The nineteenth-century American West continues to fascinate us today. Even with countless books, movies, television shows, and exhibits on the “Wild West” (as it has at times been characterized), we have chosen to feature some of the best nineteenth-century maps of the trans-Mississippi West for two exhibits accompanying this fall’s Sixth Biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography. The theme for this year’s Lectures and for two accompanying exhibitions at the Amon Carter Museum and at the UT Arlington Library’s Special Collections—“Revisualizing Westward Expansion: A Century of Conflict, 1800-1900”—grew from a desire to highlight the fact that the American West is a strength of several of the D/FW Metroplex’s greatest collections, including UT Arlington’s Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library, the Amon Carter Museum, and Southern Methodist University’s DeGolyer Library.

The West, of course, both historical and mythological, is part of our shared cultural heritage as Americans and north Texans. Historians have tried to explain American attitudes and values through America’s western experience, and each generation revises and reinterprets this past. Likewise, area collectors have long been drawn to the West. The early twentieth century witnessed the rise here of great business-leaders/collectors such as Everette L. DeGolyer, Sr., in Dallas, and Amon G. Carter, Sr. and Sid W. Richardson, in Fort Worth, who built fine collections of Western-related books and art and who generously shared their collections with the public. Special Collections’ major benefactors, Virginia and Jenkins Garrett, are part of this great tradition: Mrs. Garrett for her collection of maps focusing on North America, the Gulf of Mexico, Texas, and the history of cartography; and Mr. Garrett for his fine collection of books and manuscripts relating to Texas, Mexico, and particularly, the United States’ War with Mexico, 1846-1848. These collectors have insured that future generations will have access to rare materials that emphasize the distinct heritage of an increasingly cosmopolitan and international community.

While the American West is important for our local as well as our national identity, the theme of conflict is important in the history of cartography. Maps convey a sense of authority on the part of the mapmaker, but that authority should be questioned. Mapping often involves territorial claims, and different peoples may claim the same place. A single map may be used for a variety of purposes,
Update from the Coordinator
By Ann E. Hodges

It gives me great pleasure to introduce two new Special Collections employees in this column. Claire Galloway began work on June 11 as Archivist for University, Labor and Political Collections. She lost no time diving into her work and has already become an asset to us. More about Claire appears in the “Staff Spotlight” feature in this issue. Our other arrival is David Prestianni, our new Graduate Research Assistant. David is working under the supervision of Brenda McClurkin to inventory the Tom J. Vandergriff Papers, process an accretion to the League of Women Voters of Arlington records, and register and inventory new collections. We are delighted to have them both working with us.

May, June and July saw a flurry of training opportunities and conferences. At the annual meeting of the Society of Southwest Archivists in May, Brenda McClurkin, Lea Worcester, and Evelyn Barker presented the session “Optimizing Outreach: Promoting Collections and Attracting Users.” Brenda and Lea also attended a preconference workshop on electronic records and Erin O’Malley attended the workshop “Managing Online Exhibits.” I began my term of service as SSA’s president and Brenda began hers as its vice president. Also in May, Cathy Spitzenberger, Brenda and I, along with Sarah Jones and Julie Williams of the Library’s Digital Library Services program area, attended a two-day workshop called Stewardship of Digital Assets. We have formed a working group to begin assessing risks to the Library’s digital assets and crafting a preservation plan. In June, Cathy, Brenda and Julie attended especially active in recent months assisting in the organization of historical conferences in Mexico.

We added more interesting assets to Special Collections’ holdings, including a much-appreciated gift of materials from the Benson Latin American Collection at The University of Texas at Austin. We are always happy to help them reduce their duplicate materials when they offer a list. The selections Maritza Arriguñaga joyfully made from their latest have already been

Staff Spotlight

Claire Galloway is Special Collections’ newest staff member. Claire began her new job as Archivist for University, Labor and Political Collections on June 11, 2008, filling the vacancy created when Gary Spurr left to become the archivist at Tarleton State University’s Dick Smith Library and W. K. Gordon Center. Claire has a Master of Arts degree in Public History from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She received her Bachelor of Arts in History from Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana. She is a native of Alexandria, Louisiana.

Claire worked as an archivist at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth from March 2006 until she began work at UT Arlington. Prior to beginning her professional experience at TCU, Claire was employed by the William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Materials Project and Library in Little Rock, Arkansas, as a graduate assistant. Claire also worked as a research assistant for the political science department while in graduate school. As an undergraduate, she was a student assistant for the history department and a summer fellow at Historic Deerfield.

She has experience as a museum intern with the Bossier Parish Library Historical Center in Bossier City, Louisiana, and the Kent Plantation House in Alexandria, Louisiana. Claire has several publications to her credit. She is a member of both the Society of American Archivists and the Society of Southwest Archivists, and serves on the SSA’s Membership Committee but that of SAA, as a Key Contact liaison for the state of Texas. She is among the newest class of members of the Academy of Certified Archivists, having passed her examination in August.

Digital Directions (formerly known as the School for Scanning), an annual event designed to elevate the knowledge and skills of those working to digitize our cultural heritage. In late June I attended the annual preconference of the American Library Association’s Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, which also had a digital emphasis this year. Carolyn Kadri headed for ALA’s annual meeting, held in July, where, in addition to attending the conference, she assumed leadership of the Map and Geography Round Table. Maritza Arriguñaga has been elected Directora Técnica of the Sociedad Yucatanense, and has been

received and prepared for use. In addition, recent acquisitions of archives and manuscript materials include the following:

- Records of the UT Arlington Provost’s Office
- Donald Goodman Papers
- Jack Fleming Photographic Negatives and Scans
- Fort Worth Cemetery Association Records
- Harry S. Sisk Papers
- University vertical file materials relating to fountains on campus
- Social Work Files and Papers
- Dennis Reinhartz Papers
- Rest Cottage, Pilot Point, Texas, Records

Continued on page 3
which may be in conflict with each other. Maps are necessarily, by design, separate from the reality they represent, but how much maps differ from that reality, and from whose perspective, can be crucial for understanding them. Given certain representational conventions, a particular map may be considered accurate or inaccurate. Nineteenth-century maps of the trans-Mississippi West demand that we consider these issues. Such maps may also document many other kinds of conflict. Besides giving evidence of the more obvious political and diplomatic disputes and military-related activities in the West during a time of great conflict, the maps show economic competition, technological challenges, cultural conflict, personal rivalries, and personal dilemmas. Many of these maps reveal the conflict inherent in humanity’s struggle to adapt to its environment. The kinds of conflicts represented often transcend time and place.

The Amon Carter Museum’s map exhibit opened June 28th and closed in October. On display are several fine maps from UT Arlington’s Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library. The maps span the century, from Aaron Arrowsmith’s great 1796 Map of the United States of North America, with “Additions to 1802” to a colorful 1902 chromolithographed map showing not only the American West but also territories acquired by the U.S. in the Spanish-American War of 1898.

Among the rarest of the gems in the Carter exhibit was a large map titled *A Map of Mexico, Louisiana, and the Missouri Territory: Including Also the State of Mississippi, Alabama Territory, East and West Florida, Georgia, South Carolina & Part of the Island of Cuba* (see figure 1) by John Hamilton Robinson, a medical doctor who accompanied Lieutenant Zebulon Pike’s famous and ill-fated western expedition of 1806-1807 to explore the southwestern borderlands of President Thomas Jefferson’s newly-acquired Louisiana Territory. Spanish troops captured Pike, Robinson, and other members of the expedition and escorted them deep into northern Mexico before eventually allowing them to return to the U.S. Louisiana Territory. During this time, Dr. Robinson met adventurer and mapmaker Juan Pedro Walker, from whom the former apparently learned much. Later Dr. Robinson returned to Mexico and served as a brigadier general in their struggle for independence from Spain. Shortly before his death in 1819, Dr. Robinson published this map that includes the land that became the American Southwest. It contains considerable data that he collected personally over a time of considerable political, military, and personal stress.

Another large map from the Carter exhibit reflects conflicts faced by subsequent generations. *The American Union Railroad Map of the United States, British Possessions, West Indies, Mexico, and Central America*, published in New York by Haasis & Lubrecht in 1871, emphasizes transportation, particularly railroads, and depicts the first transcontinental railroad, completed just two years earlier, as well as proposed routes. The development of railroads of course had a massive impact upon the settlement of the West, the Native Americans, industrialization, the environment, and even our concept of time. The map shows a unified nation stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with states and territories defined, for the most part, according to their present shapes. It includes a scenic topographical panorama, a cartouche of a locomotive arriving at a train station, vignettes of steamships and sailing vessels, and a chart of times and distances between destinations. Underlying the calm and orderly sense of progress however, were staggering changes that involved

Two Variations  Continued from page 1
wrenching conflicts for many, as traditional worldviews came into question under the pressures of accelerating modernization.

Special Collections’ exhibit of maps on the same theme opened on August 25th and runs until January 3, 2009. This exhibit includes numerous impressive smaller maps from UT Arlington’s collections as well as some significant maps generously loaned by the DeGolyer Library at Southern Methodist University and a private collector. On display is a manuscript map of Mexico relating to the 1803-1804 North American trip of Alexander von Humboldt, the German geographer, scientist, explorer, and intellectual genius of his time. Also on exhibit are original printed maps of the period associated with other famous men of that century of conflict such as Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, Zebulon Pike, Albert Gallatin, John C. Fremont, Zachary Taylor, William H. Emory, and John Wesley Powell.

Of the 50 items on display in the UT Arlington exhibit, two are illustrated here. One is an extremely rare curiosity from the DeGolyer Library—an undated Civil War map, probably from late 1862, showing the state of Texas and part of Mexico from a Federal perspective. A portrait of Union General N. P. Banks appears at the top left of the map, and concentric rings encircle the state’s capitol at Austin, then a hotbed of secession and rebellion. The map’s unusual title is actually a title for a series of maps: War Maps of Texas and Mexico: Designed as a Guide in the Impending Struggle for our Union & Against French Aggression (see Figure 3). The Boston lithography firm of Louis Prang & Company probably prepared the map soon after November 1862, when Banks, a former Massachusetts congressman and governor, was first assigned to the Department of the Gulf, which included Texas. Texas’ distance from the major military campaigns and the several half-hearted and unsuccessful Union attempts to invade the state before the war’s end may explain the rarity of the map. Indeed Prang & Company apparently never put the map into full production since as yet no other examples are known.

Prang’s odd map of Texas is all the more fascinating in light of several circumstances of the day, including the career of General Banks, Union operations and battles with Confederates along the Texas coast, an unsuccessful Union invasion of Texas through Louisiana, the French Intervention in Mexico, and the so-called “Maximilian Affair.” Early in the war, Union naval forces established a fairly effective blockade of the Texas coast. U.S. forces occupied Texas’ key seaport of Galveston in October 1862, but a Confederate attack on January 1, 1863, soon forced the Federals out of the port in a defeat which then U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Navy Gustavus V. Fox termed “the most melancholy affair ever recorded in the history of our gallant navy.” Meanwhile, General Banks, Union Commander of the Military Department of the Gulf, with headquarters in the recaptured port of New Orleans, sent another invasion force to Sabine Pass on the Louisiana-Texas border. It, too, suffered a humiliating defeat in September 1863. Banks attempted another Federal invasion of Texas, this time along the Red River from Louisiana, but it ended in failure at the Battle of Mansfield in April 1864. Banks’ forces were more successful in south Texas, where they occupied the Brownsville area in November 1863, pushing upriver to Rio Grande City and along the Texas coast to Corpus Christi by January 1864. Although the defeat in the Red River Campaign had effectively ended Banks’ military career by the summer of 1864, he soon returned to Massachusetts and to politics.

Banks’ efforts in Texas were key parts of the U.S. government’s strategy to thwart French Emperor Napoleon III’s intervention in Mexico’s affairs. The French had arrived in Mexico in January 1862, ostensibly to force Mexican President Benito Juarez to honor his nation’s interest payments on debts to the French. The American Civil War had consumed the attention of the U.S. government and prevented U.S. forces from enforcing the Monroe Doctrine, which sought to keep European nations out of the Americas. Federals hoped at this time to prevent a possible military alliance between the Confederates in Texas and the French in Mexico, who with the help of Mexican monarchists sought to establish Maximilian, an Austrian-born nobleman, as Emperor of Mexico. It is interesting to note that Union occupation troops arriving in Galveston at the end of the

Figure 2. Haasis & Lubrecht, The American Union Railroad Map of the United States, British Possessions, West Indies, Mexico, and Central America (New York: Haasis & Lubrecht, 1871). Engraved transfer chromolithograph on paper mounted on linen, 95 x 129 cm., Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library, Special Collections, The University of Texas at Arlington Library (700049).
Civil War announced the emancipation of Texas' slaves on June 19, 1865. Afterwards, U.S. forces continued to occupy the Brownsville area and blockaded Mexican ports to prevent French reinforcements and supplies from arriving to help Maximilian. Under U.S. and Mexican Republican pressure, the French began to withdraw their forces by May 31, 1866, and, in a further bit of irony, Mexican forces loyal to President Juarez executed Maximilian on June 19, 1867. Historical knowledge of these conflicts certainly adds to an appreciation and understanding of Prang & Company's unusual map.

A final map serves to illustrate some of the final themes of the century's end as land speculators, railroaders, cattlemen, and settlers swarmed to claim some of the last "unassigned" lands in the West. From 1889 to 1907 the area of the present state of Oklahoma witnessed the rush of thousands into lands that the U.S. government had formerly designated for various Indian tribes. Significantly, the greatest of these land "runs" took place in 1893—the same year the Chicago map publishing firm of Rand, McNally & Company issued this Map of the Indian and Oklahoma Territories. The opening of the "Cherokee Outlet" in the northwest section of the map involved 100,000 people and six million acres of land. It should be noted that the Oklahoma and Indian Territories were separate entities at this time, the former having been created from the western portion of the latter in 1890. Land disputes were common in this period. Unwelcome "Boomers" from neighboring states coveted these lands, and "Sooners" or squatters did not wait for the lands to open up legally but instead arrived early. Some Indians wanted to hold lands in common as they had done traditionally while other Indians adapted to the concept of private ownership, as promoted by the government.

The map has many interesting details, including capitals of Indian Nations, railroads, military reservations, towns, rivers, creeks, mountains, and hills. The grid-like sections of land in the west follow the township and range pattern of land apportionment common to the public surveys. The letters "A" through "G" denote new counties added in 1891 and 1892. Greer County, the heart-shaped area marked "unassigned land" in the southwest corner of the map, was also claimed by Texas from 1860 until 1898, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Oklahoma's favor. Apparently, an edition of the map first appeared in 1884, which is the date of the copyright. Consequently, it did not include the Oklahoma Territory's panhandle, formerly known as "No Man's Land."

While nineteenth-century maps of the American West have been the subject of other exhibits, books, and catalogs, there is always room for more studies from different perspectives. As demonstrated in these two exhibits, the era was as full of conflicts and contradictions as were the maps of the period that reflected them. Recognizing these conflicts increases our understanding of the maps and the West they depict.

The exhibits at UT Arlington and the Amon Carter Museum complemented this fall's Virginia Garrett Lectures on the same theme. Talks at the Lectures examined the practice of making maps to report the placement of roads, railroads, Indian lands, and wars as they happened. The presentations included:

- "Jeffersonian and Jacksonian Explorers in the American Northwest: Solving
“Transnational Cartographies: Corporations, States, and the Remapping of the U.S. - Mexico Borderlands,” by Samuel Truett, Associate Professor of History, University of New Mexico

“Railroads and Roads Through Tribal lands: Mapping the Pacific Northwest’s Changing Landscape during the 1850s,” jointly by Ronald Grimm, Head of the Map Collection, Boston Public Library, and Paul D. McDermott, Professor of Geography (retired), Montgomery College, Rockville, Maryland


“Revisualizing the West: A Century of Conflict, 1800-1900,” by UT Arlington Cartographic Archivist Ben Huseman, whose talk described the two map exhibits to be held in conjunction with the Lectures, one at the Amon Carter Museum and another at The University of Texas at Arlington Library’s Special Collections.

The Lectures were the anchor event for several days of map-related meetings at UT Arlington featuring the Texas Map Society and the Philip Lee Phillips Society (in a joint meeting on Saturday, October 4th), the Society for the History of Discoveries (Sunday, October 5th – Tuesday, October 7th), and the Council of North American Map Societies.

Since 2003, the treasures of Special Collections have been highlighted in a weekly feature in the Sunday edition of the Arlington Star-Telegram. “Time Frames” regularly spotlights a photograph, map, or document drawn from a broad spectrum of subjects in our extensive collections of the history of Arlington, the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Texas, Mexico and the greater Southwest. Now, selected “Time Frames” features can be enjoyed as vodcasts! Visit http://library.uta.edu/spco/timeframes/main.html to see our work in progress, and watch for an article about it in the Spring 2009 Compass Rose.
A Big Bend Chronicle: The Gage Family Papers
by Brenda S. McClurkin

Gage is a family name usually associated with land, cattle ranching, and a historic hotel in West Texas—the Big Bend Country. The collection of Gage Family Papers recently acquired by Special Collections indicates that the Gage and related Durrell and Powell families had strong Dallas and Fort Worth connections as well.

Edward L. Gage (1846-1892) was born in New Hampshire, the child of Newton Gage and his first wife, Harriet Campbell. Edward pursued an engineering degree at Dartmouth College, but left the program in 1874 after taking work as an engineer for the Cincinnati Southern Railroad in Ohio. It was there that he met two people with whom his life would become intertwined—fellow engineer Ernest M. Powell and the young lady who would become his wife, Anna Durrell.

Ernest M. Powell (1847-1925), an Illinois native, was the son of Henry and Caroline Willis Powell. A civil engineer by training, he garnered national attention for innovations in the construction of the Great Miami Railroad in Ohio. Powell relocated to Dallas in 1875 in hopes of improving his health and found work as a surveyor. Edward Gage followed his friend to Dallas in 1877. They established Powell and Gage, a land surveying firm that catered primarily to railroads to locate lands acquired by public script as construction subsidies. The two quickly expanded their business to include land agency. They surveyed property in north Texas and the Panhandle, and then focused on lands west of the Pecos River. The two men began to accumulate vast personal land holdings acquired by the redemption of land script received in payment for services rendered and the purchase of land certificates granted by the state legislature to disabled Confederate veterans. They also began cattle ranching along Maravillas Creek in the current Brewster County. Powell remained in Dallas while Gage moved to the Big Bend area to manage the ranching operations.

The partnership of Powell and Gage dissolved in the spring of 1883 because Edward Gage wanted to pursue the cattle business wholeheartedly. He formed the Presidio Live Stock Company with New England investors, naming himself as president and his...
younger half-brother, Alfred S. Gage, the superintendent/manager. In an effort to find additional revenue, the company acquired a mercantile store in Alpine, installing another half-brother, Seth Gage, as manager. Presidio Live Stock Company endured drought weather conditions and a severe drop in cattle prices during the early to mid-1880s. In 1886, Gage organized another ranching operation, the Santiago Cattle Company, which experienced like difficulties. Edward Gage hoped to merge the two cattle operations into the Roscillo Land and Cattle Company, chartered in Colorado in 1891, but was not successful in attracting northern investors. Distraught, he committed suicide in the washroom of a Chicago railroad station on April 21, 1892.

Edward Gage’s plans were fulfilled in 1897 with the formation of the Alpine Cattle Company, of which Alfred S. Gage was appointed secretary/superintendent. Alfred Gage ultimately acquired all of the stock of the Alpine Cattle Company in 1917, adding it to his own larger ranch holdings. A resident of San Antonio, Alfred Gage built the Gage Hotel in Marathon in 1927 in part to have a comfortable place to stay when traveling to the area. By the time of his death in 1928, Alfred Gage’s cattle operations encompassed some 10,000 head of cattle on 503,000 acres of land. The family is still engaged in cattle ranching as the A. S. Gage Partnership Ltd.

Edward Gage and Ernest Powell were not only business partners, but they were brothers-in-law as well. Both married daughters of Harrison and Harriet Wood Durrell of Pleasant Ridge, Ohio—Gage married Anna (ca. 1856-1919) in Pleasant Ridge in 1879, and Powell married Mary (1858-1951) in Dallas in 1882. Durrell Powell was born to Ernest and Mary Powell in 1883. He died in 1900 at the young age of 17, an event that led the couple to shelter more than 20 young men and women in their Dallas home over a 40-plus year period.

Edward and Anna Gage had two daughters—Gertrude May and Harriet Anna (Hattie). It appears that Gertrude May died as a child. Following the death of her father, Hattie attended schools in Dallas and Ohio. She graduated from the University of Cincinnati and attended library school at Western Reserve University. She married Arthur W. Heyer, whose career in railroads caused the family to move frequently. The Heyers moved to Fort Worth.
in 1924. Their daughter, Anna Harriet Heyer (1909-2002), was a student of mathematics, library science and music. She earned three undergraduate degrees, two from Texas Christian University and one from the University of Illinois. Her graduate degrees were acquired from Columbia University and the University of Michigan. Anna Heyer held teaching and librarian positions in the Fort Worth public schools from 1931 to 1938. In 1940, she became music librarian and assistant professor of library science at what is now University of North Texas in Denton, where she started the music library. Anna Heyer was the first full-time music librarian in Texas. By the time she left UNT for a consulting position at TCU in 1965, the music library had grown to be the largest in the Southwest.

With her background as a librarian, it was natural for Anna Heyer to accumulate cherished historical documents and photographs pertaining to the Gage, Durrell and Powell families. Although some of the materials have been disbursed, Special Collections’ Gage Family Papers are rich with genealogical information, family photographs, correspondence, documents, clippings, and ephemera pertaining to all three families. Among the Gage materials are very early photographs of Alpine and Sanderson, Texas, and the Brewster County Courthouse in Alpine; a map of Edward Gage's land holdings in Brewster and Buchel Counties; Presidio Live Stock Company letterhead and business cards; a proposal for land to be put into the Roscillo Land and Cattle Company; and a land patent issued to Gage and signed by Sul Ross. The Gage correspondence includes letters of condolence to Anna Gage following her husband’s untimely death, and others bearing on her husband's estate and business affairs. The preface and first chapter of an unpublished manuscript, "Lightning and W Bar: The Land and Cattle Enterprises of Edward and Alfred Gage," by Walt Roberts, as edited presumably by Hattie Gage Heyer, is also found among the Gage materials. Ephemeral materials document the education, teaching and library careers and civic interests of Hattie Gage Heyer and her daughter Anna Heyer.

The highlight of the Durrell family materials is a large velvet-covered photograph album filled with cabinet cards, cartes de visite, and tintypes of family members, most of which have been identified with a delicate hand. Numerous letters from Durrell family members to Anna Gage are also extant.

Of particular interest among the Powell materials is Ernest Powell’s diary of his and Mary’s wedding trip from Dallas to St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit, Niagara Falls, Vermont, Boston, New York, and Washington, D.C. in the summer and fall of 1882. The newlyweds were accompanied by the bride’s sister, Anna Durrell Gage, niece Hattie Gage, and African-American nurse, Mary Johnson. The diary provides a charming narrative of their travels, including accounts of carriage rides in St. Louis and Chicago, a soggy tour of the Cave of the Winds at Niagara Falls, and buying silver flatware at Tiffany’s in New York. Their journey took a grave turn when Mary Powell contracted typhoid fever in Vermont. Originally diagnosed with a mild case, Mary was near death just three days later. Powell chronicled his bride’s illness and recovery day by day, including a five-week record of her body temperature taken twice daily. Other notable items include Mary Powell’s 1883 household account book, Powell’s business cards, a letter Powell wrote to his wife from Costa Rica during his 1891 mission trip, and a 1925 letter of condolence written to Mary Powell by prominent Dallas Baptist minister, George Truett.

For further information on the Gage Family Papers, contact Brenda McClurkin at 817-272-3393 or mcclurkin@uta.edu.
The family of S.D. Allis discovered his photo here at UT Arlington Special Collections and have contributed two family letters that Allis wrote to his sisters describing an 1846 battle in Monterrey, Mexico.

When this daguerreotype was discovered in an El Paso flea market, the inscription “S. D. Allis, Vera Cruz, 1847,” penned on the red silk lining of its case yielded the only clue to the young subject’s identity. Researchers have since learned that Sebastian D. Allis was born in New Haven County, Connecticut, in about 1821. He stood over six feet tall and had brown hair, dark grey eyes and a sallow complexion. By the 1840s he had found his way to New Orleans, where he clerked for the Daily Picayune newspaper and was known as the “Tall Yankee Clerk.” In 1846, Allis enlisted in the Louisiana Brigade and fought in the Mexican War at Monterrey, Saltillo, and Vera Cruz. During his military service, he also served as a war correspondent for the Picayune. On April 20, 1847, General Winfield Scott appointed Allis postmaster of the city of Vera Cruz, where he was responsible for processing all mail—U.S. and Mexican—that passed through the city. This photograph is attributed to George Noessel and is believed to date to Allis’ appointment as Vera Cruz postmaster. Daguerreotype photography was invented in France in 1839 and was popular through the mid-1850s. It was a direct positive process that created very detailed images on highly polished silver-coated copper plates without the use of a negative. Exposure times ranged from three to fifteen minutes, which made sitting for a portrait very difficult.

Special Collections acquired this daguerreotype in 1994. Over the years, Allis family members have “Googled” their ancestor’s name and discovered not only this photographic image, but the extensive biographical information that now accompanies it.

In January 2008, Allis descendants Jane Allis Whitlock and Frances Allis David added to this body of knowledge when they donated two letters written by S. D. Allis to his sister(s) during the U.S. War with Mexico. The first letter was written near Camargo on August 24, 1846. Newly promoted to sergeant in General Winfield Scott’s division, Allis described an “Indian Fandango and war dance” he attended as “one of the most... exciting spectacles I ever beheld.” In closing, he told of the music he was hearing throughout the camp, “...the whole heavens appear to breath (sic) forth music. . . but you can hardly distinguish what the tunes any are playing for so many are going at once. There are something like 8,000 men here ready to advance.” The second, written from Monterrey on October 29, 1846, included a rough sketch of “...the Castle hill, the storming and driving the Mexicans before us into the city.” He described Monterrey as “...the greatest battle ever fought by the American people...” and was anxious to hear the public reaction from home.

For further information on the S. D. Allis materials in Special Collections, contact Brenda S. McClurkin at 817-272-3393 or mcclurkin@uta.edu.
A very rare military daguerreotype, dating to the Republic of Texas, was donated recently to Special Collections by Dr. William J. Schultz, a resident of Pennsylvania. The man pictured in this daguerreotype is an unidentified mounted volunteer soldier. He wears a dark, single-breasted uniform jacket with three rows of buttons. On his large high-crowned tri-cornered felt hat, the letter “D” is embroidered within a five-pointed star. Although this may be a regimental company emblem, it is thought to designate a Texas “dragoon,” or mounted volunteer. Dated circa 1845, this is the only known photograph of a Republic of Texas soldier.

Louis Daguerre introduced his daguerreotype, the first form of photography, in France in 1839. The process of making a daguerreotype is quite complex and results in a highly detailed reverse image on a sheet of copper plated with a thin coat of silver. A daguerreotype is cased and is easily identified because of its mirror-like image. This new technology was popular with soldiers and sailors to provide a remembrance for loved ones left behind, or to commemorate an officer’s commission or promotion. These images also provide unprecedented documentation of the appearance and organization of the military prior to the Civil War.

Dr. Schultz has made an extensive study of American military uniforms, buttons, epaulettes, shoulder straps, chevrons and insignia to assist in identifying daguerreotype images of American army, navy and marine officers and enlisted personnel. For further reading, see Dr. Schultz’ article, “Silver Shadows Before the Storm: The American Military Daguerreotype,” published in The Daguerrian Annual, 2002-2003.

Approximately 6,400 of Bill Wood’s black and white prints are held by Special Collections. The larger body of his work is owned by actress Diane Keaton, who acquired some 20,000 Bill Wood Photo Co. negatives twenty years ago. Ms. Keaton collaborated with New York photograph curator Marvin Heiferman to feature her collection in an exhibition at the International Center of Photography in New York City. Entitled “Bill Wood’s Business,” the exhibition was on view from May 16 through September 7, 2008. A book featuring more than 200 Bill Wood Photo Co. images is available for purchase through the International Center of Photography. For further information on the New York City exhibit and its related publication, see http://www.icp.org.

Bill Wood commemorated special family occasions, as well as the activities of civic and fraternal organizations, and local business and industrial firms. His work also included street scenes, aerial views, and images of billboards, schools, sports, and catastrophic events.
Revisualizing Westward Expansion: A Century of Conflict, 1800-1900

"Revisualizing Westward Expansion: A Century of Conflict, 1800-1900," the exhibit in UT Arlington Library's Special Collections this fall, was designed to accompany the Sixth Biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography. The theme of the Lectures and associated exhibits (which included one at the Amon Carter Museum of large maps from UT Arlington) showcases the strong holdings on the subject of the American West of several of the D/FW Metroplex's greatest collections.

The exhibit at UT Arlington includes numerous impressive smaller maps from Special Collections as well as some significant maps generously loaned by the DeGolyer Library at Southern Methodist University and by a private collector. On display is a manuscript map of Mexico relating to the 1803-1804 North American trip of Alexander von Humboldt, the German geographer, scientist, explorer, and intellectual genius of his time. Also on exhibit are original printed maps of the period associated with other famous men of that century of conflict such as Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, Zebulon Pike, Albert Gallatin, John C. Fremont, Zachary Taylor, William H. Emory, and John Wesley Powell.

Available for viewing until January 3, 2009, "Revisualizing Westward Expansion" is free and open to the public. Special Collections is on the sixth floor of the Central Library. Its hours are Monday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm and Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. For more information, call 817-272-3393 or email spcoref@uta.edu