

**THE THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF DISCOVERIES**

ST. LOUIS



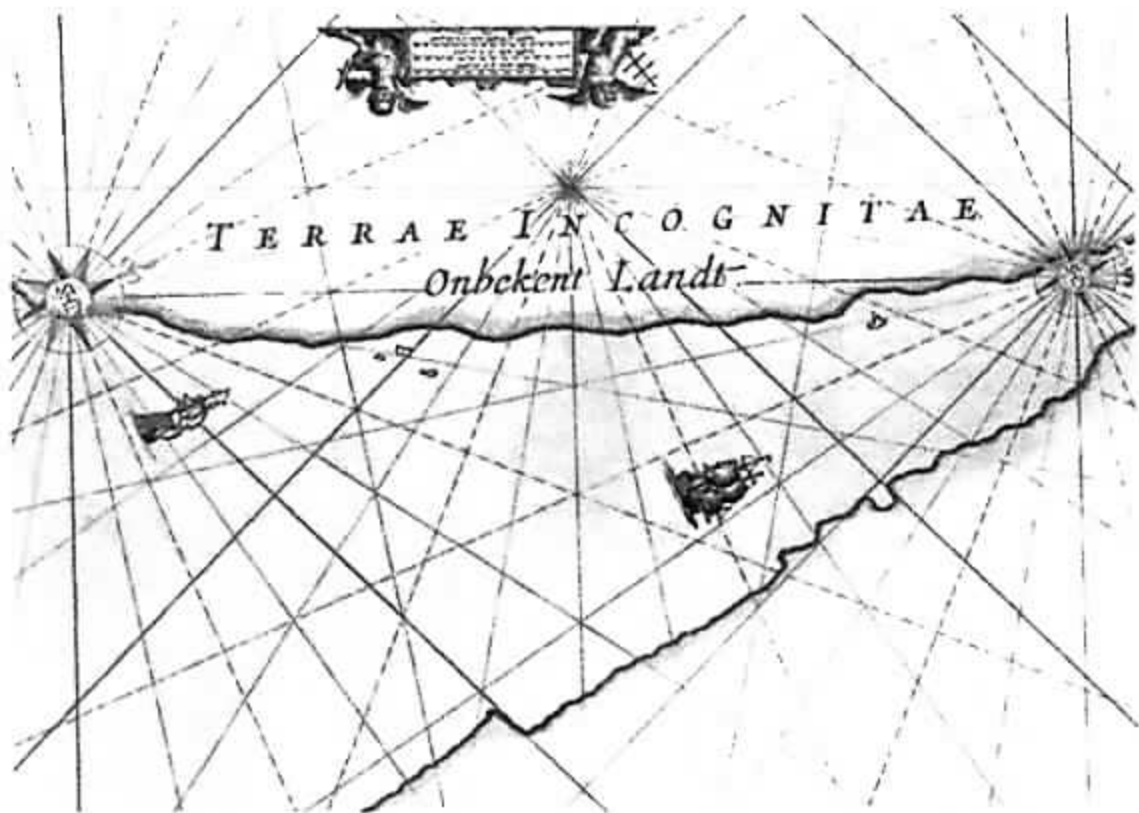
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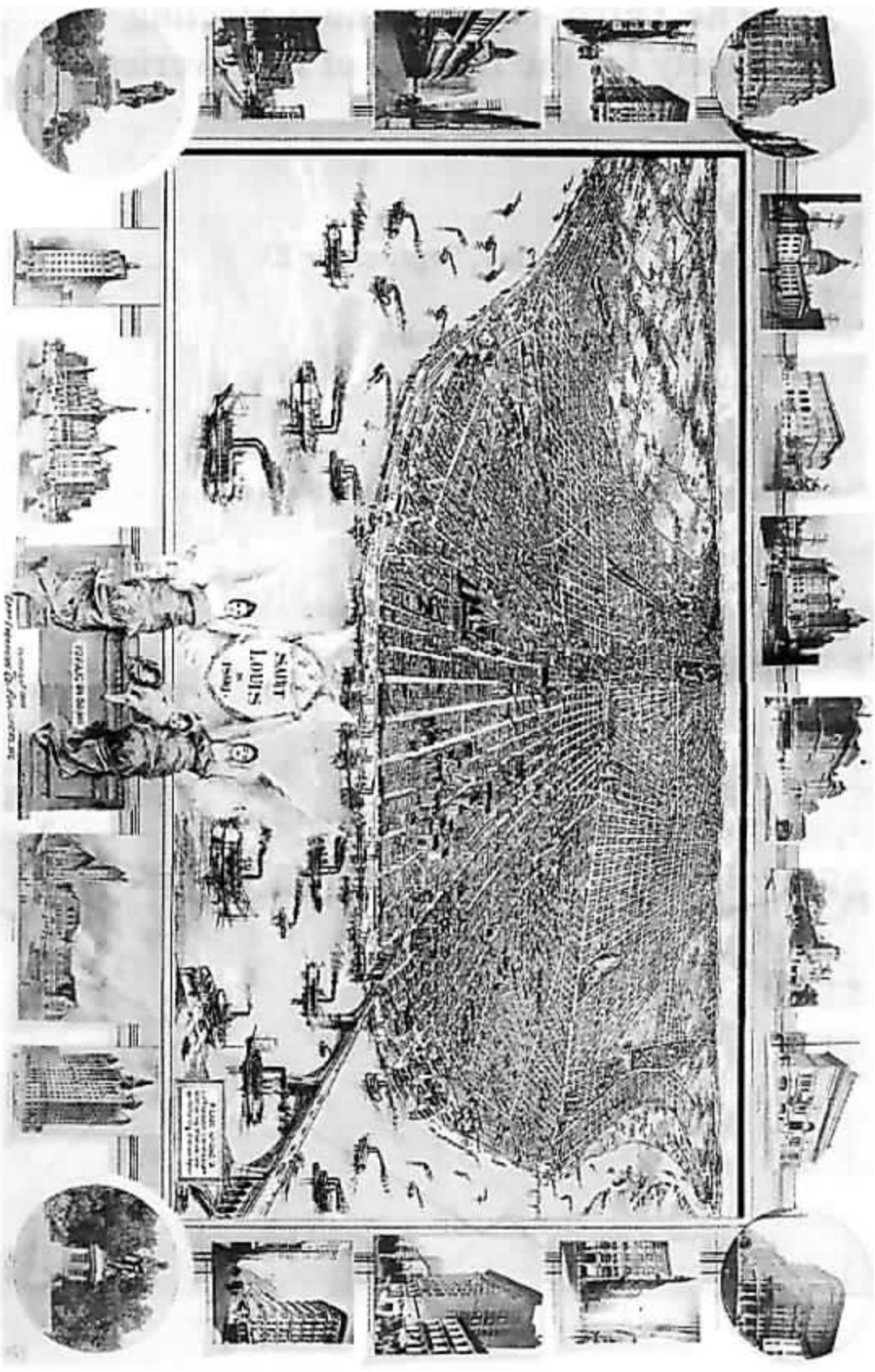
The Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting Society for the History of Discoveries

Thursday, September 23

Program

- 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Optional Walking Tour of Historic St. Louis
4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Registration
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Reception (Regal Riverfront Hotel)





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The Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting Society for the History of Discoveries

Friday, September 24

Program

- 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. **Executive Council Meeting**
- 8:00 Busses Leave from Regal Riverfront Hotel for Missouri Historical Society Library
- 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. **Opening Remarks**
 Francis Herbert, President, SHD
 Robert R. Archibald, Director of the Missouri Historical Society
- 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. **Conference Session I**
 Pre-Columbian and Columbian Experiences
 Moderator: **Donald L. McGuirk**
 * **Douglas Peck**: "Was the Culture of Prehistoric Mississippian Peoples Influenced by Diffusion from Mexico?"
 * **Peter Dickson**: "Colon the Younger, The House of Braganza, and the Columbus-Peres Trello Marriage of 1479."
 * **Arne Molander**: "Christopher Columbus and the Pinnin-Pothorst Expedition."
- 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. **Break**
- 11:00 – 12:30 p.m. **Conference Session II**
 Western Exploration in the 18th & 19th Centuries
 Moderator: **Bruce B. Solnick**
 * **Emily Troxell**: "A Map Resulting from an Expedition of 1796 to Assess the Military Situation along the French/British/American Frontier."
 * **Ed Weber**: "An Overview of the Fur Trade Related Exploration of the Trans-Mississippi West."
 * **Russell Lawson**: "Civilized Man and Natural Man: Thomas Nuttall's Ascent of the Arkansas River, 1819."
- 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. **Box Lunch**

- 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. **Conference Session III**
*Western Exploration in the 18th, 19th * 20th Centuries*
 Moderator: Carol Urness
- * **Richard Francaviglia:** "The Exploration and Mapping of the North American Cross Timbers."
 - * **Neil Safier:** "Mapping Myths: The cartographic Boundaries between Science and Speculation on La Condamine's Amazon, 1743-44."
 - * **Sanford Bederman:** "Boyd Alexander's Tragic Early 20th Century Journeys in Africa."
- 3:00 – 3:20 p.m. **Break**
- 3:25 **Buses Leave for Museum**
- 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. **Tour of the Missouri Historical Society Museum**
- 5:00 p.m. **Buses Leave for Regal Riverfront Hotel**
- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. **Cocktail Hour (optional)**
- 7:30 p.m. **Banquet (Top of the Riverfront)**

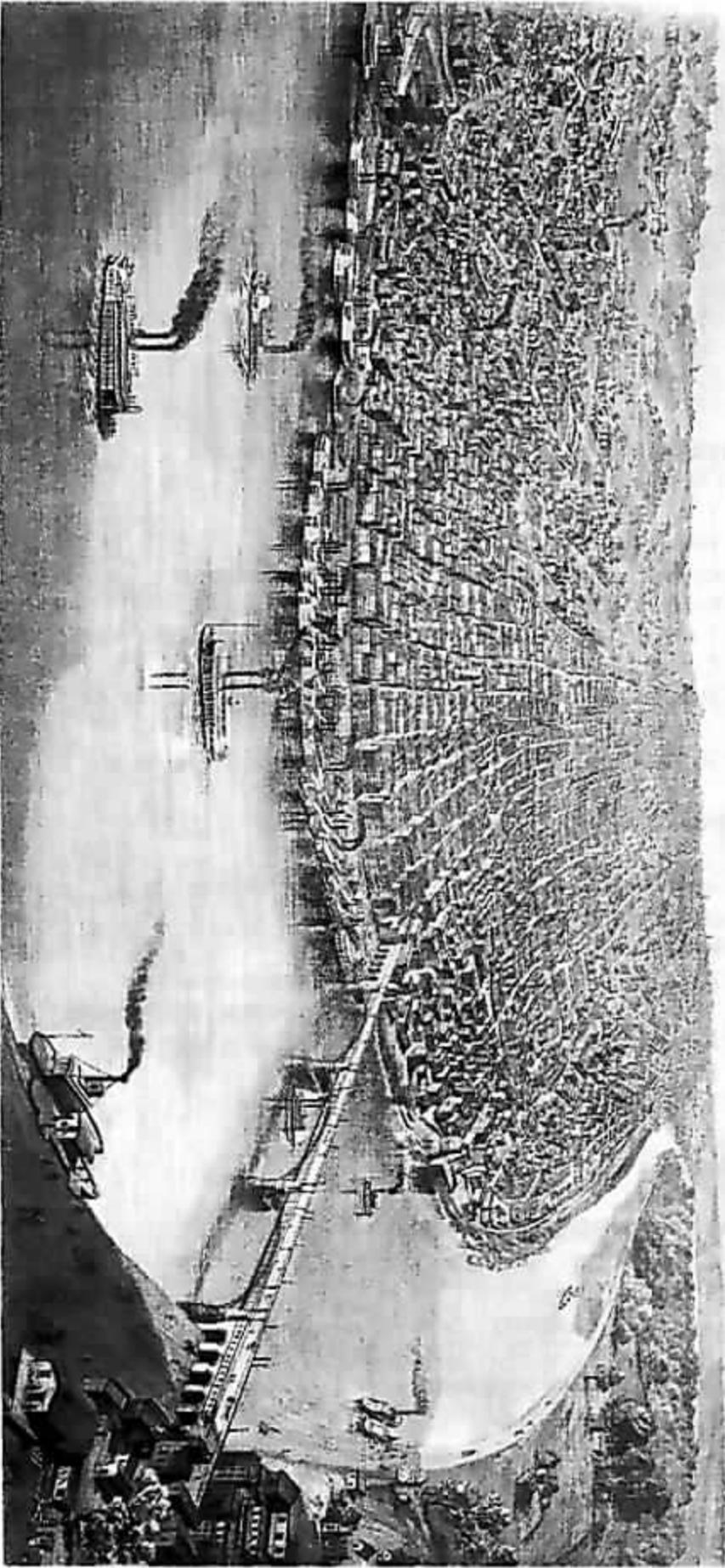


The Thirty-ninth Annual Meeting Society for the History of Discoveries

Saturday, September 25

Program

- 8:00 a.m. Buses leave Regal Riverfront Hotel for the University of Missouri, St. Louis.
- 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. **Conference Session IV**
Mapping and Exploration in the Trans-Mississippi
Moderator: **Barbara McCorkel**
* **Norman Thrower**: "Exploration and Mapping of the West Coast of America, 16th to 19th Centuries."
* **Paula Rebert**: "George Engleman of St. Louis and his Contributions to Western Geography"
* **Russell Magnaghi**: "French Exploration of the Far West."
- 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. **Break**
- 10:30 – 12:00 p.m. **Conference Session V**
Scholarship of Geography and History
Moderator: **Eric Wolf**
* **Richard Pflederer**: "Historians, Authors, and Lovers: The 60 Year Partnership of Charles Boxer and Emily Hahn."
* **Dennis Reinhartz**: "Map Screens: Testimony of an Age of Exploration and Trade."
* **Kit Wesler**: "Archaeology of St. Genevieve."
- 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. **Business Luncheon**
- 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Visit to the Mercantile Library**
* **John Hoover**: "The History of the Mercantile Library in St. Louis."
* **Tour of the Library**
- 5:00 Return to hotel by local metro system.



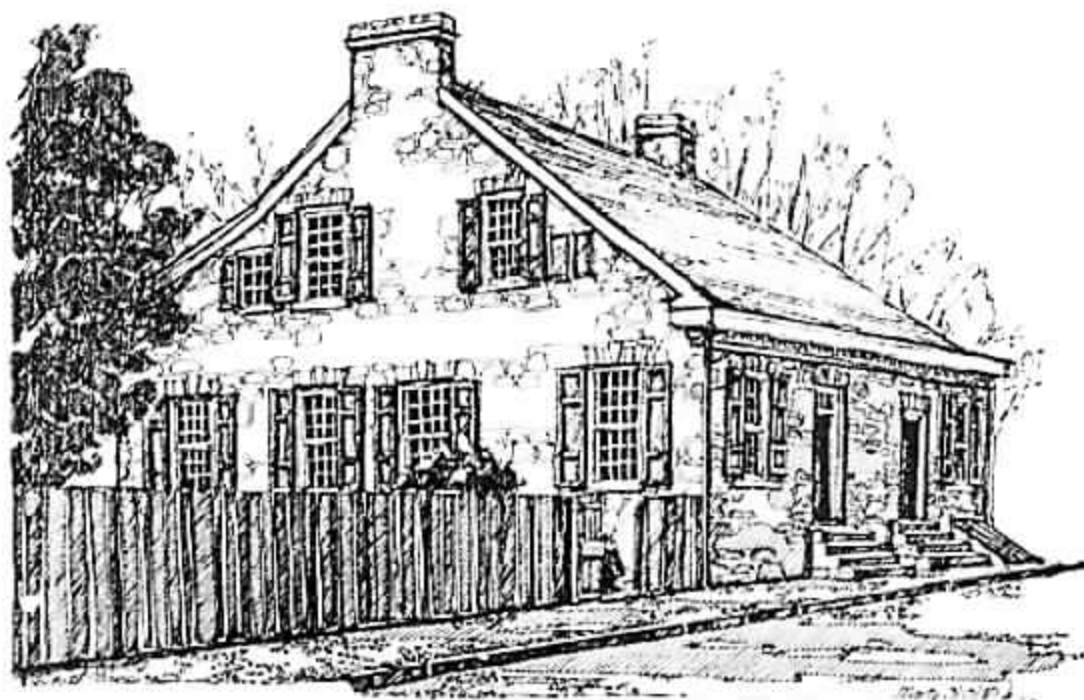
The Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting Society for the History of Discoveries

Sunday, September 26

*Optional Trip
To
Ste. Genevieve, Missouri*

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| 9:00 a.m. | Depart Regal Riverfront Hotel by Bus. |
| 10:30 a.m. | Approximate arrival time in Ste. Genevieve. |
| 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. | Orientation Video at the Tourist Information Office. |
| 11:30 – 12:45 p.m. | Visit the Bolduc House. |
| 12:45 – 1:15 p.m. | Box Lunch at Lion's Park. (Weather permitting.) |
| 1:30 – 2:45 p.m. | Visit Felix Valle House.
* Kit Wesler will discuss archeology projects in Ste. Genevieve. |
| 2:45 – 4:00 p.m. | Free time to explore Ste. Genevieve on your own. |
| 4:00 p.m. | Bus departs for St. Louis. |
| 5:30 p.m. | Approximate arrival time at the Regal Riverfront Hotel. |

FELIX VALLE HOUSE
1818



BOLDUC HOUSE
1820



ABSTRACTS

Douglas T. Peck
Bradenton, Florida

Was the Culture of the Mississippian Peoples Influenced by Diffusion from Mexico? The Controversy Revisited.

There is scant or even non-existent direct archaeological evidence to support the view that the prehistoric culture of the Mississippian and other southeastern Indian groups was influenced by diffusion from Central America and Mexico. Accordingly, the current consensus is that the few cultural traits that are similar to those of the Mexica/Maya were developed independently and if there was Mexica/Maya influence, it traveled by way of the land route through northern Mexico, Arizona, New Mexico, and thence east to the Mississippi plain. This study accepts the premise that no large scale migration of peoples occurred but proposes and presents evidence that prehistoric cultural knowledge was brought to the shores of South Florida from the Yucatan by small groups of Maya traders or adventurers in log canoes and introduced cultural traits that then traveled north and west to the Mississippian peoples.

Peter W. Dickson
Arlington, Virginia

Colon the Younger, the House of Braganza, and the Columbus-Peres Trello Marriage of 1479

This paper presents an analysis of documents that show Columbus' claim of a relationship with the famous French Admiral George Dishypatos (also known as Colon the Younger) was not only true, but that this special personal connection explains both Columbus' dramatic and sudden arrival in Portugal and his subsequent marriage into the highest strata of the Portuguese aristocracy, the House of Braganza-Norona. Further, it refutes the claim that Columbus was a son of a Genoese wool weaver, Domenico Colombo.

Analysis of the documents confirms Columbus' testimony that he decided to establish roots in Portuguese society after he survived a famous sea battle off the Cape of Saint Vincent in August 1476. It also confirms that he was a corsair serving under Colon the Younger with the attacking French-Portuguese fleet and not with the defending Genoese merchant ships coming from Cadiz.

Arne Molander
Montgomery Village, Maryland

"Christopher Columbus and the Pinning-Pothorst Expedition." based on the Admiral's own claim to his son.

"In the month of February, 1477, I sailed 100 leagues beyond the island of Tile, whose southern part is in latitude 73 degrees N, and not 63 degrees as some affirm; nor does it lie upon the meridian where Ptolemy says the West begins, but much farther west. And to this island, which is as big as England, the English come with their wares, especially from Bristol. When I was here the sea was not frozen, but the tides were so great that in some places they rose 26 braces, and fell as much in depth." While it's easy to demonstrate his claim to have visited Greenland, I will show that a stronger case can be made that he actually claimed to visit the mainland long before his 1492 voyage.

Emily Troxell
Chief Librarian
Missouri Historical Society Library

***A Map Resulting from an Expedition of 1796 to Assess the Military Situation
along the French/British/American Frontier***

St. Louis is now squarely in the center of the continental United States, but in 1796 it was a borderland site that held strategic value for the French, Spanish, British and fledgling U.S. Governments. In that year, General Victor Collot undertook a reconnaissance mission for the French government which resulted in the later publication of his [Bob, note for formatting, this is a book title to end of paragraph] *Journey in North America...followed by philosophical, political, military and commercial remarks and by a projected line of frontiers and general limits* (1826).

Among the documents that grew out of this mission is a watercolor map, now in the possession of the Missouri Historical Society, showing proposed fortifications for St. Louis. Although these were never built, the map reminds us of the struggle for international sovereignty along the Mississippi frontier. In mapping and describing the Mississippi Valley, Collot wanted to better define it, hoping that this analysis of strength and vulnerability would lead to more effective control.

Ed Weber
Dale City, California

An Overview of the Fur Trade Related Exploration of the Trans-Mississippi West

Broadly speaking, exploration of the Western US north of the Spaniards was driven by beaver fur. In the north, the Verendryes financed their exploration by trading for furs. The Northwest Co. sent David Thompson, for furs.

The resources Lewis and Clark were to "discover" included furs; one result of their exploration was an upsurge in the trade out of St. Louis with Lisa, Henry, Colter, etc, fanning out from the Missouri. The Astorians barely survived their "discovery" of the Snake River country.

After the Arikara closed the Missouri river route to the Rockies, Ashley & Smith pioneered the overland approach. Jed Smith and other mountain men covered the West from the Rio Grande to Oregon.

Russell Lawson
Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics

***Civilized Man and Natural Man: Thomas Nuttall's Ascent of the Arkansas River,
1819.***

Nuttall's account of his 1819 journey up the rivers and across the prairies of what is today Oklahoma provides an unusual perspective on exploration. Nuttall was an English scientist and an elegant writer: his published journal is a wonderful narrative of "civilized man's" journey into the wilderness. The French traders, American squatters, and Native American tribes fascinated Nuttall, whose journal evokes and records a larger historical narrative of the dramatic and violent interaction of humans with the American wilderness. Nuttall's journal is a sophisticated narrative collage of natural history and human history in the Trans-Mississippi West.

Richard Francaviglia
The University of Texas at Arlington

The Exploration and Mapping of the North American Cross Timbers

Stretching from Texas to Kansas, the scrub post oak and blackjack oak forest called the "Cross Timbers" has been recognized as a landmark for centuries. The Spanish explorers called it the "monte grande" (great forest) -- a term they adopted from the Native American Peoples. The Cross Timbers -- so named in the mid 1820s by Anglo American explorers and settlers--remained a landmark until well into the 19th century. This paper uses maps and written descriptions from the period 1789-1849 to show how geographic knowledge of the Cross Timbers developed through the process of military and commercial exploration of the Trans-Mississippi West.

Neil Safier
Johns Hopkins University

Mapping Myths: The Cartographic Boundaries between Science and Speculation on La Condamine's Amazon

This paper examines the cartographic and textual narratives from Charles-Marie de la Condamine's (1701-1774) scientific expedition down the Amazon River in 1743-44. La Condamine received his cartographic training on a two year Mediterranean expedition under the auspices of the Academie royale des sciences and was later chosen to participate in the Academy's Peruvian mission to measure the meridian and settle definitively the true shape of the earth. Returning to France via the Amazon, La Condamine produced a map of his journey which mixed mythology and speculation with scientifically-precise and instrumentally-derived data. The scientific rhetoric La Condamine employed to justify the validity and scientific superiority of his map to the European academic community demonstrates the tenuous cartographic boundaries between science and myth in the mid-eighteenth century. situated at the intersection between methodological analysis of cartographic processes and the history of European scientific exploration in the New World, this paper shows the complex process by which advances in the science of European cartography, articulated and contained by scientific rhetoric, were in fact constrained by the persistent fables and legends which had inspired European exploration in the New World for more than two centuries.

Sanford H. Bederman
Georgia State University

"Last and Not the Least": Boyd Alexander's Tragic Early 20th Century Journeys in Africa

Lt. Boyd Alexander led two important expeditions to Africa in 1904-1907 and 1908-1910. Both journeys essentially covered similar ground -- Nigeria to Lake Chad, then eastwards towards the Nile in Sudan. Alexander had three goals: (1) to map Lake Chad, (2) to prove that it was possible to cross Africa mostly by water, and (3) to locate and capture the elusive animal, the okapi. All three goals were achieved but at a terrible price. On the first journey, both his co-leader and his brother died of disease, and near the end of the second expedition, he was murdered by Sudanese tribesmen. A reviewer of his posthumously published book, *Boyd Alexander's Last Journey*, said that he "...is the last and not the least illustrious of men who take rank in the roll of great African explorers."

Norman J. W. Thrower
University of California, Los Angeles

**Exploration and mapping of the West Coast of America, 16th through 18th
centuries.**

Publication of the volume, *California 49*, California Map Society, Warren Heckrotte, editor, Julie Sweetkind, assistant editor, Marianne Hinckle, designer and printer, provided an opportunity for the speaker to review the topic of this paper. As the author and co-author of eleven of the forty-nine essays and a member of the selection committee, he has been deeply involved in this California sesquicentennial project. Although some of the forty-nine maps in the book are speculative and some later than the period of initial exploration, many were the result of this activity. Explorers of several nations were involved in this enterprise over a period of 300 years. The paper is illustrated with 35 mm slides.

Paula Rebert
DeKalb, Illinois

George Engelmann of St. Louis and his Contributions to Western Geography

George Engelmann was one of frontier St. Louis's most prominent citizens. Although known as a botanist, he helped to advance geographical knowledge through his diverse scientific activities. He acted as a scientific adviser to western explorers. A meteorological observer, his barometer became the standard often used to calculate barometric elevations for topographic maps. Interested in the geographical distribution of plants, he planned a map of the West showing the distribution of the plants in which he specialized, the cacti, for publication in the U.S.-Mexico boundary report. The map compilations he began were not completed, but his essays were pioneering contributions to western plant geography.

Russell M. Magnaghi
Northern Michigan University

Transmitters of Scientific Knowledge: Nicolás Monardes and the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Expeditions of discovery and exploration had the result of bring people into contact with new knowledge of the world. As we meet in St. Louis we are at the gateway of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1803-1806) which brought to the United States a wealth of knowledge about the western United States. This presentation will study the scientific knowledge Dr. Nicolas B. Monardes (c. 1803-1888), the best known Spanish physician of the sixteenth century, gave to Europe and the similar experience of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Through Dr. Monardes the *materia medica* from the New World first began to be known in Europe. Because of his tests on animals, he is considered as one of the founders of experimental pharmacology. Dr. Monardes gave the first scientific description of several species of plants. He also described some animals, such as the armadillo, living specimens of which he did see along with some of the minerals from the Americas.

On the other hand, Lewis and Clark returned with a wealth of knowledge about the plants, animals and environment of the Transmississippi West. At the time this region was a great terra incognita, recently purchased from France, but its assets unknown to Americans. The two experiences brought new knowledge to the world of science.

Richard Pfliedererb
Williamsburg, Virginia

***Historians, Authors and Lovers:
the 60 Year Partnership of Charles Boxer and Emily Hahn***

He a dashing British army officer, she an adventurous St. Louis-born writer living on her own in pre - WWII Asia. How did they meet, fall in love and combine their efforts to publish scores of books and hundreds of articles? His interests centered on the Portuguese and Dutch explorations in Brazil, Africa and Asia; hers on a wide range of historical biographies, wildlife stories and human interest books. Though very different in temperament, writing style and nationality, they lived as man and wife for over 50 years until her death in 1997 at the age of 92. From her travels in Africa and Asia, to their love affair in wartime Hong Kong, to their life together in Britain where he became a scholar and historian, they led a life extraordinary by any standards.

Dennis Reinhartz
University of Texas at Arlington

Map Screens: Testimony of an Age of Exploration and Trade

Although there is 2,000-year heritage of screens and screen scholarship in the Orient, such pieces of decorative and informative furniture only began to appear in the West early in the sixteenth century with the opening up European overseas exploration and trade in the Far East. Some of the earliest surviving Asian examples display maps, as do many later European renditions. Eventually, there is even a cartographic cross pollination" between the two. European map screens reach the height of their popularity in the seventeenth and eighteen centuries and reflect the progress of exploration, trade, and empire across the globe. An analysis of the content, function, and construction of some of these screens enhances our understanding of this dynamic and formative era in the history of European exploration, empire, and cartography.

Kit W. Wesler Wickliffe
Mounds Research Center Murray State University

Archaeology in Ste. Genevieve

Ste. Genevieve was founded about 1750 as a westward expansion of the French colonial Illinois Country. The first town was built on the floodplain of the Mississippi River, in the midst of the great agricultural bottomland known as le Grand Champ (the Big Field). Repeated flooding, however, convinced most of the inhabitants to move to the town's modern location in the 1780s and 1790s. An ongoing program of archaeological field schools, combined with architectural and archival investigations, has begun to study Ste. Genevieve with the goals of exploring the ethnic and socioeconomic diversity of the colonial towns and of understanding the area's transition from a French colonial to an American society between about 1750 and 1850. Excavations in 1997-1999 of the lots around the Delassus-Kern, Felix Valle, and Dr. Benjamin Shaw houses were the first steps in the project, and provide information about the nineteenth century segment of the study period.