"Keys to Unlocking the Past" Conference to be Held in April

Some of the most rapidly growing communities in the Southwest are often said to have little or no history. That is because so much has changed so quickly and because rapid growth may obliterate traces of the past as new housing tracts and shopping centers spring up everywhere. Although it is true that historians face challenges in these booming communities, there are many types of materials that can help recapture lost history.

Consider the case of Arlington, Texas, which grew from about 5,000 people in 1945 to more than 300,000 in 2000. A conference on Saturday, April 28th will discuss keys to unlocking this community's past. These keys include historical maps, oral histories, written records, old photographs, and even relict features in today's landscape. In addition to discussing these key historical resources, the conference will show how historians and others have used them to interpret community history.

"Keys to Unlocking the Past" is jointly sponsored by the UTA Center for Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography, and the Special Collections Division of the UTA Libraries. The day-long conference will be held in the 6th Floor Parlor of the UTA Central Library.

The morning session, Finding and Using Keys to the Past, will feature four presentations: "Written Record, Spoken Word: Using Archival and Oral History Resources" by Gerald Saxon; "Mapping the Past: Understanding the Past through Cartographic Resources" by Kit Goodwin; "Reading the Landscape: Learning History From the Built Environment" by Richard Francaviglia; and "Picturing the Past: Discovering Historic Arlington in Photographs" by Dorothy Recurrel. This session will be followed by a panel/roundtable discussion of "Keys to the Past" moderated by Sher Dunaway.

Lunch (provided) will be served in the Sixth Floor Atrium, UTA Central Library. Arlington journalist-historian O.K. Carter will be the luncheon speaker.

The afternoon session, Interpreting the Past, will feature three presentations: "The Making of a Texas Town: Interpreting Arlington's Early History" by Carolyn Carney; "City or Suburb? Re-interpreting Arlington's Development since 1945" by David Cannon; and "The Past as Political History: An Interpretation of Arlington" by Allan Saxe. This session will also be followed by a panel/roundtable discussion moderated by Robert Fairbanks.

Registration will cost $25, including lunch and refreshments. Judging from the attendance at past conferences, we expect this conference to sell out quickly. Those interested in attending should contact the Center for Southwestern Studies to obtain a registration form. Call (817) 272-3997, or email center@library.uta.edu.
Globes at Greenwich
Sets New Standard

Globes are among the most fascinating of maps. Boldly three-dimensional, they can represent the world or larger realms such as the solar system. The subtitle of *Globes at Greenwich: A Catalog of the Globes and Armillary Spheres in the National Maritime Museum*, suggests that it will be comprehensive. This stunning 591-page book meets that expectation. It describes the National Maritime Museum's world-class collection of globes and armillary spheres (ringed globes of the solar system that depict the position of heavenly bodies, usually in relationship to the earth). Based on this comprehensive collection, *Globes at Greenwich* beautifully illustrates and interprets globes and armillary spheres. In so doing, it provides what may be the most comprehensive interpretation of globes available.

In chapter after detailed chapter, items in the collection are interpreted in considerable depth. Working with half a dozen contributors, Elly Dekker provides an introduction to globes and spheres. This excellent introduction is followed by articles on the history of the Museum's collection, the construction and conservation of globes, the navigator's globe, globe making in the British Isles, clockwork globes, the Demongenet tradition in globe making, globes in art, and globes of exceptional aesthetic design.

The catalog section of this book covers armillary spheres, Islamic globes, western manuscript globes, and western printed globes and planispheres (planispheres are representations of the circles of a sphere on a plane or flat surface, often a polar projection of the celestial sphere and the stars on a plane). Several appendices provide detailed information on the collection's globes as well as other reference material, such as the names of stars and constellations represented in the planispheres. The appendix illustrating and briefly describing each item in the collection provides an excellent synopsis.

This is a remarkable book centering on a remarkable collection. Its scope is breathtaking and its illustrations superb. *Globes at Greenwich* is both an excellent introduction to the topic for beginners and a valuable reference source for those already well versed in the history of cartography. It is available from the Oxford University Press, 198 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016-4314, (Phone 1-800-334-4249).

The Island of Lost Maps
Reads Like Mystery Novel

Every so often a book comes along that shines light on an otherwise esoteric subject. Consider, for a moment, the world of antiquarian map collectors, and the stories that their maps tell about people and places. The public, too, is fascinated by old maps, so much so that antiquarian maps now fetch astronomically high prices compared to what they sold for, say, a couple of decades ago. This condition—a fixed commodity whose value has increased exponentially—inevitably leads to the more sordid aspects of human nature: crime.

This fascinating book tells the story of one man, the otherwise unremarkable Gilbert Bland, who succumbed to temptation. Posing as a serious researcher, but armed with a razor blade, Bland took advantage of rising antiquarian map prices by stealing maps from some of the most prestigious university archives in the United States. Bland's stint as the boldest of map thieves came to an abrupt end when he was apprehended stealing maps from the Special Collections at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Bland's arrest made national headlines, but journalists did not follow up on the story. Who was Bland? Why did he steal historic maps? These questions remained unanswered.

That silence fascinated Miles Harvey, who became nearly obsessed with determining how and why Bland became a map thief. The search for answers led Harvey into some philosophical musings about the deeper meaning of maps, exploration, and collecting. Even though this is a who-done-it in which we know who done it from the start, Harvey's journey is both engaging and educational. *The Island of Lost Maps* reads like a mystery novel, one that not only reveals much about a criminal, but also about ourselves. In the process of researching this book, Harvey uncovers some literary gems about, and delightful personal memories of, maps. Harvey's passion for historic maps and his fascination with exploration and discovery lead him, and the reader, into exciting psychological territory. Although some may criticize Harvey as being a bit tough on map collectors, no one interested in historic maps should miss reading this fascinating book. *The Island of Lost Maps* is published by Random House, Inc., 201 East 50th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022, (Phone 1-800-200-3552).
DISCOVERING HISTORIC MAPS ON-LINE
by Richard V. Francaviglia

Imagine, for a moment, that you are searching for information on the history of the Southwest. You would likely consult original sources, such as diaries, journals and newspapers of the time period. These primary sources are important to you as a researcher because they are an actual record produced by someone who lived at the time. If you are thorough in your search, you will also find original maps of the area. Maps are often produced as single sheets, but many were published in atlases. These historic maps are indispensable tools in helping you determine peoples' perceptions of places and events.

So far, you probably assume that I am referring to the original source materials in, say, a library or archives. You could actually visit such a research facility, but what if you could gain access to its collections of primary sources using only your computer? You now can: the World Wide Web is full of rich source materials that can help historical researchers expand their horizons. True, like any source of information, the internet can be risky; you need to verify, for example, that the information you find on it is authentic. You also need to know that the information hasn't been edited, accidentally or otherwise, to change its meaning. Consider the power that you possess when you call upon it to help you locate source materials. Within seconds, powerful search engines connect you with a wealth of materials that might take you months, perhaps even years, to locate using traditional methods. A wide range of historical documents is now available via the Internet, but in this essay I will focus on one important resource — historic maps. To make your search a little easier, I will give you several website names and addresses. Using a few key strokes and mouse clicks, you can now view — and sometimes even print out images from — thousands of historic maps available on line.

Venture with me first to an intriguing website operated by private map collector extraordinary David Rumsey of San Francisco. About twenty years ago, Mr. Rumsey began collecting atlases of the Americas, both North and South. Like most effective collectors, he identified not only the geographic locales, but also the time period that most of the maps would fall within. Mr. Rumsey paid special attention to atlases of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Within a few years, his collection was recognized as one of the largest and best in the country. A recent tally of the maps in his atlas collection reveals that they number more than 150,000. Rumsey’s collection also contains many sheet maps and several beautiful globes.

Like many map collectors, Rumsey wanted to share his cartographic treasures with others, but realized that would be impossible because he simply could not accommodate all those who wishing to visit his map library in person. As he pondered the situation, Rumsey realized that he could indeed share his collection with others if he made access to it available electronically. Anticipating that the Internet technology would become widely available, Rumsey set out to digitize many maps from his collection. His website, www.davidrumsey.com, is where I will turn next to demonstrate how to access maps on line.

When you arrive at his website (or rather, when it arrives at your computer screen), you will be presented with several choices. I suggest you explore a bit to become familiar with how the maps are indexed. Rumsey’s site provides you several choices. When you wish to locate maps, you can do so by country, state, publication author, keywords, and other data fields. Say, for example, you are looking for maps of New Mexico as I was recently. Rumsey's "speed search" enables you to locate an index of all maps of New Mexico that have been scanned and cataloged by simply typing in the state name. By so doing, you can view 22 maps at a glance, and select the particular map by clicking on its image. Say you are interested in the transportation history of the Southwest, and so you choose
the "Territory of New Mexico" map done in 1857 by H. D. Rogers and A. Keith Johnston. Even at a glance, or rather on the thumbnail that appears on the screen, this map promises to be interesting in that it conveniently shows the "Proposed Pacific Railway Routes in Purple." By selecting the symbol to enlarge the image, you can zoom in on any section of the map. Do you want to learn more about the map? Clicking on the "data" selection provides you with complete bibliographic information about it.

Because Rumsey has taken such care in digitizing these maps, their clarity is amazing. You can enlarge at will until the image on the screen is larger than the original, and every bit as clear. By studying selected portions of the map at my leisure, I was able to explore the proposed railroad routes in detail. Many features make this website easy to use: for example, small icons at the right hand corner of the screen show you exactly where the enlarged section that you are looking at is located on the original map. Thus, you never lose track of where you are even though you can be engrossed in the map's details. Then, too, by simply clicking onto the main map image on the screen, you can back out of the map slowly. This helps ensure that you understand the geographic context of the enlarged areas you've studied. This site provides many other options. You can scroll or pan across each map much as if you were viewing it in person — or as if you were flying over the mapped area in an airplane. Would you like a hard copy of the map to illustrate a report? You can print out the image and may use it for non-commercial purposes, such as research papers or reports; if you do so, of course, you should credit the source of your information as you would any original source. This is more than a courtesy or a legality; it lets your reader know where you located the original map.

However exciting this type of search seems when you undertake it, things get even better with more experience and more advanced computer technology. If you have a plug-in or Java viewer feature, for example, you have the ability to view two or three maps at the same time. These maps need not be in one website; you can view maps from two or three different websites simultaneously. That enables you to compare, side by side, maps from different collections. These could be maps of the same area that were done at different times or maps by different map makers. You can also compare a manuscript map (that is, a hand-drawn original that was not published) with a published map that may have been based on it. By so doing, you can see how things changed, or how they were edited, as the final map was produced.

David Rumsey's website connects you to his private collection, but like all well designed websites, it also enables you to connect with other websites, both private and public. The United States Library of Congress site is based on the fabulous collection of maps in the library's Map and Geography Division. This site is well worth visiting. You can locate it at http://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/gmapage.html. Once again, I suggest you explore the site, and search for items using the indexes that have been provided. The Library of Congress Map Collections, 1544-1999 Index is searchable using seven main categories (for example, towns and cities, discovery and exploration, etc.)

Researchers interested in maps of the Southwest should also visit the University of Texas at Arlington's new website called Cartographic Connections. Designed to help teach...
DAVID BUSISERET is currently writing a chapter on Spanish colonial cartography under the Habsburgs for the Madison-based History of Cartography series. He is also working on a catalogue for an exhibit of early modern European maps, chiefly including those from the Kraus catalogue now at the Harry Ransom Center in Austin.


GEORGE GREEN has two research projects currently in progress: "Militant Railroad Workers and the Closing of the Frontier, 1870s-1920s," has been accepted for publication by the Red River Valley Historical Quarterly, and he is writing a book manuscript, A History of the Labor Movement in Texas: Depression, War, and Politics, 1930s-1950s. Dr. Green continues to make presentations throughout Texas on UTAs Texas Labor Archives. Additionally, he helps UTa collect lab-related archives for the university's collection—the largest labor history archive in the Western U.S.

SAM HAYNES this year delivered a paper entitled "America Rules England Tonight, By Jesus!" Anti-British Attitudes and the Jacksonian Stage," at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic in Buffalo. He also commented on a session entitled "Texas and the US-Mexican War" at the Texas State Historical Association. Dr. Haynes has an essay on Great Britain and the U.S. Mexican War in Dueling Eagles: Reinterpreting the U.S.-Mexican War, 1846-1848, which was published by Texas Christian University Press in November of 2000.

DAVID E. NARRETT is currently writing a book entitled Borderland Republics: Vermont, West Florida, Texas and the Politics of the Union, 1760-1846. This book will make an original contribution to North American History by examining the development of three colonial regions, all of which were independent republics prior to their joining the United States. While working on his book, Dr. Narrett has also been engaged in other academic pursuits. He has recently completed an essay on the so-called "Gutiérrez-Magee Expedition," which involved an attempt by Anglo-American filibusters and Mexican and Tejano rebels to overthrow Spanish Rule in Texas in 1812-13.

ELIZABETH ORDOÑEZ published an article entitled "Gender Woes: Refiguring Familial Spheres in Pardo Bazán's Dona Milagros" in Hispanic Journal (Fall, 2000). In addition to chairing UTA's Foreign Languages Department, she continues her research—albeit at a slower pace now that she serves as an administrator. Her current research focuses on travel narratives by Hispanic women.

KENNETH R. PHILP recently published a book: Termination Revisited: American Indians On the Trail to Self Determination, 1933-1953 (University of Nebraska Press, 1999). During the 1999-2000 academic year, Dr. Philp served as a commentator for sessions on "Indian Self-Determination" for the Western Historical Association, and "Indians and the Government" for a conference on American Indian leaders at the University of Kansas.


DOUGLAS RICHMOND made a presentation in Puebla, Mexico, in September, 1999 on African slavery in Texas. This paper is being considered for publication by the Journal of Negro History. In March, 2000, he presented another paper at the Universidad de Puebla on the confrontation between revolutionary president Venustiano Carranza and President Woodrow Wilson; this paper is forthcoming in Haciendo Historia, a journal published in Mexico City. Last year, his article about Carranza's international diplomacy was published in Solo Historia. He also co-edited a book about that conflict entitled Dueling Eagles: Reinterpreting the U.S.-Mexican War, 1846-1848 (Texas Christian University Press, 2000).

KEN ROEMER presented one of the keynote addresses at the German American Studies "Millennium Perspectives" conference in Dresden; his paper, "Eyewitness to Utopia," has been accepted for publication by Amerikastudies/American Studies. His essay "Silko's Arroyos as Mainstream," which appeared in Modern Fiction Studies (Spring 1999) has been selected for publication in an Oxford University Press collection featuring the most influential articles about Leslie Silko's novel Ceremony. His manuscript Utopian Audiences: How Readers Locate "Nowhere" was recently submitted for publication.
Meet the Center Faculty

Dr. Stephanie Cole joined UTA’s History Department in the Fall of 1996, having held appointments at both New Mexico State University and University of Oklahoma previously. She received her doctorate from the University of Florida in 1994, where she developed research interests in the history of gender, race and region. Her book manuscript, Servants and Slaves in North/South Border Cities, 1800-1850, is forthcoming from the University of Illinois Press in 2002.

Dr. Cole’s current research explores the nature of another blurred regional boundary, that between the South and the West. She is particularly interested in the ways in which experiences in the Southwest reshaped southerners’ ideas about race. For UTA’s 35th Annual Webb Lecture Series, she presented the first stage of that research, a study of race relations in turn-of-the-century Dallas, Texas.

Map Society to Meet in Lubbock

On Saturday, April 7th, the Texas Panhandle community of Lubbock will be the site of the Spring 2001 Texas Map Society meeting. The meeting will be hosted by Texas Tech University, where attendees will also be able to tour the new Southwest Collection facilities, the Ranching Heritage Center, and the International Center for Arid and Semi-arid Land Studies. Papers will cover a wide range of topics, including early 1800s maps depicting American Manifest Destiny; maps in fashion; mapping Coronado’s route; and mapping western exploration.

For more information, contact Kit Goodwin at:
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You may also access the Texas Map Society website at http://libraries.uta.edu/texasmapsociety/ for more information.