The present issue has a special topic of Women of the Plains. It runs parallel to and benefits from the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum’s 2014 theme Women of the West. It also, I am pleased to say, catches PPHR up to the calendar year. Women’s history of the region is a rich subject of inquiry, and the essays presented herein capture something of the particular challenges and rewards of the field.

Loosely following a historical chronology, this issue begins with Jean Stuntz’s essay, “Early Settlement of the Panhandle by Women,” first presented as a talk at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in April of 2014, which characterizes women’s roles in the Panhandle’s pioneer period. Stuntz’s lively survey serves as a kind of overview of women’s experience as seen in a handful of women who were both individually remarkable and representative of their respective stations in life. Amy Von Lintel’s “‘The Little Girl of the Texas Plains’” is a reappraisal of Georgia O’Keeffe’s time in the Panhandle during the 1910s. Von Lintel’s work, demonstrating substantial and thorough research, draws from recently-available primary source material and sets a new bar for subsequent scholarship on O’Keeffe’s important Texas period. In a first collaboration of this sort, Von Lintel’s accompanying timeline has been published online by West Texas A&M’s Cornette Library (http://wtamu.edu/library/okeeffe/timeline.pdf).

Hillarie Easley-McPherson’s contribution, “The Politics of Reform: Women of the WCTU in Canadian, Texas, 1902-1920,” undertakes a study of the clubwomen of Canadian. Fascinating in this work is the detail its author found in archival records that make visible women’s contributions to political life, particularly their methods and their motivations in response to prohibition, world war, and suffrage. Finally, in an essay most closely connected with the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society, Mildred Vanover’s essay explores the significance of Susan Janney Allen’s donation, from the 1930s through the 50s, to what she called “My Museum.” Allen’s collection of Native American basketry and other material comprised a major exhibit under the heading of Women of the West at the museum in 2014, and Vanover’s work makes a compelling argument for Allen’s importance to the early days of the museum. This mix of articles describes women variously as new pioneers, outsiders, prominent residents, and visitors—all of whom made a significant contribution to Panhandle-Plains history, its regional character, and its enduring stories.

This issue also reflects an effort to increase the number of book reviews and includes an experiment with several forms of essay review which I hope you will agree add interesting dimension to this specially-themed collection of scholarship.

Thanks to Warren Stricker and the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum Research Center for help with images. Credit is due also to WTAMU’s Cornette Library and Amarillo College for image rights.

Furthermore, I wish to express my appreciation to the PPHR Editorial Board members for a generosity of time and expertise that routinely leaves me inspired. And finally, thanks to the
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Sincerely,

Alex Hunt