

# Local Artifacts

## Make It To

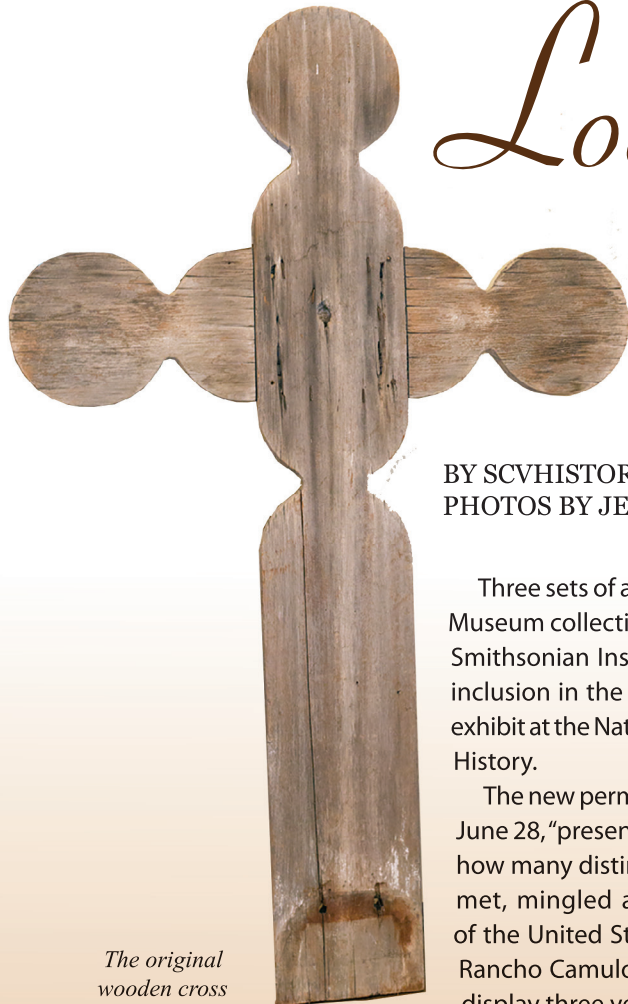
## Washington, D.C.

BY SCVHISTORY.COM  
PHOTOS BY JESSICA BOYER

Three sets of artifacts from the Rancho Camulos Museum collection were recently shipped to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. for inclusion in the "Many Voices, One Nation" exhibit at the National Museum of American History.

The new permanent exhibit, which opens June 28, "presents the 500-year journey of how many distinct peoples and cultures met, mingled and created the culture of the United States." The artifacts from Rancho Camulos are expected to be on display three years or more.

*The original wooden cross*



*The red sacred heart*

The artifacts include: the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century red sacred heart from the 1860s Camulos chapel; the original wooden cross from the Del Valle family's chapel garden at Camulos; and a mortar and pestle attributed to the Tataviam people who lived in the Piru area and maintained a village on the (later) Rancho Camulos property until 1803, when they were removed to the San Fernando Mission.

The sacred heart was previously loaned for an exhibit at Loyola Marymount University, where Josefa del Valle Forster had donated other family heirlooms just before her death in 1943.

Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century photographs show this elaborately jeweled Sacred Heart once resided on the altar in the Camulos chapel, easy to see for those participating in the liturgy, according to the LMU exhibit. As an object of devotion, it referred to the sacred heart of Christ, representing His divine love for humanity. Devotion of the Sacred Heart dates back to biblical times as a way to commemorate Christ's acts of asceticism, love and salvation for mankind. The possession of this Sacred Heart was another demonstration of Ysabel del Valle's pious character.

The second item, the original wooden cross, had been in protective storage at Rancho Camulos Museum. Visitors can see a replica of the cross in the garden area next to the chapel. It is painted white, as the original seems to have been at one time.

Adding some mystery to history, it is not known whether the mortar and pestle, the third set of artifacts, were found on the Rancho Camulos property or at another location in the Piru area. Rancho Camulos Museum director Susan Falck said they were donated by a museum volunteer prior to her tenure. However, they were not among the grinding tools found in 2014 in August Rubel's pre-1943 museum in the winery.

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*The mortar and pestle*

