

Phillips Society Spring Meeting, May 16-18, 2013

Library of Congress



Detail from JCB-Stevens Map [1507-1513?]

Thursday, May 16

All day, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, open house and behind the scenes tours in the Geography and Map Division for Phillips Society Members

10:30-11:30

Invited tour for steering committee members, with John Hessler and Chet Van Duzer, of the Kislak Collection featuring a display of the 1507 World Map, the 1516 *Carta Marina*, Waldseemüller's 1513 edition of Ptolemy's *Geographia*, the 1507 globe gores by Waldseemüller and the JCB-Stevens map.

12:00 – 2:30

PLPS Steering Committee Meeting, with lunch provided, James Madison Building LM-642

3:00 – 4:00

Annual Meeting of PLPS, James Madison Building, Geography and Map Division Reading Room



Friday, May 17

Re-Drawing Ptolemy: The Cartography of Martin Waldseemüller and Mathias Ringmann

A conference sponsored by the Philip Lee Phillips Society and the John Carter Brown Library

**Thomas Jefferson Building
Coolidge Auditorium, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM**



Since the acquisition of the famous 1507 World Map by the Library of Congress in 2008 much new scholarship has been accomplished, not only on the 1507 map, but also on Waldseemüller's other cartographic creations and experiments. This conference will bring together scholars who have worked to answer some of the outstanding historical questions relating to the entire Waldseemüller corpus including the 1516 *Carta Marina*, Waldseemüller's 1513 edition of Ptolemy's *Geographia*, the 1507 Globes Gores, and the mysterious JCB-Stevens map.

The conference will also feature an exhibit of all of Waldseemüller's maps brought together under one roof for the first time in history

8:30 AM

Introductory Remarks

Ralph Ehrenberg, Chief, Geography and Map Division

Roberta I. Shaffer, Associate Librarian for Library Services

Dianne Powell, Philip Lee Phillips Society

Susan Danforth, John Carter Brown Library

Morning Session

Moderator, John Hebert

9:00-9:30

John Hessler

Curator, Jay I. Kislak Collection

Reading Waldseemüller, Writing Ptolemy: Unsolved Problems in Waldseemüller Scholarship

This paper will provide an overview of the current historiography of cartography in the time of Waldseemüller and highlight some of the unresolved and outstanding historical questions in Waldseemüller scholarship. Focusing mainly on the problem of information production and

transmission in the geographical and mixed sciences in the early Renaissance, this paper will discuss new approaches and new research currently underway by a variety of scholars as they seek to understand this most mysterious of mapmakers.

9:30-10

David Parsons/Susan Danforth
John Carter Brown Library

The Mystery of the Waldseemüller JCB-Stevens World Map

The JCB-Stevens World map appears almost identical to the “Orbis Typus Universalis” from the 1513 Ptolemy except that the New World carries the caption America. The mystery of the map, which has been little researched to date, is where it fits into the development of the 1513 Ptolemy. Is it an early proof? Intended as a separately published map? Or is it a post 1513 production? The talk will review the colorful history of how the map came to reside at the JCB and discuss research done on the map both historically and more recently.

10:00-11

Daniel DeSimone, Sylvia Albro, John Bertolaschi, and the 1513 Study Group
Library of Congress

Solving the Puzzle of 1513 Rosenwald Ptolemy

Recently, the Library of Congress began conservation of a copy of the 1513 Ptolemy *Geographia*, printed in Strasbourg by Johann Schott. Donated by Lessing J. Rosenwald in the 1940s, it is one of three copies of the 1513 edition held by the Library, and is considered one of the most important books in the Rosenwald Collection. Colored in a contemporary hand, this copy is illustrated with twenty-seven woodcut maps based on Ptolemaic projections and twenty “modern maps” of Europe, the Mediterranean Basin, and the Atlantic based on information compiled by Martin Waldseemüller from European discoveries of the 15th and early 16th century. Pressing curatorial concerns about the atlas's provenance, its binding history, and the authenticity of all of its components led to a technical analysis of the volume by a team of conservators, scientists and curators. The atlas also has a number of condition problems, including a degraded copper green pigment, confirmed as verdigris through XRF examination. This paper will present the investigative analysis carried out by the Library of Congress team to unravel the complex history of this volume, and which informs the approach being taken to its conservation treatment.

11-11:30 Questions

Afternoon Session

Moderator, Wesley Brown

1-1:30

Richard Pfloderer
Independent Scholar

Nautical Cartography in the time of Waldseemüller

The *Carta Marina* is one of the earliest surviving printed charts of the known world produced in the style of a sea chart. The author's title for this map clearly states that he is portraying the world based on Portuguese navigational information. The purpose of this paper is to describe the state of European nautical cartography in the time of Waldseemüller and to highlight the evolution from the Cantino chart and its derivative manuscript charts to this printed masterpiece of Waldseemüller. We will also present an overview of the contribution of Portuguese explorations to the expanding European vision of the world.

1:30-2

Surekha Davies

Assistant Professor, Western Connecticut State University

Spit-roasts, Barbecues and Inventing Cannibals, 1492-1650

This paper argues that the notion of the inhabitants of Brazil as cannibals owed more to Martin Waldseemüller, who synthesized circum-Caribbean travel writing, maps and classical scholarship, than to such travellers as Columbus, Vespucci, André Thevet or Jean de Léry. Neither the fact that these peoples were emblemized by cannibalism nor the precise practices associated with them was inevitable given the available sources. Maps drawing on the *Carta Marina* influenced cosmographies and prints to such an extent that cannibals came to personify the Americas as a whole.

2:00-2:30

Marguerite Ragnow

Curator, James Ford Bell Library

Waldseemüller's Globe Gores: Challenges and Observations

Although the Bell Library copy of Waldseemüller's globe gores was discovered several decades prior to the discovery of his more famous wall map, little attention has been paid to it. This paper will trace the history of the gores, how it might fit into existing Waldseemüller scholarship, and what it might illuminate that the two contrary depictions of North America on the wall map might obscure.

2:30-3:00

Chet Van Duzer

Invited Research Scholar, John Carter Brown Library

Watching a Renaissance Cartographer at Work: The Construction of Waldseemüller's *Carta marina* of 1516

We have very little information about the workshop practices of early sixteenth-century cartographers—about how they created their maps. Martin Waldseemüller's *Carta marina* of

1516 offers a rare opportunity to obtain just this sort of information. By examining the cartographer's sources, both cartographic and textual, as well as his use of those sources, we can reconstruct how he went about creating this magnificent map, and gain a unique and unprecedented view of an early modern cartographer at work.

3:00-3:30

Questions

3:30-5 Reception

Thomas Jefferson Building, LJ-119

Saturday, May 18, 9 AM-12 PM

Geography and Map Division Reading Room

MAP

Open House and tours of the Kislak Gallery display of the 1507 World Map, the 1516 *Carta Marina*, the *Schoner Sammelband*, Waldseemüller's 1513 *Geographia*, 1516 *Carta Marina*, the 1507 Globe Gores and JCB-Stevens Map.