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**Food for Thought Presents the Art and Life of  
Maynard Dixon, an Iconic Western Artist**

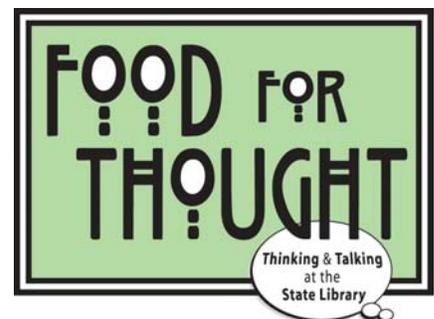
**Sacramento** – The March event in the California State Library’s cultural series, *Food for Thought: Thinking and Talking at the California State Library*, will be held on **Wednesday, March 17**. This free evening event includes refreshments, an author talk, and a lively discussion.

This month *Food for Thought* features author Donald J. Hagerty discussing his two forthcoming books: *The Life of Maynard Dixon* and *The Art of Maynard Dixon*. From 1900 to his death in 1946, Dixon roamed the plains, mesas, and deserts of the American West—drawing, painting, and expressing his creative personality in poems, essays, and letters in an attempt to uncover the region’s spirit. Dixon’s iconic paintings and murals framed a romantic and mystical West that stood in counterpoint to the bustling modernity of the early twentieth century.

“His astonishing output during the golden age of illustration,” says Gary Kurutz, head of special collections for the State Library, “is seen through the dramatic pages of William Randolph Hearst’s newspapers, eye-catching covers for magazines such as *Sunset* and *Standard Oil Bulletin*, alluring travel posters, and dust jacket designs and illustrations for dozens of books.”

A renowned expert on Maynard Dixon, Hagerty has written numerous books and articles on artists of the American West. A long-time administrator and lecturer for University of California, he now works as an independent scholar and consultant on the art and cultures of the American West, curating exhibits and giving lectures for libraries, museums, and galleries. He serves on the Board of Directors of the California State Library Foundation.

The California State Library launched *Food for Thought* because it believes that libraries and the free expression of ideas are essential to a healthy democracy. *Food for Thought* is a unique monthly venue where history buffs and thinking people talk freely about ideas and issues. By helping Californians stay intellectually invigorated, the California State Library is taking an active role in shaping the future of this great state.



Join us on **Wednesday, March 17** from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the California History Room, Room 200, Library & Courts Building II, 900 N Street, Sacramento. Doors open at 5:00 pm; the program begins at 6:00 pm with time for discussion afterward. Metered street parking is free after 6:00 pm; the closest light rail access is 8<sup>th</sup> and O. Seating in this venue is limited, so attendees must RSVP to Rebecca Ann Fontaine at (916) 653-9942 or [rfontaine@library.ca.gov](mailto:rfontaine@library.ca.gov).

***Food for Thought* is made possible by generous donations from the  
California State Library Foundation**

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