

OFFICERS

John O. Pohlmann, Ph.D.
PRESIDENT

Kenneth H. Marcus, Ph.D.
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Linda Mollno, Ph.D.
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

William J. Barger, Ph.D.
SECRETARY / TREASURER

ADVISORY DIRECTOR
Kevin Starr

Pat Adler-Ingram, Ph.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DIRECTORS

Greg Fischer
Steve Hackel
Andrew Krastins
Cecilia Rasmussen
Paul Spitzer
Ann Walnum

The headquarters of the
Historical Society of
Southern California
is located at the historic
Lummis Home (El Alisal)
200 East Avenue 43
Los Angeles CA 90031

323/460-5632

www.socalhistory.org

THE SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIAN
is published quarterly by
HSSC, a California
non-profit organization
(501)(c)(3)

Romualdo Valenzuela
NEWSLETTER LAYOUT

Pat Adler-Ingram, Ph.D.
Julian van Zandweghe
CONTRIBUTORS



A sketch of Green River Cliffs by Thomas Moran, 1923.

Braun Research Library Collection, Autry National Center; MS.1, page 409.

Museum of the Invisible Art

Old photographs show the Lummis Home full of authentic Navajo rugs, elegant Hopi basketry and beautiful pottery from across the Indian lands. All of these went long ago to the Southwest Museum to form the nucleus of Charles Lummis' ethnological collections. Another treasure to go to the Southwest Museum was the original Lummis housebook. Evoking the social and cultural life of the house, it can still be consulted in replica on the display table in the Museo. It holds the historical record of notable people who visited here. Their talk and laughter and their songs were as much a part of the house as Lummis himself. With a bit of research into the diaries and publications of Lummis and the help of the housebook we can imagine the vibrant culture of Los Angeles in the early 20th century.

The painter Thomas Moran visited and must have stayed on after dinner to paint from memory this watercolor of the eroded cliffs rising along the Green River in Wyoming. By this time he was famous, having come west as a young man after training in England where he was influenced by the famous J. M. W. Turner. Turner was a romantic, known as the "Painter of Light."

The Green River scene fascinated Moran. He saw it first and sketched it when he arrived in 1871 to join Dr. Ferdinand D. Hayden's party commissioned to make a survey of the western wilderness. The land would become Yellowstone National Park. This view of the Green River cliffs was one of many versions Moran produced for Dr. Hayden's report to the congress of the United States and then for sale to an American public avid for scenes of the newly discovered west.

The house is rich in the remembrance of famous people like Moran who came to supper here, talked and sang here, and gloried in the exchange of ideas. Almost seven thousand guests signed their names in the Lummis housebook. We are grateful to Dennis Harbach for his scholarly analysis of the names and the searchable data base he has produced.

Lummis liked to think of himself as a Spanish grandee opening his castle to hordes of friends. He wrote in *Flowers of Our Lost Romance* that the first Californios kept alive a Spanish tradition of hospitality that we should never forget. We are trying now to hold fast to the tradition.

By Patricia Adler-Ingram

Homage to Jane Apostol

Our April Afternoon at El Alisal was devoted to the recognition and appreciation of HSSC Fellow and award-winning historian, Jane Apostol.

We began with a tribute by Merry Ovnick, editor of the *Southern California Quarterly*, who traced Jane's career beginning as a volunteer and a reader at the Huntington Library to a trusted researcher for whom the library opened collections of never before utilized papers. Merry also announced that the latest of Jane's articles had just been accepted for publication in a future issue of the *Quarterly*.

Tom Apostol presented to HSSC copies of his marvelous anthology of Jane's articles, for sale at the El Alisal Bookstore, with proceeds to go to our Publications Fund. This great book is of a size to be read at a library table under a proper light where the clarity of the many photographs can be fully appreciated. It's a birthday gift from Tom to his wife. His dedication --- "From Tom to Jane for she knows what and she knows why."

Actor Barry Sattels read a passage from Lummis' *Flowers of Our Lost Romance*, recounting the dinner party when the flamenco music of old Spain was first heard in the house. Guitarist Gabriel Reyna picked up the story with the opening chords of the flamenco dance followed by the clear voice of Guillermo Gonzalez and the swirling dance of Angelita Macas and Ara Melkonian. Angelita told us about the art of flamenco, the recognized forms, the rhythms emphasized with the handclapping and heel taps of the dancers, the percussive castanets, when the audience should shout "Ole !" and when the audience should not. Then we were ready to watch and listen and feel the old house thrumming once again with the spirit of flamenco.



Gabriel Reyna and Guillermo Gonzalez performing in the alcove.



Merry Ovnick addresses the crowd.

Piano Tuning

With the HSSC's staff's newly discovered information about the famous guests who came to dine with Lummis and especially the musicians, we are more aware of the importance of our piano. We are also beginning to realize that our old upright piano needs very special care to survive the temperature and humidity swings of the Lummis House. It was becoming out of tune and lacking in purity of tone in the lower register. Luis Rosalebron, Andrew Krastins' piano collaborator suggested a well-respected piano technician, Ed Whitting to help with the job. Ed is a second generation piano technician and tuned for such venerable places as the LA Phil, Hollywood Bowl and Long Beach Symphony.

This was no small undertaking. Staff and visitors sat on the floor to watch as Ed worked with his wife, Bonnie, to release and tension one bass note after another. Ed very graciously answered questions. By the time he returned for the third stage of his work, we had a bigger audience and a lot more questions. We think there's a book in it -- "The Secret Life of the Piano."



Photos by: Ariel van Zandweghe



ANNOUNCING A NEW PUBLICATION FROM HSSC

The Courthouse Crowd: Los Angeles County Government, 1850-1950

Tom Sitton's new book explores the changing structure of county government and the people who shaped its course through a century of rapid development.

Special pre-publication price of \$25.

Order today at www.socalhistory.org or 323/460-5632

Funded by The Haynes Foundation



HSSC board member and Master of Ceremonies Andrew Krastins starts the festivities by performing a few classical pieces.

Photo by: Dennis Harbach

Meeting of the Order of the Mad March Hare

Thanks to everyone in attendance, the March Afternoon at El Alisal became a phenomenally successful resumption of the old Charlie Lummis birthday parties. Since almost a hundred years have flown past since the last such party, each member was issued a guidebook, or a how-to manual -- a copy of Merry Ovnick's article in the Southern California Quarterly, "Two Party Invitations"-- but the party was hoppin' all on its own from the moment the doors were open.

It was board member Andrew Krastins who had the dream. Andrew brought together the musicians to perform songs recorded by Charles Lummis and a very special composition, an unpublished sonata by Arthur Farwell. Farwell had worked with Lummis in 1923 to annotate the piano accompaniments for *Spanish Songs of Old California*. Luis Rosalebron of Fullerton College, piano, and Andrew Krastins, violin, gave the sonata its first public performance.

Tom Bopp, pianist and entertainer of the Wawona Hotel, came down from Yosemite to recount stories of John Muir and Galen Clark who enjoyed many a party in Lummis' house. Tenor Cornelio Guerra, accompanied by Louis J. McMullin, performed *La Hamaca* and then led us in *Adios, Adios, Amores*, songs that had been recorded by Lummis at El Alisal and included in his songbook.

It was part of Andrew Krastin's dream that we feast on hasenpfeffer as Lummis' birthday guests did and thanks to Ann Walnum and Luis Rosalebron we did just that. And thanks to contributions by everyone else the usual table of cheese and crackers became a full buffet with salads, vegetarian chili, fluffy white rice and fruit plates and, of course, a huge birthday cake.

By Patricia Adler-Ingram

Tenor Cornelio Guerra accompanied by pianist Louis J. McMullin serenades a packed Lummis Home.



Tom Bopp



Photos by: Christian Rodriguez

Explore the History and Future of Jews in Los Angeles At the Autry in Griffith Park

Presented in association with Jews in the Los Angeles Mosaic, on view May 10, 2013 - January 5, 2014



Jews in the Los Angeles Mosaic Symposium Sunday, May 19 - 8:30am - 5:00pm

Inspired by the new exhibition at the Autry, “Jews in the Los Angeles Mosaic,” this symposium, presented with the Historical Society of Southern California and the UCLA Center for Jewish Studies, will consider the influence of the Jewish community in Los Angeles and the ways in which the city has shaped it in return.

Bringing leading scholars together with community leaders, panel discussions will examine the multiethnic experience in Los Angeles and the formation of the mosaic, and consider the Jewish experience in Los Angeles as a part of the broader picture of Jewish life in America. The wide-ranging conversations will explore race riots and philanthropy, Hollywood and politics, religion and public art, and other topics.

Baist's Real Estate Surveys, circa 1921. Map Collection, Los Angeles Public Library.

Panelists include:

Stephen Aron, chair of the Autry Institute and professor of history, UCLA; Arthur Benveniste, Sephardic community historian; Bill Fishman, Newmark/Lazard family historian; Erik Greenberg, director of education, Autry National Center; Todd Presner, Sady and Ludwig Kahn Director of the UCLA Center for Jewish Studies, and professor of Germanic languages, comparative literature, and Jewish studies, UCLA; Steven J. Ross, professor of history, University of Southern California; Carol Schneider, family member of artist Lorraine Schneider; Sarah Schrank, professor of history, California State University, Long Beach; Raphael Sonenshein, executive director of the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs, California State University, Los Angeles; Brenda Stevenson, professor of history, UCLA; Allison Varzally, associate professor of history, California State University, Fullerton; Karen Wilson, exhibition curator and Kahn Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, UCLA Center for Jewish Studies; and Steven Windmueller, Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk Emeritus Professor of Jewish Communal Service at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2013 (vol. 95, no. 2)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SEEKING AMERICA IN AMERICA: THE FRENCH IN THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

BY KAREN S. WILSON

JUDGE IGNACIO SEPULVEDA: A LIFE IN LOS ANGELES AND MEXICO CITY, 1842-1916

BY PAUL BRYAN GRAY

THE SOLDIERS' CITY: SAWTELLE, 1897-1922

BY CHERYL L. WILKINSON

THE HISTORIAN'S EYE: WHAT DOES A HISTORIAN NOTICE IN A PHOTO FROM THE PAST?

CONTRIBUTORS

Karen S. Wilson currently is the Sady and Ludwig Kahn Research Fellow with the UCLA Center for Jewish Studies, working on "Mapping Jewish Los Angeles," a multimedia digital history project. She is curator of "Jews in the Los Angeles Mosaic" at the Autry National Center (May 2013-January 2014). She received her Ph.D. in U.S. History from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her dissertation, entitled "On the Cosmopolitan Frontier: Jews, Social Networks, and Nineteenth-Century Los Angeles," examines the ways in which diverse social networks shaped the emergent American city and the incorporation of Jewish settlers in post-Gold Rush society.

Paul Bryan Gray, a practicing attorney in everyday life, is a productive historian as well. His book *A Clamor for Equality: Emergence and Exile of Californio Activist Francisco P. Ramírez* was published in 2012 by Texas Tech University Press. His most recent article in the *Southern California Quarterly*, "'The Men Were Left Astonished': Mexican Women in Las Juntas Patrióticas de Señoras, 1863-1866," (vol. 94, no. 2; Summer 2012).

Cheryl L. Wilkinson is a May 2013 candidate for the Master's degree in history at California State University, Northridge. Her article in this issue is an extension of her M.A. thesis, "Veterans in Our Midst: Disabled Union Veterans in West Los Angeles, 1888-1915." Her undergraduate honors thesis at UCLA (2008), also on the Pacific Branch of the National Home for Disabled Veterans, won the Franklin D. Murphy Award for the best paper on the history of medicine written by an undergraduate.

HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY



Summer 2013, Volume 95, No. 2

BOOK REVIEWS

Fiege, *The Republic of Nature: An Environmental History of the United States*, by Brett Mizelle, 230

Watts, *Maynard L. Parker: Modern Photography and the American Dream*, by Carolyn Brucken, 233

Melcher, *Pregnancy, Motherhood and Choice in 20th Century Arizona*, by Cari Lyle, 235

Lasner, *High Life: Condo Living in the Suburban Century*, by Matt Ides, 237

Sides, *Post-Ghetto: Reimagining South Los Angeles*, by David Torres-Rouff, 240

Save The Date

May 19, 2013

MOTA Day @
The Lummis Home
10:00am - 5:00pm

May 19, 2013

Jews in the Los Angeles Mosaic @
The Autry National Center
8:30pm - 5:00pm

Historical Society of
Southern California
Post Office Box 93487
Pasadena CA 91109
www.socalhistory.org
(323) 460-5632

Non-profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pasadena CA
Permit # 559

Remember: **VROMAN'S** Gives Back

REGISTER AS A SUPPORTER
of HSSC and VROMAN'S Bookstore will give back
one percent of your purchases directly to the
Historical Society.

At the time of purchase make sure to let the cashier know
you want to support HSSC.

VROMAN'S
695 E Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena

Hastings Ranch Shopping Center
3729 E Foothill Blvd
Pasadena

El Alisal: Where History Lingers

by Jane Apostol

Available at the El Alisal Book store at the Special price of \$10.00



EL ALISAL
WHERE HISTORY LINGERS
BY JANE APOSTOL

Charles Lummis has resurfaced in recent years as a subject of considerable historical interest. Larger than life at times, full of contradictions as times, certainly unorthodox with a flair for the dramatic, Lummis has long been shrouded in myth and half-truths. He can now step forward as Jane Apostol concisely and accurately introduces both the man and his beloved El Alisal. Once Lummis had safely arrived here, he was fond of saying the "God made California and He made it on purpose." I suspect, however, that those who came to know this energetic and theatrical author, editor, librarian, curator, scholar, preservationist, and booster might have found it difficult to apply the same reasoning to Lummis himself. But no matter, as Jane Apostol ably points out, Lummis accomplished a great deal in his nearly three score and ten years. His perceptive and skillful recording of the southwestern scene, for example, earned him praise from Lawrence Clark Powell as the "one against whom all subsequent Southwesterners must be measured."