

# The Southern CALIFORNIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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## Meet Director Marian Parks

Marian received her M.A. in American History at the Claremont Graduate School and is a history enthusiast to the core.

As an independent scholar, she has used the research skills she acquired under the tutelage of Dr. John H. Kemble in several areas of historic endeavor.

She has published in the *Southern California Quarterly* and read one of her papers on "Mormons in the Mother Lode" at the American Historical Association meeting in 1984.

A Corona Del Mar resident, Marian has completed two terms as an HSSC board member and will be missed. But she will now have more time to actively pursue her special interest in preserving historical and archaeological sites.



PHOTO: Suzanne Huddleson

*Left to right: Robert Hine, Nancy Banning Call, Commodore Lester Arellanes and Julia Rolle (accepting on behalf of John Kemble and Andrew Rolle), and Doyce Nunis.*

## "A Vision For History" Celebrated at HSSC's Awards Gala

On June 27, an appreciative audience of 136 members and guests attended HSSC's Fourth Annual Awards Gala in beautiful Friends' Hall of the Huntington Library.

Honored as FELLOWS of the Historical Society were Nancy Call, Robert Hine, the late John Kemble, Doyce Nunis, and Andrew Rolle.

Citations commending their vision for history were read by Executive Director Tom Andrews while President Joe O'Flaherty presented the FELLOWS Medallion to each.

Nancy Call was honored for her commitment to historical restoration which transformed the Banning House into a microcosm of 70 years of 19th century Los Angeles history.

Robert Hine was recognized for his interdisciplinary approach to the study

of the American West and for his contributions to our understanding of community on the frontier.

The late John Kemble's many accomplishments as maritime historian were acknowledged. His medallion was accepted by Commodore Lester Arellanes and will be kept at Pomona College.

The history of California and the American West was the special emphasis of Andrew Rolle whose ethnic studies of Italian-Americans were also recognized. His daughter Julia accepted the medallion in his absence.

Doyce Nunis, teacher, editor, scholar, was honored for his role as a servant of history. He concluded the program with acceptance remarks on behalf of his four colleagues.



*HSSC Director Marian Parks.*





## GENTLE READER:

To the central question of why you and I should really want to know and understand the past, historian Michael Kammen offers five compelling reasons.

- To make us more cognizant of human differences and similarities, over time and through space.
- To help us appreciate more fully the non-rational and irrational elements in our behavior: what James Boswell called "the unaccountable nature of the human mind."
- To enhance our awareness of the complexity of historical causation—the unanticipated intertwining of opinion and events—and their consequences for our understanding of that whirlwind we call social change.
- To acknowledge more fully and critically the consequences of what is at stake when people interpret history for partisan purposes on the basis of insufficient or inaccurate information about the past.
- To avoid the tendency to ascribe equal value to all relationships and events. Worse than no memory at all is memory that cannot differentiate between important and inconsequential experiences.

One of the purposes of the Historical Society of Southern California, when it was founded over 100 years ago, was to "provide society with a discriminating memory." That is still our vision and our challenge.

*Tom Andrews*



PHOTO: Suzanne Huddleson

*HSSC President Joe O'Flaherty (center) accepts check from Ahmanson Foundation Managing Director Lee Walcott and Program Officer Mindy Jones.*

## HSSC Receives Ahmanson Grant

The Historical Society has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from The Ahmanson Foundation to support the expansion and enhancement of the Society's membership base.

In the words of Lee Walcott, the Foundation's managing director, "Clearly the programs and publications of the Society are filling an important need within our community and are of significant value."

Enlarging the membership base is a top priority of the Society during the next few years. "The Ahmanson grant is an important step in that direction by providing seed money to begin the process," notes President Joe O'Flaherty.

The Board of Directors and staff are grateful to the Foundation for its recognition of the potential for growth within the Society. Implementation of the grant will begin this summer.

## THE HISTORIC ONE HUNDRED

The HISTORIC 100 is a group of Southern California businesses committed to the preservation, interpretation and promotion of local history through their investment in the Historical Society of Southern California.

The Ahmanson Foundation	Los Angeles Dodgers, Inc.
Alamitos Land Company	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
ARCO	Dan Murphy Foundation
Associated Foundations, Inc.	Newhall Land and Farming Co.
Bixby Land Company	Pacific Enterprises
California Community Foundation	The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
Carnation Company Foundation	Will J. Reid Foundation
Carson Estate Company	Security Pacific Foundation
Department of Water & Power, City of Los Angeles	Times Mirror
Ducommun & Gross Foundation	Unocal Corporation
George A.V. Dunning Fund, California Community Foundation	Unocal Foundation
Tom & Valley Knudsen Foundation	J.B. & Emily Van Nuys Charities
Lawry's Foods, Inc.	Watson Land Company
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## A Handful of History

by Glen Dawson

Glen Dawson is a distinguished Los Angeles bookseller and a FELLOW of the Historical Society.



My five favorite books about Los Angeles and Southern California are bibliographies and reference books that I have used regularly for many years in the book business and in personal collecting. I have known many of the compilers and have made friends introduced by these books.

1. *A Bibliography of the History of California, 1510-1930*, by Robert Ernest Cowan and Robert Grannis Cowan. San Francisco, printed by John Henry Nash, 1933.

Lists some 5,000 books statewide. Contains useful indexes. My copies are marked up and well used.

2. *California Local History, a Bibliography and Union List of Library Holdings*. Second edition, revised and enlarged. Edited by Margret Miller Rocq for the California Library Association. Stanford, Stanford University Press, 1970.

Lists and in many cases locates 17,261 items arranged by county.

3. *Sixty Years in Southern California, 1853-1913*, by Harris Newmark. Edited by Maurice H. and Marco R. Newmark. Fourth edition revised and augmented. Introduction by W. W. Robinson. Los Angeles, Dawson's Book Shop, 1984.

Included because of the detailed index compiled by Perry Worden giving clues on identity of persons and places important in the history of our city.

4. *Los Angeles Imprints, 1851-1876*, a checklist compiled by Willard O. Waters. Los Angeles, The *Quarterly* of the Historical Society of Southern California, June 1937, June 1938 and December 1938.

Although in many ways out of date, it forms the basis of my personal collecting. Part of the fun in using a bibliography is to locate items missed in the original publication.

5. *History and Bibliography of Southern California Newspapers, 1851-1875*, by Muir Dawson. Los Angeles, Dawson's Book Shop, 1950.

Reprinted from the *Quarterly* of the Historical Society of Southern California, March 1950, June 1950.



Kevin Starr autographs *Material Dreams* for Don Pflueger in the Museo of the Lummis Home.

PHOTO: Carole Dougherty

## Starr Signs

The Historical Society was one of only three Southland hosts to offer a book signing by Kevin Starr, author of *Material Dreams: Southern California Through the 1920s*. In the latest volume of his series *Americans and the California Dream*, Mr. Starr focuses on Los Angeles. A few autographed copies are still available at \$25.00 each, plus tax and postage.

## New HSSC Publication Now Available!

### LETTERS FROM THE ORANGE EMPIRE

Edited by Richard G. Lillard  
Afterword by Lawrence Clark Powell

	Quantity	Total
Limited, signed edition (100 copies)	\$45	\$
Regular edition (350 copies)	\$30	\$
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Phone ( )		

Please send checks payable to: HSSC 200 E. Avenue 43

Los Angeles, CA 90031





*Landscape architect Bob Perry answers questions at Garden Open House.*

## Garden Docent Classes Begin This Fall

A series of classes for prospective Garden Docents will be offered on four consecutive Saturdays, beginning September 15 from 9:30 to noon.

Classes include a study of water-conserving plants and irrigation systems. Docents will be asked to lead tours at least one day a month for a minimum of one year after completion of training. Call (213) 222-0546 for details.

PHOTO: Henk Friezer

## Over 1,900 Attend Fourth Annual Garden Open House

Coinciding with Southern California's fourth year of drought, the Fourth Annual Lummis Garden Open House attracted over 1,900 visitors to El Alisal on Sunday, April 1st.

Newly installed area signs led visitors through the water-conserving garden which looked its best thanks to the extra hours of pruning, raking and weeding by garden volunteers.

Showing a seriousness of purpose, visitors (some from as far as San Diego) came armed with pens, notepads and cameras. And garden volunteers and docents were ready for them.

In the yarrow meadow, under a green and white striped tent, Lummis Garden designer landscape architect Bob Perry and other garden experts answered questions about water-conserving gardens. In the shade garden, garden docents including landscape architect Rick Fisher conducted tours continuously.

Popular exhibitors—Bugs Are My Business, Southwest Herpetologists Society, California Native

Plant Society and Theodore Payne Foundation—returned and first-time exhibitors—TreePeople and NorthEast Trees—brought new resources to visitors.

Just for fun, children received blue, green and yellow helium-filled balloons. Young and old alike enjoyed ice cream courtesy of Carnation Company and lemonade and popcorn courtesy of HSSC.

The annual Garden Open House continues to demonstrate to Southern Californians the many practical and painless ways to save water while maintaining a lush, green garden landscape.



*Garden volunteers Erica Goebel and Eve Bock greet visitors to the Lummis Garden.*

PHOTO: Margaret Dickerson

## Invitation To Become Lummis Home Docent

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Lummis Home Docent, please join us at a reception at the Lummis Home on Saturday, August 25 at 10:00 a.m. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call (213) 222-0546.

## Garden Volunteers Welcome

Are you interested in the nuts and bolts of maintaining a water-conserving garden?

If so, you may be a candidate for the Lummis Garden Volunteers.

Every second Sunday of the month at 9:00 a.m. about 25 volunteers meet informally at the Lummis Home to weed, rake, prune, and plant. You are invited to join this dedicated crew.

Call (213) 222-0546 for more information.



## Garden Appeal Promotes Water Conservation

In 1985, the Historical Society of Southern California created the Lummis Water-Conserving Garden in an effort to address an historical issue critical to our present lifestyle and our future in this state—conserving water.

The Lummis Water-Conserving Garden has been a success from the start. With over \$175,000 in funding to reconstruct the garden, the Society has been able to landscape the two acre historic Charles F. Lummis Home site with drought-tolerant trees, shrubs and flowers. The result is a model residential landscape that is inspiring southern Californians to plant more and water less.

This summer, HSSC is launching the first garden appeal to members and the wider community. The Lummis Water-Conserving Garden Fund will support the purchase of more drought-tolerant plants and will add botanical signage. The fund will also be used to produce bi-lingual brochures and promote docent tours to school groups, seniors, garden clubs and the public.

Become a Lummis Water-Conserving Garden supporter with your gift of \$25 to \$500 or more. Garden donors of \$100 or more will be invited to a special garden tour led by landscape architect Bob Perry in September.

For information about how you can support the Lummis Water-Conserving Garden call HSSC (213) 222-0546.

*Visitors listen as Tom Andrews thanks donors and volunteers for making the water-conserving Lummis Garden an educational resource.*

## Jackie Wilson Honored

At the 1990 Garden Open House, the Board and friends honored former HSSC Executive Director Jacquelyn F. Wilson (1980-1985) for her role in establishing the water-conserving Lummis Garden.

Jackie Wilson launched the idea of a water-conserving garden, secured the first grants to fund it and administered the initial stages of the garden's development.

Jackie also guided publication of the *Southern California Anthology* to help celebrate the Centennial of the Historical Society in 1983. She encouraged the participation of the Historical Society in the Los Angeles Bicentennial and in the Olympics. And she started the tradition of the Society sponsorship of History Day/LA.

Joining HSSC in honoring Jackie Wilson were Mayor Tom Bradley, the Los Angeles City Council and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Field Coordinator Veronica Gutier-



*Jackie Wilson beams after Tom Andrews presents her with two awards from the Board of Directors.*

rez represented Councilwoman Gloria Molina when she presented Jackie a hand-lettered scroll commending her for contributions to the City and the Lummis Home.

Tom Andrews, on behalf of Supervisor Edmund Edelman, presented Jackie with an ornate lavender and gilt scrolled resolution listing Jackie's accomplishments.

Jackie, in turn, congratulated the garden volunteers for their work in maintaining the garden and for another successful open house.



PHOTO: Denise Martin

PHOTO: Henk Fritzer



## Hata Receives Outstanding Professor Award

HSSC member Donald T. Hata has been named 1989-90 Outstanding Professor by the California State University Board of Trustees.

The award, given yearly to two individuals from among 20,000 faculty members, recognizes Hata's exceptional teaching of history at CSU Dominguez Hills.

Hata sees the future of historical study in America as one of integration. Now, he says, traditional American history is still taught separately from minority histories. "Our task is to mainstream history," Hata says. "We haven't developed a history for all Americans, and I think that's a shame."

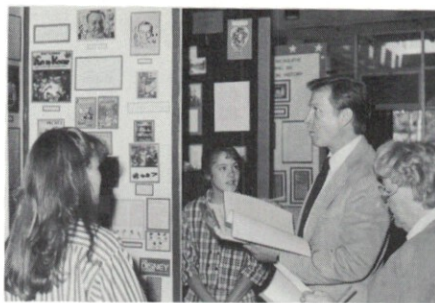
Hata received both his master of arts degree in Asian Studies (1964) and his doctoral degree in history (1970) from the University of Southern California.

Hata and his wife, Nadine, who is dean of behavioral and social sciences at El Camino College, have published numerous articles on the history of Japanese-Americans in the West.

He has served as trustee of the California Historical Society (1979-1989) and was elected to the Gardena City Council, serving for three years (1973-1976).



Don Hata



Gina Dartt and Jill Tschirgi, students at Jefferson Intermediate School in San Gabriel, show their Walt Disney project to History Day/LA judges.

## History Day/LA Captures Honors

On March 24, over 900 junior and senior high school students participated in History Day/LA at the University of Southern California.

This year contestants examined the role of science and technology in history. Student entries included historical papers, slide presentations, and video tapes.

Winning entries are eligible to compete at the state level in Sacramento; winners at the state level continue to compete in National History Day.

Five students from East Whittier Middle School won first prize in the National History Day competition. The seventh-graders won in the junior division for their project on biotechnology and collected a \$1,000 award.

Three students from Roosevelt High School in Boyle Heights won a special \$500 award for best journalism-history project in the senior division for their presentation on the Associated Press news service.

The Historical Society is a proud sponsor of History Day/LA.

## Pflueger Appointed to Commission

Donald Pflueger of Claremont has been appointed to the State Historical Resources Commission by Gov. George Deukmejian. A member of HSSC's Board, Pflueger is a history professor emeritus at Cal Poly Pomona.

PHOTO: Gary Kuwahara

## Lothrop Wins Wheat Award

Gloria R. Lothrop, professor of history at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, is the winner of the CARL I. WHEAT MEMORIAL AWARD for the best article in the *Southern California Quarterly* in 1989.

Her article, entitled "Strength Made Stronger: The Role of Women in Southern California Philanthropy," was published in the special Summer/Fall issue of the *Quarterly* which focused on the history of philanthropy in Southern California.

Lothrop, a longtime member of the Historical Society, has published numerous books and articles on the history of California and the American West, with particular attention to the history of women.

She recently coedited with Doyce Nunis the highly acclaimed *Guide to the History of California*.

The WHEAT AWARD carries a cash prize of \$300 and a framed award certificate. Contributions from the Frank Wheat family, Westerners, Zamorano Club, Clampers and HSSC have made the award possible.



Gloria Lothrop



### Charlotte Gilman - Feminist on the Arroyo

By Beverly Wayte

*Beverly Wayte is a regional historian. She is presently working at the Huntington Library on letters pertaining to early Pasadena.*



PHOTO: Courtesy The Huntington Library Archives

*Charlotte Gilman, about age 24, stands in front of the Channing house in Pasadena in 1885. This is now the site of the Pasadena Historical Society.*

Charlotte Stetson Gilman, feminist lecturer and writer, lived in Pasadena a total of five years between 1885 and 1935. Today she is most widely known for her short story, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (written in Pasadena in 1890), and for books such as *Women and Economics* (1898) and *Herland* (1915). Indeed, Gilman is ranked with the foremost leaders of women's movements in the United States.

In 1882 at the age of 22 Gilman wrote, "I am fonder of freedom than anything else." Two years later in Rhode Island she married Charles Walter Stetson and within a year gave birth to their daughter, Katharine. Suffering from depression because of her new obligations, she travelled to Pasadena to recover, spending five months with her girlhood friend, Grace Ellery Channing.

Returning home to domestic duties caused Gilman's illness to reappear. She attempted a cure with noted "nerve specialist" S. Weir Mitchell, who prescribed bed rest and no intellectual activity. The treatment was "ruinous," according to Gilman, and in 1888 she again fled to Pasadena, this time taking Katharine with her. The two lived for three years in a rented cottage on the banks of the Arroyo Seco.

Gilman's days in Pasadena were filled with activity. She gave painting lessons, helped decorate the new opera house, and held a literacy salon. She and Channing collaborated in writing plays, one being performed for the Valley Hunt Club. Gilman also began a lecturing career, speaking before church groups, Nationalist clubs and the Pasadena Chatauqua Literary and Scientific Circle.

Her subjects ranged from socialized child care to women's dress reforms.

Stetson visited his wife in Pasadena, hoping to convince her to return to Providence. In letters to his mother, he wrote: "Miss Carpenter took Kate to walk in the Arroyo while Charlotte took a nap. . . .went to the Sierra Madre winery, taking Miss Grace as Charlotte didn't want to go. . . . She certainly will have to turn off some of her callers."

Gilman refused to return East with Walter, and in 1891 she moved to the San Francisco Bay area. She and Stetson were finally divorced, and several months later, with Gilman's blessings, he married Grace Channing, and the two left for Italy with Katharine. In 1900 Gilman married her cousin, George Houghton Gilman. Stetson died in 1911.

Gilman periodically visited Pasadena. However, she wrote in her autobiography, "It was a grief to find in Pasadena some close friends of former years now cold to me on the ground that I was an 'unnatural mother'."

Widowed and dying of cancer, Charlotte Gilman made a last trip to Pasadena in the fall of 1934 to stay with Katharine, now married and living on Catalina Street. Grace Channing arrived to spend the final months with her friend. On August 7, 1935, Gilman committed suicide, leaving a note which ended, "I have preferred chloroform to cancer." Channing died in 1937. In 1980 the home on Catalina Street was designated a Pasadena Cultural Heritage Landmark.



## In Memoriam

MARY LOU HARNAGEL, long-time HSSC member, passed away on May 20, 1990. Mrs. Harnagel served on the Board of the Historical Society from 1977 through 1979 and maintained her interest in the Society until her death.

We thank the following individuals who have made contributions to the Historical Society of Southern California in her memory:

James Bowie Family  
Dick and Betty Brill  
Marjorie Fellows  
Friends of the L.A.C.M.A. Library  
Ed, Anne, John and Jim Harnagel  
Huntington Westerners  
Kenneth and Glyn Jones  
Los Angeles County Medical  
Association Auxiliary  
Denver and Marjorie Markwith  
The Moore White Medical Foundation  
Elizabeth Sanders  
Harry Silberman  
Lee Sperling, Hisamune Accounting  
Corporation  
Hugh and Jean Tolford

## SAVE THIS DATE:

### September 30

Unveiling of Garden Education Panels at 1:30; Grand Opening of new book shop; prizes; discounts; plant sale; garden tours; music; house tours.

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Thomas F. Andrews  
*Executive Director*

Denise Martin Campbell  
*Consultant*

*Editors:*  
Margaret Dickerson  
Carole Dougherty

*Printing & Mailing*  
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## New Lummis Home Hours

The Lummis Home (El Alisal) is open to the public Thursday through Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Tours of the home are given each day the home is open while garden tours now are available on Sundays only.

The Lummis Home is located at 200 East Avenue 43 next to the Pasadena Freeway.

HSSC wishes to thank the  
**WATSON LAND COMPANY**  
for underwriting the  
1990 *Southern Californian*.

### ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE . . .

Annual subscription to the *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY*  
Annual subscription *The Southern Californian*  
10% Discount in the Lummis Bookshop  
Access to the HSSC Photo Archives  
Free Lummis Garden Open House and December Holiday Open House

### IN ADDITION . . .

☐ \$25 Student Members and  
☐ \$35 Individual Members  
receive:  
Discounted program  
and event tickets for  
Member and one guest

☐ \$ 50 Dual/Family Members receive:  
Discounted program and event  
tickets for family members.  
☐ \$ 100 Contributing Members receive:  
All of the benefits above  
plus . . . One special publication  
☐ \$ 250 Patron Members receive:  
All of the above plus . . . Two  
special publications  
☐ \$ 500 Benefactor Members receive:  
All of the above plus . . . A Docent-  
led tour of the Lummis Home and  
Garden for four.  
☐ \$1,000 President's Circle Members  
receive:  
All of the above plus . . . Lectures  
and receptions for President's Cir-  
cle members featuring noted  
southern California historians.

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For further information call HSSC at (213) 222-0546.*