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## **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

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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

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

### Publication Rights

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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

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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.

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### **Container list**

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

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