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## Review of *Texas Women: Frontier to Future* by Ann Fears Crawford and Crystal Sasse Ragsdale

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the most part not kept pace with national trends. *Texas Women* is an example of the need for further advancement in Texas women's studies.

*Texas Women* is a series of fifteen- to eighteen-page biographical essays, twenty-four in number, written in a lively, readable style. Unlike the deeply reflexive beginnings to many recent books on women, the preface gives little hint of the authors' intent or the rationale behind their choice of the subjects of their study except for their desire to "trace the heritage of pioneering women from the frontier past to modern-day Texas." The subjects are women with notable public careers: women of the theater (Adah Menken, Margo Jones, and Mary Martin), writers (Harriet Ames; Jane Cazneau; Elise Waerenskjold, the only member of a definable white ethnic group; Sallie Matthews; Katherine Anne Porter; Nettie Lee Benson; Helen Corbitt; and Mollie Ivins), reformers (Eleanor Brackenridge, Jessie Daniel Ames, and Frankie Randolph), artists and patrons of the arts (Allie Tennant, Martha Mood, and Dominique de Menil), and politicians (Lila Cockrell, Kathy Whitmire, Cyndi Krier, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Judith Pappas Zaffirini, and Kay Bailey Hutchison). The time span moves from the early nineteenth century to the present, with the essays in approximate chronological order. Designed for a popular audience, the essays come without footnotes but do offer a list of references, made up almost entirely of secondary sources. Original research is strongest in the essays on the early nineteenth century; the late-twentieth-century articles cite a large number of popular press items.

*Texas Women* might serve as a suitable introduction to elite white women in Texas, but will not serve a deeper purpose because of its lack of original research. (A number of the subjects, such as Ames, Porter, and Martin, have already been subjects of monographs, and others would make interesting full-length studies.) It is not suitable for classroom use because of its lack of multicultural inclusiveness, which could have been easily overcome.

*Texas Women: Frontier to Future.* By Ann Fears Crawford and Crystal Sasse Ragsdale. Austin: State House Press, 1998. Photographs, index. xv + 375 pp. \$24.95 cloth, \$17.95 paper.

In 1982, when the authors of *Texas Women* published their first collaborative effort, *Women in Texas*, the field of women's history was just beginning to blossom. Since that time, women's history has advanced past the stories of great women trying to fit into a male picture to a more comprehensive and methodologically sophisticated field. The published history of women in Texas, however, has for

Perhaps heavily documented, deeply researched scholarly monographs are not for a popular audience. But popular writing can still reflect the richness of women's experience in Texas. Crawford and Ragsdale point to the need for continued work on Texas women.

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