

CALIFORNIA
STATE
LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

Number 134
2022

Bulletin





CALIFORNIA
STATE
LIBRARY
FOUNDATION
Number 134
2022

Bulletin

EDITOR
Brittneydawn Cook

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT / COPY EDITOR
Gene Kennedy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Kenneth B. Noack, Jr.
President
Marilyn Snider
Vice-President
Mike Ueltzen
Treasurer
Greg Lucas
State Librarian of California



Phillip L. Isenberg Susan Glass
Katherine Weedman-Cox Rivkah Sass
Jennifer Basye Sander



Brittneydawn Cook Gene Kennedy
Executive Director *Foundation
Administrator*

Shelley Ford
Bookkeeper

The *California State Library Foundation Bulletin* is
published when we are able. © 2004-2022.

Opinions of the authors are their own and do
not necessarily reflect the opinions of their institu-
tions, the California State Library or the Foundation.

The *Bulletin* is included as a membership benefit to
Foundation members. Membership rates are:

Associate: \$40-\$99
Contributor: \$100-\$249
Sponsor: \$250-\$499
Patron: \$500-\$999
Institutional: \$500
Corporate: \$750
Lifetime Member: \$1,000
Pioneer: \$5,000
Subscription to Libraries: \$30/year

2 California Revealed: A Decade of Dedication

By Brittneydawn Cook

8 San Francisco Souvenir Books Revisited

By Michael Dolgushkin

16 Community of Writers: Celebrating a Half Century in the High Sierra

By Julia Flynn Siler and Nancy Hall Teichert

24 A Stitch in Time

By Mattie Taormina, Director, Sutro Library

FOUNDATION NOTES

31 CSLF Board Member Releases Book of Poetry

31 CSLF Sponsors Children's Educational Book

32 Recent Contributors

Front Cover: Singer Sewing Postcard compliments of the California State Library,
Sutro Library branch collections.

Back Cover: Kenneth Hahn, Washington, others with Employment sign,
Date Unknown, Huntington Library.

Illustrations and Photo Credits: Pg. 2-7 California Revealed and affiliates;
Pg. 8-15 from the collections at the California State Library, California History Section;
Pg. 16-23 compliments of the Community of Writers; Pg. 24-30 from the collections
at the California State Library, Sutro Library branch.

Design: Angela Tannehill-Caldwell | www.angelacaldwell.art

California State Library Foundation

1225 8th Street, Suite 345, Sacramento, CA 95814

tel: 916.447.6331 | web: www.csdfd.org | email: admin@csdfd.org

California Revealed



Pakaraguian
Kulintang
Ensemble



California Revealed plays a vital role in ensuring preservation and access to our state's primary sources and vast institutional collections by offering their services along with technical advice and guidance. In 2007, a California State initiative paved the way for California Revealed, a service dedicated to helping public libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and other heritage groups digitize, preserve, and provide online access to materials documenting the state's history, art, and cultures. Many organizations throughout our state do not have the resources or expertise to transition their various collections into a digital space and California Revealed offers an opportunity for assistance to ease the transition. With over a decade of dedication to this initiative California Revealed now includes more than 87,000 objects from over 330 partner organizations all freely accessible on their website. The online collections are representative of the complexity and range of California's history and demonstrate the amazing archival gems for which the 300 partner organizations act as stewards.

Humble Beginnings

Most success stories include humble beginnings, an origin story, a prequel to the main event, and this one is no different. As mentioned before, the California Revealed program was borne out of a 2007 statewide study conducted by the California Preservation Program that found (a) unique audiovisual materials could be found at institutions across the state; (b) these institutions were particularly ill-equipped to digitize and maintain these materials, often lacking appropriate playback equipment; (c) these same materials posed a distinct preservation risk owing to format

obsolescence. Due to all of those factors and the cultural richness of the collections, the argument was made to create a central project to build and develop best practices, stable relationships with vendors, and to work closely with partner organizations to digitize and preserve the state's audiovisual collections. In 2010, the California State Library provided funding to develop a pilot program that would act as the centralized system program for audiovisual preservation. The pilot program was launched in October 2010 and became the California Audiovisual Preservation Project (CAVPP.) The project, originally based within the library at UC Berkeley, became a quick ally to cultural institutions throughout the state. By 2016, the program had preserved and provided access to over 8,000 recordings with 127 partner organizations. At this point, the California State Library provided funding for the program to broaden and extend its focus to all format types. With the expansion came a name change, California Revealed, that was launched in 2016 creating new job opportunities.

The team at California Revealed is now organized into respective "streams": one focused on audiovisual collections, one on print collections, and one on digital collections. The entire team collaborates closely, but this structure has been an important element of the program's growth. The audiovisual stream is managed by Shahed Dowlatshahi, the print stream by Casey Winkelman, and the digital stream by Megan Lohnash. Additionally, Liz Seeley focuses her attention on the print stream, Willow Germs on the audiovisual stream, and Allison Ryan on the digital stream. Now, five years down the road, the team at California Revealed are digitizing everything from wax

*Pakaraguian Kulintang Ensemble, 2019,
Ube Arte, University of California, Los
Angeles, Ethnomusicology Archive*



Kenneth Hahn, Washington, others with Employment sign, Date Unknown, Huntington Library

cylinder discs to ledgers, private journals to full newspaper runs, and small snapshots to large-scale maps. Even born-digital media is being preserved and made freely accessible through their services.

Access Granted

A word mentioned often in the conversation at California Revealed is *access*. One might question why free access to these collections is important, or what makes them significant to be preserved and stored for generations to come. Every year California Revealed reviews applicants for its Digitization and Preservation awards and one of the questions asked is to describe the historical significance of the materials being nominated to be digitized and preserved. Answers range like the colors of a rainbow, but one thing can always be found, *passion*. In the nominated collections are generations of lives lived in California, glimpses

Inside the Collection

When UCLA Ethnomusicology archivist Maureen Russell was asked to highlight a collection from her partnership with California Revealed, she directed us to the collections of Jacqueline Cogdell DjeDje and Bette Cox.

Jacqueline Cogdell DjeDje, is Professor Emeritus, former Chair of the UCLA Ethnomusicology department, and former director of the UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive. Professor Dje Dje has spent most of her career researching “performance practices as they relate to the one-string fiddle tradition in West Africa.” Professor DjeDje is regarded as a “culture bearer” for her groundbreaking studies in ethnomusicology on the subject matter of fiddling in Luo and Kenya. Later in her career, her research expanded to include African American religious music, for which she archived many interviews with gospel leaders and choirs. Her collection at California Revealed, according to Russell is comprised of “her fieldwork around gospel music in Black Catholic churches in California, a series of oral histories on Black Music and Musicians in Los Angeles, guest lectures from Black musicians for her UCLA classes, and recordings from the Gospel Archiving in Los Angeles (GALA) project.”

Bette Cox, was the founder of BEEM (Black Experience as Expressed through Music) Foundation for the Advancement of Music, and an educator of music in Los Angeles for more than 30 years. Cox acted as the Commissioner of Cultural Affairs for Los Angeles County from 1985 to 1990. Within her years of service, she amassed quite a collection. In 1995, Cox recalled in a *Los Angeles Times* article that in the late 1960s, once schools allowed the teaching of Black history, she had a large void of resources to fill for her music students, and when she went looking through the normal avenues such as her local libraries she was left empty-handed. The realization that she couldn’t find resources on the beyond fruitful history of Black music and musical artists led her on a two-decade-long mission to rediscover the untold history that she desired to give her students. Little could she know that many years down the road her collections of recordings relating to African American music in Los Angeles would be nominated for a program that would grant everyone to learn from her experiences. The collection at California Revealed is a spectrum of different musical styles, as Cox did not focus on any one particular genre of music, as well as many interviews with major figures within Los Angeles. According to Professor DjeDje in an interview with the *UCLA Ethnomusicology Review*, “her materials cover the entire spectrum of the Black experience in Los Angeles. They provide insights about Los Angeles musical artists representing classical music, religious music, jazz, and more.”

of its cultures, some lost or unseen before, and an extraordinary amount of passion. To quote the great educator Peter Drucker, “Today knowledge has power. It controls access to opportunity and advancement.” California is in a constant state of change, its history is an expansive web of tree roots that traverses snow-capped mountain ranges, poppy-filled valleys, and crystal-clear waters. Access to this history affords all kinds of opportunities and advancement. It’s the aim of California Revealed to ensure these gems of opportunity do not remain unseen or unshared due to a partner’s lack of resources.

One Resource, Hundreds of Connections

California Revealed is a unique resource that has built a platform on collaborations, partnerships, and connections. The collaborations resulted in connections within

the materials themselves. For example, if one was researching 1960s activism on the California Revealed website you can receive results from numerous California institutions such as the San Bruno Public Library, the Headlands Center for the Arts, UCLA, Southern Mono Historical Society, etc. The list of resources for this search term spans 3,000 pages and it’s more than words on a page; it includes images, voice recordings, video footage, news reports, full-page newspaper spreads, and oral histories. A resource of this caliber turns learning about the 1960s activists more than a learning module in high school but an experience they can relive through these easily accessible artifacts aggregated into one searchable collection. Team members shared that with the “recent legislation to add an ethnic studies requirement to California’s high school curriculum, the California Revealed collection can be an

invaluable resource both to find salient, community-specific primary sources *and* to examine the historical development of the idea of ‘ethnic studies.’” The collection itself is a wonderful aggregate of collections, but in the process of connecting and partnering, California Revealed has also become an aggregation of expertise. With the variety of mediums, formats, technical issues, and day-to-day challenges of digitization and long-term preservation. The accumulated knowledge is one that can be widely benefitted from and collaboration for the program is crucial. All the expertise and knowledge accumulated is shared with California Revealed’s many partners through guidelines and workshops.

A Sample from the Stacks

The UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive was one of the many institutions that took advantage of partnering with California



Locust Avenue, masks on, 1918, Raymond Coyne, Courtesy of Lucretia Little History Room, Mill Valley Public Library. © The Annual Dipsea Race.