

Water crisis addressed

On May 1 the Friends of the Madden Library joined with the City of Fresno to present a program on California's continuing water crisis. To complement the Water Wise Plant Event on campus last year, the Friends co-sponsored presentations on drought-tolerant landscaping. For the same event this year, as the drought deepens, the Friends brought in Sacramento water expert William Kahrl. He spoke on "Death in the Almond Orchard: Five Simple Questions to Resolve California's Water Crisis."

Kahrl is the award-winning editor of *The California Water Atlas* and author of the definitive history of the southern California water system, *Water and Power*. In addition to serving as an advisor to all three of California's largest public water districts, as well as governmental agencies in the U.S and abroad, Kahrl was active in the movements to create the Point Reyes National Seashore and the Headwaters National Forest.

Kahrl's experiences with water issues have led him to believe that providing the public with clean water is of critical importance, but in California today not everyone agrees on how to do that. He pointed out how the controversy over the drought has turned against agriculture. Thanks in part to the Latino Water Coalition, for example, the media focused on the plight of Central Valley families when, five years ago, the drought shut down agricultural production, leaving thousands of people out of work. Today, in the midst of conditions even worse, the same media and some politicians are complaining that the farmers haven't suffered enough, even though their water supplies have been cut off for two consecutive years.

Federal regulatory restrictions have forced Governor Brown to scale back his plan for long-term environmental improvements in the Delta, but Kahrl remains optimistic that the public will support the governor's efforts to restore reliable water supplies. He pointed out that after nine years of public hearings, research, and analysis, our knowledge of the needs of the water system is much greater. The overwhelming support for water bonds in the last election indicates that voters understand the need to work cooperatively to address these problems. Ultimately, Kahrl suggested, we have to ask who really benefits from the governor's proposal? "Twenty five million Californians and everybody who eats food."

Kloian Armenian Genocide Collection

The Armenian Studies Program and the Library's Special Collections Research Center announce the launching of the Kloian Armenian Genocide (KAG) collection.

Richard Kloian (1937-2010), whose passion for learning and teaching about the Armenian genocide arose after his father's death in 1976, was the founder of the Richmond, California, based Armenian Genocide Resource Center (AGRC). Kloian discovered his father's diary, which told a harrowing tale of survival during the genocide. It was then that his life mission became one to bring light onto the Armenian genocide. Kloian spent a good part of his lifetime collecting newspaper articles, book chapters, and other materials related to the Armenian genocide.

The focus of the AGRC was on Armenian genocide documentation, education, and recognition. Kloian collected a vast amount of evidence, helped to get long-lost memoirs



and documents published, and developed many useful materials for helping to locate and to acquire historical and current works. He also found films about the Armenian genocide from around the world and got permission to reproduce them for the general public. Kloian published *The Armenian Genocide: News Accounts from the American Press, 1915-1922*, an important work in bringing together the important documentation of the genocide.

(See **Kloian** on next page)

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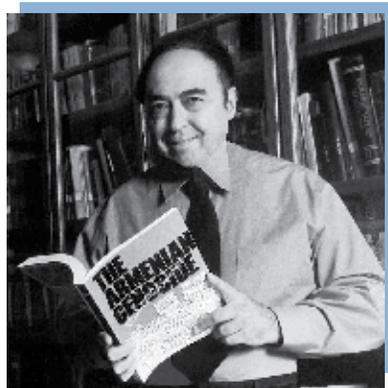
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Kloian, from page 1

The KAG collection was donated in 2012 to Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program by Kloian's widow, Antonia, who wanted his legacy to be continued in an academic setting. It was then donated to the Madden Library.



The collection dates from 1889 to 2003 and is arranged in eight series: *The Armenian Genocide*, articles and chapters from books, newspaper clippings, memoirs from Genocide survivors, case studies, and official government documentation of the genocide; *Kloian family*, materials from Richard Kloian's family; *Genocide and Holocaust comparisons*, articles documenting the correlation between the Armenian Genocide and the Jewish Holocaust; *Teaching aids*, to provide a structured way of educating students on the various facets of genocide education, as well as the Armenian Genocide; *Genocide denial*, articles documenting the Turkish government's position of denial; *Armenian Genocide Research Center*, documents from the AGRC; *The Armenian Genocide: News Accounts from the American Press, 1915-1922*, materials related to the book; and *Audiovisual* items.

The Armenian Studies Program also mounted an exhibition in the Library in spring 2014 that included photographs, maps, and documents from the ancient region of Bitlis, birthplace of William Saroyan's family. At the opening, Ara Sarafian of the Gomidas Institute in London spoke on "Remembering the Armenians of Bitlis."

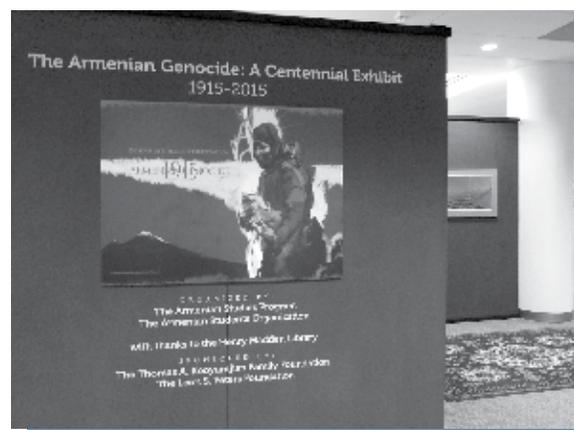
Armenian genocide centennial exhibition

To mark the centennial of the beginning of the Armenian genocide, Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program presented an exhibition in the Madden Library's Leon S. Peters Ellipse Gallery of newly released photographs from a collection that documents the main events that defined the genocide. A reception on April 10, when the exhibition opened, was co-hosted by the Friends of the Madden Library and featured speakers Prof. Barlow Der Mugerdechian and Dr. Sergio LaPorta.

April 24, 2015, was the 100th anniversary of the start of the genocide. By its end in 1923, an estimated 1.5 million Armenians—two-thirds of the Armenian population living in the Ottoman Empire—had died and many children were left orphans.

Entering the gallery, viewers saw photographs and artifacts documenting Armenian village and family life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The final sections in the gallery were devoted to the Armenian immigration story and to the subsequent experiences and successes of Armenians in the Fresno region. Included was a section titled "The First Refuge and the Last Defense: The Armenian Church, Etchmiadzin, and the Armenian Genocide," illustrating the leadership role played by the clergy in alerting world leaders to the massacres and in warning of an impending genocide.

A separate exhibit, "Churches of Historic Armenia: A Legacy to the World," featuring photos from the collection of Richard and Anne Elbrecht, was in the Pete P. Peters Ellipse Balcony.



Blues in the night at the Madden Library

His skateboard clanked against the stool when he sidled up to the reference desk.

“You guys have books on music, right?” he said, rummaging through a battered backpack.

“We do,” I said calmly, waiting for his real question.

“It’s for my Music class. I need to write about a musician.”

Sundays in the Madden Library can be quiet. The waves of scurrying students, which regularly flood the weekdays, trickle to a gentle ripple of the most intent: graduate students, PWF (people with families), students from nearby and online colleges. The pace is calmer; the opportunities to connect stronger.

“A couple of other students have been in with the same assignment. It has to be someone from the 20th century, right?” I asked.

“Yeah. Oh, here’s my list,” he said, handing me a wrinkled syllabus.

Scott Joplin, Harry James, Toots Short, Nina Simone, Billie Holiday, Bessie Smith. The list is long.

“Do you know who these guys are?” he asks. To him, I must look as old as dirt.

“Sure, these are some of the best of jazz. Tell me more about what you need to do for the class.”

“We have to pick one guy from the list and write about him and then listen to one of his songs and write about it.”

“Easy. And, by ‘guy’, you mean man or woman, yes?”

“Yeah, doesn’t matter. I don’t care. I’m only doing this for my General Ed,” he says with an irritated resignation.

“We’ll have you fixed up in a jiffy,” I say. “Who do you want to pick?”

“Doesn’t matter. How about this guy Billie Holliday.”

“Perfect. You’re in for a couple of surprises.”

The Madden’s collections are deep and rich: philosophy, psychology, classics, literature, anthropology, science, and music. More than a thousand-thousand books, documents, journals, scores, records, CDs, and streaming audio, grown and nurtured with careful stewardship for over 100 years. Billie was in there, and we were going to find her.

In the next few minutes we unearthed some great books, the print and online *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, and a couple of e-books. His mood was lighter now.

“But I need a song. I could YouTube her, I guess.”

“We can do better than that. Let’s walk.”

The third floor was nearly empty, but those who were there were busy. A handful of students watched videos for a class. A young man tapped rapidly on his tablet; his buddy sat nearby with headphones and a highlighter.

“Can I help you?” a library assistant asked from the Music & Media service desk.

I deferred to my student. “Do you have anything by Billie Holiday? A jazz singer,” he asked.

“I’m sure we do, but let’s check.”

“You’re in good hands,” I said. “Come on back down when you’re done to let me know how you did.”

Libraries are mysterious, aren’t they? Acres of books, each carefully chosen, cataloged, marked, and parked on miles and miles of steel shelves. A million bound parcels holding the collective ideas and thoughts and images of humankind. Do you remember feeling a sense of adventure while wandering in the stacks? Row after row of books: sentinels, silently standing, waiting for us to open them up, to bring them to life again. We touched them. They touched us.

My friend Ben dropped out of Fresno State in the ’70s. He blames the library. “I’d get into the stacks and start exploring; one book, then another: religious art, architecture, medieval engineering, technology, social movements. Before I knew it I had missed class—again!” He talks about coming back to finish his degree. He already has an education.

A little before six that evening, the “Billie Holiday” guy comes down the stairs and heads to the reference desk. He looks different to me.

“How’d you do?” I asked.

“Amazing! You have so much stuff up there. I thought Billie Holliday was a guy. I picked *Strange Fruit*. It’s about lynching in the South. Have you ever heard it?”

“It’s very powerful, isn’t it?”

“Her voice is unbelievable. It sort of gave me chills.”

“You picked a good one. And you know, the Library provides a couple of streaming services, so you can listen to her whenever you want.”

“Yeah, the person upstairs showed me that.”

“Well, I’m glad you found what you needed. Let us know whenever you need anything else.”

“Thanks,” he said, and turned to go. “You know, I only took this class for the Gen Ed requirement, but I think I’m kinda hooked on this now.”

“I’m glad,” I said, “but don’t forget to go to class, too!”



— Ross LaBaugh, Reference Librarian

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the Friends' Board of Directors?**



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