

The San Antonio Blue Book: Proof of a Secret Era

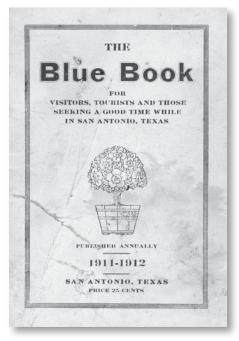
By Lael Morgan

n 1911 the major tourist attraction in San Antonio besides the Alamo was its red light district which was the largest in Texas and ranked third in all of America.1 It was so vast, in fact, visitors needed help in figuring out how best to enjoy it, so promoters published a discreet guide titled The Blue Book for Visitors, Tourists and Those Seeking a Good Time While in San Antonio, Texas, 1911-12. Recently acquired by Special Collections, The Blue Book casts considerable light on a society that was essentially secret and illegal, even though it netted San Antonio more than \$50,000 in annual license fees. In addition to listing the names of 106 prostitutes and sporting establishments, the small, 30-page booklet carries advertisements for numerous "respectable" businesses-everything from drug stores to cab and livery services-that catered to them.

While prostitution had long been a "given" in the woman-shy frontier society, the city didn't address it until 1889 when Mayor Bryan Callaghan, so powerful he was referred to as "King Bryan," convinced the city council that sin must be regulated to be profitable. The ordinance passed under his watch restricted prostitutes to a downtown area of about 10 blocks, required health inspections, and imposed annual license fees of \$500 per house, fines for noncompliance, and strict police enforcement.³ This management system proved so successful that *The Blue Book* author vouched for clients' safety.

"This Directory of the Sporting District is intended to be an accurate guide to

Lael Morgan teaches media writing at the University of Texas at Arlington. She became familiar with *The Blue Book*, Mayor Bryan Callaghan and Billy Keilman while researching a book entitled *Sex in Texas History* for the McWhiney Foundation, Statehouse Press. It is scheduled for spring publication.



Cover of the rare only edition of the San Antonio Blue Book.

those who are seeking a good time," it reads. "To the stranger and visitor while in San Antonio, this book will be welcome, because it puts him on a proper and safe path as to where he may go and feel secure from 'Hold-ups' and any other game usually practiced upon the stranger."

The name of the publication, taken perhaps from *The Blue Book* listing of studs of North America published by the Jockey Club out of Saratoga Race Track,⁵ was already in use in New Orleans, the author acknowledges. But the guide to that city's Storyville district was considerably larger and less discreet than the San Antonio version which boasts no "lewd and obscene reading matter." Also missing are prices, but to compensate, the author rates prostitutes and their establishments as "A," "B" and "C" with "A" being first in class. There is no explanation of how the

girls were rated or by whom, but there seems to have been no quibbling over categories. One old-timer recalled that "A" establishment prices started at \$5, "B" at \$2.50, and "C," "whatever change you had in your pocket and anything you can think of." Police records for that time reveal that most Class "A" girls who were arrested weighed from 160 to 200 pounds, so the big spenders got a lot for their money.

Under Class "A," there are 24 listings including three for Beatrice Benedict who apparently juggled management at separate locations, and another for Mildred Clifton who was famous in Fort Worth, having been pardoned by the governor after serving jail time for murdering a potential client there.⁸ Also included are The Stag, The Mansion, The Arlington and The Club–all first class bordellos.

There are only 20 listings in the "B" class but many are group houses: El Toro, The Cottage, The St. Paul, Silver Slipper and Three Twins, which probably employed a considerable number of girls. Class "C," judging by its 61 single names, was apparently for entrepreneurs of English, Spanish and French origin, with two Orientals (Tama Kato and Sada Yoshima) and one woman listed as Legal, Tender.

The opulence of class A houses was occasionally mentioned in interviews with old-timers of that era. For example, The Mansion, at 503 S. Concho, boasted a canopied, gold-plated bed, reported to been displayed at the Philadelphia Exposition of 1876 and worth \$10,000.9 One madam flaunted her wealth by driving around town in a fine carriage and attending the Grand Opera House wearing Paris gowns. Another preferred payment in diamonds and was reported to have had a "bosom-wide" necklace of sparklers worth a "king's ransom." 10



Update from the Coordinator

By Ann E. Hodges

am happy to announce that Cathy Spitzenberger has rejoined the staff of Special Collections as our Library Assistant III for Photographs. Cathy worked for Special Collections from January 2003 until August 2006 before accepting a position at a neighboring institution. In her earlier tenure with us she held the jobs of Library Assistant II and Public Services Librarian. In her new role Cathy will be working with our researchers to fulfill their needs for image reproduction. We are delighted to have her back with us. Less happily, we have lost the services of Christian Clark, Exhibits and Outreach Assistant, and Dennis Conrad and Emily Galpin, Graduate Research Assistants. Emily graduated, and Dennis reluctantly decided he must focus his efforts elsewhere. Christian, whose position with us was part-time, accepted a full-time position teaching art. We thank them for their contributions to Special Collections and wish them success in their future endeavors.

We remain as busy as ever, if not more so. In March, I was elected chair

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Special Collections and other staff members who helped produce this issue are:
Ann Hodges (editor), Maggie Dwyer, Ben
Huseman, Carolyn Kadri, Cathy Spitzenberger, and Lea Worcester.

The purpose of *The Compass Rose* is to raise awareness of Special Collections' resources. The newsletter also reports significant new programs, initiatives and acquisitions of Special Collections.

Special Collections' hours are 9 am to 7 pm on Monday and 9 am to 5 pm Tuesday - Saturday. For special hours during intersession and holidays, see http://library.uta.edu/about/locations.jsp#spco



A compass rose is a circle graduated to degrees in quarter points and printed on a chart or map for reference.

of the Steering Committee of the Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative, and I continue to represent the UT Arlington Library on the its Partners' Committee. THDI is making progress in providing access through its gateway to the resources we contributed to the initiative-Cartographic Connections and Tejano Voices-as well as many others across the state. Lea Worcester attended the annual Texas Library Association conference in April and gave a presentation entitled "Podcasting: Exploring the Possibilities for Libraries." Ben Huseman, Brenda McClurkin, and I attended the Texas Map Society spring meeting in Nacogdoches. Ben is serving his second year on the TMS board. Also in April, Carolyn Kadri co-taught at Chicago's Newberry Library the workshop she co-created on cataloging historical maps. The workshop was presented again as a preconference event at the annual meeting of the American Library Association in June. Carolyn's report on the ALA workshop appears in this issue.

In late spring Brenda, Gary Spurr, and I attended the annual meeting of the Society of Southwest Archivists, in Oklahoma City. I was elected Vice-President of SSA and also gave a conference presentation about Jenkins and Virginia Garrett as part of a session on collectors. Brenda was reappointed SSA Site Selection Chair and continues that position's work of arranging future annual meeting sites. She also remains

active in the Society of American Archivists' Key Contact program to retain members. Maritza Arrigunaga spent two weeks in Mérida de Yucatán, México, in July attending Movimientos Femeninos Socialistas. She was very involved in the planning of the event and made several presentations as part of it. This summer we hosted large numbers of parents of prospective UT Arlington students. Lea Worcester and Gary Spurr offered them tours of Special Collections as part of their campus visits.

We have benefited recently from some valuable training opportunities. Gary took part in the Electronic Records Summer Camp in La Jolla, California, in August, gaining essential knowledge about the challenges of record keeping in our technological age, and Brenda attended the George Eastman House/Image Permanence Institute's workshop, "Preserving Photographs in a Digital World," where she received intensive training in the management of photographic materials. In late August, Brenda, Gary and I attended the annual meeting in Chicago of the Society of American Archivists.

Our fall exhibit awaits your visit. It is entitled, "Power of Pictures," and was curated by Lea Worcester with the assistance of Evelyn Barker, UT Arlington Information Literacy Librarian (and treasured volunteer at the Special Collections service desk). You can read about the exhibit in Lea's article in this issue. We hope you will enjoy it. ©

Blue Book Continued from page 1

Many Class A mansions had ballrooms and orchestras; some also offered gambling. But because the San Antonio district was illegal—with journalists as well as city fathers looking the other way—very little was recorded about its tenants. So little, in fact, it became a famous cooling off spot for outlaws from Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid to the Dillinger Gang. ¹¹

Nor does *The Blue Book* provide much detail beyond street car directions with occasional veiled encouragement like the pronouncement that bar owner Steve Vaccerezza "can quench any kind of a thirst" at his Big Four Saloon, ¹² and Gus

and Walter Franks offer "Everything the Very Best" at their "High Class Resort For Gentlemen." ¹³

Discreetly, the author passes the buck. "If about town during the afternoon, drop into the Turf Exchange, next to Elite Hotel, you can here get some very desired information," he suggests. And one might assume the nearly two dozen cab and hack drivers and a dozen or so bar and restaurant owners listed by name could also provide enlightenment.

Geo. Keene, druggist, simply offers a "large assortment of Fine Toilet Articles," noting he is open until midnight and provides "free automobile delivery." The

Clipper Saloon features Green River, "The Whiskey without a headache. Direct from the Distillery."

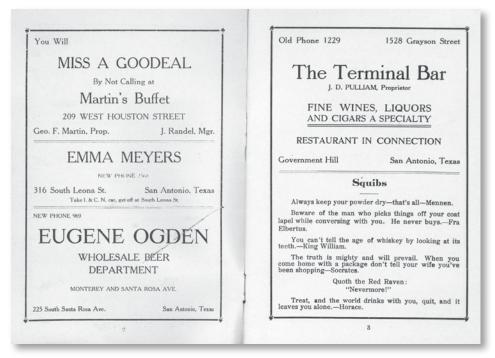
Strangely, the Park Tavern, offering all kinds of bottled beer with first class lunches, and Muth's Garden, which sells "Cool Beer, Fine Liquors, Wines and Cigars," list themselves as family resorts.

Even more puzzling is an ad for Billy Keilman's Patent Plugs for Pifflicated People. "Do things revolve when you retire?" the writer asks. "Does your room whirl like a fly-wheel in a power house? Does your trunk go by like the Twentieth Century Limited? Do you feel as if you were looping the loop?" One of these plugs inserted anyway in the wall will bring things to a standstill, or put in place before retiring, will insure a good night's rest, the advertiser promises. "DON'T SLEEP LIKE A TOP!"

Author of the book is presumed to have been Keilman, whose nameless photo is featured on the back cover with the headline "For Information of the Red Light District Ask Me. MEET ME AT THE BEAUTY SALOON." The saloon, which doubled as a bordello and was owned by Keilman, is featured first in the book's walking tour, and given a high rating.

Keilman was well qualified for the assignment. A well-liked local boy, who stood about six-feet-six and had charged to victory with Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders, he returned to serve with the San Antonio Police Department under Mayor Callaghan. A reasonably staid family man for nearly a decade, he quit the police force to move in with a red-haired girl from the District. Investing proceeds from the Beauty Saloon into other real estate including considerable property within the District, Keilman quickly became one of the town's richest citizens.¹⁵

In February of 1922, Keilman prudently swore under oath that he did not author The Blue Book.16 His statement was made during the trial of a man who shot him five times (including once in the head) and fractured his skull, requiring the implant of a silver plate.¹⁷ The crime had taken place in the Horn Palace Inn, another of Keilman's establishments, and did not speak well for the general safety of citizens touring San Antonio. Nor did the fact that Keilman was murdered at age 53 on a gaming trip three years later. While newspapers tactfully reported that the combative Irishman was on a "hunting" expedition, it appears he was clubbed to death by a fellow gambler.18



Ads in The Blue Book illustrate the variety of establishments catering to those seeking entertainment.

Although Keilman's altercations happened outside the District, there is no known second edition of the San Antonio *Blue Book* which locals swear was his creation. However its claim of safety for sexual tourists held good pretty

much through 1941 when Dwight D. Eisenhower, briefly there in command of Fort Sam Houston, shut down the District, leaving us only *The Blue Book* and a few city records to show that it actually existed. ©

End notes

- Davenport, R. "The District: Where Vice was Virtue." *The Magazine of San Antonio* (Vol 1) 1978, p. 50. The author and others say it was outclassed only by Storyville and the Barbary Coast in San Francisco.
- ² Doyle, J. Kaaz. Bryan V. Callaghan Jr., Handbook of Texas Online, http://www.lib.utexas.edu:8080/ tsha/simpleHLView.jsp?K2DocKey=/usr/local/ docs/utexas/tsha/handbook/online/articles/CC/ fcadw.html@tsha-handbook&queryText=Callag han,%20Bryanj, accessed 4/18/2007 and Bowser, David. San Antonio's Old Red-Light District, Self published, San Antonio, no date given, p. 2.
- ³ City of San Antonio City Council Minutes, Volume H: 557, December 16, 1889.
- ⁴ The Blue Book For Visitors, Tourists, and Those Seeking A Good Time While in San Antonio, Texas, Preface, p. 1. A special thanks to Ernesto Malacara, director of public relations for San Antonio's Menger Hotel, who helped on this project.
- ⁵ The Jockey Club, Wikipedia, http:/en.wikipedia. org/wiki/The_Jockey_Club, accessed 4/18/2007.
- ⁶ C. F. Eckhardt, "San Antonio's Blue Book, http://www.texasescapes.com/CFEckhardt/SAn-Antonio-Blue-Book.htm. Author Davenport recalled prices as \$1, \$.50, and 25 cents, but might have been thinking of an earlier period.

- ⁷ Davenport, pp. 50-51.
- ⁸ Dallas Morning News, December 24, 1903 and December 23, 1905.
- ⁹ Franklin, Peter D. "Around the Plaza," San Antonio Light, Oct. 15, 1973, p. 8B and Hendricks, Bill. "Prostitution's long history in S.A.," San Antonio Express-News, October 19, 1980, p. 44 D.
- 10 Hendricks, Ibid.
- ¹¹ Davenport, p. 52.
- 12 Blue Book, p. 5.
- 13 Ibid., p. 24.
- 14 Ibid., p. 7.
- ¹⁵ Phone interview with William Keilman's nephew, Orville Keilman, 4/27/2007, and U. S. Census 1910, William Keilman and Family, 412 San Saba Street, San Antonio, T624 Roll 1531, p. 20.
- 16 Case No. 28890 The State of Texas vs. Henry Yeager, detailed by Cude, Elton, *The Wild and Free Dukedom of Bexar, San Antonio, Munguia Printers, 1978*, pp. 202.
- Widely Known Ex-Owner of Horn Palace, San Antonio Express, November 30, 1925, p. 1.
- 18 Keilman, Orville.

Power of Pictures: Is Seeing Believing?

By Lea Worcester

The University of Texas at Arlington Library's Special Collections offers an exceptional variety of visual images including maps, photographs, broadsides, lithographs, sheet music, sketches, and advertisements. The fall exhibition, *Power of Pictures*, draws on the Library's collections for visual evidence in the critical evaluation of images.

Power of Pictures highlights the criteria used to analyze a still image and facilitates the development of visual literacy--an essential proficiency for researchers. Visual literacy is the set of skills needed to interpret the content of visual images, to examine the social impact of those images, and to discuss purpose, audience,

and ownership. The exhibit introduces the critical evaluation of images through a series of questions: Who created the image and what was the intended purpose? Who was the intended audience? Where has the information in the image come from and has it been manipulated? What information is assumed by the viewer?

Power of Pictures challenges visitors to evaluate maps, pictorial prints, and photographs. The exhibition offers evidence of a cartographic war in which cartographers of two countries created pictorial claims and counter claims to empire, identifies a person mysteriously removed from a 1906 photograph, and considers how trees can became mountains.

The exhibit can be viewed during the fall semester in Special Collections on the sixth floor of the Central Library on the UT Arlington campus. Special Collections is open Monday through Saturday. A free gallery guide is available.

For further information, contact Special Collections at 817-272-3393 or spcoref@uta.edu. ③

Works cited:

- ¹ Bamford, Anne. *Visual Literacy White Paper*. www.adobe.com/uk/education/pdf/
- ² Sandweiss, Martha A., Rick Stewart, and Ben Huseman. Eyewitness to War: Prints and Daguerreotypes of the Mexican War, 1846-1848. Fort Worth, Tex.: Amon Carter Museum, 1989.
- 3 Ibid

Is the information in the image accurate?



Last Reunion of San Jacinto Veterans. William Physick Zuber Papers, Special Collections, The University of Texas at Arlington.



Texas Revolution Veterans Reunion at Goliad, 1906. Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Who was at the reunion?

No relationship among a group of people seems complete without the visual evidence of a photograph legitimizing the group's existence and creating an official memory. The caption in *Last Reunion of San Jacinto Veterans* identifies the surviving members of General Sam Houston's army at the battle of San Jacinto. Critical examination of the photo reveals evidence that the area between J. W. Darlington and the flag pole was altered. Further research identifies the original photograph, *Texas Revolution Veterans Reunion at Goliad, 1906*, from the 1906 meeting of the Texas Veterans Association and the missing person, Asa C. Hill. Since Hill was not at the battle of San Jacinto, it is probable that his image was removed when a photograph commemorating San Jacinto veterans was needed.



POWER OF PICTURES





From trees to mountains!

During the Mexican War publishers competed to produce up-to-theminute Mexican War news and prints for an eager public. Their detailed images were based on a combination of eyewitness accounts, battle field sketches, previously issued prints, and imagination.2 Consideration of the sources that illustrators used for Mexican War prints can explain inaccurate topographic details such as the mountains in The Battle of Palo-Alto. There is no evidence that the artist, Carl Nebel, visited the battlefield and was familiar with the geography.3 The mountains likely appeared when he referred to T. B. Thorpe's "Our Army" on the Rio Grande for historic and geographic details and mistakenly transformed the ambiguous trees in a tiny black and white engraving into a mountain range in the colored lithograph.

Is the information in the image accurate?



After Carl Nebel, Battle of Palo-Alto, from George Wilkins Kendall, War between the United States and Mexico Illustrated (1851). Jenkins Garrett Library, Special Collections, The University of Texas at Arlington.



After Thomas Bangs Thorpe(?), Battle Field, Palo Alto - Mexican Army Drawn up in Battle Array, in T. B. Thorpe, "Our Army" on the Rio Grande (1846). Jenkins Garrett Library, Special Collections, The University of Texas at Arlington.

RECENT ACQUISITION

Back in the Days When California Was Still an Island and the Mississippi River flowed through Texas...

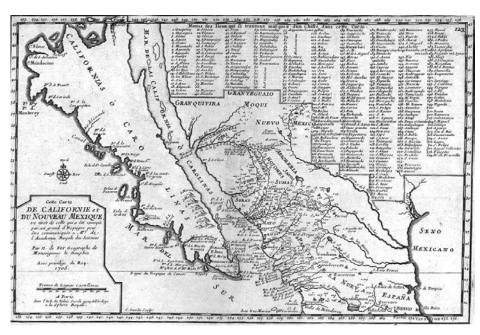
By Ben Huseman

rom 1683 until his death in 1711, Father Eusebius Kino, a Jesuit missionary from Central Europe, spread the Christian faith and expanded European geographical knowledge of northern New Spain. By 1701-1702 he physically proved by walking from Sonora into California that-contrary to accepted European cartographic representations of his time-California was attached to the mainland of North America! However, back in 1695-96, before making this discovery, he created a detailed map of northern New Spain based upon the knowledge he had at that time. Although it still showed California as an island based upon other European descriptions, Kino's 1695-1696 map had a great deal of new and reliable information about Spanish missions

and settlements, including sites along the upper reaches of the Rio Grande in present Chihuahua and far west Texas.

A Spanish nobleman forwarded Kino's 1695-1696 map to the newly formed French Royal Academy of Sciences, where in 1700 French Royal Geographer and map publisher Nicholas de Fer and engraver Charles Inselin copied it without crediting Kino. De Fer and Inselin rearranged Kino's map with a numbering system and keyed list, and in so doing, failed to transfer all the sites and names with complete accuracy. Although De Fer's map was an improvement for its time, the map was quickly superseded by other maps based on a more famous 1701 map by Kino.¹ With the recent acquisition of De Fer's 1705 map, UT Arlington's Special Collections now owns early copies of both of the great Kino maps that made such important contributions to the cartography of the American Southwest.

Interestingly, this 1705 De Fer map came to our attention through collector Marty Davis, a stalwart member of the Texas Map Society. As many *Compass Rose* readers will know, Marty and Yana Davis recently donated their great collection of early Texas maps to the Museum of the Big Bend at Sul Ross University in Alpine, Texas. Their 1705



Nicholas de Fer after Father Eusebius Kino, Cette Carte de Californie et du Nouveau Mexique... Engraving, 8.75 x 13.5 in., by Charles Inselin, probably from Nicholas de Fer, Atlas Curieux (Paris: Nicholas de Fer, 1705).

De Fer map along with sixty-three other Texas maps in their collection are featured in a forthcoming book and traveling exhibit entitled Five Centuries of Texas Maps. Sponsored by the Center for Texas Studies at Texas Christian University, the exhibit is scheduled to open at the Old Red Museum of Dallas County History and Culture on November 2, 2007. It will continue to tour to various venues around the state until January 15, 2010. Davis intends for the exhibit to showcase not only his (and now Sul Ross') collection, but also Texas maps other than those featured in the pioneering landmark exhibition catalog Maps of Texas and the Southwest, 1513-1900 by James C. Martin and Robert Sidney Martin. Readers may recall that this catalog resulted from the 1981 exhibit "Crossroads of Empire: Printed Maps of Texas and the Southwest, 1513-1900," produced by the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth and co-sponsored by The University of Texas at Arlington and by the San Jacinto Museum of History. It seems certain that knowledge of Texas maps and pride in them will continue to grow for many years to come. ©

¹ See Ernest J. Burrus, S. J., *Kino and the Cartography of Northwestern New Spain* (Tucson: Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society, 1965).

Rare, Antiquarian, or Just Plain Old : Early Map Cataloging Workshop Held at Library of Congress

By Carolyn Kadri

he Map and Geography Round Table (MAGERT) of the American Library Association (ALA) held its first ever preconference workshop on the cataloging of pre-twentieth century maps and atlases in June at the Library of Congress' Jefferson Building in conjunction with the ALA annual conference. John Hébert, Chief of the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, welcomed the participants and instructors on Thursday, June 21, 2007. He congratulated the instructors for their work in organizing the event and reminded the participants of the importance of the work done by catalogers to prepare bibliographic information that enables access to early maps and other cartographic materials in library collections.

The title of the two-day workshop was "Rare, Antiquarian, or Just Plain

Old: Cataloging Pre-Twentieth Century Cartographic Resources." It was cosponsored by other ALA divisions such as the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services, the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, and the Government Documents Round Table. The instructors were Carolyn J. Kadri, Special Collections Cataloger, The University of Texas at Arlington Library; Nancy A. Kandoian, Map Cataloger, the New York Public Library; Deborah J. Leslie, Head of Cataloging, Folger Shakespeare Library; and Seanna S. W. Tsung, Senior Cataloging Specialist, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress.

On the first day of the workshop, participants were treated to a guided tour of the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress, where they viewed and heard about selected early maps and atlases and rare items in the vault. The workshop also included presentations on the major differences in cataloging pre-twentieth century maps and modern maps and on primary map-making techniques for European and American maps. Terms referring primarily to early maps, such as bird's-eye view, compass rose, strip map, tripartite map, and portolan chart, for example, were also covered. Additionally, participants were instructed on how to select sources of information for the catalog record, including methods of research and hands-on exercises in calculating scales. Various topics in cataloging early atlases, manuscript atlases and maps, facsimiles and other reproduction types were also addressed.

Each of the 38 registered participants received a printed instruction manual, separate handouts, and a pouch of map cataloging tools with calculators, rulers, measuring tapes, scale indicators, magnifying glasses, pencils and notepads. With these tools, each participant was given the opportunity to catalog a map and/or atlas during the several practical sessions held during the workshop. Participants were enthusiastically involved during the two days of presentations and practical exercises, and many expressed their desire to have more opportunities in the future to attend training workshops and conferences in the area of cataloging early cartographic resources. ۞



Carolyn Kadri (right), uses information presented in the workshop to instruct Ann Cammack, Special Collections Library Assistant III (left), in the essentials of cataloging early maps.

[Editor's Note: Carolyn Kadri, Special Collections Cataloger, was a developer and teacher of the workshop and is Vice-Chair of the the Map and Geography Round Table.]



About the Exhibition

The *Power of Pictures*, an exhibition that challenges visitors to evaluate maps, pictorial prints, and photographs, is the latest exhibit to go up in the University of Texas at Arlington's Special Collections. Judge for yourself the evidence of a cartographic war in which cartographers of two countries created pictorial claims and counter claims to empire; learn the identity of a person mysteriously removed from a 1906 photograph; and consider how trees can became mountains. The exhibit introduces the critical evaluation of images through a series of questions about the purpose, the audience, the source, and possible manipulation of the images. For more information, see article on pages 4-5. The exhibit was curated by Lea Worcester.

Exhibition Dates

Fall semester (through December 22, 2007)

Location

Special Collections • Sixth Floor Central Library

Hours

Monday: 9 a.m. - 7p.m. • Tuesday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information

Special Collections: 817-272-3393 or spcoref@uta.edu.



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