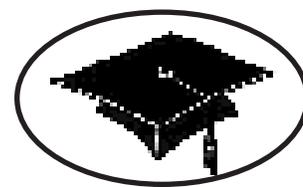

Berkeley Emeriti

T I M E S



November 2004

Professor Roger Hahn Department of History

“Laplace and the Superfluous God” Saturday, November 13, 2004

Professor Roger Hahn of the History Department will be our guest speaker at the next UCBEA luncheon. He was educated at Harvard University (A.B.) and Cornell University (Ph.D.). His undergraduate interest in French science and society led to a Certificate from the École Pratique des Hautes Études, in Paris, (1955) the same year “Laplace’s Religious Views” was published in the *Archives Internationales d’Histoire des Sciences*. Professor Hahn has written extensively on Pierre-Simon, marquis de Laplace, mathematician, astronomer and physicist, and now suggests: “New research permits a much richer understanding of the scientist’s views on Christianity and its relationship to his concepts of nature and man’s ability to penetrate its secrets.”

Among Professor Hahn’s honors, he is an elected member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science as well as the Académie Internationale d’Histoire des Sciences, and decorated as a Chevalier and Officier de l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques by the French government. He has served as President of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and the West Coast History of Science Society.

In 1971 Professor Hahn was appointed Special Assistant to the Director of the Bancroft Library and served as a member of the Council of the Friends of the Bancroft Library. During the summer of 2000 he organized a week-long International Summer School for History of Science at the Berkeley campus on the subject of “Science and High Technology in the 20th Century” attended by advanced graduate students from Europe and North America. These programs are organized by the Office of History of Science and Technology in Berkeley and the Universities of Bologna, Paris and Uppsala.

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Berkeley Emeriti

F I M E S



Volume 14, Number 2

Published before each meeting of the UC Berkeley Emeriti Association: To provide closer networking for members with meeting announcements, meeting reviews, executive committee actions, pertinent campus news, and to reach out to members who cannot attend the meetings.

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A Rising Class Vs. a Priestly Class: Early Church-State Separation

At the UCBEA luncheon on September 18th, 2004, Professor Emeritus Stephen P.L. Diliberto of the Department of Mathematics, using modern sociological and demographic methods, presented a study of the Jewish captivity in Babylon and return to Judea. He noted that while previous studies of Biblical events focused on priests, armies, prophets and zealots, he wished to introduce a new player in Biblical history - the middle class. His analysis required two bold assumptions: Biblical population figures are reliable, and the sociology of today applies to events that occurred more than 2000 years ago.

The Jews were deported to Babylon in 597 B.C., and were freed to return to Judea by King Cyrus of Persia in 538 B.C. Professor Diliberto's analysis concludes that about 75 per cent of the Jewish population elected to remain in Babylon rather than return. Furthermore, his examination of the age structure of the returning population indicates that it had a preponderance of priests, and, therefore, lacked a taxable population sufficient to maintain a large priesthood. During Babylonian captivity the social status of many of the Jews had improved greatly, some of them rising from slavery to respected positions and even becoming slave owners themselves. (A rising middle class?) To return to Judea where they would be heavily taxed and subject to a priest-dominated society was not a favorable prospect.

Clues to this early class conflict are in the Bible. Professor Diliberto described the Old Testament as a loose-leaf notebook in which text once entered and declared sacred could never be removed or changed, but new blocks of text could be inserted. With knowledge of ancient Hebrew it is possible to sort out the inserts, confront conflicting accounts, and detect the tensions of the crisis occasioned by the divided population.

Professor Diliberto describes this struggle as the Jewish Rebellion of 537-432 B.C. and believes that it is history's first instance of church-state separation, a continuing issue.

Membership Dues Reminder

It's dues time again. Dues are \$10 a year and can be paid by a check made out to the UCB Emeriti Association and mailed to the Association at 2 Boalt Hall #7200, Berkeley, CA 94720-7200. If you contribute an amount in addition to the dues payment, please indicate this on your check.

If you are not sure of your current dues status, remember the last year for which dues have been paid can be found above your name on

What Have you Done for Yourself lately?

A year ago Professor Paola Timiras was guest speaker at our regular luncheon meeting. The recorder summarized her remarks: “Appreciate the great cultural achievement of your increased years of life over that of your ancestors; avoid wars; take heart from the fact that your brain cells have powers of regeneration; exercise your body and brain; accept moderate stress as beneficial. Learn some new songs!”

In response to last month’s plea for Satisfactory Services, I received a suggestion from long-time respondent, Juanita Neilands who wrote “...about a great yoga class for seniors. I have attended for several years and found an improvement in my balance and flexibility.” (This class is taught on Wednesday, 11:30 am to 1 pm at the Julia Morgan Center, 2640 College Ave., by Herta Weinstein, a retired physician.)

For those of us who have seen Alzheimer’s in our families, there is a constant irritant on the edge of our consciousness which makes every “senior moment” portend something worse. A list of suggestions which might reduce the risk of Alzheimer’s includes:

- √ Exercise. (Walking requires no special equipment, except you may wish to buy a pedometer to count 7500 steps each day.)
- √ Check your cholesterol.
- √ Check your blood pressure every two years, and get it under control if it’s high. Today 140 is considered high replacing the former 160.
- √ Take an NSAID (Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug) such as aspirin or ibuprofen regularly.
- √ Moderate your alcohol intake – one or two drinks per day.
- √ Eat a healthy diet rich in B vitamins, folic acid and antioxidants.

(These suggestions are from the *Wellness Letter*).
Claude Babcock

Berkeley - Distinguished Emeriti Award

Professor Emeritus George Leitmann from the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Associate Dean for International Programs in the School of Engineering will receive the Distinguished Emeriti of the Year award on November 13 at the Emeriti luncheon. In his nomination letter, Professor A. Richard Newton, Dean of the College of Engineering, recalls how Professor Leitmann joined the UCB faculty in 1957. Since then he has received numerous awards at the local and international levels. His research, which combines expertise in Engineering, Physics and Mathematics, continues to result in numerous publications and mentoring of graduate students. Professor Leitmann has provided an extraordinary service to his department and school throughout his academic career and continues to do so. To Professor Leitmann our congratulations and best wishes for continuing academic contributions.

Paola Timiras

Update from the Council of University of California Emeriti Associations (CUCEA)

No major changes in health benefits are expected for the coming 2005 year. The Council of University of California Emeriti Associations (CUCEA) together with the Council of University of California Retirement Associations (CUCRA) met on the Davis Campus, October 7, 2004. Discussion included a presentation by UC Treasurer David Russ who summarized the UC current investment performance relatively steady despite the many market fluctuations. It also included a report by Judy Boyette and Michele French from the Human Resources and Benefits Office who indicated that most retirees will not see an increase in their 2005 medical plan rates, and there will not be major benefit changes. UC also will continue to pay the entire cost of dental and vision insurance for employees. Present for the UCBEA were Louise E. Taylor (UCBEA representative), Paola S. Timiras and George Leitmann (UCBEA president and vice-president, respectively).

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Wednesday Noon Concerts - Hertz Hall

November 10

Faculty Recital: Karen Rosenak, fortepiano & piano
Works on fortepiano by C. P. E. Bach, Beethoven;
short pieces by Peter Lieberon, Cindy Cox, Frederic
Rzewski performed on modern piano

November 17

Graduate Composers Seminar
New works from the seminar of Professor Jorge
Liderman

December 1

Javanese Gamelan Ensemble, Midiyanto, director
Music Department's student gamelan ensemble

December 8

University Chorus & Chamber Chorus
"Glory to God in the Highest" settings by various

Lunch Poems

December 2, 2004 - 12:10pm-12:50pm

Billy Collins' uncanny wit, imagination, and charm
have led *The New York Times* to proclaim:

Thousands of Americans are walking around
right now with Billy Collins poems in their
heads.

Collins' high critical acclaim is matched only by his
broad popular appeal. His last three collections have
broken sales records for poetry. U.S. Poet Laureate
from 2001–03, Collins has published seven collections
of poetry, including *Questions About Angels* and
*Sailing Alone Around the Room: New & Selected
Poems*.

Please note: This reading will take place in Zellerbach
Playhouse, co-sponsored by the Department of