



Collis Huntington was one of the pioneer American railroad builders of the period, and he used the timber from the sawmill for his railway construction. This move began a lifetime involvement in transportation for Huntington, who managed the sawmill for five years and eventually became its owner. He returned to Oneonta for a time before he took a job in 1881 with one of his uncle's railway lines. Huntington became superintendent of a portion of the line's construction that eventually formed part of the Chesapeake, Ohio & Southwestern Railroad.

Like the railroads he managed, Huntington gradually moved west toward his ultimate destination of California. In 1884, he became superintendent of construction on the Kentucky Central Railroad. He occupied various positions with this line before becoming its vice-president and general manager in 1887. During this time, Huntington also served as director of the various railways in which his uncle had an interest. This varied experience in multiple levels of the railroad encouraged Collis Huntington to invite his nephew to San Francisco to join the Southern Pacific Railway.

Henry Huntington moved to California in 1892 and served as a vice-president for Southern Pacific for eight years. During this time, he also became interested in the intra-urban transportation for the city. He improved and expanded San Francisco's system, and in 1898, he began to invest and consolidate the city transportation system in Los Angeles.

When Collis Huntington died in 1900, Henry inherited his immense fortune, but he quickly sold his interests in Southern Pacific Railway and devoted his time to developing an inter-urban transportation network in Southern California. Using his extensive knowledge gained from his years working with the railways, Huntington planned a system that would extend from Santa Barbara to San Diego and from the mountains in the west to the coast in the east. He eventually sold these lines to the Southern Pacific Railway in 1910.

Although he sold his transportation interests, Huntington continued to influence the development of Southern California. He helped pro-

mote electrical power and invested wisely in the area's valuable real estate. In 1903, he purchased the San Marino Ranch, which became his residence and home of his splendid collections of British and American fine art and rare books.

Huntington applied the same thoroughness and knowledge he employed in running the railways to acquiring his collections. He purchased entire libraries from other wealthy collectors as well as individual books from estate sales. He did not buy manuscripts randomly; like all aspects of his life, he had a plan and vision for his collections. At his death in 1927, his library was among the best in the country for materials on British literature and among the best in the world for its material on the history of America.

Huntington applied the same devotion to his art collections and his botanical gardens; he employed experts to oversee their care and growth. Although his art collections reveal a preference for British and American artwork, his galleries also included French and Italian Renaissance pieces. The diversity in his botanical gardens is testimony to his appreciation for nature's variety and beauty.

The amount of work invested in the estate and collections convinced Huntington to ensure their preservation following his death. Consequently, in 1919, Henry and his wife, Arabella, signed a deed that transferred the San Marino estate and collections to an educational trust with an endowment that provided for its operation. The Huntingtons' foresight ensured that their estate remained intact for both visitors and scholars hoping to study and enjoy its treasures.

In addition to the estate, Huntington's contributions to the country still exist. His railroads helped connect an expanding country. Public parks, beaches, and roads throughout Southern California owe their existence to his ingenuity, and the city of Huntington Beach bears his name. He gave generously to hospitals, churches, schools, including the University of Southern California and the College of William and Mary, and other institutions. Henry Huntington's legacy attests to his devotion to thoroughness; he ensured that the projects completed in his lifetime continue today through their preservation.