

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Harry P. Bailey. *The Climate of Southern California*. Berkeley, 1966.

This is a complete book that describes the various aspects of the climate of Southern California.

Edmund C. Jaeger and Arthur C. Smith. *Introduction to the Natural History of California*. Berkeley, 1966.

The standard work on this subject.

## PASTORAL AND EARLY AMERICAN PERIODS

Robert Glass Cleland. *The Cattle on a Thousand Hills*. San Marino, 1951.

A fine economic and social history of Southern California through the 1870s. Among its themes it describes the enormous impact of the Anglo-Americans upon Southern California and its Spanish-Mexican population.

Richard Henry Dana. *Two Years Before the Mast: A Personal Narrative of Life at Sea*. New York, 1840.

The author visited Southern California from January, 1835 until May, 1836 while sailing up and down the coast trading for hides and tallow. This book contains fine descriptions of this pastoral period. It is the most popular book on Southern California.

Glenn Dumke. *Boom of the Eighties in Southern California*. San Marino, 1944.

In the 1880s all of Southern California underwent a period of wild land speculation that led to the quintupling of its population. It was this boom that resulted in its final Americanization. Many of the present cities that make up Southern California such as Glendale and Anaheim were founded and laid out by subdivider/speculators during this period.

Paul C. Johnson, ed. *The California Missions: A Pictorial History of California*. Menlo Park, 1979.

A generously illustrated Sunset book. It is the best general history of the California missions.

Remi Nadeau. *City-Makers: The Story of Southern California's First Boom 1868-76*. Los Angeles, 1965.

A readable history of the years 1868 through 1876 that includes chapters on agriculture, bandits, railroads, mining and other subjects. The author states that it was these years that marked the end of the rancho-dominated Spanish-Mexican era in Southern California.

Harris Newmark. *Sixty Years in Southern California, 1853-1913*. ed. by Maurice H. and Marco R. Newmark. 4th ed. rev. and enlarged; Los Angeles, 1970.

A basic book about Los Angeles and Southern California written by a pioneer merchant. W.W. Robinson, in the introduction, comments that "it is a very personal and unique account of a dusty, muddy adobe village emerging from pueblo days and of a young city rising in strength told with intimacy, simplicity, and quiet humor."

Joseph S. O'Flaherty. *The End and a Beginning: The South Coast and Los Angeles, 1850-1887*. Jericho, 1972.

This is a very lively and readable description of various personalities and events in early Los Angeles.

W.W. Robinson. *Los Angeles: From the Days of the Pueblo*. San Francisco, 1981.

This new edition, revised with an introduction by Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., presents a capsulated history of Los Angeles from its founding to the 1880s with particular focus on the Plaza area. It also is a guide to the El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park.

Sarah Bixby Smith. *Adobe Days*. Lincoln, 1987.

In her new forward to this reprint of the 1931 edition, Gloria Ricci Lothrop states: "the book's enduring popularity arises from the clear, closely detailed picture it provides of Southern California, especially Los Angeles in the latter part of the nineteenth century." The author came to Los Angeles in 1878 at the age of seven.

Boyle Workman. *The City That Grew*. Los Angeles, 1935.

A history of Los Angeles by a member of a pioneer family. The author was born in Los Angeles in 1868 and this work is partially autobiographical. It is devoted mostly to 19th century Los Angeles.

## TRANSPORTATION

David Brodsky. *L.A. Freeway: An Appreciative Essay*. Berkeley, 1981.

The author explains the history and meaning of the freeway system for Los Angeles, including the intriguing question of whether a better alternative was ever possible — or ever will become possible.

Spencer Crump. *Ride the Big Red Cars: How Trolleys Helped Build Southern California*. Corona del Mar, 1967.

This is an enjoyable, well illustrated history of the Pacific Electric Railway whose trolleys shaped the development of Southern California for more than a generation. A companion volume by the same author, *Henry Huntington and the Pacific Electric: A Pictorial Album* is a picture book on the same subject.

Ward McAfee. *California's Railroad Era, 1850-1911*. San Marino, 1973.

This book describes the dramatic and colorful story of California's railroads during their golden era. It contains chapters on the coming of the Southern Pacific, the outmaneuvering of Collis P. Huntington and his Southern Pacific by the Atlantic and Pacific with Santa Fe Railway backing, the building of the California Southern from San Diego and the coming of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe to Southern California.

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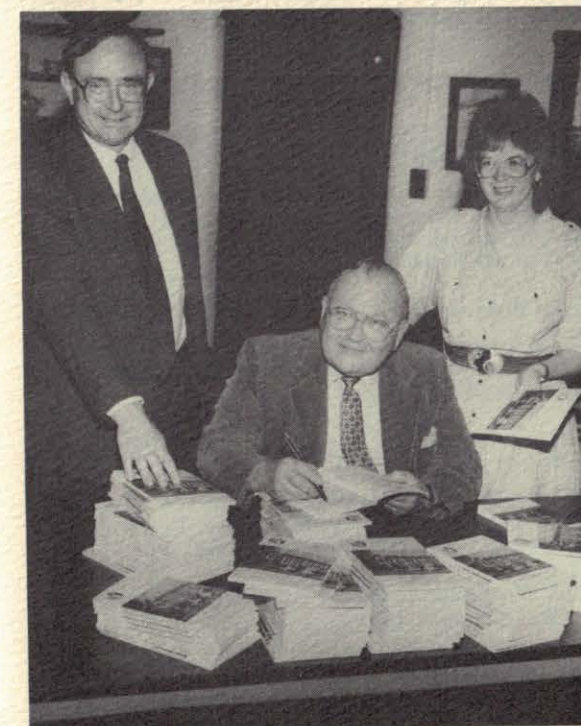
Historical  
Society  
of

200 East Avenue 43  
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# HSSC CALENDAR NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL EDITION  
MARCH 1988

A Guide To Books On Los Angeles



Editor Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. signs the special *San Gabriel Mission* keepsake issue of the Southern California Quarterly as Michael Dougherty, Secretary of the Society, and Margaret Dickerson of the staff join in the occasion prior to the February 17 program at the Mission.

Photo courtesy of Henk Friezer

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## 45 BOOKS ON LOS ANGELES AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: A PRELIMINARY CHECKLIST AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

by Michael H. Dougherty

The following is an annotated list of 45 books for those who want to know more about the people and events that shaped the history of Los Angeles and Southern California.

These books are readable and historically accurate. They are available in libraries and many are in print. The Historical Society of Southern California welcomes your suggestions for improving this list prior to its separate publication as a pamphlet for distribution throughout the Los Angeles area.

A large number of ethnic groups have contributed to Southern California's rich historical legacy. There are, however, very few book-length studies of their experiences. Their stories may be found in the available scholarly journals such as the *Southern California Quarterly*, *California History*, *The Californians*, and the *Pacific Historical Review*.

### GENERAL HISTORY AND AMERICAN ERA

John E. Baur. *Health Seekers of Southern California*. San Marino, 1957.

For more than a generation tens of thousands of persons flocked to Southern California and its climate seeking a cure for tuberculosis and other serious diseases. This is the story of that migration.

Lynn Bowman. *Epic of a City*. Berkeley, 1974.

A history of Los Angeles City and County until 1974. It contains at least one chapter on each of the major aspects of Los Angeles history.

Virginia Comer. *Los Angeles, A View From Crown Hill*. Los Angeles, 1986.

Crown Hill is the area of Los Angeles west of the central business district and the Harbor Freeway. This book tells the story of Crown Hill to the present day.

John and LaRee Caughey. *Los Angeles: Biography of a City*. Berkeley, 1974.

A first-rate anthology of more than 100 writings on Los Angeles and its environs. These writings cover all of Los Angeles history from the Gabrielino Indians to modern day.

Robert Gottlieb and Irene Wolf. *Thinking Big: The Story of the Los Angeles Times, Its Publishers and Their Influence on Southern California*. New York, 1977.

The phenomenal expansion of Los Angeles and the story of its leading voice, the *Los Angeles Times* have always been intimately related. The *Times* policy of boosterism, the great business talents of its owners, and their conservative politics are the main themes of this book.

Judson A. Grenier. *California Legacy: The Watson Family, 1820-1890*. Los Angeles, 1987.

The chronicle of the Dominguez family that received the first Southern California land grant, of James Alexander Watson who married into that family and of the Watson descendants. This is a substantial book which also describes the growth of such communities as Wilmington, Redondo Beach, Torrance and Carson.

Bruce Henstell. *Los Angeles: An Illustrated History*. New York, 1980.

The most recent illustrated history of Los Angeles.

Robert V. Hine. *California's Utopian Colonies*. Berkeley, 1983.

A new edition of this standard work on this subject. It contains chapters describing a number of Southern California utopian colonies.

Abraham Hoffman. *Vision or Villainy: Origins of the Owens Valley - Los Angeles Water Controversy*. College Station, 1981.

This book presents the history of the Owens Valley - Los Angeles water controversy which includes dynamiting, suicide, embezzlement and endless litigation that continues to this day. The popular motion picture Chinatown presented one version of the controversy.

Remi Nadeau. *Los Angeles: From Mission to Modern City*. New York, 1960.

This is a popular history that stresses the city's long-term campaign of boosterism to sell itself to tourists and residents.

Remi Nadeau. *The Water Seekers*. Santa Barbara, 1974.

The diversion of the Owens River waters through the Los Angeles aqueduct and the diversion of the Colorado River waters to Los Angeles are among the most important events in Southern California history. This book is an account of these diversions.

Joseph S. O'Flaherty. *Those Powerful Years: The South Coast and Los Angeles, 1887-1917*. Hicksville, 1978.

This companion volume to *The End and the Beginning* described below covers the history of Southern California from the land boom until the First World War.

Antonio Rios-Bustamonte and Pedro Castillo. *An Illustrated History of Mexican Los Angeles, 1781-1985*. Los Angeles, 1986.

The title of this fine book describes its contents.

W.W. Robinson. *Panorama: A Picture-History of Southern California*. Los Angeles, 1953.

The definitive picture-book of Southern California's history covering from first exploration to the early 1950s.

Andrew Rolle. *Los Angeles: From Pueblo to Modern City*. San Francisco, 1981.

A good readable recent general history of Los Angeles.

John D. Weaver. *Los Angeles: The Enormous Village, 1781-1981*. Santa Barbara, 1981.

This book is a brief, readable, informal, impressionistic overview of Los Angeles history. It is fun to read.

### URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND ARCHITECTURE

Reyner Banham. *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*. New York, 1971.

This perceptive book is a study of Los Angeles architecture and of the city's historical growth process. It is also a fine introduction to understanding the relationship of people to the natural and man-made environments in Los Angeles.

Robert M. Fogelson. *The Fragmented Metropolis: Los Angeles, 1850-1930*. Cambridge, 1967.

An excellent work that explores how Los Angeles emerged as a populous, urbanized and industrialized city while at the same time rejecting the metropolis in favor of the suburb. The author's theme is that the quintessence of Los Angeles is the tension between these two developments.

David Gebhard and Robert Winter. *A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California*. Salt Lake City, 1977.

The standard work on the subject. It is currently being republished in an updated edition in two volumes. As of this time only the first of the two volumes has been published, *Architecture in Los Angeles*, Salt Lake City, 1985.

Paul Gleye. *The Architecture of Los Angeles*. Los Angeles, 1981.

A well written, complete history of architecture in Los Angeles through the early 1980s. This book is profusely illustrated with outstanding photographs.

Judson A. Grenier, Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. and Jean Bruce Pool. *A Guide to Historic Places in Los Angeles County*. Dubuque, 1979.

This excellent guide was prepared through the joint efforts of a number of Southern California historians and the Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles Counties. It describes and gives the location of more than 400 existing buildings and places important to the history of Los Angeles County.

Charles Moore, Peter Becker and Regina Campbell. *The City Observed: Los Angeles — A Guide to its Architecture and Landscape*. Los Angeles, 1984.

A personal architectural guide to Los Angeles by a world-famous architect, Charles Moore, and two co-authors. They view the Los Angeles area as a collection of theme parks. *Los Angeles* is arranged in fourteen chapters each planned as a separate car tour and provides lively appraisals of the 262 buildings that are discussed.

Howard J. Nelson and William A. V. Clark. *The Los Angeles Metropolitan Experience: Uniqueness, Generality, and the Goal of the Good Life*. Cambridge, 1976.

This important study inquires to what extent Los Angeles is unique and to what extent it is similar to other American Metropolitan areas. It is packed with factual data and charts displaying this data. One of the co-authors has published a more recent study. Howard J. Nelson, *The Los Angeles Metropolis*. Dubuque, 1983.

Works Progress Administration. *Los Angeles: A Guide to the City and Its Environs*. New York, 1941.

A very fine guide when it was published. It is a bit out of date now but contains much good material.

### LITERARY AND CULTURAL HISTORY

David Fine ed. *Los Angeles in Fiction*. Albuquerque, 1984.

A recent collection of original essays about writers of fiction who have made the physical and cultural environment of Southern California important in their work.

Arthur Knight. *The Liveliest Art: A Panoramic History of the Movies*. New York, 1978.

The authoritative standard history of the movies, it includes chapters on foreign films as well as Hollywood films.

Carey McWilliams. *Southern California Country*. New York, 1946.

At the time it was published this was the best cultural history of Southern California, and it is still the best for the years it covers. It is an essential work if you wish to understand Southern California's history, peoples and myths and what makes it such a unique environment.

Leonard Pitt. *The Decline of the Californios: A Social History of the Spanish-Speaking Californians, 1846-1890*. Berkeley, 1966.

This book describes the causes of the decline of the native-born Californians or Californios after the United States acquired California. It has excellent chapters on the breaking up of the ranchos, cultural influences and the loss of political power.

Kevin Starr. *Inventing the Dream: California through the Progressive Era*. New York, 1985.

A recent first-class, very readable, cultural history mostly devoted to Southern California. This book emphasizes the emergence of Southern California as a regional culture in its own right.

Franklin Walker. *A Literary History of Southern California*. Berkeley, 1950.

A study of the development of Southern California through an examination of its literature. It describes how outsiders viewed Southern California during its development and how newcomers viewed it after they had joined it. A fine work.