

**[NO.70 SUMMER
2006
BENE LEGERE
NEWSLETTER OF
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LIBRARY
ASSOCIATES](#)**

- [Thousands of Quake Refugees Find Shelter on Campus](#)
- [Library café starts serving up news](#)
- [Joan Didion receives Bancroft Library award](#)
- [Rallying the Troops in Doe Library](#)
- [Bancroft Library receives vast archives of *San Francisco Examiner*](#)
- [Greek Government Gift Bolsters Classics Collection](#)

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

Bancroft Library receives vast archives of *San Francisco Examiner*

Campus photography collections now the largest among U.S. universities

Thanks to an extraordinary gift this spring, the Bancroft Library photography collection now boasts an unparalleled visual record of the Bay Area through the 20th century. Included in the archives of the *San Francisco Examiner* are images from coverage of:

- Jim Jones, leader of the People's Temple cult, including material from Guyana
- The 1978 assassination of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk
- Pope John Paul II's visit to San Francisco in 1987
- Joan Baez in concert with the Grateful Dead in the 1980s
- The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.



The single largest gift ever to The Bancroft Library, the archives will more than double the size of the Bancroft's photographic print collection and triple the collection of negatives, to a total of over 8 million prints and negatives.

Florence Fang and Willie Brown view prints from the *San Francisco Examiner* archives.

The collection will be known as the Fang Family *San Francisco Examiner* Archives, in part to pay tribute to the family that published the *Examiner* from 2000 to 2004. It is a gift of the *San Francisco Examiner's* owner, the Anschutz Corporation and its subsidiary, the SF Newspaper Company.

The photographic morgue of the *Examiner*, a newspaper that was at one point the flagship of the Hearst publishing empire, constitutes the bulk of the gift. The archives date from circa 1919 to the late 1990s, and are estimated to consist of more than 5 million items.

In addition, the Bancroft will be given the 850 bound volumes of the newspaper's archival copy, which spans from 1888 to 1956, as well as the clipping files - more than 3,000 linear feet of materials combined. The gift joins the Bancroft's other notable newspaper archives, especially the *San Francisco News-Call Bulletin*, which is strong in photographs dating from 1915 to 1965.

program, please write or telephone: The Library Development Office, Room 131 Doe Library, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-6000; telephone (510) 642-9377. Or, [check our website](#).



Bob Dylan in concert in Oakland, Nov. 13, 1978.

"Great libraries must have more than finished works," said University Librarian Thomas Leonard, "they need the first drafts and fragments of experience. In both words and pictures, this is what newspapers represent. The Fang Family San Francisco Examiner Archives are a daily diary of how the Bay Area took up its role in the world."

Leonard, also a professor at UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism, called the donation "an unrivaled source for understanding the San Franciscans who built the city with their labor: what made them laugh, what made them mad, what made them think that they were, in fact, a community."

The *San Francisco Examiner* has been published continuously since 1865. Under William Randolph Hearst, the paper's popularity soared with the help of such stellar California writers as

Ambrose Bierce, Mark Twain and the San Francisco-born Jack London. The paper won the Pulitzer Prize for local reporting in 1951 for an expose of the Internal Revenue Service, and also in 1987 for spot news photography about the fall of Ferdinand Marcos.


"This is a great day for the Bancroft and for all students of California history," Charles Faulhaber, director of The Bancroft Library, said in an April news conference in the Morrison Library. "As William Randolph Hearst's first newspaper, the *Examiner* has a history that is inextricably linked to that of San Francisco, of California, and of the nation. We are immensely grateful to the Anschutz Corporation and SF Newspaper Company for this historic gift, in the Bancroft's centennial year, and for the confidence they have reposed in The Bancroft Library."

The Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley is one of the nation's largest and most heavily used libraries of manuscripts, rare books and unique materials. It serves tens of thousands of campus and community visitors annually.

Prior to this donation, the Bancroft's collection totaled roughly 60 million manuscript items, 3 million photographs and other pictorial items, 23,000 maps and 600,000 printed volumes. Among the collection's strengths is extensive documentation of the history of western North America, including California, Mexico and Central America.

Bancroft archivists will begin processing the *Examiner* archives in June. Full





processing and cataloging of the collection will take years and is contingent on the availability of funding.

[\[top\]](#) [\[prev\]](#) [\[next\]](#)

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