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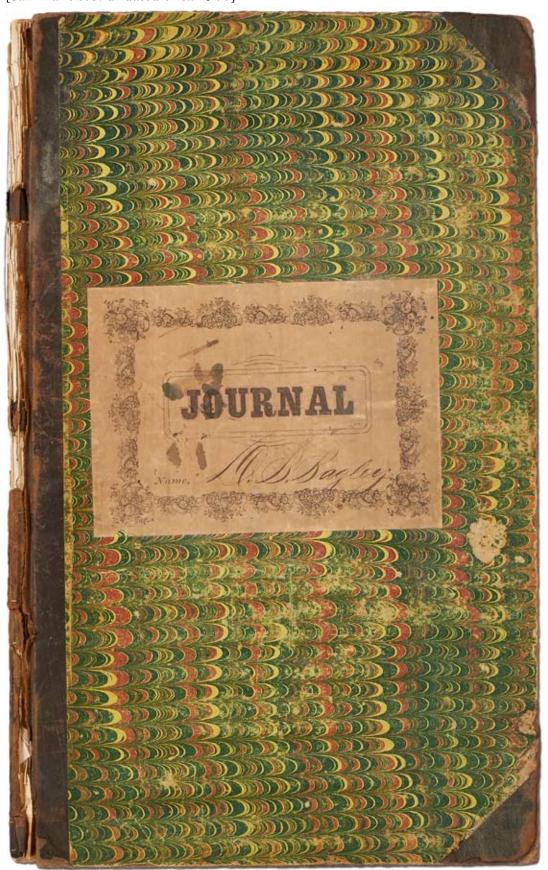
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Maud Ella Bagley

Unfinished Manuscript Novel

[San Francisco: undated circa 1900]



Blank ledger journal. Folio. 131/4" x 8" Quarter morocco and marbled paper covered boards, with ornate label pasted-on with signature of her brother D.B. Bagley in ink. Chipping and erosion of leather on the spine; front board barely attached by strings; good, internally very good. 26 numbered pages filled in pencil (numbered p.77-106), the rest of the volume is unused. Several loose sheets laid in containing manuscript poems and notes, with an entire page filled with the signature of Maud Bagley Willis tucked-in.

An incomplete manuscript novel, written by Maud Ella Bagley Willis (1862-1955). Bagley was the author of "Social Rubaiyat of a Bud," published by Paul Elder and Company in San Francisco in 1913, it was an amusing and quite accomplished parody of Omar Khayyam's "Rubaiyat" with lavish, gilded illustrations by Elsie A. Harrison. Bagley (later Mrs. Ambrose Madison Willis), was born in Covington, Louisiana and moved to San Francisco near the turn of the century. In the city, she resided with her brother David Bagley at his house at 58 Liberty Street (now a historic landmark), the latter was a member of the Society of California Pioneers and the California Guard, a Public Administrator from 1850 to 1852, a Mining Secretary, and a merchant. The incomplete draft of the manuscript novel tells the story of a woman, Mrs. Harriet Barlow, who while after her husbands death, and still very young, manages to build a house on her own and plans to become a settlement house worker, in order to find greater satisfaction in her life. As near as we can determine, this was never published, but shows the spirit of an independent woman attempting to break free of the accepted stereotypes of the times. [BTC#401336]

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