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# C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department Newsletter

Special Collections

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# C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO LIBRARY

Volume 4, Issue 2

December 2018

## News and Updates

Welcome to the Special Collections semiannual newsletter! This newsletter covers events from July to December of 2018.

As usual, it was a busy and productive year. During the 2017/2018 fiscal year we welcomed over 3,500 visitors, conducted 34 formal tours, and provided instruction sessions for 30 classes (517 students).

In August, the Special Collections Department hosted a free grant-writing workshop, which was offered by the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board.

During the fall semester, Special Collections hosted two major exhibit open-

ings, and staff helped organize and participated in Archives Month events, including an archives-themed Nerd Night and the Border Archives Bazaar. Claudia Rivers presented at Nerd Night, the Bazaar, and at a UTEP International Week event. Additionally, Abbie Weiser was on a panel at the Bazaar and presented at the Border Regional Library Association's Fall Conference.

Our annual holiday card and full-color (!) 2019 calendar will be mailed out soon.

Very best wishes for a joyous and safe holiday season y un feliz y próspero año nuevo!

## Carrillo in Color Exhibit

Special Collections hosted an opening reception for *Carrillo in Color: Never-Before-Seen Images from Celebrated Mexican Photographer Manuel Carrillo* on October 19. The exhibit featured almost 60 color images by Manuel Carrillo printed on metal with text

in English and Spanish.

Curated by photo archivist David Flores, the exhibit was significant because many of the images had never before been exhibited. David uncovered the color negatives while digitizing the large number of

negatives in the Manuel Carrillo papers, MS288. Carrillo (1906-1989) is primarily known for his black and white photographs of traditional Mexico. The exhibit will return to the 3rd Floor Gallery of the Library in mid-January.



David Flores at the *Carrillo in Color* exhibit opening.



Image from *Carrillo in Color*.

## C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department



Mr. Robert Rusiecki, Consul General of Poland in Houston, presented Claudia Rivers with a book about Poland at the event.

### Thaddeus Kosciuszko Exhibit

On November 9 the Special Collections Department hosted an exhibit opening for its newest exhibit, *Thaddeus Kosciuszko: The Price of Freedom*. Located on the 3rd floor of the UTEP Library, this exhibit tells the story of Kosciuszko—a Polish hero of the American Revolution. The exhibit was created by the Republic of Poland and loaned by the Consulate General of Poland in Houston and the

General Casimir Pulaski Polish American Society of El Paso.

About 50 people attended the reception, which featured several guest speakers. These included UTEP professor emeritus Dr. Anthony Kruszewski, Lt. Ret. Dave Powell of the West Point Association of Graduates, and Robert Rusiecki, Consul General of Poland in Houston.

The exhibit also features a panoramic photo of Armistice Day (November 11, 1918) at El Paso High School, and displays about El Paso pilots Elliot Chess and Earl Evans who flew with the Kosciuszko Squadron (a group of American volunteer pilots) during the Polish-Soviet War. Armistice Day is considered the anniversary of Polish independence.



UTEP Special Collections digitization team at the 2018 Border Archives Bazaar.

### Archives Month 2018

October was American Archives Month, and Special Collections participated in several community outreach events with the Border Regional Archives Group (BRAG).

On October 5 the El Paso County Historical Society hosted Open Archives Nerd Night at the Burges House.

Claudia Rivers discussed preservation, while Dennis Daily (NMSU Special Collections) spoke about letters from the dead in archives, and Vicky Zhuang (UTEP Biodiversity Collections) spoke about archives in biodiversity collections.

The following day, Dennis Daily, Robert Diaz (El Paso

County Historical Society), and Abbie Weiser were guests on the El Paso History Radio Show.

And on October 13 BRAG held its second Border Archives Bazaar at UTEP. The event featured interactive displays of archival materials, the mini-DIGIE Wall, and presentations.

Abbie Weiser of Special Collections and Robert Diaz of the El Paso County Historical Society on the El Paso History Radio Show with Rick Kern and Jackson Polk. Photo courtesy of Dennis Daily.





### Día de los Muertos

This year Special Collections dedicated its Día de los Muertos altar to borderlands artist Mago Gándara, who had passed away in February. Gándara was a celebrated sculptor, painter, and muralist.

Gándara graduated from Texas Western (now UTEP) in 1949 and later attended the Art Institute of Chicago. She taught art at Bowie High School and at El Paso

Community College.

Gándara's art often included borderlands themes and Aztec mythology. Some of her most famous murals and sculptures include: *Time and Sand*, *Señor Sol*, *La Niña Cósmica*, *El Milagro de Tepic*, and *St. Francis of Assisi*.

Mago Gándara's daughter, Tita Orona, visited the altar and shared photographs with other family members.



Altar to Mago Gándara (1929-2018).

### Special Collections Interns

UTEP student Joseph Longo processed the Anita Blair papers.

Ashley Herrera works at the El Paso Public Library and is a graduate student at Simmons College. She processed the Junior League of El Paso collection, and inventoried the UTEP Women's Auxiliary

records (she found her grandmother in the collection!).

UTEP alumna and current UNT graduate student Bernadette Ramos completed an inventory of the Mago Gándara papers. She also took new photographs of the art in the UTEP Library for our art database and

created a condition report template for our art and artifacts.

UTEP history graduate student Pablo Martinez worked on inventorying the Manuel Carrillo papers. He also presented about his internship in Special Collections at the Border Archives Bazaar.

#### IN MEMORIAM

ROGER BELL (1928-2018):  
EPNG COMPANY  
EMPLOYEE AND DONOR OF  
THE LIBRARY'S POLITICAL  
BUTTON EXHIBIT

MARGARET "MARDEE"  
BELDING DE WETTER (1923-  
2018): WRITER, ARTIST,  
AND PHILANTHROPIST

JAMES "JIM" DIGHTON LEA  
(1933-2018): PHYSICIST  
AND LIBRARY DONOR

### Special Collections Volunteers

Eva Ross continued curating the vertical files. She is also working on an article about the history of the El Paso Women's Political Caucus.

Nancy Wilson completed a guide to the Ellwyn Stoddard papers. She is currently working on rehousing photographs and

other materials in the Leon Metz papers.

Bill Key continued his work with the Joseph Friedkin papers.

Joan Isichei inventoried the Eugene Porter papers and the John Barry papers. She also typed up several in-

ventories of other collections.

Cindy Milazzo is inventorying the Ray Past papers.

Thank you to all of our volunteers! You are much appreciated!

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

## Overview

The 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 1,600 oral histories, various rare book collections, and thematic book collections, such as the Southwest, Chicano, Judaica, Art, Military, and McCord Poetry collections. During the 2017/2018 fiscal year we welcomed over 3,500 researchers and visitors.

## 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. Areas of collection emphasis include primary sources for the history of the University, El Paso, and the border region; women's history; photography; fine printing and book design; and military history.

## Vision

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.



Carl Hertzog Room in Special Collections. Hertzog was the founder of our university press. He was also a well known printer and book designer.

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