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
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San Marino, California 91108
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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:

Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

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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 Borroméo 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.
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]