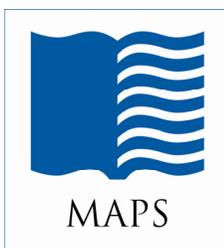


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News and information about the premier map collections of the Library of Congress.

Conference on Waldseemüller

Two amazing maps vied for the right to be called America's birth certificate during the daylong conference titled *Re-drawing Ptolemy* on May 17 at the Library of Congress. These works and others by Martin Waldseemüller were brought together for the first time since having been produced some 500 years ago. (*Editor's note: maps on loan to Library are depicted on page 7.*)

The event was hosted by G&M, the Philip Lee Phillips Society and the John Carter Brown Library, which is affiliated with Brown University. Ten scholars addressed the crowd of more than 120 attendees.

The First Map to Name America

The question everyone wanted to know was whether the wall-sized 1507 world map, *Universalis Cosmographia*, held by the Library of Congress, or the much smaller map owned by the John Carter Brown Library, was the first to name America?

David Parsons and Susan Danforth of the John Carter Brown Library challenged

the primacy of the Library's map.

In 1900, British book dealer Henry Stevens, who was working as an agent for the John Carter Brown Library, confidently made a case that a single-sheet map that he had been researching was the first to name America. It is referred to as the JCB map.

Stevens soon faced a predicament. In 1901, a much larger and more complete version of the Waldseemüller world map that also named America was found in Germany. Since then controversy has persisted and scholars have debated the order of creation.

The maps have many differences. The JCB map is a single sheet and is colored. The word America was printed using stereotyping that was experimental at the time. It contains rhumb lines for navigation that bear similarity to the 1516 *Carta Marina*, Mr. Parsons said.



Marguerite Ragnon, Curator at the James Ford Bell Library, discusses her observations of Waldseemüller's globe gores.

Waldseemüller added to the confusion by including a text on the *Carta Marina* that states 1,000 copies of a world map was made. Scholars are divided on which map the German cartographer meant. Mr. Parsons suggested that Waldseemüller was referring to the JCB map, based on size and likely cost of production.

When it came to the big question, Mr. Parsons stopped short of saying the JCB map preceded the 1507 world map. Carefully measuring his argument, he called the maps contemporaries.

Maps to Globes

Waldseemüller produced globe gores of his 1507

Story continues on page 5

Photo: Abby Brock, LoC

Steering Committee Recommends New Name For Phillips Society

New Bylaws Adopted

The Philip Lee Phillips Society started in 1995 and bears the name-sake of the Library's first Superintendent of maps.

Now it is time for a change.

Steering Committee Chairman, George Tobolowsky wants to reach a wider audience and has suggested a more general name for the group.

The Chairman proposed "the Map Society of the Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division." He believes the obvious name will be readily found online

The Steering Committee will be called the Philip Lee Phillips Steering Committee.

The decision was approved by the Steering Committee on May 16 at a meeting at the Library of Congress. The recommendation was presented to Chief Ralph E. Ehrenberg who must make the final approval.

The Committee had other important business. It approved a new set of bylaws, as required by the Library's General Counsel. The new charter clarified issues of governance and states that final decision-making authority within the Society will reside with the Chief. The group, per the new bylaws, will now be open to anyone who expresses interest.

*

Margrit Krewson, former Dutch-German Specialist, was nominated by Chief Ehrenberg as the group's first Honorary Member for her work that helped the Library acquire Waldseemüller's maps. The Committee unanimously supported the Chief's suggestion.

*

The Phillips Society held its first annual public meeting on the same day, a requirement that also stems from the bylaws.

Staff members outlined the Division's four new initiatives. These include the expansion of the vault, the redesign of the Reading Room, the addition of the Kislak Collection to the Division's curatorial responsibilities and the proposal for a Geospatial Hosting Environment that Capitol Hill staffers and others would be able to access.

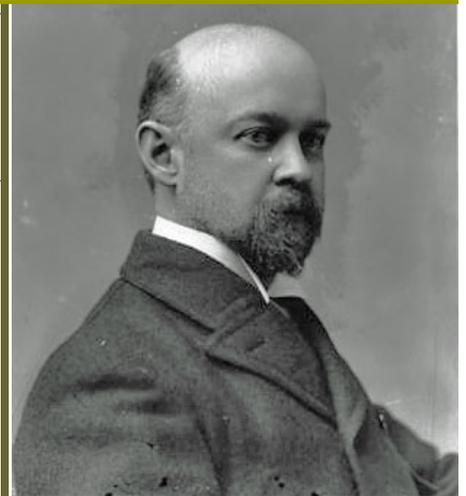
The audience heard about the Society's finances. For this calendar year, so far, it has spent approximately \$72,552 for the newsletter, the Miami Map Fair, spring conference and acquisitions.

Wesley Brown of the Steering Committee outlined ideas for the 2014 conference that is tentatively titled "From Paper to Bytes: The Cartography of the Twentieth Century and Beyond." The conference is scheduled for two days in May, with dates to be announced, at the Library of Congress.

*

The Steering Committee has proposed to meet in Tampa, Florida on November 2. The meeting will coincide with a conference being hosted by the Society for the History of Discoveries on the 500th Anniversary of Florida's discovery.

By Ryan Moore



The Philip Lee Phillips Society is named in honor of Philip Lee Phillips (1857-1924), the first Superintendent of Maps at the Library of Congress when the Hall of Maps and Charts was established in 1897.

The group is a non-profit, voluntary association whose objective is to develop, enhance, and promote the work of the Geography and Map Division by advancing its publication, education, exhibition, preservation and acquisition programs.

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The Man Who Saved the Maps of Waldseemüller

G&M Specialist Explores Topic in Latest Book

The German astronomer and mathematician, Johannes Schöner (1477 - 1547), was an aggregator of Renaissance-era scientific knowledge and a globemaker. His greatest claim to fame was saving for posterity the 1507 and 1516 maps by Martin Waldseemüller (1470–1520) of which the former is thought to be first map to give America her name. These are the only known copies to have survived.

The *Schöner Sammelband*, a compilation that contained the maps, was rediscovered in 1901 in a German castle by the Jesuit historian, Father Josef Fischer. The Library of Congress purchased the 1507 world map in 2003 for \$10 million.

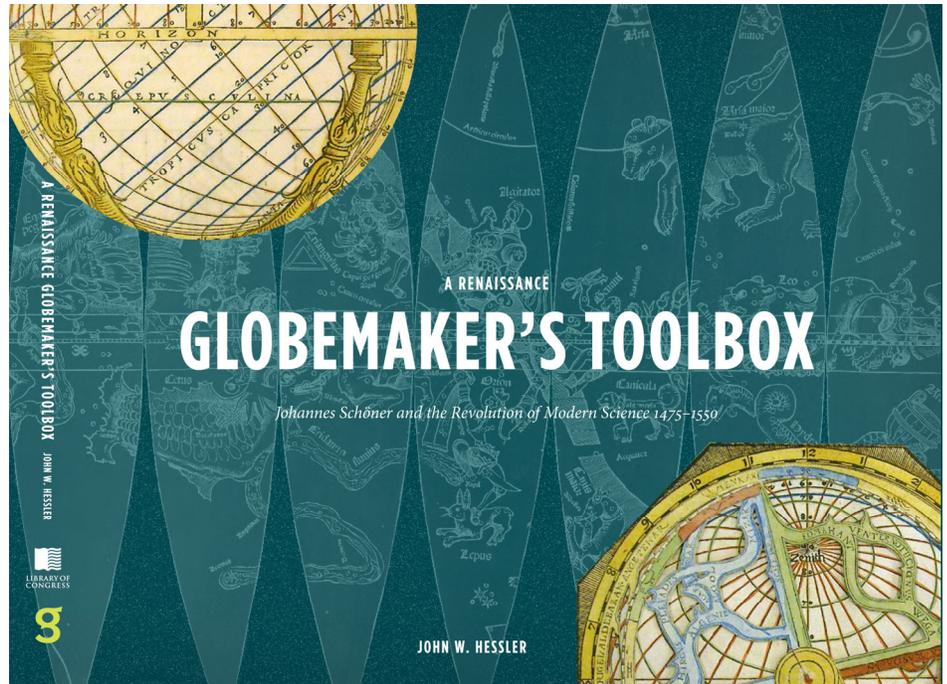
These texts are the basis for a new book by G&M Reference Specialist John Hessler titled, *A Renaissance Globemaker's Toolbox*. The book is richly illustrated with maps, drawings and marginal notes. It was published by the Library of Congress in association with D Giles Ltd. of London.

Hessler has been fascinated by the life and times of Waldseemüller, an era time when scientific views of the world were starting to challenge religious explanations. In his pursuit of the subject, Mr. Hessler has turned his attention to Schöner.

Physically unimpressive, Schöner was a bearded, heavyset man. He was challenged by questions of faith and earthly love. While a priest, he pursued a relationship with a woman. The couple had three children. He converted to Lutheranism and became a professor in mathematics in Nuremberg. The German city was an important center of scientific printing. Schöner's bril-



Johannes Schöner



liance was in taking advantage of his access to scientific publications from which he created a great collection.

Inside Schöner's collection were the most important manuscripts in mathematics, astrology and astronomy. The writers were people like Regiomontanus, the foremost mathematician and astronomer of 15th-century Europe, said Mr. Hessler. Also included was a letter by one of his students concerning Copernicus' theory that the Earth orbited the sun, which was contrary to official church doctrine.

"Many of these [unique materials] are our only record of the transmission of mathematical and geographic knowledge into the North of Germany, and they help contextualize the world that Waldseemüller, worked in," said Mr. Hessler.

Schöner appreciated the significance of the materials he

was archiving. He placed a bookplate into the *Sammelband* that said: "Schöner gives this to posterity, as long as this survives there exists a monument to his spirit."

Mr. Hessler believes his inquiry is complete with this third book. He has wanted to know how the Waldseemüller maps, and other maps like them were used by scholars, globemakers and geographers of the period.

"Schöner, because so many of his working notebooks and reference materials survive helps answer that question, if only contingently," Mr. Hessler said.

The 176-page hardcover book, with 90 illustrations is available for sale nationwide, as well as at the Library of Congress Shop. Orders are taken at (888) 682-3557 or online at www.loc.gov/shop/.

By Ryan Moore

Phillip's Society Funds Purchase Rare World Map

D.H. Vance an Overlooked American Cartographer



The Philip Lee Phillips Society has provided funds to purchase a rare world map drawn by an overlooked American cartographer.

The Society contributed \$17,000 for the acquisition of D.H. Vance's world map from dealer in Sweden. The map is representative of an era when American cartography emerged as comparable in quality to its European counterparts.

The purchase was completed in March.

The "World on a Globular Projection; Exhibiting the Geographical Researches of Modern Travellers & Navigators" drawn circa 1826, is a large work that measures 162 x 92 cm. It was copper engraved by J.H. Young and hand colored.

Cornell University holds the only other known copy.

Vance drafted the map using a

"globular projection," a popular style used from the 16th century until the 19th century, in which two spheres are depicted side by side. It gives the illusion of a globe being halved and flattened so that all of its contents are viewable at once.

Vance frequently supplemented his maps with statistical tables that appeared in the corners of his maps. In this case, he included information on several countries on the map, the heights of principal mountains, and lengths of major rivers

Little is known about Vance other than he lived in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Vance was employed by publisher Anthony Finley (c. 1790 - 1840).

Finley was based in Philadelphia, the center of American publishing at the time. His most prominent works, *A New American Atlas* and the *New*

General Atlas... were published from 1824 to 1834.

A reason Vance's name is not more broadly known in cartographic circles may relate to the fact that his drawings were appropriated by another publisher. In 1831, S. Augustus Mitchell republished Finley's 1826 atlas, but Vance's contributions were not credited. That same year, Mitchell purchased the rights to Finley's entire catalog. Vance's name stopped appearing on published maps thereafter.

By Ryan Moore

Waldseemüller Conference

Continued from page 1

world map, said Marguerite Ragnow of the James Ford Bell Library. The gores have some differences with the world map. It is likely the depiction of the land that became known as South America was meant to be an island and not a continent. Waldseemüller was illustrating a single, world ocean, she said. Five copies of the globe gores are known to exist.

Waldseemüller's Resources

The era of world exploration undoubtedly influenced the German cartographer, said Richard Pfloderer, an independent scholar.

The Portuguese had knowledge of the Brazilian coast, discovered in 1500, and were accurately depicting the African coast of the Atlantic and Indian oceans. These maps were closely guarded state secrets; however, in 1502, Alberto Cantino, an agent for an Italian duke, illicitly obtained a copy and this became known as the *Cantino Planisphere*. The contents of it soon spread throughout Europe. Waldseemüller drew from it for the *Carta Marina*, Mr. Pfloderer explained.

Mapmaker in Retreat

The *Carta Marina* was essentially a nautical chart, and it represented Wald-

seemüller's crisis in confidence of Ptolemy's geographic representation of the world, said Chet Van Duzer, an invited research scholar at the John Carter Brown Library. Waldseemüller confined the *Carta Marina* to areas of trade and used the latest sources of information. He also chose not to depict America.

Waldseemüller did not redraw Ptolemy, he abandoned the idea, Mr. Van Duzer said.

Cannibals in Brazil

Interesting remarks about icons of cannibalism on the *Carta Marina* were made by Professor Surekha Davies of Western Connecticut Univer-

sity. She said the icons were not rooted in fact and misled people that cannibalism was occurring in present-day Brazil. She said that wall-sized maps were considered encyclopedic sources of information.

Paper and Watermarks

Library preservation experts, Daniel Simone, Sylvia Albro and John Bertomaschi, took a forensic like approach to the maps. Using imaging technology, they discovered a Crown watermark in the paper of the 1507 world map, the 1516 *Carta Marina*, and some of the sheets in the 1513 *Geographia*.

By Ryan Moore

Notes From Around the Division

The G&M Reading Room provided reference assistance for two African delegations recently.

Sudanese embassy officials inspected a set of maps of their country. Electronic copies were given to them.

A delegation from the Cameroon inspected more than 5,000 maps. Staff scanned 138 maps onto two flash drives for them.

*

G&M has acquired a unique set of Chinese geological maps from East View Geospatial. The Chinese government published the maps in 2012, which are scaled at 1:200,000 and cover 85 percent of the

country. The remainder of the country will be depicted at 1:250,000.

*

Harihar Bhattarai (Harry), originally from Nepal, finished an internship project with G&M. A student at the Paul Peck Humanities Program at Montgomery College, he catalogued all of the Hindi and Nepali language resources in the Division.

Over eight weeks, Mr. Bhattarai translated over 230 maps and added them to the Library's online collection. He also helped to establish the names of many districts in India and Nepal that were previously

not found in the LC classification manual, making future cataloging of these areas easier.

*

More than 3,000 sheets of Thai set maps, initially acquired in the 1930s, were added to the catalogue.

Difficulty in understanding the language had precluded accurate treatment.

Pachara Yongvongpaibul, a Library cataloger, provided language expertise to overcome the problem.

The Royal Thai Survey Department created the maps circa 1906. They represent some of the earliest and most comprehensive

Thai-produced maps in the Library.

*

Six G&M maps of New England have been posted on the website of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center of the Boston Public Library.

The cooperative effort is being managed by Colleen Cahill, G&M Digital Conversation Coordinator, and Ronald Grim, curator of the Leventhal Map Center.

Mr. Grim serves as an academic advisor for the Phillip's Society.

Familial Connections and Civil War Map

Elizabeth (Ibby) Brooke and Lisa Holtz of Portland, Oregon, granddaughter and great granddaughter of the famous Civil-War era mapmaker Albert Boschke (1822-1910) recently visited G&M. Chief Ralph E. Ehrenberg and John Hessler provided a personal tour and showed them the work of their relative.

Boschke, a Polish born Prussian engineer, who worked for the U. S. Coast Survey and later the U. S. Engineering Commission, is best remembered for surveying and drawing two cartographic masterpieces devoted to the national capital region. His *Map of Washington City, District of Columbia, seat of the federal government...* displayed for the first time in detail the location of every

structure in the city as of the 1857 publication date.

Boschke and his team continued surveying the entire District of Columbia, sometimes referred to as the 'ten mile square', which resulted in his second landmark work, the 1861 *Topographical map of the District of Columbia / surveyed in the years 1856 '57 '58 & '59*.

With the outbreak of the Civil War in April 1861, this map was considered a highly sensitive source of military intelligence, since it offered detailed information on the locations of government, military facilities and potential fortifications sites. Learning that a Confederate officer was attempting to purchase all of Boschke's copper printing plates, survey field notes, and maps,

Union General Winfield Scott seized them to prevent their dissemination.

Ms. Brooke said of the visit, "From the time I first learned of the Boschke maps, I have wanted to see them. What a wonderful surprise."

By Ralph E. Ehrenberg

Below is a portion of Boschke's topographical survey of the District of Columbia. The Capitol is prominently depicted with its distinctive mid-century canal system. The White House is represented as "The President's House." It is flanked by the War and Navy departments on one side and the Treasury Department on the other. The U.S. Arsenal (present-day Ft. McNair) is in the lower right corner. Marine Barracks and the U.S. Navy yard are situated in center, right.

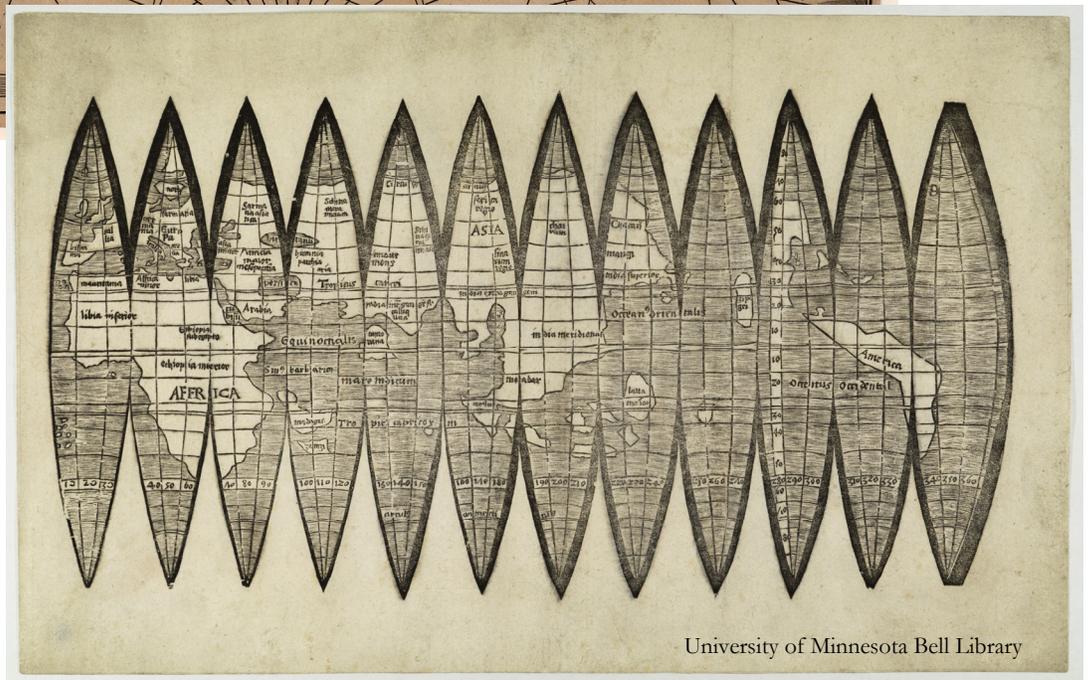


Waldseemüller Maps Loaned to Library



Original in the John Carter Brown Library

Top: The John Carter Brown Library's version of the famous Waldseemüller world map that names America. Scholars debate whether it was made earlier than the one owned by the Library of Congress. The map was purchased in 1904 from British book dealer Henry Stevens, who claimed it was the first map to use the word "America." Right: The James Ford Bell Library's globe gores is printed from a single woodblock on watermarked paper. Five are known to have survived and none of them was ever shaped into a globe.



University of Minnesota Bell Library

All of Waldseemüller's works are on display at the "Exploring the Early Americas" exhibition in the Jefferson Building from May 16 to June 22.

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Dianne V. Powell, Texas (Vice Chair)

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Joseph H. Fitzgerald, Fla.

William B. Ginsberg, N.Y.

Arthur Holzheimer, Ill.

Jay Lester, N.C.

Glen McLaughlin, Calif.

Kenneth Nebenzahl, Ill.

Gary W. North, Va.

Seymour I. Schwartz, N.Y.

J. Thomas Touchton, Fla.

William Wooldridge, Va.

Ex Officio

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John R. Hébert, Chief, G&M, 1999-2011

John A. Wolter, Chief, G&M, 1978-1991

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Alice Hudson, New York Public Library, Ret.

Mark Monmonier, Syracuse University

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Dennis Reinhartz, Univ. of Texas at Arlington, Emeritus

Richard W. Stephenson, Library of Congress, Ret.

Norman J. W. Thrower, Univ. of California at LA

Cordell D. K. Yee, St. John's College, Annapolis

Founding Member Remembered

Robert A. Highbarger, 84, a founding member of the Philip Lee Phillips Society and member of the Steering Committee, passed away on May 23, following a lengthy stay in the hospital. He lived in Potomac, MD.

Mr. Highbarger was born in Muscatine, IA in 1929. He received his B.A. from Northwestern University in 1950 and his M.S. from the University of Iowa in 1951. He served in the Army from 1954 to 1957. He worked as a cryptologist for the NSA for 35 years and rose to the rank of section chief.

He was a former president of the Washington Map Society.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Virginia G. Isaacs Highbarger of Potomac; three children, Cynthia Obermaier of Arnold, Lynn Roberts of Bowie and Lane Highbarger of Silver Spring; and five grandchildren.