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# THE COURTHOUSE CROWD

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND ITS GOVERNMENT

BY TOM SITTON

1850-1950

HSSC is proud to announce the publication of Tom Sitton's new book which brings together major themes in urban history as they were exemplified in the development of Los Angeles county government. The story is based on meticulous research and a remarkable clarity of presentation. Future generations of historians can build on the solid documentation of this work.

The unique role of the county structure as it extends across municipal and unincorporated areas is shown as the reflection of evolving social needs. From the time of the ranchos, the leadership of the county has been assailed by the notion of politics-as-warfare, but has managed to function by building a tradition of compromise. It was ultimately through compromise that the "courthouse crowd" created a workable county government for Los Angeles.

Publication of The Courthouse Crowd was made possible by a grant from the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation.

The price is **\$29.95**. Copies are available from the El Alisal Bookstore, [www.shop.socalhistory.org](http://www.shop.socalhistory.org). Ask for HSSC member discount.