



Six California Women's Pieces, in Anticipation of the California Fairs

February is an exciting time for us, as the book fair season begins with back-to-back fairs in our home state. This year, in advance of putting together a booth list, we wanted to share six print and manuscript pieces celebrating the curiosity, creativity, ambition, and commitment to activism of California women.

Peruse, and reach out if there is something that is a complement to your collection – we are always happy to work on terms that fit libraries' fiscal year needs, and are particularly flexible on invoicing and shipping given the closures affecting some acquisitions departments. In the event that you have specific collecting goals and would like to discuss them with us, we invite you to reach out via phone or email Tuesday-Saturday when our liaison to institutional clientele is on site.

All items subject to prior purchase.

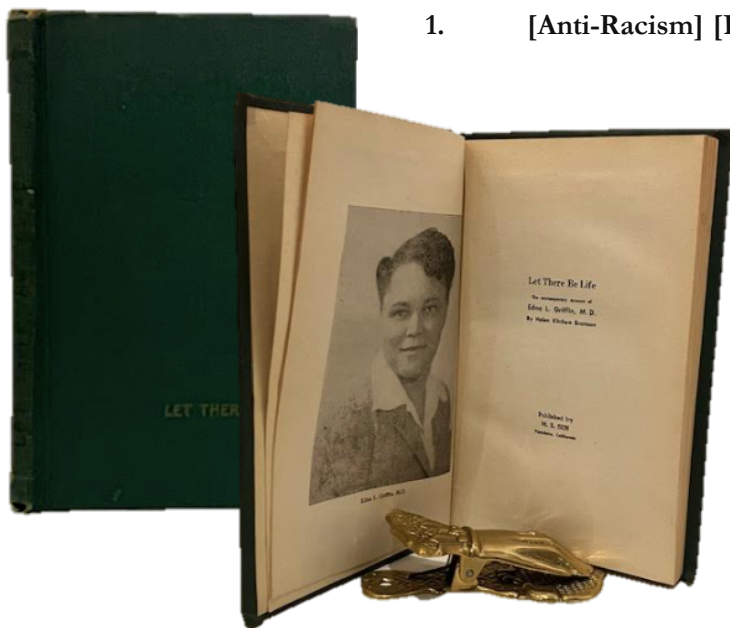
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1. [Anti-Racism] [People with Disabilities] **Branson, Helen Kitchen.**

Let There be Life: The Contemporary Account of Edna L. Griffin, M. D.

Pasadena, CA: M. Sen, 1947. First edition. Original publisher's cloth binding with gilt to front board. Measuring 225 x 145mm and complete in 135 pages. Gentle bumping to spine ends and corners; handwritten title to spine. Splitting to front hinge with binding holding well; small spot to closed textblock else internally clean and unmarked. A scarce and important expose on systemic racism and sexism in a town renowned at the time for its progressive ideals, Let There be Life is well represented in California libraries with few copies elsewhere; it does not appear in the modern auction record and the present is the only example in trade.

"In 1947, an unusually provocative book appeared entitled Let there Be Life" which detailed from life "one of the fundamental problems confronting the Black patient and doctor: differential treatment in hospital facilities" (Morais). Following her career track record of covering American women's accomplishments as well as the systemic challenges they faced, journalist Helen Kitchen Branson published the present expose after witnessing racism within the California medical system and spending time interviewing Dr. Edna L. Griffin. As Pasadena, California's first Black female physician, she combatted discrimination in every aspect of her life -- treating low income patients of all races as well as serving as the president of the local NAACP chapter and supporting its ultimately successful efforts to desegregate the Brookside Plunge swimming pools and the YMCA. In talking with a journalist, Griffin expresses the deep frustration of Black Americans who left the South during the Great Migration, drawn by California's promise of racial equity.

The slim volume follows Dr. Griffin in her medical practice, in area hospitals, and serving patients in a range of racial and economic groups. Regardless of advance preparation and legwork to provide her Black patients with the same quality of care as white patients in the city, she constantly runs against discrimination more commonly associated with the Jim Crow South: being evicted from operating rooms in majority white hospitals, having her authority questioned by patients, and having to make life-and-death choices that were made more complicated by her lack of access to facilities and staff that should have been available to her.

For her part, Branson acknowledges that her work does not intend "to throw stones merely for the sake of doing so," but rather to show how even a town that was purportedly progressive failed its non-white residents. Also notable is that Branson owns her privilege: "the author is young, of a northern background, of a parentage and religion that have ever held the rights of living to be democratic." What Branson does not mention is her own experience with systemic prejudice and struggles with the country's wider medical system as a person with blindness. A collaboration with the intent of raising awareness and promoting social justice through its content, Let There be Life was also a philanthropic project: "All royalties accruing from this book will be used by a non-profit...to build and maintain hospital facilities for people of moderate to low incomes." (5993) **\$1,200**

2. [Artist's Scrapbook] Ethel Shearer.

Commonplace Book of teenage artist Ethel Shearer, compiled before she rose to membership in the Association of San Francisco Women Artists.

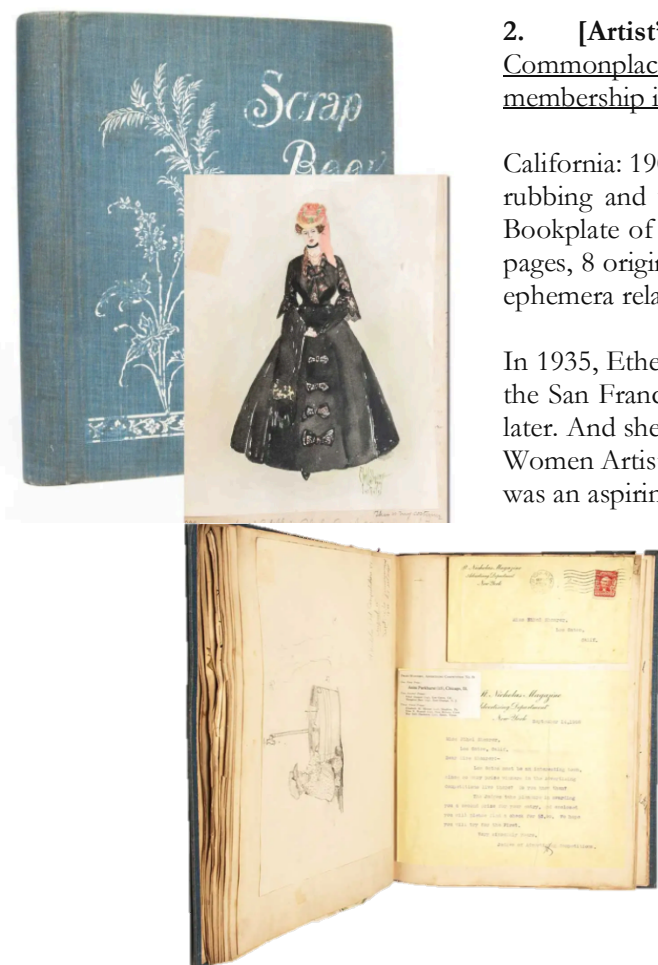
California: 1906-1910. Cloth cover over boards, measuring 12 x 9.25 inches. Some rubbing and wear to binding exterior. Internally with some toning and soiling. Bookplate of E.M. Shearer to front endpaper. Comprised of 18 fully handwritten pages, 8 original drawings and paintings, and 57 mounted and annotated pieces of ephemera relating to art exhibits, school and social events, musicals and plays.

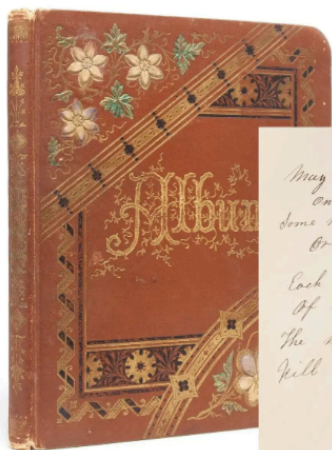
In 1935, Ethel Shearer would become one of the featured artists at the opening of the San Francisco Museum of Art as well as at the Oakland Art Gallery one year later. And she would become a prominent member in the Society of San Francisco Women Artists. This commonplace book was compiled in her youth, when Shearer was an aspiring artist working on her craft from the ages of 13 to 17. A fascinating

glimpse into the educational and social events that inspired her work, this scrapbook shows a young woman curious about the nature and the people around her. Valuing her education and her friends, the young Ethel saves invitations and favors from various parties with her friends, as well as mounting her report cards across the years. Her main focus, however, is on drama and art. Alongside material from local drama performances, as well as larger civic performances of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* or *Peter Pan*, Ethel consistently writes brief reviews of what she enjoyed and what components of the performance were well done. She finds visual inspiration all around her and includes a range of art pieces, from birds and flowers, to local miners at work, to a self-portrait in her cotillion dress. In 1908, alongside a small painting, she notes, "Sketching a poppy field. Had an audience of

two cowboys and a dog. We brought lettuce sandwiches and salted almonds along." Later that same year, she mounts a drawing of a child with the annotation "St. Nicholas Ad Competition, August 15. Sept 15 '08 Announcement \$3 2nd Prize" and includes the Judges' letter notifying her of the award and encouraging her continued endeavors. Though she would later base her career in painting landscapes, this youthful scrapbook captures the process through which Shearer developed her own aesthetic eye and tastes, and provides a glimpse into the early formation of an artist.

SFMA Inaugural Catalogue. Hughes' Artists in California, 1786-1940. Very Good. (2296) **\$850**





May every page of this fair book
On its smooth surface bear
Some kindly wish, some genuine thought,
Or mirth-gem sparkling fair.

Each autograph the signet be
Of some true-hearted friend,
The memory of whose genial soul
Will ever sunshine lend.

Mother.



3. [Botanical Specimens] Miss Lillie A. Holmes.

The commonplace book of a northern California girl, documenting friendships in her home state, the East Coast and abroad.

Oakland, CA: 1879-1885. Publisher's cloth ornately stamped in gilt and color, measuring 8.5 x 7 inches and containing three preserved botanical specimens (one laid in loosely at front) and twenty five pages of manuscript with occasional hand-drawn artwork. While the majority of entries are marked from Oakland, Napa, Calistoga, South Butte, San Francisco and other locations within California, there are notably also examples from New York, Pennsylvania, and

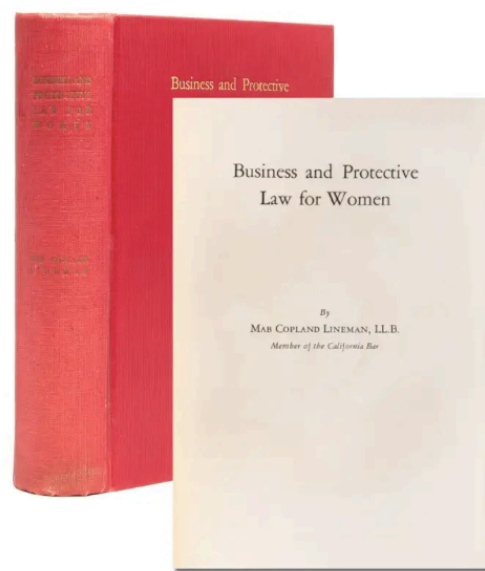
even Hong Kong. The commonplace book of Lillie A. Holmes shows how far ranging friendships could form as travel become more accessible to women; and it reveals how marriage shaped women's lives and the distances placed between themselves, their friends and family.

Gifted the album by her mother, according to an undated early entry, Lillie A. Holmes appeared to take maternal wishes to heart. "May every page of this fair book on its smooth surface bear some kindly wish...each autograph the signet be of some true-hearted friend, the memory of whose genial soul will ever sunshine lend." Beginning in 1879 with its first entry from Hong Kong, Lillie makes friendships and provides a space for those people to leave some part of themselves with her. "Forget me not in moments sweet..When joy and mirth in union meet," A. Ferguson writes to her from China. Though some of the contributors write more vaguely ("Remember your sincere friend," Louise Winslow of Oakland writes in 1884, adding "Gang Way here!") others give us a glimpse into private jokes and close friendships (though he begins in 1882 "With Kind Regard, Clark S. Dowe" this fellow Oaklander also includes a drawing of a lily as well as a note: "Virginia Reel. PS. Large class, nine ladies and four gentlemen. Yum").

Most often, the entries in Lillie's book provide a sense of community. A number of pages are marked with a location and date ("Angel Island April 13th 1881," for example, or "Red Hood Canon July 4, 1885") and those who were present sign their names and places of origin within an art piece ("Glad of it. Lill" one includes). These give a sense of young people and families traveling together, gathering and enjoying each other's company for a short reunion. In the center of the book, we get some sense of why or how so many of the friends long for re-gathering. For here, we see Lillie documenting the number of marriages of her friends. Louise Winslow marries H. Bradbury in Oakland in 1885; Jessie Walker weds William Macbeth in Brooklyn in 1883; Bertha --- - was married to Albert Flick in Lansing, Iowa in 1883. The list goes on and shows friendships being stretched by geographic demands. A special piece which speaks to the bonds formed among men and women in their youths, and the efforts to maintain those over time. (5453) **\$1,250**

4. [Fiscal Independence] Lineman, Mab Copland.
Business and Protective Law for Women.

Los Angeles: Coast Printing Company, 1926. First edition. Original publisher's cloth binding with gilt to spine and front board. Spine lightly sunned; gentle wear to corners. Contemporary ownership signature to the front endpaper: "Susan M. Taggart. 740 E. Mendocino St. Altadena, California. June 4, 1927." Occasional light underlining and marginal annotations plus inserted note in Taggart's hand regarding an additional reference text on Essentials of California Real Estate in 1929. In all, a square, pleasing copy of this important post-suffrage reference book, written by a woman who lectured extensively at universities in Southern California and was invested in helping newly enfranchised women navigate the landscape of business and property ownership. Scarce in institutions and the trade, OCLC reports only 13 copies at libraries.



An attorney specializing in business and protective law, Mab Copland Lineman was committed to using her expertise to assist women in developing fiscal and employment security. Admitted to the Los Angeles Bar in 1917 -- two years before the 19th Amendment granted US women the right to vote -- she became a popular lecturer at the University of California and the first state chairman for the Business and Insurance California Federation of Women's Clubs. A news report from 1927 declares of one of her lectures, "It was a revelation that law, a subject supposed to be dry as dust, could be so enlivened and painted in such magic colors...But Mab Copland Lineman bears a charmed tongue...The value of the study of the law was explained as teaching not only the rights of others, but the gifts of analysis and expression. Mortgages and trust deeds were defined and explained as were separate and community property and the rights of husband and wife, as such, under California laws" (Santa Anita Register). Near the time of this book's publication, she was serving as the attorney for female teachers in Los Angeles as they worked toward securing wage increases, retirement accounts, and other benefits already secured by their male colleagues; and she was the president of the Women's Breakfast Club, which assisted in job training and provided childcare for working women. Business and Protective Law for Women was part of her effort to educate the women of California about their rights (and the limitations of their rights) in a political climate that had undergone much fluctuation. Though California women had gained the right to vote in state and local elections prior to the 19th Amendment, 1920 brought great changes to their property ownership, employment, and custody rights. Unable to consult a lawyer on all issues, women needed a reference guide that walked them through everything from writing and depositing checks, composing property purchase agreements, and inheriting from or composing wills. "This book is not designed or intended for use by lawyers," she writes in the preface, "nor is it intended to make lawyers of the women who read it." Rather, offputting and confusing terms have been simplified, familiar terminology has been deployed, and Lineman's aim was to aid California women in positioning themselves as well as possible in the modern world.

The original owner, Susan Mildred Taggart, appears to have been a lifelong California resident. Local records show that she passed away in 1930 and is interred at Mountainview in Altadena. Near Fine. (2905) **\$1,650**

5. [Sex Work] [Social Justice] One who has to live the life of the Redlight.

Typed Letter regarding the injustice of prosecuting women in the sex trade.

Santa Rosa, California: July 1, 1913. One page Typed Letter titled "Letter from Prostitute" and signed in type at the conclusion by "One who has to live the life of the Redlight." Legal sheet measuring 12.25 x 8.25 inches with text to recto only. Vertical and horizontal fold lines. Contemporary pencil instruction "Copy" to upper margin. An example of an anonymous sex worker's advocacy for those within her trade, for young women at risk of being forced into her trade, and against the corrupt political and economic structures that protect wealthy men from accountability for their own actions.

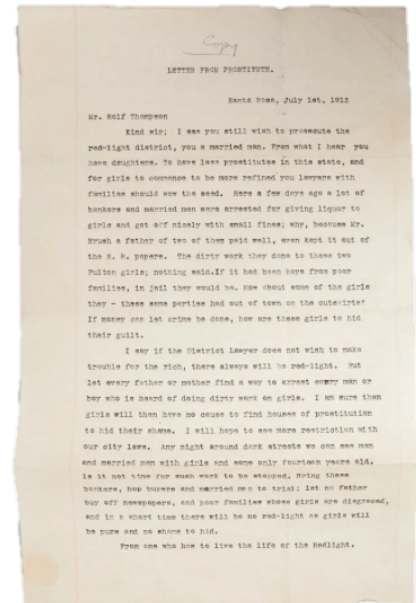
It is unlikely that history will discover the name of the author of this letter; but in submitting it to Sonoma County District Attorney Rolf Thompson, she participated in a wider and growing trend of sex workers advocating for themselves, raising awareness about their reasons for engaging in sex work, and demanding more meaningful systemic change from state and local officials targeting and punishing them. From 1848-1917, as California public policies increasingly secularized, sex work became a topic of contentious debate. "Protestant leaders sought to address causes of prostitution...Catholic leaders attempted to remove prostitutes from public view. Jewish leaders addressed prostitution both in terms of public health and also in answer to fears about illegal international slavery operations" (Bourn). Conservative politicians, meanwhile, engaged in stoking fears of "white slavery," presenting extreme "tales of violently raped virgins" as a means to shut down brothels (Keire). Across these approaches, there was no consistent effort to identify the racial, gendered, and economic factors that contributed to individuals entering the sex trade.

The present letter excoriates the District Attorney for hypocrisy in extremely specific terms. "Kind sir; I see you will wish to prosecute the red-light district," she begins. "To have less prostitutes in the state, and for girls to commence to be more refined, you lawyers with families should sow the seed. Here a few days ago a lot of bankers and married men were arrested for giving liquor to girls and got off nicely with small fines." She identifies those men's wealth and reputation as reasons why they could go free, their reputations untarnished; meanwhile, young women and underage girls suffer the consequences. "I say if the District Lawyer does not wish to make trouble for the rich, there will always be a red-light...Bring these bankers, hop buyers, and married men to trial; let no father buy off newspapers and poor families whose girls have been disgraced, and in a short time there will be no red-light as girls will be pure and no shame to hid."

The letter-writer's point that a root cause of the sex trade is a system that protects wealthy men and abusers while punishing women and girls at an economic, social, and physical disadvantage was a concern of the wider sex trade. As district attorneys like Thompson and religious leaders used their influence to oppress and condemn this community, its members increasingly fought back. Indeed, by 1917 the conflict reached a head with the so-called Prostitute March, during which "more than three hundred prostitutes dressed and perfumed in their finest marched to the Central Methodist Church to confront" a religious leader who had "launched a campaign against sin and vice" (San Francisco Digital History Archive). Tired of leaders pointing to sex workers as the source of evil in the community, this group did as the letter-writer had before them: expose the root causes of the sex trade. "Three fourths of these women worked as prostitutes in order to earn enough to support their children. The only other jobs open to them couldn't meet the costs of raising a family" (San Francisco Digital History Archive). To these complaints they added their inability to vote for representatives who could protect their interests, and systemic protections for men who committed harm.

An important glimpse into an all too infrequently discussed portion of American history. (5418)

\$1,650





6. [Suffrage and White Feminism] *The Wasp*.

Get Off the Steps: Woman Suffrage Takes Precedence.

[San Francisco, CA]: [May 12, 1894]. First edition. Large chromolithograph centerfold from the California magazine *The Wasp*. Measuring 513 x 339mm and in excellent condition, retaining its bright colors with only the slightest bit of foxing and toning to the margins. Focused on social and political satire, the influential Western publication weighed in on what they viewed as the shifting tides of the national women's suffrage movement. Scarce institutionally, with only a few libraries reporting full runs that would include this year, the present is the only copy on the market.

"Established in 1876, *The Wasp* rose above the dozen or so weekly magazines in the area, primarily due to its vibrant illustrations...And the magazine did what it could to sway political opinion" (Nast). The present is an example of the complex and problematic relationship of the American woman suffrage movement to issues of race and class; and it further encapsulates the damaging misogyny and homophobia that shaped the media's depictions of women's equality activists. In a large image depicting the U.S. Capitol steps adorned with a sign "Notice: Keep Off the Grass, Keep Off the Steps," a fashionably dressed woman waving a "Woman Must Have Her Say!" banner while stepping over the battered protesters Carl Browne and Jacob Coxey, who hold a protest bill and a warrant for disturbing the police. The title beneath declares: "Get Off the Steps, Woman Suffrage Takes Precedence Over Coxey and His Cause." Earlier that spring, "Carl Browne had helped Jacob S. Coxey lead the first march on Washington...setting out from Massillon, Ohio and marching to Washington, DC with a few hundred unemployed people. Together they advocated for a public jobs project for the unemployed. On arrival, Coxey decided to speak on the Capitol grounds, even though it was illegal. Both Coxey and Browne were arrested and imprisoned" (Mall History).

Her Say!" banner while stepping over the battered protesters Carl Browne and Jacob Coxey, who hold a protest bill and a warrant for disturbing the police. The title beneath declares: "Get Off the Steps, Woman Suffrage Takes Precedence Over Coxey and His Cause." Earlier that spring, "Carl Browne had helped Jacob S. Coxey lead the first march on Washington...setting out from Massillon, Ohio and marching to Washington, DC with a few hundred unemployed people. Together they advocated for a public jobs project for the unemployed. On arrival, Coxey decided to speak on the Capitol grounds, even though it was illegal. Both Coxey and Browne were arrested and imprisoned" (Mall History).

The *Wasp* strategically compares the two movements, noting in its caption, "A tremendous flutter is now marking the progress of the question of woman's suffrage in the Eastern states. The agitation has not, as usual, been confined to the 'short haired women and the long-haired men.' It has been taken up by the leaders of fashion and some of the best known women of New York. The situation is highly interesting and indicating the progress of a movement towards the political emancipation of the weaker sex." While Coxey and Browne lie bruised and cast down on the steps following their protest on behalf of the working class, the silk-clad suffragist in her corset, flounces, and train pushes them down further to clear the path for her and those like her. The implication from the image captures the suffrage movement's problematic privileging of white women of means in its efforts -- and its disregard for poorer, less educated, or more racially diverse women's interest. The text, meanwhile, suggests that it is only with such women as representatives that the movement will gain traction -- that a white feminine ideal will succeed by proving that activists are not only violators of gender norms or members of queer communities. Notably, *The Wasp* does take a dig at Coxey, Browne, and their supporters as well, with the text of their protest sign reading "We Will Stay Here All Summer (If It Costs Nothing)" -- thus suggesting that the unemployed have a lazy, freeloading nature.

A complex social commentary, made only more interesting for the advertisements and literary selections on the verso. And a set of views promoted by one of the most influential political magazines in California and the Western US. Near Fine. (4112) **\$1,950**

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