

Center for Texas Studies *at TCU*

FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 12 / ISSUE 2

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

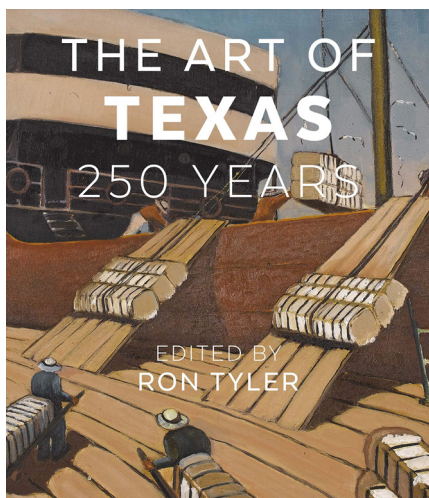
All About Art

LeAnna Schooley, Ph.D.

I love that our purpose is to “celebrate all that makes Texas distinctive.” It gives the Center the latitude to examine our great state from every angle during any time period. Whatever your personal interest in Texas history or culture, we’ve probably covered it at least once in a book, exhibit, short course, or lecture. Over the last year, our programs have delved into abandoned places, musical legacies, medical firsts, cattle trails, mindfulness, and rare records that defined our landscape before independence and statehood. I think it’s indisputable, however, that during 2019 our efforts have been especially appealing to Texas art lovers.

Roughly five years ago, my predecessor, Mary Volcansek, and two dedicated friends of the Center, former museum directors and art historians Ron Tyler and Michael Duty, concocted a plan to organize the most comprehensive exhibition of Texas art in at least three decades. They partnered with the Witte Museum on the ambitious exhibit project and joined forces with TCU Press to produce a catalog. I arrived late to the party, but I had the great pleasure of working with these outstanding contributors to bring forth *The Art of Texas: 250 Years*, the exhibit by the same name, and a corresponding symposium this spring.

This groundbreaking project was made possible by far too many special people to name here, but all the partners are immensely grateful for the generous



financial support from our donors, the trust of the private lenders and public institutions who shared their art with us, and the staffs of the Center, the Witte, and the TCU Press for their commitment to our ultimate success. And what a success it has been! I am pleased to report that over 30,000 visitors enjoyed “The Art of Texas” at the Witte over its summer run. Meanwhile, the book—which weighs in at a whopping seven pounds—is selling like gangbusters. Early reviews say it is a “visual feast for the eyes” and that “this might be the most spectacular Texas book published this year. Or any year, for that matter.” Editor Ron Tyler is traveling the state doing lectures and signing books, so keep an eye out for him at your local bookseller or art museum.

Meanwhile, we have many other Mirons in the fire. Our next publication, *Wanted in America: Posters Collected by the Fort Worth Police Department, 1898-1908*, which I edited with Tom Kellam, Tarrant County College District Archivist, will be out in November. The book features fifty of the most interesting wanted posters in the bountiful TCCD

collection along with essays that provide background on the wanted persons and their stories. While I’m shamelessly plugging our print projects, let me direct you to Gregg Cantrell’s piece later in the newsletter about the most recent additions to our award-winning biography series including *George T. Ruby, Champion of Civil Rights in Reconstruction Texas* by Carl Moneyhon. Also, stay tuned for news on an upcoming Texas history bilingual coloring book designed for students; but suitable for grownup history lovers, too.

As a byproduct of our roles here, the Center’s staff has the opportunity to learn new things about the Lone Star State every day. This is especially true of the two new additions to our group, graduate assistant Codee Scott and undergraduate intern Eloise Haynes. Having benefited greatly from internships and assistantships as I prepared for a career in history, I strongly believe in providing the same type of immersive learning and networking opportunities for our students at TCU. Scott is critical to our day-to-day operations and is conducting research that will expand the presence of DFW in the Texas State Historical Association “Handbook of Texas.” Furthermore, you would not be reading this newsletter were it not for the long hours Haynes spent designing and editing it.

Our work to celebrate our distinctive history and culture could not continue without the dedicated army of donors, friends, and fans who support us in a myriad of ways. Whether you have made financial contributions to the Center, attended events, bought books, or simply liked our Facebook page, we are grateful for your participation. It’s our pleasure to talk Texas with you anytime. 🌟

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Enhancing Educators and Inspiring Intellectuals

Gene Allen Smith, Ph. D.

Spanish philosopher George Santana wrote, “those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” We historians heartily agree and work hard to remind our students, colleagues, and the general public of the importance of the past in our everyday lives. Our job is not to tell the “truth” about historic events, but rather to convey that the past is merely a collection of memories from many participants. Certain recollections carry more weight and become an accepted interpretation of the past—this embodies the old adage that “winners write the history.” However, we cannot find a “truth” about the past beyond a timeline of events that occurred. Over long periods of time, succeeding generations will reinterpret past actions based on their own era and any new evidence that becomes available.

Since 2003 the Center has been offering Teacher Education Workshops to provide historical content and innovative approaches for effective classroom learning. Teachers need continuing education not only to maintain certification but also to remain energized and inspired to present the best lessons to their students. I have personally been involved in more than sixty of these Center-sponsored workshops during the last fifteen years in Fort Worth-area school districts and around the state west to Albany; east to Arlington, Lewisville and Frisco; and south to San Antonio and Victoria. We have also worked with homeschool teachers, the Dallas Historical

Society, Texas Regional Educational Service Centers, and have organized workshops for Humanities Texas. Over time, I have covered a wide range of topics with teachers and with the help of my colleagues in History and other liberal arts subjects, we can accommodate the needs of almost any social studies team. I firmly believe workshops represent one of the Center’s most important endeavors.

Enhancing educators’ mastery of the subjects they teach generally improves students’ performance on state assessment tests. While improved standardized scores do not necessarily portend positive future developments, by explaining the cyclical nature of the past to students, they should begin to realize that both bad times and good times are part of the history of every culture including their own. During Center workshops, we deliver information, pedagogical approaches, and often PowerPoint presentations that trickle down into elementary, middle school, and high school classrooms. In fact, some years ago I even had an undergraduate student at TCU who claimed to have seen a presentation of mine a high school teacher had subsequently shared with her own class years before. Needless to say, I beamed with pride knowing that my and the Center’s efforts touch so many teachers and students.

So while national events seem to be in constant flux or change, the Center remains in the business

of offering workshops to districts and service centers across the state. During the next few months, we have sessions scheduled with the Birdville and Fort Worth ISDs, as well as with the Region XI Service Center. In the future, we hope to expand our reach so we can spread our message and provide our service to those who need it most. If you are a teacher or even know one who could benefit from these sessions, don’t hesitate to contact us. We organize sessions on U.S., European, or world history topics; geography; and political science. As long as we have ample lead time, we can generally meet any district’s educational needs. Hopefully we can work with you in the future.

Certainly, the Center could not accomplish our mission without many individuals and foundations who generously support our activities. Your assistance enables the Center for Texas Studies to give back to the community and educate our youth as we do. Thank you! 🇺🇸

THE CENTER FOR TEXAS STUDIES STAFF

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LeAnna Schooley, Ph.D.

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Gene Allen Smith, Ph.D.

Texas Biography Series Editor
Gregg Cantrell, Ph.D.

Graduate Assistant
Codee Scott

Intern
Eloise Haynes



Biography Series Celebrates 10th Year

Gregg Cantrell, Ph.D.
Editor, Texas Biographer Series

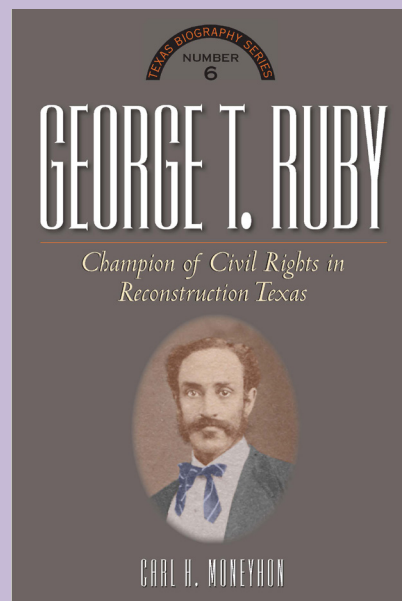
The Texas Biography Series, a joint project of the Center for Texas Studies at TCU and the TCU Press, is now celebrating its tenth anniversary. Since Light Cummins' *Emily Austin of Texas* appeared in 2009, the Series has published biographies of E. J. Davis (by Carl Moneyhon), John S. "Rip" Ford (by Richard McCaslin), Adele Briscoe Looscan (by Laura Lyons McLemore), and José de la Santos Benavides (by Jerry Thompson). Several of these volumes have won prestigious awards.

The Series continues to move forward. Now at press is our latest title, *George T. Ruby, Champion of Civil Rights in Reconstruction Texas* by Carl Moneyhon, our first two-time Series author. Ruby was a Freedmen's Bureau agent and president of the Union League before becoming arguably the most influential African American politician and one of the most prominent promoters of black civil rights of the nineteenth century in Texas.

We are also pleased to announce that Professor Ty Welborn of the Maricopa Community Colleges is now under contract to write the seventh volume in the Series, *Lone Star Crusader: Antonio Maceo Smith and the Texas Civil Rights Movement*. Smith was one of the most

prominent African American leaders of the twentieth-century Civil Rights Movement in Texas. Because the mission of the Series is to publish cutting-edge scholarly biographies of historical Texas figures who either have no biography or no quality modern biography—and because we have particularly striven to include biographies of figures from historically neglected groups—we are especially pleased that when Professor Welborn's book is published, the last three volumes in the Series will have focused on important African American and Tejano leaders.

The first several titles in the Series have been underwritten by a generous grant from the Houston Endowment. In 2011, the Center received an additional grant from the Carl and Florence E. King Foundation and the Summerlee Foundation, ensuring that the Series will continue into the future. I am in conversation with several other potential authors and am always on the lookout for scholars with interesting projects. If you, or someone you know, is working on a biography that would be appropriate for our series, please drop me a line at g.cantrell@tcu.edu, and I will be happy to send you a copy of our Author's Guidelines and discuss your project with you. 🇺🇸



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Program News

Trinity River Extended Education Courses

Through TCU's Extended Education program, the Center for Texas Studies offers short courses that delve deeply into Texas history and culture. In April, Quentin McGown led almost fifty eager explorers through the long, tumultuous relationship between the Trinity River and Fort Worth. After a Thursday evening in the classroom to examine the story of the river in detail, McGown escorted the group into the field on Saturday for a comfortable coach tour with several historic and scenic stops. The class visited the Holly Water Treatment Plant, the city's first plant built in 1892, with special permission. Exhibits on display at the plant served as a primer for the next stop at the Tarrant Regional Water Board Offices. Attendees lunched overlooking the river and heard a presentation from Matt Oliver on the status of the Trinity River Vision. The day wrapped up with a short walk through Oakmont Park on the Trinity.

For fall 2019, McGown offered the third course in his three-part survey on the history of Fort Worth. He was followed by Mark Dennis, professor of East Indian Religions at TCU, who offered a window into how to achieve "Mindfulness in the Metroplex" with his course on meditation.

Remember to make your reservations early for upcoming 2019 spring courses at <http://www.lifelong.tcu.edu/TCU>. English professor Charlotte Hogg will join us in January for a two-night course titled, "Messin' with Place: Writing about Texas," that is a must for anyone considering writing a memoir, family history, novel—anything!—based in the Lone Star State.

We're also looking forward to Quentin McGown's next tour, "Wall Street of the West: How Fort Worth became the Livestock Center of the Southwest," coming in April. 🇹🇽



Round Up 2018

★ Texas Studies program assistant Kayleigh Nava designed a story time fit to present to all young Texans at the Fort Worth Public Library over the summer. Our audience heard excerpts from *Our Texas* by Jackie Mims Hopkins, a book highlighting Texas history and culture, and adults got a list of great Texas children's books to read at home.

★ The Center for Texas Studies partnered with the History and English Departments and Humanities Texas to host National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman Jon Parrish Peede on campus in February to discuss cultural leadership in the 21st century. Not only did he update us on the latest NEH projects, but he dedicated much of his visit to talking in depth with students about careers in the humanities.

★ Do you receive notices about our programs and publications? If not, send your email address to texasstudies@tcu.edu and we'll add you to the list! No spam, we promise. 🇹🇽



ENRICH YOUR STORY THIS SPRING

Reserve your spot today: www.lifelong.tcu.edu

January 21 & 28:

Messin' with Texas: Writing About Place

with Charlotte Hogg
Author- Associate Professor at TCU

April 23 & 25:

Wall Street of the West: How Fort Worth Became the Livestock Center of the Southwest

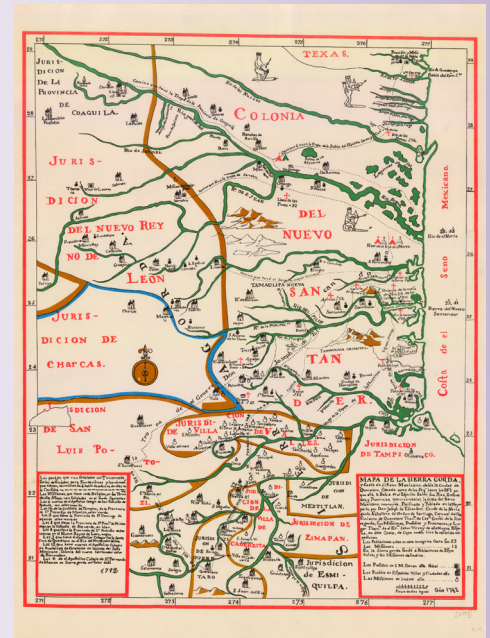
with Quentin McGown
Author-Historian-Probate Judge

New Research and Publications Headlined 2019 Speaker Series

Speakers in the Preserving Our Past Community History Lecture Series presented new research, demonstrated innovative digital resources, and told some wonderful stories along the way this year. Tom Reynolds, Fort Worth native and musician extraordinaire, joined us for African American History Month to explain the remarkable jazz legacy of Fort Worth in "I.M. Terrell: How a Handful of Graduates from One Black High School Changed Music History." In March, friend of the Center and noted local historian Ruth Karbach brought the little-known story of the trailblazing women who practiced medicine as graduates of the Fort Worth Medical School in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. It was a treat to have the Vice-President of Digital Media, Programming, and Research from NBC5/KXAS-TV, Brian Hocker, discuss the project to digitize the station's historic materials through the Portal to Texas History. In May, Dr. Brooke Wibracht, TCU instructor, presented "True Tales from the Texas Fence Cutting Wars, 1880-1890," which put the lives of participants on both sides of the complicated conflict into better focus.

Author Wayne Ludwig spent a September Saturday with us to discuss his book, *The Old Chisholm*

Trail: From Cow Path to Tourist Stop. Ludwig's detailed new research on this old topic offered evidence that perhaps the Chisholm Trail in Texas is more a promotional creation than historical fact. For Hispanic Heritage Month in October, Dr. Brian Stauffer, translator and curator of the Spanish Collection at the Texas General Land Office, was our special guest. After a Friday meet and greet with TCU graduate students, he outlined how to find Tejano history in the GLO both in person and through their online databases. Their many digitized maps and land grants are used extensively by historians and genealogists as well as other professionals in the state. For the art lovers in our audience, Ron Tyler, author, historian, educator, and former director of the Amon Carter Museum of American History, gave a talk based on his latest publication, *The Art of Texas: 250 Years*. The exhibit catalog, based on the same name, is a joint project of the Center and the TCU Press. Each December our partners at the Fort Worth Public Library introduce projects of their own that share our goal to preserve the state's distinctive past. In December, senior librarian Jennifer Brancato will draw on resources from the local history and archives unit to examine the history of recreation in "Freedom to Play? Fort Worth City Parks During Jim Crow."



Preserving Our Past lectures are held one Saturday a month from January to May and September to December at 10:30 AM in the Tandy Lecture Hall at the Fort Worth Public Library. These events are made possible through the generosity of the Summerlee Foundation and the Sommerfield G. Roberts Foundation. Admission is free. For a complete schedule of upcoming events, visit www.texasstudies.org or like us on Facebook. 🇺🇸





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Celebrating All That Makes Texas Distinctive...

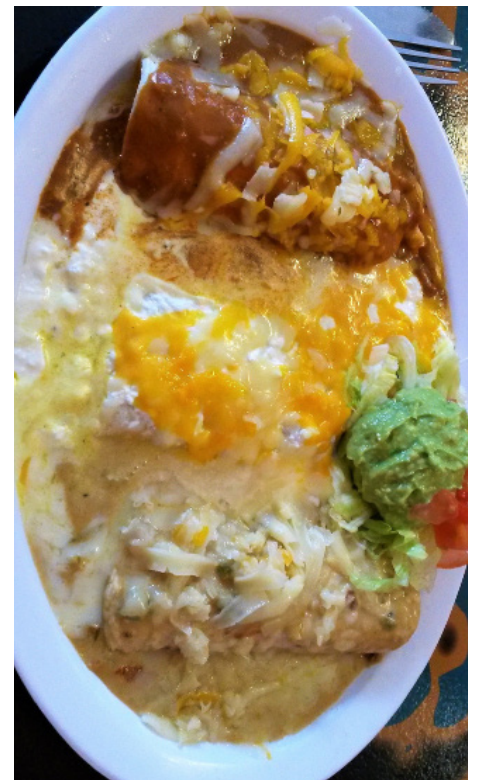


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