

CHARTING HISTORY MAP EXHIBIT OPENS AT WILLIAMSON MUSEUM

The Central Texas Area Questers have generously underwritten the Williamson Museum's newest exhibit entitled *Charting History: Maps from the Don Martin Collection* featuring maps dating from 1685 to the mid-1800s. The exhibit will open to the public on Friday, November 7, at 6:00 p.m. This event is free to the public and includes refreshments. This unique collection of maps gives a glimpse into the lives and times of the cartographers who created the maps. During these early years of our nation, map makers took artistic license with their maps, not knowing with certainty what some less traveled areas looked like. They relied upon second-hand descriptions and their imagination to fill in details of our rough and rugged regions. For example, one map from the 1600s shows California as an island. The maps became more accurate through time.

The Central Texas Questers host an annual Spring Fling event to help raise funds for historical preservation and restoration projects in the area. This is the third occasion that the Museum has received a contribution from the Questers, who have supported the Museum since it opened to the public in 2003. The Questers, founded in 1944, is an international nonprofit organization with more than 15,000 members in the U.S. and Canada, and has five active chapters in Sun City. For information on how to get involved or learn more about the Questers, contact Marilyn Panches at 512.864.3453.

Don Martin, owner of this spectacular map collection, is president and owner of Don Martin Public Affairs, founded in 1980, providing media relations, government affairs and issues management strategy in Central Texas. In addition, he is a part-time real estate developer having co-developed San Gabriel Village in Georgetown and La Frontera in Round Rock among other projects. He worked extensively on the original planning and approvals for Sun City Texas in Georgetown.

Martin enjoys collecting including early Texas and pre-state maps, Republic of Texas currency, and Central Texas postcards. He has previously donated a Georgetown postcard collection to the Williamson Museum. He is the author of a new book on Austin history as seen through postcards, published by Arcadia Publishing, that will be out in Spring 2009.

Charting History: Maps from the Don Martin Collection will be on exhibit at the Museum through May 2009. The Williamson Museum is located at 716 S. Austin Avenue in Georgetown. For exhibit information, contact Lisa Worley at 943-1673 or lworley@williamsonmuseum.org.

For information: <http://www.williamsonmuseum.org>

Contact: lworley@williamsonmuseum.org



Map from Don Martin Collection:
Amerique Septentrionale by Pierre Lapie; engraved by Jean-Baptiste-Marie Chamouin; published in Lapie's *Atlas Classique et Universel* in 1818.