The University of North Texas (UNT) Libraries has received one of five grants from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission for the digitalization of special and unique collections of photographs, newspapers, interviews and other historical documents, making them more accessible to the general public. The UNT Libraries received a $24,637 TexTreasures grant for its project, Early Texas Newspapers: 1829–1861. Partnering with the Center for American History at the University of Texas-Austin, the UNT Libraries Digital Projects Unit will microfilm and digitize Texas newspapers that are currently the property of the Center for American History, and place these newspapers on the Portal to Texas History. The portal, administered by the Digital Projects Unit, provides students and others with a digital gateway to collections in Texas libraries, museums, archives, historical societies and private collections and contains primary source materials, including maps, books, manuscripts, diaries, photographs and letters.

Acquisitions

One of the earliest publications to use artificial, magnesium lighting in the photography of a building’s interior, Camille Silvy’s Album de la Chapelle Royale Saint Louis, à Dreux, Eure et Loir (London: Rolandi, 1867), has been acquired by the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library. This publication consists of a letterpress pamphlet and ten albumen-print cabinet cards (a frontispiece, three views of the chapel exterior, and six of monuments inside), as well as the original mailer, addressed to a printer and photographer in Silvy’s hometown of Nogent-le-Rotrou, France.

The royal mausoleum at Dreux is included in the definitive survey Neoclassical and 19th Century Architecture (1980), coauthored by Columbia University Professor Emeritus Robin Middleton and David Watkin. They describe it as a fanciful Gothic cloche, one of King Louis-Philippe’s handful of maverick commissions reviving medieval style. Executed in 1842 according to designs by Pierre-Bernard Lefranc, the Gothic structure encased a Doric temple form built between 1816 and 1822 by Charles-Philippe Cramail for the Duchess of Orleans. Silvy’s experiments with artificial lighting date back to at least 1865, when he presented trial prints of the six interior subjects included in Avery’s 1867 publication to the Société Française de Photographie.

More than 70 years’ worth of photography providing a panoramic, insider’s look at the people and products involved in the rise of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company is being donated to the University of Akron by the rubber industry giant. The collection, valued at more than $1.1 million, features more than 83,000 individual photos covering the period from 1912 to 1984. The collection provides historic, social, and industrial documentation, featuring images of products, workshop and factory scenes, facilities, company events, company-sponsored celebrities and the development of the Goodyear Blimp. Among the highlights of the photo collection are the first home for Goodyear on the banks of the Little Cuyahoga River; construction of the blimp hangar; baseball legend Babe Ruth on the Goodyear Blimp; and images of other notable figures, including President Herbert Hoover, President Richard Nixon, President Dwight Eisenhower, Arnold Palmer, and Jack Nicklaus. The collection, which reects the work of several photographers, was started in 1912 by Goodyear founder Frank Seiberling and stands as one of the first corporate photograph collections to be established.

Ed. note: Send your news to: Grants & Acquisitions, C&RL News, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611-2795; e-mail: agalloway@ala.org.