Guide to the Overland Monthly Records, 1869-1886

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Note
Social Sciences --Publishing
Guide to the Overland Monthly Records, 1869-1886

Collection number: BANC MSS C-H 97

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Collection Summary
Collection Title: Overland Monthly Records,
Date (inclusive): 1869-1886
Collection Number: BANC MSS C-H 97
Creator: Overland Monthly
Extent: Number of containers: 1 box
Repository: The Bancroft Library
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Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
Languages Represented: English

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Preferred Citation
Scope and Content

The *Overland Monthly* was founded in 1868 by Anton Roman, a San Francisco bookseller and publisher who felt that he could make a success of a monthly magazine distinctively literary in character and devoted to the interests of the Pacific States. The first issue appeared, with Bret Harte as editor, in July 1868, and it subsequently became one of the greatest magazines of its day. Its fortunes declined, however, after Harte's departure for the East in 1871 and with the depression of 1873. The editorship passed successively to W. C. Bartlett, to Benjamin P. Avery of the *Bulletin*, and finally to T. A. Harcourt and Walter M. Fisher, two of Hubert H. Bancroft's assistants. With the issue of December 1875 the magazine ceased publication.

In January 1883 a new *Overland Monthly* appeared, formed by a union of the old and the *Californian*, a literary monthly. Milicent Washburn Shinn served as editor from 1883 to 1894.

These *Overland Monthly* papers were transferred to the Bancroft Library from the Main Library, most of them coming from the Rare Books Department in 1958. They consist primarily of letters, ca. 1869-1875, addressed to Benjamin P. Avery and John H. Carmany (who bought the magazine from Roman in 1870). There are also a few letters, 1884-1886, from Sherman Day and Samuel Hopkins Willey, addressed to Miss Shinn. The collection also includes some manuscript poems, a note by Hubert H. Bancroft on his history project, and an account book of moneys paid contributors, 1869-1875. The correspondence, which was removed from the binders in which it was pasted, is arranged alphabetically, with single letters in a miscellany at the beginning. The manuscripts and account book are described in the Key to Arrangement. A list of the major correspondents and the contributors of the manuscript poems are included herein.

Five letters (from Zitella Corke, J.W. Gally, Rose H. Lathrop, John Muir, and Edmund C. Stedman) were added, Mar. 1972, gift of Sheldon Cheney.

**Box 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manuscripts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bancroft, Hubert Howe, 1832-1918</td>
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<tr>
<td>Note concerning his work on the Pacific States, Feb. 5, 1874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harte, Bret, 1836-1902</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poem, &quot;The Cross of Portola&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stoddard, Charles Warren, 1843-1909</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poem, &quot;Sail ho&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taylor, Bayard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poem, &quot;Notus Ignoto&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren, Emily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poem, &quot;Daisy&quot;</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Correspondence Miscellany (single letters)**

| Barter, George W. |
| Ltr., Oct. 28, 1873 |
| Brooks, Noah, 1830-1903 |
| Ltr., Nov. 29, 1875 |
| Carr, Jeanne C. (Mrs. Ezra Slocum Carr) |
| Ltr., Jan. 17, 1872 |
| Chase, A. W. |
| Ltr., Feb. 12, 1874 |
| Curry, George Law, 1820-1879 |
| Ltr., Feb. 10, 1874 |
| Davidson, George, 1825-1911 |
| Ltr., Oct. 30, 1873 |
| Delano, Alonzo, 1806-1874 |
| Ltr., Oct. 9, 1873 |
| Ellis, Edward |
| Ltr., Dec. 21, 1874 |
| Foote, Lucius Harwood, 1826-1913 |
| Ltr., Jan. 22, 1874 |
| Gardner, William Henry |
| Ltr., July 22, 1873 |
Griffis, William Elliot, 1843-1928
  Ltr., June 15, 1875
Hinton, Charles
  Ltr., Mar. 28, 1874
House, Edward Howard, 1836-1901
  Ltr., Dec. 8, 1873
Kautz, August Valentine
  Ltr., Jan. 22, 1875
Kingsley, Charles, 1819-1875
  Ltr., Nov. 24, 1873
Knight, P. A.
  Ltr., Jan. 17, 1874
LeConte, John, 1818-1891
  Ltr., n.d.
[Mighels] Ella Sterling (Clark), 1853-1934
  Ltr., Jan. 29, 1874
Miller, Joaquin, 1841-1913
  Ltr., n.d
Muir, John
  Ltr., Apr. 18, 1883
Mulford, Prentice, 1834-1891
  Ltr., Nov. 27, 1871
Oak, Henry Lebbeus, 1844-1905
  Ltr., Mar. 27, 1874
Scanlan, Michael
  Ltr., Jan. 29, 1874
Sharon, William, 1821-1885
  Ltr., Jan. 6, 1874
Stebbins, Horatio, 1821-1902
  Ltr., n.d.
Stedman, Edmund Clarence
  Ltr., Apr. 6, 1888
Strong, John L.
  Ltr., Jan. 25, 1874
Thomas, Edith Matilda, 1854-1925
  Ltr., Nov. 21, 1894
Toft, Peter Petersen, 1825-1901
  Ltr., Feb. 23, 1874
Ver Mehr, J. L.
  Ltr., Oct. 31, 1871
Alvord, William
  3 letters, 1873-1874
Crane, Frances Jane (Timmons) Grayson (Mrs. George Belden Crane - formerly Mrs. Andrew Jackson Grayson)
  3 letters, 1873
Day, Sherman
  6 letters, 1884
Field, Edward
  2 letters, 1874
Field, Stephen Johnson, 1816-1899
  2 letters, 1873-1874. Enclosures include letters from Gen. William T. Sherman.
Fisher, Walter Mulrea, 1849-1919
  2 letters, n.d.
Gally, John
  2 letters, 1873-1882
Gilman, Daniel Coit, 1831-1908
  7 letters, 1873-1874
List of Major Correspondents

Harte, Bret, 1856-1902
   21 letters, 1869-1875
Kendall, W. A., d. 1876
   2 letters, n.d.
Kip, William Ingraham, bp., 1811-1893
   4 letters, 1873-1874
O'Connell, Daniel, 1849-1899
   2 letters, 1873 & n.d.
Powers, Stephen
   5 letters, 1871?-1875
Sanborn, Franklin Benjamin, 1831-1917
   2 letters, 1873. Written as secretary of the American Social Science Association.
Seabough, Samuel
   2 letters, 1873-1874
Sherman, William Tecumseh 1830-1891
See Field, Stephen Johnson
Stoddard, Charles Warren, 1843-1909
   2 letters, 1874 & n.d.
Victor, Frances Aureta (Fuller) Barrett, 1826-1902
   3 letters, 1874
Widney, Joseph Pomeroy, 1841-1938
   2 letters, 1873
Wiley, Samuel Hopkins, 1821-1914
   3 letters, 1884-1886