

GONZÁLEZ MIRELES, JOVITA (1904–1983)

The educator and folklorist, Jovita González, dedicated her life to bringing the legends and stories of Tejanos into the broader American narrative. Born into a ranching family in Roma, Texas, the family moved to San Antonio so that the children could receive an education in English. Jovita excelled in her studies earning a teaching certificate by the age of twenty. An association with the Texas Folklore Society led to her serving as vice president and president of the organization from 1928-1932. An American Association of University Women fellowship paved the way for González Mireles to earn a masters degree in history at the University of Texas. This gave her the opportunity to write a thesis, "Social Life in Starr, and Zapata Counties" in 1930. Her most important contributions to the literature on Tejanos are her historical novels, *The Dew in the Thorn* and *Caballero*. Unpublished throughout her lifetime, the manuscripts were discovered among her papers and published by the Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literature project.