







Dissertation Fellow JOSÉ GABRIEL MARTÍNEZ SERNA,  
“Institutionalizing the Jesuit Frontier: Seminaries,  
Colleges, and Missions of the Society of Jesus in  
Northern New Spain, 1594-1767”; DAVID REX GALINDO



Canyonlands, just off the edge of the high plains. A year ago he bought a ranch in the area, where he focuses on wildlife and conservation, including efforts to restore the grasslands. Jim looks forward to exploring this terrain with Pekka, showing him historical evidence of Comanche presence. <http://brazosrivercanyonlands.com/>

LAURA HERNÁNDEZ-EHRISMAN (2004-2005), Adjunct Professor of History, St. Edwards University, Austin, reports that the manuscript she worked on as a Clements Center fellow, *Inventing the Fiesta City: Heritage and Carnival in San Antonio*, is now available through University of New Mexico Press. Laura was busy attending book signings in the San Antonio area during the summer.

S. DEBORAH KANG (2007-2007) accepted a one year visiting assistant professorship at Harvard University where she will be teaching immigration history and legal history, which is a great match for her M.A. in Jurisprudence and Social Policy and Ph.D. in History! Debbie continues work on her manuscript: "The Legal Cons









**Editor's note:** Scholars who have worked in DeGolyer Library know that it is a "jewel" among special collections libraries. Director Russell Martin describes it in detail in an essay, "Western Americana Collection, DeGolyer Library, Southern Methodist University: A Guide for Scholars," in a special issue of the *Journal of the West* on "Archives on the West" (Vol. 47, No. 1, Winter 2008: 51-60) edited by Peter Blodgett, H. Russell Smith Foundation Curator of Western Historical Manuscripts, Huntington Library.

**C.G. Campbell, General Variety Store, Greenville, Burton P.O., Texas, printed on the front endpaper of Mollie E. Moore, Poems (Houston, Tex.: E.H. Cushing, 1869).**

This essay's purpose is to highlight some of DeGolyer Library's holdings

in American women's poetry of the nineteenth century. While we have no Emily Dickinson to offer, we do have a considerable range of more obscure poets, most from the South or the West, a reflection of our long-standing institutional interest in collecting regional imprints. As a group, these poets represent some of the main currents in American verse of the period. At first glance these women would appear to have little in common with Emily Dickinson. Like many of their male counterparts, they generally follow traditional forms and often convey conventional ideas if not platitudes. But it would be a mistake to dismiss them entirely. Many of these writers have genuine poetic talent and deserve a re-reading (or even a first reading). As women, all of them are of great historical interest, allowing us to better understand the constraints and opportunities facing women writers in the nineteenth century. Women were always writing on the margins, and especially so in the western country. For students of literary history, printing history, social history, and women's history, these works have much to commend them.

*Poets of the West. A Selection of Favourite American Poets with Memoirs of their Authors* (London, 1859) is proof that "the West" is a relative term—none of the poets in this anthology hails from beyond the eastern seaboard. From the perspective of London, Philadelphia does indeed lie in the West. Here we also find some familiar names, such as Longfellow, Whittier, Lowell, and Poe. Of the thirty American poets included, we are women: Sarah Josepha Hale, Lydia Huntley Sigourney, Maria Brooks, Lucretia Maria Davidson, and Frances Sargent Osgood.

One of our earliest "western" books is Rebecca S. Reed Nichols, *Bernice, or, The Curse of Minna, and Other Poems* (Cincinnati, 1844). Nichols (1820-1903) was born in New Jersey; she moved with her father, a physician, to Louisville, Kentucky, in 1836 and married Willard Nichols in 1837. In 1840 they went to St. Louis, where they edited a daily paper for a year; they then moved to Cincinnati, where she spent her most active years, writing for the newspapers under the name "Kate Cleveland." Her *Songs of the Heart and of the Hearthstone* was published in Cincinnati in 1851. In their preface to *Bernice*, the publishers note that "The West is emphatically a productive country" and they are eager to promote the work of western writers to "thousands of readers east of the Alleghanies." Antebellum Cincinnati was the leading city of the Ohio Valley and the publishing center for the western country. The political events of the time are well represented in *Sunlight Upon the Landscape, and Other Poems. By a Daughter of Kentucky* (Cincinnati, 1853). Written as a protest to a bill introduced in the Ohio legislature to deny free blacks property rights in the state, the title poem was intended to cast "The Sunlight of Truth over the moral landscape," according to the author's preface. Many of the other poems also develop anti-



Perhaps the most well-known woman writer in California is Ina Donna Coolbrith (1842-1928), a prominent figure in the San Francisco literary community. She was a friend of Samuel Clemens, Bret Harte, Charles Warren Stoddard, Joaquin Miller, and Ansel Adams, and contributed articles to the influential *Overland Monthly*







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