

fiat lux

SPRING 2011 • NO. 19

A Bear Essential



IT STARTS HERE.

Berkeley's excellence is founded on its library. Opened in 1868 with one thousand books, the University Library now holds eleven 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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The Campaign for the University Library is raising funds to transform Moffitt in flexible, sustainable ways that will meet the needs of students in this digital age. Visit moffitt.berkeley.edu to see plans for the revitalization.

The transformed Moffitt Library will be a dynamic, centrally located, round-the-clock commons for undergraduate students. The enlivened library will be a campus hub embracing research-based discovery, social interaction and community.

Visit our new website, moffitt.berkeley.edu, to view the plans for the revitalization, and to read about exciting proposals for technology-rich spaces, collaboration studios, guided learning labs, a new books reading lounge, study porches, quiet commons, research consulting, and more.

The Skirball Foundation's challenge grant of \$1.5 million is currently matching each and every gift to the fundraising campaign for Moffitt Library. Your gift will be matched dollar for dollar, doubling in value. For more information, or to make a donation, visit www.lib.berkeley.edu/give, or phone 510/642-9377. 🍀

www.lib.berkeley.edu/give

University Librarian's Letter

DIGGING INTO OUR PAST



Berkeley Anthropologist Laurie Wilkie.

Dr. Laurie Wilkie joined us for the annual Luncheon in the Library recently and showed us a picture of her class at work, sifting Berkeley dirt. By doing this, Dr. Wilkie explained, archeologists can throw new light on campus institutions we only think we understand. Yes, her students dug up beer bottles from the site of Cal's first fraternity. But they also found marbles and other kid toys, confirming that the men of Zeta Psi in the 19th century enjoyed being big brothers to neighbors and family. The fraternity house had its secret places, but was also a public stage for the young men to show how much community mattered.

In 3011, a thousand years from now, what will an archeology class see about our library if all students have to look at are foundations and building fragments? They will marvel over two discoveries.

First, that in the 20th century we built shelving never equaled. Excavation, thick concrete slabs, and steel structures to support this weight grew, and then diminished over the hundred years. Future archeologists could explain this from what they knew about our digital age. In only a few generations, humans found that it was not necessary to gather around a tower or catacomb of shelving in order to study a subject thoroughly.

The class would also see that a second type of library construction was joined to the epic shelving: places for assembly and ceremony. Without written records, this would be a puzzle.

Sifting the ground would rule out libraries as places of eating or drinking, bathing or playing, burial or worship. Old walls would show the slots for books to be returned. The walls would help reveal that the ceilings of these assembly spaces were vast. Why did people need cathedral-like settings to read! Figuring out what went on in this part of the library through the 20th century would be a tough class assignment.

I think the class would figure this out if they looked carefully at the artifacts in the ground. They would see that the 20th century library was the hub of the campus, all walks led there. Next came purification, the long passage up the white marble staircase where one can now see and use what is on all that shelving.

If Doe remained fixed, with the gods and great authors looking down, the setting for visitors changed. Public spaces became more open and flexible. What once appeared stately and rigid, like pews in a cathedral, became space that people could configure as they liked, standing or sitting, alone or with others drawn in. Solitary reading continued, but presentations and team work became equal parts of the life of a Cal student in the Library.

"Learning" is the right word for the ceremony that has always happened in libraries and "collaborative learning" is our new focus. In a space that now stretches through Doe, from the revitalized Bancroft Library entrance to the great challenge of Moffitt Library, young people are learning in new ways. They are, no doubt, leaving clues to their frame of mind as unconsciously as their distant, fraternity ancestors.



Thomas C. Leonard
Kenneth and Dorothy Hill University Librarian

Touching History

THANKS TO OUR AMAZING COLLECTIONS

by Kevin Padian, Professor of Integrative Biology and Curator, Museum of Paleontology



Every couple of years, I run a seminar for grad students and advanced undergrads on Charles Darwin's great book *The Origin of Species*. Our goal is to plumb what the state of knowledge was just as Darwin was readying his masterwork for publication. As we always say, "If you want to know what Darwin said, you have to know what Darwin read."

Why run a seminar on *The Origin of Species*? Because it remains the most important book ever published in biology. How many books, publications, and articles are avidly read and reread a century and a half after their publication? Darwin revolutionized how people thought about the natural world. And to bring this home to students, I turn to our wonderful library.

So, on the second class meeting of the semester, I find myself wheeling a cart full of books down the hall to our seminar room.

The cart contains an entire set of volumes of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. (You might know that our library has every set of the *EB* since its inception, but did you know that it was originally published in Edinburgh?) The cart, however, does not carry the most recent edition. It carries the edition from the 1850s—the years when Darwin was preparing for publication the work that eventually became *The Origin of Species*.

There are twenty-one volumes in this particular edition of the *EB*. Each one is thick and weighty, with lovely buckram covers and marbled facings on the edges of the pages. The books are now dusty and musty, but well preserved. Their bindings are frayed with the love and respect of generations of scholars, scholars who revered the wisdom and the cultural context of the people who constructed this edifice to

continued on page 4

Darwin revolutionized how people thought about the natural world. And to bring this home to students, I turn to our wonderful library.

Touching History, continued from page 3

national understanding. It takes much of an entire volume simply to list the contributors to the Encyclopedia, who represented the greatest and most prominent minds in the mid-Victorian era.

The students file in, and I distribute the various volumes among them, apprising them of the value of these books and how to care for them. Then I ask them to open the books and just look through them for a while. Some browse aimlessly; others head for particular entries; still others marvel at the state of knowledge about Africa, physics, primates, and a host of other subjects.

After a while I ask the students to close the books. I remind them that this edition of the *EB* was published at an auspicious time, encompassing as it does the state of biological knowledge of Darwin's day. And I ask them: what topics would you like to look up in this encyclopedia? What would you want to know about the state of knowledge just before the *Origin* is published?

The students call out ideas. Evolution. Natural Selection. Ecology. Sexual selection. The fossil record. Morphology. The list goes on. We fill the blackboard with these terms. Then I say, okay: open the books and let's find them.

And guess what? They can't find a single one.

This gives you, and them, an idea of just why Darwin's book was so revolutionary. It takes us a while to reorient our search. The reason we have to do it is that Victorian scholars didn't think about the biological world in the same way that we do today.

They parsed problems in different ways. They even used different words. So, for example, there is no entry for "ecology": the term had not yet been invented. Victorians spoke instead about the "economy of nature," a term that Darwin used in the *Origin*. "Evolution" did not mean what it does today; it denoted the orderly unfolding of well-understood patterns, such as the unrolling of a fiddlehead fern or the development of a spiraled snail shell. "Transmutation," the word that Darwin preferred to use to

describe the change of one species into another (or more), is almost dismissed as speculation.

And yet a wealth of information can be found in these pages. Richard Owen, the foremost anatomist and paleontologist of the Victorian era, wrote the entry

on "palaeontology," and it is surprisingly modern, though reserved in its explanation of what kind of theory could explain the incredible progression of fossils through time. If we look up the term "population," we discover something truly incredible. The essay is written by Robert Thomas Malthus, the author of one of the most socially influential works in European history: his classic *Essay on Population*. Malthus originally conceived this essay in the latter 18th century, and it went through a series of editions between 1798 and 1834. Malthus died in 1834, yet several decades later the *Encyclopedia Britannica* was reprinting his entry essentially unchanged. The editors added a note of explanation: the entry is not new, they say, but inasmuch as his principles have so well stood the test of time, they could

The Campaign for the University Library STRENGTHENING THE RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

The print and digital collections at the University of California, Berkeley represent the bedrock of the Library's support to campus faculty and students. In a time of spiraling costs and diminishing state funds, the Campaign for the University Library aims to strengthen the research collections in order to maintain its 140-year tradition of excellence. We are grateful for your continued gifts to our collections, which are the foundation of Cal's global reputation for scholarship and research.

www.lib.berkeley.edu/give/researchcollections.html

"All of us are profoundly grateful for the libraries, the resources, and the incredible library staff that we have at Berkeley. And we have to do whatever it takes to conserve and build these collections for posterity."

— Kevin Padian



Dr. Kevin Padian, with his beloved 1850s *Encyclopedia Britannica*

do little more than to reprint it with only slight emendations. Indeed: Malthus's essay not only spurred generations of social theory and commentary; it was also read by every savant who tried to explain why in natural populations some kinds of organisms survived and some did not. Two of those savants were Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace, who independently came up with the mechanism of natural selection to explain how inherited advantages could shape evolutionary changes through time.

Our students can physically hold these books in their hands. They can perceive across the centuries the scholars of the mid-Victorian age talking to each other, sharing information, building a legacy of knowledge and stimulating new explorations in science. What do they think about this experience?

Molecular and Cell Biology grad student Mike Brown said, "It felt like looking through a fuzzy window to the past. I couldn't fully grasp what I was seeing, but I had a strong

sense of how old and powerful it was." Jessica Lyons, another MCB grad student, said she felt she was "touching history" as she read "the very same books that someone would have held at the time we're learning about."

Other students talked about "glimpsing another world," "going back in a time machine," how "surreal" it was to get the "smell and feel" of a "first-hand account," "seeing through the eyes of a Victorian-Era scientist," and "becoming more conscious of the influence of society on my thinking." The "real sense of human connection" in physical form that the encyclopedias brought was a "snapshot" that felt "wonderful and scary."

These students could not get this experience at 99% of the colleges and universities in the world. They would not have the libraries, the resources, and the incredible library staff that we have at Berkeley. For this, all of us are profoundly grateful. And we have to do whatever it takes to conserve and build these collections for posterity. 🌿

"It felt like looking through a fuzzy window to the past. I couldn't fully grasp what I was seeing, but I had a strong sense of how old and powerful it was."

— Mike Brown

A Community of Curiosity

by Annie Barrows '84

I've always loved the University Library. As an undergraduate at Cal, I loved the University Library because it was the only non-squalid place

Guernsey and the history of its occupation by the Germans during the Second World War, the how-the-hell-do-you-write-a-novel-set-in-a-place-you-know-nothing-about problem. Avoiding the first issue, I took myself off to the University Library to address the second, which was easily done. The University Library boasted books on every facet of Guernseyana, including a riveting exploration of Guernsey cow husbandry. I was fully Guernsey-primed in a matter of weeks.

This, however, is not why I need to live in proximity to a great research library. The truth is, with enough groveling and cursing, I probably could have obtained this kind of information about Guernsey on the internet or via Amazon or at my local public library. This is the easy stuff.

The hard stuff came about eleven months later, when I was forced by my editor to manufacture addresses for several of my islanders. *Guernsey Literary* is an epistolary novel, so addresses are fairly germane, but I had avoided them because I knew how torturous their creation would be. The situation was this: I needed to find actual, extant spots on Guernsey, but they couldn't be just any old spots. They had to fulfill plot-related criteria I couldn't, at that stage, change. I needed six sites, all in one particular parish of the island and all except one within view of the sea. Three of my addresses had to be adjoining properties; one more was in sight of two of those neighbors, but not the third. One of them was a pig farm, i.e., requiring land. One was a manor house. One was a cottage with an herb garden. Another character, a fisherman, needed to be within walking distance of all the others, as well as of two specific beaches. In 1946.

This is why I need to live near a great research library. The internet yielded a 2007 street map of Guernsey, but of course, I couldn't stick my people on streets that didn't exist in '46. I also found a nice fishing map.

Obviously, in my extremity, I turned to the University Library and its beautiful Map Collection, which presented me with ten—ten!—maps of the island (and several

ANNIE BARROWS, who graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in medieval history, is co-author of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, and author of two award-winning children's series. A *New York Times* bestseller, *Guernsey* has been translated into twenty-six languages.

Enjoy Annie Barrows' reading at Story Hour in the Library, at <http://tinyurl.com/4r7nrjt>. The Story Hour readings have been viewed online tens of thousands of times.



"The true value of having a world-class library such as Berkeley's is that it creates a community of the curious, a community of people who care about learning, ask questions, seek answers, and create new work."

— Annie Barrows

I could sit down. Now, in the sobriety of maturity, I love with more discretion. I love the University Library because I'm a writer and I couldn't do my job without it.

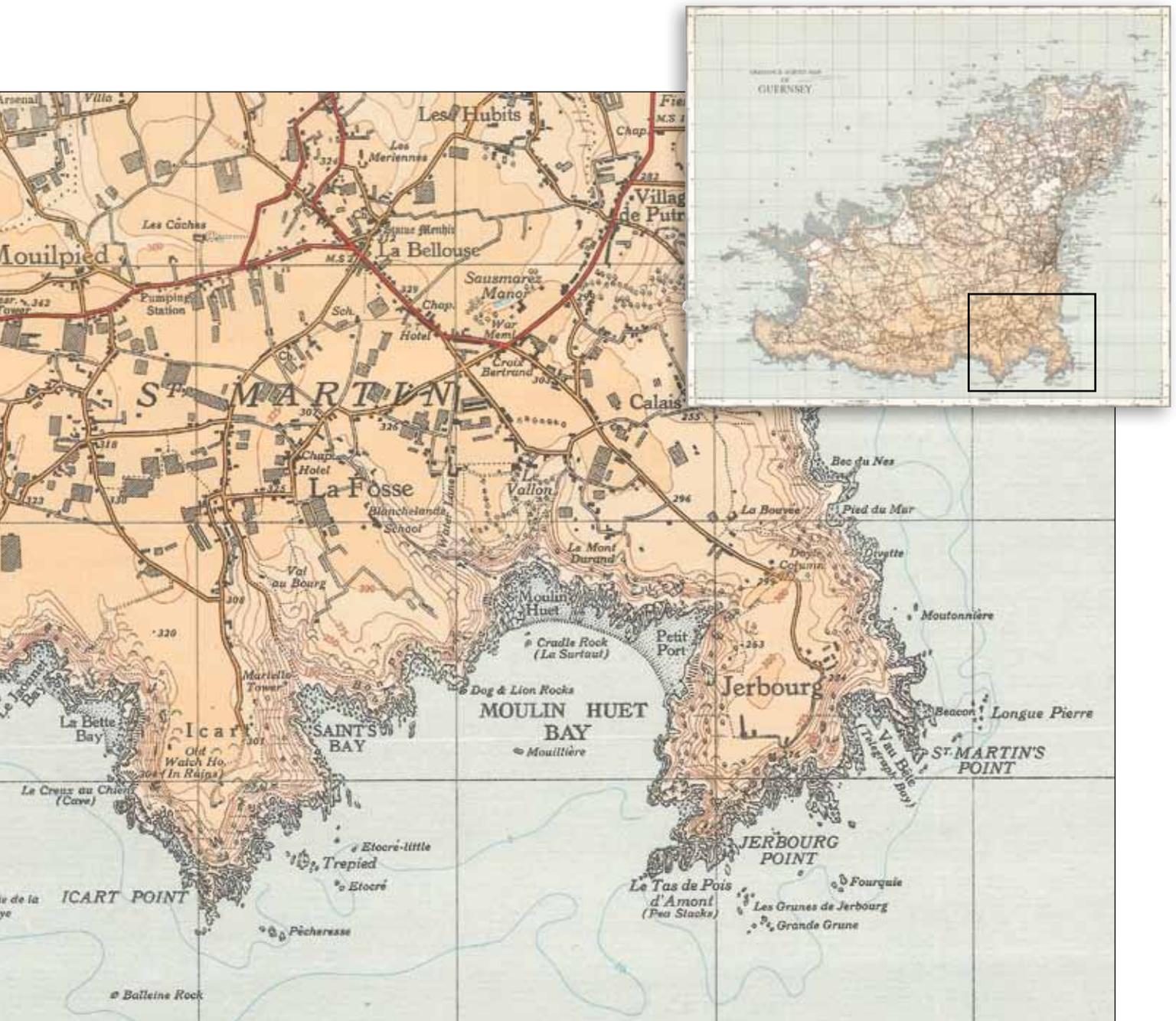
Many people tell me that I don't need to live in proximity to a world-class research library because of course I have the internet. And Amazon. And, as a last resort, the public library.

These people have no idea what they are talking about. These people aren't writers. They aren't writers with deadlines. And especially they aren't writers who need to become experts on semi-obscure islands in the English Channel very, very quickly.

When my aunt, Mary Ann Shaffer, fell ill before she had finished writing *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, she asked me to complete her book. Of course, I said. Don't give the matter another thought, I said. I will take care of everything.

Then I went home and freaked out. The problem was twofold. There was the writerly conundrum of how to adopt someone else's voice, plot, and characters. And then there was my nearly complete ignorance about the island of





Annie Barrows has said "I love the University Library because I could not do my job without it." Above, the 1934 Ordnance Survey map of Guernsey, courtesy of the Earth Sciences and Map Library, UC Berkeley.

of Guernsey County, Ohio), among which I found my prize: a 1934 Ordnance Survey map that portrayed every street, property, and gradation of land in the parish of St. Martin's. Wallowing in the exquisite lines and minuscule type, I found my six sites, and seven months later, when I finally got to Guernsey and stood on the spot where I had plopped my three neighbors, I could say that I had attained the proud goal of all historical novelists: I Wasn't Wrong.

I know that the satisfaction of my need for a 1930s map of the island of Guernsey may not be universally perceived as a compelling reason to support the University Library. But I am just one microbe in the organism, one citizen in the world of wonderers. The true value of having a world-class library such as Berkeley's is that it creates a community of the curious, a community of people who care about learning, ask questions, seek answers, and create new work. That's a community I want to live in. 🌿

Founders' Rock!

THE ORIGINS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

A CENTURY AND A HALF AGO, two seminal events in the history of the University of California occurred. In April 1860, the trustees of the College of California, our predecessor, dedicated 124 acres they had acquired for a new campus in a remote area north of Oakland in what is now Berkeley. In June of the same year, the faculty offered college-level courses to the college's first freshman class on the existing campus in downtown Oakland.

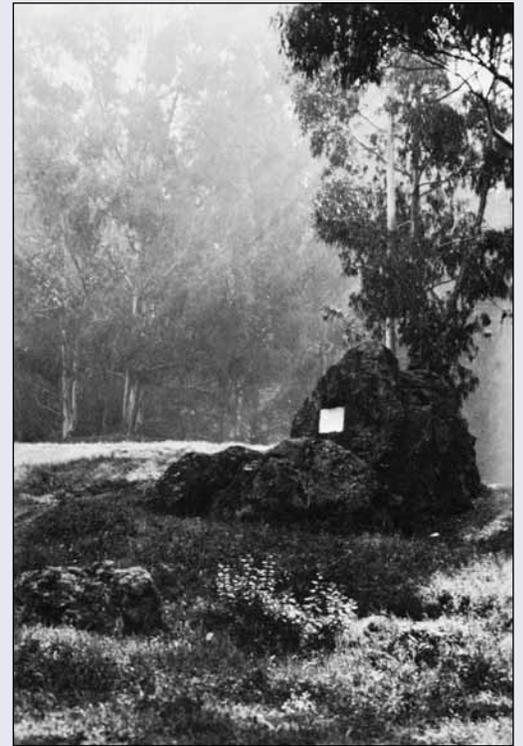
2010 marked the 150th consecutive year that a freshman class has entered this institution.

WHEN THE CAMPUS SITE WAS DEDICATED in 1860, Berkeley was still the undeveloped northern remnant of the great Peralta Rancho of Spanish California days. Reverend Samuel Willey described the April 16 dedication as follows:

... we met on a great rock, or outcropping ledge, situated about midway between the two ravines ... From this elevated spot the grounds were all before us, covered with a crop of growing grain, and bordered with such noble trees as were nowhere else to be seen.

The whole plain, indeed, was a grainfield from the Bay back to the hills and not a house that could properly be called a dwelling was in sight.

Here at the rock the Board organized for business...[A] resolution was presented, again setting apart these grounds as the location of the College of California.... Thereupon the President...offered a prayer..., asking that [the institution] ever remain a seat of Christian learning, a blessing to the youth of this State, and a center of usefulness in all this part of the world.

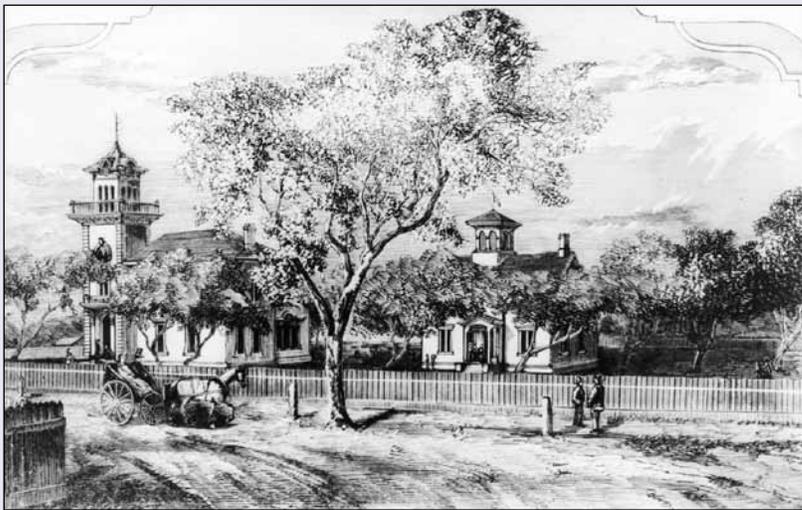
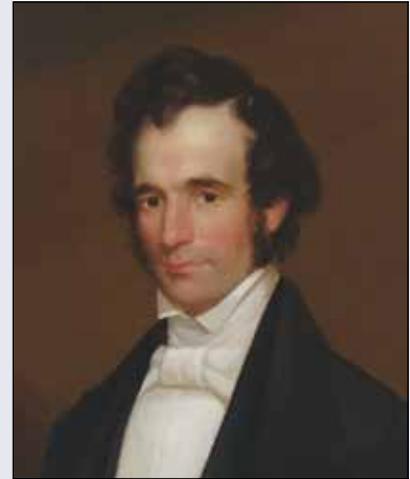


THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS:

A dozen young men constituted the charter graduating class of 1873. Since that time, they have been referred to as the Twelve Apostles. These alumni were an accomplished group: from their ranks came two University of California Regents, a congressional representative, a mayor, a governor of California, professors, lawyers, a bank president, a businessman, a clergyman, and a rancher.



THE ROAD TO FOUNDERS' ROCK was the principal work of two clergymen from the East, Samuel H. Willey and Henry Durant, who committed themselves to creating the "institution of learning" envisioned by the first state constitution of 1849. Willey served as trustee, fundraiser, and adviser to Henry Durant and many others. Durant came to California in 1853 with "college 'on the brain'" (as he put it), and established Contra Costa Academy within weeks of his arrival. Later, he became the first president of the University of California.



CONTRA COSTA ACADEMY WAS THE PREDECESSOR OF THE COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA, which occupied four blocks in downtown Oakland bounded by Twelfth and Fourteenth Streets and Harrison and Franklin Streets. Despite constant financial struggles, the College endured, and eventually evolved into the University of California.

Undated etching of the College of California (1855-1873).

THE TRUSTEES OF THE COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA possessed an expansive vision of a comprehensive university with professional schools and increased enrollment. To realize this vision, they began exploring larger sites, based on Willey's selection criteria: climate, accessibility, scenery, and abundant water. After the present location was finally selected, North and South Halls were the first buildings erected. South Hall, which is still standing, currently houses the School of Information.

1873 photograph.





NAMING THE CAMPUS — “HAVENHOLM”?

In 1866, the still-undeveloped campus remained unnamed. If suggestions from landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted had prevailed, the Berkeley campus might be known today as “Shelterdue,” “Havenholm,” or even “Peralta.” But while standing at Founders’ Rock, looking westward to the view through the Golden Gate, college trustee Frederick Billings had an inspiration. He quoted from a poem by George Berkeley this line, “*Westward the course of empire takes its way...*”

George Berkeley (pronounced BARK-lee), who became Bishop of Cloyne, was a noted 17th century Anglo-Irish churchman and philosopher who had spent some years on the East Coast of the American colonies trying unsuccessfully to establish a new college. His concept of “empire” in the quotation is often misconstrued; in the context of his poem he was speaking hopefully of an “empire” of “learning and the arts”—that is, a new age of intellectual and cultural accomplishment, rather than a political or physical empire.

The thought of honoring the name of a learned man who had worked hard for higher education resonated with the college trustees that day in 1866. They officially adopted the name “Berkeley” for their future campus.

FOUNDERS’ ROCK CENTENNIAL: In 1960 UC President Clark Kerr organized a celebration for the centennial of the 1860 campus dedication. Shown here is Board of Regents Chairman Donald McLaughlin and Governor Pat Brown—both Cal alumni—with Kerr.

The 2010-11 Library exhibit “Founders’ Rock!” excerpted in these pages was curated by David Farrell, University Archivist; William Benemann, archivist at the School of Law; Steven Finacom, planning analyst at UC Berkeley’s Capital Projects; and Kathryn M. Neal of University Archives at the Bancroft Library. The curators’ insights and expertise are greatly appreciated.

For more about UC’s history and the archives, including digital exhibits and collections, visit <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/uarc.html>.

This Bancroft Library exhibit was designed by Alison Wannamaker and mounted in the Joseph Cummings Rowell exhibition cases on the second floor of Doe Library. 🌿

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/

IN MEMORIAM

In 2010, we noted with sadness the passing of three of the Library's most devoted supporters: Jane Galante, Esther Heyns, and Marie Matthews. As Library Advisory Board members, all three were dedicated friends of the University Library.

Jane Galante (1924-2010), who earned her masters in musicology at UC Berkeley, was a noted chamber musician and San Franciscan philanthropist.

Esther Heyns (1918-2010) was first lady of the Berkeley campus in the tumultuous years of 1965 to 1971, while her husband Roger Heyns was serving as Chancellor. The warmth and friendliness she brought to her role are legendary.

Marie Matthews (1931-2010) graduated from UC Berkeley and taught school before retiring to raise her family. She was active in causes related to education, medicine, and the arts.

Our gratitude to these women for their loyalty and service to the University and the Library is profound. 🌸

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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Peg Skorpinski p. 3, 5

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

Then & Now

The thickets of bicycles locked on racks outside campus libraries affirm widespread student affection for this mode of transportation. As the turn-of-the-century photo testifies, this affection for bicycles has deep roots in our history. To meet growing interest in cycling, the campus installed



some 650 new bike-parking spaces last year. The student cooperative BicyCAL recently launched a maintenance station on Sproul, where bicyclists can stop in for free instruction and tune-ups, and a campus bike-sharing

program is also being discussed. Clearly, many people on campus are inspired by bikes as an economical way to reduce one's carbon footprint, get exercise, and promote livable cities—as well as simply a fun way to get around.



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Exhibits at the Library

Gained in Translation:

Jews, Germany, California circa 1849

through July 1, 2011

Bancroft Library Gallery

This exhibition draws on art, artifacts, books, and archival materials from the Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, the Bancroft Library, and the Levi-Strauss Archives to stretch the historical and geographic boundaries of San Francisco Jewish history. The history of the Jews in Germany before 1849 is traced through to the establishment of the Jewish community in the San Francisco Bay in the second half of the 19th century. Free and open to the public; see bancroft.berkeley.edu for hours.

Building Berkeley:

The Legacy of Phoebe Apperson Hearst

through August 31, 2011

Bernice Layne Brown Gallery, Doe Library

Phoebe Apperson Hearst was the most important benefactor to the University from her first gift in 1891 until her death in 1919. We enjoy her generosity every day in the architecture we see around us, in the important academic programs she sponsored, and in her concern for women students. The 2011-12 centennial of Doe Library makes this a fitting time to celebrate the vision of this remarkable woman. "Building Berkeley" displays a range of materials that illustrate Hearst's dedication to the welfare of the University. Free and open to the public; see www.lib.berkeley.edu for current hours.

