NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

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


The standard work on this subject.

PASTORAL AND EARLY AMERICAN Periods

A readable history of Southern California 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.

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.


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.


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


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.


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."


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


This new edition, revised with an introduction by Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., presents a caputualized history of Los Angeles from its founding to the 1860s with particular focus on the Plaza area. It also is a guide to the El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park.


In her new forward to this reprint of the 1931 edition, Gloria Ricci Lotthrop 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.


A readable 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

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.


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.


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 maneuvering of Collins 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.
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


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.


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.


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.


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 Gabrieleno Indians to modern day.


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 its conservative politics are the main themes of this book.


The chronicle of the Domínguez 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.


The most recent illustrated history of Los Angeles.


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


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.


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


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.


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.


The title of this fine book describes its contents.


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


A good readable recent general history of Los Angeles.


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

URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND ARCHITECTURE


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


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.


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.


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


This excellent guide was prepared through the joint efforts of members of Southern Californians for the Assn. of California Historical Societies of Los Angeles County. It describes and gives the location of more than 400 existing buildings and places important to the history of Los Angeles County.


A personal architectural guide to Los Angeles by a world-famous architect, Charles Moore, and two co-authors. Their finding voice, the Los Angeles Times have always been intimately related. The Times policy of boosterism, the great business talents of its owners, and its conservative politics are the main themes of this book.


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.


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


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.


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


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 people, myths and what makes it such a unique environment.


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.


A well written, readable, cultural history mostly devoted to Southern California. This book emphasizes the cultural emergence of Southern California as a regional culture in its own right.


This book is a history 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.