



NEWS RELEASE
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Statement on the Death of Mead Kibbey

(Sacramento) The staff of the California State Library was saddened to hear of the passing of Mead Kibbey, a community pillar and longtime supporter of the State Library and the California State Library Foundation.

Mead's decades of investment and donations in photography have enhanced cultural and historic collections throughout California. His efforts led to the [huge collection of historic stereo photography at the State Library](#) – much of which has been digitized and is available to the public. He was instrumental in establishing the UC Riverside's California Museum of Photography and contributed to the donation the [Keystone-Mast Collection](#), another enormous collection of [stereoscopic photographs and negatives](#).

Mead was an expert in the work of Alfred A. Hart, the official photographer for the Central Pacific Railroad (1863-1869) who documented the monumental accomplishment of the building of the Transcontinental Railroad. Mead [wrote a book about Hart in 1996](#), and in 2014 donated the only known complete set of Central Pacific stereo views taken by Hart to the California State Library Foundation. This donation and others have allowed thousands of Californians and others to view these images through the State Library's online collections.

At 95, Mead gave a Night at the State Library presentation on Hart, displaying the 150-year-old slides on a 100-year-old projector. After realizing that Hart had died in poverty with his historic contribution fading into the past, [Mead led the multi-year effort to establish a monument to Hart](#) and his accomplishments in Sacramento's Old City Cemetery. The monument was erected in 2017.

He was a [decorated World War II Navy veteran](#), acknowledged for saving lives off the coast of France in 1944. His wartime experience was among the stories that he [related for a student project in 2010](#), along with other video interviews, including [one about the Hart photography collection](#).

“Mead Kibbey lived a rich and full life made all the richer for his gifts to Sacramento and California,” said State Librarian Greg Lucas. “His generosity of spirit and his desire to learn are an inspiration. California is in his debt.”

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About the California State Library

About the State Library: Founded in 1850, the California State Library has an extensive collection of documents from and about the state's rich history, ranging from books, maps, miners' diaries, newspapers, and periodicals to photographs, paintings and posters. The State Library also holds federal and state publications, and is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library, and the Braille and Talking Book Library. www.library.ca.gov