

Library Encounters

Level 3

AN INTERACTIVE & VIRTUAL TOUR

Huntington Education



THE HUNTINGTON
Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens

Welcome to the Library Encounters Level 3 virtual tour!

Each slide features an object with questions, activities, and links to additional information.

Henry and Arabella Huntington loved to collect art, books, and plants.
What do you like to collect? Video games? Posters? Sports memorabilia?

In this interactive journey you'll dive further into the Library collections.

Let's go exploring!



Library Vocabulary

Click on a vocabulary word to start your tour. Each word relates to something at The Huntington.

Costume
Accessory

Family
Papers

Letters

Poster

Proof
Sheet

Scroll

Once you have explored all six cards, click here!

Poster

A large print on paper that often advertises a place, group, event, organization, or cause

- Do you collect posters or have any hanging in your room or at your workstation? If so, what types of posters are they? Band posters? Sports posters? Art posters?
- Pictured here is a travel poster advertising summer visits to the French Riviera by train. Is this a place you would like to visit? How did the poster influence your opinion?
- How are travel destinations advertised today? Via posters? Social media? Blogs? Are today's tourism posters similar in style to this one or different? How?
- Who do you think was the intended audience for this poster? Where do you think this poster would have been displayed? What makes you think that?

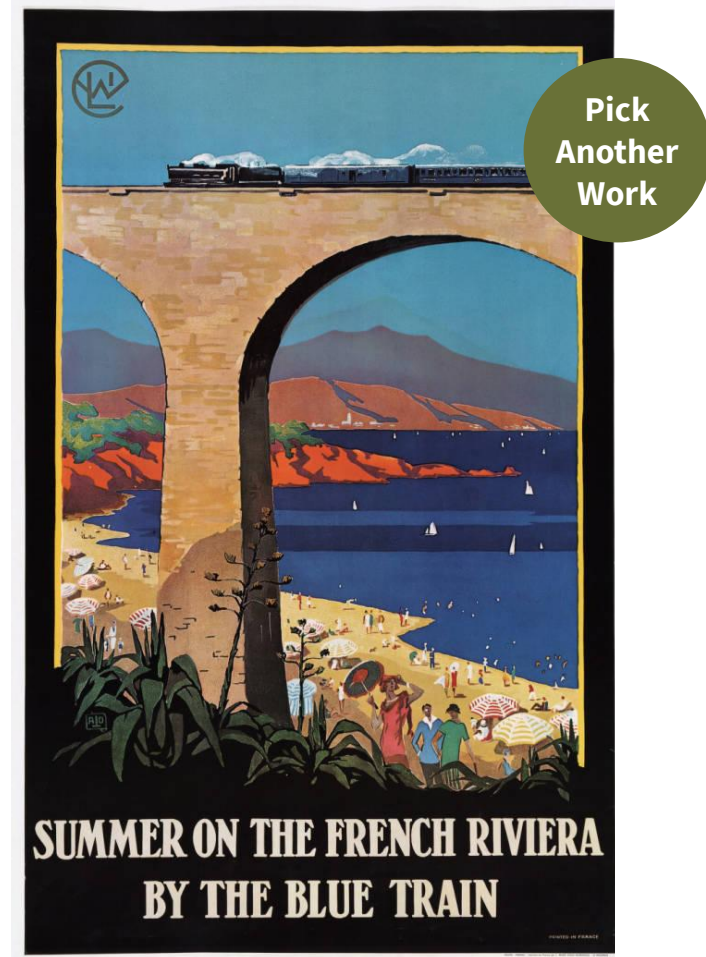
Activity

Design a travel poster. Pick a place you have been or somewhere you'd like to go and create a poster to advertise its attractions. Think about the images, text, and message. You could create a poster on paper or on the computer.

Click on these links to explore more

[Zoom in for a closer look at the poster](#)

[Explore other travel posters](#)



Summer on the French Riviera by the Blue Train, L. Mahé (publisher), ca. 1925. John Haskell Kemble Collection, The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

Family Papers

Important documents and photographs grouped together by a family

- Do you or your family keep certain documents? Maybe a driver's license, passport, or birth certificate? What about family photos? Do you have a special location to store these important records?
- The Y.C. Hong Collection contains family items such as photographs, newspapers, and coaching books. Y.C. Hong was one of the first Chinese American lawyers in California and was an advocate for the rights for Chinese Americans.
- Zoom in to the photograph of Y.C. Hong's office. What do you see? Does anything catch your eye? If so, what?
- Why do you think a photograph of Y.C. Hong's office was taken? What do you think the photographer or Y.C. Hong was hoping to achieve?

Activity

Document your workstation by drawing a sketch of it, taking a photograph, or writing a description. How would you want your workstation to be remembered? Will you clean up your space first or show it as it looks at this moment?

Click on these links to explore more

Explore the rest of this collection

Y.C. Hong: Advocate for Chinese-American Inclusion



Y.C. Hong's office, Jim Ciskowski & Associates, 1987, photograph. Hong family papers. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

Costume Accessory

An object used to embellish an outfit

- While this might look like an ordinary fan, it has a unique feature. Printed on the fan is a code. One side shows the alphabet, and the other side shows colors. The colors correspond to certain letters and can be substituted for the letters to spell out a private message.
[Zoom in to the fan to explore the code.](#)
- This fan allowed women to have conversations with each other at a distance, without having to speak. Instructions for how to use the fan are printed on the alphabet side.
- Why do you think this fan was created?
- Who do you think would have used this fan? What types of conversations do you think were had with this fan?

Activity

Create a contemporary version of this coded fan. You could use colors (like this fan), shapes, or even emojis. To make your fan you can either fold a piece of paper like an accordion or design it on the computer. For fun, test it out with a friend!

[Click on this link to explore more](#)

[View another fan in the collection](#)



Pick
Another
Work



*Fan: The ladies telegraph, for corresponding at a distance, 1798.
The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.*

Letter

Written or typed correspondence between people

- Do you have family members who live in different cities, states, or countries? If so, how do you keep in touch? Do you text? Follow them on Instagram? Do you write letters?
- This is the first of many letters between a young man named José Chávez Esparza and Maria Concepción (“Conchita”) Alvarado Loera, who would later become his wife. What started off as friendly letters over time turned into love letters.
- At the time of the letters, José had immigrated from Mexico to the United States for work, but Maria lived in Mexico.
- Zoom in for a closer look. If you would like to read a transcription and translation of the letter, [click here.](#)

Activity

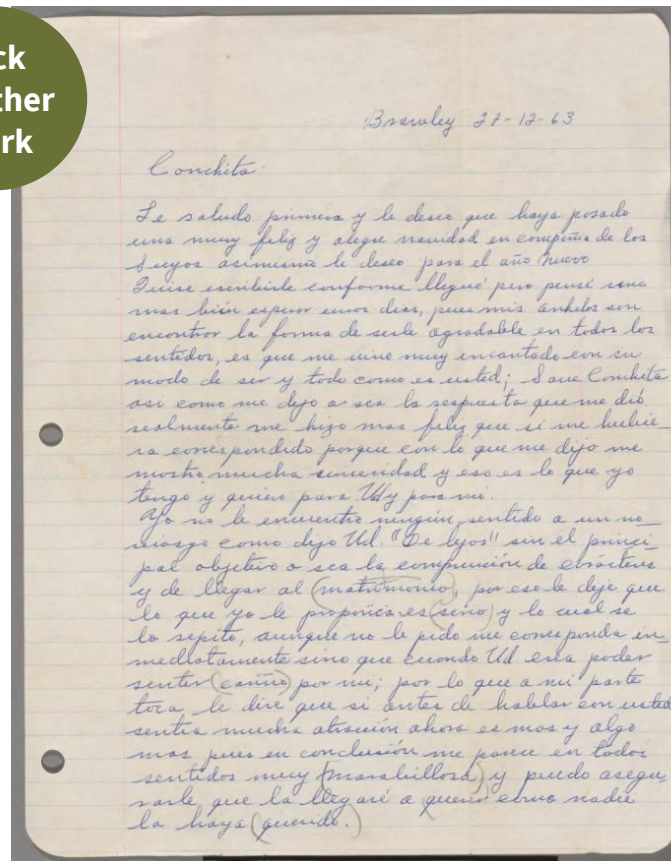
Write a letter to someone, or write one to yourself. Is there something you want to share? Or do you want to check in and see how they are? You can decide if you want to mail your letter after it is written.

Click on these links to explore more

[Read more of the Miroslava Chavez-Garcia letters](#)

[Listen to Letters Across the Border](#)

Pick
Another
Work



Letter from José Chávez Esparza (Brawley, California) to Maria Concepción Alvarado Loera (Calvillo, Aguascalientes), 1963. Gift of Miroslava Chávez-Garcia and Ebers Garcia. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

Proof Sheet

A preliminary copy used to spot errors and make corrections before the final printing

- This is a proof sheet illustrating poisonous plants. It is part of *Prang's Natural History Series*, which also includes illustrations of leaves, roses, and lilies.
- Plants shown here include Deadly Nightshade, Water Hemlock, and Thorn Apple. In addition to the illustrations, the common and botanical name are also included. [Zoom in to this proof sheet](#) to see all 24 plants.
- Why do you think these illustrations were created?
- Who do you think could have benefited from them?
- How do you think these cards would have been used?

Activity

If you were to add to the natural history series, what would you illustrate? Research a topic in nature and pick 24 plants or animals and make your own proof sheet.

[Click on this link to explore more](#)

[See other proof sheets in the natural history series](#)



Proof Sheet for Prang's Natural History Series: Poisonous Plants I and Poisonous Plants II, L. Prang & Co., printer, approximately 1872, lithograph. Louis Prang Archive, Jay T. Last Collection, The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

Scroll

A roll of paper that contains writing and/or images

- Pictured here are illustrations from two scrolls that portray Commodore Matthew Perry's first expedition into Japan in 1853. According to curator Li Wei Yang, Perry's journey to Japan was “one of the most pivotal geopolitical events in the 19th century that ended Japan’s national seclusion.”
- When Perry’s ships were first viewed from Japan, artists started drawing what they saw, documenting the event. These scrolls were the artists’ accounts of what happened.
- One of the scrolls is 22 feet long! Typically, scrolls are intended to be viewed in sections, unrolling and rerolling no more than shoulder’s width at a time.

Activity

These scenes illustrate a significant moment in Japan’s history. Pick a present-day event that you feel is worth remembering. How would you document this event? What would be important to include? Write a short response.

Click on these links to explore more

[Watch a short slideshow with more images from the scroll](#)

[Listen to Curator Li Wei Yang talk about this scroll](#)

Pick
Another
Work



Commodore Perry's First Expedition, hand-painted scroll, 1853,
The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

Now that you have explored six different Library topics,
do you have a favorite? Which one? Why do you like that
one best?

Was there an object you really didn't like? Which one?
Why don't you like it?

What is one thing you learned about the Library
collection today?

Thank you for coming on this journey with us!
We would love to see the art and writing you made!
#TheHAtHome