Manuscripts and Notes Chiefly Concerning the Comstock Lode, 1859-1936

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Manuscripts and Notes Chiefly Concerning the Comstock Lode, 1859-1936

Collection number: BANC MSS P-G 244

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Collection Summary
Collection Title: Manuscripts and Notes Chiefly Concerning the Comstock Lode
Date (inclusive): 1859-1936
Collection Number: BANC MSS P-G 244
Creator: Smith, Grant H. (Grant Horace)
Extent: 4 cartons, 1 box5.4 linear feet
Repository: The Bancroft Library.
University of California, Berkeley
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Abstract: Material gathered in preparation for books on Mark Twain, John W. Mackay and the Comstock Lode. A collection of Shakespeareana and a few miscellaneous essays are also included.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English

Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Access
Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Manuscripts and Notes Chiefly Concerning the Comstock Lode, BANC MSS P-G 244, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

Alternative Form of Materials Available
There are no alternate forms of this collection.

Miscellaneous Comstock photographs and maps, etc., have been removed and cataloged as: Pictures 6246-6347, and Portraits 1236-1278.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog:

- Mackay, John William, 1831-1902.
- Comstock Lode (Nev.)

The Manuscripts and notes chiefly concerning the Comstock Lode were given to The Bancroft Library by Mrs. G.H. Smith in October 1945.

No additions are expected.

**Processing Information**

Processed at the container level in 2013.

**Scope and Content Note**

The following data is given on this collection by the son of the donor, Grant H. Smith Jr., after he had spent some days in trying to establish some semblance of order among these valuable and interesting papers:

The material on the Comstock Lode and vicinity represents many hours of research and study on a subject which was dear to the heart of my father, Grant H. Smith. Much of it is written with a love and passion characteristic of a nearly gone but not forgotten breed of men known as "Mining Camp Men." They were refined and tempered in the mining camps of the West - Virginia City, Butte, Downieville, Jackson, Sutter Creek, Chinese Camp, Dawson, The Klondike, Tonapah, Goldfield and many other roaring booming mining camps.

Many of these men, though they often spoke their minds on various subjects, never put their thoughts on paper for posterity to enjoy. Many of the younger generation have tried with questionable success to capture the flavor and spirit of these adventurous days. While my Dad did not possess a glamorous style, his inquiring and thorough mind compiled a world of important information on the Comstock Lode and other related subjects.

The original manuscripts have been torn apart and reshuffled as his ambitious program: a story of John W. Mackay, a history of the Comstock, and the real story about Mark Twain in Nevada, was never realized. It had to be condensed and shortened into a bulletin issued by the Mackay School of Mines, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, 1943, under the title of A History of the Comstock Lode. Therefore there is little or no continuity in the large Mackay-Comstock manuscripts and much of the material is out of place. The real value will appear in the notes, clippings and letters included in the separate binders and in the short, complete articles, short manuscripts, and data on production and methods of the mines.

The Shakespearean collection speaks for itself.

**Scope and Content**

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- Carton 1. Basic data on the Comstock, 1859-1936. Miscellaneous Comstock articles. Part of the original manuscript on the Comstock.
- Carton 2. Material on John W. Mackay and the Comstock Story. Includes data on the discovery, development and production of the various mines and ore bodies.
- Carton 2A. MS of "John W. Mackay, Bonanza King"
- Carton 3. Mark Twain material - final manuscripts together with original notes, and drafts.
- Carton 4. Miscellaneous Comstock notes (three letter files)
- Carton 5. Miscellaneous notebook, original drafts, typewritten sheets, including duplicates, rewritten chapters and rejects. (Of little value.)

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Comstock Notes

Physical Description: carton 1, folders 1-9

Arrangement
Formerly housed in Carton 1.

Scope and Content Note
Includes materials concerning the Comstock, including photostats of contemporary newspaper items, chronologically arranged, 1853-circa 1893; other notes on census, directories, society, roads, stocks, milling, theaters, Adolph Sutro, etc.; historical sketches; accounts of individual mines; five miscellaneous articles; part of the original draft of Smith's manuscript on Comstock history; maps and pictures.

carton 1, folder 1 1859-1863.
carton 1, folder 2 1863-1864.
carton 1, folder 3 1865-1869.
carton 1, folder 4 1870s.
carton 1, folder 5 Census, Directories, Social Notes, Roads, etc.
carton 1, folder 6 Stocks, Milling, Theatre, Sutro, Historical sketches, etc.
carton 1, folder 7 Individual Mines - Ophir to Utah
carton 1, folder 8 Miscellaneous Comstock Articles
   Did Grosh Brothers Discover the Comstock?
   The Original Gold Hill Bonanza.
   Why the Comstock Lode Remained So Long Undiscovered.
   The Production from the big pit.
   Comstock Balance Sheet, 1881-1935.
   Milling Low Grade Ores from 1901 to 1936.
carton 1, folder 9 Part of the Original Draft on the Comstock History.

John W. Mackay and The Comstock Story

Physical Description: carton 1, folders 10-21; carton 2, folders 1-5

Arrangement
Formerly housed in Carton 2.

Scope and Content Note
Material on John W. Mackay and the Comstock story, as well as a scrapbook, and an envelope of loose clippings (used in part in Smith's History of the Comstock Lode [Reno, 1943]). Includes notes on Mackay's interests in the Nevada Bank, Water Company, Pacific Cable Company, and Postal Telegraph.
John W. Mackay, Bonanza King and the Comstock Story.
Scope and Content Note
The manuscript is badly mixed as the material was used in publishing the History of the Comstock Lode, University of Nevada, Bulletin No. 3, July 1943, Mackay School of Mines (Grant H. Smith) and was never rearranged prior to the author's death in 1944. It was also rewritten and rearranged so many times that the sequence is broken, though the table of contents gives the original outline.

Additional Note
(The manuscript is badly mixed as the material was used in publishing the History of the Comstock Lode, University of Nevada, Bulletin No. 3, July, 1943, Mackay School of Mines, (Grant H. Smith), and was never rearranged prior to the author's death in 1944. It was also rewritten and rearranged so many times that the sequence is broken though the table of contents gives the original outline.)

John W. Mackay, Bonanza King and the Comstock Story (with Appendix)
John W. Mackay and The Comstock Mines (Part of original manuscript.)
John W. Mackay - Comstock Period, pages 1 to 92.
Early Draft of Comstock Mackay Story.
Comstock Notes - Mackay. Miscellaneous, Virginia City.
Comstock Notes - Mackay. Pacific Cable Obituary Notices.
Mackay Duplicates and Rejects.
Clippings on Clarence Mackay's death.
Miscellaneous Articles and Reports on the Comstock and Mining in General
Interesting Articles, Letters and Mine Reports
Miscellaneous unrelated articles on the West and other subjects
Comstock Manuscript- partial
Clippings Scrapbook

John W. Mackay, Bonanza King and the Comstock Story
Physical Description: carton 2, folders 6-9
Arrangement
Formerly housed in Carton 2A.
Scope and Content Note
Includes complete manuscript (including photographs) of John W. Mackay, Bonanza King and the Comstock Story.

Book 1

Book 2

Book 3

Mark Twain in the West.
Physical Description: carton 2, folders 10-22; carton 3, folder 1
Arrangement
Formerly housed in Carton 3.
Scope and Content Note
Material on Mark Twain in Nevada. Includes Smith's completed manuscript, with pictures; miscellaneous Twain articles; and notes, clippings, and photostats.

Mark Twain in Nevada.
Scope and Content Note
Final manuscript complete with pictures.

Mark Twain in Nevada- Appendix
carton 2, folder 12  
**Miscellaneous Mark Twain Articles**
- Mark Twain in Nevada. (Original draft).
- Mark Twain in the West.
- Notes on Roughing it.
- Notes on J. Ross Browne
- Did Mark Twain visit Mono Lake?

carton 2, folder 13  
**Mark Twain Notes - Number 1**
- Scope and Content Note
- Original Notes Clippings and Photostats

carton 2, folder 14  
**Mark Twain Notes - Number 2**
- Scope and Content Note
- Original Notes Clippings and Photostats

carton 2, folder 15  
**Mark Twain, 1864-1868.**
- Scope and Content Note
- Original Notes Clippings and Photostats

carton 2, folders 16-18  
**Rejects, Duplicates, Discards, and miscellaneous notes**

carton 2, folder 19  
**Mark Twain- Note Book**
**Memories of Mark Twain and Steve Gillis.**
- Scope and Content Note
- See note on fly leaf.

carton 2, folder 20  
**Mark Twain- miscellaneous**
**Mark Twain and Mackay**
**Harpers Weekly - Mark Twain’s Birthday edition.**

**Miscellaneous Comstock, Mackay & Mark Twain Notes**
- Physical Description: carton 3, folders 2-30
- Arrangement
  - Formerly housed in Carton 4.
  - Scope and Content Note
  - Miscellaneous notes on early Nevada and California, relating to the Comstock, Twain, and Mackay.

carton 3, folders 2-17  
**File Number 1: Miscellaneous notes on early Nevada and California. Mainly The Comstock and Mark Twain.**
- Arrangement
  - Originally housed in file boxes. Folder 2 contains a "table of contents" noting the contents of the corresponding letter (A-Z) under which documents were filed. These letters have been transcribed onto the folders which now hold said documents.

carton 3, folders 18-25  
**File Number 2: Miscellaneous notes on early Nevada and California. Mainly The Comstock and J. W. Mackay.**
- Arrangement
  - Originally housed in file boxes. Folder 18 contains a "table of contents" noting the contents of the corresponding letter (A-Z) under which documents were filed. These letters have been transcribed onto the folders which now hold said documents.
File Number 3: Miscellaneous Information.

Arrangement
Originally housed in file boxes. Folder 26 contains a “table of contents” noting the contents of the corresponding letter (A-Z) under which documents were filed. These letters have been transcribed onto the folders which now hold said documents.

Scope and Content Note
Includes: Articles and reports on The Comstock and Western mining in general; Interesting Articles, Letters, Mine reports, etc.; and Miscellaneous and unrelated articles and pamphlets.

Grant Smith on John Mackay
Missellaneous Notebooks, Original Drafts and Typewritten sheets

Physical Description:
carton 3, folders 31-34; carton 4, folders 1-13

Arrangement
Formerly housed in Carton 5.

Scope and Content Note
Includes duplicates, rewritten chapters and rejects

Additional Note
No listing of contents. Of little value without a tremendous amount of sorting and arranging.

Old Sheets- Comstock
Miscellaneous Material on the Comstock and Mackay

Miscellaneous Material on the Comstock and Mackay

Miscellaneous Typewritten sheets on the Comstock and Mackay Story

Rejects from Book 1

Notebooks

Shakespeare Notes and Books

Physical Description: carton 4, folders 14-20; box 1, folders 1-7

Arrangement
Formerly housed in Carton 6.


Glossary of Words and Quotations - Shakespeare's Plays. Marlowe and Shakespeare - 4 Copies.

Quotations from Shakespeare.

Miscellaneous Essays.

Scope and Content Note
By: Grant H. Smith. (Not concerning Shakespeare)
box 1, folder 4-7  

Miscellaneous Notes, Clippings, Articles and Speeches on Shakespeare.