



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN

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HSSC Kicks off \$3 Million Endowment Campaign



Photo: Harry Bellows

The following comments were made by George Dunning, Endowment Campaign Chairman, at the September 21, 1996 luncheon celebrating Tom Andrews' ten years as executive director of the Historical Society of Southern California.

As chairman of the Society's Endowment Campaign, I am pleased to share the good news about how far we have come in establishing an endowment.

We have come this far, because of the hard work on the part of Tom Andrews, his staff and the Board. Because Society members have been loyal, generous and enthusiastic. And because the past ten years saw the greatest increase in philanthropy—from corporations, foundations and individuals—in American history.

But the first half of the 1990s has taught us that leaner times could all too rapidly follow the "good old days" of the 1980s. For the Historical Society which begins each year with the fiscal uncertainty that accompanies raising a significant portion of its budget through voluntary giving, it is crucial to develop secure sources of income.

That is why our Board of Directors worked diligently to create a Strategic Plan for the Year 2000 and committed itself to raising \$3 million in endowment and operating funds.

The Endowment for a Third Century will make the critical difference in whether our Historical Society will serve Southern California in the next century as it has in both the 19th and 20th centuries. The Society's Endowment pursues five important goals:

- Endowing the **Editorship of the Southern California Quarterly** which continues to be the definitive journal of Southern California history and research,
- Endowing our **Publishing Program** so that another 25 books—and hopefully many more—will be produced over the next decade,
- Endowing our fledgling **Educational Outreach** activities to our elementary and high schools, and to our colleges,
- Endowing our **Awards Program** for outstanding achievements in history which is an inspiration to our community.
- And finally, endowing the **Executive Directorship of our Society** so that we will be able to attract future leaders as talented as Tom Andrews.

It's a tall order—raising \$3 million—but I am pleased to share with you that

over \$400,000 has been pledged to the Society's Endowment for a Third Century.

Each member of the Society's Board of Directors has made his or her commitment to the endowment as have other close friends of the Society. These are our pioneering donors—people with enormous faith in the role that history can play in our lives.

From here, we intend to attain our \$3 million goal over the next few years through gifts, pledges and estate gifts from individuals, corporations and foundations. Those of us who have already pledged our support hope that all of you will be inspired to join us as the Endowment for a Third Century grows.

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GENTLE READER



SEPTEMBER 21, 1996 is a day that I will never forget. I am in debt to all of you for the rich memories I carried away from the luncheon at the Biltmore that Saturday. Thank you for your kindnesses to me, to HSSC and to history during these past ten years.

HSSC is a place where people have an appreciation of beauty, a tolerance of others, a reaching for mastery without arrogance, a courtesy toward opposing views, a dedication to fairness, an openness to change, an adherence to integrity and precision in thought and speech, and a love for graceful expression.

The strength of HSSC has been in its frankness, its nobility of mind, its independent judgment, its willingness to take risks, its commitment to inclusiveness and nonpartisan interpretation. These characteristics have been demonstrated across 113 years of scholarly publication in history.

The strength of HSSC also has been in the people who have given their time, energy and resources to the Society—and in the corporate and foundation leaders who have supported their efforts—so that the history of our region could be more fully communicated.

Thank you for this, and for the gracious tributes and generous honors. Finally to my peerless staff, I express appreciation for the extra effort they put into making the luncheon a "grand occasion for history."

Thomas

1997 History Conference Set for Autry

On January 18, HSSC will present its second history conference at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage on the theme "Uncovering the Past: Resources for Los Angeles History."

Joining with HSSC and the Autry Museum in making the conference possible are Wells Fargo Bank, California State University, Northridge, Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the Southern California Social Science Association.

Speakers at the conference include Karen Stokes of the Getty Research Institute on its current project "L.A. as Subject," Michael Engh, S.J., "Major Research Collections on the History of Los Angeles;" Gloria Lothrop, "Museums of Los Angeles;" Mike Eberts, "Griffith Park;" and Virginia Comer, "Angels Flight and Bunker Hill."

In addition, panels of historians, archivists and researchers will discuss tools for uncovering the past, including the use of photo archives in Los Angeles.

The conference is part of a two-pronged educational outreach to the schools by HSSC. The other part consists of placing HSSC's publications in the hands of teachers. The two go hand in hand: together they enrich the teachers' understanding of local and regional history, the excitement, which in turn is passed on to the students, enabling them to more fully sense the power of history in their own lives.

FOR LOVE OF HISTORY TRIBUTES

IN MEMORY OF
Elwood W. Holland
Mr. and Mrs. William Escherich

IN HONOR OF
E. Peter Mauk
Drs. Donald and Nadine Hata



Scott Bottles

Photo: Suzanne Huddleson

Meet HSSC Treasurer Scott Bottles

Scott Bottles, senior vice president of Wells Fargo Bank is an anomaly. Not only is he a successful businessman, but he is also an historian with a highly regarded book among his accomplishments.

Los Angeles and the Automobile: The Making of the Modern City, published by the University of California Press in 1987, is the stimulating story of the automobile metropolis during its early formative stages.

Scott earned a Ph.D. in American history from UCLA in 1984, the same year he earned an MBA in finance and accounting from UCLA's Anderson Graduate School of Management.

Since then he has managed one of the largest loan production offices in the real estate division of Wells Fargo—part of the time during a severe recession when he was obliged to supervise and negotiate numerous complex loan restructures.

Scott serves on the board of the Los Angeles Baroque Orchestra and on the advisory board of the Pasadena Conservatory of Music—a reflection of his love of music including jazz, classical and opera.

HSSC is fortunate to have in Scott a treasurer with a wonderful blend of financial acumen and love of history.



Adobe Days

by Gloria Ricci Lothrop

A *Adobe Days*, admired for both its authenticity and vitality, is a record of a vanished era, as well as a documentary of the life of women and children in late nineteenth-century California. The work also provides valuable insights about the author, Sarah Bixby Smith. Therefore, while reading this respected remembrance of childhood for pure enjoyment, each of these aspects should be considered in order to fully appreciate the historical significance of this California classic.

Adobe Days has appeared in several versions, the first an abbreviated one entitled, "A Little Girl in Old California," published in the 1920 *Annual Publications of the Historical Society*

In her engaging look backward, Sarah Bixby Smith provides a description of California between the mining rush and the tourist rush.

of Southern California. In 1923 the same publication ran the "Diary of Dr. Thomas Flint: California to Maine and Return, 1851-55," which contained material that would later be included in *Adobe Days*. At the urging of family and friends Smith expanded her original reminiscence, resulting in the publication of *Adobe Days* in 1925. A second edition soon followed and in 1931 respected bookman Jake Zeitlin undertook as his second publishing venture the printing of 1,500 copies of the third edition of the book, which now in-

cluded new material made available by George H. Bixby and others. As a result of the publisher's subsequent corporate reorganization, a large number of unbound sheets from the book were turned over to Anderson and Ritchie Press, where they were inadvertently destroyed; the consequent scarcity enhanced interest in this edition. Most recently, this enduring classic was released by University of Nebraska Press in 1987.

In her engaging look backward Sarah Bixby Smith provides a description of California between the mining rush and the tourist rush. She offers rare glimpses of early sheepherding at the family's San Justo Ranch in Monterey County and of daily life at Rancho Los Cerritos and Rancho Los Alamitos in Los Angeles County. She also describes life in Los Angeles in an era when both the author and the town were growing up. It was a time of change when the imaginative young Sarah marveled to see "barley fields sprout houses" and Willmore City, now Long Beach, rise on her favorite seaside strand.

Bixby's remembrances take readers back to the green-shuttered communal dwelling at San Justo where Bixby men, recently transplanted from Maine, introduced their new brides to life out west. Her memoirs also take us back to ranches, once part of a vast Spanish land grant, which were home to Sarah in an era before there was a Signal Hill, a Spruce Goose, or a hotel floating on the sea.

With an enviable recollection of detail and a poetic, literary style, Sarah Bixby Smith transports the reader to those "halcyon, sun-lit days" when Los

Angeles was not yet the nation's second largest city, nor one of the major points of foreign entry into the United States, but still "an infant prodigy of a town." The author leads us along her favorite city routes, the first in the nation to be illuminated by electric lights.

These recollections present a city "angelic in name only."

Hanging from towering standards, these lights cast an unfamiliar incandescence, "A beautiful blue light" that could be seen through the windows of the Bixby homestead on Court Street. That world becomes the reader's world as Sarah's words trace the image of the "bare brown velvet hills" bordering the ranches of Hollywood to the west. The vivid descriptions then lead the mind's eye eastward down a hillside, where a town is conjured, "a place of trees and cottages, of open spaces and encircling groves framed to the northeast by a ridge of blue mysterious mountains."

These recollections present a city "angelic in name only," however. Los Angeles in Smith's youth was a dusty western town with many flat-roofed dwellings made of sun-dried

Adobe Days continued on page 6



Dr. Lothrop holds the Whitsett Chair of California History at CSUN.

Tom Andrews and the Historical Society of Southern California Celebrate a Decade of Community Service

September 21 was a red-letter day for both Tom Andrews and HSSC when nearly 200 friends and admirers celebrated a decade of service to history at the historic Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel.

Although Tom was prepared to be in the spotlight, he didn't anticipate the number and kinds of tributes that came his way.

An exhibit of milestones in Tom's and HSSC's life—some of the photographs taken even before Tom knew he would become a historian—was kept secret by an admiring, but conniving staff and family.

Tom confessed he couldn't look at the tribute book in public for fear he would lose control over the lump in his



Top to bottom:

*The Andrews family:
Thomas Warren,
Tom, Karen and
Evelyn.*

*An embarrassed
Tom Andrews stands
next to the photo
exhibit.*

*Karen Andrews and
Tom admire the
County Board of
Supervisors' citation.*



Photos by Suzanne Huddleson

throat. He saved the first thorough reading for the privacy of his home.

Even the county supervisors managed to surprise Tom with a handsome calligraphic citation.

But the biggest surprise came when, on behalf of the board of directors, HSSC President Martin Ridge presented Tom with the FELLOWS medallion, the Society's most prestigious award—another tribute arranged in utmost secrecy.

The tributes were many, the sentiments genuine and the day memorable for all who love history.



MAKING HISTORY:
A DECADE OF
COMMUNITY SERVICE

A Tribute to
Thomas F. Andrews
and
The Historical Society of Southern California
1986-1996

September 21, 1996
The Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles



WELCOME
Martin Ridge, HSSC President

LUNCHEON

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS
Martin Ridge

REFLECTIONS AND TRIBUTES:
Doyce Nunis Jr
Historian
Presented for Dr. Nunis by
Gloria R. Lothrop

Betsy Bartscherer
Manager, Community Affairs
ARCO

Jack Shakely
President
California Community Foundation

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS AND
INTRODUCTION OF HSSC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Martin Ridge

TOWARD A THIRD CENTURY
George A.V. Dunning
Chairman
HSSC Endowment Campaign

INTRODUCTION OF TOM ANDREWS
Martin Ridge



Clockwise:

The Luncheon program.

*George A.V. Dunning announces the
kick-off of the Endowment for the
Third Century campaign.*

*Tom and
HSSC President Martin Ridge.*

Tom with Drs. Don and Nadine Hata.

*Denver and Marjorie Markwith, Tom
and Janice La Moree.*



Adobe Days Continued from page 3

bricks and roofed with pitch drawn from pools of *brea* or tar. The town had not yet overcome the fact that at the time when it claimed only twenty-four hundred citizens its murder rate was one per day.

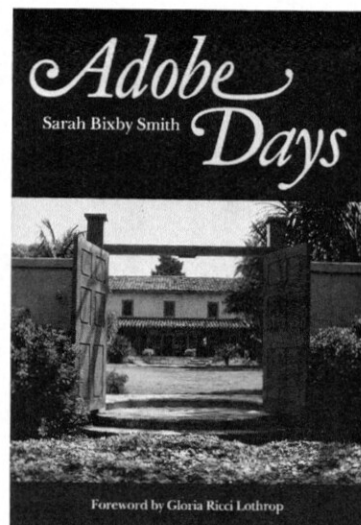
It is within the well-seasoned walls of Rancho Los Cerritos, however, that the young Sarah's vision yields the most precious glimpse of vanished days. Passing through the large gate, she tours each room of the white-washed adobe, sharing small remembrances and even smaller details of customs, tastes and childish pranks; of shining pans of clotted cream in the milk room, of chocolate and brown sugar and gay boxes of Chinese tea, all suffused with the lingering aroma of dried apples, daily baked batches of doughnuts and the ubiquitous aroma of mutton stew.

Once Sarah is across the courtyard, the ranchers spring to life and she retraces their routine. With a detachment born of familiarity, she describes the daily butchering of a sheep, and with contagious excitement she heralds the arrival of a dashing band of Mexican sheepshearers in "ruffled white shirts, high-heeled boots and high-

crowned, wide sombreros," astride their elegantly bedecked horses.

Despite the distracting bustle of ranch life, Sarah's seemingly all-encompassing gaze calmly follows the seasonal cycles of the native flora and traces the growth of the alien plants—the lilacs, roses, oleander, and verbena introduced by succeeding generations of immigrants to California. The procession of settlers reflected an ethnic pluralism implicit in her childhood memories of English, Irish and Portuguese ranch hands, as well as Basque shepherders, Chinese cooks, and a Jewish Rabbi who was the respected friend of her grandfather, a retired minister.

Adobe Days is rich with clues about the lives of women. These glimpses range from detailed wedding preparations to routines of domestic life in town houses and the distant ranches. This narrative also provides a rare description of a child's life in the West. Bixby's world was filled with dolls, games of marbles and jacks, and with glorious Fourth of July celebrations where, in addition to pin wheels and Roman candles, there were Chinese bombs and fire crackers. All was pur-



The cover of the 1987 paperback edition published by the University of Nebraska Press.

sued with an exuberance conveyed most effectively in the author's description of a trek through the black, porridge-like mud of Los Angeles. Smith's description is a veritable paean to the forgotten childhood glories of mud.

The author of this vibrant, graceful backward glance at old California was recognized by the Historical Society of Southern California on her death in 1935. The Society acknowledged that Sarah Bixby Smith "was peculiarly fitted to develop the historical values incident to her wide experience and to preserve them in her written works."

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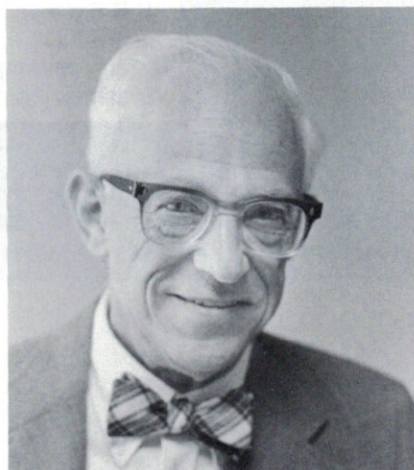


Photo: Suzanne Huddleson

Martin Ridge

Martin Ridge Completes Third Year as President

Besides serving as president of the Western History Association and the Pacific Coast branch of the American Historical Association, Martin Ridge has found time during the last three years to give presidential leadership to the board of HSSC.

Although well known for his scholarship on the American West, Martin Ridge has long had a keen interest in the history of Los Angeles and in the work of historians teaching here—all to HSSC's benefit.

In addition to his historical expertise, Martin brings considerable administrative and financial experience to his role as president. We can say of Martin as was once said of Benjamin Franklin: "More than any other single man, he is a harmonious multitude."

The Hunt for Willie Boy: Indian-Hating and the Popular Culture

James A. Sandos and
Larry E. Burgess

University of Arkansas
1994 Gustavus Myers Center
Award

"outstanding North American
book on human rights"

HSSC Honors Arroyo Friend: Barry Herlihy

HSSC will honor Barry Herlihy of Heritage Square Museum for the leadership he has given to promoting the cultural significance of the Arroyo.

Commenting on Barry's accomplishments, Tom Andrews notes, "Not only is Barry responsible for the concept of the Museums of the Arroyo, but he has also consistently supported the cooperative work of the five museums which comprise the group—thereby helping them develop new ways to work together to reach a larger public.

"Without Barry Herlihy," Andrews adds, "there would be no museums' association and no Museums of the Arroyo Day to call attention to the rich tapestry of the Arroyo Culture."

HSSC Books Will Arrive for the Holidays

The arrival of December also means the arrival of copies of *Angels Flight: A History of Bunker Hill's Incline Railway* by Virginia Comer and *Griffith Park: A Centennial History* by Mike Eberts. The books, eagerly awaited by HSSC members and friends, highlight two of Los Angeles' most beloved landmarks, one recently restored, the other visited by more than ten million people annually.

Together, *Angels Flight* and *Griffith Park* affirm HSSC's commitment to publishing local history—the kind that strengthens our sense of community by pointing out the rich legacy of our shared past. Placed in the hands of teachers, these books will make the study of history even more personal and compelling to students.



Photo: Michele Clark

Auctioneer Stacey Roman describes the painting held by Gina Jiang, a Franklin High School student.

Sixth Annual HSSC Auction is a Big Success

With bidders competing for historical photographs and panoramas, postcards, signed limited editions, original art and choice ephemera, HSSC's annual fall auction brought \$12,000 in support of the Society's publications program.

Authors such as L.C. Powell, Dobie, M.F.K. Fisher, Nunis, Toynbee, Weber, Horgan and Irving Stone; printers such as Ward Ritchie, Grant Dahlstrom, Saul Marks, Jane Grabhorn; photographers such as Julius Shulman, George Wharton James, Cynthia Farah, Vroman and Lummis, and artist Joseph Stoddard headlined the 85 items for auction.

A 39-volume set of Bancroft with an additional 111 California books was another choice item—all 150 books going to the highest bidder.

In the end both the unsuccessful and successful bidders agreed, the warm October Sunday afternoon under a festive canopy in the Lummis courtyard was an enjoyable, lively occasion.

You'll want to mark your calendar to remind you to attend next year's auction.

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN

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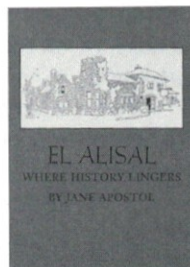
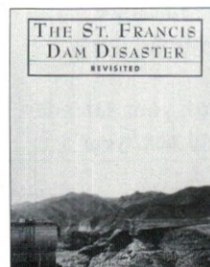
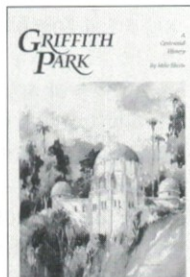
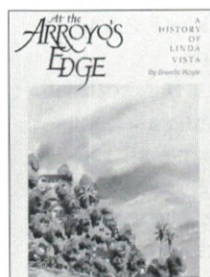
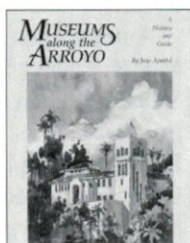
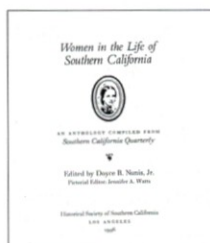
Save These Dates

DECEMBER 7 2 - 4 pm
Holiday Open House
Lummis Home

JANUARY 18 9 am - 4 pm
History Conference
Autry Museum
See page 2 for more information

JANUARY
New Docent Orientation
Lummis Home
Call (213) 222-0546

MARCH 8 12 noon
Pflueger Local History Award
Luncheon
Pasadena DoubleTree



Meet the Authors

Two distinguished book stores host authors of recent HSSC publications

A modern Craftsman bungalow and a remodeled light-filled book shop: the venerable Dawson's Book Shop in the Larchmont area of Hancock Park and the 100-year-old Vroman's Bookstore on Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena. These are the settings for book signings featuring HSSC's favorite authors and editors: Jane Apostol, Virginia Comer, Mike Eberts, Catherine Mulholland, Beverly Wayte, Doyce Nunis and Jennifer Watts. Please join us.

DECEMBER 5

Jane Apostol
Virginia Comer
Mike Eberts
Catherine Mulholland

DAWSON'S BOOK SHOP

Museums Along the Arroyo
Angels Flight
Griffith Park: A Centennial History
St. Francis Dam Disaster & Owensmouth Baby

DECEMBER 10

Jane Apostol

Virginia Comer
Mike Eberts
Catherine Mulholland
Doyce Nunis and
Jennifer Watts
Beverly Wayte

VROMAN'S BOOKSTORE

Museums Along the Arroyo &
Vroman's of Pasadena: A Centennial History
Angels Flight
Griffith Park: A Centennial History
St. Francis Dam Disaster & Owensmouth Baby

Women in the Life of Southern California
At the Arroyo's Edge: A History of Linda Vista