Westward Ho!

A Fixed-Price Offering of Books on the California Gold Rush, Private & Territorial Coinage, and Related Titles on Westward Expansion

Welcome to Kolbe & Fanning’s offering of books on the California Gold Rush and related topics. The items offered below include titles familiar to most coin collectors in the United States, as well as more obscure volumes that are likely unknown to most. Some of them are very rare, while others are fairly common—but all of them are interesting for what they have to say about this fascinating area of U.S. numismatic history. The list even includes a few titles that aren’t numismatic at all, but which provide a bit of context or local color that we found appealing.

A few listings refer to the “Zamorano 80.” The Zamorano 80 is a listing of important books on the history of California, compiled in 1945 by members of the Zamorano Club, a bibliophilic society. As some of the 80 titles on the list are rare—there is only one known collectible copy of one of them—collecting a complete collection of first editions is quite an accomplishment. Numismatist Henry Clifford (see items 5 and 8) owned the only complete set of the Zamorano 80 in private hands at the time of his death.

We hope you enjoy this small offering. Please feel free to contact us with any questions. Most items are one of a kind, so please do not delay if you are interested. Thank you for your continued business!
Terms of Sale

Items listed are available for immediate purchase at the prices indicated. No discounts are applicable. Items should be assumed to be one-of-a-kind and are subject to prior sale.

Orders may be placed by post, email, phone or fax. Email or phone are recommended, as orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Items will be sent via USPS insured mail unless alternate arrangements are made. The cost for delivery will be added to the invoice. There are no additional fees associated with purchases.

Lots to be mailed to addresses outside the United States or its Territories will be sent only at the risk of the purchaser. When possible, postal insurance will be obtained. Packages covered by private insurance will be so covered at a cost of 1% of total value, to be paid by the buyer.

Invoices are due upon receipt. Payment may be made via U.S. check, money order, wire transfer, credit card or PayPal. Bank information will be provided upon request.

Unless exempt by law, the buyer will be required to pay 7.5% sales tax on the total purchase price of all lots delivered in Ohio. Purchasers may also be liable for compensating use taxes in other states, which are solely the responsibility of the purchaser. Foreign purchasers may be required to pay duties, fees or taxes in their respective countries, which are also the responsibility of the purchasers.

Any item found not to be as described may be returned for a full refund. Please notify us immediately upon receipt of any such item to arrange return. Returns will not be accepted more than a week following delivery to the address provided.
Zabriskie’s Copy of the Interleaved Edition

Adams, Edgar H. ADAMS’ OFFICIAL PREMIUM LIST OF UNITED STATES PRIVATE AND TERRITORIAL GOLD COINS INDICATED BY PRICES BROUGHT AT PUBLIC COIN SALES. New York, 1909. 12mo, original black cloth, gilt; all page edges gilt. 72 pages, interleaved; text illustrations of coins. Minor spotting to covers; near fine.

The Special Interleaved Edition. Ex Andrew C. Zabriskie Library, with his finely engraved bookplate.

$125
Austin, Mary. THE LAND OF LITTLE RAIN. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company; Cambridge: Riverside Press, 1903. First edition, fourth impression (October 1903). 8vo, original olive green cloth, lettered in gilt and decorated pictorially in black, silver and green; top page edges gilt. Halftone frontispiece; xi, (5), 281, (1) pages; illustrated throughout by E. Boyd Smith; 3 additional halftone plates. Two business cards affixed to front pastedown with some transfer to flyleaf; marginal handwriting on one leaf. Binding with a few spots of minor wear. Very good or better. $150

Number 2 on the Zamorano 80: “These charming sketches of the desert and semi-desert country comprising the Owens Valley and the approaches to the great sink of Death Valley have become practically a classic.” The author’s first book. Entirely non-numismatic, but still a California book of significance and a fine literary companion to the Gold Rush literature.
Bancroft, Hubert Howe. THE WORKS OF HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT, VOLUME XVII: HISTORY OF ARIZONA AND NEW MEXICO 1530–1888. San Francisco: History Company, 1889. Thick 8vo [23.5 by 16 by 6.5 cm], contemporary tree calf bordered in gilt; spine with five raised bands, ruled and richly decorated in gilt; red and green morocco spine labels, gilt; board edges decorated in gilt; gilt inner dentelles; marbled endpapers; all page edges gilt. xxxviii, 829, (1) pages; folding map; text maps; index. Extremities a trifle worn, but still a very impressive volume. Near fine.

Ex Samuel Haas, with his name impressed in gilt on a narrow black morocco label at the base of the spine. Howes’s U.S.iiana B-91: “Colossal co-operative undertaking; nothing approaching it has ever been attempted in this country.” Bancroft’s majestic history encompasses the Western United States (including Alaska), British Columbia, Mexico and Central America, and was published in thirty-nine volumes. The present volume is complete for Bancroft’s coverage of Arizona and New Mexico, including commentary on mining and the Silver and Gold Belt. Ex John J. Ford, Jr. Library (Kolbe Sale 93, 2004), lot 1.

$250

$140

Bowers and Ruddy Galleries. COINAGE OF THE AMERICAN WEST, FEATURING THE COLLECTION OF HENRY H. CLIFFORD, PAST PRESIDENT OF THE CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AND OTHER IMPORTANT PROPERTIES. Los Angeles, March 18–20, 1982. 4to, original textured black cloth, gilt; original card covers bound in as issued. (224), (2), (4) pages; 2575 lots; illustrated throughout and on 12 color plates. Errata leaf and prices realized list bound in. Fine. $125

The Special Library Edition. A very important sale. Clifford (1910–1994) not only specialized in Western Americana on the numismatic scene, but in the book world as well, where he was famous for owning, at the time of his death, the only complete set in private hands of first editions of the “Zamorano 80.” The Zamorano 80 is a listing of important books on the history of California, compiled in 1945 by members of the Zamorano Club, a bibliophilic society. As some of the titles on the list are rare (and there is only one known collectible copy of one of them), assembling a complete collection is quite an accomplishment.
Bowers, Q. David. A CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH HISTORY, FEATURING THE TREASURE FROM THE S.S. CENTRAL AMERICA: A SOURCE BOOK FOR THE GOLD RUSH HISTORIAN AND NUMISMATIST. Newport Beach: California Gold Marketing Group, 2002. Folio [35 by 27 cm], original full red morocco, both covers bordered in gilt, small black-and-gold vignettes of mining equipment within floral sprays in corners; front cover with gilt depiction of the Central America in center; spine with five raised bands, lettered in gilt with gilt depictions of the ship, an 1857 double eagle, scales and mining equipment in the compartments; two black lettering pieces, gilt; decorative endpapers depicting a mining scene within which a recessed hollow holds actual gold dust recovered from the shipwreck behind a clear window; envelope affixed to rear board with two color photographs illustrating the gold ingot that this copy accompanied; all page edges gilt. 1055, (1) pages; profusely illustrated, including many full page illustrations. Housed in original cloth and leather slipcase, as issued. Rubbing to spine edges from slipcase, else fine.

The exclusive deluxe edition of this monumental work, the most detailed study of the history of the California Gold Rush ever undertaken from a numismatic perspective. No. 394 of 400 copies issued, most of which were presented to buyers of ingots in the various sales offering material from the S.S. Central America. These visually impressive and sumptuous special editions include actual gold dust recovered from the Central America visibly housed in a small compartment within the binding itself. The massive size of the volume, and its resulting weight, is tough on the binding, and most copies seen exhibit rubbing from the leather lining of the slipcase. The most recent deluxe copy we sold at auction brought $1600 hammer plus the premium.

$1200

The regular edition of the previous item.
Clifford, Henry H. PIONEER GOLD COINAGE IN THE WEST, 1848–1861: A STUDY IN FRONTIER ECONOMICS. The Westerners Brand Book: Book Nine. A Group of Nine Original Articles Pertaining to the History of the West, Including Pioneer Journals and Memoirs Never before Published. Los Angeles: Los Angeles Corral, 1961. 4to, original green cloth, gilt; jacket. 267, (1) pages [Clifford’s article comprises pages 217–265]; well illustrated. Minor wear and signs of previous ownership. Very good or better. $80

The first appearance in print of Clifford’s substantial article on pioneer gold. The various Brand Books (see the entries here under Schneider and Whiteley for others) published high-quality articles on Western American history, and not infrequently touched upon numismatic subjects. One of only 550 copies printed.
Seeking Bids for Building the San Francisco Mint

The Daily Union. COMPLETE ISSUE OF A WASHINGTON, D.C. NEWSPAPER, WITH ARTICLE ON CONSTRUCTING A MINT AT SAN FRANCISCO. Volume II, Number 175 (Washington, Sunday Morning, November 7, 1852). Published by Robert Armstrong. Tabloid. 4 pages. Folded; closed tears, including one at the article (text entirely readable). Removed from previous binding. Good to very good. $75

Includes a 6.5 inch announcement from the Treasury Department soliciting sealed proposals “for the construction of the branch mint at San Francisco, California, according to the plans and specifications which will be furnished on application...” Signed by Secretary of the Treasury Thomas Corwin, the lengthy notice goes into considerable detail about the bidding process, outlining exactly what must be included, the schedule on which payments will be remitted to the successful bidder, the limitations imposed by Congress, etc.
Dana, Julian. SUTTER OF CALIFORNIA. New York: Press of the Pioneers, 1934. First edition. 8vo, original red cloth, gilt; jacket. Frontispiece portrait; (iii)–xi, (1), 423, (5) pages; 13 additional plates. Inscribed and signed by the author (see comments). Very good or better in a very good, price-clipped jacket. $140

A popular biography of the famous settler John Augustus Sutter (1803–1880), the German-Swiss colonizer who landed in California in 1839 and began to plan a fortified settlement in the area of what is now Sacramento. Gold was discovered in January 1848 at Sutter's Mill by his employee James W. Marshall, forever tying Sutter's name to the Gold Rush that quickly ensued. The inscription from the author reads: "Dear Ethel: Here's a First Edition on Sutter—hope you can find a spot for it on your book-shelves... Cordially yours

Julian Dana.

Scarce in the original jacket.

While this edition of Dana’s biography of Sutter is not particularly scarce, copies with well-preserved dust-jackets are uncommon—and the jacket is an especially vibrant example of a pre-WWII jacket.

$120
Dressler, Albert [editor & publisher]. EMPEROR NORTON. LIFE AND EXPERIENCES OF A NOTABLE CHARACTER IN SAN FRANCISCO, 1849–1880. First edition. San Francisco: Albert Dressler, 1927. 8vo, original red cloth lettered in black. Color frontispiece portrait; (8), 30, (6) pages, including four-page signature tipped in after page 30, as issued; other full page and text illustrations, including a facsimile of a Norton 50¢ note. Very good or better. $100

No. 339 of 550 numbered copies of the first stand-alone biography of Emperor Norton.
Dressler, Albert [editor & publisher]. *EMPEROR NORTON. LIFE AND EXPERIENCES OF A NOTABLE CHARACTER IN SAN FRANCISCO, 1849–1880*. Second edition. San Francisco: Albert Dressler, 1927. 8vo, original dark red textured card covers lettered in orange. Color frontispiece portrait; (8), 30, (6) pages, including four-page signature tipped in after page 30, as issued; other full page and text illustrations, including a facsimile of a Norton 50¢ note. Fine.

A rarely encountered second edition, designated as such on the title page but appearing otherwise to be identical to the first edition. The only other copy of this edition that we have handled was in blue cloth that also appeared to be original.

$100

The first work is generally regarded as the definitive modern biography. The second volume is a 1964 reprinting of an essay by the California bibliographer Robert Ernest Cowan, combined in this edition with an essay by Anne Bancroft on Bummer and Lazarus and accompanied by Addie Ballou’s 1908 newspaper reminiscences about Emperor Norton.
Elliot & Co., Wallace W. A REPRINT OF THE HISTORY OF ARIZONA TERRITORY. SHOWING ITS RESOURCES AND ADVANTAGES; WITH ILLUSTRATIONS DESCRIPTIVE OF ITS SCENERY, RESIDENCES, FARMS, MINES, MILLS, HOTELS, BUSINESS HOUSES, SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, &C. FROM ORIGINAL DRAWINGS. Flagstaff: Northland Press, 1964 reprint of the original 1884 edition. Large 4to, original pebbled black cloth, decorated and lettered in gilt; printed jacket. 322, (2) pages; numerous illustrations, large Rand, McNally map reprinted to accompany this volume loosely laid in. Near new. $100

The scarce reprint of the first territorial history, originals of which are rare and very expensive. Includes material on gold and silver mining and production in Arizona. Howes A310. Ex John J. Ford, Jr. Library (Kolbe Sale 96, 2005), lot 1722, acquired by him in 1966 for $40.
“It is my unbiased opinion that California can and does furnish the best bad things that are obtainable in America.”

Helper, Hinton R. THE LAND OF GOLD. REALITY VERSUS FICTION. Baltimore: Published for the Author by Henry Taylor, 1855. First edition. 12mo, intricately embossed green cloth; spine lettered in gilt with gilt depiction of a miner at his work at the base. (6), xii, 13–300, (6) pages. Binding worn, with upper right corner of front cover chipped and with wear to head and tail of spine. Previous owner's signature; number written on title page. Very good or so.

$350

An extraordinary contemporary work on California during the Gold Rush. Hundreds of books and pamphlets were published during the 1850s extolling the virtues of California and the new El Dorado, giving advice to those dreaming of heading west to seek their fortune in the fabled gold fields. Helper's work is not one of them. “A weary and rather unprofitable sojourn of three years in various parts of California, afforded me ample time and opportunity to become too thoroughly conversant with its rottenness and its corruption, its squalor and its misery, its crime and its shame, its gold and its dross,” he writes in his Preface. He famously notes that “It is my unbiased opinion that California can and does furnish the best bad things that are obtainable in America.” The entire book is full of quotes along these lines, leading it to have been called the most derogatory account of the state ever written. Includes very entertaining accounts of what he felt it was actually like to work in the gold fields. Cowan 274. Graff 1848. Howes H–401. Rocq 15852. Wheat 96.
Hutchings & Co., J.M. [publisher]. COINING MONEY AT THE SAN FRANCISCO MINT. Hutchings’ California Magazine. Volume I (San Francisco, July 1856–June 1857). Entire volume of twelve issues present [Mint article comprises the first nine pages of Number 4 (October 1856)]. 8vo, contemporary or somewhat later brown half morocco; spine with four raised bands, ruled and lettered in gilt; marbled endpapers. (8), 576 pages including cumulative index; illustrated throughout with over 100 woodcuts by such notable artists as Thomas Ayres, Charles Christian Nahl and others [the Mint article includes 10 illustrations depicting scenes at the San Francisco Mint in its early days]. Binding rubbed and a bit worn, but sound and presentable; leaves with occasional marginal raggedness and some toning, but still very good. $1750

A very rare periodical, of the highest importance to California Gold Rush history, the fourth issue of which includes what is almost certainly the earliest illustrated account of the San Francisco Mint. While we have handled two copies of the issue including the Mint article, this is the first time we have handled a complete first volume. Publisher James Mason Hutchings (1820–1902) was an authentic ‘49er, arriving in California from England in that year seeking gold. He became wealthy as a miner but lost it all in a bank failure. Not to be undone, he sold nearly 100,000 copies of “The Miner’s Ten Commandments,” founded the monthly Hutchings’ California Magazine, published a bestseller on Yosemite Valley, In the Heart of the Sierras, and thus reclaimed his fortune. His Hutchings’ California Magazine, published from 1856 to 1861, was truly a pioneer publication, featuring poetry, fiction, and many illustrations and descriptions of California life in the mid-19th century. It was California’s second magazine, preceded only by the California Illustrated News. In 1857, Hutchins wrote two notable articles on the tools used by miners during the Gold Rush; in 1859, he published the first illustrated article about Yosemite Valley; and, of course, he wrote his continued on next page
Lot 17 continued

Charming, evocative article on the newly opened San Francisco Mint.

The article about the Mint covers the entire coining process, from when a visitor has been cleared to enter the building and “has just placed a bag of gold at the Treasurer's counter, for the purpose of having it coined,” to processing the bullion and fabricating it into planchets, thence to be “carried to the Coining Room, to be stamped.” A few excerpts follow:

On the north side of Commercial street, between Montgomery and Kearny, there stands a dark, heavy looking building, with heavy iron bars, and heavy iron shutters ... high above, standing on, and just peering over a heavy cornice, there is a large American eagle... At his back there is a small forest of chimney stacks, from which various kinds of smoke, and different colored fumes, are issuing. This building is the Branch Mint of San Francisco. On the pavement, in front, stands a number of odd looking, square boxes, containing bottles with glass necks rising above the top, and in which are the various kinds of acid used in the manufacture of gold and silver coin within. In the street can be seen drays and wagons with men unloading supplies of various kinds for the Mint; express wagons with packages of the precious metal from all parts of the mines; men going up with carpet sacks hanging heavily on their hand, all desirous of having their gold dust converted into gold.

A quite interesting general account of the process follows, peppered with technical tidbits of numismatic interest. For example, a description is given of a process through which the strips from which planchets are cut can “be regulated, by what is technically termed the ‘doctor’—a process by which the strip is made concave ... an improvement only in use in the San Francisco Branch Mint ... the invention of Mr. Eckfeldt, the Coiner.” The article closes with the writer’s surprise “at the aggregate amount of coin produced in so short a time, in such a small and very inconvenient building,” preceded by a colorful account of coins reserved for “examination at the ‘judgment day,’ as it is curiously and expressively called, which takes place annually at Philadelphia, under the superintendence of commissioners appointed by the U.S. government.” This is a rare opportunity to acquire a remarkable piece of numismatic history that is also truly important in the broader fields of Americana and Californiana.
Kagin, Donald H. PRIVATE GOLD COINS AND PATTERNS OF THE UNITED STATES. New York: Arco, 1981. Small 4to, original full brown cowhide; spine with three raised bands, lettered in gilt; moiré endpapers; all page edges gilt; silk marker; decorative headbands. xiv, (2), 406 pages; illustrated. Housed in original brown leatherette box, as issued. Box a bit worn and cracked; volume near fine. $240

The deluxe edition of the standard work on the subject. Combines a detailed history of the subject with a catalogue of the pieces themselves. Though 100 copies of the deluxe edition were apparently issued (of which this is No. 98), it appears infrequently on the secondary market.
Lane, Allen Stanley. **EMPEROR NORTON: THE MAD MONARCH OF AMERICA.** Caldwell: The Caxton Printers, 1939. 8vo, original decorative orange cloth, decorated in gilt and black; pictorial jacket. 286 pages; frontispiece and 28 other plates, 2 depicting Emperor Norton scrip. Dust jacket with neat tape repair at head of spine; jacket clipped. Near fine.  

$250

The classic biography of Norton, well known in the numismatic field for his scarce issues of scrip. A well-illustrated work, whose Idaho publishers appear to have underestimated the demand, making it scarce from the start; copies with intact dust-jackets are particularly elusive.

Copy 5 of the special presentation edition. The first attempt to comprehensively cover this series, and forerunner of the several guides published since. Indeed, Lee was the father of Kenneth W. Lee, who also wrote a major work on the subject and whose collection, built on the foundation of his father’s, formed the basis of the Breen-Gillio reference that is today the standard work. The special edition is primarily indicated by the frontispiece portrait, signed in ink by Lee, and is very scarce. Clain-Stefanelli 12473. Davis 610.

$225
Lee, Kenneth W. CALIFORNIA GOLD DOLLARS, HALF DOLLARS, QUARTER DOLLARS. AN ILLUSTRATED DESCRIPTIVE LISTING OF THE VARIETIES OF THE FRACTIONAL PIECES, MOST OF WHICH ARE IN THE PERSONAL COLLECTION OF THE AUTHOR. Santa Ana: George Frederick Kolbe, 1979. First illustrated edition. 4to, original full blue cowhide, gilt; enlarged color Cibachrome print of an octagonal gold dollar mounted in a recessed panel on the upper cover. 120, (8) pages; frontispiece portrait of the author; enlarged coin illustrations throughout the text; 2 superb color Cibachrome prints depicting 56 of the finest coins, with descriptive tissue guards; 15 greatly enlarged Cibachrome prints cut to size and mounted over the original halftone illustrations on the title and chapter headings; valuation list tipped in. Nicely housed in a well-crafted gray cloth folder, within a gray cloth slipcase featuring a rounded “spine” and two blue leather labels, ruled and lettered in gilt. Fine.

$750

The “Super Deluxe” Leatherbound Edition, extra-illustrated and specially printed on thick paper. No. 2 of only 10 copies issued and one of only two examples housed in a protective case specially crafted to house copy numbers 1 and 2, reserved for the author and the publisher.

continued on next page
Sadly, Kenny Lee died on July 3, 1980, before his copy could be given to him. It was subsequently presented to Lee's spouse Ruby, who in turn gave it Paul Koppenhaver, a close friend of the family, and it was sold with many of Koppenhaver's books in our Sale 121 (lot 1301). Fifty copies of this work were printed on thick paper in anticipation of a special edition. Initially, fifteen copies were bound with the two added plates and an additional ten “super deluxe” copies were identically bound with the addition of color Cibachrome prints mounted over the enlarged halftone illustrations on the chapter headings (there is a single photo mounted on the title page and a total of seven coins depicted on 14 separate obverse and reverse photos mounted throughout; in the past, this has been described as eight photos, which may be confusing). The ten “super deluxe” copies sold immediately as did all but one or two of the “regular deluxe” copies. The “super deluxe” copies were numbered 1 through 10 but the remaining 15 copies were assigned random numbers between 11 and 50 since, at the time, it was intended that all fifty copies be issued and it was not thought wise to distribute all the lower numbers initially. The remaining twenty-five copies of text were never bound and the remaining plates were subsequently purchased by Ronald J. Gillio. They were utilized, along with additional prints supplied by Jack Collins, in the deluxe edition of the Breen/Gillio work, which was based on the Lee collection.
Manly, William Lewis. **DEATH VALLEY IN ‘49: IMPORTANT CHAPTER OF CALIFORNIA PIONEER HISTORY. THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A PIONEER, DETAILING HIS LIFE FROM A HUMBLE HOME IN THE GREEN MOUNTAINS TO THE GOLD MINES OF CALIFORNIA; AND PARTICULARLY RE-CITING THE SUFFERINGS OF THE BAND OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO GAVE “DEATH VALLEY” ITS NAME.** San Jose: Pacific Tree and Vine Co., 1894. First edition. 8vo, original yellow cloth, front cover lettered and decorated in black, with the same in blind on rear; spine ruled and lettered in gilt; decorative endpapers. Frontispiece portrait of the author; 498 pages; 2 additional plates. Binding rubbed, with light wear to spine head and tail; gilt faded; some toning and smudges. Very good. $275

Howes M255: “Classic account.” Wheat, *Books of the Gold Rush,* #136. Number 51 on the Zamorano 80: “It describes in highly dramatic fashion the adventures and misadventures of a California-bound emigrant party of ‘forty-nine when they essayed a short-cut on the western trail from Salt Lake City, and became lost in Death Valley where they thirsted, starved, and a number died. Manly and a companion, John Rogers, were the heroes of the party. They escaped from the valley, reached San Fernando, and returned with food and relief for the suffering emigrants.” Ex Tristram Coffin Colket 2d, with his bookplate. Colket was a member of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia.
McGinty, Brian. HARASZTHY AT THE MINT. Los Angeles, 1975. 8vo, original cloth-backed yellow printed boards. 60, (2) pages; text illustrations. Previous owner's bookplate; initials on flyleaf. Near fine. $100

Examines the case of Agoston Haraszthy, a former melter and refiner at the San Francisco Mint, who had been charged with embezzlement after serious discrepancies were found between the amount of gold dust being deposited and amount of gold being coined. While Haraszthy was vindicated in both criminal and civil court, the cases dragged on for years and took a harsh toll on him (though Fate, declining to think he'd had enough, had him perish in the jaws of a Nicaraguan alligator several years later). One of only 300 copies.
Nevada, Gold Hill. BANK DRAFT FOR $6699.19 FROM THE GOLD HILL, NEVADA AGENCY OF THE BANK OF CALIFORNIA PAYABLE TO THE VIRGINIA, NEVADA AGENCY, DRAWN ON THE BANK OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO. Dated September 30, 1870 and signed by W.H. Blauvelt, the draft bears an R15c 2-cent orange Internal Revenue stamp with a SEP 29 1870 mark, and a D5 5-cent green Nevada State Revenue stamp bearing the same mark. Unprinted back bears ink stamp of the Bank of California and its authorizing signature. Small pin holes near center. Very fine.

$95

A bank-to-bank transfer of funds, on an engraved draft printed by Britton & Rey, of San Francisco. The presence of both the federal and state revenue stamps enhances this higher-value 1870 Nevada bank draft.
(O’Meara, James). THE VIGILANCE COMMITTEE OF 1856. BY A PIONEER CALIFORNIA JOURNALIST. San Francisco: James H. Barry, 1887 [cover dated 1890]. 12mo, original printed pink paper covers. 57, (1) pages. Small tear with loss to rear cover; else near fine. $100

San Francisco’s Vigilance Committee was first formed in 1851 after public confidence in the abilities of law enforcement had been lost and the prevailing justice system appeared to many to be irrevocably corrupt. It was reformed five years later. The author was not a member of it, nor was he a member of the “Law and Order” body formed against it (though his sympathies lay in that direction). Important for providing a listing of the members of the Vigilance Committee and their positions within it. Apparently a second issue printed in 1890 of the original 1887 publication. Cowan, Bibliography of the History of California, I.165 and II.464. Howes O84. Rocq, California Local History, 10749. Ex John J. Ford, Jr. Library (Kolbe Sale 96, 2005), lot 1730.
Oregon, Portland. BANK DRAFT FOR $2600.00 FROM THE OREGON & CALIFORNIA RAIL ROAD COMPANY PAYABLE TO GEORGE W. WEIDLER, DRAWN ON THE NORTH PACIFIC TRANSPORTATION COMPANY, SAN FRANCISCO. Dated August 27, 1870 and signed by Ben Holladay, President, the draft is printed on RN-B16 revenue stamped paper (2-cent orange for checks and drafts payable at sight). Unprinted back bears several endorsements, starting with Weidler’s, as well as the ink stamp of Ladd & Tilton for the Bank of California. Small pin holes. Fine.

An eye-appealing engraved bank draft for this Western railroad company, printed by Britton & Rey, of San Francisco. Ben Holladay (1819–1887) was responsible for developing the main overland stagecoach route to California during the Gold Rush, and ended up acquiring the Pony Express. Having conquered one form of transportation, he later turned his attention to railroads in the Northwest. $225
Royce, Josiah. CALIFORNIA FROM THE CONQUEST IN 1846 TO THE SECOND VIGILANCE COMMITTEE IN SAN FRANCISCO. A STUDY OF AMERICAN CHARACTER... Boston & New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., (1903 or later). 12mo, original red cloth, lettered and decorated in gilt; top page edges gilt. Folding color frontispiece map; (2), xv, (1), 513, (3) pages. Spine sunned. Very good or better. $100

A later printing of the 1886 original, and part of the "American Commonwealths" series, this well-regarded historical volume, the work of an esteemed Harvard philosophy professor, reads the history of California in terms of the development of the country itself. Cowan, Bibliography of the History of California: "This is one of the best authorities upon the events of that decade." Wheat, Books of the Gold Rush, #171. Number 66 on the Zamorano 80: "He made use of much source material in the form of both official and private documents and also talked to men who were part of the events he described. His purpose was to show the development of the national character in California in its first ten years of American occupation, and to convey to his readers 'the process whereby a new and great community first came to a true consciousness of itself.'" Ex William Sewall Wells Library, with his bookplate.

A San Francisco newspaper published the very morning the San Francisco Mint opened its doors for business. While the opening is not discussed, the paper includes a report on page 2 regarding the deposits of gold and silver made at the Philadelphia Mint in February 1854, and the resulting coinage, noting specifically the gold that came from California.

$250
Savage Mining Co. ACCOUNT BOOK. THE NEVADA BANK OF SAN FRANCISCO. Virginia City, Nevada. March 2–May 9, 1877. 17 by 10.5 cm. Original tan calf on stiff card covers; upper cover lettered in black: AGENCY OF THE NEVADA BANK OF SAN FRANCISCO, VIRGINIA CITY, NEV. IN ACCOUNT WITH (completed in ink) Savage Mining Co. Very good or better.

Transactions are recorded in ink on the four leaves for the period noted. Deposits appear to total over $80,000.00; the ending balance is just under $2,000.00. Ex John J. Ford, Jr. Library (Kollbe Sale 96), lot 1739.

$100

$125

The Posse Edition, limited to 60 numbered copies. A little-known historical essay of significant numismatic interest. The various Brand Books (see the entries here under Clifford and Whiteley for others) published high-quality articles on Western American history, and not infrequently touched upon numismatic subjects. The editor of this volume, Nolie Mumey, was himself a numismatist best known for his works on Clark, Gruber & Company and his reprints of archival materials relating to the Colorado Gold Rush.
Taylor, Bayard. **ELDORADO, OR, ADVENTURES IN THE PATH OF EMPIRE; COMPRISING A VOYAGE TO CALIFORNIA, VIA PANAMA; LIFE IN SAN FRANCISCO AND MONTEREY; PICTURES OF THE GOLD REGION, AND EXPERIENCES OF MEXICAN TRAVEL.** London: George Routledge & Co., 1850. Two volumes as published in one. First British edition. 12mo, original embossed blue cloth; spine lettered in gilt; yellow endpapers. viii, 168, 172 pages. Folded notepaper with handwritten comments on the author and this book, affixed to rear flyleaf. Binding only moderately worn, with a small crease to the lower front cover. Intermittent spotting. Endpapers stained, and with various ownership signatures, one of them dated 1851. Very good. $175

Published in the same year as the first edition (New York, in two volumes). Wheat, *Books of the Gold Rush*, #204. Number 73 on the Zamorano 80: “This work by an eminent writer and artist is probably the outstanding book on the early gold rush in California. The author’s description of the Constitutional Convention at Monterey is the best we have, as are also the views he gives us of the earliest mining camps. ... Bayard Taylor saw everything and recorded all he saw.”
Taylor, Bayard. **ELDORADO, OR, ADVENTURES IN THE PATH OF EMPIRE; COMPRISING A VOYAGE TO CALIFORNIA, VIA PANAMA; LIFE IN SAN FRANCISCO AND MONTEREY; PICTURES OF THE GOLD REGION, AND EXPERIENCES OF MEXICAN TRAVEL.** New York: George P. Putnam, and London: Richard Bentley, 1850. Second edition. Two volumes. 12mo, original matching embossed green cloth; spines ruled, lettered and decorated in gilt. Tinted lithographic frontispieces depicting San Francisco in November 1848 and November 1849; xii, 251, (3) + (2), 247, (1) pages plus advertising leaves; 3 + 3 additional lithographic plates, some of them tinted. Bindings moderately worn, with closed tears to spine cloth of second volume; contents foxed. Good or better. 

The “second edition,” stated as such on the title but printed from the same plates in the same place for the same publishers in the same year as the first edition. An excellent early California book. Comparing the two frontispiece plates emphasizes how radical a change the Gold Rush brought to the Bay Area. Wheat, *Books of the Gold Rush*, #204. Number 73 on the Zamorano 80: “This work by an eminent writer and artist is probably the outstanding book on the early gold rush in California. The author’s description of the Constitutional Convention at Monterey is the best we have, as are also the views he gives us of the earliest mining camps. ... Bayard Taylor saw everything and recorded all he saw.”

$300

The 1850 Mint Report, as transmitted by President Millard Fillmore and written by Mint Director Robert Patterson. The influx of gold from California is starting to be felt in earnest, and Patterson’s comments on this subject are both interesting and important. After providing an overview of operations and production at the Philadelphia and branch mints, Patterson writes, “From these tables it may be perceived that the operations of the mints during the past year have been unprecedented in our history. The largest coinages before executed were in 1847 and 1843—the total amount at all the mints being, in the former year, $22,657,672; in the latter year $11,967,830. But the coinage of 1850 exceeded that of 1847 by over $11,000,000, and was nearly three times that of 1843. At the Philadelphia mint the coinage of the past year was nearly twice that of 1847, and over four times that of 1843. The increase in the proportion of our gold to our silver deposits, and the enormous amount of the former, derived from the mines of the United States, are deserving of especial notice. Of the bullion received the silver comprised less than a twentieth part of the whole value; and even of this small proportion as much as one-eighth was derived by separation from the California gold. Of the deposits of gold received, only about one thirty fifth part was in foreign coins or bullion. The remainder, amounting to $36,938,314, was of United States production, of which $36,273,097 were from California. The entire receipts from that source, from the discovery of the mines to the close of 1850, were $42,469,758.” Mint Reports from this period are decidedly scarce. This is a very important Mint Report, reflecting the extraordinary effects of the Gold Rush on this nation’s economy.
Carson City Recommended as a Mint Site


Acting in response to Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase’s exhortation to Congress to establish an assay office or branch mint in the Nevada Territory, the Committee of Ways and Means agreed that there was “an urgent necessity for a branch mint in said Territory” and concluded that “Carson city, from the fact that it is the central point of a vast area of mineral wealth, and that it is peopled by an industrious and loyal people, would indicate it as being the proper point for the establishment of a branch mint.”
Western History Titles from the Ford Library


$125

Several titles on various aspects of Western history, including but not limited to the Gold Rushes, from the John J. Ford, Jr. Library.

The final two titles are Bulletins Nos. 19 and 22 published during the Idaho centenary for the Idaho Bureau of Mines & Geology. At least some of these are likely from the Ford library, though none include his usual notations.
Whiteley, Philip W. WESTERN NECESSITY COINAGE. 1948 Brand Book: Twelve Original Papers Pertaining to the History of the West. Edited by Dabney Otis Collins. Denver: Westerners Denver Posse, 1949. 8vo, original green decorative boards. xx, (2), 271, (3) pages; text illustrations; 13 pictorial leaves illustrated on both sides [Whiteley’s article comprises pages 181–200, with an accompanying pictorial leaf]. Small stain to fore-edge; near fine. 

An interesting historical essay of significant numismatic interest. The various Brand Books (see the entries here under Clifford and Schneider for others) published high-quality articles on Western American history, and not infrequently touched upon numismatic subjects. One of 500 numbered copies printed. $80