SATURDAY, April 13, 1:30 - 3:00 PST
SDIS Monthly Lecture -- in person or Zoom

RIGDON CURRIE

Photojournalism of Birding

Rigdon Currie was born in 1930 in Atlanta, GA. An engineer from GA Tech with a Harvard MBA, he served in the US Air Force during the Korean War, retiring as a Captain after continuing in the Reserves for several years.

He was a pioneer in digital technology focusing on the use of computers to control processes of various sorts. Two computers he helped develop were the nodes for the first Internet messaging system. He is married and has a big family.

His leisure passion has been birding; he has visited 85 countries and seen over half of the world’s species. Many of these trips are preserved in videos he has made.

Note: There is a change in the presentation date from April 20th to April 13th. This will be an in-person event at the North University Community Library, 8820 Judicial Drive, San Diego, CA 92122. If you are unable to attend, you can join via Zoom:
https://us02web.zoom.us/1/83716864012pwd=bUhjSUlrRFpDYMVTGRMUEjRFZhdz09

Meeting ID: 837 1686 4012--Passcode: SDIS
The Biosciences Group is in recess until September of 2024. In the meantime, the group will keep in contact through email discussions and exchanged references concerning topics of mutual interest.

Paused until September 2024

The Scholars Notebook is issued monthly during the academic year, except December, by the San Diego Independent Scholars. Editor: Arlene Gilbert

SDIS strives to promote opportunities for active learning and scholarship, for its members and for the San Diego community.

Public service activities of SDIS include free public lectures and cooperative educational projects with other organizations. SDIS members enjoy a variety of regular discussion groups, presently via Zoom.

SDIS, established in 1982, was instrumental in the founding of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars, an organization that unites eight similar organizations and has international membership.

For more information see https://sdscholars.org or contact sdisask@gmail.com

SCHOLAR’S NOTEBOOK
April 2024—Contents

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Please check announcements for information related to possible sign-up requirements and specifics about meeting locations.
WORKS IN PROGRESS GROUP

1:00-2:30 Thursday, April 18

Both in-person and via Zoom

The Works in Progress Group meets monthly in the North University Community Library at 8820 Judicial Drive in San Diego, CA 92122. These sessions, which are open to the public, are at 1:00 on the 3rd Thursday of each month (September through May).

The group’s March meeting featured Grace Johnson and her recently published book Hecho en Mexico: Mexican Folk Art. Her presentation covered both the content of the book and her experiences in getting the book published. The many artifacts described in the book were related to an exposition that she organized at the San Diego Museum of Man (now named the Museum of Us), while she was Curator of Latin American Collections at that museum.

At the group’s next meeting on April 18, Gloria Montebruno-Saller will describe the fascinating information in her forthcoming book Japanese American Citizens as Survivors of the Hiroshima Bombing. She will also cover various challenges that she faced in the writing process.

We encourage you to attend in person because of the social interactions and informal discussions before and after the presentation. If you are unable to get there, however, the Zoom link is: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83716864012?pwd=bUhjSUIrRFpDYmVKTGRMUEExjRFZhdz09

Jaime Pineda; Dorothy Parker

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS GROUP

10:00-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 9

in person

At the March meeting of the International Affairs Group, Carol Veit summarized her insights concerning the culture, leadership, history, and economic goals (short- and long-term) of China. This presentation was followed by a spirited discussion that was organized around an agenda of questions. The exchange also reflected the diverse viewpoints and experiences of the participants.

At its next meeting on April 9, Larry Viet will lead a discussion concerning the culture, history, and economics of India. Larry has served as an Economic Attaché of the U.S. State Department in India and has written a book on India.

Carol and Larry Veit; Dorothy Parker
Now that President Biden and former President Donald Trump have clinched the Presidential nomination of their respective parties, our SDIS Study Group meetings every month will certainly cover the campaigns of each of these two candidates. Our next meeting will be held on Zoom on Saturday, April 13, at 10:00 a.m., and on the second Saturday of every month thereafter.

While the Biden campaign promises to follow a more or less traditional path, Trump’s journey will likely be quite different, if the first three months of 2024 is any example. Trump, of course, has been indicted four times is four different jurisdictions. So far Trump has spent most of this campaign talking about what he views as the election interference aspect of these four criminal cases filed against him by Democratic prosecutors. So while Biden is now spending much of his time campaigning across the country, Trump is spending a substantial portion of his time in courtrooms trying to defend himself against those same prosecutors. The irony is that while most other candidates would find their campaigns totally destroyed if facing a series of criminal complaints against them, Trump’s poll numbers seem to go up every time a new indictment is filed against him.

The April Study Group will feature, among other topics, the role of the networks and cable TV channels in the presidential election. For example, we will discuss a recent decision by MSNBC not to cover Trump’s victory speeches after winning various GOP primaries. Another subject of great interest developed last week when NBC hired Ronna McDaniel, the former chairwoman of the Republican National Committee, to be a paid contributor to appear on NBC and MSNBC, at a salary of $300,000 a year for two years. A day or two later, on Sunday, McDaniel appeared on Meet The Press as her first assignment. Former Meet The Press host Chuck Todd greeted her with a verbal attack against the executives of NBC for daring to hire a person so closely aligned with former President Trump’s accusation that the 2020 election was stolen from him.

During the next couple of days, most of the MSNBC star performers such as Rachel Maddow, Joe Scarborough, and several others, staged a live revolt on TV against their bosses for hiring McDaniel, and on Tuesday NBC suddenly fired McDaniel. I do not remember ever witnessing anything like that on television before. Is it any wonder the country is so divided and polarized? Other topics on the Agenda for Saturday April 13 includes inflation, abortion and reproductive rights, illegal immigration, and the War in Gaza. If you wish to join our Zoom political discussion group, just click on the Zoom Link I send out to all SDIS members every month.

Al Korobkin
At our March 13 Zoom meeting we essentially completed our review of Peskin and Schroeder Chapter 6, dealing with radiative corrections to the scattering of a charged particle by an electromagnetic field. In particular we saw how the low energy divergences due to virtual photons was offset by similar divergences in the emission of low energy real photons (Bremsstrahlung). This was done by considering all orders of Feynman Diagrams in which both real and virtual photons were emitted during the basic scattering process. Remarkably, the sum over all the Feynman Diagrams (essentially scattering amplitudes) for virtual photons, coupled with the sum of those amplitudes squared (probabilities) for all possible emissions of low energy real photons, leads to a formal expression in which the low energy infinities cancel and we are left with a finite result.

At our March 27 meeting we started our review of Chapter 7, which unlike our previous work involving the Feynman Diagrams, which constitutes a perturbative expansion of the scattering process to all orders, approaches the scattering problem from a study of the analytic properties of the exact field theoretic expressions. This is done primarily by studying the two point correlation functions in the presence of the full interaction Hamiltonian (essentially the probability amplitude for a particle being created at one position at a given point in time to emerge at a future point in time at a given second position).

While this correlation function can be calculated via the usual infinite series of Feynman Diagrams, it also can be shown to exhibit analytic properties featuring isolated poles as well as branch cuts in the complex plane. It is precisely the isolated poles that lead to a matching of properties of higher order correlation functions to the scattering matrix, $S$, which describes all possible scatterings with a bunch of incoming particles getting into close proximity with each other so they can interact, and thereby evolve into a bunch of outgoing particles leaving that space (the numbers and types of incoming and outgoing particles do not have to be the same!).

At our next Zoom meeting, on April 10, at 2pm, we will review the LSZ theorem, which formally connects the pole structure of the Correlation functions to the components of the $S$ matrix, representing all possible scatterings.

Alvin Halpern
The King and I is based on the Rodgers and Hammerstein adaptation of a novel which is itself based on the 1944 novel Anna and the King of Siam by Margaret Landon, which is loosely based on the memoir by Anna Leonowens, who became school teacher to the children of King Mongkut of Siam in the early 1860s, which is a favorable recollection of Mrs. Leonowens's role in the King's court.

Replete with splendid songs and musical numbers, the film version made a movie star of Yul Brynner, who won the Oscar for reprising his role in the 1951 Broadway musical. Deborah Kerr, who received the Golden Globe as Anna, looks wonderful as she sings (with Marni Nixon's voice) and dances in full Victorian ball gowns. Rita Moreno is cast in the role of a concubine sent to the court who falls in love with a man other than the King and is saved from execution by Anna, who memorably directs the royal children in an Asian production of Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Although through the years critics and audiences have criticized the Hollywood racism visible in the film (and which has been mitigated in and expunged from stage productions of the musical), the quality of the film's production and performances are apparent, offering viewers a reminder of how studio films produced in Hollywood excelled technically if not in representative casting.

Variety in 1956 noted the following: As the Victorian Englishwoman who comes to Siam to teach Western manners and English to the royal household, Kerr gives one of her finest performances. She handles the role of Mrs Anna, with charm and understanding and, when necessary, the right sense of comedy. Although unbilled, the singing voice of Kerr is Marni Nixon. It is ghosted so well that it is hard to believe that it is not Kerr.

As the brusque, petulant, awkwardly-kind despot confused by the conflicts of Far Eastern and Western cultures, Yul Brynner gives an effective, many-shaded reading.

The film suggests a stronger romantic feeling between Mrs Anna and the king than was presented in the legituner, but it is done with the utmost delicacy

Barbara Heckler and Ken Krauss
COLLOQUY CAFÉ
Wednesday, APRIL 17, 1:00, (in person).

Subject: LOVE

In our March discussion focusing on “The Supreme Court,” both the past and the future were addressed. One member opened the session by reading sections of a prominent article about the Court in the September issue of a magazine she had happened upon in a local library. Comments critiqued the article as well as the Court.

"Should the Court be enlarged?" asked one member. All agreed that its number should always be an odd rather than an even one so as to avoid a possible tie vote. Another individual voiced details of changing future appointments to give new Justices "term limits" of 18 years rather than lifetimes, with every President having three appointments. The advantage of this plan: terms of the Justices would be staggered, with the full effect of this plan evident only after all present Justices had either resigned or died.

A brief discussion ensued about Justice Thomas' confirmation hearing and the testimony of Anita Hill, and about the present issue concerning his wife.

A positive note was added by the description of Chief Justice Roberts as devoted to maintaining the American public’s respect for the Supreme Court. That thought was expressed by a guest, the visiting daughter of that meeting’s hostess.

At the group’s April meeting, which will occur on the usual third Wednesday afternoon, this time the 17th, at 1:00 and in person, the subject of our analysis will be LOVE. For further details, please contact me.     

Gerry Horwitz

READING EXPERIENCE
Monday, April 15, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

The March meeting, the second in our study of Poetry and Poets, featured T.S. Eliot, the American-born but British-becoming early 20th century writer, who after a Harvard education moved to London in 1914 where he became a teacher, a lecturer, an editor, a publisher and in 1927 a naturalized British subject. He represents a revolt from the optimism and cheerfulness of the 19th century, perceiving his own time as one of disintegration, of both boredom and horror. His works expressing this view are often strongly disliked, but are recognized as highly significant; Eliot received the Nobel Prize in 1948, when he was 60, “for his work as a trailblazing pioneer of modern poetry.”

We analyzed 3 of his works. “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”, written while Eliot was at Harvard and communicating both hurt and frustration, was published in England in 1914 and in America in 1920; by 1922 he was one of the most discussed and disputed of living American poets. “The Waste Land” contrasts a beautiful past and a repulsive present, communicating a sense of sterility. “The Hollow Men” expresses a “blasphemous hopelessness.

The next meeting, by Zoom, will occur as usual on the third Monday of the month, this time April 15th, as always,10 a.m. Our focus will be on eight poems by E.E. Cummings. Non-regulars of this group who are interested and wish to receive names of the poems and the Zoom Link in order to participate should please contact me.

GERRY HORWITZ
### April 2024

Some meetings and events listed are via Zoom

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