

**NO.54 WINTER 2000**  
**BENE LEGERE**  
 NEWSLETTER OF THE  
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### 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 reaches beyond the university it serves to the many communities of which it is a part.

Library Associates receive complimentary copies of the quarterly newsletter *Bene Legere*, as well as invitations to special occasions at the Library. For more information on the Library Associates program, please write or telephone: The Library Development Office, Room 188 Doe Library, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-6000; telephone (510) 642-9377. Or, [check our website](#).

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

### Library Closing In on Goals

Reflecting the strength and diversity of the University, and standing at the very center of the academic experience on Cal's campus, is the Library. Ranking second in size among American public university research libraries, Cal's library is very heavily used by both the University community and the public.

Recognizing that the strength of the Library is crucial to the excellence of the University, the Library is an important component of the *Campaign for the New Century*. Priorities in the campaign include new facilities for the Music Library and the East Asian Library and Studies Center. The Library's collections are also a high University campaign priority; to that end the University included in the campaign priorities a \$25 million goal to support Library collections.

Approximately \$20 million of the collections goal has been raised. And we are delighted. Many donors have responded generously to the premise that the *excellence of the University is closely allied to the excellence of the Library*.

In fact, since the campaign began July 1, 1993, **the Library has recorded 25,283 individual gifts!**

Included in the \$20 million are more than 60 new collections endowments. Named endowments are a wonderful way for a donor to honor someone special while simultaneously supporting Cal's collections. Endowments are structured so that they will grow over the years and assure that future generations of Cal students and scholars will have adequate library materials to support their research and classwork.

Because so many have been so generous and supportive of the Library, it occurred to us that readers might find it interesting to learn something about how the dollars of donors are being used. Hence, we dropped in at the office of James H. Spohrer, current associate university librarian and acting director of the collections. Spohrer is also the librarian for the Germanic and Finnish collections. Though he readily agrees that he "doesn't see the money actually coming in," it is his responsibility to identify and prioritize the projects that come before the many librarians who make selections for the collections, and to decide which projects to pursue for collection enrichment.

In discussing recent gifts to the Library, Spohrer detailed how the Library is using the income from the *Mario Savio/Free Speech Movement Collection Endowment* that was established in 1997.

A word of background first. The endowment is part of a three-part gift made to the Library by Stephen M. Silberstein, classes of '64 and '77, in honor of Mario Savio and the Free Speech Movement that occurred on this campus in 1964. The other parts of the gift include the *Free Speech Movement Cafe*, which opened in January 2000 (more about the cafe in the next issue of the newsletter), and the establishment of the *Free Speech Movement Archive* in the Bancroft Library, which includes photographs, newsclippings, broadsides, and other documentation of the movement, as well as oral histories of many of the participants.

Last year, the first year that it produced income, the *Mario Savio/Free Speech Movement Endowment* provided an opportunity to obtain some important material, which we could not normally have afforded to buy:

...\$5,000 was spent on materials on Algerian politics and culture. This is the first time in several years that Algeria has been deemed safe enough to permit a book-buying expedition.

...\$2,000 was used to purchase a microfilm run of *Rzeczpospolita* (1995-98), the main Polish daily newspaper in the post-Soviet period. No other western library has this material.

...\$4,000 was spent to purchase *Meiji No Takara* (Treasures of Imperial Japan), an eight-volume set documenting the world's greatest collection of Meiji decorative art, comprising nearly 1,000 works by most of the known masters from the middle of the 19th century to the middle of the 20th century.

...\$5,000 was directed to purchase English and American poetry. A few years ago local poets Robert Hass, Thom Gunn, and Ishmael Reed identified a core list of poets and presses whose works we should own.

...\$5,000 is being used for materials on Latin America, including contemporary political issues and current poetry. According to Carlos Delgado, Latin American selector, "The Caribbean is an area of increasing interest to Berkeley researchers. Among our purchases is the newspaper, *Periodico Claridad* (1959-89), from San Juan, Puerto Rico. *Claridad* provided an outlet to the opinions and commentaries of the important academic and political leaders barred from the mainstream press."

As well, last year income from other endowments presented us with expanded buying opportunities. Income from the \$4.8 million endowment resulting from our *National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant* supported the purchase of a microfiche collection of historic newspapers from Switzerland and Austria. The collection consists of 60 newspapers from 1850 to 1975, which will make available a unique perspective of the foundations of modern Europe and the world wars. It is a cooperative purchase by all UC campuses, the University of Southern California, and Stanford University. Another planned cooperative purchase is the microfilm archives of the National Socialist Party in Germany, which include lists of Party members, SS Officers' service records, and material on Nazi leaders. These archives will be particularly useful for researchers in the field of German wealth and banking during the Holocaust, including for those tracing missing bank accounts formerly held by Jews. This particular acquisition will be a cooperative project with Stanford, UCLA, and Harvard.

Not all of Cal's Library endowments are capitalized with hundreds of thousands of dollars. In fact, few are. Requiring a minimum investment of \$10,000, many individual endowments have a corpus of much less than \$100,000. These endowments produce valuable and important annual income that is spent on materials specific to the donors' instructions. Camille Wanat, head of the Kresge Engineering Library, reports that she oversees the *Horatio Stevens Library Fund*, which is limited to materials on thermodynamics. The Bancroft Library manages the *Fontana Library Fund*, which concentrates on rare books on Italian culture; and the *Essig Memorial Library Fund*, specializes in entomology.

*Bene Legere*\*, the newsletter of the Library Associates, is published quarterly by the Library Development Office, University of California Berkeley, Room 188 Doe Library, Berkeley, CA 94720-6000. Telephone: 510-642-9377.

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Another way of ensuring that a gift to the Library will have a lasting impact is by a donation to an endowment that is made up of many small gifts. When we completed our *National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant* in 1998, the resulting endowment included approximately 6,000 gifts. Some were as small as a few dollars, but all were meaningful and appreciated.

Now, to honor the millennium and the new century, we have established the *Millennial Fund*. This holiday season, thousands of prospective Library donors will be asked to make a gift to this unrestricted collections

endowment. A generous response helped to ensure that Cal's Library will remain in the forefront of acquiring new knowledge and make it available to Cal's students and scholars as well as the general public.

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\*From the Latin motto inscribed over the north portal of the Government & Social Science Information Service (the former Loan Hall) in Doe Library: *Bene Legere Saecla Vincere*, "To read well is to master the ages."

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Originally published Winter 2000. Server manager: [contact](#)