

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN



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THE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF
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1883

MESSAGE FROM THE HSSC PRESIDENT

In our last newsletter, we detailed a restructuring of the HSSC's activities, to better accord with our resources and changing times. Our foremost goal has been to place the *Southern California Quarterly* on firm footing, so that we can guarantee publication of the journal no matter our resources from year to year. As we began rolling out these changes, you may have noticed that the HSSC did not publish a newsletter in the winter. We are reducing the number of full newsletters to two times per year, Fall and Spring. Thus, this President's Column will update you on the Society's activities in the past six months.

In February, we held the last of our annual conferences (at least for now). Thank you to our host, the History Department at Cal State Northridge, which generously provided the facilities, AV equipment, and food, and especially to Josh Sides, Whitsett Professor of California History and Director of the Center for Southern California Studies, who spearheaded the arrangements. Also, thank you to HSSC Board member, Eileen Wallis, for heading up the conference committee and serving as the liaison with CSUN, and Peggy Renner and Amy Essington, for assisting Eileen. Sixty-four people attended the conference, which included the George Dunning Lecture.

Natalia Molina, who has recently joined the Department of American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California, after many years on the faculty at UC San Diego.. delivered a fascinating and well-received talk, entitled "The Birth of the Anchor Baby: The Decoupling of Face and Citizenship for Mexican Americans in California."

At our conference, the HSSC also announced its book, article, and teaching awards. Award winners are listed elsewhere in this newsletter, but I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate all of our winners, and also thank the members of the award committees, which were chaired by Robert Senkewicz (Santa Clara University), Miroslava Chavez-Garcia (UCSB), Laura McEnaney (Whittier College), and Merry Ovnick (SCQ). Going forward, the HSSC will continue its article awards, but is putting the book, teaching, and service awards on hold.

In our previous newsletter, we informed you that the Ahmanson Foundation had generously agreed to modify restrictions on endowment funds given in the 1990s, however there remained some residual monies associated with this endowment that had been earmarked for book publication. In

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HSSC 2018 AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to all of the 2018 winners.

Francis M. Wheat Award

Barry Read, "Building Mulholland Highway: The Road to Mulholland Drive. Part I: The Campaign, Part II: Construction, Part III: After the Celebration." *Southern California Quarterly* (Spring, Summer, and Fall 1999).

Norman Neuerburg Award

Elizabeth Kryder-Reid, *California Mission Landscapes: Race, Memory, and the Politics of Heritage* (University of Minnesota Press, 2016).

Martin Ridge Award

Joanna L. Dyl, *Seismic City: An Environmental History of San Francisco's 1906 Earthquake* (Seattle: University of Washington, 2017).

Honorable Mention

Marne L. Campbell, *Making Black Los Angeles* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016).

Joseph O'Flaherty Teaching Award

Carina Garret, Palms Middle School, Los Angeles Unified School District



Janna Dyl and Donna Schuele

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN CONTINUED

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order to put these funds to their intended use, we solicited applications from authors of books on Southern California, California, and the American West, who could use assistance offsetting the costs of publication. This initiative proved to be very popular, and we will announce the results in our Fall newsletter.

And, as part of our focus on the *Quarterly*, this newsletter issue contains a research note by Nicole M. Guidotti-Hernández, providing some fascinating background on the genesis of her article, "*Partido Liberal Mexicano: Intimate Betrayals: Enrique Flores Magón, Paula*

Carmona, and the Gendered History of Denunciation", published in the Summer 2019 issue. Guidotti-Hernández described how she was able to uncover the nearly erased life of Paula Carmona de Flores Magón using Ancestry.com. As this research note indicates, this website can be as useful to historians as it is to genealogists. We plan continue to bring you more behind-the-scenes views from our *Quarterly* authors in future newsletters.

On a final note, we announced in our last newsletter that the HSSC had found a home for most all of its collection of archives and ephemera that had accumulated over the years

at the Lummis House. Since then, we have had the pleasure to gift a century-old map of downtown Los Angeles to the Los Angeles Public Library, which adds considerably to the library's collection. We thank Betty Uyeda of the Seaver Center of Western History at the Natural History Museum, for both recognizing the value of the map for the LAPL and arranging

the gift. More details about the map can be found at <https://www.lapl.org/collections-resources/blogs/lapl/major-gift-our-map-collection>.

Thank you for your continued support of the HSSC and we look forward to updating you on our activities in late 2019.



Map Librarian, Glen Creason and American Library Association President Loida Garcia-Febo, look at the map donated by HSSC to the LAPL.

Southern California Quarterly Research Note: Nicole M. Guidotti-Hernández

I am always interested in the history of less known, or visible, actors. More often than not, the work I do is about women and minorities, people disenfranchised in one way or another. This common thread in my historical recovery work is what led me to the life history of Paula Carmona. I was working on the first half of my book about Mexican masculinities, researching the life of Enrique Flores Magón, the least popular- and what some critics say is the least interesting- brother of the family who protested the Díaz regime and foreign capitalist interests in Mexico from the 1890s onward. Much has been written about Ricardo, the most vociferous and radical brother of the family who was a staunch anarchist. As the lead voice of the Mexican Liberal Party (Partido Liberal Mexicano) founded in 1906, he is considered a heroic precursor to the Mexico revolution of 1910—his face is even on the 5 peso commemorative Mexican Revolution centennial coin. Ricardo died in 1922 while serving time in Leavenworth prison.

Enrique, on the other hand, was deported from the United States to Mexico in 1923. He lived the longest of the PLM members and had a robust career writing newspaper columns, reminiscing about his activity as a precursor intellectual of the Mexican Revolution. But something odd caught my attention as I researched his biography. Numerous scholars cited a woman named Paula Carmona de Flores Magón, and a few mentioned that she was a journalist and Enrique's wife. I had thought that Teresa Arteaga de

Flores Magón was his only wife. At least that's what his two autobiographies co-written with Samuel Kaplan said.

As I went down the rabbit hole of trying to learn who Paula Carmona de Flores Magón was, I realized that she had been expunged from Enrique's personal archive and the annals of PLM history because she supposedly betrayed him and the movement. Paula Carmona was a 21-year-old woman with three children under the age of three, one of whom died at 6 months of age, who was left to fend for herself while her anarchist husband Enrique went to prison for violating neutrality laws. Whether her father forced her to or it was of her own volition, she sent messages to Enrique while he was in prison, threatening to take away his children. What is clear, however, is that her father's attempt to take over the PLM newspaper while Enrique and Ricardo were in McNeil Island prison in 1913 severed Enrique and Paula's family forever.

But there were still some missing pieces. The history and archives were one-sided, told only from the perspective of PLM and Enrique, and were laced with misogyny. I desperately tried to find more information about Paula Carmona, beginning with census date. I learned that she remarried, to Carl Nakashima on March 3, 1914, a year after Enrique ended his marriage to her and was released from prison. I also found a family tree with her name listed on Ancestry.com. What does one do when confronted with what might be seen as "historical cheating"—that is, using a commercial

website that raises a whole host of ethical problems, including decontextualized archival provenance? I went back and forth for months about contacting the user, trying to decide what it would mean for me, as a feminist scholar, to reach out about someone when I knew there had to be more evidence. I finally contacted the user, and I couldn't believe how fast she responded. Paula's grand-daughter, Anita Swearingen was the keeper of the website, and, as I found out, the guardian of her grandmother's archive. In it were never-before seen photographs of the family Paula and Enrique formed, including their three adorable children.

It breaks my heart to think about being so young, committed to anarchism and your husband, and being abandoned. But sympathy wasn't what that drove my work. It was about justice for Paula Carmona, her children, and her family who had been essentially excised from the history of the Mexican Revolution and Enrique's intimate life, by his own hand. My article in the journal is a way of talking back to histories that exclude women for their supposed betrayals. Instead, we need to learn about them within the complex matrices within which they lived their lives.

-Dr. Nicole M. Guidotti-Hernández is Associate Professor of American Studies and Mexican American and Latina/o Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.



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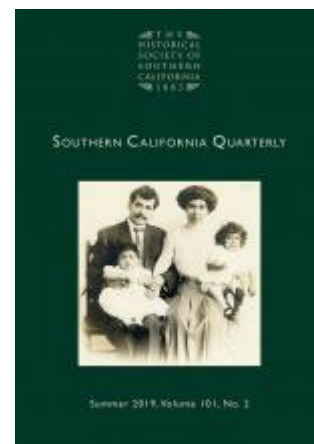
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY VOLUME 101, ISSUE 2

*“Partido Liberal Mexicano: Intimate Betrayals:
Enrique Flores Magoñ, Paula Carmona, and the
Gendered History of Denunciation”*
by Nicole M. Guidotti-Hernandez

*“Shaping Generations of Architects: Two High
School Programs that Changed the Built Environ-
ment in Southern California and Beyond”*
by Sian Winship.

*“Language, Citizenship, and the ‘Model Minority
Myth’: The Political Conservatism of Nisei Language
Scholars in California “*
by Zevi Gutfreund.

Plus The Historian’s Eye and book reviews.



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