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Publishing

University prints scholarly, regional books

By KATHERINE HURT
 Staff Writer

The Texas A&M University Press, now entering its 10th year, enjoys a growth rate that surpasses many other university presses across the country. It has netted almost \$5 million in sales and distributed 400,000 books around the world since Housatonia John H. Lindsey, Class of '44, encouraged A&M to start the press in 1975.

Lloyd G. Lyman, director of the University Press, said the press has two main responsibilities: to publish books of scholarly interest for people all over the world, and to publish books reflecting the culture and history of Texas and the Southwest.

The University Press has published volumes on various subjects, some of which include art and folklore which preserve and interpret Texas' heritage, history, natural history, environmental history, the American West, economics, oil and nautical archaeology.

"Our main goal," Lyman said, "is to serve the constituency of Texas and Texas A&M. We serve the interests of the people on a regional basis and the academic community on a worldwide basis."

Lyman succeeded founding director Frank H. Wardlaw in 1978, after serving 15 years as assistant director of the University of California Press at Berkeley, as executive editor and marketing manager of the Louisiana State University Press and as associate director of the University Press.

Last September the University Press moved into a new \$1.7 million building named in honor of Lindsey. The 5,000 square foot building houses production, editorial, marketing, warehousing and shipping

facilities, Lyman said.

The building also houses the Frank H. Wardlaw Collection of Texas Art—a collection of 22 pieces by Texas artists—donated to the press at the dedication of its new building.

Lyman knows of "no better physical facility for a university press in the United States. Many are relegated to condemned fraternity houses and to library basements," he said.

Lyman said the University Press will publish the manuscript of anyone who qualifies.

"Around 30 percent of our authors are Texas A&M professors, though you don't have to be on staff to get published," Lyman said. "We like to publish our own faculty's manuscripts, but many have previous commitments to other presses."

Prospective manuscripts must be reviewed and approved by a faculty advisory committee made up of members of faculties from Texas A&M, Prairie View A&M University, Tarleton State University and Texas A&M University at Galveston.

The University Press has published more than 170 books since its first volume, "Storms Brewed in Other Men's Worlds: The Confrontation of Indians, Spanish, and French in the Southwest," by Elizabeth A.H. John was published in 1975.

The University Press publishes about 30 new books annually and recently received funds for two new series—the Frank H. Wardlaw series and the Clayton Wheat Williams Texas Life Series.

Former publishing colleagues and longtime friends of Frank Wardlaw, director emeritus of the University

Press, are funding the Wardlaw series. The series will feature books dealing with Texas and the Southwest.

The Williams series was established by Clayton W. Williams Jr. in honor of his father. It will focus on daily life in Texas at different time periods, from the beginning of recorded time until the present.

Lyman said the University Press is "at the low end of the medium-sized university presses, which publish from 20 to 75 books per year." Large presses publish more than 60 per year, Lyman added.

He said the largest American university press is the University of California Press that prints more than 200 books per year.

Several books published by the press have received special critical recognition. The most important, "Ashbel Smith of Texas: Pioneer, Patriot, Statesman, 1805-1886," by Elizabeth Silverthorne won the Tullis Memorial Award from the Texas State Historical Association in 1982. In the same year, it won top awards from the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and from the Sons of the Republic of Texas.

One novel rarely warrants all three top awards in Texas, Lyman said.

Design awards for A&M books include the Western Books Exhibition Award of Merit for "The Nightcharmer and Other Tales of Claude Seignolle" and "Pecos to the Rio Grande" (Number Six: The Joe and Betty Moore Texas Art Series). "Pecos to the Rio Grande" also received the Mead Award of Merit.

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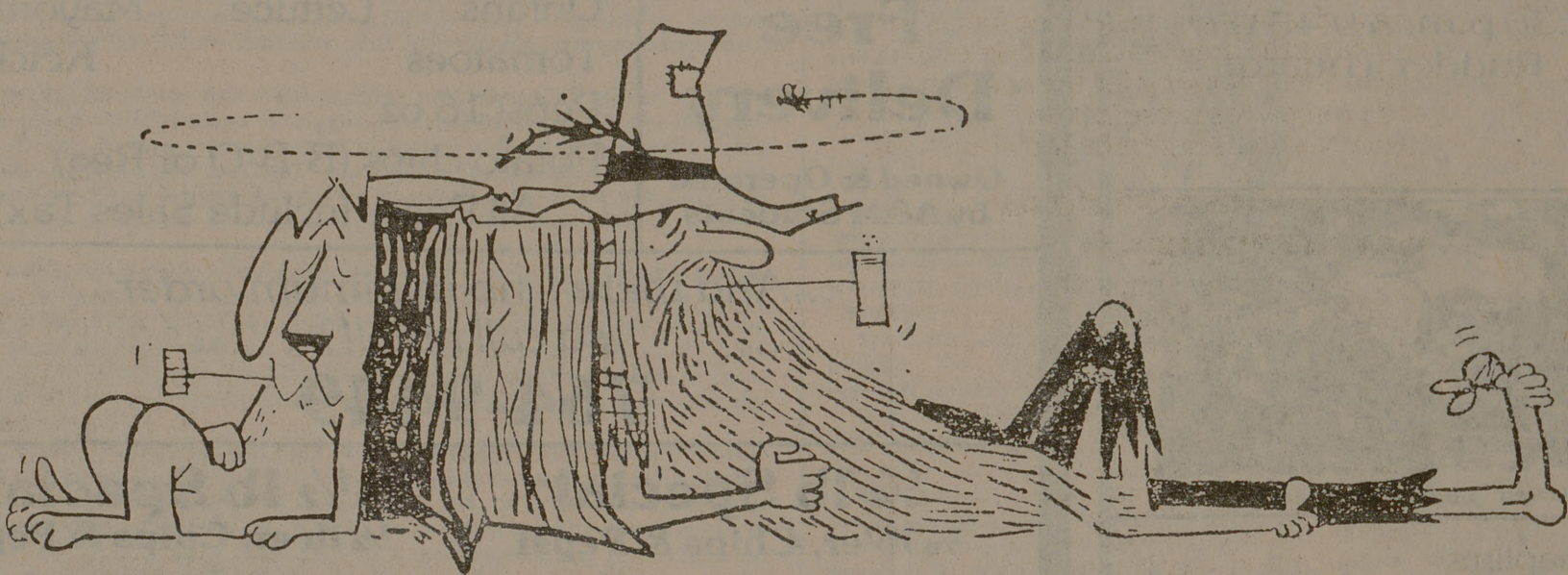
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