



The Patrons' Post

**Patrons of the Pollak Library
California State University Fullerton**

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Prince of Humanists

by Albert R. Vogeler

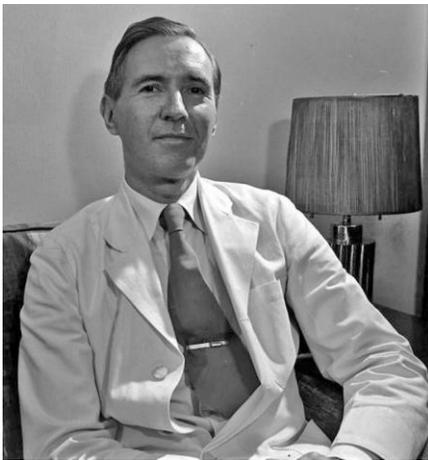
A man of great scholarly renown, and now of very great age, deserves our attention as he approaches his 103rd birthday on November 30, 2010. Jacques Barzun's books, teaching, and persona have helped to define "cultural history" in America for seven decades. I have followed his career for most of that time.

It happens that in the 1940s he participated in "Invitation to Learning," unrehearsed dialogues on great books presented by CBS radio, and I often listened to his lively and persuasive commentary. When my high school principal suggested I read his book, *Teacher in America*, I did so eagerly, though most of it proved to be beyond me. He further suggested that I apply to Columbia, where Barzun taught. In due course I did, and was accepted. But Barzun was a historian, and I was

not a history major. Though I heard, saw, and read him for many years thereafter, I was never his student. He was already a “name,” and on his way to becoming a legend.

Born in 1907, Barzun was the only child of a family of means and artistic connections in Paris during the last years of the *belle époque*. His father, Henri-Martin Barzun, a minor diplomat, often entertained artists and writers who were shaping the modernist revolution. After a diplomatic mission to America, he offered his son an education at what he called its “best college”—Columbia. Jacques took his advice, graduated with highest honors, and had his doctorate in history and a faculty appointment at twenty-five. His English was by then faultless and fluent, but his first two books looked back to his roots, at the history and meaning of French identity. By 1940 he had embarked on his 70-year career as a student of high culture.

Within five years he produced three important works. *Darwin, Marx, Wagner: A Critique of a Heritage* (1941) cast new light on the cultural consequences of their ideas. *Romanticism and the Modern Ego* (1945) was the first iteration of his lifelong fascination with the relevance of romanticism to the 20th century--which led ultimately to his 1961 study in cultural history, *Classic, Romantic, and Modern*. And in 1945 he also published *Teacher in America*, a withering critique of John Dewey’s influence on education.



Life 1950

Either of Barzun’s two most substantial works, the first published when he was 43 and the second when he was 93, would have been a life’s task for a lesser scholar. *Berlioz and the Romantic Century* (two volumes, 1950) sees in the composer’s turbulent life the quintessential romantic temper. Barzun’s innovation here is a series of four “interchapters” that present the larger cultural context of the personal life and can be read as separate essays. *From Dawn to Decadence: Five Hundred Years of Cultural Life, 1500 to the Present* (2000) is the labor of an entire decade, but its 800 pages are far from labored. It maintains a lively narrative pace while illuminating a vast range of topics with new insights and an eye for irony and drama. A thousand sidebars present quotations from unfamiliar sources that enrich but do not interrupt the narrative. Praised widely as a masterful epic, *Dawn to Decadence* quickly reached the *New York Times* best seller list.

Time pictured Barzun on the cover of its June 11, 1956 issue as the exemplary American intellectual. Barzun, the immigrant, has expressed his love affair with America in many ways., beginning with *Teacher in America*. Nine years later *God's Country and Mine: a Declaration of Love Spiced with a Few Harsh Words* (1954) perfectly encapsulated his feelings in its title. A trilogy of books carried forward his critique of American culture. *The House of Intellect* (1959) portrays our intellectuals as their own worst enemies because of their misperceptions of art, science, and philanthropy. *Science, the Glorious Entertainment* (1964) sees science distorted by the cults of research and grantsmanship. And *The American University: How It Runs, Where It Is Going* (1969) describes our academic world trammled by self-defeating conventions. Two very different Americans evoked his warmest prose: Lincoln, whom in several essays he judged to be a literary and spiritual genius, and William James (*A Stroll with William James*, 1983), whose pragmatism he saw as a national trait.

Barzun's deep roots in the arts explain *The Pleasures of Music* (1951), *The Energies of Art* (1956), and *The Use and Abuse of Art* (1974). All express his concern that the arts, like science and education, are losing their meaning and value amid the conflicting pressures of a mass society. But what explains his fascination with crime fiction? *The Delights of Detection* (1961) and *A Catalogue of Crime* (1971) came as a surprise to some, but they twice won him the Edgar Allen Poe Award.

Barzun's writing has always been admired not only for its clarity and felicitous diction, but also for its conversational tone and good-tempered persuasiveness. *Simple and Direct: a Rhetoric for Writers* (1975) was the chief of several efforts to preach what he practiced. Its good advice, copious examples, and patient explanations all lead to the truth that clear thinking is essential to good writing. And *The Modern Researcher* (with Henry F. Graff, 1957) shows clarity of presentation to be essential to the value of research. This compendious manual, the most read of all Barzun's books, has guided students in all the humanistic disciplines.

Barzun was one of the founders of the Great Books curriculum at Columbia, and since the 1930s he has been its eloquent advocate and interpreter. But he has remained aloof from the commercialization of the Great Books canon identified with Mortimer Adler and Robert Hutchins. His seminar on important books, taught jointly with Lionel Trilling for twenty years, became famous in educational circles. (My wife Martha was one graduate student fortunate enough to be admitted.)

To the surprise of many, in 1955 Barzun became an administrator---first dean of Columbia's graduate school and eventually provost of the university. He reduced his teaching but not his writing, and published five important studies before he left administration in 1968. For the next seven years, until his retirement, he held the title University Professor, Columbia's highest academic rank.

Barzun's personal life changed profoundly in 1979 with the death of his wife of 43 years, Mariana Lowell, a violinist and member of the Boston Lowell family, and mother of their three children. The next year he married Marguerite Davenport, a professor of English at Trinity University in San Antonio. Having lived all his adult life in New York City, his decision to retire to San Antonio in 1997 puzzled some of his New York admirers. But he was soon pictured in *The New York Times* happily building bookcases in his new study, and he has become an enthusiast of San Antonio's cultural life.

To the accelerating pace of Barzun's honors in the last thirty years (among them being named president of the American Academy of Arts and Letters---twice--and winner of its gold medal for criticism, member of the French Legion of Honor, and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom) have been added spontaneous greetings assembled on the internet as he turned 85, 90 and then 95. This flood of acclamation reached a crescendo in 2007 with the website "Barzun 100." Reminiscences and anecdotes from students, colleagues, and readers in the worlds of publishing, education, and the arts have attested to his influence and the personal affection he inspires.

On his 100th birthday Barzun observed that “old age is like learning a new profession. And not one of your own choosing.” But he has in fact followed his old profession triumphantly up to the present moment. In his breadth of knowledge and interests, grace and precision of expression, courteous and elegant persona, and unflagging (but seemingly unlaborious) industry, Barzun stands alone among American intellectuals. *Vivat Jacques!*

President’s Report

By Farron D. Brougher

Al Vogeler reported in August that the photography and cataloging for the Boswell map collection project have been completed. The catalog will be available online by year’s end.

The Patrons Volunteer of the Year is Howard Seller. Howard was unable to attend the award luncheon on September 30, and Lis Leyson represented the Patrons.

The Coordinating Council met after the luncheon. Acting Vice-President for Academic Affairs Steven Murray updated the group on campus news. Although there is currently no budget for CSU, the proposed version includes funds to not only restore but also increase enrollment. The completion of the dorms on the east side of campus next fall will add a resident student population of 1,000, with a corresponding increase in the need for services beyond the academic day.

The campus’s new trigeneration plant is operational and providing energy more economically and with less environmental impact than the old plant. A seven year lease was signed for space in the Irvine Spectrum that will replace the El Toro location. Demand for admission to CSUF is among the highest in the system. Fullerton is competing for one of three doctoral programs in nursing.

The Student Book Collection contest began in August, with generous prizes for the winners. Judging will take place from November 3-20.

By-Laws revisions were approved by the Board at the September meeting.

The Activities Committee has arranged lectures by two veterans of the *Los Angeles Times* Tim Rutten on October 30, and Robert Scheer on March 12, 2011. Both lectures begin at 2 P.M. and are free and open to the public.



Book Sale Center Report

By

June Pollak

With the start of the academic year, the Patrons and Emeriti Book Sale Center reopened, fully restocked. We sell used books, both from donations and excess volumes from the CSUF Library. Our very low prices of \$1, \$2, or \$3 per book are set to help the CSUF students and others purchase books which are usually extremely expensive. All proceeds from sales are designated to purchase books for the Library, vitally important in this era of drastically reduced state funding.

Our hours for the fall semester are 11 to 3 on Tuesdays, 11 to 7 on Wednesdays, and 12 to 5 on Thursdays. Please visit us regularly. We are open throughout the fall and spring terms, but not during intersession or summer.

As always, we need your donations to keep the shelves stocked in L 199. Please call 657-278- 2182 and ask for Joy Lambert in order to make arrangements. If you are interested in joining the Patrons and Emeriti volunteers working in the Book Sale Center, please call June Pollak at 949-661-0463.

Adele Prince

Patrons are very pleased and honored to welcome Adele Prince as a member of the Board of Governors. Adele, who received her MA degree in English at CSUF, was Teacher of the Year for the State of California in 2001.

She is a veteran teacher of thirty-nine years with the Glendora School District, having taught college preparatory English and advanced placement English. In addition to being named State Teacher of the Year, Adele was named Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year in 2000.

Adele's professional background includes writing courses at Mt. San Antonio College and serving as president of the Glendora Teachers Association for a number of years. She is infinitely committed to higher education and the importance of literature and writing. We are most fortunate in having Adele join us.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Nancy Holmes

By

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The Patrons of the Library, the University's oldest support group, welcome our 50 new members for the fiscal year 2009/2010. These new members are in the alumni (38%), basic (60%) and faculty/staff (2%) categories. **In addition, thanks to Lois Austin who renewed her membership into the Benefactor category.** In the current difficult economic times with the university experiencing budget reductions, both our new and continuing members are of great importance.

The Patrons offer an array of support services to the Library that range from book purchases and periodical subscriptions to engaging, informative lectures. Also, The Patrons operate the Book Sale Center in cooperation with the Cal State Fullerton Emeriti and have partnered with the Pollak Library to bring the maps in the Roy V. Boswell Collection of the History of Cartography online.

The Patrons rely on members like you to augment and enhance needed library services. Please maintain your membership in our valuable organization and share information about the Patrons and membership opportunities with colleagues, friends, and family. Our website that identifies events and other important information is accessed from the Library web site, which is www.library.fullerton.edu, under Information, Patrons of the Library. Please feel free to contact me at 714.738.5590 or via e-mail at nancylynnholmes103@gmail.com should you need any additional information.

Activities Report

By

Howard Seller and Lis Leyson



Members of the Patrons have several opportunities this year to participate in special activities. The first is on Saturday afternoon, October 30 at 2 P.M. in room 130 of the CSUF Pollak Library. Tim Rutten, whose career as a journalist spans more than 30 years, will speak about his experiences as an editor, reporter and commentator for *The Los Angeles Times*. Mr. Rutten was a member of *The Times* Pulitzer Prize-winning team that covered the 1994 Northridge earthquake. His columns in *The Times* deal with an array of topics including politics, the arts, current events, and personal experiences. He is a thoughtful, creative, and insightful author. The event is free.

The second activity is a trip to the Japanese American National Museum on Thursday, November 4, 2010. A flyer with details about this event appears in this issue.

Please mark your 2011 calendar on Saturday, March 14 for our second speaker of the series. Robert Sheer will talk about his 30 years as an author, radio commentator, and journalist. In 1993, as a contributing editor of *The Los Angeles Times*, Mr. Sheer launched a nationally syndicated column that ran weekly for 12 years. His presentation will be at 2 P. M. in room 130 of the library and is free.

The annual meeting of the Patrons of the CSUF Pollak Library will be on Saturday, May 14, at 2 P.M. in room 130. Accomplishments and goals of the organization will be reviewed, new officers will be elected, and there will be a stimulating presentation by an author yet to be identified.

We hope that you will be able to participate in all of these activities. Each was planned with you in mind.

Patrons Book Discussion Group

By

Herb Rutemiller

The Book Group meets the 4th Thursday of each month, September-November and January-May. Visitors are welcome.

The meetings are 3 P.M.-5 P.M. in the second floor conference room of Pollak Library South. For most meetings, we read and discuss a single book. For October 28, it is “Embers”, a novel by Sandor Marai. Every third month we do book reports by the attendees.

For November 18, the book is “The Way of All Flesh” by Samuel Butler.

John Adams by David McCullough
Guns, Germs, and Steel by Jared Diamond
One Hundred Years of Solitude by Garcia Marquez
The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger
Corrections by Jonathan Franzen
The World is Flat by Thomas Friedman
The Control of Nature by John McPhee
Doubt by John Shanley
American Prometheus by Kai Bird and Martin Sherwin
The Road by Cormac McCarthy
Women in Love by D.H. Lawrence

The group has continued to flourish, and we usually have about 12-14 attendees each month. If you attend and enjoy the group, we ask that you join Patrons of the Library after attending three times. The cost is \$25 per year for CSUF faculty and emeriti, \$50 otherwise.

For further information contact Herb Rutemiller at (714) 528-4475 or (714)278-5413, email hрутemiller@fullerton.edu.

Membership Dues

If you have already renewed your membership in the Patrons for the current academic year, we thank you for your support when it is most needed. If the renewal letter was lost or overlooked, we hope that you may see your way clear to rejoining Patrons for the coming year. Your continued support makes possible the purchase of significant volumes that keep the Pollak Library at the forefront of comprehensive research. Despite that the state provides some assistance—and recently at a much reduced level—this University still needs your help.

Membership categories are as follows:

Basic Member	\$50
Alumni Member	\$30
Family Member	\$100
Enhanced Member	\$150
Benefactor Member	\$500
Life Member	\$1000
Cal State Fullerton Faculty/Staff/Student Member	\$25

Make checks payable to Patrons of the Pollak Library, CSUF and mail to Patrons of the Library at P.O. Box 4150, Fullerton, CA 92834-4150.

In addition to your membership contribution, you can support the Patrons by purchasing a book plate in memory or in honor of a friend or family member. The book plate will include the name of the donor and the party being honored.

PATRONS OF THE LIBRARY FALL 2010 FIELD TRIP

WHERE: Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles
369 East First Street; Los Angeles, CA 90012; (213) 625-0414

Our guided tour will include the Common Ground exhibition, which is a chronicle of Japanese American history, beginning with the Issei pioneers through the World War II incarceration to the present.

WHEN: Thursday, November 4

TRANSPORTATION: We will travel on Metrolink to Union Station and from there via the Metrorail Gold Line to a station across the street from the museum. Board the Metrolink train at the station most convenient for you at the following times: Laguna Niguel/ Mission Viejo (8:25); Irvine (8:34); Tustin (8:40); Santa Ana (8:47); Orange (8:52); Anaheim (8:56); Fullerton (9:04); Buena Park (9:10). This train is scheduled to arrive at Union Station at 9:45. At Union Station we will assemble in the main concourse adjacent to the stairs and elevator at tracks 1 and 2 to board the Gold Line train to the museum. The Metrolink ticket allows passengers to travel on Metrorail free of charge. You should arrive at the Metrolink station from which you will depart at least twenty minutes before the train leaves in order to park and purchase your ticket. If you are eligible, be sure to purchase a round trip senior fare. The first afternoon Metrolink train from Los Angeles to Orange County departs at 2:25, and additional trains leave throughout the afternoon.

LUNCH: We will arrange for group seating at Oiwake Restaurant, which is across the street from the museum, but you may wish to dine elsewhere and/or visit other locations in the area, since you will already have your ticket to return home when you wish.

COST: This will depend on the amount of your train ticket and the cost of your lunch. Entrance to the museum will be \$4.00 per person and includes the guided tour.

NOTE: If you decide to travel to the museum by car, please meet us at the entrance no later than 10:45 A.M. Our guided tour is scheduled to begin at 11:00 A.M., and the museum staff asks guests to arrive fifteen minutes before the tour starts.

We hope you will join us for this field trip to the museum. If so, please inform either Howard Seller at hseller@fullerton.edu or Jane Iacovetti; Pollak Library 265; Cal State Fullerton; P.O. Box 4150; Fullerton, CA 92834-4150 no later than Monday, October 25. Let us know how many persons will be in your party in order for us to inform the museum and restaurant of the number of people who will be visiting and dining. If you mail this information to Jane Iacovetti, please clip and fill out the following:

Name and number of persons in your party: _____
Will you have lunch at the restaurant (circle one): YES NO