

Steven S. Koblik, President



STEVEN S. KOBLIK was named the seventh president of The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in September 2001. In this role, he is responsible for building on Henry E. Huntington's legacy to encourage research and promote education in the arts, humanities, and botanical sciences through the growth and preservation of The Huntington's collections, through the development and support of a community of scholars, and through the display and interpretation of its extraordinary resources to the public.

Koblik's tenure at The Huntington has been marked by a period of unprecedented activity and growth. Koblik began by building a formidable advancement team, followed by the public launch in July 2004 of the largest capital campaign in The Huntington's history. *For Generations to Come—The Campaign for The Huntington* is a comprehensive six-year initiative to raise \$175 million in annual, capital, and endowment gifts with the goal of sustaining current programs, strengthening the physical infrastructure, and safeguarding the institution's future. As of the first quarter of 2008, nearly \$150 million had been raised toward that goal. Notably, The Huntington was ranked in the top 10 for fundraising by cultural institutions in 2007 by the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*.

Five major capital projects will have been completed under Koblik's leadership by the end of 2008. The Botanical Center complex (2004), the Munger Research Center (2004), the Lois and Robert F. Erburu Gallery (2005), the Garden of Flowing Fragrance (The Huntington's new Chinese garden, February 2008), and the completion of a major renovation of the Huntington Art Gallery (May 2008). Additionally, the new Dibner Hall of the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology will open in November 2008 as a new permanent installation within the existing Library building.

New acquisitions and the special exhibition program have become increasingly ambitious over the past few years, with major loan shows now a mainstay.

Before coming to The Huntington, Koblik served as president of Reed College, Portland, Ore., from 1992 to 2001, overseeing a successful capital campaign and substantial capital improvements. In 1989, he was named dean of the faculty at Scripps College, Claremont, Calif., after teaching for several years as professor of history at Pomona College and the Claremont Graduate School, both in Claremont.

Trained as a diplomatic historian, Koblik holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in history and Scandinavian languages, a master's from the University of Stockholm in international relations, and a doctorate from Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.,

in modern European history. His numerous books and articles have focused on Scandinavia, especially its experiences during the two World Wars. An award winning teacher at Pomona College, Koblik received an honorary doctorate from the University of Lund (Sweden) for his contributions to modern Swedish history and an honorary doctorate from Occidental College, Eagle Rock, Calif., in 2002 for his many contributions there, as well as an honorary doctorate from Pomona College in 2005. His last book, *The Stones Cry Out: Sweden's Response to German Persecution of Jews, 1933–1945*, has been widely acclaimed for its pioneering research.

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