

Grants and Awards

Award for Fort Stanton Cave Study Project

The Fort Stanton Cave Study Project has been honored by the Conservation Lands Foundation with its first-ever Conservation Leadership Award. The award recognizes the outstanding efforts of the FSCSP, which studies and protects the complex underground Fort Stanton Cave system. Scott Jones, Southwest Program Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation, said, “The work of the members and volunteers of the Fort Stanton Cave Study Project continues to reveal new scientific discoveries. Their work reminds us how much we still have to learn and why it is so important to protect critical areas like the



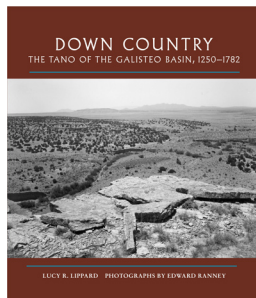
Lynda Sánchez at Shamrock Cave, photo by Dr. Ron Lipinski.

Snowy River Cave and Fort Stanton in the National Conservation Lands.” NMAM member Lynda Sánchez is on the board of the FSCSP, and she says, “This recognition of the FSCSP is special for me because I have seen how much the cavers, many of whom are scientists and retired educators, have given of themselves over more than four decades. This ‘brain trust’ shows what a devoted group of men and women can accomplish and I am honored to be part of that organization.” Sánchez adds that “this year is the tenth anniversary of the discovery of Snowy River Passage. This discovery is one of the main reasons that the BLM National Cave Conservation Area was set aside for protection. The 25,000 acres of BLM that include the historic Fort Stanton Cave, also surround and protect Fort Stanton State Monument so we are most fortunate to have that mantle of protection for both sites.” The Lincoln County Commission recently honored the FSCSP with a proclamation recognizing the discovery and break through into Snowy River Passage.

More on the history and accomplishments of the FSCSP, including a video on the discovery of the Snowy River Passage, is at www.fscsp.org. Sánchez’s comprehensive book, *Fort Stanton: An Illustrated History, Legacy of Honor, Tradition of Healing*, includes cave exploration and mapping from the 1850’s by Fort Stanton soldiers through the modern era of caving and research represented by FSCSP.

Lucy Lippard Honored for Museum of New Mexico Press Book

Lucy Lippard has won the 2011 Caroline Bancroft History Prize for her book *Down Country: The Tano of the Galisteo Basin, 1250-1782*, published by the Museum of New Mexico Press. The Denver Public Library sponsors the prestigious award. The book also received the Fray Francisco Anastasio Dominguez Award for historic survey and research from the Historical Society of New Mexico.



History Library Wins Grant to Catalog Extensive Map Collection

The Fray Angélico Chávez History Library at the New Mexico History Museum has won a \$179,600 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources to catalog its map collection, a three-year effort that will help researchers and the public



An 1893 map of New Mexico by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. Lithograph, Chicago: Rand, McNally and Co., Printers. Fray Angélico Chávez History Library NMHM, Map Collection 78.9 Pa 1893.

find and make use of its hidden jewels. The council’s award program, Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives, seeks to increase awareness of collections of substantial intellectual value that are unknown and inaccessible to scholars. CLIR administers this national effort with the support of generous funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The History Library’s map collection consists of nearly 6,000 maps on New Mexico and the Southwest region that provide valuable historical information on topics as diverse as early Spanish exploration, American settlement in the Southwest, famous roads like the Camino Real and the Santa Fe Trail, water rights, the development of cities and counties, and more. The materials include blueprint railway maps, surveyors’ maps for Western expansion, topographical maps, and the hand-drawn, 18th-century manuscript maps of Bernardo de Miera y Pacheco.

With the grant, the library – currently a two-person operation – can hire a full-time professional librarian and two part-time assistants. With web-searchable records of the library’s holdings, available both locally in the library’s catalog and on the international database WorldCat, the maps will be discoverable to an audience both near and far. (The grant, however, will not pay the further expenses of digitizing the materials; to see the maps, people will have to come to the library.)

The Fray Angélico Chávez History Library is a non-circulating, closed-stack research library that preserves historical materials documenting the history of the state, the Southwest, and Meso-America from pre-European contact to the present. The library is open to the public Tuesday through Friday, 1-5 pm (closed on major holidays).

—Kate Nelson, *New Mexico History Museum*