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A PREVIEW OF 1949: Never before in the history of Huntington Library Publications have we had so many books in process. All told, eleven books are scheduled for 1949 publication. The centennial of the Gold Rush will be celebrated by the appearance of at least two books relating to the early history of this state. First is THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, 1849, reproduced in facsimile, with an introduction by the California historian, Robert Glass Cleland. This little book was prepared as a souvenir volume for the Friends of the Huntington Library, and only a few copies were set aside for sale to libraries and interested collectors. Mr. Cleland's introduction points out that the first State Constitution was not a highly original document, since it borrowed from the constitutions of the preceding states of the Union. It had, however, one feature based on Mexican law which had a profound effect on the state's society and materially changed the incidence of the federal income tax on husband and wife--the "community property" law so widely adopted now in other states.

¶The second California item must remain a secret until publishing plans are complete. This much we can say--its title is intriguing, its text charming, and its illustrations fascinating. Watch for further bulletins.

¶The Exhibitions Division has arranged an exhibit and printed a handlist for it called "California in Maps, 1541-1851." The early maps show California as an island or a peninsula, and Swift placed his Brobdingnag on one of these islands when he wrote his "Gulliver's Travels." Not until the eighteenth century did cartographers decide that California was firmly attached to the rest of America. The handlist will be sent to any address on receipt of ten cents. And if you don't already happen to know it, a Calendar of the Exhibitions is printed five times a year and will be mailed to you if you wish to keep posted on current exhibits in Library and Art Gallery, as well as what is blooming in the gardens, at 25 cents a year.

¶In May the Library will publish MARK TWAIN TO MRS. FAIRBANKS, edited by Dixon Wecter. This series of letters written by Mark Twain to a friend he met on the "Innocents Abroad" voyage extends over many years, including those of his courtship and marriage to Livy. They are both charming and amusing--of course they are, being Mark Twain's. Mr. Wecter, who is literary editor of the Mark Twain Estate--has written a running biographical sketch which ties the letters together and copious notes which make them clear.

¶An exciting series of reports (never before published) of the Pinkerton operatives assigned to investigate a plot to assassinate Lincoln has been edited by Norma B. Cuthbert from manuscripts in the Library. Under the title LINCOLN AND THE BALTIMORE PLOT, 1861, this tale of Civil War cloak-and-dagger boys is being prepared for fall publication.

THE CATALOGUE OF MUSIC IN THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY PRINTED BEFORE 1801, by Edythe N. Backus (Huntington Library Lists, No. 6), a truly monumental work, has been in process so long that we hardly dare set a date for publication-- but it will be in 1949.

One of the books which went out of print long before the demand had been satisfied was Louis B. Wright's collective biography, THE FIRST GENTLEMEN OF VIRGINIA (1940). A reprint will be made available this year.

William Hertrich, Curator Emeritus of the Huntington Botanical Gardens, has written his personal recollections of the development of the estate from a rich man's garden to a public institution. And nobody could have done this in quite the same way as Mr. Hertrich, who came to the Huntington estate when he was a young and enthusiastic landscape gardener and the old "Shorb Ranch" was already a show place of the pioneer community. His intimate stories of Henry E. Huntington, his series of excellent photographs of various parts of the estate at different stages during its landscaping, and his rich botanical knowledge will make this book a treat for all garden lovers and a real contribution to the history of the institution and the region. It is scheduled for summer publication.

Four books are being brought out by other publishers in cooperation with the Huntington Library. The University of California Press will publish THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN. A RESTORATION OF A "FAIR COPY" by Max Farrand (Spring, about \$2.50), and BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S MEMOIRS, edited by Max Farrand (Spring, about \$12.50). The first is an authoritative reader's version of the famous book, the original manuscript of which is owned by the Huntington Library. The second is a scholar's variorum edition containing the four main "source" texts of the same famous work--transcriptions of the author's holograph, and of the first French translation, and reprintings of the first published text (French) and the first authorized English text, in parallel columns. The Clarendon Press at Oxford will publish C. H. Collins Baker and Muriel I. Baker, The Life and Circumstances of James Brydges, Duke of Chandos (Spring, about \$14.00). Based on thousands of Brydges manuscripts, this is more than a biography of the famous patron of the arts and Paymaster of the Forces Abroad. It is a mine of material on the cultural life of the early eighteenth century. The University of Oklahoma Press will publish Edward E. Dale's study of Federal relations with the Indians of the Southwest over the last century, a book of the utmost importance in the history of this region and of value to any study of government or Indian affairs.

We are revising our mailing list, since we do not wish to burden the poor mailman with material for the wastebasket. Unless you indicate special interest in Huntington Library Publications by returning the enclosed card (which needs no postage), your name will be dropped.

The Constitution of the State of California, 1849. With an Introduction by Robert Glass Cleland. An Occasional Publication of the Friends of the Huntington Library. San Marino, 1949. \$1.75 plus 4 cents tax in California.

California in Maps, 1541-1851. 10 cents (prepaid, please).