Notes and News- Winter 1982
1982 SYMPOSIUM: “INTERSECTIONS”

Nearly forty Canadian and American scholars will make presentations at the symposium, “Intersections: Studies in the Canadian and American Great Plains,” to be held Thursday through Saturday, March 18-20, at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Organized by the Center for Great Plains Studies, “Intersections” will feature papers on the climate and resources, perception of the land, social and institutional determinism, and political and economic development of the Great Plains. Other sessions during the conference will treat the exploration and settlement of the plains, women and marriage, multicultural interaction, literary and historical comparative studies, and interdisciplinary approaches to the cultural issues of the Great Plains.

“Papers presented will focus on differences and similarities between the experiences of various cultures and national groups occupying a geographically continuous region,” said UNL Professor of English Frances Kaye, conference chairperson. “With half of the presenters being Canadian, we are looking forward to a true cross-cultural exchange,” she added.

A special highlight of the conference will include readings of unpublished works by Great Plains writers W. P. Kinsella, Robert Kroetsch, Rudy Wiebe, Larry McMurtry, and Larry Woiwode. The readings will be held among exhibits in the Christlieb Collection of Western Art.

Registration fees for the three-day conference will total about $45, including meals. More information on speakers, their papers, lodging rates, and travel connections can be obtained by writing Dr. Frances Kaye, Center for Great Plains Studies, 1214 Oldfather Hall, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588.

DONOR OF WESTERN ART COLLECTION DIES

Dr. John M. Christlieb, who donated his collection of western American art to the Center for Great Plains Studies, died on September 8, 1981, at his home in Bellevue, Nebraska, four days before the Center’s gallery was opened.

University of Nebraska President Ronald Roskens described the generosity of Dr. Christlieb and his wife, Elizabeth, as overwhelming. “He was one of those rare human gems, a quiet unassuming and very dedicated professional with a gentle sense of humor,” he said. Christlieb practiced medicine for forty-two years in Omaha before retiring in 1971. An avid amateur historian, Dr. Christlieb was the first president of the Greater Omaha Historical Society, forerunner of the present Douglas County Historical Society.

The art collection, started in the mid-1920s, includes nearly four hundred sculptures, paintings, watercolors, etchings, prints, and drawings by Albert Bierstadt, Charles M. Russell, William H. Jackson, Karl Bodmer, and other western artists. Housed in UNL Love Memorial Library, the collection is conservatively valued at $25 million.

COLLECTION RECEIVES ADDITIONAL GIFTS

Dr. Leon McGoogan of Omaha, a long-time friend and associate of Dr. Christlieb, has given a sculpture to the Center’s collection of western art in his memory. Entitled “Evening Catch,” it is a bronze by Ted Long, a leading contemporary western and wildlife sculptor.

Other recent gifts include a painting, “Welcome Visitor,” by the Nebraska painter, Mel Gerhold, given by Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Bible of Lincoln, Nebraska. Richard Ellis of Huntington, New York, has donated a painting, “Autumn Journey,” by Ray Ellis.