The Huntington is a private nonprofit collections-based research and educational institution founded in 1919 by Henry E. Huntington. Huntington was an exceptional businessman who built a financial empire in Southern California. He was also a man of vision—with a special interest in rare books, art, and gardens. During his lifetime, he amassed the core of one of the finest research libraries in the world, assembled a spectacular art collection, and established an array of botanical gardens with plants from a geographic range spanning the globe.

The Huntington’s collections have continued to grow since Henry Huntington’s time, serving up a feast for the senses and intellect, linked by a devotion to research, education, and beauty. Enjoy your visit!

HENRY AND ARABELLA HUNTINGTON

Henry Edwards Huntington was born in 1850 in Oneonta, N.Y. In 1872, he went to work for his uncle, Collis P. Huntington, one of the owners of the Central Pacific Railroad. This work led him west to California. In 1903, he purchased the San Marino Ranch and began transforming it into what is now The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens.

In 1913, Huntington married Arabella Duval Collins. She was Henry’s age and shared his interests in collecting. As one of the most important art collectors of her generation, she was highly influential in the development of The Huntington’s European art collection. Henry E. Huntington died in 1927; Arabella predeceased him by three years. Both are buried in the mausoleum on the property.

ART COLLECTIONS

The Art Collections focus on European art from the 15th to the early 20th century and American art from the late 17th to the mid-20th century. European art is displayed in the Huntington Art Gallery, the former residence of Henry and Arabella Huntington. American art can be found in the Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art. Major temporary exhibitions are mounted in the MaryLou and George Boone Gallery.

LIBRARY

The Library is one of the world’s great independent research libraries concentrated in the fields of British and American history, literature, art, and the history of science stretching from the 11th century to the present. Galleries with permanent displays of library materials include the Main Exhibition Hall and Deems Hall of the History of Science. The West Hall of the Library hosts changing exhibitions.

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOURS: Wednesday through Monday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.

THE HUNTINGTON STORE: The Store carries a superb variety of gifts, books, jewelry, toys, and other items related to The Huntington’s collections. Shop on site or online, at thehuntingtonstore.org.

DINING: 1919 (main café) serves a range of tasty offerings in a casual setting, with sweeping views of the historic Huntington Art Gallery and gardens from the terraced seating area. The Rose Garden Tea Room serves English tea. For tea reservations, call 626-683-8131. Enjoy coffee and treats at Red Car (coffee shop) in the entrance area. Chinese delicacies, tea, and other refreshments are available at Freshwater Dumpling and Noodle House in the Chinese Garden. The Patio Grill is open primarily on weekends.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Flashbulbs and tripods may not be used in the buildings. Wedding and portrait photography by appointment only: portraitphoto@huntington.org.

PETS: Only service animals are permitted.

PICNICS: Not permitted on the grounds.

WHEELCHAIRS: A limited number of nonmotorized wheelchairs are available for loan. We urge you to reserve one in advance of your visit by calling 626-405-2125 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Unreserved wheelchairs may be available on a first-come, first-served basis near the ticket kiosk area.

MEMBERSHIP: About a third of The Huntington’s annual operating budget depends on the generosity of Members. Benefits to Members include free admission, a Huntington Store discount, invitations to special events, and, at selected levels, admission during nonpublic hours. Information available at the Membership Center, by calling 626-405-2124, or by visiting on the web at huntington.org.

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