

# berkeley anthropology matters — *BAM!*

anthropology department † kroeber hall † university of california † berkeley

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<http://anthropology.berkeley.edu/>

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## In Memoriam: Mickie Foster

Mary LeCron Foster, linguistic anthropologist, wife of Professor Emeritus George Foster, and Research Associate at UC-Berkeley, died on December 14, 2001 after battling ovarian cancer for two years.

Mickie Foster, as she was called, was born in Des Moines, Iowa on February 1, 1914. She graduated from Northwestern University in 1936, majoring in anthropology. Mickie married George M. Foster, whom she met in an anthropology class at Northwestern, on January 6, 1938, and took up residence in Berkeley. She lived for two years in Mexico City where George was a Smithsonian Institution visiting professor of anthropology. George and Mary moved to Washington, D.C. in 1946, and then to Berkeley in 1953, but Mickie continued to return to Mexico to carry on research, both with George and on her own.

In 1958 she enrolled in the linguistics department at Berkeley, completing her Ph.D. degree in 1965. Her doctoral dissertation, *The Tarascan Language*, was published by UC Press in 1969. She taught in the anthropology department at California State University, Hayward, 1966-1975, and at the Fromm Institute of Lifelong Learning, University of San Francisco, 1980.

Mickie Foster's twin passions were the origin of human speech, and the use of social science in helping to reduce conflict. With respect to the first she was one of the earliest linguistic anthropologists to advance a monogenetic hypothesis to explain similarities in languages. With respect to the second, she was an active board member of the Ploughshares Fund, and co-author of several books on peace and conflict. She was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Anthropological Association, and the Linguistic Society of America. She established the Bay Area Chapter of the Society of Woman Geographers and was a member of the Town and Gown Club, Berkeley.

Mickie Foster is survived by George Foster, her husband of 64 years, a son, Jeremy, of Basalt, CO, a daughter, Melissa Bowerman, of Nijmegen, Netherlands, five granddaughters and two great grandsons.

A memorial service will be held in The George and Mary Foster Anthropology Library on Saturday, February 9 at 3:30pm.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ploughshares Fund (Fort Mason Center B-330, San Francisco, CA 94123, or to the The Regents of UC, (University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720), marked for "The George & Mary Foster Library of Anthropology," or to Northwestern University (Evanston, IL 60208-2300), marked for "The Melville J. Herskovits Library."

## Centennial Events Spring 2002

Events to mark Anthropology at Berkeley's Centennial will continue in Spring 2002.

The George and Mary Foster Anthropology Library has scheduled a third exhibit in The Bancroft Library, which will focus on the early history of the Department through 1960, using archival collections and faculty papers. The exhibit opens on February 20.

The Phoebe Apperson Hearst Museum will open a major new exhibit, "A Century of Collecting," which will feature several hundred of the museum's most famous and/or exquisite pieces, drawn from a diversity of world cultures and civilizations. The exhibit opens on February 28.

The Department will continue its Centennial Lecture Series with Bruce Trigger (McGill University) speaking on "Confrontation, Polemic, and Synthesis: The Role of Comparative Studies in Anthropological Theory Building" (February 25) and Margaret Lock (also of McGill University) speaking on "Savouring Complexity: Anthropology and the Life Industry" on April 1. Both talks will be held at 4pm in 160 Kroeber Hall.

On March 15-16, 2002, the Department will host a small international conference: "Internal Boundaries and Internationalization—Four Decades of Berkeley Anthropological Research on Japan." The participants are multinational, with four from Japan, three faculty members, and four present and three former graduate students from Berkeley. The conference will be held in 221 Kroeber (the Gifford Room) and is open to the public. For more information on this conference, contact Kenji Tierney at [kierney@sscl.berkeley.edu](mailto:kierney@sscl.berkeley.edu).

The major event of the year will be the Spring Centennial Conference, "Alfred Kroeber and his Legacy: A Centennial Conference," scheduled for April 12-13, 2002. This conference will celebrate Berkeley's past but will focus as much on the present and future engagement of anthropology with the world at large.

On Friday, April 12, the session, "Historical Highlights of the Department," will start with Karl Kroeber (Columbia University) at 4pm in the Morrison Room, Doe Library. The conference will continue on Saturday, April 13 from 8:30am to 7pm in room 2040, Valley Life Sciences Building. Saturday's morning session, "Decades of Excellence," will feature several distinguished alumni, representing all subdisciplines since the 1960s. The afternoon session, "Anthropology and the World," will feature such authors as Sam Smith and Amy Goodman, who have both used their undergraduate degree in anthropology to make major contributions to civic life. Saturday afternoon will also feature a wide range of public anthropologists and public intellectuals including Dr. Ashraf Ghani (Johns Hopkins University), Saskia Sassen (University of Chicago), Mark Danner of the *New York Times*, Paul Farmer (Harvard University), and Charles Koernigan (National Labor Council).

Alumni and friends of the department are welcome to attend all events. For more information, contact: Rachel Goddard, assistant to the Anthropology Centennial Committee, at [goddard@sscl.berkeley.edu](mailto:goddard@sscl.berkeley.edu), or Nelson H. H. Graburn, Chair of the Anthropology Centennial Committee, at [graburn@uclink.berkeley.edu](mailto:graburn@uclink.berkeley.edu), or 510.642.2120.

## February Calendar

Sat., Feb. 2

SocCult House admission & fellowship mtg., 9am, Gifford Room

Sun., Feb. 3

Arch House admission & fellowship mtg., 6pm at C. Hastorf

Mon., Feb. 4

Arch mtg. to confirm Arch admissions, Noon, ARF.  
Department Sherry Reception, 4-6pm, Gifford Room  
Continuing FLAS apps. due to Grad. Fellowships.

Wed., Feb 6

ARF Brown Bag Lecture: Del Upton (UC Berkeley)  
*Architectural History as Archaeology*, Noon, ARF, 2547 Channing

Thurs., Feb. 7

Winter 2002 ARF Lecture: Joan Gero (American University)  
*Sex Pots of Ancient Peru*, 6pm, 2547 Channing

Fri., Feb. 8

Nominations for entering fellowships due in Grad. Fellowships

Sat., Feb. 9

Memorial Service for Mickie Foster, 3:30pm, Anthropology Library

Mon. Feb. 11

Ex Comm mtg., 10-12am  
290 Lecture: Norman Fairclough (Univ. of Leicester, UK)  
*New Capitalism: A Discourse Analytical Approach*,  
4pm, 160 Kroeber

Wed. Feb. 13

ARF Brown Bag Lecture: John Holson (Pacific Legacy)  
*Sturgeon, Swimming and Flooding. Three Thousand Years  
of Prehistory along the San Pablo and Wildcat Creek Drainages,  
Contra Costa County*, Noon, ARF, 2547 Channing

Mon., Feb. 18

Spring '02 Lowie Olson applications available.  
Call for language exam candidates.  
Rota (list of examiners) re-announced.

Wed., Feb. 20

Third Centennial library exhibit opens in Bancroft Library  
ARF Brown Bag Lecture: Lori Hager (UC Berkeley)  
*And Baby Makes Ten: More News on the Burials from Building  
Three, Catal Höyük, Turkey*, Noon, ARF, 2547 Channing

Fri., Feb. 22

Dissertation Year and Mentored Research award apps. due.

Mon., Feb. 25

Ex Comm mtg., 10-12am.  
Grad. Committee mtg., 2:30pm  
Centennial Lecture: Bruce Trigger (McGill University)  
*Confrontation, Polemic, and Synthesis: The Role of Comparative  
Studies in Anthropological Theory Building*, 4pm, 160 Kroeber

Wed., Feb. 27

ARF Brown Bag Lecture: Jan Simek (Univ. of Tennessee)  
*On the Backs of Serpents: Prehistoric Cave Art in the Southeast of  
North America*, Noon, ARF, 2547 Channing

Thurs., Feb. 28

Centennial Exhibit in the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum opens.

## The Ear

Recent anthropology Ph.D., **Dr. Roberto Gonzalez**, wrote an op-ed piece for the *San Francisco Chronicle* entitled, "Ignorance is not bliss/Lack of reporting civilian casualties from the war in Afghanistan is keeping Americans in the dark—and endangering their future," on January 2, 2002. He also published an article in the *San Jose Mercury News* on "Lynne Cheney-Joe Lieberman Group Puts Out a Blacklist" on December 13, 2001. . . . **Dr. Laura Nader's** "Anthropology! Distinguished Lecture—2000" appears in the September 2002 *American Anthropologist*. . . . **Dr. Glenn Shepard** (Ph.D. 1999) (now with the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazonia), wrote the back page humor column of *Anthropology News*, January 2002, titled: "Why I Sometimes Wish I Were an Armchair Anthropologist." . . . And **Suzanne Calpistri** will have an article, *The First Century of Anthropology at Berkeley*, in the February issue of *Anthropology News*. . . . **BAM!** will be discontinuing the Centennial Trivia Contest but not before announcing that **Dr. Gerald Berreman** guessed the answer to the last question, "*Who was the first Ph.D. in the department?*" The answer: Samuel Barret. And no, we are not discontinuing the contest because Dr. Berreman, department trivia heavyweight, has begun to play.

## Mariane Ferme's

### *The Underneath of Things,* is Published

Mariane Ferme's book, *The Underneath of Things, Violence, History, and the Everyday in Sierra Leone*, has been published by UC Press and is receiving rave reviews.

The book is about the Mende-speaking southeastern Sierra Leone and the surrounding region. Since 1990, this area has been ravaged by a civil war that produced population displacements and regional instability. Professor Ferme documents the rural impact of the progressive collapse of the Sierra Leonean state in the past several decades and explores the links between a violent historical and political legacy, and the production of secrecy in everyday material culture. To read some of the reviews, go to: [www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/9103.html](http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/9103.html).

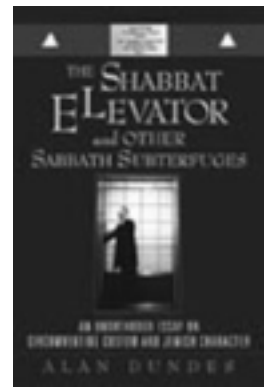


### Alan Dundes's *The Shabbat Elevator* is Published

Alan Dundes's book, *The Shabbat Elevator: and other Sabbath Subterfuges: An Unorthodox Essay on Circumventing Custom and Jewish Character*, has been published by Rowman and Littlefield.

In his book, Professor Dundes focuses on the topic of "circumventing custom" with special emphasis on the ingenious ways Orthodox (and other) Jews have devised to avoid breaking the extensive list of activities forbidden on the Sabbath.

Professor Dundes analyzes facets of Jewish characteristics such as an undue concern with purity, and a long-established tradition of indulging in nit-picking and argumentation. The resultant picture of Jewish character is drawn from an unusual mixture of religious written texts and oral tradition (jokes and proverbs).



## New Library Services

### *NRLF Requests via Pathfinder*

At long last, you can request items from NRLF on-line via Pathfinder. All you need to do is log in by entering your library card number and the last four digits of your Social Security Number. To request an individual item, click the NRLF button next to the record on the brief display or at the top of the full record screen. You will then be taken to a form to fill out for submitting your request. For most requests, you may select any UCB library location that is convenient for you to pick up the item. An e-mail will then confirm your request, and as with the old system, delivery will occur within the next two working days.

### *E-mail Notification*

You can now receive notices for holds, recalls etc. from the library via e-mail. To sign up, go to the below site and enter your e-mail address: [sunsite2.berkeley.edu/patronupdate/](http://sunsite2.berkeley.edu/patronupdate/)

### *Faculty/ Staff ID's*

Your Faculty/Staff photo ID's can now be used as your library card. Those of you hired in the last year may already be utilizing this feature. You can either contact me directly, or come into the library with both cards and someone at the desk can transfer your records from the old card to your University ID.

— Caralee Witteveen-Lane, Operations Manager,  
George and Mary Foster Anthropology Library, [cwitteve@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:cwitteve@library.berkeley.edu)