

- [Researching the Anti-Slavery Movement](#)
- [Annual Dinner in the Library](#)
- [Collection and Program Highlights](#)
- [What's Cooking at The Bancroft Library](#)
- [California History Series Broadcast](#)
- [East Asian Library Funding](#)
- [Clark Kerr Memoir Published](#)
- [Library Advisory Board](#)
- [Calendar of Exhibits](#)

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THE LIBRARY AS MUSE: RESEARCHING THE ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENT

Adam Hochschild

In the year 1787, if you had stood on a London street corner and called for the end of slavery, your listeners would have laughed you off as an impractical crackpot.



Adam Hochschild charms the crowd at the Dinner in the Library.

Slavery was harsh, to be sure, but, as one Member of Parliament said around this time, "neither was the trade of a butcher an amiable trade, and yet a mutton chop was, nevertheless, a very good thing." Without slaves, where, people would ask you, would we get sugar for our tea? And the tens of thousands of British sailors manning slave ships, "the nursery of the Royal Navy"--did you want to throw all of them out of work?

Yet by five years later, some 400,000 Britons were refusing to eat slave-grown sugar. There were antislavery committees in every major town in the British Isles. In 1792, 390,000 people signed protest petitions to Parliament on the subject. And the House of Commons voted to abolish the slave trade. The House of Lords refused, and British slave ships continued to cross the Atlantic. But a great movement was under way, and in the end--with the powerful help of huge slave rebellions in the West Indies--slavery came to a stop in the British Empire a full quarter century before it did in the United States.

The British antislavery movement not only burst into being with astounding suddenness, it pioneered virtually every major technique of political organizing we use today. When you take part in a consumer boycott, answer a direct mail appeal, put up a political poster, paste the logo of an environmental group on your car, or join a national lobbying organization with local chapters like the Sierra Club or the ACLU, you are using tools invented or perfected by the antislavery activists of 1787-1792.

For the last two years I have been writing a book about this movement and its leading figures. Friends often tell me, "This must mean you'll be having to spend a lot of time in England!" I wish this were so--for I'd love nothing better than to settle into some London archive to do my research, sipping tea while Big Ben chimes in the background. But the problem is, 95% of what I need is right here in Berkeley.

Sometimes I don't even have to leave home. By just logging on to the Gladis catalog on my home computer I can see if particular books or documents I need

are in Doe or Moffitt--or whether, heaven forbid, I have to look for them in that other place in Palo Alto. A few months ago the Library opened a whole new set of electronic doors. Without leaving home I can now get the full text of articles from hundreds of academic journals over the last twenty years. And if I want to know how the *Times of London* reported William Wilberforce's 1807 speech in the House of Commons about banning the slave trade, I just need to enter his name and the date, and that article is instantly on my screen, in the pitted and flecked hand-set type of its day.

Other such electronic riches now make research easier at the Library itself. I came across, for instance, a fascinating reference to an eccentric peer who was head of the Scottish Abolition Committee, who was said to sleep with a pet pig in his bedroom. Where do you quickly find information about anybody who was anybody in Britain? In the *Dictionary of National Biography*, whose 70-plus volumes' worth of information are now conveniently on a CD-ROM in the Reference Room. I entered his name, and there was his life story, complete with the tale of a surprised visitor who stumbled over a sleeping sow when coming to call on His Lordship early one dark morning.

Any time I want to find information about a particular slave ship or its officers, I go to another of the Library's CD-ROMs, which pulls together all known information about some 27,000 trans-Atlantic slave voyages. In browsing through this database, I was unsettled to find the record of some slaves carried from Africa to Jamaica in 1701 on a ship whose captain was named John Cross. 23 years later another slave vessel sailed from London under the command of William Cross. I'm descended from a long line of John and William Crosses, with the names sometimes alternating by generations. I've not yet been able to determine if these captains are my ancestors. I'm hoping they're not...

The greatest treasures, however, are the books. Two have moved me particularly. The first is a small, pocket-sized book with a big title: *An Abstract of the Evidence Delivered Before a Select Committee of the House of Commons in the Years 1790 and 1791 on the Part of the Petitioners for the Abolition of the Slave Trade*. Antislavery activists compiled this 117-page summary for Members of Parliament, so that M.P.'s wouldn't have to wade through thousands of pages of transcripts of hearings. And then, most unexpectedly, they found that had produced a best-seller. Although the phrase was unknown at the time, they had inadvertently compiled the first great work of investigative journalism. For this was the first book against slavery that, instead of arguing from the Bible, instead relied entirely on a carefully-documented series of eyewitness accounts. The testimony was shocking then and it is still shocking today.

My other favorite book is the autobiographical history of the movement by Thomas Clarkson, its firebrand chief organizer and very much the hero of my story. In 1787, he set off on an epic half-year horseback journey around England, to set up local antislavery committees, gather evidence, and find witnesses. On the Bristol waterfront, Clarkson lurked in seamen's taverns, looking for men about to sail, who would be willing to take notes on a slave ship voyage and then come testify before Parliament. Amazingly, he found one. When a group of slave ship officers realized what he was up to, they tried to kill him. In a Liverpool ship chandler's shop that supplied "the trade" Clarkson was startled to find handcuffs, shackles and thumbscrews for sale. He bought samples of them all, threw them in his saddlebags, and brought them out to show to newspaper editors in every town he stopped in from then on.

This is the most stirring memoir of a political organizer ever written. It amazes and delights me that I can borrow this book, take it home, and read pages that were printed in 1808, on paper so soft it feels like cloth--which it

partly is, for in those days pulp contained rag fiber. A volume like this should probably be kept under lock, key and armed guard in whatever section of Bancroft holds the rarest of rare books. But I don't intend to suggest that to the Library until I return it.

Adam Hochschild was born in New York City in 1942. His first book, *Half the Way Home: a Memoir of Father and Son*, was published in 1986. It was followed by *The Mirror at Midnight: A South African Journey* and *The Unquiet Ghost: Russians Remember Stalin*. His 1997 *Finding the Trapdoor: Essays, Portraits, Travels*, won the PEN/Spielvogel-Diamonstein Award for the Art of the Essay. His most recent *King Leopold's Ghost: a Story of Greed, Terror and Heroism in Colonial Africa*, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, and also won the Lionel Gelber Prize in Canada and the Duff Cooper Prize in England. Three of Hochschild's books have been named Notable Books of the Year by The New York Times Book Review. His books have been translated into eight languages.

Besides his books, Hochschild has also written for *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Mother Jones*, *The Nation*, and many other periodicals. His magazine pieces have won prizes from the Overseas Press Club, the Society of Professional Journalists, the Society of American Travel Writers, and elsewhere; one is included in *Best American Essays 2001*. He is a former commentator on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered."

Hochschild is currently researching a new book at UC Berkeley, where he also teaches writing in the Graduate School of Journalism. He has been a visiting instructor at other campuses in the U.S. and abroad, including a Fulbright Lecturer in India for five months in 1997-1998. He lives in San Francisco with his wife, Arlie Hochschild, a UC Berkeley sociologist and author. They have two sons.

NO.59 WINTER 2002
BENE LEGERE
NEWSLETTER OF THE
LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

- [Researching the Anti-Slavery Movement](#)
- [Annual Dinner in the Library](#)
- [Collection and Program Highlights](#)
- [What's Cooking at The Bancroft Library](#)
- [California History Series Broadcast](#)
- [East Asian Library Funding](#)
- [Clark Kerr Memoir Published](#)
- [Library Advisory Board](#)
- [Calendar of Exhibits](#)

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ANNUAL DINNER IN THE LIBRARY

Nearly 150 of the UC Berkeley Library's closest friends joined University Librarian Tom Leonard for the Library Associates' annual "Dinner in the Library" on the evening of November 9, 2001.

Guests were welcomed to the Library by UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Berdahl and Library Advisory Board Vice President Robert O'Donnell. As dessert was served, the Morrison Library was hushed as Adam Hochschild recounted his intriguing tale to research his book, "King Leopold's Ghost."

Hochschild described in detail how a brief footnote, in a book on an entirely different subject, started him on his quest for truth. This footnote stated that nearly 10 million people were killed, or died of starvation and disease between the 1880s and 1909, the period of King Leopold's rule. Hochschild understandably wanted to know why so few of us have ever heard about these atrocities. His research, much of it done in the stacks of Cal's Library, led him to memoirs, missionary accounts, government records, and the testimony of Africans themselves to unearth the long-forgotten facts behind Joseph Conrad's fictional account, "Heart of Darkness."

Hochschild told his audience that during the 1880's, as the European powers were carving up Africa, King Leopold II of Belgium seized for himself the vast and largely unexplored territory surrounding the Congo River. Carrying out a genocidal plundering of the Congo, he looted its rubber, brutalized its people, and ultimately slashed the population by ten million--all while shrewdly cultivating his international reputation as a great humanitarian. Heroic efforts to expose

 Picture of Hochschild, Silberstein, and Galante.

Speaker Adam Hochschild, Library Advisory Board member Steve Silberstein, and Clement Galante.



Library Advisory Board members George Miller and Bob O'Donnell, under the watchful eye of May T. Morrison.



Rishi Sharma '02, President of the UC Berkeley Californians.



Jane and Clement Galante, Barbara and Jack Rosston, and Chancellor Emeritus Albert Bowker.

this secret crime finally led to the first great international human rights movement of the 20th century in which everyone from Mark Twain to the Archbishop of Canterbury participated.

Following his remarks, dinner attendees had the opportunity to discuss the writing and researching process with Adam Hochschild in more detail, and were treated to additional wonderful anecdotes about his efforts to get this important story published.



Bancroft Library Director Charles B. Faulhaber, and Tim and Nancy Muller.

NO.59 WINTER 2002
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NEWSLETTER OF THE
LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

- [Researching the Anti-Slavery Movement](#)
- [Annual Dinner in the Library](#)
- [Collection and Program Highlights](#)
- [What's Cooking at The Bancroft Library](#)
- [California History Series Broadcast](#)
- [East Asian Library Funding](#)
- [Clark Kerr Memoir Published](#)
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- [Calendar of Exhibits](#)

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COLLECTION AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The Tebtunis Papyri Center was officially established as an Organized Research Program by the University. Part of The Bancroft Library, The Tebtunis Papyri consist of the papyrus documents that were found in the winter of 1899-1900 at the site of ancient Tebtunis, Egypt. The expedition to Tebtunis, led by the British archaeologists Bernard Grenfell and Arthur Hunt, was financed for the University of California by Mrs. Phoebe Apperson Hearst. This is the largest collection in the U. S. of papyrus documents from a single site.



Selection from Dictys Cretensis' *Ephemeris belli Troiani* (P.Tebt. II 268, 3rd Century CE). Before the discovery of this papyrus, the work was known only in Latin.

Courtesy of the Tebtunis Papyri Center

- The Marian E. Koshland Biosciences and Natural Resources Library's Entomology collections benefitted from a generous gift from Drs. Maurice J. and Catherine A. Tauber in memory of their former colleague and professor, Dr. Kenneth S. Hagen. It will be used to purchase books in insect systematics.
- Robert Pinsky, U. S. Poet Laureate from 1997-2000 read his poetry in the Morrison Library at noon on February 7 as part of the Lunch Poems Series, on the first Thursday of each month during the academic year.
- With the largest map collection in northern California, the Earth Science and Map Library hosted its reinstated annual map sale in November, as a way of clearing out outdated or duplicate maps. With hundreds turning out for the sale, the library decided to keep the annual sale concept this year, having waited 5 years since the last such sale. Watch for the next sale in Fall, 2002.
- The Astronomy/Mathematics/ Statistics Library continued to benefit in 2001 from the generosity of Emeritus Professor William Craig who established the Endowment Fund for Maintaining Strength in Logic and Related Areas in 1992. Referred to simply as the Logic Fund, the endowment income provides regular support for books and materials for study and research in the field of Logic.
- The Bancroft Library recently benefitted from the contributions of the papers and archives of the late Art Hoppe, long-time columnist of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. More information about this remarkable archive will be available once the processing and cataloguing begins later this year.

- The annual University Library survey of Library card-holders as of August, 2001, yielded a total of nearly 57,000 patrons. This includes over 47,000 UC Berkeley faculty, staff, and students with Library cards. It's easy to understand why book and material conservation is so important to keep the collections available for growing numbers of patrons.
- The renovation of the Fong Optometry Library is finally complete, providing new and vastly improved facilities for patrons and students. The library celebrated with an open house on January 18. Drop by the third floor of Minor Hall to see the new space if you're ever using the Optometry Clinic services.
- The UC Berkeley Art Museum on Bancroft Way will be exhibiting Ansel Adams photographs from February 12 through March 31 in the lower level public gallery space. The title of the exhibition is: Ansel Adams in the University Collections: A Photographer at Work. The exhibition is curated by Jack von Euw, Curator of The Bancroft Library Pictorial Collections. The materials in the exhibition are drawn primarily from a number of UC Berkeley collections, including The Bancroft Library Pictorial Collection, the University Archives, and the Berkeley Art Museum.



Ansel Adams in Juneau, Alaska, 1947.

Photo by J. Malcolm Greany

- [Researching the Anti-Slavery Movement](#)
- [Annual Dinner in the Library](#)
- [Collection and Program Highlights](#)
- [What's Cooking at The Bancroft Library](#)
- [California History Series Broadcast](#)
- [East Asian Library Funding](#)
- [Clark Kerr Memoir Published](#)
- [Library Advisory Board](#)
- [Calendar of Exhibits](#)

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WHAT'S COOKING AT THE BANCROFT LIBRARY

On August 26 2001, The Bancroft Library celebrated the acquisition of historical documents and images from Chez Panisse, the renowned Berkeley restaurant operated by Alice Waters (Class of 1967, Alumna of the Year, 1999), with the opening of it's new exhibition, "California Culinary Culture: Sampling the Collections of The Bancroft Library." The exhibition drew upon Bancroft's rich collection of California cookbooks and menus, in addition to a selection of other culinary publications, photographs, albums, advertisements, posters, letters, and oral history transcripts from the 1850's to the present. These historical resources highlighted California's role in the development of culinary trends and practices, and included selected materials from Chez Panisse, a restaurant that helped revolutionize eating and dining in the United States and abroad.

California's cuisine is shaped by many cultures, strengthened by the bounty of the land and waters, and polished by technological developments in agriculture, transportation, and communication. The exhibit sought to represent California's indigenous peoples, early European settlers, and later immigrants, each with its own culinary traditions. California's Native Americans took advantage of abundant wild game and seafood, acorns, grains, berries, fruits and nuts, and edible plants. Settlers from Mexico, Spain, Italy, France, China, Japan, left their culinary imprint on the state, adding the distinctive ingredients and recipes of their particular cultures.

The traces of this potpourri of cultures are found in California's culinary innovation, its willingness to try the new and unexpected. The recent exhibit focused not on the early chefs of the state who tested their skills on sometimes discriminating clientele, but also the home cooks, concerned with satisfying hungry family members and friends. A certain sophistication in California's cuisine followed the arrival of a population of writers and artists, educated and



The poster "Chez Panisse Café & Restaurant Thirtieth Anniversary," with descriptive text concerning the recent exhibit "California Culinary Culture: Sampling the Collections of The Bancroft Library," is offered in a limited edition of 400. Designed and printed by graphic artist David Lance Goines, this poster celebrates an exhibit of culinary books, menus, and other materials from the collections of The Bancroft Library.

refined travelers, and international business people and professionals who came to demand more from California's cooks.

Items in the exhibit included Gold Rush Era menus from noted San Francisco restaurants and hotels; nineteenth century photographs of the California wine industry by Eadweard Muybridge and unattributed photographs of Chinatown markets and restaurants; transcripts of oral history interviews with contemporary figures such as Robert Mondavi, Chuck Williams, and Polly Ghirardelli; and cookbooks from such California culinary icons as Helen Evans Brown. Additional materials on display include contemporary menus from a wide range of Bay Area restaurants; photographs and publications that address the social aspects of food and diet during the 1960's; and books and pamphlets that illuminate the technical and commercial preparation of food for railroads and other service industries.

Historical materials from the records of Chez Panisse included correspondence between Alice Waters and M.F.K. Fisher, the noted culinary author. A selection of Chez Panisse menus, particularly those holiday and special occasion menus produced by leading printers and graphic artists offered both a visual and sensual treat, as did a series of Chez Panisse cookbooks presented with elegant illustrations. Chez Panisse posters, the work of David Lance Goines, added additional luster to an exhibit that celebrated the nourishing effects of fine dining and fine printing.

Alice Waters graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1967 with a degree in French Cultural Studies. She then trained at the Montessori School in London, followed by a year traveling in France. Alice is author and co-author of several books, including *The Chez Panisse Menu Cookbook*, *Fanny at Chez Panisse*, a storybook and cookbook for children, and, most recently, the encyclopedic *Chez Panisse Vegetables*. She has also received numerous awards, which include being named one of the ten best chefs in the world in 1986, by the magazine *Cuisine et Vins du France*; Best Chef in America and Best Restaurant in America, from the James Beard Foundation, in 1992; and an honorary degree from Mills College, Oakland, California, in 1994.

NO.59 WINTER 2002
BENE LEGERE
NEWSLETTER OF THE
LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

- [Researching the Anti-Slavery Movement](#)
- [Annual Dinner in the Library](#)
- [Collection and Program Highlights](#)
- [What's Cooking at The Bancroft Library](#)
- [California History Series Broadcast](#)
- [East Asian Library Funding](#)
- [Clark Kerr Memoir Published](#)
- [Library Advisory Board](#)
- [Calendar of Exhibits](#)

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NEWS FROM BANCROFT LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SERIES BROADCAST

The Bancroft Library and KQED Public Radio partnered to broadcast "Live...From The Bancroft Library," in January, 2002, three programs on the history of early California. Three noted scholars and authors discussed important aspects of California history that draw on the extensive historical collections of The Bancroft Library.

Recorded before a live audience in the Heller Reading Room of The Bancroft Library, the one-hour programs were: "The California Mission As Symbol and Myth" by James Rawls; "The Origins and Power of California's Image" by J.S. Holliday; and "Heaven on the Half-Shell: Mark Twain in California" by Robert H. Hirst.

Ms. Jo Anne Wallace, Vice President and General Manager of KQED Public Radio, stated, "We are delighted to be joining with an esteemed institution like The Bancroft Library to demonstrate that history can be exciting. This is the first time KQED Public Radio has aired a California historical series, and we believe our KQED listeners will find these talks both extremely interesting and highly educational."

Dr. Faulhaber added, "We hope the programs will stimulate interest in and support of the Bancroft, which contains indispensable resources for understanding the history of California and western North America. These programs will help us develop the public's understanding of the depth of resources at The Bancroft. We hope this will be the first in a long series of interesting and informative Bancroft programs with KQED Public Radio."

This KQED Public Radio series is an expansion of "The History of Early California" lecture series that The Bancroft conducted in 2000. Sponsored with a grant from The Wells Fargo Foundation, Bancroft produced 15,000 sets of audiotape talks by these lecturers.



- [Researching the Anti-Slavery Movement](#)
- [Annual Dinner in the Library](#)
- [Collection and Program Highlights](#)
- [What's Cooking at The Bancroft Library](#)
- [California History Series Broadcast](#)
- [East Asian Library Funding](#)
- [Clark Kerr Memoir Published](#)
- [Library Advisory Board](#)
- [Calendar of Exhibits](#)

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THE CHINESE CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INCREASES ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE EAST ASIAN LIBRARY AND STUDIES CENTER

As one of the earliest organized ethnic organizations at Berkeley, the Chinese Chapter of the CAA has continually supported campus programs for academics, athletics, scholarships, and community projects. For many years, the Chapter has placed an especially strong emphasis on supporting scholarships for Cal students, and, in 2001, was honored with the California Alumni Association's Outstanding Club Award.

The Chinese Chapter has been raising significant funds for the newly planned East Asian Library and Studies Center (EALSC) in recent years. At a special reception in December in the Morrison Library, Chapter officers increased the Chapter's contribution to a total commitment of \$500,000, and presented Chancellor Berdahl with a special check.

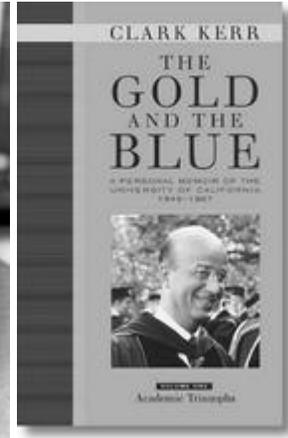
The EALSC is the second highest priority for the Chancellor's current campus fund raising efforts, so this increased support comes at an exceptionally critical time. During the presentation, the Chancellor stated that at the heart of Berkeley's world-renowned programs in East Asian studies is the East Asian Library--the largest and most comprehensive collection of East Asian materials in the western United States. He noted that it is one of the University's great treasures and the principal resource for East Asian research and teaching for all nine UC campuses as well as an invaluable asset throughout the world. However, despite its stature, the East Asian Library is housed in woefully inadequate facilities that require increased private support to fund construction of a new East Asian Library and Studies Center in order to pursue its important work with greater focus and scope.



CLARK KERR MEMOIR PUBLISHED

As Chancellor of the Berkeley campus from 1952 to 1958 and president of the University from

1958 to 1967, Dr. Clark Kerr experienced Cal's purportedly "golden years"--times filled with both great advancement and great conflict. The first volume of his memoirs was recently published, entitled "The Gold and the Blue: A Personal Memoir of the University of California, 1949-1967. Volume I: Academic Triumphs."



In this first of two volumes, Dr. Kerr describes the private life of the University from his first visit to Berkeley as a graduate student at Stanford in 1932 to his dismissal under Governor Ronald Reagan in 1967. Early in his tenure as a professor, the Loyalty Oath issue erupted, and the University, particularly the Berkeley campus, underwent its most difficult upheaval until the onset of the Free Speech Movement in 1964. Dr. Kerr discusses many pivotal developments, including the impact of the GI Bill and the evolution of the much-emulated 1960 California Master Plan for Higher Education. He also discusses the movement for universal access to education and describes the establishment and growth of each of the nine campuses and the forces and visions that shaped their distinctive identities. The second volume of the memoir will treat the public life of the University and the political context that conditioned its environment.

Dr. Kerr continues to serve the University Library as a member of the Library Advisory Board.

- [Researching the Anti-Slavery Movement](#)
- [Annual Dinner in the Library](#)
- [Collection and Program Highlights](#)
- [What's Cooking at The Bancroft Library](#)
- [California History Series Broadcast](#)
- [East Asian Library Funding](#)
- [Clark Kerr Memoir Published](#)
- [Library Advisory Board](#)
- [Calendar of Exhibits](#)

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*From the Latin motto inscribed
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Legere Saecla Vincere, "To read
well is to master the ages."

NO. 59 WINTER 2002

BENELEGERE

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

- [The Library as Muse: Researching the Anti-Slavery Movement](#)
- [Annual Dinner in the Library](#)
- [Collection and Program Highlights](#)
- News from Bancroft Library
[What's Cooking at The Bancroft Library](#)
- News from Bancroft Library
[California History Series Broadcast](#)
- [The Chinese Chapter of the California Alumni Association Increases Its Contribution to the East Asian Library and Studies Center](#)
- [Clark Kerr Memoir Published](#)
- [Library Advisory Board, 2001-2002](#)
- [Calendar of Exhibits](#)

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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](#).

CALENDAR OF EXHIBITS

The Foundations of Anthropology in California: A Centennial Perspective

**Bancroft Exhibition Gallery
Bancroft Library
Through April 29, 2002**

The exhibit tells a story of key personalities and events driving the establishment and development of anthropology in its first sixty years at UC Berkeley. Includes records, documents, and images from the Bancroft Library with

Gifts to the Library

**Bernice Layne Brown Gallery
Doe Library
February 15 through April 15, 2002**

Treasures from personal libraries come in random thousands to great institutions like Berkeley. The Library gives them new life by cataloging them and making them visible to the world. The gifts on display, from virtually every library on campus, illustrate depth

Lunch Poem Series

**Moffitt Exhibition Gallery
Moffitt Library
Through March 31, 2002**

Featuring selected works of Marilyn Hacker, Robert Pinsky, and Chana Bloch, all featured poets in the Library's Spring Lunch Poem Series.

Ansel Adams in the University Collections: A Photographer at Work
Lower Level Public Gallery

additional items and exquisite artifacts provided by the Hearst Museum of Anthropology and the American Museum of Natural History.



and diversity, identify donors and celebrate their generosity.

The Disability Rights Movement
Free Speech Movement Café
Moffitt Library
Through April 2002

Photographs taken by Bay Area photographers chronicling the efforts of the disabled community in their efforts to gain equal access.

Berkeley Art Museum
February 12 through March 31,
2002

This exhibition reveals a surprising side of Adam's career in its emphasis on his work as a commercial photographer trying to make a living through the craft of photography. Materials drawn primarily from UC Berkeley collections, including The Bancroft Library Pictorial Collection, the University Archives, and the Berkeley Art Museum.