

fiat lux

FALL 2006 • NO. 1

"The Way We Camped"

BANCROFT ARCHIVES MINED FOR LIGHT-HEARTED HISTORY

IT STARTS HERE.

Berkeley's excellence is founded on its library. Opened in 1868 with one thousand books, the University Library now holds over ten million volumes, and ranks as one of the world's great research collections. Join us in supporting the growth and preservation of this stellar library.

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"Overflow crowd of campers in Stoneman Meadow," with Half Dome in the background. From a 1915 manuscript on the Environmental Effects of Tourism at Yosemite National Park.

Past Tents: The Way We Camped was inspired first by a photograph (see p. 7) of John and Annie Bidwell posing outside their striped tent in the Sierra Nevada in 1898, a faded cabinet card in the Bancroft Library Portrait Collection. I used that photograph to illustrate a bear story told by John Bidwell in *Bear in Mind: The California Grizzly* (Heyday Books, 2003), but it had continued to intrigue me.

The image portrayed a very different campsite than the one I'd shared with my family as a child in the hills east of Fresno, in an old Army surplus tent, and different again from our modern freeze-dried food packs, S'Mores, and lightweight fleece. With the marvelous, ever-surprising resources of the Library at my fingertips,

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University Librarian's Letter

MUCKRAKING BERKELEY, BUT NOT THE LIBRARY



At a time when horse trails stretched across the Berkeley campus and riders could shoot quail in the oak groves, students were already seeing the wider world through the Library. One of those quail hunting students, Lincoln Steffens, found this to be true in the 1880s and made an appreciative note about librarians in his best-selling *Autobiography* of 1931.

"Appreciative" is not a word that fits very much of Steffens' work. Consider his recollection of his home town: "Sacramento is protected from high water in the rivers by levees which send the overflow off to flood other counties." Like his fellow Cal alum and Sacramento native, Joan Didion, Steffens had a dissector's eye. Steffens recalled that most of his one hundred Berkeley classmates "wanted to be told not only what they had to learn, but what they had to want to learn." With the twist of the knife that made his byline famous, he said that Berkeley was an Athens . . . compared to Yale.

One of Steffens' few warm notes on educators was for a librarian in Bacon Hall, a gingerbread structure that housed both books and art, just above the site that became the Campanile. Reacting against the dry lectures and recitation in classes, Steffens heard a history professor's mumbled words that one might "dig deeper" in that Library. In Bacon Hall he found help for the rest of that day and learned, "The historians did not know!" He saw that the canned lessons that powered a Berkeley education in the 1880s could be replaced by discovery and ongoing debate. Nothing that Steffens learned at Berkeley seemed more important to him.

Steffens benefited from one of the earliest private-public partnerships to help the University of California, a \$25,000 gift from Henry D. Bacon, given on condition that it be matched by the Legislature. (The total sum is about one million in today's dollars.) By Steffens' freshman year of 1885, Bacon Hall had already survived its first earthquake. "Oceans of room for books and readers," its excited librarian declared, was now ready.

Bacon Hall, too small an ocean, was replaced by Doe Memorial Library early in the next century, and in 1961 it disappeared altogether. The curiosity that Steffens nurtured in Cal's library led him on to muckraking studies of American cities and interviews read around the world with Theodore Roosevelt, William Randolph Hearst, Woodrow Wilson, Vladimir Lenin, and Benito Mussolini. His class of 1889 was rowdy ("we liked to steal," he recalled), bull-headed, and the toughest ever on UC Presidents: four of them came and went as Steffens earned his degree. President Benjamin Ide Wheeler made of Steffens a Prodigal Son, complimenting his writing and urging the famous muckraker to return to spark the curiosity of Cal students. Maintaining libraries so that they continue to open minds remains the standard we set for ourselves in 2006.

Thomas C. Leonard
Kenneth and Dorothy Hill University Librarian

Thomas C. Leonard has written the foreword to the new edition of *The Autobiography of Lincoln Steffens* (Heyday Books, 2005). Photos of Bacon Library can be viewed in the new "Our History" section at www.lib.berkeley.edu/give/

Seventy-Five Years in the Berkeley Library

CHARLES JACKSON AND JOYCE FORD RETIRE

This summer, the Library said goodbye to two stalwart employees: Joyce Ford retired after thirty-seven years running the privileges desk in Doe's circulation area, and Charles Jackson after thirty-eight years managing copy services. Together they accrued seventy-five years of service, decades which have witnessed the landmark changes in operations that make Berkeley's Library what we know today.

In 1969, when Joyce Ford was hired in the circulation department, everything was done manually, resulting in massive amounts of paperwork and slow service by today's standards. The automation which has transformed every aspect of library operations was implemented in the library during Ford's service here.

As a result, she has seen tremendously increased efficiency and speed. "It used to take a long, long time before a student would get into the database. Now it's a lot quicker. There aren't any more long lines at the privileges desk!"

Although Ford's role required her to strictly enforce policy regarding library privileges, she was also known for her personal generosity to "starving students" making their way through college with limited funding.

While Ford was presiding over the privileges desk at Doe Memorial Library's circulation area, Jackson was building an equally long tenure as manager of the Copy Services shop. As University Librarian Thomas Leonard points out, Jackson's career has spanned the history of printing and copying at the library, including several transformations of the technology.

With the ongoing rise in digital access and copies, Jackson predicts that standard copy machines will become a thing of the past in the next decade or so. Whether they disappear entirely or not, the trend is towards fewer machines. Between the 1980s and today, the



Charles Jackson, Imani Abalos, and Joyce Ford. Abalos has been here for 37 years, and currently serves as head of reference services and interim head of circulation services, in Doe/Moffitt.

number of public copiers has declined by half, in keeping with the fall in copier use because of digitization and the internet.

Prepared for retirement, Jackson will be busy with numerous activities, from caring for his gardens (which includes fifty kinds of roses), and taking part in the life of his extended family, to traveling in his mobile home and fishing.

Over their seventy-five years of service, Jackson and Ford have assisted tens of thousands of students, faculty, and visitors to the University Library. On behalf of all of them, and of the future users who will benefit from the legacy of skillful service and good will they leave behind, we express our deep gratitude and appreciation to Charles Jackson and Joyce Ford. 🌿

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Outstanding Student Research Earns Library Prize

UNDERGRADS CITE "LEARNING HOW TO LEARN" AS A REWARD OF LIBRARY RESEARCH



Plowing salt at Salton, from Photographs of the Southern Pacific Route, 1894
(Bancroft Library)

With over ten million books and countless other resources distributed among several dozen campus libraries, the first question confronting a Berkeley undergraduate is how not to get lost. The winners of the 2006 Library Prize for Undergraduate Research found creative ways to use the library's rich collections in researching outstanding papers that explore topics ranging from French Morocco to waterpipe smoking, Ben Jonson's punctuation, and the "Kitchen Debate" between Nixon and Krushchev. It's not surprising that they sum up their library experience as "learning how to learn," and seeing the value of a "flexible, interdisciplinary approach."

For one prize winner, freshman Breeanna Fujio, the research project even helped her see the stately University Library in the guise of a magician, pulling the research equivalents of rabbits and silk sashes out of unexpected pockets. "There really is a certain magic," she says. "You think you know where to look, but you're repeatedly surprised."

Fujio's research on the Salton Sea is a story of serendipitous discoveries. Written for a class taught at the Bancroft Library by Professor James Casey and Bancroft staff Peter Hanff and David Farrell, her paper explores the accidental early twentieth century transformation of California's Salton Basin into the Salton Sea, an inland saline lake. The Salton Sea is the largest lake in CA, covering about 375 square miles. It was created in 1905, when heavy rainfall and snowmelt caused the Colorado River to swell and breach a dike.

As Fujio began her research, "Pictures were the first magic I discovered. My initial strategy was to search for 'Salton Sea' on Pathfinder, which brought up the Giffen Collection of photographs (dated 1905). I found them stunning in the clichéd 'window through time' sort of way. I then went to the internet to search for some general information on the Salton Sea from 1900, which led me to a great discovery: these exact pictures were included in an on-line copy of *The Periscope* written by a woman named Pat Laflin. I was amazed to learn that she had in fact conducted the majority of her research at the Bancroft Library and had seen the same pictures I had so recently discovered."

Laflin, herself a Berkeley alum, is a historian who had previously visited Fujio's high school history class. Fujio contacted her through her history teacher, and they met on spring break. Together they visited the Coachella Valley Historical Society, near Fujio's hometown, to view archives on the Salton Sea and to discuss their research.

Fujio's explorations took her to less well-known libraries on the Berkeley campus, including the Water Resources Center Archives, one of Berkeley's eleven affiliated libraries. There, she examined materials such as land reclamation maps and early letters from engineers studying the site. She also used books available through the Online Archive of California, and requested

publications from the Northern Regional Library Facility in Richmond, which is shared by the University's Berkeley, Davis, Merced, San Francisco, and Santa Cruz campuses.

One payoff of the project for Fujio is no longer feeling intimidated by the Bancroft Library and its vast special collections. She is now planning to continue using its materials for her work next year in a course on the history of California, possibly focusing on the Salton Sea's era as a tourist destination in the 1920-50s. A history major, Fujio also hopes to study later on with Leon Litwack, Cal's Pulitzer-Prize winning historian.

The Library Prize brings to light a cross-section of the myriad research projects that are shaped and fueled every day by the Library's rich collections and its expert staff. Librarian Deborah Sommer, coordinator of the 2006 prizes, notes that the learning process is one that draws on all campus resources. The prizes afford a "microcosm of university's learning community: faculty, students, and librarians are all together, learning with and from each other."

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

Join more than 6,000 other friends, book lovers, alumni and faculty who recognize that the influence of a great research library extends beyond the university it serves to the many communities of which it is a part.

The Library adds an astounding amount of printed and electronic resources each year, including rare and unique materials. In order to continue to acquire, organize, and make accessible new information, the Library depends on the support of those who understand how important a world-class library is to the education of students who will one day shape our future. Your gift is crucial to the continued excellence of the University Library.

Library Associates receive complimentary copies of the quarterly newsletter as well as invitations to special occasions at the Library. For more information or to make a gift, contact us at (510) 642-9377 or give@library.berkeley.edu. Or visit our website at www.lib.berkeley.edu/give/



Freshman prize winner Breeanna Fujio receiving her award from Associate University Librarian Isabel Stirling.

The work of other prize winners demonstrates the range and high quality of research done by Berkeley's adventurous undergraduates.

◆ Suzan Sabyl Cohen, a pre-law student, wrote her paper during her Berkeley Washington Program. She took advantage of remote access to UC's libraries, locating the Canadian court cases she needed in electronic databases, and also used the Library of Congress and the Woodrow Wilson Center. Her winning paper, on Canadian indigenous claims, was her first legal research paper.

◆ Wael El-Nachef's paper, his senior honors thesis, is on carbon monoxide exposures in waterpipe smoking. His professor, S. Katharine Hammond, plans to seek its publication in a peer-reviewed journal. El-Nachef describes his research locating scientific articles using library databases as a process of "learning how to learn."

◆ Camille Pannu's paper, her senior honors thesis, examines the experiences of ethnic minority communities in Britain as a cause of declining participation in anti-racist non-governmental organizations. She won funding for a research trip to London where she worked

"The library is the magician. You think you know where to look, but you're repeatedly surprised."

continued on page 11



Welcome to the inaugural issue of our redesigned and renamed newsletter! *Fiat Lux* will offer you stories on diverse people, projects, events, and scholarship on campus. We will report on the history and people that formed the Library, as well as our rare and specialized collections and new acquisitions. We will aim to offer a window onto the academic vitality at Berkeley, the world's greatest public research university.

Our new name, *Fiat Lux*, succeeds *Bene Legere*, the newsletter's name since the first issue in 1984. *Fiat Lux*, from Genesis 1:3, is the motto of the University of California. It was added by President Wheeler to the 1910 design of Sather Gate by John Galen Howard. On the university seal, "Let there be light" is paired with an open book and the five-pointed university star, whose emanating rays of light represent the discovery and sharing of knowledge—apt symbols for the Library's mission.

We invite your comments on our new name and redesigned newsletter. Please contact us with your feedback at give@library.berkeley.edu, or 510/643-4715. Thank you for your support!

Past Tents, continued from page 1

I set off to pursue the story of recreational camping in the West. Beginning in 1851 with a charming story by Eliza Farnham—the earliest recounting of camping for fun that I found—and progressing into the 20th century, I traced the transition of wilderness from a place of dreadful, fearful travail to a peaceful, bucolic destination for vacationers.

California seemed a perfect place for camping to flourish as a pastime. The geography of the state meant that rustic campsites were never far from urban areas, and the climate made getting out of town possible year round. The West was also the home of John Muir and the nascent environmental movement in the 1890s, which popularized going to the hills to experience pristine beauty and physical and mental healthfulness.

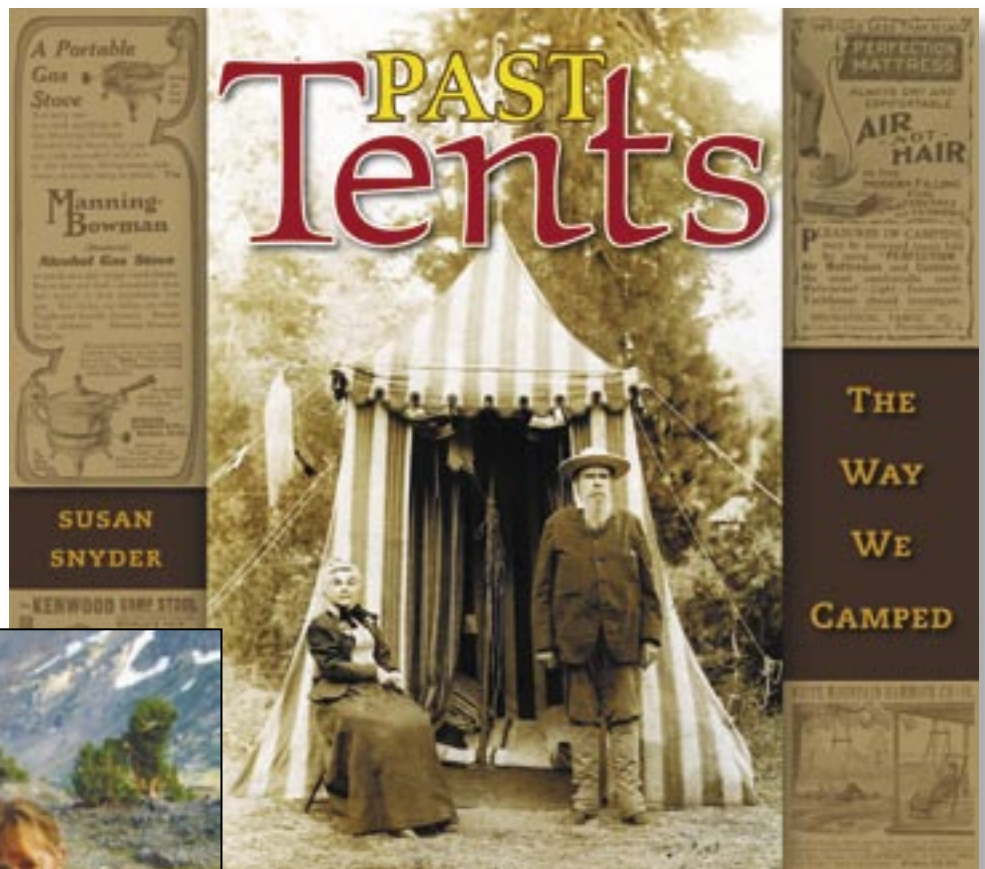
The excellent catalog records for the Library's millions of books, manuscripts,

and visual materials made it possible for me to make lengthy lists of things related to camping that I needed to see, but serendipity played a part as well. While answering patron reference questions or unloading the daily deliveries from storage, I happened upon things related to camping that I might never have seen otherwise. Library coworkers found camping gems in the course of their own work, and excitedly and generously showed them to me.

As the research for the book progressed, the material that had been gathered settled into several light-hearted themes—traveling to the camp place, food and gear, hardships and rotten luck, individual style, and the camaraderie of the camp. The next step was to match the many old photographs from family snapshot collections and Sierra Club albums with excerpts of text from various books and manuscripts. As it had been with *Bear in Mind*,

this part of the process was both a challenge and a delight.

Though I lived with the drafts of *Past Tents* for a year and a half, it's always a thrill when one's project begins to take on the shape and feel of a real book. My thanks go to Heyday Books, the always astonishing collections of the Library — and my job which puts me right in the middle of them all—for bringing me finally to the end of the trail. 🌲



Bancroft's Susan Snyder, shown here in the Sierra Nevada's Hoover Wilderness, published *Past Tents* this fall.
Photo by Richard Neidhardt.

Susan Snyder, head of Public Services at the Bancroft Library, grew up in the valleys and foothills along California's Highway 99. She worked as a teacher, illustrator, artist, and Japanese language interpreter before coming to the Bancroft, where she has spent thirteen years exploring the library's collections. She edited the award-winning *Bear in Mind: The California Grizzly* (Heyday Books, 2003).

Past Tents is published by Heyday Books, a nonprofit Berkeley publisher specializing in the culture and history of California. Through collaborative publishing with Heyday, the Bancroft Library is able to educate and enthrall a wider audience with its diverse collections. This fall, *Testimonios: Early California through the Eyes of Women, 1815–1848*, translated by Rose Marie Beebe and Robert M. Senkewicz, is also being published by Heyday in collaboration with the Bancroft Library. Visit your local bookstore or order through www.heydaybooks.com.

"Starting out for a day's tramp in the woods, he would ask whether we wanted to take a 'reg'lar walk, or a random scoot,'—the latter being a plunge into the pathless forest. And when the way became altogether inscrutable, — 'Waal, this is a reg'lar random scoot of a rigmarole.'"

Charles Dudley Warner on his Adirondack guide, from "In the Wilderness," *Atlantic Monthly*, June, 1878

Environmental Design Library

DISTINCTIVE, WELCOMING LIBRARY SERVES DIVERSE COMMUNITY



In memory of his late wife, Clarice Weisbach, alumnus and former faculty member Gerald Weisbach funded a beautiful lounge area. It looks out on a small courtyard with plantings designed by students in the Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Department.

Just like the College it supports, the Environmental Design Library is an unusual amalgamation. When it was formed in 1959, the College of Environmental Design combined separate departments of architecture, landscape architecture, decorative arts and design, and city and regional planning into what became the first to call itself a College of Environmental Design.

The Library's interdisciplinary collections (currently 208,000 volumes) and services

represent the widely varying and often opposing approaches to teaching, learning, and research of its diverse users—from undergraduates to doctoral and post-doc students, from historians to professional practitioners, from social scientists to scientists.

The typical undergraduate design student, visually-oriented and library-shy, usually prefers browsing to more systematic research strategies. Most are unfamiliar with traditional library research methods, and are often intimidated by computer databases and electronic resources.

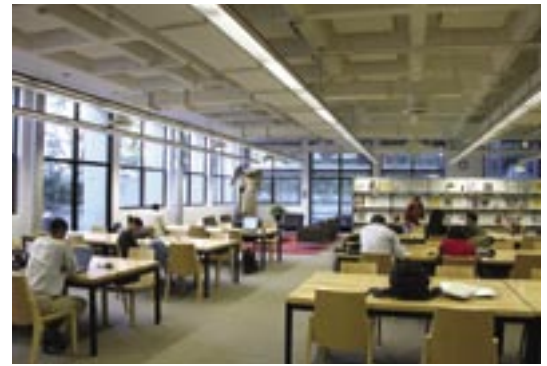
In contrast are city and regional planning graduate students, usually older and more information-savvy, who are seasoned social science researchers. Yet another category of users are graduate students in Architecture's building science program, who are doing scientific and technical research in specialized labs on thermal comfort or 3-D modeling.

This explains why the Environmental Design Library's reference collection includes resources on Egyptian pyramids, climate data, solar energy, trees and plants, structural design, mechanical engineering, the *Encyclopedia of the Third World*, environmental impact reports, site planning standards, and building and zoning codes.

Staff at the reference desk must be well versed in these disciplines, as well as experts in using dozens of specialized databases. They must also be flexible enough to switch gears instantly from one request for assistance ("Where can I find plans and details of the Philosophers' Garden in Japan?" or "I need information on designing healing gardens") to the next ("I need a definition and examples of community benefits agreements for some recent redevelopment projects in the Bay Area,") or subsequent query ("I'm looking for information on decision-making processes in water resources development.")

Each year, librarians in the Environmental Design Library offer 40-50 instructional sessions, teaching students how to research topics that range from “Pipes and Ducts in Architecture,” to “Housing in Developing Countries,” “Transportation and Land Use Planning,” and more traditional subjects, such as “History of Landscape Architecture.” In conjunction with their instruction, staff have created a wide range of helpful guides and mounted them on their website, which is freely available to anyone.

At a time when many libraries are seeing a reduced number of bodies, the Environmental Design Library has seen an increase, thanks to a recent remodeling that transformed the library into a visually pleasing communal environment reflecting its role as the heart and showcase of the College.



Quiet study spaces, well-lit window carrels, and group seating create a comfortable, airy and welcoming environment. Colorful sculptures by lecturer Joe Slusky add a sense of whimsy, and bright Tibetan rugs define two lounge-type study areas.

An upcoming enhancement has been generously funded by Professor Raymond Lifchez and his late wife, Judith Stronach: large state-of-the-art exhibition cases that will showcase treasures from the rare book collection as well as original drawings and photographs from the Environmental Design Archives.

As Professor Paul Groth says, “In the course of 30 years of research I’ve worked in many libraries across America—some of them with longer histories, larger annual budgets, and fatter endowments. However, within my experience, the ED Library at Berkeley offers the nation’s most user-friendly, most professionally staffed, and best-designed work space for scholars of built environment history and the several present-day realms of professional design.” 🌿

Quiet study spaces, well-lit window carrels, and group seating create a comfortable, airy and welcoming environment.

Fiat Lux, or Let there be light, is the motto of the University of California.

The *Fiat Lux* newsletter of the Library at the University of California, Berkeley, is published quarterly by the Library Development Office, University of California, Berkeley, Room 131 Doe Library, Berkeley CA 94720-6000. Telephone: (510) 642-9377. Email: give@library.berkeley.edu. Your feedback and suggestions are warmly invited.

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— Elizabeth Byrne, Head of ED Library

Alumni and Friends Gateway Launched

RENOVATED SITE GIVES EASY ACCESS TO LIBRARY OFFERINGS



New features are now available at the Alumni and Friends Gateway, the website of the Library Development Office. Visit www.lib.berkeley.edu/give to view over twenty fascinating online exhibits, on topics ranging from South Asian pioneers in California, the Emma Goldman papers, anthropology at Berkeley, and bioscience and biotechnology in history.

Other resources include displays of rare and beautiful maps from the Earth Sciences and Map Library, and online classes that discuss state-of-the-art search strategies for any interest, how Google thinks, and the invisible Web. (You'll also find a useful glossary of Web jargon, to help you remember what a spider and a cookie is when you're on the internet!)

The Gateway offers an illustrated history of the library; information about accessing the collections; and profiles of notable supporters. A new announcements page will keep you updated on the latest special acquisitions, fundraising successes, and recent events. Of course, the site still offers easy links to make a gift, donate books, contact staff, or request further information.

The Gateway will continue growing with new features and photos. Your comments and suggestions are warmly invited. We hope you enjoy the new site! 🌿

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in the British Library. Pannu describes how “the library has become my lab, an incubator for my ideas and a medium within which I have been able to shape my academic vision.”

◆ Andrew Strauss studied colonial schools in French Morocco in the 1920s as a lens for French assumptions about Islamic education. A Middle East Studies major, Strauss used thinkers like Foucault to begin developing “a geneology of education.” In order to understand Arabic pedagogy, Strauss made creative use of diverse sources, such as an Arabic historical novel he discovered in the Gardner Stacks. In the process, he learned “The most enriching conclusion can spring from the most unlikely of sources.”

◆ Andrina Tran, a freshman, studied the “Kitchen Debate” of Nixon and Krushchev at the opening of the American National Exhibition in Moscow in 1959. She discovered in the course of her research that “surprisingly, a deliberate strategy was often not as rewarding as allowing sources to guide the development of my own interpretation, eventually unfolding a story riddled with contradictions.”

Doe Library visitors can listen to Nixon and Krushchev spar in a recording of the famous 1959 “Kitchen Debate,” as part of an exhibit on Andrina Tran’s paper. The recording of the heated dialogue between the Soviet Premier and the American President is part of the collection of the Media Resources Center, whose director, Gary Handman, curated the exhibit. 1950’s advertising, magazine covers, and kitchen items, as well as descriptions of Tran’s research process, complete the exhibit’s evocation of the era. The display is located outside the Heyns Reading Room on the second floor.

◆ The three honorable mention winners, Dorothy Couchman, Toby Frankenstein, and Christine Russell, wrote papers on Ben Jonson’s punctuation, the Lebanese civil war, and a 1922 Ku Klux Klan raid in Inglewood, CA.

More information on the awards, past winners, and the professors and GSIs for whom the papers were written are at <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/researchprize/>. 🌿

Then & Now

A LIBRARY VIEW IN 1924 AND IN 2006



The lush Botanical Garden shown in this 1924 photo, with Doe Memorial Library in the background, was then about 35 years old. Home to several thousand species, the Botanical Garden was soon to be relocated to its present position above the main campus in Strawberry Canyon. Among the garden’s directors was longtime library friend Watson “Mac” Laetsch, professor of plant biology and vice chancellor emeritus. Laetsch directed the Botanical Garden from 1969 to 1973, and was instrumental in opening it to the public.

The Berkeley campus continues to be famous for its lofty trees and lush greenery. Outside Doe Library, flowering trees circle Memorial Glade, where students study, play frisbee and soak up sunshine on warm days.



Exhibits & Events



Will Alexander is reading on November 2 in the Morrison Library.

Image Illustration Vision View:

Hidden Treasures from the Fine Arts Collections

October 3 through January 2007

Bernice Layne Brown Gallery, Doe Library

This exhibition will include outstanding selections from the fine arts collections. Books, journals and archival resources will be featured from the Berkeley Art Museum as well as Berkeley libraries, including Art History/Classics, Bancroft, East Asian, and the Environmental Design Library.

Coming to Homecoming? Don't miss

"The Bancroft Collections:

A stroll through 2,000 years"

Friday October 6, from 2 to 3 pm

Room 202, South Hall

A faculty seminar presented by The Bancroft Library's Anthony Bliss, Curator of Rare Books and Literary Manuscripts. Bliss, the son and grandson of rare book librarians, claims his career choice is a little-known genetic defect. Register at <http://homecoming.berkeley.edu/seminars>

Lunch Poems

Under the Direction of Professor Robert Hass

Morrison Library in Doe Library

First Thursdays, 12:10 to 12:50 pm

October 5: Les Murray

Renowned Australian poet and critic Les Murray writes poetry steeped in the mores of a youth spent among the rural poor. The result is a vigorous, earthy, and political body of work wide-ranging in subject matter and outspoken in its moral indignation.

November 2: Will Alexander

Will Alexander has created a contemporary alchemy of surrealist vision in his own incandescent language. Coined the Cesaire of America, his poetry is full of imagistic and intelligent unraveling. A poet, novelist, essayist, and educator, Alexander lives in Los Angeles.

December 7: Jack Marshall

Born in Brooklyn to an Iraqi father and Syrian mother, Jack Marshall's work explores the cultures and cities that shaped his artistic awakening. He is the author of *Gorgeous Chaos: New and Selected Poems 1965-2001*; *Sesame* (1993); and *From Baghdad to Brooklyn* (2005). He resides in the Bay Area.

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