

# California *History Action*

CCPH President  
Stephanie George



## NCPH Annual Meeting to Replace CCPH Fall Conference in 2014

### Conference Roundtable Session

At our 2013 Fall Conference Roundtable meeting, **CCPH President Stephanie George** led a discussion of the future of CCPH. She pointed out that because the **National Council for Public History (NCPH)** will hold its 2014 Annual Meeting in Monterey, holding our own 2014 Fall Conference seems impractical. Instead, CCPH is co-sponsoring the NCPH Meeting's opening reception, and is encouraging CCPH members to participate at the NCPH Annual Meeting. CCPH will host an exhibitor table there.

The NCPH Annual Meeting will be held at the Monterey Conference Center at Monterey, CA, from Wednesday, March 19, through Saturday, March 22, 2014.

The 2014 NCPH Annual Meeting theme is Sustainable Public History. You can view program details on line at <http://ncph.org/cms/conferences/2014-annual-meeting>. (The program includes a half-page CCPH ad.) Sessions will include such topics as site preservation, sustaining historic preservation, cultural sustainability, the university as a public history landscape, disaster preparedness, how to showcase digital projects, the Guantánamo naval base in public memory, and re-imagining the story of American whaling, to name a few.

You can register for the NCPH Annual Meeting on line, and opt for extra-fee workshops on such diverse topics as oral history, digital preservation, organizing and using data, and Thatcamp. You can also find details about housing, dining, and tours. The program includes a short, solid history of Monterey.

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### CCPH Annual Awards

At our Fall Conference Awards Luncheon this year the CCPH presented two awards: **The Dave Byrd Certificate of Meritorious Performance and Promise**, and the **Award of Distinction**.

**Jim DeMersman**, who is Executive Director of the Museum on Main in Pleasanton and a member of the Board of Directors of **Exhibit Envoy (EE)**, accepted the plaque for the **Dave Byrd Certificate of Meritorious Performance and Promise** from CCPH Treasurer Paul Spitzzeri on behalf of EE.

*(See "CCPH Annual Awards" continued on page 2.)*

## In this issue

Conference News	1-14
News	14-16
Announcements	16-19
Conferences	19-20
Book Reviews	20-23



# Conference News

## CCPH Annual Awards (continued from page 1)



Carolyn Swift and Jim DeMersman

In his acceptance speech, Mr. DeMersman told us about the history and function of Exhibit Envoy, which began in 1988 as *the Rural Museums Consortium (RMC)*, a program of the California Council for the Humanities. The RMC's mission was to serve the needs of small museums that did not have the capacity to develop in-house temporary exhibitions and could not afford to rent them from large traveling exhibition companies.

Exhibit Envoy now helps museums at whatever level, and it now has more than a dozen traveling exhibitions covering such varied topics as art and artists; natural and environmental history, including such current issues as land and water use and agricultural practices; immigration and emigration; cultural heritage; women's suffrage; New Deal photography; and California's place in Western and United States history, and in the world. New exhibitions are offered each year. One exhibit, "Gold Fever," has circulated nationally; EE's John Muir exhibit will go to Scotland.

A museum that schedules an exhibition through EE receives boxes containing a boxed, ready-to-go product that includes interpretative and gallery materials, scheduling and logistics management, press release materials, public program access, and the help of expert staff.

Exhibit Envoy also helps people find venues for exhibits that EE doesn't acquire, and has working relationships with the Smithsonian, the Oakland Museum of California, the California Historical Society, the Grace Hudson Museum, the

Marin Museum of the American Indian, the Bancroft Library, and Heyday Books as well as with individual professionals. **Carolyn Swift**, who has recently retired after 20 years as director of the City of Capitola Museum, received the **Award of Distinction**, which recognizes outstanding long-term contributions, lifetime achievements, or career dedication to promote history. CCPH Board member Stephen Payne summarized her career for us and presented her with artist Joan Sullivan's framed original rendering of the Union Pacific Railroad's La Selva Trestle, ten miles southeast of Santa Cruz.

Ms. Swift is a native of Watsonville, and worked as a reporter for the *Register-Pajaronian*. In 1975, she took a course in the history of Santa Cruz County from well-known Monterey Bay historian Sandy Lydon, and two years later they co-authored a history of Capitola. Another of her books introduced women's history into Santa Cruz County history, giving feminists Georgiana Kirby and Eliza Farnham and their due and reshaping what had been a male-dominated historical account.

Ms. Swift earned a degree in Community Studies from UC Santa Cruz, wrote five history books, drafted an historic context statement for the City of Capitola Community Development Department, and contributed 147 newspaper articles. Her retirement coincided with the publication of her book *Capitola* in Arcadia's *Images of America* series.

Ms. Swift began working at the Capitola Historical Museum as part-time staff, one of the first hired by the City of Capitola to oversee displays, provide educational tours, and conduct research. She built a small and unfocused museum into a place that tells the story of Capitola. She devised exhibits, and managed the museum's outstanding collection of historical digital images that touch every aspect of Santa Cruz County. Every week the museum shares a photo with the readers of the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*. "The museum," Ms. Swift wrote in her retirement announcement, "has succeeded beyond my wildest expectations."

### *California History Action*

Vol. 32, Nos. 1 & 2  
Winter & Spring 2014  
ISSN 0882-357X

Published quarterly by the  
California Council for the Promotion of History

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Monica Steinberg, Richard Roux, Brittani Raquel Orona, Makenna Murray, and Kaitlyn Crain

To encourage development of promising future professionals in the fields of public history and historic preservation, CCPH awarded **Conference Stipends** to five deserving individuals at this year's Fall Conference at Hanford. Four of them—**Monica Steinberg, Richard Roux, Brittani Raquel Orona, and Makenna Murray**—were among our Conference presenters; summaries of their presentations are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

The fifth stipend winner, **Kaitlyn Crain**, our Administrative Aide, is in the Public History MA program at CSU Sacramento. She will be doing research and display design for the ongoing "City Decades" exhibition at the Central Branch of the Sacramento Public Library, where she currently works as a digitization intern in the Sacramento Room. In addition, she is a student processing assistant at the California State Archives.

## Keynote Address: History's Three Bridges to the Future

Our Keynote speaker, CCPH Board Member and public historian **Dr. Darlene Roth**, began by pointing out that other than to secure longevity for a work of history through publication, the academic approach to history does not usually engage elements of the future in its practices. In the public realm, however, elements of the future are almost always "at the table." Whether the project is in public education (shaping young minds), cultural resource management (planning the future use or resources), historic preservation (keeping valued things intact for future use), or caring for and exhibiting collections (for present and future understanding), the future plays its part. We garner elements from the future in the form of goals, options, possibilities and desired results, bring them to the present-day mind, lay them against the backdrop of the past, and through our histories create contexts against which to evaluate said goals, options, possibilities and desired results.

Dr. Roth identified three primary ways that historians build bridges to the future—through **stewardship, scholarship, and relationship**.

The point of **stewardship** is to protect evidence of the past for future understanding, and stewardship decisions involve everything from conserving silver forks to sports arenas, 18th century costumes to Art Deco furniture, original correspondence to recent technologies, automobiles to row houses, and more. Public historians continually ask what the future understanding of the past will be based on, and who decides what that will be? Stewardship lies at the heart of most arenas of public history and is most commonly understood as the responsibility for material culture, but stewardship also extends to the story.

Two areas of stewardship of story which are less well developed than they might be are *celebration* and *healing*. Temporal celebrations, namely anniversaries, are commonplace, but what Dr. Roth suggested was to look at moments emanating from the story itself, when the participants rise above their own history and aspire to something bigger, better, or higher. For example, in 1976 Delta Air Lines employees purchased a 727 jetliner outright and gave it to the company as a gesture of their appreciation for the company's loyalty to its employees. The "Spirit of Delta" was retired after more than three decades of service, and company policies started changing in 1990 at Delta, but that gift stands as a celebratory moment that can still inspire.

*(See "Keynote Address" continued on page 14.)*

# Conference News

## Conference Presentations: Session 1

### Cold Spring Canyon Bridge

- **Chris McMorris**, who is a Partner and Architectural Historian with JRP Historic Consulting, LLC, provided a literal approach to the conference's theme by making a presentation about the recent controversial project to construct a suicide-deterrence barrier on the historic Cold Spring Canyon Bridge on State Route 154 in Santa Barbara County. Mr. McMorris was JRP's lead historian for this Caltrans project, which required examination of the bridge's historic significance, analysis of the project's effects on the bridge, and extensive public involvement that drew attention to the structure's historical importance.
- The California Division of Highways (Caltrans' predecessor) completed the Cold Spring Canyon Bridge in 1963. This open-spandrel steel-arch structure is a spectacular engineering achievement of its time. It is also a remarkable and historically significant example of Modern-era infrastructural design, eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- Mr. McMorris discussed the suicide-deterrence barrier project's effects on the structure, as well as the sometimes contentious public input regarding the project, including the law suit that was filed to challenge the Environmental Impact Report Caltrans prepared. He provided information regarding project's compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the California Environmental Quality Act. He also exhibited examples of mitigation measures that had been prepared to address project impacts, including a handsome booklet and set of display panels.
- Drawing from the Conference's Keynote Address, Mr. McMorris ended by tying his reflections on the project to Dr. Roth's themes of stewardship, scholarship, and relationship, noting the importance of high quality research and analysis to help support a dynamic and well-considered cultural resources and historic resources compliance process.

### Preserving the Fort Ord Veterinary Hospital

- **Cameron Binkley**, who has served as a historian for the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey since 2007, told us about ongoing efforts to preserve the wood-framed buildings that were built at Fort Ord in 1940 to house the Army's Station Veterinary Hospital (SVH). The SVH once supported some 1,400 Army horses and mules that equipped a horse-drawn field artillery regiment based at Fort Ord. Eventually, all military horse outfits were mechanized and the Army remodeled the SVH to care for its working dogs and other animals. After Fort Ord closed in 1994, the SVH continued as an equestrian center owned by the city of Marina. The SVH is the last surviving example of this type of Army facility.
- Mr. Binkley showed how an alliance of historians, preservationists, memorabilia collectors, living history re-enactors, equestrians, veterans, civic leaders, and others have mobilized around the "flash museum," a term he uses to describe a temporary exhibition of historical artifacts set up in the SVH that both documents and celebrates these otherwise unassuming Army structures and conveys WWII-era history.
- These flash museum exhibitions also helped birth the Friends of the Fort Ord Warhorse, a non-profit organization that works to preserve Monterey County's military equine heritage. The Friends now sponsors flash museum exhibitions twice annually, once on Veterans Day and once on "Warhorse Day," as proclaimed by the City. Each of these events is composed of a changing mix of exhibitors, invited speakers, various community groups, and re-enactors, who, in effect, become part of the museum.
- Mr. Binkley presented evidence that flash museums succeed because of the appeal of a festival-style event in an actual historic setting, and because they draw on amateur enthusiasm and utilize innovative techniques. They have brought about increased public awareness of a little-known aspect of Monterey's military heritage, created a venue that honors veterans, and strengthened municipal support for maintaining the SVH.

## Conference Presentations: Session 2

### Digitally Preserving California's Cultural Heritage

**Makenna Murray**, who is finishing her degree in History and in Architectural History, with emphasis on the American West, at Wellesley College, told us about the ongoing mission of the non-profit CyArk company, where she interned, to document and preserve historical sites digitally. CyArk employs the latest technologies, including 3D laser scanning and high-definition photography, to revolutionize the way in which historical sites are documented.

CyArk has an ongoing El Camino Real de California project to document all 21 California missions, the four Presidios, the three pueblos, and other historic buildings. Their most recent project in this series is Mission San Francisco Solano, at Sonoma. More broadly, CyArk also works with a network of corporate, academic, and technical partners with the ambitious goal of preserving 500 worldwide cultural heritage sites digitally before more are damaged or lost to war, fanaticism, vandalism, urban sprawl, weather, earthquakes, floods and other hazards. Not all these physical sites can be saved, but they can be preserved and conserved digitally, giving people new ways to appreciate them in great detail even if they can't visit them in person.

CyArk freely disseminates its data on its website, and works to familiarize local service providers with 3D imaging technology and to help them develop interpretative content appropriate for their sites. Projects to change the way that people can interact with these cultural heritage sites include educational technology centers, lesson plans and ipad apps. Three-dimensional imaging technology can also enhance tourists' experiences by providing detailed access that might otherwise be impossible for security or environmental reasons.

For more information you can visit <http://archive.cyark.org>.



Makenna Murray

### A Web of Discourse—Bringing History into the Digital World

**Evan Haynes**, who is a graduate student in history at CSU Fullerton, began by describing his own work in public history, in which he turned his research on Cold-War era kitchen culture, designs, and advertisements into a digital exhibit. Although copyright laws limit some of what can be shared in a public digital format, the easy access we have to on-line creative commons and to open-source materials makes many historical resources available in new ways.

For example, [www.reddit.com/r/history](http://www.reddit.com/r/history) offers an archival video of the construction and operation of the U. S. Navy's dirigible Macon in the 1930s, an invitation to contribute memories and artifacts to the British Imperial War Museum's World War I Centenary, a critique of History Channel's un-historical programming, an online dialog about whether granting the American colonies parliamentary representation would have prevented the Revolutionary War, and a query by someone fluent in both Spanish and English who wants to find books about Simón Bolívar.

The ease, flexibility, speed and diversity that we see in digital access to these topics shows dramatically how the digital revolution is changing the ways in which historians can preserve, present and communicate history, and how it is opening new opportunities for discussion and discovery.

# Conference News

## Conference Presentations: Session 3

### **Bridging Law and Order in Public History—the Los Angeles Hall of Justice Interpretative Center**

- **Dr. Megan McLeod Kendrick** gave us an illustrated tour of ongoing efforts to rehabilitate and restore the 1925 Los Angeles County Hall of Justice at the intersection of Broadway and Temple Street in downtown Los Angeles. The Hall has been closed since 1994 because of structural damage suffered in the Northridge earthquake, and is now undergoing restoration for adaptive reuse. The goal date for reopening is 2014.
- Dr. Kendrick's 2009 USC dissertation embodied her ongoing interest in cities and the built environment, and she has been collaborating as an historic consultant with the A. C. Martin Partners architectural firm on designs for the building's Repair and Reuse project.
- Dr. Kendrick began by showing us photos that located the County Hall of Justice in Los Angeles's downtown cityscape in the 1920s, in relation to the 1911 Hall of Records and the 1891 red sandstone Romanesque courthouse, both now demolished. The 14-story, classic-themed, Beaux Arts style County Hall of Justice required an exception to Los Angeles's 150-foot height limit ordinance. It housed the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Coroner's Office and morgue, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender, the County Tax Collector. It had 17 courtrooms, and the 750-cell county jail, including a hospital for prisoners and living quarters for the medical staff. The Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney plan to return to the Hall.
- Structural remediation includes hazardous waste removal and a seismic retrofit. Many interior partitions have been taken out for a fresh start. Removal of the six tiers of iron jail cells from the building's top floors remedied the top-heaviness that A. C. Martin says caused excessive lateral movement in earthquakes. One cell block will remain as part of an interactive interpretative center, for which Dr. Kendrick showed us a conceptual floor plan.
- New utility connections, electrical and mechanical systems, air conditioning, and automatic elevators will modernize the building, but the vaulted entry foyers leading to a marble-clad, multi-story loggia with grand staircases and coffered ceilings will be restored to their former grandeur. Modern elevators will reuse the wood interiors of the original elevator cabs. A wood-paneled courtroom and the law library will be restored for use as conference space. A power washing will clean decades of grime from the Hall's white granite and terra cotta façade.
- The renovated Hall of Justice will function in three ways: it is part of the efficient centralization of the Los Angeles County justice system; it helps to anchor Los Angeles's Civic Center architecturally; and its interpretative center will help bring themes of crime and victimization, and of justice and injustice, to a broader public.

### **Imagining the Alter: Critical Engagements with Humorous Strategies**

- Monica Steinberg, who is a doctoral candidate in Art History at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and a Predoctoral Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution, led us on an illustrated tour of Los Angeles's underground avant-garde art scene in the 1960s.
- She focused on the work of William Allen "Billy AI" Bengston, who along with Joe Goode and Ed Ruschá used humor and role-playing performance in communicating often satirical social and political messages, though Bengston always denied that his work had any political or social significance. (By contrast, artist Judy Chicago, who had been Bengston's pupil when he taught at UCLA, provided explicit feminist meanings for her famous *Dinner Party* installation. Fully appreciating it requires instruction.)
- For his 1961 solo exhibit at the Ferus Gallery on Los Angeles's La Cienega Boulevard, Bengston invented his macho alter-ego "Billy AI" identity as a motorcycle-riding movie star, and included customized motorcycles in the exhibit. His art employed the deep-gloss artistic finishes developed for custom automotive applications. The exhibit was reviewed in *Artforum* and in *Biker Magazine*.
- The artists' performances could be elaborate. Bengston and another artist created whimsical, though usable, business cards for each other then dressed carefully in business attire and ceremoniously exchanged them as gifts. The event was recorded on film as if it were newsworthy. Obviously this satirizes a social milieu that these artists would never want to inhabit, but the style of their presentation isn't polemical—it's just fun.

### The Monterey Veterans Clinic Museum: Bridging California's Military Veterans and University Students

**Dr. Stephen Payne**, Historian for the Defense Language Institute, chaired and moderated the discussion, which focused on the effort to save, restore, and interpret artwork connected to the Presidio of Monterey/Fort Ord and install this artwork in the new Veterans Affairs / Department of Defense Medical Clinic currently under construction, and show exhibits on the history of Fort Ord developed by students in the Museum Studies Program at the California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB).

The artwork was originally installed in Stilwell Hall, a \$500,000 soldiers club built across Highway 1 from Fort Ord on a bluff overlooking Monterey Bay and named many years after its completion for General Joseph Stilwell, who envisioned it while he commanded the 7th Infantry Division at Fort Ord in 1940. While his acerbic manner earned Stilwell the nickname "Vinegar Joe," his concern for enlisted personnel and disdain for ceremony earned him the nickname "Uncle Joe" in the ranks. Enlisted personnel used Stilwell Hall for recreation from its completion in 1943 until 1994. The 52,000 square-foot, hip-roofed, single-story building had an 90-foot long bar, a ball room with a balcony above, several smaller meeting rooms, and four huge fireplaces. Decoration included chandeliers, murals (one painted by General Stilwell's daughter Alison), paintings mosaics, and sculpture.

Marine erosion of the bluff endangered the building, and it was razed from 2001-03. Three of the building's murals, painted by Works Progress Administration artists were donated to CSUMB. James and Karen Alkons installed two of the murals, Alison Stilwell's painting "Monterey Cypress" and Merlin Hardy's "Spanish Dancers", at CSUMB. CSUMB returned the largest mural, Carleton Lehman's "Nautical" or "Moby Dick" mural, measuring 7' high by 87' long, to the Army. This mural, along with two mosaic maps of early California, sculpted heads of General Stilwell and his staff officers, and a marble bust of General E.O.C. Ord, for whom Fort Ord was named, will all go into the new medical clinic.

Art preservation and restoration professionals **James** and **Karen Alkons**, who formed the Northern California Art Conservators in 1978, used documentary photographs of their restoration of Stilwell Hall artwork, their conservation laboratory, and the reinstallation site at CSUMB. They will restore Carl Lehman's 7' x 87' nautical mural from behind the Stilwell Hall bar and install it in the new Veteran's Clinic now under construction at Fort Ord.

**Deborah Silguero-Stahl** of the National Steinbeck Center and CSUMB discussed the Veteran's Clinic's plans to work with CSUMB students to develop rotating artistic and historical exhibits for a 1,500 square-foot space that will tell the stories of Fort Ord's soldiers and the art that they left behind when the fort closed in 1994. Together with the restored Stilwell Hall artwork, the museum displays will create a unique public space in a functioning hospital. CSUMB students will have an opportunity to learn museum and public history skills, and veterans will see their military stories told and preserved.



Dr. Stephen Payne

A newsletter for history advocacy published by the  
**California Council for the Promotion of History**  
*Bridging the Past, Present, and Future*

# Conference News

## Our Conference Banquet Speakers



Our Conference Banquet was held on the top floor of the beautifully readapted 1896 Kings County Courthouse. Our Banquet speakers were **Arianne Wing** and **Steven Banister**, who serve on downtown development committees and have deep connections with the ongoing restoration of Hanford's China Alley.

Ms. Wing and Mr. Banister are proprietors of the L. T. Sue Tea Shop and Restaurant, which opened in March, 2012, at 1 China Alley. The Tea Shop is named for the nearby 1890s L. T. Sue Herbalist Pharmacy. The pharmacy's brick walls were in danger of crumbling until they were recently stabilized. It is not yet open to the public, but its original cabinets and herbal jars survive intact.

Ms. Wing is also president of the Taoist Temple Preservation Society, and the Temple on China Alley has now been restored and reopened as a museum where trained docents lead tours. In addition to viewing the Temple, our Conference attendees got a glimpse inside the L. T. Sue Herbalist Pharmacy as part of their special guided tour of China Alley.

Demographic changes led to China Alley's decline by the 1950s, and in 2011 the National Trust for Historic Preservation had listed China Alley as one of America's 11 most endangered historical places. But Ms. Wing and Mr. Banister see new developments as the start of a China Alley renaissance.

Hanford's Chinatown began in 1887 when many Chinese came there to work on the Southern Pacific's railroad line from Goshen through Hanford to Coalinga. Other Chinese came to work in local agriculture. Four generations of Ms. Wing's family operated restaurants in Hanford, including the five-star Imperial Dynasty, which her uncle, Richard Wing, opened in 1958. He created French-Chinese fusion cuisine that attracted customers world-wide until he retired in 2006. Ms. Wing once worked there, and the Tea Shop menu includes a few Imperial Dynasty dishes. "I'm home in the Alley," she said. "To come back to work in China Alley, it just has a wonderful feeling for me."



## Conference Presentations: Session 5

### City Creek Bridge, San Bernardino National Forest

**Dicken Everson**, who holds a doctorate in anthropology from UC Riverside and is a Caltrans Associate Environmental Planner, and **Eugene Heck**, who earned an MA in history at UC Riverside and is a Caltrans architectural historian, updated the archaeological site record for the City Creek Bridge, which is located in San Bernardino County within the San Bernardino National Forest.

Everson and Heck used historical images to show us how the bridge and the road it served evolved from a crude 1890s lumber road with 25% grades and switchback turns. This road crossed City Creek Gorge on a wooden truss bridge. After the lumber company built a railroad, it opened the lumber road to public use and charged tolls. By 1912 the company had logged out all the timber; it then relocated to Oregon, and gave the road and bridge to San Bernardino County.

In 1919 the County eased curves and grades to make the road more usable by autos, and in 1923 it replaced the wooden bridge with a steel truss bridge, which is still there. In 1937, the California Division of Highways made the improved road into State Highway 207A, but when the State replaced it with Highway 330 on a new alignment, the State gave the old highway back to the County. The County then gave it back to the Forest Service except for the bridge, which the Forest Service wouldn't accept. Moreover, the Forest Service discouraged use of the road and persuaded people who lived near it to relocate.

Thus when Highway 330 collapsed, four different agencies were involved in the plan to use the old road and bridge: Caltrans, San Bernardino County, the Forest Service, and the Army Corps of Engineers, which oversees roads on federal land. Then when Caltrans tried to update old surveys, they discovered that the old survey data was not compatible with the new. Eventually Caltrans found a way to repair the section of Highway 330 without using the old bridge to gain access to the canyon floor. Still, the old bridge is possibly eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, but the differing objectives of the different agencies involved would complicate any application.

### Where Water Flows, Communities Grow—Water and Rural California African American Settlements

**Michael Eissinger**, who is a doctoral candidate at UC Merced and a history professor at Fresno City College, wrote his master's thesis on African American settlement in the San Joaquin Valley. His presentation revealed his deep knowledge of the histories of a surprising number of African American settlements, knowledge that he says can only be gained by accessing first-person living memories, which he has gained by extensive field work.

Professor Eissinger's paper explored how lack of a reliable water supply affected various Central Valley African American communities. He began with Allensworth, which was a planned agricultural community founded in 1908 by middle-class Los Angeles African Americans to show that intelligent, self-sufficient African American farmers could build a community, promote education, succeed economically and earn respect. Allensworth was promoted for profit, and the developer charged Allensworth colonists higher prices for inferior alkaline soil compared with nearby Alpaugh, and never delivered the promised water system. Local water contained arsenic. Allensworth never had electricity either, and it lost its rail service when the Santa Fe built a spur to Alpaugh in 1914 and closed the Allensworth depot. The population dwindled as settlers relocated to find better infrastructure and economic opportunity.

Other San Joaquin Valley towns that acquired black majority population benefitted when poor soil and lack of water drove white settlers away, African Americans moved in. Most of them had low incomes. Fairmead had better water than Allensworth, electricity, and rail service. As an unincorporated town it had no enforceable race restrictions, and a local landowner financed land purchases at a time when banks wouldn't loan money to African Americans. One family with ten children owned 200 acres. Fairmead was never completely black, but it had more black people living there longer than did Allensworth.

Other towns--Dos Palos, Midway, Teviston, Lanare--had similar patterns of development. Many of these settlers had fled the sharecroppers' cycle of perpetual debt in southern states, and Valley industrial farmers who planted cotton valued their agricultural skills. Often these African Americans were able to buy land and houses, though some towns still struggle to obtain safe water. African Americans living at Sunny Acres, just outside Corcoran, succeeded in organized their own water district and obtained grants that eventually connected them with the Corcoran water mains.

# Conference News

## Conference Presentations: Session 6

### Remembering the Rivers: Hupa, Yurok, and Karuk Memory and Activism on the Klamath River Basin



Brittani Raquel Orona

**Brittani Raquel Orona**, who is a public history graduate student at CSU Sacramento and a Hupa Valley Tribe member, used oral interviews with tribe members to explain how dams and a devastating fish die-off threatened traditional Native American ways of life on the river, ways of life that the Hoopa, Yurok, and Karuk people regard as sacred and which they still practice today. She also discussed the role that their traditional memories played in Native American activism in the Klamath River Basin between 2002 and 2010.

The Klamath River Basin has long been important to the Hupa, Yurok and Karuk peoples of Northwestern California, both as a fishery and as a cultural resource. Between 1903 and 1962 eight dams built on the Klamath River seriously threatened these traditional tribal uses of the river. A devastating salmon die-off in 2002 motivated grassroots activism to remove the dams and limit water diversion to Oregon and the Central Valley. This led to the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreements of 2010, which some tribal leaders still find unsatisfactory.

An exhibit that Ms. Orona curated on the subject is currently on display in the CSU Sacramento Anthropology Museum, where it was created as part of a California Indian Conference. The exhibit is entitled: "Stories of the River, Stories of the People: Memory on the Klamath River Basin and will be up until December 13th. Her presentation, like the exhibit, is meant to show a general audience the way that Klamath Basin tribes understand their culture, something that outsiders might not otherwise appreciate.

### Queen Calafia and the Naming of California

• **Jose Ignacio Rivera**, who is Curator-In-Residence at the Marin Museum of the American Indian, read to us from Garcí Rodríguez de Montalvo's popular 16th century novel, *Las Sergas de Esplandián*, which is often cited as the source of California's name. The novel tells us that California is an island "on the right hand of the Indies" inhabited by formidable black Amazons ruled by a beautiful pagan warrior queen called Calafia. (Mr. Rivera speculates that Calafia was perhaps a title that signified the queen's role as a woman Caliph, and that Rodríguez "mistook" her title for her name.) The women all wore gold armor--the only mineral found in California, Rodríguez explained--and rode into battle against the Christians at Constantinople mounted on fierce griffins that picked up soldiers in their claws and dropped them onto rocks. Queen Calafia first accepts Islam, but she falls in love with the brave and handsome Esplandián and after being captured in battle she converts to Christianity.

• Hernán Cortés and his men were familiar with the novel, and some of them probably applied the California name to the disappointing and barren Baja California peninsula they first visited, perhaps in jest. By 1542 the name California seems to have been in general use for the entire coastline.

• Mr. Rivera's presentation included a slideshow and discussion highlighting the role that images of Calafia her mythological griffins has had in California artwork and architecture. There is a triptych of her in the California State Capitol building, for example, and a sculpture garden in Escondido includes her, mounted atop an eagle.

## Conference Presentations: Session 7

### ***Campesinas, Huelguistas, and Lideres: The New Woman in the United Farm Worker Movement, 1965-1975***

**Olivia Garcia** is a Bakersfield native who edits *Bakersfield Life Magazine* and is a columnist and niche products manager for *The Bakersfield Californian*. She earned her degree at CSU Fresno.

She told us about her research into the evolution of women's roles in the United Farm Workers (UFW) from 1965 to 1975. Although these women came from different cultural and economic backgrounds, they both counteracted and complemented the male-dominated UFW power structure and contributed to the founding and success of the UFW.

These women contributed effectively to UFW goals in three different areas. As *campesinas* (Hispanic farm workers) and *huelguistas* (strikers); as *organizadoras* (Hispanic and Anglo organizers); and as *lideres* (Hispanic women who took leadership roles in the UFW). When working-class women embraced political and civic activism through the UFW, their gender identities shifted from traditional domestic feminine roles to stronger and more independent ones, and they shaped the history of the UFW.

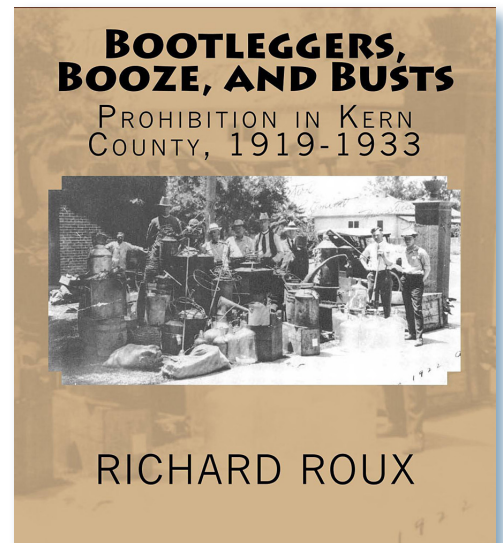
Ms Garcia's research utilized rarely-used primary sources: *El Malcriado*, the newspaper that César Chávez and UFW co-founder Dolores Huerta founded in 1964, and new oral testimony from UFW farm worker women who were active in the UFW's early years.

### **Bootleggers, Booze and Busts: Prohibition in Kern County, 1919-1933**

Fourth generation Bakersfield native **Richard Roux** holds BA and MA degrees in history from CSU Bakersfield and teaches Advanced Placement United States History at Bakersfield's Centennial High School.

Drawing on research he carried out for his MA thesis, Mr. Roux described for us how enforcement of National Prohibition under the Volstead Act, state laws and local ordinances was managed in Kern County from 1919 to 1933, and what local obstacles limited their effectiveness. His extensive research identified 2,100 arrests for Prohibition violations reported in such newspapers as *The Bakersfield Californian*, and correlated them with data from census records and other sources.

Mr. Roux established a demographic profile of local Prohibition offenders: typically they were males in their 30s or 40s, Caucasian, literate, usually skilled workers or tradesmen. Most worked for a hotel, a restaurant, or a soft drink business, or as farmers or laborers. Most were native born but had at least one foreign-born parent, most often from France, Italy or Germany. He found no significant differences in their political affiliations. Mr. Roux's findings are congruent with national patterns, but he urged that similar studies of other locales and regions could add detail and subtlety to generalizations about Prohibition and its effects. He also pointed out that the availability of records limits research such as his, even though it is structurally sound.



### **Life of an Architect: Charles Howatt Biggar and the Building of Bakersfield**

**Christopher Livingston** heads Archives and Special Collections at the Walter Stiern Library at CSU Bakersfield, and earned a BA and an MA in history from CSU Bakersfield. He spoke to us about the career of architect Charles Howatt Biggar (1882-1946), and the problem of conserving his work.

After earning a BA in architecture about 1903 and working as a draftsman, Biggar enrolled in the École de Beaux Arts in Paris about 1912-13, where he also worked in the atelier of prominent French architect León Jaussely (1875-1932). By 1910 Biggar returned to the United States and soon became a partner in Kern County architectural firms. He returned to Bakersfield after serving in France during World War I as an officer in the Army Engineers.

(See "Conference Presentations: Session 7" continued on page 12.)

# Conference News

## Conference Presentations: Session 7 (continued from page 11)

- Biggar worked in a variety of architectural styles into which he introduced modern construction techniques, and his buildings withstood the 1952 earthquake well. His notable public buildings include libraries, fire stations, the Chamber of Commerce, and the General Hospital. He also designed important commercial buildings, the Tejon Theater, a Baptist Church, and the Women's Club. In the 1930s he designed local federal New Deal public works projects; notable examples are on the East Bakersfield High School campus.
- Biggar's buildings have shaped Bakersfield's architectural cityscape, but efforts to preserve these important cultural resources suffer from opposition and apathy from local agencies, and the proposed routing of California's high-speed rail project through Bakersfield threatens to eliminate some of Biggar's buildings.

## Conference Presentations: Session 8

### A Bridge across the Pacific (Nancy Taniguchi)

- **Dr. Nancy Taniguchi**, now retired from CSU Stanislaus, was one of four finalists for the first annual California Historical Society Book Award. Her Conference presentation, aided by a variety of hard-copy images, focused on three Japanese who worked to build connections between America and Japan from the 1860s. A Japanese agricultural colony in the San Joaquin Valley helped them succeed.
- **Sen Tsuda** (1837-1908) came to the United States briefly in 1867 as a translator for the new Meiji government. On a trip to the Vienna Expo in 1873 he studied Western agricultural techniques and on returning to Japan opened an agricultural school and started an agricultural journal to introduce Western crops and agricultural techniques to Japan. He also became a Christian.

An advocate for women's education, Sen Tsuda sent his daughter Umeko to the United States in 1872 at age 6 as part of a diplomatic mission. She remained in the United States, earned a degree at Bryn Mawr College, and returned to Japan where she founded a school to train Japanese women to teach English. Sen Tsuda encouraged his other daughters to attend, including Yonako. (See below.)
- **Kyutaro Abiko** (1865-1936), a convert to Christianity, met Sen Tsuda in Japan. In 1885 Abiko immigrated to the United States, saved money he earned at menial jobs, attended UC Berkeley, and in 1897 bought a Japanese-language newspaper. He also founded a bank and became a labor contractor, placing Japanese immigrants on sugar beet farms and railroads throughout the American West.

Believing that Japanese immigrants would do best in California by farming, Abiko bought 1,300 acres near Livingston in Merced County where he founded the Yamato Colony. Drawing on his San Francisco YMCA connections, he sought only educated, married settlers, including a civil engineer, a banker, a midwife, and an agriculturalist. Eggplant, sweet potatoes, asparagus, tomatoes, and melons provided quick crop yields while farmers waited for their orchards and vineyards to mature. The colony attracted favorable notice in Japan in Sen Tsuda's journal.

Abiko's bank failed in 1918, but the farmers established successful cooperatives and prospered, in part because they prudently avoided operating any businesses in competition with Caucasians. Facing internment during World War II, Yamato colonists preserved their property by electing an all-Caucasian board of directors to their cooperative.
- **Yonako Tsuda Abiko** (1880-1944), fifth daughter of Sen Tsuda, was a well-educated, well-traveled, Christian lady who married Kyutaro Abiko in 1909. She helped manage Kyutaro's newspaper and became active in community service. She proved to be a natural leader, able to work easily with women of all races. She and other Japanese women founded a boarding house to help Japanese picture brides learn American ways. Later they taught second-generation Japanese Americans (Nisei) about their Japanese roots and helped take them on tours of Japan. After the 1923 Japanese earthquake, Yonako successfully raised relief funds in America, especially for her sister's school.

## Conference Presentations: Session 8 (continued from page 12)

Yonako thought that Nisei should create a “bridge of understanding” between Japanese and American cultures, but worsening political relations between America and Japan in the 1930s, the Depression, and Kyutaro’s death in 1936 all complicated Yonako’s life. Yonako’s Quaker friends helped her avoid internment during the war because she needed medical treatment for breast cancer, and she lived in Philadelphia until her death in 1944.

At the Yamato Colony’s recent centennial celebration, descendants of colonists still farming at Livingston joined with descendants of Kyutaro Abiko and of Sen Tsuda, all still linked by this remarkable colony.

### Three Rooms of Adobe

**Dennis Judd**, who teaches history at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo County, gave us an illustrated presentation about the history of the campus’s Hollister Adobe, its current condition, and plans for its restoration.

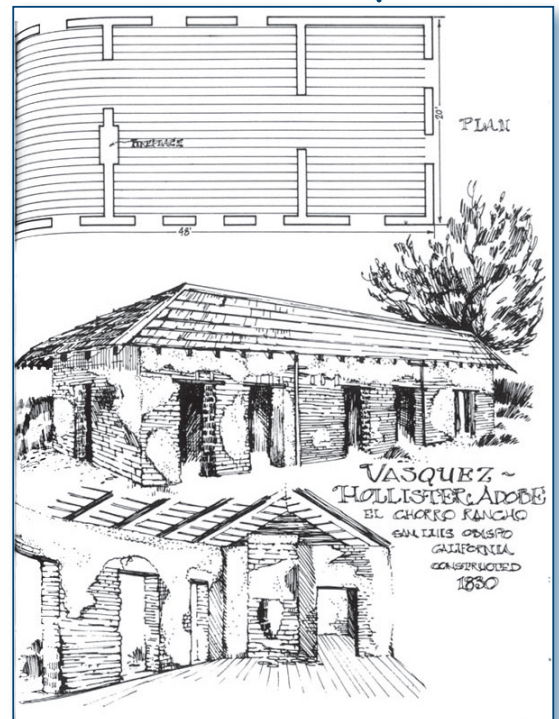
José de Guadalupe Cantúa, the son of a soldier who had come to California with Juan Bautista de Anza in 1774, received the 4,389-acre San Luisito land grant from Governor Juan Alvarado in 1841, and established his family there, adding two rooms to either side of an existing one-room structure of unknown origin. The result was about 20 feet wide and 48 feet long. Cantúa sold acreage to Hispanicized Scottish-born trader Captain John Wilson in 1859, who had been granted the adjacent Chorro rancho in 1845 by Governor Pío Pico. But the Cantúa family still occupied the adobe, and because Guadalupe’s niece Maria married José Hermenegildo Vásquez—their son Tiburcio was a notorious outlaw—the adobe is sometimes called the Vásquez-Hollister Adobe.

In 1866, Ellen Hollister purchased both land grants from Wilson’s daughters. She was the wife of Joseph Hubbard Hollister, whose family ranched huge tracts of land along the central coast. Ellen died soon after, but the Hollister family lived in the adobe for three generations and by 1890 they had enlarged it by adding 22 wood-framed rooms onto the adobe core. After financial reverses the Hollisters lost the property in foreclosure. The bank leased the property to an Italian-Swiss immigrant named Camillo Chiriinghelli, who purchased it and willed it to his daughter, Lillie Hansen.

In 1940 the military acquired the ranch in order to enlarge Camp San Luis, to Lillie’s grief. But although they stripped away the wood-framed additions, the military agreed to leave the three-room adobe core standing. They used it as a base chapel, with an outdoor altar in front, but the building soon fell into very poor condition.

Cuesta College acquired its campus, which included the adobe, from the military in 1963, and instructor Jay Van Werlhof energized students and local amateur preservationists, who restored the adobe by 1972. It housed a museum until the 2003 San Simeon earthquake caused minor structural damage, and the now-empty adobe has again deteriorated. Some of the earlier restoration work, such as infilling deteriorated walls with concrete, caused new damage, and all of the doors and windows need replacement. The building will need to be stripped down to the bare adobe and the walls reinforced with fiberglass rods. Ultimately the aim is to bring the building up to modern standards while restoring its historical appearance.

You can find out how to help the restoration project by calling the Cuesta College Foundation at (805) 546-3279.



# Conference News

## Conference Presentations: Session 9

### “Vigilantes”—A Dramatic Reading

Four costumed dramatic readers from San Luis Obispo’s South County Historical Society (SCHS) performed in a video for us, recreating historical accounts of an 1886 killing and a subsequent vigilante lynching in Arroyo Grande in an original drama written by curator **Jan Scott**. The scripts were read with dramatic flair, though without melodrama. Their content stuck closely to what historical records are available, and because these don’t always agree, the recreators left the audience with irresolvable ambiguities. For example, the court declared the hanging was done by “persons unknown,” though local stories indicate the responsible parties were some prominent local citizens.

The bare facts are simple enough: a land dispute grounded in water rights, itself ambiguous, led Julius Hemmi, son of Peter Hemmi, to kill a neighbor, Mr. Walker, and severely wound the neighbor’s wife. But whether the young man acted alone or with the help of his father is unclear. Both were put into jail, but citizens overpowered the guards and hanged Hemmi and his father from a convenient railroad bridge. Hemmi denied his father’s role even as they were about to hang him. The vigilante townsmen had no doubts, though.

“Vigilantes” is one of a set of pieces written about Arroyo Grande history for reading theater presentations each summer. So far, five such plays have been produced. The drastic illness of a key performer had sadly prevented the group from appearing in person. The South County Historical Society produced an accompanying booklet, *Terrible Tragedy*. For more information, visit the SCHS website at <http://www.southcountyhistory.org/books.htm>.

### Keynote Address: History’s Three Bridges to the Future (continued from page 3)

The Holocaust Museum provides an example of healing, where a sacred space was created for family members to remember ancestors who perished in the concentration camps. That room can also be used by people who need a safe space in which to come to terms with a horrific bit of history, and perhaps to picture a future without a repeat of the past that they have just visited.

**Scholarship** is every historian’s bread and butter, and narrative history is the most common form of scholarship, but public history requires that historians be adept in many formats—statements of significance, federal and state history forms, exhibit texts, catalogs, and labels, and field reports for example. A unique

form of site-specific narrative that focuses on physical development over time has been emerging from the work done in cultural resource management and historic preservation planning. It is used to facilitate decision-making about the future of the site in question. Dr. Roth referred to this as “developmental history.” It is as concerned about how events in the past brought about present conditions as it is in setting future options and possibilities in an historical context.

Because public history scholarship circulates outside standard academic venues, many of the studies do not feed back into general scholarship; some studies get very little exposure. This is now getting a great deal of attention from the public history community, and there are ongoing efforts to make this “gray literature” more accessible to scholars of all kinds, giving it a future in its own right, but much remains to be done here.

Historians working in public arenas do not work in a vacuum. In fact, their work exists in **relationship** with many others—clients, public officials, organization members, donors, audiences, and colleagues from many fields, contractors, media reps, and more. Beyond the obvious areas in which good relationships create healthy futures, there are two critical relationships for every historian, public or academic, to cultivate on his or her own. The first is the historian’s own relationship with history itself—with the day-to-day activities of the field, with the contributions being made, with the reasons for choosing history in the first place. The second is the historian’s own relationship with the future—ideally, it should be both conscious and positive. How each of us envisions the future of history and our individual role within it will greatly affect the development of our field, not only for ourselves, but also for others.



Dr. Darlene Roth

## California Statewide Museum Collections Center Opens

(Adapted from [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov))

The California State Department of Parks and Recreation's historical collections are now installed in the air conditioned and humidity-controlled Statewide Museum Collections Center (SMCC) in McClellan Park, near Sacramento. The Center had its Grand Opening on December 4, 2013, which was also the 150th Anniversary of the beginnings of the California State Parks.

The collections consist of more than a million artifacts, including wagons, furniture, guns, paintings, over 10,000 photographs of California spanning 150 years, and one of the largest and best collections of Indian baskets in the world. The new facility brings all these collections together under one roof; they had previously been housed in several separate warehouses in West Sacramento. In addition to housing and conserving artifacts, the SMCC also provides preservation, archaeological, historical and museum support services.

The new Center will rotate a series of exhibits throughout the year. Tours are available by reservation only and may be arranged by e-mailing California State Parks at [smcc.tours@parks.ca.gov](mailto:smcc.tours@parks.ca.gov).

A slide show on the Parks Department's website traces the history of California State Parks, including the important roles played by private sector organizations. The slide show is part of the Parks Department's ongoing 150th anniversary celebration. You can view the slide show and find other information at <http://150.parks.ca.gov>.

*Photo by courtesy of California State Parks.*



## Early Revised Master Plan Provides Path to Preservation for Endangered Terminal Island Buildings

The Los Angeles Conservancy happily reports that the Port of Los Angeles has revised the long-range Master Plan it drafted in 2013 so that it now includes preservation on an equal footing with other goals. In addition, the Board of Harbor Commissioners adopted a cultural resources policy in May, 2013, that establishes specific protective measures for the ongoing identification, evaluation, and maintenance of historic resources at the port.

The new Master Plan doesn't automatically guarantee the preservation of historically significant sites such as Fish Harbor's Japanese-American Commercial Fishing Village, an historic cannery, the Southwest Marine shipyard, and an historic yacht club. But it does identify the Village as an historic resource and provides for designating mixed-use areas that could adaptively reuse historic buildings, and it removes earlier proposed road alignments that would have bisected historic buildings.

The Port's long-standing pattern of needlessly demolishing historic buildings led the National Trust for Historic Preservation to include Terminal Island on its 2012 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, which drew considerable media attention. Meetings between the Port, the National Trust, and the Los Angeles Conservancy explored alternatives and led to today's greatly improved Master Plan.

For more details, see *Los Angeles Conservancy News* 35, 5 or visit the Conservancy's website at [laconservancy.org](http://laconservancy.org).

## NEH Grants Awarded for California Public History Projects

Adapted from the National Endowment for the Humanities website, [www.neh.gov/news](http://www.neh.gov/news)

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) have announced \$33 million in grants for 173 humanities projects nationally. Several of these are Landmarks of American History and Culture (AHC) workshops for K-12 teachers. These workshops are held near sites important for American history and culture.

Awards made within California included the following projects focused on California history and culture:

A 60-minute documentary film examining the 1978 campaign for Proposition 13 led by Howard Jarvis and its subsequent effects on tax policy nationally.

An implementation project for a cold storage unit housing portions of the Pacific Film Archive, a collection of over 16,000 films focusing primarily on the cinematic history of the Pacific Rim.

The purchase of storage furniture for the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's 16,000-item photography collection. Most of the collection is to be housed in a vault adjacent to a new photography study center designed to achieve the non-profit U. S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold status.

Planning for temperature and humidity control, lighting and energy usage, and sustainable architectural design for the holdings at Pepperdine University Libraries Special Collections.

A two-week summer institute for 25 school teachers to explore the immigrant experience in California through literary works and theatrical adaptations.

Two one-week AHC workshops for 80 teachers to explore California Gold Rush history and its economic, environmental and cultural setting.

Two one-week AHC workshops for 80 teachers on the social, economic, and cultural impact of World War II in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Two one-week AHC workshops for 80 teachers on Southern California's aerospace development and its impact from World War II through the Cold War era.

Planning for a 1,293 square-foot permanent exhibition, a digital walking tour, and intercultural dialogs for a new museum at the Salinas Chinatown Cultural Center.

For more information, visit the NEH website, <http://www.neh.gov/news/recentawards.html>.

# Announcements

## Field Class Will Explain Native American Plant Uses

On March 23, 2014, a **Joshua Tree National Park Association Desert Institute Field Class** led by anthropologist **Daniel McCarthy** will teach participants about the plants historically harvested by the native peoples of southern California for food, medicine, and utilitarian purposes. The program will start in the classroom with an overview of local Native American tribes and how culture defines plant use or the other way around.

Attendees will also learn about plant habitat, and distribution, focusing on the ethnobotany of key species found in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts. In the afternoon, the class will hike easy trails to identify edible plants found in the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve area. Respectful gathering practices will be discussed as well as restrictions collecting on federal lands and in the National Park.

The class will meet at Big Morongo Valley Canyon Preserve in the Little San Bernardino Mountains. To reach the Preserve drive east from I-10 on Highway 62. The class will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. The fee is \$50 for Association members and \$ 60 for non-members. For more information and a course outline, or to sign up, visit <http://www.joshuatree.org/desert-institute/field-classes/native-american-plant-uses>.

## Report Surveys the Role of History in the National Parks

**The Organization of American Historians** (OAH) has posted on-line their 146-page report, *Imperiled Promise: The State of History in the National Park Service* (2011), which an OAH team of four historians prepared at the invitation of the National Park Service (NPS). The report identifies over 150 examples of good NPS scholarly treatments of historical sites and issues that build bridges between academic and public history. But the report also identifies problem areas. The authors think that NPS still sometimes treats history as something static in which the focus is on getting facts right, rather than portraying differences in scholarly interpretations. They also think that NPS tends to treat historical projects in isolation from one another. And they think that NPS's history program is understaffed and underfunded.

You can read the report on-line at [www.oah.org](http://www.oah.org).

## A Forest Service Historian Talks about His Work

In a video clip on the **American Historical Association** (AHA) website's **Perspectives on History** tab, **Forest Service Chief Historian Lincoln Bramwell** talks engagingly about what he does and how he found his career path in public history.

Bramwell says that his career trajectory began with his volunteer work as a firefighter, which he pursued in parallel with his graduate degree, never imagining that his two interests would intersect so productively. "There's no typical day," he says. "It's not as predictable as academic history."

The AHA also offers an ongoing on-line discussion on the topic, "Why Study History." You don't have to be an AHA member to join in the discussion, though you will need to establish an account and a password.

## Lecture Will Examine When Humans Arrived in the Americas

On April 15, 2014, the **San Francisco Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America** will host a lecture by **Steven R. Holen** on the question of when humans first entered the Americas and by what routes. Dr. Holen, who is Co-Director of the Center for American Paleolithic Research, has published scholarly articles on the topic. He will review the ongoing, 130-year-old controversy about the question and present evidence that humans entered the Americas thousands of years earlier than scientists previously thought.

The lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. in 370 Dwinelle Hall at the University of California, Berkeley. The lecture is free to the public. For more information, visit <http://www.archaeological.org/events>.

## Western Archives Institute Offers Practical Instruction

The **28th Annual Western Archives Institute** (WHI) is an intensive, two-week program that provides integrated instruction in basic archival practices to individuals with a variety of goals, including:

Those whose jobs require a fundamental understanding of archival skills, but have little or no previous archives education;

Those who have expanding responsibility for archival materials;

Those who are practicing archivists but have not received formal instruction;

Those who demonstrate a commitment to an archival career.

The Institute offers a diverse curriculum that includes the history and development of the profession; archival theory and terminology; records management, appraisal, arrangement, and description; manuscripts and photographs acquisition; archives and the law; preservation administration; reference and access; outreach programs; and managing archival programs and institutions. The curriculum also includes site visits to historical records repositories.

Admission to the program is by application only and enrollment is limited. To apply, visit <http://www.calarchivists.org/WAI>.

The WHI is co-sponsored by the **Society of California Archivists**, and the **California State Archives**.

# Announcements

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## Field Class Will Study Intaglios along the Colorado River

- The significance of intaglios--large human-like figures laid out on the ground--is one of the unsolved mysteries of modern archaeology. There are over 300 intaglios in the American Southwest and Mexico.
- On Sunday, March 2, 2014, anthropologist **Daniel McCarthy** will lead a **Joshua Tree National Park Association Desert Institute Field Class** to explore three different intaglio sites. The hiking required is graded as easy. At the first stop, McCarthy will share stories from the Modern Mojave people and explain the cultural importance of, the Topock Maze, a gigantic 10-acre array of windrows located near Needles.
- Participants will gather at the Oasis Visitor Center in Joshua Tree National Park, 74485 National Park Drive, Twenty-nine Palms, by 7:30 a.m. and will drive 250 miles during the class, ending at Blythe at about 6 p.m. Carpooling is encouraged.
- For more information or to sign up, visit <http://www.joshuatree.org/desert-institute/field-classes/intaglios-along-the-colorado-river>. The fee is \$50 for Association members, \$60 for non-members.

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## Gold Country Archivists

- **Adapted from the Society of California Archivists Newsletter, available at [www.calarchivists.org](http://www.calarchivists.org).**
- **The Society of California Archivists** are pleased to announce the formation of the **Gold Country Archivists** (GCA), an informal collaborative group for archivists in the Sacramento region. The purpose of GCA is to identify archival needs, issues, and concerns faced by archivists in the area, and to foster a sense of community among archives professionals.
- The idea to form GCA was generated at a Society of California Archivists Strategic Planning Task Force focus group meeting that was held in Sacramento in February 2013. GCA plans to meet quarterly to share information, collaborate on projects, discuss issues related to archival collections, tour local repositories, and hear speakers who have information and expertise to share.
- The first GCA meeting was held on June 12th at the Center for Sacramento History, where twenty-seven attendees from Yolo, Sacramento, Placer, San Joaquin, and El Dorado Counties made introductions and discussed future meeting topics. The next meeting is scheduled for December 11th. The scope and activities of the group are based on member feedback, so if you are interested in contributing to the discussion, please consider attending an upcoming GCA meeting.
- For more information about the Gold Country Archivists, or to be added to the distribution list, please contact [goldcountryarchivists@gmail.com](mailto:goldcountryarchivists@gmail.com).

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## Autry Center to Host Conference about the Inclusive Museum

- The **Autry Center** in Los Angeles will host the **7th International Conference on the Inclusive Museum** from August 4 through August 6, 2014. This interdisciplinary conference "encourages discussion on the historical character and future shape of the museum, as well as key issues of inclusivity in the museum."
- The Conference, and its companion book series and academic journal, invite museum practitioners, researchers, thinkers, and teachers to submit presentation abstracts and join in the discussion.
- In addition to daily plenary sessions, the Conference will include thematic paper sessions, round table discussions, workshops, colloquia, and poster exhibits. Themes include Visitors, Collections, Representations and the 2014 Conference focus, "Shared Visions and Shared History." These broad themes are intended to encourage people with a wide range of backgrounds and ideas.
- Abstracts are accepted in monthly rounds and deadlines are regularly updated on the Conference website. In addition to daily plenary sessions the Conference will include Registrants whose abstracts have been accepted are welcome to submit their articles to the fully peer-reviewed *International Journal of the Inclusive Museum* for possible publication.
- Some special registrations and Outstanding Graduate Scholar Awards are available. For more information on this Conference, visit <http://onmuseums.com/the-conference>. You can email the Conference Director at [conference@onmuseums.com](mailto:conference@onmuseums.com).
- The surface mail address is Conference Director, The Inclusive Museum, c/o Common Ground Publishing, 2001 South First Street, Suite 202, Champaign, IL 61820.

# Announcements

## Museum Trustee Association Aids Volunteer Organizations

There are nearly 75,000 elected volunteer museum trustees in the United States. They set policy and goals, raise funds, allocate resources, oversee the management of their institutions, make personnel decisions, and represent their museums to the community. But in many cases they have no professional training for the complex moral and legal obligations they encounter in their work.

The **Museum Trustee Association** (MTA) is an organization that provides ongoing education programs, services and resources for the special needs of museum trustees. It began as a committee of what is now the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) in 1971, and became an independent organization in 1986.

The MTA has created four customizable software templates designed to create documents, spreadsheets, reports and presentations tailored to the board's needs. The completed tools help boards organize their thoughts, identify their priorities, and plan their actions. The topics are as follows:

*Building Museum Boards* includes nine tools to help boards identify, recruit and orient new members while still keeping current members involved and engaged.

*The Leadership Partnership* contains four tools to help boards and directors engage in a mutual assessment with the goal of building stronger partnerships.

*Executive Transitions* includes thirteen tools to guide a board through the search for an executive director.

*Strategic Thinking and Planning* contains sixteen tools that help museum leaders build an effective strategic plan and regularly monitor progress toward strategic goals.

The MTA Templates were developed using Microsoft Office 2000. They are also compatible with Microsoft Office 97 & Office XP. The cost of each template is \$50 for MTA members, \$60 for AAM members, and \$75 for non-members.

To order templates or learn more about the benefits of MTA membership, visit the MTA website at <http://mta-hq.org>.

## Obama's Public Papers Published

The National Archives office of the Federal Register and the United States Government Printing Office have published the third edited, annotated, and indexed volume of President Barack Obama's public papers, with appendices, covering the period six months from January to June, 2010. Already published presidential papers include those of Presidents Hoover, Truman, and Eisenhower through Obama. Those since 1992 are available on-line.

For more information visit <http://www.archives.gov/press>.

# Conferences

The **American Alliance of Museums** (AAM) will host its 2014 Meeting and Museum Expo in Seattle May 18 to May 21. The theme is The Innovation Edge, which broadly includes these topics: How do we engage, support and sustain innovation in our museums and in our communities? How can our museums serve as engines of innovation? What examples can we share of the best recent innovations in education? What are the innovative models in conservation, exhibitions, audience engagement, development and more? For more information visit [www.aam-us.org/events](http://www.aam-us.org/events).

The **California Preservation Foundation** will hold its Annual Conference at Asilomar State Park, Pacific Grove, from Tuesday, April 22, through Friday, April 25. The Conference theme is "Redefining Preservation: Dialogues and Directions in Cultural Heritage." Conference tracks include planning for evolving communities, diversity in heritage conservation, rethinking preservation technology, and contemporary preservation practice approaches for addressing traditional building methodologies. Walking tours of Asilomar --Julia Morgan was the original architect--and off-site tours of nearby historic sites are included. For more information, visit [www.californiapreservation.org](http://www.californiapreservation.org).

(See "Conferences" continued on page 20.)

## Conferences

(Continued from page 19)

The **National Council for History Education** (NCHE) will hold its 2014 Annual Conference on March 20-22 in Albuquerque, NM. The Conference offers an opportunity to connect with teachers, historians, and university faculty from across the country. The Conference theme is New Frontiers, and NCHE encourages conference proposals that illustrate collaboration and history education. There will be three keynote speakers and over 70 breakout sessions, as well as excursions to museums and historic sites.

NCHE also offers membership publications, professional development workshops for teachers through the federally-funded Teaching American History Grant Program, and maintains an active advocacy program to keep history a core discipline within the curriculum.

For more information visit [www.nche.net](http://www.nche.net).

The **Western Association of Women Historians** (WAWH) will hold their Annual Conference May 1-3 at the Kellogg West Conference Center at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. The WAWH encourages the participation of academic historians and independent scholars, and welcomes literary scholars and art, theater, and film specialists.

The WAWH was founded in 1969 to promote the interests of women historians both in academic settings and in the field of history generally. Drawing scholars from the Western states, the WAWH is the largest of the regional women's historical associations in the U.S.

For more information, visit <http://www.wawh.org>.

The **Society for Commercial Archaeology** (SCA) will hold its 2014 Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida, April 9-12. The SCA is the nation's oldest organization devoted to the buildings, artifacts, structures, signs, and symbols of the 20th-century commercial landscape, including the role of the automobile in shaping our landscape and culture. You can download their conference brochure at [http://www.sca-roadside.org/sites/default/files/SCA\\_conf2014\\_brochure2-c.pdf](http://www.sca-roadside.org/sites/default/files/SCA_conf2014_brochure2-c.pdf).

The **Society of California Archivists** will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Palm Springs, California, May 8-10, 2014. The AGM program theme will be "The Public and Archives," a theme which allows sessions to explore how archivists interact with the public, and identify persons and groups who interact with archives. This interaction occurs in many different areas, including public services, donor relations, social media, community outreach, advocacy, the privacy and confidentiality of archival materials, and collecting for specific communities and groups. For more information visit the SCA website at <http://www.calarchivists.org>.

## Book Reviews

### The King of California: J. G. Boswell and the Making of a Secret American Empire

By Mark Araz and Rick Wartzman. New York, NY: Public Affairs, 2003. xii + 558 pp. Illustrations, map, genealogical chart, notes, bibliography, index. \$17.95, paperback; \$30.00 hardcover. Reviewed by A. C. W. Bethel.

This well-researched, well-documented and readable account by two accomplished investigative journalists examines the origin, personnel and operations of the Boswell Company, a closely-held, highly-industrialized agribusiness, the nation's largest. International in scope, the company is centered on 200,000 acres in California's Tulare Basin, and the book focuses on the Basin's agriculture, especially its cotton industry, its workers, its flood control and irrigation infrastructure, and, more broadly, on national agricultural policies and subsidies. The primary characters in this study are Boswell founder Colonel James Griffin Boswell (1882-1952), and his namesake nephew and successor Jim (1923-2009).

Boll weevil infestation had motivated Colonel Boswell (an injury had ended his military service) to relocate his cotton farming operation from Georgia to Arizona then to the Tulare Basin in the 1920s. His first wife, Alaine, who wrote poetry, had an inheritance that financed the Colonel's new start. To his deep sorrow, she passed away at 52. The Colonel later married Ruth Chandler, the daughter of *Los Angeles Times* publisher Harry Chandler. The socially adept and well-placed couple made their home in a half-timbered Tudor mansion in Pasadena and the Colonel managed his vertically-integrated agricultural empire of 45,000 acres or so from his downtown Los Angeles office.

The Colonel's younger brother Bill, who was Jim Boswell II's father, had come to Corcoran in the 1920s because the Colonel, a marketing expert, knew little about how to grow cotton. Bill's wife, Kate, found adapting to life away from her accustomed African-American servants in Georgia challenging, and despaired of the gloomy tule fog. Bill never liked business, and remained his brother's employee, with the Colonel financing his children's educations as part of Bill's compensation package. Jim II lived modestly with his parents in Corcoran and attended local schools until ninth grade, when his uncle sent him to prestigious Thacher School in Ojai then to Stanford, where Jim earned a degree in economics.

Despite a domineering manner, the Colonel attracted talented, loyal employees, notably the politically well-connected, astute, and intellectual Fred Sherrill. Sherrill helped steer the Boswell Company through difficult negotiations over the construction of Pine Flat Dam on the Kings River. The dam was intended to impound spring snowmelt that had regularly flooded the Tulare Basin, and to provide a reliable water supply for irrigation. President Franklin Roosevelt's Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes sought to enforce the 1902 Reclamation Act's 160-acre farm-size limitation on Tulare Basin farms as a condition of using federally-funded irrigation projects, but Sherrill avoided this limit by arranging to have the Army Corps of Engineers build the dam as a flood control project.

Congress had legislated the 160-acre limitation in an effort to promote small, family-owned farms, an idea that has a powerful hold on the American political imagination. A 1976 federal court decision would later invalidate the exception Sherrill had arranged for the Kings River, and the issue wasn't resolved in the Boswell Company's favor until President Ronald Reagan signed the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982.

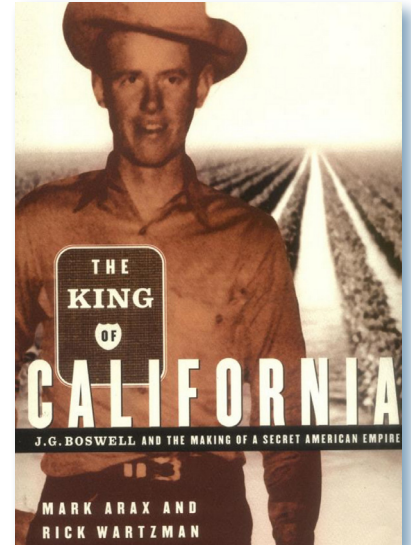
After the Colonel died in 1952, his nephew Jim quickly took charge of the Board of Directors, sidelining Sherrill's leadership bid. But Jim valued Sherrill as his Washington lobbyist, and Sherrill remained a loyal employee. (He had to swallow some bitter feelings: the Colonel had excluded Sherrill from his will, breaking his promise to give him a third of the company.)

Jim shifted company policy away from financing other cotton producers and ginning their product, activities where profits were declining. He sold marginal cotton ranches in Arizona for developer Del Webb's pioneering Sun City retirement community. He bought large tracts of prime land and, more important in his eyes, water rights from erstwhile competitors who found themselves in difficult financial or personal circumstances. Often he bought land at bargain prices. His acquisitions ended what had previously been confrontations when rising flood waters had threatened rival growers. He invested in mechanization, and in scientifically improved crops, and reoriented his company as a grower, producer, and landowner. But his image as a powerful corporate executive trying to bully small-scale farmers persisted; a plaintiffs' attorney made it a major issue in a 1988 lawsuit that Boswell lost. The judgment included millions of dollars in punitive damages.

The authors present Jim Boswell as a complex man. He was feisty and in-your-face, but also secretive. He was benevolent toward his employees and philanthropic toward his company town, Corcoran, but quick to fire loyal upper-level managers without notice. He was sophisticated about business procedures, and sat on the boards of such corporations as General Electric, but he had lost two fingers in a roping accident when he was working as a cowboy on the family ranch. He managed his company from offices on the 46th floor of a Los Angeles skyscraper and only occasionally visited his Corcoran properties, using the company jet. But he drove the authors over his property in a battered pickup truck, and took hands-on action in floods and strikes. (In the 1969 flood, Jim bought junk cars at \$15 each and stacked them on top of a threatened levee.) He was an energetic outdoorsman but his contamination of the former Tulare Basin wetlands arguably poisoned birds.

The Boswell Company has an ambivalent record regarding lucrative federal agricultural subsidies. The Boswell Company accepted tens of thousands of dollars from the federal government under the New Deal Agricultural Adjustment Act, which paid farmers to remove land from production. In 1937, Boswell executives devised a way to make the Act work more equitably. But Jim Boswell urged President Ronald Reagan and federal lawmakers to let the free market determine agricultural prices, balked at participating in some farm programs, and returned at least one \$50,000 subsidy check. Boswell has taken millions of dollars in federal aid for flood control irrigation, crop insurance, marketing loans to reduce risk, and cash rewards for exporting.

*(continued on page 22.)*



# Book Reviews

(Continued from page 21.)

At the state level, Jim Boswell contributed heavily to the 1982 referendum that defeated the planned Peripheral Canal, which would have carried northern California water around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to create the final link in the State Water Project. While the State Water Project provided Tulare Basin growers with as much water as the Kings, Kaweah, Tule and Kern Rivers combined, they feared that environmental provisions in the Peripheral Canal bill might actually reduce the water available for irrigation.

Jim Boswell relied heavily on experts; he didn't try to micro-manage and he didn't want yes-men. But top-level managers found him hard to work for. He would berate men publicly, and fire them without discussion. This included his chief state lobbyist and company president Jim Fisher, who had served him loyally and effectively for 26 years. Perhaps Boswell was making room for his son, James W., but he and his son's very different personalities clashed, and Jim had often belittled Jim W's ideas only to claim them as his own later. But eventually the two men grew close.

The authors devote chapters to reporting on Corcoran's ethnic mix. A few African-American people had settled in Corcoran by 1915. Displaced share-croppers who could pick cotton came in the Depression years. Despite pervasive racism, the authors use first-person accounts to show that it was a better life for many. Thousands more African-Americans came after World War II, competing with the Mexican nationals who worked in the government-sponsored Bracero program. An enterprising African-American itinerant salesman, Edwin Matheney, built a personal fortune selling lots north of Corcoran to African-American workers who created an owner-occupied village. In 1964 its residents successfully applied to the federal government's War on Poverty program for piped-in potable water, despite a lack of cooperation from the Anglo community. Boswell and other growers treated individual African-American workers well, but few African-Americans advanced in their employ. From the mid-1950s, when mechanization eliminated many agricultural jobs, the African-American and Hispanic workers began to move on. Those African-American children who took advantage of locally-available education usually moved away to urban white-collar jobs. Corcoran's business district atrophied. Yet Corcoran's population has grown from about 10,000 in the 2000 census to about 24,000 in 2013.

The authors record the experiences of Hispanic workers in their own words too. The local Anglo community resented them, though Jim Boswell, who attended school with them, treated them easily as equals. Strikes in the 1930s divided Hispanic families and sundered friendships. Faced with union solidarity, the growers expelled the workers from their camps. The strikers established their own camps nearby, protected by barbed wire and armed guards. Many of the organizers were Marxists, but the strikers weren't, and the organizers kept their ideology out of their speeches. During a violent strike, individual growers—not Boswell—committed murder. A government fact-finding commission recommended a useful compromise. Many Hispanic strikers buried their resentments and returned to work loyally for Boswell.

An AFL attempt to organize displaced white farmers from the Dust Bowl fizzled. The workers were glad to have jobs working in Boswell's cotton gins, they disliked associating with African-Americans and Hispanics, and they saw themselves as rugged individualists. Organized farmers broke the AFL picket line easily, though Boswell had to rehire some strikers because of unfriendly government investigations. CIO attempts to organize Hispanics and Dust-Bowl "Okies" in the field fizzled as well. When the Machinists' Union won an election in 1954, Jim Boswell denied that the union contract had created a closed shop, defied both a strike and a federal mediator, and the next year watched his workers decertify the union.

If Boswell was hard on his upper-level managers, he was generous toward his lower-level employees. He paid high wages and benefits by industry standards. He replaced substandard workers' camps with sound houses, then loaned money so that his workers could afford to buy them. He knew his full-time workers by name, too—there were only about 300. He sought out and promoted competent Hispanics, some of whom became machine operators and supervisors. César Chavez's UFW never organized Boswell's employees successfully.

Some of the historical material is loosely written—Frank Norris's *Octopus* novel is not a reliable source for the conduct of the Southern Pacific Railroad in the 19th century, for example. Otherwise, the authors do a fine job of marshaling material gained by in-depth research and interviews, and their tone remains objective and professional, in contrast to some academic treatments of ag business. I came away feeling that I'd had an inside look at the economic, social and political aspects of a complex and important industry and its people. And it was a pleasure to read it.

*A. C. W. Bethel is professor (emeritus) at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and the author of historical articles and reviews.*

## Herbert Eugene Bolton, Historian of the American Borderlands

By Albert L. Hurtado. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012, xvi + 370 pp.; illus., notes, references, index, \$39.95, hardback.  
Reviewed by Nancy Taniguchi.

Herbert Eugene Bolton has found a sympathetic, meticulous biographer in Albert L. Hurtado. Such a thorough work, based on Bolton's personal and professional correspondence, the spectrum of works by and about him, and interviews with former students and others, reflects the author's admiration for his subject. The historian who emerges from these pages is wrapped in Hurtado's carefully-constructed cocoon of the past: of the hardscrabble farm where Bolton spent his youth, the varied halls of academe he trod, the U.S.-Mexican borderlands he personally traversed, his homes, his family, and the academic societies he headed. The reader comes away impressed with the exceptional qualities of the man himself: his tremendous capacity for work and his studied ability to get along with those whose good opinion mattered to his advancement. The book also reveals Bolton's clear comprehension of an academic milieu canted in favor of white, Protestant males—even one who had the audacity to champion Spanish Roman Catholics.

In the heart of the book, Hurtado describes how Bolton developed a new approach to U.S. history as part of the larger history of the Americas. He begins by describing Bolton's studies under Frederick Jackson Turner at the University of Wisconsin, and the valuable connections Bolton made there with professors, fellow students, and fraternity brothers. Hurtado then traces Bolton's rise to the top of the historical profession, including Bolton's skilful use of a Texas job offer to secure an appointment at the University of California, Berkeley while gracefully exiting its rival, Stanford.

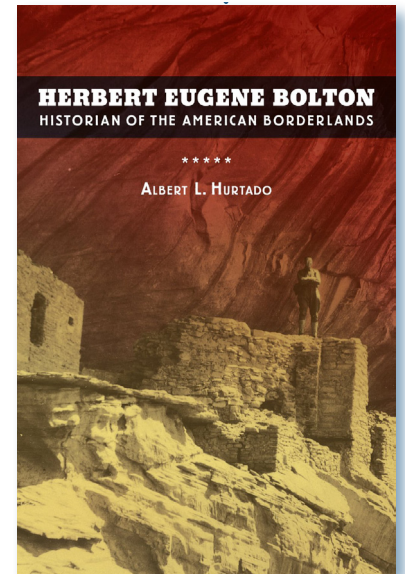
"By the 1920s," writes Hurtado, "Bolton had become the face, the voice, the embodiment of history to Californians—a leading spokesperson for the university as well as the history department and the Bancroft library. He represented the university's history program before the regents and the state legislature" and provided historical opinions to inquiring newspapermen (157-158). From this favorable position, Bolton sought to enhance his own power and to spread his unique interpretive approach through careful placement of his graduate students, forming close friendships and bitter rivalries.

Hurtado consistently presents Bolton in the best possible light. The author addresses earlier criticisms of Bolton, particularly his anti-Semitism, by asserting "Bolton's ideas about other [non-Christian] religious and [non-white] racial groups are more difficult to track, because he carefully avoided making controversial statements that might reflect adversely on the university" (144). In the book's only table, Hurtado analyzes "Bolton's Graduate Degrees by Year and Gender, 1909-1944" (168-169) with statistics showing that, adjusted for people who took two graduate degrees with Bolton, women accounted for 57 percent of his graduate students, but "they did not get a fair share of the resources Bolton distributed" (167). Bolton allegedly discouraged women from getting the Ph.D., "but this may have been because he fully understood and frankly explained the difficulty of placing women in university positions" (167). In other words, Bolton's academic decisions were driven by the times, not the man, as he exercised his tremendous drive to reach the top of the historical profession. Hurtado even attributes the elderly Bolton's inability to recognize his grandson to preoccupation rather than senility.

Bolton's historical stature, as Hurtado notes, trapped him in the "Drake's Plate of Brass" hoax concocted by fellow members of E Clampus Vitus. Bolton fell enthusiastically and publicly into the trap by immediately hailing the plate's authenticity. Hurtado gives a sympathetic interpretation of Bolton's motives: "After three decades of fighting on the Spanish Catholic side in California's culture wars, Bolton could strike a blow for his people, his hero, and his religious roots" Hurtado reminds the reader that Bolton did not perpetrate this fraud, he only made "errors of enthusiasm and carelessness" (209). All true. But one wonders what had become of the man who had meticulously translated Spanish language historical records, painstakingly traced obscure trails on both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border, and continually tried to engage an unresponsive Frederick Jackson Turner in a discussion of Bolton's ideas about the history of the Americas.

This fascinating, readable book makes an important contribution to our understanding of the growth of the institutionalized historical study of the Americas, and the impact of a single historian on its course.

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Please send all submissions to:

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