

berkeley anthropology matters – *BAM!*

anthropology department † kroeber hall † university of california † berkeley

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Burton Benedict, Honored at Twelfth Emeritus Lecture

What were the highlights of your career?

Well, most of the landmarks in my career happened in England. I got my Ph.D. there, I got married there, both my children were born there, I got my first job there, and I set out on my first, second and third fieldwork sites from there.



Professor Burton Benedict

I was appointed here in 1968 and while here I served as department chair, then I was the first dean of the social sciences. Later I served as a member and then chair of the budget committee. When I was dean, I looked at the bureaucracy and thought I could only accomplish one thing per year. My first year I got the Washburn labs for the department and in the second year, I procured joint appointments for husbands and wives, which had always been forbidden because of rules on nepotism.

The major and definitely the most fun thing I did was put on the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exhibition (P.P.I.E.) at the Lowie Museum (now the Hearst) in 1982. The museum you know has 3.8 million objects and I liked to rummage around down there. It was like being turned loose in a giant toy store. I got the idea of doing the P.P.I.E. exhibit one day when I found six coffin-shaped boxes—each containing a Japanese model. They looked so real—they had real hair, eyelashes and eyebrows—I was startled to say the least. But they were models that had been donated to the (original) P.P.I.E. in 1915 and given that the Exhibition took place during World War I, many donated objects such as this couldn't be shipped back to their countries of origin, so they were donated to anthropology museums. I started to wonder what else we have down here?

I worked closely with Jim Deetz on the project. I think this was the most successful exhibition that the Lowie ever had. People were interested in it because it was local, and because many people were still around who had been to the original in 1915. A lot of people are interested in the P.P.I.E. of 1915; it was like the last naive view of a brighter and better world.

My fieldwork was done in Maritius and Seychelles. I was always interested in India. I thought it was the most fascinating place on earth because of all the diversity. When I got my Ph.D. in 1954, there were no jobs, so I applied for a fellowship from the British Colonial office. I didn't think I had a chance since I was American, but I got one. So I had to study someplace that was still a colony of Britain and I couldn't go to India because it was no longer

a colony. During my fieldwork someone said to me, "You're not studying the colony, you're studying the colonial English." This is true actually. When I returned to Britain I had an academic appointment at the London School of Economics and I became part of the British establishment. I have always felt more at home in England, even though I always felt like an American.

I got into anthropology when I was an undergraduate at Harvard. It came time for me to choose a "concentration" ("major" was too crass of a word). I went to see a teacher I admired, I. A. Richards, a Welshman, and I asked, "what subject should I choose if I want the least specialized subject?" He said, "anthropology."

How did you get interested in zoos?

I've always been interested in animals. I'm not sentimental about them, I just find them interesting. When I was a boy, I kept over 400 birds. When I retired, I asked myself what do emeriti professors do around here? They seemed to sit on committees and pontificate. I thought that I had done enough of that. I thought, why not go back to messing with animals? So I volunteered at the zoo, got to know people, and now I'm a trustee of the Oakland Zoo.

What would you say is your contribution to anthropology?

I was never a great writer. My wife is a better writer than I am. I have written two or three things that I'm pleased with. I'm not interested in self-revelatory anthropology which seems to be so popular these days. I was always an empiricist, meaning I liked to write the facts—before we discovered they really didn't exist.

I'd say I was pretty good at developing an empathy with whomever I was with. I think to do good fieldwork you have to make an imaginative leap into another's skin.

For an extensive interview with Professor Benedict, see his oral history, *A Social Anthropologist in Britain and Berkeley*, located in the Anthropology Library.

Burton Benedict and the Swinging '60s in Anthropology

Speaker: Robin Fox, Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University

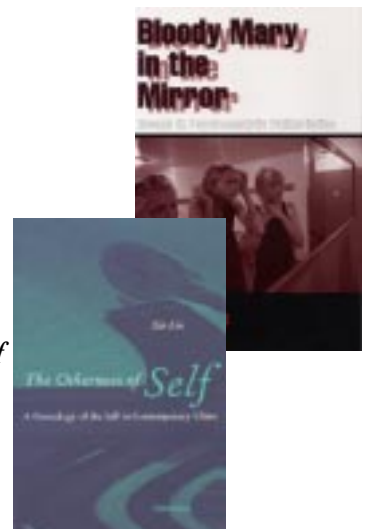
October 22, 4 pm, Alumni House, reception following

New Books by Faculty:

Alan Dundes

and Liu Xin

Alan Dundes recently published, *Bloody Mary in the Mirror, Essays in Psychoanalytic Folkloristics*, University Press of Mississippi (2002), and Liu Xin published, *The Otherness of Self, A Genealogy of Self in Contemporary China*, University of Michigan Press (2002).



October Happenings in Anthropology

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

10/2 ARF brown bag: Laurie Wilkie, *The Archaeology of the Not-So-Ancient Greeks: Digging ARF*

10/7 Ex Comm. mtg., 10-12am
290 lecture: Susan Ossman (Georgetown U.), *Comparison, Globalization and Questions of Context: Redesigning the Middle East from the Beauty Salon*

10/9 ARF brown bag: Jean-Pierre Protzen & John Ristevsky (Architecture, UCB), *Recent Work on the Inca site of Tambo Colorado, Pisco Valley, Peru*

10/11 Lowie/Olson applications due.

10/16 ARF brown bag: Rosemary Joyce, *Making Something of Herself: Embodiment and Figurines from Formative Honduras*

10/18 Grad student language exam (See Ned Garrett for details).

10/21 Ex Comm. mtg., 10-12am
290 lecture: Ann Anagnost (U. of Washington), *The Corporeal Politics of Quality*

10/22 Emeritus lecture: Robin Fox (Rutgers), *Burton Benedict and the Swinging 60's in Anthropology*— 4pm, Alumni House, with reception

10/23 ARF brown bag: Rosemary Joyce, *Making Something of Herself: Embodiment and Figurines from Formative Honduras*

10/30 ARF brown bag: Steve Shackley, *Archaeometry, Lithic Technology, and the Pre-Classic Hohokam Multi-ethnic Community*

New Library Staff:

Claudette Smith & Jodi Henson-Myers

With support from library administration, the anthropology library staff positions vacated this spring have both been filled. It is a pleasure to let you know that Claudette Smith, a longtime library employee who has been working part-time in the anthropology library will assume the full time responsibility for daily operations. Jodi Henson-Myers, a recent anthropology graduate and student library employee has taken the post as Circulation Assistant. Please join me in congratulating each of them on their well earned promotions. — *Suzanne Calpestri*

New Anthropology Staff: Sharmila Shinde

Many of you have met Sharmila Shinde already when you needed to change rooms because your room was too small! or it didn't have the AV equipment you needed! Sharmila is our new curriculum assistant and she is dealing with all course-related issues in the department.

Sharmila came to the U.S. from India when she was 13—"from Bombay to Ohio—that was culture shock." She attended UC Davis majoring in interdisciplinary social sciences and minoring in English. Her interest in student affairs began with being a peer advisor for her major. She likes relating one-on-one with students and faculty and working in the intellectual atmosphere of a university.

Sharmila works half-time in order to continue her academic pursuits. A lifelong learner, Sharmila will be starting a masters program in English literature at Hayward State next quarter. She hopes to work as a community college instructor, working with immigrant and underprivileged students. Ideally she would have one foot in teaching and one in student affairs administration.

She is also interested in yoga and is thinking about trying meditation. She likes printmaking and travel, one trip including a nine-month stay in Costa Rica as an ESL teacher. A big believer in volunteering, Sharmila volunteers at non-profits, one of her favorite causes being children's literacy in a developing world.

Pat Kirch attends Ceremony Honoring Professor E. W. Gifford

Pat Kirch attended the international Pacific Archaeology 2002 Conference in New Caledonia from 1-7 August, along with his graduate students Jenny Kahn and Scarlett Chiu. The conference, among other things, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the 1952 UC Berkeley Expedition to New Caledonia headed up by Professor E. W. Gifford. A ceremony was held at the site of Lapita, first discovered and excavated by Professor Gifford. During the ceremony representatives of several Pacific Island nations presented their greetings to the traditional tribal leaders of New Caledonia, and spoke about how Gifford and other archaeologists had helped to bring their past alive. Pat reports that the ceremony was very moving.

Visit the Hearst Museum Gift Shop

The Hearst Museum gift shop provides a unique shopping experience, in its offering of items reflective of the Museum's collections and the diversity of cultures around the world.

Most gifts are handmade by native artisans (one of the ways that the Hearst Museum supports local ethnic arts and craft traditions) and include: puppets, dolls, lacquered boxes, soapstone carvings, scarves, textiles, musical instruments and jewelry. Also for sale are jewelry, baskets, and pottery created by Native American artists and ancient Roman glass jewelry, made out of shards of glass found in archaeological excavations in Israel. There is also a wide selection of books (including Museum publications). The next big jewelry sale is scheduled for November 21. All UC Berkeley staff and students are eligible for a 10% discount.

The hours of the gallery and store are: Wednesday-Saturday: 10- 4:30pm, and Sunday: 12pm- 4:30pm.

The Ear

Welcome back to another year in Anthropology. Those of us who did our fieldwork in Kroeber Hall over the summer spent a lot of the time standing outside the building while fire alarms sounded. The construction crew installing the system kept tripping wires, the alarm would go off, and out we'd go. Then we'd get outside, the alarm would stop, and in we'd go. One day we made this circuit 5 times before 9am. We got jaded. The alarm would sound, we'd ask, "do we need to get up for this?" One day the alarm went off and a few people decided they weren't budging. The alarm rang and rang. And rang. Most people went out—a few would NOT. The alarm rang on. Eventually, one of the stalwarts, **Ned**, couldn't take it any more and grumbled his way out to the pavement. The alarm rung on. Next to surrender was yes, Me, the Ear, I couldn't take it, it hurt my ears. Still the alarm rung. Who was the last to emerge from Kroeber? Hat on head and HAD IT for the day? **Paul Rabinow**. "Were you trying to wait it out?" he was asked. "**YES!**" Somewhere, some fire alarm manufacturer is saying, "All right, we even got to Rabinow." . . . **Alan Dundes** appeared in the September 1 issue of *San Francisco Chronicle Magazine* in an article titled, "Brainiacs! Five Local Gurus to Follow," which covered "world class experts" who teach in the Bay Area. Professor Dundes was one of the five profiled, as the expert on folklore. Or as the writer put it, "Dundes is not just the best at what he does, he's the only one." . . . Thanks to **Bill Whitehead** for dj-ing the welcome reception, and thanks to **Rosemary Joyce** and the unnamed but honorable graduate student for cleaning up after the sherry reception. These individuals are much appreciated. . . . And we hope noone has too type oo's oon the coopyrooom typewriter because there's a problem there. Avoid the oo's.