

## News Review

# Barker History Center Opens

AT the fifty-fourth meeting of the Texas Historical Association in Austin on April 27, the Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center was officially opened and dedicated.

The Barker History Center was converted from the Old Library Building, refurnished, refurbished, and spruced up at a cost of over \$100,000. It includes the Texas Collection from the Main Library; the Texas Archives Collection; papers, letters, documents and pictures from early days; Texas newspapers of the past and present; and the Frank Reaugh collection of paintings depicting life in the cattle kingdom.

The ground floor of the building is given over to offices of the Texas Historical Association, with Dr. H. Bailey Carroll as assistant director. Dr. Eugene C. Barker, for whom the building is named, has his offices there, as does Scott Gaines, land attorney for the University. A lounge and kitchenette are also on the first floor, plus an office for work on the Handbook of Texas, an encyclopedia of Texas history now being prepared.

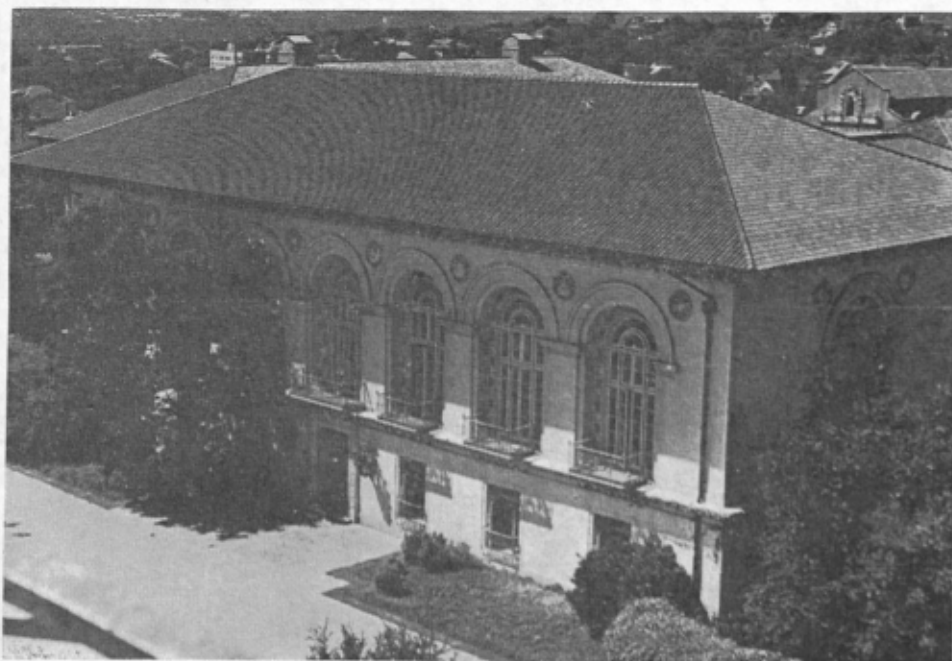
The second floor of the building contains the main reading room, library, microfilm room, graduate and faculty study room, and the Reaugh paintings.

### THE MAN

The man for whom the History Center was named is Dr. Eugene C. Barker, distinguished professor of American history, who received two degrees from the University—a B.A. in 1899 and an M.A. in 1900. He took his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1908, and in 1913 returned to the University of Texas as head of the Department of History.

Since that time, Dr. Barker's name has been synonymous with Texas History. With Dr. Amelia W. Williams, he wrote eight volumes on the writings of Sam Houston; his "Life of Stephen F. Austin" has often been called the finest biography in Texas

Texana Collection moved into Old Library Building. Its estimated value is \$2,500,000.



The Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center

*The Old Library Building has been reconverted into a center for the Texas Collection. The formal opening of the history center took place on April 27 at the annual meeting of the Texas Historical Association.*

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Cover photo: Neal Douglass

Dudley Woodward, Wayman Adams, Dean H. T. Parlin, and Coleman Gay stand in front of Dean Parlin's portrait, which was presented to the University on April 29. See story, page 237.

literature; some of his other works are "With the Makers of Texas History," "Mexico and Texas," "A School History of Texas," and "The Father of Texas." His studies in the last few years have been largely concerned with the history of the federal Constitution. For twenty-seven years, he was editor-in-chief of the Southwestern Historical Quarterly.

Dr. Barker's office is on the first floor of the History Center. His portrait by Robert Joy hangs in the main hall. Though once described as "half a sabre-toothed tiger and half St. Francis of Assisi," undoubtedly Dr. Barker's distinctive and individualistic personality has enriched

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the folklore of the University of Texas.

### THE PAINTER

The dedication of the Barker Texas History Center began on April 27 with the presentation ceremonies of the Frank Reaugh paintings to the University. These paintings of western cattle scenes were executed by Mr. Reaugh, who was a non-Texan but who spent over fifty years of his life studying and depicting the ways of the West.

The paintings which are housed permanently as a unit in the northeast section of the second floor of the History Center were presented to the University by Roy C. Ledbetter, Dallas attorney and a trustee of the Collection. Read Granberry accepted the paintings on behalf of the University, and Regent Chairman Dudley K. Woodward, presided at the presentation ceremonies.

Reaugh, who was a bachelor and who had very little family ties, was persuaded by the Ex-Students' Association in 1937 to leave his paintings to the University. He agreed to upon condition that they be housed as a unit and not sold and scattered through the nation. A board of trustees was set up to administer the

\$125,000 Reaugh Collection, and with their official presentation, the paintings have now reached their proper destination.

Reaugh was born in Illinois in 1876 but migrated to Texas at an early age. He made his home in Dallas until his death in 1947. He received his first academic training at the St. Louis School of Fine Arts. Later he studied in the Julian School in Paris and later in Holland.

His pictures have been exhibited in famous art galleries in the United States, such as the Chicago Art Institute and the Pennsylvania and National Academies. A spokesman for the Chicago Art Institute has said, "Mr. Reaugh has rendered Texas and the Southwest a rich service in perpetuating through the genius of his brush the vastness and prodigal beauty of the plains, mesas, and valleys, while preserving its most colorful era in his portrayal of the now almost extinct longhorn."

### THE BUILDING

Built in 1910 at a cost of \$280,000, the Old Library Building, hereafter and forevermore to be known as the Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center, housed the Library of the Univer-

sity until the Main Library was completed in 1937. After that, the Art Department used the building as headquarters, and with the passage of time, it fell into disrepair.

With an admirable job of face-lifting on its interior, the Barker History Center literally gleams with fresh paint (light green and ivory), new marble stairs (can anyone forget the old scalloped stairs between the first and second floors?), and new fixtures throughout.

The Spanish Renaissance type of architecture which this building portrays was designed by Cass Gilbert, the late New York architect, who designed the Woolworth Building in New York and the Minnesota Capitol Building. The Barker History Center building has often been named as one of the twelve most beautiful buildings in the Southwest. Plans are being made to restore the intricate, hand-carved scroll-work around the doors in the main reading room upstairs.

Considering the original cost of the building, the conversion work and the materials and equipment it houses, the building and contents may be said to have a value of approximately \$2,500,000. Surely, the University's Texana collection is unequalled.

### Houston S.I.E.

Last fall a movement was started in the Houston area to establish an Alumni Chapter of Sigma Iota Epsilon, honorary and professional management fraternity. Plans have gone along according to schedule and officers have been elected and a constitution and by-laws have been adopted.

Officers include: president, Kurt von Boeckmann, B.B.A. '32, M.B.A. '33; vice-president, Walton C. Fleming, Jr., B.B.A. '43; and secretary-treasurer, John E. Kolb, B.B.A. '49.

Plans made by the Houston Alumni include a Placement Service to help graduating members of Sigma Iota Epsilon at the University find jobs in the Houston area.

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at a downtown Houston restaurant where the group has dinner, followed either by a business meeting, movie, or a speaker.



Dr. Eugene C. Barker

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