Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens



# Walk from the American Galleries to the Pavilion

Since American art debuted at the Huntington in 1984, the collection has expanded rapidly and continues to evolve in a dynamic fashion along with public interest in the arts of the United States. The Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art include the Erburu and Scott Gallery.

# **ERBURU GALLERY**

The Lois and Robert F. Erburu Gallery of the Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art set the stage for a major development in the displays of the Art Collections. The 21,000-square-foot structure, ultimately built to house the expanding collection of American art, opened to the public in 2005 with an inaugural installation of the distinguished collection of European art from the late 16th century to about 1900. With the re-opening of the Huntington Art Gallery, the building became available for the display of American Art.

Los Angeles architect Frederick Fisher, of the architectural firm Frederick Fisher and Partners in Santa Monica, created a modern classical building adjoining the Virginia Steele Scott Gallery of American Art on the southern edge of the Dorothy Collins Brown Garden. The new gallery is flanked on the west by the MaryLou and George Boone Gallery, where changing exhibitions are displayed, and by the Botanical Center to the north.

## **BOONE GALLERY**

The opening of the MaryLou and George Boone Gallery in March 2000 marked the unfolding of a new chapter at The Huntington, as the gallery created an international class venue for changing exhibitions.

The building itself has a long history; designed in 1911 by architects Myron Hunt and Elmer Grey, it was once founder Henry Huntington's garage, used for family automobiles and to provide living quarters for members of Mr. Huntington's staff. It took the commitment, vision, and generosity of MaryLou and George Boone to make the transformation of the space from garage to gallery possible.

## ROSE HILLS FOUNDATION CONSERVATORY FOR BOTANICAL SCIENCES

The Conservatory houses interactive exhibits designed to engage children and adults. Living plants fill a 16,000 square foot greenhouse that comprises three different habitats. The rainforest, cloud forest and bog which are complimented by a plant lab devoted to experiments stations focusing on plant parts.

## A PAIR OF GREAT DANE DOGS

Anna Hyatt Huntington; stone, male and female; signed and dated; 1910. The sculptor, a fine artist in her own right, was the wife of Archer Huntington. She carved the dogs with her own hand. Mrs. Henry Huntington purchased them and gave them as a Christmas gift to Henry in 1923.

## DIANA OF THE CHASE

Anna Hyatt Huntington; bronze; 1922. This piece is on loan from the Fogg Museum at Harvard University which received the statue as a gift from the artist and her husband.



Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens



## SCOTT GALLERY

The Scott Gallery was created by architect Paul Gray, who used a post modern design incorporating neoclassical features. It opened in 1984 to reveal a collection of about 45 masterpieces of American art.

Responded in May 2009. The Huntington's American art collection features works from the 1690s to the

Reopened in May 2009, The Huntington's American art collection features works from the 1690s to the 1950s. Works from the 18th century are on display in the Scott Gallery, and include paintings by John Singleton Copley, Benjamin West, and Gilbert Stuart as well as furniture and decorative arts from New York, Philadelphia, and New England that provide insight into the artistic development and culture of early America

The collection of 19th-century American art begins in the Scott Gallery with artists including Raphaelle Peale, George Caleb Bingham, and Eastman Johnson; and extends into the Erburu Gallery with the Huntington's strong collection of Hudson River School paintings by Frederic Edwin Church, Martin Johnson Heade, John Kensett and Albert Bierstadt.

The Susan and Stephen Chandler Wing of the Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art serve as a space for temporary exhibitions concentrating on American painting, decorative arts, and works on paper. The Dorothy Collins Brown Wing of the Scott Gallery continues to be devoted to the work of early 20th-century Pasadena architects Charles and Henry Greene.

#### SHAKESPEARE GARDEN

The Shakespeare Garden, opened in 1959 and redesigned in 1980 to accommodate the addition of the Scott Gallery, serves to recognize and display those plants which figure prominently in the writings of Shakespeare and in the gardens of the Elizabethan Era. This garden depicts an informal design, asymmetrical organization, and a picturesque quality thereby stimulating the imagination. The area near the stone bridge suggests a stream or boggy dell. The scale of the stone bust of William Shakespeare is smaller than life.

## **FLAGPOLE**

A single Douglas fir tree from Oregon provided the 148 foot flagpole; 132 feet are above the ground, and 16 feet are below. In 1909 Mr. Huntington had it brought south on a lumber schooner to Redondo Beach. Then it was moved by horse-drawn wagon to this location. The pole is coated with silver-color paint.

# **NORTH VISTA**

This garden is an example of a 17th century formal, symmetrical, European garden. The 31 limestone statues are 17th century allegorical and mythological figures. Most of them were formerly in a garden of a villa near Padua. The early baroque fountain at the end of the garden dates from the late 17th or early 18th century and is made of stone. The stone and wrought iron temple is 17th century French. The marble statue inside *Cupid Blindfolding Youth*, is 19th century Italian.

## **HUNTINGTON ART GALLERY**

This was originally the home of Mr. and Mrs. Huntington. It was built in the BEAUX ART style in 1909-1910 by the architects Myron Hunt and Elmer Grey. It now houses British, French, and Continental art of the 18th and early 19th centuries.

## CIRCULAR GARDEN

In front of the art gallery, the walk passes several examples of the Bird of Paradise, *strelitzia reginae*. This is the designated official floral emblem of the City of Los Angeles.



Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens



Chorisia *chorisia insignis* -White Silk Floss Tree, planted in 1946. The swollen trunk of this South American specimen stores water. Its pods produce a kapok-like cotton fiber. Cycads. This type of plant survives from the time of the dinosaurs. An individual plant may have either a male or female cones. Their growth rate differs from plant to plant and sometimes may grow only ½ inch each year.

## LIBRARY BUILDING

Myron Hunt designed this building with its neo-classical facade and ionic COLUMNS. It was constructed in 1919-1920. It contains a magnificent collection of rare books and manuscripts dealing with American and British history and literature.

## **FOUNTAIN**

In front of the Library is a copy of a 16th century fountain which is in the Grimaldi Palace in Venice. There are three sea horses in the basin, three mermaids above, three geese above, and a child at the top.

# **CORAL TREES** *Erythrina coral/oides*

"Cone Flame" or "Naked Coral Tree" is a Mexican native. It blooms in the Spring after shedding its leaves. Coral trees are the official flowering trees of the City of Los Angeles.

# SCULPTURE IN FRONT OF THE LIBRARY

Four bronze statues, French, 17th century - All are copies of ancient marble statues in Rome, which in turn were copies of the classical, Greek originals

- APOLLO son of Jupiter (Greek Zeus) and twin brother of Diana (Greek Artemis). Apollo was the god of ideal manly beauty, healing, music, poetry, prophecy, and light. He was frequently associated with the sun. Our statue was cast from the marble statue in Rome, which is called the "Apollo Belvedere" because it has stood in the Belvedere Court of the Vatican since 1503. The specific characteristics of the Apollo Belvedere are: s-curve stance, one arm extended, and twisted curls. Attributes: snake, which refers to Apollo killing the Python.
- *Diana* (*Greek Artemis*), daughter of Jupiter (Greek Zeus) and the twin sister of Apollo. She was the embodiment of chastity and was the goddess of flocks, of the hunt, and of the night. She was often identified with the moon. Attributes: bow and quiver, dogs, a stag, and the moon.
- Hercules (Greek, Heracles), son of Jupiter (Greek Zeus), and his son Telephos (Greek Telephus). Hercules was the hero who personified physical strength and courage. Attributes: club and lion's skin.
- Hermes (Greek Hermes) son of Zeus. He was the beardless youth who guided travelers, who was the patron of merchants and thieves, and who was the messenger of the gods. Attributes: the herma (a pile of stones to mark the road or boundary) and the scarf or cape. In Roman times he became Mercury with additional activities and attributes.
- *Neptune (Greek, Poseidon)* stone statue from the Hapbsurg Imperial Palace in Vienna, about 1750. The god is always portrayed as an old man with copious locks and beard. He ruled the sea and its inhabitants. Attributes: trident and dolphins.

#### **GARDENS**



Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens



Covering approximately 150 acres of the 207 acre grounds, the botanical gardens contain fifteen principal garden areas set in a park-like landscape. More than 14,000 different kinds of plants are displayed and labeled. Among the gardens are: Chinese, Japanese, Shakespeare, Zen, Lily Ponds, Australian, Rose, Herb and Jungle. Approximately 60 staff members work in the botanical gardens.

## ENGLISH OAK TREES.

*Quercus robur*. This species of oak trees ranges from Britain through Europe to North Africa and Western Asia. Its hard durable wood formed the "wooden walls" of England in the days when the British Navy truly "ruled the waves". The legendary outlaw Robin Hood and his merry men sheltered beneath its boughs in Sherwood Forest.

## **BEECHY BAMBOO**

*Bambusa beecheyana*. This huge clump-forming grass from southeastern China is an important commercial source of edible bamboo shoots.

#### **URN**

The large marble urn, known as the Borghese krater, stands at the foot of the stairs just south of the Visitor Pavilion. The piece is a reproduction of a well-known Greek sculpture from the 2nd century BC. The word *krater* is Greek; literally translated it means a wide-mouthed mixing vessel. Interest in Greek and Roman antiquities was very high in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and those classical influences can be seen in many Huntington paintings, sculptures, and decorative arts created during that period. The scene depicts a celebration of the bacchanal and the god Silenus is depicted. Silenus was the jolly old man who went along with Dionysus on his joyous, wine-filled midnight jaunts.

# PAVILION - FOUNDER'S CASE

# PICTURES OF MR. AND MRS. HUNTINGTON

Railroad and real estate businessman Henry E. Huntington was born February 27, 1850, in Oneonta, New York. Henry and his uncle, Collis P. Huntington, were leaders in building the railroads that span the country. In 1892, Henry moved to San Francisco to represent the Huntington interests on the Pacific Coast. And in 1902 (two years after the death of Collis), Mr. Huntington transferred his headquarters to Los Angeles and started to connect, consolidate, and extend the electric railway system in Southern California (the "Red Cars"). He had large holdings in Southern California and numerous business interests. In 1903, he bought the San Marino Ranch. He married Arabella Duval Huntington,(1850-1924, born in Union Springs, Alabama), the widow of Collis, in 1913. The former residence of Henry and Arabella Huntington is now the Huntington Gallery. Mrs. Huntington died in 1924: her husband died May 23, 1927. They are interred in a mausoleum on the grounds. The institution opened to the public January 27, 1928.

PICTURES OF THE SHORB RANCH AND THE HUNTINGTON IN ITS EARLY STAGES.