Center and Texas Map Society to Co-Sponsor Conference on Mapping

Maps help people better understand and move about in the current world, but they also serve as historical resource materials for those interested in understanding the past. The Center for Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography is pleased to announce that it will co-sponsor a conference entitled "Mapping the Earth and Seas," that will be held in conjunction with the fall meeting of the Texas Map Society. The goal of the meeting is to show how maps have changed through time, and how they can be used to help us better understand the past.

Scheduled for Friday and Saturday, November 7th and 8th at UTA, this day and a half meeting will bring speakers from around the country and Texas to discuss and interpret the historic significance of maps. Although most attendees are expected to register by mail, on-site registration is scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 7th. After the brief welcome at 1:00 p.m., Robert French of French & Associates will discuss "On Board Navigation Systems for Automobiles." Although we associate these geopositioning devices with modern automobiles, Mr. French will show that they have a long history indeed. Next, Ralph Ehrenberg from the Geography and Maps Division of the Library of Congress will speak on "Aerial Navigation from the 1920s to World War II." His talk covers the years of aviation history during a period of transition. Later that afternoon, Captain Stephen Ford of the Department of Marine Transportation, Texas Maritime College in Galveston, will present "From Paper Charts to Virtual Maps in Marine Navigation." Captain Ford will discuss how technology has transformed maritime navigation during this century. A half-hour roundtable discussion entitled "Mapping the Earth and Seas" will conclude the afternoon’s events. After a break, the conference attendees will reconvene at 6:00 p.m. for reception and dinner, after which Professor Richard Francaviglia, Director of UTA’s Center for Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography, will speak on "Sea Charts and Shipwrecks: The Maritime History of Texas." His talk will cover little-known changes in maritime technology from 1500 to 1900 that permitted the development of Texas. After the evening presentation, guests are invited to visit UTA's Special Collections in order to view a special exhibit on The Virginia Garrett Map Collection.

The next day, Saturday, will feature the Texas Map Society meeting. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. At 10:00 a.m., the meeting begins with the first speaker of the day, Dr. Ron Tyler, Director of the Texas State Historical Association in Austin, who will present "Bird’s-eye Views of Texas Towns and Cities." The next speaker, Ben Huseman of the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, will discuss "Sir H.J. Warre and Foreign Intrigue in the 19th Century Pacific Northwest." Lunch will be served at noon as the Texas Map Society business meeting is conducted. The afternoon session begins at 1:30 p.m. with Larry Francell of Fort Davis, Texas speaking on "A Map to the Klondike Gold Rush. "Gerald Saxon of UTA’s Special Collec-
The Story of America's Canyon Country (a video)

The canyon country in the vicinity of the fabled "Four Corners"—the location where Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico borders touch—is the subject of this 60 minute videotape. Although the focus of this production is on the area's stunning natural scenery, it also presents capsule histories of the Navajo people, Mormon pioneers, and others (including outlaws such as Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid), who occupied the region. It also addresses the Canyon Country's role in Hollywood filmmaking. Most of all, however, this video focuses on the area's parks, including Grand Canyon, Zion and Bryce Canyons, as well as Monument Valley, Cedar Breaks, Canyonlands, Arches, Capitol Reef, and Lake Powell. Given the area's complex geology, variegated natural history and complicated human history, any video of this length can, at best, provide only an overview; yet, this Questar Video presentation provides an engaging visual introduction to a spectacular part of the Southwest. "The Story of America's Canyon Country" is available from Questar Video, Inc., P.O. Box 11345, Chicago, IL 60611-0345.

Center Hires New Graduate Research Assistant

Since the Center was created in 1991, three Graduate Research Assistants have been appointed to help faculty with their research in UTA's Special Collections. The Center's newest GRA, Jimmy L. Bryan, Jr. is a native of Tarrant County, Texas, and is pursuing his Master's degree, after which he plans on pursuing his doctorate in the history of the Southwest. According to Center Director Richard Francaviglia, "Jimmy Bryan was the perfect choice for the position, as he is an accomplished researcher and very knowledgeable about the region and its heritage." He has contributed articles to the New Handbook of Texas (1996) and the forthcoming Encyclopedia of the U.S.-Mexican War. Additionally, he edited the Civil War letters of Frank and Mintie Price, which will appear in a forthcoming issue of the East Texas Historical Journal. Bryan was also a co-winner of the 1995 Robert L. Williamson Memorial Award of the Barksdale Essays in History competition for his paper, "We Are Ruined Forever: Slavery as a Cause of the Texas Revolution."

Bryan's research activities call for him to assist faculty with a broad range of projects on the social, political, and economic history of the region—including the U.S.-Mexican War, Texas Republic, Early Mexican Republic, U.S. expansionism, and twentieth century labor history.

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tions will then provide an overview of "Map Collections in the Lone Star State: A Personal Journey." Following a brief break, the last speaker for the day—Lewis Armstrong of Abilene Christian University—will present "The Web of Historical Cartography: A Demonstration of Historic Maps Available on the Internet," after which the meeting will adjourn at 4:30 p.m.

Readers of Fronteras interested in maps and their role in history will want to be sure to mark November 7th and 8th on their calendars for this meeting, which is also sponsored by the Arlington Star-Telegram. For more information, contact: The Center for Southwestern Studies, The University of Texas at Arlington, Box 19497, Arlington, TX 76019. Phone: (817) 272-3997. Fax: (817) 272-5797. E-mail: center@library.uta.edu.

Photo by Christain Lee Dowel-Shaw
Not Just for Illustration  
by Katherine S. Goodwin

In recent years, many libraries and other repositories have actively begun to collect and preserve maps. However, researchers who use these facilities, whether they be students, academics, or independents, often have had difficulty determining how these materials could, or should, be used in their work. Although maps, as primary sources, provide a broad spectrum outside the confines of the field of cartographic history, and therefore were often used only for illustrative purposes. The Cartographic History Library, a part of the Special Collections Division of the University of Texas at Arlington Libraries, believes that cartographic materials are an essential part of the research process and can provide answers to important questions, illustrate events and processes, and increase our understanding of individuals and society. Since its establishment in 1979, the Special Collections Division of UTA Libraries has provided an environment to foster research and study and, to that end, encourage and make available books, journals, and manuscripts related to cartography. In addition, we also acquire graphic items, such as maps and atlases. We do so not for their illustrative value but for their research and historical value. In 1979, the division created the Cartographic History Library (CHL) to provide materials on exploration and discovery of the New World in general, and to enhance and supplement the collections in the Jenkins-Correct Library in Texana and Mexican research specifically. In addition to a wealth of books and journals, the Library has 13,000 maps, atlases, and geographic materials. Dates of the materials range from 1493 to the early decades of the twentieth century, and maps vary from earlier world depictions to specific areas within Mexico and Texas. Many of these materials are unfamiliar to most traditional researchers, and they are hesitant to use them.

Most researchers have been taught to use visual materials—the written conveyance of ideas and concepts—almost exclusively in their research and study. Cartographic materials provide vivid evidence, to evaluate. Maps, of course, include some textual content, but by large, the conveyance of ideas and concepts is visual in nature. Most look at maps as less than cartographic signs, such as such in paintings, prints, theater, film, television, and music. J. B. Harley, in his introduction to From Chart to Satellite Image (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990), offers an appropriate description of a map. He writes, "A map is a social construct of the world expressed through the medium of cartography." He goes further, stating that maps re-describe the world—like any document—iterms of relationships of power, cultural practices, preferences, social norms, or categories. For comparison, think of using maps in the same way you would for any literature under consideration for research. For example, maps—like literature—are the products of an author, producer, illustrator, etc. The result of synthesis, analysis, and even imagination. So, too, are maps. You can continue the analogy as maps have permanent value to reveal social, political, and economic effects, and deal with a particular subject. All the

of the characteristics that can be attributed to literature can also be applied to cartographic resources. In addition, a map can tell us about more than the phenomenon that is seen be a beautiful as to defy the scientific aspects of the work; maps that injecting the problems of a nation bent on a "manifest destiny" policy: works revealing a land

gion is prominently marked as having land "...naturally fertile, well wooded and with a fair portion of water." Those of you who have traveled on the cap rock lands between Lubbock and Abilene may be surprised at the description. However, in a mid nineteenth century America increasingly involved in westward expansion, the perception of a map produced by the credible Corps of Topographical Engineers of a huge western territory suitable for settlement would be encouraging indeed. It is an interesting question for further development and to the determination maps also have to adhere to the basic rules of historical methodology in that documents can only be interpreted in their context. In evaluating this map as well as other cartographic evidence, the term must be returned to the past and situated squarely in its proper place and time so you would a journal, diary, or any other primary source. Subject the map to the same evaluative process you would for a textual document. Ask the same questions of the graphic source that you would of the textual source. Look at the context of the author, or producer, and ask "who, what, why, where, and how." Compare the map in the context of other contemporary maps and look at the society that produced the map. Like traditional methods, cartographic materials can reveal information not available in other sources and therefore may support, contradict, or contribute additional evidence in your search.

The Special Collections Division encourages all researchers to explore these materials and offers some suggestions for the beginning working in any repository. First, become more familiar with the graphic resources you have available, not just maps, but prints, photos, art works and artifacts. Ask to see catalogs and finding aids that may be available. Second, look for series or groups of materials that cover common ground. Every time you reference a topic or subject, think of non-textual items that contain related or similar information. Ask for maps at the time period or that deal topical with your subject or geographical location, such as railroad maps, thematic maps, maps dating to the period under examination, works as sheets maps held by the repository. Often think of non-textual materials in terms of "literature," or as if they were produced in a similar fashion, such as original graphic materials along side the textual works. And finally, when the results of your research are written, list you bibliography and footnote appropriate publications. The Cartographic History Library at The University of Texas at Arlington, and similar libraries elsewhere, are the result of years of effort for cartographers and cartography; they also hold remarkable collections of materials of immense value to many other disciplines. As a research tool, maps are central since they can provide information and material dealing with them as legitimate primary sources will broaden your research, enrich your subject, and bring you new work something more valuable than "just an illustration!" (Editors note: a biographical sketch of Katherine Goodwin is found in the "Meet the Center Faculty" section of this issue.)
The Myth of Santa Fe: Creating a Modern Regional Tradition

Dating from the early 1600s, Santa Fe is one of the earliest Hispanic settlements in what is today the United States. The city builds upon a rich Hispanic design tradition, but Native American traditions are also evident in the city's landscape.

Many visitors to Santa Fe are struck by its charm, but few realize how carefully contrived the townscape really is. In this book, architectural historian and social interpreter Chris Wilson of Albuquerque describes the intriguing process by which Santa Fe developed the chic southwestern “Santa Fe style” image that we associate with the city today. Using historical documents and the landscape itself, Wilson shows how the merchants and other civic leaders in the community shaped the city’s identity around tourism. For those who think that tourism is a fairly recent phenomenon, Wilson notes that the shaping of Santa Fe has been occurring for more than a century. It accelerated with the coming of the railroad, and later the automobile, which helped ensure a steady, ever-growing source of tourists.

Those who read this book will never view Santa Fe in the same way; they will much better understand how prevalent and significant tourism has been in shaping our perception of not only Santa Fe, but of the entire Southwest. Fronteras highly recommends The Myth of Santa Fe, which is published by the University of New Mexico Press, 1720 Lomas NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131; phone: 1-800-249-7737.

On the Edge of Empire: The Taos Hacienda of los Martínez

A region’s architecture is inseparable from its cultural history, and the way a building evolves can tell stories that help supplement the historic record.

In this beautifully illustrated book, David Weber relates the story of the design and evolution of the Taos hacienda of the Martínez family—one of the most venerable families in New Mexican history. Weber weaves the family’s history into the changing architectural design of the hacienda. He also covers other areas of the hacienda’s material culture. As is typical of the region, the main house consists of a number of small rectangular rooms arranged around open courtyards, or placitas. Professor Weber, well known for his many scholarly works on the Hispanic Southwest, brings to life the Martínez family, and shows how the hacienda’s architecture resonates with that intriguing history. Published in cooperation with the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University, and SMU-in-Taos, Fort Burgwin, On the Edge of Empire is highly recommended for students of Southwestern history, culture, and architecture. It is available from the Museum of New Mexico Press, P.O. Box 2087, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

The Martínez adobe before restoration.