

# THE HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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## The Baron Gets a Facelift at Long Last

In 1952, President Cornelius Siemens acquired a large oil portrait of Alexander von Humboldt from Cooper Union for what was then Humboldt State College. The painting was attributed to Moses Wight and apparently is one of several copies executed in the 1850's. Another exemplar used to grace the main lobby of the Humboldt County Courthouse and has been removed to safer quarters near the supervisory chambers in that building. The original supposedly resides in the Thomas Jefferson home in Monticello, Va, and may have been executed to commemorate the meeting of these two larger than life 19th century icons.


Initially, our version was displayed between the first and second floors of the northeast stairway of the Library until it was vandalized in late 1968. After the Department of Art performed emergency repairs it was once again put on public display, but in the more secure confines of the Humboldt Room.

Not in the best condition when originally acquired the painting had deteriorated to the point of requiring serious rehabilitation by the early '90s. To that end it was initially examined by Professor Martin Morgan of the Department of Art and by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) Conservation and Preservation Services staff who recommended a complete restoration of the painting and refinishing of the frame.

Initially SFMOMA was going to perform the work but subsequently declined as it was preparing to move into its new quarters and could no



longer spare staff for outside work. Following several private restoration leads provided by SFMOMA, Humboldt managed to locate both a painting conservator and frame restorer in San Francisco who are now busily resurrecting the Baron to his original state, proudly posing against a background of Andean peaks. We hope to be able to once again display our namesake in a central place of honor in the near future thanks to innovative fundraising, perseverance and the belief all along that the Baron deserves better!

 Erich Schimps  
Librarian, Humboldt County Collection


## Welcome

*We hope all who read this first issue of the Humboldt State University Library newsletter will enjoy it and gain benefit from it. Unlike other information that the Humboldt State University Library produces, this newsletter is aimed, not at the campus but, toward interested members of the community.*

*While the provision of information and resources to faculty and students is our primary goal, we acknowledge our part in supporting the information needs of the region around us. Our collections and services complement those of other libraries and resource centers in this remote part of the State. Humboldt State's collections support the university level curricula, which are closely allied to our location, and are strong in the sciences, natural resources, and environment. These are a treasury for the citizens of the region and we welcome those who would be enriched by it.*

*Through this newsletter you will learn, too, that the Humboldt State University Library is changing, as are all libraries. The nature and rapid pace of technological development, especially digital technology, has made the "information highway" a road for all to follow. As libraries become sites or destinations, there are now new ways for people to gain access to our resources. Like others, part of our site remains "under construction," but we now hope to offer services and resources to all in a way that has never before been possible.*

*Please enjoy our news and let us hear from you.*

 Rena Fowler, University Librarian

# Friends of the Humboldt State University Library Established

Humboldt State University Library is pleased to announce the recent formation of Friends of the Humboldt State University Library. The Friends group supports the Library's mission

Schools; and Sara Turner, Arcata, Humboldt State University faculty emeritus.

The first Friends' events took place on Sept. 27-28 at the Library. The

evening event for adults included a program by the Chamber Readers. President Alistair W. McCrone presented Jean Wagner, a founding member of the Chamber Readers, with the Friends' first annual award. This award honors a member of the community who has made an exceptional contribution to literature, the arts or the sciences. The next morning the Chamber Readers performed a program for children.

The Friends of the Library will continue to sponsor cultural and educational events throughout the year. Those who are Friends will receive free or reduced admission to such programs. Other benefits include special previews of the Library's annual book sale with the chance to buy before it opens to the public, and complimentary copies of the Library's newsletter.

For additional information about the Humboldt State University Friends of the Library please call Rena Fowler, University Librarian, at (707) 826-3441 or send an e-mail message to: [friends@axe.humboldt.edu](mailto:friends@axe.humboldt.edu).

# Preston Family Continues Donor Tradition

More than 100 family members of John Calvin Preston and Sarah Jane Lindsey returned "home" to Preston Hill this summer for a weekend celebration at Humboldt State University.

Gathering at Founders Hall, which sits atop Preston Hill, the family shared their first reunion in nearly four decades. It was William Preston, son of John and Sarah, who donated 51 acres of land in 1915 for the newly established Humboldt State Normal School.

In keeping with the tradition of Humboldt's first donor, descendants Rosaline Preston and Carol Huber presented the Humboldt State University Library with a copy of their 407-page genealogy, *The Preston/Lindsey Trail*. Indeed with the donation of the genealogy the Preston Family has come home as the library sits upon the site of the former Preston home. Carol Marsh Huber of Winter Springs, a great-niece of William Preston, and Rosaline Preston of Warden, Wash., married to a grandchild of John Calvin and Sarah Jane, researched and wrote the extensive family history.



Officers of the friends of the Humboldt State University Library prepare mailings for their first major event. Pictured are: (L-R) Rena Fowler, University Librarian; Sara Turner, Secretary; Corkey Nordstrom, President; and Stephanie Hillman, Treasurer

and goals of fostering information access and educational excellence through individual or group financial contributions.

A Friends' board of directors will assist in the sponsorship of programs and encourage closer relationships between the Library and the community.

"We are excited about this opportunity to join with the Humboldt State Library in promoting community awareness and involvement," explains Corkey Nordstrom, president of the Friends and owner/broker of Nordstrom Realty in Arcata.

"Every donor will become a Friend and we hope that many members of the community will join us."

Other members of the Board are Sonya Friedman, Ph.D., McKinleyville, psychotherapist; Stephanie Hillman, McKinleyville, Fresno State University faculty emeritus; Gayle Karshner-Roscoe, McKinleyville, Humboldt State University faculty emeritus; Jeff Self, Arcata, elementary teacher, Eureka City



The Library Newsletter is a quarterly publication dedicated to library news of interest to the community-at-large. Special thanks to all those who made this publication possible including the Library Faculty and staff, University Relations and University Graphic Services. For additional information on the Humboldt State University Library or to become a Friend of the Library, please call (707) 826-3441 or e-mail: [friends@axe.humboldt.edu](mailto:friends@axe.humboldt.edu).

**Editor: Kitty Yancheff**

HSU is an AA/EEO institution.

Recycled Paper



## Are You Seeing Images in Your Attic?

Remember that shoebox full of photographs under the bed? How about that steamer trunk under the stairs burgeoning with correspondence and personal journals from your great grandfather? Recall thinking that someday, when you had some spare time, you would like to get those photos and letters organized so that you and other family members could better enjoy them?

It might come as a surprise to some that libraries and universities have the same sorts of challenges facing them as well... that is, we have many useful artifacts and resources "in the attic" which could be of instructional and research value, not to mention of historical interest, to both the academic and surrounding communities if only we could find a way to effectively organize and provide access to them.

At the Humboldt State Library we are rising to this challenge through the application of innovative cutting-edge technology, combined with traditional library know-how. Over the past year we have been working collaboratively with other faculty members and staff at the University to develop a pilot imaging project to convert various materials into machine-readable digitized form. Once digitized, the resultant images could then be distributed to a personal computer virtually anywhere in the world via the World Wide Web. To help facilitate access to such resources, we will be applying modern library cataloging standards to describe and quantify them in Catalyst, the Humboldt State University Library online public access catalog.

Examples of materials in the pilot include:


- *35mm slides of flora indigenous to this region taken by one of our*

## Music to Your Ears

*Do you dream of caroling with the Robert Shaw Chorale or the Boston Camarata? Would you like to listen to some uplifting Renaissance motets or the witty sophistication of a Cole Porter tune? Maybe some gentle piano sonatas would be pleasant after dinner. From opera to rock, Shakespeare to T.S. Eliot the Library's Audio Recordings Collection can meet all these needs, and more.*

*The Audio Recordings Collection supports the curriculum of the university, as do all Library materials, so it may not satisfy all recreational listening tastes. But it does include a wide variety of music and other sound recordings, in either compact disc or LP format.*

*Recordings can be checked out for three weeks, with no renewals. They are shelved behind the Circulation desk. Up to three recordings can be checked out at one time. To check them out, present the call numbers of the recordings you want to the staff at the Circulation desk. How to find call numbers is explained in a handout called Audio Recordings Collection. The handout is available on a kiosk opposite the Information desk on the main floor. Librarians at the Information desk will help you find call numbers, too.*

 Martha Johansen, Humanities Librarian

*expert faculty botanists;*


- *photographic images of religions icons, temples, symbols, and sites from around the world as recorded by a faculty member in Religious Studies;*

- *black and white photographs of North Coast life, depicting logging operations, Native American culture, early community developments, etc., dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries, gleaned from the Library's own Humboldt County archival collections.*

During this past year, while we have been developing the model for the pilot, the Library has also been actively seeking the seed money necessary to purchase the additional computer-related components needed to jump-start the project. We have sought funding not only locally through the usual University channels, but also through grant funding bodies from elsewhere within the California State University system. While we have yet to be successful in garnering these

funds, we are steadfast in our resolve and enthusiasm to mount this project and are continuing to undertake it using whatever campus and Library resources we can muster. We are hopeful that by the end of the current academic year we will have several hundred cataloged images represented in Catalyst and available over the Web.

So, the next time you're rummaging through your own personal treasures, whether under the bed, in the garage, or down in the basement, you might pause for a moment to think of those of us at Humboldt State University who might just be doing much the same thing. Perhaps a few of those personal treasures might even some day wend their way to the University where they would enrich the legacy which future generations of scholars, students, and historians will inherit.

 Wayne Perryman  
Chair, Access Services

# Share Your Experience

Has the Humboldt State University Library had a positive impact on your life? We'd like to hear about it. Tell us how Humboldt State's Library has made a difference in your life. Perhaps it was a certain book or author. Maybe it was an individual on our staff. Did you learn how to retrieve and use information in such a way that it has helped to improve your life, career or health? If your story is chosen we will share it with our readers in our next newsletter and donate a book in your name to the Humboldt State University Library collection.


A specially designed bookplate will display your name (or the name of your choice) within our selection. Send your stories to: Kitty Yancheff, Development Officer, Humboldt State University Library, Arcata, CA 95521-8299 or e-mail us at [friends@axe.humboldt.edu](mailto:friends@axe.humboldt.edu). Please be sure to include your name, address and telephone number. Submissions become the property of Humboldt State University.

<http://library.humboldt.edu>

*The campus community, and the community at large to a lesser extent, have access to a growing collection of electronic resources which identify available information throughout the world. Starting with Catalyst, the Humboldt State University Library/Media Services online catalog, one can find what is available locally, and then move on to search library catalogs around the world. These include the California State University, University of California and a cooperative catalog with listings from over 17,000 libraries.*

*Moving beyond catalogs of book type material the Humboldt State Library has over 40 specialized electronic indexes to other publications such as doctoral dissertations, conference papers and research material published in many disciplines. An index to popular magazines includes the actual full text of many of the indexed articles. Included among reference materials in electronic format are Books in Print, Encyclopedia Britannica, and Environmental Routenet.*

*Library/Media Services maintains an extensive home page (<http://library.humboldt.edu>) which provides access to Catalyst and lists all available electronic resources as well as information about its collections and services. Access to these electronic resources is selectively available from within the library and to remote users. Many of our licensing agreements limit electronic index use to Humboldt State faculty and students. Other agreements allow indexes to be accessed from any computer in the campus network. Community members can use these indexes in the Library but cannot dial in from home. Still, other indexes can be accessed either in the library or from home. In addition, the library faculty have made links to select quality resources on the Internet. A brochure on "Remote Access to the Library/Media Services Resources and Services" is available in the Library.*

 Robert Sathrum, Natural Resources Librarian



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