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GUSTAV EISEN: A MAN OF MANY ACHIEVEMENTS

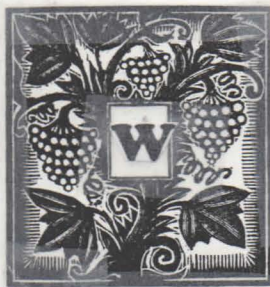
by *Allan Shields*

[IN OUR JANUARY 2006 *WTQ* we announced a "new, unpublished documentary, *Gustav Eisen, Wilderness Steward: An Appraisal* by Allan Shields, retired San Diego State University Professor of Philosophy. This is a newly researched study of the life of Gustavus A. Eisen (1847–1940), a man of many achievements, one for whom a full biographical study remains to be written. Copies of the manuscript—containing a detailed Chronology of Eisen's life and works, an extensive Bibliography, and suggestions for further research (especially in Sweden), have been deposited in the Bancroft Library, U.C. Berkeley; California Academy of Sciences, Eisen Archive, San Francisco; Museum, Sequoia National Park and Kings Canyon National Park; and the California History Room, Fresno Free Library, Fresno, California.]

Veteran Tendril Allan Shields, beginning a mere decade ago, has contributed numerous invaluable essays to our *Quarterly*. From "The Bancroft Oral Histories of California Winemen," to "A Lust for the Lady de Coverly [Thompson Seedless]," to "Wine Aesthetics: The Guzzler, Bibber, Taster," to "From Wine Press to Printing Press" plus innumerable book reviews, we have been entertained and educated by his studious examinations. Before we even met him, his Jerseydale Ranch Press publication, *Wild Bill Neely and the Pagan Brothers' Golden Goat Winery*, written and illustrated by William L. Neely, and edited by Allan Shields, was reviewed in our January 1994 issue. A fine compliment to his academic endeavors is Allan's great love of the wilderness and its stories: among his publications are *A Yosemite Adventure in 1863 and Other Tales of Early Days in Mariposa County*; *What Animals Taught Me*; *The Tragedy of Tenaya: A Yosemite Indian Story*; and *The Spirit of Rin-Tin-Tin*.

It is a special pleasure to present to the Wayward Tendrils "Gustav Eisen: A Man of Many Achievements," excerpted and adapted by Gail Unzelman, from Allan's massive Gustav Eisen study. Although it is quite evident from Allan's "Chronology of Gustav A. Eisen" that grapes and wine involved a modest part of Dr. Eisen's distinguished life, they are nonetheless of significant importance and interest, and a valuable contribution to the literature of wine. — Ed.]

Introduction



Who was Gustavus Augustus Eisen and what did he do? He was a Swedish-American scientist, described by some as eccentric, a true Renaissance man, a polymath, a restless "Fox" in his researches, a dilettante, and a savant. Gustav Eisen, as he preferred

to be called, became a naturalized citizen of the United States at the age of 40 in San Francisco after living in Fresno, California, from 1873 until the mid-1880s. (He is best known in the Fresno area for his extensive experimental work with over 400 varieties of grapes: table, wine, and raisin.) Gustav was difficult to classify, for he was a man of various attainments even early in his career. In the literature of the 19th and 20th centuries, he was described as a horticulturist, a biologist, a zoologist, an artist and an illustrator, an archaeologist, a

viticulturist, enologist, arborist, microbiologist, cartographer, explorer; in today's terms, he was an ardent preservationist—conservationist; he was made a Grand Knight of the North Star, a Swedish honorary title. Gustav Eisen was a lifelong bachelor. His way of life for many years, his flourishing years, can be characterized as one lived in dedicated, creative obscurity, laboring essentially for the good of mankind, ever and always intent on discovering ways to make life richer and more meaningful for others.

To encapsulate his ninety-four years of such labors, Gustav Eisen is credited with fostering the development of the alligator pear, better known as the avocado. He is recognized as writing the definitive book on the raisin industry in the heart of what became the most productive raisin region in the world, the California Central Valley. He wrote a parallel book on the fig, and was instrumental in advancing that industry in California. His entomological investigation of the anopheles mosquito resulted in the discovery of the parasite which causes

malaria, the first American to do so. By any accurate study of the historical facts in the case, he was a signal advocate for establishing the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, as well as the Sequoia National Forest and the General Grant National Park. From 1874 to 1940, the year of his death, he was a highly active and respected member of the prestigious California Academy of Sciences, minus a gap of a few years.

In his retirement, starting about 1915, he produced more solid work than most men produce over a lifetime, and mostly in new fields of scientific endeavor. His 1923 book, *The Great Chalice of Antioch*, a lavish two-volume work about the Holy Grail, caused an international stir and brought him a kind of fame that he had escaped prior to that time. In 1927, his *Glass: Its Origin, History, Chronology, Technic and Classification to the 16th Century*, another long work, became a field classic. In 1932, his three-volume *Portraits of Washington* drew on his lifelong work as an artist. *The Great Southwest*, a book of Carl Borg's etchings, is bound together by a text by Gustav Eisen, and *Ancient Oriental and other Seals* by Gustav Eisen and Ada Small Moore was published the year of his death.

This adumbration of such a rich career fairly demands expansion of each of his accomplishments, and several of them involve contentions, scandal, political intrigue, criticism by colleagues, historical errors by some venerable writers, and other issues that would require a sizable tome to record. Perhaps some day such a careful biography will be written about Gustav Eisen and it should be; but this essay is of a narrower, less ambitious scope in which some of the discrepant problems can be at least laid bare, based on new material gathered over six decades after his death. For convenience of both writer and reader, the text follows a rough chronological order, that order made explicit in the Chronology of Gustav Eisen.

CHRONOLOGY OF GUSTAV A. EISEN

- 1826. Francis Theodore Eisen (1826–1895), brother of Gustavus, born in Stockholm; arrives in San Francisco in 1851.
- 1847. Gustavus Augustus Eisen (1847–1940) born August 2 in Stockholm. (Hereinafter G.E.).
- 1868. G.E. publishes *Bidrag till Kännedomen om Gotska Sandön* ["A Contribution to the Knowledge of Gotland (Gotland Sand Island)"].
- 1872. F. T. Eisen begins growing grapes in Fresno, the first successful vineyardist in Fresno County.
- 1873. G. E. receives Ph.D. from University of Uppsala. G.E. sent to the U.S. by the Swedish Museum of Natural History to conduct biological surveys. Nov. 2, arrives in Fresno (age 26); meets Frank Dusy; returns to San Francisco; spends winter of 1873–74 on Santa Catalina Island making biologi-

cal surveys for the California Academy of Sciences, the Swedish Academy of Science, the U. S. Fishing Commission, and Prof. Louis Agassiz; G.E. had been invited by Agassiz to become his assistant at Harvard University starting in 1875(?). Agassiz dies suddenly in 1873.

- 1874. January, Eisen becomes member of the California Academy of Sciences (CAS); April: In San Francisco meets Dr. Friedrich Ratzel; June: Begins extended trek into Yosemite and region with Ratzel; Frank Dusy takes G. E. to Sequoia groves in summer. Winter 1874–75, returns to Fresno vineyard.
- 1875. F. T. Eisen buys Section 4 (631 A) from Frederick Roeding in May; First vintage from Eisen Vineyard; G.E. remains in Fresno as Manager of the Eisen Vineyard c.1874–1885; during this period, he makes 4–5 trips per year with saddle animals into the Sierra Nevada, often with Frank Dusy. Visits Sequoia groves with Dr. Chester Rowell, naming many trees as memorials.
- 1879. G.E. meets and becomes friends with Luther Burbank. He sends plant material to Burbank from Central America (avocado?).
- 1880. Starting in this year, G.E. makes collecting trips to Guatemala and Mexico for the CAS, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Smithsonian Institute, until 1903.
- 1882. G.E. leaves San Francisco Jan 4 for study of Maya in Guatemala [see Margot B. Schevill for full summary of G.E.'s nearly year journey].
- 1883. G.E. is manager of Roeding's Fancher Creek Nursery (until 1887, intermittently after 1880). G.E. begins a 12-year (1883–1895) cooperative study of Maya with J. T. Goodman, a raisin grower in Fresno; uncompleted ms., "The Archaic Writing of the Mayas: Their Hyroglyphs [*sic*] and Sculptures."
- 1885. F. T. Eisen in San Francisco; has a large milling business from c.1868. G.E. owns Section 9, Fresno; acquisition date 1876?
- 1886. G.E. appointed California State Quarantine Guardian for Fresno by State Board of Horticultural Commission, April 26.
- 1887. G.E. becomes a naturalized citizen of the United States (M. Schevill says 1882). c.1887 G.E. sells Section 9 to W. N. Oothout.
- 1888–1889. G.E. campaigns to establish Sequoia National Park and Sequoia National Forest; tries to have the State of California purchase the cut-over Sequoia forest, without success. Lectures about the problems before the CAS. G.E. makes trip to Washington, D.C., for Sequoia plans; discusses matter with the Secretary of Agriculture, c.1888–1889. G.E. is Horticultural Editor of California, A Journal of Rural Industry (S.F.).

- 1890. G.E. publishes *The Raisin Industry*.
G. E. testifies in Washington, D.C. for Sequoia National Park, early spring. Returns to California in July (?).
G.E. visits the Big Trees Grove and territory for three days; extends lectures; prepares a proposal for Congress with committee of CAS members. (Records destroyed in 1906 fire in San Francisco).
- 1891. G.E. spends a year (1891–92) in the East. While in Wash. D.C., in touch with the Secretary / Dept of Agric., where he is known and respected.
- 1892. G.E. makes expedition to Baja California with W. Bryant for CAS in 1892, 1893, and 1894.
- 1893. G. E. becomes a member of the Publications Committee, CAS. Leads an Academy expedition to Baja California, Mazatlan and Panama (1893–94). G.E. made Curator of Archaeology, Ethnology, and Lower Animals, CAS (also 1894).
- 1894. G.E. lectures before Cooper Medical Institute, S. F., on “malaria.” With Robert Freund, G.E. is the first American to recognize the malaria parasite.
- 1895. G.E. made Curator of Biology, CAS (also 1896, 1898).
Francis T. Eisen dies; his son, August, assumes management of Eisen Vineyard.
- 1897. G.E. made Curator of Invertebrates, CAS.
- 1898. G.E. and Dr. Harvey Harkness (President, CAS, January 1867–January 1896) are forced out of the CAS by Crocker, Chas. Keeler, Perry Ritter, and David Starr Jordan. (Letter from G.E. to F. M. MacFarland, *n.d.* –1938?). Jordan is President of the CAS from January 1896–January 1898.
Frank Dusy dies November 10.
- 1899. G.E. is made Curator of Marine Invertebrates, CAS (? See 1898).
- 1900. G.E. publishes *Map of Baja California and Explorations in Central Part of Baja California*.
- 1901. G.E. publishes *The Fig: Its History, Culture and Curing*, U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- 1902. Eisen Estate leases 600-acre vineyard and production plant to the California Wine Association for three years. G.E. makes second expedition to Guatemala, sponsored by Phoebe Apperson Hearst. Returns to San Francisco and becomes a professional photographer, a skill he already possesses.
- 1903. G.E. engages in archaeological explorations from 1903–1915 in Spain, Italy, Algiers, Tunis, Morocco, Egypt; Phoebe A. Hearst supports. G.E. is president of the San Francisco Microscopical Society.
- 1906. California Wine Association assumes control of Eisen Vineyard & Winery (Section 4).
San Francisco earthquake and fire destroys CAS files and library, including many belonging to G.E.
- 1911. Sunnyside Golf Course established on Section 9, bought from W. N. Oothout, formerly owned by G.E.
- 1915. G.E. moves to New York City at 146 East 49th Street. G.E. becomes interested in the portraits of George Washington. Meets Fahim and Evelyn Kouchakji, art dealers.
- 1923. *The Great Chalice of Antioch* by G.E. is published by Kouchakji Frères, N.Y.
- 1926. G.E. publishes *The Jonas Miller-Cake-Joseph Stewart Portrait by Gilbert Stuart*.
- 1927. G.E. publishes *Glass: Its Origin, History, Chronology, Technic and Classification to the 16th Century*.
- 1932. G.E. publishes *Portraits of Washington* (3 volumes).
- 1933. After Repeal of Prohibition, Eisen Winery was renamed Sunnyside Winery (to 1952).
G.E. publishes 2nd ed of *Great Chalice of Antioch*.
- 1935. G.E. appointed Commander of the Order of the North Star, and Grand Knight of the North Star, by His Majesty, the King of Sweden.
- 1936. G.E. writes text for Carl Oscar Borg, *The Great Southwest* (etchings).
- 1937. G.E. receives commendatory letter from the Chief of the U.S. National Park Service.
- 1938. G.E. made an Honorary Life Member of CAS on February 16, the “...highest honor the Academy accords” (Loye Miller). G.E. moves in with the Fahim Kouchakjis in New York City, who take care of him during his cancer illness and operation.
- 1940. G.E., with Ada Small Moore, publishes *Ancient Oriental and other Seals*.
G.E. dies October 29 of cancer, at 350 Park Ave, New York City, age 93 years + 2 months.
The CAS requests the U.S. Board of Biographical Names to have a peak in Sequoia National Park named for Dr. Gustavus Augustus Eisen. (Eisen’s old friend Frank MacFarland is President of CAS, 1934–1946.) The request was approved in 1941.
- 1949. Mrs. Magda Mäneskjöld of Brooklyn, a Swedish-American journalist friend of Eisen, cared for the urn of Eisen’s ashes from 1940–1949, when she carried the urn across the continent for the July 16 dedication ceremony in Sequoia National Park. The urn lies buried in an undisclosed place on 12,000-foot Mount Eisen.

From Sweden to Fresno, California: 1847–1882

When Gustav Eisen arrived in the U. S. in 1873, he was well-instilled with the zeal of a dedicated scientist, having that year both completed the research for his Ph.D. degree in Biology at Uppsala University (sometimes, “Upsala”), as well as having been made an assistant professor in his chosen field. By 1868, his first published work, on earthworms, had brought him to the attention of Charles Darwin (letter from C. R. Darwin, 3 Dec 1871) and Louis Agassiz at Harvard University in the

U. S. Gustav's undergraduate studies were as heavily devoted to art as to science, where his gift for drawing and painting was shown from early childhood. It is said that over the years he produced many thousands of miniature paintings and sketches, skills that served him well in later archaeological work on the Mayan culture in Guatemala as well as his executing scientific illustrations for his own work. As a child, he was not robust. Under enforced confinement he spent valuable time concentrating on books about nature, another early and lifetime orientation.

In 1873, his singular record in the university earned him a grant and charge to travel to the U. S. West Coast to gather biological specimens under the auspices of the Swedish Museum (Academy) of Natural Sciences, specifically for Professor Sven Loven, a figure in his field in Sweden as well-regarded as Louis Agassiz was in America. Indeed, Agassiz himself seems to have been an influence on the selection of Gustav to travel to the U.S., for Gustav was also committed to sending specimens to Harvard by prearrangement, and Gustav was scheduled to become assistant to Agassiz in 1875.

Gustav Eisen was, I say, well prepared to do the work he faced in the U.S. in 1873. As a European, he was multilingual, including German; but what is rather startling is to realize that he arrived in America fully conversant in the English language and, eventually, in the written forms. In addition, Gustav came to the California environment already profoundly imbued with a true love of nature and natural things, a "naturalist," an old term that had nothing to do with nudity or nudism. Contrarily, he had a very dim opinion of the "American" culture and its supervening domination of commercial interests, such as logging, lumbering, railroading and general merchandising. He quickly sized up the pioneers in the West as a people who saw a tree as lumber almost by instinct, an attitude he never really understood. To the end, his love of the scientific perspective, completely devoid of commercialism, set him apart from his adopted countrymen, seeming to create a mystery he was unable to understand, especially when standing astride nature apart in a grove of *Sequoia gigantea*.

Gustav had three brothers who had already been living in California. Two of them had died before his arrival, but his older brother by 21 years, Francis, had lived in California from 1851, an early pioneer. Here, Francis was a very successful business man, one who was educated to the brokerage business and who branched out early to manufacturing in San Francisco from 1868 to 1885. It is sometimes written that Francis brought Gustav from Sweden, but the facts are otherwise, as stated above. Clearly, Gustav meant to head directly to California, arriving in early October 1873. On November 2, he stepped from the

train in Fresno at 11:00 A.M., where, he reported, he counted a total of sixteen buildings that had roofs, including out-buildings—the city of Fresno at that moment.

Eisen Vineyard & Winery

By 1872, following twenty-one years in California business enterprises, Francis Eisen had planted the first successful grapevines in Fresno county, but assuredly not the first in California, where the vineyard industry was well developed, north, south and central. The lush vineyard was ubiquitous, except in the desert of the Central Valley before irrigation was practiced. Starting a vineyard was costly, then and now.

"Most of the early vineyards and wineries of the Fresno area in the San Joaquin Valley were large-scale operations undertaken by men of wealth" (Peninou and Unzelman, p.318). Large agricultural enterprises were, and still are, high risk and rarely entered on a shoestring, proving once more the old adage: If you've got it, you can get it; if you don't got it, you ain't goin' to get it.

The official records in the Hall of Records, Fresno County, show that Francis Eisen bought his first section in 1875 (not in 1872, as some have reported) from Frederick Roeding, paying \$6,312 (\$10 an acre). The land was described in the deed as follows:

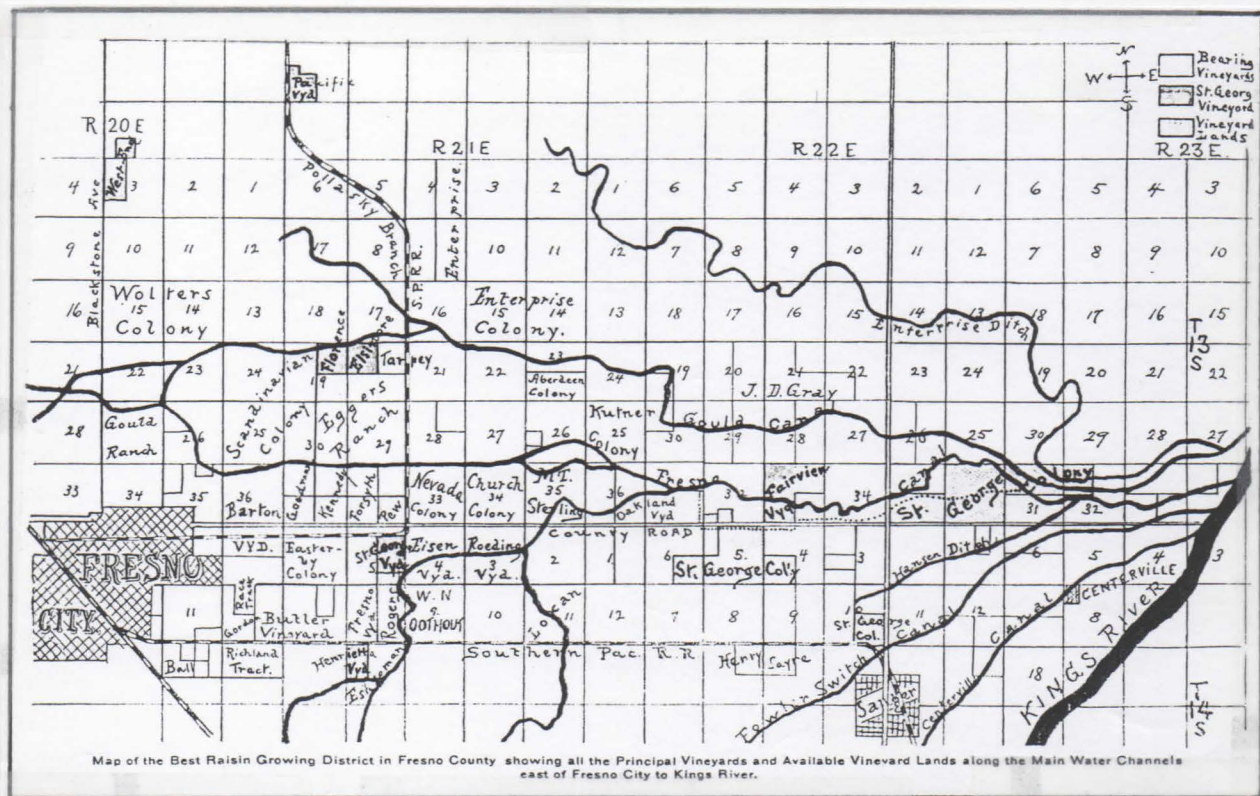
"...All that certain lot, piece or parcel of land being in the County of Fresno, State of California, described as follows, viz.: Being Section Number Four <4> in Township Number Fourteen <14> South Range Twenty-One <21> East of Mount Diablo and Meridian, containing Six Hundred and Thirty-One 22/100 acres of land, more or less, etc. On the Tenth day of May A. D. One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Seventy-five, ... etc.

[Signed] Frederick C. Roeding, to F. T. Eisen
Dated May 10, 1875, &c. Recorded at the Request of Wells Fargo & Co. this 15 May A. D. 1875 at 55 minutes past 2 o'clock P. M. ... etc."

Apparently, Francis Eisen had leased the same property (Section 4) from Roeding to plant his first vineyard with an option to buy later, following this first, experimental planting. Sometime later than 1875, Francis probably helped Gustav to buy a contiguous Section 9, immediately south of Section 4, where Gustav performed his experimental horticultural work. In 1872, the stark desert conditions were a daunting prospect for a viticulturist wanting to start an ambitious, and expensive, plan of production. The main condition giving hope to a planter was the recently developed and developing irrigation system shunting water from the Kings River 15 miles away. Fancher Creek, "a picturesque, wooded stream" which ran through the center of Section 4, was a natural creek segment needing only

to be connected to the main Fresno Canal System to bring water to the projected Eisen Vineyard. (Two early maps call this creek "Fanchou," or "Fanchow," perhaps a Chinese name?)

disappeared. (Elliott, *History of Fresno County*, p.211)
The Eisen Vineyard & Winery was not only the pioneer effort in Fresno County whose experiments encouraged an immediate explosion of vineyards



— 1890 MAP SHOWING PRINCIPAL VINEYARDS NEAR FRESNO ... ORIGINAL EISEN PROPERTIES, SECTION 4 (Eisen) & SECTION 9 (Oothout), LOWER LEFT CENTER OF MAP — (Map source unidentified)

It quickly became clear to the early grape farmers that lack of water was not the only deterrent to success:

To show the trial and difficulties under which the proprietor has struggled, we want to relate his experience in early grape culture. In the summer of 1874, the vineyard was visited by myriads of grasshoppers, which totally destroyed the foliage, and gnawed off the bark of the cane, and quite materially retarded the growth of the vine. In 1875, a red spider got into the vines, puncturing the leaves, causing them prematurely to dry up and fall off, leaving the fruit exposed to the sun, which greatly injured it. In 1876-77 the big grape moth attacked the vines and threatened to destroy them. For six weeks, no less than twenty men were employed in picking the larvae from the vines; no less than twenty tons were taken off, and every night the worms were carefully deposited in a grave prepared for that purpose, and effectually covered with earth. Since that time, occasional raids have been made by the army worm, which latter are gotten rid of by beating the vines with sticks, and catching the worms in sheets and pouring them into pans of coal oil. Nearly all these pests have now

but, in the expert horticulturist hands of Gustav as manager, the north square mile (Section 4) of over 600 acres became the site of the major producing vineyard, with accompanying winery structures and equipment. The south square mile (Sect. 9, in the name of Gustav Eisen) was the site of an elaborate arboretum and experimental horticultural gardens with hundreds of varieties of grapes and over 300 varieties of roses, a specialty. Upwards of 400 kinds of trees made a small forest on part of the acreage. Even today, some of the original trees planted by Gustav Eisen are growing vigorously, such as eucalyptus.

(My initial impetus for this study was a simple one: find the original boundaries of the Eisen properties. Search of early county maps quickly established the answer, and we actually drove around the periphery to get a current impression of the developed area. Stated in terms of the streets of Fresno today, it is helpful to show the boundaries of the Eisen property by street name. Taking Sections 4 and 9 together for convenience, the Eisen vineyard ranch was bordered on the north by Belmont Avenue, on the south by the southern extreme of the Sunnyside Golf Course, along

which runs (still) the Southern Pacific Railroad; on the east, the property boundary is Fowler Boulevard; and on the west, by the very busy Clovis Avenue.)

Francis Eisen was educated to a business ethos, having spent several years in Germany learning banking and the commission business. From his home in Sweden, he traveled to South America, thence to California, arriving in San Francisco in September 1851, where, eventually, he went into the milling business. Though twice burned out by fires, he recovered his losses by building yet a third mill, earning a fortune between 1868 and 1885. The Eisen Vineyard & Winery enterprise was an added one for Francis, but one he took very seriously. When he finally bought his Section 4 in 1875, he had had three years to become convinced that investment in Fresno real estate and agriculture would be profitable by raising grapes for wine and, almost by accident, for raisins. Charles Clough tells an amusing, if apocryphal, story:

Fresno County's raisin industry began on a fluke. When the hot summer of 1875 dried some of Francis T. Eisen's experimental grapes on the vine, he decided to pick, stem and pack them, sending them to San Francisco as a 'Peruvian importation.' These raisins caused an immediate sensation. Their reception may have been why Bernard Marks laid out his successful two-acre vineyard at the Central California Colony that year. Whatever the reason, two other important vineyards were set out the following year (Clough, *History of Fresno County, The Pioneer Years*, p.147).

Gustav Eisen was brought into Eisen Vineyard & Winery about 1874-75 as Manager, after settling down from his early explorations to Santa Catalina Island and the Yosemite. Brother Francis had built a fine home on the vineyard property, and divided his time, with his growing family, between San Francisco and Fresno. Gradually, because of the lucrative milling business and the necessity to handle his Chicago, New York, and New Orleans offices, San Francisco became his permanent home again, at No. 12 Silver Street.

The Eisen enterprises in Fresno encompassed more than grapes. Gustav also was Manager of Frederick Roeding's Fancher Creek Nursery, founded in 1883 (on Roeding's neighboring property, Section 3), selling grape cuttings (cultivars), horticultural specimens, especially a great variety of trees, hay by the ton, and other items to augment the business. (Later, Gustav was fired by Roeding over a three-way dispute not pursued here.) His frequent travels to the Sierra Nevada, to Mexico, and other lands, meant that his managership was often peripatetic at best. In 1883, Gustav advertised in the Fresno Republican that the Fancher Creek Nursery had "1,000,000 Grape Cuttings For Sale."

FANCHER CREEK

NURSERY.

FRESNO, CAL.

ROOTED VINES.

FOR RED.	
MATABO,	SHIRAZ, DON ZELINHO,
CABERNET-SAUVIGNON.	
FOR WHITE.	
TEMPRANO,	PALOMINO,
DORADILLA,	VERDEHO.
PEDRO XIMENEZ.	
FOR RAISIN.	
SULTANA,	GORDO BLANCO.
FOR TABLE.	
SABAL KANSKI.	

The finest of all shipping grapes—the Imperial grade of Russia, etc., etc.

The White Fig of Commerce for drying. The White Adriatic. By special arrangement we are the only ones in California holding any genuine stock of this celebrated fig, besides the importer. The Papershell Pomegranate, and other general nursery stock. Roses a specialty. Catalogues free. Address:

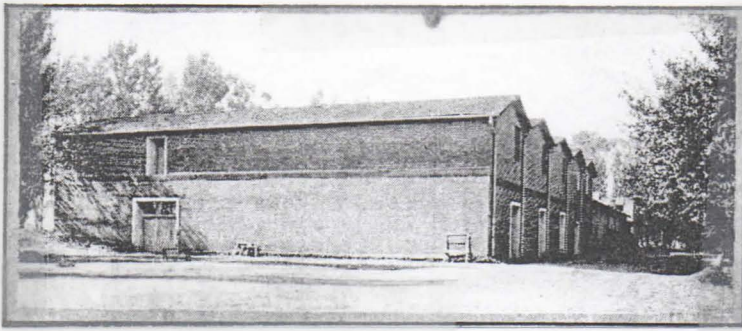
GUSTAV EISEN,

FRESNO CAL.

San Francisco Merchant, 1884

In 1880, when Gustav was leaving the vineyard managership for other adventures, E. I. Baber, a reliable employee of Francis Eisen in his San Francisco business, was made in October that year the manager of Eisen Vineyard & Winery in Fresno, "...to take charge of [Eisen's] landed holdings." When Francis Eisen died in 1895, his son August became the manager of the Eisen Vineyard. Fresno County, in the heart of the great San Joaquin Valley, could boast from its earliest days the largest number of acres in vineyard land—wine and raisin grapes—and was the dessert wine center of the California wine industry. By 1890 the Eisen Vineyard had 400 acres in wine grapes of the choicest varieties for making sweet, fortified wines. Their cellars had a capacity of one million gallons of wine, ample storage for their vintages of 250,000 gallons. By the turn of the century the vineyards spanned 600 acres, and annual production had increased to 300,000 gallons.

A contemporary publication applauded the Eisen Vineyard and its "reputation of having the most excellent selection of vines grown on any single estate in California....shown in the absolute perfection of the wines from this famous vineyard. The exquisite Eisen ports and sherries are all that the skilled palate of the most judicious and exacting wine expert can demand ... and have carried away medals, diplomas and tributes wherever exhibited and entered for competition."



EISEN WINERY – 1897 (from *Imperial Fresno*)

In brilliant 1890's prose, the description continues: "The approach to the Eisen Winery is along one of the most magnificent avenues imaginable. The carriage rolls along a wide roadway, a mile long, bounded on either side with stately Lombardy poplar trees, mingled with beautiful pink oleander trees. The roadway is roofed with vines, running from row to row of the bordering trees on wires stretched across; and dangling above the charmed spectator's head are great clusters of delicious grapes, rivaling in size and loveliness the clusters of Eschol. It is doubtful if a more beautiful avenue than the main approach to the Eisen Vineyard can be found in all California" (*Imperial Fresno*, 1897, p.30).

In 1902, August negotiated the lease of the Eisen Vineyard & Winery to the California Wine Association for three years; in 1906 the CWA assumed total control of the operation. In the next few years, the giant conglomerate poured substantial monies into remodeling the old winery plant, and it saw continuous operation until Prohibition. After Repeal, under new ownership, it was renamed the Sunnyside Winery and functioned until the early 1950s.

Gustav Eisen's Accomplishments

In her book, *Maya Textiles of Guatemala*, Margot Blum Schevill devotes an entire chapter to Gustav Eisen. (Schevill deserves great credit for searching out in obscure correspondence and hard-to-find documents details for this biographical chapter. Though flawed in minor details, any future biographer of Gustav Eisen will be required to start with her work and be seriously in her debt.) Near the end of his life, Gustav wrote letters in which he responded to the question about his many and varied accomplishments. Schevill recorded his succinct summary of his achievements:

Principal Achievements from 1873–1939

1873–74. Scientific explorations in California.

1874–89. Raisin culture and wine in Fresno.

Writing for newspaper.

1882–90. Experiments on Figs, discovered the nature and necessity of caprification, laying thereby the foundation for the fig industry in

California. Roeding tried to steal my glory and has the credit. I published the first book on Raisins in 1890; books and papers on Figs, 1895–1901, two or three published by the U.S. Government.

1915–1924. The monumental work *The Great Chalice of Antioch* (1st C. A. D.) Price \$150. 2 vols.

1929. Monograph on antique *Glass*: 2 vols. \$100.

1932. Monograph on the *Portraits of Washington*. 2 vols. Price \$100.

1891. Made and published *A Map of Baja California, Mexico* (yet the best to date).

"Eisen did not list, however, as 'principal achievements' his experiences as a journalist, world traveler, photographer and co-owner of a photographic studio and gallery, scientific investigator, and author of several unpublished manuscripts. Still he included these experiences in a list of important dates and events in his life. Eisen's accomplishments and the breadth and range of his interests exemplify the combination of Old World training and disjunct American opportunities that shaped the life of this Swedish-American immigrant and Renaissance man" (Schevill, p. 28).

From the standpoint of this study, it is significant to notice another omission from the list: Gustav Eisen fails to include, what others claim for him, his signal contributions to the national park idea and especially the formation of Sequoia National Park. It would be speculative to try to guess why he left the omission stand, for it probably was intentional, except to anticipate one conclusion this study reaches in later sections: Gustav Eisen, throughout the campaign to establish Sequoia National Park, acted for the California Academy of Sciences, not for himself. The list of his accomplishments, therefore, omits the reference.

Schevill's excellent summary of Gustav Eisen's literary life only hints at the major significance of virtually every volume he produced. It is fair to say that many writers would feel satisfied with having produced any one of his eight books, leaving aside the very respectable corpus of scientific/journalistic articles and documents. Virtually without exception, each book was novel in its field, a pioneer, if not definitive, effort. As noted, writing books between other demands on his time meant that he was truly one who was dedicated to creative labor undertaken with limited recognition, at least for most of his "flourishing" period, as historians have it. It should also be observed that every one of his books, in disparate fields requiring exceptional expertise acquired only by hard work, reflect keen research, historical, professional, and scientific skills. These were not works in which he was presenting a similitude of others' research. They were detailed reports of his own, accomplished work.

The Raisin and The Fig

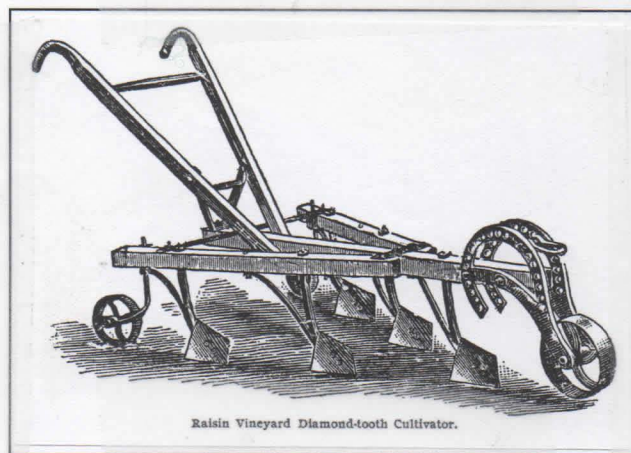
Take, for example, his book, *The Raisin Industry: A Practical Treatise on the Raisin Grapes, Their History, Culture and Curing* (San Francisco: H.S. Crocker & Co., 1890). In his chapter titled "Literature" Eisen points out the need for such a work: "The literature of the raisin industry is a very scant one, and as far as I have been able to ascertain not a single work especially devoted to this industry has appeared in any language" (p.215). Gustav Eisen—in the manner of the eminent Prof. George Husmann of Napa Valley and his cornerstone for California wine-grape literature, *Grape Culture and Wine-Making in California. A Practical Manual for the Grape-Grower and Wine-Maker* (San Francisco, 1888)—presents a solid, practical, detailed treatise on how to grow and produce a most important agricultural crop in California following field experiments begun in the pioneering Eisen Vineyard in 1872. Gustav Eisen became in a few short years a master vineyardist; his experimental efforts with huge numbers of specialized grapes specifically chosen for their raisin-producing qualities, not to mention the wine and table grape varieties, all are brought together in this book to benefit the industry in California. His "enumeration of books" about the raisin industry compiled at the end of the book is a feast for the researcher. It is also notable that Gustav nowhere in the book gives any special mention or attention to the locally famous Eisen Vineyard, Gustav staying scrupulously detached and properly disinterested when dealing with the scientific data regarding the ampelography, growing natures, seed, texture, productivity and related factors of each grape respecting its potential as a source for raisins. He did insert, however, at the end of the book, among the advertisements, a full-page announcement of the available services of

GUSTAV EISEN,

HORTICULTURAL LAND AND RAISIN EXPERT § § §

I have had twenty years of experience in fruit growing, raisin-grape growing, raisin making, and in other horticultural industries, in California, Central America, Mexico and Europe. I make it a specialty to assist and advise those engaged in horticultural pursuits. Whether you wish to select land or plant it to vines and trees, whether you are a capitalist, the member of a syndicate, or a farmer, my services will be a thousand times more valuable to you than the reasonable charge I make for them. If you are not acquainted with land, soil, climate, or the profits of the horticultural industry you intend to engage in, you will find it to your advantage to engage me to make you thorough and truthful reports. All matters are strictly confidential and charges reasonable.

Gustav Eisen, California Academy of Sciences, S.F.



FROM: *THE RAISIN INDUSTRY*, 1890

In this day and culture of book publishing, there is silent, but real, scorn for "self-published" books; but in the centuries before the twentieth, it was common practice for "publishers" (often, printers) to produce a book only if the author had the courage of his conviction of the value of his book, enough to pay for the cost of production up front. Not the exception, it was more the rule for many years, and for authors whose names might surprise modern readers. When you consider the matter, it makes sense. Gustav Eisen, at any rate, paid H. S. Crocker & Co. of San Francisco to produce his raisin book, a work that was a first in its field (not necessarily a recommendation for a nervous printer-publisher). Gustav's book is now seen by historians of grape culture in California as a classic, a cornerstone "Practical Treatise" to this day, only recently displaced by the *magnum opus* of Prof. Vincent Petrucci, *A Treatise on Raisin Production, Processing and Marketing*, edited by Vincent E. Petrucci and Carter D. Clary (Clovis, California, 2001) [See "The Professor's Singular Vine," *WTQ*, Vol.12 #4].

What has been just said about Gustav Eisen's raisin book can be said, *mutatis mutandis*, of other of his works. *The Fig: Its History, Culture and Curing* was published and printed in 1901 by the U.S.D.A. for national and international distribution. Because of the fairly public controversy between George Roeding and Gustav Eisen, it will be useful to take notice of some of the facts in the case of who was primarily responsible for discovering the nature of caprifigation [pollination by the fig wasp] of the Smyrna fig, not to settle the matter between the two men, but to lay out some key factors necessary to understand Gustav's pique with Roeding—bearing in mind that there existed some hard feelings prior to the controversy, evidenced by Roeding having fired Gustav Eisen from the Fancher Creek Nurseries.

In the above quotation from Schevill's book, Gustav Eisen states cryptically, "1882–1890 Experiments on

Figs, discovered the nature and necessity of caprification ... [George] Roeding tried to steal my glory, and has the credit." Research in fig literature, including the publication by George Roeding in 1903 of *The Smyrna Fig* indicates that, respecting the experimental facts, as well as the priority of publication, Gustav Eisen must be believed.

A careful examination of the relevant items included in the Bibliography of this essay will show that Gustav Eisen published significant articles on the fig and his projected book beginning in 1885 (2), with two more in 1887, a key work on the fig wasp (1891-92), one more in 1896 and 1897, culminating in his classic book *The Fig...* in 1901.

George Roeding, by contrast, though he had indeed sponsored work on the fig wasp in the Near East and in Fresno, did not publish anything on the subject until 1903, with his self-published work, *The Smyrna Fig at Home and Abroad*, a brief account. Though George Roeding acknowledged his debt to several others in the field, and though, as neighbors who had been in business together in the Fancher Creek Nurseries in earlier years, Gustav Eisen's name never appears in the Roeding book, or in Roeding's two subsequent Nursery fruit growers' guides published in 1909 and 1915 (the same in 1919).

For his part, Gustav Eisen, in his 1901 book, gives only passing and bibliographical reference to the work in progress by George Roeding, which, after all, came only later by two years.

The publishing data confirm Gustav Eisen's claim to have pioneered the effort to successfully bring the key fig to California agriculture, while admitting that George Roeding's primary interest was less scientific than business related with his nurseries. Nevertheless Roeding was greatly instrumental in publicizing and encouraging the propagation of the "Calimyrna" fig, a name invented by Roeding. In time, Fresno County would produce one-half of the figs sold in the U. S.

The Monumental Great Chalice of Antioch

Dr. Gustavus A. Eisen published two academic studies and a lavish two-volume book on this formidable work of art. The large, ovoid silver goblet, 7½" tall x 6" in diameter, was constructed in three distinct parts: a plain, somewhat crude inner cup of silver, an openwork silver-gilt outer container, and a separately made small silver base. The Chalice's outer container is stunningly chased and appliquéd with a pattern of grapevines and clusters of grapes; set within this frame are various animals, birds, and twelve seated figures. It was unearthed in 1910, so the story goes, in the Syrian city of Antioch, an early center of Christianity. Within two years, the Syrian-born Parisian art dealers, Kouchakji Frères, had acquired it, and soon sent it to their brother in

New York for safekeeping because of the outbreak of the First World War. (We remember that Dr. Eisen had moved to New York in 1915 and made the acquaintance of Fahim Kouchakji.) In 1916 Dr. Eisen published his study, "Preliminary Report on the Great Chalice of Antioch Containing the Earliest Portraits of Christ and the Apostles," in the *American Journal of Archaeology*. As the title implied, he made great claims for the Chalice, and dated it to the 1st century A.D. Such an astonishing discovery did not go unnoticed for long. Eisen published two more articles in 1917 amplifying and confirming his original study.

Then, in 1923, his research culminated in the sumptuous, two-volume leather-bound set published by Kouchakji Frères, *The Great Chalice of Antioch, on which are depicted in Sculpture the earliest known Portraits of Christ, Apostles, and Evangelists*. This deluxe folio edition was limited to 1000 copies, and sold for \$150. (Today, the book is bringing several thousands of dollars on the marketplace.) More affordable is the 1933 Fahim Kouchakji one-volume publication of *The Great Chalice of Antioch*, with a fine Introduction essay on Gustav Eisen by A.T. Olmstead. The 22-page book is 10½" x 13½", cloth covered, with a breath-taking colored frontispiece of the Chalice and thirty-seven b/w plates of illustration.



From EISEN'S *Great Chalice of Antioch*, 2nd ed., 1933

[EDITOR NOTE: We shall briefly relate here only a fraction of Gustav Eisen's non-wine and -grape related activities. His Maya explorations in Guatemala and his lifelong endeavors to save the lands of the *Sequoia gigantea*, among other noted efforts—all of profound historical importance—are brilliantly covered in Allan's detailed manuscript, where readers, interested in these fascinating aspects of Eisen's achievements, are earnestly directed.]

Scientific Treks, Yosemite, Giant Sequoias

When young Gustav Eisen arrived in San Francisco in October 1873, he spent several weeks there before checking in with his brother Francis in Fresno for the month of November and most of December, when he returned to San Francisco. For the remainder of the winter of 1873–74, he made biological surveys on Santa Catalina Island, then owned by the wealthy philanthropist James Lick, with whom Gustav had had personal contact. Gustav wrote:

I returned to San Francisco in the end of December, and spent the rest of the winter on Catalina Island, which James Lick intended to give to the California Academy of Sciences, and which Professor Davidson and Dr. Harkness requested me to explore and report upon. I occupied the winter by exploring the waters along the island collecting specimens for Louis Agassiz in Harvard Univ. and Sven Loven in the Stockholm Academy. Professor Agassiz had invited me to become a member of his staff in Cambridge to begin 1885 [*sic*]. The arrangement was that during the second winter I should collect for him, and that the first collection should go to Loven, who was one of the famous zoologists like Agassiz.

I returned from Catalina Island in the end of April 1874. I reported most favorably upon the value of the Island and advocated its acceptance, but Davidson and Harkness had in the meantime become bitter enemies and the result was that the Academy declined to accept the island (Gustav Eisen, *Explorations...*, pp.1-2).

Obviously, Gustav Eisen considered the rejection a great loss for the California Academy of Sciences, in retrospect, a great understatement; but then, the Academy has never been in the business of business.

Immediately on returning to San Francisco, Gustav found his friend from Germany, Dr. Friedrich Ratzel, with whom Gustav had corresponded on scientific questions. Both Gustav and Friedrich had previously read accounts of "The Yosemite" in *Nova Genera ac Species Plantarum...* by Stefan Endlicher (Austrian botanist who had named the *Sequoia gigantea*), and had planned to join for an extended trek. (Their Yosemite adventure was written about extensively in 1874–75. See Bibliography for entries by both Ratzel and Eisen.)

Around the first of June, the two scientists took the

Southern Pacific train for Merced, where they then traveled by stage to Coulterville, north of Mariposa. Striking out on foot for Yosemite Valley, they wandered for three days "...up and down creeks and hills without seeing a soul and without a thing to eat, except a few blueberries." Finding a rough trail, they came to "Bower's Cave" where they stayed for a day recuperating, finally coming to Yosemite Valley.

Their Yosemite trek, though not historic or pioneering, was made at a time when human traffic to Yosemite was still not common. Both men were experienced mountaineers from their European days, and both, as naturalists, were aware of what trials they faced, though they were obviously innocent of the grand scale of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada.

In Yosemite Valley, "...we ascended all the main points, made the circuit of the valley and after a week engaged a man with saddle horses and proceeded to the big Tuolumne Meadows and thence to Mount Dana and also an attempt at Mount Lyell. Then through Bloody Canyon down to Mono Lake" (Eisen, *Explorations...*, pp.2-3).

Even before reaching Yosemite Valley, the two trekkers may have passed through the Tuolumne Grove of Sequoia. Since sketching trees, geological formations, plants and animals was a major objective for both men, we can only imagine their reactions to visiting the Sequoia groves for the first time. Later in the trip, they did visit the Mariposa Grove at the southern extreme of Yosemite.

While near Mono Lake, they explored forty volcanic craters, marveling at the evidence of recent volcanic activity. On Mount Dana and Mount Lyell, both men having been educated in glaciology, they studied the glaciers. They returned to Yosemite Valley in August, walking back to Merced, then by train back to San Francisco.

When Louis Agassiz died in 1873, ending Gustav's prospects for work at Harvard, Gustav returned to the Fresno Ranch. Francis, needing to spend more time in San Francisco, persuaded Gustav to remain on the ranch as manager, as we have said, staying from 1874 to at least 1880, retaining contact sporadically until about 1887. From 1874 to 1880, Eisen writes, he made about five trips to the Sierra Nevada every year, sometimes for a week or more. These were not casual junkets:

Four or more of the summer trips lasted from a few days to a week, but the first of August or sometimes July 15th, I made a trip lasting two or three weeks. Most of these trips were made in the company of Frank Dusy, the sheep owner [said to have herded as many as 74,000 sheep that needed extensive summer pasturage found in the Sierra Nevada]..." (Eisen, *Explorations...*, pp. 4-5).

Among Gustav's numerous and varied friends Frank Dusy (1836–1898) looms large as an explorer of the Sierra Nevada, a true pioneer of the ethereal

region of the Sequoia especially. Dusy has been called the first "white man" to have explored extensively on the upper North Fork of the Kings River. Also, he discovered the spectacularly wild Tehipite Valley, which he photographed—a true labor of love, requiring hauling heavy cameras and related equipment on your back, or the backs of pack animals.

From the perspective of this account, it is important to bear in mind that Frank Dusy, beyond having a strong friendship with Gustav Eisen, was a true guide and geographical guru to him. From his early arrival and later, Gustav depended upon Dusy for his firsthand and extensive knowledge of the bewildering high country of the unexplored Sierra Nevada range, a daunting challenge to this day for the novice. Gustav, for all of his reading, education, energetic and enthusiastic dedication to pioneering exploration, was a beginner when faced with all the unknowns of the primitive, overwhelming wildness of what Gustav accurately denominated as "Nevada."

Without Dusy's leadership into the wilderness, the career of Gustav Eisen would have been entirely different. Because of Dusy, Gustav became independent in the Sierra Nevada. Little did each man contemplate at the time that Gustav's ashes would eventually be placed in the Sequoia National Park on the mountain named for him, a park whose founding Gustav had so much to do with. (For a detailed biography of Dusy, see "Frank Dusy," by J. Randall McFarland, quoted in full in Clough, *History of Fresno County: The Pioneer Years*, pp. 179-181.)

With Dr. Chester Rowell, Gustav made a trip, including Dusy, to "The Bear Creek Big Tree Grove," in 1875 (or 1876) when he and Rowell named several of the largest trees: General Grant, General Sherman, Robert E. Lee; also Louis Agassiz, Joseph LeConte, Asa Gray, Spencer F. Baird, "...all eastern friends of mine." On a later trip, Gustav fastened shingles on each tree with signs he had painted. This grove, smaller than many, contained some of the finest specimens.

From his writings, we know that Gustav Eisen became personally and intimately acquainted with many groves of Sequoia, while Clough notes the extent of some of his early travels in the Sierra:

Embarking from Simpson's Meadow [Dusy's camp] the following year [1878] Dusy and Prof. Gustav Eisen... visited Tehipite Valley and roamed the area, crossing the Kings River sixteen times over a two-and-a-half day span. An ardent Sierra devotee, Eisen visited the southern Palisade range the same year. Four years earlier [1874] he had explored the McKinley Grove of Big Trees. The affection he developed for the Sequoias proved important in later years, when he was attached to the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco and asked to testify before a congressional committee about redwood conservation. There was talk of throwing

all the big tree ranges from Yosemite to Tulare County open to lumbering, but Eisen's subdued, persuasive testimony prompted the legislators to act otherwise (Clough, *Pioneer Years*, pp. 193-194).

The California Academy of Sciences: 1874-1940

Gustav Eisen, once he had sized up the biological opportunities in California shortly after his arrival, acted at once to seek membership in the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, a move that was natural to him, given the tradition of membership in the Swedish Academy of Sciences. Both organizations provided a meaningful, practical affiliation for otherwise unattached scientists who qualified for membership, which was definitely not automatically awarded on application. The California Academy had been founded in 1853, only three years after California was granted statehood. Its mission was to undertake "a thorough systematic survey of every portion of the State and the collection of a cabinet of her rare and rich productions."

Eisen lived in more than one parallel universe of activity. In one, he was a horticulturist and a farmer in Fresno, with other business interests in the Central Valley—Fresno, Porterville, Tulare, Delano; in a second universe, he was a constant explorer in the Sierra Nevada, Santa Catalina Island, Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras; the third career was his professional relationship with the California Academy of Sciences between 1874 and 1898, and informally, until his death in 1940. While at the CAS, Gustav Eisen was recognized for his valuable work by a succession of appointments spanning almost ten years: Member, Publications Committee, 1893; Curator of Archaeology, Ethnology, and Lower Animals, 1893 and 1894; Curator of Biology, 1895, 1896, 1898; Curator of Invertebrates, 1897; Curator of Marine Invertebrates, 1899. (This last appointment date may be in error, because Dr. Eisen and Dr. Harkness, then President of the Academy, were both forced out of the CAS in 1898.) In 1938, Gustav Eisen was made an Honorary Life Member of the California Academy of Sciences, at the time when he was the oldest living member. His old friend Frank MacFarland was president of the CAS at the time of the award, made in recognition, not only of his longevity, but also for Gustav Eisen's signal contributions of his scientific works (and explorations) in earlier, pre-20th century days for nearly twenty-five years prior to his separation from the Academy in 1898. Was the recognition also given for his work in fostering the federal protection of the Sequoia forests and the establishment of Sequoia National Park?

From 1888-1889, as a culmination of his sixteen-year study of the Sequoia and the Sierra Nevada—the Big Tree groves, their biotic milieu, their growth patterns, their individual differences, measurements,

ages, &c, not to neglect his expert observations on the geology of the region—Gustav Eisen actively lectured before the Academy respecting the real threats to the destruction of the *Sequoia gigantea*. Gustav Eisen is not given to strong or emotive language in his writings, and is said to have been soft-spoken and gentle in oral delivery; but in the case of his witnessing the uncontrolled decimation of entire groves of Sequoia by loggers and lumbermen intent on making “fence posts and apple boxes” out of priceless monarchs of the forest, he used “hate” to describe his revulsion toward the logging operations he saw firsthand...

© Allan Shields, February, 2005

EDITOR CLOSING NOTE: In the final three chapters of Allan Shield’s manuscript, he gives a careful, in-depth examination and evaluation of the historical records surrounding the establishment of Sequoia National Park—including double-dealing by Crocker and David Starr Jordan and the banishment of Gustav Eisen and Dr. Harkness from the Academy, among other intriguing issues. Allan sets the scene in his introduction to this segment: “The records of the discovery, establishment, and enlargement of Sequoia National Park...are an historian’s minefield. One-hundred-fifteen years afterwards, unsettled, undocumented contentions can still provoke heated discussions. Add, too, that the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire destroyed many key documents. Gustav lost virtually all of his files and personal records, records that, tragically, contained the primary documents he later needed when he was writing about events leading up to the establishment of the Sequoia National Park.... and you have mystery within mystery.”

A final tribute to the achievements of Gustav Eisen excerpted from this historical survey is from a letter written by the Superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, shortly after Eisen’s death:

“During the summer of 1890, Gustav Eisen made an investigation of the sequoia forests for the Porterville Land and Cattle Co. At this time, the destruction of some of the groves was in full swing, and Eisen was so deeply affected that he left immediately for San Francisco. It was his opinion ‘that this vandalism might be halted, not by one man single-handed, but supposing I could enlist the aid of the California Academy of Sciences? Maybe this association of the most intellectual and also patriotic element in the State might be successful.’ ... There can be no doubt that the activities of the Academy, as directed by Dr. Eisen, were a powerful factor in the fight to preserve the sequoias.”

Professor Shields concludes with a list of those whose names ought to be included “among the pioneer founders of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National

Parks. ... These worthy men were important contributors to the original establishment, were instruments of policy decisions, were persistent in their collective efforts to set aside and to preserve some of the greatest, ‘grand and sublime’ wilderness the world of men can continue to know.”

Acknowledgments

Two resource persons, especially, have provided many documents and timely assistance: Michele Welck, Academy Archivist, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, and Ward Eldredge, Museum Technician, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Both of their institutions hold important files and materials on Gustav Eisen, the California Academy of Sciences archive being especially broad. Though we have never actually met in person, unless one counts telephone and e-mail as “in person,” I feel Michele and Ward are two new friends I greatly value.

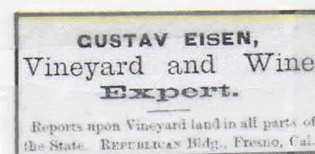
Other generous help came from Tammy Jordan, Tulare County Library, Special Collections; Jean Coffee, Library Assistant, Sanoian Special Collections, Madden Library, California State University, Fresno, whose person I do know well from many past occasions when her long service with obscure references has saved me from failure; Jan Bird, Interlibrary Loans, Madden Library; Linda Eade and Jim Snyder, Yosemite Research Library (Jim, newly retired Yosemite NP Historian is already missed); and the rich Map Library, Madden Library.

In the Fresno Free Library, California History Section, William Secrest, seasoned Fresno historian, was especially helpful on local Fresno history. He urged me to write a biography, but it wasn’t in me. Sorry, Bill.

Finally, Bernice Shields, my “seeing eye wife” of over six decades made endless trips to libraries and copy services. We agree that all library book shelves should be at our eye level. I thank her, too, for editorial assistance and her invariably solid judgment.

My sincere gratitude to all of these good people knows no bounds. The understanding of Gustav Eisen and his singular odyssey has been greatly enhanced collectively by everyone mentioned.

ADDENDUM: For this special WTQ adaptation, and the opportunity to bring this history to the attention of fellow Tendrils, I extend my sincerest thanks to our editor Gail Unzelman.



S.F. Merchant, Oct.26, 1883

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