



# UCLA LIBRARY

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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## CONSTRUCTION ON CONSERVATION LAB UNDERWAY

Exciting news! Construction has begun on the UCLA Conservation Lab at the Southern Regional Library Facility (SRLF) on campus, and a search is in progress for a conservation specialist to head up the lab.

With the initial \$340,000 grant awarded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation last spring already at work, the UCLA Library

continues to set its sights on fulfilling the second part of the Mellon grant: meeting its \$750,000 challenge, which will be matched on a one-to-one basis. We are very pleased to announce that we are halfway toward this goal, which will

create a \$1.5 million endowment to support the conservation and preservation program.

The challenge grant is the key to a successful future for the UCLA Library's conservation and preservation program. The lab will provide the essential space, equipment, and materials needed for a conservation specialist and assistant to save library holdings on a much larger scale than is currently possible.

As illustrated in the accompanying photographs, the UCLA Library already recognizes the importance of conservation. Materials are routinely taken out of circulation because they have begun to show wear, are in varying states of deterioration, or have been damaged. Items are selected for conservation because they are irreplaceable and needed in the library, due to their frequent use by UCLA students, faculty, and other library patrons.

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## Persian Manuscripts

Like the treasure trove of some legendary caliph, the Persian manuscripts in the special collections of the Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library and Charles E. Young Research Library (YRL) enchant all who gaze upon them. The names of the cities they come from – Aleppo,

Isfahan, Kirman, Istanbul – and the languages in which they were written – Persian, Arabic, Ottoman Turkish, Armenian – evoke the legendary mystique of the Near East, even as they provide a rich scholarly resource for researchers in a variety of disciplines.

These Persian manuscripts form a significant part of the UCLA Library’s extensive collection of Near Eastern manuscripts. Acquired through the purchase of important private manuscript libraries throughout the region, the overall collection encompasses more than 15,000 complete texts and text fragments dating back to the 11th century. In addition to the texts themselves, many of the manuscripts feature marginal notes and ownership marks that provide crucial information on the social, cultural, and religious history of the region. And the many fine examples of Qajar lacquer binding, detailed illuminations, and elegant calligraphy form a valuable archive for artists and art historians as well.

While the Dark Ages reigned in Europe, doctors and scientists throughout the Near East were conducting investigations that mark some of the most significant episodes in the history of medicine. Housed in the Biomedical Library’s History and Special Collections, manuscripts from this era and later trace their accomplishments. Many of the texts were originally used as daily reference works in medical practices and thus contain fascinating marginal entries regarding prescriptions, notes, and excerpts from other medical works. Others contain striking and evocative illustrations, such as those detailing the human eye from an unattributed ophthalmology text circa 1000/1500 (pictured above), which were likely used for cataract study, an area of great interest in the Arab and Persian medical communities.

Among the treasures housed in the YRL Department

of Special Collections are many wonderful works that provide unique insight into Persian history and culture. An early 17th-century illustrated *Khamsa* by the great epic poet Nizami, a unique work on the equestrian arts, and versions of two of Avicenna’s most famous works, *Qanun* and *Shifa*, are only a few of the highlights of this collection, which UCLA scholars consider among the finest in the world.

“Many subjects, hitherto ill-studied, are included in the collection,” notes Professor Hossein Ziai of the UCLA Department of Near Eastern Languages and Culture, “which means future studies of these materials will shed new light on our understanding of intellectual, literary, and other processes in Iranian history.”

Middle Eastern Studies Bibliographer David Hirsch along with colleagues across campus – most notably, in the departments of art history, economics, Near Eastern languages and cultures, history, political science, and sociology; the von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies; and the interdepartmental program in Islamic studies – continue to build upon these important

collections to ensure their vitality in the academic community at large. And in an effort to make the materials more accessible to local and international researchers, the UCLA Library has embarked upon a project using digital archiving technology to better catalog the manuscripts so that scholars can locate them more readily.

For years researchers have relied upon these rare and unique materials, but their value and fragility were made all too clear to the broader community recently. The catastrophic news of the looting and destruction of Baghdad museums and libraries underscores the importance of the UCLA Library’s role as caretaker of these irreplaceable collections. Indeed, UCLA’s holdings of Persian manuscripts are second only to those at Princeton University.

Heightened awareness and study of these fine collections can only serve to increase the appreciation and understanding of the history of Persian and Islamic traditions and culture.

*To learn how you can help support these and other collections in the UCLA Library, please contact Marjorie Shaw, associate director of UCLA Library Development, by phone at 310/206-8526 or by email at <mshaw@library.ucla.edu>.*

### Thank You

The importance of UCLA Library’s Persian manuscripts collection and their study was recently underscored by a generous gift from Dr. Fereshteh Diba to establish the Iranian Studies Discretionary Fund. The fund will sustain periodical subscriptions in this field of study and in other related areas.



## CONSTRUCTION ON CONSERVATION LAB UNDERWAY

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However, with current space, equipment, and staff limitations, conservation work is slow and inadequate for a collection of UCLA Library's size. Imagine how much more we can do – how many more essential library materials will be saved – when our own lab is up and running?

Once the challenge is met, the endowment in conservation and preservation will fund this program and lab in perpetuity. A fully funded endowment will allow the lab not only to continue its work but also to build upon and expand it, creating a conservation and preservation program that is sustained and practical.

By selecting it as the recipient of this challenge grant, the Mellon Foundation understands that the UCLA Library has reached a crossroads in caring for its precious collections. It is imperative now that the Library expand its work in conservation and preservation. Please join our efforts! Contact UCLA Library Development at 310/206-8526 or mail your tax-deductible donation in the enclosed envelope.

*Above: The space at SRLF that is being renovated to house the new conservation lab*

## FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN



DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS  
OF THE UCLA LIBRARY,

There are times when the most challenging situations facing an organization can be the most gratifying for its leadership. That is certainly the case here at the UCLA Library, where I have had the privilege of serving as interim university librarian since January. During these months I have witnessed our truly remarkable and dedicated staff cope with a myriad of complex issues with creativity, professionalism, and, when necessary, a sense of humor.

Though most of the talk centers around state budget cuts these days, there is much good news to share. I am delighted to announce that Gary Strong will become UCLA's seventh university librarian beginning in September of this year. Gary is returning home to California, where he was state librarian from 1980 to 1994. Since then he has been head of the Queens Borough Public Library in New York, the busiest public library in America, serving the most diverse county in the nation with a central library, 62 community libraries, and six adult learning centers.

Gary is excited by the prospect of continuing to develop the Library's extensive collections and of expanding its digital resources. He is a book collector himself and has a keen understanding of the importance of strong collections and their role in the academic enterprise. He is an energetic leader who brings a wealth of experience and a long list of accomplishments from throughout his career. We welcome Gary to UCLA and are looking forward to his forging a new path for the UCLA Library in the 21st century.

Although the financial situation the Library faces is a difficult one, there are many reasons for optimism. One is the success of the conservation and preservation initiative, which is almost halfway to its \$750,000 fundraising goal barely a year since its launch. Another is the vital support provided by a number of former colleagues who have established endowments and created annuities to secure the Library's future. I am extremely proud of them, and of all the Library's generous and visionary donors, and I am honored to have had the opportunity to guide this institution, which so many people treasure and support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice Toyama".

### CRITICAL NEEDS

The Fund for the UCLA Library ensures that critical needs, from special-opportunity acquisitions to comfortable studying spaces, are addressed. Discretionary funds available to the University Librarian will make a significant impact on the types of innovative services that the UCLA Library is able to offer.

### PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

Join the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in supporting the preservation of our most precious and well-used resources. Your contribution to the Preservation and Conservation Endowment Fund will be matched 1:1 by a grant from the Mellon Foundation.

### COLLECTION ENDOWMENT INITIATIVE

The Collection Endowment Initiative provides critically needed funds to acquire, preserve, and make accessible library materials in a particular subject area of interest. Collection endowments begin at \$25,000, and the Library invites donors to make a single gift or to build an endowed fund over several years. Special bookplates reflecting the interests of the philanthropist are designed in consultation with the donor and affixed to each item added to our collections that was made possible by his or her generosity.

### MAKING A BEQUEST

In writing a will or living trust, donors can specify that they would like their estate to benefit the UCLA Library. In recognition of alumni, friends, faculty, and staff who have chosen to benefit the university through planned giving, they are welcomed as members of the prestigious First Century Society. Planned gifts include gifts through wills, living trusts, charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities, retirement plans, or other estate planning arrangements.

### GIVE ONLINE!

Visit the Web site at <<http://www.library.ucla.edu/development>> to make a gift online. Or for more information, call 310/206-8526.

GIVING Opportunities

## ROBERT ECKERT AN ACCIDENTAL BRUIN



(l-r) Bob Eckert and Jerry Elliott



At their Santa Fe, New Mexico, condo



Off the coast of La Ponza, Italy

Bob Eckert never meant to attend UCLA. “My high-school friends were all going to Long Beach City College,” he explains, “but when I found out it was too late to get in, I called UCLA.” There was still time to apply, and the university even offered him a small scholarship. So he came here and majored in theater.

Those were exciting years in Los Angeles. Bob met many of the German expatriates who settled in Los Angeles in the 1930s and '40s, including Leon Feuchtwanger, Thomas Mann, Arnold Schoenberg, and Igor Stravinsky. “I went to the opening night of Bertolt Brecht’s play ‘Galileo’ starring Charles Laughton,” he recalls. It just so happens that an early manuscript of this famous work is housed in the Charles E. Young Research Library’s Department of Special Collections.

Bob didn’t mean to go to library school at UCLA, either. “I was going to enroll in the library school at UC Berkeley, but I got mononucleosis,” he says. By the time he had recovered, Lawrence Clark Powell had announced plans for UCLA’s program in library science, so Bob enrolled here instead.

When he graduated in 1961 as part of the UCLA Library School’s now-legendary first class, Bob was appointed to an academic position at the UCLA Library. Under his leadership of the acquisitions division, the Library’s collections, particularly in the humanities and social sciences, grew to rank among the finest in the world. And the complex systems he developed to manage acquisitions from a worldwide network of dealers have set the standard for academic libraries across the country.

But Bob’s life has not been spent just in a library. He and his partner, Jerry Elliott, love to travel and have been to

exotic locations around the world. In addition to homes here and in Santa Fe, they enjoy frequent visits to New Orleans and Palm Springs and plan more extensive annual trips to Asia and Europe.

One of their favorite destinations was China. “The people are wonderful,” Jerry explains. “And the countryside is beautiful – just like the classic paintings.”

Although he retired in 1991, Bob retains close connections with UCLA and still joins a group of retired librarians for regular lunches at the faculty center. So when he came into a small inheritance last year, one of the investment options he investigated was UCLA.

Interest rates on commercial savings accounts, money markets, and mutual funds were all depressingly low, he found. But one of the options at UCLA – a gift annuity – offered an attractive return on his investment. In return, the Library will receive the gift of principal, which will go into its discretionary fund to support critical needs throughout the Library system.

“Every penny I’ve earned comes from UCLA,” Bob notes. “I wanted to give something back.” So it seems that this once-accidental Bruin has become UCLA gold and blue through and through, right down to the return address sticker on his envelopes – “UCLA Alumni” in flowing script.

*For more on gift annuities, please contact Laila Rashid, Director of UCLA Library Development, by phone at 310/206-8526 or by email at <[lrashid@library.ucla.edu](mailto:lrashid@library.ucla.edu)>. Information is also available on the Web site at <<http://www.library.ucla.edu/development>>.*

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### DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

- ✎ You can make a gift to the UCLA Library and receive lifetime income.
- ✎ If you are 75 years old or older, you can establish a charitable gift annuity that has a payout rate of 7.3% for your lifetime. The older you are, the higher the payout rate.
- ✎ You can make a gift of your home, receive an immediate income tax charitable deduction, and continue to live there.
- ✎ Your bequest provides a significant source of support to help strengthen the UCLA Library.

To explore the personal rewards and financial benefits of giving to the UCLA Library, please contact Laila Rashid by telephone at 310/206-8551 or by email at <[lrashid@library.ucla.edu](mailto:lrashid@library.ucla.edu)>.



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# LIBRARY *calendar*

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## UCLA LIBRARY EVENTS

“An Evening with Dr. Irwin Ziment: Exploring the Uses of Spices in Alternative Medicine”

Wednesday, June 25, 5:30 p.m.  
Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library  
Rare Book Room  
*By invitation only; call 310/206-8526*

UCLA LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT: 310 / 206-8526  
[HTTP://WWW.LIBRARY.UCLA.EDU/DEVELOPMENT](http://www.library.ucla.edu/development)

## UCLA LIBRARY EXHIBITS

“The Enemy Alien Files: Hidden Stories of World War II”

Through June 27  
Powell Library Rotunda

“Theater, History, and Hyperbole: The Art and Allure of the Theater Playbill”

Through June 30  
Charles E. Young Research Library

“Let’s Go Tahiti and Lilliput: 18th-Century Voyages through Worlds Real and Imagined”

July-September 2003  
Charles E. Young Research Library Lobby  
and Department of Special Collections

## In Memoriam

We are deeply saddened by the loss of two very important Library supporters and friends, and we offer our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.

### **Richard C. Rudolph (1909-2003)**

Professor Rudolph was the founder of the UCLA East Asian Library, which was named in his honor in 1981 for his substantial efforts in creating and building its distinguished collections. He also established the academic program in Oriental studies (now the Department of East Asian Languages and Culture) at UCLA, developing a program that under his guidance became one of the best in the nation.

### **Marie Bell Waters (1936-2003)**

Marie Waters spent her entire career of nearly 40 years helping others mine the riches of the Charles E. Young Research Library as a reference librarian. An ardent supporter of the UCLA Library, Marie was an active volunteer and a member of the Friends of the Library Board of Directors for more than 16 years. A Bruin through and through, she received her B.A. in English and speech from UCLA in 1958 and her M.L.S. in 1961.