

NO.61 FALL 2002

BENE LEGERE

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

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The Library Associates

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Charles Franklin Doe and Michael Reese: Library Legacies

Throughout its 134-year history, the Library of the University of California has benefited from the generosity and loyalty of alumni and friends.

Its collections have grown and its services expanded as a result of the recognition of the crucial role the Library plays in the lives of students and faculty. Bene Legere occasionally will be presenting Library Legacies to highlight the importance of private support for the nation's best public library at Cal. From the very early days of the University, the contributions of both funds and collections have been critical parts of building and sustaining our exceptional library. Beginning with this edition, Bene Legere is pleased to recognize two early and very significant donors to our University Library.

Two individuals in particular are noteworthy for their exceptional support in helping create the great university research library at Berkeley—Charles Franklin Doe and Michael Reese. Through very generous bequests to Cal, they played pivotal roles in the development of the UC Berkeley Library—one helped to build a building, one helped to fill it.

Both men arrived in San Francisco during the 1850s and took advantage of business opportunities provided by the Gold Rush and California's resulting population growth. Both men became San Francisco-based financiers who provided necessary funding for a variety of entrepreneurs of their day. But their personal stories are quite different.

Charles Franklin Doe

Charles Franklin Doe was the twelfth child of Bartlett Doe. Born August 13, 1833, he was in poor health most of his life. He took his first job as a schoolteacher in Parsonsfield but soon found himself ill-prepared and ill-suited for the profession and moved to Boston, working as a carpenter. In 1850, his brother Bartlett traveled to California, and was joined two years later by his brother John. Together the two brothers formed the firm "B. and J. S. Doe," a sash, door and blind business. In 1857, Charles followed them west to San Francisco, and formed a partnership with James Knowland to sell retail lumber. Even though this business partnership dissolved, the company Doe helped found prospered as "Charles F. Doe & Co." At the time of his death in 1904, Charles Franklin Doe had a net worth of several million dollars and was considered, "a first rank San Francisco capitalist."

For a man so identified with Cal's Library, there are strangely no photographs of him—only one daguerreotype seems to exist in Maine, taken just before he left for California. It was said that he felt uncomfortable with the idea of sitting for a portrait. He was described as thin, 5 foot 10 inches in height, weighing 150 lbs., with a long face, full beard; prominent forehead; firmly modeled nose, bushy

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eyebrows, with the brows and lids well apart. So a mental image from this description is all we can offer our readers.

His life in San Francisco centered on a home he built in the late 1880's on the corner of California and Laguna Streets. It was reported that he believed that no one should need more than \$500,000 and so began to discuss philanthropy with his close friend and advisor, H.B. Phillips—especially concerning what would be done with his estate, valued at many times that sum. Doe was impressed with the impact that the Alexandria Library in Egypt had on civilization at that time and began to ponder the founding of a library with his wealth. In 1902, he created a will that left nearly a quarter of his property (then totaling more than \$595,000) to the Regents of the University of California, for the construction "...of a library building for its Academic Department..." (It is said that he would have left much more, but California State law at that time limited bequests to benevolent institutions.)

At the laying of the cornerstone of Doe Library on Thanksgiving Day in 1908 (still in evidence at the northeast corner of the building), his nephew, Loring B. Doe, remembered Charles F. Doe and stated that "...His life was an inspiration to all who came in contact with him. He was the embodiment of honor and integrity, and every dollar invested in this building was honestly acquired. His character was without blemish, and he carried to the grave the love and esteem of all who knew him..." This is the wonderful legacy that continues to benefit scholars today on the Berkeley campus.

Michael Reese

Michael Reese was born in 1817 in Germany and moved to San Francisco in 1850 where he substantially increased his fortune. He is cited in the annuals of early California history for a variety of actions—in 1857, offering financial advise to the fledgling California State Legislature; in 1872, discovering a gold rush site that began yielding \$5000 in gold a day on only the second day of digging; and in 1873, serving as a corporate director of the upstart San Francisco and Colorado River Railway. But perhaps more interesting and entertaining were the mentions of Michael (Mike) Reese in the periodicals of the period.

From the New York Daily Tribune dated August, 1878, "...The late Michael Reese, of California, was an old Forty-Niner and in his young days was a pedler [sic], with his pack on his back. He left a fortune estimated at \$10,000,000, being one of the largest real estate owners in San Francisco. He was noted during his life for his extreme penuriousness, denying himself the slightest luxury of any kind. In connection with this fact, the following story is told of him: 'In the early days of California he fell a victim to one of Cupid's darts. After worshipping at the shrine of love for a time, he grew weary of his devotions, deserted the object of his affections, and was sued in the courts of justice for breach of promise. At the trial of the case, it was shown that during their many excursions, he was in the habit of treating her exclusively to ginger-bread—that being the cheapest luxury. The jury, from that fact and his well-known penurious habits, rendered a verdict in favor of the injured plaintiff. She went on her way rejoicing, and he vowed everlasting hatred towards the sex.' Mr. Reese died a bachelor."

In 1896, an article entitled, "Two San Franciscans. A self-appointed sovereign and a millionaire miser" appeared in the San Francisco Argonaut. "...Another

noted San Franciscan to whom our author devotes a chapter is Michael Reese, the miser. Bishop Fitzgerald thus details his first meeting with him:

I had business with him and went at a business hour. He was a punctual man—as a collector of what was due him. Seeing that he was intently engaged, I paused and looked at him. A man of huge frame, with enormous hands and feet, massive head, receding forehead and heavy cerebral development, full sensual lips, large nose, and peculiar eyes that seemed at the same time to look through you and to shrink from your gaze—he was a man at whom a stranger would stop in the street to get a second look. There he sat at his desk, too much absorbed to notice my entrance. Before him lay a large pile of one-thousand-dollar United States Government bonds, and he was clipping off the coupons. That face! It was a study as he sat using the big pair of scissors. I had come upon a devotee engaged in worship. This was Mike Reese, the millionaire. Placing his huge left hand upon the pile of bonds, he gruffly returned my salutation, 'Good morning.'

Another Michael Reese tale that held strong public interest:

It was discovered by a neighbor of his that Reese had built the wall of one of his immense business houses in Front St. six inches beyond his own property line. Not being on friendly terms with Reese, his neighbor made a peremptory demand for the removal of the wall, or the payment of a heavy price for the ground. Here was misery for the miser. He writhed in mental agony, and begged for easier terms, but in vain. His neighbor would not relent. A day was fixed for Reese to give a definite answer to his neighbor's demand, with notice that, in case of noncompliance, suit against him would be begun at once. The day came, and with it a remarkable change in Reese's tone. He sent a short note to his enemy breathing defiance.

'What is the matter?' mused the puzzled citizen. 'Reese has made some discovery that makes him think he has the upper hand, else he would not talk this way.'

Reese happened to be the owner of another lot adjoining that of his enemy, on the other side. It occurred to him that, as all these lots were surveyed at the same time by the same party, it was most likely that as his line had gone six inches too far on the one side, his enemy's had gone as much too far on the other. And so it was. He quietly had a survey made of the premise. And he chuckled with inward joy to find that he held the winning card in the unfriendly game. With grim politeness the neighbors exchanged deeds for the two half-feet of ground and their war ended.

Though numerous sources of the time do describe him as a miserly bachelor, Michael Reese did aid the University of California Library twice with important and generous support. The first time Cal's Library benefited was through his support for the acquisition of the important scholarly collection of Professor Francis Lieber, a noted professor in Political Science at Columbia University. Then UC President Daniel Coit Gilman, received notice that the estate of Professor Lieber was offering his library for sale. President Gilman placed a

notice in the local papers suggesting that it would be a fine opportunity for a German-American to purchase the library and present it to the University of California. On March 28, 1873, Michael Reese sent President Gilman a check in the amount of \$2000 to purchase the Lieber collection for the UC Library.

The second time Reese was a benefactor of the University, was through a provision in his will, giving to the University the sum of fifty thousand dollars, as a foundation for the “Reese Library of the University of California.” At its December 1880 meeting of the Regents, decided that “...the library to be formed by virtue of the bequest of the late Michael Reese, be general in its character, and that the same shall include judiciously selected works pertaining to literature, science, and the arts.” In 1885, a tablet was placed in the Bacon Art and Library building, (now located in the East Reading Room of Doe Library) with the following inscription:

To
MICHAEL REESE,
In commemoration of his liberality
in donating to the
Library fifty thousand dollars

For more than 125 years, thousands of Library donors from thousands of varied backgrounds and views have understood the important role the Library plays in the life of the University. They know, as did Charles Franklin Doe and Michael Reese, that the Library serves as the intellectual resource in support of the University’s diverse teaching and research activities, and how important an outstanding library is to the education of students who continue to shape our lives and our future. To them and to all Library benefactors, we are very grateful.

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New Library Prize to be Awarded for Outstanding Undergraduate Research Projects

"At Berkeley we're redefining undergraduate education-using our unique strengths as a research university to enrich the academic experience for undergraduates. One of our faculty's most important teaching partners is the University Library. Its staff and resources help students develop the critical thinking and technological abilities necessary to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information."

-Christina Maslach

Vice-Provost, Undergraduate Education

The Challenge

Student success is a paramount concern for institutions of higher education. Educators in all disciplines work to ensure that students have the skills they need for continuous learning throughout their college and professional careers. Today, progressive academic institutions strive to create learning environments where inquiry is the norm, problem solving is the focus, and critical thinking is part of the process. Leading national research universities in particular are taking advantage of their unique strengths to link undergraduate education to the research agenda.

UC Berkeley's Library is a major research center of international prominence. The Library, ranking third among academic libraries in the United States, has a collection that includes over 9 million volumes, 81,000 current serial titles, 21,000 videos and DVDs, and access to more than 200 electronic databases and 7000 e-journals. The Library includes the Doe/Moffitt Libraries, The Bancroft Library, the East Asian Library and 20 subject specialty libraries.

The size and complexity of the Library, combined with the quantity of information available through the Library and via the Internet, represent enormous potential for the intellectual growth of undergraduate students. But abundance of information alone guarantees neither better research projects nor better educated students. Indeed, the ability to negotiate our increasingly complex information environment requires a complementary set of critical thinking and technological abilities necessary to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information-competencies that the higher education community has begun to codify and incorporate into the college curriculum.

The Prize

Recognizing that the University Library frequently functions as a research "laboratory," particularly in the humanities and the social sciences, the Library

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has created the Library Prize for Undergraduate Research. This prize recognizes excellence in undergraduate research projects that incorporate the use of Library collections, and that demonstrate sophisticated information literacy skills on the part of the undergraduate researcher. While the campus offers a variety of prizes for research, the Library Prize is different: the focus is on the research process more than on the final product, to demonstrate the student's library research skills and ability to select, incorporate and synthesize the results of their research.

Up to six prizes will be awarded annually: three for lower division and three for upper division students. A panel of six librarians and faculty will serve as judges for the applications, which will be accepted at the end of each spring semester. Cash prizes will be given at a reception hosted by the Library, and Library exhibit space will highlight projects from award winners. Winners and their faculty sponsors will be commemorated with brass plaques located near the new exhibit cases in Doe Library. In addition, a website for the prize will describe the application procedure, provide the forms needed to apply, and list the winners.

The Library Prize for Undergraduate Research will provide a very public means to recognize and reinforce undergraduate research skills and the Library's role in shaping and directing students' research learning activities. For more information, contact Lynn Jones, Teaching Library, (510) 643-9958 or ljones@library.berkeley.edu.

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The Teaching Library: Reaching Cal Undergraduates

Hundreds of first-year students placed a visit to the Library at the top of their list of Welcome Week activities. For many students, learning about the nine million volume collection spread throughout more than 25 campus library locations and available in a variety of formats was simultaneously inspiring and overwhelming.

Aware of the complexities inherent in such a rich organization, The Teaching Library, a component of Doe and Moffitt Libraries' Instructional Services, focuses on the special needs of undergraduates at a large research institution. First-year students receive an annual summer reading list developed in partnership with the Office of Educational Development; this year's list of banned and challenged books offers an intellectually stimulating transition between high school and college, while reminding students that they are joining a community that values thought and reading. Outreach to many academic support programs, for groups such as transfer, adult re-entry, and disabled students and Haas Scholars, ensures that library staff remain participants throughout a student's academic life.

Some of the most meaningful connections occur where library resources and academic coursework intersect. Each year, the Teaching Library provides course-related instruction to thousands of undergraduate students in the humanities and social sciences-introducing them to appropriate subject-specific resources, discussing approaches for their research, and actively engaging them in the analysis of the resources they select.

Library classes for American Studies focus on skills to successfully research and analyze interdisciplinary issues related to American society. Library seminars to History 7B classes guide novice researchers through the process of locating primary source materials on historical topics. This year, a new program designed with the College of Letters and Science integrates information literacy and critical thinking skills into a course which introduces students to a wide range of disciplines. Library collections are one of Berkeley's greatest assets, but without a guide those collections would be largely invisible to most undergraduates. The role of the Teaching Library is not to simply demonstrate resources, but to guide and engage students in the process of their learning so they become increasingly independent and confident about locating, evaluating, and synthesizing information.

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The Reference Center and the Great Rooms

Bene Legere Saecla Vincere is inscribed on the north wall of the East Reading Room in Doe Library Building. Translated, it means "To read well is to master the ages." Scholars in the Humanities and Social Sciences will identify with this quote as they are inspired by the newly remodeled and configured Research Center. This semester The Library is celebrating the opening of the new Reference Center. Harking back to a time of grand architecture, the Reference Center is a single centralized research space developed out of the three great rooms within Doe Library. The Center is comprised of the Reference Hall where the reference desk, Research Advisory Services, special shelving locations for the reference collection, and 34 computer workstations are located. Banked on either side are the North Reading Room, where the Doe Reference Collection is located and the East Reading Room (formerly known as GSSI) location of Government Documents Reference Collections, selected current periodicals for the social sciences and 15 more computers.



Reference Hall, Doe Library, 2002.

A Beaux-Arts room set next to a recreation of an Italian Renaissance palace creates an architectural flight of fancy as well as a focal point for research and reference services for researchers in the Doe Library. Librarians serving as liaisons to academic departments and programs, as well as other library staff, provide assistance and instruction with both print and electronic resources. A newly designed reference desk incorporates decorative details from nearby historic bronze doors. The mix of the old with the cyber-present allows unparalleled access to the online and print reference collection. The print collection includes 27,000 volumes located in the North Reading Room and in the Reference Hall, and the 15,000 volume government document reference collections located in the East Reading Room.

The remodeling cost so far is about \$500,000, and it is estimated that a like amount will be spent to finish work on the Reference Hall alone. Eventually, renovation of the North Reading Room, which houses the bulk of the reference collection, will be undertaken with an estimated cost of \$3 million to \$5 million.

The placement of reference services in the historical second floor space links the functions of

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Reference Hall, Doe Library, 1939.

adjacent spaces, the Rosberg Reading Room and Graduate Services, providing a single place in the Doe Library for users in need of research assistance. We invite all researchers and Library patrons to come by and marvel in the beauty of the architecture and the bounty of research materials.

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Bear in Mind: The California Grizzly at The Bancroft Library

There is no better place to host an exhibit dedicated to the California Grizzly Bear than The Bancroft Library! Where else could one find unique diaries, letters, photographs, and artwork placed alongside rare books, journals, posters, and other scholarly materials. As Susan Snyder and Bill Brown, co-curators of the exhibit will tell you, there is "bearly" enough room in the exhibit cases to scratch the surface of Bancroft's extensive collections.



Painting of Grizzly bear. C. Hart Merriam Pictorial Collection.

Library exhibits often pay homage to a noted individual, such as an author, scholar, or important historical figure. Exhibits sometimes recognize important donors and collectors. Certain exhibits may also commemorate important dates, eras, and events in history. Bear in Mind: The California Grizzly at The Bancroft Library, August 26 - November 27, 2002 touches upon each of these themes, as it explores the physical extinction and the cultural resurrection of the California Grizzly Bear.

Exploring the rapid extinction of California's largest land animal, the contemporary symbol of our state and the mascot for the UC Berkeley campus, illuminates many aspects of California history. The California grizzly "serves as a fitting microcosm for the study of California history from the 1700s to the present," said Charles B. Faulhaber, the James D. Hart director of The Bancroft Library.

"Through the lens of time, one can view the brutality, ignorance, romance, guilt, and 'redefinition' that characterize our treatment of this icon of California history."

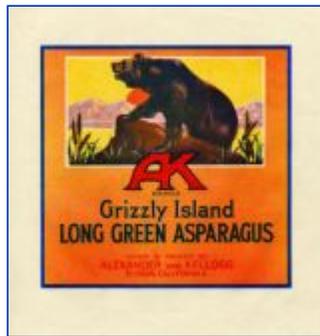
The California Grizzly Bear once roamed the shores and hills of California, as the true "monarch of the mountains." The grizzly, a largely vegetarian omnivore, is believed to have once numbered 10,000 within the state. The arrival of European explorers and the population explosion generated by the California Gold Rush marked the beginning of the end for this massive animal. Forced from coastal areas and lowlands to inland areas in search of food and safety, the bear became the target of hunters who killed the bear for sport, to assist ranchers and farmers, or for simple bragging rights. Spanish caballeros roped grizzlies, dragging them into doomed public battles with wild bulls.

At the end of the nineteenth century the California Grizzly Bear represented man's last challenge to conquer and settle California's rich agricultural, grazing, and mineral regions. Civilization demanded the submission of nature's largest, strongest, and most feared animal. Scientists, such as Berkeley's own C. Hart

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Merriam and Joseph Grinnell hurried to study this disappearing creature. For many, however, the extinction of the grizzly bear signaled a measurable victory against the savage wilderness and a triumph for the modern elements of California society-expanding cities and towns, increasing commerce and industry, and improved agricultural and livestock ventures.

Susan Snyder, Head of Access Services at The Bancroft Library and co-curator for the exhibit noted, "It's a sad story. The grizzly was here for centuries and, in a flash, he was eradicated. They were gone before people realized what was happening." Bill Brown, Head of Public Services and co-curator observed, "Beginning in the 1850s the introduction of modern weaponry and technology, in the form of better rifles, traps, and poisons, spelled disaster for the grizzly bear."



Grizzly Island Asparagus Label Annie Montague Alexander, naturalist, philanthropist, farmer, and founder of Berkeley's Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, chose this design and logo for her "Grizzly Island Asparagus." By 1931 the Sacramento River Delta farm owned by Alexander and her partner Louise Kellogg was producing 10,000 crates of asparagus per year. Collection of Robert Jones

Today, the California Grizzly Bear remains as a multi-dimensional symbol. American Indian cultures continue to revere and fear the spirit of the bear as a symbol of strength, power, and, on occasion, evil. California's own statehood is intimately linked to the symbol of the grizzly bear-beginning with the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846 and the appearance of the bear upon the first state flag. In the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries the image of the California Grizzly Bear evolved to represent a bygone era. As the grizzly bear dwindled in number, its legend grew. Nostalgic views depict the bear as a symbol of a simpler, more romantic era. Commercial images exploit this notion in an effort to imbue agricultural and manufactured products with these same qualities.

This exhibit presents letters and diaries of explorers, hunters, and goldminers; published narratives and descriptions of encounters with bears; and illustrations, photographs, maps, museum specimens, artwork, and ephemera arranged to illuminate the historical significance of the California Grizzly Bear.

The California Grizzly Bear-the real California Grizzly Bear-is an important historical figure in our state.

Collectors such as Hubert Howe Bancroft and others have helped The Bancroft Library gather a treasure-trove of rare and unique historical materials. The

California Grizzly Bear viewed across the centuries, from the earliest known myths and legends of Native Americans to its extinction and subsequent resurrection as a symbol of our state, helps us understand the many cultural, economic, and social forces that have shaped the growth and development of California.

Highlights of the exhibit include:

The recently-acquired original manuscript of Theodore Hittell's 1860 landmark biography, "The Adventures of James Capen Adams," or "Grizzly Adams." The six hundred+ pages record Hittell's personal interviews with Adams in the

1850s. Grizzly Adams was a legendary figure in California. Famed for his skills as a hunter and trapper of grizzlies and other wild animals, Adams killed scores of grizzlies, shipped live animals to the east coast and Europe, and also raised young cubs as pets. Adams and his long-time pet, "Ben Franklin," often walked the streets of San Francisco.

The transcript of an 1887 interview with hunter George Nidever, who claimed to have killed more than 200 grizzlies in the 1840s and 1850s.

Nineteenth century posters and broadsides advertising grizzly bear fights and exhibitions, including one event at the Iowa Hill Amphitheater.

Other items in the exhibit include lithographs and artwork from the Robert B. Honeyman, Jr. Collection; and a statuette of "Oski," UC Berkeley's costumed mascot introduced in 1941 after the use of real bears at athletic events was discontinued.
