Rare maps give understanding of “New World”

Meadows Museum Senior Curator Mark Roglan became intrigued with DeGolyer Library’s collection of rare maps after viewing its Louisiana Purchase bicentennial exhibit in fall 2003. “It was interesting how little each country knew about the geography of the northern territories of New Spain, and how many countries claimed Louisiana as their own,” Roglan says.

Roglan remembered DeGolyer’s maps when the Meadows Museum staff began planning its fall 2004 exhibit, “Painting a New World.” The exhibit featured more than 70 paintings that represented the period between the arrival of Hernán Cortés in 1520 and the end of Colonial rule.

“We wanted to tell the story of how the origins of Texas lie in New Spain, which included Mexico, the southern United States, and the Philippines,” says Meadows Museum Director Ted Pillsbury. “I wanted as much background and historical information as possible to illustrate to Texans this part of their heritage.”

In addition to collections on the history of the Trans-Mississippi West, DeGolyer’s strengths include the European discovery and exploration of the New World. The library’s antique maps and images of New Spain were displayed alongside “Painting a New World” in two exhibits, “Mapping a New World” and “Images of New Spain” September 1-October 31 at Meadows Museum. Among the highlights were the first printed map to use the name Florida and the first map in a printed book that included the continent’s name, America.

“Early printed maps of the New World tell a fascinating if incomplete story of how people gradually came to understand the shape of the continent and the particular area we inhabit,” says Roglan.

Lifeblood to researchers

Two years ago Gerald J. Ford, chair of SMU’s Board of Trustees, approached President R. Gerald Turner for suggestions on how he could support the faculty. The resulting plan, the Gerald J. Ford Research Fellows, annually awards five faculty members financial support for their research.

“I have had the opportunity to serve on three different university boards in the last 19 years and over that period I have come to one conclusion — the faculty is the core of a university and its most important constituency,” Ford says.

For two of the current Ford Fellows, Mike Adler, associate professor of anthropology, and Sherry Smith, professor of history, library resources are integral to their scholarly endeavors.

“Libraries are the lifeblood of historians’ work, Smith says. “We have a symbiotic relationship with the repositories of the human experience — they store the primary sources, documents, and memories — and we engage with them, interpret them, and hopefully write about them in ways that bring them to life once again,” Smith says.

She is using interlibrary loan to access underground newspapers for her current project, “Indians, the Counterculture, and the New Left,” and often relies on DeGolyer Library for other research.

Mike Adler turns to the library stacks for early government documents and descriptive reports in archaeology for his research of cultural identities in the Southwest. “One can’t do expansive research without referring to the print literature,” he says. “I rely on interlibrary loan almost as frequently since no matter how large your library, you always need more research resources.”

Library resources are key to attracting and retaining strong faculty members, Adler says. “Besides their potential colleagues, the first thing every job candidate looks at is the library holdings. It’s a simple equation — given that one has a limited amount of time each day to do research, the better the research holdings at a university, the more efficient it is to complete one’s research. Could our libraries be better stocked with research resources? Of course.”

Smith and Adler also rely on another library resource, its role as a place of quiet and solitude. Smith likes to disappear in the Stanley Marcus Reading Room at DeGolyer Library, and Adler looks for a comfortable chair and a good book.

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New archivist tackles SMU history collection

Joan Gosnell, University archivist

Newly hired University archivist Joan Gosnell brings valuable experience as SMU prepares to celebrate its centennial in 2011. As JCPenney archivist for more than nine years, she helped the retailer prepare for its 100th birthday in 2002 by collecting oral histories, preparing a chronology of prices for best-selling items, and gathering materials from stores, departments, and retirees.

Most recently Gosnell prepared the JCPenney archives for its move from company headquarters in Plano to its new home at DeGolyer Library. Her familiarity with the collection has been a valuable resource for DeGolyer’s special collections, says Russell Martin, director of DeGolyer Library.

After two months at SMU, Gosnell sees similarities between the two institutions.

“Some libraries have unique collections, but SMU has a tradition of preserving important holdings,” says Gosnell. “The SMU archivist must ensure that these are preserved and available for future generations. This is a challenging and rewarding role.”

Gosnell holds a Master’s degree in history from the College of William and Mary and a Master’s of library science from the University of North Texas. As a historian, she is learning about SMU’s past by reading University histories. An understanding of SMU’s history will help Gosnell organize documents within the context of time, she says.

The University archives fill a 20-by-35-foot room lined with shelves and file cabinets on the third floor of DeGolyer Library. Created in 1967, the archives include yearbooks, scrapbooks, faculty senate meeting minutes, catalogs, T-shirts, photographs, directories, student handbooks, and a crate of Peruna tonic among numerous other items.

Gosnell’s plans include sorting numerous boxes of unprocessed documents and photographs then developing a reader’s guide to make the collection useful to scholars.

“We can’t plan for our future without knowing our past,” Gosnell says.

Out of the ashes

Fires from Julius Caesar’s attack on Alexandria started the destruction of the first library and center of intellectual development in modern civilization. Philosophers, historians, and certainly librarians have dreamed of its rebirth for 1,600 years.

The ancient library was rebuilt and rededicated in 2002 in Alexandria, Egypt, as the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, a contemporary structure on the shores of the Mediterranean.

Included among its collections is a gift of maps from the Edwin J. Foscue Map Library.

Duplicate copies of 500 international geologic and topographic maps were discovered when engineering student Nayera Sadok, an Alexandria native, cataloged a collection of maps donated by the international exploration department of Atlantic Richfield Oil Company. The duplicate copies of rare, out-of-print maps traveled with her when she returned to her home in July.

“All libraries owe a debt to the original Library at Alexandria,” says Gillian McCombs, dean and director of Central University Libraries. “We are honored to make this small contribution.”
Remembering the ladies

Texas business legend Ebby Halliday began her career selling hats. Impressed with her sales talents, the husband of one of her customers asked Halliday if she could sell 50 insulated concrete homes he had built. She spent her savings decorating one of the homes – creating in 1944 one of the first model homes. Within nine months she sold all the homes and launched Ebby Halliday Realtors, which is ranked 23rd nationwide with last year’s sales totaling $3.8 billion.

A popular speaker, the 93-year-old dynamo continues to attract standing-room only crowds. Halliday charms and inspires her audiences with humor and motivational messages, but she brings them to their feet with her unique closing – a song composed for the occasion that she sings while strumming the ukulele.

Halliday’s speeches and lyrics to tunes such as “Camptown Races” or “Five Foot Two” are included among the papers she has given to the Archives of Women of the Southwest at DeGolyer Library.

The collection was established 10 years ago to document the historical experience of women in the American Southwest. It includes the papers of renowned women in the professions, the arts, and community service such as Lee Cullum, Sarah Cockrell, and Anita Martinez. In addition it includes letters and papers of women in private life, oral histories, and records of women’s organizations such as the Dallas Women’s Foundation.

To strengthen the collection and make it more accessible to researchers, the Archives board is launching a fund-raising campaign to establish a $1 million endowment to support an archivist who will pursue acquisitions and catalog the collection.

Texas business legend Ebby Halliday has inspired and charmed audiences for nearly 50 years, including members of the Real Estate Institute of New South Wales.

Halliday pledged the first gift.

The campaign—Remember the Ladies! Saving the Past, One Story at a Time—enables donors to honor a significant woman in their lives with a $5,000 contribution. The donors and honored women will be recognized with a plaque in DeGolyer Library.

“The archives honor all women,” says Jackie McElhaney, chair of the Archives of Women of the Southwest Board. “Supporting the Archives offers a unique opportunity to rescue and preserve materials that will be extremely useful over time.”

For more information or to contribute to the “Remember the Ladies!” campaign, contact Amy Carver at 214-768-1939 or by e-mail at acarver@smu.edu. For more information about the Archives of Women of the Southwest, visit www.smu.edu/cul/degolyer/southwest.

IN THE NEWS

The dedication of the new Fred Wendorf Information Commons at SMU-in-Taos and the digital WWII collection generated media coverage for Central University Libraries last summer.

The Taos News featured the commons dedication and accompanying concert, while Robert Miller’s “BusinessDay” column in the Dallas Morning News honored Henderson-Morrison Professor Emeritus of Anthropology Fred Wendorf, who discovered and excavated Fort Burgwin, the site of SMU-in-Taos. The News also recognized former Texas Governor William P. Clements for his $1 million gift to the facility. Another $1 million gift was provided by an anonymous donor.

In other media coverage, USA Today used CUL’s digital WWII document collection as its resource for its July 16, 2004 article “WWII guidebook to Iraq contains lessons that are relevant today.” The 1942 handbook, A Short Guide to Iraq, was written to educate U.S. servicemen about an unfamiliar place and is available online at worldwar2.smu.edu. Reporter Rick Hampson concludes that the 62-year-old guide describes an Iraq U.S. troops would recognize today.

Is The New York Times best-seller list a barometer of good writing or is it just popular fiction?

Does the list reflect the best writing in the country? No, it more accurately represents the most popular. The most original, imaginative, sophisticated work in the U.S. is not typically the best-selling. This lack of correlation about what is best-selling and what is “high quality” is an old conundrum in the scholarship on American literature.

Is the Times list an objective report of the top-selling books?

Best-seller lists are supposed to represent the fixed, actual patterns of consumption in society, but in reality they contribute to those patterns. Rather than simply reflecting consumer books sales, the list actually influences what people buy. For example, the average Sunday Times reader might see the latest Dan Brown novel on the best-seller list then go out and buy it. This self-fulfilling nature of the list is one of the fundamental problems with its legitimacy.

How do books make it to the Times list?

Although many people believe the list represents some objective, numerical configuration, it is simply not the case. Miller says the Times begins the process by providing booksellers with a weekly “report sheet” of book titles to rank according to sales. Although there is a place on the sheet for “write-ins,” titles listed on the sheet initially are much more likely to become best sellers, which means the method for compiling that original sheet is critical to the list’s outcome. But the Times has never disclosed that methodology, casting doubt upon its credibility.

Miller’s research says the list is vulnerable to inaccuracy in several ways: the selection of establishments who report back to the Times and the inclusion of wholesalers in those surveyed. In that case, books are counted twice – once by the wholesaler and once by the bookseller. Further, the list can be manipulated by a variety of factors, including the deliberate misreporting of sales and authors and publishing houses buying up large quantities of their own books.

Why hasn’t the book industry demanded that the list be reformed?

Despite skepticism about the list within the industry, nothing has been done to revamp it because everyone from authors to booksellers has grown dependent upon the predictability of sales the list ensures. Its financial impact is immense.

How does the Times benefit from publishing a questionable best-seller list?

It is important to remember that The New York Times, as proprietor of this most prestigious and conspicuous best-seller list, finds its cultural capital increase as a consequence. In other words, just as the Times lends its prestige to the works on the list, publishers and booksellers vaunt that fact in promotions, which in turn reflects prestige back on the list itself. The question remains whether they are willing to enjoy that prestige at the cost of objectivity.

Ezra Greenspan will speak to the Friends of the SMU Libraries at the May 2 dinner meeting.

Reading Resources

The Web is rich with resources for the quest to find a good book. Reference librarian Marcella Stark recommends the following resources.

www.booksense.com “Book Sense Picks” is a selection of books chosen by members of the American Booksellers Association.

www.news.bookweb.org/mediaguide/ The American Booksellers Association also provides information on where to read the current week’s book reviews and watch or hear book-related guests on television and radio.

www.ala.org The American Library Association has a “Recommended Reading” section on the “Libraries and You” page.

www.literature-awards.com/awards_for_fiction.htm This site has links to everything from the Man Booker and Pulitzer Prizes to the PEN/Faulkner and Whitbread Book Awards.
New Friends director brings passion for books and art

Alycen Cuellar, director of the Friends of the SMU Libraries

Cuellar was vice president and director of the Dallas office of Christie’s auction house and director of the Howard Rachofsky house and collection in Dallas. In addition, Cuellar worked with educational programs and public programs at the Dallas Museum of Art. An artist in her own right, she plans two exhibits of her acrylic paintings and three-dimensional images at Buchanan Gallery in Galveston and Debris in Dallas in 2005.

Welcome new Friends

New members of Friends of the SMU Libraries who have joined as of October 12, 2004.

Music and its Engineering Roots
December 1, noon, Royal Oaks Country Club, reservations required
A program on sound, technology, and the performing arts presented by Scott Douglas, associate professor of electrical engineering and professional singer, saxophonist, and pianist.

Day Trippin’ to Fort Worth
January 29, 2005, 9 a.m., reservations required
A guided tour of “Stamped with a National Character: 19th-Century American Color-Plate Books,” on its opening day at Amon Carter Museum followed by lunch. After lunch, a private tour of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas and lecture on the evolution of art and botanical science.

Saving Family Sagas: Writing and Recording the Stories that Define Us
February 28, 2005, 6 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. lecture followed by booksigning
Learn to preserve the “remember when” stories that crop up at holidays and family gatherings from Fran Vick, founding director of the University of North Texas Press and editor of The Family Saga: A Collection of Texas Family Legends. Oral historian Gerald Saxon, dean of libraries and associate professor of history at the University of Texas at Arlington, will offer advice on collecting oral histories.

Tables of Content
April 2, 2005, Meadows Museum reservations required
An evening of dinner and conversation with notable SMU and Dallas personalities raises funds for the Friends of the SMU Libraries. Art collector and philanthropist Raymond D. Nasher is serving as honorary chair in memory of the late Patsy Nasher, a charter Friends Member.

History of American Printing and Publishing
May 2, 2005, 6 p.m.
Professor, author, and historian Ezra Greenspan will speak at the annual dinner meeting. Greenspan is co-editor of Book History, a scholarly journal devoted to the history of the book.

Remember your friends
Friends of the SMU Libraries memberships make perfect gifts for book lovers. Yearly membership fees begin at $60 and include invitations to programs, lectures, and exhibit openings. Members also receive borrowing privileges at SMU libraries. Contact Alycen Cuellar, Friends director, for more information at 214-768-3225 or www.smu.edu/libraries/friends.
Architectural firm selected for library renovation

When a student settles in for an evening of studying at the library, she first pulls her laptop and iPod from her backpack. She starts her computer to check her e-mail and instant messages a friend at another school. Before she googles “Thomas Aquinas” for her paper, she selects her favorite song on her iPod, adjusts her headphones, and sips her Starbucks coffee.

The changes technology has introduced to student life and academic libraries are just beginning, says Carole Wedge, architect and president, Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott. Libraries need to be designed with flexibility and adaptability to meet the changing expectations of students and faculty as well as technology’s structural demands, she says.

Wedge is a principal architect of the 130-year-old Boston firm that has been selected to design and plan the renovation and expansion of the Fondren Library Center complex. Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott specializes in education, science, and library design. The firm’s recent projects include libraries at Cornell, Dartmouth, University of Chicago, and Princeton. Past projects include the 1915 designs of Dallas and Clements Halls.

Renovations are slated for Fondren, Science/Engineering, and DeGolyer Libraries as well as the Norwick Center for Media and Instructional Technology and the Information Commons. New configurations will reflect growing needs for group study and gathering places such as a café and a secure 24-hour study area. Space also will be allocated for collection growth, lecture rooms, and exhibits.

“We need to think of libraries as spaces that are continually changing and evolving,” Wedge says.

By next spring CUL Dean and Director Gillian McCombs expects to receive the initial library complex design and will begin raising funds for the project. “When the University celebrates its centennial in 2011 we will dedicate a wonderful, revitalized facility,” she says.

Students speak – Libraries listen

Members of Central University Libraries student advisory board shared their thoughts at the Libraries Executive Board meeting last spring. Students commended the staff, interlibrary loan services, and online resources — but said they longed for 24-hour and group study areas. Here are their thoughts.

“The library helped me most when I wrote a term paper on labor unions for my honors management class. Initially I feared that the library would not have enough current materials. To my surprise, I found — with the help of a friendly librarian — whole shelves full of up-to-date books on organized labor. Many of my classmates drew their research solely from magazine articles instead of going to the library. And the library clearly gave me an edge.”

— Tom Ellis, senior finance major

“As part of a research project on ancient Egyptian architecture I needed visual aids concerning the archaeological research at Amarna, Egypt. Interlibrary loan was very helpful in securing this resource from another library. This greatly enhanced my project and its presentation.”

— Richard Ferry (’04), history graduate student

“The most successful students and scholars know how to use a library for studying and research. The staff listens to the suggestions of students and takes action to solve problems. However, more online resources are needed.”

— Payam Khashaee, Ph.D. candidate in civil and mechanical engineering

Central University Libraries Dean and Director Gillian McCombs welcomes further input. To submit thoughts on the library renovation e-mail McCombs at gmccombs@smu.edu or call her at 214-768-2400.
Pow! Bang! Flash!

Superman and Green Lantern have moved in, and DeGolyer Library is looking more colorful than ever. Among the library’s latest acquisitions is a collection of 4,000 comic books comprising everything from Betty and Veronica to the Astonishing X-Men.

Given to DeGolyer by Houston collector Richard Beecher, most of the books date from the ‘60s, ‘70s, and ‘80s. They run the gamut of the medium, from superhero to military to horror to Western titles. Their styles, genres, and vintages “tell you a lot about the passing scene,” says DeGolyer Director Russell Martin.

For researchers in social history, the collection helps document the folklore and preoccupations of American popular culture, he adds. “Many films and TV shows were spawned from these comics, so they tie in to film studies also.”

And students love it. When this year’s new group of President’s Scholars toured DeGolyer Library “they were all clustered around the comics,” Martin says.

Otis Dozier’s art of the outdoors highlighted in new exhibit

Lifelong Dallasi Otis Dozier created art from the Southwestern landscapes, animals, and plant life he grew up observing. Now, for the centennial of his birth, two exhibitions — one in SMU’s Hamon Arts Library — capture the sweep of his career, from his earliest works as a teenager until his death in 1987.

The Hamon’s Hawn Gallery is exhibiting 30 sketchbooks from Dallas Museum of Art holdings as well as SMU’s own Dozier Collection. “The Sketchbooks of Otis Dozier: A Centennial Celebration” complements a simultaneous exhibition at Dallas’ McKinney Avenue Contemporary Gallery, which includes paintings, sketches, works on paper, and three-dimensional works.

One highlight of the Hawn exhibition is its unique interactive component — more than 50 images from the Dozier sketchbooks can be viewed on a computer kiosk in the gallery.

Check it out

New online resources at Central University Libraries are music to researchers’ ears.

Classical Music Library is the first streaming music service for libraries providing more than 35,000 tracks of licensed recordings. Browse or search by keywords to identify selections and locate biographical entries. The service also includes a large collection of contemporary music. http://internal.smu.classical.com/

Congressional Quarterly Researcher explores in depth a single “hot” issue in the news each week. Topics range from social and teen issues to environment, health, education, science, and technology. Numerous charts, graphs, and sidebar articles — plus a pro-con feature, a chronology, lengthy bibliographies, and a list of contacts — round out each report. CUL has subscription access to all reports published since 1991. http://library2.capress.com/coresearcher

Congressional Quarterly Weekly reports on the U.S. Congress every week. Readers get in-depth reports on issues looming on the congressional horizon, plus a complete wrap-up of the previous week’s news, including the status of bills in play, behind-the-scenes maneuvering, committee and floor activity, debates, and all roll-call votes. http://library2.capress/coweekly

Visit www.smu.edu/libraries/or for other online resources.
Events and Exhibits

- Through December 5 The Sketchbooks of Otis Dozier: A Centennial Celebration, Hawn Gallery, Hamon Arts Library
- December 9 JCPenney Collection Dedication, DeGolyer Library
- Through January 10, 2005 Marsh Terry: A Man for All Seasons, Fondren Library
- Through January 2005 Selected Recent Acquisitions, DeGolyer Library

For event and exhibit details contact Judy Searles at jshearles@smu.edu or 214-768-3225.

Author and anthropologist Jose Limon signed books after his September lecture, “Neither Friends Nor Strangers: Mexicans and Anglos in the Literary Making of Texas,” sponsored by the Friends of the SMU Libraries, the Department of English Gilbert Lecture Series, and the Clements Center for Southwest Studies.

Library Phone Numbers

DeGolyer Library/Special Collections 214-768-2253
Fondren Library – recording 214-768-7378
Fondren Library – Information Desk 214-768-2326
Fondren Library Circulation/Reserve 214-768-2329
Government Information Resources 214-768-2331
Friends of SMU Libraries 214-768-3225
Hamon Arts Library 214-768-2894
Norwicht Center for Media and Instructional Technology 214-768-3199
Science and Engineering Library – general 214-768-2444
Science and Engineering Library – reference 214-768-2282
Systems Office 214-768-3229

Web Sites

All SMU Libraries
www.smu.edu/libraries/
Ask-a-Librarian
www.smu.edu/cul/help.html
Government Document Collection
www.smu.edu/cul/gir
Online Resources
www.smu.edu/cul/or/
World War II Materials
worldwars.smu.edu
Edwin J. Foscue Map Library
smu.edu.cul/gir/map
The Kennedy Assassination: Forty Years Later
smu.edu/jfk