



Writer's Guidelines: Modesto History Journal

Modesto History Journal is a publication of the Modesto Art Museum and its project the Modesto History Center. We seek nonfiction articles that are researched, documented, well written, and able to be illustrated with drawings or photographs about the history of Modesto and its built environment including buildings, structures, and landscapes. We encourage scholars, students, journalists, and freelance writers to contribute to the journal.

- Please first send a query letter about your article idea to modestoartmuseum@yahoo.com with Query for Modesto History Journal in the Subject line.
- Your letter should include a synopsis of the proposed article, a working title, and a list of photographs. Please introduce yourself in the letter.
- Your article should draw on multiple primary and secondary sources and be annotated.
- Manuscripts should be 1500 to 3500 words and your document in MS Word.
- Articles must be properly documented. Endnotes for direct quotations and for facts, figures, and dates from primary and secondary sources are required.
- Citations must be complete and follow the most recent edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* published by the University of Chicago Press.

Evaluation

When evaluating manuscripts, we will ask these questions. Does this manuscript . . .

- Advance the mission of the center? Does it build community relationships, explore contemporary issues, and/or support planning for a better future, and is of, by, and for the people of Modesto.
- Show responsible scholarship? Is there a clearly stated thesis that is explained or justified; does it recognize and deal with opposing viewpoints or counterarguments when appropriate? To what extent has the author researched and assimilated the published information relevant to the topic? Does the article merit the attention and respect of those who may not agree with it?
- Contain innovative information? Does it make a significant contribution to the history of Modesto? Does it present creative insights, opinions, or syntheses? Does it offer new factual or survey data?
- Demonstrate the author is in command of the topic?
- Present a topic likely to be interesting or meaningful to a significant proportion of *Modesto History Journal's* readership, which includes professional historians, dedicated amateurs, and general readers of varied levels of expertise and interest?
- Have good organization, structure, and style? Is it well documented? Is the writing style either too casual for a formal publication or too complex for a general reader to follow?