

The Explorers Club

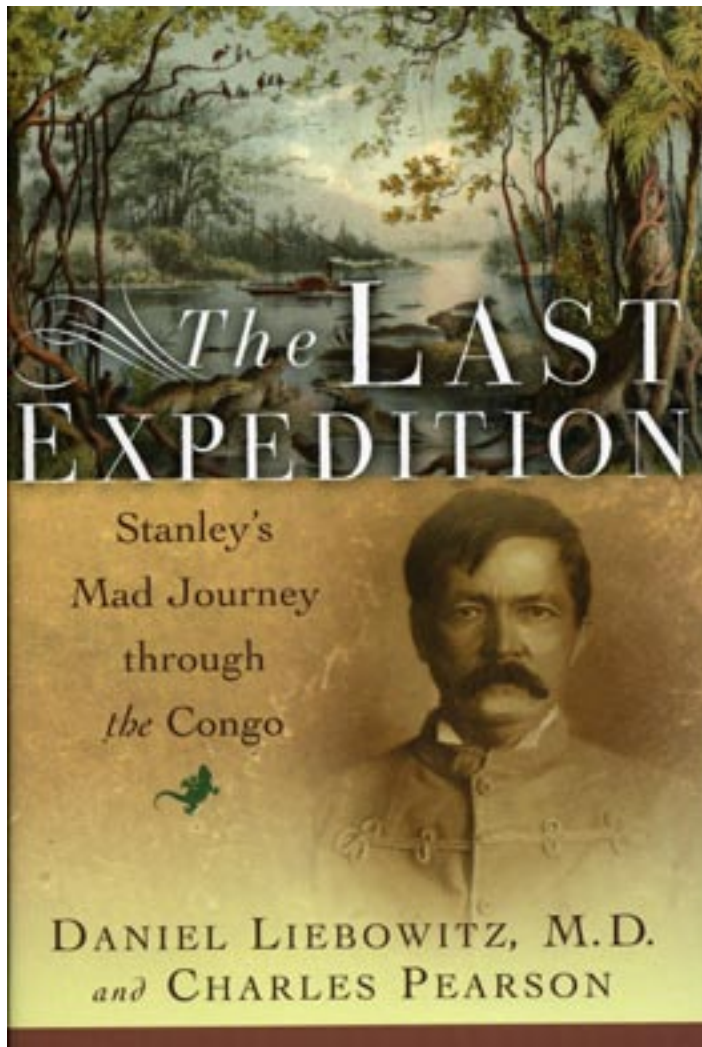
Northern California Chapter

September 2005

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Stanley's Three-year Journey Across Africa of Old Told Anew



A Chapter member known to most of us has been laboring, together with his co-author, Charles Pearson, on a new book about African exploring. It was published on July 25th by a major publishing house, W. W. Norton & Company.

Dr. Liebowitz will discuss the book, its development and the research involved at our first meeting of the 2005-06 speaking season.

In 1886, Henry Morton Stanley undertook the greatest African expedition of the nineteenth century to rescue Emin Pasha, last lieutenant of the martyred General Gordon and governor of the southern Sudan. Emin had been cut off by an Islamic jihad to the north and was at the mercy of brutal slave traders. Instead of ten months, the trip took three years and cost the lives of thousands of people, as Stanley's column hacked its way across the last great, unexplored territory in Africa.

Stanley's secret agenda was territorial expansion on the model of Leopold's Congo or the British East India Company, and what is revealed so vividly in the diaries of those who accompanied him is the dark underside of both the man and the colonial impulse. The expedition took whatever it wanted from the Africans, and when Africans were killed defending their possessions, they didn't even rate an entry in Stanley's journal.

This rescue mission descended into a nightmare of cruelty, starvation, and cannibalism, bringing to a close the European exploration of Africa.

NEW LOCATION

Date: Friday, 14 October 2005
Place: Delancey Street Restaurant
600 Embarcadero,
San Francisco
Time: 6:30 pm, no host drinks
7:00 buffet, hosted wine
Cost: \$40 (by October 13)
\$50 (on meeting date)

Reach Steve at
nauticos@oceaneearth.org
or 925 934-1051
Reservation Form on page 5
Please reserve promptly!



The book is reviewed by Lee Langan, on page 4 of this newsletter.

African & Mexican Ethnology and a Pleasant Dinner! Gene & Sibyl Boudreau — Sebastopol

The table in the Boudreau's Sonoma-green yard was filled with the handy items of everyday life—if you live in northern Kenya and are a Turkman. Some as common as wooden bowls to drink their life-sustaining milk-blood mixture, horn containers to hold tobacco, walking-sticks that can act as protective clubs, steel spears pounded out every day (as they have been for millennia), a knife bracelet to carve upon a downed animal. Gene Boudreau, a professional geologist, is a skilled ethnographer as well. These trivia of an African nomadic tribe are an expansion on his extensive collection from Mexico's Sierra Madre.

Gene and Sibyl hosted the Northern California Chapter for an al fresco meeting and artifact auction; they had hosted a Winter event in 2004 before. The afternoon was particularly inviting to visit and get to know fellow members; the weather perfect, the refreshments unending, and even the birds were singing their songs of Spring.

Without the constraints of a tight schedule and the darkening of evening,

conversations of travels and past adventures filled the air. Meanwhile Sibyl was busy in her kitchen. After a luscious roast beef and catfish meal, served to all, so they could continue their visits, Gene spoke briefly about his trip into the non-touristic lands of Kenya and his collection.

The auction allowed everyone to obtain a memento of our May meeting, and some items were particularly sought. Lee Langan, our Vice Chair and amateur auctioneer, reached deep into the pockets of the members to raise over \$500 for the Chapter! Every successful bidder was a winner; as

the chill of darkness approached each drifted away clutching a remembrance of a far away place and a splendid meeting to end our 2004-2005 Season.

Special thank yous to the Boudreau's for their support and hospitality!



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Ed Ross, Gene Boudreau, Marshall Colo



Gene describing his travels to northern Kenya

LANGAN

New technology Captures Oral History Now to Capture Audience Attention!

Mort Beebe (FN78) and Tim Kelly held forth at an Apple seminar in San Francisco on June 28. They showed segments of the film they are creating about capturing the verbal history of the Masai—and how they are using Apple's digital movie editing software to communicate what has been 'filmed.'



LANGAN



LANGAN

A Lovely Day for the Annual Picnic

A bonus exploration of San Francisco Bay



Captain Bob Schmieder, Chairman Emeritus of our Chapter, cranked up his *Cordell Explorer* for a glorious tour of San Francisco Bay— in addition to transporting 15 members to Angel Island for our annual picnic. There we were met by others who took the short ferry from Tiburon. It became a very festive day of conversation, picnic grub, drinks and a clever contest brought by the organizers, Kathy and Anders Jepsen.

The day began as a challenge to test the explorer nature of those who braced the weather even to come to the yacht harbor; it was raining and, pray tell, unseasonably chilly. Persevere we did, and Schmieder's research vessel eased out of the harbor in a full rain. Ask any San Franciscan about rain in June, "Fog sure; rain 'never'!" Alas never was upon us. Alas, as well, the Golden Gate, in the distance, was awash in sun. By the time we reached Angel Island the storm had past. The Bay was crystal clear. We were rewarded.

A Jepsen friend had devised a challenging game requiring tethered golf balls to be entwined about a trellis; it kept the assembled group competing through the day and involved, as well, nearby picnickers intrigued by the ingenuity of the explorers. Some of the assembly also took the opportunity to hike along the island's trails.

The energy of the feast and games were such we did not depart the island until after three. Those aboard the *Cordell Explorer* opted to accept the captain's offer to return the long way. The Golden Gate sparkled; the City was brilliant against the blue sky; giant freighters passed and a variety of sailboats (and wind surfers) skipped about; the new Bay Bridge is aborning to the east of Treasure Island. Alcatraz, now a tourist mecca, was crowded even late in the day. A remarkable end of a relaxing day. A celebration as the final event for a rewarding year for members of the Northern California Chapter and their guests.



Diggles and Langan captured the mood of the day in photos that tell the tale of an event enjoyed by all who made the effort to attend. More photos can be found on our web site.



Upcoming Event Reno Concert October 4, 2005

The Foundation Orchestra Association (FOA) of the Andean Explorers Foundation, which I am Chairman of the Board/Executive Director, is presenting a milestone performance of multi-cultural arts programming, *World Premieres & Peruvian Classics*, at Sammy's Showroom in Reno, on Tuesday, October 4, 7:00 to 9:00 PM. The concert is a tribute to internationally celebrated American explorer Gene Savoy (FE69), whose Peruvian expeditions since the 1950s have led to the discovery of over forty lost cities in the jungle, including Vilcabamba, the "Last City of the Incas."

FOA is doing its part to assist with Hurricane Katrina relief effort by donating \$5 of every ticket sold for the concert to the Red Cross. FOA is asking the community to support the Red Cross by attending the two-hour concert.

Led by Founding Conductor Gary Robert Buchanan, the 50-piece symphony orchestra will premiere the winner of FOA's third annual International Composition Competition, *Lost War*, for mezzo-soprano and orchestra by Jennifer Rose of Grove, Oklahoma. Performing the winning composition will be University of Nevada alumna and Reno native Michelle Norris.

The program will also feature Buchanan's *Symphony No. 2, Voyage of the Feathered Serpent*, in honor of three daring ocean expeditions led by Gene Savoy in 1969, 1977 and 1997.

Also on the program will be original music of the Chachapoya culture of Peru, music of the Incas, such as the famous *El Condor Pasa*, Buchanan's *Peruvian Sunrise*. A special feature presentation will be the song, *My Dear Chabuca*, composed in 1989, words by Savoy, music by Buchanan. The concert continues The Foundation Orchestra's tradition of stylistically, ethnically and culturally diverse musical programming. More information on

FOA can be found at

www.foundationorchestra.org.

Tickets for the concert are \$25 (General Seating), \$45 (VIP Booth), \$15 (Students 17 and under) and FREE (the blind and visually impaired, and children of Big Brothers-Big Sisters, hurricane evacuees and Red Cross volunteers in Reno. For symphony tickets call Harrah's Box Office at (775) 788-3051 or call FOA at (775) 348-1818 for advance reservations. Cafe Andreotti at Harrah's is offering a \$30 Special Menu for those attending the concert. Please call (775) 788-2908 for dinner reservations.

The concert is funded, in part, by a grant from the Nevada Arts Council, the National Endowment of the Arts, and by the City of Reno.

If you are not in town or cannot otherwise attend, would you consider making a donation which we will pass on in the name of the Orchestra to the Red Cross?

—Sean Savoy, MN04

"The Last Expedition" by Dan Liebowitz & Charles Pearson

Dan Liebowitz and Charles Pearson have captured the emotion and haunting experience of the Englishmen and their African load bearers and servants as they crossed the 'Dark Continent' in the late 19th Century. Walking 5000 miles is a daunting task at any time; doing so across an uncharted land, carrying everything you might need (and more), is only imagined in modern times. A bit over a hundred years ago there were no trails, no maps, much less no GPS or even a short-range communications means. There were drums—those of the locals. Hiking along open lands with 800 people was a challenge enough. Hacking through the gray-green twisted Ituri jungle was a major effort. Rains, mud, hostile native peoples, an arrogant leader, each step potentially one upon a poisoned spike—all as mile-by-mile they pushed ahead eight hours each day to rescue an Egyptian outpost. The legendary animals, large and small, kept their distance. They stayed away from the noise of the encroaching line of men, which sometimes stretched four miles. The insects stayed to bother.

Why did Henry Stanley take the

long way to 'save' Emin Pasha? Who was this Stanley who previously had found Livingston? Who was the pasha? The story is an enthralling history of exploration, the reasons behind the stated reasons, the chicanery and gyle, the military bearing of the expedition and the tribulations they faced. The tale is carefully researched and excerpts from the diaries of the participants are spread throughout. Hunker down in a comfy chair, and this story will involve you. It was no fortnight safari in the Masa Mara! The Last Great Expedition took three years!

Physician Liebowitz has an eye for the pains, and causes thereof, of the porters and the expedition leaders. He and Pearson weave a chronology of the difficulty facing any early entry into this vast land. Africa is not just endless space to traverse, it is endless space with people throughout—people who have lived there as long as man has lived. People who were being hunted like animals for the slave trade. People understandably hostile to newcomers.

Starvation was not uncommon then as now, as crops failed due to wars and weather. Food in the forest itself

was hidden to all but those who knew where to look. Poison or feast were hard to decipher. The expedition hoped to trade for food; along the way this was often impossible. There was no food. They were faced with consuming the 'exotics,' those creepy crawlies we now find humorous, as life-sustaining food, when they could find these.

The story is a great read! Congratulations to our Chapter member and his collaborator. They have captured a time of colonial expansion and conflict between Western Civilization and the Muslim East which was not that long ago. Indeed, it still exists!

The Last Expedition continues beyond the trek by gathering the loose ends of those who you become so familiar with during their time in Africa. A most satisfying book that covers the reality of African exploration in a novel manner:

ISBN0393059030

W. W. Norton & Company
New York (July 25, 2005).

—Lee Langan, FN99

(see October 14th meeting, page 1)

The Chapter Chair

Dear Northern California Explorers:
I am away while the newsletter is being prepared and mailed. Off tending the corals at Kosrae. Being an explorer.

Look forward to my welcome, in person, at our first meeting and, in writing, in our next newsletter.

—Stephen E. Smith, FN96

Evolution

@ The Explorers Club

The Summer break is behind us and a splendid array of speakers lies ahead. As it was last year we have begun the season of talks in October. Seems to be a bit easier because September is always so busy with so many activities getting underway. Nevertheless, the meetings planned should entice.

As you will observe on the other side of this sheet, all speakers are not announced; the dates are selected, and all have been contacted, but final logistics and arrangements need to be completed. Should have most in place by the next newsletter.

As you can see from the following article, changes are afoot. This is healthy for any organization, and we are fortunate that more folks are volunteering to help with 'running' the Chapter. The more we can spread to helpful hands the more all will enjoy.

Please note that we are still seeking more people, more help from more members. In particular, the newsletter will benefit if someone familiar with those who attend will report on the brief stories they tell about recent travels and activities. I dubbed this, "Go & Tell." It would be great if one would take on this as a routine responsibility. I can state, from experience, that trying to report on this phase of the meeting

and what the speaker says becomes daunting. If shared, each writer can relax for some portion of the meeting.

The other participation that we wish to introduce is the concept of asking a member to volunteer to arrange the details of one meeting. In effect to act as the organizer and the individual to be sure that that meeting runs smoothly. Select the place, make sure the speaker is contacted and provided what is needed, review the menu, make sure that wine is in place, that slide projector or video projector and screen are available. In short, 'host' the meeting. By spreading this responsibility more broadly the tasks do not fall upon a small set of individuals as has been the case so often. Again this allows greater participation. A good thing!

Volunteers are sought. Do you hear? If everyone does a bit to help the Chapter, participation will be that much more enjoyable.

—Lee Langan, FN99

Something Different

We will have our October meeting in Delancey Street's private rooms on October 14. It will be a delicious buffet, starting at 7, rather than a sit-down affair. The speaker will take the podium at 8, and a buffet dessert and coffee will follow to allow for conversation. Drinks are available from the restaurant as you wish.

BART, CalTrain & the Muni Metro (N-Judah to Brannan) will take you to the door! Valet park for \$4.

Please mail this form to
Dr. Stephen E. Smith
402 Via Royal
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
or, preferably, email
nauticos@oceanearth.org
or call 925 934-1051

Elections for 2006

In May, in our last newsletter, a proposed slate of new officers was promised for this, our first newsletter of the 2005-2006 'season.' Your officers met over the Summer; a nominating committee of former chairs concurred in the suggested recommendations, and here they are:

Chair: Lee Langan
Vice Chair: Alan Nichols
Secretary: Steve Smith
Treasurer: Anders Jepsen

In accord with the By Laws of the Club these members, all in good standing, will serve for one calendar year with the anticipation of a second term. If elected they will assume their offices in January 2006. A very simple ballot is included with our reservation form; alternate write ins are accepted. These will be added to a voice vote at the meeting.

Several members have stepped forth to help in various ways. Mike Diggles will continue his masterful job in maintaining our web site, a historical bounty. The Boudreau family has undertaken the task of creating and distributing the Chapter newsletter. Dave Moorer has agreed to organize our 2006 picnic outing. Kathy Jepsen will keep track of member name tags.

We are looking for 'reporters,' in particular: those who will document the comments before each meeting; those who might seek out chapter news; those to report on the talks.

We are also seeking volunteers to take charge of each meeting: to arrange the venue, to be sure audio video is in place, to make the evening smooth.

Step forth!



Please reserve ___ spaces for October 14, 2005, at Delancey Street, San Francisco.
Cost \$40 each; \$50 on meeting day. Prospective members are welcome.
Dinner wine is, once again, courtesy of Redwood Creek Winery!

Vote for proposed Chapter Officers (circle): yes no alternative:

Name: _____

Address (if changed): _____

Guest(s): _____

Northern California 2005-2006 Event Calendar

(Mark the dates! Venues will be identified at time of event.)

October 14, 2005 (Friday)	Dan Liebowitz	The Last Expedition, Stanley Across Africa
Delancey Street, San Francisco		
November 18 (Friday)	Arlene Blum	Breaking Trail: A Climbing Life
December 7th (Wednesday)	Charles Merdinger	Remembering Pearl Harbor on the USS Nevada
January 13 (Friday)		
February 17 or 14 (Friday)		
March 18 (Saturday)	ECAD (NYC)	
March 24 (Friday)	Alan Nichols	The Silk Web
April 21 (Friday)		
May 19 (Friday)		
June 17 (Saturday)	Dave Moorer	Annual Chapter Picnic

(unlisted events are all in the process of confirmation; see subsequent newsletters for the update.)

Please note venues and dates with care.
October 14th is a FRIDAY meeting at
Delancey Street Restaurant in San Francisco

In full and lively color!
To experience this newsletter in color,
see the PDF version at our web site.

(When copying the URL addresses be sure to keep them all on one line; most are also available as links on our Chapter web site.)

September 2005

Dr. Stephen E. Smith
The Explorers Club
Northern California Chapter
402 Via Royal
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

