



FORT LARAMIE ON SUBLETTE'S FORK NEAR THE NEBRASKA OR PLATTE RIVER

A watercolor by Alfred Jacob Miller from the collection of Mae Reed Porter on loan to the Society.

## EXHIBITION PREVIEW, LECTURE

# THE WEST THAT WAS


MARK FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 13, 8:00 p.m. on your calendar, for on that date members and their guests are to be accorded a series of rare privileges—namely the privilege of meeting a gracious woman, steeped in the lore of the Great Plains and America's westward expansion; the privilege of contributing to the Mansion Fund, newly established by the Board of Trustees to implement Director Biggs' dynamic developmental program; and the privilege of taking part in the discovery of one of the most remarkable visual records of a past era that has come down to us. This is a collection of more than eighty water colors by Alfred Jacob Miller to be shown as a group on the West Coast for the first time. A champagne reception will follow the lecture.

Born January 2, 1810, in Baltimore, Maryland, Alfred Miller studied painting with Thomas Sully in 1831-32 and in Europe in 1833-34. After painting for three years in Baltimore he moved to New Orleans in 1837. There he met Sir William Drummond Stewart, whom he accompanied as artist on an expedition into the Rocky Mountains in 1837-38. Miller made over three hundred on-the-spot watercolor sketches of Indian life which were to be elaborated later into large-scale oil paintings for the walls of Sir William's castle in Perthshire, Scotland. When Miller had completed his commission the small sketches were laid aside in his Baltimore studio. It is from these sketches that the present selection has been made and it is the story of their rediscovery, and an appreciation and interpretation of them that Mae Reed Porter will present on Friday evening in conjunction with a special preview of the watercolors.



In her foreword to Bernard de Voto's *Across the Wide Missouri* Mrs. Porter has provided an exciting description of her finding of the watercolors: "We removed the newspaper covering from the top of the box and, filled with curiosity, began to lift out the contents—unmounted watercolor sketches one hundred years old and as fresh in color as the day they were painted. As we drew out one after another we were impressed by their beauty and the story they told."

Members who see the collection will be impressed, too, by their beauty and freshness, by their subtle and delicate coloring, and lastly by a mastery of draughtsmanship unrivaled in American art for a sense of immediacy, of space, and of movement. Lastly they are that magic thing, a key to the past, for they recreate an accurate and spontaneous vision of a vanished race and "the West that was."

 Mrs. Porter's lecture is the first event scheduled by the Society in support of the Mansion Fund. Admission to this Preview, Lecture, and Champagne Reception will be by a contribution of \$5.00 to the Mansion Fund. A receipt for each donation of \$5.00 (tax deductible) to the Fund will be supplied to all those making reservations for the evening. Since the ballroom seats only one hundred, reservations accompanied by check should be mailed to Society Headquarters, 2090 Jackson Street, San Francisco 9, before March 11.

### CALENDAR

March 4, 12:00 noon	Director Biggs speaks to the Pleasant Hill Kiwanis Club.
March 5, 12:00 noon	Director Biggs speaks to Martinez Kiwanis Club.
March 11, 7:30 p.m.	Society of Medical Librarians meets at Headquarters.
March 13, 8:00 p.m.	Talk on Alfred Jacob Miller by Mrs. Clyde Porter and preview of Miller watercolors.
March 14-April 9	Exhibit of collection of water colors by Alfred Jacob Miller on loan from Mrs. Clyde Porter.
March 20, 8:00 p.m.	Auction of duplicate books and prints by the Library and Exhibits Committees.
March 21, 2:00-5:00 p.m.	The Photochrome Club of San Francisco tours Headquarters.
March 30, 12:00 noon	Director Biggs speaks to Fresno Rotary Club.
April 16, 12:00 noon	Col. Fred Rogers speaker. Member's meeting.
April 24, 11:00 a.m.	Dedication by the Society of What Cheer House plaque.
April 24-25	Annual Conference of California Folklore Society at Headquarters.

### COUNTY SOCIETIES

*The Hayward Area Historical Society* will hold its annual dinner Monday evening, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Burbank School Cafeteria, 353 "B" Street, Hayward. Progress reports, music and a guest speaker are planned for the event. Reservations at \$2.75 per person may be made by writing the Association at P.O. Box 555, Hayward, California.

*The Solano County Historical Society* has acquired a museum. The Herbert family has presented the family home on Virginia Street to the Society. This 1900 home is one of the best examples of the

architecture of the period in Vallejo. The Society has also received a gift of a complete set of the works of Edwin Markham who was raised in Lagoon Valley near Vacaville.

*The John Muir Memorial Association* has been organized in Martinez with four specific objectives. They are: (1) restoration of the Muir Manor, the home of John Muir at 4440 Alhambra Avenue, Martinez; (2) the acquisition of the home by the State Division of Beaches and Parks for a historical museum and state park; (3) sponsorship of an annual memorial pilgrimage to Muir's grave; and (4) the

promotion of interest in John Muir's life and work. Much of Muir's energy was directed towards the creation of national parks to preserve wilderness and forest for all the people of the nation. What more fitting memorial than a park to keep Muir's name green in his own home community and his home state? To join the John Muir Memorial Association send one dollar to Mrs. Harriet Kelly, Secretary, 1225 Ulfinian Way, Martinez. Be sure to include your name and address.

*The San Bernardino County Museum Association* holds its regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month at the Museum. At the March 19 meeting Ruth Simpson will speak on "Archaeological Aspects of Travel in Europe" and on April 16 Dr. Edmund Jaeger will talk on Southern California Deserts.

### ROLPH PAPERS

THE LIBRARY's extensive collection of the papers of James Rolph, the colorful former Mayor of San Francisco, is being processed by Mr. Morley Segal. Mr. Segal is working on the papers in partial fulfillment of a Master's degree at San Francisco State College. This is a major undertaking as the papers are in great quantity and have never been sorted. They cover the period 1911 to 1927. Mr. Segal plans to continue his work on Rolph in his advanced study for a doctorate at the University of California.

### CROWDED HOUSE

THE NIGHT OF Friday, February 20, was the scene of a gala event at Headquarters. Attended by a brilliant audience with many foreign consulates and their respective nationals represented as well as many music lovers a program of music of the Italian Ars Nova and Renaissance for soprano and Renaissance instruments was presented under the sponsorship of Frank de Bellis by a dedicated and gifted group of musicians: Marilyn Feller, soprano and lute; Hazelle Thomas, virginal and viola da gamba; Josiah Barkin, viola da gamba; William Barnhart, recorder; Tadeusz Kadzielawa, treble viol and viola da gamba; and Ben Schmidt, tenor viol. The purity and clarity of Miss Feller's voice was well suited to the early music and the audience listened with rapt attention

though over half of them could not see the performers and many had no seats. Two hundred reservations had been made and nearly three hundred attended. Champagne was served in the ballroom after the concert, courtesy of Mr. de Bellis. The selections, which followed introductory remarks by Mr. de Bellis and Dr. Andreina Becker-Colonna, President of Alpha Mu Gamma, were very well chosen and the consensus of the guests was that this was indeed a memorable occasion. The concert was presented in honor of Foreign Language Week under the joint auspices of Alpha Mu Gamma, National Foreign Language Society, and the California Historical Society.

### NEW SOUND SYSTEM

IN RECENT MONTHS the unprecedented response to events scheduled at the Mansion have inevitably necessitated a frantic last-minute request for the loan of a sound system and a hurried telephone call for more chair rentals. Thanks to the far-sighted generosity of a group of loyal members the desperate search for the sound system will no longer be necessary. Mrs. William Cavalier, Mr. Francis Farquhar, Mr. Edgar Kahn, the Hon. Joseph R. Knowland, Mrs. Dean Witter and Dr. W. Barclay Stephens have contributed to the purchase of new sound equipment for the Society. The new system not only features a microphone and two speakers, but also includes a tape recorder, turn table, and an amplifier.

This acquisition solves a large part of the problem of our increasing attendance. There is still a pressing need for additional folding chairs. Although it is gratifying to have to put out a "standing room only" notice it is more satisfying to adequately seat our guests.

### SPREADING THE WORD

AN INCREASING number of Service Clubs and other organizations are learning about the program and offerings of our Society through the many speaking engagements of our Director, Donald C. Biggs, and our President, George L. Harding. The enthusiastic reception of these talks indicates that we are winning friends and influencing potential members.

During the month of February Presi-



dent Harding spoke to the Mountain View Pioneer Historical Society, Mountain View; Director Biggs spoke to the Exchange Club of Richmond and the Alameda Garden Club. In March Mr. Biggs is scheduled to speak on the 4th to the Pleasant Hill Kiwanis Club; on the 5th to the Martinez Kiwanis Club, and on the 30th to the Fresno Rotary Club.



THE FOURTH semi-annual auction of duplicate books and prints (none of which were offered in the November auction) from the Society's collections will be held on Friday, March 20 at 8:00 p.m. Catalogs will be mailed to the entire membership in order that mail bids may be submitted by members and representatives of institutions who are unable to attend the auction in person. Rules governing the auction and descriptions of 125 items to be auctioned off are carefully listed in the catalog so that every member, no matter how distantly located from San Francisco, will have an equal opportunity on the

auction floor. An item of special interest is a copy of California Historical Society Special Publication No. 4, 1929, Henry F. Wagner's *Spanish Voyages to the Northwest Coast of America in the Sixteenth Century*. Long out of print, this handsome tome is bound in full vellum and is one of the special extra-illustrated edition of twenty-five copies numbered and signed by the author.

The books and prints will be on display beginning March 13, so that prospective bidders may examine items that are of interest to them. There will again be a bargain book table. These bargain books will also be on display but none will be sold before 6 p.m. the night of the auction.

The auction itself, and the items chosen, represent the combined efforts of the Library and Exhibit Committees, chaired respectively by Albert Shumate, M.D., and Putnam Livermore. The catalog is the result of many hours spent by Library Committee members Hobart M. Lovett and Harold F. Taggart.

As is usual because of the customarily rapid pace of the auction an intermission will be called during which champagne will be served. Associate member Butterfield and Butterfield, one of San Francisco's oldest and most colorful firms, will again graciously call for bids. Hostesses for the occasion will be under the direction of Mrs. Dimitri Barton, Chairman.

#### MEMORIAL FUNDS

THE CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY maintains a Book of Remembrance on view in the Members' Room just inside the building entrance. A memorial list also is published in each issue of the *Quarterly*. In this manner are inscribed the names of relatives and friends in whose memory monetary gifts and bequests have been made to the Library Fund. Below are additional names which have been inscribed in the book but which have not as yet appeared in the *Quarterly*.

R. Tracy Crawford  
Leslie Van Ness Denman  
Tulita Wilcox Miner  
Anna Louise Greene Turner  
Emma Avaline Turner  
Gustavus James Turner  
Gustavus Samuel Turner

#### THE BIGGEST AND THE BEST

FOR A FEW FESTIVE and golden hours on last February 12 an unprecedented gathering of 1,100 members and friends of the Society recreated the atmosphere of the Victorian past. Candlelight, champagne, and music combined with the perfect setting, our splendid turn-of-the-century mansion, to make this year's Annual Open House a unique and long-to-be-remembered occasion.

The pleasure and enthusiasm with which the event was received was no accident. It was the result of the imaginative planning and careful attention to an infinite number of details on the part of the gracious chairman of the occasion, Mrs. D. Hanson Grubb and her corps of decorative and enterprising hostesses many of whom donned Victorian costume for the reception.

The Society is indebted to Mrs. Grubb for the success of the event, and specifically for the top-hatted trio which she provided, for she rightly insisted some fine old tunes would contribute much to the festivity of the occasion.

Members and staff also express their sincere appreciation to Associate member J. A. Folger and Company who provided the coffee and coffee urns; to Sergeant William James O'Brien of the San Francisco Police Commission and members of the Department for officers assigned to the Society on the occasion; to Mrs. W. Leonard Renick who presided at the front desk; and the following courteous and helpful young volunteers: Brad Barrum, Brantley Eubanks, Jr., Jay Hatch, James Stern, and Norman Womack.

#### LEADERS

THE KEY MEN in achieving the objectives set by the Board of Trustees for 1959 are the hard-working Committee Chairmen. Inevitably the Chairmen are men and women who take the time from active and successful careers to assist in the Society's varied program.

At the February 18th meeting of the Board, George Harding, President of the Society, announced the appointment of the following Committee Chairmen who will serve for the year 1959: Harry East Miller, Finance Committee; Edgar M. Kahn, Program Advisory Committee;

Putnam Livermore, Exhibit Committee; Albert Shumate, M.D., Library Committee; Allan Sproul, Editorial Advisory Committee; A. T. Leonard, Jr., M.D., San Francisco Founding Day Committee; George P. Hammond, Wagner Award Committee; James D. Hart, Awards for Distinguished Service Committee.

#### QUERIES

LEO P. KIBBY of 15230 Pepper Lane, Saratoga, California, a member of the Advisory Council of the Civil War Centennial Commission, would like to hear from members who are interested in the establishment of a State Centennial Commission in California. He writes: "Just recently, Mr. Edmund C. Gass, Assistant Executive Director of the National Civil War Centennial Commission in Washington, D. C., indicated to me that he was especially hopeful that such a commission would be appointed in California. For your information Assemblyman Allen is cooperating; moreover, Governor Brown has been informed.... I have just returned from an 8,000 mile trip through the Southern States on a sabbatical project and find that many Southern States have already set up state commissions and I also observed that these state commissions are already active in the projects the individual state is planning for the commemoration."





## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

<i>Sustaining</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Proposed by</i>
Edwin F. Davis	Willows	Mrs. Charles F. Lambert
Mrs. Frank R. Girard	San Francisco	Membership Committee
Dudley B. Gunn	Mexico City, Mexico	Miss Ethel R. Shorb
Hoyt M. Leisure	Los Angeles	Dwight L. Clarke
Donald H. McKee	Los Angeles	Dwight L. Clarke
Arthur C. Oppenheimer, II	San Francisco	W. Barclay Stephens, M.D.
Frank Romaggi Prince, D.D.S.	San Rafael	Mrs. Manuel Stern
Richard T. St. John	Los Angeles	Dwight L. Clarke

Mrs. Van Rensselaer Wilbur, Pasadena, has raised her status from Sustaining to Patron Member.

Mrs. John West, San Francisco, has raised her status from Active to Sustaining Member.

<i>Active</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Proposed by</i>
Mrs. C. E. Ahlberg	San Francisco	Joseph Z. Todd
Mrs. Joseph L. Alioto	San Francisco	Miss Ethel R. Shorb
Merritt F. Anderson	Piedmont	Robert G. Hill
John Barrett	San Francisco	Donald C. Biggs
R. A. Bateman	Orinda	Robert G. Hill
Brooklyn Public Library	Brooklyn, N. Y.	Membership Committee
Charles Edward Chapel	Sacramento	Jean Martin
Mrs. D. B. Collins	Oakland	Mrs. George Limback
Albert Dibblee	Merced	Mrs. Harrison Dibblee, Sr.
Miss Anita Doud	Monterey	Mrs. W. M. O'Donnell
Charles Eberstadt	New York, N. Y.	George L. Harding
El Camino Junior College	El Camino College	Doyce B. Nunis, Jr.
Mrs. Howard A. Frame	Los Altos	Membership Committee
Fullerton Junior College	Fullerton	Membership Committee
Harold S. Gilbert	San Francisco	George L. Harding
Mrs. James Guilfoil	San Francisco	Membership Committee
Lloyd D. Hanford, Jr.	San Francisco	Membership Committee
Edwin Harbach	Los Angeles	Dwight L. Clarke
Mrs. Freda M. Harding	Oakland	Mrs. W. C. Bogen
Henry H. Hart	San Francisco	Francis P. Farquhar
C. W. Hennings	San Marino	H. H. Clifford
Richard Hosking	Bakersfield	Donald C. Biggs
Miss Genevieve Jordan	San Francisco	Membership Committee
Miss Eva R. Lamoureux	Oakland	Edward T. Planer
Hans Lisser, M.D.	San Francisco	Mrs. Hans Lisser
Miss Thelma Main	San Francisco	Membership Committee
William T. Marilli	Larkspur	Donald C. Biggs
D. M. Messer	San Francisco	Mrs. Robert Vermilya
Miss Patricia Moorshead	Oakland	Edward T. Planer
Mrs. F. B. McKevitt, Jr.	Vacaville	Mrs. Frank H. Buck
New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts	State College, N. M.	Membership Committee
Thomas P. O'Donnell	Hollister	H. T. Liliencrantz
E. Llewellyn Overholt	Los Angeles	Dwight L. Clarke
Edward F. Patterson	San Francisco	Membership Committee
Alfred P. Peracca	Los Angeles	Brantley Eubanks
Free Library of Philadelphia	Philadelphia, Pa.	Membership Committee
Mrs. Ruth Wilkins Raymond	San Francisco	Membership Committee

Ward Ritchie	Los Angeles	W. W. Robinson
R. W. Ruble, V. Adm., USN (ret.)	Portola Valley	Royal Robert Bush
Myron Runyan	Nevada City	Royal Robert Bush
Mrs. Richard Schutte	Piedmont	Mrs. Will M. Bliss
Robert D. Scoren, D.D.S.	Palo Alto	Donald C. Biggs
Miss Rosabelle Scott	Oakland	Membership Committee
Manuel P. Servin	La Puente	Doyce B. Nunis, Jr.
Mrs. Nelson T. Shaw	San Francisco	Charles L. Lewis
Albert T. Shine, Jr.	Oakland	Membership Committee
Mrs. Richard Simon	San Francisco	Edgar M. Kahn
George E. Steinmetz	Danville	Warren R. Howell
Mrs. Louis Straus	San Francisco	Edgar M. Kahn
Mrs. E. Bancroft Towne	Woodside	Mrs. Charles F. Wilson
John W. Troxel	San Francisco	Martin Mongan
Mrs. Adrien Wagner	San Francisco	Mrs. Charles Buckingham
Philip C. Watkins	Mill Valley	Mrs. Manuel Stern
Mrs. James Whipple	Niles	Membership Committee

<i>Student</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Proposed by</i>
Richard Blau	San Francisco	Donald C. Biggs
Jeremy Hass	Santa Barbara	John H. Kemble
Miss Mary Louise Lyon	Redwood City	Mrs. William F. Steele
L. M. Silverman	Berkeley	Lawrence Kinnaird
Raymond D. Williamson, Jr.	San Francisco	A. T. Leonard, Jr., M.D.

The following deaths have been reported: Bruce Church, Salinas; Miss Florence R. Keene, San Francisco; A. T. Shine, Oakland, and Thomas Boarman Smith, Berkeley.

## STAFF OF THE SOCIETY

Donald C. Biggs, <i>Director and Editor of the Quarterly</i>
James deT. Abajian, <i>Librarian</i>
Edwin H. Carpenter, <i>Editor</i>
Mr. and Mrs. George Hosokawa, <i>Custodians</i>
Jean Martin, <i>Curator</i>
Geraldine Stern, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Maude K. Swingle, <i>Editorial Assistant</i>
Philip Watkins, <i>Staff Assistant</i>
William W. Whitney, <i>Public Information</i>
Janet H. Womack, <i>Assistant to the Director</i>



# CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2090 JACKSON STREET, SAN FRANCISCO 9, CALIFORNIA

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Organization  
U. S. POSTAGE  
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## RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

The California Historical Society is a non-profit, state-wide organization, supported solely by membership dues and contributions. There are no genealogical or residence requirements. Headquarters are at 2090 Jackson Street, San Francisco 9 (Phone JOrdan 7-1848). The Library and Exhibit rooms are open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Business offices are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The building may be reached by the Leavenworth bus No. 80 outbound from Mason and Market Streets.

## INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Date \_\_\_\_\_

To the Director:

Please report my name as a { patron  
sustaining } member of the California Historical Society  
active }

to the Board of Trustees at its next meeting.

Proponent (if any) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of dues for one year from this date.

Patron Membership: \$100 Sustaining Membership: \$25 Active Membership: \$15

Student-member application on request.

All dues, contributions, bequests are deductible under State and Federal tax provisions.