



## Major Display of Old Spanish Maps, Documents on Display in Bexar Courthouse



A collection of some of the oldest maps and documents to mention what was to become Texas and San Antonio went on display at the Bexar County Courthouse today, as part of the celebration of the World Heritage Site designation for the Alamo and the Missions, News Radio 1200 WOAI reports.

"Nuestra Historia, Our Story, Spain and Bexar County,' tells the story of the confluence of cultures that created San Antonio and Bexar County," said Dr. Sarah Gould of the Institute of Texan Cultures, who is the curator for the exhibition.

Most of the documents are from the national archives in Seville Spain, although some are from Mexico City. All the documents on display now are digital copies, but the originals are set to arrive in February.

The will be open to the public in the newly renovated Double-Height Courtroom in the old Courthouse building.

"It will give you the idea of what was in the minds of the Spanish when they

began to settle here in the new world," County Judge Nelson Wolff said.

Most of the documents are from the first two decades of the 18th Century, ahead of the founding of San Antonio in 1718.

"You'll see some interesting maps of what Bexar County looked like, pieces of that, anyway," Wolff said.

The Spanish also drew still easily recognizable maps of the Gulf Coast, the Rio Bravo del Norte, now known, north of the border anyway as the Rio Grande, and of the entire area of Texas between New Mexico and Louisiana.