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## Southern California Academy of Sciences

*New Affiliate of the American Association for the Advancement of Science*

THE Southern California Academy of Sciences was organized November 6, 1891, by a dozen scientists of the Los Angeles area from different fields of science. Originally called the Southern California Science Association, the present name was officially adopted in 1896. Later, in 1907, the Academy became incorporated.

The aim of the organization as stated in its first constitution was ". . . to secure a more frequent interchange of thought and opinion among those who devote themselves to Scientific and Natural History studies; to elicit and diffuse a taste for such studies where it is yet unformed; and to afford increased facilities for its extension where it already exists." To these ends public lectures by outstanding scientists were offered, publications were instituted, and sections were established for the scientific specialists.

In its early years, before the eastern scientific societies established contact in the West, the Academy filled a real need for the scientists in this area to meet and exchange ideas. The sections were very active, and held frequent field trips and discussion groups. Meeting monthly in general assembly afforded the opportunity to hear well-known scientists in other fields.

The first publications of the Academy were circulars, reports, and the *Proceedings*, which were published from 1896 to 1901. In 1902 the *Bulletin* was established and has appeared regularly since that date. It is now issued three times a year and is in its fifty-second volume (1953). A memoir series to accommodate larger monographs was instituted in 1938. The memoirs appear irregularly, as funds and appropriate scientific contributions are available. Both *Bulletin* and *Memoirs* are devoted entirely to technical sci-

tific papers that deal largely with the Southwest. The *Bulletin* goes by membership, subscription, or exchange to about 350 persons or institutions all over the world.

The Academy was one of the four founding societies of the Los Angeles County Museum of History, Science, and Art, and collected the first fossils from the Rancho La Brea tar pits to be displayed there. It has maintained close contact with the Museum throughout the years. Monthly dinner meetings are held in the Museum from September through June. The various sections are responsible for the program for these meetings, and procure a representative series of speakers in the various fields of science. Speakers are chosen both for their scientific attainments and their speaking ability, and as a result the lecture series is of outstanding merit.

The Academy today is composed of about 175 active members equally divided between scientists and lay personnel. At least 80 per cent of the membership is local. Although comparatively small, the Southern California Academy of Sciences is entirely self-supporting. All activities and publications are financed by membership dues, sale of publications, and capital investments. Current officers are: President, Sherwin F. Wood, Los Angeles City College; 1st Vice President, Hildegard Howard; 2nd Vice President, Kenneth E. Stager; Secretary, Lloyd M. Martin; and AAAS Council Representative, W. Dwight Pierce, all of the Los Angeles County Museum.

HILDEGARDE HOWARD

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