

berkeley anthropology matters – *BAM!*

anthropology department † kroeber hall † university of california † berkeley

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Gerald Berreman on Clearing Out One's Office After 40 Years

What was it like to clear out your office after 40 years?

The magnitude of the undertaking was intimidating. You don't realize what or how much you have saved until you have to move it.

First of all I made many trips to the recycle bins behind the museum. I had 41 years worth of class notes, clippings and other resources for those notes. At four classes a year, including seminars, that's a tremendous amount of class notes. Some of it I kept, some I discarded without regret. About much of it I was ambivalent, thinking I might sometime want or need to look at it, but I decided if I hadn't looked at it for many years I probably never would—so I chucked it.

I discarded about 125 dissertations, by students on whose committees I had served, both inside and outside the department. I wouldn't have thrown the dissertations away if I hadn't known that the library keeps copies. I did keep those of special interest to me, of which one of my favorites—on the basis of its all-time best title—is on Arctic youth, titled "Is it Cool to be an Eskimo?"

I had 30 file drawers of student records. In fact, I had records of 525 students I've worked with one way or another. Many of these I don't dare throw away because I'm always receiving requests for letters of recommendation, even from people I can't remember.

Right now the book boxes are stacked in a sort of Teotihuacan pyramid formation in the "emeriti office," 119 Kroeber. Since the boxes are labeled roughly for content, I can identify those on the pyramid's surface, but what is where in the interior crypts remains a mystery. So, I find that I have to go to the library to consult books and journals, copies of which I know lie buried in that edifice of boxes.

I will probably throw away a lot of things that I had planned to keep. That will be sort of stage two of this move, but I have to figure out how to get to the stuff, since it means moving tons of heavy boxes. I'm very grateful, however, to have a place to put my things during the transition out of my office. One of the trickiest and least expected parts of moving is that I have to remember that I now go up rather than down to the front office and xerox room. After 41 years on the third floor (since the very first year of Kroeber's occupancy!), I'm used to stopping off for my mail or to xerox on my way down to lunch or home. I repeatedly catch myself making false starts in the wrong vertical direction—thinking "down" when my destination is up or vice versa.

Room 119 is kind of a funny office. It's on a major freeway, one side next to a main entrance and stairwell, the other sharing a wall with the room where all Anthro 3 discussion sessions meet. I hear every word through the wall. One

week I kept hearing my name, which I deemed odd. Then Stanley told me he had assigned the class my little monograph, *Behind Many Masks*.

The biggest problem is what to do with the books that I don't intend to keep. Few libraries want them. I am told that Moe's will transport books to San Quentin where they are appreciated. While there are overseas libraries that would welcome them; but who's to pack and ship them? I have thought of holding an in-Kroeber garage sale, giving the books to graduate students, and selling them to faculty at prices reflecting the customer's income! Right now I'm not even sure what I have because they're buried in the pyramid.

Retirement? What with the move and remaining academic obligations, I have scarcely experienced it. I think in January things may quiet down and I can deal with all those heavy boxes. Also, I have long-postponed writing projects I would like to attend to. When Keiko isn't teaching (she's part time) we enjoy travel, now mostly for her research on labor migration in the Asia-Pacific. Our horizons are expanded by these experiences and I learn a lot from Keiko's knowledge and insights. We also simply have fun at it.

People often ask why I taught for so many years when I could have retired years ago on an emeritus professor's salary. Well, I've enjoyed living and teaching here—students, staff, colleagues and others. Anthropology has always fascinated me. I've made lifelong friends in my field sites in India, Nepal, and the Aleutians; and among academics when I taught in Sweden, Nepal and India. I can't think of any career or place I would have preferred.

BAM! is holding a trivia contest to guess the number of boxes (heavy or no) of books that Gerald Berreman moved out of his office. Of course there will be a prize for the closest answer. E-mail your guess to: hollyh@uclink.berkeley.edu.



William A. Shack's Book Wins Award

Emeritus Professor William Shack's book, *Harlem in Montmartre: A Paris Jazz Story between the Great Wars*, has been chosen as one of this year's ASCAP Deems Taylor Special Recognition Award recipients. The ASCAP-Deems Taylor awards are presented annually to American authors and journalists whose books, articles and liner notes on the subject of music are selected for their excellence.

The book, published by the University of California Press, was chosen in the Pop Books category and will be honored at a special awards ceremony on December 4, 2002. A letter was sent to Dorothy Shack, wife of Professor Shack, asking her to attend the ceremony on behalf of her husband, who died in March 2000.

November 2002

November Happenings in Anthropology

All Brown Bags Lectures: noon, rm. 101, ARF, 2547 Channing
All 290 Lectures: 4pm, 160 Kroeber

11/4 Ex Comm. mtg., 10-12am

Anthro brown bag: Johannes Fabian (University of Amsterdam) Virtual Archives and Ethnographic Writing: 'Commentary' as a New Genre? 12-2pm, 221 Kroeber.

S/C and Arch. combined House mtg., 3-4pm

290 lecture: Thomas Patterson, (UC Riverside) *Social Archaeology and Marxist Social Theory*

11/6 **ARF brown bag:** Andy Roddick (Anthropology, UCB), *Plazas, Sunken Courts and Carvings: Research at the Andean Formative Site of Khonko Wankane, Bolivia*

11/11 Veterans holiday

11/13 **ARF brown bag:** Christophe Delage (Anthropology, UCB), *Lithic Technology and Prehistoric Society: Some Examples from the Near East*

11/18 Ex Comm. mtg., 10-12am
S/C House mtg., 3-4pm

11/20 **ARF brown bag:** Jon Daehnke (Anthropology, UCB), *Public Outreach and the "How's" of Archaeology: Archaeology as a Model for Education*

11/20-11/24 AAA meetings—New Orleans

11/28-11/29 Thanksgiving holiday



Nancy Scheper-Hughes in *The Lancet*

The following is a reprint of an interview with Nancy Scheper-Hughes which appeared in the Lifeline column in *The Lancet*, Vol. 360, September 14, 2002.

What would be your advice to a newly qualified doctor?

Read John Berger and Jean Mohr's, *A Fortunate Man: the Story of a Country Doctor*.

What is the best piece of advice you have received, and from whom?

Advice from my mentor, Hortense Powdermaker (one of the first women anthropologists to go to Papua New Guinea in the 1920s) that I pass on to all neophyte fieldworkers, young lovers, and new mothers—Surrender!

How do you relax?

I prefer to keep a bit tense as it sharpens my senses of both terror and wonder, which are necessary prerequisites to successful fieldwork.

What alternative therapies have you tried? Did they work?

In the interior of Brazil with explosive dysentery, I acquiesced to a foul smelling herbal cocktail from a local Afro-Brazilian sorceress and I've obviously lived to tell the tale.

What is your favourite book, and why?

Gabriel Marquez's *Love in the Time of Cholera* for its unerring sense of the tragi-comedy that is human life and death.

Do politics or religion play an important part in your life?

Yes, both: politics (as Virchow famously said) is nothing but medicine on a grand scale, and religion (as Marx less famously said) is the sigh of the oppressed and an expression of indignation by the sick and poor.

What do you think is the greatest political danger to the medical profession?

The commodification of the body in biotechnology and transplant surgery.

Where were you in your sibling order, and what did you gain or lose as a result?

I have an older brother (a mentor and competitor). I gained additional home schooling and a scrappy personality.

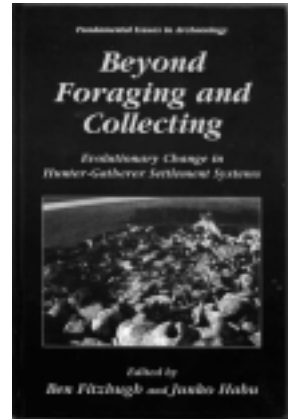
New Books by Faculty:

Junko Habu's *Beyond Foraging and Collecting*

Beyond Foraging and Collecting: Evolutionary Change in Hunter-Gatherer Settlement Systems, co-edited by Junko Habu and Ben Fitzhugh, was recently published by Kluwer-Plenum (2002).

Beyond Foraging and Collecting brings together a diverse set of authors and perspectives united in their goal of expanding our understanding of hunter-gatherer settlement dynamics and change. It seeks to contribute to the development of

new models capable of expanding variability in hunter-gatherer settlement and land use, and to theoretical discussions on the mechanisms of long-term changes in hunter-gatherer systems from an evolutionary perspective.



Sven Ouzman, New Associate Editor for On-Line Journal

Sven Ouzman has been made Associate Editor for the quarterly peer-reviewed on-line journal, *Before Farming: the Archaeology of Old World Hunter-gatherers* (www.waspjournals.com). Submissions for articles on rock art or any other articles on Old World hunter-gatherers are invited for issue 5, due out early 2003. Contact ouzman@uclink.berkeley.edu.

Issues 1 and 2 included articles on *Trouble in the Japanese Lower and Middle Palaeolithic*, by Simon Kaner; *Bone tools from Broken Hill (Kabwe) Cave, Zambia, and Their Evolutionary Significance*, by Larry Barham, AC Pinto Llona and Chris Stringer; *The Neanderthal Dead: Exploring Mortuary Variability in Middle Palaeolithic Eurasia*, by Paul Pettitt; *Hunter-gatherer Archaeology in Southern Africa: Recent Research, Future Trends*, by Peter Mitchell; and *Paradise Lost: A Review of Kalambo Falls Volume III*, by John McNabb.

Issues 3 and 4 (out December 2002) will include: *Coastal Hunter-gatherers and Social Evolution: Marginal or Central?* by Geoff Bailey and Nicky Milner; *Hunting and Feasting: Health and Demographic Consequences*, by Brian Hayden; and *Stone Age Hunter-fisher Communities in the Eastern Baltic: Evidence from Burials*, by G Eriksson.

In addition to articles, news, conferences, interviews with luminaries like Lorna Marshall, exhibition web reviews may also be solicited.

New K.A.S. Volume Published

The Kroeber Anthropological Society is pleased to announce that Volume 87 of the Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers, "Essays on Controlling Processes" (Laura Nader, editor), is now available. Copies are \$20 each, \$10 for students. For more information about this volume, annual subscriptions, or article submissions, please contact K.A.S. at kas@sscl.berkeley.edu

The Ear

Congratulations to two alumna are in order. **Catherine Julien** received awards from both the Modern Language Association and the Society for Ethnohistory, for her book, *Reading Inca History*; and **Beth Conklin** was awarded the best faculty award at Vanderbilt University. . . . *Enjoy the AAA.*