

## **Student Stephen Keiffer wins first prize for essay and personal collection in 4th UCSD Undergraduate Book Collection Contest**

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Stephen Keiffer, a Muir College senior, has won first prize of \$175 for his essay and personal collection on "The Philosophy of History" in the fourth UCSD Undergraduate Book Collection Contest at the University of California, San Diego.

The awards to Keiffer and two others were presented at a ceremony Thursday, April 27, in the Cluster Undergraduate Library at UC San Diego.

In his prize-winning essay, Keiffer wrote that, "For the genuine collector, certain things have an intrinsic worth . . . . Don't believe him if he tells you that he plans to read all those volumes . . . . the collector sees his books as something special . . . . filed away somewhere in his private reading room."

If Keiffer considers himself "an inspired collector," his passion for reflections on the story of humankind is the generative force in that inspiration.

"Nothing makes you call the presuppositions and prejudices of your own age more into question," wrote the collector, "than a confrontation with the views of the ancients" and . . . . the telling of a story with an eye on its temporal structure, specifically its ending, is certainly what historians do."

Second and third prizes in the annual competition were awarded to Gary Burnett, Revelle College senior for his essay and collection on the "San Francisco Poets" (\$125) and to Scott Elliott, Revelle College junior for his essay and collection on "Celtic Languages" (\$75).

Burnett credited his own "sense of love for the 'Useless Valentines' which poems are" and his craving to "strike as a reader the 'naked string' given us all by Whitman" as the reasons behind his treasure of San Francisco poems and poets. Burnett described his confrontation with this poetry in a poem of his own as "Thunder on the mountain/No blame."

Elliott wrote in his essay that ". . . . as long as I'm around thinking, speaking and reading the old language [Celtic], it will live. Without my books, even this small part which I play would not have been possible." Elliott explained that he reached the conclusion several years ago that he "did not want to sit back and watch as my heritage became thoroughly anglicized for eternity." His solutions were to learn Welsh, study other Celtic languages and accumulate the collection for which he has received his prize.

The three winners in this year's contest were selected from a field of 15 entrants and seven finalists. The event was sponsored by the Friends of the UCSD Library, on whose behalf Kenneth E. Hill presented the awards at the April 27 ceremony.

The funds for this year's awards were provided by Mrs. W. Murray Smith of San Diego in memory of Mary Churchill MacKenzie. Following a tradition, an inscribed copy of John Carter's "ABC for Book Collectors," was presented to each of the seven finalists. Finalists were judged not only on their collections but on the basis of a bibliographical essay and, to a lesser extent, on the displays they prepared of their books.

The judges for the contest were Roy Harvey Pearce, UC San Diego professor of literature, C. A. Valverde, manager of Wahrenbrock's of San Diego, and Ulla Wohlleben, reference bibliographer at the Central University Library, UC San Diego.

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