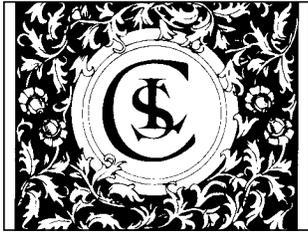


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# Bulletin





# Bulletin

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**Front Cover:** This image is by Utagawa Kuniyoshi and is part of the series *Ogura* limitations of *One Hundred Poems by One Hundred Poets* which is a classical Japanese anthology. This woodblock dates circa 1845 and is from a series jointly designed by Hiroshige, Kunisada, and Kuniyoshi. See article on page 14.

**Back Cover:** Detail of Maynard Dixon's great mural in Gillis Hall, *A Pageant of Traditions*. See article on p. 28 for the story behind this haughty-looking Californio woman.

**Illustrations / Photos:** All images from pages 2-13 and 20-35 are from the California State Library in Sacramento. Pages 14-19 are from the Sutro Library, the San Francisco branch of the California State Library. Scans are by Vincent Beiderbecke and Diana Kohnke.

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(Left) CSL Foundation Treasurer Tom Vinson (left) and Vice-President George Basye sang a rousing rendition of the California's official State Song, "I Love You California." The audience quickly joined them.

(Right) The ceremony concluded when Gerry Maginnity and three former State Librarians, Gary Strong, Susan Hildreth, and Stacey Aldrich cut the ribbon across the grand stairway.

# Grand Reopening of the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building

By M. Patricia Morris

It was foggy in Sacramento on February 11, 2014, the morning of the Grand Reopening Celebration. As guests neared the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building, they saw through the mist banners announcing that after a four-year-long renovation the stately structure was again open. Entering the Library, attendees discovered in contrast to the grayness outside, the lights in the building were shining brighter than ever before in the building's eighty-five-year history.

With its murals, terrazzo floor, and Italian black marble columns, the first floor Memorial Vestibule, made a grand setting for this event. As people filled the long room, their voices echoed against the

stone surfaces. If you were not at the celebration welcoming the Library back to its historic home, this is what happened.

## OPENING REMARKS

*Gerald Maginnity*

Acting State Librarian Gerry Maginnity served as host and master of ceremonies for the hour. In his opening remarks, he informed the gathering that when the building was closed in 2009, the Library's collection of four million volumes was moved to a warehouse in West Sacramento. Returning later to this astounding figure, he said that if the books were set side by side they would stretch from Sacramento to Fairfield, a distance of about

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Mrs. Morris is the Foundation's copy editor and has written many feature articles for the Bulletin. Since writing this article, we have learned that Governor Brown appointed Greg Lucas as State Librarian of California. The Foundation wishes to extend its best wishes and gratitude to Mr. Maginnity for guiding the State Library through nineteen challenging months. We look forward to building a productive relationship with Mr. Lucas.



Acting State Librarian and Master of Ceremonies Gerry Maginnity displays an antique cane given to one of his predecessors, Robert O. Cravens. Don Gordon generously loaned the cane to the Library.



Foundation Board President Kenneth Noack, Jr., thanked the sponsors of the event and praised board member Don Hagerty for his research on muralist Maynard Dixon.



Former State Librarian Gary E. Strong (1980–1994) eloquently recalled his time in the historic building and the battles he fought to preserve its historic windows and paintings.

forty miles. Not all the books were back yet, but enough for the Library to begin functioning again in this building.

Maginnity reminded the audience that the name of the structure is the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building. Stanley Mosk, an associate justice on the California Supreme Court for thirty-seven years, served longer than any other member of that body. Maginnity observed, “Here we have two institutions in this building that are very important for a free and democratic society. On the one side, we have the California Third District Court of Appeal. That side serves the yearning for justice. As Pope Paul VI said in 1972, ‘If you want peace, work for justice.’ The other side, the library side, serves the yearning for knowledge and information. ‘Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.’”

Since the Third District Court of Appeal and the California State Library both occupy the building, some may have wondered why this was not a joint celebration. The Court of Appeal staff had moved back several months earlier and marked the homecoming with festivities in October

2013, so this occasion was entirely focused on the return of the Library.

The acting state librarian was obviously pleased with the way the people in the community had volunteered to assist with the celebration; he called special attention to docents who had conducted tours of the building. He thanked Loretta Kanelos for making the beautiful ribbon stretched across the Library’s grand staircase, a ribbon which was later cut to signify the official opening of the building. He singled out Don Gordon in the audience, a local history enthusiast, who brought with him a cane belonging to Talbot H. Wallis, state librarian from 1882–1890. The black cane with a silver-colored handle will remain for a time in the Library on loan in a display case.

#### ABOUT THE VESTIBULE

*Gary F. Kurutz*

Maginnity asked Gary Kurutz, special collections librarian emeritus, to talk about the beautiful room in which the ceremony was taking place. “The vestibule,” he said, “was dedicated to the Californians who fought in World War I, that war to end all wars.”

He went on to explain that Charles Peter Weeks, the architect who designed the building, following state procedures, advertised for bids from artists. Frank Van Sloun was selected from the bidding process and was responsible for painting the series of murals in the room illustrating the history of warfare from the very beginning to 1921.

Calling attention to the sixteen black marble columns surrounding the room, Kurutz said, “They lend a very somber feeling to this memorial.” They were quarried from the Isle of Tino in Italy. “One of the happy things about this renovation, he said, “is that these columns are now seismically secure.” This comment drew hearty laughter from the crowd as did his next observation that the urns atop the columns “were originally designed to light these murals, but now they have a new purpose in that they house the remains of former state librarians.” Not true, of course, but they look like they could reasonably be used for that purpose.

It was no doubt quite a surprise to many, when Kurutz told the audience that the beautiful, decorated ceiling was created by



Former State Librarian Stacey Aldrich served while the building was undergoing its restoration and attended countless meetings to protect the Library's interests during the project.

Anthony Heinsbergen Decorating Company of Los Angeles, a firm that specialized in movie palaces, among other buildings.

#### RECOGNIZING SUPPORTERS

*Kenneth B. Noack, Jr.*

Ken Noack, Jr., president of the California State Library Foundation (CSLF), was the next to step forward to the podium. For those unfamiliar with the Foundation, CSLF has raised funds and supported State Library collections, programs, and events since 1982. Nearly all the board members were in the audience for this celebration. Noack asked Board Member Donald J. Hagerly to raise his hand. Noack described him as “the world’s authority on Maynard Dixon,” and he praised Hagerly’s essay in issue No. 106 of the *California State Library Foundation Bulletin* on the Dixon mural in Gillis Hall and other paintings in the building as well as the Van Sloun mural in the Vestibule.

Noack credited Grand Reopening sponsors for their generosity: Arntz Builders, Inc., the principal contractor for the restoration project; Cosco Fire Protection; Gladding, McBean, LLC; and Vanir Construction Management, Inc. He noted the generosity of the Foundation itself, which had funded the banners as well as refreshments for the week’s festivities.

To the delight of history buffs, Noack

## Acting California State Librarian Gerry Maginnity: A Profile *By M. Patricia Morris*

A well-traveled librarian seems like an apt phrase to describe Gerry Maginnity, who has worked in libraries or library systems in three countries and five geographic regions in California. In a recent interview with Gerry Maginnity, I learned about the rich and varied path that led him to the California State Library as well as some of the challenges he has faced since becoming acting state librarian.

The long road to Sacramento began in the Midwest where his parents, both professionals, exerted an important influence on his decision to go into library science. “My mother was a librarian,” Maginnity said. “So she was always fostering the love of books and using the library, but my dad was a chemist, so I also had this interest in science all my life. Initially, I wanted to go into marine biology.” Maginnity wasn’t sure why he developed an interest in marine biology, having grown up in Ohio, which he wryly noted is “surrounded by oceans.” But at the time, the emphasis on natural issues with oceans led him to major in biological science at Ohio State University in Columbus.

While working at Ohio State on his undergraduate degree, he took a part-time job shelving books at a local public library in Upper Arlington, a town not far from the university campus. “At the time,” Maginnity said, “they had a really dynamic library director, who was trying to reinvent the image of a public library to be more dynamic.” That was the point where he became interested in librarianship and knew that was what he wanted to do.

Initially, his dream was to become a health science librarian. To achieve that goal, he went on to graduate school in Canada at the University of Western Ontario’s School of Library and Information Science. While earning his master’s degree, he worked for two years in the university’s health science library.

From there, he headed south to Monterrey, Mexico, where he was offered a fellowship to work in an engineering library. At the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey,

he designed and taught an undergraduate course in bibliographic instruction. An added bonus to his stay in Mexico was that while he was there, he became fluent in Spanish. “When I left Mexico, I decided to come to California. . . . I spoke Spanish, so that’s sort of the way I drifted,” he said.

Though northeastern California is not exactly a Spanish-speaking stronghold in California, Maginnity got his first library job in the state as assistant to the Lassen County Librarian. With headquarters in Susanville, the Lassen County Free Library at that time had a total staff of 20 with 10 branches, serving 18,000 people in a 4,000 square mile area.

A little more than a year later, he moved to Imperial County in the southeast corner of California bordering on Mexico. He had developed an interest in cooperative library systems, and there he was hired for his Spanish language skills by the Serra Cooperative Library System as coordinator of the Serra Reference Center in Imperial, California. Maginnity said, “I really enjoyed working with groups of libraries and promoting cooperative services.”

In a move to the Central Valley, he served for many years at Fresno County Free Library as Associate County Librarian for Reference and Information Services. Working in this part of the state, he said, “You kind of get the crossroads of California.” He encountered a different dynamic when he took a position at Solano County Library, where he was responsible for library service to the City of Vallejo. During this period, small towns were growing very rapidly, some becoming bedroom communities for the Bay Area. “You could see what the county was going through trying to deal with that,” Maginnity said.

His longest time in one place came with his next move to the Sacramento area, where he served for fifteen years as coordinator of the Mountain Valley Library System. Thus, in this long journey that began in Ohio, Maginnity has served in all types of libraries in both rural and urban settings and in areas of rapid growth, gathering along the way an

extensive background in library management.

It was a “good fit” he said when he first joined the staff of the California State Library in 2005 as assistant bureau chief of the Library Development Services Bureau, eventually becoming head of that section. And he was well prepared for the task when State Librarian Stacey Aldrich announced her resignation in 2012, and sent a letter to the Governor’s Office recommending Maginnity to replace her. In October of that year, he received a letter from the Governor’s appointments office saying he had been appointed acting state librarian. “When you think acting or interim, you think two, maybe three months, not sixteen. So that’s where we are at,” he said.

As acting state librarian, he took the helm when the State Library faced major challenges. Naming the most daunting, Maginnity said that during the recession, the State Library took “some really, serious, serious hits to its budget. I think we lost between thirty and forty positions over the last four or five years,” he said. Budgets cuts were in fact, so severe, they threatened the ten million dollars the Library received in federal funding for local assistance programs used to help libraries throughout the state. The library has to sustain a certain level of state funding to receive this money from the federal government. It took a lot of work on the part of Maginnity and other State Library staff but the funding was finally secured. “It was kind of a major victory,” Maginnity said.

All the while Maginnity and staff were coping with severe budget reductions, they were also coping with the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building renovation. The collections were in a warehouse in West Sacramento and all public services were being operated out of the Braille and Talking Book Library and the California History Room located in the annex across the street. If all had gone perfectly as originally anticipated, the move back into the main building should have been easy. But, of course, the unexpected happened. To properly install the new fire suppression

system, it was necessary to place sprinkler systems in some areas lower down from the ceiling. Maginnity said, “Some might think it’s not a big issue. If it is just an office space, then a pipe coming down six more inches from the ceiling — big deal.” But the loss of vertical shelving space for the Library created an enormous problem. “Suddenly,” Maginnity said, expressing concern in his voice, “you are talking about thousands and thousands of volumes.” Consequently, they had to find space in Library and Courts II across the street for these materials, insure that the flooring would bear the weight, order and install shelving, and allow time for Fire Marshall inspections. A little over fifty percent of the collections are back, but the staff keeps “plugging away,” he said.

Now that the Library and Courts Building is once again open to the public, he and the staff are tackling another hurdle — finding ways to let Californians know about the State Library. One method they have considered is outreach to the Library’s principal clients, namely state government agencies. Maginnity cited water as an example. “Water is a big issue right now,” he said. “We have some historical materials on water; we have the studies; we have the documents.” Another outreach possibility is having brown bag lunches at the Library where staff discuss an aspect of the collection.

Maginnity enthused, “Then we have that fabulous reading room — Gillis Hall with WiFi.” Gillis Hall was reconfigured during the renovation with the new ways people use libraries in mind. Another potential for bringing the library to public attention is the docent program, which already appears to be a success with more people coming forward to volunteer as docents and give tours. Another area offering visibility to the Library is the school field trip. Thousands of school children come to the Capital on these trips in the spring. They hope to include the State Library on the “field trip circuit,” as Maginnity described it. He and the staff are also working on digitization as a way of making collections more accessible to

people. “Then they don’t have to necessarily come in here, but they will see some of the wonderful things we have and download them,” Maginnity explained.

There may have been difficulties to overcome, but the work as acting state librarian has also had its rewards. For example, Maginnity said, “We couldn’t have asked for a better treasure downtown.” Even though they have gone through some very hard times, one of the things that has brought him the most satisfaction is seeing how hard staff members have worked and worked cooperatively. He has been impressed by their desire to serve the public.

Another satisfactory development is the new home for the Sutro Library Branch in San Francisco. Maginnity had been involved in planning for the Sutro to become part of the new library at San Francisco State University and had attended the grand opening last year. After a hundred years, the Sutro Library finally had a proper facility for housing its world-renowned collection. To see that happen and “then to see what’s happening here — we’re getting back to being a library, and this building is getting recognition. These are good things,” he said.

If all goes well, there is another potential “good thing” on the horizon. Governor Jerry Brown has allocated some money in the proposed budget for increasing broadband for public libraries. Maginnity anticipated that that would dominate his time in the near future, and if it is passed, then they would have to “gear up to get all public libraries connected.”

Maginnity served as master of ceremonies for the California State Library’s Grand Reopening Celebration, during which California Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera was one of the guest speakers. With all that has transpired and all that he has done since assuming the position of acting state librarian, if one adopts the colorful language of Poet Laureate Herrera, one might say Gerry Maginnity deserves “a big spicy enchilada” round of applause.