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Process Engineer

Cartoon drawn by Mining Project interviewee Doug Fuerstenau in 1950

From the Director

Giving Thanks for a Great Year!

As we wrap up another year at ROHO, I realize how much we have to be thankful for - - amazing new oral history projects in the works, and equally amazing new oral historians on our staff in Shanna Farrell and Paul Burnett. Our commitment to maintaining ROHO's international reputation for excellence remains strong, as does our energy level for collecting the finest interviews on record. What's perhaps most remarkable about our work at ROHO is that we are doing all this with scant state funding. Our work is largely funded by government contracts, and foundation and corporate grants. This means that our efforts are largely spent on oral history projects that have already been funded. [[Read more](#)]

[Donate](#) to ROHO!

ROHO in Action

History from the Middle: A Mine Manager in Allende's Chile

One main purpose of oral history research is to give voice to the voiceless, to those who have left no written record for historians to use in the future. Oral history has been part of the broader effort in social history to write "from below" to balance the voices of the powerful in history, which are heard through their official documents, ledgers, edicts, and so on. In ROHO's **Western Mining in the Twentieth Century** oral history project, there are over one hundred interviews with people who are, for the most part, neither the rich and powerful nor the excluded and forgotten. [[Read more](#)]

[Advanced Oral History Summer Institute: August 2014](#)

ROHO is thrilled to announce our 2014 Advanced Oral History Summer Institute, which will be held at UC Berkeley from **August 11-15**. After taking a hiatus last summer, we have made some changes to our always sold-out program. This year, our focus will be on the "lifecycle of an interview" and each day will be organized around a different stage in the interview and project process. Daily themes include "Foundational Aspects of Oral History," "Project Conceptualization and the Role of Oral History," "The Interview," "Analytic Strategies and Interpretation," and "Reflections and Reconceptualization." Sessions will include standard topics such as Oral History Theory, Legal/Ethical Issues, and Project Planning as well as new sessions including the Anatomy of an Interview, Analysis and Presentation, Digital Humanities, and Funding. We are pleased to announce that Robin Nagle, who is the Director of New York University's John W. Draper Interdisciplinary Master's Program, will be our 2014 Keynote Speaker. [[Read more](#)]



Attendees and faculty of the 2012 ROHO Summer Institute

[Paul Burnett: ROHO's New Historian of Science](#)

I'm coming to ROHO from a career teaching and researching the history of science and technology. For the past three years, I was an Assistant Professor in the Science and Technology Studies Programme at St. Thomas University in New Brunswick, Canada. My doctorate is from the Department of History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania. Although I have many research interests, they mostly boil down to the politics of expertise. I'm interested in how scientists and experts of all kinds establish their credibility, and how people choose between different kinds of expertise to try to solve complex social, political, scientific, and technical problems. [[Read more](#)]

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[From the Archives](#)

[The Interview That Started It All: Alice B. Toklas in 1952](#)

Two years before ROHO was established, James D. Hart, then director of The Bancroft Library, commissioned an interview with **Alice B.**



Toklas by Carl Van Vechten

Toklas. Ms. Toklas, already in her mid-70s, was still residing in an apartment she once shared with Gertrude Stein in Paris. The interview, which took place at the end of Autumn 1952, was relatively long -- more than six hours -- and covered a wide variety of topics, including Toklas's and Stein's childhoods in California, the Paris arts scene, and the difficulties of living under Nazi rule in wartime France. The most compelling element of this interview, though, is Toklas herself, who emerges from Stein's long shadow and proves herself to be a remarkably thoughtful, intelligent, opinionated, and feisty woman in her own right. Some attribute this

interview as establishing a "proof of concept" which soon led to the founding of ROHO. Although a rough draft of the transcript was available to researchers in the Bancroft archives for decades, this proofed interview transcript was made available broadly to the public only in 2012, in junction with The Bancroft Library Gallery exhibit, "A Place at the Table: A Gathering of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Text, Image & Voice."

[Read the transcript](#) or [listen to a selection](#) from the interview.

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News About ROHO

ROHO Receives a Major Gift!

2013 has been a banner year for ROHO with two new historians on staff and, now, a \$100,000 donation from **Sharon and Barclay Simpson**, longtime supporters of the University of California (Barclay was a recent ROHO interviewee: read his [transcript](#)). Because ROHO receives precious little funding from the university or the state, we survive largely on grants, contracts, and donations from individuals and corporations. This major gift from Mr. Simpson will allow us to jump-start a long-planned major overhaul of the ROHO website. Not only will the look-and-feel of our website change, but, even more importantly, the search functionality will be greatly improved -- thus making ROHO's vast archive of transcripts much more accessible to thousands of students, scholars, journalists, and everyday people who read and learn from them. This overhaul will take time (and additional funds), so stayed tuned as we share new developments!

Class of '31 Annual Oral History: Call for Nominations

Nominations for the 2014 "Class of '31 Oral History Interviewee" are now open! We invite people to nominate a UC Berkeley faculty or staff person who has made a significant contribution to the life of the campus. The person selected will be invited to participate in an oral history interview conducted by our office. The 2013 "Class of '31" interviewee was Professor Laura Nader -- her interview transcript will be released soon. Submit nominations [here](#)

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Coming Up

And stay tuned for...

In the coming months, check back to the ROHO website for the release of our highly-anticipated interviews, including the nearly four dozen interviews of the long in-progress **UC Berkeley Free Speech Movement Oral History Project** as well as life history interviews with **Richard Blum**, influential businessman and UC Regent (and

spouse of Senator Dianne Feinstein), and influential historian of American culture, the late **Lawrence Levine**.

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THE BANCROFT LIBRARY

UC BERKELEY LIBRARY

The Regional Oral History Office (ROHO), a division of The Bancroft Library, documents the history of California, the nation, and the interconnected global arena. ROHO produces carefully researched, audio/video-recorded and transcribed oral histories and interpretative historical materials for the widest possible use.

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