Texas Map Society Part of Fall Mega-Meeting

The fall 2008 meeting of the Texas Map Society (TMS) will be a part of a grand gathering of multi-day events and meetings at the University of Texas at Arlington Library. TMS members have an opportunity to hear numerous presentations on discoveries, explorations and cartographic history as well as attend exhibit openings, delicious dinners and receptions, and a special tour of one of the largest personal libraries in the Southwest focusing on explorations and discoveries. From October 3-7, Arlington, Texas, will be “ground zero” for all things pertaining to the history of discoveries and cartographic history.

The TMS will meet jointly with the Philip Lee Phillips Society (PLP) of the Library of Congress, and in conjunction with the Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography, and followed by the 49th Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Discoveries (SHD). The general schedule for the multi-day events and meetings is the Garrett Lectures will be on Friday, October 3, at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) with a special exhibit opening, reception, and keynote address at the Amon Carter Museum of Fort Worth that evening. On Saturday, October 4, the TMS and PLPS will meet together at UT Arlington. And on Sunday-Tuesday, October 5-7, the SHD will hold its meeting primarily at UTA. The SHD is also sponsoring a Cowboys and Culture tour Fort Worth on Sunday, October 5th.

Preliminary Combined Program

TMS members are encouraged to arrive early and attend all of the meetings and activities discussed above. There will be much to do, people with different interests to talk with, and engaging presentations to hear. There will be registration fees associated with the various meetings.

Sixth Biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures 2008
October 3

The topic of the Sixth Biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures will be “Revisualizing Westward Expansion: A Century of Conflict, 1800-1900.” The presentations will take place on the sixth floor of the UTA Library, except for the evening keynote address by John Logan Allen, which will take place at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth after a recep-
tion. There will also be an exhibition mounted at UTA as well as one at the Carter Museum focusing on the lectures' topic. The Garrett Lectures' speakers and the title of their papers are:

John Logan Allen, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Geography, Univ. of Wyoming, "Jeffersonian and Jacksonian Explorers in the American Northwest: Solving the Riddle of the Great Divide"

Ronald Grim, Head of the Map Collection, Boston Public Library, and Paul D. McDermott, Professor of Geography (retired), Montgomery College, Rockville, Maryland, "Railroads and Roads through Tribal Lands: Mapping the Pacific Northwest's Changing Landscape during the 1850s"

Samuel Trott, Associate Professor of History, University of New Mexico, "Transnational Cartographies: Corporations, States, and the Remapping of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands, 1850-1920"

John R. Hebert, Chief, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, "Maps and the U.S. War with Mexico, 1846-48: Governmental and Private Mapping Efforts to Report on the Conflict as it was Happening and in Response to Official Reports"

Ben Huseman, Cartographic Archivist, Special Collections, UT Arlington Library, "Revisualizing Westward Expansion: Reflections on the Exhibits"

Texas Map Society/Philip Lee Phillips Society Meeting
October 4

The Texas Map Society and the Philip Lee Phillips Society will be meeting together at UTA all day on October 4 with a special dinner meeting with a keynote address in the evening. The joint program will feature the following speakers:

Wes Brown, Map Collector and Author, Denver, Colorado, "How the 1859 Gold Rush Put Colorado on the Map"

Bill Warren, Map Collector and Cataloger, Pasadena, California, "Treasures from the Huntington Library's Map Collection"


Dan Trachtenberg, Author and Lecturer, Palm Beach, Florida, "Powder Horn Maps"

David Finrock, Collector and Chief Meteorologist, NBC 5, Fort Worth, Texas, "Map Members' Forum"

Stephen Huffenberger, Greenwood Village, Colorado, "Cartography of the Indian Country" (keynote address)

Society for the History of Discoveries
(tentative program)
October 5-7

Sunday, October 5. Cowboys and Culture Preconference Tour. From 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. This fun, optional tour of Fort Worth, will spend time in the city about which Will Rogers said, "Fort Worth is where the West begins, and Dallas is where the East peters out." Not only are the past cattle drives a prevalent part of this town (after all it is still referred to as Cowtown), but it has also been called the third best city in the United States for availability and fineness of art!

The tour will include a visit to the 150 Years of Fort Worth exhibit (a fun, short stop that gives an overview of the history of this wonderful place!). Then it's off to the Stockyards where we will have lunch at one of the original restaurants in this great city--the Star Café. This is TEXAS all the way so leave your diets at home! You will have a choice of burgers or chicken fried steak or grilled chicken--cooked like it was 1800 out on the range.

Then you can walk around on your own and have your picture made on a saddle as you cozy up to a historic bar or shop for t-shirts and souvenirs for the kids back home. You might even see some slow-movin' longhorns (These are BIG critters!). This area is on the National Register of Historic Places and full of interesting sites.

After the Stockyards, we will drive through the cultural district with a stop at the stunning Modern Art Museum for a tour. The Modern was designed by Japanese architect Tadao Ando. Afterwards you will be given a chance to do a quick drop-by at the Kimbell Art Museum, called "the best small museum in the world" and known for its permanent collection and its Louis Kahn-designed building.

This is a Big Texas Day--Not to be missed, so come on along! $75 each.

Sunday Evening, October 5. Reception and private tour of the Harlan Crow Library in Dallas. Transportation will be provided from the meeting hotel. Leave hotel at 6:15 p.m. Return at 9:30 p.m.

Monday, October 6. SHD Paper Sessions and Annual Business Meeting, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. UTA Central Library 6th Floor Parlor and Atrium. Transportation will be provided from the meeting hotel.

Registration brochures for the events and meetings will be forthcoming this summer. Please mark your calendar now to attend all of these October events!

Editor's Note: The material in this article was provided by Kit Goodwin and Gerald Saxon, who represent TMS and SHD, respectively.
Re-Capturing Promontory’s Moment of Glory

by Richard Francaviglia

Andrew Russell’s photograph of the ceremony marking the completion of the transcontinental railroad at Promontory, Utah, on May 10, 1869, has become one of the defining images of the nineteenth century. As one of three photographers present at the joining of Central Pacific and Union Pacific rails at that remote spot, Russell was in the right place at the right time to make history. I deliberately use the term “make history” rather than record history because Russell did more than simply document a scene for posterity. Taking the photograph was one thing, even though it is beautifully composed, professionally exposed, and expertly developed. But the people present that day were quite aware of Russell’s presence, and he had an effect on the scene that was recorded.

Why, we should ask, did the Russell’s photograph become a classic — not only a popular icon upon its release just after the ceremony, but also an enduring image for nearly 140 years? Although one often hears the term classic used for anything that appeals to (or is marketed to) the public, such as classic Coca Cola and classic 1957 Chevrolets, Russell’s photograph deserves the term. Why? Because it embodies an integrity of design and tells a story, serving as a metaphor for the beliefs and values of the time. Whether or not Russell knew he was taking a classic photo is beside the point. Something that endures does so for a reason, or perhaps several reasons.

As discussed in my new book about Promontory, Utah, from about 1800 to the present, I note that this is more than simply a photograph. It also serves a subliminal map in that it positions the arrival of the trains from west and east at left and right respectively. Like a map, it looks north. It is possible that Russell simply wanted the sun at his back and hence positioned the camera to face north, but whether he realized it or not, Russell produced an image that fit into the American consciousness of geographic expansion. This classic photograph is a metaphor: With the completion of the railroad, the collective mental map of the nation was now complete — and rendered in the form of a photograph, which was the latest fad in communication.

Although the basic composition of Russell’s photograph represented the wedding of genius, luck, and popular sentiment, its content was both true and false. In looking at his
photograph, we can recognize a symbolic truth that this is a portrait of the wedding of humanity and technology represented by the iron horse and the crowd. However, looking more carefully, we can see that those who are celebrating are not the same people whose labor got the railroads to this point. From time to time, railroad officials mentioned the importance of Chinese workers at the joining of the rails shortly before the ceremony. Yet, they are nowhere to be seen in Russell’s picture. The reason for the absence of railroad workers, including a goodly number of Chinese roadbed graders, has never been fully explained. Some suggest they were deliberately excluded, and that is possible. However, it is just as likely that the Chinese workers were edged out of the picture by more photo-conscious white people; then, too, they were likely called elsewhere to put the finishing touches on the hastily-constructed rail track, which would soon bear the weight of considerable rail traffic.

For far more than a century, then, Russell’s photograph was perfect for relating a version of history that congratulated the decision-makers and assertive well-wishers (including the military) -- but not those who did the hardest physical work. In recent years, the annual celebration commemorating the May 10th event features a stunning re-enactment of Russell’s original photo opportunity. As the beautifully recreated locomotives draw closer together, photographers instinctively gather where Russell stood in 1869. They, too, want to record that familiar image, and many want to be part of it. People in period clothing cluster on and between the locomotives in an effort to re-create the historical moment. But each year, as more people learned about the history of the real event that is not recorded in Russell’s photograph, they desired to set the record straight by revising the scene slightly. On May 10, 2008, under bright sunshine and a beautiful cloudless sky, visitors to the site got to re-enact history in two ways. One group recreated a scene pretty much as it was originally recorded, but others wanted to record what, they thought, should have been recorded. So, after the traditional Russell-like period picture was snapped by dozens of photographers, members of the Utah Chinese American Association were invited to come forward. Together with their guests from China, the group posed as dozens of cameras were snapped by historians, the media, and families. The new photograph is wonderful to behold visually and symbolically as it helps people of Chinese origin receive the recognition they deserve as being one of many groups, including Irish Americans and Mormons, who played a major role in building the transcontinental railroad, but were somehow neglected -- until now -- by photographic history.

Editor’s Note: This article was derived from Richard Francaviglia’s book *Over the Range: A History of the Promontory Summit Route of the Pacific Railroad* (Utah State University Press, 2008).
Center's Leadership in Transition Period

After serving as the Center's Founding Director since 1991, Professor Richard Francaviglia has decided to return to the Pacific Northwest. In Salem, Oregon, he will re-activate his consulting company, Geo-Graphic Designs and continue his research. "Getting the Center up and moving was a wonderful experience ..." as he put it recently, "but it is time for the Center to move ahead into new territory and that requires new leadership." Under Francaviglia's leadership, the Center hosted or sponsored a dozen conferences, created an Endowed Chair position, established strong connections in Texas history education, and obtained funding for the Ida Hall and George Kohfeldt Scholarship in Native American Studies, and the David Rumsey Travel/Research stipend for graduate students. Accomplishing the above involved raising more than 1.2 million dollars in outside funding, as well as support from the University which funds the Center's Sandra Myres Graduate Research Assistant who helps the ten Center Fellows conduct research.

The Center's Interim Director, Associate Professor of History Sam Haynes was selected to help the Center during the 2008-2009 academic year, during which a national search will be conducted for a permanent director. According to Professor Francaviglia, "Sam Haynes has a strong academic background, considerable experience in educational grant writing, and knows the Center very well due to his serving as a Center Fellow." Professor Haynes' leadership will be very important during this time of transition. As Francaviglia added, "it is imperative to keep up the Center's momentum, continually establish new connections, and keep up with existing plans for events, such as the proposed commemoration of the Centennial of the Mexican Revolution in 2010." Professor Haynes plans to work both on and off campus to help the Center continue to flourish. Ann Jennings, the Center's secretary since 2000, will continue in her position. According to Francaviglia, "Ms. Jennings' expertise will help make the Center's leadership transition smooth and productive."

UT Arlington Professor Wins W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award

Dr. Jonathan Campbell, professor and chair of the UT Arlington Biology Department, has won the Southwestern Association of Naturalists 2007 W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award. The award recognizes excellence in a lifetime of commitment to outstanding study or conservation of the flora or fauna of the southwestern United States, Mexico and Central America. Dr. Campbell has a long history of distinguished research, which he actively continues. He is recognized as a world expert on the amphibians and reptiles of the Americas. His work in remote areas of Central America has resulted in the discovery and description of more than 100 vertebrates new to science, including more than 10 percent of the known amphibians and reptiles of Guatemala. He has published more than 130 peer-reviewed papers and authored or edited five books, including "Venomous Reptiles of the Western Hemisphere" (2004). He has mentored more than two dozen graduate students, promoted international cooperative efforts to study the herpetological fauna of Mexico, and was instrumental in the construction of the Amphibian and Reptile Diversity Research Center at UT Arlington. The Southwestern Association of Naturalists is an international association of scientists, educators and students, founded in 1953 to promote the field study of plants and animals (living and fossil) in the southwestern United States, Mexico, and Central America.
Meet the Center Faculty

**Sam W. Haynes** is Associate Professor of History at UTA, specializing in nineteenth century Texas and the American Southwest. He has authored and edited several books, including James K. Polk and the Expansionist Impulse, part of Longman's Library of American Biography series, and the Houghton-Mifflin anthology Major Problems in Texas History. An elected member of the Texas Institute of Letters, he is currently completing a book on U.S.-British relations during the period 1815-1850. In 2007 he served as the lead U.S. consultant on the History Channel documentary, The Mexican War. In 2008 he received the Alicia Wilkerson Smotherman Teaching Award from the College of Liberal Arts. Haynes will be serving as the Center’s interim director for the 2008-09 academic year.

New Book Explores Catholicism in the West

Readers of *Fronteras* may recall that the theme of the 2004 Walter Prescott Webb Memorial Lectures was *Catholicism in the American West: A Rosary of Hidden Voices*. The resulting book of the same name--featuring essays by Anne Butler; Michael Engh, S.J.; Matthew Pehl; William Issel; Gina Marie Pitti; and Roberto Treviño--is now available from Texas A&M University Press.

**Center Fellows:**

Kat Brown, Assistant Professor of Anthropology; Chris Conway, Associate Professor of Modern Languages; Robert Fairbanks, Professor of History; George Green, Professor of History; Sam Haynes, Associate Professor of History; David Narrett, Associate Professor of History; Dennis Reinhardt, Professor of History; Douglas Richmond, Professor of History; Ken Roemer, Professor of English, Roberto Treviño, Associate Professor of History

**Associate Center Fellows:**

David Buisset, Jenkins and Virginia Garrett Endowed Chair in Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography (retired)

Judy Reinhardt, Professor of Education, UTEP

*Fronteras* is published twice yearly (Spring and Fall) by the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography of The University of Texas at Arlington. Richard Francaviglia, Managing Editor and Center Director. For additional copies of *Fronteras*, contact the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography, UTA, Box 19497, Arlington, Texas 76019-0497, (817) 272-3997; e-mail: swcenter@uta.edu.

*Fronteras* is produced on acid-free recycled paper. ISSN 1062-8444

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**Fronteras**

*Center for Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography*

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