

Special Collections & Archives
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March 15, 2009

Ms. Margaret Hogarth
Chair, LAUC R&PD Committee
Electronic Resources Coordinator
Science Library, Room G43
University of California, Riverside
900 University Avenue
Riverside, CA, 92521

Dear Margaret,

Please accept my application for a Presentation Grant to fund my travel to the 3rd Oceanic Popular Culture Association Conference at Chaminade University of Honolulu, Hawaii, Saturday, May 22, and Sunday, May 23, 2009. I was an invited speaker at the 1st OCPA Conference, where my presentation focused on the J.Lloyd Eaton Collection. As a result of my participation in the OCPA conference in 2007, several members of the OCPA have registered for the upcoming Eaton Conference, and two members will be delivering papers. I shall once again take the opportunity to promote the Eaton Collection and Conference at this year's OCPA conference by distributing brochures for Eaton as part of the OCPA conference packet.

My paper for this year's conference is focused on my long-standing interest in cinema as an art form. My particular subject is the film *The Godfather*, ranked #2 (after *Citizen Kane*) on the American Film Institute's "100 Greatest American Movies." Using my background in Italian language studies, I am preparing a paper entitled "*L'onora della famiglia*": The semiotic use of the Italian language in Francis Ford Coppola's *Godfather* Trilogy." My proposal has already been accepted for the OCPA conference for inclusion on the Film Studies Seminar, moderated by David Arnold of the University of Wisconsin.

a. Summary and current status of the research project/activity

To complete my research on this topic by the May presentation date, I have to take two research trips into Los Angeles. Because the Italian passages in the scripts are not available in the transcriptions of the *Godfather* Trilogy available on line, I have to examine the drafts and notes for various versions of the screenplay available in the UCLA's Performing Arts Library Special Collections and the USC Cinema Library. In this examination of the original documents, I shall also try to determine if there was a conscious evolution on the part of the director and writer for the increasing use of passages in Italian by the main protagonist, Michael Corleone.

b. Description of and timetable for the activities to be funded by the Presentation Grant

The timetable for the activities for the Presentation grant are Friday, May 22 to Monday, May 25, covering the two days of the conference and two travel days. Monday, May 25, is a holiday, so I shall only be requesting a single day of release time for travel to the conference. My supervisor, Dr. Ruth Jackson, prefers that we submit our permission to travel requests no sooner than a month before departure, so I do not have the signed form in hand. I am confident, however, that Dr. Jackson will support my request for a one-day leave for travel to this conference.

c. Summary of the budget

My expenses for travel to the conference to present my paper are as follows:

American Airlines LAX to Honolulu:	\$481.83
Two nights at the Ohana Waikiki Hotel	270.00 (\$130 a night + tax)
Parking at LAX for three nights	45.00
Transportation to and from LAX (83 miles each way)	91.30
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	\$888.13

d. Status in the bargaining unit represented by the UC-AFT

As a manager, I am a non-represented librarian. As such, I receive less funding from LAUC-R for professional development than represented librarians. To date, I have depleted my allotment for 2008-2009 year in attending the Midwinter Conference of the American Library Association in Denver, Colorado. The costs of that trip totaled \$1800. My attendance at ACRL and ALA conferences is mandatory because I am a member of the Executive Board of the ACRL Rare Books and Manuscripts Section. Because of my role on the Executive Board, I shall also be required to attend the following upcoming conferences: The RBMS Preconference in Charlottesville, Virginia, from June 16 to June 21; The ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, from July 8 to July 16. I anticipate that the combined expenses of airfare and lodging for these two conferences will exceed \$3000, for which I shall receive no reimbursement.

e. Abstract of the paper or poster accepted for presentation.

The abstract is appended to this application.

f. Name and sponsoring organization(s) (if applicable) of the conference.

Oceanic Pacific Popular Culture Association, jointly sponsored by Chaminade University, Honolulu and the University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu

g. Description(s) of any funds that have been requested from other sources.

My sole source of funding for conference attendance is through LAUC-R.

I wish to thank you and the members of the Committee on Research and Professional Development for the opportunity to present this application for a Presentation Grant. I shall look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Melissa Conway
Head, Special Collections & Archives

Abstract
The Third Annual Oceanic Popular Culture Association Conference
May 2009

Paper Title: *'L'onora della famiglia'*: The semiotic use of the Italian language in Francis Ford Coppola's *Godfather* Trilogy.

Submitted by: Melissa Conway

Position: Head, Special Collections & Archives

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Abstract:

The exact significance of the use of the Italian language in the *Godfather* films has never been closely analyzed. Far from appearing only in organic contexts, it is often used symbolically to distance characters from one another. Moreover, in some key scenes where it is presented without subtitles, Coppola seems to be intentionally excluding the audience from the interiority of the 'famiglia' or family.

In my paper—illustrated by excerpts from the films-- I intend to show that the deliberate use of Italian in key moments is a form of *leitmotif*, intended by Coppola to provide additional insight into the motivation of leading characters. This is particularly true in the case of Michael Corleone. Michael's relationship to the language of his earliest childhood is especially complicated in that his mastery and deliberate use of it paradoxically increases as he hardens himself against his blood family and severs himself from his most basic human emotions.