

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO LIBRARY



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News and Updates

Welcome to the Special Collections Department's semiannual newsletter.

The fall semester has been a busy one for Special Collections with increased demands for [digitized materials](#), remote reference questions, and researcher appointments during the summer and early fall. Our department has met via zoom every week since late March to check in with each other and discuss department business. These meetings have helped us stay connected as we mostly work from home during this sad time.

Over the summer, Claudia and I contributed to an

article (along with several other archivists) about the Society of Southwest Archivists' State Partnerships and Outreach Committee. The article was published in the September/October issue of [Archival Outlook](#) (the magazine of the Society of American Archivists).

October was busy with Archives Month activities, including the virtual Border Archives Bazaar, the Archive-It Partners Meeting, and the Gettin' Spooky with Special Collections Halloween event.

Our 2021 calendar will be available soon, and our *El Paso Women's History Coloring Book Volume II* is now [online](#). There are also free

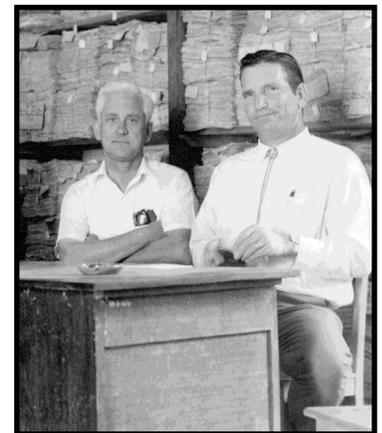
print copies of the coloring book in the UTEP Library literature rack (second floor).

In other news, we are currently planning an online exhibit and an online series of digital scholarship workshops with the Benson Latin American Collection (UT-Austin) in April.

Lastly, congratulations to our student workers Kofo Fadeyi and Carolina Mercado on their graduations from UTEP. We will miss you!

I hope that you and your loved ones have a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season.

Warmest wishes, Abbie



Leon Metz (right) with Dr. W.H. Timmons. They traveled to Mexico during the late 1960s to microfilm documents held in archives in Mexico for the UTEP Library.

In Memorium - Leon Metz

Leon Claire Metz (1930 - 2020) was an important historian, archivist, and advocate for El Paso history.

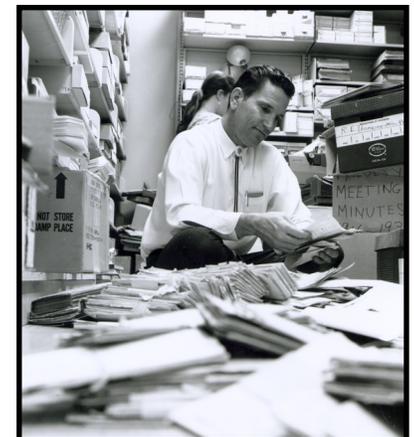
In 1967, Library Director Baxter Polk appointed Metz as UTEP's first archivist. During his eight years

as the UTEP archivist, Metz acquired several hundred collections for the Library.

He also wrote 17 history books about the El Paso borderlands and hosted *The Leon Metz Show* on KTSM for 20 years. Additionally, he wrote a popu-

lar weekly column for the *El Paso Times*.

Metz won numerous awards including the City of El Paso Conquistador Award and the Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Historical Commission.



Leon Metz sorting the R.E. Thomason papers in 1968.



El Paso poet Bernice Love Wiggins in the Leona Ford Washington photo collection, PH033.

Working from Home Part II

Imaging Specialist Yvette Delgado created a [searchable PDF](#) of our complete archival holdings. She is also working on editing file names of images from the El Paso Herald-Post records.

Photo archivist David Flores has been digitizing the Leona Ford Washington photograph collection. This collection contains hundreds of images relating to Black

history in El Paso. He and Abbie worked together to create this year's Special Collections calendar.

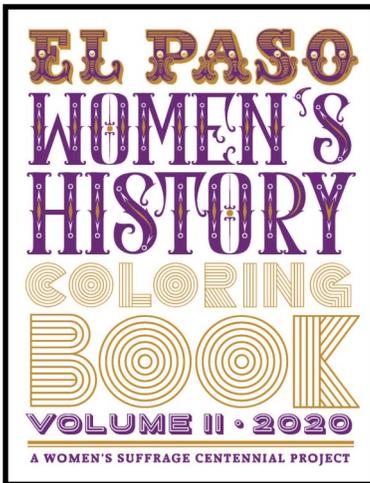
Abbie has continued editing finding aids and managing the Casasola Project. She also created an online version of our women's suffrage in El Paso [exhibit](#) and answered reference questions. Additionally, she wrote and compiled the *El Paso Women's History Col-*

oring Book Volume II.

Claudia also answered reference questions and worked on remote research and scanning requests as well as special projects.

Anne and Gracie worked on cataloging projects, and Gracie has also worked on processing books for Special Collections.

All staff helped with researcher appointments.



El Paso Women's History Coloring Book

In November, Special Collections released the [El Paso Women's History Coloring Book Volume II](#) as a free educational resource. This project helps celebrate the centennial of the 19th amendment.

There are currently free print copies in the literature rack by the Access Services

area of the UTEP Library.

This bilingual (Spanish and English) coloring book builds upon the *El Paso Women's History Coloring Book* by Eva Ross, which was published in March 1991.

This second volume was created by the El Paso Women's History Coloring

Book Committee: Yvette Delgado, Dr. Pilar Herrera, Adrian Morales, Claudia Rivers, Eva Ross, Dr. Aaron Waggoner, and Abbie Weiser. The cover art is by Anne Giangiulio.

Many of the drawings in the coloring book are based on archival images in Special Collections.



Photo of TCM from the 1940s in the Viola Mary Hadlock Anderson photograph collection, PH093.

New to Special Collections

- Tompkins-Penfield postcard collection
- ASARCO collection (accretion - digital files from Juan Garza)
- Mangan Books records (accretion - research files and slides)
- Viola Mary Hadlock Anderson photograph collection (1940s images of TCM)
- *The Pipeliner* (early 1940s issues; gift of Dylan McDonald)
- *Ten Commandments for Architects* (broadside printed at Texas West-

ern College in 1953)

- *The Marfa Lights: Being a Collection of First-Hand Accounts by People Who Have Seen the Lights Close-Up or in Unusual Circumstances, and Related Material*
- 2020 UTEP Christmas ornament

Archives Month, October 2020

Staff had a busy and productive American Archives Month.

On October 7, Claudia, Abbie, and Dr. Miguel Juarez of the UTEP History Department presented at the Archive-It Partners Meeting. The group discussed their work digitally preserving news articles about the El Paso mass shooting.

Claudia gave a talk about artist Tom Lea's friendship

with Charles and Shirley Leavell for Tom Lea Month. The talk is available to view [here](#).

Claudia also moderated Dr. Gina Núñez-Mchiri's keynote address to the Border Regional Library Association on October 17. Dr. Núñez-Mchiri discussed how she uses historic menus and cookbooks in Special Collections for her research and teaching.

Also on October 17, Abbie presented about the Border Archives Bazaar at the virtual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar.

Claudia, David, and Abbie presented at the Border Archives Bazaar on October 29, and Abbie and Claudia discussed our three spookiest items as part of the Texas-wide [Gettin' Spooky with Special Collections Halloween event](#).

Virtual Border Archives Bazaar

On October 29, Special Collections participated in the Border Regional Archives Group's first virtual Border Archives Bazaar (link to recording [here](#)). This event was a combination of presentations as well as live tours.

David presented about several of our photograph

collections as well as photo preservation and digitization.

Claudia spoke about our local menu and cookbook collections in Special Collections. She also shared some of our tiny books.

Abbie discussed resources about women's rights and women's history in the UTEP

Library. She also talked about some of our fore-edge painted books.

Other participants included: NMSU Special Collections, the EPPL, the El Paso Railroad and Transportation Museum, ENMU Special Collections, White Sands MRM, and the New Mexico Space History Museum.

Student Workers, Interns, and Volunteers

UTEP-EPCC Humanities Intern Alex Lopez continued working on in-person and virtual projects, including compiling a bibliography of WWII in El Paso resources held in the UTEP Library.

Student workers worked on a variety of projects includ-

ing scanning [history seminar papers](#), helping with cataloging projects, and typing up inventories and notes.

Volunteer Eva Ross continued clipping the Casasola feature in the *El Paso Times* and helped with coloring book edits. She also delivered coloring books to the

El Paso League of Women Voters and to other people involved with the project.

Volunteer Nancy Wilson has kept our spirits up with regular phone calls to check in on us. She also coordinated games during our virtual Special Collections holiday party.

In Memorium

[Holly Cox](#): artist, writer, and art historian

[John Downey](#): muralist, graphic designer, and Hertzog Award judge

[Kurt Goetting](#): donor, veteran, and supporter of women's history

[Dr. David B. Gracy II](#): archivist, professor, mentor, and friend

[Dr. David Hackett](#): historian, professor, and translator of *The Buchenwald Report*

[Leon Metz](#): UTEP's first archivist, historian, and writer



Two of our tiny books in Special Collections: *Washington's Farewell Address* and *The Nativity Story*.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department



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Overview

The collections contained in the [C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department](#) directly support research and learning at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). The Department currently has over 750 archival collections, over 1,600 oral histories, various rare book collections, and thematic book collections, such as the Southwest, Chicano, Judaica, Art, Military, and McCord Poetry collections. During the 2018/2019 fiscal year, we welcomed over 4,000 visitors.

Mission Statement

The Special Collections Department supports the University's mission of education, research, scholarship, and community service. The mission of the C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department is to acquire, preserve, and make available for use the archival, rare book, media, and digital collections of the University Library within the scope of the Department's collection policies. Areas of collection emphasis include primary sources for the history of the University, El Paso, and the border region; women's history; fine printing and book design; and military history.

Vision Statement

The Library sits on a hill within sight of the Mexican border. Our unique position informs our attitudes and the services we offer. We aim for excellence in serving our users and in making our collections accessible.



Try our free online holiday-themed Special Collections [jigsaw puzzles!](#)

To donate to the Special Collections Endowment Fund, please visit our [website](#).