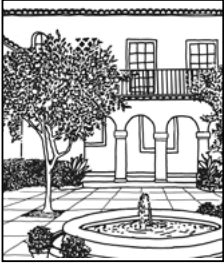


Eden

Journal of the California Garden & Landscape History Society

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Eden

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& Landscape History Society

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Front Cover: *Bird fountain by Ernest Batchelder, 1920s.*

Above: *Sample tile fountain in Batchelder's showroom in Pasadena, c. 1920s.*

Right: *Batchelder created a sign to hang in front of his Pasadena house. The design depicts a rabbit, Batchelder's personal symbol, with his initials EAB.*

All photos courtesy of Pasadena Museum of History.

Ernest Batchelder

Teacher, Designer, Tilemaker

Ann Scheid



When Ernest Batchelder arrived in Pasadena in 1901, the town of 10,000 inhabitants was poised to evolve into a city of 45,000 that by the 1920s would become the cultural center of Southern California. Batchelder's role in this transformation was a significant one. A New Hampshire native, Batchelder had graduated from the Massachusetts Normal Institute, a teacher training college with a strong emphasis on manual arts. His diploma was in drawing, painting, and design, with a second diploma in teaching drawing in the public schools. His first job as assistant to Denman W. Ross at the Harvard Summer School of Design in 1901, just before coming to Pasadena, provided much of the foundation for his later work as an educator. In Pasadena, Batchelder had a job teaching at Throop Polytechnic Institute, a secondary school and college for liberal arts and science with a strong emphasis on manual training. James A. B. Scherer, president of Throop, stated Throop's mission: "Our theory of education is that it ought to fit men and women to do their actual work in the world, while providing them also with those refined tastes that turn much of the bitter of life into zestful enjoyment."¹

Beginning in 1905 Batchelder spent his summers in Minneapolis where he directed the summer school of the Handicraft Guild of Minneapolis. There he attracted a number of outstanding students, including Grant Wood as well as Rudolph Schaeffer and Douglas Donaldson, both of whom followed him to Pasadena where they studied and taught at Throop. Besides his teaching duties, Batchelder also assembled an exhibition of arts and crafts (including Native American work) to represent the American Southwest at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. In the same year Batchelder published his first book *Principles of Design*, and later, in 1910, *Design in Theory and Practice*. These influential works featured abstract designs, harbingers of the coming taste for modernism. Batchelder also visited Europe from 1905 to 1906, spending most of his time in England, where he met Charles R. Ashbee in Chipping Campden and attended the Central School of Arts and Crafts in Birmingham. On his second trip to Europe (1908-1909), Batchelder represented Throop at the International Congress of Art Education in London. He



later traveled through France, and planned to visit industrial schools in northern and central Europe, filing articles about his French experience in *The Craftsman*.

Meanwhile in Pasadena things were changing at Throop. The famous astronomer George Ellery Hale had arrived in 1903 to build a telescope on Mt. Wilson above the town, and Throop Polytechnic caught his eye. A graduate of MIT, Hale saw in the small technical school a nascent center for modern science, where education and research could be married into an outstanding scientific institution mirroring MIT on the west coast. Hale's vision transformed Throop into the California Institute of Technology, now a world-renowned center for education and research. It was this turn of events that led Batchelder in 1909 to leave Throop with a plan to found a major

Above: This magnificent ceramic peacock is owned by the Tile Heritage Foundation.

Right, clockwise: Ernest Allan Batchelder, c.1918; garden wall with Mayan-style tiles, 1920s; peacocks adorning a garden fountain; Dr. Robert Winter at home in the Batchelder house; Batchelder's business card; fountain basin from the 1920s. All photos courtesy of Pasadena Museum of History.

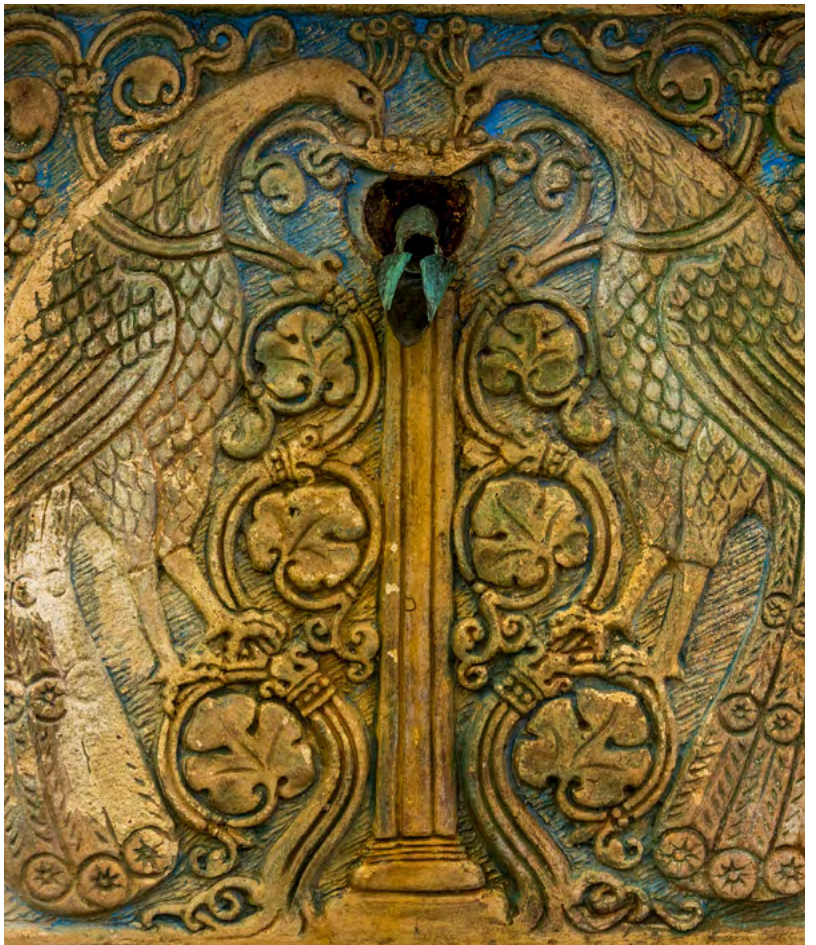
art school in Pasadena, a school that he envisioned would teach metalwork, jewelry, enameling, leather, and pottery. He planned to direct the program both to serious artists interested in teaching and to amateurs. Batchelder saw in Pasadena a place that could support a school as successfully as Minneapolis, and he committed himself by buying a piece of land on the Arroyo Seco and building his house there in 1909.

Batchelder's dream was not so farfetched. A circle of distinguished artists and craftsmen was already developing in Pasadena. At Throop, Douglas Donaldson, an outstanding silversmith and metalworker, would be a key figure, as would Rudolph Schaeffer, who later went on to found the Rudolph Schaeffer School of Design in San Francisco, a school that produced many outstanding artists and designers. Ralph Jonhnot and his wife, Salome, were also associated with Batchelder in Pasadena; their specialty was textile design. Architects Charles and Henry Greene, Louis B. Easton, and Frederick Roehrig were creating a regional style that would have broad influence both in California and across the nation. And Batchelder's wife, Alice Coleman, whom he married in 1912, would establish a chamber music association that

enriched Pasadena's and Southern California's musical life. Although Batchelder set up a school in a board-and-batten cottage behind his house on the Arroyo, he did not have the funding to invest in and develop the major institution of his dreams.

Still his role in Pasadena culture remained significant. The astronomer Hale saw in Pasadena a place that could become the "Athens of the West." At the behest of Hale, who remained his friend and supporter, Batchelder served on Pasadena's first Planning Commission, which fostered the planning and development of the Pasadena Civic Center, and chaired the jury of the design competition that produced the Civic Center's three major buildings: City Hall, the Public Library, and the Civic Auditorium. Hale led the effort to create the Civic Center and supported Pasadena's growing cultural institutions. For many years Batchelder chaired the board of the Pasadena Playhouse, a community theatre that produced national and world premieres of leading plays and trained many leading actors of Hollywood and the stage.

How Batchelder came to tilemaking is not entirely understood. He must have known of the vogue for "art tiles," most often used



ERNEST A. BATCHELDER



The BATCHELDER TILES
BATCHELDER-WILSON COMPANY
2633 ARTESIAN STREET, LOS ANGELES
TELEPHONE 31647





in fireplace surrounds. In England decorative floor tiles had been popular since the mid-19th century, and Batchelder's own house testifies to his admiration for the tiles produced by Henry Mercer in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, since Mercer tiles decorate Batchelder's front door, exterior chimney, and interior fireplace. Batchelder was also surely aware of the widespread use of terracotta facing on commercial buildings.

Batchelder began producing tiles from a kiln in his backyard in 1910. His high-relief sculptural tiles of medieval musicians were first used by Charles and Henry Greene in their house for the Culbertson sisters in

Above: Tiled fountain in a Pasadena garden, 1920s. Photo by Ann Scheid.

1911, and by 1912, the year of his marriage, the business moved to an industrial area of Pasadena.

In a 1925 catalogue Batchelder describes the early days on the Arroyo:

Twelve years ago Batchelder tiles were made in a Pasadena garden under the shade of the olive trees. The clay was brought home from a brickyard wrapped in gunny sacks, all mixed ready for use. In spite of its humble origins it possessed potential beauty when brought into contact with adequate ideas. We had the ideas and sought to give them expression. We soon went into 'quantity production' by making twelve six-inch tiles at a single process—a commendable bit of enterprise. Our kiln permitted us to fire nearly forty six-inch tiles at one fell swoop. It took three firings to satisfactorily produce our first mantel order. The mantel was laid out on a kitchen floor and personally delivered at the job because we had doubts as to the trustworthiness of expressmen—and incidentally, feared the owner of the house might change his mind.

The olive trees still weave sunlight and shadow over the roof of the little shop but its activities remain only as a pleasant memory. The kiln soon sputtered itself into premature old age—it tried hard to keep the pace; the neighbors objected to the soot—and so withal we established ourselves down among the gas tanks in a galvanized iron shed in regions remote from neighborly solicitude.²

Early tile production focused on fireplace surrounds and individual tiles to use as decorative accents. The colors were muted, with low-fire, matte glazes. Batchelder's first big tile commission came in 1914, for the Dutch Chocolate Shop, commissioned by a developer who hoped to capitalize on the fad for hot chocolate and develop a chain of restaurants. The restaurant featured vaulted ceilings, scenes from Dutch peasant life on the walls, and borders of tiles in fruit and floral designs. The entire interior was clad in tiles and was reminiscent of a German "Bierkeller." The tiles for the project were produced in Pasadena, and strained the small production facility, which moved in 1920 to new quarters on Artesian Street in Los Angeles.

Batchelder did not ignore changing tastes. After 1920, his tiles began to use brighter colors, and by the late 1920s the company was producing tiles in Art Deco patterns and Cuenca techniques suitable for Spanish-style houses and Art Deco commercial

buildings, many in glossy high glazes. The company had showrooms in New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago, and its catalogues featured garden ornaments such as pools, birdbaths, and wall fountains. Another large commission, the Fine Arts Building in downtown Los Angeles, was a building dedicated to housing artists' studios and to providing an outlet for their work. Batchelder's work is in the main lobby, a *tour de force* of tiles and terracotta sculpture, including large terra cotta figures representing the arts. Other known large commissions include a chapel for St. Catherine's College in St. Paul, the lobby of the Art Deco Marine Building in Vancouver, and the lobby of the Spanish-style Hotel Hershey in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Although the Batchelder firm went under early in the Depression, his work may still be found in Southern California and across the country. There are countless Batchelder fireplaces in houses built in the years from 1912 through 1930. His tile drinking fountains decorate office buildings and hotels, and garden fountains and birdbaths can be found in gardens in Southern California. In the late 1930s Batchelder again established a small business, producing elegantly delicate tableware and containers suitable for flower arrangements. Examples of many of these pieces and from all periods of production are featured in the current exhibition on Batchelder at the Pasadena Museum of History.

Acknowledgment

The principal source for this article is Robert Winter, *Batchelder: Tilemaker*. Los Angeles: Pasadena Museum of History, Balcony Press, 2016.

Endnotes

1. Quoted from Winter, 20. James A. B. Scherer, "The Throop Idea," *Arroyo Craftsman I* (October 1909) n.p.
2. Quoted from Winter, 49-50. Ernest A. Batchelder, "A Little History of Batchelder Tiles," (1925-1926) n.p.

CGLHS ANNUAL REPORT

Dear CGLHS Members,

Thanks to your loyal support, California Garden & Landscape History Society has accomplished an impressive number of achievements in 2016. Here are some of the year's highlights:

IMPROVED the scholarly content in our quarterly journal, *Eden*, through our author outreach program to graduate programs in universities, and to professional members of the California parks in the National Park Service system. The fall issue of *Eden* is a testament to the idea that CGLHS can continue to bring to our members an exceptional series of original, well-researched articles that are available nowhere else.

APPRECIATED the valuable contributions of our *Eden* Editor, Virginia Kean, who gives countless hours of devoted expertise to working with our contributors, helping them develop their articles to a professional level, and creating the best journal content possible; and the talented efforts of our *Eden* graphics coordinator, Sheryl Scott, who works with great patience and gives *Eden* just the right flourish of visual creativity.

COMPLETED the second year of our cooperative relationship with the Huntington to present a lecture series about the cultural landscapes of California each spring and fall. I had the honor to present the second lecture in spring 2016 on landscape architect Ruth Shellhorn, and incoming President Steven Keylon gave the fall 2016 lecture on landscape architects Katherine Bashford and Fred Barlow, Jr. These first few lectures focused on mid-century planning and landscape design, and will be stepping back a few decades to hear Nancy Carter, one of our Board members, speak in spring 2017 about early-20th century botanist extraordinaire, Kate Sessions.

PRESENTED a sold-out Tour & Talk on the Olmsted Brothers' plan for Palos Verdes with Professor Christy O'Hara, a returning Board member, who is completing extensive and original research on the topic for her Ph.D. in landscape architecture at the University of Edinburgh; and a tour of Buena Vista park in San Francisco with outgoing Board member Phoebe Cutler, and Jock Hooper.

BEGUN the task of analyzing our out-of-date membership, management, website, financial and outreach



procedures and systems with the intent to streamline the present ones.

INCREASED the frequency of our Board of Directors meetings to twice a year in person and four times a year by phone, so that we can better serve you.

CELEBRATED our passion for the California landscape with old and new friends at the Annual Conference in Chico, where we visited a 112-year-old research orchard run by the US Forest Service, toured a canyon garden and the Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, and shared a fabulous gourmet dinner at Leon Bistro.

EXPANDED our new-member outreach at events such as the "San Francisco History Days 2016 at the Old Mint," which was supported by many members in the Bay Area.

INITIATED an Archive Project of oral interviews of CGLHS Founding Members by incoming Board member, Thomas Eddy, which will become a part of the CGLHS archive at UCLA Special Collections.

EXPRESSED our gratitude in the upcoming Member and Donor Report, which will be published in the spring 2017 issue of *Eden*.

Thanks to YOU, our members. This has been another great year!

With best regards,

Kelly Comras,
CGLHS President 2015 - 2016



Top: Chico conference attendees gathered for a picnic lunch in Bidwell Park before heading off to see Duley Schroeder's canyon garden in Forest Ranch.

Above top, from left: Phoebe Cutler and Margaret Mori discuss Chico's cultural landscape with Chico conference speaker Scott Brady, a professor at Chico State.

Above bottom: Wes Dempsey, Chico State professor emeritus, leading a tour of the campus arboretum. Photo by Libby Simon.

All photos by Kelly Comras, unless otherwise indicated.

The Chavez Ravine Arboretum, Elysian Park

Michael O'Brien

Elysian Park at 575 acres is the second largest park in Los Angeles. Not only is it the city's oldest park, but it also has Spanish associations. In 1769, at the southeastern corner of the park near the Los Angeles River, Portolá's expedition gave the Los Angeles river its name. The first Europeans to see inland areas of California camped near this spot on August 2, an occasion celebrated at the Fremont Street entrance by California Historical Landmark No. 655 ("Portolá Trail Campsite").

In 1886, the Mayor and City Council of Los Angeles established the Rock Quarry Hills, part of the original Pueblo grant, as a city park forever, and named it Elysian Park. City Ordinance Number 218 signed on April 5 by Mayor E.F. Spence, dedicated Rock Quarry Hills in the following words: "That the real property located in the City of Los Angeles and owned by the City of Los Angeles hereinafter described, is hereby set apart for the use of the public as a Public Park, and is forever dedicated to the Public as such park." Subsequent city charters have protected dedicated park lands and their use for park purposes in perpetuity.

A group of men who called themselves the Botanic Garden Committee¹ proposed to establish a botanic garden in Elysian Park. This can be said to have started the botanic garden movement in Southern California.² In the 1890s the Los Angeles Horticultural Society suggested that an area of Elysian Park be set aside for the growing of rare plants. The *Los Angeles Times* immediately endorsed the society's proposition: "The movement ... to establish

a botanical garden in Elysian Park ... is an excellent idea ... no other park in the country ... has such magnificent views, or possesses a climate where the most delicate plants will flourish all winter in the open air."³

Many of the members had spent decades collecting plants from all over the world, and wanted a place to exhibit them permanently. On August 19, 1893, they met at the park to discuss the proposition:

After a few introductory remarks by W.S. Lyon, president of the society, and others, J.C. Harvey arose to outline the proposed plan. In brief, he said that all the horticulturists desired was to secure ten acres of land in Elysian Park with water piped conveniently, upon which to start the nucleus of a botanical garden. If the city would simply furnish the ground and water, the society would do the rest, and see to it that plants were set out and properly cared for. Dr. Franceschi, the well-known botanist, recently from Europe, added a few thoughts on the value of such a garden. Southern California, he said, possessed that great variety of conditions which rendered it possible to grow almost every known plant, shrub or tree. They would all, or very many at least, thrive here with reasonable care.⁴

The planting began in 1893. Botanist and writer William S. Lyon and amateur horticulturist J.C. Harvey led the way in establishing the botanic garden, sharing the expense and donating trees to the Park Department. Harvey, an official of the Standard Oil Company, was an authority on tropical and semitropical flora who

LIST OF PLANTS IN THE ARBORETUM (northern section)



Baphia chrysophylla flowers. All photos in this list by Michael O'Brien.

Acer camprestre
Hedge Maple

Acer griseum
Paperbark Maple

Acer palmatum
Japanese Maple, unknown cultivar

Acer paxii
Evergreen Maple

Acer saccharinum
Silver Maple, White Maple, Water Maple, River Maple, Soft Maple, Silverleaf Maple, Rock Maple

Archontophoenix cunninghamiana
King Palm

Aesculus x carnea
Red Horse Chestnut



Agathis robusta, Kauri

Aesculus californica
California Buckeye, California Horse Chestnut

Afrocarpus gracilior
African Fern Pine

Agathis robusta
Queensland Kauri, Kaori, Dammara Pine, Smooth Bark Kauri

Alnus rhombifolia
White Alder, Sierra Alder, California Alder

Angophora costata
Gum Myrtle, Apple

Gum, Smooth Bark Apple Gum, Sydney Red Gum, Kajimbourra, Rose Gum

Baphia chrysophylla
no common name

Bauhinia forficata
Brazilian Butterfly Tree, Brazilian Orchid Tree

Bauhinia variegata
Purple Orchid Tree, Mountain Ebony, Pink Camels Foot, Pink Orchid Tree

Beaucarnea recurvata
Ponytail Palm

Betula nigra
Black Birch, Water Birch, River Birch, Red Birch

Betula pendula
White Birch

Brachychiton acerifolius
Australian Flame Tree, Flame Kurrajong, Illawarra, Flame Bottle Tree

Brachychiton acerifolius
Herman Hybrid

Brachychiton discolor
Queensland Lacebark,

Scrub Bottle Tree, Lacebark Tree, Scrub Bottle Tree, Stunga, White Kurrajong, Pink Flame Tree, Pink Sterculia, White Lacebark, Hat Tree, Pink Flame Bottletree

Brachychiton populneus
Bottle Tree

Brachychiton rupestris
Queensland Bottle Tree, Bottle Tree, Narrow-leaf Bottle Tree, Barrel Tree

Brahea armata
Mexican Blue Palm

Brahea brandegeei
San José Hesper Palm

Brahea edulis
Guadalupe Palm

Brahea sp.
Unknown Brahea



Castanospermum australe, Moreton Bay Chestnut

Butia capitata
Pindo Palm, Jelly Palm, Butia Palm, South American Jelly Palm, Hardy Blue Cocos Palm, Yatay Palm

Caesalpinia spinosa
Spiny Holdback, Tara

Callistemon viminalis
Weeping Bottlebrush

Calocedrus decurrens
California Incense Cedar

Calodendrum capense
Cape Chestnut, Wild Chestnut

Cassia leptophylla
Gold Medallion Tree

Cassia sp.
Unknown Cassia

Castanospermum australe
Moreton Bay Chestnut

Casuarina cunninghamiana
River she-oak, Australian Beefwood, Australian Pine, Beefwood, Casuarina, Coast Beefwood, Creek Oak, Cunninghams



*Avenue of the Palms, 1920s.
Courtesy of the Los Angeles
Public Library.*

Beefwood, Fire Oak,
River Oak

Cedrus atlantica
Atlas Cedar

Cedrus atlantica
‘Glaucu’
Blue Atlas Cedar, Sil-
very Blue Atlas Cedar

Cedrus deodara
Deodar Cedar, Hima-
layan Cedar, California
Christmas Tree, Indian
Cedar

Cedrus libani
Lebanon Cedar, Cedar
of Lebanon

Ceiba insignis
Kapok Tree

Ceiba speciosa
Floss Silk Tree

Celtis australis
European Hackberry

Chamaerops humilis
Mediterranean Fan
Palm

Chionanthus retusus
Chinese Fringe Tree,
Fringe Tree

Corymbia citridora
Lemon-scented Gum,

Citron-scented Gum

Corymbia torelliana
Cadaga, Cadahi,
Cadaghi Gum, Gadagi,
Cadagi Tree

Cryptomeria japonica
Japanese Cedar, Sugi,
Dhuppi

Cupaniopsis
anacardioides
Carrot Wood, Akee,
Cashew-leaf Cupania,
Tuckeroo, Brush Deal

Cupressus cashmeriana
Bhutan Cypress, Kash-
mir Cypress, Weeping
Cypress

Cupressus glabra
Smooth-barked Cypress

Dombeya sp.
Unknown Dombeya

Dracaena draco
Dragon Tree
(vandalized)

Ehretia tinifolia
Bastard Cherry, Man-
dimbo, Becs Tree,
Pinguico, Pinguica

Eriobotrya deflexa
Bronze Loquat

Eriobotrya japonica

Japanese Plum, Ever-
green Medlar, Japanese
Medlar, Chinese
Loquat, Nispero

Erythrina coralloides
Naked Coral Tree

Erythrina falcata
Evergreen Coral Tree

Erythrina sp.
Unknown Erythrina

Eucalyptus
camaldulensis
River Red Gum, Red
Gum, Murray Red
Gum, Australian Kino

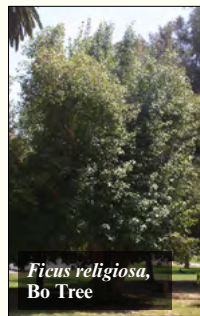
Eucalyptus cladocalyx
Sugar Gum

Eucalyptus ficifolia
Red-Flowering Gum,
Bloodwood

Eucalyptus globulus
Blue Gum, Tasmanian
Blue Gum, Southern
Blue Gum, Fever Tree,
Bluegum Eucalyptus

Eucalyptus robusta
Swamp Mahogany,
Brown Gum

Eucalyptus rudis
Flooded Gum



Ficus religiosa,
Bo Tree

Eucalyptus sideroxylon
Red Ironbark, Pink
Ironbark, Mulga Island
Eucalyptus, Mulga
Island Ironbark, Mugga

Eucalyptus viminalis
Mana Gum, Ribbon
Gum, White Gum

Eucalyptus sp.
Unknown Eucalyptus
(several)

Ficus racemosa
Indian Fig Tree, Cluster
Fig Tree, Goolar Fig,
Gular Fig

Ficus religiosa
Bo Tree, Sacred Fig

Fraxinus uhdei
Shamel Ash, Evergreen
Ash, Mexican Ash,
Hawaiian Ash

Fraxinus velutina
Arizona Ash

Fraxinus sp.
Unknown Ash

Ginkgo biloba
Maidenhair Tree

Handroanthus
impetiginosa
Pink Trumpet tree,
Purple Trumpet Tree,
Lavender Trumpet Tree,
Pau d’arco, Taheebo,
Ipe Roxo, Ipe, Argen-
tina Trumpet Tree

Heteromeles arbutifolia
Toyon, Christmas Berry,
California Holly, Holly-
wood Berry, Appletree

Jacaranda mimosifolia
Jacaranda, Brazilian
Rosewood, Sharpleaf
Jacaranda

Jubaea chilensis
Chilean Wine Palm

Juglans nigra
Eastern Black Walnut,
American Walnut

Juniperus chinensis
Torulosa
Twisted Chinese Juniper,
Twisted Juniper,
Hollywood Juniper

Lagerstroemia indica
Common Crapemyrtle,
Crêpe Myrtle, Crepe
Flower, Pride of India,
Ladies’ Streamer,
Flower of the South,
Lilac of the South, Chi-
nese Crepe Myrtle

Liquidambar formosana
Chinese Sweet Gum

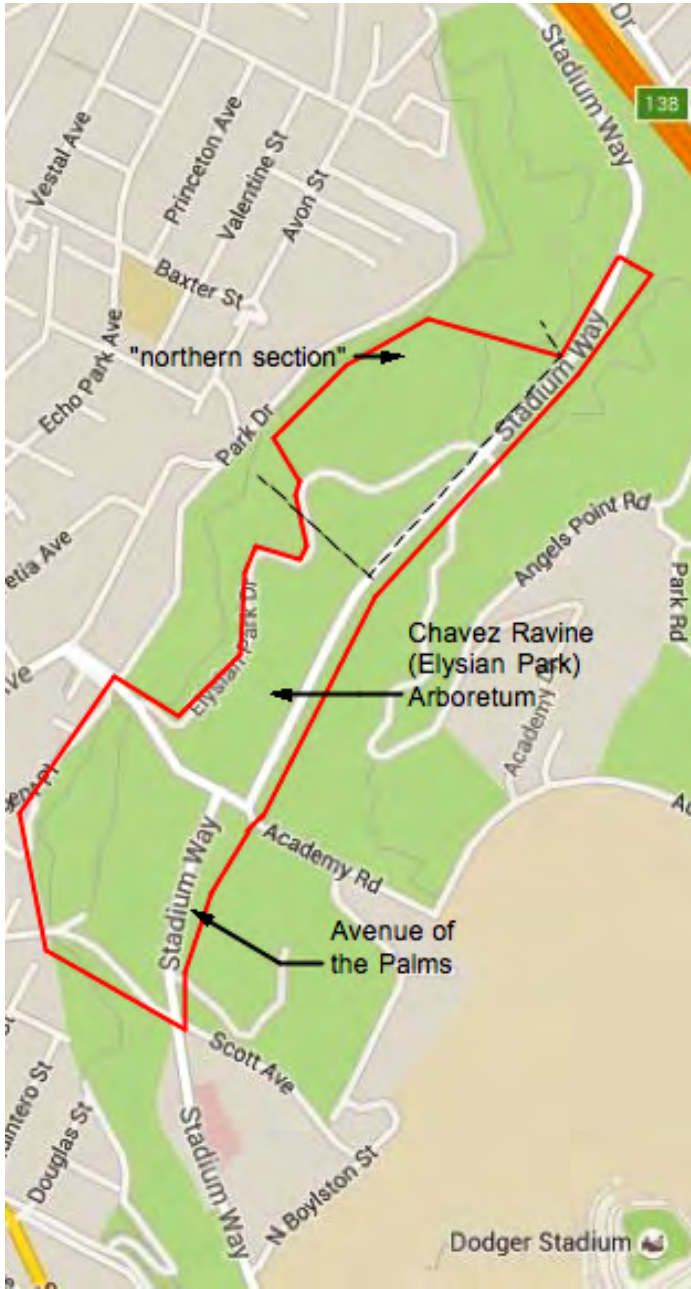
Livistona australis
Australian cabbage palm

Livistona chinensis
Chinese Fan Palm

Livistona decipiens
Fountain Palm

*Lyonothamnus floribun-
dus asplenifolius*
Catalina Ironwood,
Santa Cruz Island
Ironwood

Macadamia integrifolia
Smooth-Shell Macada-
mia, Macadamia Nut,
Queensland Nut, Poppel
Nut, Bush Nut, Austr-
alia Nut, Bauple Nut



traveled extensively in his quest for rare and unusual plants. Upon his return, he would sow the seeds he had gathered in his greenhouse and when the seedlings were large enough, would transplant them outdoors to test their hardiness.

Other dynamic members of this group were Austin Campbell-Johnston and Charles Russell Orcutt. Ernest Braunton, then an employee at the Lon and Cobble Nursery, did the actual planting. Today some fifty of the original trees are still growing in the park.⁵

The Society formally petitioned the Park Commission for the tract in September, 1893. The Commission agreed to give the society 10 acres and to supply piped-in water to the site as long as the costs “were not too great.” In December, the commission accepted the bid of a man named J.D. Hooker to furnish 4,000 feet of pipe at a cost of \$411.20.

It appears that seedlings were planted with no plan, perhaps at the whim of individual society members. And although the arboretum’s subsequent history is rather mysterious, one fact is certain—Elysian Park itself did not flourish as its supporters had hoped it would. Other parks, like Griffith Park and the trendy Westlake, continued to garner public attention and funds. By 1899, the *Los Angeles Times* had given up its fight to make Elysian Park a great city park and began advocating for a “first class” botanical garden in Griffith Park. The paper did concede that Elysian Park, with its “small collection of rare and beautiful trees and shrubs collected by a former citizen of Los Angeles ... gives some idea of what may be accomplished in this line.”⁶

The planting of rare trees, including the Bottle Tree, (*Brachychiton populneum*), the Chinese Cedar (*Cedrela toona*), the Cryptocarya (*Cryptocarya rubra*), the Sissoo (*Dahlbergia sissoo*), and the Bald

<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> Southern Magnolia, Great Laurel Magnolia, Big Laurel, Evergreen Magnolia, Large-flower Magnolia, Bullbay, Bull- bay, Bull Bay	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> Sour Gum, Black Gum, Black Tupelo	<i>Pinus halepensis</i> Aleppo Pine, Jerusalem Pine
<i>Magnolia x soulangeana</i> Saucer Magnolia (several)	<i>Osmanthus fragrans</i> Sweet Olive	<i>Pinus thunbergii</i> Japanese Black Pine
<i>Malus sp.</i> Unknown Peach	<i>Persea americana</i> Haas Avocado, Alligator Pear, Palta, Aguacate	<i>Pinus sp.</i> Unknown pine
<i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i> Prickly Leafed Paperbark	<i>Phoenix canariensis</i> Canary Island Date Palm, Canary Date Palm	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> Victorian Box, Mock Orange, Sweet Pittos- porum, Cheesewood, Orange Pittosporum, Native Daphne, Vic- torian Laurel, Orange Berry Pittosporum
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i> New Zealand Christ- mas Tree, Pohutukawa, Common Pokulakawa, Christmas Tree, Iron Tree	<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i> Date Palm	<i>Pittosporum sp.</i> Unknown Pittosporum
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i> Dawn Redwood	<i>Phoenix reclinata</i> Senegal Date Palm	<i>Platanus racemosa</i> California Sycamore, Western Sycamore, California Plane-tree, Buttonwood, Button- ball-tree, Planetree, Aliso, Portola Sycamore
<i>Nerium oleander</i> Pink Oleander, Freeway Bush, Rose Bay	<i>Phoenix reclinata</i> hybrid—seeds collected from Zambezi River, Africa	<i>Plinia cauliflora</i> Jaboticaba
<i>Nerium oleander</i> White Oleander, Freeway Bush, Rose Bay	<i>Phoenix rupicola</i> Cliff Date Palm	<i>Plumbago auriculata</i> Cape Plumbago
	<i>Phytolacca dioica</i> Ombu, Lighthouse of the Pampas	<i>Podocarpus totara</i> Lowland Totara
	<i>Pinus canariensis</i> Canary Island Pine, Canary Pine	

Cypress (*Taxodium distichum* var. *nutans*), continued through the 1920s.⁷ Though records are scarce and sketchy, an inventory from the '20s lists more than 50 species of trees, 40 of which are still standing, according to Teresa Prosewicz, former principal forester for Recreation and Parks. Judging by their stature, other mature trees, such as the Cork Oak (*Quercus suber*), the River Birch (*Betula nigra*), and the New Zealand Christmas tree (*Metrosideros excelsa*), were added in the 1950s.⁸

In 1958, portions of Elysian Park were taken for the construction of Dodger Stadium.⁹ For access to the stadium from Interstate 5, a six-lane road, Stadium Way, was built from the freeway exit to the entrance of the ballpark. The road runs through the original site of the Arboretum and many trees were lost due to the construction of the roadway. Significant amounts of fill soil were required to support the road through the canyon in which the Arboretum is situated, and some planted trees are exhibiting the effects of being planted in suspect soils.

In 1965, a plan was proposed to build a convention center in the park, on the site of the Avenue of the Palms. This effort was covered in depth in Andrea Thabet's article "Elysian Park: A Century of Municipal Neglect," in the Spring 2014 issue of *Eden*.

The Arboretum was declared Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument No. 48 on April 26, 1967. The Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCSEP) continues to vigilantly oversee the Park, and has been tracing the Arboretum's history, documenting the collection and ensuring its preservation. CCSEP also educates the public and city workers. In the course of its 50-year history, the committee has warded off freeway expansion, oil drilling, zip lines, and cell towers. It has worked to add 43 acres and sponsored the construction of children's play areas. It spearheaded the 1972

planting of rare palms on Palm Hill. Since 1979, trees have been purchased and planted in Elysian Park by members and friends of CCSEP in memory of friends and relatives.

Among the trees they planted that are still remaining are the Cape Chestnut (*Calodendrum capense*), from South Africa; the Moreton Bay Chestnut (*Castanospermum australe*), from Australia; the Tipu Tree (*Tipuana tipu*), from South America; the Floss Silk Tree (*Chorisia speciosa*), from Brazil; and the Kauri Tree (*Agathis robusta*), from New Zealand.¹⁰ In 1895, Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) were planted on the Avenue of the Palms, on both sides of what is now Stadium Way north of Scott Avenue.

The Committee's most recent effort was the replanting of the Avenue of the Palms, a \$2.1 million project. The Canary Islanders were near the end of their natural life spans and had become infected with Phytophthora, a fungus invariably deadly to the palms. Since Phytophthora lives over in the soil, these palms could not be used in the replanting. Don Hodel, the palm expert from the local University of California Cooperative Extension, recommended replanting with a similar palm, the Chilean Wine Palm (*Jubaea chilensis*). As part of the effort, the portion of Stadium Way between the allée of the palms was reconstructed and improved, all with funds obtained by CCSEP.

As with all living beings, trees die. They are also stolen, vandalized,

Left top: Location of Chavez Ravine (Elysian Park) Arboretum. Map data © Google, modified by Michael O'Brien.

Left bottom: Moreton Bay Chestnut, *Castanospermum australe*, flower. Designated as a Heritage Tree by the Department of Recreation and Parks. Photo by Michael O'Brien.

<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> Atropurpurea Purple Leaf Plum	<i>Quercus suber</i> Cork Oak, Cork Tree	Tall Firewheel Tree
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> Catalina Cherry	<i>Quercus virginiana</i> Southern Live Oak, Live Oak, Louisiana Live Oak, Virginia Live Oak, Spanish Oak, Spanish Encina	<i>Strelitzia nicolai</i> Giant Bird of Paradise, Natal Wild Banana, White Bird of Paradise
<i>Psidium guajava</i> Apple Guava, Common Guava, Yellow Guava, Lemon Guava, Goiaba, Guayaba, Djamboe	<i>Rhaphidophyllum hystrix</i> Needle Palm	<i>Syagrus romanzoffianum</i> Queen Palm, Giriba Palm
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i> Field Oak, Encina, Coast Live Oak, Encina Oak, California Live Oak	<i>Rhapis excelsa</i> Slender Lady Palm	<i>Taxodium distichum</i> Bald Cypress, Swamp Cypress, Southern Cypress, Deciduous Cypress, Common Bald Cypress, Loui- siana Cypress, Marsh Cypress, Gulf Cypress, Sabino Tree, Cypress, White Red Cypress, Yellow Cypress
<i>Quercus alba</i> White Oak	<i>Sabal sabiniana</i> Puerto Rican Hat Palm	TBD Shrub (several)
<i>Quercus coccinea</i> Scarlet Oak	<i>Sabal sp.</i> Unknown Sabal	TBD Unknown Fan Palm
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> Bur Oak	<i>Sapium sebiferum</i> Chinese Tallow Tree (Popcorn)	TBD Unknown palm
<i>Quercus palustris</i> Pin Oak	<i>Schinus molle</i> Peruvian Pepper Tree	<i>Tipuana tipu</i> Tipu Tree, Pride of Bolivia, Brazilian Rosewood, Tipa Tree, Yellow Jacaranda, Rose Wood
<i>Quercus rubra</i> Northern Red Oak, Champion Oak, Common Red Oak, Eastern Red Oak, Mountain Red Oak, Gray Oak	<i>Schinus polygamus</i> Cabreara Hardee Pepper Tree	
	<i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i> Firewheel Tree, Rotary Tree, Wheel-of-Fire,	



Laurel, Black Myrtle
<i>Vitex angus-castus</i> Chaste Tree
<i>Vitex lucens</i> Puriri
<i>Washingtonia filifera</i> California Fan Palm, Desert Fan Palm, Ari- zona Palm, Washington Palm, Cotton Palm, Petticoat Palm, North- ern Washingtonia, Thread Palm, Cotton Palm, Hula Palm, Hardy Fan Leaf Palm, Desert Palm
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i> Mexican Fan Palm, Thread Palm, Washing- ton Palm, Skyduster, Cotton Palm, Southern Washingtonia, Mexican Washingtonia
<i>Wollemia nobilis</i> Wollemi Pine
<i>Xylosma congestum</i> Shiny Xylosma
<i>Zelkova serrata</i> Japanese Elm, Keaki Elm
<i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i> Water Gum
<i>Trithrinax brasiliensis</i> Brazilian Needle Palm
<i>Umbellularia californica</i> California Laurel, Cali- fornia Bay, California Olive, California Sassa- fras, Bay Tree, Oregon Myrtle, Pepperwood, Green Bay Tree, Moun- tain Laurel, Myrtle, Headache Tree, Bay
<i>Toona ciliata</i> Australian Red Cedar, Australian Cedar, Red Cedar, Toon, Toontree, Toonboom, Hong Chun, Indian Cedar, Indian Mahogany, Queensland Red Cedar
<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i> Windmill Palm
<i>Trachycarpus wagnerianus</i> Dwarf Chusan Palm

or simply disappear. Keeping track of the trees in the Arboretum has been a hit-or-miss effort. In 1971, a checklist, “Existing Trees and Shrub Masses in Park,” was compiled by H.J. Teague, which included an old list of the trees from the Park Department. An undated brochure and map of the trees in the northern section of the Arboretum, presumably from the same period, was printed and is available on the Recreation and Parks’ website (<http://www.laparks.org/dos/horticulture/chavez.htm>). A fairly up-to-date although incomplete map of the trees in the Arboretum is available at navigatela.lacity.org.¹¹ In 2015, CCSEP commissioned Katrina Smith, a horticulturist, to survey the trees in the of the Arboretum. She found a total of 629 individual plants, comprising some 155 species. A new map of the northern section is being developed.

Owing to their age and the horticultural savvy of their planters, many trees in the Chavez Ravine Arboretum are the largest, finest, first, or only specimens of their kind in California. Visitors can see the tallest Queensland Kauri (*Agathis robusta*) in the continental U.S., at 120 feet tall; the first Cape chestnut (*Calodendrum capense*); and perhaps the mightiest Bo Tree (*Ficus religiosa*), sometimes called a Bodhi tree, in the state. The Bo Tree is the tree under which the Buddha sat when he became enlightened. All are designated “Heritage Trees” by the Department of Recreation and Parks. Other Heritage Trees in the park include a mighty Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*), a Chilean Wine Palm (*Jubaea chilensis*) on Palm Hill, the unusual Yellow Cedar (*Rhodosphaera rhodantha*), and an enormous Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*).

Hailing from various continents and climate zones, the diverse collection impressed botanist Jim Bauml of the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden in Arcadia. “Some trees are just enormous,” he said in 2005, citing the pair of flowering Tipu Trees (*Tipuana tipu*) that flank Elysian Park Drive. “Others are really large and healthy examples of some of the more unusual trees in Southern California.” Bauml also took note of the Moreton Bay chestnut (*Castanospermum australe*), with its large dark leaves and huge red and yellow flowers, and praised *Baphia chrysophylla*, a small South African species with pea-like blossoms. “I can’t think of any other place I’ve seen one,” he said. The gnarled specimen at Chavez Ravine is part of the arboretum’s original planting and still produces pretty white blossoms and plenty of viable seed. Jorge Ochoa, a former Recreation and Parks intern, and Bauml germinated seed from the 112-year-old *Baphia* and have 40 seedlings. “I’m looking forward to planting some in the L.A. County Arboretum’s African section and distributing them to other gardens in the area.”^{12, 13}

The Arboretum sees ongoing tree plantings as fundamental to fulfilling its historical role as a testing ground for unusual plants. A recent planting of the Wollemi Pine (*Wollemia nobilis*), one of the world’s rarest trees, continues this living tradition.

Endnotes

1. Victoria Padilla, *Southern California Gardens*, Allen A. Knoll, 1994 (reprint), 295-6.
2. *Ibid.*, 301.
3. “The movement by the Horticultural Society of Southern California,” *Los Angeles Times*, August 22, 1893.
4. “Well Started: Horticulturists to establish a botanical garden,” *Los Angeles Times*, August 20, 1893.
5. Linda Flint McClelland, “Historic Landscapes in National and State Parks,” National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (Washington, DC: National Register of Historic Places, 1995), 301.

Below left: *Baphia chrysophylla*. Photo by Michael O'Brien.

Below right: *Tipuana tipu* blossoms. Courtesy Wikimedia Commons.



6. "A botanical garden," *Los Angeles Times*, May 16, 1899.
7. Donald R. Hodel, *Exceptional Trees of Los Angeles*, California Arboretum Foundation, 1988.
8. Padilla, *Southern California Gardens*, 301-2.
9. Enter the address 1701 Stadium, hit the return key, click on the parcel, the menu bar will appear), open the Recreation and Parks folder in the menu bar, and click on Park Trees. Move the cursor over the tree symbols. Note that the trees will not be precisely in place with reference to the surrounding roads, and parcel information may come up.
10. <http://www.latimes.com/style/la-hm-chavez7jul07-story.html>.
11. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dodger_Stadium.
12. <http://www.latimes.com/style/la-hm-chavez7jul07-story.html>.
13. According to James Henrich, current biologist at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum (LASCA), "Regarding the *Baphia racemosa* [sic], we acquired seeds in 1999, 2004, 2005 and 2007. Only 2004 seeds yielded plants, at one time numbering about 18; I think we now have only 6 plants. They have not performed well in the nursery and hence none have been planted in the landscape." According to Frank McDonough, Botanical Information Consultant, LASCA, "I checked and the only Baphias we have as planted out in the collection are no longer extant." Personal communications July 7, 2016.

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In addition to the tree species in the northern section, the Arboretum has the following species, which are located south of the northern section. Common genera such as Jacaranda and Eucalyptus are excluded.



Acacia dealbata
Silver Wattle, Blue Wattle,
Mimosa

Acacia longifolia
Sydney Golden Wattle

Acer negundo
Box Elder

Acacia melanoxylon
Black Acacia

Ailanthus altissima
Tree of Heaven

Araucaria bidwillii
Bunya Pine

Brachychiton rupestris
Narrow-leaved Bottle Tree

Buddleja davidii
Butterfly Bush

Caesalpinia spinosa
Spiny Holdback

Caryota urens
Solitary Fishtail Palm

Cedrela fissilis
Argentine cedar, cedro batata,
cedro blanco, cedro colorado

Chilopsis linearis
Desert Willow

Cotoneaster lacteus
Red Clusterberry

Crassula ovata
Jade Plant

Cryptocarya rubra
Red Cryptocarya

Elaeocarpus decipiens
Japanese Blueberry Tree

Ficus elastica 'Sylvie'
Rubber Tree

Ficus maclellandii
Alii Fig

Ficus microcarpa
Indian Laurel Fig

Frangula californica
Coffeeberry

Juglans californica
Southern California Black
Walnut

Leptospermum laevigatum variety
Coastal Tee Tree

Liquidambar styraciflua
Sweet Gum (vandalized)

Liriodendron tulipifera
Tulip Tree

Melaleuca axillaris
Swamp Paperbark

Phytolacca heteropetala
Mexican Pokeweed

Pinus edulis
Colorado Pinyon

Prunus ilicifolia ssp. *Lyonii*
Islay

Quercus cerris
Turkey Oak

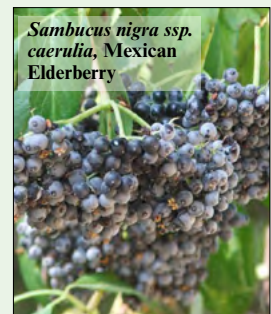
Quillaja saponaria
Soapbark

Rhodospaera rhodanthema
Deep Yellowwood

Pittosporum tobira
Mock Orange

Rhus integrifolia
Lemonade Berry

Salix babylonica
Weeping Willow



Sambucus nigra ssp. *caerulea*,
Mexican Elderberry

Schinus terebinthifolius
Brazilian Pepper

Sequoia sempervirens
Coast Redwood

Plant Introduction Garden at Chico

Marlea A. Graham



In 1904 the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) created a Plant Introduction Garden at Chico, Butte County, California. Beginning with the establishment of the land grant colleges in the 1860s, the federal government initiated a policy to improve agriculture and horticulture across the nation. The Hatch Act of 1887 provided for the establishment of farms where universities could conduct research into agricultural and related problems faced by rural citizens.

Prior to this the University of California, a land grant college, had already begun operating its own series of small specialty plant experiment stations under the direction of Eugene Woldemar Hilgard (1833-1916),

head of the university's School of Agriculture. Stations had been set up around the San Francisco Bay Area and at Fresno for testing grapes, while other locations were being used for experimenting with varieties of forest trees. Professor Hilgard enlisted the help of interested citizen volunteers from around the state (up to 600 individuals by 1887) to whom plants and seeds were distributed annually upon request. These volunteers reported their results to the university, which disseminated them through university publications and newspapers such as the *Pacific Rural Press*.¹

In 1888 the Federal Office of Experiment Stations was established in Washington, D.C. Its responsibilities included the administration of federal funds to support research in agriculture and rural life through experiment stations. The Office also coordinated USDA's research with state and territorial agricultural colleges and the stations.² In California, the first of several new experiment centers was

formed at Berkeley. Although most stations have long since closed, the ones at Berkeley, Davis, and Riverside are still active today under the university's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, "with Davis representing the most substantial investment."³

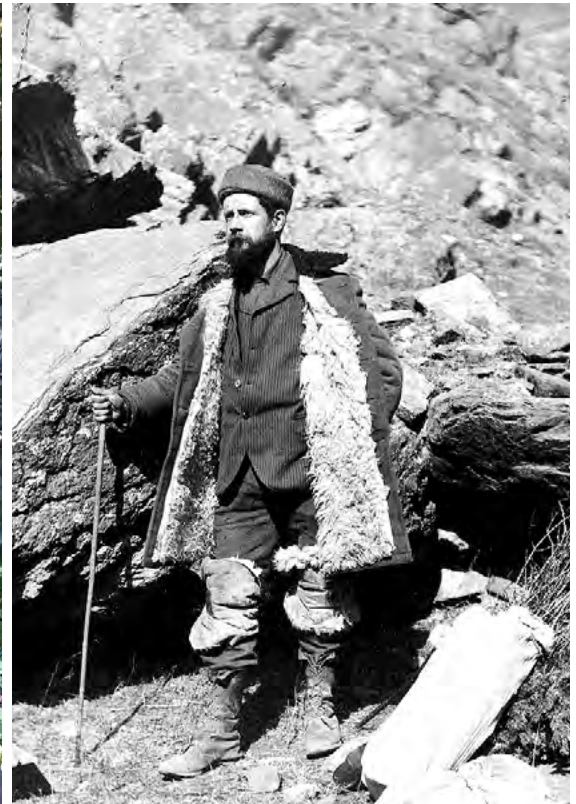
Through the stations, the university could obtain and distribute seed of foreign trees and plants from public and private domestic sources. One, the Asian native, *Albizia julibrissin*, aka the silk tree or pink mimosa, came from General Bidwell's Rancho Chico estate, and two kinds of South American *Araucaria* seed were collected from the Flood estate in Menlo Park.⁴

The university, however, was not authorized or funded to send plant explorers to foreign countries. Before the USDA got involved, plant expeditions to foreign countries were more often financed by wealthy individuals who paid a subscription fee, with a promise of a return on their investment in the form

Above: Chico Seed Orchard greenhouse. Photo by Libby Simon.

Opposite: Tags mark historic events on the corresponding rings of a felled tree in the Chico Seed Orchard. Photo by Virginia Kean.





of seeds and plants. Through links established by their plant explorers, the USDA could draw on greater resources than just tax dollars, including a network of diplomats and missionaries serving in foreign countries. Indeed, it was a report from a missionary that led to the introduction of the Washington navel orange to California in 1873, with trees the USDA secured from Brazil.⁵ Plant explorers also arranged large-scale plant and seed exchanges with foreign arboretums, universities, and parks.

Once David Fairchild (1869-1954) was appointed chief of the newly established Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction in 1898, the agency began to systematically search foreign lands for agricultural and horticultural gold. Fairchild took action to coordinate the activities of plant explorers and to set up scattered acclimatization gardens. He was looking for land and, more importantly, a climate that would support the propagation of sensitive tropical plants, which could then be bred for resistance to the climate in colder areas of the U.S. He called these proposed gardens the equivalent of an Ellis Island

for plant life. Plants would be grown under quarantine in these gardens until deemed safe and beneficial enough to warrant wider distribution.⁶

WHY CHICO?

The Chico garden was the only one of its kind located in the western U.S. The range of weather, according to its first superintendent, P.H. Dorsett, played an important role in its selection:

The Chico Plant Introduction Field Station is located in one of the leading deciduous-fruit, nut, and citrus sections in northern California. The high summer temperature, abundance of water for irrigation, long growing season, and mild winters of this region make possible the propagation and testing of such widely different species of plants as alfalfa from the steppes of Siberia, hardy apples, pears, and cherries from Russia, chestnuts, jujubes, and persimmons from northern China, and citrus fruits from the Tropics.⁷

Three years after the Chico garden was established, newspaper journalist Eleanor Lexington reported on the negotiations with Mrs. Bidwell over the site selection in Chico. After General Bidwell's death, his wife had been forced to sell a part of her estate. According to the *San Francisco*

Chronicle, the Government's first choice was the Bidwell land on which the Hooker oak stood:

Senator Perkins telegraphed to urge her [to sell], and countless letters were written her pointing out the importance of allowing the government to own the big tree. Through it all she was firm in her refusal to sell this land, because it was her purpose to give the tree to the people for their enjoyment ... and the thought that it should stand behind gates in a government garden was repellent to her. In consequence the Plant Introduction Garden was located several miles away ... and the Sir Joseph Hooker oak ... was given to the town of Chico by Mrs. Bidwell.⁸

The government soon settled for 80 acres that had been part of the J.F. Entler farm, 3 miles southeast of Chico. The *Chronicle* further reported that residents of Chico, Butte County and the northern Sacramento valley area were campaigning hard to get this garden, not only for the expected "expenditure of vast sums of money for labor and other necessities in the district," which they thought would result, but also because it was "of vast importance on account of the continual demonstration of the capabilities of soil and climate and an advertising feature the value of which can hardly be overestimated."

Above left: *Entrance to the Seed Orchard. Photo by Nancy C. Carter.*

Above right: *Plant explorer Frank N. Meyer in China (1908). USDA Agricultural Research Service, <https://lars.usda.gov>.*

According to the *Riverside Daily Press* the purchase price of the land was \$9,000, and an additional \$2,000 to \$3,000 would have to be invested in an irrigation system and other improvements. However, on July 27, 1904, the newspaper noted that Chico might lose the garden after all because the USDA required that the land be donated to them and local citizens were unable to raise the funds for the purchase. The newspaper also pointed out that “several other localities in the State where the garden might be satisfactorily located stand ready to donate the necessary land.” The Sacramento Valley Development Association stepped in and got involved with the fund-raising, and the Entler farmland purchase was completed by the Government’s deadline of August 1, 1904. The garden eventually grew to encompass 209 acres.⁹

Months before the final land purchase was completed, the *San Jose Evening News* reported that plants and other materials were already packed in Washington and ready for shipment, and that Superintendent Dorsett was on his way.¹⁰

EDIBLE LEMONS AND ORNAMENTAL PISTACHIOS

In July 1908, Chico’s first big shipment, 15 tons of plants and seeds, arrived directly from Far East. USDA agricultural explorer Frank N. Meyer oversaw the planting and care of some 1,800 plants that he had discovered. Two of the plants introduced from Chico warrant particular mention. The first was a dwarf edible lemon used as an ornamental potted plant in China. Eventually known as the Meyer lemon, this fruit thrived in the citrus districts of California, Florida, and Texas, and won praise for its sweetness, high proportion of juice, thin, edible rind, and increased winter hardiness. Unfortunately, those same qualities also meant that it did not ship well, but it has remained a local favorite. In 1961 it was discovered to be the bearer of the crippling quick-decline virus. Until a resistant strain was identified, the virus nearly wiped out the lemon industry here. Fortunately, the improved Meyer lemon has proved very popular since its release in 1976.¹¹

The ornamental pistachio is the second plant of special note. This tree with its fall color became an alternative to the *Liquidambar* with its annoying prickly seedpods. Meyer biographer Isabel Shipley Cunningham recorded that on his first expedition to China “Meyer eagerly complied with the USDA policy of collecting ornamentals ‘when encountered.’ In January ... he returned to the Western Hills where he had observed remnants of original vegetation

around ancient temples. There he collected cuttings of the Chinese pistachio (*Pistacia chinensis*).”¹²

In 1916 Superintendent Dorsett wrote of the “peculiar beauty of the Chinese pistache,” then virtually unknown in America. “The great age to which it lives ... suggested its trial as an avenue tree, and thousands of young trees have been distributed to parks throughout the country. A trial avenue a quarter mile long, planted at the Chico garden in 1910, already makes an excellent appearance.” The trees, which can live to over 100 years, remain at Chico today, mute yet colorful testimony to one of Meyer’s (and the Chico garden’s) many achievements.¹³

THE END OF THE GOLDEN AGE

Allan Stoner noted that the “latter part of the 19th and the first several decades of the 20th century can be described as a ‘golden age’ for plant exploration and collecting ..., [and] the creation of the USDA’s Office of [Foreign] Seed and Plant Introduction in 1898 resulted in the largest single program devoted to plant exploration.” The Chico garden for a time played an important role in that process.

The 20th century, Stoner wrote in an essay for the magazine *HortScience*, was a time of great growth but also of great destruction. He summarized the development in this way: “From the earliest years of the 20th century the evidence was clear that the race to save endangered species had begun,” yet by the early 1950s USDA interest in foreign plant exploration and introduction seemed to be waning. In 1974, the U.S. Forest Service took over the Chico station which first became the Chico Tree Improvement, then the Chico Seed Orchard. In 1992 it was again renamed the Genetic Resource and Conservation Center, reflecting a new mission to develop and produce genetically improved native plant material for the reforestation program of the Pacific Southwest Region.

Coming full circle, independent plant explorers like Dan Hinkley, a former owner of Washington State’s famous Heronswood Nursery, and private institutions, such as Miami’s Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and Glen Ellen’s Quarry Hill Botanical Garden, have taken up the challenge of finding and preserving plants for the sake of biodiversity, if nothing else. Plant lovers everywhere owe them profuse thanks!¹⁴

Endnotes

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5. The appellation “Washington” pertained to Washington, D.C., where two enterprising Californians, Luther and Eliza Tibbets applied to obtain their two plants from William O. Saunders, Superintendent of Horticulture for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington. H.M. Butterfield, *A History of Subtropical Fruits and Nuts in California*, (Berkeley: University of California, 1963): 33-37; “Eliza Tibbets,” Wikipedia.org.
6. “A Century of Research with USDA in Miami,” <https://www.ars.usda.gov>, and “Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden,” Wikipedia.org.
7. P.H. Dorsett, “The Plant-Introduction Gardens of the Department of Agriculture,” *Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture* (Washington, D.C.: 1916):136, <https://books.google.com>.
8. Eleanor Lexington, “A Corner in Ancestors,” and Elizabeth Gregg, “The Largest Oak Tree in the World in California,” *San Francisco Chronicle Magazine Section*, Aug. 25 1907: 4-5, Genealogybank.com. The Hooker oak was declared to be the largest known of its species in the world in 1872 by Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, Director of England’s Royal Botanical Gardens. It was first named for Hooker by dendrologist C.C. Parry. The tree fell in 1977 and was then discovered to have been two trees, each 325 years old and grown together into one. “Hooker Oak,” Wikipedia.org. The *Chronicle* reported Mrs. Bidwell’s gift of 1,900 acres (including the desired tree) to the city on June 29, 1905:3 (“Will Give Chico Big Public Park”).
9. “Chico Is Now After Garden,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, Dec. 12, 1903: 7; “Plant Station Near Chico,” *Chronicle*, Mar. 29, 1904: 3; “Government Gardens Located at Chico,” *Riverside Daily Press (RDP)*, Mar. 30, 1904: 1; “Chico May Lose Those Gardens,” *RDP*, July 17, 1904: 7; “Plant Introduction Garden at Chico,” *PRP*, Sept. 23, 1905: 198, Genealogybank.com and cdnc.ucr.edu.
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14. “Genetic Resource and Conservation Center,” www.fs.usda.gov; “The 20th Century,” <https://www.plantexplorers.com>; Allan Stoner, “19th and 20th Century Plant Hunters,” *HortScience* 42, no. 2, April 2007:197-199, hortsci.ashpublications.org. See the fascinating documentary film *The Fruit Hunters* (available on Amazon.com), narrated by actor Bill Pullman. His passion for collecting tropical fruit trees evolved into the desire to create a public garden for preserving these fruits in Southern California.

CGLHS BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2017



PRESIDENT STEVEN KEYLON | Palm Springs



Steven is a landscape historian and regular contributor to *Eden*. He joined the CGLHS Board in 2013 and became treasurer in 2014. He serves on the boards of Docomomo US/SoCal and the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation. He also serves on the Stewardship Council of the Cultural Landscape Foundation. Steven's interests in garden and landscape history are focused on designed landscapes in Southern California from 1920 to 1965.

VICE PRESIDENT LIBBY SIMON | Los Angeles



A former animation artist and producer, Libby is now involved in the world of landscape design, garden antiques, and historic preservation. She has completed Historic American Landscape Surveys (HALS) of the San Gabriel Mission, the Los Angeles Ebell garden by Florence Yoch and Lucile Council, and the Old Zoo at Griffith Park. Her current HALS projects are landscape architect Garret Eckbo's communities in Mar Vista and Laurel Canyon. A graduate of UCLA Extension's landscape architecture program, Libby also designs residential gardens and has served on the CGLHS editorial board. Her article on the Ebell of Los Angeles was published in the winter 2016 issue of *Eden*.

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

ANTONIA ADEZIO | Sonoma

Credits: Christopher Chang, The Press Democrat, Santa Rosa, CA 9/16/16



Antonia has been involved with historic landscapes for the past 25 years. She was the founding director of the Garden Conservancy and is currently the Executive Director of the Marin Art & Garden Center. Antonia is interested in the connections between history and preservation, and in the process of enlivening public gardens by sharing the stories of their creators and their plants. Antonia serves on the boards of the Foundation for Landscape Studies and Stonecrop Gardens in Cold Spring, New York, and as emeritus director of the Peckerwood Garden Foundation in Texas.

THOMAS EDDY | Saratoga



After earning a B.S. degree in Landscape Architecture at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Thomas opened a design/build firm in the Sonoma wine country. For 20 years, he designed private gardens and consulted companies large and small, including the SWA Group, Peter Walker & Partners, Motorola, and Pixar Animation Studios on behalf of the late Steve Jobs. Thomas completed a masters at Sonoma State University where he focused on historic preservation and sense-of-place theories. Today, he works for the City of San Jose and is a long-time supporter of the Library of American Landscape History (LALH).

DAVID A. LAWS | Pacific Grove



David was born and raised in London, England. With a degree in physics, he worked for Silicon Valley computer chip companies for more than 40 years in roles from engineer to CEO. He currently writes on the history of technology for the Computer History Museum, Steinbeck Country, and California gardens from his home in Pacific Grove. His articles on gardens have been published in regional newspapers, *Pacific Horticulture*, and the fall 2016 issue of *Eden* ("Garden History of the Monterey Peninsula, Redux").

CHRISTINE O'HARA | Atascadero



Christy is a professor of landscape architecture at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and an international lecturer on landscape preservation and its application to sustainable landscape design and construction. A graduate of Stanford University, she received a masters in landscape architecture and preservation planning from the University of Washington and will soon complete a PhD in landscape architecture at the University of Edinburgh. Her research focuses on the Olmsted Brothers' ecological planning in 1920s' Los Angeles. Christy has published in *The Journal for the Society of Architectural Historians*, *Pacific Horticulture*, *Eden*, and *Pioneers in Landscape Architecture*. She is a trustee of the National Association of Olmsted Parks and served two terms as CGLHS treasurer.

TREASURER**CECILY HARRIS** | San Carlos

Cecily is a development consultant for nonprofit organizations and public agencies. She currently serves on the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors, the California Division of Boating and

Waterways Commission, the San Francisco Bay Trail Board of Directors, and the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Advisory Committee. Formerly a managing director of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, executive director of the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society, and a landscape architecture specialist for the City of San Mateo Parks, Cecily is particularly interested in preserving urban parks and open spaces. She holds a B.S. in renewable natural resources from the University of Arizona and an MBA from Golden Gate University.

RECORDING SECRETARY**NANCY CAROL CARTER** | San Diego

A lawyer, law librarian, and legal educator, Nancy is a past president of the San Diego Floral Association. She chairs its editorial board and is an associate editor of *California Garden* with a regular column on

notable horticulturists. Her articles have also appeared in *Eden*, *Pacific Horticulture*, and the *Journal of San Diego History*. She serves on the horticulture committee of the Friends of Balboa Park and the Balboa Park Conservancy Projects Committee. A CGLHS Board member since 2011, Nancy served two terms as vice president and convened our 2015 conference, "Cultivating Identity: Balboa Park as Cultural Landscape."

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER**BRANDY KUHL** | San Francisco

As head librarian at the San Francisco Botanical Garden, Brandy manages a 27,000-volume reference library devoted to horticulture and is responsible for maintaining, developing, and conserving the most comprehensive collection in Northern California. A member of the CGLHS Board since January 2015, she is currently serving as membership officer. Brandy is a member of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries. She received her M.L.I.S. from San Jose State University and has contributed to *Pacific Horticulture*, *The Botanical Artist*, and *Treasures from San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum*.

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ANN SCHEID | Pasadena

Ann is the curator of the Greene & Greene Archives at The Huntington Library. She has served as Pasadena's Senior Planner in Historic Preservation and as an architectural historian for the State of California. In addition to her four books on Pasadena's history, she has published articles in *Southern California Quarterly* and in *Eden*, and has contributed chapters to *A New and Native Beauty: The Art & Craft of Greene & Greene* and to *The Gamble House: Building in Paradise*. Ann has been a board member

of the Pasadena Museum of History and the Southern California Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians. She has served as CGLHS Recording Secretary and is a member of the CGLHS editorial board. She holds degrees from Vassar College, the University of Chicago, and the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**KELLY COMRAS** | Los Angeles

Kelly is licensed landscape architect and lawyer whose landscape architecture practice focuses on community-based open space design. She is a founding member of the Stewardship Council for The Cultural Landscape Foundation and chairs the CGLHS editorial board. Her book on Southern California landscape designer Ruth Shellhorn was published in 2016. Kelly has lectured at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the LALH, UCLA, the Society of Architectural Historians, and the California Preservation Foundation.

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JENNIFER TROTOUX | South Pasadena

Jennifer has been an architectural historian and historic preservation planner for over 20 years and is now a Senior Associate with Architectural Resources Group in Pasadena. She studied art and architectural history at Scripps College and the University of Chicago and taught architectural history at Woodbury University. Jennifer has served on the boards of the Friends of the Gamble House and the Southern California Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians.

Among her research interests are historic preservation projects that include historic designed landscapes.



California Garden & Landscape History Society

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KATE O. SESSIONS: A NETWORK AND LEGACY OF BOTANICAL BOUNTY

March 19, 2017 (Sunday) 2:00 p.m.

**The Huntington Library, Art Collections
and Botanical Gardens**

Free | Rothenberg Hall

At the turn of the twentieth century, Kate Sessions was a renowned San Diego-based pioneer in plant importation and experimentation. Nicknamed “the Mother of Balboa Park,” Sessions introduced and popularized many of the region’s beloved tree species. Nancy Carol Carter, landscape historian and author, examines Sessions’ indelible mark on the landscape of Southern California and her iconic Arts & Crafts garden style. Presented in collaboration with the California Garden and Landscape History Society.



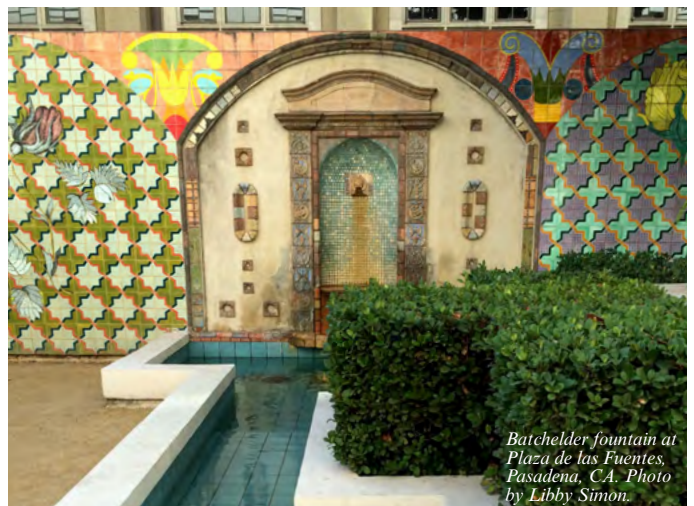
ERNEST BATCHELDER: HIS PUBLIC LEGACY, HIS PRIVATE GARDEN

**January 29, 2017 • 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Pasadena, California**

The day includes:

- The “Batchelder: Tilemaker” exhibit at the Pasadena Museum of History, with curator Laura Verlaque
- Lunch in the garden of the Batchelder House as guests of Professor Robert Winter
- A tour of the historic Pasadena Playhouse with its Batchelder courtyard fountain and Playhouse Library fireplace

For more details and to register, visit cglhs.org.



*Batchelder fountain at
Plaza de las Fuentes,
Pasadena, CA. Photo
by Libby Simon.*