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**NEWSLETTER**

**January 2003**

Library co-sponsored with the Clements Center, an exhibit, "A Colorado River Retrospective: 1869 to Present." It combined photographs from John Wesley Powell's 1871 voyage through the Canyons of the Colorado and Green rivers, with Hal Stephens' 1968-69 shots from the same locations while with the United States Geological Survey, and with Sam Walton's present-day photographs, taken while on commercial and scientific trips in the Grand Canyon. Walton, a professional photographer and boatman, specializes in spectacular panoramic photographs of the river and

canyon. As the spring semester commences, David Weber has returned from Harvard and reassumes Directorship.

Coming events include our ongoing brown bag lunch series (see insert for more information), manuscript workshops for our residential fellows, and planninsley0.02 0 rD2 0 rD19tp0

**Tisa J. Wenger, "Savage Debauchery or Sacred Communion? Religion and the Primitive in the Pueblo Dance Controversy."**

One of the best features of the Bill and Rita Clements Research Fellowship is the manuscript workshop, which the Clements Center sponsors for each of its Fellows. Through the Center, the Fellow is able to invite prominent outside scholars to come to SMU, along with local scholars interested in the topic, for an entire afternoon's discussion of the Fellow's manuscript in progress.

My workshop was held on October 26, and it provided invaluable assistance and encouragement for me in deciding what revisions I need to make on my manuscript, "Savage Debauchery or Sacred Communion? Religion and the Primitive in the Pueblo Dance Controversy." Everyone present had received a reading copy of the manuscript in advance, and the entire afternoon was devoted to a group brainstorming session, skillfully moderated by Clements Center Associate Director Sherry Smith. Most valuable to me were the variety of disciplinary

perspectives represented, and the depth of knowledge among workshop participants about Native American and Southwest studies.

I am a historian of religion in America, without specific training in the Southwest prior to my dissertation research. I have looked to the Clements Center Research Fellowship to provide me with this additional grounding in Southwest studies, and the manuscript workshop was invaluable in that regard. I was also gratified by the positive interest in my work, and I received very practical advice aimed at improving the introductory framing, structure, and writing style of my manuscript, along with a few leads for additional research. I also appreciate the new contacts I made through the workshop, which are likely to benefit me in a variety of ways throughout my career. The manuscript workshop significantly advanced my thinking about my own work, and there is no doubt that my book will be better as a result. I cannot imagine a more useful event for a recent Ph.D. like myself than this workshop, and I am deeply grateful to the Clements Center for this opportunity.



**"Reflections on the DeGolyer Library's Railroad History Collections"**  
**by Richard J. Orsi**

*Every year the Clements Center for Southwest Studies, in partnership with the DeGolyer Library, offers five travel grants for researchers to make use of the rich holdings of*

volumes of which I saw only the half-dozen on the Southern Pacific.

The Collons Scrapbooks that I read contained news clippings and clipped published photographs on Southern Pacific operations, accompanied by matched original photographs, apparently taken by the same skilled photographer, of operations along the rail line. Collons appears to have been that photographer and to have systematically photographed the rail lines himself. His negatives, numbered it appears to coincide with numbers handwritten on the prints, accompany the collection. The volumes are focused on geographic regions of the company's operations, and the great majority of the contents appeared to be 1920s-1930s in origin.

Altogether, this was the most impressive "photo documentary" I've ever seen on the Southern Pacific at a particular moment in its history, in fact a cross-section of the company's business and territory near its point of maturation and peak of influence. I haven't seen them, but there are similar sets of volumes for the other major railroads, worldwide.

There are many other such original resources in the DeGolyer's collections, along with vast numbers of secondary works and ephemera pertaining to American and world-wide railroads that I did not get a chance to inspect on this trip, but undoubtedly the Library is one of the major repositories of railroad historical materials for serious scholars.

For an email version of this newsletter or for more information about the Clements Center's grants, fellowships, publications and programs, please visit our Web site at [www.smu.edu/swcenter](http://www.smu.edu/swcenter) or contact us at (214) 768-1233 or [swcenter@mail.smu.edu](mailto:swcenter@mail.smu.edu).



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