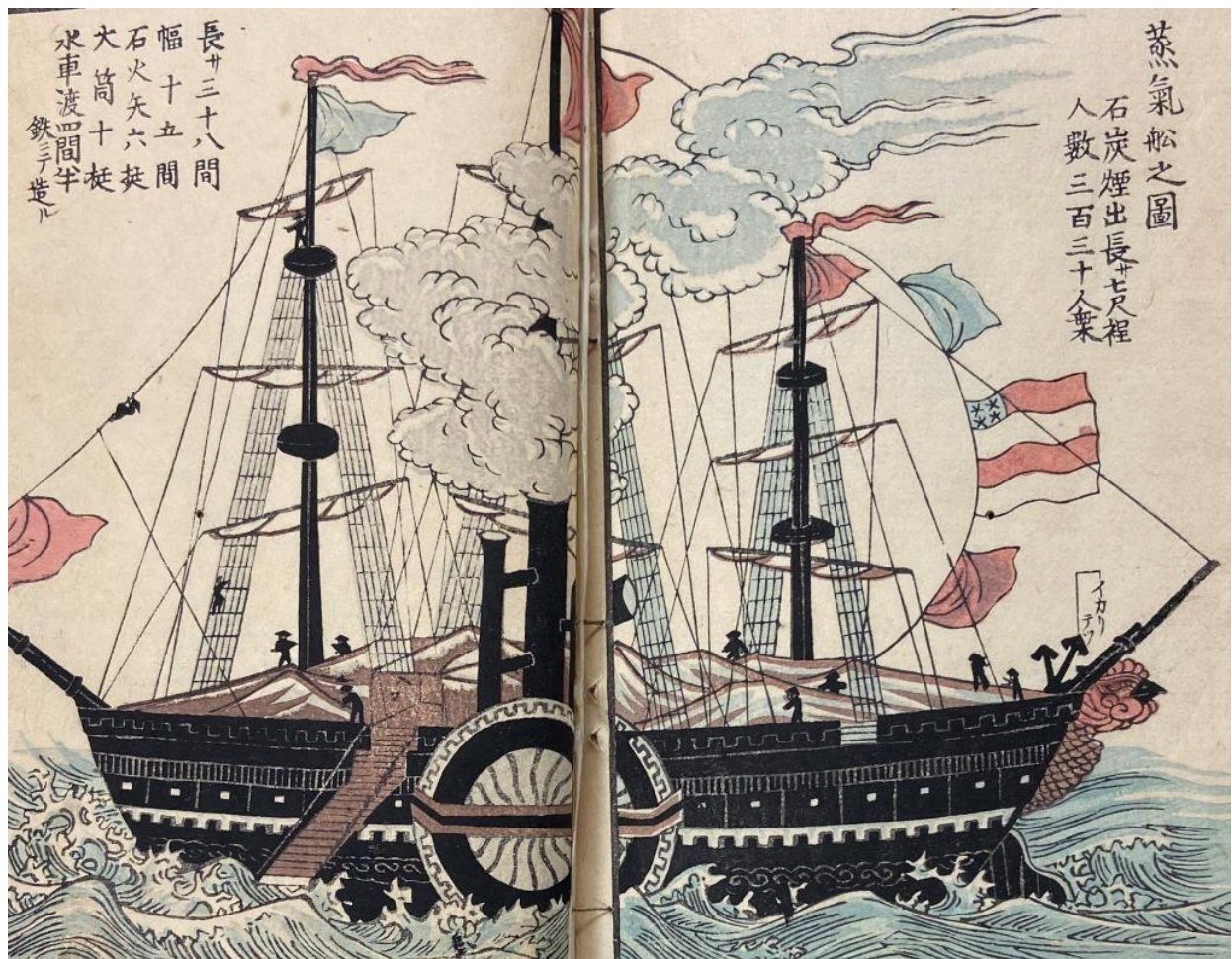


**NATURAL  
HISTORY  
MUSEUM**  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

# SEAVER CENTER FOR WESTERN HISTORY RESEARCH

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## Notes From the Archive

### WINTER 2025

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

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## Rediscovered in the Collections

Where do artifacts end up after they are de-installed from an exhibition? Back to the storage shelves. In this issue you'll find several items deserving of renewed attention. There is a found item that may have been purchased long ago expressly for display use (but for which exhibit?) as well as a colorful poster which harks back to a former satellite museum.

## ***Las Sergas de Esplandián* (The Adventures of Esplandián)**

A 1588 reprint of Garci Rodriguez de Montalvo's circa 1510 Spanish novel was displayed in the Maximillian Lando Hall of California History until 2015. Its more complete title is *El ramo que de los quatro libros de Amadis de Gaula sale : llamdo las Sergas del muy esforcado cauallero Esplandián, hijo del excelente rey Amadis de Gaula.*

Explorers' imaginations were sparked by the tale and likely led the land mass to be proclaimed "California." The History Department provided a translated excerpt in the exhibition catalog: "*Know ye that on the right hand of the Indies there is an island called California, very near the Terrestrial Paradise...over this island of California rules a Queen Calafia, statuesque in proportion, more beautiful than all the rest, in the flower of her womanhood, eager to perform great deeds, valiant and spirited, and ambitious to excel [above] all those who have ruled before her.*"

EL RAMO

QUE DE LOS QUATRO LIBROS DE AMADIS  
DE GAULA SALE.

LLAMADO LAS SERCAS DEL MUY  
*Esforzado Cavallero. Esplandian hijo del excelente Rey  
Amadis de Gaula.*

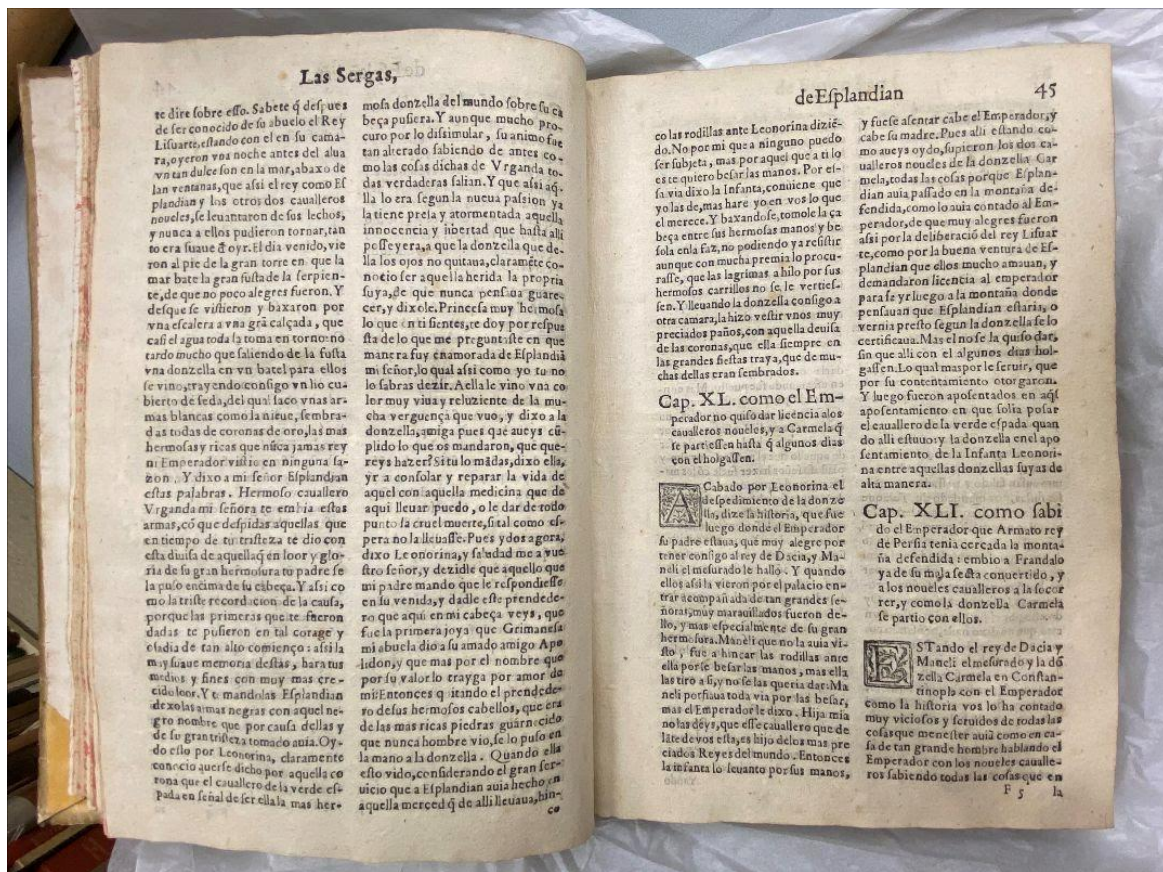
AORA NUEVAMENTE ENMENDADAS  
en esta impresion, de muchos errores que en las  
impresiones passadas auia.



CON LICENCIA.

Impresso en Alcala de Henares, por los herederos de Iuan Graciã  
que sea en gloria, Año M.D. LXXXVIII.

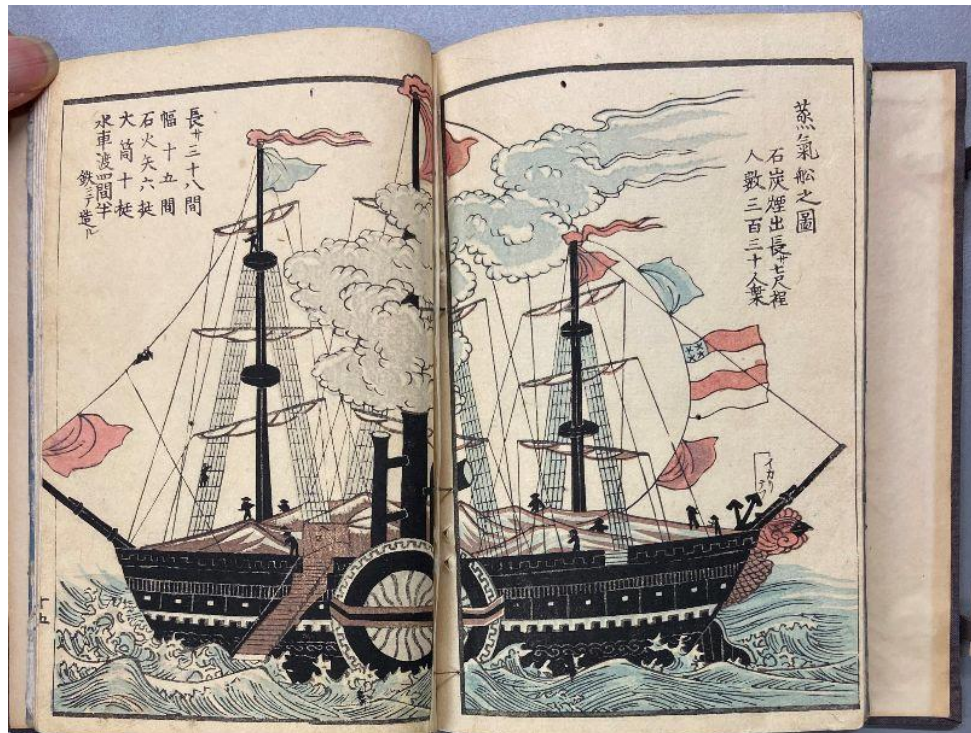
A costa de Iuan de Sarria mercader de libros.



## Ikoku Ochiba Kago

Loosely translated to Basket of Fallen Leaves from a Foreign Country, the book of wood-block prints was created in 1854 to honor U.S. Commodore Matthew Perry's visits to Japan between 1853 and 1854.

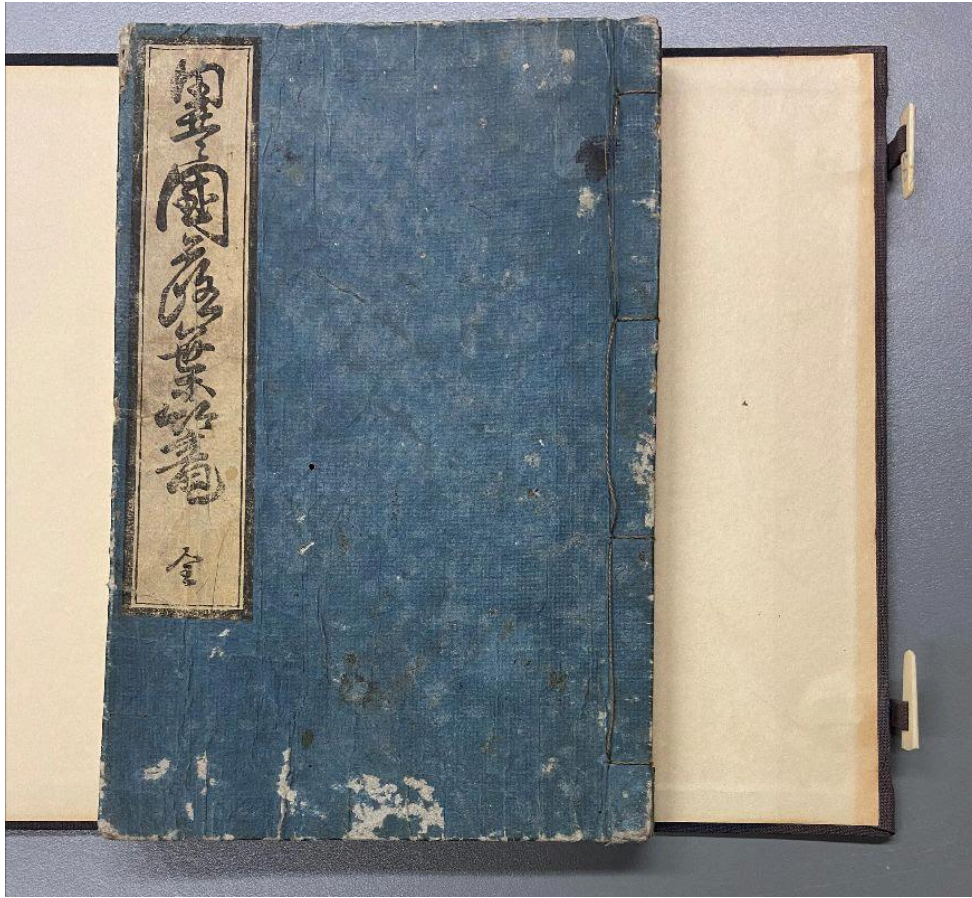
This book was on view in "Growth of a Nation," a History Hall which opened June, 1984 and stayed up until 1999.



IKOKU OCHIBA KAGO ("A Basket for Things American")

This rare book was published in Tokyo around the time of Commodore Matthew Perry's historic visit to Japan in 1853. Besides this conception of Perry's warship, there are portraits of Perry and other members of his expedition, a fanciful locomotive, a map of the Western Hemisphere, and other colorful renderings by the Japanese artist.

6  
300  
p429  
1854  
W.H.



***An Oration; delivered March 5, 1774, at the request of  
the inhabitants of the town of Boston: to  
commemorate the bloody tragedy of the fifth of  
March 1770***

Authored by the Honorable John Hancock, Esq. and printed in Boston in 1774, this publication was in line with the annual remembrance of the Boston Massacre. The plain cover seemed to suggest the covert nature of its contents.

It is unclear whether this artifact was used in a past exhibit. Included with the book is an antiquarian dealer description dated 1938.

AN  
ORATION;  
DELIVERED

March 5, 1774.

AT THE  
REQUEST OF THE INHABITANTS  
OF THE

TOWN OF BOSTON:

TO

COMMEMORATE THE BLOODY TRAGEDY

OF THE

FIFTH OF MARCH 1770.

BY

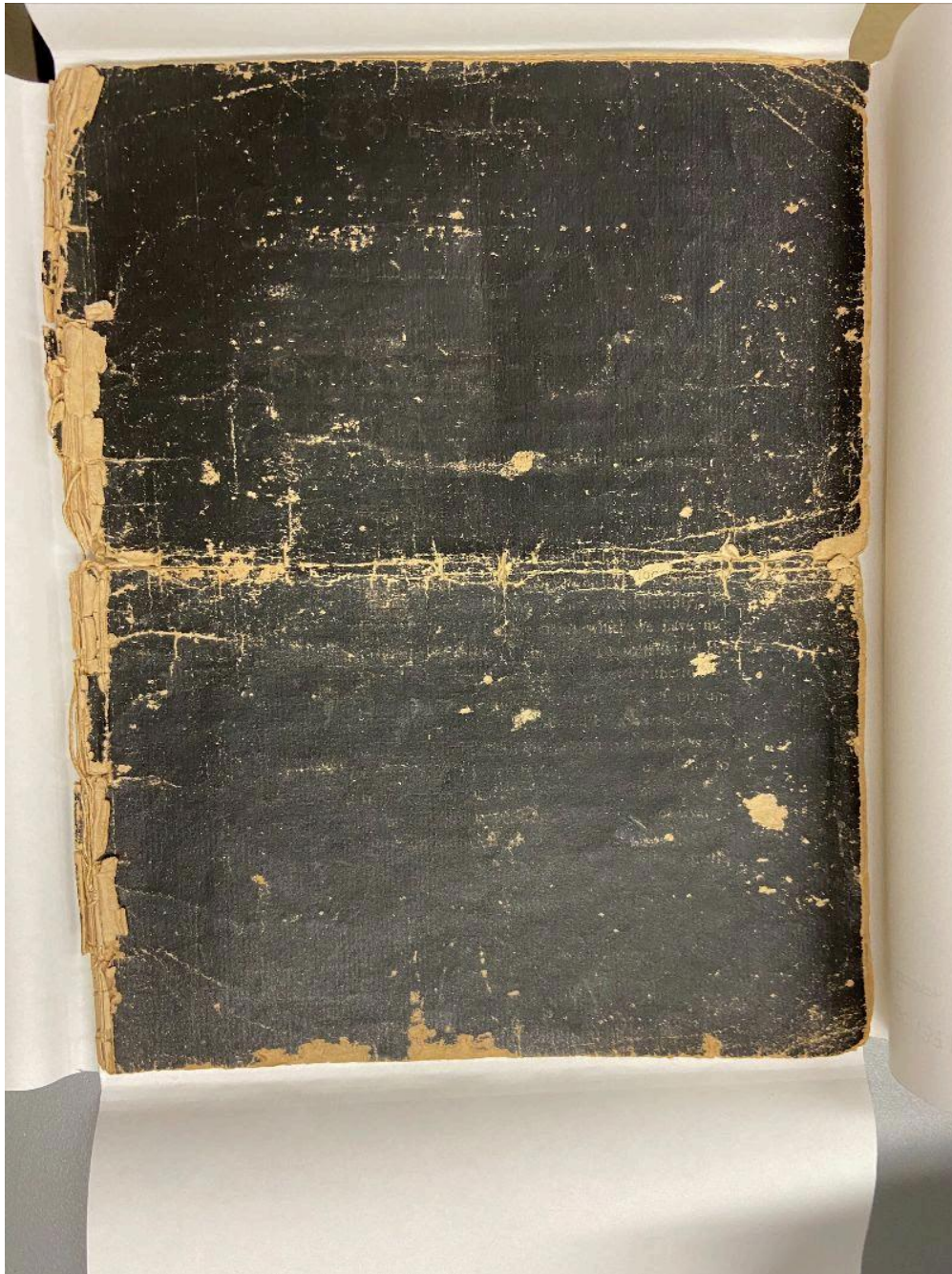
THE HONORABLE JOHN HANGCOCK, Esq;

Vestibis hic auro patrum, dominumque potentem  
Impolit: hic leges pretio atque relict.  
Nec, mihi si lingue ceciderint, omnes coarctam,  
Perceat vos, omnes scelerum comprehendere formas,  
petim.

Vide.

JOHN B. BOSTON:

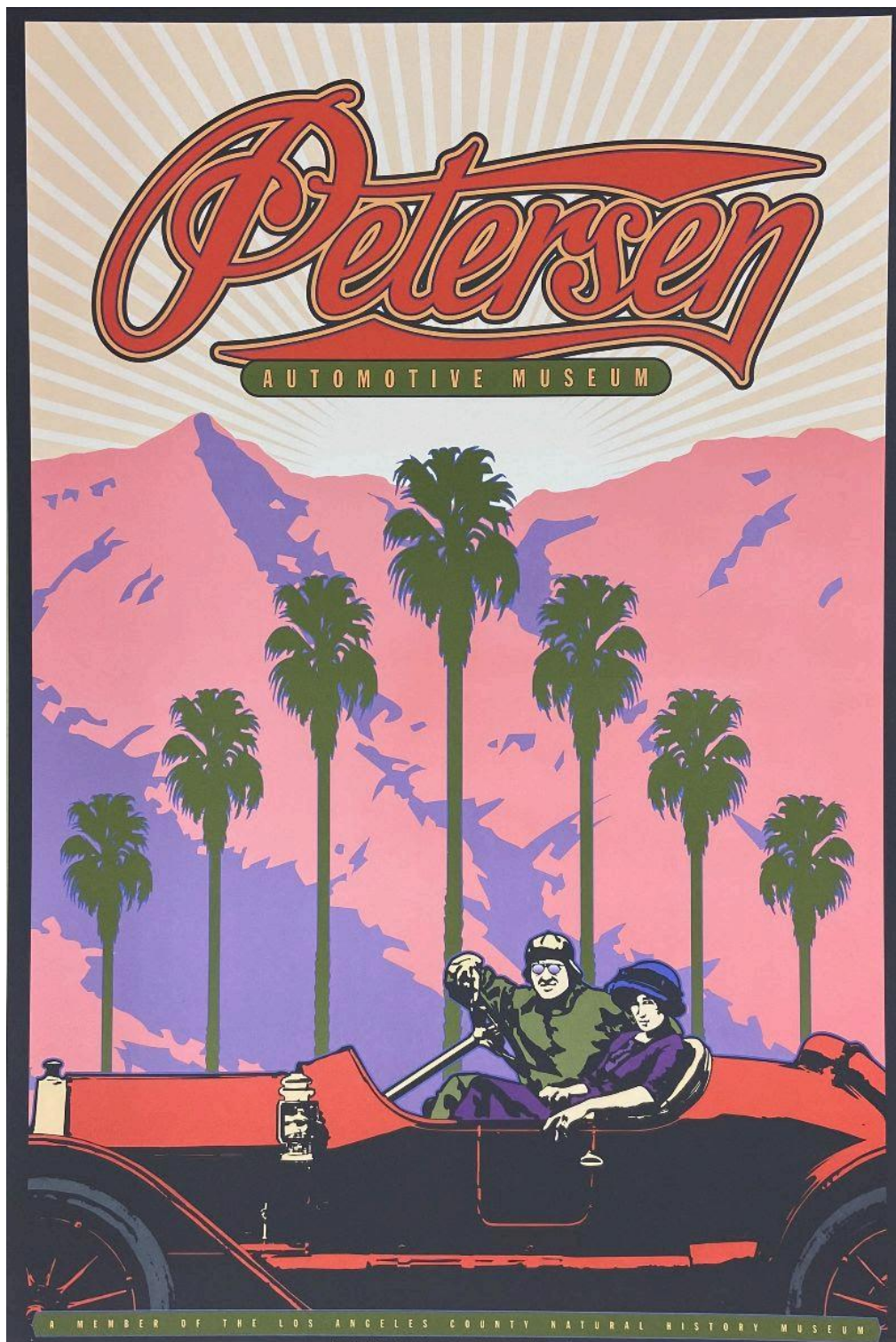
Printed by EDES and GILL, in Queen Street,  
M.DCC.LXXIV.



## **Poster: Petersen Automotive Museum**

At the base of the poster it reads: a member of the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum.

The Natural History Museum established a satellite museum at Wilshire Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue in 1994, but the collaboration ended in 2014. The History Department developed the dioramas and loaned items ranging from blacksmith tools to gas pump globes to toothpaste to vehicles.



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## The Premiere of Barbara Carrasco's *L.A. History: a Mexican Perspective*

The Seaver Center was on hand at a community party November 17, 2024 to celebrate the opening of NHM Commons. Displayed at our table were collection items that allowed visitors to understand more about the historical topics found in Carrasco's mural now on permanent display in the museum's new wing.



*Photo by Gary Leonard*



Barbara Carrasco (left), Dolores Huerta;  
*Photo by Gary Leonard*

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## Plan Your Research Visit

Call 213.763.3359 or

Email [seavercenter@nhm.org](mailto:seavercenter@nhm.org)

Open by Appointment

Wednesdays & Thursdays

10 - noon; 1 - 4 p.m.

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## The Collections

Over 400 general collections | Over 295 photographic collections

[Search the Online Archive of California](#)

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## Digitized Collections

The collections are a part of the History Department of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

[Search over 34,000 images](#)

The Seaver Center opened in 1986 through a generous grant from the Seaver Institute.



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