The Texas State Historical Association will hold its annual meeting in Fort Worth on March 1-3, 1985. Details may be obtained from the Texas State Historical Association, 2/306 Sid Richardson Hall, Austin, Texas 78712.

BOOKS, BOOKS, AND MORE BOOKS

We started this section one issue back to provide coverage and some commentary for the large number of books appearing on our state and region, particularly for those publications which are not reviewed in full for one reason or another. It seemed to work before, so we will try it again.

John H. Jenkins, Basic Texas Books (Jenkins Publishing Company, Box 2085, Austin, TX 78768) is the most ambitious project of its kind in some time. This is a guide to the 224 books which Jenkins considers essential for any Texas research library. They were selected from over 100,000 books about Texas that have been published since 1542. Each entry provides full biographical details, quotations about the book from scholars, a detailed description of contents, an analysis of merits and inaccuracies, if any, and other information. An annotated guide to 217 Texas bibliographies is included along with a complete index and sixty-six illustrations. It seems a fundamental acquisition for libraries and collectors.

Two books in the Greenwood Press's series of bio-bibliographies are Richard Boyd Hauch, Crockett: A Bio-Bibliography, and Jon Tuska, Billy the Kid: A Bio-Bibliography (Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881), which provide just what the titles imply. Tuska's volume contains a 100-plus page biography, a section entitled "Billy and the Historians," a bibliography of sources, sections on Billy the Kid in fiction and film, a section of miscellany, and a chronology. Hauch's Crockett also has a biography entitled "The Facts" and sections on fiction, the Crockett idiom, and a chronology. Both are indexed.

Manuscript Sources in the Rosenburg Library: A Selective Guide, edited by Jan A. Kenamore and Michael E. Wilson (Texas A&M Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), might save the researcher a good deal of time. The Rosenburg Library is a key depository of many manuscript collections pertaining to early Texas. The Papers of Samuel May Williams and Gail Borden are among its most important holdings, but they also have many valuable sources. Recent years has brought increased use of these collections so the library has provided this guide for researchers before they arrive. The introduction contains a history of the library itself. A list of donors acknowledges those who have contributed to the collection, and the remainder of the volume is a listing and description of manuscript sources plus an index.
Tom Munnerlyn, *Texas Local History: A Source Book for Available Town and County Histories, Local Memoirs and Genealogical Records*, 1983 Edition (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 23066, Austin, TX 78735), brings together in one volume a listing of all materials on Texas local history currently for sale. The majority are locally and privately printed. It will be useful especially for genealogists.

Some interesting guides and monographs have come our way. *Texas Good Eats: Houston-Gulf Coast Guide to Unique Cafes & Restaurants* by Pat Pugh (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 23066, Austin, TX 78735), concentrates mostly on Houston but features reviews and ratings of over one hundred restaurants from chuck wagon grub to haute cuisine. *Texas Museums: A Guidebook* (University of Texas Press, Box 7819, Austin, TX 78712) by Paula Eyrich and Ron Tyler, does the same for the state's various museums. It is arranged by location. Each entry lists the name and address of the museum and provides a description of its holdings. It is well-illustrated, and contains an interesting and informative introduction on the state of museums in Texas.


We have also received James A. Wilson, *Hide & Horn In Texas: The Spread of Cattle Ranching 1836-1900* and James G. Dickson, *The Politics of the Texas Sheriff: From Frontier to Bureaucracy* (American Press, 520 Commonwealth Ave., #416, Boston, Mass 02215), and Linda Ericson Devereaux, *The Texas Navy* (Ericson Books, 1614 Redbud, Nacogdoches, TX 75961). The latter is an essay with tables and charts about the Navy and its personnel.

*Texas Lore, Volume One*, by Patrick M. Reynolds, is a cartoon approach of Texas history reminiscent of the old Texas Movies series from the 1930s. Published by The Red Rose Studio (Willow Street, Penna. 17584), it is intended for juvenile but old folks will find it of interest. Gilbert Jordan’s *Faces of Texas* (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 23066,
Austin, TX 78735) is a book of poetry on Texas subjects. Interesting photos illustrate each poem. *Clem Maverick, The Life and Death of a Country Music Singer* by R. G. Vliet, with woodcuts by Barbara Whitehead (Shearer Publishing, 3208 Turtle Grove, Bryan, TX 77801) is another book of poetry. A disclaimer says that it is fictional even if it features quotes from contemporary country musicians.

*The Encyclopedia of Historic Places*, two volumes, by Courtlandt Canby (Facts of File, Inc., 460 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016) lists places of importance throughout the world. It provides detailed coverage on all geographic locations of historical significance, including towns, cities, countries, provinces, regions, empires, deserts, forts, battle sites, lakes, mountains, rivers, shrines, and archaeological sites. Each entry contains the name, country where the place is located, and history. It is cross-referenced.

*The River of the West* (Mountain Press Publishing Co., 1600 North Avenue West, P.O. Box 2399, Missoula, Montana 59806) is the first volume in a series called Classics of the Fur Trade. It is a result of the unique collaboration between Joe Meek, a mountain man, and Mrs. Frances Fuller Victor, the author. First published in 1870, it has been largely unavailable until this edition.

*Hollywood As Historian: American Film in a Cultural Context*, edited by Peter C. Rollins (University of Kentucky Press, Lexington, KY 40506) with foreword by Ray B. Browne, is a collection of thirteen essays dealing with historical treatment in films ranging from *The Birth of a Nation* to *Apocalypse Now*. The essays also deal with the way film has made history as well as interpreted it, and it is recommended to those who teach history courses as a unique way to approach their subject. Similarly, *The South and Film*, edited by Warren French (University Press of Mississippi, 3825 Ridgewood Rd., Jackson, MS 39211) provides twenty-one essays on the way film has treated the American South. It contains a bibliography, a film index, and a general index. It is well-illustrated with stills from movies on the South, and should be useful for teachers of the history of this section. Subjects covered include the early classics (*Birth of a Nation, Jezebel, Gone With The Wind*), the Civil War, directors, women, William Faulkner and film, and regionalism.

My favorite in this line is Don Graham’s *Cowboys and Cadillacs: How Hollywood Looks at Texas* (Texas Monthly Press, P. O. Box 1569, Austin, TX 78767). Graham says that the international concept of Texas as a land of boot-wearing, gun-toting cowboys, vast empty spaces, oil derricks, and loud, ill-mannered men comes from the movies, the dream palaces where we all absorb cinematic lessons in Texas history. “More than any other popular cultural medium, movies have shaped the world’s vision of Texas and Texans. As a result, Texans have two
Graham’s interest began when he accepted a teaching position in Pennsylvania and learned that people there thought he ought to be a cowboy, which he was not. “Why did strangers expect me to be the proud possessor of an oil well, a ranch, and a box at Texas Stadium...?” Cowboys and Cadillacs is his answer. The book is well-illustrated with movie stills and contains a log of all Texas films since 1909.

Houston: A Chronicle of the Supercity on Buffalo Bayou, by Stanley E. Siegel (Windsor Publications, P.O. Box 1500, Woodland Hills, CA 91365) is a handsome history of Houston. It is amply illustrated and contains a section called Partners in Progress which details the history of businesses associated with Houston. The narrative by Siegel is a good introduction for those who want to know the history of one of the nation’s fastest growing cities.

Larry McMurtry’s In a Narrow Grave, Essays on Texas (University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM 87131) brings back memories of Larry more than anything else. I am not as familiar with his section of the state, the western part, and if I have one lament about the re-issuance of one of his earlier books, and his only real deviation from fiction, it would be that he slighted our piney woods. He confesses his own ignorance of us, so better that he did concentrate on the cowboys and films of his own time and place. But as I said, it brings back memories of Larry. We attended Rice Institute together in the late 1950s and I remember him as a quiet boy who hardly ever talked. Little did I know that the words were there, struggling to get out. He found a way. He remains one of the state’s best-known contemporary writers, and I like the way he writes. If you have not read these essays, it is a good way to get to know Larry.

Finally, Robert Sidney Martin and James C. Martin, Contours of Discovery, Printed Maps Delineating the Texas and Southwestern Chapters in the Cartographic History of North America 1513-1930, A User’s Guide, (Texas State Historical Association in cooperation with the Center for Studies in Texas History, 2/306 Sid Richardson Hall, Austin, TX 78712) is for those who love maps. Old maps have a remarkable appeal, claim the authors, and they are correct. They may be viewed as artifacts, art, and valuable historical documents. The Martins have assembled a handsome portfolio of maps of Texas ranging from early efforts of the Spanish to chart their northern provinces to maps prepared in this century. You have to see the color to appreciate their beauty. A valuable introductory book accompanying the portfolio explains the way to appreciate the maps as art and use them as historical documents. It also contains a reference for further reading and a glossary. Collectors of such exquisite publications will need to add this to their holdings.