



News Release

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Famous *California Poppy* Railroad China Pattern Returns to Railroad Museum Store

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – To the delight of rail enthusiasts, china collectors and fine dining lovers, California State Parks and the California State Railroad Museum are proud to once again offer the popular and coveted *California Poppy* reproduction railroad china in the Museum Store. Out of stock locally for the last year and a half, *California Poppy* is thought to be the longest running china pattern featured by any railroad. Known for its beautiful, iconic decoration and sturdy, low center of gravity (to prevent from being tipped over during passenger train travel), prices for the *California Poppy* china reproductions range from \$25 to \$65 for individual pieces and up to \$110 for a 5-piece place setting.

Railroad china became popular in the late 1800s when transcontinental travel increased and railroad cars became showcases of luxury, comfort and design. In fact, railroad china was a critical part of the dining experience and even helped to promote the marketing identity of the railroad. The *California Poppy* china pattern made its first appearance on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway's *California Limited* in November 1892 and remained in service for nearly 80 years. At the height of luxury train travel, there were 66 different pieces ordered in the *California Poppy* pattern of which 13 are now available for purchase in the Railroad Museum store (while supplies last).

With a separate entrance, the Museum Store is located on-site at the California State Railroad Museum (125 I Street in Old Sacramento) and no admission is needed to visit the Store. The Museum Store can be reached at 916-324-4950 or via email at museumstore@csrmf.org. Store guests are also encouraged to visit the Railroad Museum – North America's most popular rail museum – to see the collection of more than 20 railroad china patterns on display in the 1937-vintage dining car *Cochiti*. Railroad Museum admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for youths (ages 6-17), and children ages five and under are free. More information about the California State Railroad Museum is available at 916-323-9280 or www.csrmf.org.

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