



PHOTO: Suzanne Huddleson

Nunis Retires As Quarterly Editor After Completing 43 Years

A milestone has been reached. With the Winter 2004 issue of the *Southern California Quarterly* Doyce Nunis is stepping down as pro bono editor, a position he has held since the March 1962 issue.

Plain and simple, this total of 43 years amounts to a million-dollar labor of love on his part—a monumental gift to history, to Los Angeles, to HSSC and to hundreds of scholars who saw their work improved by his keen editorial eye.

Doyce was at UCLA when he took over as editor with the March 1962 issue. His first issue contained articles on Bret Harte, the Eucalyptus Crusade, and Saint Vibiana's Cathedral, plus his own announcement of "A New Dress Under a New Plan."

Doyce did more than change the title of the Quarterly, he kept it from drifting toward antiquarianism, made it fiscally responsible in terms of printing costs, and took it to the top level nationally as a regional journal of history.

Forty-three years later, Doyce is responsible for the editing of more than 685 articles and some 1,235 book reviews, surely making him the doyen of journal editors. Actually, there is no way to calculate the number of hours Doyce has spent reading and revising manuscripts (some up to three or four times) before accepting them for publication.

Think about it this way: because of Doyce's dedication to the scholarship of history, some 600 scholars have published articles in the

Continued from page 1

Southern California Quarterly and more than 1,000 authors have had their books reviewed.

These are amazing totals, reflecting one person's commitment, outreach, and influence on the scholarship of history in our region. Think for a moment what impact the absence of those articles and book reviews would have on the scholarship of southern California history had Doyce not decided 43 years ago to edit the *Quarterly* without salary.

During his time as editor several special issues of the *Quarterly* have appeared, including the following: "Mission San Gabriel Arcangel" (1971); "Centennial Salute to Hollywood" (1987); "History of Philanthropy in Southern California" (1989); "Land Policy and Land Use in Southern California" (1993); "St. Francis Dam Disaster Revisited" (1995), and "Mission San Fernando Rey de Espana" (1997).

And during his time as editor, the design and size of the *Quarterly* was changed in 1998 to make it more attractive and engaging to the reader. Color covers were added, many selected personally by Doyce. He was involved in every aspect of the journal's production.

All in all it's been quite a journey for the editor, the *Quarterly*, and the Historical Society. Doyce became editor during unsure times for the *Quarterly*; he leaves his post with the *Quarterly* on more secure ground, with one issue endowed and other support pledged.

The Historical Society of Southern California wishes to acknowledge with sincere thanks and deepest gratitude Doyce Blackman Nunis Jr.'s more than four decades of selfless service as pro bono editor of the *Southern California Quarterly*. Well done, indeed!

Thomas F. Andrews
Executive Director, HSSC

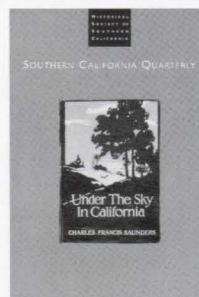
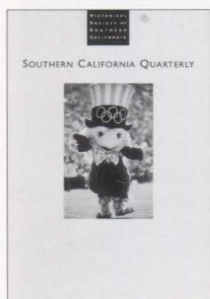


PHOTO: Suzanne Huddleson



COUNTERCLOCKWISE: The summer 2001 and fall 1998 covers of the *Quarterly*. Joining Doyce, center, on his 70th birthday are: Hugh Tolford, Nadine Hata, W. Turrentine Jackson, and Glen Dawson. The spring 1991 cover of the *Quarterly*.



HSSC Welcomes Merry Ovnick As New Editor of the SCQ

Beginning with the Spring 2005 issue, Dr. Merry Ovnick, assistant professor in history, California State University, Northridge (CSUN), assumes the post of editor of the *Southern California Quarterly*.

Professor Ovnick has served as book review editor of the *SCQ* since April 2003, and brings a long-standing commitment to Los Angeles history, architectural history and preservation. She actively participates in two local history colloquia: The Huntington Library's Los Angeles History Research Group and the UCLA-Autry Western History Workshop.

Recipient of a number of grants and fellowships, Dr. Ovnick's 1994 publication, *Los Angeles: The End of the Rainbow*, received HSSC's Donald H. Pflueger Local History Award.

In addition to her publications, conference presentations, and community activities, Merry Ovnick is a dedicated and engaging classroom teacher, introducing new and interdisciplinary courses at CSUN. She also serves as History Department Internship Coordinator, a program she created in 1994.

HSSC is pleased to begin this relationship with Dr. Ovnick and with CSUN for the editing of the *Southern California Quarterly*.

PHOTO: Michele Clark

Board Members Laud Doyce's Editorship

MY TIME ON THE BOARD OF HSSC, including the past two years as president, is only half of Doyce B. Nunis' commitment of 43 years as Quarterly editor. His dedicated, professional, and selfless gift of free personal service has kept the Quarterly in the forefront of regional historical journals. His record is unmatched in its generosity, faithfulness, and historical dedication. Upon his legacy, HSSC and its leadership has been able to build new initiatives assuring its future as part of southern California's premier historical journal.

Larry E. Burgess, Ph.D.
President, HSSC

DURING MANY OF DOYCE'S FORTY-THREE years as the editor of the Quarterly, that publication alone has represented the principal endeavor of the Historical Society of Southern California. Through lean years and fair it has served as a lifeline of continuity for the Historical Society. To this day the scholarly articles in this distinguished publication, which line the shelves in scores of academic institutions, are the first avenues of research for scholars writing on any subject pertaining to the varied history of southern California.

Powell Greenland
a past president of HSSC



Doyce and his mother, Winnie, at his 70th birthday celebration.



PHOTO: Margaret Dickerson

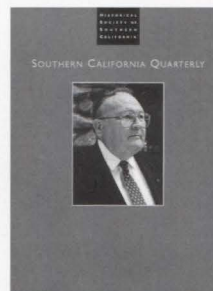
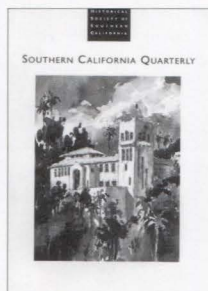
The late Martin Ridge, right, former president of the Historical Society, congratulates Doyce Nunis on giving the inaugural George A.V. Dunning lecture on Los Angeles at The Getty Center in West Los Angeles.

DOYCE HAS GIVEN UNSELFISHLY of his time and energies without remuneration or compensated leave, for over forty-three years to make the *Southern California Quarterly* the journal it is today. His endeavors have been heroic, his intentions noble, and his work an example for scholars now and of future generations.

James A. Sandos, Ph.D.
Farquhar Professor of the Southwest, University of Redlands

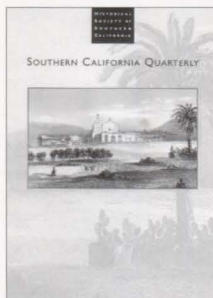
DOYCE NUNIS' EXTRAORDINARY 43-year editorship of the *Southern California Quarterly* merits deep respect. The heart of a successful historical society is its quarterly journal. For almost half a century Doyce's editorial talents have sustained HSSC as the foremost advocate of southern California's past....His remarkable tenure as editor of the *SCQ* is a milestone in the history of editing. His footprints are everywhere in the historical scholarship on southern California.

Gerald Prescott, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of History, CSUN



The fall covers of the 1999 and 2001 Quarterly

PHOTO: Suzanne Huddleson



Spring 2003 Quarterly cover

Editorial Office of the SCQ to be Moved to CSUN

Look for more information on the relocation of the editorial office and nature of the new partnership between HSSC and CSUN in the next newsletter.

HSSC IS UNIQUE AMONG HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS in having had the services of a single editor of its academic journal for forty-three years. In this time period, a scholarly quarterly has emerged as one of the most respected publications on our region's history.

Doyce Nunis, renowned historian of California, with an equally long and distinguished career as a published scholar, has raised the level of scholarship published in the Quarterly, introduced readers to the work of a large number of young academics and distinguished historians alike, and widened the understanding of the diversity of our local history through the countless articles published in the *SCQ* in his forty-three years as editor.

Doyce has worked tirelessly and selflessly on behalf of HSSC and the *SCQ*. He will truly be missed by all of us who have worked along side or under his mentorship. His forty-three year legacy will endure for many years to come.

Gloria E. Miranda, Ph.D.
Dean, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences
El Camino Community College

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA has benefitted beyond all measure of our gratitude from the volunteer service of Dr. Doyce Nunis. Great teacher that he is, he held in clear focus the purpose of the Society to foster research and writing of southern California history to make it available through the Quarterly and to act as keeper of the corporate memory of the Society. His brilliant editorship of the Quarterly through 43 years sustained a reputation of the Society and the integrity of history writing in California.

Patricia Adler-Ingram, Ph.D.
Vice President, HSSC

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