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S O U T H E R N   M E T H O D I S T   U N I V E R S I T Y

Volume 1, no. 1

NEWSLETTER

January 2000

*From the Director:*

When the Southwest Center opened its doors for business in the autumn of 1996, Jane Elder and I thought that a simple letter, sent once a semester, was all we'd need to let our constituents know what we were doing. The scope of our activities has increased to such an extent, however, that it has become apparent that we need a more conventional form of communication, the newsletter.

In 1996 we began with enough money in our budget to support one research fellow who would spend a year at SMU and complete a book-length manuscript on some aspect of southwestern history or culture. Thanks to generous grants from the Summerlee, Summerfield-Roberts, and Carl B. and Florence E. King foundations, we have been able to support three such fellows, each drawn from an outstanding pool of applicants from around the country. This newsletter contains short biographies of the current fellowship holders. We're thrilled that a book written at the Center by one of our first fellows, Gregg Cantrell, has appeared and won acclaim all the way to the pages of the *New York Times*.

We began in 1996 with the hope of supporting publications by established presses. We've done that—principally through SMU Press, but also with Yale and the Museum of New Mexico, and there will be more to come. To our surprise, however, we also got into the publishing business. With the DeGolyer Library and the support of still another grant from the Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation, we began signing up scholars to edit works for the

handsome and definitive volumes in the *Library of Texas*. On our own, we've also begun publishing books of importance to limited numbers of scholars. This newsletter mentions some of the newest titles, and it also contains Jane Elder's more detailed description of our publishing program. Jane's article, folded into this newsletter, appeared in the January 2000 issue of *Book Talk*, published by the New Mexico Book League.

Over the last three years, the Center has also sponsored lectures and conferences, given fellowships to scholars from around the world who need to make use of the collections of the DeGolyer library (they've come from Argentina, Mexico, and Spain, as well as the United States), awarded mini-grants to undergraduate and graduate students to enable them to travel to southwestern collections, bestowed an annual prize for the best non-fiction book on the Southwest, and administered a major and a minor in Southwest Studies. This and more we've accomplished with the ongoing support of Bill and Rita Clements, the help of faculty colleagues, the support of the SMU administration, and of special friends of the Center, some of whom serve on our board.

Little wonder, then, that we've found it necessary to move to the newsletter format. We have not, however, veered from our plan to make communication as inexpensive and efficient as a letter. So this newsletter will be simple: no color, no fancy paper, and no costly design. We prefer to invest our resources in scholars and scholarship.

David J. Weber



 **BOOK NEWS** 

**Mike Adler**, SMU Department of Anthropology, has produced the first book to appear under the Clements Center's new publishing-on-demand program. *Picuris Pueblo through Time: Eight Centuries of Change in a Northern Rio Grande Pueblo*, ed. by Michael A. Adler and Herbert W. Dick (Dallas: William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies, 1999) arrived from the printers in November. It sells for \$22.50, plus postage and handling, and can be ordered from the Clements Center.

**Gregg Cantrell**, 1996-97 Summerlee Research Fellow, has received widespread attention for his biography *Stephen F. Austin, Empresario of Texas* (Yale, 1999). The book was named a selection of the History Book Club, and has been reviewed in the *New York Times*, as well as across Texas. In November, Gregg was a guest on KERA Radio's Glenn Mitchell Show.

This year's Carl B. and Florence E. King Senior Research Fellow, **Bill deBuys**, recently published his latest book with the University of New Mexico Press. *Salt Dreams: Land & Water in Low-Down California* is a portrait of California's Imperial Valley-Salton Sea country, set within the larger context of the history of the West and of the environment.

Austin book designer **W. Thomas Taylor** has been hard at work on the latest volume in the *Library of Texas* series. W. Steinert's delightful look at Texas in 1849, *Nordamerika Vorzueglich Texas*, translated from the German by Gilbert J. Jordan and edited by **Terry G. Jordan** will be out this spring, available for the first time in English. If you are interested in subscribing to the *Library of Texas*, please contact Betty Friedrich at DeGolyer Library, SMU, (214) 768-3231.

**James Snead**, 1998-99 Clements Research Fellow, has had his manuscript, "Competing for the Past: Scholars and the Public in the Making of Southwest Archaeology," accepted by the University of Arizona Press. Snead is teaching Anthropology at George Mason University, in Fairfax, Virginia, this year.

SMU Press plans a fall release for *Wright Patman: Populism, Liberalism, and the American Dream* by **Nancy Beck Young**, the 1996-97 Clements Research Fellow.

**For a complete listing of Clements Center publications, see our web site:**  
<http://www.smu.edu/~swcenter/swbooks.htm>, or phone Jane Elder (214) 768-3684.



## ~~~ Friends and Fellows ~~~

**Sherry L. Smith** has joined the History Department faculty and will be Acting Director of the Clements Center next year when David Weber is on leave. She earned her M.A. at Purdue University and her Ph.D. at the University of Washington. She comes to SMU this year after teaching for twelve years at the University of Texas, El Paso. Her publications include *Reimagining Indians, 1880-1940*, forthcoming from Oxford University Press; *Sagebrush Soldier: Private William Earl Smith's View of the Sioux War of 1876*; and *The View from Officers' Row: Army Perceptions of Western Indians*. She received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for College Teachers in 1996-97 and has also held a Fulbright Foundation Senior Lectureship (New Zealand) and an Andrew Mellon Fellowship at the Huntington Library. Her teaching interests include the American West and American Indians, and her work explores issues regarding constructions of race and ethnicity, their implications for American thought and identity and for Indian policy.

**Juliana Barr**, the 1999-2000 recipient of the Summerfield Roberts Research Fellowship in Texas History, received her B.A. in History from the University of Texas (Phi Beta Kappa), and her M.A. and Ph.D. in History (1999) from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. She contributed articles to the *New Handbook of Texas*, and received the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Dissertation Grant in Women's Studies. During her residency this year, she is preparing her dissertation for publication as a book, entitled, "The 'Seductions' of Texas: The Political Language of Gender in the Conquests of Texas, 1690-1810," which explores the ways in which European and Indian groups sought to negotiate conflict and accommodation in colonial Texas. In autumn 2000, she begins her teaching career at Rutgers.

**William de Buys**, the 1999-2000 recipient of the Carl B. and Florence E. King Senior Research Fellowship in Southwest History, is an independent scholar in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with over fifteen years experience in various aspects of environmental conservation. He holds a Ph.D. in American Civilization from the University of Texas, and is the author of the recently published *Salt Dreams: Land and Water in Low-Down California* (University of New Mexico Press), *Enchantment and Exploitation: the Life and Hard Times of a New Mexico Mountain Range* (1985) and *River of Traps: A Village Life* (1990). The latter was named a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. De Buys is spending his year at SMU expanding and polishing for publication the series of Calvin Horn Lectures he delivered at the University of New Mexico in 1997. The resulting book of essays, entitled "West by Southwest," will explore the environmental history of the Southwest in terms of the scientific and social problems inherent in human society's relationship with this complex and fragile ecosystem.

**Heather Trigg**, the 1999-2000 recipient of the Clements Research Fellowship in Southwest Studies, graduated *Magna Cum Laude* in Anthropology and Computer Science from the University of Michigan. She received her M.A. in Anthropology at the University of Texas, then returned to Ann Arbor to complete her Ph.D. (1999) at the University of Michigan. She has extensive experience in the field of paleoethnobotany, and has received a number of grants and fellowships in support of her work, including a three-year graduate fellowship from the National Science Foundation. During her residency this year, she is working on a manuscript entitled "The Economy of Early Colonial New Mexico, AD 1598-1680: An Investigation of Social Structure and Human Agency Using Archaeological and Documentary Data." She describes her project as examining New Mexico in the early colonial period, when colonists developed an economy in which commodities produced by indigenous peoples, settlers, and Franciscan friars in the colony were exchanged for goods manufactured as far away as Turkey and China. Cultural values guided the economic choices that people in the colony made.



## *& in conclusion . . .*

Parking at SMU will be at a premium for the next few months while areas once used as parking lots have become construction staging areas and sites for new buildings. Work is underway on the new Dedman Life Sciences Building and Parking Structure #5 in the northeast quadrant of the campus, and will affect motorists and pedestrians in the area of University Blvd., Daniel Blvd., and Airline Road. We do not anticipate the construction to affect our late afternoon and evening programs, although they may pose a challenge for those of you wishing to attend the brown bag lunches. For the latest information on the availability of parking for Clements Center events, consult SMU's construction web site at <http://www.smu.edu/construction/>, or phone Jane Elder at (214) 768-3684.

Construction at the south end of campus continues on schedule on the new Meadows Museum and parking structure, the Gerald J. Ford Stadium and the Paul B. Loyd Jr. All-Sports Center. The stadium and sports center are scheduled for completion in August 2000. The Meadows parking structure will open by August 2000, and construction of the museum will be completed in spring 2001.



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