

THE LIBRARY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

fiat lux

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Michael Pollan on Feeding the Mind

LIBRARY AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT IN NEW BOOK, PROFESSOR SAYS

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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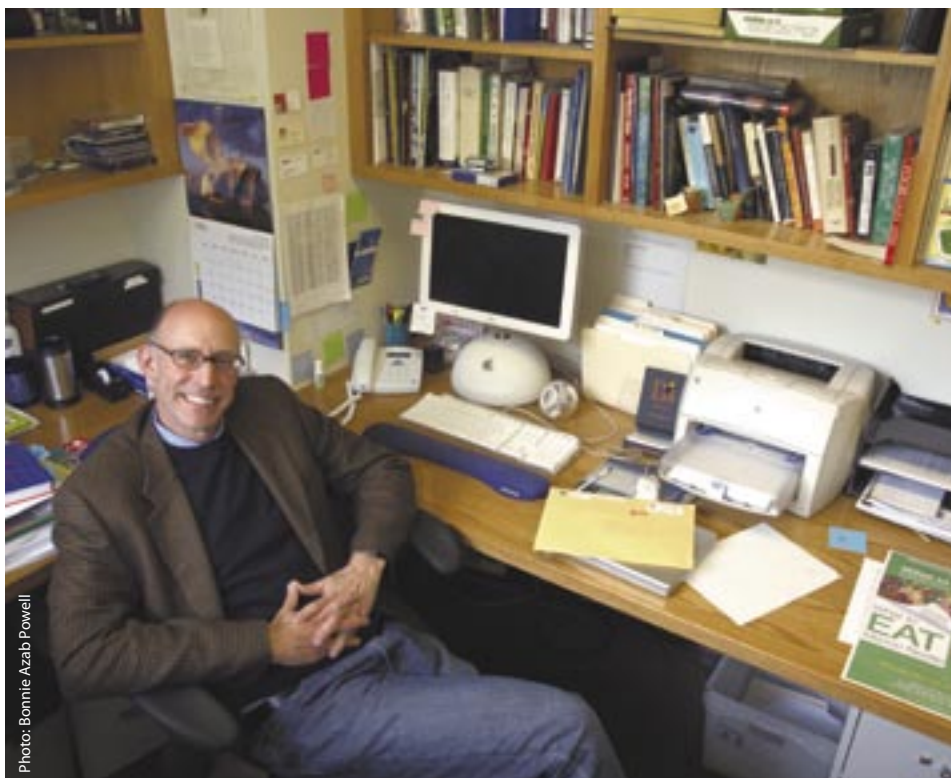


Photo: Bonnie Azab Powell

Michael Pollan, author of *The Omnivore's Dilemma* and *In Defense of Food*, in his office at UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism.

"I don't think this book could have been written without the UC Berkeley libraries," Michael Pollan says of his new work *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto* (2008). "Having all this information right here is incredible."

Because the new book challenges several themes of conventional nutritional science, Pollan needed authoritative backup — and this is where the University Library's electronic databases and other sources offered vital assistance. In order to assess how the Western food system and eating habits have been transformed over the past century, Pollan relied on the Library's vast array of government

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University Librarian's Letter

WHAT IS THE USE OF A BOOK? ASK ALICE.



the use of a book, thought Alice, without pictures or conversations?"

Lewis Carroll, the pious Charles Dodgson, was inclined to such a view as a devoted photographer and dramatist for his Oxford friends. Two centuries later, "pictures and conversations" are what Hollywood is still looking for in books. Scholars at the best research libraries are coming around to a similar view.

"Conversations" in the academy are not the snappy dialog of Alice matching wits with a hookah-smoking caterpillar. They are the links of text to sources. Berkeley readers want to hold a book in their hands, but they expect to be able to see it again on a screen where they can dig into it. In a work on Charles Dodgson himself, a serious reader wants to be able to "click through" to see every statement he made to explain how he devised Alice. Scholars want, on their screens, a seamless way to call up all of the arguments over Victorian society that the children's stories have stirred in English departments. And readers want to mark their discoveries and post them for other investigators to see online, looking forward to the insights that will follow.

Lewis Carroll does not tell us what Alice was reading when she nodded off and fell down the rabbit-hole into Wonderland. But he does tell us why Alice's reading was dull: "*What is*



Thanks to the internet, "pictures" add to the interrogation of a work in ways never available to earlier scholars. Readers today prompt themselves: "Call up every illustration used by Lewis Carroll since the first Wonderland book appeared in 1865. Look at the first silent films of Alice. Then the Disney version. What to think of the Rev. Dodgson's photographs of little girls? Look at these and then read the arguments they have inspired."

There is nothing new about the idea that stories that remain alive for every generation require scholarship to fully understand. In 1960, Martin Gilbert wrote *The Annotated Alice*, hurling footnotes at the topical references, biographical details, and sly jokes that Charles Dodgson used. But this was not a conversation, the inquiry stopped at the edge of the page and only an expedition into the stacks could take readers further.

Kevin Kelly, a founder of *Wired* magazine, has written a lyric to the day "when all the books in the world become a single liquid fabric of interconnected words and ideas." With UC contributing millions of its volumes in partnership with Google, Microsoft, and the Open Content Alliance, the great research collections will be "linked, manipulated, annotated, tagged, highlighted, bookmarked, translated, enlivened by other media and sewn together into the universal library."

To see the Berkeley Library helping to move scholarship in this direction may be disquieting. Just who are these *digerati* to lure us . . . down a hole? In browsing the Lewis Carroll literature I found unexpected white rabbits. The Library for Young People, published by Collier's in 1903, was a very popular edition of all of Alice's adventures. The General Editor of the series was Melvil Dewey (of the famous classification numbers). Prominent on his editorial board: UC President Benjamin Ide Wheeler. We can thank them for promoting the "pictures and conversations" that now enliven learning.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas C. Leonard".

Thomas C. Leonard

Kenneth and Dorothy Hill University Librarian

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transcripts, reports, scientific journals, and legal documents, among other material.

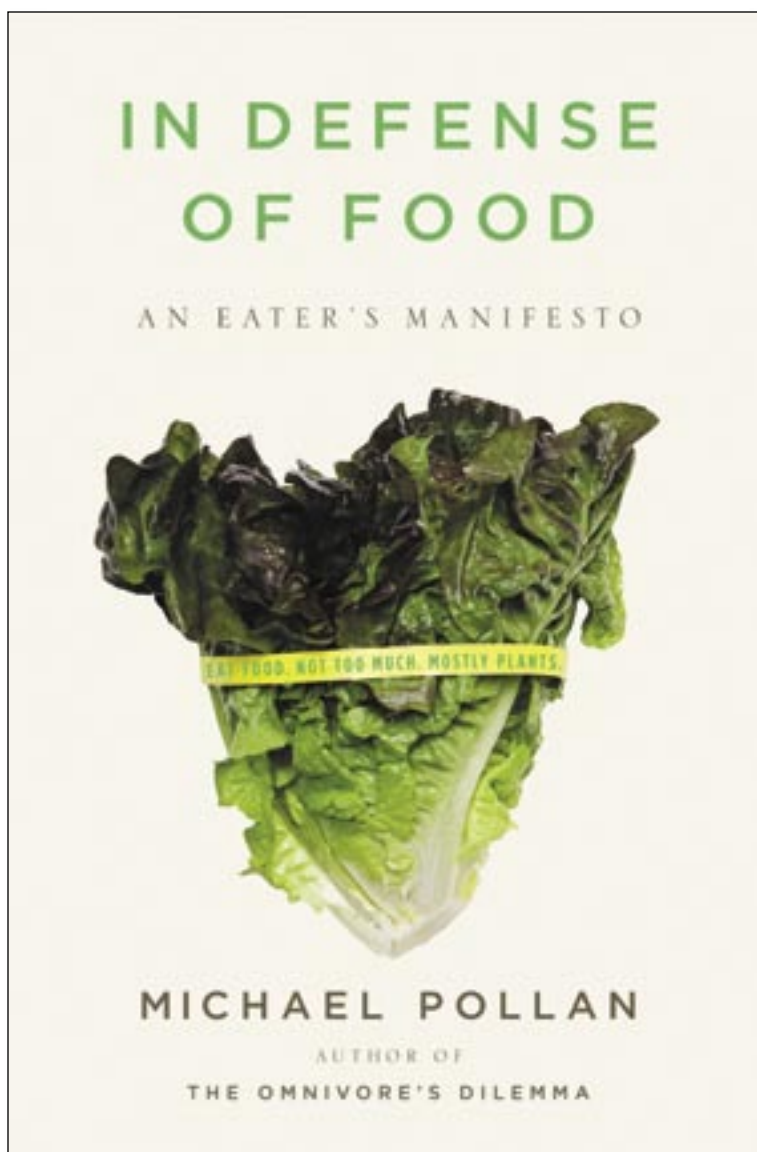
Holdings at the Law Library and at the Bioscience and Natural Resources Library were particularly helpful in Pollan's work. The collection of historical USDA nutrition pamphlets at the latter library helped reveal how the government's nutritional advice has changed over the last century.

The Omnivore's Dilemma (2006), Pollan's fourth book, confirmed his position as a pre-eminent spokesperson in the food-politics movement. Addressing intermingled topics of public health, animal welfare, the environment, labor and immigration, this movement has stimulated widespread public interest and debate. As with many Berkeley researchers, the breadth of Pollan's interests is mirrored by the interdisciplinary span of the Library's holdings.

The Library's book collections were a key ingredient for *In Defense of Food*, enabling Pollan to locate out-of-print and little-known primary sources including works by the medical professionals who traveled in the developing world from the 1890s through WWII. Albert Schweitzer, Weston Price, and others reported on the health problems that followed the arrival of Western foods, such as the onset of colon cancer following the introduction of white sugar.

Because Berkeley's Bioscience Library owned hard-to-find editions of books by these seminal thinkers about health and nutrition, Pollan was able to immerse himself in how they expressed their views firsthand. Reading their own accounts, rather than relying only on secondary sources, helped him understand their orientation.

Adrienne Davich (M.J. '07) worked as Pollan's research assistant for *In Defense of Food*, using the Berkeley libraries to track down a huge array of data and sources. She says the Berkeley Library system is "the most extraordinary I've ever had the pleasure of



using. It would be easy for a journalist today to rely on the Internet far too much, and the UCB libraries are a great reminder of how much the Internet *cannot* offer us and how much we really need libraries and books and documents you can hold in your hands."

At Berkeley, Michael Pollan serves as Director of the Knight Program in Science and Environmental Journalism. He has written four previous books: "Second Nature: A Gardener's Education," "A Place of My Own: The Education of an Amateur Builder," "The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World," and "The Omnivore's Dilemma." Pollan is contributing writer to the *New York Times Magazine*. 🌱

"I don't think this book could have been written without the UC Berkeley libraries."

— Michael Pollan

Adventures in Acquisitions

LIBRARIAN'S TRAVELS OFFER RARE OPPORTUNITIES, AS WELL AS HAZARDS

The life of a Berkeley librarian doesn't always match the peaceful images associated with reading rooms and scholarly research. An unusually dramatic acquisitions trip was conducted by Virginia Shih last year, in which she spent a sleepless night enduring the sound of machine-gun fire from nearby riots in East Timor. She also traveled to remote Vietnamese villages to view privately held manuscript collections dating back to the tenth century.



In a village in Thanh Hoa Province, Virginia Shih examines Han Nom manuscripts, some dating back as far as the tenth century. These manuscripts have been in the villager's family for generations, and though unreadable to him, are a point of great pride as an indicator of scholarly connections. The display shelf for the manuscripts, whose content is medical, Buddhist, and philosophical, is visible in the background.

As head of the Southeast Asian collections, Shih is occasionally called upon to visit the 11 countries represented in them. Along with her trips to East Timor and Vietnam, last year she traveled to Indonesia, Malaysia, and Taiwan. Together with conducting on-site acquisitions, she also presented at professional conferences; piloted a digitization project; and established links with peer institutions and academics in Southeast Asian studies.

At the National Library of Vietnam in Hanoi, Shih led a project to digitize 20th century Han Nom materials. (Han refers to the classical Chinese used in Vietnam; Nom is a script form of the Vietnamese language that makes use of Chinese characters.) The project, funded by the Vietnamese Nom Preservation Foundation, aims to digitize around four thousand woodblock and handwritten texts, in order to provide access to these aspects of the country's cultural heritage.

When complete, the digital library will give anyone at a computer access to these works. Shih evaluated the collection and selected one hundred items to begin with, focusing on novels, poems and folk songs. As one of the few specialists in the field who is trained in Chinese, Vietnamese, and Nom, Shih's expertise was invaluable. The library staff in Hanoi will continue digitizing materials as funding becomes available, and will use the documentation and cataloging procedures and standards that she established.

Also at the National Library of Vietnam, Shih evaluated a collection of Vietnamese government documents dating back to the French colonial period. Some of these materials are not extant elsewhere, and the possibility of replicating them for Berkeley's Library is being explored.

In Taiwan in early 2008, Shih visited Academia Sinica, the National Central Library, and National Chi Nan University's Library, which was rebuilt following the 1999 earthquake. She toured its special collections, delivered a talk at a conference, and met with faculty and graduate students in Southeast Asian studies to discuss research trends and prospects in the field.

The hair-raising portion of Shih's recent travels was in East Timor (officially known as the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste) in August 2007. Shih's brief visit there was intended to help her acquire materials to support Timor-Leste studies at Berkeley. She hadn't expected to arrive in the midst of political violence.



The South/Southeast Asia Library, in Doe Library, houses core reference works and periodicals, and offers a comfortable study environment. It serves as a portal to the 19 countries and 33 languages covered by the South and Southeast Asian holdings. Numbering over 600,000 volumes, these holdings are located in the Gardner Stacks and subject specialty libraries on campus. Currently, librarians Virginia Shih and Adnan Malik share responsibility for the South/Southeast Asian collections.

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.

Kenneth and Dorothy Hill University Librarian: Thomas C. Leonard

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Photography: Peg Skorpinski pgs. 2, 5, 6, 10; Beth McGonagle p. 11; others as noted.

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On her first night in Dili, East Timor's capital, protests about the new prime minister were underway, and Shih heard nearby machine-gun fire from her hotel room. Peacekeeping forces from the United Nations were in the city, and after that first sleepless night Shih moved to another hotel where U.N. officials were stationed.

During the rest of her trip, Shih met with library and university administrators, newspaper editors, embassy officials and other individuals who helped her acquire research materials in Portuguese, Tetum, Indonesian, and English. She established a number of goodwill gift and exchange publications relationships. Along the way, she was saddened to observe the many refugee camps in Dili, the extremely high living costs, and the high rate of unemployment for young people.

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The life of a Berkeley librarian doesn't always match the peaceful images associated with reading rooms and scholarly research.



Virginia Shih on the right, with the welcome sign to the South/Southeast Asian Library.

"I gained insights on the landscape of East Timor scholarship..."
—Virginia Shih

Adventures in Acquisitions, continued from page 5

Nonetheless, her trip achieved its goals. Shih remarks "Despite the riots and political violence, the mosquito bites and side effects of malaria medications, I have no regrets about visiting East Timor. I gained insights on the landscape of East Timor scholarship, how best to conduct onsite acquisitions, and the long struggle of the people for their basic daily necessities after the country gained its independence in 2002."

The friendly buzz of the Berkeley campus was a welcome environment to return to. Shih is now coordinating the cataloging process for the maps and atlases, Tetum language dictionaries, bibliographies, census and government documents, conference proceedings, NGO publications and other materials she acquired, so they will be available to Berkeley faculty and students.

Over the years, many library staff, scholars and donors have helped to build Berkeley's South and Southeast Asian collections. As a result of the generosity and efforts of many individuals through the decades—as well as the far-flung and occasionally risky travels of librarians like Virginia Shih—the Library's holdings in this field are regarded as one of the great U.S. research collections. 🌿

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Global Collecting



The Gardner Stacks in Doe Library hold the bulk of the humanities and social sciences collections, including area studies. Connected to Moffitt on the lower two levels, the facility is one of the largest academic complexes in the world.

Berkeley librarians who serve as area studies selectors frequently travel to conduct on-site acquisitions and to foster knowledge exchange with other specialists. These selectors build the library collections in Middle Eastern, Germanic, South and Southeast Asian, Latin American, and Slavic and East European studies, as well as in Romance Languages, Africana, and Judaica.

Many materials in these fields can only be purchased in their country of origin, by a specialist who is trained in the relevant languages and is familiar with scholarly needs. Meetings with international library and university administrators, faculty, students, and publishers, can also generate new opportunities for the Library, such as digitization projects and exchange programs for books and periodicals.

The Library's commitment to these acquisition and networking programs testifies to the excellence and global scope of the research conducted on the Berkeley campus, and to the University's recognition of the immense value of diverse perspectives. 🌿

Then & Now

The image to the right shows the interior of Bacon Art and Library Building, which housed the new university's budding collections from 1881 through 1910. Although University Librarian Joseph C. Rowell lauded the building as a "commodious and beautiful structure," the frustrations entailed in efficiently



storing books on shelves inside a round building led him to insist upon square rooms when the new Doe Library was being planned. Bacon's circular shapes make a comeback

in the dramatic spiral staircases descending the four levels of the Gardner Stacks, where over two million books in the humanities and social sciences are stored. Many of these volumes are on compact, rolling shelves, whose efficiency would likely have delighted Rowell.



Jessica Hagedorn and Thom Gunn

CONTEMPORARY WRITERS' ARCHIVES ACQUIRED BY THE BANCROFT LIBRARY

Two recent acquisitions at the Bancroft Library highlight the distinctive strengths of its literary manuscripts collection. Known for its holdings in American literature from the 19th century to the present, the collection is especially strong in California authors and the San Francisco Beats. Mirroring the inclusive environment and values of the Berkeley campus, archives of writers from diverse backgrounds are an increasing focus.

JESSICA HAGEDORN

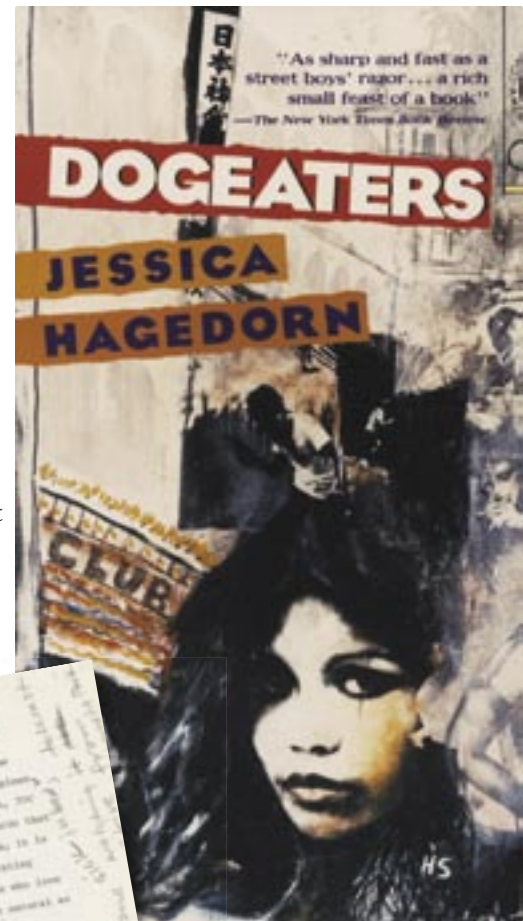
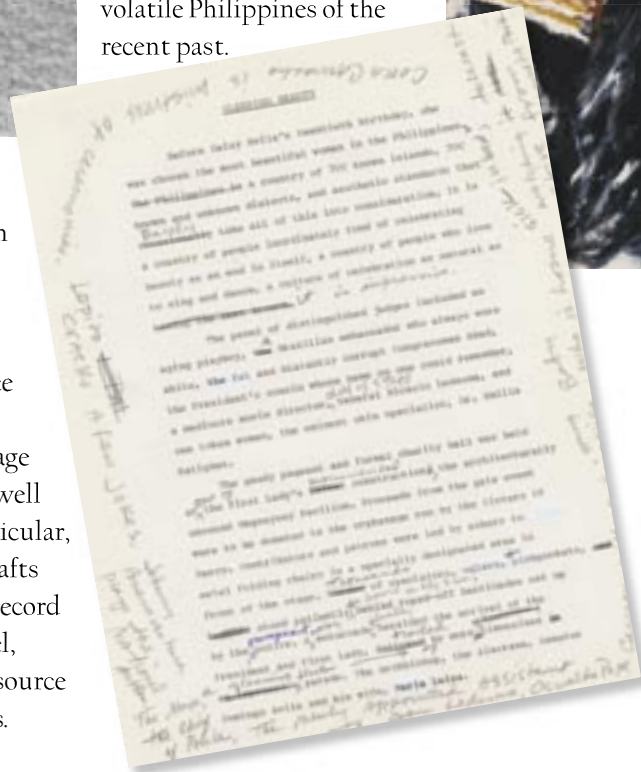
Born in the Philippines in 1949 and now living in New York, Jessica Hagedorn is a lively presence in Asian American performance and literature. Her family background includes a Scotch-Irish-French-Filipino mother and a Filipino-Spanish

father with one Chinese ancestor. In the sixties and seventies, she lived and worked in San Francisco. Since then, Hagedorn has continued her work as a poet, storyteller, musician, playwright, and multimedia performance artist. She is best known for *Dogeaters*, a novel (1990) and subsequently a play, set in the politically volatile Philippines of the recent past.



A 1977 photo of Jessica Hagedorn, from the Bancroft Library.

The Bancroft's literary archive of Jessica Hagedorn includes a complete set of working drafts, final manuscripts, corrected proofs, and correspondence for all her books of poetry, her novels, screenplays, stage plays, and anthologies, as well as correspondence. In particular, the extensive archive of drafts of *Dogeaters* preserves the record of composition of the novel, affording an invaluable resource for readers and researchers.



A book jacket for *Dogeaters*, Hagedorn's 1990 novel. "Dogeaters" is a derogatory term for Filipinos.

At left, a page from the first draft of *Dogeaters*, begun in April 1985 and completed in May 1986.

THOM GUNN

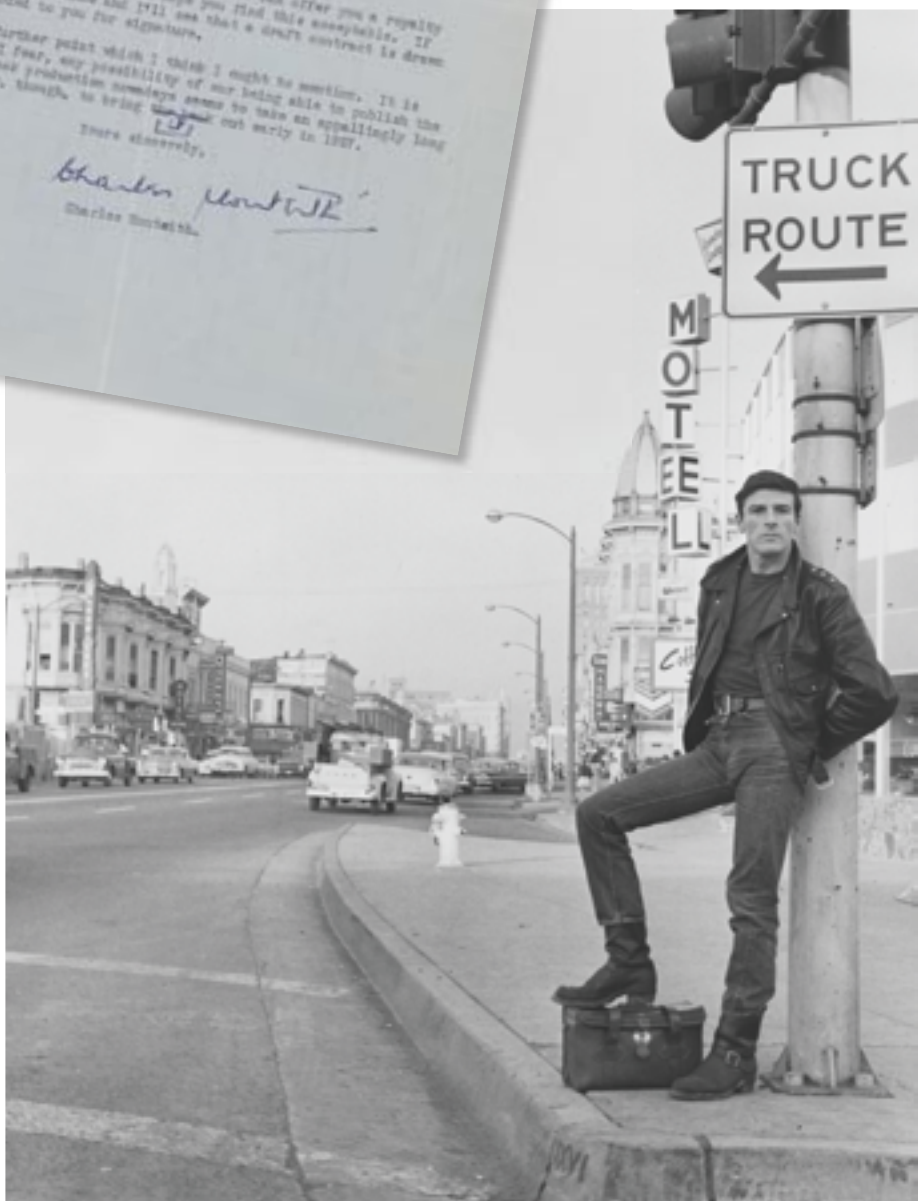
Born in England in 1929, Thom Gunn moved to the U.S. in 1954, following his graduation from Trinity College, Cambridge, and the publication of his first book of verse. Gunn taught poetry at Berkeley for over two decades, riding his motorcycle or the bus over from San Francisco, where he lived for forty years. He died in 2004 at the age of 74, having earned a reputation as one of the best living poets in the English language.

Among Gunn's many books of poetry is 1992's prize-winning *The Man with Night Sweats*, about the AIDS pandemic. Fellow poet Robert Pinsky remarked on Gunn's "gift of clarity" and his "contradictory selves: leather boy and sensible Englishman; formalist and iconoclast; ruthless artist and conscientious teacher."

The Bancroft Library holds thirty of Gunn's personal notebooks which "thoroughly document the numerous, and at time merciless, revisions he subjected his poems to," as Bancroft staff member Dean Smith comments. Also part of the archive are a set of large scrapbooks, dating from the early 1950s through the mid-1970s, in which Gunn pasted poems by himself and others that were published in various periodicals; numerous photos and personal mementos from his travels as well as his life in his beloved San Francisco; cards, notes and letters from poets such as Stephen Spender, Allen Ginsberg, Robert Duncan, as well as editors at Faber and Faber, *Poetry* magazine, and others. The scrapbooks offer a very personal and lively view of the world of a poet who was immersed in the literary and gay culture of his adopted city and eventful times. 🌿



Letter accepting Gunn's second book, *The Sense of Movement*, which was published in 1957.



Thom Gunn, 1959, in Oakland.

NEW EAST ASIAN LIBRARY OPENED IN EARLY 2008



On October 20, 2007, scholars and donors from around the world gathered for a ceremonial dedication of the C.V. Starr East Asian Library. The first freestanding library in the United States constructed exclusively for an East Asian collection, its holdings comprise over 900,000 volumes in Chinese, Japanese and Korean, as well as prints, rare maps and scrolls, contemporary political posters and Buddhist scriptures.

Opened in early 2008, the Starr Library was designed by architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, and was financed entirely by private contributions. Occupying a central campus location across from Doe Library, the library reflects UC Berkeley's role for well over a century as a worldwide, Pacific Rim hub for students and researchers in East Asian studies.

MARK TWAIN PROJECT: ON BROADWAY, AND ONLINE

A new online edition offers people around the world unfettered access to the writings of Mark Twain. Designed for easy, intuitive access, the site represents the latest outcome of four decades of archival research by the editors at the Mark Twain Project. Their work has produced over thirty

critically acclaimed volumes so far, and the website will ultimately offer visitors access to all of them.

The recent beta launch of www.marktwainproject.org presents twenty-three hundred letters written between 1853 and 1880, ranging from heartfelt discourses and lighthearted social notes to communications about publishing and business. Alive with the vigor and humor of this great American writer, the letters offer the reader an intimate view of his day-to-day concerns. Facsimiles of one hundred of the letters bring readers even closer. The Mark Twain Project Online is a joint undertaking of the Mark Twain Papers and Project, the California Digital Library, and University of California Press.

First discovered in the Mark Twain Project archives, the play *Is He Dead?* is receiving rave reviews this winter on Broadway. Twain scholar Shelley Fisher Fishkin, who unearthed the manuscript, describes it as "a champagne cocktail of a play — not too dry, not too sweet, with just the right amount of bubbles and buzz." *Is He Dead?* was published by the UC Press in 2003, and was adapted by David Ives for the current production.



The Mark Twain Papers and Project at the Bancroft Library houses the world's largest archive of primary materials by this major American writer. The Project's editors are producing the first comprehensive edition of all Mark Twain's writings, and in 2010 will release Mark Twain's Autobiography, never before published in its complete form.

AL BOWKER



Phyllis Brooks and Albert Bowker at "Dinner in the Library," November 2007.

Library friend and former Berkeley Chancellor Albert Bowker died on January 20, 2008, at age 88, of pancreatic cancer. He was an expert in statistics and an innovative administrator during his decades-long career in higher education across the country. From 1971 to 1980, Bowker was chancellor of UC Berkeley, which he called a "wild and wonderful place." A member of the Library Advisory Board for many years, Bowker will be sorely missed.

STORY HOUR

Campus and community attendees gathered in the Morrison Library on January 24 for the inaugural reading in the new series, "Story Hour in the Library," a companion to the popular noontime "Lunch Poems" readings. Michael Chabon interviewed novelist Oakley



Hall, his former teacher at UC Irvine, after which Hall read from his work. The reading can be viewed online at <http://webcast.berkeley.edu>.

"Story Hour" readings during the spring semester will present Vikram Chandra and Melanie Abrams, the Berkeley faculty (and husband and wife) who host the series. Daniel Mason, author of *The Piano Tuner*, will also read. See the back cover for more details.



ROBERT HASS GIVES TALK AT "DINNER IN THE LIBRARY"



Photo: Bruce Cook

Over 175 guests at the annual "Dinner in the Library" on November 2, 2007 enjoyed a talk from poet and Berkeley professor Robert Hass, whose *Time and Materials: Poems 1997-2005* won the National Book Award this winter. Hass's wide-ranging talk touched on the history of the oaks on campus, the botanist Willis Jepson, and his long friendship with Czeslaw Milosz, and concluded with a reading of several poems from the new book. Listen online at www.berkeley.edu/news/berkeleyan/2007/11/08_hass.shtml

Exhibits & Events

FROM PLUGS TO BLING:

A Century of Cal Student Fashion

Through August 2008

Bernice Layne Brown Gallery, Doe Library



This exhibition explores the lives of students at the University of California, as told through the clothing they once wore. From junior plugs (top hats) and lettermen's jackets to charm bracelets and African American graduation stoles, from cashmere sweater sets to denim jackets

festooned with anti-war buttons,

Cal students have always made fashion, political and gender statements through their choice of clothing and accessories. Curated by William Benemann, Archivist at the Law Library.

STORY HOUR IN THE LIBRARY: Daniel Mason

Thursday, March 20, 5 to 6 pm

190 Doe Library (across from Morrison Library)

Daniel Mason's first novel, *The Piano Tuner*, has been translated into 28 languages, was adapted as an opera and a play, and is currently in production as a film. His second novel, *A Far Country*, was published in 2007.

STORY HOUR IN THE LIBRARY: Melanie Abrams

Thursday, April 17, 5 to 6 pm

190 Doe Library (across from Morrison Library)

Melanie Abrams' novel, *Playing*, is forthcoming in April 2008. Howard Norman says, "In her arresting debut novel Melanie Abrams is disturbingly expert at exhibiting how erotic obsession makes a courtship a dangerous game indeed. Unpredictable and unforgettable. A stunning writer." Abrams teaches creative writing at UC Berkeley.

LUNCH POEMS: Jessica Fisher

Thursday April 3, 12:10 to 12:50 pm

Morrison Library in Doe Library

Jessica Fisher's *Frail-Craft* was the winner of the prestigious 2006 Yale Series of Younger Poets competition. A doctoral candidate in English at UC Berkeley, Fisher coedited *The Addison Street Anthology*, which chronicles Berkeley's rich poetic history.

THE CHINESE OF CALIFORNIA:

A Struggle for Community

Through August 2008

California Historical Society,
678 Mission St., San Francisco

Through a unique collection of photographs, artifacts, art, documents, and personal stories, the exhibit challenges preconceptions about the Chinese immigrant experience, telling the story through the voices of the immigrants themselves. Curated in collaboration with the Bancroft Library, California Historical Society, and Chinese Historical Society of America.

Visit www.lib.berkeley.edu for more information.

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