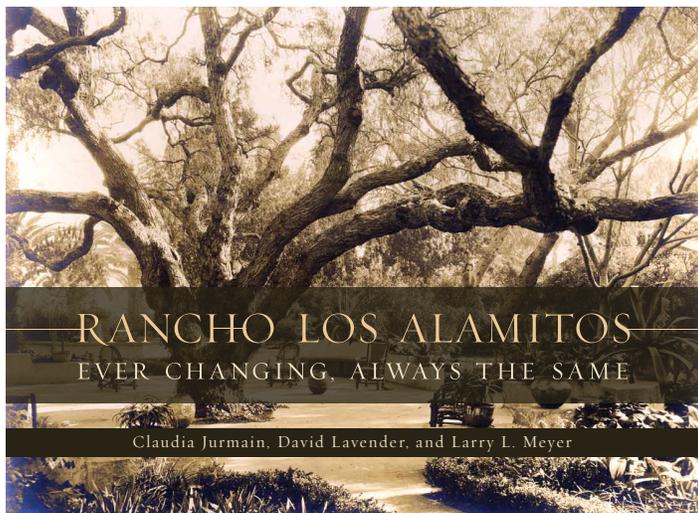


INTRODUCING... 2011



Unearth the Storied Legacy of Southern California

To the native Tongva, it is called Povuu'ngna – for centuries a land of creation, a sacred ground on which to gather for trade and ceremony. For Spanish soldier Manuel Nieto in 1790, it was a rich asset from the Crown. For Governor Jose Figueroa and Yankee Don Abel Stearns it was an investment and a haven from Los Angeles. And to the Bixby family and their workers from around the globe it was an enterprising ranch that would endure for almost a century through the rise of modern-day Long Beach. In this great spectrum, Rancho Los Alamitos encompasses the pre-history and historic continuity of the region, making it the most singular oasis of historic open space and beauty in the midst of greater Los Angeles today.

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About the Authors

Claudia Jurmain is Director of Special Projects and Publications at Rancho Los Alamitos Historic Ranch and Gardens in Long Beach, California. She began her work at the Smithsonian Institution as a research historian in the National Portrait Gallery and since then has developed and produced awarding-winning projects for museums, sites, and educational institutions across the country, including the Rancho.

David Lavender, the renowned author of over forty books on the American West, was nominated for Pulitzer Prizes for his works *Bent's Fort* and *Land of Giants*. Admired for their scholarship and verve, David Lavender's books echo his ready familiarity with the places and people he wrote about and are an enduring contribution to western history.

Larry L. Meyer is a Professor Emeritus of journalism from California State University, Long Beach, where he headed the department's Magazine Option for fifteen years. Prior to that he held the position of Editor in Chief at Westways and Colorado magazines.

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Larry L. Meyer, with Foreword by Kevin Starr
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Indeed, were we only to have the story of Rancho Alamitos at hand, we might still be able to reconstruct the outlines and successive phases of this [Southern California] history.

—Kevin Starr, University Professor and Professor History, University of Southern California; State Librarian of California

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Advance Praise

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From one locale, the authors have managed to tell a story fascinating in both its particularity and universality.

In form and content, this book is a seminal contribution to the history of California
Dr. James J. Rawls, Reviews Editor, California History: The Journal of the California Historical Society