



## SEAVER CENTER FOR WESTERN HISTORY RESEARCH



### Notes From the Archive

#### FALL 2022

This is a publication of the Seaver Center for Western History Research, a section of the History Department. If you are informed by what you read here, please share it with a friend or colleague.

## Recent Gifts to the Seaver Center

Several individuals gifted items recently. Featured here are historical papers and worthy contributions in the ongoing quest to define Los Angeles.

#### Gift of Lily Yuri Tsurumaki

##### Kazuichi "Jack" Oki and Yayoi Oki Family Papers

How can a life - fully lived - be represented by a paper collection? It cannot, of course, yet these papers reveal the acts of resuming life in Los Angeles after World War II.

Sent to Heart Mountain, Wyoming, incarceration disrupted the family of Japanese Americans Jack, his wife, Yayoi, and their two children, Lily and Kazuto, from their stable existence in a Silver Lake neighborhood of L.A. Nearby, the longstanding Hollywood Independent Church was a community anchor for the Oki's.

Jack held a lifelong appreciation for nature. He collected rock specimens and petrified wood while interned at Heart Mountain. The donated papers relate to the nature study tours he organized from the 1950s through the 1980s from his avocation leading the Southern California Japanese Rock Society, and the outings included numerous national parks.

Yayoi may have been introduced to batik fabric designing while at Heart Mountain, and she continued producing patterns for several decades.

Adina Mori-Holt is commended for reaching out to numerous southern California museums and archives as she was clearing out her great grandparents' house and possessions.



Donor Lily Tsurumaki and her granddaughter Adina Mori-Holt, November 2021 (Photo by B. Uyeda)

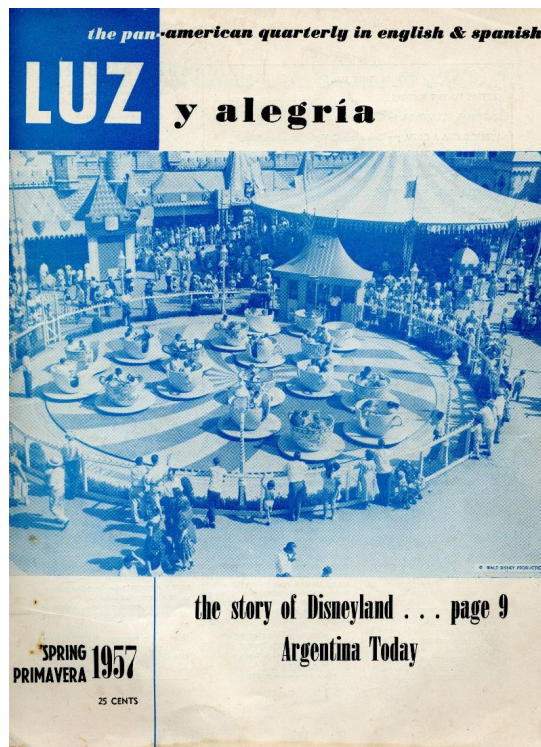
#### Gift of Lucía Durán-Dussán de Ruiz

#### ***Luz y Alegría*, the Pan-American Quarterly in English & Spanish**

Celmira Bléa is an Angeleno who sent a batch of bilingual publications across the country from Maine and Florida. 12 issues were received, ranging from 1955 to 1959, when they were published in Culver City. Among the local attractions highlighted in the articles were Angel's Flight, Disneyland, and "the Rancho La Brea Traps."

*Luz y Alegría* was originally a Spanish literary magazine produced by her parents in Bogotá, Colombia, in the 1930s and 1940s. Upon arriving by boat via Panama, they encountered very few Colombian residents. Celmira explained that her parents "saw the need for bilingual reading material and also wanted to share with the American public about the countries and cultures south of the border." She added, "it was designed to serve as a way to practice Spanish and promote Pan American friendship."

"My parents were very progressive as with regards to maintaining Spanish as a spoken language in our home. As a result we were bilingual and they made an effort to make us also biliterate. This was not a favored attitude in the 1950s."



Gift of John Mieding

### The Four-S Baking Company Manuscript

A hundred years ago, four guys opened a bakery, and the company name was derived from the fact that each partner's last name started with an 'S.' Their first plant was at 25th Street and Hoover Avenue, not far from this museum. It was a good time to start a food business because by 1930 the city population doubled in size.

Four-S began as a wholesale supplier to small business grocery stores and some restaurants. They also ran the bread depot at the L.A. County Fair. While not a household name, Four-S was in business alongside Dolly Madison, Foix, French American, Langendorf, Log Cabin, Weber and Wonder. It was Four-S that purchased the (Los Angeles founded) Weber pan white bread business in 1997, and a couple of years later Bimbo Bakeries USA acquired Four-S.

Donor John Mieding joined Four-S as a janitor when he got out of the service following World War II. He soon was on the line making bread; then worked a route before becoming route manager, plant manager, and Western Regional Manager of Interstate Bakeries. He donated a manuscript on the history of Four-S that he co-authored along with company colleagues Elmer Pedrotti and Joe Tarro.



Donor John Mieding and his daughter Martie Donovan, September, 2022  
(Photo by B. Uyeda)



#### Gift of Kim Walters

#### Parting Gifts: a Phonograph Record Collection

Seaver Center Collections Manager, Kim Walters, retired from the museum at the close of September. For over seven years she has been a knowledgeable staff member supporting the Research Library and developing content for the Becoming Los Angeles Exhibition before coming to the Seaver Center. She has donated a collection of long-playing 33 1/3 rpm vinyls and 45 rpm records. Pictured at the top of the newsletter are three albums purchased by Kim while growing up in Connecticut. They were released between 1966 and 1972 by TV teen idols, David Cassidy, the Monkees and Bobby Sherman.



Kim Walters, appearing obviously ecstatic about her upcoming retirement plans (Photo by B. Uyeda)

#### Welcome to a New Staff Member

#### Taryn Haydostian

Taryn is currently pursuing a Masters in Library and Information Science at UCLA focusing on digital archives. She previously studied art and art history at UCLA and received an MFA in Photography from the Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts at Bard College. Her work as an artist explores the mythology of the American West as portrayed in photography and film, particularly in relationship to the western San Fernando Valley (of which she is a native). Generously funded by the Louis B. Mayer Foundation, she is currently working on digitizing the Film Frame Collection, an exciting collection of early experimental motion picture film techniques. She came to the Seaver Center from the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West.





### Plan Your Research Visit

Call 213.763.3359 or  
Email [seavercenter@nhm.org](mailto:seavercenter@nhm.org)  
Open by Appointment

---

### The Collections

Over 370 general collections | Over 290 photographic collections

[Search the Online Archive of California](#)

---

### Digitized Collections

The collections are a part of the History Department of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. The Seaver Center opened in 1986 through a generous grant from the Seaver Institute.

[Search over 34,000 images](#)

---

#MindBlownLA



---

Copyright © 2022 Seaver Center for Western History Research, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

