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

Finding Aid written by Alison E. Bridger

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

**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.

### **Publication Rights**

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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)

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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 C-H 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 Chinees
- 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.

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**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.

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**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.

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|-----------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | <b>Incoming circa 1863</b><br><b>Scope and Content Note</b><br>-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | <b>Outgoing 1866-1869</b><br><b>Scope and Content Note</b><br>-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1  |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | <b>Outgoing 1870-1872</b><br><b>Scope and Content Note</b><br>-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1  |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | <b>Outgoing 1875-1878</b><br><b>Scope and Content Note</b><br>-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1  |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | <b>Outgoing 1880-1884</b><br><b>Scope and Content Note</b><br>-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1  |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | <b>Outgoing 1885-1889</b><br><b>Scope and Content Note</b><br>-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1  |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | <b>Outgoing 1890-1894</b><br><b>Scope and Content Note</b><br>-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1  |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | <b>Outgoing 1895-1901</b><br><b>Scope and Content Note</b><br>-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1  |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | <b>Outgoing undated</b><br><b>Scope and Content Note</b><br>-also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1    |

Box 1, Folder 10	<b>Outgoing - transcripts 1870-1895</b> <b>Scope and Content Note</b> -also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2693, reel 1
Box 1, Folder 11	<b>About Bret Harte circa 1876-1880</b> Series 2 <b>Writings circa 1857-1875</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> Box 1, folder 12; Box 2 <b>Arrangement</b> Arranged hierarchically and alphabetically. <b>Scope and Content Note</b> Contains a diary from 1857-1858, and manuscripts of his writings, some of which have been bound.
Box 1, Folder 12	<b>Diary 1857-1858</b> <b>Scope and Content Note</b> -also available on microfilm BANC FILM 2165
Box 2, Folder 1	<b>Manuscripts</b> <b>Concerning California and the Mercantile Library of San Francisco circa 1870</b>
Box 2, Folder 2	<b>The Heathen Chinee or On the Sinfulness of Ah Sin as reported by Truthful James circa 1870-1875</b>
Box 2, Folder 3	<b>The Idyll of Red Gulch 1869</b>
Box 2, Folder 4	<b>The Mystery of Hacienda undated</b>
Box 2, Folder 5	<b>The Story of an Ornithologist circa 1867, 1877</b>
Box 2, Folder 6	<b>Miscellaneous manuscripts circa 1864-1874</b>
Box 2, Folder 7	<b>Book reviews of other author's works undated</b>
	Series 3 <b>Miscellaneous 1863-1951</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> Box 1, folders 13-15; Roll 1; Oversize volume 1. <b>Arrangement</b> Arranged hierarchically. <b>Scope and Content Note</b> 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	<b>U.S. Branch Mint, San Francisco 1863, 1868</b>
Roll 1	<b>United States Flag circa 1861</b>
Box 1, Folder 13	<b>Documents relating to Harte's U.S. Flag circa 1944-1959</b>
Box 1, Folder 14	<b>Clippings circa 1914-1951</b>
Box 1, Folder 15	<b>Miscellaneous circa 1870-1890</b>
Microfilm BANC MSS C-H 57 FILM	<b>Receipts, from Bret Harte for Mrs. Harte's services as choir singer at First Unitarian Church of San Francisco 1863</b> <b>Scope and Content Note</b> -only available on microfilm.