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Geography and Map Division

Philip Lee Phillips Society

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MAPS

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

Digital Cartography in the G&M — Today and Tomorrow

When we think of digital cartography at the Library of Congress, for most people the maps icon on the Library's website comes to mind. Clicking on its thumbnail image opens a universe of online map collections from the Middle Ages to the modern day, from the visually arresting panoramic maps to the ever-popular Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, from maps of world hot spots like Afghanistan to the ever-exotic Macau.

Scanning and providing access to online maps has a long history in G&M. Starting in 1995 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a scan of George Washington's own plan of his Little Hunting Creek farm, the Division today employs sophisticated equipment and the technological and metadata expertise of Digital Conversion Coordinator Colleen Cahill and Digital Conversion Specialists Diane Schug-O'Neill and Sharon McCarthy. Through them, maps are provided for an audience of millions of people worldwide. Thirty-seven thousand cartographic items are currently online, with more being added regularly, including their newest project scanning the popular landownership maps.

G&M Assistant Chief, Roberta Stevens, outside of the Jefferson Building. She is the former President of the American Library Association.

As the number of digital maps increases, so does the need to have search tools that match what we expect in the "Google-ized" world. Recently, the online map collection was used as the test case for some user-friendly Internet improvements by the Library. We hope that you'll enjoy the redesigned web pages with their new simple interface, the improved zoom feature for examining highly detailed map images, and an array of expanded links to other relevant items in the collection. Scanning and search capabilities, however, are just two facets of the complex world of maps in the electronic era.

Among the many difficult questions confronting the Library of Congress in the twenty-first century is how to preserve data received on "tangible media," that is, something you can hold in your hands like CD-ROMs. With 300 terabytes of digital information across the collections stored on this degrading media, the preservation of vulnerable data is a significant concern. Carlin Rene Sayles, Library

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G&M Map Cataloger and Collector

A Man of Maps and Languages

Whenever Charley Peterson's family stopped at a gas station in post-WWII Lancaster, Pennsylvania, he made a beeline for the map rack. Collecting maps was more than just a hobby to him, it was a serious production. Around the same time, inscriptions on a local Greek Orthodox Church caught his eye. Fascinated by them, he taught himself the Greek alphabet. The foundations of a strong appreciation of maps and foreign languages was born, which are the basis for his professional career.

Collecting Maps

The Senior G&M Cataloger began collecting maps from gas stations in 1946. Foreshadowing his future career as a map cataloger, Mr. Peterson carefully described each map on a 3x5 index card and invented an organizational system to manage them. The maps were stored in file cabinets inside his bedroom.

In junior high, his appetite to accumulate maps had grown. He wrote to oil companies and requested that they mail him maps directly. The General Drafting Company, which exclusively produced maps for The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, Esso and Exxon, were some of the best ones, Mr. Peterson explained. The General Drafting Company, along with H.M. Gousha and Rand McNally, were considered the "Big Three" of map publishing from 1930 to 1970.

Although the collection was burgeoning, Mr. Peterson's family never complained about his interest. In fact, he was the navigator on family trips. "I was the map person," he said, "I told my father where and when to turn." His father would later help orient his son's career in maps and languages.

Fast forward to 2007: Mr. Peterson no longer had the time to manage his collection and donated it to the Library of Congress, totaling more than 14,000 maps. G&M Chief Ralph Ehrenberg has stated plans to have the collection processed and cataloged. The goal is to have a collection-level record online in the near future.

Mr. Peterson retains a small collection of maps from 1940 and earlier. Typically, he purchased those maps at automobile shows. He described their value as "not commensurate with the price" he paid. Being fond of maps, he bought them anyway. Maps, however, are only part of Peterson's story.

A Master of Languages

As a child, Mr. Peterson knew the Greek alphabet, and he studied Latin in school. Mr. Peterson believes this early training prepared him to understand European languages later in life. "Because I learned the Greek alphabet," he said, "I had no trouble learning the Russian alphabet." Learning Russian was encouraged by his father, who served as physician in the Army during WWII.

In 1954, Peterson's fascination of maps and language led him to Northwestern University where he majored in geography and minored in Russian studies. The Army, at that time, was hiring students who could read and transliterate Russian maps. "Those maps were rare in the West and hard to come by," he said. It was the time of the Cold War, and the Soviet Union protected her national secrets by limiting the distribution of maps and distorting depictions to confuse western intelligence agencies.

Mr. Peterson moved to the west coast to undertake his graduate studies. He received his master's degree in Ge-

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G&M's Congressional Cartography Program

Customized Maps on Demand for Policy Makers

A digital depiction of current liquefied natural gas pipelines in Europe and associated import/export terminals. Using GIS software, pipeline characteristics were selectively symbolized by criteria such as the pipe's capacity diameter (larger pipes have thicker lines); type of terminal: export (square); and operational level (white circle - project under construction; orange circle - terminal in operation).

Find us online:

www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap

Maps of Mexico City through the Ages

Rare Aztec Map Fascinates Scholars

Authorities in 1539 planned to confiscate the lands of Don Carlos Ometochtzin Chichimecatecatl after burning him at the stake for charges of idolatry and polygamy. The family of the indigenous nobleman from Tezcoco, Mexico, however, commissioned a map to help protect their claim over the land. The rare cartographic wonder was crafted on native fig-bark paper and likely by an Aztec scribe.

In March, scholars participating in a conference on Aztec history had the opportunity to view the Don Carlos map in G&M and were in awe when seeing it.

The scholars were attending a symposium entitled *From Tenochtitlan to La Ciudad de México: Transformations in the Early Modern City*. The Library of Congress and Dumbarton Oaks Research Center co-hosted the event. Some of the funding was provided by the Jay I. Kislak Foundation.

The day began at Dumbarton Oaks with a lecture by renowned art historian Barbara Mundy. In her lecture, *Water and the Aztec Landscape in the Valley of Mexico*, Professor Mundy emphasized that the topography of the Valley of Mexico looked considerably different at the time of the Conquest because of various lakes that have long since dried up. She noted the technological feats of the Aztecs, which left a lasting impression on the first Europeans to see Mexico City – namely the sheer size of the city, the causeways linking the island capital to the mainland and various dykes in the lakes used to control fresh and salt water.

Afterwards, 17 scholars gathered at the Library of Congress, representing a number of disciplines including art history, archaeology, history, architecture history, and women's and gender studies. They looked at various maps and views of Mexico City that span some 300 years. Materials studied included a few sixteenth-century maps with a stylized image of a densely packed island city in the middle of a lake connected to the mainland by causeways. This image was derived from Cortes' map of 1524.

Reference Specialist Anthony Mullan (fourth from left) discusses rare maps of Mexico City with scholars.

The group also viewed plans of the late colonial city, showing the development of neighborhoods and drainage. The last item to be viewed was a plate in García-Cubas' *Atlas Pintoresco* (1885), depicting wide avenues, green spaces, and graceful and monumental buildings, all reflecting a modern capital city.

The Don Carlos map, however, was the highlight. It is titled *Oztoticpac Lands Map* ca. 1540. Carlos' family had the map drawn up to use in court. The purpose of the document was to show that most of the property and lands belonged to the family line, not to Don Carlos individually.

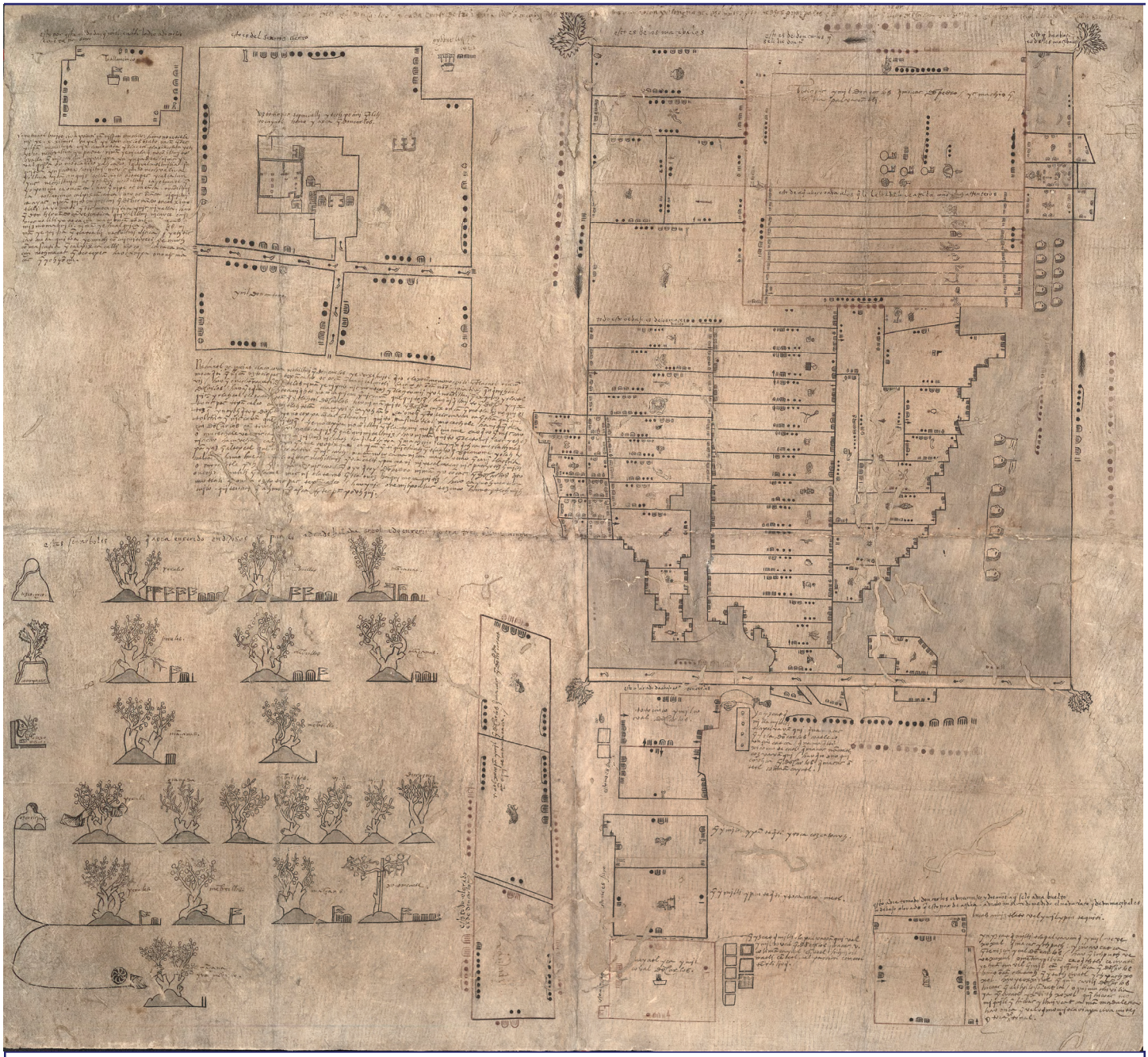
Ralph Ehrenberg, Chief of G&M, and Georgette Dorn, Chief of the Hispanic Division, greeted attendees. G&M Reference Specialists, Anthony Mullan and Michael Klein, were responsible for selecting items and arranging their display.

—Anthony Mullan

Editor's Note: Mr. Mullan is a Reference Specialist and Recommending Officer for Spanish and Portuguese cartographic materials. He co-authored with Dr. Hébert The Luso-Hispanic World in Maps: A Selective Guide to Manuscript Maps to 1900 in the Collections of the Library of Congress. *He has been a J. B. Harley Fellow in the History of Cartography and a Library of Congress Kluge Staff Fellow.*

Don Carlos map on next page.

Map Served as Evidence in Court more than 400 Years Ago



Depicted is an Aztec document related to litigation over Oztoticpac, an estate in Texcoco, ca. 1540. *Upper left*: The palace complex at Oztoticpac with buildings depicted both in plan and elevation. Black dots or beads along walls of the complex are units of Aztec measurement. A gloss in the native language of Nahuatl reads: "The palace at Oztoticpac belongs to the ruling line, not to Don Carlos". *Upper right*: Individual plots with names and dimensions. The names of individuals are probably those who worked for Don Carlos. *Lower left*: Images of fruit trees placed on different registers. Glyphs and words adjacent to individual trees signify the type of fruit grown: pear, pomegranate, quince, and apple. Apparently Don Carlos went into business with a Spaniard importing (expensive and exotic) European fruit, which they grafted on to indigenous stock. The Spaniard used this portion of the map as the basis of his claim to the fruit trees that he and Don Carlos had grown together. *Lower right:* This smaller map depicts plots owned by Don Carlos himself. The glosses explain how Don Carlos acquired these plots. —Anthony Mullan

G&M Digital—Today and Tomorrow

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Technician, has been transferring maps and data from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's CD-ROMs to the Library's servers. Iris Taylor, Senior Cataloging Specialist, however, sees a future when the data from other government agencies will be transferred exclusively online to the Library.

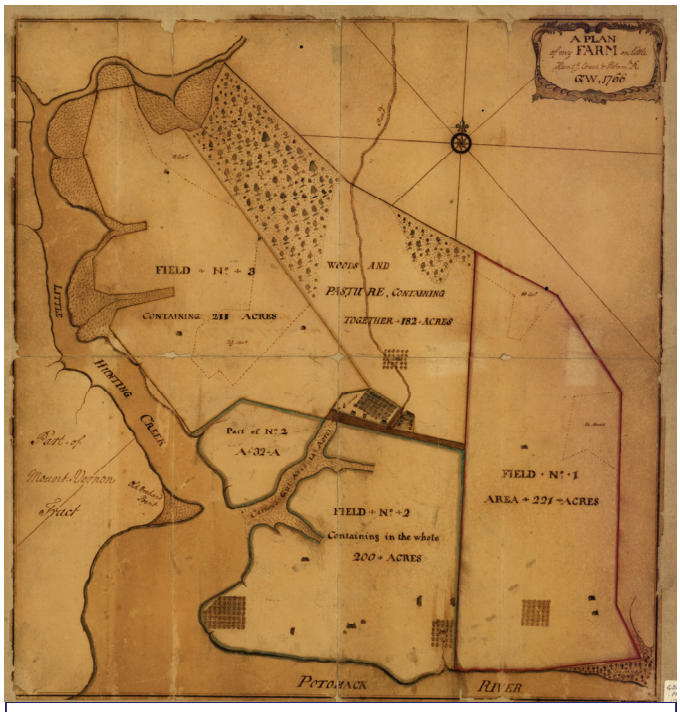
An area where demand consistently exceeds the number of staff available to respond is the Congressional Cartography Program. The Program, anchored by cartographer Jacquie Nolan, specializes in producing customized cartographic products using datasets, the Division's rich historical collections, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications and analysis.

At the March 27 Congressional Library of Congress Caucus event in G&M, the Program predictably generated great interest. There is no need to convince members of Congress and the people who work for them about the value of GIS-produced maps for presenting information on social, educational, economic, financial, agricultural, environmental, energy, industrial and security-related issues. The tools used by our cartographers include computer software, such as ESRI's ArcGIS, Terrago's GeoPDF, data subscriptions, and datasets that are shared across the Internet by federal, state and local sources. The Program, which has created nearly 200 computer-generated maps and projects since 2008, also promotes outreach to colleges and universities that engage GIS student interns in exploring the Division's breadth of maps and data.

Like the world around us, the nature of our collection is ever-changing. For the first time, in 2011 we acquired more digital datasets than printed atlases. These datasets, for example, the one purchased from the University of Michigan featuring China's industries, can be as unique as a number of our paper-based materials. The Library of Congress is not only the library of last resort, sometimes it is the only source.

In the digital age, the Division's map cataloging remains the gold standard. As the bibliographic team transitions to an entirely new approach to cataloging, we are again the nation's leader in training others in how to effectively describe and provide access to cartographic information.

Recently, six staff members attended the ESRI Federal GIS Conference in Washington and heard about the latest trends in cloud-based applications for publishing maps and geo-informational products on demand, the sharing of publications across the Internet and with social media tools, and mobile applications that can be used on phones, tablets and other portable devices. As technology changes and innovations speed up, the challenge is to have staff equipped with the latest hardware and software and be skilled in their use.



A scan of George Washington's Little Hunting Creek farm in Virginia drawn by him in 1766. This map was the first to be scanned in G&M in 1995.

As we look to the future, our experience with the African "set map" project, funded by the Council on Library and Information Resources, will serve as a model in how to apply information from historical maps to current geographic images and interfaces. These techniques, in combination with the Division's collection, reveal the powerful changes occurring on earth.

The Librarian of Congress, James H. Billington, has said that libraries do not abandon formats because of the availability of new ones. We add to rather than take away. In the twenty-first century, G&M will continue to obtain and preserve the traditional as well as digital cartographic materials, to grow the collections available on-site and online, and to offer innovative services to meet the needs of researchers and the general public.

— Roberta Stevens

G&M Staff Highlights

Roberta Stevens, Assistant Chief, gave a presentation on December 6 sponsored by the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress. "Reflections on a Year as ALA's President" described her experiences and travels nationally and internationally and how libraries are being transformed by fundamental political, economic and technological changes. Ms. Stevens is the sixth person in the history of the Library of Congress to be elected to the Presidency of ALA, a 61,000-member organization dating back to 1878 and dedicated to providing leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship.

*

Min Zhang, Head of the Cataloging Team, has published an article in the March issue of *International Journal of Humanities and Arts Computing*. The article is titled "From Washington to the world: maps and digital archives at the Library of Congress." The journal is "one of the world's premier multi-disciplinary, peer-reviewed forums for research on all aspects of arts and humanities computing." It is published biannually and available online.

*

Edward Redmond, Reference Specialist, gave a lecture on the maps of George Washington on February 24 at Washington College in Chestertown, Md.. He is a recognized authority on Washington's maps. The lecture was filmed and can be viewed on *Youtube.com*. It can be found by searching for *Mapping the Past - The Surveys of George Washington.*

*

John Hessler, Reference Specialist and Kluge Staff Fellow, lectured on Roman cartography on February 15 for the Law Library Power Lunch Series. Mr. Hessler's lecture, "Written in Stone: Roman Land Law, Legal Epigraphy and the Search for the Origins of Roman Cartography, 100-350 AD" highlighted his current research into the extent of Roman land surveying in North Africa and the Mediterranean Basin. Mr. Hessler plans to publish his findings in 2014.

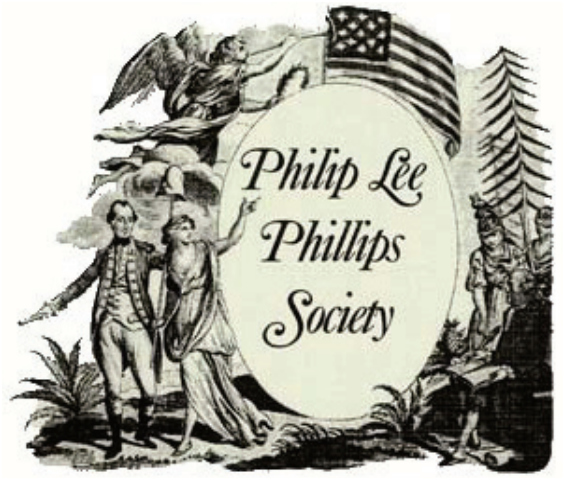
Library's Congressional Caucus Visits G&M

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington and G&M hosted eight Members of the Congressional Library of Congress Caucus on the evening of March 27. The Congressional Caucus was formed in 2008 in the House of Representatives for Members of Congress who have a particular interest in the Library and its collections, services and mission. There are 71 Caucus members and it is co-chaired by Representative Robert Aderholt (R-Alabama) and Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon). Fifty-eight Members and congressional staff led by co-chairs Aderholt and Blumenauer were treated to a behind the scenes tour and a display of nearly 60 cartographic masterpieces, arranged by theme in the Division's reading room and vault.

The exhibit included such treasures as the Library's earliest portolan sea chart (1340); Claudius Ptolemy's *Geographia* (Ulm, 1482); Caspar Vopell's terrestrial globe, one of the earliest surviving examples with armillary spheres (1543); Genoese chart maker Battista Agnese's vellum world atlas (1544); Samuel de Champlain's hand drawn map of New England, prepared for presentation to Henry IV of France (1606-7); a Japanese scroll map of the Tokaido Road, linking Edo (Tokyo), the seat of the Tokugawa Shogunate, and Kyoto, the capital of feudal Japan, where the emperors resided (1736); Revolutionary War powder horn's with inscribed maps; a manuscript plan of Princeton sketched by a young spy sent by General George Washington (1776); three manuscript maps drawn by Washington; manuscript planning maps relating to the Lewis and Clark expedition; the first celestial atlas printed in Russia (1829); Stonewall Jackson's Battle Maps of the Shenandoah Valley (1862); and a large rubber relief topographic map model of Utah Beach, one of the five Allied landing beaches during the D-Day invasion (June, 1944).

Chief Ralph Ehrenberg, Assistant Chief Roberta Stevens, Acting Reference and Reading Room Team Leader Michael Buscher, and Reference Specialists Edward Redmond, Michael Klein, Anthony Mullan and Cynthia Smith curated the display, compiled the captions, and answered questions from guests.

In addition, three workstations illustrated G&M's extensive digital capabilities. Cartographer Jacquie Nolan created examples of cartographic products and GIS applications and analysis that she routinely provides to the Senate, House and Congressional Committees through our Congressional Cartography Program. Digital Conversion Coordinator Colleen Cahill provided views on a large plasma screen from the G&M's online collections. Conversion Specialist Diane Schug-O'Neill led tours of the scanning lab and provided demonstrations of its map and atlas scanners.



PLP Newsletter Staff

Ryan Moore, Editor

Roberta Stevens, Managing Editor

The *Philip Lee Phillips Society* was established in 1995 to further develop, enhance and promote the collections of the Geography and Map Division by encouraging financial donations to supplement appropriated funds for the acquisition of rare maps; by stimulating interest among map collectors, map producers, geographers, cartographers and historians in order to make the vast resources of the nation's premier cartographic and geographic collections more widely available; by facilitating gifts and bequests of significant geographic and cartographic materials to further develop its collections; and by advancing the Geography and Map Division's publication, education and exhibition programs.

The Society was named in honor of Philip Lee Phillips, who was the first to recognize the value of the Library's cartographic materials and to organize and care for them. Even before being named the first Superintendent of Maps when the Hall of Maps was established in the new Library of Congress building 1897, he devoted what time he could to the map and atlas collections that were stored in odd corners of the Capitol – sorting, arranging, cataloging and serving required items to congressional and other readers.

A Man of Maps and Languages

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ography from the University of Washington at Seattle. He researched and wrote about non-Russians colonizing the steppes of southern Ukraine and Crimea during the reign of Catherine the Great. In 1969, he completed his doctorate from the same university. Shortly after, he went to work for the government.

Peterson brought his love for maps and languages to the Library of Congress in 1975. He has been working in the Division ever since. Over the years, he developed a working knowledge of all the Slavic and Germanic languages. When asked how many languages he can read, Mr. Peterson paused and said: "Russian, all the Slavic, the Teutonic, most European languages, really." He added, "I like Hungarian."

Humble and soft spoken, Peterson did not mention everything, such as figuring out how to catalog Mongolian maps.

—Ryan Moore

One of the some 14,000 road maps that Charley Peterson collected as a youth while living in post-WWII Lancaster, PA. This map was printed in 1949.