Finding Aid to the Collection of Bret Harte Letters and Papers, 1857-1959, bulk 1857-1901

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Collection Number: BANC MSS C-H 57

The Bancroft Library

University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Finding Aid Written By:
Alison E. Bridger

Date Completed:
July 2006

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Collection of Bret Harte letters and papers

Date (inclusive): 1857-1959,

Date (bulk): , bulk 1857-1901

Collection Number: BANC MSS C-H 57

Creators : Harte, Bret, 1836-1902.

Extent: Number of containers: 2 boxes, 1 oversize volume, and 1 roll.Linear feet: 1.25

Repository: The Bancroft Library

Berkeley, California 94720-6000

Abstract: Contains correspondence and writings. Correspondence includes outgoing letters, one incoming letter and several letters about Bret Harte. Correspondents include John H. Carmany, Harte's wife, Anna Griswold Harte, James Osgood, Elisha Bliss, Jr., Thomas Starr King and Lady Gregory. Writings include a diary from 1857-1858 and manuscripts including, The Heathen Chinee. Also includes a United States flag put together by Harte and his sister during the American Civil War, clippings, papers relating to Harte's employment in the U.S. Branch Mint, San Francisco and some miscellaneous papers and items relating to Harte.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English

Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

Access

Collection is open for research, with the following exceptions: the United States Flag in Roll 1 is RESTRICTED.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Collection of Bret Harte Letters and Papers, BANC MSS C-H 57, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Alternate Forms Available

Part of the collection is also available on microfilm, see call numbers BANC MSS C-H 57 FILM, BANC FILM 2165 and BANC FILM 2693, reel 1.

Related Collections

Bret Harte papers, 1869-1895. (BANC MSS 76/192)
Bret Harte papers, 1870-1898. (BANC MSS 77/166)
Bret Harte papers, circa 1869-1897. (BANC MSS 79/47)
Bret Harte letter to Ralph Keeler. (BANC MSS 88/34)
Bret Harte letters to his wife in London. (BANC MSS 88/146)
Bret Harte letters to his family. (BANC MSS 88/181)
Bret Harte letter, Washington, D.C., to E.A. Buck. (BANC MSS 91/55)
Bret Harte correspondence on microfilm. (BANC FILM 2693)
J. Ross (John Ross) Browne papers. (BANC MSS 78/163)
Ina Donna Coolbrith collection of letters and papers. (BANC MSS H-C 23)
George Davidson papers. (BANC MSS C-B 490)
Charles Warren Stoddard collection of papers. (BANC MSS C-H 53)
Overland Monthly records. (BANC MSS C-H 97)
Mark Twain Papers at The Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley.

Separated Material
Drawings transferred to the Pictorial Collections of The Bancroft Library (BANC PIC 1960.008-A)

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Harte, Bret, 1836-1902--Correspondence
Harte, Bret, 1836-1902--Manuscripts
Harte, Bret, 1836-1902 -- Heathen Chinese
Mints--California--San Francisco
Flags--United States
Authors, American
Manuscripts (for publication)
Poems
Diaries
Cards
Clippings
Carmany, John H
Harte, Anna Griswold
Osgood, James R. (James Ripley), 1836-1892
Bliss, Elisha, 1822-1880
Gregory, Lady, 1852-1932
King, Thomas Starr, 1824-1864
Honeyman, Robert B. Collection
Norris, Thomas W. (Thomas Wayne). Collection

Acquisition Information
The Collection of Bret Harte Letters and Papers were given to and purchased by The Bancroft Library over many years including items from the Thomas W. Norris collection and the Robert B. Honeyman collection.

Accruals
No additions are expected.

Processing Information
Reprocessed by Alison E. Bridger in 2006.

Biographical Information
Francis Bret Harte (August 25, 1836-May 6, 1902) was an American author and poet, best remembered for his accounts of pioneering life in California. Born in Albany, New York, he moved to California in 1854, later working there in a number of capacities, including miner, teacher, messenger, and journalist.
-From "Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia," 2006 June.
Scope and Content of Collection
Contains correspondence and writings. Correspondence includes outgoing letters, one incoming letter and several letters about Bret Harte. Correspondents include John H. Carmany, Harte's wife, Anna Griswold Harte, James Osgood, Elisha Bliss, Jr., Thomas Starr King and Lady Gregory. Writings include a diary from 1857-1858 and manuscripts including, The Heathen Chinee. Also includes a United States flag put together by Harte and his sister during the American Civil War, clippings, papers relating to Harte's employment in the U.S. Branch Mint, San Francisco and some miscellaneous papers and items relating to Harte.

Series 1 Correspondence 1863-1901
Physical Description: Box 1, folders 1-11
Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically and chronologically.
Scope and Content Note
Contains one incoming letter, outgoing, including a few transcripts, and letters discussing Harte.

Box 1, Folder 1 Incoming circa 1863
Scope and Content Note
-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1

Box 1, Folder 2 Outgoing 1866-1869
Scope and Content Note
-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1

Box 1, Folder 3 Outgoing 1870-1872
Scope and Content Note
-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1

Box 1, Folder 4 Outgoing 1875-1878
Scope and Content Note
-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1

Box 1, Folder 5 Outgoing 1880-1884
Scope and Content Note
-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1

Box 1, Folder 6 Outgoing 1885-1889
Scope and Content Note
-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1

Box 1, Folder 7 Outgoing 1890-1894
Scope and Content Note
-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1

Box 1, Folder 8 Outgoing 1895-1901
Scope and Content Note
-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1

Box 1, Folder 9 Outgoing undated
Scope and Content Note
-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1
Box 1, Folder 10  Outgoing  - transcripts 1870-1895  
Scope and Content Note  
-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1

Box 1, Folder 11  About Bret Harte circa 1876-1880  
Series 2 Writings circa 1857-1875  
Physical Description: Box 1, folder 12; Box 2  
Arrangement  
Arranged hierarchically and alphabetically.  
Scope and Content Note  
Contains a diary from 1857-1858, and manuscripts of his writings, some of which have been bound.

Box 1, Folder 12  Diary 1857-1858  
Scope and Content Note  
-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2165

Box 2, Folder 1  Concerning California and the Mercantile Library of San Francisco circa 1870  
Box 2, Folder 2  The Heathen Chinee or On the Sinfulness of Ah Sin as reported by Truthful James circa 1870-1875  
Box 2, Folder 3  The Idyll of Red Gulch 1869  
Box 2, Folder 4  The Mystery of Hacienda undated  
Box 2, Folder 5  The Story of an Ornithologist circa 1867, 1877  
Box 2, Folder 6  Miscellaneous manuscripts circa 1864-1874  
Box 2, Folder 7  Book reviews of other author's works undated

Series 3 Miscellaneous 1863-1951  
Physical Description: Box 1, folders 13-15; Roll 1; Oversize volume 1.  
Arrangement  
Arranged hierarchically.  
Scope and Content Note  
Contains papers relating to Harte's employment as a superintendents clerk at the U.S. Branch Mint, San Francisco, a flag made during the American Civil War by Harte and his sister, clippings, and other miscellaneous items including a lock of hair.

Oversize Volume 1  
U.S. Branch Mint, San Francisco 1863, 1868  
Roll 1  
United States Flag circa 1861  
Documents relating to Harte's U.S. Flag circa 1944-1959  
Clippings circa 1914-1951  
Miscellaneous circa 1870-1890  
Receipts, from Bret Harte for Mrs. Harte's services as choir singer at First Unitarian Church of San Francisco 1863  
Scope and Content Note  
-only available on microfilm.