

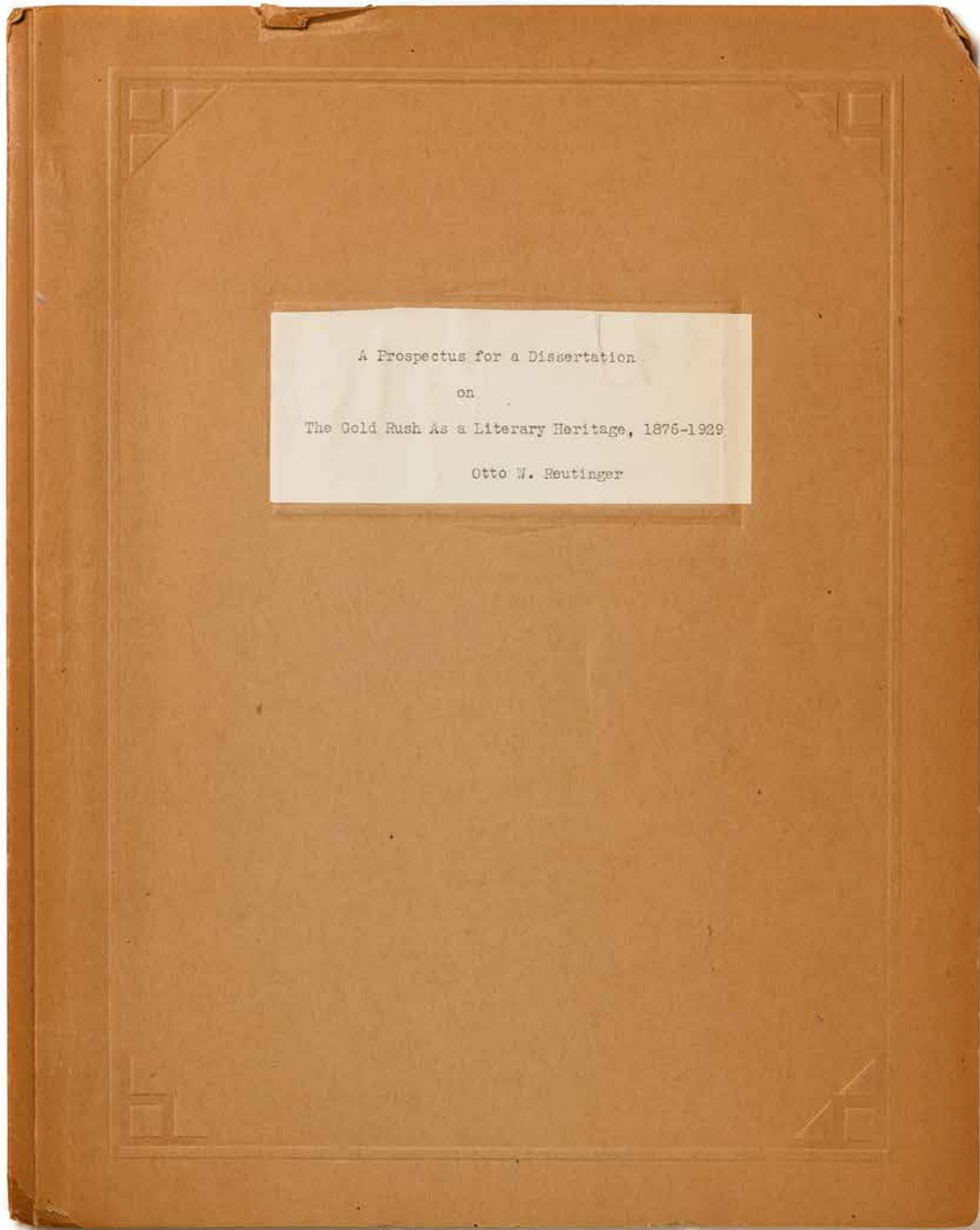


Otto W. Reutinger

[Typed Manuscript]: A Prospectus for a Dissertation on The Gold Rush as a Literary Heritage, 1876-1929

[No place]: The Author [circa 1930?]

\$450



Quarto. 11, 17 (bibliography) typed pp. Clasp bound into buff card folder with typed paper label. Small chips on the folder, very good or better, internally fine. An outline for the dissertation with an interesting topic. *OCLC* locates no copies of this or any subsequent dissertation on this topic by the author, but does locate a dissertation about John Galsworthy at the University of New Mexico by the same author in 1934, and a much later (1986) trail guide to Mount Tamalpais. Presumably unique.

[BTC#420234]

THE GOLD RUSH AS A LITERARY HERITAGE, 1876-1929

THE PERIOD OF THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH (1848-1859) HAS INTERESTED WRITERS SINCE THE DAYS OF '49. DURING APPROXIMATELY THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF THE RUSH THERE APPEARED NUMEROUS MAGAZINE ARTICLES, BROADSIDES, BOOKS, AND COLUMNS OF JOURNALISTIC REPORTS AND COMMENTS, MOST OF WHICH WERE THE ACCOUNTS OF EYE-WITNESSES OF THE DIGGINGS AND SAN FRANCISCO OR OF THE PRINCIPAL ROUTES TO THEM. NEAR THE END OF THIS PERIOD, WHEN THE IMPETUS OF THE RUSH HAD SLOWED DOWN, THE PRODUCTION OF THESE FACTUAL REPORTS DWINDLED SOMEWHAT, AND THEY CHANGED IN SUBSTANCE FROM ACCOUNTS OF CONTEMPORARY HAPPENINGS TO THE REMINISCENCES OF ARGONAUTS, HISTORICAL REVIEWS, AND SCIENTIFIC ANALYSES. CONCOMITANT WITH THESE DOCUMENTARY PUBLICATIONS, AFTER THE FIRST COMPELLING DEMAND FOR FACTS HAD BEEN SATISFIED, THERE APPEARED IMAGINATIVE ACCOUNTS IN PROSE, VERSE AND DRAMA THAT TREATED THE DAYS OF THE GOLD RUSH IN MANY FASHIONS.

HERE WAS NOT ONLY AN AMERICAN FRONTIER BUT A FRONTIER FOR THE WHOLE WORLD. EVEN HAD THERE BEEN NO DISCOVERY OF GOLD IN CALIFORNIA, THE REPUBLICAN REVOLUTIONS OF 1848 IN FRANCE, ITALY, HUNGARY, POLAND, AND GERMANY WOULD HAVE AUGMENTED THE FLOW OF IMMIGRANTS TO AMERICA; AS IT WAS, GOLD GAVE AN ADDED INCENTIVE, AND THE GEOGRAPHIC POSITION OF CALIFORNIA ACTED AS A SELECTIVE AGENT GOVERNING THE QUALITY OF THE IMMIGRANTS WHO CAME TO THE FAR WEST. ONLY THE BRAVE AND THE STRONG WOULD ATTEMPT TO TRAVEL THE GREAT DISTANCE AND TO DARE THE DANGERS ENROUTE. THESE FACTORS, AS WELL AS TRAVELING EXPENSE AND THE UNSETTLED