Steinbeck's copy of *The Hymnal*, signed and dated on his fourteenth birthday (entry 409). (Courtesy of John Steinbeck Library, Salinas, California)
Hephaestus

Let us go hence; his legs are firmly chained.

Strength (To Prometheus)

Aha! there play the insolent, and steal,
For creatures of a day, the rights of gods!
O deep delusion of the powers that named thee
Prometheus, the Fore-thinker! thou hast need
Of others' forethought and device, whereby
Thou may'st elude this handicraft of ours!

[Exit Hephaestus, Strength, and Force.—A pause.]

Prometheus

O Sky divine, O Winds of pinions swift,
O fountain-heads of Rivers, and O thou,
Illimitable laughter of the Sea!
O Earth, the Mighty Mother, and thou Sun,
Whose orb'd light suns all—attest,
What ills I suffer from the gods, a god!
Behold me, who must here sustain
The marring agonies of pain,
Wrestling with torture, doomed to bear
Eternal ages, year on year!
Such and so shameful is the chain
Which Heaven's new tyrant doth ordain
To bind me helpless here.

Woe! for the ruthless present doom!
Woe! for the future's teeming womb!
On what far dawn, in what dim skies,
Shall star of my deliverance rise?

Truce to the utterance; to its dimmest verge
I do foreknow the future, hour by hour,

Nor can whatever pang may smite me now
Smite with surprise. The destiny ordained
I must endure to the best, for well I wot
That none may challenge with Necessity.
Yet is it past my patience, to reveal,
Or to conceal, these issues of my doom.
Since I to mortals brought prerogatives,
Unto this durance dismal am I bound:
Yes, I am he who in a fennel-stalk,
By stealthy sleight, purveyed the fount of fire,
The teacher, proven thus, and arch-resource
Of every art that aideth mortal men.
Such was my sin: I earn its recompense,
Rock-riveted, and chained in height and cold.

[Enter the Chorus of Oceanides, in winged cars.

Annotations in the Steinbecks' copy of Aeschylus (entry 10). (Courtesy of Arthur Ring, Campbell, California)
ILLUSTRATION 3

Cover of *The Monterey Beacon* (the first appearance of Steinbeck's story, "The Snake") with the Steinbecks' library stamp. (Courtesy of Preston Beyer, Stratford, Connecticut)
Sample pages of Edward F. Ricketts’ “Personal Inventory of Books.” (Courtesy of Joel W. Hedgpeth, Santa Rosa, California)

“To the left the office opens into a library. The walls are bookcases to the ceiling, boxes of pamphlets and separates, books of all kinds, dictionaries, encyclopedias, poetry, plays.” (Cannery Row, Chapter V)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>pp</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Rev quir</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 24</td>
<td>Johnson &amp; Sevitt</td>
<td>Sea Shore Animals of the Pacific Coast</td>
<td>1930</td>
<td></td>
<td>Holman, thru Hitch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(2015)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 25</td>
<td>Bergessheimer, John</td>
<td>Quiet Cities</td>
<td>1926</td>
<td>894</td>
<td>Knopf</td>
<td>Parch.</td>
<td>Holmes N. Co., S F</td>
<td>5.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>125 pp.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1920)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Butler, Samuel</td>
<td>The Way of All Flesh</td>
<td>1889</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>Knopf</td>
<td>Parch.</td>
<td>Record Annex, Bddy 3d SH</td>
<td>8.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>125 pp.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 28</td>
<td>Blake, poets and prose</td>
<td>Random House. Vol 1. 1198 pp.</td>
<td>1849</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>Holmes</td>
<td>thru Hitch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>125 pp.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1937)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 4</td>
<td>The Philosophy of Nietzsche</td>
<td>Mod. Libr. Black. 1209 pp.</td>
<td>1930</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>Parch.</td>
<td>Ende</td>
<td>Cretton, Bkly.</td>
<td>9.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1990)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Malouin, Richard, Mate.</td>
<td>from 'Creative Philosophers'. 1. 376 pp.</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>Holmes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1908)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Usher, Martin Lewis</td>
<td>Animals of the SeaShore. Vol 1. 625 pp.</td>
<td>1844</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>Holman</td>
<td>thru M.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1935)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 29</td>
<td>Steinbeek, J.</td>
<td>The Grapes of Wrath. 410 pp.</td>
<td>1895</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>Viking</td>
<td>Press.</td>
<td>Given me by Jon</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1892)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VandaVeldix</td>
<td>Sea Hospitality in Marriage. 600 pp.</td>
<td>1903</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>Parch.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1903)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1932)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1935)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.06</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 7</td>
<td>Wilhem-Jung</td>
<td>The Secret of the Golden Flower. Harcourt, Braces, NY</td>
<td>1893</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Gift from Joe Campbell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1893)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1893)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>to Frances Strong retained, because I had made personal and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>essential-to-me annotations in it, while I bought new one for her)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1893)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1893)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ILLUSTRATION 6

Books ordered by Edward F. Ricketts through John Steinbeck and The Viking Press. (Courtesy of Webster Street, Carmel, California)
Mr. Paul Caswell
SALINAS-CALIFORNIA
Salinas, California

Dear Mr. Caswell:

I am gathering material for a novel, the setting of which is to be the region between San Luis Obispo and Santa Cruz, particularly the Salinas valley; the time, between 1900 and the present.

An exceedingly important part of the research necessary will involve the files of the Salinas papers; will it be possible for me to consult these files? Do you know what has happened to the files of the INDEX-JOURNAL and would it be possible for you to arrange my access to them?

I expect to be in Monterey soon after January 20th; could you let me know as soon as possible (by collect wire if necessary) if these files can be thrown open to me.

I will very much appreciate your help in this project.

Very truly yours,

JOHN STEINBECK

Please address my office: Room 806
118 E 40th St
New York 16, N.Y.

ILLUSTRATION 7
Steinbeck's letter of request to Paul Caswell. (Courtesy of Paul Caswell, and John Steinbeck Library, Salinas, California)
Steinbeck reading back files of *Salinas Index* for his research on *East of Eden*. (Courtesy of John Steinbeck Library, Salinas, California)

“Sometimes, but not often, a rain comes to the Salinas Valley in November. It is so rare that the *Journal* or the *Index* or both carry editorials about it.” *(East of Eden*, Chapter 46)
To the Director,

Sir:

I have read the rules established by the Trustees for the use of the Library and its collections, and in accordance with them, I hereby apply for reader's privileges in the Library.

Name: John Steinbeck

Permanent address: 206 E 72

New York address: New York City

School, business or other affiliation: ____________

Purpose for which reader's privileges are requested (be specific): Inspection of Malory ms and any other material pertinent to Arthurian cycle including microfilm

Date or period for which admission is requested (not to exceed one year): One year

References (with supporting letter): Viking Press, New York

Signature: John Steinbeck

Staff approval: _____________________________

ILLUSTRATION 9

Steinbeck's application for reader's privileges at The Pierpont Morgan Library. (Courtesy of The Pierpont Morgan Library)

"The Morgan Library has opened its arms and its great manuscripts to me..." (John Steinbeck to Alexander Frere, 18 January 1957)
ILLUSTRATIONS 10 and 11

Gustave Doré’s illustrations for Dante’s *Paradiso* (entry 225). (Courtesy of Sterling Library, Yale University)

“He [Aron Trask] has no idea where he got this picture of academic life—perhaps from the Doré illustrations of Dante’s *Inferno* [sic] with its massed and radiant angels.” (*East of Eden*, Chapter 47)