



FOREWORD

Issue No. 82

Summer 2010

Palo Alto's Historical Photo Collection

Photographs are useful in the study of local history. Palo Alto is fortunate that our history (since the city's founding in 1891) coincides with the popularity of photography—especially the snapshot.



Channing Grammar School, 1897

The Guy Miller Archives, located in the Main Library, have more than 13,000 images, ranging from amateur snapshots to a copy of Carleton Watkins' photograph of El Palo Alto, circa 1876. Because photographs are among the true treasures of any local history collection, the Palo Alto Historical Association (PAHA), as the guardian of the Guy Miller Archives, has placed more than 2000 of these images on its website www.pahistory.org to share this photographic wealth with the interested community.

Recognizing the value of this collection of images, FOPAL has made two grants to PAHA to further their goal of adding images to the online access. We have also funded a study to determine how the process of cataloging the digital images can become more efficient.

The collection of images spans more than a century of Palo Alto history. There are portraits of individuals, school class photos, street scenes, and many other subjects. There are several dozen images of the 1941 parade on University Avenue celebrating the opening of the University Avenue Underpass and the opening of the new train station. People search the collection for familiar scenes (hoping to find images of their house); individuals and businesses look for images to decorate their homes and workplaces. For a fee, PAHA can provide high-resolution digital files of the images for reproduction purposes.

Images captured by famous photographers have value, and we assign value to images that document historic events. Yet the value of an image may not be evident to most viewers, while to that viewer seeking something special, an ordinary image may be considered the 'most valuable' image in the collection. For example, the archives have an image of one of the Squire daughters reading a book while sitting in a haystack. A delightful image, and several years ago a woman yelped excitedly when she saw it because in the background of the photograph was her house. She was able for the first time to document how the side of her house had appeared some 75 years earlier.



Squire girl reading, 1905

I encourage you to visit the PAHA website and see some of the photographs that tell the story of Palo Alto. And if you have photographs that tell about your life in Palo Alto, consider donating them to the Guy Miller Archives.

~ Steven Staiger, PAHA Historian



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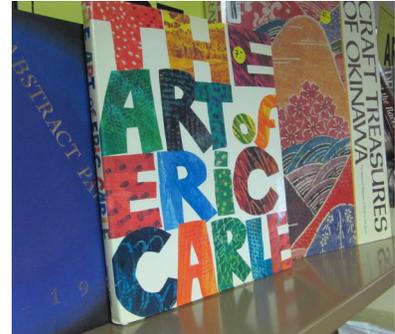
For the Artistically and Creatively Inclined

We have five sections that can satisfy your appetite for art and entertainment. These section managers hope you enjoy reading about the treasures they provide in their sections.

Art & Architecture—*Mary Smith*

It was by chance that Ellen Wyman and I were walking one day and she mentioned that I might be interested in “doing” the art books for FOPAL. Since Tom was doing triple duty at the Bookroom, he needed help. As a recently retired Stanford Cantor Art Museum docent, I was missing the close contact with art books, and I happily agreed. Little did I imagine that from one small shelf at Terman, the mountain of art books would eventually expand to occupy nearly the length of the present Bookroom and both sides of the adjacent section of shelves.

Every month stacks of art books arrive from generous donors. The excitement mounts as each new box is opened. While many are old standbys (e.g., Janson, Gardner, and the Time-Life series on individual artists), just as many are truly gems, rare, and often in perfect condition, ranging from volumes on Rembrandt and George Segal to Japanese swords and Native American pottery. Some require extensive research to establish value. The most desirable are sold at auction or on the internet. The rest remain on our featured shelves, available to Sale customers at amazingly low prices. We have volumes on individual artists, all periods of art history, prints and drawings, art theory, and Asian, Hispanic, and ethnic art. One of the most popular sections contains a compelling selection of technique and studio books at a fraction of the original price. Then there are the Graphic Art and Museum Catalogue areas featuring all the major museums in the world. There are also plenty of \$1 books, if you don't mind condition. A small architectural section—historical and technical—sells out nearly every month. There are always many new selections, and again, great bargains. The main art shelves are placed to be perused while you wait in line for a cashier. You may enjoy just looking at the tempting jackets, or you may discover an irresistible treasure.



Movies, Television, and Radio Entertainment—*Dick Grote*

For the last few months, the Movies, TV, and Entertainment section has had a new home at the monthly book sale. The section is now located in the northwest corner (Hollywood & Vine?) of the main bookroom next to music and appropriately across the aisle from DVD and VCR movies.



Thanks to the many donations from our media-enriched donors we can usually offer a nice collection of books each sale in several categories:

- Books about film include history and Hollywood, film theory and analysis, foreign films, scripts, novels with movie tie-ins, and recent movie guides and books of reviews.
 - Screenwriting is a popular shelf as are the books on specific aspects of the craft such as directing, acting, producing, and editing.
 - A shelf is dedicated to movie/TV biographies and memoirs with a special emphasis on actors and directors from the golden age of Hollywood. Sometimes they do kiss and tell.
- The TV shelf includes the old (Howdy Doody) and the new (Sex in the City) as well as TV craft related titles. There also are usually a few books relating to radio.
 - The oversized volumes often have wonderful photographs of the Hollywood dream machine creations.
 - Finally, every month a few books are identified and displayed as “special interest.”

Dick Grote has managed the section for a little less than a year. The whole Grote family are film fans and regulars at the Stanford Theatre. Katie Grote managed the section a few years ago, and dad still occasionally taps her film knowledge while preparing books for the monthly sale.

Drop by at the next sale and pick up a movie to watch. Then turn around and find a book to read about it.

DUDs, UHS, and Audio Books—*Helen & Hershel Smith*

Yes! The section still includes VHS tapes and books on tape as well as CDs and DVDs. We even occasionally get Beta video recordings and 8-track tapes. Our six bookcases are arranged according to categories: Thrillers, Drama, Comedies, Old Favorites, Foreign, Fitness, Educational, Non-fiction, Books on Tape, TV Shows, Musicals, Operas, and various performers.

Quick Sellers: Old Favorites (from the 30's, 40's and 50's), Foreign Films, and TV series such as *The Sopranos*, Ken Burns' documentaries, *Sherlock Holmes*, and popular British film and TV offerings.

We favor movies recommended by critics over big box office hits. All DVDs and CDs are screened for value and priced below the online listed prices, depending on the demand.

Recorded Books: CDs, videotapes, and cassette tapes include many recent and popular titles, arranged according to mysteries vs. novels. (Non-fiction cassettes are with the other non-fiction items.)

Educational Tapes: Cassettes and CDs by excellent college professors.

Especially interesting are the courses by The Teaching Company, originally priced at \$100.00 or more, available at a fraction of that price. Finally, for fitness buffs we have training by a variety of well-known personalities.

The world of recording is waiting on the shelves for public perusal and selection.



Music & Dance—*Paula Wirth*



Are you an opera or Gilbert and Sullivan fan? Have you always wanted to learn to play guitar or piano? Do you love to listen to music, or read biographies of your favorite performers? Do you enjoy singing or want to learn how to write and promote your own music? The Music & Dance section is the perfect place to browse. Pick up a libretto for 50¢ before you visit the opera, teach yourself to read music, learn some new dance steps, and read about music history, jazz, and the lives of classical composers and rock performers. Admire the gorgeous covers of vintage sheet music, pick up instructional materials and scores for any instrument, or buy inexpensive CDs, from new rock bands to the finest symphony performances (most of them for \$2 a disc).

Section manager Paula Wirth comes from a classically trained music and dance background. She is impressed by and grateful for the incredible donations we receive every month. Tell your musician friends, music students, and fellow lovers of culture to come browse our incredible selection and excellent finds, and indulge in your love of music and dance.

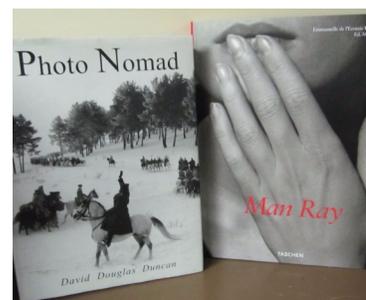
Photography—*Jim Dean*

On the top shelves of the section, you can find collections of photographs by famous (and not so famous) photographers. These books should be of interest to all—many collectors of these exhibit-style books do not own a camera.

The lower shelves contain how-to books for camera owners—both film and digital. For people still interested in film/darkroom picture-making, there are always books on these subjects.

Some of the most interesting books in the section have few or no photographs but are narratives by photographers about the work and philosophies of what they do. One of the best examples is Susan Sontag's *On Photography*.

Depending on the month, we have a selection of periodicals on photographic subjects. *Aperture*, *Friends of Photography* *Untitled*, and *Camera Arts* are examples of high quality and collectable magazines we receive. We also get many catalogs from stock photo houses showing their wares.



Happy Teen Readers

Do teens still read for fun? Absolutely! The Library's middle school book discussion groups are proof that even though Palo Alto's teens may love their computers, video games, and cell phones, they continue to enjoy reading books.

This year, librarians Laurie Hastings, Deborah Anthonyson, and Mary Ann Young have been coordinating the discussions at all three PAUSD middle schools, with the help of the on-site school librarians. Books (and refreshments) are funded by the Friends of the Palo Alto Library, enabling students in all three grades to participate in these spirited and completely voluntary discussion groups.



What books did the groups choose to read this year?

Sixth graders read **The City of Ember**, by Jeanne DuPrau. The plot unfolds in the year 241. Twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day. She becomes a messenger in her decaying city, and her friend Doon takes her old job as a pipeworks laborer. Together they try to find a way out of Ember's dire predicament.

For seventh grade, librarians chose **The House of the Scorpion**, by Nancy Farmer. The story is set in a dystopian future where humans despise clones. Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

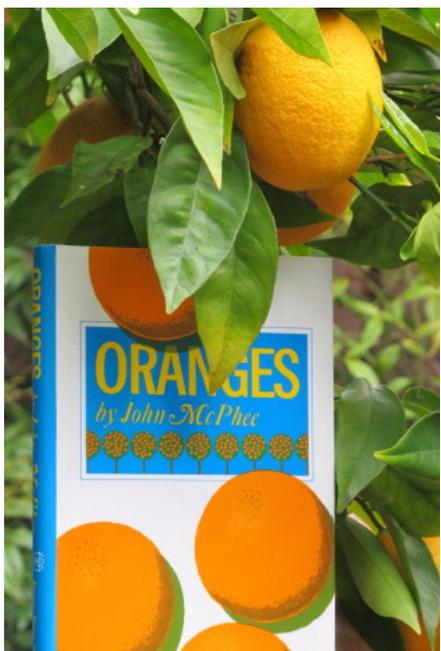
Students in eighth grade read **Touching Spirit Bear**, by Ben Mikaelson. As we meet Cole, his anger erupts into violence. To avoid going to prison, he accepts a sentencing alternative based on Native American Circle Justice. He goes to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.

Titles were selected by the middle school librarians in conjunction with the Library's teen librarians.

~ Maya Spector, Youth Services Manager, Palo Alto City Libraries

Oranges

I love the gardening section because, next to reading, gardening is my favorite thing to do. When a small book by John McPhee came to my section, I was curious. I've read *Assembling California* and listened to The John McPhee Reader I and II. He writes about a lot of subjects, but a book about oranges surprised me. I took the book home, and it was a page-turner from the first to the last page. What can one say about oranges, you ask? Well, because they were scarce and expensive, they weren't available to everyone until the beginning of the 20th Century! Currently, in the USA alone we grow about 25 billion oranges per year. We drink a lot of juice.



Most oranges grow in the center of Florida in a place called The Ridge, an area that was under water 50 million years ago. When the water receded, it left behind a 20-foot layer of sand, with clay and limestone beneath that. Orange trees love the sand because their roots hate to be wet, and the sand lets water just trickle through. The growers feed the trees, which produce more oranges than Spain and Italy combined.

Other amazing facts about oranges:

- Oranges become less tart the closer they grow to the equator.
- In Jamaica, people halve oranges and clean the floors with a half in each hand.
- The higher the orange on the tree, the sweeter it is and the blossom end is always sweeter and juicier than the stem end.
- Coolness is what makes oranges orange; in Thailand, oranges are emerald green! So it's OK to buy a greenish orange. It just means that it was grown in a warm place.

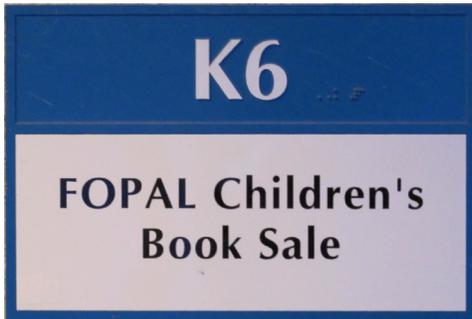
If McPhee has amazed you, you're probably a gardener, so read this book before you plant your first orange tree.

~ Arline Dehlinger, Gardening Section Manager

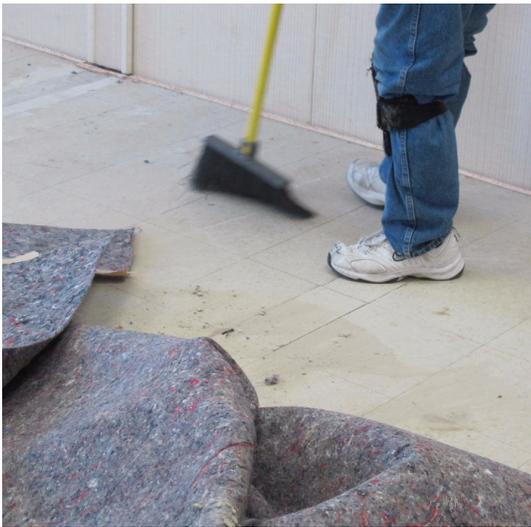
Have You Seen the Children's Book Room Lately?

As you may be aware, FOPAL took over the JCC lease for a Mobile Modular unit near the south end of the Cubberley Community Center campus. Our main objective was to use this space for an enlarged Children's Book Sale. The old Children's room (K-6) served us well, but the volunteers were running out of display space for books, and accommodations for our customers—children and their parents/grandparents—were becoming crowded. I'll let the pictures tell the story....

Packed and Ready for the Move



New Space, New Carpet, New Shelves



Wednesday—Carpet installed in one day.

Thursday—Shelves and boxes of books trucked (by Movers) from the old Children's Book Room to the new room.

Friday—Prepping for the First Sale in the New Digs

Determined to be ready for the March sale, Pat Worthington and her loyal crew of long-time children's room volunteers pitched in and got the job done. Kudos to all!



Like books? Volunteer with FOPAL. Call 325-9483

Grand Opening Celebration, Saturday April 9, 2010



News of Palo Alto Library Projects

There's a lot going on in our libraries now, such as Mitchell Park closing on June 5 for renovations. To find out the schedule of events and happenings, go to: www.cityofpaloalto.org/libraryprojects

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Web Page: www.friendspaloaltolib.org

Email: info@friendspaloaltolib.org

Book Sales: Second Weekend Every Month

Cubberley Community Center
4000 Middlefield Road

Saturday Hours

Main Room: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(Free tickets to reserve place in line available at 8 am)

Children's Room & Bargain Room (K7): 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday Hours

All rooms: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For details, see www.friendspaloaltolib.org

Book Discussion Group: Second Thursday

Lucie Stern Community Center Community Room
1305 Middlefield Road 7:30 to 9 p.m.

For information, see
www.fopalbookgroup.homestead.com

Great Books: Second Wednesday

Oak Creek Apartments Club House
1600 Sand Hill Road, Palo Alto. 7:30 to 9 p.m.
For information, call Elsie Taboroff at 493-8629

Library Commission: Fourth Thursday

Council Conference Room, 250 Hamilton Ave. 7 p.m.
To confirm date/time, see
www.city.palo-alto.ca.us/clerk/schedule.html

Friends of the Palo Alto Library Membership Form

We are a public-benefit 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your membership is tax deductible.

Join/renew	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>2 Years</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$15	\$27
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10	\$18
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior	\$10	\$18
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	\$50	\$90
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$100	
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$250	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime	\$500	

Name (Please Print)

Address

City / State / Zip

Phone _____

Email _____

Make checks payable to Friends of the Palo Alto Library

Return form to: **Friends of the Palo Alto Library**
P.O. Box 41 Palo Alto, CA 94302

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