



Wine Soirée and Benefit Auction

The 23rd annual Wine Soirée will be held [Sunday, April 24th](#) at the Diamond Bar Center.

Don't miss it!

Our honorary Co-Chairs Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe and his wife Julie will help welcome you to our *Soirée a Paris*, where you will find food from 18 local restaurants, exceptional wines from a wide selection of wineries, fun raffle prizes, music and many interesting and exciting items to bid on in the live and silent auctions.

In addition, this year we will welcome **Total Wine & More** who will be pouring French wines for our tasting enjoyment, in recognition of our French theme.

And for our beer lovers we will be welcoming the craft brewery **Innovation Brew Works**, who will be pouring a selection of their favorite beers.

Just some of the auction and raffle items that will be available at the Soirée include –

A fabulous trip to the Paso Robles wine country

A big screen TV

Premium Angel Tickets

Wine tasting party for up to 20 happy people by Total Wine & More

Dinner with the Mayor of Diamond Bar

Disneyland Passports

Jewelry!

And many more! *Soirée tickets are available at these Diamond Bar locations:*

Diamond Bar Library, 21810 Copley

US Bank, 1175 Grand Ave.

Midas Auto Service Experts, 796 N. Diamond Bar Blvd.

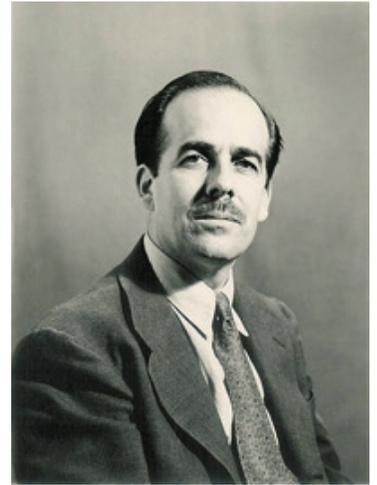
BasicallyBOOKS, 23447 Golden Springs

Tickets are also available on line at www.dblibraryfriends.org.

Thank you, and see you at the Soirée!

A Lawrence Clark Powell Book

By
Gordon J. Van De Water



Lawrence Clark Powell (1906-2001)

It is sometimes strange how a volume materializes by fluke or chance! Such was the case when I discovered a mint copy of a book unknown to me, edited and published by Lawrence Clark Powell, (1906-2001), but once an important member of the Zamorano Club, as well as the Librarian of UCLA. The book was published in 1959 in Amsterdam in a limited letterpress edition of 250. It is *The Quiet Side of Europe* by Powell's mother, Gertrude Clark Powell (1870-1957). Upon opening the book, I viewed a frontispiece photograph of a young Larry Powell and his mother followed by the travel journal notes of Gertrude Powell, edited for publication by her son. In the early 1930's, Mrs. Powell went to Europe, as a way to make a strict budget go further, to be with her son as he put together his Ph.D thesis, and, of course, to see many places that came alive to her from earlier reading of history and literary books. She spent some three years on the Continent and England always keeping notes of the daily happenings.

After the table of contents, there is a short memoir giving the reader an introduction to Powell's mother's life and reasons for her long visit to Europe. This is followed by unnumbered chapters that take the reader on an intimate journey around Europe as it was in the early 1930's. From the city of Dijon (where Lawrence was preparing his doctoral thesis), to cold London, to summertime in Burgundy, to an Autumn jaunt to Switzerland, then to the city of Nice and on to Florence and Rome, then Paris, and the final year of her sojourn, in London. The writing is a page-turner showing her everyday experiences as she, sometimes alone, and sometimes with her son, stayed at places new and delightful. Early on she humorously writes:

At last I have come to it – carrying a stick of bare bread home under my arm. My foreign look must be wearing off, and I am treated like a native.

This brings back a particular memory of my being in a small French village and seeing two women walking home each with two loaves – one under each hairy armpit. I couldn't help but think of *pan de sal!* She also tells of her reaction to the London police at that early time of the 20th century:

I am also impressed with the London policemen – the famous 'bobbies'. They all seem to be over average height, and this is increased by long navy blue coats and high helmets with chin straps. They radiate a sense of dignity. I am sure they feel it and with reason; never flurried nor flustered they stand like the Rock of Gibraltar (or the Bank of England), and are approachable also when one needs information, and then invariably courteous and kind.

An area of interest to Mrs. Powell was the lack of bathing facilities in most private homes in France. She and Lawrence had been used to bathing on a daily basis when in California and it came as a surprise to her when she realized that a public bath was what she would be obliged to use so she could consider herself refreshed:

Last Sunday we went to the public baths. They are clean and are patronized by the better class of people. The poorer people seem to go dirty, though there are shower baths in another quarter for a cheaper price. Most of the common people go about looking dirty at any rate.

Reading through this volume is to transport one to another place and time. It illustrates the middle-class life of people and places in Europe some 85 years ago, before the Second World War changed things so dramatically. There is little written about the politics of the time, except when she visited Switzerland and wrote enthusiastically about the cleanliness of the country which seemed to her to be more carefree and happier than the quarreling nations all around it. This is truly a memorial to Gertrude Clark Powell as lovingly prepared by her son.