

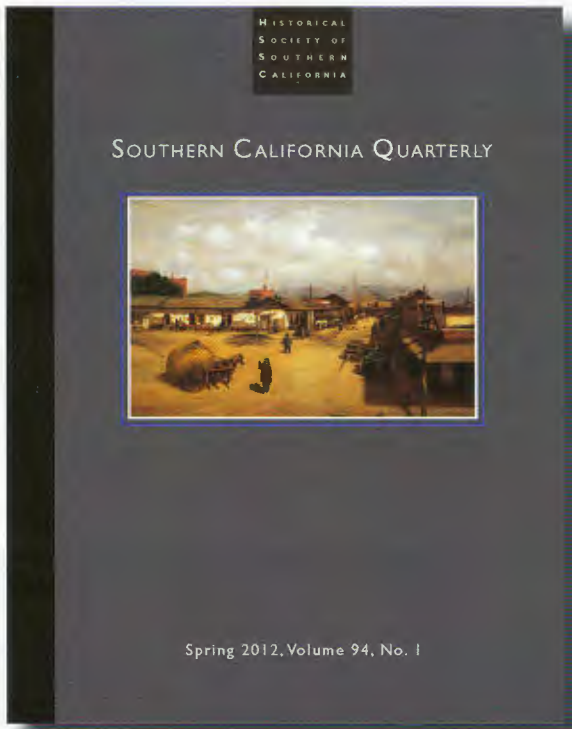
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 HISTORICAL
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The Southern Californian

The Historical Society of Southern California Spring 2012 Volume 24 Number 1

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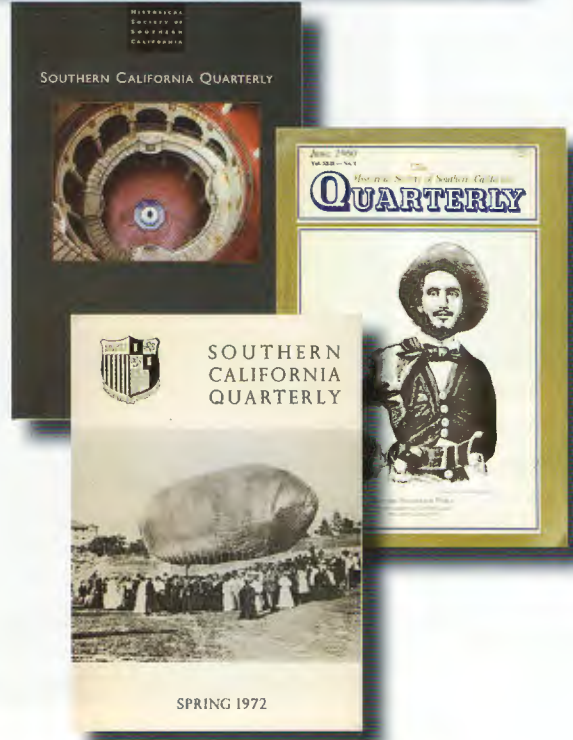


Publication has always been the life-blood of the Historical Society of Southern California. Our first president, J. J. Warner, said in 1883, "One of the essential elements for the healthy growth and life of a society like ours is publication." And we have published, conscientiously and continuously, beginning with hand-set type and the hand-printed page of the 19th century to the computerized images and color illustrations of recent years.

This month marks what is for us a great leap into the technological stratosphere of publication on-line. HSSC has entered into an affiliation with the Current Scholarship Program formed by the University of California Press with JSTOR, the world-wide information resource used by researchers, librarians, and weekend readers to access journals.

Not only will HSSC members now receive by mail their beautifully produced copy of each Quarterly but also be able to read it on their computers and refer to it in the future. In addition members now have the opportunity to search in our whole library for articles we published over the past 128 years. All the articles can be opened in the original format with the original maps, charts and illustrations. This is a truly amazing archive. We are proud to be sharing it world-wide and ensuring the long-term preservation of the material.

Members enter the on-line gateway to JSTOR for current and past Quarterlies by opening our website, <http://socalhistory.org>.



THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN is published quarterly by the Historical Society of Southern California, a California non-profit organization (501)(c)(3)

Romualdo Valenzuela
 NEWSLETTER LAYOUT

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 Ann Walnum
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The headquarters of the Historical Society is located at Lummis Home (El Alisal) 200 East Avenue 43 Los Angeles CA 90031 323/460-5632 www.socalhistory.org

Turn to page 7 for instructions on how to access the *Southern California Quarterly* on JSTOR.

HSSC Welcomes New Board Member Ann Walnum

Photo: Ariel van Zandweghe



Ann Walnum new member of HSSC board

I am honored to be asked to serve the Historical Society of Southern California. I welcome it as an opportunity to bring HSSC and the community closer together. Occidental College, Highland Park Heritage Trust, and the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society are increasingly cooperating and coalescing historical awareness and knowledge.

As a fifty-nine year Mount Washington resident I have participated in community activities including voter registration, Mount Washington Association Board, and the Blue Line Community Coalition (worked to mitigate the impacts of what is now called the Gold Line on Highland Park and Mount Washington). I am a member of the Debs Park Advisory Board and the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council. My strongest interest over the years has been maintaining the Southwest Museum in its Lummis-chosen location. I volunteered in a variety of roles from 1995 to 2003. I am co-founder of the Friends of Southwest Museum Coalition.

Currently I serve on the Lummis Day Community Foundation board. I am now writing my fourth Lummis article for our upcoming Lummis Day 2012 souvenir booklet. I grew up near Chicago and enjoyed Chicago's great museums. I moved to Los Angeles for undergraduate and graduate work and stayed (to enjoy our great museums). At the time I started my college work at the University of Southern California, tuition was mercifully low. I have great sympathy for the financial burden our students face today. I am now retired from a thirty year career in public schools, but still enjoy working with young people as a teacher of violin and piano.

Artifacts Wanted

We would like to recreate as far as possible the atmosphere of the Old Southwest as it appears on early photographs of the great room, El Museo, in the Lummis Home. Charles Lummis decorated his house with the rugs, chiefs' blankets, tribal weavings, pottery and basketry of the native American people he visited during his walk across the continent and his many subsequent visits.

He gave all his then-modern collections as well as the material from his archaeological excavations to the Southwest Museum. Only a few baskets remained in the house in 1965, at the time the Historical Society of Southern California leased it from the City of Los Angeles.

We wish we could find some of the original treasures but, failing that, we would like to acquire by donation as many similar artifacts as possible. The Navajo, Hopi, and other tribal artists have continued to preserve the techniques, creative energy and even the old motifs that Lummis sought after. We can try to recapture with present-day materials the feeling of the by-gone century and the spirit of Lummis' Old California hospitality.

Please consider giving anything appropriate that you can spare to HSSC as a substitute for the once treasured artifacts of the Lummis House. You can reach us at (323) 460-5632.

Photo: Romualdo Valenzuela



Boy Scouts Visit El Alisal

Photos: Ariel van Zandweghe



Boy scout troop poses outside of Lummis Home.



Curator Ariel van Zandweghe mesmerizes boy scouts with tales of Lummis' bravery.

Afternoons at El Alisal

Sunday, April 29, is the monthly HSSC Members' Afternoons at El Alisal with wine and cheese, conversation and good fellowship. From now on we will expand these invitations to include one guest.

We're finding that our informal "salons" are very much a good time had by all and the conversations tend to bring out everyone's best stories. It's great to have only a tentative program, sort of a starting point, so that we all have a chance to talk. For example, in March we expected to have some paintings and sculpture at the Lummis House but the artist couldn't transport his material in the rain. Once Barry Sattels began reading the poems of Joaquin Miller, however, we found ourselves absorbed by the drama, each with our own thoughts. It's a rare thing to be part of the ancient art of storytelling.

We didn't find time to show the small notebook we brought down from the attic that appears to be a series of love letters from Lummis' first wife, Dorothea. The date on the front cover is "1883, April 15 - May 28." They had been married secretly in September 1880. We'll be sure to have this notebook available on April 29.

Photo: Romualdo Valenzuela



HSSC members discussing Southern California history in Lummis Home.

In April we will also be joined by Soprano Amita Raj who will perform some of the signature operatic arias that Mary Garden once sang for her ardent admirer, Charles Lummis. She was an honored guest at many of his "Noises." She was also one of his favorite subjects for the open air camera compositions that became part of his legacy as an early modern photographer.



HSSC At The Autry National Center New Insight Into Latino Los Angeles

The Historical Society of Southern California focuses on LATINO LOS ANGELES for its annual history conference at the Autry National Center for the American West.

Join us on Saturday morning, April 21st, in the courtyard of the Autry Center for registration and a continental breakfast. Then gather with leading scholars, journalists, filmmakers and artists to hear the keynote speaker, historian George Sánchez (USC).

William Deverell (USC) will lead the first panel of the morning. With COMMUNITY as a theme, Jerry Gonzalez (Univ. of Texas, San Antonio) will comment on the Latino experience in suburban L. A., Genevieve Carpio (USC) on the multicultural Pomona Valley, and L.A. Times investigative reporters Jeff Gottlieb and Ruben Vives will present, "Breach of Faith: the Bell Story and Civic Corruption."

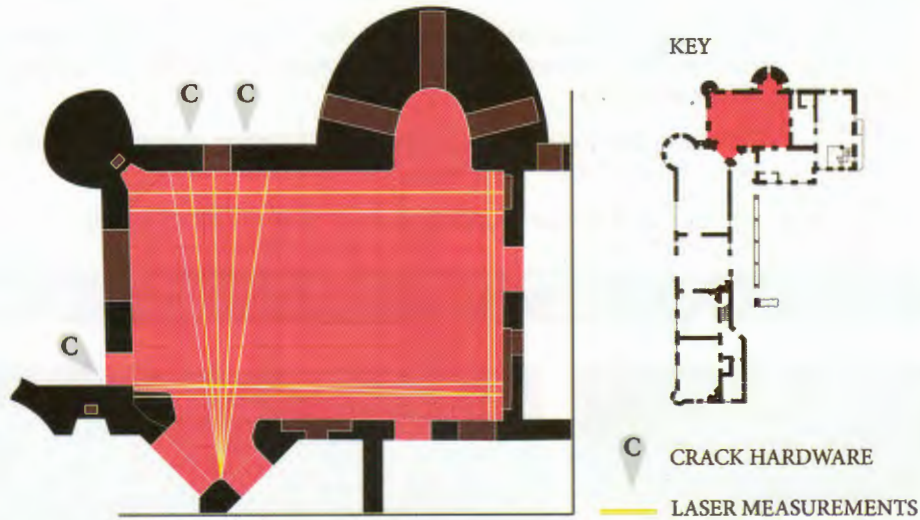
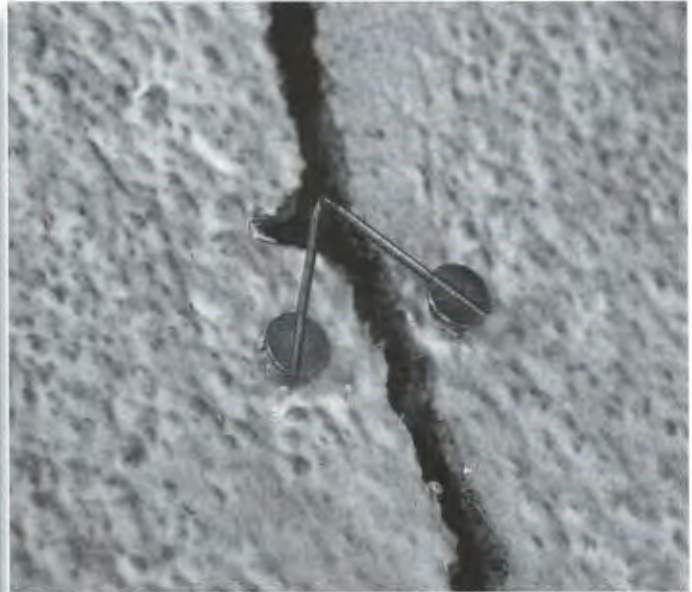
Josh Kun (USC) leads the session on MUSIC with Anthony Macías (UC Riverside) talking about "Highbrow/Lowbrow: Mexican Americans and Music Education" and filmmaker Jon Wilkman (Wilkman Productions) bringing us the sounds of East Los Angeles through his film, *Chicano Rock!*

We will break for lunch, at which time attendees can relax to the music of the Gene Corral Trio or briefly visit the collections of the Autry National Center.

Reconvening, journalist Giselle Fernandez (F Squared Enterprises) will lead the panel on ART as José Luis Valenzuela (UCLA) takes us backstage with "Changing the Stereotype: the Filming of Dementia" and Yolanda Gonzalez (Artist/Curator) comments on "Creating Your Vision Through Art." Denise Blasor (Bilingual Foundation of the Arts) brings us news of the Bilingual Theater in Los Angeles with her segment, "Storytelling Works in Any Language."

Enrique Murillo (Cal State San Bernardino) presents the final panel of the day's program, EDUCATION. Gilda L. Ochoa (Pomona College) leads off with her case study of Latinos and Asian-Americans in a Los Angeles High School, "(De)constructing Disparities and Divisions." Lilia D. Monzó (Chapman College) presents a paper on "Putting Immigration into Context: Legacies, Transnationalism and Equity." Adonay Montes (University of LaVerne) will conclude the conference with "Possible Selves: Latino Students' Dreams and Aspirations."

Everyone will then gather in the courtyard for sangría, cookies and conversation.



HSSC Continues Preservation Of Lummis Home

Charles Lummis dedicated years of his life to the building of his house and those of us using and enjoying it today can make no better tribute than maintaining its integrity. To that end we've been monitoring two cracks in the dining room wall and have enlisted architects Tada Ryvola and Michael Sandstrom of United Environment Architecture to set up an electronic monitoring system to give us a report on the problem.

A digital model has been developed of the whole Lummis House, with particular focus on the Comedor and adjacent spaces. The model helps in organizing laser measurement points, serves as a convenient analytical tool, and lends itself well for presentation purposes.

Laser measurement is taking place monthly, and will be continued indefinitely. A minimum of one year's worth of measurements could reveal whether seasonal movement is

taking place. Eleven laser measurement points are strategically located with respect to prominent cracks (see diagram). These serve as base-points and targets for the laser meter; a final recorded distance is the mean of multiple measurements.

In addition to laser metering, experimental hardware has been installed in select locations. Custom-made from brass and stainless steel points and discreetly embedded into the masonry, the hardware works in pairs (see photo above right - approximately life-sized). The points are mounted on either side of a crack, and span it to barely touch each other. Theoretically, the tips of these points would be visibly thrown out of alignment if the masonry were to shift in the region of the crack. Ideally this would provide a number-free method of gauging wall movement. We will monitor the hardware over the coming months and report on its performance.

Historical Society of Southern California presents

LATINO LOS ANGELES

New insights into Latino Los Angeles

Join us!

Saturday, April 21, 2012

**Autry National Center
of the American West**

**Keynote Speaker
Historian George Sanchez
(USC)**

Leading scholars, journalists, filmmakers and artists will share their views through panel discussions richly illuminated with music and the arts.

- 8:00 a.m. Registration
- Gene Corral Trio will play during lunch hour.
- Opportunity to visit the Autry National Center.
- Presentations to be followed by Q & A sessions.
- Conclude in the courtyard with sangría, cookies and continuing conversation.
- Admission includes continental breakfast, boxed lunch and refreshments. Prepaid before April 16: \$40 for members of HSSC or Autry Center, \$55 for non-members, \$15 for students with ID.

Tickets at the door: \$50 for members, \$65 for non-members, \$25 for students with ID. Sorry, no credit cards at the door.

Contact us at hssc@socalhistory.org or phone (323) 460-5632.

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For further information call HSSC at (323) 460-5632

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To Register

In order to gain access to the SCQ, you must register at the following link:

<http://socalhistory.org/register>

Please provide all required information and then at the bottom of the registration form press the "Register" button.

First Name:

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To Login

1. Visit www.socalhistory.org
2. Scroll to the top of the page
3. Login with user name and password from registration
4. Select *Southern California Quarterly* in main menu
5. Click on "Click here to read articles from this issue"

During this important addition of electronic media to our publishing commitment, the Historical Society of Southern California is pleased to announce that it will be offering to all our members personalized assistance over the phone on how to establish your access to our digital publications on JSTOR.

Please call Mr. Valenzuela at 460-5632 and he will guide you through the process.

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Save The Date

April 21, 2012

14th Annual History Conference at the Autry

April 29, 2012

Afternoons at El Alisal
4:30pm - 7:30pm, Members Only

May 5, 2012

Homestead Museum Victorian Fair

May 19, 2012

Lummis Day Fundraiser at Lummis Home

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Images Of America
Highland Park
by Charles J. Fisher
\$21.99

Founded during the 1886 land boom in Southern California midway between the cities of Los Angeles and Pasadena, the original Highland Park tract was part of the Rancho San Rafael. Highland Park was the first town to be annexed by Los Angeles, but it nonetheless retains a strong sense of its own identity and has taken a fiercely independent path. The community prides itself on its unique history, architecture, and diversity, and it has always been the home of artists and writers. One such resident was Charles Fletcher Lummis, who helped to preserve the history and culture of the land he dubbed "the Southwest."