<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Editors’ Choice: A Liberated Mind</th>
<th>2-4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. Frank Dobie, Steven L. Davis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lovin’ That Lone Star Flag</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E. Joe Deering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slave Transactions of Guadalupe County</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas, Mark Gretchen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duchess of Palms: A Memoir</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nadine Eckhardt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lone Star Lost: Buried Treasures in Texas</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Dearen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My Mommy’s on a Business Trip</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phaedra Cucina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Black Women in Texas History</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eds. Bruce A. Glasrud, Merline Pitre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Western Legends</th>
<th>7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zane Grey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Texas Sunrise: Two Novels of the Texas Republic</th>
<th>7-8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elmer Kelton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Making the Americas: The United States and Latin America</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>from the Age of Revolutions to the Era of Globalization, Thomas F. O’Brien</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insects of Texas: A Practical Guide</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David H. Kattes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To Get a Better School System: One Hundred Years of Education Reform in Texas</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gene B. Preuss</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Woodcutter’s Gift / El regalo del leñador</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lupe Ruiz-Flores</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spanish Water, Anglo Water: Early Development in San Antonio</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charles R. Porter, Jr.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tomás Rivera: The Complete Works</th>
<th>10-11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ed. Julián Olivares</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Seventh Star of the Confederacy: Texas during the Civil War</th>
<th>11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ed. Kenneth W. Howell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Editors’ Choice: *A Liberated Mind: J. Frank Dobie*

Steven L. Davis

**A New Look at Frank Dobie**

& Conversation with the Author

Review by Brandon D. Shuler

Lon Tinkle's 1978 biography *An American Original: The Life of J. Frank Dobie* tackles an American icon; however, although he reported the facts of Dobie's life, the biography leaves the reader wanting. What made Dobie the "ranching professor?" What made this conservative farm boy from Live Oak county become a progressive liberal later in life? What is Dobie's lasting legacy on Texas literature? Steven L. Davis's *A Liberated Mind: J. Frank Dobie* answers these questions and reveals the late bloomer who becomes the voice of early twentieth century Texas.

Davis explores the tumultuous relationship of Dobie and J. Evetis Haley and how Haley's jump to the ultra-conservative right hastened Dobie's move from the political center to the left. Davis also explores the influence and mentorship of Dobie on Jovita Gonzalez and J. Mason Brewer. But where Davis' writing is the most superb and reveals Dobie's nature surrounds the Machiavellian machinations by the University of Texas Boards of Regents to fire Homer Rainey and ultimately J. Frank Dobie. Davis probes beyond the highlights we read of the imbroglio described by George N. Green in *The Establishment in Texas Politics* and Gary A. Keith's *Eckhardt and gets to the core of the communist red-scare which invaded the Texas culture and higher education. The resounding effects liberated Dobie's thinking and gave us the man who should be reexamined under an enlightened microscope as Davis does.

I recently sat down with Steven Davis to talk about his Dobie experience. Here's what he had to say:

BDS: Leon Edel, Henry James’s biographer, writes in *Literary Biography* that through transference and commonality of experience a biographer sends themselves on a journey of self-discovery. As you researched Dobie’s life, what common experiences did you find that you all shared and what did you discover about yourself?

SLD: Leon Edel is exactly right. If your biography’s going to be any good, you have to connect with your subject, to find a way to get inside his or her head.

I’d like to think that I have some special gift or insight that allows me to do this, but in truth whatever success I have is due to the archives—in particular, correspondence. There’s no better way to see what a person’s thinking than to read his or her private mail. That’s a great way to climb into somebody’s mind.

It’s true that I found a number of commonalities with Dobie, and I must say, I was delighted to encounter each one. It really helped me develop a deep kinship with him. At a very basic level, I found that we share an ambivalence about academia. It’s no accident that each of us quit our formal schooling after getting our master’s degrees. And neither of us has any patience for those pretentious scholars who write in a deliberately opaque manner, believing that inscrutability somehow conveys authority.

There are many more affinities we could talk about, but here’s just one more quick example. Those who know me well know that for years I’ve complained about the outsized attention given to outlaws and such. The numerous books on John Wesley Hardin, Bonnie and Clyde, etc… To me such fixations seem representative of an adolescent culture. How nice it was to discover, then, that Dobie felt the exact same way.

The sense of validation that comes from discoveries like this is so important. For years I felt like a lone wolf strolling around in the wilderness. By studying Dobie I learned that I’m part of a community, part of an established intellectual tradition in Texas. That was a very nice gift to receive while working on this book.

BDS: Some recent Chicano literature scholarship has downplayed, even attempted to negate, the influence of J. Frank Dobie on Mexican-American and minority writers. However, as you point out, Dobie’s mentorship of Jovita González and J. Mason Brewer, and to an extent America Paredes, runs deep. How do you see this recent blush of revisionist scholarship dimming the impact of Dobie on Texas letters, especially Mexican-American

Continued on page three
We have clusters of talent everywhere. And, refreshingly, we have pockets of those I consider to be “organic” scholars—those free from theoretical orthodoxies. In many cases, these scholars are direct descendants of Dobie’s influence. Dobie believed, like Montaigne, that you should trust your own knowledge, experience, and intellect in making observations or judgments. You shouldn’t bend your thoughts to adhere to a fixed doctrine.

BDS: You’ve said in private conversations that you’d rather write about writers unafraid to foist their political opinions into their writing. You said, “they’re more interesting.” Dobie was certainly politically motivated and, at times, incendiary, as most great voices I’d say are. What was it in Dobie’s nature, do you think, which made him such a politically boisterous character?

SLD: Just to clarify a bit, let me point out that nothing is more tiresome than political writing. What I meant in that earlier quote is that I like writers who aren’t afraid to show their emotions, to take chances, to make mistakes, to get involved in the issues of the day. They’re simply more interesting subjects.

The hilarious thing about Dobie when it comes to politics is that he was equally boisterous when he was a libertarian conservative as he was as a progressive liberal. It was just in his nature to raise hell. I think it was his wife, Bertha, who observed that Frank was never at peace with himself except when inveighing against something. And, of course, to allude to one of your earlier questions, I’ll admit that there’s a bit of that in me, too. Certainly enough to be able to relate to Dobie while writing about him.

BDS: You are quickly becoming the voice of Texas literary history. The Wittliff Collections have played an important role in doing this. How have you managed to carve out such a unique voice for yourself? Who are your favorite current Texas authors and what can we expect from Steven Davis next?

SLD: Your mention of the Wittliff Collections explains a lot. Dobie said that “luck is being ready for the chance” and I was very lucky to begin working at the Wittliff Collections while I was a graduate student in Southwestern Studies at Texas State. I’m one of those geeks who could never decide between literature and history, and here in the archives I can combine both loves. Obviously I can’t do my research and writing on university time—we stay very busy at the collection—but of course being in the center of all this activity confers many advantages. I know that I’m very lucky so I try to respect karmic energy by working very hard at my job and by helping others whenever possible.

As far as Texas authors, I actually try to read very widely outside of Texas in order to prevent myself from becoming too provincial. I don’t want to become one of those “homers” who function as cheerleaders for Texas literature. (A view Dobie also held, by the way.)

But there are many interesting Texas writers, and I would certainly never miss a new book by people such as Dagoberto Gilb, Sarah Bird, Elizabeth Crook, Dick Reavis. And if William
Continued from page three

Hauptman ever publishes another book I'll be first in line to buy it. And finally, although Bud Shrake is now gone, I think he's the most criminally underrated Texas writer. His two best novels, Blessed McGill and Strange Peaches, deserve inclusion in the American canon.

As far as my next project, I'm beginning to feel a little constrained by writing only about Texas literary history. I've been busy composing a light comic opera, set in the Himalayas about an alien spaceship that crash lands on Mt. Annapurna and is rescued by a yeti family, which due to radiation is actually hairless, though they've also grown third arms, which come in quite handy during the rescue. There's also an intergalactic romance. Really, it's much better than it sounds, Brandon. We're doing auditions in San Marcos next month. How's your singing voice?

Lovin' That Lone Star Flag
E. Joe Deering

Pictorial of Flags from across the State
Review by Holly Carey

For those into coffee table books and the Texas flag, Derring's book is a must-have. The flag is featured in traditional settings as well the bizarre—eighteen wheeler grills, crop dusters, wheel barrows, race cars, bowling pins, graduation caps, and, of course, belt buckles. Two pictures in particular stand out to me personally: the first is a two-page spread on pages twenty-four and twenty-five. The flag, slightly blurred, is painted alongside a white building, and in the center of the picture sits in perfect focus a red bellied woodpecker atop a barbed wire fence. As a novice bird-watcher, to me the shot is stunning. A second favorite features a young girl held up by her dad to a basketball goal; the plywood backboard is, you guessed it, the Texas flag, and the ball energetic sinks through the broken net. If I were to have one complaint about this selection, it's simply that the back cover, a beautiful hot air balloon drifting in the Texas sunset, should be the front. This catchy, eye-

pleasing collection is recommended for those who enjoy not just the Texas flag but also for those hungry for a glimpse of ordinary Texas life from Fort Worth and Dallas to the plains and countryside.

Slave Transactions of Guadalupe County, Texas
Mark Gretchen

A Detailed and Well-Documented Text
Review by Holly Carey

Mark Gretchen's book will make a valuable addition to public, school, and university libraries across the state. In fact, I have donated the Review of Texas Books' copy to Lamar's Mary and John Gray Library. The text is meticulously detailed with bills of transactions, loan notes, deeds, and offers a sheer factual and unbiased account of "owners," the disassembling of families, altering of names, and labeling of slaves as "yellow," "copper," "lame, having one leg shorter than the other," "idiot boy," and the like. The dollar amounts attached to human beings serve as a stark reminder of the atrocities of slave trading in central, south, and southeast Texas. Highly recommended for Texas history majors, teachers, and professors as well as those interested in tracing genealogy and studying Texas slavery from 1840-1865.
Duchess of Palms: A Memoir
Nadine Eckhardt

The Changing Role of a Texas Woman
Review by Sally Dooley

Women who came of age in the 1950s found themselves in a world where males dominated their lives and choices, and it was accepted. Nadine Eckhardt, now a New Yorker, recalls her thoughts and experiences as a "fifties girl" who lived at first through the men in her life. As the wife of both Billy Lee Brammer, renowned author of The Gay Place, and U.S. congressman, Bob Eckhardt, she was thrust into brilliant literary and political circles. Coming from McAllen where she was crowned a high school Duchess of Palms, she wanted to escape and obtain an education at North Texas, now the University of North Texas. Impressed with his wit, charm, and good looks, she married Brammer while in school. Soon a mother of two children and a husband whose writing career took him away from home, the marriage grew fragile. A six-year whirl in Washington D.C. and Austin where they both worked for Senator LBJ was a primer in politics. After divorcing Brammer, she assisted Bob Eckhardt, a promising Texas legislator, into Congress. Her accounts of these years are interesting for the history she witnessed. She is frank about her growing self-knowledge, often declaring, "I would never have allowed this if I had been aware at the time..." and other life skills to be learned by many a "fifties girl."

Societal changes of the '60s brought her slowly to the painful awareness that "I didn't know how to achieve for myself, only for others, and I felt ripped off and empty." Here Eckhardt is at her best as she reveals her struggle to mature, become self-supporting, and at peace with herself. She describes sexual awakenings, drug use, addicted-husband fatigue, and ultimately a successful woman during an eventful time in Texas and Washington politics. Each chapter covers five or ten-year periods with short but colorful memories of a particular era, place, and personalities.

Lone Star Lost: Buried Treasures in Texas
Patrick Dearen

More Lost Treasure Stories
Review by Emma B. Hawkins

This attractive little book (3 1/4 x 6 1/4) comprises one volume of the Texas Small Books Collection. For those who are interested, on the back cover are listed seven books in the series, including this title. The book has a hard cover, nice heavy pages, and both black and white and color photographs. Ten stories of Texas lost treasures are recounted. A list of thirty-four Texas treasure-hunters who were knowledgeable about the treasures mentioned in the stories and who were interviewed in 2007 is included in the back of the book.

The stories focus on treasures from the time of Spanish exploration/settlement in Mexico and the Southwest United States, especially one buried near Denton Creek along the Denton-Wise county line, to the most recent excavations such as that conducted in 1991 at a site in the Cross Timbers area of Texas, near Sunset. This treasure hoard was supposed to include an underground labyrinth, an underground city with marble columns, and a wagon-load of gold. Several of the stories are associated with the central part of Texas, especially Wise County and Denton, instead of the usual southwestern region. The last, most documented, and longest story deals with the Spanish cache of Santiago Peak in west Texas.

**My Mommy’s on a Business Trip**

Phaedra Cucina

A Helping Hand for Mom & Child

Review by Andrea Karlin

Phaedra Cucina’s *My Mommy’s on a Business Trip*, which can be customized for businesses whose employees travel or as customer gifts, is told from the perspective of a young girl whose mother is on a business trip. Although the child misses her mother, she understands why her mother is away and recognizes that her mother misses her too and will return home soon. Children will relate to Shelley Johannes’s illustrations which complement the text.

**Black Women in Texas History**

Eds. Bruce A. Glasrud, Merline Pitre

A Significant Contribution to Women’s Studies

Review by Sara Pace

This well researched volume of essays covers the largely neglected topic of African American women’s lives—the editors do acknowledge that there is a growing body of scholarship on the subject, but the existing research opens up many further questions—especially ones about the struggles and tenacity of Black women in Texas. The eight essays cover topics as diverse as how freedwomen lived in Texas after the civil war (some became landowners), the lives of married black women, how African American women in Texas grew to accumulate property and wealth, and African American women’s careers in the early twentieth century. The essays cover the spectrum of women’s experiences, both public (such as Bruce Glasrud’s chapter on Black women in the early twentieth century, in which he discusses the political importance of women’s clubs and also how many Black women fought the KKK and sought anti-lynching legislation) and private (such as Rebecca Sharpless’s chapter on Black women in Texas from 1874 to 1900, in which she showcases primary research through snippets of oral histories, some recounting abusive relationships with husbands), making for a comprehensive and cohesive whole. Contributors followed the themes of place, time, class, and race, “by providing specialized studies on African American women from slavery to the civil rights movement to the present” (vii). The essays are arranged chronologically (the last chapter deals with Black women’s educational and political leadership from the mid 1970s to 2000), with the purpose of sharing “the interconnections among a variety of historical experiences” (vii). The book concludes with an extensive bibliography, which would be of great help to other experienced or fledging scholars wishing to extend the work of this insightful and interesting volume. Overall, this collection would be of great interest to a wide range of audiences, including those interested in women's studies, Texas history, and the experiences of Black women in the state throughout a fairly long span of time.
Western Legends
Zane Grey

Three Classic Westerns
Review by Frances M. Ramsey

Readers of current Western fiction will notice the difference of style in these three novels which were first published in 1915 or 1921. There is more description of the natural setting and the physiognomy of the characters than in most of today’s writing. However, the suspense of the narrative will carry the reader to the conclusion.

In the Foreword the author states: “In this materialistic age, this hard, practical, swift, greedy age of realism, it seems there is no place for writers of romance, no place for romance itself. Romance is only another name for idealism; and I contend that life without ideals is not worth living.” This insight enhances the reader’s appreciation for the stories Zane Grey wrote.

In To the Last Man the half Indian son of a wealthy cattlemen is called to Arizona to help with a brewing feud between cattlemen and sheepmen. He is drawn to a mountain girl until they discover that their fathers are leaders on opposite sides of the conflict. Each is torn between loyalty to their fathers and what their own observations tell them.

The Mysterious Rider is hired to clear out the predators attacking the calves and solve the growing threat of rustlers. Columbine, a foundling reared as the daughter of a respected rancher, is sought by the rancher’s wild prodigal son and the ranch’s most reliable cowboy. If the girl sacrifices herself to reform the prodigal, is his change of character possible? Who is the mysterious rider?

Zane Grey explains that he learned all he could about a legendary outlaw and visited the area many times to imagine how the son of a fast gun became an outlaw even though he wanted an ordinary pleasant life. His lonely life trying to avoid conflict and his experience with The Lone Star Ranger provides an action filled adventure.

Beside the pleasure of reading western tales this volume could be used as a window into early twentieth century attitudes especially toward women and law and order.

Texas Sunrise: Two Novels of the Texas Republic
Elmer Kelton

Birth Pangs of Texas
Review by Frances M. Ramsey

Combining Massacre at Goliad and After the Bugles, previously published separately, the early struggle for Texas independence is told from the viewpoint of Joshua Buckalew who comes to the Austin Colony with his older brother Thomas and a simple friend Muley Dodd seeking available land.

Tension builds in the first novel as settlers and even brothers have different attitudes about friendship or hatred between American and Mexican settlers. While Joshua befriends their Mexican neighbors, learns from their methods, and falls in love with one of the girls, his brother has only hostility and distrust. Eventually both brothers and neighbor Ramon Hernandez fight against Santa Ana. Joshua is involved in the first battle of the Alamo, escapes from the massacre at Goliad in which his brother dies, joins the runaway scrape, and participates in the victory at San Jacinto where he is reunited with Ramon.

The second story depicts the aftermath of war and the struggle to rebuild what had been destroyed by Santa Ana’s forces or outlaws. A disparate group returning to the same area near the Colorado River bands together for protection and struggles with their remaining prejudices. Eventually they help one another rebuild their lives.

Continued on page eight
Making the Americas:
The United States and Latin America from the Age of Revolutions to the Era of Globalization
Thomas F. O’Brien

Insects of Texas:
A Practical Guide
David H. Kattes

Continued from page seven
As in his other writing, Elmer Kelton makes history personal and explores controversies which divide, offering insight into what might ease today’s conflicts. Highly recommended.

O'BRIEN, THOMAS F., MAKING THE AMERICAS: THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA FROM THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS TO THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION. ALBUQUERQUE: UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS; 2007. 376 PP.; BIBLIOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX, NOTES, PHOTOS. $24.95 PAPER.


Insects of Texas:
A Practical Guide
David H. Kattes

Easy to Follow and Well-Illustrated
Review by Frances M. Ramsey
As stated in the Preface, “This book is not an authoritative or definitive book on insect taxonomy, but rather a guide to the more recognizable identifying characteristics of many common insect orders and families in Texas.” The Introduction defines the term “insect” and describes the structures which help in identification. Examples of variation in these structures are illustrated by colorful, informative photographs.

The How to Use This Book section lists common names of each family included in a class with major identifying characteristics and pages for more information. Pronunciation and meaning of scientific names are made plain throughout. Information on each family page includes physical characteristics, habitat, and food for both adults and larvae, all enhanced by multiple color photographs.

Using this attractive book is like having a good teacher to guide one. The logical presentation, the pronunciation guides and glossary, and the beautiful photographs pique one’s interest and guide one’s reaction to each insect, whether harmful or beneficial. Highly recommended.

This academic volume is packed with valuable, well documented information and deserves a careful reading by those affecting U.S. policy. The final statement merits thoughtful consideration. “What is unclear is whether in light of their experiences in Latin America, the people of the United States and their leaders possess the wisdom to appreciate the limits of their powers to transform the globe and a respect for the ability of people in other cultures to shape their own destinies.”
To Get a Better School System: One Hundred Years of Education Reform in Texas
Gene B. Preuss

A History of Changes in Public Education
Review by Frances M. Ramsey

Dr. Gene B. Preuss, assistant professor of history at the University of Houston-Downtown, uncovers the reasons why Texas lawmakers adopted measures to dramatically change public school administration following World War II. These were measures very similar to those previously rejected.

One controversial impediment to improvement was the divide between those who supported a centralized system of tax-supported public education and those who held that education was a parental responsibility and feared loss of local control.

The author traces efforts to establish free public education from the Republic of Texas to World War II. He points out the effect of conservative politics and racial prejudice. The mainly agricultural population made isolated one room schools with minimally prepared teachers the norm in much of the state.

Military needs during World War II revealed the wide lack of education throughout the U.S. and a movement for reform arose.

The last chapter introduces Claud Gilmer and A. M. Aiken who pushed for careful study and final passage of the Gilmer-Aiken laws under which school reform was finally effected.

Copious notes, an extensive bibliography, and the index make this a useful resource for those interested in the development of Texas education. Black and white photographs illustrate earlier schools and some of the leaders for change.

The Woodcutter's Gift / El regalo del leñador
Lupe Ruiz-Flores

Surprise Gift from a Fallen Tree
Review by Frances M. Ramsey

This charming children's story unfolds with English narrative at the top of the page and the lines in Spanish below a small pictured detail. The opposite page illustrates the tale in soft colorful drawings.

When a violent thunder storm topples a giant mesquite tree in the town square, neighbors who seldom speak congregate to decide what to do. One grumpy painter insists it has value only as firewood. But the gardener advises consulting the woodcutter, "This tree could belong to everyone. It will be a surprise." He cuts it into large chunks and hauls it to his garage where he works behind closed doors.

Finally he summons the community to see the life size menagerie of animals he has carved for the square.

The delighted children are allowed to paint the animals with donated leftover paint with bright results. When a museum wants too buy the artistic animals, the children are saddened. However, the woodcutter says, "Look how our zoo has brought us all together. The zoo belongs here. It's not for sale, but I will donate one piece to the museum so others can enjoy it, too."

Recommended especially for bilingual clientele and those wishing to brush up on another language.
**Spanish Water, Anglo Water: Early Development in San Antonio**
Charles R. Porter, Jr.

The Waters that Bestowed Life to San Antonio
Review by Cristina Ríos

This well researched book discusses the historical development of San Antonio, using as a framework its water resources, from the first Spanish settlement in 1718 to 1902. The chronicle of the emergence and evolution of an important city in Texas, and how a natural resource shaped a community, could be an appealing topic to many audiences, including historians, sociologists, political scientists, urban developers, engineers, legal scholars, environmentalists, etc.

The book is organized in three parts. Part one presents the original resources of the region and establishes the importance of water in an area where the amount of rain can be uncertain. The author recounts the descriptions made by the first Spanish explorers that named the San Antonio River in 1691, about the magnificence of the river and clear water springs. The reader is reminded of the fact that the original natural splendor of the environment has been altered.

Part Two covers the period of 1718 to 1836, and discusses the planning and founding of the mission, presidio, and village of San Antonio. The construction of the initial irrigation system was a cooperative endeavor and the distribution and use of the water resources was based on the Spanish belief and legal principle that water was to be shared fairly by everyone in the community. The author argues that Spanish colonial laws on water still have an influence on the rulings of Texas courts on this matter.

Historical events that transformed San Antonio from being a part of Mexico to eventually becoming an American city are related in Part Three. The author provides an interesting account of social and political changes comprising the years 1836 to 1902. Water that had been the source of life and collaboration for the community brought disease, controversy, and was used for political gains. The author indicates in the epilogue, that he is preparing a second volume, covering the subsequent developments in the 20th Century. Unanswered issues raise interesting research questions, that scholars in different fields of study might want to pursue.

---

**Tomás Rivera: The Complete Works**
Ed. Julián Olivares

The Migrant Farm-worker Experience and Chicano Literature
Review by Cristina Ríos

The complete literary production of Tomás Rivera is compiled in this excellent book, including his award winning novel, short stories, poetry, and critical essays. This edition also includes works that were published after Rivera’s death, and some that had not been published previously. In the introduction, the editor presents an overview of Tomás Rivera’s literary work as well as a comprehensive discussion, analysis, and interpretation of Rivera’s writings.

The literary works of Tomás Rivera are at the heart of the Chicano Literary Movement and portray the authentic experiences of migrant farm-workers. As a child Rivera experienced the hardships of the nomadic life of the migrant families; moving with his own family in search of farm-work from Texas to the Midwest, to work in the seasonal crop-fields. Tomás Rivera’s literary production reflects not only his own life experiences as a child and adolescent, but as a witness to the existential occurrences in the daily lives of migrant workers as a social group.

This volume is in both English and Spanish, and includes some copies of the handwritten manuscripts by Tomás Rivera. Apparently, Rivera originally wrote most of his prose works in Spanish. However, Rivera himself translated or prepared several of his works in both languages. The Spanish used by Rivera in

Continued on page eleven
chapter on the Camp Ford prison camp near Tyler. The final part IV has chapters on the Texas Confederate governors, problems of aid to soldiers' families, Black Texans and slavery, food shortages of corn and beef, and a final chapter on war dissension by German immigrants in Colorado County.

Some of the chapters are complemented with statistical tables, pictures and maps. Especially useful are maps concerning the battles for Galveston and Sabine Pass. One minor suggestion would be to have likewise included maps or diagrams for the chapters on the Red River campaign and the skirmishes along the Coastal Bend. Regardless, this fine work, number 10 in the War and the Southwest Series of the publisher, should be a definite purchase for all academic libraries and optional for public libraries.

Kenneth W. Howell is an assistant professor at Prairie View A&M University. He received his Ph.D. in history from Texas A&M University and also taught there as a visiting assistant professor. He is the author of Texas Confederate, Reconstruction Governor James Webb Thorckmorton and coauthor of The Devil's Triangle: Ben Bickerstaff, Northeast Texans, and the War of Reconstruction in Texas and Beyond Myths and Legends: A Narrative History of Texas.

The Seventh Star of the Confederacy: Texas during the Civil War
Ed. Kenneth W. Howell

A Collection of Essays about the Civil War Experience of Texas and Texans
Review by Jon P. Trisch

Civil War historian Ralph Wooster edited an excellent collection of articles in his 1995 book Lone Star Blue and Gray: Essays on Texas in the Civil War. Here is now another collection of essays on Civil War Texas, this time compiled and edited by Kenneth Howell, assistant professor of history at Prairie View A&M University.

This new anthology features contributions by eighteen scholars, both well-known academic professors and a few who are recent to the field. Howell divides the seventeen chapters into four parts covering military, social and cultural aspects of Texas' involvement in the Civil War. Part I devotes a couple of chapters concerning new studies on Texas Civil War historiography and a historical overview of the topic. Part II includes an interesting chapter on the Knights of the Golden Circle in Texas. Part III features chapters on enlistment patterns of Texans, prominent Civil War battles in the state, Indian involvement in the war, and a
Reviewers

Holly Carey is Instructor of English at Lamar University where she teaches freshman composition and sophomore literature survey classes.

Sally Dooley is founding editor of Review of Texas Books and a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin.

Emma B. Hawkins is Assistant Professor of Medieval English language and literature at Lamar University.

Andrea Karlin earned a Ph.D. in curriculum and reading instruction at the University of New Mexico and is associate professor of education specializing in children’s literature at Lamar University.

Sara Pace is Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Composition at Lamar University. She teaches advanced composition, undergraduate level composition, and literature courses.

Frances M. Ransley is a retired librarian from the Beaumont ISD. She received her B.S. in zoology from Kansas State University and received her library certification from Oklahoma State University.

Cristina Rios is Associate Professor of Education at Lamar University. She is the author of several books and numerous articles.

Brandon Shuler is a graduate student at the University of Texas-Pan American and a reviewer for Texas Books in Review and the American Book Review. His first book will be released by Texas A&M University Press in summer 2010.

Joni Tritsch works as a cataloger and helps develop collections for history and political science for the Mary and John Gray library at Lamar University. He holds an M.L.S. from Emporia State University and an M.A. from Sam Houston State University.

Presses Represented

Arte Publico Press
University of Houston
452 Cullen Performance Hall
Houston, TX 77204-2174
(800) 633-2783
www.artepgh.edu

Pelican Publishing Company
1000 Bumatter Street
Gretna, LA 70053
(504) 368-1175
www.pelicanpub.com

Texas Christian University Press
TCU Box 297050
Fort Worth, TX 76129
(817) 257-7810
www.ucrs.tcu.edu

Forge: Tor
175 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10010
(212) 388-0100
www.tor.com

PR by the Book, LLC
PO Box 6226
Round Rock, TX 78683
(512) 501-4399
info@prbythebook.com

University of Texas Press
P.O. Box 7819
Austin, TX 78713-7819
(800) 687-0046
www.utexaspress.com

Janaaway Publishing, Inc.
732 Kelsey Ct.
Santa Maria, CA
(805) 925-1038
www.janaawaygenealogy.com

Texas A&M University Press
Press/434 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-434
(979) 845-1436
www.tamu.edu/press

University of New Mexico Press
1312 Basehart Rd. SE,
Albuquerque, NM 87106-4263
(505) 277-2346
www.unmpress.com

University of North Texas Press
P.O. Box 311336
Denton, TX 76203-1336
(940) 565-2142
www.unt.edu/unipress