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Special Collections Newsletter

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department

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C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO LIBRARY

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2016 Mid-Year Review

2016 has been a busy and exciting year for the Special Collections Department. We held two large exhibit openings, sponsored a talk by Dr. Guillermo Hernandez Orozco about the Milpillas Hacienda records, and hosted a reception on March 12 sponsored by the Friends of the UTEP Library in honor of this year's Hertzog Award for Excellence in Book Design winners, Richard Wagener and David Pascoe (for *Loom*).

From September 2015 to May 2016 over 1,640 researchers visited Special Collections. These researchers used approximately 1,600 books, 100 oral histories, and 479 manuscript collections. Oral history transcripts were viewed 5,921 times online and Special Collections digital images were viewed 31,887 times. We also answered 1,103 in-person reference questions during this time period.

In addition to local students and community users, we had several out-of-town researchers from Colorado, Idaho, New York, Chihuahua, and

other locales visit Special Collections. Popular research topics included: UTEP sports history, the 1966 basketball team, musical performances in the border region, Henry Trost, and ASARCO. We had a record number of researchers in March (almost 40 in one day!) and kept busy with 28 tours, 21 class instruction sessions, and 675 telephone, mail, and email reference requests since the start of the fiscal year.

Newly identified Casasola collection images were recently uploaded with descriptive metadata into our ContentDM online database. They are available to view here: <http://cdm15823.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p15823coll2>.

During the past year and a half, Special Collections finding aids and presentations accessed via the Library's Digital Commons institutional repository were downloaded over a hundred times in the United States. Many international researchers in China, Sweden, Germany, France, Russia, Ireland,



ASARCO in El Paso exhibit opening, April 8, 2016

Japan, Sri Lanka, South Korea, and several other countries also downloaded our finding aids and presentations. Finding aids for processed collections and guides to our microfilm collections can also be viewed through the Library's web site at: http://libraryweb.utep.edu/special/finding_aids.php.

The Department also acquired and set up a record player/digitization station, which greatly improved access to our sound recordings on vinyl records.

We look forward to the second half of 2016!

Staff News

Claudia Rivers, Head of Special Collections, is currently serving as president of the Society of Southwest Archivists. She chaired the Program Committee for this year's annual meeting in Oklahoma City and moderated two well-regarded sessions—one about immigration-related archives and another on archival literacy—at that meeting. She is also chair of the Library Exhibits Committee.

Abbie Weiser, Assistant Head, wrote several articles about the history of the Woman's Club of El Paso for the *El Paso Times* and had

a book review published in *Password*. She also served as a judge for El Paso History Day and is the chair of the Library Preservation Committee.

In February, Claudia, Abbie, and Art and Chicano Studies Librarian Juan Sandoval presented Southwest Book Awards during the Border Regional Library Association's Southwest Book Awards Banquet. Juan also attended the Latino Art Now! conference in Chicago in April.

Gracie Galvez, Library Assistant II, serves as a representative on the UTEP Staff Council and is the co-chair of the

Library Events Committee.

Anne Allis, Library Assistant II, continues to administer the Library's art collection.

Yvette Delgado, Digital Imaging Specialist, serves on the Library Preservation Committee, Events Committee, and Website Committee.

Photo Archivist David Flores completed digitizing the Woman's Club of El Paso's oral histories. He also designed the 2016 Special Collections calendar which featured images from our photograph collections, and co-curated the Woman's Club of El Paso exhibit with Abbie.

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Oklahoma City Memorial and Museum repository tour.

Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA) Annual Meeting

Claudia Rivers and Abbie Weiser attended the Society of Southwest Archivist's annual meeting in Oklahoma City, May 18-21. As Program Committee Chair, Claudia planned the meeting program and worked closely with the Local Arrangements Committee in Oklahoma. She also moderated two sessions, presented at the breakfast business meeting, and attended SSA board meetings while in Oklahoma City.

In the meeting session *Nativ-*

ism: Nothing New Regarding Ethnic Immigration, Abbie discussed Jewish immigration to El Paso (often via Ciudad Juárez) and highlighted archival collections in the UTEP Library relating to Jewish immigration history. The other presenter, Hollace Weiner of the Fort Worth Jewish Archives, presented about the Galveston Plan and Jewish immigrants' experiences in Fort Worth. Approximately eighty people attended this session, and Abbie and Claudia received a lot of positive feedback about it.

In addition to attending conference sessions, Abbie and Claudia participated in local repository tours. Abbie toured the Oklahoma City Memorial and Museum archives, and Claudia toured the Oklahoma History Center.

The meeting also included a reception at the American Banjo Museum with live banjo music, banjo exhibits, and a barbecue dinner.

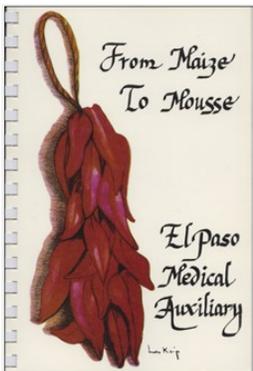
New to the Archives

Special Collections received several important collections this year, including two rare book collections: the Pat Worthington cookbook collection and the Dale Walker Jack London book collection. The Pat Worthington cookbook collection contains over 500 cookbooks from El Paso and Juárez. These cookbooks help document local organizations and businesses. The Dale Walker Jack London book collection

includes books about Jack London, first editions of Jack London's works, and international editions of Jack London's novels.

New additions to our archival holdings include: the Cristina Casas Palmer UTEP Ballet research files and the FBI files on the El Paso Committee to End the War in Vietnam. We also received accretions to existing collections, such as the El Paso

Police Department collection, the Oscar Martinez papers, the Mario Garcia papers, the UTEP collection, the Paul Danigellis papers relating to Urbici Soler, the Pan American Round Table records, the Mary Ann Plaut collection, and the Barbara Dent collection of medical history research.



Cookbook from the Pat Worthington cookbook collection.



ASARCO trustee Roberto Puga, UTEP President Dr. Natalicio, and Claudia Rivers at the exhibit opening. This reproduction of an ASARCO map was scanned and printed by David Flores and Yvette Delgado and presented to Mr. Puga during the exhibit opening.

ASARCO in El Paso Exhibit

On April 8 Special Collections held an opening reception for the exhibit *ASARCO in El Paso: A Visual History of Industry on the Border*. Over 100 people attended the exhibit opening. Curated by Claudia Rivers and student intern Michael Reyes, the exhibit includes documents, artifacts, photographs, maps, and technical drawings from the ASARCO records housed in Special Collections. The exhibit also

features large color photographs of the ASARCO smelter by Albuquerque photographer Martin Stupich and materials from other collections such as the Eliot Shapleigh papers, the Get the Lead Out Coalition records, and the UTEP collection. The ASARCO exhibit, located on the third floor of the UTEP Library, will be on display until September.

Women's History Month and Preservation Month Activities

Special Collections staff members Claudia Rivers, Abbie Weiser, and David Flores presented a session, *Women in the Archives II*, at the UTEP Women's History Conference on April 7. Claudia spoke about the importance of the Pat Worthington cookbook collection, Abbie discussed partnerships and projects with the Woman's Club of El Paso, and David talked about using sound editing software to improve the quality of the digitized Woman's Club oral histories. Volunteer Eva Ross spoke on a panel about Catholic women and the Sisters of Loretto.

On May 12 Claudia and Abbie spoke at a Preservation Month event at Cadwallader School in the Ysleta Independent School District. Abbie participated in a panel discussion about archives, and Claudia set up a table with various UTEP and Special Collections publications. Claudia also created a slideshow featuring photographs of Cadwallader School. Additionally, the Library Preservation Committee updated the Library Disaster Recovery Plan during May.



Special Collections table at Cadwallader School, May 12, 2016

Interns and Volunteers

Longtime-volunteer Eva Ross continued to work on updating our vertical files. She also helped inventory several book collections. Volunteer Nancy Wilson completed rehousing and inventorying the James Wilson Cassell lantern slide collection. She is currently working on rehousing and inventorying the Lena Butchofsky postcard collection.

Intern Michael Reyes helped with several exhibits this year, including the ASARCO exhibit. He is currently working as a summer helper in Special Collec-

tions and is processing the Lloyd C. and June-Marie Engelbrecht collection of Trost research. Intern Ryan Alford worked on editing finding aids for online access in the Texas Archival Resources Online database. Ryan is also employed as a summer helper and continues to work on editing older finding aids for online access. Lastly, intern Steve Baird is uploading new oral history transcripts to our web site.

Special Collections is thankful for its volunteers and student interns.



Special Collections staff members Juan Sandoval, Michael Reyes, Abbie Weiser, and David Flores (l-r) went on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Centennial Museum on June 9.

Woman's Club of El Paso Exhibit

Over 40 people attended the exhibit opening and reception for *Within These Walls: Celebrating the Woman's Club of El Paso's Building Centennial* on June 17. The exhibit contains documents, photographs, and artifacts from the Woman's Club of El Paso's records. These materials help recount early Club history, the construction of the

clubhouse, and members' efforts to preserve and maintain their historic building.

In addition to the exhibit, the opening reception featured Woman's Club oral history stations and a photo slideshow. The Woman's Club exhibit, located on the sixth floor in Special Collections, will be on display for the rest of the year.



Mary Railey, Lillian Crouch, and Togo Railey (l-r) listen to oral histories at the Woman's Club exhibit opening, June 17.

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UTEP Library
500 W. University Ave.
El Paso, TX 79968

Phone: 915-747-5697
Website:
<http://libraryweb.utep.edu/special/>

The **C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department** is located on the sixth floor of the UTEP Library.

The Department's mission is to acquire, preserve, and make accessible the special book and non-book resources in the UTEP Library, especially those relating to the history of the University of Texas at El Paso and the El Paso region.

Priorities for acquisitions include visual and textual materials documenting the University of Texas at El Paso and its predecessor institutions; people, organizations, and history of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez; the natural and built environment of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez; and the history and environment of the U.S.-Mexico border region. Subject areas of particular interest are immigration, basic industries such as railroads and mining, photography, and under-represented minority communities along the border. Records of local businesses or organizations, papers of faculty members, papers of local residents and political figures are sought. The Department also collects literary manuscripts from local and regional authors and materials documenting the publishing process.

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