
Lou K. Ross Lantern Slide Collection of Southern California Missions: Finding Aid

Finding aid prepared by Michelle Sanchez.

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens

Photo Archives

1151 Oxford Road

San Marino, California 91108

Phone: (626) 405-2191

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URL: <http://www.huntington.org>

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Overview of the Collection

Title: Lou K. Ross Lantern Slide Collection of Southern California Missions

Dates (inclusive): approximately 1920s

Collection Number: photCL 516

Creator: Ross, Lou K., 1878-1962.

Extent: 58 photographs in 3 boxes : lantern slides + 1 typescript document.

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Abstract: This collection includes lantern slides of eleven California missions, all of which are portrayed through artists' renderings or through photographs. The missions are shown in states of past affluence and of then present disrepair. The slides are meant to accompany a slideshow lecture given by Mrs. Lou K. Ross to educate Los Angeles club groups about the condition of the missions in the 1920s.

Language: English.

Note:

Finding aid last updated on March 20, 2015.

Access

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Lou K. Ross Lantern Slide Collection of Southern California Missions, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance

Gift of Jane Calhoun in October 1987.

Biographical Note

Lou K. Ross (1878-1962) was born in Michigan and later lived in Pasadena, California, with her husband, Clarence Ross, an auditor for a lumber company. Lou Ross used to give lectures on the California Missions, accompanied by lantern slides, to club groups.

Scope and Content

This collection includes lantern slides of eleven California missions, all of which are portrayed through artists' renderings or through photographs. The missions are shown in states of past affluence and of then present disrepair. The slides are meant to accompany a slideshow lecture given by Mrs. Lou K. Ross to educate Los Angeles club groups about the condition of the missions in the 1920s. The lantern slides in this collection depict both photographs and artistic renderings of some California missions in various constructional states. The missions that are shown on the slides include San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo, San Gabriel Arcángel, San Juan Capistrano, San Miguel Arcángel, San Buenaventura, San Diego de Alcalá, San Fernando Rey, San Juan Bautista, San Luis Rey, San Rafael Arcángel, and Santa Barbara. Scenes of the missions portray their ruins, restoration, interiors, and artistic imaginings of mission life in the 18th and 19th centuries. The slides also show Indian women with baskets, the secularization of the missions, Dana Point, cactus plants, memorials, Los Angeles, a drive-in market, the California coast, a date palm, an olive press, Father Junípero Serra, and Eulalia Pérez de Guillén. "Missions and Romance of Southern California," a typescript lecture written by Mrs. Lou K. Ross in 1929, is included in the information file for this collection. The lecture was designed to educate Los Angeles club groups on the condition of the California missions at the time; it also notes which lantern slides correspond to certain points in the lecture.

Arrangement

The lantern slides are arranged according to their corresponding points in the accompanying lecture, "Missions and Romance of Southern California," followed by slides not referenced in the lecture.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the [Huntington Library's Online Catalog](#).

Subjects

Missions, Spanish--California--Photographs.
Missions, Spanish--California--Pictorial works.
Indians of North America--California--Photographs.
Mission San Carlos Borromeo (Carmel, Calif.)--Photographs.
Mission San Gabriel Arcangel (San Gabriel, Calif.)--Photographs.
Mission San Juan Capistrano--Photographs.
Mission San Miguel Arcangel (San Miguel, Calif.)--Photographs.
San Buenaventura Mission--Photographs.
San Diego Mission--Photographs.
San Fernando, Rey de España (Mission : San Fernando, Calif.)--Photographs.
San Juan Bautista (Mission : San Juan Bautista, Calif.)--Photographs.
San Luis Rey Mission (Calif.)--Photographs.
San Rafael Mission (Marin County, Calif.)--Photographs.
Santa Barbara Mission--Photographs.
Secularization--California--Photographs.
Serra, Junípero, 1713-1784--Pictorial works.
Dana Point (Calif.)--Photographs.
Los Angeles (Calif.)--Photographs.

Forms/Genres

Lantern slides.
Photographs.

Container list

Box 1	Lantern slides 1-23
Item 1	Fr. Junípero Serra [illustration]
Item 2	The first date palm in California. San Diego. [photograph]
Item 3	Cross built from the materials of the first mission, marking the spot on which San Diego de Alcala was founded in 1769. [photograph]
Item 4	Mission San Diego [illustration]
Item 5	Mission San Diego. Cross marking site where California's first Christian martyr (Padre Jaymi) fell. [photograph]
Item 6	Mission San Diego [illustration]
Item 7/A	Mission San Diego. Ruins. [photograph]
Item 8	Mission San Diego. Church front and side walls. [photograph]
Item 9	Mission San Diego. Prickly pear cactus. [photograph]
Item 10	[Monks traveling on foot] [illustration]
Item 11	Mission San Luis Rey [illustration]
Item 12	Mission San Luis Rey. Secularization [photograph]
Item 13	Mission San Luis Rey. Church and ruins [photograph]
Item 14	Mission San Luis Rey. Chapel ruins [photograph]
Item 15/B	Mission San Luis Rey. Restored mission [Also corresponds to typescript page 27][photograph]
Item 16	Dana Point, California [photograph]
Item 17	Mission San Juan Capistrano at the height of prosperity [illustration]
Item 18	Mission San Juan Capistrano. Church ruins [photograph]

Item 19	Mission San Juan Capistrano. [Priest sitting and reading] [photograph]
Item 20	Mission San Juan Capistrano [photograph]
Item 21	Mission San Juan Capistrano [Ruins with two tourists][photograph]
Item 22	Mission San Juan Capistrano. Olive press [photograph]
Item 23	Mission San Juan Capistrano. [Ruined arch, part of church?] [photograph]
Box 2	Lantern slides 24-47
Item 24	Mission San Juan Capistrano. Bell court [photograph]
Item 25/C	Mission San Juan Capistrano [Also corresponds to typescript page 27][photograph]
Item 26	Mission San Gabriel [illustration]
Item 27	Mission San Gabriel. Eulalia Perez [Perez] de Guillen [photograph]
Item 28	Mission San Gabriel [Damaged] [illustration]
Item 29/D	Mission San Gabriel. Bell tower. [Also corresponds to typescript page 27] [photograph]
Item 30	Mission San Gabriel [photograph]
Item 31	Mission San Fernando Rey [Damaged] [photograph]
Item 32	Mission San Fernando Rey. Ruins [photographs]
Item 33	Mission San Fernando Rey. Ruined church [photograph]
Item 34	Mission San Fernando Rey [photograph]
Item 35	Mission San Fernando Rey [photograph]
Item 36	[Does not exist]
Item 37	Mission San Fernando Rey [photograph]
Item 38/E	Mission San Fernando Rey [Also corresponds to typescript page 27] [photograph]
Item 39	Mission San Buenaventura [illustration]
Item 40	Secularization [colorized photograph of theatrical play]
Item 41	Mission San Buenaventura [photograph]
Item 42	Mission San Buenaventura [Slide does not correspond to typescript] [photograph]
Item 43	Mission San Buenaventura. Church interior [photograph]
Item 44/F	Mission San Buenaventura [Also corresponds to typescript page 27] [photograph]
Item 45	California coast [photograph]
Item 46	Mission Carmel [Slide does not correspond to typescript] [photograph]
Item 47	Mission Santa Barbara, 1875 [photograph]
Box 3	Lantern slides 48-G
Item 48	Mission Santa Barbara [illustration]
Item 49	Mission Santa Barbara [photograph]
Item 50	[Does not exist]
Item 51	Mission San Gabriel [illustration]
Item 52	Mission San Juan Bautista [photograph]
Item 53	Mission San Juan Bautista [photograph]
Item 54	Mission San Miguel [photograph]
Item 55	Mission San Rafael [photograph]
Item 56	[Indian woman with baskets] [photographs]
Item 57	Indian woman splitting acorns near Fresno Flat [photograph]
Item 58	Chapman Park drive-in market [Los Angeles, California] [photograph]
Item 59	"Los Angeles today" [Aerial view of Los Angeles buildings and freeways][photograph]
Item G	Mission Santa Barbara [Corresponds to typescript page 27] [photograph]