

Connections

University Libraries • Spring 2009

The Lee Marmon Collection: A New Mexico Treasure Debuts



Laguna Women Plastering (1955)



Portrait of Bronco Martinez (1984)



Girls at Clothesline, Laguna Plaza (1954)

Lee Marmon, America's best known and most widely respected Native American photographer, recently sold his original photos as well as his personal papers to the Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections (CSWR). The acquisition included more than 65,000 images. CSWR Director Mike Kelly worked many months to arrange the purchase for the library. "The Marmon photos are a spectacular record of New Mexico Native peoples and the New Mexico landscape. We could not be more thrilled to keep this collection in New Mexico," says Kelly.

Marmon was born in 1925 in Laguna, N.M. He took his first photograph in 1936 of a motor vehicle accident on the old U.S. Route 66 in Laguna. Still, a few years passed before he returned to Laguna from World War II service to begin his photography career in earnest.

Marmon bought his first professional camera in 1947 at age 22 and began by photographing the elders of Laguna Pueblo as he went about daily business. Between 1949 and 1966 he and his father ran the Laguna Trading Post, and

Marmon also served as the Laguna postmaster from 1950 to 1956.

After his father died, Marmon moved to Palm Springs, Calif., where he worked as the official photographer for the Bob Hope Desert Classic and as a freelance photographer whose work appeared in leading newspapers and magazines including *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Time Magazine* and *The Saturday Evening Post*. In 1972 President and Mrs. Richard M. Nixon commissioned him for a White House photo collection of tribal pottery from New Mexico.

In 1982 Marmon returned to live in Laguna. He contributed to the award-winning PBS series "Surviving Columbus." The Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian honored him with an exhibit in 1999. His first book, *The Pueblo Imagination*, was produced in 2003 in cooperation with his daughter, well-known author Leslie Marmon Silko, and poets Joy Harjo and Simon Ortiz. His photographic output is phenomenal and he still works at age 84.

Many images are already digitized and available to researchers via the UL's digital archive at <http://econtent.unm.edu>. Over the next several years, the CSWR intends to scan and post 1,000 more images. Making the collection discoverable involves individually scanning each image, creating a record for each photo with caption, date, size and other important information and placing it in the digital archive—a process easier to describe than to do at times. Once uploaded into the digital archive, these images are available worldwide, giving researchers a chance to see what is available in our collections before planning an expensive research trip—a big benefit in today's economy.

If you are interested in learning more about the CSWR photographic collections or contributing to their preservation and expansion, please contact Mike Kelly at mtk@unm.edu or (505) 277-7107.

Meet Two of Our Graduate Students



Lee Marmon helps graduate student fellows Kari Schleher and Laura York determine dates and locations of photographs in the Lee Marmon Collection.

Each year the Center for Regional Studies provides stipends for graduate fellows in the Center for Southwest Research (CSWR). The graduate students work with CSWR staff on a variety of projects from processing manuscript and photography collections to assisting in the conservation lab. The CSWR has trained many students over the years who often go on to careers in libraries, museums and historical societies.

Kari Schleher, the New Mexico Digitization Fellow for 2008-2009, is a Ph.D. candidate in the department of anthropology. Her research is focused on the archaeology of the Native American pueblo groups in New Mexico.

Laura York, the Pictorial Collections Fellow for 2008-2009, is a Ph.D. student in the department of anthropology. Her research interests include the archaeology of the Southwest and Mesoamerica.

There are always more projects that could be done by graduate fellows than the Center for Regional Studies can fund. A targeted donation of \$15,000 would support a graduate student fellow for a year of work with the CSWR, a valuable investment in graduate education and in the work of the CSWR.

Detection in the Library



The History Detectives film crew at work in Zimmerman's west wing.

If you are a fan of the PBS television series "History Detectives," you may be surprised to see a familiar library in an upcoming episode. The Oregon-based production crew contacted us in late January. They were filming a story on the history of a certain Navajo rug and wanted to film in one of the libraries at UNM. What began as, "Oh, we just need about an hour or two. . ." turned into a seven-hour shoot. They were so impressed with the beauty of the historic portions of Zimmerman Library and the quality of the research materials that they spent most of the day in the west wing. No date for the airing of the show has been confirmed yet. Keep a "private eye" (pun intended) on the PBS channel to find out.

Update from the Dean



The faculty and staff of University Libraries are committed to continuing to provide the services that our students need to succeed even in this time of fiscal uncertainty. The UNM library system is a critical and one-of-a-kind resource available to all the citizens of New Mexico. The library collections are quite literally one of the most valuable resources in the state both intellectually and in actual dollars. Many of our collections are irreplaceable. Collecting, preserving, digitizing and presenting the collections is a responsibility that everyone in the library takes seriously. But none of that work would matter if no one could see or use them.

Our libraries, both physical and on the Web, need our constant attention. Everyone at UNM benefits when we can provide the best places to study and the best help finding information. The new services we introduced in 2008 have proven to be popular with all our users—24/5 hours at Parish Library, Library Express article deliveries from our collections, Ask a Librarian one stop information line, and LibGuides subject and class research guides. We will be building on these successes despite the challenging budget situation during 2009 by adding more efficient search tools and improved facilities.

Plans for 2009 include:

- A new electronic search tool for the library Web site that makes it easier to find materials related to a topic no matter what the format—books, articles, DVDs, microforms, etc.
- A combination reference and circulation desk in Zimmerman Library so students only have to stop one place to take care of all their library questions.
- More flexible study spaces for students and more of them.
- Library facilities and services for the new UNM West Campus in Rio Rancho.
- Redesigning the Centennial Science and Engineering Library. Planning will revolve around the input the school gives us on preferred ways to research and collaborate.

Thank you again for another year of generous support. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about University Libraries.

Dean Martha Bedard
University Libraries

We Always Visit and Sit at Our Table



"After graduation, my first job was in the book processing department of the UNM library. Walking into the room where this work took place amazed me. My first impression was of total chaos—stacks and piles of books with no order apparent, at least to me."

A small section of the processing area in Zimmerman Library today—still organized chaos but in a bit bigger space than the 1960s.

Even before I entered UNM as a freshman, the Zimmerman library was part of my life. My brother and I didn't have much in the way of a quiet place to study at home when we were in high school, so we'd frequently drive to UNM to do our high school homework up in the stacks. I can remember pushing through the three-pronged turnstile at the check-out desk, which was the entrance to the stack area. I usually tried to find a carrel that did not have books in it as I lived in horror of some graduate student coming to study and finding a high school kid in his reserved spot. (It never happened.)

It's hard to imagine, but in the 1960s when we were in high school, we were able to park in a dirt lot that was immediately south of the library. By the time I actually started as an official student, that lot no longer existed, and we were lucky to find a spot anywhere near the library.

As a home-based student I spent all day either in class, the Union, or the library. Having met

my future husband, Bill, in a ballroom dancing class that we both took for PE, we spent many hours studying, researching and writing papers in the west wing reading room. Don't know how we came to choose that room, but it became our meeting place. We had planned to meet there the day President Kennedy was shot. I think Bill was just about the only person left in the library when I got there. Everyone else was in front of the television in the Union.

After graduation, my first job was in the book processing department of the UNM library. Walking into the room where this work took place amazed me. My first impression was of total chaos—stacks and piles of books with no order apparent, at least to me. Several weeks later, I could no longer see the chaos. All the stacks and piles looked ordered and part of a system. My job consisted of typing up call numbers, cutting them out, and using a weird little iron to glue them on the spines of the

Summer Sunset Lectures Scheduled

Please join us this summer for two lectures given by exceptional writers.

Annie Proulx

Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Shipping News*

Coming Out of the Mountains

June 20, 2009 • 6 p.m.

"Annie Proulx is a genuine character—a true original. She has a shrewd understanding of people, a strong feel for landscape. . . and a wry sense of humor rather like Mark Twain's." —
Los Angeles Times

Annie Proulx's *The Shipping News* won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the National Book Award for Fiction and the Irish Times International Fiction Prize. She is the author of two other novels: *Postcards*, winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award, and *Accordion Crimes*. She has also written three collections of short stories, *Heart Songs and Other Stories*, *Close Range* and *Fine Just the Way It Is*. *The Shipping News* and her short story, "Brokeback Mountain," were both made into major motion pictures.

Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez

Best-selling author of the *Dirty Girls Social Club*

The Costs and Benefits of Ethnic Identity as Genre in the Contemporary Fiction Marketplace

July 25, 2009 • 7 p.m.

"Wonderful writing, delicious humor, biting sarcasm and impressive intelligence." —*Detroit Free Press*

Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez discusses the costs and benefits of ethnic segregation in contemporary American fiction and poses some interesting questions. Is it warranted? Honest? Is it just? Is it legal? Is ethnicity the same as genre? Who gets to be a default human in American publishing? Why is ethnicity still perceived in the United States as a valuable marketing tool? What is ethnicity, and is it genetic or learned? What does such separation do to an author's career? How might an author avoid these pitfalls? How might an author exploit them?

She is the best-selling author of seven novels, including *The Dirty Girls Social Club*, *Playing with Boys*, *Haters*, *Make Him Look Good*, *Dirty Girls on Top*, and the upcoming novels *The Husband Habit* (2009) and *Three Kings Dates* (2010).

Both events, including book signings with the authors, will be held in the historic west wing of Zimmerman Library.

The Summer Sunset Lectures are made possible by the generous support of the UNM Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

books. Eventually I progressed to typing catalog cards and filing them in the main catalog.

When I started working there, the book processing department was in a large room immediately on your right as you came in the south entrance. It was matched by another room on the left that was the reserved book room that I was familiar with during my student days. After three to four months of working in the processing department, the new wing of the library opened and the cataloging and book processing department moved into the new quarters.

I probably worked at Zimmerman for less than a year before getting a new job at Sandia Corporation. The original building always calls Bill and me back when we visit Albuquerque. We always visit the west reading room and sit at our table, where we spent so many hours so many years ago.

Karen Cohen Warren, Austin, Texas

Latin American Poster Exhibit Travels the Country



Top: Georgia Southern University displays exhibit posters.
Left: UNM alumni gather at the Emory University exhibit opening.

In 2006 University Libraries, the National Hispanic Cultural Center (NHCC) and UNM Center for Regional Studies cooperated on the production of an exhibit "Latin American Posters: Public Aesthetics and Mass Politics" at the NHCC. The exhibit featured posters from the Sam L. Slick Collection of Latin American and Iberian Posters owned by University Libraries. The Slick Collection is comprised of more than 10,000 posters from 22 countries. The exhibit was so popular it has now traveled

to three locations: the Museo Alameda in San Antonio, Texas, the Woodruff Library at Emory University and the Georgia Southern Art Museum. The collection will be on exhibit at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn. from Jan. 8 through March 10, 2010.

University Libraries and the UNM Alumni Association hosted special opening night receptions and lectures in each location. Alumni enthusiastically supported each event, lured there by the promise of green chile from home, a warm welcome from Dean of University Libraries Martha Bedard, and a fascinating lecture by exhibit curator Teresa Eckmann.

Even if you can't travel to Minnesota to see the exhibit, you can browse the almost 4,000 posters scanned and available through the UL's digital special collections Web site, <http://econtent.unm.edu>. Just search for Sam L. Slick and take a look at the posters in this unique collection.

The Latin American and Iberian Poster Collection continues to grow. In the past year we have purchased more than 100 Latin American movie posters and we would love to add many other great examples of poster illustration to the collection. If you are interested in helping to develop this important visual resource, your donation could have a direct impact on enhancing the collection. For more information on how you can help, contact Mike Kelly at (505) 277-5761 or mtk@unm.edu.

Braves and Cougars in the Library!



Native American high school students learn about the library in one of our computer equipped classrooms.

To ease the transition into college, University Libraries' Indigenous Nations Library Program (INLP) offers an introduction to the University of New Mexico library system for Native American high school students. This year, INLP hosted more than 100 students from Santa Fe Indian School (Braves) and Jemez Pueblo's Walatowa Charter School (Cougars).

Many Native American students in New Mexico do not have access to a computer, either at home or in a school library. Not surprisingly, when students do find computer time, they rely on Google searches or Wikipedia to meet their research needs. Without proper tools to

access collections or databases, they are unable to reference a wide range of resources. Through our program, students learn about different libraries and collections, including the Center for Southwest Research, Parish Library and the Fine Arts and Design Library. Seeing rare books, maps and historic photographs helps participants understand the difference between primary and secondary sources. They also learn about scholarly journals, periodicals, serials and microfiche.

College life presents many new demands for high school graduates. In addition to the nuts and bolts of using our library, we discuss how to balance class requirements, home life and outside work. For instance, we encourage students to seek out their professors during office hours and we let them know they can call on us for help at any time. All in all, our outreach efforts give Native American students a better chance to excel in an academic environment.

Legislative funding for this program has been reduced significantly but the University Libraries remains committed to ensuring that Native American students have the library skills and life skills they need to succeed at UNM. We hope you will consider supporting this important program by designating your donation for the INLP program.

Has it Really Been 100 Years?

University Libraries and the Center for Regional Studies, in cooperation with other museums and libraries in New Mexico, has embarked on an ambitious three-year project to celebrate the New Mexico centennial in 2012. They will digitize important and valuable collections documenting the history and culture of New Mexico for use as a statewide resource for the study of New Mexico in its centennial year and beyond. A new public, online repository and an interactive user Web community will be the result. It will provide a unique opportunity for students, scholars, and researchers around the state to take part in a unified scholarly discussion of the events leading up to the admission of New Mexico into the Union in 1912.

The University Libraries' digital archive systems will make accessible more than 12,000 new digital objects representing the diversity of New Mexico culture by the end of 2009. A public launch of the completed project will take place in November 2010. Accessing online manuscripts, books, photos and art, as well as locating other research materials, will be as simple as possible through the Centennial Web site. Researchers and others will be able to use the digitized objects for research online or plan a trip to see and use the originals in whatever museum or library houses them.

In addition to the University Libraries' Center for Southwest Research, the participating organizations are Silver City Museum, Albuquerque Museum, Palace of the Governors, the Hubbard Museum of the American West and many other great New Mexico institutions.

Contributors' Corner • Ways to Give

If you would like to help support programs and collections at University Libraries send your check, made payable to the University Libraries, to University Libraries Development Office, c/o The UNM Foundation, 700 Lomas Blvd. NE, Two Woodward Center, Albuquerque, NM 87102 or use the enclosed envelope.

Use your credit card by phone or online. Call University Libraries at (505) 277-4241 or visit the UNM Foundation Web site at www.unm.edu/foundation/give_online.html to make a secure donation.

Make a donation through your employer's payroll deduction plan or matching gift program. Please check with your human resources department for details.

For more information on giving options, please call University Libraries at (505) 277-4241, or visit our Web site at elibrary.unm.edu.

Thank you for your support!

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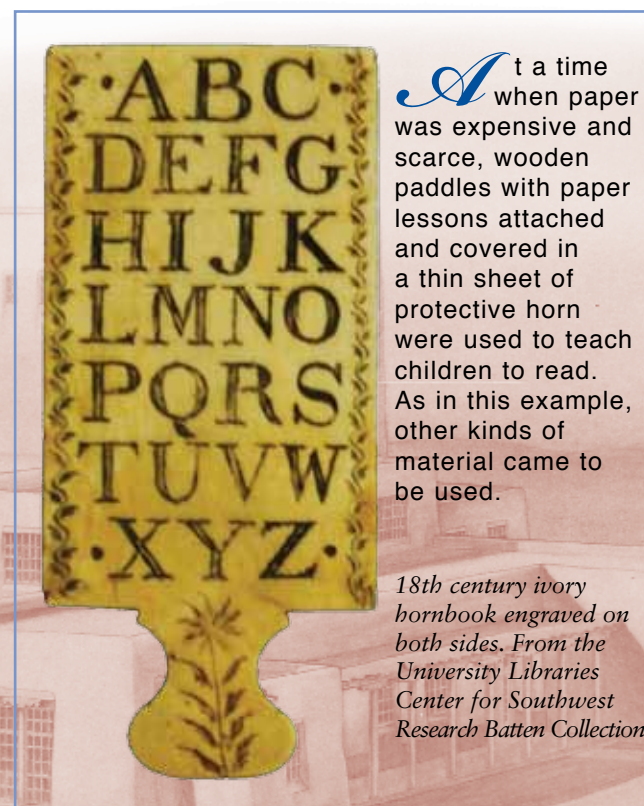
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At a time when paper was expensive and scarce, wooden paddles with paper lessons attached and covered in a thin sheet of protective horn were used to teach children to read. As in this example, other kinds of material came to be used.

18th century ivory hornbook engraved on both sides. From the University Libraries Center for Southwest Research Batten Collection.

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