



Society for the History of Discoveries

55th Annual Conference

Austin, Texas

October 30-November 2, 2014



La Salle's Expedition to Louisiana
Jean Antoine Théodore de Gudin
1844

Three hundred and twenty-nine years ago, the French explorer and adventurer La Salle led a group of colonists to establish a settlement at the mouth of the Mississippi River. Instead he landed in Matagora Bay of present day Texas, and one of his ships, *La Belle*, foundered and had to be abandoned in the Bay. In 1995, an archaeological team, led by James Bruseth, uncovered what remained of the ship and the goods it carried.

We invite you to join us at the BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM as the Society helps to celebrate a remounting of *La Belle* in permanent exhibit.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Pre-conference walking tour of Texas State Capitol and historic maps of the Texas General Land Office.
- Fifteen engaging conference papers including panels discussing French exploration of North America as well as contributions of women explorers
- Gourmet dinner featuring a French theme offered by Rosemary's Catering. James Bruseth is our keynote speaker!
- Post-conference visit to San Antonio: The Alamo, River Walk, free time for shopping and sight-seeing.



55th Annual Conference Preliminary Schedule

Thursday, October 30th

12 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. SHD Council Meeting. Doubletree Hotel

3 p.m. Pre-Conference walking tour of Austin led by Society President Imre Demhardt. At a leisurely pace and covering a total of only about 600 meters the tour first visits the neo-gothic Capitol Visitor Center, housing a small exhibit on Texas surveying and land appropriation. A stone throw away and in a beautiful park towers the, of course, biggest capitol building of all states in the Union. Following a peep into some of its 'humble' hallways the tour continues two blocks down the road to the Texas General Land Office where we will be treated with the sight of some treasures from its map collection dating back to Spanish and Mexican times. Due to indoor capacity restrictions there is a limit of 20 registrants, so register early for this afternoon tour.

7 p.m. Welcome Reception at the Bullock Texas State History Museum. Second floor. Greet friends and meet new members over drinks and delicacies.

Friday, October 31

8 a.m. - Breakfast at the Bullock Texas State History Museum

8:30-12:00 – First academic session (Women explorers panel 1)

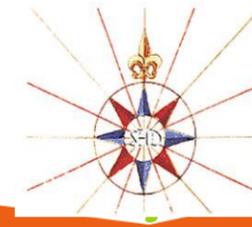
12:00 p.m. – Lunch. Box lunch and beverage provided. Council meeting

1:30 – 4:30 – Second academic session (French exploration panel)

4:30 – Annual meeting (Bullock Texas State History Museum)

6:00 – Pre-dinner receptions (Bullock Texas State History Museum)

7:00 – Annual Dinner. James Bruseth, Keynote speaker



About Austin

Austin is a vibrant, multi-faceted city that hosts the University of Texas main campus, the State Capitol, and numerous bars and clubs featuring live music. All of these points of interest are easily to reach from the Bullock Texas State History Museum.

Warning! Warning! Warning! Warning!

The weekend of our conference, Austin is hosting a Grand Prix Formula One Race that annually draws 100,000+ fans to the greater Austin area. While this should have little impact on our conference activities, it may mean longer lines in restaurants, for taxis, etc. Whatever your plans for nightlife during your visit, you would do well to make reservations early.

Links

To Make Hotel Reservations at the Conference Rate:

Click here:

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/A/AUSLNDT-SOC-20141029/index.jhtml>

To Register for the 55th Annual Conference:

Click here:

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/?eventid=1582942>

To View the Bullock Texas State History Museum:

Click here: <http://www.thestoryoftexas.com/>

To View 35 things you must do in Austin before you die:

Click here: <http://www.buzzfeed.com/summeranne/do-or-die-austin-texas#2i4gvnn>

To view the top 25 things to do in Austin:

Click here: <http://365thingsaustin.com/2011/05/02/25-best-things-to-do-in-austin-texas/>

Saturday, November 1st

8:00 a.m. –Breakfast (Bullock Texas State History Museum)
8:30 – 12:00 – Academic session 3 (Women Explorers panel 2)
12:00- 12:30 – Closing

Sunday, November 2nd

9:00 – Depart from Doubletree Hotel for San Antonio
10:30 – Arrive at the Alamo
1030-12:00 – Tour of the Alamo
12:00- 1:00 – Lunch along the River Walk
1:00 – 3:00 – Free time for shopping and sight-seeing
3:00 – Depart for return to Austin
4:30 – Arrive Austin

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