Guide to the Richard Amero Collection MS 76

Finding aid prepared by Samantha Mills
San Diego History Center Document Collection
1649 El Prado, Suite 3
San Diego, CA, 92101
619-232-6203
April 13, 2017
**Title:** Richard Amero Collection  
**Identifier/Call Number:** MS 76  
**Contributing Institution:** San Diego History Center Document Collection  
**Language of Material:** English  
**Physical Description:** 70.0 Linear feet(298 files)  
**Date (inclusive):** 1800-2004  
**Abstract:** This collection contains nearly 300 binders of copied notes, reports, correspondence, articles, and other research material compiled by Richard Amero on many San Diego historical subjects, with an emphasis on the history of Balboa Park.  
**creator:** Amero, Richard, 1924-2012  

**Biographical / Historical Notes**  
Richard Amero was born July 16, 1924. He spent his childhood in Gloucester, Massachusetts, where his father was a carpenter. Eager for him to break with the traditional family trade, his father kept Richard away from the carpenter tools. After being released from the army, Amero decided to enroll in Black Mountain College in 1946, where his main focus was literature. After a year at Black Mountain, he enrolled at Bard College. After graduating from Bard, Amero moved to San Diego where he worked for a year at Convair in the defense industry and then in material management for forty years with the San Diego Gas and Electric Company. Though not a professional historian, Amero became enamored with the history of San Diego, particularly Balboa Park, and spent over 40 years compiling research material from numerous archives around the country and writing articles based on his research. Amero was a member of the National Association for Olmsted Parks, the Trust for Public Lands, the San Diego Natural History Museum, the San Diego Historical Society, the San Diego Zoological Society, Friends of Central Park and other organizations. He wrote for newspapers and for the National Recreation Association, and contributed to several books on the history of Balboa Park. He collected information and wrote extensively until his death on December 22, 2012.  

**Scope and Content**  
This collection contains nearly 300 binders of copied notes, reports, correspondence, articles, and other research material compiled by Richard Amero on many San Diego historical subjects, with an emphasis on the history of Balboa Park. The copied research material was taken from archival collections in the Library of Congress, the Bancroft Library at the University of California in Berkeley, the Avery Fisher Library at Columbia University, libraries at Harvard and Cornell Universities, and the Olmsted Historical Site in Brookline, Massachusetts, among others. Richard Amero’s own articles and other local articles and theses are also included. The collection also contains copies of letters written by architect Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, landscape architects John Nolen and the brothers Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and John Charles Olmsted. There are reports from the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Indians of San Diego County, and articles and miscellaneous material on San Diego County Indians. Other subjects include Mission San Diego de Alcala, Old Town, El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park, the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848, Horton Plaza Park, Balboa Park (including histories of the expositions and of individual museums) the United States Naval Hospital in Balboa Park, Mission Bay, International Workers of the World, San Diego public transportation and water procurement problems, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, and San Diego High School. There is also biographical information on well-known individuals, including singers Schumann-Heink and Galli-Curci, landscape architect Samuel Parsons, architect Frank P. Allen, Jr., San Diego pioneer Daniel Cleveland, aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss, and San Diego entrepreneur “Charlie” Collier.  

**Arrangement**  
This collection is arranged in seventeen series:  
Series I: San Diego Architecture (Buildings and Landscape);  
Series II: John Nolen;  
Series III: Biographies;  
Series IV: San Diego History;  
Series V: Expositions;  
Series VI: Balboa Park History;  
Series VII: Balboa Park Buildings, Gardens and Open Spaces;  
Series VIII: Naval Hospital;  
Series IX: Mission Bay;  
Series X: Missions;
Series XI: Old Town;
Series XII: Indians;
Series XIII: Transportation in San Diego;
Series XIV: San Diego Gas and Electric;
Series XV: Horton Plaza;
Series XVI: The Mexican-American War;
Series XVII: Christmases in Early America.

Preferred Citation
Richard Amero Collection, MS 76, San Diego History Center Document Archives, San Diego, CA.

Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
The San Diego History Center (SDHC) holds the copyright to any unpublished materials. SDHC Library regulations do apply. Restrictions may apply to material copied from other institutions.

Comments:
There are gaps in the binder numbering (missing: 68, 80, 98, 100, 101, 106, 113, 167, 196, and 224), however these numbers appear to have been skipped accidentally when the binders were originally created by Amero, because there is no chronological gap in content. There are also many instances of binders being split into volumes (e.g. 8a and 8b).
Supplementary to this collection, Richard Amero wrote additional articles on the history of Balboa Park and compiled a digital timeline of Balboa Park history from pre-1900 to 1999, which are available on the San Diego History Center website.

Processing Information
Collection processed by Laura McMahon in January 2008.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Amero, Richard, 1924-2012
Cleveland, Daniel
Collier, David Charles
Galli-Curci, Amelita, 1882-1963
Gill, Irving, 1870-1936
Goodhue, Bertram Grosvenor, 1869-1924
Mission San Diego de Alcala.
Morley, John
Nolen, John, 1869-1937
Olmsted, John Charles, 1852-1920
Panama-California Exposition (1915-1916: San Diego, Calif.).
Parsons, Samuel, 1844-1923
Perry, Allen W.
San Diego High School.
Schumann-Heink, Ernestine, 1861-1936
Scripps, E. W. (Edward Willis), 1854-1926
Scripps, Ellen Browning, 1836-1932
Sessions, Kate Olivia, 1857-1940
Wangenheim, Julius
Architecture -- California -- San Diego
Balboa Park (San Diego, Calif.)
Expositions -- California -- San Diego
Horton Plaza
Indians of North America -- California -- San Diego County
Mexican War, 1846-1848
Mission Bay (Calif.)
Missions -- California -- San Diego
Old Town (San Diego, Calif.)
San Diego (Calif.)
Transportation
Water

Series I: San Diego Architecture (Buildings and Landscape)

Volume 1
A.C. Martin; L.A. art/sculpture; S.D. Architects; Carleton M. Winslow, Sr.; Civic Center; Pacific Coast Highway; Sam Hamill; Frank L. Hope; Robert Mosher; William Templeton Johnson, 1868-1994

Volume 2
Articles on Frank P. Allen, Jr., architect, 1881-1943

Volume 3
Articles on Frank P. Allen, Jr., architect, 1911-1943

Volume 4
Articles on Irving Gill, architect, 1870-1936

Volume 5
Bertram Goodhue; Letters in Avery Library, Library of Congress, 1869-1924

Volume 6-1
Articles by and about Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue and Clarence Stein, 1905-1990

Volume 6-2
Articles by and about Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue and Clarence Stein, 1925-1990

Volume 7
Articles on Spanish and Spanish Colonial architecture, including the articles "Architectural Derivations of Panama-California Exposition Buildings" by Richard Amero, 1902-2004

Volume 8

Volume 8a
Articles on Mexican art and architecture, including school work and the essay "Continuing Artistic Trends in Mexican Art" by Richard Amero, 1974-1990

Volume 9
Landscape architecture: Samuel Parsons, Jr., and George Cooke, 1897-1942

Volume 10
"Memories of Samuel Parsons," a book edited by Mabel Parsons, 1926

Volume 11
Articles by and about John C. Olmsted, representing the Olmstead Brothers. Also, letters in the Library of Congress and the Marston File, 1910-1912

Volume 12
Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., letters in the Library of Congress and letter from Bertram Goodhue, 1915, 1947-1948

Volume 13
Pictures, maps, and correspondence concerning projects by the Olmsted Firm, 1904-1994

Volume 14a
The Master List of the Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm (bound copy), 1857-1950

Volume 14b
The Master List of the Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm (copy in folder), 1857-1950

Volume 15
Olmsted conferences information—hosted by the National Association for Olmsted Parks, 1996

Volume 16
National Association of Olmstead Parks, news and membership information, 1993-1999

Volume 32
Historic preservation in San Diego including: Balboa Theatre, Belmont Park, Horton Plaza, Hotel Del Coronado, Sherman Heights, and Victorian homes, 1959-1989

Volume 34

Volume 267
Miscellaneous articles on city plans from around the world, including a copy of the book "Town and Square: From the Agora to the Village Green" by Paul Zucker, 1923-1997

Series II: John Nolen

Volume 17
Landscape Architecture/ City Planning: John Nolen: Bibliography, Articles by and about, Nolen plans, Influence on San Diego, and college thesis by John Loretz Hancock, 1869-1937, 1964

Volume 18
Series II: John Nolen

Volume 19: John Nolen papers #2903 from the Carl A. Kroch Library at Cornell University consisting of correspondence re: Nolen’s projects, 1924-1929


Volume 270: Miscellaneous news articles on John Nolen and his projects in chronological order, 1909-2004

Series III: Biographies

Volume 20: Articles, pictures and a discography of Amelita Galli-Curci, 1882-1963

Volume 21: Chronology of opera singer Madame Schumann-Heink’s career, 1861-1910

Volume 22: Articles on Madame Schumann-Heink, 1911-1924

Volume 23: Articles on Madame Schumann-Heink, 1925-1932

Volume 24: Articles on Madame Schumann-Heink, 1933-1976

Volume 25: Miscellaneous information from newspapers, books, and encyclopedias on Madame Schumann-Heink, 1939-1980

Volume 26: List of recordings by Madame Schumann-Heink, including article on tribute singer, 1997

Volume 27: Articles on Daniel Cleveland, 1925-1964

Volume 28: Articles on and projects by Colonel D.C. Collier, 1871-1936


Volume 30: Articles on Alonzo Erastus Horton and the Horton house, 1870-1967

Volume 31-1: Miscellaneous biographies including: Ed Fletcher, Charles F. Lummis, and George W. Marston, 1888-1986

Volume 31-2: Articles on John Morley, W. Allen Perry, E. W. Scripps, Ellen Browning Scripps, Kate Sessions, and Julius Wangenheim, 1887-1990

Series IV: San Diego History

Volume 37: Articles written by Winifred Davidson, including poems, Famous Firsts and Old Tales of the Southwest, 1931-1939

Volume 38: Romance of Old San Diego articles written by Winifred Davidson, and miscellanea, 1940-1944, 1949-1955

Volume 39: Overview of San Diego history, including a chronology, influential people, important events, and surveys, 1535-1976

Volume 40: San Diego history and newspapers before 1900, including surveys, statehood, Coronado, people, the Bulletin, Herald, Union, and Sun, 1887-1900

Volume 41: Articles on San Diego military affairs, including aviation school chronology, Fort Rosecrans, U.S.S. San Diego 7th Regiment, and the U.S. Marines, 1935-1970

Volume 42: Beginnings of aviation at North Island, 1910-1981


Volume 44: San Diego planning, including communities, convention center, Embarcadero, Gaslamp Quarter, high rise, Horton Plaza renewal, marine areas, Memorial Bell Tower, Midway Canal, Mission Valley River Park, palm trees, public land use, rental housing, Seaport Village, and Shelter Island, 1966-1986

Volume 45: San Diego High School, also includes some information on Roosevelt Junior High School, 1873-1977

Series V: Expositions


Volume 47a: The San Diego Expositions and Their Impact on Balboa Park. Book One. Includes: Samuel Parsons, Jr., making of the Panama-California Exposition, the exposition goes international, and “East Meets West” in Balboa Park, 1889-1915


Volume 51: Expositions: Paris 1855, Paris 1878, Chicago 1893, Omaha 1898, Paris 1900, Buffalo 1901, St. Louis 1904, and Portland 1905, 1855-1905

Volume 51a: Expositions: Jamestown 1907, Seattle 1909, Brussels 1910, Gulfport, Miss. 1916-1917, 1907-1917


Volume 53: Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition, Seattle 1909, 1909

Volume 54: San Francisco Panama-Pacific Exposition 1915, 1915

Volume 55: Dallas Centennial Exposition, 1936

Volume 84: “Post Mortem” on the Panama-California Exposition, 1916

Volume 103: California Pacific International Exposition, 1935-1936


Volume 275: Excerpts from numerous books on world’s fairs and expositions, including fairs in Chicago, San Diego, Mississippi, Paris, Brazil, Philadelphia, Long Beach, Spain, Cleveland, San Francisco, New York, Seattle, and Montreal, 1851-1998

Volume 176a: Box of slides on the Panama-California Exposition and other expositions, undated

Series VI: Balboa Park History


Volume 57: List of sources Amero contacted, including correspondence from archives in California and the National Archives, 1995

Volume 58: General articles by: William E. Smythe, Daniel Cleveland, Leroy A. Wright, H.C. Hopkins, George W. Marston, Jerry MacMullen, Robert Horn and others, 1918-1977

Volume 59: News articles and maps on Balboa Park, 1868-1899

Volume 60: News articles on Balboa Park, 1900-1904

Volume 61: News articles on Balboa Park, 1905-1906

Volume 61a: News articles on Balboa Park, 1907-1908

Volume 62: News articles on Balboa Park, 1909

Volume 63: News articles on Balboa Park, 1910

Volume 64: News articles on Balboa Park, 1911 January-February

Volume 64a: News articles on Balboa Park, 1911 March-June

Volume 65: News articles on Balboa Park, 1911 July-December

Volume 66: News articles on Balboa Park, 1912

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Volume 70: News articles on Balboa Park, 1914 July-December

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Volume 274: Excerpts from the book "New Iberian World: A documentary history of the discovery and settlement of Latin America to the early 17th century" by John H. Parry and Robert G. Keith. Includes biographical narrative of Vasco Nunez de Balboa, 1984
Volume 175a: Slides on Balboa Park, activities, buildings, and exposition, undated

Series VII: Balboa Park Buildings, Gardens, and Open Spaces

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Volume 144: News articles on Casa del Prado in Balboa Park, Book One, 1914-1967
Volume 145a: News articles on the Cabrillo Bridge and Cabrillo Freeway, 1919-2004
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Volume 147: News articles on the Fine Arts Gallery and the Museum of Art from 1900-1916, Book One, 1900-1916
Volume 158: News articles on the House of Pacific Relations and Morley Field (Velodrome), 1934-1996
Volume 159: News articles on the Indian Village and Painted Desert, 1900-1990
Volume 161: Master Site Plan for the San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden, 1986
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