



100 THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED

Dedicated to the Preservation of Spanish Colonial Architecture in Balboa Park

SPRING 2010

www.C100.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you will join us at our annual luncheon, where we'll present the 2010 Gertrude Gilbert and Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue Awards. Our Guest



Speaker, Dr. Eric Blinman, received his academic training in anthropology and archaeology at UC Berkeley and Washington State University. Dr. Blinman, left, is probably best known for his research on pottery and textiles and for his participation in OAS educational programs

throughout New Mexico. His talk is entitled —

Edgar Lee Hewett and San Diego: A Man of Opportunity

Despite his many accomplishments Edgar Lee Hewett has been surprisingly forgettable. He began with a career in education and became an advocate for North American archaeology, especially the archaeology of the West and of Central America. To characterize him as a missionary is an understatement. In the early 20th century he cajoled, encouraged, supported, and seeded institutions throughout the western states. Hewett brought his unfettered vision to the exhibits of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, marshaling his network of people and resources to amaze, enthrall, and educate an appreciative public. After the Exposition closed, he founded the San Diego Museum (now Museum of Man) and established the Anthropology Department at San Diego State.

— Michael Kelly



\$\$ Please Donate Now \$\$

Our Mayor Jerry Sanders has given us this once-in-a-century opportunity to recreate the magnificent public square that the Plaza de Panama was meant to be.

The Committee of One Hundred and Balboa Park Alliance fully support the Plaza restoration and new tram system. San Diego can have a world-class Plaza de Panama by 2015, the Centennial of the 1915 Exposition, if we can raise the needed funds.

Please specify "Plaza de Panama" on your check for any amount and send it to:

THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED
Balboa Park Administration Building
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92103-4753

100% of your contribution by check will go toward the Plaza de Panama restoration. You may also use our website for a donation.

www.C100.org/plaza.htm

Gertrude Gilbert & Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue Awards

David Charles Collier was selected by The Committee of One Hundred as the recipient of the 2010 Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue Award.

Colonel David Charles Collier was a lawyer, real-estate developer, public servant, amateur archeologist, a dabbler in minerals, and a consultant in the holding of expositions.



He was an extroverted person with an ebullient manner. His bustling mannerisms, his strapping figure, his leonine mane of hair, and the flamboyant clothes he wore were on a colossal scale.

Born in Central City, Colorado, August 14, 1871, he was the son of David Charles Collier and Martha Maria (Johnson) Collier. His father was a lawyer, a judge, and the manager of the Central City Register. "Charlie" arrived in San Diego on the steamer Orizaba in 1884 with his family and completed his education at Russ High School.

At age 20 Collier became a lawyer in his father's office. Following his father's death in 1899 he became a law partner of Judge W.P. Andrews and in 1900 entered a new partnership with Sam F. Smith. When clients were unable to pay him in cash, they gave him real estate. He subdivided this land, put in utilities, planted trees, and sold it through real estate companies he organized throughout San Diego County.

A marriage to Ella May Copley in San Diego, January 1, 1896, produced two sons, David Copley and Ira Clifton, but ended in divorce. Ruth E. Everson became his second wife and, following her death, he married Clytie B. Lyon in 1919.

From 1907 to 1911 Collier served on the staff of California Governor J. N. Gillette, who gave him the title of "Colonel." Collier took a leading role in the community as a financier, politician, and citizen.

The most important civic posts Collier held in San Diego were those of Director-General of the Panama-California Exposition from 1909 to 1912, and President of the Exposition from 1912 to 1914. He served without pay, and paid his own travel expenses on promotional trips to Washington, D.C., South America and Europe. Consequently, his real estate business foundered, he was burdened by debts, and he was compelled to resign the Exposition presidency, March 5, 1914.

Collier chose the central mesa of Balboa Park as the site for the Exposition and approved hiring Bertram Goodhue as consulting architect. President Warren G. Harding appointed Collier as a representative to the 1922 Brazilian Centennial Exposition in Rio de Janeiro. In 1925 he was appointed Director-General of the United States Sesquicentennial to be held at Philadelphia in 1926 but he resigned over severe budget cuts.

Collier died of a heart attack at the age of 63 and was buried at Mount Hope Cemetery. Dr. Edgar Lee Hewett, archaeologist and director of the San Diego Museum from 1916 to 1929, paid tribute to Collier in a 1935 issue of *El Palacio*:

One can only think of Colonel Collier as tremendously alive. He was the most dynamic personality I have ever known; a product of human evolution well described by the term "rugged individualism." Every believer in humanity must hope and pray that the type may survive and increase.

A plaque designed by San Diego sculptor Frederick W. Schweigardt was erected on the west wall of the California Quadrangle in Balboa Park. It shows Collier in profile signing his name, the same image used in innumerable real estate ads. Beneath the salutation, "Yours for California," and

Colonel D.C. Collier and Richard Amero honored

Collier's signature are the words:

COLONEL DAVID CHARLES COLLIER
A man of vision — a dynamic leader —
a developer and builder
A great and lovable character
The creative genius of the
Panama-California Exposition of 1915
An inspiration to the citizens of today.

by Richard W. Amero

Richard W. Amero is the 2010 recipient of our Gertrude Gilbert Award. A San Diego resident for 56 years, he was born in Gloucester, Massachusetts in 1924 and graduated from Gloucester High School in 1942. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and obtained the rank of corporal while acting as a clerk and courier for the Headquarters Commandant, Chanor Base Section, European Theater of Operations.

After his discharge from the Army in April, 1946, Amero worked part-time on the wharves of Gloucester, Massachusetts, where fishing is the dominant industry, and acted as a laborer for his carpenter/contractor father. Money from these jobs helped to defray costs at Black Mountain College, North Carolina, and Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. He graduated in 1950 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, with a major in English and a minor in history. In San Diego Amero continued his education by taking University of California Extension Classes in Mexican art and architecture.

Amero worked at Consolidated Vultee Aircraft (Convair), which became General Dynamics, and Solar Aircraft, before beginning a 40-year career with San Diego Gas & Electric Company.

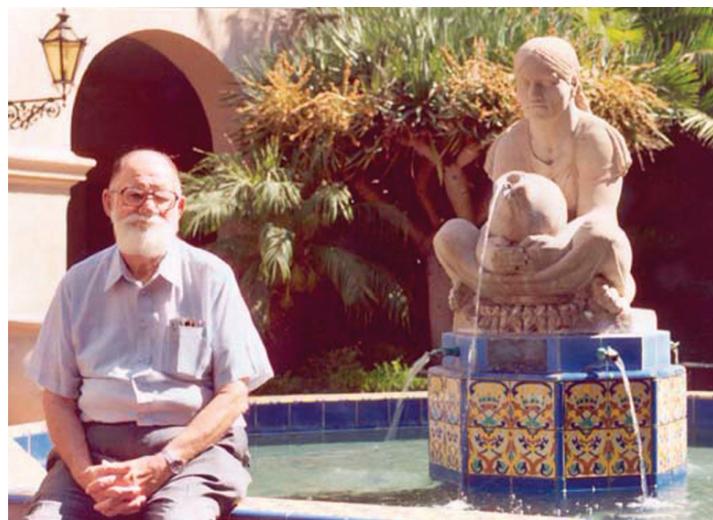
Although Balboa Park was in a sorry condition during some of the years that Amero lived nearby, its green walks provided him with solace and inspiration. His interest in the Park and in San

Diego history began during this time and resulted in the writing of many letters to the editor and the beginning of years of research.

Amero's publications include several articles in the Journal of San Diego History and in the San Diego Reader. In 1992 Amero gave the San Diego Historical Society (now the San Diego History Center) the "Richard Amero Collection," a compilation of over 250 binders of material on subjects pertaining to San Diego and California history and copies of correspondence by famous people associated with San Diego, gleaned from archives throughout the country. Many of Amero's articles are available on the San Diego History Center website. See more of his work on his own website and blog.

<http://www.balboaparkhistory.net/>
<http://richardamero.wordpress.com/>

Richard Amero believes that all people should strive to realize what they are and thinks this advice is the same as that given by Buddha, the sages of the Far East, Socrates, and the New England Transcendentalists. For San Diego, Amero envisions the great, prosperous, lively, and compassionate city dreamed by Kate Sessions, George W. Marston, Samuel Parsons, Jr., and John Nolen.



Annual Luncheon Meeting ~ Friday, May 28, 11:30am ~ Balboa Park Club

Please complete this form and mail by May 22nd to:

Dr. Quintous Crews
2922 Evergreen Street, San Diego, CA 92106
(619) 222-0830

Please charge my Visa MasterCard

Card# _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____
reservations at \$45 per person.

payable to: **COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED**

I am unable to attend, but am enclosing a donation of \$ _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Tables will seat 8 people. If you wish to reserve a table,
please list their names below. All tickets will be held at the door.

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Dedicated to the Preservation of Spanish Colonial Architecture in Balboa Park

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San Diego, CA 92101-4753

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**Please join us for our
Annual Luncheon:
2010 Gilbert & Goodhue Awards
Guest Speaker: Eric Blinman, Ph.D.
"Edgar Lee Hewett"
Founder, Museum of Man**