“Third Coast” is Topic of Cartographic History Conference in October

In recent years, the shores of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea have become known as the “third coast.” Separate and distinct from America’s two coasts — the Atlantic and Pacific — the Caribbean and Gulf were the site of early European-Indian contacts in the Age of Exploration. It was here that Columbus landed in October of 1492, changing world history. In the 500 plus years since that event, the third coast has been the site of exploration and settlement by the various European powers, namely the Spanish, French, English, and Dutch. Their story, and that of the native peoples with whom they came in contact, will be told on October 4th at UTA. Although the history of the Caribbean and Gulf is well known, this conference focuses on re-telling that story through maps and other related visual imagery. By so doing, it will suggest new ways of interpreting the region’s history. According to Gerald Saxon, Director of UTA’s Special Collections, “The Third Biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography brings together some of the most informed cartographic historians to discuss how and why maps and other images aided the process of exploring and settling this natural gateway into the Americas.” The speakers and their topics are outlined below:

- “The European Mapping of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean, 1500-1800,” David Buisservet, Jenkins and Virginia Garrett Endowed Chair in Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography, UTA.
- “Maps and Historic Shipwrecks: Indispensable Tools of Archaeological Discovery and Interpretation,” J. Barto Arnold, Institute of Nautical Archaeology, Texas A&M University.
- “Bounding the Gulf of Mexico: Discovery and Early Maps Matter,” Louis De Vorey, Professor Emeritus, University of Georgia.
- “Cartographía/Cartographie: A Panel Discussion of Spanish and French Mapping of the Gulf of Mexico,” Panelists Jack Jackson, Independent Scholar and Author, Austin Texas; Panelist Robert Weddle, Independent Scholar and Author, Bonham, Texas; Moderator Dennis Reinhardt, Professor of History, UTA.
- “Cannibals and Cartographers: The Role of Supposition in Mapping the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean,” Richard Francaviglia, Director, Center for Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography, UTA.

This meeting will be held as part of a two-day event at UTA. Following Friday’s Virginia Garrett Lectures, the Texas Map Society (TMS) and Philip Lee Phillips Society (PLPS) will meet on Saturday October 5th. They, too, will have a full day of presentations about historic maps.

For more information on both the Virginia Garrett Lectures and the TMS/PLPS meeting, contact Kit Goodwin at Special Collections, UTA Libraries, Box 19497, Arlington, Texas 76019-0497, 817-272-3393, e-mail: goodwin@uta.edu.
BOOK REVIEWS

Tejano South Texas Interpreted

One of Texas’ most interesting regions — the semi arid, scrub-covered land between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande — is the subject of a new book by geographer Dan Arreola. Over the years, this region has gone by many names, and its landscape has changed in character with changes in technology. Today people commonly call it “The Valley,” but it was historically known as the Trans-Nueces. Historians and geographers have long noted this area’s uniqueness. Tejano South Texas builds upon these earlier studies but breaks new ground in describing and interpreting this region’s personality or character. This area has been contested ground between Anglos and Mexicans since the early 1800s. This, of course, was the area where the U.S. Mexican War (1846-1848) started, and it is rich in history. Arreola shows how historical conflicts and cooperation have led to creation of the region. To do so, he analyzes many factors, including the form of settlements, use of words, and types of popular foods. Although Arreola teaches at Arizona State University in Tempe, he has Texas roots (he taught at Texas A&M) and knows the area intimately. This book reveals the many sources that cultural geographers use to describe regions. Arreola has drawn from many unusual and delightful sources — local folklore, phonebooks, menus, even his outstanding personal postcard collection of U.S.-Mexico borderlands scenes — to produce the most thorough, comprehensive and personal interpretation of the region. Although Arreola could have selected another name for the title of this regional study, “Tejano South Texas” is perfect. It reveals the region’s Hispanic character and geographic position, yet suggests it is part of a larger whole — Texas. Highly recommended for anyone interested in Texas (and borderlands) history, geography, culture, folklore, Tejano South Texas is destined to become the key source on this region. To order, contact The University of Texas Press, P. O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819 (Toll-Free Phone 1-800-252-3206).

Texas Missions Described

During the period from around 1690 to the early 1800s, a system of missions helped Spain develop its northern frontier. In Texas, these missions were sites of the Indians’ conversion to Christianity, and yet served secular purposes of bringing Spanish culture to areas threatened by other European powers, notably France. In a sense, Texas’ remaining missions represent two cultural traditions — original historic efforts by Spain to colonize, and more recent historic preservation movements aimed at restoring the missions (many of which were near ruins by the 1830s). This book by Jacinto Quiarte (Professor Emeritus, History and Art Criticism, UT-San Antonio) focuses on six remaining Texas missions — five are in the San Antonio area: San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo), San José y San Miguel de Aguayo, Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción, and San Francisco de la Espada. The other mission — Nuestra Senora del Espíritu Santo — is in Goliad. This book represents decades of research into diverse sources, including church records, art, and architectural details. Professor Quiarte begins with a fine overview of Spain’s mission system, and then focuses on each of the remaining missions. The only disappointment with this beautiful and informative book is that it could have provided more information about the missions of far west Texas near El Paso, three of which — Corpus Christi de Isleta, Nuestra Señora de la Concepción del Socorro, and San Elizario — survive (with considerable alteration) to the present day. Those west Texas missions played an important role in Spain’s developing relationship with the Indians, but their detailed treatment will have to await another book. But, as Professor Quiarte notes, his focus was Texas’ six best-preserved missions. In documenting and interpreting these, he succeeds admirably. The Art and Architecture of the Texas Missions is available from The University of Texas Press. To order, contact The University of Texas Press, P. O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819 (Toll-Free Phone 1-800-252-3206).
I recently had the privilege of spending several days studying at one of the nation's finest private map collections, David Rumsey's personal library in San Francisco. While there, I conducted research for my M.A. thesis, a comparison of how maps were used to promote land during the nineteenth century in two southwestern locations — California and Texas. The Rumsey collection features a wealth of maps and atlases of the Americas from about 1700-1900. Although I had studied portions of Mr. Rumsey's collection online (see "Discovering Historic Maps Online" in the Spring 2001 issue of *Fronteras*), I was now able to visit his collection first hand because I had been awarded UTA's David Rumsey Cartographic History Travel/Research Stipend. Created through Mr. Rumsey's generous support, this stipend helps fund the expenses of two UTA students per year; each student receives up to $2,000 to cover airfare and related travel expenses.

I had prepared for this trip, but on my flight toward the Golden State, I found myself becoming more apprehensive with each mile. Although I had studied historic maps at UTA's Special Collections, how would I handle the opportunity to consult Mr. Rumsey's maps first hand? Would I be up to the challenge of intensively studying maps in an unfamiliar setting? My fears started to subside as the plane began its slow descent. Having never been to California, I was struck by the beauty of the terrain as the plane circled in over the San Francisco Bay and I beheld the landscape through parting clouds. Even though I was about to arrive in San Francisco on a chilly, rainy day in late January, I felt exhilarated. In the back of my mind, I began to imagine the feelings other newcomers must have felt during their own migrations and visits to California. From the plane, I had the advantage of a bird's eye view over the city and bay; but in a strange way, I was envious of those who had traveled hundreds and thousands of miles over land or sea and had first comprehended the San Francisco area from the ground. While my view was more encompassing, those on the ground have the advantage of seeing the terrain in manageable pieces and appreciating small nuances of it before moving on to the next part. Is this the same feeling mapmakers had in the past hundred and fifty years? Did they question the best methods and positions to view the objects of their maps? This issue gnawed at me during my entire trip. Perception is obviously integral to making a map, but what is essential to some may be irrelevant to others. I tried to keep that idea in mind as I prepared to visit David Rumsey's collection of diverse maps for the first time.

Mr. Rumsey graciously opened his home to me during my visit, and I stayed in the renovated carriage house on the main grounds. This home is located in a busy section of San Francisco, but once through the gate, I felt as if I had entered into the San Francisco of about a century ago. Mr. Rumsey's home gracefully blends the old with the new in a way that makes one aware of the comforts and advantages of modern technology without ever losing the beauty of an era that emphasized aesthetics and propriety. Paintings done by Mr. Rumsey, himself a former Yale professor of art, adorned the loft where I stayed. Looking around, I truly began to feel as if I were visiting the home in 1896 when it was initially built—until I wandered downstairs to what is affectionately known as "Mission Control." There I encountered a scanner bigger that any I had ever seen, and saw five computers whose sole mission is to keep Cartography Associates' website — www.davidrumsey.com — up and running. As much as I appreciated the amazing technology, I began to have a panicked feeling. Perhaps I had gotten myself into something I actually knew little about. I was about to work alongside a preeminent collector of maps — but did I really belong here?

It is difficult to describe the feeling I got when I walked into the basement map library. Occupying two large rooms, the library is both functional and beautiful: Maps, atlases, and related materials fill both rooms from floor to ceiling as the Collection itself has in excess of 100,000 items. The map room has the appearance of a fine, old library, but with a relaxed atmosphere that invites the visitor in to look around and enjoy the sights. Mr. Rumsey had already taken the time to set out some maps he felt might be helpful for my studies. Some of these maps I had studied on the Cartography Associates website before my arrival, but now I had the ability to actually touch them, to read the inscriptions in the front covers of the atlases and other books, and to see the various types of paper used to produce these maps. To me, this encounter with original maps always evokes a feeling of connectedness with the people who made and owned them — a feeling one cannot achieve by online viewing alone. These maps all had the common thread of being used by people who were interested in journeying to Texas and California during the period 1821 to 1881. Learning how to understand and recognize the value of maps is a skill requiring the research talents of a historian, the eye of an artist, and the tenacious nature of a detective.

Detail from Central America II: Including Texas, California and the Northern States of Mexico. London: Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, Charles Knight and Co., 1846. (Courtesy UTA Special Collections.)
Again, I began to feel a bit awkward. I had studied this period and some of these very maps for almost a year now, but Mr. Rumsey knew much more about them than I did. At that point, I began to hope I would not make some type of inane comment reflecting just how little I did know about historical cartography before I departed on Sunday. That all changed after Mr. Rumsey and I went out for a dinner break and got to talking about maps and life in general. As we spoke, I was relieved to realize that the formidable "map collector" turned out to be a friendly, gracious person. Mr. Rumsey is not only a patron of the various projects he sponsors, but also understands the intricacies of actually running and using these same projects. He and I discussed the servers that he uses for his website, some current Internet trends, the possibilities of using GIS (Geographic Information Systems) as a historian, and the frustration students feel when they do not have the resources to personally visit all the collections they need in order to write their theses.

During the course of our conversation, I learned Mr. Rumsey is at the forefront of a movement to make more library collections accessible over the Internet — in essence giving students access to everything they need for their research without additional cost. He has a genuine desire to spark peoples' interest in maps and to get them hooked on GIS. This desire does not come from any need for financial gain or notoriety; he simply wants people to have the opportunity to learn. With this in mind, I went back to the map room no longer afraid to make a mistake or admit my ignorance but as a student who had a great opportunity to gain a wealth of knowledge in two and a half days time.

We began poring over the maps, taking only occasional breaks. We discussed why people would come to Texas and California, what form of tactics land promoters used, what images and statistics potential immigrants might deem important, the degree of influence Indian presence had in certain areas, the huge impact the railroads had on accessibility for immigrants, and individual stories relating land scams perpetrated on new arrivals.

An exceptional example of a map I worked with at length in San Francisco is the "Map of the States of Kansas and Texas and Indian Territory" from 1867. Authored by the United States War Department, this map has wonderful detail and beautifully integrated color depicting transportation routes — both current and planned — as well as known Indian occupied zones, all compiled on a breathtaking linen medium. The map not only catches your eye but would have been highly informative for prospective travelers and immigrants to Texas. Bearing the personal signature of U.S. Army Engineer Major William Merrill, the map also carries a label requesting that, "All Persons Into Whose Hands The Map Falls Are Particularly Requested To Send All Corrections And Additions To The Chief Engineer, Military, Div[ision], Of The Mo,[Missouri], St. Louis." These are the types of nuances that lend a high degree of intimacy to maps. I repeatedly found myself going back to this map just to sit and look at it, and it was the one map that stayed out on the worktable all weekend. This feeling of connectedness to a map is what makes a visit to a map collection so important. All the information I have duplicated here can be garnered from a close examination of the map online. But by actually handling the linen of the map myself, scanning the handwriting, and painstakingly refolding it, this map has now become a personal favorite. Yes, it is informative and valuable to my research, but on another level, this map evoked a feeling of connectedness to a person, long since dead, who might have used it as a valued lifeline to reach a particular destination or as information that influenced his or her decision to move halfway across the country. These are the moments that every budding cartographic historian remembers.

As we studied these maps together, I began to realize Mr. Rumsey was genuinely interested in my work. He not only respected my opinion, but also asked my input on various ideas. I soon realized that we were working as a team on my project, and that I was benefiting from the insight and knowledge only a map collector possesses. In a short time, I gained a completely new perspective on my work, and even began to question some ideas I had taken to be absolute truths. My own journey during those two and a half days had taken me over several thousand miles physically, but mentally, I had traveled even farther. This trip had taken me from a low point of feeling afraid to make a mistake to a highpoint of feeling that my work was important and would be appreciated. Unfortunately, that type of personal growth is difficult to map out, but that does not detract from its significance.

I came away with several valuable lessons from my trip to San Francisco. I returned to Texas with hundreds of pages of notes and copies made from primary sources, new ideas in which to take my thesis, and a trusted resource in David Rumsey himself. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity Mr. Rumsey gave me, and the support that Center Director Richard Francaviglia and History Chair Don Kyle offered in making this trip happen for me. I would encourage all UTA graduate students to look into the opportunities in the history of cartography and especially GIS. New avenues of employment open all the time for people fluent in these two disciplines. My trip to San Francisco confirmed that the students in the UTA History program have an incredible resource in David Rumsey — whether through his website or his stipend enabling students to visit his map library. For me, this trip marked a turning point and highlight in my academic career. I am confident it can do the same for others!

Editor's Note: Awarded the David Rumsey Cartographic History Travel Research Stipend in 2002, Monica Drake is currently finishing her Master's degree in history at UTA, where she serves as the Center's Sandra Myers Graduate Research Assistant.
Society for the History of Discoveries
Annual Meeting to be Held in Mexico

"Palacio de Guadalajara" from Atlas Pintoresco e Historico de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos by Antonio Garcia Cubas (Mexico: Dohany Successors, 1897)

With the assistance of UTA's Center for Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography, the Society for the History of Discoveries (SHD) will hold its annual meeting on October 24-27, 2002. In keeping with the meeting's locale — Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico — the general theme of the meeting will be "Exploration and Discovery in New Spain." However, papers on other subjects related to exploration and discovery will also be presented. A key location in the exploration and discovery of New Spain's northern frontier regions by the mid 1500s, Guadalajara is today Mexico's second largest city. The meeting will be held in the historic town of Zapopan in the Guadalajara metropolitan area — an area rich in colonial history and scenic beauty.

There will be five separate sessions featuring a total of twenty-three papers. Sessions include:

- Cabeza de Vaca and His Times
- Later Exploration and Epistemology in Northern New Spain/Mexico
- Diverse Views on the History of Discoveries
- Spanish-English Contacts at the Edges of New Spain
- Alternative Viewpoints in Exploration and Discovery

For more information including registration forms and the final program, please visit the Society’s website at http://www.socheistdisc.org/index.htm or contact the Center at swcenter@uta.edu (817) 272-3997.

Event to Celebrate
Labor Archives' 35th Anniversary

2002 marks the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Labor Archives in UTA's Special Collections. From its modest start in 1967, this collection has grown into the most comprehensive labor history collection west of the Mississippi. To recognize this milestone, the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies, Special Collections, and Friends of the UTA Libraries will sponsor a special event on Friday evening, November 8th, 2002.

It surprises many to learn that organized labor has played a major role in Texas history, including mining, manufacturing, and food processing; however, one aspect — the role of labor in Texas railroads — will be highlighted at the event. Presentations will be made by Theresa Ann Case (UT Austin), George Green (UTA Professor of History and founder of the Labor Archives), and Gary Spurr (Special Collections Archivist). For more information about this special Friends of the Libraries event, contact Betty Wood at 817-272-7421, or e-mail at bjwood@uta.edu.
Meet the Center Faculty

Gerald D. Saxon is Associate Director of Libraries at UTA and Adjunct Professor of History, where he teaches classes in oral history methods and methodology, archival enterprise, Texas history, and the history and geography of the Southwest. He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of North Texas in 1979, and served as oral historian at Dallas Public Library from 1980-1986. Dr. Saxon arrived at UTA in 1986 to serve as Assistant Director of Libraries for Special Collections, and was promoted to Associate Director of Libraries in 1997. As Associate Director, Saxon serves on the library's executive team and is responsible for library development, fundraising, and external relations. In addition to being an administrator, Saxon continues to pursue his scholarly interests. He has published five books, and is currently working with William Taylor of the University of California, Berkeley, on an annotated edition of George Wilkins Kendall's *Texas Santa Fe Expedition* (first published in 1844) for the Library of Texas Series. He is also researching a biography of Jenkins Garrett to be published in 2003-2004.

Second Annual Rocky Mountain Antique Map Fair to Meet in Denver

The Second Annual Rocky Mountain Antique Map Fair will take place from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 21, 2002 in the conference center on the lower level of the Denver Public Library at 10 W. 14th Avenue, (13th Avenue & Broadway) in downtown Denver. For information, call Wes Brown at 303-293-2800 or contact The Rocky Mountain Map Society at rmms@usa.com.

*Center Fellows*: Bob Fairbanks, Professor of History; George Green, Professor of History; Sam Haynes, Associate Professor of History; David Narrett, Associate Professor of History; Kenneth Philip, Professor of History; Dennis Reinhardt, Professor of History; Judy Reinhardt, Professor of Education; Doug Richmond, Professor of History; Ken Roemer, Professor of English; and Roberto Treviño, Associate Professor of History.

*Associate Center Fellows*: David Buitser, Jenkins and Virginia Garrett Endowed Chair for Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography; Manuel García y Griego, Director, Center for Mexican-American Studies; and Jay Henry, Professor of Architecture.

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