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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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## Mid-Year Review

Welcome to the semiannual Special Collections newsletter. This year we are celebrating fifty years of archives at the University of Texas at El Paso Library!

In January we had our first official site visit by Texas State Archivist Jelain Chubb and Assistant Director of Archives Laura Saegert as part of our Regional Historical Resources Depository (RHRD) membership. This statewide program, which began in the early 1970s, allows UTEP's Special Collections to serve as a branch of the Texas State Library and house local government records.

New Mexico State University's Special Collections Department visited our department for a tour in March. It was great meeting our colleagues and exchanging

ideas. We hope to visit NMSU's Special Collections Department later this summer.

Additionally, Special Collections welcomed the Woman's Department of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce for a presentation in April. Members also viewed their records, which are housed in Special Collections. The Department also hosted several UTEP history PhD dissertation defenses in the John H. McNeely Room.

Upcoming events for the rest of the year include a WWI exhibit, a Special Collections 50th anniversary exhibit in September, and an Archives Month event in October.

Have a safe and happy summer!

## Sam Moore, *In Memoriam*

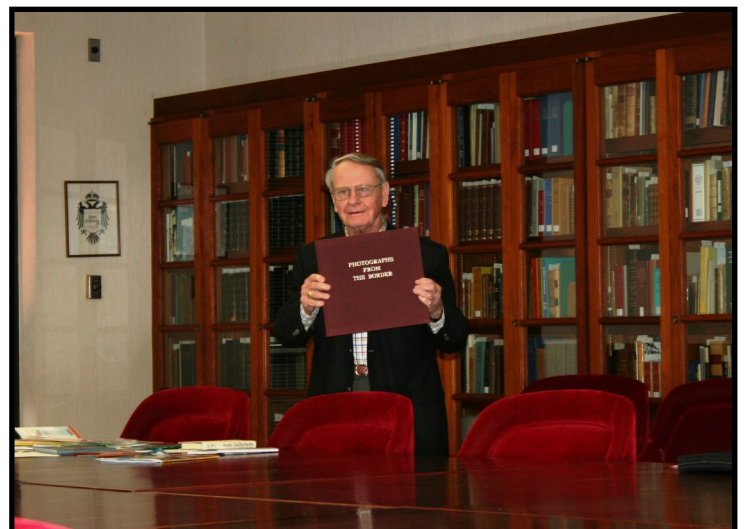
Born in Kansas City, Missouri, James Samuel Moore Jr. (1930-2017) was a lawyer, book collector, and advocate for libraries and museums in El Paso. A graduate of the University of Texas School of Law, Sam Moore moved to El Paso in 1957 when he

joined the Scott, Hulse, Marshall, Feuille, Finger, and Thurmond law firm. He retired in 1994.

In addition to his legal career, Mr. Moore was a great supporter of El Paso's libraries and museums. He was an active member and past presi-



NMSU SpC staff visit UTEP SpC, March 2017.



Sam Moore in SpC, 2009.

dent of the Friends of the UTEP Library and assisted the El Paso Museum of Art with developing its by-laws and obtaining professional accreditation. He also helped sponsor the Carl Hertzog Award for Book Design and supported the UTEP Humanities Program

for many years. In 2008, Mr. Moore was elected to the EPCHS Hall of Honor.

Mr. Moore also loved fly fishing and taught fishing classes.

Sam Moore's friends in Special Collections miss him a lot.

## Preservation Month Activities—May 2017



Claudia Rivers at the WESTPAS workshop, May 17.

For Preservation Month 2017, Special Collections participated in a variety of activities.

The Preservation Committee met and updated the Library's Disaster Response Plan and created a PReP (pocket response emergency plan). As part of El Paso's city-wide Preservation Month activities, Claudia Rivers and Abbie Weiser presented about tools for doing building and neighborhood re-

search in Special Collections on May 10. Staff also set up a small Preservation Month exhibit about preserving historic buildings in the border region and disaster response.

Additionally, Claudia and Abbie took a WESTPAS (Western States and Territories Preservation Assistance Service) disaster planning workshop on May 17 in Las Cruces. The workshop provided in-person instruction on disaster planning and re-

sponse, a template for creating a PReP, and hands-on salvage exercises. After the workshop, the Border Regional Archives Group (BRAG) met to discuss possible Archives Month activities for October and updating our regional archives brochure.

Our department also won a MayDay prize—a \$50 gift certificate to Gaylord Archival—for sharing our Preservation Month and disaster preparedness activities.

## New to Special Collections & Exhibits

### New collections/books include:

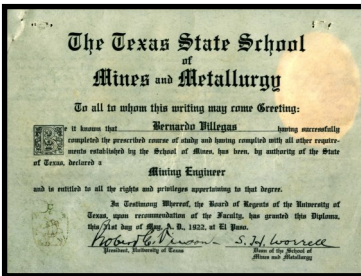
- Haskell Monroe postcard collection
- Mary A. Sarber collection
- McCallum family papers
- Women's March - El Paso collection
- Bernardo Villegas collection

- Adair Margo Gallery records
- *Travels to Discover the Source of the Nile* (1790; 6 volume set)
- *A Voyage to Abyssinia* (1735)

### Library exhibits include:

- *Books of the U.S.-Mexico Border*
- *Sam Moore, In Memorium*

- *Preserving Identities* (with UTEP Humanities Program)
- WWI rare book display
- *Earth Day 2017*
- *Preservation Month, May 2017*



Bernardo Villegas's 1922 diploma.



Image from *Travels to Discover the Source of the Nile* (1790)

## Volunteers & Interns

Volunteer Nancy Wilson has almost completed rehousing and inventorying her grandmother's historic postcard collection.

Longtime volunteer Eva Ross continued her work with the vertical files. She also helped staff during our remote storage move and gave tours of SpC and El Paso to visitors.

Cindy Milazzo finished inventorying the Hertzog ephem-

era collection and has started work on the Willie Ray Parish papers.

Steve Baird continued helping post oral history transcripts and summaries online.

Billy Cryer, a student intern and PhD candidate, helped us develop a strategic plan and worked on a grant proposal. He also worked on a SpC documentary and helped with the remote stor-

age move.

Another longtime volunteer, Marsha Labodda, finished inventorying the ASARCO records.

Bill Key has been working on the Joseph Friedkin papers. Mr. Key also gave a talk about the Nile River on June 7.

Sara Vega, a student intern, is working on a finding aid for the Mario Garcia papers.

### Archivists in the Ozarks, SSA Meeting 2017

Claudia Rivers and Abbie Weiser attended the Society of Southwest Archivists annual meeting in scenic Fayetteville, Arkansas from May 23-27. Meeting session topics included: digital preservation, archival literacy and instruction, WWI exhibits and projects, content management programs, and outreach activities.

As president of the organization from May 2016 to May 2017, Claudia led the

group's Past, Present, Future planning session and the annual business meeting. Claudia also took part in the organization's board meetings.

In addition to the meeting sessions, Claudia participated in a TARO (Texas Archival Resources Online) workshop, and Abbie attended a digital preservation planning workshop.

The meeting also featured tours of local archives and

museums, opportunities to attend the festive Fayetteville Farmers' Market, and a reception at the University of Arkansas Library. At the reception, Special Collections Research and Outreach Services Librarian Joshua Youngblood provided a tour of the Library's Special Collections Department.



Fayetteville, Arkansas



Withrow Springs, Arkansas

### Presentations, Conferences, & Other News

- On April 7 Juan Sandoval gave a tour of his art collection for thirty attendees of the Texas Institute of Letters meeting in El Paso. This tour was requested by Sergio Troncoso, writer and lecturer at Yale. Many of the writers who attended the tour wrote to Juan to say it was the highlight of their trip to El Paso.
- A representative of the Smithsonian Institution visited Juan to discuss a possible donation of his art collecting archives to the Smithsonian.
- Claudia Rivers chaired a session about archival literacy at the Texas State Historical Association's annual meeting in Houston this past March. The session featured Dr. Lorenzo Candelaria of UTEP, Mike Miller of the Austin History Center, and Margaret Schlankey of the Dolph Briscoe Center.
- Abbie Weiser and Claudia presented at the UTEP Women's History Conference in April. They also attended the UTEP Borderlands History Conference in February, and Claudia went to the Society of Applied Anthropology's annual meeting in Santa Fe in late March.
- Claudia and Abbie wrote several entries for the book, *100 Years of Women at UTEP* (Texas Western Press, April 2017); Claudia is also profiled in the book.

### Special Collections Endowment Funds

Because state funding has become more limited, the Special Collections Department has increasingly relied on donations and its endowment funds to purchase preservation supplies and new books and archives.

During the past several months we used our funds to

buy a concave map truck (to make transporting oversize items safer and easier), acid-free boxes and folders, polyethylene foam supports for fragile books and ledgers, disaster response supplies, and rare and specialized books.

If you are interested in do-

nating to the Friends of the UTEP Library Endowment Fund for Special Collections, please visit: [http://libraryweb.utep.edu/about/friends\\_endow.pdf](http://libraryweb.utep.edu/about/friends_endow.pdf).

As always, we are extremely grateful for our generous donors!



New concave map truck

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO LIBRARY

UTEP Library  
500 W. University Ave.  
El Paso, TX 79968  
Phone: 915-747-5697  
Website:  
<http://libraryweb.utep.edu/>

### SpC Staff

Claudia Rivers,  
Department Head

Abbie Weiser,  
Assistant Head

David Flores,  
Photo Archivist

Juan Sandoval, Librarian

Yvette Delgado,  
Digital Imaging Specialist

Gracie Galvez, LA II

Anne Allis, LA II

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

### Overview

The archival, book, media, and digital collections contained in the C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department directly support research and learning at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). The Department currently has over 750 archival collections, over 1,500 oral histories, various rare book collections, and thematic book collections, such as the Southwest, Chicano, Judaica, Art, Military, and McCord Poetry collections. We welcome over 2,000 in-person researchers a year.

### Mission Statement

The Special Collections Department supports the University's mission of education, research, scholarship, and community service. The mission of the C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department is to acquire, preserve, and make available for use the archival, rare book, media, and digital collections of the University Library within the scope of the Department's collection policies. Areas of collection emphasis include primary sources for the history of the University, El Paso, and the border region; fine printing and book design; and military history.

### Vision Statement

The Library sits on a hill within sight of the Mexican border. Our unique position informs our attitudes and the services we offer. We aim for excellence in serving our users and in making our collections accessible.



S.L.A. Marshall Military History Room

To donate, please visit: [http://libraryweb.utep.edu/about/friends\\_endow.pdf](http://libraryweb.utep.edu/about/friends_endow.pdf)