Newly established in 2007, the Jewel Society is one way the Stanford University Libraries honors the hundreds of donors and family representatives who have created and sustained acquisition funds. These focused endowments enable the Libraries to collect in depth and breadth in subjects beloved by the fund donors. Without these enduring and often multi-generational gifts, the Libraries’ research and educational resources would not have attained the level of distinction we now almost take for granted. Income from endowed book funds provides more than one quarter of library acquisition funds year by year. Selected donors of significant collections to the Libraries are also welcomed to the Jewel Society, which sustains and builds collections in one of the world’s premier academic libraries.

"In a sense my book fund is a living creature. I certainly have felt I have been a continuing part of the fund’s growth process and the acquisition to date of more than 2,500 books."

Ron Klein BA ’49

The Milton and Annette Klein Collection of Books on Travel & Exploration
Given by Ronald and Elizabeth Klein to honor his parents and to share their spirit of adventure

Stanford University Libraries

The Aphra R. Katsev ’59 Book Fund
established in her honor by her husband,
Richard D. Katsev ’58

Library Development Office
Bing Wing, Cecil H. Green Library
Stanford University Libraries
Stanford, CA 94305-6004

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The Jewel Society is named in honor of Jane Lathrop Stanford, who in her final address to the Board of Trustees in 1905 instructed them to sell her jewels to establish a library book fund. For decades, Mrs. Stanford’s fund, still active and bearing the distinctive bookplate* of the Jewel Fund, was the principal source of income for library acquisitions. As the University’s first endowed book fund, the Jewel Fund shines as an exemplar of generosity to all those who have endowed the Libraries afterwards.

Among the many kinds of support for the Libraries, endowments for collection building remain donor favorites. Serving students and scholars, our subject experts purchase books, journals, databases, image collections, or other research materials appropriate to the donor’s subject interest. The Library Development Office maintains a list of current priorities, many in emerging disciplines, and can suggest areas of particular impact.

The minimum threshold to create an endowed book fund is twenty-five thousand dollars, making it the most accessible of all named endowments at Stanford. Funding may be pledged over a period of years; once established, gifts may be added at any time and at any level, whether by the original donor, family members, friends, or bequests.

The Jewel Society has no membership fees or obligations; it is purely honorary. In addition to personal curatorial reports, members receive publications, select privileges, and invitations to special exhibits and programs. A rotating exhibit of book funds is displayed at the south portal to Cecil H. Green Library. Most importantly, Jewel Society members have the satisfaction of assuring deep collections in tune with personal interests for the entire Stanford community, now and for generations to come.

* To view all Stanford University Libraries’ endowment bookplates, please visit http://library.stanford.edu/depts/swain/bookplates.