

NO.69 SPRING 2006

BENE LEGERE

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A Milestone for our Readers

A few months ago, UC Berkeley libraries reached the 10 million volumes mark. We have, by far, the largest collection in the West. An undergraduate, wishing to look at each of these books for just one minute and reading 8 hours a day, 7 days a week, would be nearly 80 years old by the time she left our libraries.



Thomas C. Leonard

The true test of a library is its richness and breadth, not its bulk. For the Cal freshman, no less than for the professor emeritus, reading is crossing boundaries and most things that are worth studying lead to unexpected places. Students of climate change, for instance, need more than the scientific data from earth sentiments and ice packs. They need the contemporary reports of the weather to be found in church and temple records, traveler tales, and

the accounts of harvests. Economists argue about the performance of school districts by pulling out maps and showing how topography influences learning. Art historians check out medical books to better understand the faces in pre-Columbian art. Scholarship on John Wayne dives into the *contraposto* pose of Renaissance statues.

The only limit on a library's collection should be the curiosity of its readers. We are here to tempt every taste and we should always suggest, "learn more." "Ten Million" is a proud boast because it backs up those words.

In an age of rapid communication, we do this in many other ways than in amassing books on campus. Fully 3.5 million of our volumes are shelved in a modern vault in Richmond and called back overnight, as needed by readers. In one purchase last year, we gained electronic access to every book published in Great Britain in the 18th century, making the contents fully searchable and delivering any page to a computer screen. The professionals in the Library (as well as the 600 students who work for us) are dedicated to access. Indeed, we have joined other UC campuses and attracted outside funding to digitize tens of thousands of our books in 2006 so they will be available to any reader on the internet.

To honor and inspire the readers at Cal, we are featuring ten works that we have acquired in the past year—a small window into their ten million choices.

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The blessing that Robert Gordon Sproul gave to our 2 millionth fits these selections as well today as when President Sproul spoke in 1955:

One of the world's distinguished centers of learning has been developed here, largely because the foresight of the founders, the wisdom of the faculty, the planning of its administrators and Regents, and the generosity of donors have consistently combined to build, in a new land and a young university, one of the world's greatest collections of books.

Thomas C. Leonard

Kenneth and Dorothy Hill University Librarian

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***PLoS Computational Biology*, Vol. 1, #1**

Marian Koshland Bioscience and Natural Resources Library

Public Library of Science (PLoS) Computational Biology, an open-access, peer-reviewed journal, covers the application of quantitative and computational methods to problems in the life sciences. In the past five years, Berkeley has emerged as the premier university in the field of computational biology. Michael Eisen, a UC Berkeley professor, is one of the co-founders of the Bay Area-based, non-profit PLoS, an institute devoted to offering scientific journals free to anyone with an Internet connection. This unique publishing model represents a revolution in the world of academic journals. Eisen is also one of 50 science and technology leaders profiled in the December 2005 issue of *Scientific American* magazine.



Michael Eisen

We are trying to make all of the published science literature free to anyone online, which is something that's not available today. If you are a student in high school and you want to read about it you can't, and the Public Library of Science is about changing that.

--Michael Eisen, *Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology*

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Second Biblia Rabbinica

Judaica Collection of the Bancroft Library

These four folio volumes stand as masterworks of early Hebrew printing. To realize that the Biblia Rabbinica was published less than fifty years after the first printed Hebrew book is stunning. There's an experience that goes beyond the text itself.

--Paul Hamburg, *Librarian for the Judaica Collection*



The Second Biblia Rabbinica is one of the most important printed editions of the Hebrew Bible. Published in Venice in four volumes by Daniel Bomberg in 1524-1525, it was the first edition to present the Masorah, the extensive Jewish tradition concerning the correctly vocalized and chanted Hebrew text of the Scriptures accumulated over centuries. Edited by Jacob ben Chaim ibn Adoniyah of Tunis, this Second Biblia Rabbinica was based

on an examination of all available manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible, and was received with great acclaim in the Jewish community. Berkeley's Second Biblia Rabbinica is one of a handful of existing copies. The labor involved in setting the type for the four volumes was prodigious, requiring two years' work from a team of probably a dozen printers.

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Theos Bernard Collection

East Asian and Bancroft Libraries



Tibetan thangka portraying Hayagriva, and Shakyamuni Buddha, in copper, gold, bronze (both 19th-20th century).

This collection is a rich resource for the study of all aspects of Tibetan culture that were documented by American explorer and scholar Theos Bernard at a time when the Tibetan government maintained a strong isolationist policy. In 1937, Bernard spent several months in Tibet, where he was granted unprecedented access to monastic practices in temples. He took thousands of photos and shot 20,000 ft. of 16 mm film, recording Tibetan civilization at the height of its development and before the Chinese invasion of 1949 and subsequent Cultural Revolution had destroyed it. As well as the pictorial material and personal archives, the Bernard collection includes extraordinary museum pieces--bronze statues, paintings, mandalas, prints on cloth, traditional clothing, implements and other items. The collection is housed in several libraries and museums around campus.

Contrary to the myth of a "closed" country, the Bernard collection sheds new light on the nature of Tibetan society and its selective openness, in certain circles, to interaction with the outside world. As with many records of cross-cultural interactions, Bernard's written and visual record of his life and experiences tells us just as much, if not more, about America in the 1930s as it does about India and Tibet at that moment in time.

--Paul G. Hackett, *Special Projects Archivist at the Bancroft Library*

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From the Theos Bernard Collection,
Berkeley Art Museum. Photos: Benjamin
Blackwell.

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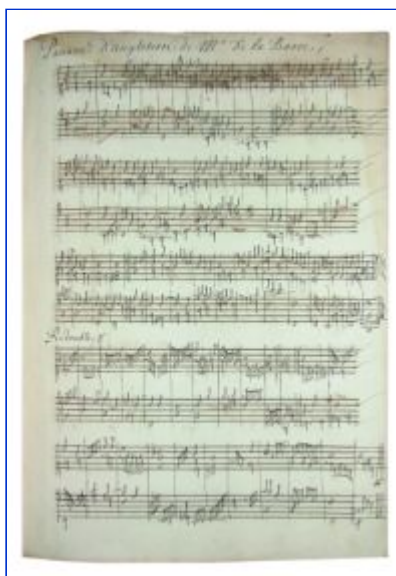
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The Borel Manuscript

Jean Gray Hargrove Music Library



This collection, named after its first owner, includes French harpsichord music that was unknown before its acquisition by Berkeley. These new pieces from the age of King Louis XIV include two movements by Jean Henry D'Anglebert (1629-1691), one of the great masters of the school, and curiosities such as an allemande by Jacques Thomelin, the teacher of François Couperin and a courante apparently by a woman composer, the Comtesse de Bieule. The collection was probably copied around 1655-1670. The age of Louis XIV saw an extraordinary flowering of harpsichord music in France, and most of the pieces in the Borel manuscript are not known from other sources.

The rediscovery of the Borel manuscript is exciting because it provides us with nearly one hundred new pieces of French keyboard music from the early years of Louis XIV's reign. It also expands Berkeley's world-class holdings of this kind of source. We already had over a dozen such unique manuscripts, and since the acquisition of the Borel manuscript, the Hargrove Music Library has even been able to acquire two further important harpsichord manuscripts. Our holdings are now the finest of any library in the world, except the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.

These manuscripts fit perfectly into my own scholarly research and my performing projects. I will also soon be making a CD recording of the finest pieces in the Borel manuscript.

--Davitt Moroney, *Professor of Music and University Organist*



Davitt Moroney

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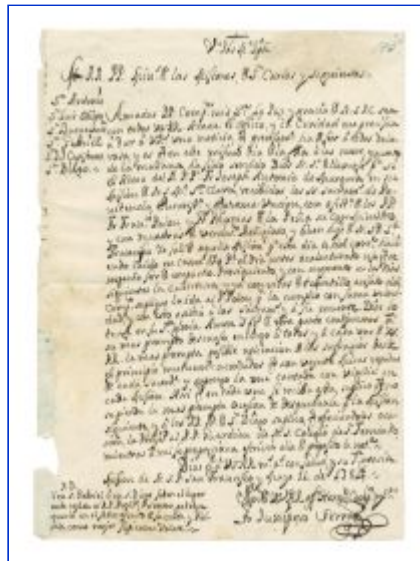
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Signed letter from Friar Junípero Serra

The Bancroft Library



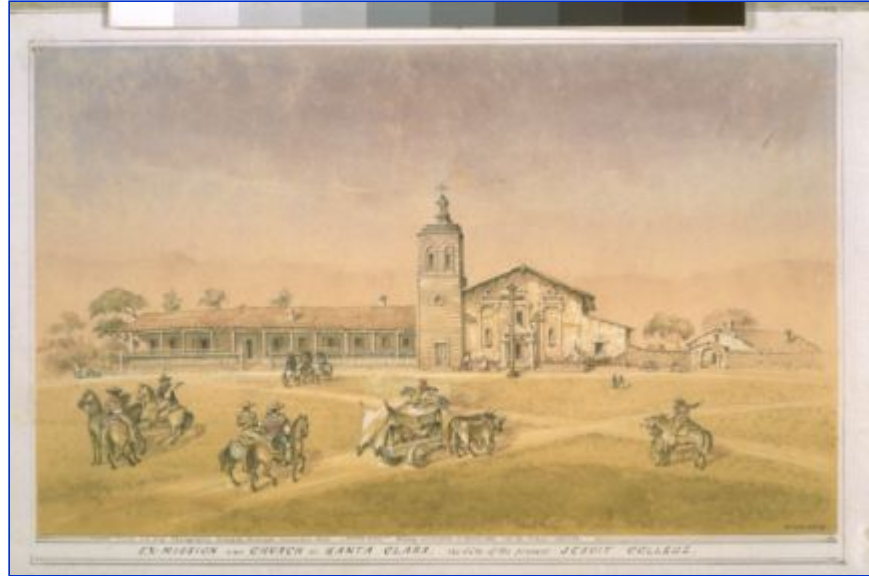
Junípero Serra (1713-1784) founded the first of California's missions in San Diego on behalf of the Franciscan order of the Catholic Church, and as part of the Spanish conquest and colonization of what today is California. He personally established eight other missions in the region from San Diego to Sonoma. This 1784 letter was written by Serra to the heads of seven California missions to inform them of the death of Father José Antonio de Murguía, the architect and head of Mission Santa Clara. Murguía died of typhoid fever, one of the diseases introduced by the Spaniards that decimated the Indian population. Serra asks that masses be said for the soul of Murguía, who had died just four days before the May 15, 1784 dedication of Mission Santa Clara.

Excerpt from the letter: "And in order that for our part we may help give him a swifter rest, I charge each and every one of Your Reverences to carry out as swiftly as possible the rites which from the beginning we mutually agreed to, which are twenty masses said by each priest and I suppose one sung with vigil in each Mission. Thus in each mission where this letter is received, I request that you lose not the soonest opportunity of sending it on to the following Mission."

This letter illustrates poignantly the depth of feeling among the small band of Spanish priests in California, isolated from their homeland by months of travel and thousands of miles: Father Serra despatched Father Palou from Mission Dolores to care for Father Murguía, and reminds the heads of the other missions that they have mutually agreed to say masses in case of the death of any of their number. Historical scholarship depends on documentary evidence like this letter and the multiple chains of deductions, large and small, that can be made from it.

--Charles Faulhaber, *Director of the Bancroft Library and Professor of Spanish*

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Ex-Mission and church of Santa Clara, 1842. Edward Vischer watercolor.

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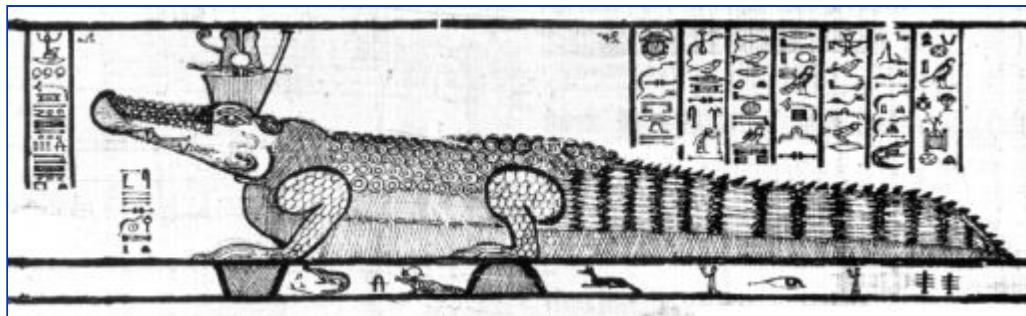
The Bancroft Library

In the winter of 1899-1900, Phoebe Apperson Hearst funded an excavation of the ancient Egyptian village of Tebtunis on behalf of the University of California. More than 35,000 fragments of papyri, including priceless

pieces of ancient Greek and Egyptian literature and documents illuminating the daily life of the village's inhabitants over 1,700 years ago, were uncovered. The boxes include fragments of Euripides' "Phoenician Women" and Homer's "Odyssey," an ancient medical handbook, and the papers of an influential prophetess of the local crocodile god.



Literature from antiquity usually tells us about elites. The papyri give us evidence about other strata of society, a much wider range of people than we'd know about if we only had the classical authors to go on. There's a fundamental humanity here. When we read these, we encounter shared hopes and fears, joys and disappointments, even though there are 2000 years separating us.
--Todd Hickey, *Curator at the Center for the Tebtunis Papyri*



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The H. K. Yuen Social Movement Archive

Ethnic Studies and Bancroft Libraries

One could say that this archive represents a return to the Bancroft's roots. Just like Hubert Howe Bancroft, who collected contemporary political documents (including the original records of the various vigilante committees in San Francisco), H.K. Yuen was an amateur in the field moved by circumstances to take on a massive labor of love.

--Lincoln Cushing, *Bancroft's Cataloging and Electronic Outreach Librarian*



Bettina Aptheker, Sproul Plaza rally recorded live June 1967: "It's very interesting going to jail being six months pregnant. I think it's going to be the first kid that ever served his sentence before he sat in."

This multi-media record of the social and political movements of the 1960s and 1970s includes 30,000 hours of audio recordings documenting rallies, speeches, marches and other activities, most of which occurred on the UC Berkeley campus. It also holds fliers, underground newspapers, photographs, posters and film, a wealth of primary materials that directly convey the tumult and excitement of the times. They were collected by H.K. Yuen, a Berkeley alumnus (B.A. and M.A. in physics), who coupled the new technology of portable tape recording with his scientific understanding of the value of empiricism, and a keen sense of the whirlwind of social change.

Scholars on American political history, including battles over sexual freedom, race relations, conditions of labor, Democratic party composition and politics of war and anti-war, will find a wealth of research possibilities in the collection once it is cataloged. Berkeley history professor Waldo Martin and UCLA graduate student Joshua Bloom have already used the collection for a 2006

Frog in the Well, an Asian folk tale describing H.K. Yuen's motivation for his work.

There was a complacent frog who observed the world from the bottom of a deep well. The frog knew everything about his immediate surroundings, yet hadn't a clue about the vast possibilities that lay just beyond his view. What the frog saw and experienced at the bottom of the well shaped its perspective on the world and how it interpreted what it couldn't see. Original image by H.K. Yuen, digitized and colorized by Lincoln Cushing.

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book, *Black Against the Empire: The Rise and Fall of the Black Panther Party*. The book draws upon newly archived letters and papers to shed new light on the reasons behind the rapid rise and fall of the Black Panther Party.

Bettina Aptheker , Sproul Plaza rally recorded live June 1967: "It's very interesting going to jail being six months pregnant. I think it's going to be the first kid that ever served his sentence before he sat in."

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Swiss Enlightenment Collection

Germanic Collections

Taken as a whole, this important collection reveals to us the Swiss sectors of a tremendous international network of scholars, literary figures, and scientists during the era of the European Enlightenment. The writers included in this collection ranged over the entire world of learning—esthetic, scientific, philosophical, theological, philological, literary, historical, and legal.
--Thomas Brady, *Peder Sather Professor of History*

The European Enlightenment, stretching from the late 17th through the early 19th centuries, was marked by a turning away from absolutism and institutional rigidity toward new ideals of rationalism and political liberty. Great minds of the period, such as Kant, Rousseau, Locke, Voltaire and Montesquieu, ushered in an “Age of Reason,” forever changing the philosophical and political landscape of Europe and North America. The Swiss Enlightenment collection contains more than 1,000 printed and pictorial items in over 1,500 volumes. It focuses on literary, philosophical and historical texts from the German-speaking regions of Europe, many of which were published in Zürich, one of the great European cultural centers during this period. This acquisition places Berkeley's holdings for early modern and enlightenment studies in the first rank of research libraries worldwide.



Die Bündnerin im Schwabenkriege (The Swiss Woman in the Swabian War)

During the Swiss-Swabian War of 1499 the imperial forces were encamped near the border with Tyrol. In the small village of Schlein on the Inn, the villagers were burying a local who had been killed in a recent battle. A lone village woman remained behind alone in her house to prepare the traditional funeral meal for all of the villagers attending the burial. Drawn to the smoke from her chimney, enemy troops stormed into the kitchen and asked, “Who are you preparing this meal for?” With a firm but calm tone she replied, “For the Swiss soldiers, who

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will soon return. Do not disturb me, for I must hurry.” Shocked and confused by her tone, the soldiers quickly became frightened and fled the house. As they fled, the woman ran to the church alerting the villagers to the intrusion and calling them to arms. Grabbing anything that could be used as a weapon, including the iron cross of the church itself, the men charged after the offending troops and easily conquered them in battle.

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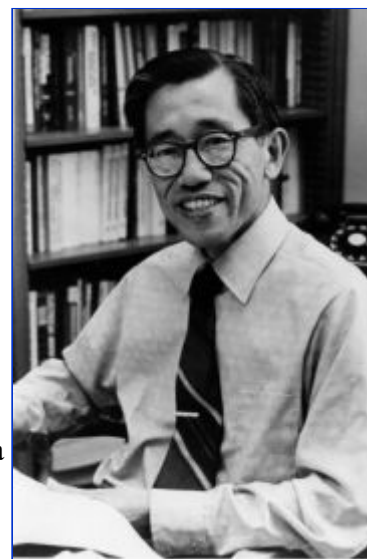
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Oral history of Ernest Kuh, College of Engineering emeritus dean and professor

Regional Oral History Office, The Bancroft Library

Ernest Kuh's story reveals his lifetime of pioneering work as a researcher, professor, and administrator. Co-author of four books on circuits, electronics, networks, systems, and computer-aided design, he joined the Electrical Engineering & Computer Science Department faculty at UC Berkeley in 1956. From 1968 to 1972, he served as department chair, and from 1973 to 1980 he was dean of the College of Engineering. Kuh retired in 1993.

As dean, Kuh was an early leader in establishing professional relationships with universities in China and Japan. Another of his innovations was the industry liaison program, which fosters research and recruitment by connecting faculty and students with industry representatives. The program's success showed the potential for partnership between industry and higher education.



Ernest Kuh

Ernest Kuh was the first Asian American to serve as dean of the college of engineering, and as dean was the first to raise money to construct a new building--the Bechtel Engineering Center--built virtually entirely with private funds. He was department chair when I was hired as a faculty member, and as I consulted with him on various decisions over the years, I came to deeply appreciate his thoughtful insights. A beloved colleague and teacher, his thirty-seven years of academic and administrative leadership embodies the dedication and innovation Berkeley inspires at its best.

--Paul Gray, *Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost*

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Śūrangama Sutra

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“After listening to the Buddha's profound instruction, Ananda and the assembly realized that their bodies and minds were now free from all obstructions. Each understood that self mind pervades the ten directions of space, this clearly seen like a leaf held in the hand. All things were seen as the wondrous and bright fundamental Mind of Bodhi. While this essence of Mind embraced all and contained the ten directions, Ananda looked back at his own body given him by his parents, and beheld it like a speck of dust dancing in the great void sometimes visible and sometimes not, like a bubble rising and falling aimlessly in a boundless clear ocean.”

--from the *Śūrangama Sutra*, translated by Charles Luk

In 1769, over 100 years after Qian Qianyi's death, the Qianlong emperor in China — who reigned until his death in 1799 — declared that the scholar-official's writings reflected opposition to the Manchu dynasty and decreed that Qian's works be eradicated from the corpus of Chinese literature. All copies of his books were to be burned; every citation of his work, every instance of his name was to be excised from anthologies and cut from the woodblocks that produced them. Yet some of the writings of this major figure in Ming-Qing political and intellectual history survived in Japan and in China, including this hand-copied and annotated study in red and black ink on ruled paper — with collectors' seals — of the *Śūrangama Sutra*, a basic text of Buddhism, presented in several volumes. This manuscript embodies the efforts and interests of generations of owners who took the trouble, even risk, to preserve it, thereby endowing something as frail as paper with the strength to withstand an emperor's decrees.



A prominent literatus and statesman of the Ming-Qing transition, Qian Qianyi has long been a figure of scholarly interest as well as controversy. His manuscripts are rarely encountered and highly coveted, by libraries and private collectors alike. This gift is a significant addition to the East Asian Library's already-rich rare book collection.

--Dr. Peter Zhou, *Director of the East Asian Library*

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