



The Historical Society of Southern California paid tribute to Kevin Starr, Nadine Ishitani Hata, Iris H.W. Engstrand and Thomas S. Hines for life-time achievements in the service of history at a gala reception and dinner at The Huntington Library in San Marino.

Photo: Suzanne Huddleson

## FELLOWS Honored at Gala

The FELLOWS Award is designed to recognize notable lifetime achievements in the pursuit of history. The four people honored on September 28 at The Huntington Library have certainly distinguished themselves as authors. Together, they have published over 30 books and more than 90 articles and essays. And just as certainly they have distinguished themselves as educators and as public servants in the cause of history.

### **Iris H.W. Engstrand**

Iris Engstrand, professor of history, University of San Diego, has had an abiding interest in Spanish North American history for more than 40 years. Her determination to search out primary sources to uncover the details of a complex Spanish colonial enterprise and her years

of research and writing on Spanish North America have helped us to be more inclusive in our understanding of what constitutes our common past as a nation.

In particular, she has focused her attention on the major scientific expeditions of Spain in the 18th Century. Their work was never published and they were consigned to the shadowlands of history until Iris Engstrand started combing the archives from Mexico City to Madrid and beyond.

Iris has continued the investigation until the complete story of Spanish scientific activity during the Enlightenment, as well as Spain's contribution to the advancement of scientific thought, is now more fully known.

She has also actively served her university, the community of San Diego, and the larger Southern California historical community with a variety of impressive contributions.

### **Nadine Ishitani Hata**

Nadine Ishitani Hata has worn many hats as historian, always being careful to connect her academic experiences to the larger community with numerous professional appointments at the local, state, and national level. She is vice president of academic affairs at El Camino College, an institution she has served with distinction for 30 years.

Nadine Hata served eight years on the California State Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights, including four years as vice chair for Southern California. In 1976



# HSSC says thanks to Vroman's and welcomes new members

VROMAN'S GIVES BACK IN style. On November 14 at Vroman's new store—the Museum Collection—on Lake Street in Pasadena, the oldest continuously operating historical society in California joined forces with the oldest independent book shop in Southern California. While HSSC invited members to shop at the store which features museum

reproductions, books on architecture and unique items, we also welcomed patrons who were not members and introduced them to the historical society.

On this special shopping day, five percent of ALL sales were donated to HSSC. Normally the VROMAN'S GIVES BACK program donates one percent of purchases to the organization chosen by patrons. HSSC thanks Vroman's for its generosity.

## Book Collector's Club

The day—more precisely, the evening—also saw the first meeting of Vroman's Collector's Club led by Tom Andrews.

The Club is intended for beginning collectors as well as those with extensive collections. Tom says, "I want it to be an open, informal, attractive, engaging, informative time." The

meetings will include other speakers who are collectors and will meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at 340 South Lake in Pasadena.

## New members' reception

New Society members were treated to a reception at the Lloyd Wright-designed Derby House in Glendale on October 14.

Hollyhock House curator, Virginia Kazor, jokingly protested having only ten minutes to tell the story of Frank Lloyd Wright who died at age 89, working right up to the end. By covering the highlights of his life in decades, she did an admirable job.

Dana Hutt, coauthor of a recent book on Lloyd, presented a succinct history of the son who although overshadowed by his father nevertheless influenced the legendary architect.



Margaret Dickerson and Richard Gilman welcome Vroman's Museum Collection patrons during HSSC's day at the store.



Sig Demke, HSSC president, welcomes new members to the Derby House.

Photos this page:  
Michele Clark



Owners of the Derby House, Michael and Carole Dougherty, left and far right, pose with speakers Virginia Kazor, historic site curator, LA Cultural Affairs Dept., and Dana Hutt, coauthor of the latest book on Lloyd Wright. All four admire the Derby House drawing by Hortensia Chu which HSSC gave the Doughertys in appreciation.





Michael Engh welcomes Don Parson to the Dunning Lecture.

## Dunning Lecture on Los Angeles by Engh draws huge crowd

The second George A.V. Dunning Lecture was delivered by Michael E. Engh, S.J. to more than 200 people at The Regal Biltmore Regency Hotel in Los Angeles on November 12.

IN HIS LECTURE, "Meeting the Needs of Our Time: Builders of the Humane City in Los Angeles, 1900-1950," Michael Engh portrayed Los Angeles citizens who enhanced the city's social capital. Father Engh defined "social capital" as the connections among individuals which they fashion into larger social networks. For the networks to endure, he went on, the city's residents must trust in one another. And that trust is exhibited in respect and support of one another. To illustrate this concept

Father Engh quoted legendary Yankee baseball player, Yogi Berra: "If you don't go to somebody's funeral, they won't come to yours."

Among the bridge builders Father Engh chose were: Mary Julia Workman, Kate Page Crutcher, Reverend Dana W. Bartlett, G. Bromley Oxnam, Thomas J. O'Dwyer, Aimee Semple McPherson, Frank Wilkinson, Reverend Clayton D. Russell and Saul Alinsky.

He said their often-heroic attempts to improve life in Los

Angeles constitute examples we need to appreciate. Their stories flesh out our city's history. More than ever, he said, our city needs the passion of cross-cultural bridge builders of the past if we are to confront current difficulties and work out solutions.

Armed with this part of our history, we can begin to make sense of present painful realities and to fashion a more liveable and just metropolis.

Photos: Jon Wilkman



Henry Zinman at work. The Dunning Lecture is available on videotape and may be borrowed from HSSC.

## Catherine Mulholland signs her book

ON SEPTEMBER 10—a clear and sunny Sunday afternoon—more than 100 members and friends descended on the Lummis Home to hear Catherine Mulholland, the granddaughter of William Mulholland, tell about the legendary water engineer's impact on Los Angeles and her memories of him.

Afterward while some stood in a long line to have Catherine sign copies of her just-published book,

*William Mulholland and the Rise of Los Angeles*, others waited for their turn enjoying cookies and a cup of refreshing punch in the dining room of El Alisal.

The book challenges many of the prevailing versions of Mulholland's life story and sheds new light on the history of Los Angeles. A few signed copies are available at the El Alisal Book Shop and may be ordered by calling (323) 222-0546.



Catherine Mulholland cheerfully signs more than 100 books at the Lummis Home event.

Photo: Margaret Dickerson





### Save This Date

Saturday

March 3

9:00am-5:00pm

**HISTORY CONFERENCE**

AUTRY MUSEUM

Los Angeles

she was appointed by the governor to the California State Historical Resources Commission. During her eight year tenure she twice served as chair.

At the national level, Nadine Hata was the first community college member to be elected to the teaching division of the American Historical Association, where currently she is a member of the AHA's highest governing council. As a result of her efforts, the community college experience is now more fully recognized nationally within the history profession.

Nadine has shown that a meaningful connection to the past demands, above all, active engagement.

#### **Thomas S. Hines**

Thomas Hines has been a major contributor to the growing body of scholarly literature on American architecture and society.

Professor of history and architecture at UCLA, he is the author of three splendid architectural biographies, each marked by scholarship, balance, and literary grace: *Burnham of Chicago*, *Richard Neutra and the Search for Modern Architecture*—which coincided with the Neutra Retrospective at the Museum of

Modern Art of which he was a curator—and *Irving Gill and the Architecture of Reform*.

In *William Faulkner and the Tangible Past* Hines demonstrated that nature and architecture are of equal importance in understanding Faulkner's world.

Thomas Hines is now concentrating on a major study of "Modernist Los Angeles Architectural Culture in the 20th Century," a work we eagerly await.

His richly textured explorations of the cultural history have sharpened our sense of place and personal identity as Southern Californians.

#### **Kevin Starr**

Our fourth awardee—Kevin Starr, state librarian and professor at USC—commands the field of California history.

Kevin Starr has woven a rich tapestry of multivolume length to explain what California meant to Americans, and in turn, how American values, expectations and imaginations have shaped the development of a self-conscious California identity, north and south.

Kevin Starr has given us a vivid and absorbing account of California's quest for regional

identity while probing the meaning of the process whereby the California of fact and the California of imagination shape and reshape each other.

In each volume there is a chain of biographical sketches wrapped around the quest for regional identity that makes up what we might call the DNA of California cultural history. In these five volumes, then, with two more to come, he has given us a sweeping and engaging narrative that is at once ambitious, complex and absorbing.

Kevin Starr has connected California history with the larger conversations in American history. And in so doing he has reached a new and growing audience.

#### **Four models**

These four individuals have made us more cognizant of human differences and similarities over time, have enhanced our awareness of the complexity of historical causation, have demonstrated that a meaningful connection to the past demands imagination, empathy, and above all, active engagement, and have shown us how to enter the past with curiosity and respect.

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