showing notes on the versos of the original Journal, printed on a lighter shade of paper, facing pp. 14, 30 (folding), 40, 41, 44, 51, 54, 68, 73, 74, 82. Type Oxford, handset, and Baskerville Italic monotype. Paper machine made. Bound in red decorated cloth with black cloth back, red cloth label printed in black on back. 400 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $18.50.

This journal on which Stevenson based his Silverado Squatters was reproduced from the original in the Huntington Library. It had previously been published in the Vailima edition of Stevenson’s works, but in badly mutilated form. An
added feature of the Club’s edition is the printing of the only known R.L.S. letter written from Mount Saint Helena. This was to his mother.

Those who do not own or have not seen this book may be puzzled by the name “John E. Jordan” on the title page without any explanation for its presence. Dr. Jordan, Professor of English at the University of California, wrote the lengthy and highly illuminating introduction to the work.

The Grabhorn Press’ handling of the difficult problem of showing Stevenson’s corrections and interpolations in his manuscript is a masterpiece of ingenuity.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).

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**1955**

CATNACHERY by P. H. MUIR 1955

11 x 7 3/8. 144 pp.—half-title (i), blank (ii), title (iii), blank (iv), text 1–27, note (28), colophon (29), blank (30).

Illustrations on half-title and title in orange, initials and some marginal drawings in orange, others in black. Printer’s device below colophon in orange. Five folding facsimiles on brown and grey paper inserted opposite pp. 6, 12, 18, 22. Type Van Dijck monotype. Paper machine made. Bound in tan and orange decorated boards with light brown cloth back, white label printed in orange on back. 350 copies printed by the Greenwood Press (Jack Werner Stauffacher). Price $6.50.

A highly entertaining and instructive essay by Percy Muir, the well-known English bibliophile, on “Jemmy” Catnach and his penny broadsides. The quaint woodcuts make this one of the most charming of the Club’s publications.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).

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**1955**

INTRODUCTION BY GEORGE P. HAMMOND 1830 ON THE AMBITIOUS PROJECTS OF RUSSIA IN REGARD TO NORTH WEST AMERICA, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO NEW ALBION & NEW CALIFORNIA BY AN ENGLISHMAN THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA 1955 [title partially enclosed in frame of Russian characters]

9 3/4 x 6 1/2. 80 pp.—half-title (not included in pagination), title (i), blank (ii), note (iii), map (iv), introduction (5) 6–21, text (22–23) 24–79, blank (80), colophon on last page of text.

Russian characters on title and throughout text in red; map. Type Bulmer, handset. Paper mold made. Bound in grey-blue boards with white parchment back, title in red on back, Russian characters on front and back covers in red.

(Number 89)
350 copies printed by the Allen Press (formerly the L-D Allen Press). Price $7.50.
Reprinted from the only recorded copy in the Bancroft Library. The author is unknown. The book is an appeal to the British Government to extend her settlements in the Pacific Northwest to forestall the Russians. Aside from this, the author gives an interesting picture of the San Francisco Bay area in the early eighteen-hundreds.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).

JOURNAL | OF A CRUISE | TO CALIFORNIA AND THE SAND-
WICH ISLANDS | IN THE UNITED STATES SLOOP-OF-WAR
CYANE | BY WILLIAM H. MEYERS, GUNNER, U. S. N. | 1841–
1844 | EDITED BY JOHN HASKELL KEMBLE | [rule] | SAN FRAN-
CISCO | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | 1955

15 x 10. 86 pp.—printer’s notice (not included in pagination); frontispiece; title (i), copyright notice (ii), table of contents (iii), blank (iv), introduction (v) vi–xvi, half-title (xvii), blank (xviii), text 1–68.

Title in brown and black; initials, decorations, running titles, rules, all in brown throughout; marginal drawings of flags in color; frontispiece map in black and white and ten plates in color. Type Goudy Modern, handset. Paper mold made (plates on handmade English paper). Bound in natural linen with red leather back, title in gold on back. 400 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $30.00; pre-publication $28.50.

One of the finest and most important publications of the Club. The author was in the sloop “Cyane” on the Pacific Coast in the early ’forties and participated in the premature capture of Monterey by Commodore Thomas ap Catesby Jones in 1842. His illustrations reproduced here are spirited and of great interest. Seven of them picture the California scene, three the Hawaiian.

One of the Fifty Books of the Year; also included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).

THE • LETTERS • OF | FRANK | NORRIS | [decoration] | EDITED |
BY FRANKLIN WALKER | SAN FRANCISCO | THE BOOK CLUB |
OF CALIFORNIA | MCMLVI

11 ¾ x 8. 116 pp.—frontispiece; title (i), copyright notice (ii), table of contents (iii–iv), introduction v–xi, blank (xii), acknowledgments xiii, blank (xiv), half-title (xv), blank (xvi), text 1–98 (99), blank (100), colophon (101), blank (102).

Title in red and black, initials in red. Frontispiece portrait, one facsimile. Type Cochin monotype. Paper machine made. Bound in red, black and white decorated boards with red cloth back, white label printed in black on back. 350
There are seventy-four letters in all in this collection, most of them hitherto unpublished. Letter No. 5, of several thousand words, reports on the Spanish-American War and is more an article than a piece of correspondence. This is also previously unpublished.

Themes in My Poems

Preface by B. H. Lehman.

Type French Old Style, handset. Paper machine made. Bound in blue-green, brown and black decorated boards with brown cloth back, blue label printed in black on back. 350 copies printed by Mallette Dean. Price $8.50.

Mr. Jeffers himself was delighted with the physical makeup of the book. He wrote the Club: “Themes in my Poems” is a beautiful book; Mallette Dean has done a fine job of it, and I congratulate him. I wish the contents may be worthy of the setting he has given them, but that is not for me to judge ...

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).

Early Printing in California

Decoration on title in red, plate captions in red. Sixteen plates including frontispiece. Type Oxford, handset. Paper machine made. Bound in green cloth with black cloth back, red leather label stamped in gold on back. 400 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $25.00; pre-publication $23.50.
An account not only of the Zamorano Press but also of the other early printing establishments in California before statehood. The bibliography of imprints found in this handsome book is the most extensive to be published to date.

95

EDITED BY HENRY NASH SMITH AND FREDERICK ANDERSON | MARK TWAIN: SAN FRANCISCO | VIRGINIA CITY TERRITORIAL ENTERPRISE | CORRESPONDENT | SELECTIONS FROM HIS LETTERS TO | THE TERRITORIAL ENTERPRISE : 1865–1866 | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA : SAN FRANCISCO : 1957

11 3/4 x 8 118 pp.—half-title (not included in pagination), title (i), copyright notice (ii), table of contents (iii), blank (iv), text 5–117, colophon (118).

Title and colophon in red and black, captions, chapter headings and marginal notes in red. Three illustrations in black and white. Type Janson linotype. Paper machine made. Bound in white boards, with all-over decorative pattern in red and blue, with white cloth back, title in red on back. 400 copies printed by the Allen Press (formerly the L-D Allen Press). Price $8.75.

Exuberant reporting for the famous Virginia City newspaper on a score of subjects, most of which relate to San Francisco. Until these articles were discovered in a scrapbook compiled by Mark Twain’s brother, Orion, they were unknown. The scrapbook is now in the possession of the Yale University Library.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).

96

THE | GARDEN OF HEALTH | AN ACCOUNT OF TWO HERBALS | THE GART DER GESUNDHEIT AND THE HORTUS SANITATIS | BY ELLEN SHAFFER | [illustration] | PRINTED FOR THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | MCMLVII

13 3/4 x 9. 48 pp.—frontispiece; title (i), printer’s notice (ii), original leaf tipped on (iii), blank (iv), acknowledgments (v), blank (vi), text including introduction (1–3) 4–41, blank (42).

Title in red, green and black, heading of introduction and text in red. Forty-five reproductions of woodcuts, of which three are full-page (including frontispiece), (the four appearing opposite page 33 have been counted individually). Type Estienne linotype. Paper machine made. Bound in mulberry boards with linen back, title in black on back, illustration in red on front cover. 300 copies printed by Lawton Kennedy. Price $12.50.

One of the most interesting books the Club has published. The two herbals about which Ellen Shaffer wrote her essay were the picture books of our medieval
ancestors, filled with quaint, spirited woodcuts, representing the sciences of botany and medicine in their infancy. The original leaf inserted in each copy bears one or more woodcuts from the edition of Hortus Sanitatis printed by Johann Pruss in Strassburg in the year 1499.

As the woodcuts on the inserted leaf varied in size and character and desirability, no member was given his choice of copy. All copies were wrapped and sealed at the printer’s and members took pot-luck.

Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).
HOW IT ALL CAME TO PASS, BY GEORGE PETER HAMMOND, DIRECTOR, THE BANCROFT LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO 1958

11 1/4 × 7 1/2. 56 pp.—blank (i–iii), folding decorated map (iv), title (v), copyright notice (vi), contents (vii), blank (viii), text including preface and facsimiles 9–53, blank (54), colophon (55), blank (56).

Frontispiece folding map (tipped on), 8-page quarto facsimile and 6-page folio facsimile with folding map (tipped on), illustration opposite page 30, all included in pagination. Type Caslon Old Face linotype, lithographed. Paper machine made. Bound in dark grey boards with black cloth back, title and decoration in black on front cover, title in dark grey on back. 400 copies designed by James Robertson and lithographed by Charles R. Wood and Associates. Price $12.50.

An important text, being the first official reports of the occupation of Alta California by Spain. There exist two printings of the original, one in quarto and one in folio, both of the greatest rarity and here reproduced in facsimile from the copies in the Bancroft Library.

This is the first book published by The Book Club of California to be printed by offset process.

THE VOYAGE OF THE RACOON | A ‘SECRET’ JOURNAL OF A VISIT TO OREGON, CALIFORNIA AND HAWAII, 1813–1814 | EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY JOHN A. HUSSEY | DRAWINGS BY HENRY RUSK | THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA | SAN FRANCISCO 1958

12 3/8 × 7 1/2. 64 pp.—title (i), copyright and printer’s notices (ii), contents iii, blank (iv), list of plates v, blank (vi), introduction vii–xxvii, blank (xxviii), half-title (1), blank (2), text 3–36. (Errata slip inserted at back.)

Four illustrations, on title and as chapter headings, by Henry Rusk. Five facsimiles, and two drawings by the author on a double-spread. Type John Bell, handset. Paper machine made. Bound in brown, green and gold marbled boards with black leather back, title in gold on back. 400 copies printed by Taylor & Taylor. Price $16.00.

This semi-literate but delightful journal is printed here for the first time, the original manuscript is in the Bancroft Library. Aside from the naive style and rough and ready humor it displays, the work is of some considerable importance historically. The Racoon was sent to the Northwest Coast by the British government to take possession of the fur-trading post of Astoria. It is one of the very few naval journals extant dealing with the War of 1812.
1958


14 × 10 1/8

Type Van Diijck monotype. Paper machine made. 400 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press. Price $30.00; pre-publication $27.50.

For obvious reasons full collation, number of illustrations, description of binding, etc., cannot be given. Suffice it to say that the printing of this volume is in red and black throughout, on a special all-rag paper, and is eminently worthy of its subject matter. Modesty forbids any comment on its merits.

PROPOSED PUBLICATIONS

The Everett Letters to Dame Shirley, edited by Carl I. Wheat. (1933)
Early Polynesian Printing by George L. Harding. (1933)
Letters from George Sterling to Ambrose Bierce. (1934)
A Bibliographical Study of Mark Twain’s “Huck Finn.” (1935)
Byron and the Countess Guiccioli by E. V. Weller. (1941)
An Essay on Books by Eugene Field. (1941)

Many other publications were proposed, of course, but the above were all actually announced as forthcoming in the Quarterly News-Letter, and for one reason or another, abandoned.

ANNUAL KEEPSAKES
These keepsakes are an unique and highly interesting feature of the Club’s activities. They were originally intended as a holster to gain new membership during the hard times of the depression years. Since then they have become a major annual event, second only to the publication of the Club’s books. “California on Canvas” and “Guardians of the Pacific” were war casualties and never completed. There were no keepsakes for the years 1943-45.

I

THE CALIFORNIA MINING TOWN SERIES
1933 – 34

4-page folders, 8 ¼ × 10. 12 numbers and foreword, each with a colored (except where noted) reproduction of an early print and explanatory text by Oscar Lewis. Edition limited to 500 copies.

No. 2. Sutter’s Mill. Printed by the Windsor Press.
No. 3. Downieville. Printed by the Grabhorn Press.
No. 4. Auburn. Printed by Schwabacher-Frey Company.
No. 5. Shasta. Printed by Frank McCaffrey.
No. 6. Nevada. Printed by the University of California Press.
No. 7. Jackson. Printed by the Metropolitan Press.
No. 11. Columbia (black and white). Printed by Schwartz & Co.
No. 12. Scotts Bar (tinted). Printed by the Knight-Counihan Company.
Foreword (map of California, black and white). Printed by the Eucalyptus Press.

II

THE LETTERS OF WESTERN AUTHORS
1935

4-page folders, 10 × 8 ½. 12 numbers and foreword, each containing a facsimile of a letter with comment by various contemporary Western writers. Edited by Oscar Lewis. Edition limited to 500 copies.

No. 1. George Sterling with comment by Robinson Jeffers.
Printed by the Grabhorn Press.
No. 2. Bret Harte with comment by George R. Stewart, Jr.
Printed by the Windsor Press.
No. 1. Frank Norris with comment by Franklin Walker. Printed by Johnck & Seeger.
No. 4. Richard Henry Dana with comment by James D. Hart. Printed by the Ward Ritchie Press.
No. 5. John Muir with comment by Charles Keeler. Printed by Schwartz & Co.
No. 6. Henry George with comment by Howard Jay Graham. Printed by Taylor & Taylor.
No. 7. Joaquin Miller with comment by Juanita Miller. Printed by Bruce McCallister and Grant Dahlstrom.
No. 8. Josiah Royce with comment by Benjamin H. Lehman. Printed by the University of California Press.
No. 10. Clarence King with comment by Charles Keeler. Printed by Johnck & Seeger.
No. 11. Edward Rowland Sill with comment by Aurelia Henry Reinhardt. Printed by the Eucalyptus Press.

III

THE CALIFORNIA LITERARY PAMPHLETS

6 numbers, each containing a work of a California writer of the past, with a foreword by a contemporary Western author. Edited by Oscar Lewis. Edition limited to 500 copies.

No. 3. Selections From Prattle by Ambrose Bierce with foreword by Joseph Henry Jackson, compiled by Carroll D. Hall. 9 1/4 × 6 1/4. vii pp., 14 pp., buff wrappers. The Windsor Press.
No. 4. An Itinerant House by Emma Frances Dawson with foreword by Paul Jordan-Smith. 9 1/4 × 6 1/4. 27 pp. (28, blank), tan wrappers. The Ward Ritchie Press.
No. 5. Afoot To Yosemite by John Muir with foreword by Aurelia Henry Reinhardt. 9 1/4 × 6 1/4. vi pp., 14 pp., pale green wrappers. The Eucalyptus Press.
No. 6. A Night At Wingdam by Bret Harte with foreword by Idwal Jones. 9 3/4 × 6 1/4. xii pp., 11 pp. (12, blank), cream wrappers. The Plantin Press.

IV

CONTEMPORARY CALIFORNIA SHORT STORIES

1937
6 numbers, each containing a short story with a foreword by the author. Edited by Oscar Lewis. Edition limited to 600 copies.

No. 4. The Foghorn by Gertrude Atherton, illustrated by Dorothy Grover. 9 1/4 × 6 1/4. viii pp., 22 pp., marbled wrappers. The Grabhorn Press.
No. 5. Paws by James Hopper, illustrated by Paul Landacre. 9 1/4 × 6 1/4. 16 pp., tan wrappers. The Ward Ritchie Press.

V

COAST AND VALLEY TOWNS OF EARLY CALIFORNIA

1938
4-page folders (French fold), 8 1/4 × 10. 12 numbers, each with a colored or tinted reproduction of an early print and explanatory text by various authors. Edited by Oscar Lewis. Edition limited to 700 copies.

No. 3. Sacramento City by Caroline Wenzel. Printed by the Grabhorn Press.
No. 4. Santa Barbara by Edith M. Coulter. Printed by Wallace Kibbee & Son.
No. 5. Santa Cruz by George Toays. Printed by John Henry Nash.
No. 8. Stockton by George Ezra Dane. Printed by the Windsor Press.
No. 9. Crescent City by Fuller Mood. Printed by Taylor & Taylor.
No. 11. San Diego by Franklin Walker. Printed by the Plantin Press.
No. 12. San Jose by Mrs. Fremont Older. Printed by the Gillick Press.

(56)
VI
SIX CALIFORNIA TALES
1939
6 numbers, each containing a short story and, with one exception, a biographical sketch of the author by Oscar Lewis. Edited by Oscar Lewis. Edition limited to 650 copies.
No. 2. The Case of Summerfield by W. H. Rhodes, illustrated by James Johnson. 9 1/2 x 6 1/4. 24 pp., light grey wrappers. The Windsor Press.
No. 3. Orso by Henry Sienkiewicz, foreword by Carey McWilliams. 9 1/2 x 6 1/4. 15 pp. (16, blank), pale mulberry wrappers. The Ward Ritchie Press.
No. 4. The Trumpet Comes To Pickeye! by Joseph T. Goodman, 9 1/2 x 6 1/4, iv pp., 17 pp. (18, blank), orange wrappers. The Grabhorn Press.
No. 5. The Ape And The Idiot by W. C. Morrow. 9 1/2 x 6 1/4. iv pp., 15 pp. (16, blank), cream wrappers. Johnck & Seeger.

VII
PACIFIC ADVENTURES
1940
6 numbers, each containing a narrative of an early explorer in the Pacific area, edited and with forewords by Earle V. Weller. Edition limited to 650 copies.
No. 1. The King of California, an excerpt from ... Drake's Voyage Around the World. 9 1/2 x 6 1/4. 8 pp., green and white wrappers. The Archetype Press.
No. 2. A Description of the Southernmost Part of California by Capt. George Shelvocke ... 9 1/4 x 6 1/4. Frontispiece, iv pp., 16 pp., yellow wrappers. The Grabhorn Press.
No. 3. The Wreck Of The Wager, from the Narrative of the Honorable John Byron ... 9 1/4 x 6 1/4. iv pp., 11 pp. (12, blank), yellow wrappers. The Windsor Press.
No. 4. The Sack of Monterey by Peter Corney. 9 1/2 x 6 1/4. vi pp., 14 pp., black wrappers. The Schwabacher-Frey Company.
No. 5. The Manilla Galleons ... from A Voyage Round the World ... by George Anson ... 9 1/2 x 6 1/4. 17 pp. (18, blank), blue wrappers. The Ward Ritchie Press.
No. 6. The Death of Captain Cook by Captain James King. 9 1/2 x 6. 15 pp. (16, blank), grey wrappers. The Eucalyptus Press.

VIII
CALIFORNIA ON CANVAS, A PORTFOLIO OF PAINTINGS OF EARLY CALIFORNIA SCENES BY CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS
1941
4-page folders, each with a double-spread reproduction in color of an early California painting. 8 numbers, 9 3/4 x 8 3/4. The entire series was printed by the Grabhorn Press. Edited by Oscar Lewis. Edition limited to 600 copies. It was originally intended to have 12 folders; actually only 8 were published.
No. 1. Custom House, Monterey.
No. 2. River Bridge, Sacramento.
No. 3. Steamer Cornelia.
No. 4. Telegraph Hill, San Francisco.
No. 5. Yerba Buena.
No. 6. High Flume, Tunnel Hill.
No. 7. San Diego Mission.
No. 8. Sutter's Fort.

IX
GUARDIANS OF THE PACIFIC
1942
3 numbers, each containing an article relating to a country in the Pacific area allied with the United States in World War II. Edited by Oscar Lewis. Edition limited to 550 copies. It was originally intended to have 6 numbers; actually only 3 were published.
No. 1. The Romance of the Swag (Australia) by Henry Lawson, foreword by James Johnson. 9 1/2 x 6 1/4. vi pp., 14 pp., white wrappers. The Windsor Press.
No. 2. Tales and Parables of Old China (China) translated by Lin Yutang, foreword by Wallace Kibbee. Illustrations and Chinese characters by Goodman Loy. 9 1/2 x 6 1/4. 16 pp., cream wrappers. Wallace Kibbee and Son.
No. 3. Cartagena (Colombia) by Armando Solano, foreword by Aurelia Henry Reinhardt. Illustrations by Ellen Jane Reinhardt. 9 1/2 x 6 3/8. 16 pp., light blue wrappers. The Eucalyptus Press.
XI

THE CALIFORNIA POETRY FOLIOS

1947

4-page folders (some French fold), each containing a poem by an eminent California poet, with commentary by the author. 12 numbers, 10 x 6½. Edited by Theodore M. Lilienthal. Edition limited to 750 copies.

No. 1. BALLADE OF FOG IN THE CARSON by Gelett Burgess. The Quercus Press.
No. 2. FROM THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE by Stanton A. Coblentz. Aucune Press.
No. 3. AT THE STEVENSON FOUNTAIN by Wallace Irwin. The Platen Press.
No. 4. LONG VIEW by Genevieve Taggard. The Aquarius Press.
No. 5. LETTER TO CALIFORNIA by Marie de L. Welch. Pioneer Hand Printing Society of La Cañada.
No. 6. AFTER THIS, SEA by Josephine Miles. The Hart Press.
No. 8. TO THE HOLY SPIRIT by Yvor Winters. The Toyon Press.

No. 10. WINTER RAIN by Hildegarde Flanner. The Eucalyptus Press.
No. 11. FOLK SCULPTURE by Donald Weeks. The L-D Allen Press.

XII

LETTERS OF THE GOLD DISCOVERY

1948

12 numbers, each with a facsimile of a document or letter from a California pioneer. Edited by George P. Hammond. Edition limited to 750 copies.

No. 1. Captain John A. Sutter, Lord of New Helvetia (to Dr. George McKinstry, Jr.). Introductory notes by Caroline Wenzel. 4-page folder, 10 x 7½. Printed by the Aucune Press.
No. 2. The Sutter-Marshall Lease with the Yalesumney Indians for Monopoly of the Gold-Bearing Lands. Introductory notes by Charles Olson. 8 pp., stitched, 10 x 7½. Printed by the L-D Allen Press.
No. 3. Sutter to Leidesdorff. Introductory notes by George P. Hammond. 4-page folder, 9¼ x 7½. Printed by the Eucalyptus Press.
No. 4. Edward C. Kemble to John S. Hittell. Introductory notes by George L. Harding. 4-page folder, 10 x 7½. Printed by the Toyon Press.
No. 5. A Letter from Thomas O. Larkin to Governor R.B. Mason. Introductory notes by Rodman W. Paul. 4-page folder, 10 x 7½. Printed by the Ward Richie Press.
No. 6. W. D. M. Howard of San Francisco to B. T. Reed of Boston, 1848. Introductory notes by Robert G. Cleland. 4-page folder, 10 x 7½. Printed by the Toyon Press.
No. 7. Consul Thomas O. Larkin to Secretary of State James Buchanan. Introductory notes by Reuben L. Underhill. 6 pp., triple fold, 10 x 7½. Printed by the Aquarius Press.
No. 8. Letter of Captain J. L. Folsom to the Secretary of the National Institute at Washington, D.C. Introductory notes by Neal Harlow. 4-page folder, 10½ x 7½. Printed by the Toyon Press.
No. 9. Letter of Ebenezer Larkin Childs from Washington D.C. to Thomas O. Larkin, Monterey, California. Introductory notes by George P. Hammond. 4-page folder, 10 x 7½. Printed by the Toyon Press.
No. 10. Rodman M. Price, New York, to Thomas O. Larkin, Monterey, California. Introductory notes by Joseph Henry Jackson. 4-page folder, 10 x 7½. Printed by the Toyon Press.
No. 11. A Letter from Stephen Reynolds of Honolulu to Thomas O. Larkin of San Francisco, November 1848. Introductory note by Adele Ogden. 4-page folder (French fold), 10 x 7½. Printed by the Hart Press.
No. 12. Robert Semple of Benicia City to Thomas O. Larkin at Monterey. Introductory notes by Oscar Lewis. 4-page folder, 10 x 7½. Printed by the Toyon Press.
XIII
CALIFORNIA “CLIPPER” CARDS
1949
4-page folders, 8 1/2 x 10 1/2. 12 numbers, each containing a reproduction in color of an advertisement-card announcing the sailing of a clipper ship with explanatory text by various authors. Edited by John Haskell Kemble. Edition limited to 850 copies. The entire series was printed by the Grabhorn Press.
No. 1. “REPORTER” by John Haskell Kemble.
No. 2. “FLEET-WING” by Carey S. Bliss.
No. 3. “ONTARIO” by Boyd F. Huff.
No. 4. “PAULINE” by John Lyman.
No. 5. “LOOKOUT” by John Lyman.
No. 7. “SILAS FISHER” by Oscar Lewis.
No. 8. “ST. CHARLES” by Robert Greenhalgh Alison.
No. 9. “IVANHOE” by Walter Muir Whitehill.
No. 10. “GRACE DARLING” by Raymond A. Rydell.
No. 11. “GARIBALDI” by John Haskell Kemble.
Note: The colophon erroneously states this as No. 12 in the series of keepsakes.

XIV
BONANZA BANQUETS
1950
4-page folders, 10 x 6 1/2. 12 numbers, each containing a reproduction of an early California menu and explanatory text by various authors. Edited by Joseph Henry Jackson. Edition limited to 850 copies. The entire series was printed by Anderson & Ritchie.
No. 1. The menu of a welcome-home dinner given to Lieutenant James W. Carlin, U.S.N. by his friends of the Bohemian Club in 1889 at which Rudyard Kipling was present. Commentary by Joseph Henry Jackson.
No. 2. The dinner menu of the Palace Hotel, San Francisco, on the evening of Wednesday, September 10, 1879, together with a list of their wines. Commentary by Lucius Beebe.
No. 3. The menu of a complimentary banquet to Hon. Anson Burlingame and the Chinese Ambassadors at the Lick House, San Francisco, Tuesday, April 28, 1868. Commentary by Oscar Lewis.
No. 4. The menu of the sixth annual dinner of the San Francisco Medical Benevolent Society at the Baldwin on Saturday, January 31, 1886. Commentary by Salvatore Lucia.
No. 5. The menu of a journalistic and typographical banquet at the French Rotisserie, Virginia City, Nevada, on March 23, 1879. Commentary by Phil Townsend Hanna.
No. 6. The bill of fare and wine list of the St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, for Saturday, January 19, 1850. Commentary by Lawton Mackall.
No. 7. The menu of a luncheon given for the President of the United States, Benjamin F. Harrison, at Sutro Heights on April 27, 1891. Commentary by Lindley Bynum.
No. 8. The menu of a banquet for the Grand Commandery of California Knights Templar at the Occidental Hotel on Tuesday, October 18, 1864. Commentary by M. F. K. Fisher.
No. 12. Table d’Hôte menu and music program for Blanco’s, November 7, 1907. Commentary by Ruth Teiser.

XV
PIONEER WESTERN PLAYBILLS
1951
4-page folders (French fold), 10 1/2 x 8 1/2. 12 numbers, each containing a reproduction of an early Western theater program. Edited by Frank L. Fenton. Edition limited to 850 copies. Printed by the Westgate Press.
No. 3. The grand opening of the California Theater, San Francisco, January 18, 1869. Commentary by Oscar Lewis.
No. 4. The appearance of Lotta in Little Nell and the Marquises during the week of August 24, 1879, at Baldwin’s Theater, San Francisco. Commentary by Donald C. Biggs.
No. 5. The appearance of Laura Keene in London Assurance at the Sacramento Theater, Sacramento, April 21, 1854. Commentary by Eleanor McClatchy.
No. 8. The first American performance of La Bohème at the “New” Los Angeles Theater, Los Angeles, October, 1897. Commentary by Howard Swan.


Note: The colophon erroneously states this to be No. 14 in the series of keepsakes.

ATTENTION, PIONEERS! 1853

4-page folders, 10 × 8½. 12 numbers, each containing a reproduction of a rare California broadside or poster. Edited by Oscar Lewis. Edition limited to 950 copies. Printed by Jack Werner Stauffacher at the Greenwood Press.

No. 1. Zamorano’s announcement of the establishment of California’s first printing press. Comment by George L. Harding.

No. 2. S. F. Town Ordinance, 1847, designed to discourage sailors from deserting their ships. Comment by Carroll D. Hall.

No. 3. Eliza Farnham’s Bride-Ship, an 1849 circular inviting young women of the East to go to California. Comment by David Magee.


No. 5. Sacramento Proclamation urging citizens to cooperate in founding the first city government in 1849. Comment by Caroline Wenzel.

No. 6. S. F.’s First Admission Day, ode composed by Mrs. E. M. Wills & sung at Portsmouth Plaza, October 29, 1850. Comment by Oscar Lewis.


No. 8. Doctor Cooper Replies, a relic of a medical feud that amused San Franciscans in 1878. Comment by Frances T. Gardner.


No. 10. A Bargain in Babies, an example of the uninhibited advertising of the 1850s. Comment by Innis Bromfield.

No. 11. Birth of a Metropolis! announcing the founding of a new supply center for the northern mines. Comment by George P. Hammond.


Note: The colophon erroneously states this to be No. 15 of the series of keepsakes.

PICTORIAL HUMOR OF THE GOLD RUSH 1953

4-page folders, 10 × 8½. 12 numbers, each containing a reproduction of a humorous drawing of the period. Edited by Carl I. Wheat. Edition limited to 950 copies. Printed by the Grabhorn Press.

Introductory broadside by the editor accompanying No. 1.

No. 1. The Miner’s Ten Commandments. Comment by Caroline Wenzel.


No. 3. Off for California. Comment by Jane Grabhorn.


No. 5. Album Californiano. Comment by Edna Martin Parratt.


No. 8. The Feast of Gold. Comment by Oscar Lewis.


No. 11. The Western Shore of the Sacramento. Comment by Robert E. Burke.


EARLY TRANSPORTATION IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1954

4-page folders, 9½ × 8. 12 numbers, each with a reproduction of a picture of some form of transportation. Edited by Robert J. Woods. Edition limited to 950 copies. Printed by Grant Dahlstrom.


No. 3. The Free Harbor Contest or Citizens Versus Railroad. Comment by Carey S. Bliss.

No. 4. The First Aviation Meet in America. Comment by Dr. David D. Davies.

No. 5. The Orange Dummy. Comment by Don Meadows.

No. 6. The Uncle Sam at Fort Yuma. Comment by G. N. Rudkin.

No. 7. Orizaba on the California Coast, 1876. Comment by John Haskell Kemble.

No. 8. Professor Low’s Planet Airship. Comment by W. W. Robinson.


No. 10. The Crossing of the Tehachapi by the Southern Pacific. Comment by Glenn S. Dunke.
No. 3. A “Donner” Marriage Book. A treasure from Sutter’s Fort selected by Carroll D. Hall.

No. 4. Gaspar de Villagrá’s Historia de la Nueva Mexico. A treasure from the Bancroft Library selected by George P. Hammond.

No. 5. Edward Bosqui’s Memoirs. A treasure from the Gleeson Library, University of San Francisco, selected by William J. Monihan, S.J.


No. 7. The First Book Printed in Guatemala In the Year 1663. A treasure from the University of California Library, Los Angeles, selected by Lawrence Clark Powell.


No. 10. The Tapeworm Ballot. A treasure from the California State Library, Sacramento, selected by Allan R. Ottley.

No. 11. A Communication from General Grant to General Halleck. As described by Hamlin Garland. A treasure from the University of Southern California Library, selected by Lloyd A. Arvidson.

No. 1. The Tallac, Lake Tahoe. Comment by Edward B. Scott.

No. 2. The Calaveras Big Trees Hotel. Comment by Dr. R. Coke Wood.

No. 3. Yosemite’s Cedar Cottage. Comment by Carl F. Russell.


No. 11. Italian Swiss Colony. Comment by Frank Norris.

Table of contents of the series and a letter from J. Ross Browne on California wines.

Note: The entire series was planned by Joseph Henry Jackson but only the first eight numbers were edited by him. At Mr. Jackson’s sudden and untimely death James D. Hart took over the editorship and completed the last five numbers.

No. 3. A “Donner” Marriage Book. A treasure from Sutter’s Fort selected by Carroll D. Hall.

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XXII

GOLD RUSH STEAMERS
1958

4-page folders (triple fold), 8 3/4 x 10 1/8, 12 numbers, each containing a reproduction of a picture of a steamer, some in color. Edited by John Haskell Kemble. Edition limited to 950 copies. Printed by the Grabhorn Press.

No. 2. Oregon. Comment by Karl Kortum. (In color.)
No. 3. Empire City. Comment by Alexander Crosby Brown.
No. 4. Brother Jonathan. Comment by Elwin M. Eldridge. (In color.)
No. 5. Golden Gate. Comment by Robert W. Parkinson.
No. 6. Union. Comment by Jerry MacMullen.
No. 9. Golden Age. Comment by Henry Rusk. (In color.)
No. 10. Senator. Comment by William King Covell. (In color.)

MISCELLANEOUS
MISCELLANEOUS KEEPSAKES AND EPHEMERA

The following list of ephemeral printing for the Club is only a selection. The numerous pamphlets and broadsides which advertised publications have not been included, nor has it seemed necessary or advisable to enumerate the many announcements of lectures, annual meetings, removal notices, etc. In many instances the number of copies printed is unknown. It is probable that not more than 350 copies of the earlier items were issued.

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Loan Exhibition of Incunabula, held by The Book Club of California in the galleries of Hill Tolerton from October second to October thirty-first MDCCCCXVII. ii pp., 16 pp., pale blue wrappers. Printed by John Henry Nash, 1917.

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From the Book Club of California, 110 Sutter St., San Francisco. 4 pp. (A letter from W. R. K. Young quoting a letter from T. J. Cobden-Sanderson, with a facsimile—see note to No. 9.) Printed by John Henry Nash, 1919.

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An Informal Talk on the Bi-literal Cipher Of Francis Bacon, by Mr. Charles Loughbridge. ... 4 pp. With examples of a bi-formed alphabet. Printer and date unknown, but probably John Henry Nash or Taylor & Taylor, circa 1922.

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Mr. Edwin Grabhorn of the Grabhorn Press, San Francisco, takes pleasure in presenting this little keepsake to members of The Book Club of California, May, 1924. Single sheet with reproduction of a medieval woodcut, used the following year in the Club’s edition of de Bury’s Philobiblon. Printed by the Grabhorn Press, 1924.

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Note: Many similar pamphlets and leaflets advertising the Club’s activities and publications have been issued over the years. To record them all would be both tedious and of little value. The above, the most ambitious of its kind, is given here merely as an example.

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A William Morris Broadsides, illustrating two stages in the design of the Kelmscott Chaucer. Text and two pages of facsimile, laid in pale blue folder. 350 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press, 1934.

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The following were all issued with numbers of the Quarterly News-Letter:


John Bidwell, Josiah Royce. A letter from Mary Clement Leavitt to Bidwell on behalf of Royce. 4 pp. Printed by Lewis and Dorothy Allen. (Vol. XI, No. 1, 1944.)


The Club also distributed free to members a few keepsakes which had been printed for other organizations, such as a Nash four-page folder on Gutenberg, issued as advertising for the Zellerbach Paper Company in 1918. Also in the same year Taylor & Taylor printed a broadside of the Declaration of Independence, of which 115 copies were reserved for members of the Club. In 1926 Edgar Walter presented to the Club about forty leaves of an early 16th century printed Book of Hours. These were sent to life and honorary members, institutions, and those of the membership who were particularly interested in early printing. The distribution was at the discretion of Albert M. Bender. The leaf was unaccompanied by any legend.
QUARTERLY NEWS-LETTER OF THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA
1933 -

The first four numbers were modest eight-page affairs, printed by the Grabhorn Press in Centaur and Letter Batarde. With volume II the size was increased to twelve pages and remained thus until the War when the number of pages varied and publication itself became sporadic. Volume IX, No. 4, was a double number for March–June, 1942. Then there was a hiatus until volume X, Nos. 1–2 and 3–4, were issued and labelled Spring and Winter, 1943, followed by volume XI, No. 1, Winter, No. 2, September, 1945, No. 3, December, 1945, and No. 4, Summer, 1946. After this the magazine returned to regular quarterly issues, but in a larger format and with no set number of pages. They were labelled by seasons rather than months, and have continued this way to date.

Volumes XII, XIII and No. 1 of volume XIV were printed by Taylor & Taylor, but the succeeding numbers were, and still are, printed by the Grabhorn Press.

Occasional keepsakes were included in certain numbers. A list of these will be found in the section devoted to Miscellaneous Keepsakes and Ephemera.

Oscar Lewis was the Quarterly’s first editor and his name was in this capacity for twelve years. With the Summer issue of 1942 he relinquished the editor’s chair, which he had filled so loyally and so well through some of the most trying years of the Club’s existence, to George L. Harding. On Mr. Harding’s election to the presidency of the Club in 1949 he handed over the editorship to Lewis Allen who retained the chair (except for the years 1951–52 when David Magee filled in for him) until 1957, at which time Donald C. Biggs became editor.

NOTES
(1) Volume VI, No. 3, December, 1938, is misnumbered volume "V," approximately half of volume XVII, No. 2, was misnumbered volume "XVIII."
(2) An index to the Quarterly, volumes I-XX, compiled by John W. Borden and J. Terry Bender, was issued with the Fall number of 1955. (Volume XX, No. 4.)
(3) For many years the Club has offered members an opportunity to have their copies of the Quarterly bound by years in blue cloth with morocco back. Curiously enough, very few members have taken advantage of this offer. Probably not more than a dozen sets exist in this regulation Club binding.

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The numbers in parentheses refer to titles, both book publications and annual keepsake; all other numbers refer to pages. The history of the Club and the preface have not been indexed.

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