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## Notes and News- Spring 1981

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# NOTES & NEWS

## DIRECTOR ON LEAVE

Dr. Brian W. Blouet, the director of the Center for Great Plains Studies since 1979, is on a leave of absence from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln during the 1980-81 academic year. He is conducting research at Oxford University in England on the work of Sir Halford Mackinder, a British scholar of the early twentieth century who was a pioneer in the field of geopolitics. A professor of geography, Blouet will return to the Center for the fall semester, 1981. Dr. Frederick C. Luebke, professor of history, is assuming the duties of director during his absence.

## NEW CENTER PUBLICATIONS

The Center for Great Plains Studies has sponsored the publication of three books early in 1981. *The Great Plains: Perspectives and Prospects* is edited by two University of Nebraska-Lincoln professors, Merlin P. Lawson (geography) and Maurice Baker (agricultural economics). Based on selected papers presented at the Center 1979 symposium, the essays of this book identify the resources of the Great Plains region and assess its problems and potentialities for the future. Among the fields represented by the contributors are sociology, geography, climatology, agricultural economics, and agricultural engineering. Taken together, these essays evaluate past policies and provide decision-makers with much-needed information for future programs intended to cope with regional problems. The book is distributed by the University of Nebraska Press, 901 N. 17th Street, Lincoln, NE 68588, at \$9.95 per copy.

A second volume, *Populism, Progressivism, and the Transformation of Nebraska Politics, 1885-1915*, by Robert W. Cherny, is published by the University of Nebraska Press for the

Center for Great Plains Studies. Cherny's research reveals a trend in Nebraska from a politics determined largely by ethnicity and dominated by party loyalties to a politics based on economic and ethnic issues and deeply affected by the personalities and principles of individual political figures such as William Jennings Bryan and George Norris. A native of Beatrice, Nebraska, Cherny is an associate professor of history at San Francisco State University.

*Germans and German-Russians in Nebraska: A Research Guide to Nebraska Ethnic Studies*, by Janet Warkentin Rife, is the first title to be published in Nebraska Ethnic Resources Series, edited by Roger Welsch, professor of English and folklore at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The volume consists of annotations of books, churches, festivals, museums, newspapers, organizations, personal papers, and photography collections for both Germans and German Russians in Nebraska. An extensive appendix describes general sources for ethnic studies in Nebraska, including public records, such as naturalization and census records; books and articles; and manuscript collections. Jointly published by the Center for Great Plains Studies and the Nebraska Curriculum Development Center, the book may be ordered from the Curriculum Center, 32 Andrews Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588, at \$6.95 per copy.

## JOURNALS OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

The Center for Great Plains Studies has received a grant of \$20,000 from the University of Nebraska Foundation to help defray the costs of research and in connection with the production of the new ten-volume edition of the Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

of 1804-1806. Partially supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, this project is under the direction of Gary Moulton, an associate professor of history at UNL.

#### CHRISTLIEB COLLECTION OF WESTERN ART

A large room in Love Memorial Library at the University of Nebraska is being remodeled to serve as the gallery for the Christlieb Collection of Western Art. The gallery will be open to the public in September, 1981, according to Jon Nelson, curator.

A grant of \$12,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts has been received to help defray the expenses of installing appropriate security devices plus special humidity and temperature controls. An additional \$40,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts has been recommended, but not yet awarded, pending budget decisions by the Reagan administration.

In order to make the extensive collection of books and archival materials in the Christlieb Collection available to scholars, the InterNorth Foundation of Omaha has granted the Center \$12,000 for cataloguing these materials, which will be housed in a special room in the gallery.

#### SENATOR HRUSKA GIFT

Former Senator and Mrs. Roman Hruska of Omaha have donated \$10,000 to the Center for Great Plains Studies to expand its program for the acquisition of materials relating to the history of Czech immigrants in Nebraska and elsewhere in the United States. The gift will be used chiefly to microfilm a wide variety of Czech-language materials, including newspapers, records, and publications of Czech-American societies, churches, schools, and fraternal organizations. The project is under the supervision of Joseph Svoboda, university archivist. Housed in Love Memorial Library, the collec-

tion of Czech-language materials at the University of Nebraska is already one of the most extensive in the United States.

#### AMEN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Ruth M. Amen and her brother, Paul Amen, both of Lincoln, Nebraska, have established an endowment of \$20,000 in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Amen. Income from this fund will be used for graduate student fellowships at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the history and culture of Germans from Russia in the United States, especially in Nebraska and the Great Plains. The fellowships will be awarded by the Governing Board of the Center for Great Plains Studies.

#### THE 1982 SYMPOSIUM: CALL FOR PAPERS

The 1982 symposium will be held on March 18 to 20, 1982, on the topic "Intersections: Studies in the Canadian and American Great Plains." The symposium committee invites papers in three major categories: (1) physical and geographic conditions; (2) social, political, and historical constructs; and (3) imaginative orderings and reconstructions.

Persons interested in presenting papers at the symposium should submit 150- to 200-word proposals to the symposium committee by July 1, 1981. Papers with at least an implicit cross-national and cross-disciplinary theses are preferred, although papers on any aspect of the Great Plains in Canada or the United States will be considered. General topics include land use and settlement patterns; pastoral and agricultural pursuits; educational, religious, or political institutions; vernacular and folk customs and beliefs; fine arts; and literature.

Proposals should be sent to Professor Frances W. Kaye, Department of English, Andrews Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588.