# GALLEGACY THE LURE AND THE LEGACY

MAY 8 & 9, 1998 · HERBST THEATRE, SF



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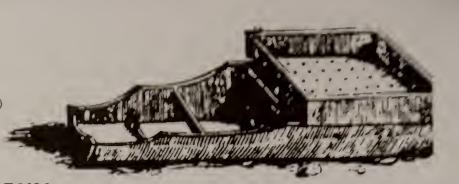
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HUMANITIES WEST 211 Sutter Street, Suite 601 San Francisco, CA 94108 415/391-9700

# FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1998, 8:00 PM - 10:15 PM

HERBST THEATRE, 401 VAN NESS (AT MCALLISTER), SAN FRANCISCO



Introduction 8:00 PM GOLD RUSH AND CONTEMPORARY CALIFORNIA

CHARLES WOLLENBERG, Vista Community College, Berkeley

The California Gold Rush is popularly portrayed as a colorful, rollicking event, without consideration for its relevance to contemporary California. In fact, the Gold Rush is the beginning of modern California history, producing a series of social processes and themes that have characterized California life ever since.

A stroll down a San Francisco street in the late 1800s

would have revealed as multi-cultural a mix of faces as it does today. Europeans were joined by Chinese, Peruvians, free blacks from northern states, Pacific Islanders and Central Americans. When California entered the union in 1850, it was already the nation's most ethnically diverse state and remains so today. This is the Gold Rush heritage that most directly affects the lives of present-day Californians.

SEARCHING FOR GOLD, DISCOVERING PHOTOGRAPHY 8:30 PM Slide presentation

THERESE HEYMAN, Research Associate, Oakland Museum of California

Highlights from the Gold Rush photography exhibit at the Oakland Museum.

Lecture/Performance 8:55 PM DAME SHIRLEY

KATE MCGRUDER, Actress

The harsh and colorful life in the gold mining camp is brought to life by one of the finest writers of the period. Dame Shirley is the alias of a writer and historian who lived in the Gold mining fields. She provided detailed and fascinating chronicles of the hard life of the miners, the engineering problems, encounters with harsh nature, and the roles of women and the competing groups and

cultures during the Gold Rush period. The California Council for the Humanities has commissioned actors and scholars to develop this and other characters as part of its History Alive! Chataqua series for 1998-99. "Dame Shirley," as portrayed by Kate Magruder, will address questions from the audience at the end of her presentation.

Performance SONGS FROM THE GOLD RUSH, MOTHERLODE MUSICAL THEATRE 9:30 PM

CORINNE SWALL, MONROE KANOUSE, LAWRENCE VENZA, WILLIAM NEIL

Marin County's historical performance troupe entertains and educates with song. They will dispel the stereotype of prostitutes and gunslingers and offer a glimpse of this

American Victorian Era. A selection of Gold Rush era musical pieces with commentary re-create the lore which lured fortune seekers to California.

R.V. Sankey Race to California Melodeon Songs

Miners' Ditties O Susanna! (California words)

I'm a Used Up Man

I'm Sad and Lonely Here

Put's Golden Songster

Wm. Herz Kissing on the Sly If You Only Have a Moustache Steven Foster After the Opera Carl Hess

Victorian Parlour Ballads

J.R. Thomas Fishes in the Sea Must We Then Meet as Strangers J.R. Thomas 1 Have Found Thee, But Too Late Stephen Massett G.F. Rimbault Bright Things Can Never Die

### SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1998 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Lecture PRODIGAL PLUNDER: REVERBERATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH, 10:00 AM **1850–1890S** J. S. HOLLIDAY, Historian

Beyond the impact of the Gold Rush years (1849-1852), the quest for gold remained the driving force in California history and spurred the formation of a wildly entrepreneurial society and the evolution of an increasingly inventive, audacious, and capitalistic mining industry. Eventually, through hydraulic mining, the Gold Rush caused an era of arrogant environmental destruction that led to a confrontation between mining and the society that it had nurtured. Remarkable images—daguerreotypes and photographs from the 1850s through the 1880s—depict the flumes and massive machinery that rearranged Nature in those years of savage struggle with California's landscape.

IMAGES FROM THE LURE AND LEGACY OF THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH 10:50 AM Slide presentation

HARVEY JONES, Curator, Oakland Museum of California

Highlights from the Gold Rush Art exhibit at the Oakland Museum.

Lecture INVENTING CULTURE FOR CALIFORNIA: AN OVERVIEW OF THE VISUAL ARTS, 11:10 am 1849-1906 PAUL J. KARLSTROM, Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Art, California

An urban culture was created in San Francisco during the second half of the nineteenth century. While acknowledging the Spanish and Mexican periods, connections to the European-East Coast cultural models largely influenced institutions created in San Francisco within twenty-five years of the Gold Rush.

As it happens, virtually all the important artists working in California were concentrated in and around the Bay Area in 1870. A few years later two organizations, the San Francisco Art Association and the Bohemian Club, were founded by, for the most part, the same artists and civic leaders (all male, of course: another part of the story). Dr. Karlstrom will trace the development of art and culture through these two organizations and the key painters associated with them.

# **BREAK FOR LUNCH: 12:00 – 1:30 PM**

1:30 PM CALICANTO SINGERS, SONGS FROM THE GOLD RUSH Performance

A lively selection of authentic Gold Rush musical numbers evokes the multicultural flavor of performance in 19th century California.

> Sacramento We are All A-Panning Days of '49 What Was Your Name in the States? California Bloomer Joe Bowers Seeing the Elephant

PIONEER STARS: LEADING ENTERTAINERS ON THE 2:00 PM Lecture GOLD RUSH STAGE MISHA BERSON, Drama critic, The Seattle Times

Posters, playbills, and other advertisements illustrate the early development of San Francisco's lively entertainment scene during the Gold Rush era. While still a remote outpost reachable only by rugged overland and sea travel, the flourishing city boasted attractions such as plays, variety shows, Italian opera, Chinese acrobatics, and circus performances. In the busy theater world emerged several glittering Gold Rush stars, including Lola Montez, Ada Isaacs Menken, Lotta Crabtree, and young Edwin Booth.

Lecture/Performance MARIANO GUADALUPE VALLEJO 3:00 PM

> DANIEL LEWIS, Assistant Professor of History, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

period, and was recognized as the local representative of the Mexican government. His land grants included most of what is now Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano coun-

General Vallejo held both military and civil authority over ties. He was imprisoned during the Bear Flag Rebellion, a vast area of Northern California during the Mexican but later served as a negotiator and translator, and a Senator to the state of California. This character was commissioned by the California Council for the Humanities as part of its History Alive! Chatagua series for 1998-99.

CHARLES WOLLENBERG, moderator Closing Discussion 3: 30 PM





### CALIFORNIA GOLD: SPEAKER AND PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

MISHA BERSON is currently the lead drama critic for The Seattle Times newspaper, and a fellow in the National Arts Journalism Program at Columbia University, sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trust. She was formerly the drama critic for the S.F. Bay Guardian (1981-91) and is author of the two volume history The San Francisco Stage (published by SF Performing Arts Library and Museum). For her work at The Seattle Times, she is the recent recipient of a first place award from the Society of Professional Journalists.

CALICANTO SINGERS are musical educators and musicians who present authentic songs from California history. They are currently specializing in Gold Rush-specific song, stories and narratives as part of the California gold discovery Sesquicentennial, and were featured at the dedication ceremony opening the Oakland Museum's "Gold Fever" exhibit. They are authors of They Came Singing, a song book with accompanying educational material, designed for California schools for the fourth grade curriculum.

THERESE HEYMAN was named Research Associate at the Oakland Museum while she lives temporarily in Washington, D.C. In 1994 she began work as a Guest Curator of The National Museum of American Art for the American Poster exhibition. Educated at Yale University and Smith College, she has organized numerous photography exhibitions, especially the photography of the American West. She has also contributed to publications devoted to the American photographers Edward Weston and Dorothea Lange.

J. S. HOLLIDAY is a graduate of Yale University and earned a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. He was a Research Fellow at the Henry E. Huntington Library in San Marino and served as Assistant Director of the Bancroft Library at U.C. Berkeley. He has taught history at San Francisco State University and Monterey Peninsula College. In addition he has served as Executive Director of the Oakland Museum and of the California Historical Society. His book, The World Rushed In: The California Gold Rush Experience is in its ninth printing.

HARVEY JONES has been Senior Curator of Art at the Oakland Museum of California since 1971. He holds a B.A. degree in art from Colorado State University and a M.F.A. in art from Mills College. While at the Oakland Museum Mr. Jones has originated many exhibitions of California painting and sculpture. He has written numerous books and catalogs on various California art themes that include: The California Decorative Style, Impressionism, and Tonalism. His latest exhibition accompanied by a book, in collaboration with Janice T. Driesbach, is Art of the Gold Rush.

PAUL KARLSTROM is the West Coast Regional Director of the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Art based at the Huntington Library in San Marino. Among his publications are Turning the Tide: Early Los Angeles Modernists, 1920-1956 and On the Edge of America: California Modernist Art, 1900-1950. He has also written on the history of the San Francisco Art Association and the Bohemian Club. He has a B.A. in English literature from Stanford and M.A. and Ph.D. in art history from UCLA. He serves on the Advisory Council of Humanities West and has participated in two past programs: LA in the Forties and A Taste of Humanities West.

DANIEL LEWIS is assistant professor of History at Cal Poly Pomona specializing in Latin American History. He has previously presented the chautauqua character of Domingo Sarmiento for National Endowment for the Humanities' Democracy in America chautauqua series. He has published numerous works on Argentine and Latin American history. His current research is focused on liberalism, and material society in California and other parts of Spanish America.

KATE MAGRUDER has an undergraduate degree in the Humanities and is currently pursuing an advanced degree in Humanities. She is one of the founding directors of the Ukiah Playhouse and has an extensive career in the theatre as a writer, director and actress. She wrote and directed the National Endowment for the Humanities/California Council for the Humanities funded play A More Perfect Union that toured the state for the Bicentennial.

**MOTHER LODE MUSICAL THEATRE TROUPE:** The ballads, ditties and spontaneous song of California's colorful past were slipping unnoticed into musical oblivian in 1965 when Corinne Swall, a graduate student studying voice at New York's Juilliard School of Music collected and used them for her master's degree thesis. Ms. Swall created a one-woman show in which she portrayed the first internationally famous opera singer to tour California in 1852, Mme. Elise Biscaccianti. Thus was born the Mother Lode Musical Theatre, a touring ensemble of singing actors with an extensive and varied repertoire of music derived from California's past. Ms. Swall established her own archives of musical materials. The National Endowment for the Arts, noting that the Mother Lode Musical Theatre is "part museum, part contemporary art," has provided continuous support for the troupe.

CHARLES WOLLENBURG is Professor of History at Vista College, Berkeley, California. He has served as advisor to the Oakland Museum, the California Historical Society, and numerous local historical groups, and lectures frequently around the Bay Area.

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# LEONARDO da VINCI: The Original Renaissance Man October 9 and 10, 1998

Scientist, inventor, artist, musician: the world has not since seen the likes of Leonardo da Vinci. As advisor to heads of state, military commanders, nobles, and estate managers, he acted as designer, engineer, architect, geologist, anatomist and seer. He filled several notebooks with his remarkable speculations—sketches and discussions of practical and theoretical engineering problems, as well as designs for the most diverse gadgets, tools and machines. These notebooks, known as codices, were dispersed after his death and two of them were only rediscovered in 1965, in Madrid.

In important ways, Leonardo's vagabond career was symptomatic of the final days of the Italian Renaissance. The last gasp of the Savonarolean Republic in Florence and the invasions of Italy in 1494 and 1527 scattered and transformed the elements of art and humanism which had been assembled. Leonardo's wanderings and commissions, in princely Milan and finally in royal France, were a part of this dispersion. After his death, the travels of his codices symbolize the career of Renaissance learning.

# BERLIN in the TWENTIES: Metropolis On The Edge February 26 and 27, 1999

For one brief decade after World War I, Berlin replaced Paris as the artistic and intellectual capital of Europe. The social upheaval which followed Germany's crushing defeat liberated the intelligentsia from the shackles of Wilhelmine culture, and led to daring innovations in art, architecture, literature and drama. New political and social freedoms encouraged German cartoonists in the development of a biting satirical style, and stellar composers and lyricists turned Berlin's cabaret scene

into a forum for extremely modern views on both politics and the relations between the sexes, changing the nature of so-called "nightclub" entertainment forever. For this, the so-called Weimar era, was the period which produced, among many brilliant creative spirits, Otto Gropius, Paul Klee, George Grosz, Bertolt Brecht, Thomas Mann, Fritz Lang, and the incomparable Marlene Dietrich.

# A SPANISH ROMANCE: The Moors In Andalusia April 23-24, 1999

When Islam entered Europe from the south in the mideighth century, European culture had sunk into the medieval "Dark Age," foundering under feudal systems, plagues and illiteracy. Within two hundred years, survivors of a family of caliphs in the Arab empire had transformed Andalusia into a province rife with commerce, culture and beauty. Fantastic Cordoba was the Moorish capital, from whence the North African rulers controlled Spain for almost seven hundred years. The incomparable Alhambra in Granada is the ultimate expression of the luxurious relationship between the Moors and the Mediterranean landscape of southern Spain. Andalusia retains a magical beauty to this day, with small villages and their inns, the abandoned castle in Cadiz, and the frontier Jerez de la Frontera (now best known as the home of sherry wine).

It is said that interest of the Moors in the intellectual rather than the military led to their downfall. In

Sevilla, beautiful Moorish gardens and the Giralda bell tower were taken over after the reconquest and became the seats of church and government of the new Christian rulers. The Alcazar became the royal palace from which Catholics Isabela and Fernando ruled their overseas empire beginning in the late 15th century. A Spanish Roman will explore the sophisticated and peaceful contributions of the Moors during their occupation of Spain; the relatively tolerant relationship of the three great religions of the Book, Islam, Judaism and Christianity during their reign; the preservation of Arabic and Greek science and philosophy.

One legacy of this harmonious period is music and dance unique to Spain. An exotic contribution to these arts came from India via the Roma (gypsies), fused with other cultural forms, and evolved over the centuries to become Flamenco.

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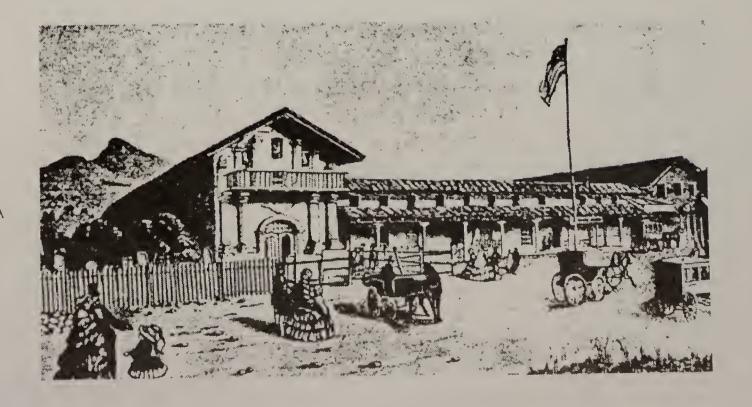
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# Humanities West Bibliography for California Gold: The Lure and the Legacy May 8 and 9, 1998

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<sup>\*</sup>Speaker at the program

# Humanities West News

SPRING

« exploring history to celebrate the mind and the arts »

1998

# GALIFORNIA GOLD: THE LURE AND THE LEGALY

May 8 and 9, 1998

The most action-packed melodrama, the most preposterous opera plot, the furthest-fetched tall tale—none of these could achieve the theatricality of life in San Francisco during the Gold Rush years. "Every new-comer...is overtaken with a sense of complete bewilderment," reported writer Bayard Taylor, an early visitor in September 1849. "One knows not whether one is awake or in some wonderful dream. Never have I had so much difficult in establishing, satisfactorily to my own senses, the reality of what I saw and heard." Misha Berson, The San Francisco Stage: From Gold Rush to Gold Spike, 1849–1869

The discovery of gold in California in 1848 produced a rush of immigration, which in turn created a boomtown culture in San Francisco. The newly wealthy city supported a colorful spectrum of performing artists, while photographers, illustrators, writers and artists advertised both the beauty of the western landscape and the exotic lure of the city. The history and mythology of the Gold Rush form

the foundations of the enduring California Dream, that this is a land of unlimited opportunity, wealth and glamour.

Forty-niners from the eastern United States, gold seekers from Hawaii and Australia arrived as early as 1849. They joined new immigrants from Mexico, Central and South Americans, and the native Californios. Significant immigration from China began in in 1851. These vast movements of people had often disastrous consequences for indigenous inhabitants and the wild natural environment which was plundered for precious metal.

Distinguished speakers and performers will bring to life the arts which sprang exuberantly into being with the Gold Rush; visit the 19th century through the lives of the people; contrast Gold Rush mythology with reality, and explore how the California Dream has influenced immigrants, artists and entrepreneurs for 150 years.



# "MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD"

Free pre-program lecture/performance Wednesday, April 8, 1998 • 6:00 p.m. San Francisco Public Library, Koret Auditorium

In many ways, the story of California is the story of its water, rather than the story of its gold. While gold generated the headlines, the control of water was establishing the power structure in mining camps throughout the

mother lode. "More Precious Than Gold" tells the story behind the control of water and how it affected both the physical and social environment of Columbia. California State Park Ranger Sherrin Grout and docents from Columbia State Historic Park will present this hour long look into our state's past.

The struggle to obtain water for use in extracting gold and the ensuing

"water wars" that resulted over the handling of that water will be seen through the eyes of those who lived in Columbia during the gold rush era. Miners, ditch tenders, water company employees, and bank executives will tell their tales of fellowship, cooperation, greed, corruption and murder. Each of the docents will be in authentic period costume and

Continued on page 4

# SPECIAL EVENING

# CALIFORNIA GOLD DISCOVERY SESQUICENTENNIAL 1998

Wednesday, April 8: Free lecture: "More Precious Than Gold" Koret Auditorium, SF Main Library 6:00 p.m. See page one for description.

Currently running through July 26:
Oakland Museum: Gold Rush:
California's Untold Stories
Art, photography, history exhibits & special events. 510/238-2200

July 30: PBS program Chinatown 10:00 p.m.

March 20 to August 31, 1998
Bancroft Library, U.C. Berkeley:
1 Am Bound to Stick Awhile Longer—The
California Gold Rush. 9:00 am to 5:00 p.m.
Mon-Fri and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 Sat.
Information 510/642-6529

June 5, 6, 7, 1998 The Anchorage on Fishermans Wharf: Old Harbor Festival. Street Festival celebrating the Gold Rush through the turn-of-the-century Bay Area history. Featuring period music, drama, food, displays, contests, crafts, and reenactments. Aquatic Park and surrounding streets. Free.

# ALL YEAR EVENTS

San Francisco Maritime Museum:
Found! The Wreck of the Frolic: A Gold
Rush Cargo for San Francisco. Through
January 1999. Gold Rush exhibit.
Includes ship models and artifacts.
Beach Street at the foot of Polk St.,
San Francisco. Open daily 10:00 a.m.—
5:00 p.m. Free.

Gold Rush City Walking Tour: City Guides two-hour walking tour of Gold Rush San Francisco. Meets at Clay and Montgomery Streets, San Francisco, Sundays, 2 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon. Phone 415/557-4266. Free.

Barbary Coast Trail: Opens May, 1998. Guidebook Walking San Francisco on the Barbary Coast Trail available now at bookstores. Sponsored by the San Francisco Historical Society.

Chinese Historical Society on America: Chinese in the Gold Rush exhibit. 650 Commercial Street, San Francisco. Open Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Free.

Wells Fargo History Museum 420 Montgomery Street, San Francisco. Open Monday–Friday 9 am–5pm. Free.

# Letter from the Chairman of Humanities West

Greetings to all our Humanities West family

This winter surely has been gray and wet! I hope we all have survived without too many leaks or any mud. Fortunately our Humanities West Darwin program provided both erudition and levity during the dark days almost as good as some real sun!

Professor Lenoir of Stanford University was guest speaker at our Darwin program Fellows event held at the lovely home of former Humanities West Board member Kay Dryden and her husband Charles Ferguson I so en joyed listening to Professor Lenoir's talk and chatting with several of our Fellows, whose support we greatly appreciate. I am delighted that such a diverse group of interesting people spend time together at our programs and associated events.

Our Friday night dinners and Saturday afternoon lunches only serve to reinforce that pleasure. I have met and enjoyed the company and conversation of so many friends, new and old, at our gatherings.

Our next program offering is one that is very special for me: California Gold: The Lure and the Legacy. As a non-native of this state, a proper Bostonian, in fact, I am naturally fascinated by California's somewhat notorious history. Our gold rush effort will show both "the bitter and the better" and will be surrounded by a host of related activities offered in conjunction with many other Bay Area organizations and venues. This has been a grand opportunity to bring out the best (and the worst) of San Francisco in those turbulent times. Keep an eye out: you will all be seeing and hearing about a fabulous weekend tour to gold rush country sponsored by Humanities West.

Meanwhile, let's be sure to meet at Herbst in May, and at other gold rush celebrations before.

Janice Dost

# Letter from the Executive Director

On May 12, 1848 in San Francisco's Portsmouth Square, Sam Brannan announced that gold had been discovered at Sutter's Mill on the American River. His announcement sparked the Gold Rush, which brought hundreds of thousands of fortune seekers to California in a few short years' time, and marks the beginning of modern California history.

May 8 and 9, 1998, at Herbst Theatre, 150 years after Sam Brannan's announcement, Humanities West commemorates the Sesquicentennial of the Gold Rush with California Gold: the Lure and the Legacy. A mythical erain our history will come to life through a dramatic and colorful one-and-one-half-day program of lectures and performances.

I am grateful to the cooperating institutions that are working with Humanities West to promote California Gold and other Sesquicentennial events. I call to your attention the related events and exhibits occurring this spring at several of these institutions, and thank my colleagues on the San Francisco Bay Area Gold Rush Task Force who helped compile the calendar.

Hook forward to seeing all of you May 8 and 9 at Herbst Theatre!

hany BMes

Nancy Buffum

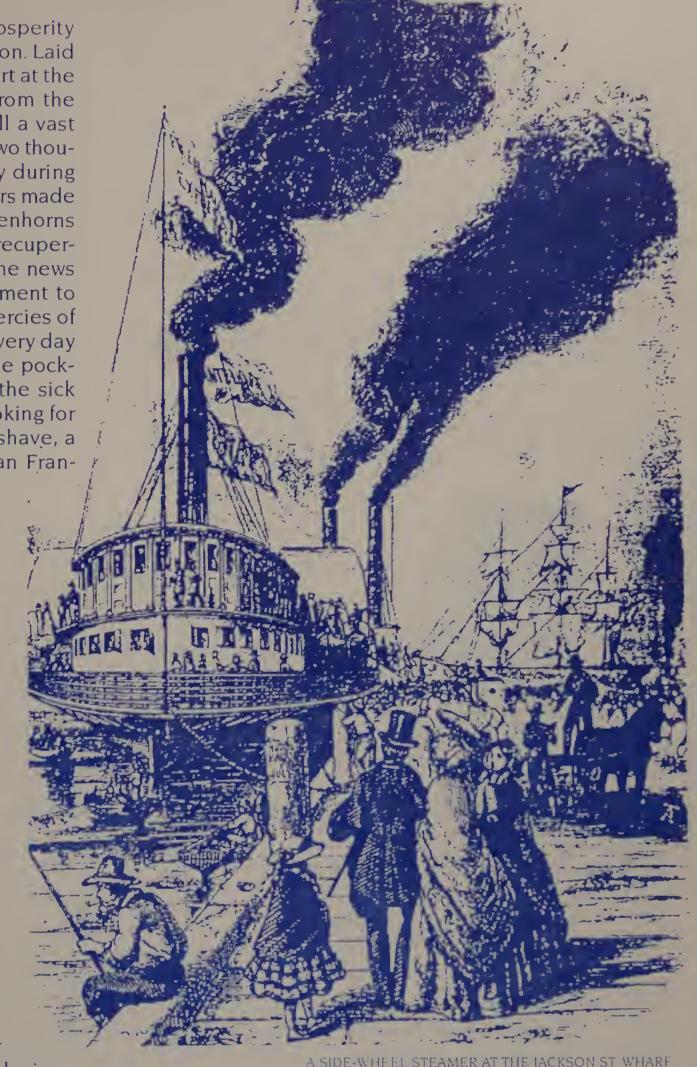
# SECOND CITY

ike San Francisco, Sacramento owed its prosperity in large degree to the advantages of its location. Laid dout near the site of world-famous Sutter's Fort at the western terminus of the major overland route from the States, California's second city attracted each fall a vast influx of way-worn immigrants. An estimated fifty-two thousand overlanders reached the Sacramento Valley during September and October of 1852 and lesser numbers made the journey in later years. Thousands more greenhorns arrived by steamboats from San Francisco. While recuperating from their land and sea ordeals, learning the news from the diggings, and investigating what equipment to buy, many newcomers fell victim to the tender mercies of Sacramento's hotel-keepers and outfitters. And every day of the year the city's wily merchants skimmed the pockets of miners come down from the diggings — the sick and depressed, the strong and celebratory — looking for a doctor, for a job, for pleasure, for a hot bath, a shave, a good dinner and clean bed: or for a ticket to San Francisco and then maybe home.

Sacramento catered to the robust appetites of the hills' 92 percent masculine population. Its busy streets offered a profusion of hotels, boarding houses, restaurants, saloons, hurdy-gurdy houses (dance halls), bowling alleys, bath houses, gambling palaces, and not inconspicuous brothels. Public amusements ranged from Shakespearean performances at the Eagle Theatre to bloody struggles between grizzly bears and bulls and other contests that pitted small hunting dogs against a pack of rats. The disruptions of horse races through the city's streets warranted construction of a racetrack in 1855, a civic improvement welcomed by the owners of stage coaches, freight wagons, delivery carts, and ice wagons. In the dusty heat of summer, sprinkling carts stirred thick swarms of flies and turned the streets' horse-droppings into a malodorous mire, not improved by daily sweepings from the many livery stables. With winter rains, the streets became cesspools. Organized by Leland Stanford (he sold liquors, groceries, and miners' equipment), the merchants raised money to pay for

planking over Front Street and later K Street. But the ironrimmed wheels of heavy freighters cut through the pine planks, leaving splintered crevices, that caught hooves and wagon wheels. So, merchants' profits paid for new planking, until cobblestones eventually provided a rough but more durable pavement.

While the business of attending to miners' needs and appetites brought prosperity to Sacramento's merchants, the city's greatest profits were earned in the huge supply depots that lined its teeming embarcadero, the very hub of the inland transport network. Steamboats from San Francisco crowded riverfront piers and moorings, unloading thousands of tons of foodstuffs and supplies. Some of this materiel was transferred to shallower draft steamers bound upriver to Marysville and Red Bluff. (In the competition for these secondary routes, one steamboat



A SIDE-WHEEL STEAMER AT THE JACKSON ST WHARF

captain boasted that his little stern-wheeler could carry freight in ten inches of water, even "anywhere there is a little damp.") But the greatest share of tonnage that crossed Sacramento's waterfront went to serve the needs of the city itself and its dependent constellation of upcountry mining towns to be provisioned by freight wagon caravans.

With prideful boosterism, the Sacramento Daily Union and other newspapers trumpeted statistics that evidenced their city's new power and wealth: 162,000 tons hauled by 270 freight companies during 1855. At two cents per pound, the merchants' freight bill in that year came to \$6,480,000.

Continued on next page

These charges were added to the steep biils of lading already incurred for shipment from distant places like Bordeaux, Boston, and Valparaiso, not to mention the cost of the imports. But miners' gold would pay for it all, even the fat profit margins merchants piled on. Everything depended on mining success. If a river mining company, a sluice operation, or quartz mine failed, the reverberations shuddered through the webs of credit that led from camps and towns to Sacramento and other river ports and on to San Francisco where unpaid bills provoked financial crisis and often bankruptcy.

Deceit compounded the risks that threatened merchants. Importers "at the Bay" often sent upriver a sudden glut of shovels, coffee, or whatever they could not sell in the San Francisco market. They hoped to unload these shipments at high prices on unsuspecting Sacramento, Stockton, or Marysville buyers before news of the surplus brought an inevitable price collapse. All imports (even flour, the dominant staple) suffered "California"

prices," meaning wild fluctuations consequent to actual or rumored shortage or surplus. Because East coast merchants shipped "blind" cargoes without knowledge of San Francisco and inland markets, the balance of supply and demand was forever askew, leaving California at the mercy of "adventure shipments" from all over the world. One merchant concluded that "no calculation can be relied on. So great is our distance from sources of supply, so unequal the passage of different vessels, and so difficult it is to know, even approximately, the amount of shipments. . . that the most careful estimate is no more to be relied upon than the most arbitrary guess." No one described the unpredictable circumstances of the merchant more cogently than that tough, honest banker William Tecumseh Sherman in 1853.

"Luck alone rules his destiny, the requisites of success elsewhere. . .have little to do with it here."

This is' a segment from Chapter 5 of a forthcoming book by J. S. Holliday, Saturday speaker, to be published by U.C. Press.



MONTGOMERY STREET FROM CALIFORNIA STREET JUNE 1854

# MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD, continued from page 1

will portray a character from Columbia's colorful past.

The presentation will also cover Columbia as it exists today. Currently a State Park that accommodates close to a half million visitors each year, Columbia is a perfect week-end destination for Bay Area residents. Columbia is located in the Sierra foothills, east of Modesto. It is an easy two and a half hour drive from most Bay Area locations. (A brochure is available on a special Fall 1998 tour

to Columbia and gold country presented in cooperation with Humanities West.)

The San Francisco Main Library is located at Grove and Larkin Streets in San Francisco's Civic Center. Seating is unreserved. Presented in cooperation with the **San Francisco Public Library**. For more information call 415/391-9700.

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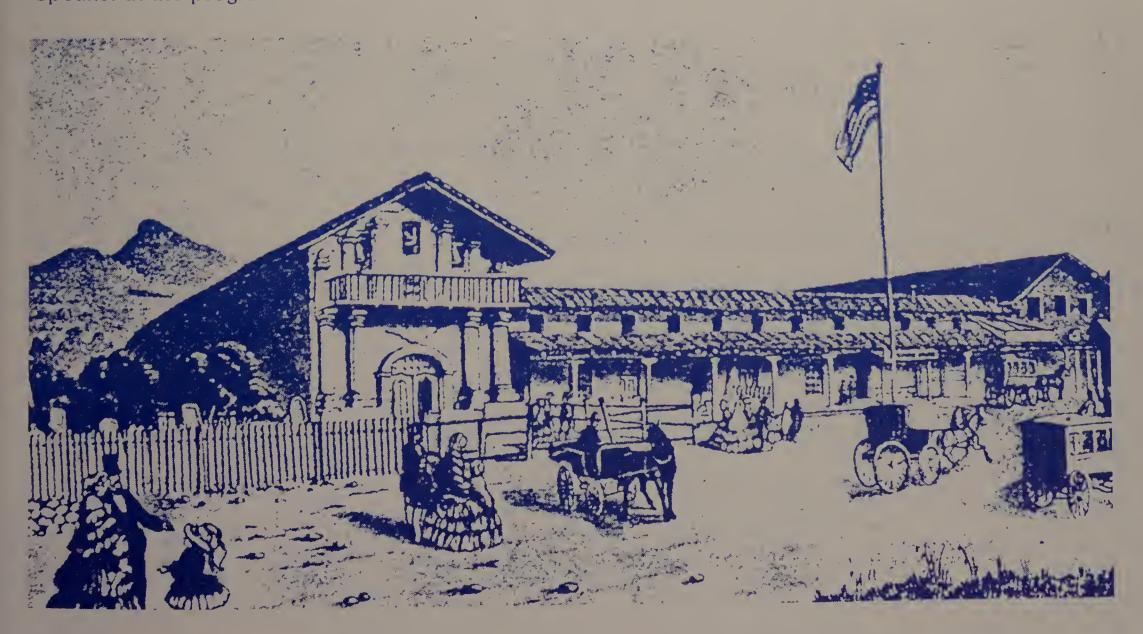
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\*Speaker at the program



# SCHEDULE OF CALIFORNIA GOLD: THE LURE AND THE LEGACY

Friday, May 8, 1998 8:00 pm - 10:15 pm

8:00 pm Introduction GOLD RUSH AND CONTEMPORARY CALIFORNIA

CHARLES WOLLENBERG, Vista Community College, Berkeley

A stroll down a San Francisco street in the late 1800s would have revealed as multi-cultural a mix of faces as it does today. California was already the nation's most ethnically diverse state in 1850, and this is the Gold Rush heritage that most directly affects the lives of present-day

Californians.

8:30 pm Slide presentation SEARCHING FOR GOLD, DISCOVERING PHOTOGRAPHY

THERESE HEYMAN, Curator, Oakland Museum of California

Highlights from the Gold Rush photography exhibit at the Oakland Museum.

8:55 pm Lecture/Performance DAME SHIRLEY KATE MAGRUDER, Actress

One of the finest writers of the period, Dame Shirley describes the harsh and colorful life of the gold mining camps. "Dame Shirley" will then take questions from the audience.

camps. Dame Shiney will then take questions from the audience

9:30 pm Performance SONGS FROM THE GOLD RUSH MOTHER LODE MUSICAL THEATRE

Marin County's beloved historical performance troupe entertains and educates with song.

Saturday, May 9, 1998 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

10:00 am Lecture PRODIGAL PLUNDER: REVERBERATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH, 1850–1890S

J. S. HOLLIDAY, Historian

The quest for gold spurred on a wildly entrepreneurial society. Increasingly arrogant environmental destruction by the mining industry eventually led to a confrontation with the society that it had nurtured. The renowned historian and author of best-seller The World Rushed In illustrates his lecture with remarkable daguerreotypes and photographs which depict the flumes and massive machinery that rearranged Nature.

10:50 am Slide presentation IMAGES FROM THE LURE AND LEGACY OF THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH HARVEY JONES, Curator, Oakland Museum of California.

Highlights from the Gold Rush art exhibit at the Oakland Museum.

11:10 am Lecture INVENTING CULTURE FOR CALIFORNIA: AN OVERVIEW OF THE VISUAL ARTS, 1849 – 1906
PAUL I. KARLSTROM, Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Art, California.

Dr. Karlstrom's beautifully illustrated lecture will trace the development of art and culture through the creation of the San Francisco Art Association and the Bohemian Club in the 1870's, and examine the work of key painters

associated with the two organizations.

Break for Lunch: 12:00 - 1:30 pm

1:30 pm Performance

2:00 pm Lecture PIONEER STARS: LEADING ENTERTAINERS ON THE GOLD RUSH STAGE

MISHA BERSON, Drama critic, The Seattle Times

Posters, playbills, and other advertisements illustrate the early development of San Francisco's lively entertainment scene during the Gold Rush era. While still a remote outpost reachable only by rugged overland and sea travel, the flourishing city boasted attractions such as plays, variety shows, Italian opera, Chinese acrobatics, and circus performances.

3:00 pm Lecture/Performance MARIANO GUADALUPE VALLEJO

DANIEL LEWIS, Actor and Assistant Professor of History, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

One of the most powerful individuals in Alta California, General Vallejo will give his personal perceptions of the formative years in California and will then enterain questions from the audience.

3: 30 pm Closing Discussion CHARLES WOLLENBERG, moderator

# Meet our fascinating lecturers at the Speakers' Dinner at Vivande

Sponsors, Patrons and Fellows of Humanities West are invited to join our speakers for dinner on Friday evening, May 8, at **Vivande** in Opera Plaza. This excellent restaurant is located at 670 Golden Gate Avenue, within easy walking distance of the theatre. We will convene at the restaurant at 5:30 pm

# Meet our Speakers at Indigo during the Friends' Luncheon

A newcomer to the restaurant scene in Civic Center, Indigo, serves delicious food in a sophisticated setting. Friends of Humanities West are cordially invited to join us on Saturday, May 9, between the morning and afternoon sessions of the program. Indigo is at 687 McAllister Street, near Gough, a short block-and-a-half behind Herbst Theatre. Guests will have a chance to share a table and break bread with speakers and fellow Humanities West supporters.



SAN FRANCISCO — COURTESY OF THE S.F. PERFORMING ARTS LIBRARY & MUSEUM

# Speakers' Dinner and Friends Luncheon Reservations Form for the California program

Yes, I am a Sponsor, Patron or Fellow of Humanities West and would like to attend the Speakers' Dinner.  Please reserve place(s) in my name for dinner Friday night, May 8, at  Vivande, 670 Golden Gate, at 5:30 pm. Enclosed is my check, payable to  Humanities West, for \$55 per person.
Yes, I am a Friend of Humanities West and would like to attend the Friends Luncheon Please reserve place(s) in my name for luncheon at Indigo, 687 McAllister Street, on Saturday, May 9. Enclosed is a check, payable to Humanities West, for \$35 per person.
A letter of confirmation will be sent approximately two weeks prior to the event.
NAME

Please return this form to Humanities West, 211 Sutter Street, Suite 601, San Francisco, CA 94108. Telephone: 415/391-9700, Fax: 391-9708.

### Tickets for CALIFORNIA GOLD: THE LURE AND THE LEGACY — MAY 8 AND 9, 1998

**ADDRESS** 

CITY, STATE, ZIP

DAYTIME TELEPHONE

Please order your tickets as soon as possible. Donors will receive priority until April 15, 1998.

Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope and mail to **City Box Office** with your order. Tickets will be mailed approximately 4 weeks prior to the program.

Friday, May 8, 1998, 8:00 pm-10:15 pm. at Herbst Theatre		NAME	
Regular @ \$30 =			
Teacher @ \$27 =		ADDRESS	
Student @ \$20 =		ADDRESS.	
		CITY, STATE, ZIP	
Saturday, May 9, 1998, 10:00 am-4:00 pm	a. at Herbst Theatre		
Regular @ \$20 =		DAYTIME TELEPHONE	
Teacher @ \$18 =			
Student @ \$18 =		Send this form and make checks payable to:	
Handling Charge \$1 per ticket		City Box Office 153 Kearny Street, Suite 402	
		San Francisco, CA 94108	
Total Enclosed:		Sali Flancisco, CA 94100	
<b>NOTE:</b> Tickets are non-refundable. Luncheon is not included.		For information, call City Box Office: 415/392-4400.	

### FUTURE PROGRAMS OF HUMANITIES WEST

# LEONARDO da VINCI: The Original Renaissance Man October 9 and 10, 1998

Scientist, inventor, artist, musician: the world has not since seen the likes of Leonardo da Vinci. As advisor to heads of state, military commanders, nobles, and estate managers, he acted as designer, engineer, architect, geologist, anatomist and seer. He filled several notebooks with his remarkable speculations—sketches and discussions of practical and theoretical engineering problems, as well as designs for the most diverse gadgets, tools and machines. These notebooks, known as codices, were dispersed after his death and two of them were only rediscovered in 1965, in Madrid.

In important ways, Leonardo's vagabond career was symptomatic of the final days of the Italian Renaissance. The last gasp of the Savonarolean Republic in Florence and the invasions of Italy in 1494 and 1527 scattered and transformed the elements of art and humanism which had been assembled. Leonardo's wanderings and commissions, in princely Milan and finally in royal France, were a part of this dispersion. After his death, the travels of his codices symbolize the paths and pitfalls of Renaissance scholarship.

# BERLIN in the TWENTIES: Metropolis On The Edge February 26 and 27, 1999

For one brief decade after World War I, Berlin replaced Paris as the artistic and intellectual capital of Europe. The social upheaval which followed Germany's crushing defeat liberated the intelligentsia from the shackles of Wilhelmine culture, and led to daring innovations in art, architecture, literature and drama. New political and social freedoms

encouraged German cartoonists in the development of a biting satirical style, and stellar composers and lyneiste turned Berlin's cabaret scene into a forum for extremely modern views on both politics and the relations between the sexes, changing the nature of nightclub entertainment forever. For this, the so-called Weimar era, was the period which produced, among many brilliant creative spirits, Walter Gropius, Paul Klee, George Grosz, Bertolt Brecht, Thomas Mann, Fritz Lang, and the incomparable Marlene Dietrich.

# A SPANISH ROMANCE: The Moors in Andalusia April 1999

The incomparable Alhambra in Granada is the ultimate expression of the luxurious relationship between the Moors and the Mediterranean landscape of southern Spain. Andalusia retains a magical beauty to this day, with small villages and their inns, the abandoned castle in Cadiz, and the frontier characterized by the name Jerez de la Frontera (now best known as the home of sherry wine).

It is said that interest of the Moors in the intellectual rather than the military led to their downfall. In Sevilla, beautiful Moorish gardens and the Giralda bell tower were taken over after the reconquest and became the seats of church and government of the new Christian rulers. The Alcazar became the royal palace from which Catholics Isabela and Fernando ruled their overseas empire beginning in the late 15th century. The Moors in Spain will explore the sophisticated and peaceful contributions of the Moors during their occupation of Spain. A unique legacy of this harmonious period is the music and dance originally brought to Spain from India by the Roma (gypsies), which fused with other cultural forms and evolved over the centuries to become Flamenco.



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