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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Wylie's Smith Library to Host a Look Inside the Real Downton Abbey

January 14, 2014 – Wylie, TX – Journey inside the Real Downton Abbey with Jann Mackey at the Smith Public Library on Thursday, January 23, at 6:30 p.m. Register for the event by calling 972-516-6250. The library is located at 300 Country Club Road, Building 300, Wylie, TX.

Lord and Lady Grantham may be fictional characters, but their magnificent home is real. Highclere Castle serves as the filming location for the famous abbey and the dramatic goings on among its nobles and servants alike. Through numerous images, Mackey will immerse the audience in the art, architecture and history of the castle and its other famous family, the earls of Carnarvon. The fifth earl sponsored Howard Carter and the discovery of King Tut's tomb.

Mackey will link Highclere to other Victorian country houses, including Mentmore Towers, Toddington Manor, Knebworth House and Clivedon. She will explain how the fictional plot of *Downton Abbey* has unexpected echoes of Highclere Castle and the Carnarvon family's complex history.

Jann Mackey graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in honors art history and foreign languages from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. She received a master's degree in international management from the Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management in Glendale, Ariz., a master of liberal arts degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, and a doctorate in humanities from the University of Texas at Dallas. She is a recipient of the National Trust for Historic Preservation fellowship to participate in the Attingham Trust study programme of British country houses. She has curated exhibitions on Dallas architects, Hal Thomson and Charles Dilbeck, at the Meadows Museum, and serves as a board member of Preservation Dallas.

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About Smith Public Library

Founded in 1970 by Rita and Truett Smith, the library serves the informational, cultural and recreational needs of the over 44,000 residents of the city of Wylie.