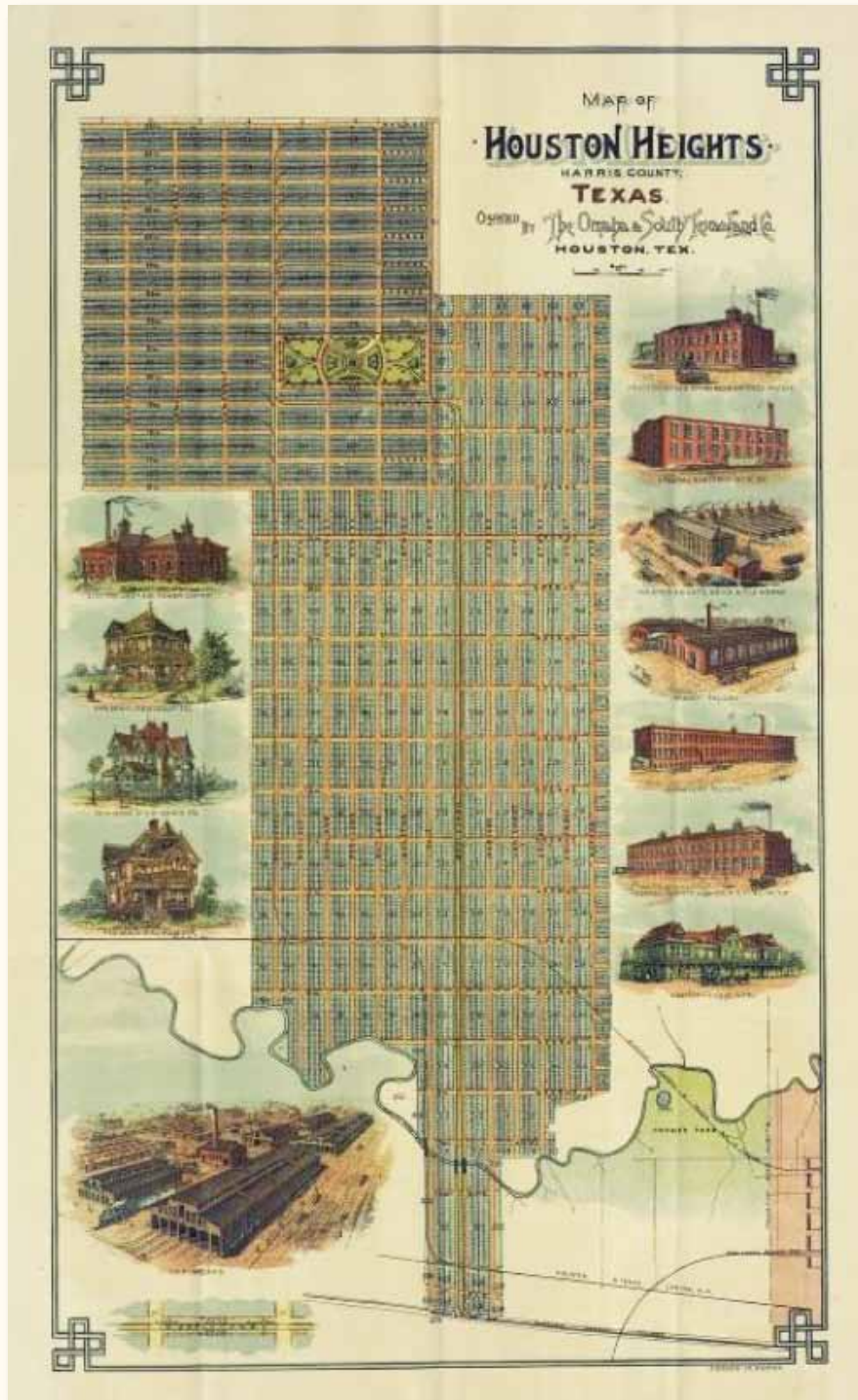


The NEATLINE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS MAP SOCIETY

Spring 2020



Map of Houston Heights, Harris County, Texas owned by the Omaha & South Texas Land Co., Houston, Texas, Boston: Forbes Co., 1891, Map #94458, Map Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin, TX.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have been reflecting on the time we gathered last September in Alpine for our Fall 2019 meeting. How the world has changed in six short months. We are all facing circumstances that are most uncertain. There are “maps” from earlier pandemics to consult, but as we face the COVID-19 virus, we are navigating uncharted waters. But as we know through our love of all things cartographic, new data will continue to inform knowledge gained from experience in the past, and new maps will be made to guide us through choppy waters. We all look forward to the recovery.



One casualty of the current situation is our Spring 2020 meeting in Houston. James Harkins and Mylynka Cardona had planned a wonderful experience for us late in May that included a tour of Minute Maid Ballpark; a visit to the private collection of Frank and Carol Holcomb; a tour of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center; a number of great presentations at Fondren Library, Rice University; concluding with a reception and tour of the Antiquarium. Regretfully, the Board voted on March 14 to cancel the Spring 2020 meeting in an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our members, speakers, and guests, and in consideration of the difficulty in making travel arrangements to attend the meeting. We hope to later reschedule this great programming. Thank you to James and Mylynka for undertaking the planning of our Spring 2019. Your exceptional efforts are greatly appreciated!

The Board met in virtual session on April 4. A quorum was present. The following summarizes the primary business discussed:

- TMS dues notices have not yet been mailed out. The Board decided, in consideration of the current circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 virus, that we would meet again in early June to make the decision

about 2020 dues. You may, if you wish, renew your membership anytime on the TMS website.

- No annual business meeting was held in Alpine. The fall meeting is the traditional venue to elect officers. The Nominating Committee chaired by Ann Hodges proposed the following slate of Board members for the class of 2020-2022: Mylynka Cardona (replacing James Harkins), David Finfrock and James Parker. The Board affirmed the slate authorizing candidates to serve in this capacity until we convene the 2020 annual meeting at UTA in fall of this year. We have not yet been successful in finding someone to fill the position of treasurer held by Lynne Starnes for many years. The Summerlee Foundation has graciously allowed us to use her services since Kit Goodwin retired from UTA years ago. Lynne has agreed to stay on through her retirement date of June 2020. Please consider taking on this job. Please contact me if you have an interest in serving TMS in this capacity!

Looking ahead to Fall... planning for the Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography is moving forward. This joint meeting with the International Cartographic Association's Commission on the History of Cartography is slated for the first weekend in October, 2020. The theme is "Collectors and Collections." The exhibit accompanying the VGL is "Searching for Africa: The Map Collection of Dr. Jack Franke." A tour of the conservation lab at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth will precede the conference; attendance for this tour will be limited to 20 people. The program is still being assembled, but we plan for speakers to represent collectors, dealers, faculty and students using collections, and more. We have a block of rooms reserved again at the Arlington Hilton Hotel. Stay tuned for more information!

In the weeks ahead, know that your Texas Map Society colleagues care about each of you. Stay safe, stay strong... we are all in this together and we will get through this.

- Brenda McClurkin, President

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Texas Map Society members and others who helped produce this issue are: Imre Demhardt, Eliane Dotson, David Finfrock, James Harkins, Ben Huseman, Brenda McClurkin, Elizabeth Page, Matthew Walter, Walt Wilson, and graphic designer Carol Lehman.

A **Neatline** is the outermost drawn line surrounding a map.

It defines the height and width of the map and usually constrains the cartographic images.



Texas
Map
Society

FROM THE EDITOR

We were all very disappointed that the TMS spring meeting in Houston had to be canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. All of us, including the TMS membership are having to adapt. The TMS Board met recently, and for the first time, entirely by video or telephone conference. We are all finding work arounds.

Where I work at NBC5 in Dallas-Fort Worth, most employees are now working from home. And that includes most of the news, sports and weather anchors. I have set up a home workspace using my iPhone for a camera, and am now broadcasting from my home office every weekend. Notice how I strategically placed *Colton's New Map of the State of Texas* behind me!

In this time of restrictions on public interactions, I realize that I am very fortunate to have two places for social distancing: my home in Cedar Hill and also at my ranch. My wife Shari and I try to go there every week at this time of year when the Texas wildflowers are in full bloom.



Always remember that all of the archived editions of *The Neatline*, and much more information on the Texas Map Society can always be found at our website at: www.TexasMapSociety.org.

- David Finrock, Editor of *The Neatline*



2019 TMS Fall Meeting in Alpine, Texas

By Brenda McClurkin

The Texas Map Society gathered in Alpine, Texas, for its fall meeting, September 19-22, 2019. This opportunity arose out of an invitation from Marty Davis to come and help celebrate the opening of the exhibit *Five Centuries of Mexican Maps*, curated from the Yana and Marty Davis Map Collection at the Museum of the Big Bend on the campus of Sul Ross State University.

Most TMS members stayed in Alpine's Holland Hotel (1928), a boutique hotel designed by acclaimed El Paso architect Henry Trost. Those who arrived Thursday met at the Spicewood Restaurant (formerly Come and Take It Barbeque) for dinner. It had just rained, and we were able to enjoy cocktails and tasty barbeque on their expansive patio with even more expansive views of the foothills.

Friday morning, we were off to Fort Davis. Local historian **Larry Francell** guided us through the grounds of this National Historic Site, including barracks, the old post hospital, and officer quarters. **Craig Swancy**, attending TMS for the first time, took photos of Fort Davis, the Jeff Davis County Courthouse, the Holland Hotel and Brewster County Courthouse in Alpine, see Page 6.

We lunched at the Limpia Hotel in the town of Fort Davis, and several of us crossed the street to walk through the Jeff Davis County Courthouse. After exploring Alpine that afternoon, we dodged the rain to attend the opening reception at the Museum of the Big Bend. Unfortunately, **Marty Davis** had fallen ill and was unable to welcome us to the exhibit or attend any of the other planned activities. Here is a link to a video prepared by Sul Ross featuring the exhibit and the opening reception:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyg8JypDKPM&feature=youtu.be>

Enjoy... you will see many familiar faces.



Spanish Ambassador Miguel Angel Mazarambroz reads Marty's paper. Photo courtesy of Bill Millet

The formal TMS meeting began Saturday morning at the Espino Center on the Sul Ross campus. President **Brenda McClurkin** welcomed all, then introduced museum director **Mary Bones** who in turn presented Sul Ross State University President **Dr. William L. Kibler** with his greetings to TMS. Spanish Ambassador **Miguel Angel Mazarambroz** stepped in to read Marty's paper "*Five Centuries of Mexican Maps.*" Other speakers were: **Dr. Alex Hidalgo**, "*When Indigenous*

Continued on page 5



These are the speakers at the fall meeting, from left to right: Wes Brown, private collector, Denver; Dr. William L. Kibler, President, Sul Ross State University, Dr. Alex Hidalgo, TCU; and Matt Walter, Museum of the Big Bend.

Photo courtesy of Brenda McClurkin



Matt Walter, Curator of Collections and the Marty and Yana Davis Map Collection, Museum of the Big Bend, speaks to TMS.

Photo courtesy of Brenda McClurkin

2019 TMS Fall Meeting *continued*

Maps Ruled Mexico;” Wes Brown, “*José Antonio de Alzate y Ramirez;*” and Matt Walter, “*Antonio Garcia Cubas’ 1848 Atlas Pintoresco of Mexico: Mapping a National Identity.*” Among guest dignitaries from Mexico were **Jorge Carrera** and **José Aguilar**, both Directors of the INAH, Mexico’s National Institute of Anthropology and History; and **Lucas Martinez**, Director of the State Archives of Coahuila. Several interesting presentations were made by our dignitaries from Mexico during our luncheon.

Our TMS meeting adjourned for cocktails and dinner back at the Holland Hotel. Plans had been made to enjoy the Star Party at the neighboring McDonald Observatory after dinner. But with torrential rains predicted along with flash flood warnings, interest in the Star Party quickly dissipated. Four brave souls made it to the observatory to attend virtual star-gazing opportunities and other interactive exhibits. The gift shop was wonderful too! On Sunday, we returned home, with fond memories of our time in the Big Bend Country.

Texas Map Society would like to acknowledge the generous support of our meeting sponsors: Baylor University Libraries; the City of Alpine, Texas; DeGolyer Library, Southern Methodist University; Museum of the Big Bend; the Portal to Texas History; Sul Ross State University; the Texas General Land Office; and the Texas Map Society.

Postscript: Our whole meeting was dampened by the fact that Marty and Yana Davis could not be with us. We were able to talk with Marty by phone. He was upbeat and positive, and so glad that we were there and felt that all should go on as planned. The meeting was filmed so that Marty could attend virtually. He



Wes Brown presenting to a TMS full house.
Photo courtesy of Brenda McClurkin

was also able to view his exhibit at the Museum of the Big Bend sometime in the fall. Sadly, Marty passed away in Dallas on December 7, 2019. His obituary may be read on page 33 of *The Neatline*. Marty was a long-time member of Texas Map Society and served as its president for two years. In addition to being a major map collector, Marty was a scholar and author of many books. He is greatly missed.



The delegation from Mexico was welcomed to the TMS meeting.
Photo courtesy of Brenda McClurkin

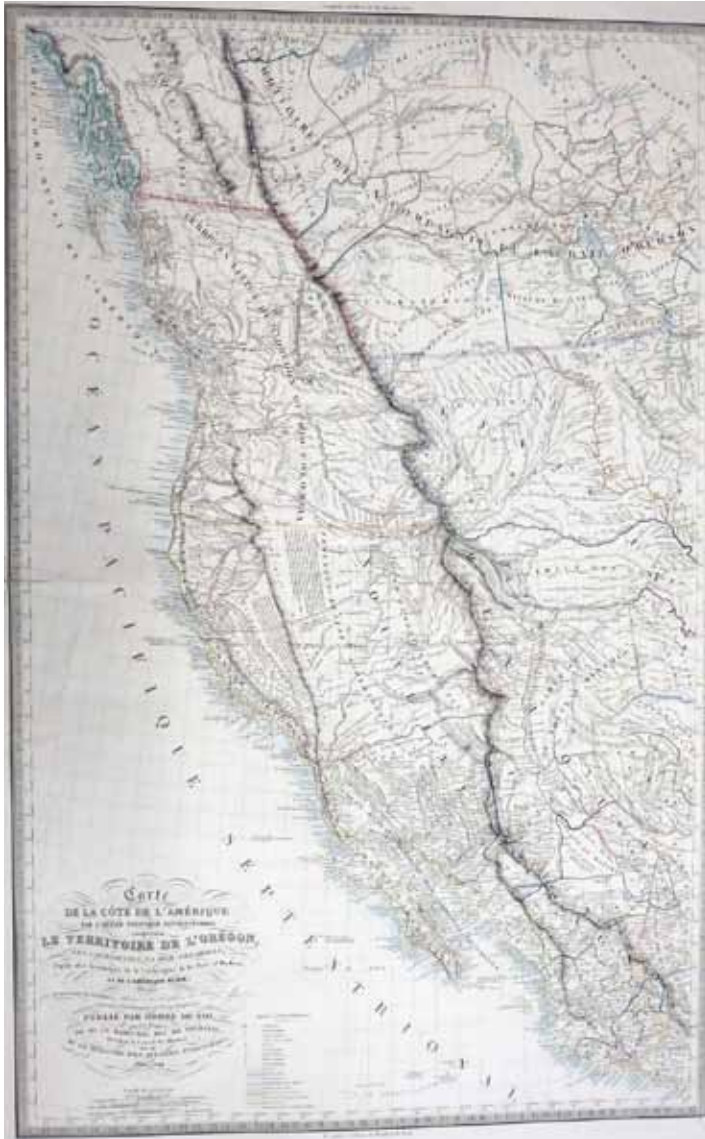
Photo Gallery • 2019 TMS Fall Meeting

By Craig Swancy



Top left: Brewster County Courthouse, Alpine
Top right: Fort Davis National Historic Site
Bottom right: Holland Hotel, Alpine
Bottom left: Fort Davis National Historic Site
Center left: Jeff Davis County Courthouse, Fort Davis

MY FAVORITE MAP by Matthew Walter



Carte de la cote de L'Amerique sur la Ocean Pacifique Septentrional comprenant La Territoire de L'Oregon, les Californies, La Mer Vermeille, Partie des Terretoires de la Compagnie de la Baie d'Hudson et de L'Amerique Russe. Eugene Dufлот de Mofras. Paris, 1844.

Published in 1844, one year before Texas was annexed by the United States and two years before the US-Mexico War, this is truly a landmark map in North American cartographic history. The Mexican government was still experiencing severe economic problems in trying to pay the costs incurred in their War of Independence from Spain (1810-1821), and was also facing other rebellions besides Texas. France sensed an opportunity to take advantage of the situation and sent diplomat and spy Eugene Dufлот de Mofras on a mission to assess the viability of a French bid for California. Mofras' voyage took him all the way from Mazatlan to the Straits of Juan de Fuca before returning to Mexico City. Only one edition of this map was ever produced, but it is replete with new information from Mofras' voyage and is by far the most detailed map of the California and Oregon regions prior to the American possession of them.

Eugene Dufлот de Mofras (1810-1884) was a French naturalist, diplomat, explorer, cartographer and spy. After serving as the French political attaché to Spain for more than a decade, he was transferred to the French Legation in Mexico City in 1839 and was immediately dispatched on a reconnaissance mission of the Pacific Coast of North America. During his three-year mission, Mofras sailed up the Sacramento River and met John Sutter, was welcomed at the Russian outpost of Fort Ross, and even met the U.S. Exploring Expedition commanded by Charles Wilkes enroute Fort Vancouver. His notes later resulted in a two-volume work, *Exploration du territoire de l'Oregon, des Californies et de la mer Vermeille, executee pendant les annees 1840, 1841 et 1842*, which is included this map.

Editor's note: This map could be seen as part of the *Five Centuries of Maps of Mexico* exhibit, in the Yana and Marty Davis Map Collection, Museum of the Big Bend, when the TMS met in Alpine in September 2019.

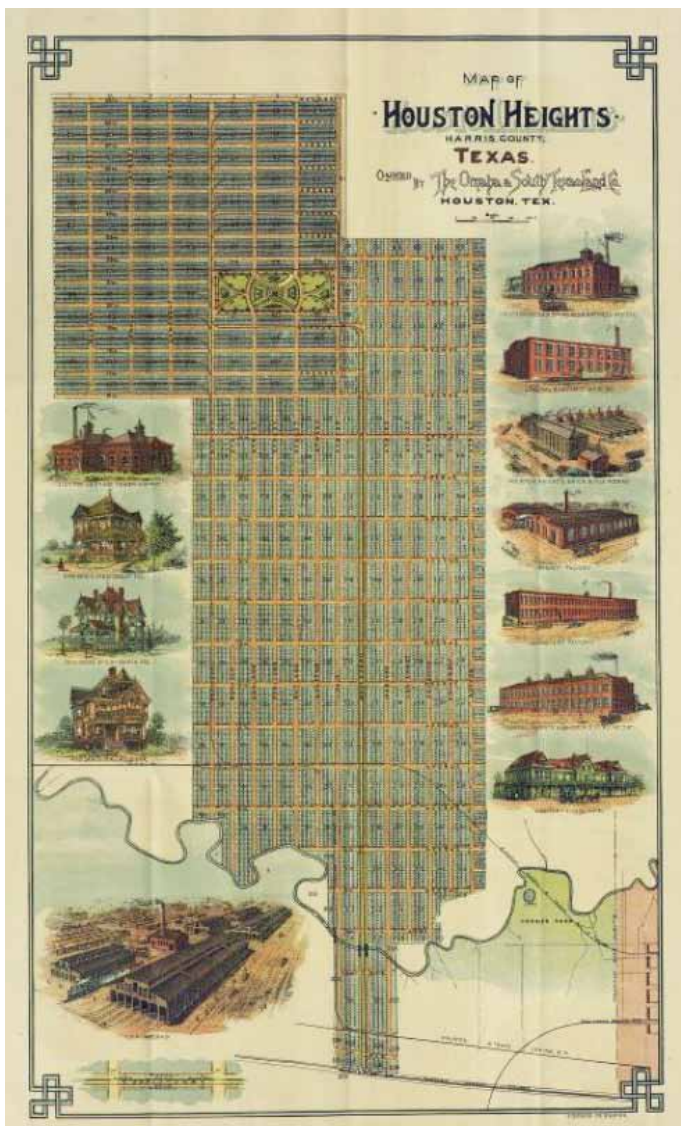
If you would like to submit an article about your own favorite map for a future issue of *The Neatline*, contact the editor David Finrock at editorTMS@aol.com.

Mapping Houston Heights—Houston’s First Suburb

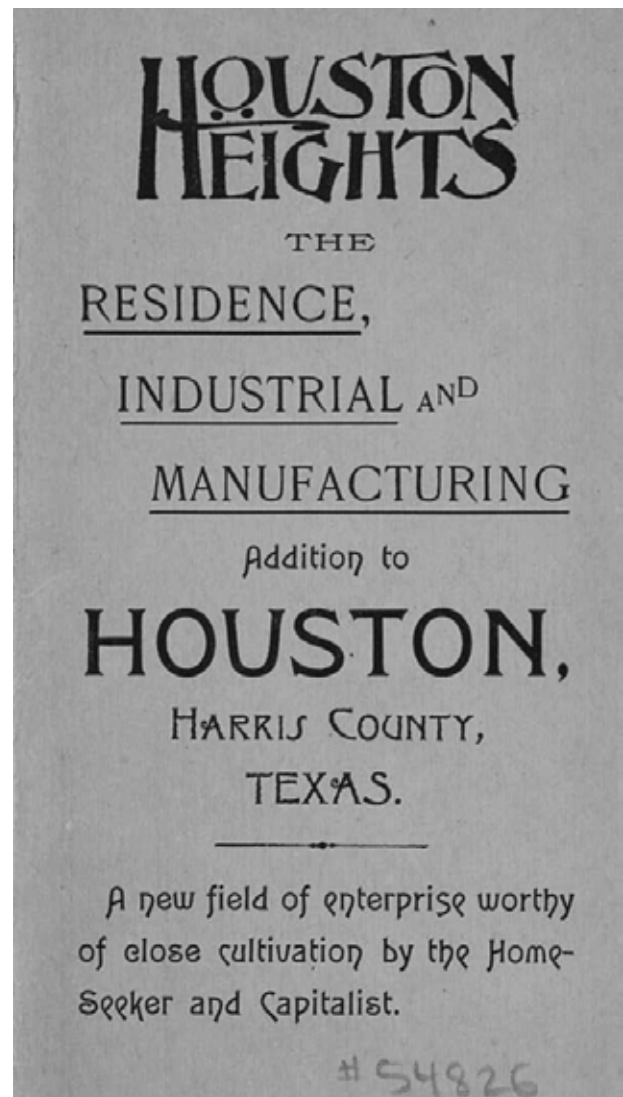
By James Harkins



Houston Heights was one of the first planned communities in Texas and Houston’s first suburb. The development promised to be “a new field of enterprise worthy of close cultivation by the Home-seeker and Capitalist,” and a community where residents could live and work in health and safety. [1] The suburb takes its name from its location — it was built on land situated sixty-two feet above sea level and 23 feet higher than downtown Houston. The elevation was helpful to avoid the flooding and yellow fever epidemics that plagued the city at the time. [2] The land was heavily timbered with pine, sweet gum, and oak trees. [3] Bordered to the south by the White Oak Bayou, it is identified as being only 1.5 miles from Houston’s Grand Central Depot on the Missouri-Kansas-Texas (MKT) line. [4] A map showcasing Houston Heights was created to display its most prominent features and attract residents and businesses to the new neighborhood.



Map of Houston Heights, Harris County, Texas owned by the Omaha & South Texas Land Co., Houston, Texas, Boston: Forbes Co., 1891, Map #94458, Map Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin, TX.



Inside cover of the pamphlet that accompanied the map.

Continued on page 9

Houston's First Suburb *continued*

The Omaha & South Texas Land Company, [5] a subsidiary of the American Loan and Trust Company and the original owners and developers of Houston Heights, purchased the land where the new community would be located on May 5, 1891. The company was led by O.M. Carter, President; C.S. Montgomery, Vice President; Philip Potter, Secretary; Daniel Denton Cooley, [6] Treasurer; N.L. Mills, Superintendent of the Real Estate Department; W.J. Connery; and F.E. Clarke.

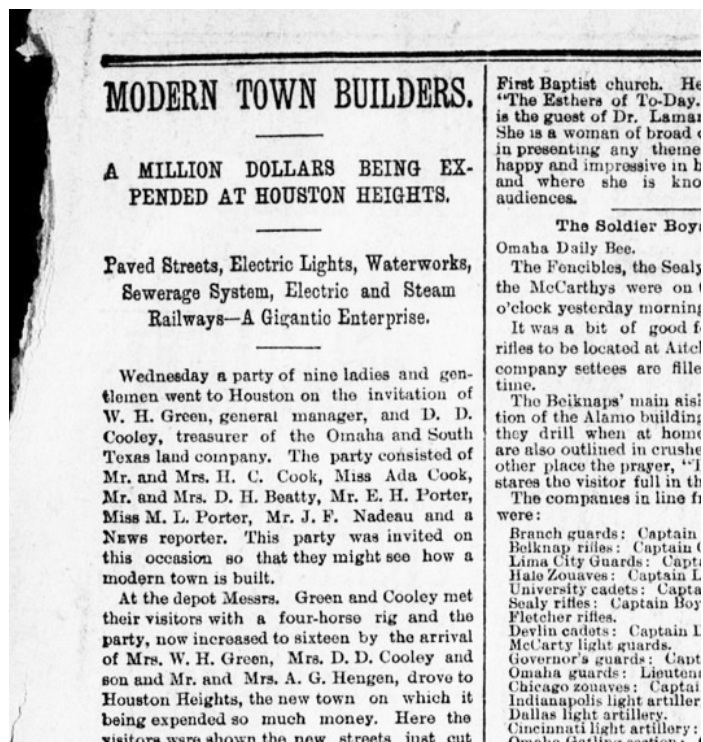
Cooley, known as the "Father of Houston Heights," was instrumental in the formation of the community, and invested handsomely in his vision on behalf of the Omaha & South Texas Land Company. [7] Perhaps nothing was as grand as Heights Boulevard, the main thoroughfare for the community. "He was very stubborn, I'm told, about those two bridges," said Dr. Denton Cooley, the grandson of Daniel, and famed Houston heart surgeon. "He wanted to make the Heights Boulevard elegant." [8]

Cooley modeled the street after Boston's Commonwealth Boulevard, and planned to feature this tree-lined road prominently with attention to aesthetics, both on the map and on the ground. [9] The 150-foot wide boulevard consisted of a 60-foot wide esplanade with native trees and grass in the middle, two 30-foot wide streets on either side, 15-foot wide sidewalks paved with shell, and an electric street railway. [10] Cross streets were 70 feet wide, with the dimensions noted on an inset in the lower-left corner of the map. Streets that ran east and west were numbered 1st — 29th Avenues, while streets that ran north and south were named for American colleges and universities. A 1955 *Houston Chronicle* article described Heights Boulevard as "the most gracious street in all of heavenly Houston." [11]

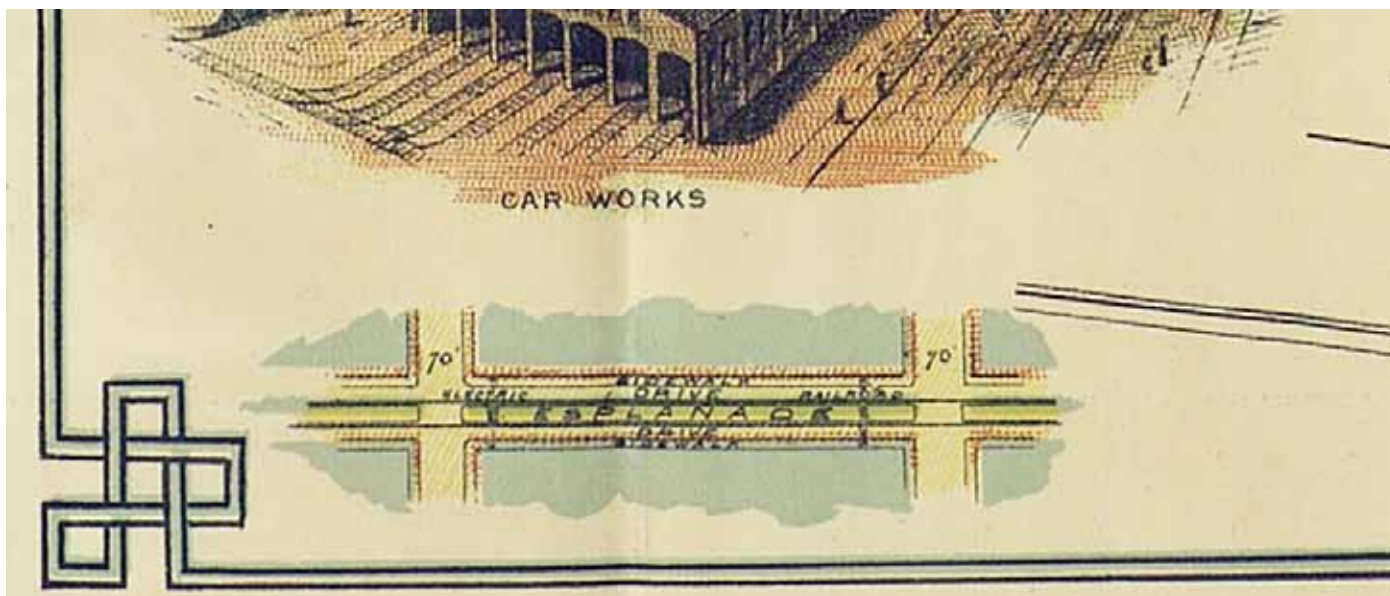
This map shows the extent of planning necessary to create an appealing and functional community. In addition to the features resulting from Cooley's influence, Houston Heights included a steam railroad that connected the community to the twelve railroad depots in the city proper, as well as residences, businesses, and

other buildings upon the 1,756 acres of land purchased for the venture. Construction began in 1892, taking only six weeks for 200 workers to cut down trees and build and grade 28.5 miles of streets, 36% of the total roads constructed. Workers used lumber that was manufactured from the town site to construct homes and other buildings.

Continued on page 10



The *Galveston Daily News* indicates that approximately \$1 million had been spent on developing Houston Heights by the Omaha & South Texas Land Company.

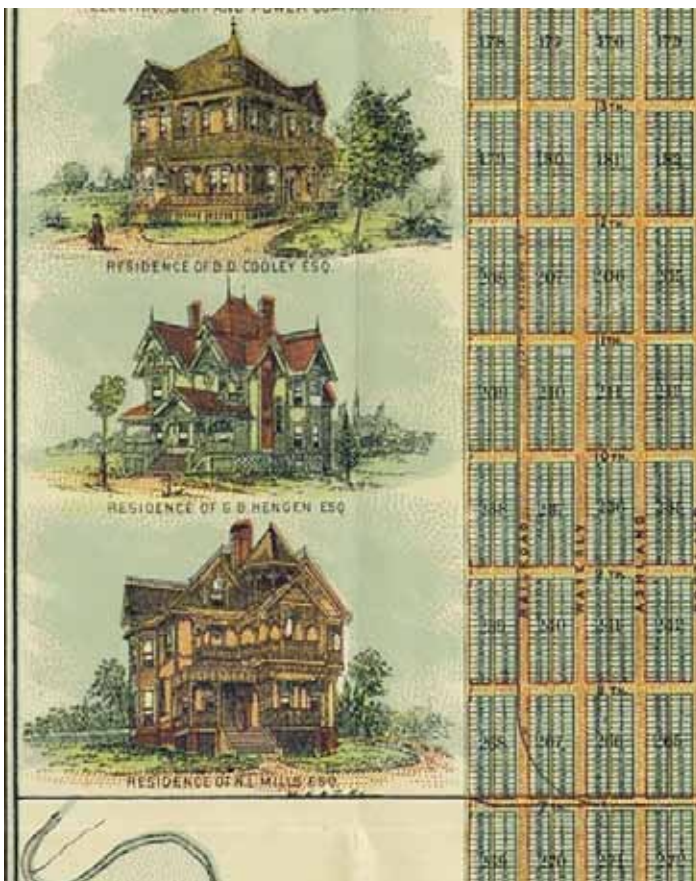


An inset that shows how the grand Heights Boulevard would be situated.

Houston's First Suburb *continued*

These efforts combined “to make up the grand sum total of the choicest and most desirable real estate ever put on the market in the Southwest,” according to a promotional pamphlet. The company advertised graded and paved streets with “artificial stone curbings and sidewalks,” as well as its own artesian water works system and electric light and power plant, and boasted of being sewer-drained throughout. Additionally, schools and parks were included in the company’s investment. The Omaha & South Texas Land Company invested approximately \$1,000,000 for improvements, and had a weekly payroll of \$1,000 for employees as of June 1892. [12]

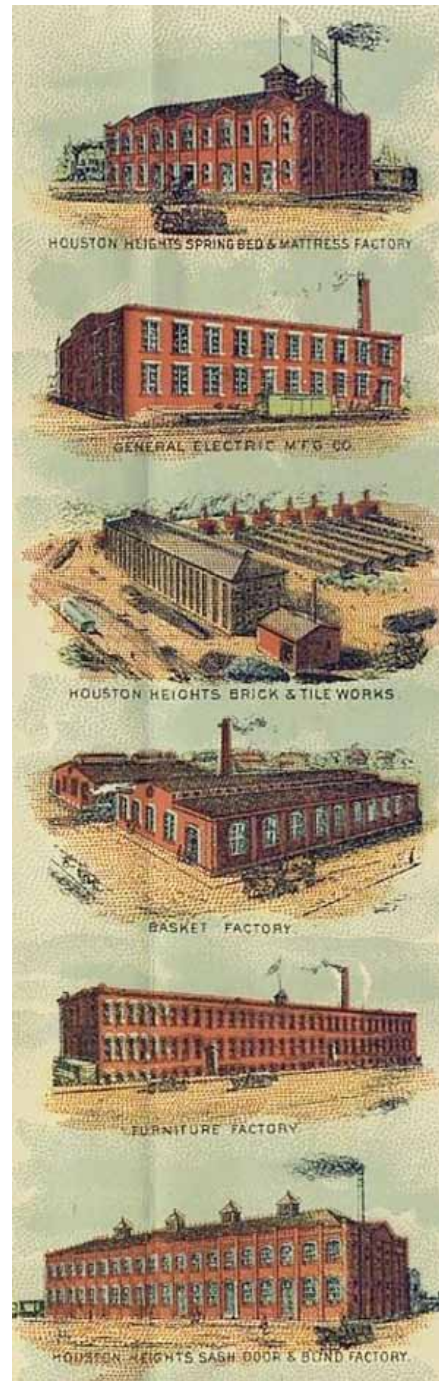
Cooley’s home, which is featured on an inset on the center-left portion of the map, along with two others, was one of the first houses built in the new community in 1893, and served as an example of the type of house to be constructed on Heights Boulevard. [13] Orate Victorian-style homes made of cypress, a termite deterrent, lined the boulevard. Cooley’s home set a standard of sophistication with huge chandeliers, inlaid wood floors, a marble wash basin in each bedroom, primitive intercom systems, and large oval stained-glass windows, including one with a rare ruby red Tiffany glass with a rose design. [14] Other Victorian homes featured on the map belonged to G.B. Hengen, Esq., and N.L. Mills, Esq. Unfortunately, Cooley’s home was demolished in 1968. There is a Texas Historical Commission marker at the site of the home, erected in 1991. [15]



Denton Cooley’s home is featured alongside other residences on the left side of the map.

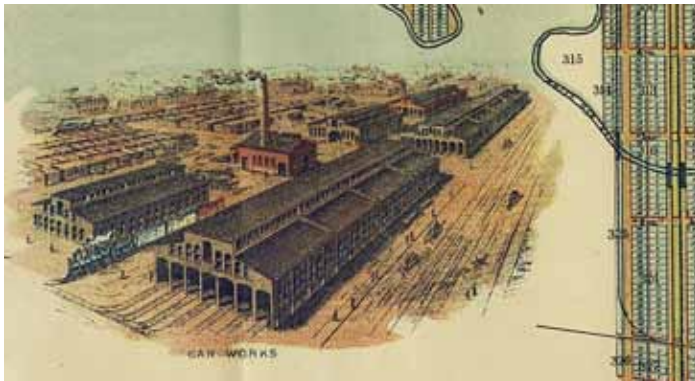
Additional buildings featured on the map include red-brick structures, indicating the industrial and commercial appeal of the neighborhood. The Electric Light and Power Company is shown on the left. On the right, from top to bottom, are the Houston Heights Brick & Tile Works, a basket factory, a furniture factory,

Continued on page 11



The map features several factories to indicate the successful businesses that called Houston Heights home. This was a way to appeal to workers, as well as promote the community to other businesses that might be interested in relocating.

Houston's First Suburb *continued*



A detail shows the Houston Heights Car Works, which manufactured railroad cars.

and the Houston Heights Sash Door & Blind Factory. On the bottom left is a massive structure identified as the Car Works, which manufactured railroad cars.

In addition to Cooley's vision on the ground, the Omaha & South Texas Land Company had true heavyweights of industry leading the company according to local newspapers issued throughout 1892. On June 19, the *Galveston Daily News* reported the company was actively entertaining outside investors "so that they might see how a modern town is built." Location visits were elaborately planned for their guests: wives were included on the site tour, meals were served on fine white hotel china, and ice cream was provided for dessert. A huge bell was rung at lunchtime to feed workers "both black and white," including tree cutters, road workers, teamsters, brickmakers and laborers. [16]

Published in the September 17 issue of the *Galveston Daily News*, a telegraph received from Omaha & South Texas Land Company President O.M. Carter reported that he closed a deal with capitalists and manufacturers in the eastern U.S. to build a streetcar factory in Houston Heights. Carter's reputation was that of an incredibly persuasive and influential businessman. "Mr. Carter's standing abroad is such that business men and capitalists who know him are willing to take hold of almost any business project upon his representation, because they are satisfied there will be nothing misleading in anything he would say." The car factory was planned to be built on blocks 40 and 41, and the south half of blocks 30 and 31. [17]

Indicative of how quickly projects were accomplished, there were reports of the first two bright yellow streetcars produced in Houston Heights taking to the streets only two months later. It was hoped that the streetcars would be a "great convenience to the sightseers." [18]

Three months later, on December 10, the same newspaper reported that the Omaha and South Texas Land Company signed a contract to bring the Omaha Basket Company to Houston Heights. The president of the basket company cited the superior advantages of Houston Heights as a manufacturing center as the reasoning behind bringing his company — along with a capital investment of \$500,000 — to the area. [19] In glamorous contrast to the factories shown on the map is the three-story Houston Heights



The Houston Heights Hotel provided glamorous contrast to the surrounding factories.

Hotel in the lower right corner. The hotel's construction was reported to have cost \$100,000, and it opened November 1, 1892. It had a unique architectural style; a crescent-shaped building with every room front-facing, and fine Mexican onyx throughout.

Considering the elegance of the houses along Heights Boulevard, especially the opulence of Cooley's home, housing was relatively inexpensive. Lots were platted in a variety of sizes so that people of all economic levels could afford to move into the neighborhood. The typical residential block contains 24 residential lots, each 50-foot wide. Corner lots and lots allocated for churches, schools, or important houses on or near Heights Boulevard were often larger in size. [20]

Individual lots started at \$250, and were marketed to blue-collar workers and the middle class who worked in downtown Houston. [21] Residents' occupational diversity included professions such as bookkeeping, dentistry, painting, yard maintenance, printing, bartending, and everything in between. [22] There was even a small Mexican community that grew up at Factory Village around the Oriental Textile Mills, where workers made cloth from camel hair. [23]

Continued on page 12



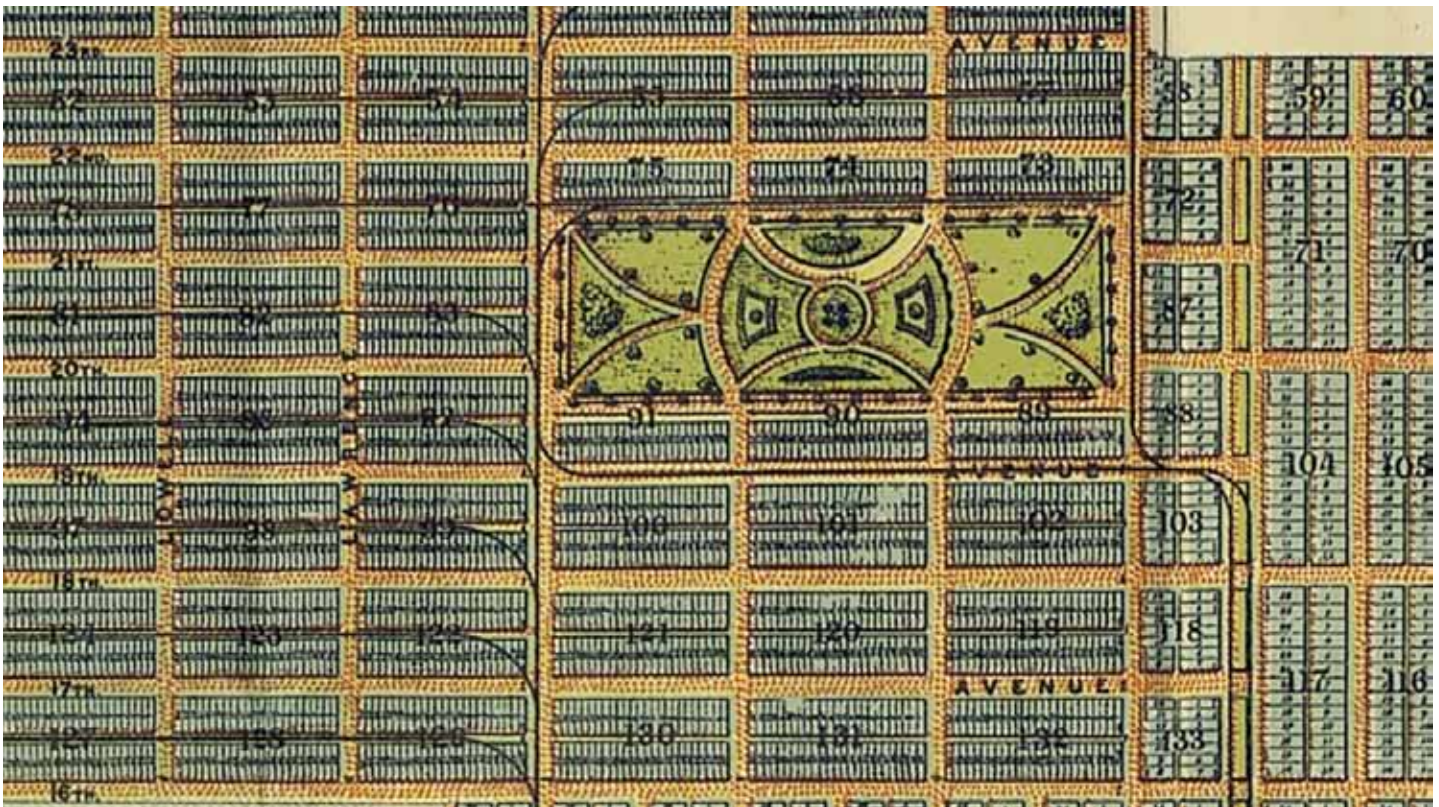
An 1893 advertisement for Houston Heights in the *Galveston Daily News* promoting \$250 lots, and the neighborhood as a residential and industrial suburb with many manufacturing enterprises in operation and under construction.

Houston's First Suburb *continued*

Houston Heights made history as one of the first planned communities in Texas, and the first suburb of Houston. Developers invested heavily to build the community rapidly. The town was incorporated in 1896, and the population reached 830 four years later. By 1908, it had grown to 6,000. In 1918 residents voted for annexation to the city of Houston. After World War II, Houston Heights struggled to maintain its status as a modern community, and many original structures were repurposed or torn down. It wasn't until 1991 that the neighborhood began to rebound from its postwar decline.

The Texas Historical Commission established a historical marker on Heights Boulevard detailing the neighborhood's history, and more than 100 Houston Heights structures were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The suburb is also a member of the Texas Urban Main Street program, which sought to revitalize the area. Today, Houston Heights has regained its popularity as an ideal spot for the citizens of Houston to work and play.

Continued on page 13



Blocks were laid out in an orderly grid and subdivided into individual lots.

[1] Cover of pamphlet associated with *Map of Houston Heights, Harris County, Texas* owned by the Omaha & South Texas Land Co., Houston, Texas, Boston: Forbes Co., 1891, <https://s3.glo.texas.gov/glo/history/archives/map-store/index.cfm#item/94458>, Map Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin, TX.

[2] "History." Houston Heights Association. Accessed May 15, 2018. <http://www.houstonheights.org/about/history/>.

[3] *Handbook of Texas Online*, Diana J. Kleiner, "Houston Heights, TX," accessed May 11, 2018, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hvhab>. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Modified on March 23, 2017. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

[4] *Handbook of Texas Online*, Donovan L. Hofsommer, "Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad," accessed May 15, 2018, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/eqm08>. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

[5] For more information on the Omaha & South Texas Land Company, consult the John A. Milroy Collection and the McKinney Papers. MSS 169. Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston Public Library.

[6] Daniel Denton Cooley is the grandfather of Dr. Denton Arthur Cooley, the founder of the Texas Heart Institute, and one of the most influential heart surgeons in history.

[7] *Handbook of Texas Online*, Gayle Davies, "Cooley, Daniel Denton," accessed May 11, 2018, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fcomd>. Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Modified on December 12, 2016.

Houston's First Suburb *continued*

Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

[8] Rahman, Fauzeyya, "In the Heights, the past is not that far off," *Houston Chronicle*, May 19, 2016.

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/local/history/article/In-the-Heights-the-past-is-not-that-far-off-7723357.php>. Accessed May 11, 2018.

[9] Houston Heights West, East and South. *Historic Preservation Manual: City of Houston Planning & Development Department*. City of Houston. 2013.

https://www.houstontx.gov/planning/HistoricPres/HistoricPreservationManual/historic_districts/heights_history.html. (Accessed on May 21, 2018).

[10] Protected Landmark Designation Report — *Houston Heights Water Works. Archaeological & Historical Commission, City of Houston Planning and Development Department*. https://www.houstontx.gov/planning/HistoricPres/landmarks/15PL123_Heights_Water_Works.pdf

Accessed on May 11, 2018.

[11] Rahman, "In the Heights, the past is not that far off."

[12] *The Galveston Daily News*. (Galveston, Tex.), Vol. 51, №87, Ed. 1 Sunday, June 19, 1892, newspaper, June 19, 1892; Galveston, Texas.

(texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph469037/m1/5/?q=cooley%20%22houston%20heights%22: accessed May 14, 2018), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Abilene Library Consortium.

[13] Carter & Cooley put Heights on the Map, *The Leader*, July 30, 2017. <http://theleadernews.com/carter-cooley-put-heights-on-the-map/>.

Accessed on May 11, 2018.

[14] Texas State Historical Association. *The Junior Historian*, Volume 25, Number 1, September 1964, periodical, September 1964; Austin, Texas.

(texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph391335/m1/16/?q=%22DANIEL%20DENTON%20COOLEY%22%20houston%20heights: accessed May 11,

2018), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Texas State Historical Association.

[15] Daniel Denton Cooley Historical Marker. Atlas Number 5201010640. Texas Historical Commission.

<https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Details/5201010640/print>. (Accessed May 21, 2018).

[16] *The Galveston Daily News*. (Galveston, Tex.), Vol. 51, №87, Ed. 1 Sunday, June 19, 1892, newspaper, June 19, 1892; Galveston, Texas.

(texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph469037/m1/5/?q=cooley%20%22houston%20heights%22: accessed May 14, 2018), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Abilene Library Consortium.

[17] *The Galveston Daily News*. (Galveston, Tex.), Vol. 51, №177, Ed. 1 Saturday, September 17, 1892, newspaper, September 17, 1892; Galveston,

Texas. (texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph468579/m1/3/?q=cooley%20%22houston%20heights%22: accessed May 14, 2018), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Abilene Library Consortium.

[18] *The Galveston Daily News*. (Galveston, Tex.), Vol. 51, №244, Ed. 1 Wednesday, November 23, 1892, newspaper, November 23, 1892; Galveston,

Texas. (texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph466333/m1/3/?q=cooley%20%22houston%20heights%22: accessed May 14, 2018), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Abilene Library Consortium.

[19] *The Galveston Daily News*. (Galveston, Tex.), Vol. 51, №261, Ed. 1 Saturday, December 10, 1892, newspaper, December 10, 1892; Galveston,

Texas. (texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph467700/m1/3/?q=cooley%20%22houston%20heights%22: accessed May 14, 2018), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Abilene Library Consortium.

[20] Houston Heights West, East and South. *Historic Preservation Manual: City of Houston Planning & Development Department*. City of Houston.

2013. https://www.houstontx.gov/planning/HistoricPres/HistoricPreservationManual/historic_districts/heights.html. (Accessed on May 21, 2018).

[21] *The Galveston Daily News*. (Galveston, Tex.), Vol. 51, №318, Ed. 1 Sunday, February 5, 1893, newspaper, February 5, 1893; Galveston, Texas.

(texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph467276/m1/4/?q=%22houston%20heights%22%20%22spring%20bed%20and%20mattress%20factory%22: accessed May 11, 2018), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Abilene Library Consortium.

[22] Year: 1910; Census Place: *Houston Heights Ward 3, Harris, Texas*; Roll: T624_1561; Page: 16A; Enumeration District: 0045; FHL microfilm: 1375574

[23] Kleiner, "Houston Heights, TX."

Coahuila y Texas: A Meeting Place

By Texas General Land Office



Mapa de los Estados Unidos de Méjico, Segun lo organizado y definido por las varias actas del Congreso de dicha Republica; y construido por las mejores autoridades, New York: White, Gallaher, and White, 1828, <https://s3.glo.texas.gov/glo/history/archives/map-store/index.cfm#item/93846>, Holcomb Digital Map Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin, TX.

After its 1821 independence from Spain, Mexico sought to reclaim its northern frontier through the establishment of new centers of population. [1] Under the newly-established state of Coahuila y Texas, *empresarios* (contractors) introduced citizens from the United States, Mexico, and Europe into their colonies. [2] The influx of these new families forever changed the cultural landscape of Texas. They adopted existing local customs, including language, religion, foods, and ranching, and once their grants had been surveyed and mapped, these colonists set up permanent markers indicating their land ownership.

Based primarily on H.S. Tanner's 1825 Map of the United States of Mexico, this Spanish-language map, *Mapa de los Estados Unidos de Méjico*, shows the full extent of the state of Coahuila y Texas, from its capital at Saltillo in the southernmost corner to the Louisiana and Arkansas borders. The map was originally housed in the accompanying hardcover case. The national symbol of Mexico, an eagle perched on a cactus devouring a snake, appears on the top right corner; each cactus pad contains the name of one of the states or territories.

David H. Burr's 1833 map, *Texas*, depicts new additions to the empresario colonies in Texas, including contract dates and the number of families to be introduced to each location. He delineates Texas as its own entity, despite it being part of the Mexican state of



David H. Burr, *Texas*, New York: J. H. Colton and Co., 1833, <https://s3.glo.texas.gov/glo/history/archives/map-store/index.cfm#item/93836>, Holcomb Digital Map Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin, TX.

Coahuila y Texas. The map shows grants in the Panhandle, a "Grant to the Shawnee Indians" on the Red River, and includes as an inset a navigational chart of Galveston Bay.

Continued on page 15

Coahuila y Texas *continued*



J. H. Young, *A New Map of Texas with the Contiguous American & Mexican States*, Philadelphia: S. Augustus Mitchell, 1835, <https://s3.glo.texas.gov/glo/history/archives/map-store/index.cfm#item/93853>, Holcomb Digital Map Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin, TX.

J. H. Young's *A New Map of Texas...*, modeled after Stephen F. Austin's 1830 map of the area, shows Texas in relation to its neighboring American and Mexican states. Like many mapmakers of the period, Young incorporated the various empresario grants, including a description of the land grant process, the lands claimed by indigenous groups, and many of the features noted in Austin's map, like "Immense Level Prairies," "Droves of Wild Cattle & Horses," and "Large Groups of Buffalo."

By the mid-1830s, land speculation in Texas had become a big business. One of the primary agents was John Charles Beales, an English surgeon who, along with his American business partners, sought to profit from the sale of company stock and the premium lands awarded to them via the empresario system. [3] Based on Stephen F. Austin's work, P. Desobry's *Map of Texas...* shows the territories in which the Colorado and Red River Land Company sought to make its claim in Texas.

Published shortly after Texas's independence, E. F. Lee's *Map of Texas containing the latest Grants and Discoveries* accompanied David Edward's *History of Texas, a guide for new immigrants on Texas, its character, and climate*. On the top right, a note showing Benjamin Milam's empresario contract reads that he "fell at the storming of Ft. Alamo (St. Antonio de Béxar) Dec. 10, 1835." Another notation on the bottom right, citing Edward, speaks to the "desire by its inhabitants" to have the Rio Grande become the "western boundary of Texas."

[1] For more on Mexico's independence from Spain see *Handbook of Texas Online*, Jesús F. de la Teja, "Mexican War of Independence," <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qdmcg>.

[2] For more on the laws pertaining to the settlement and governing of Coahuila y Texas see "Colonization Laws," <http://www.tamu.edu/faculty/ccbn/dewitt/cololaws.htm>

[3] For more on John Charles Beales and his land speculating in Texas see <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fbe03>



P. Desobry, *Map of Texas shewing the grants in possession of the Colorado & Red River Land Compy*, New York: Colorado and Red River Land Company, ca. 1835, <https://s3.glo.texas.gov/glo/history/archives/map-store/index.cfm#item/93850>, Holcomb Digital Map Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin, TX.



E.F. Lee, *Map of Texas containing the latest Grants and Discoveries*, Cincinnati: J.A. James & Co., 1836, <https://s3.glo.texas.gov/glo/history/archives/map-store/index.cfm#item/93855>, Holcomb Digital Map Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin, TX.

A Cataloger's Perspective: Mapping the World and Continents

By Eliane Dotson

At Old World Auctions, we catalog thousands of maps every year. When cataloging a map, our key objective is to identify what makes a map interesting, unique, and historically significant. Achieving this is more straight-forward with some maps than with others. Some maps have a clear story to tell, while others appear as simple, utilitarian representations of a specific place at a specific time. Figuring out the story behind each map is not easy when you are handling maps spanning nearly five centuries and of every geography around the world. To aid in cataloging maps of the world and each of the continents, we have come up with a list of key things to look for when reviewing these maps. These lists are not exhaustive, but they help us focus on the more important and significant elements of each map. We would like to share these helpful guides with you in the hopes that you will discover new ways to appreciate your own collection.

This month we will begin with maps of the world, and in subsequent months we will feature the continents of North America, Asia, Europe, Africa, and South America. Join us on this fascinating journey around the world, as seen through maps!

[We are not including separate articles on Australia and Antarctica, as we simply don't receive enough maps of those continents in order to have developed a cataloging aid. However, a section on Australia is included below within the mapping of the world.]

Mapping the World

Looking at world maps over the centuries is the best way to see how European knowledge of the earth and its continents changed over time. During the Age of Exploration, new

continents and bodies of water emerged, their shapes changed, and encounters with people and animals from faraway lands made the world seem infinite. These discoveries are well documented on maps, although they were often incorrectly depicted for decades or even centuries.

Map Projection

Before I even delve into what is depicted on a world map, I take into consideration how the world is portrayed as a whole. There are many different types of map projections, which help represent a spherical earth onto a flat piece of paper. Some of the earliest maps were shown on a **Ptolemaic projection**, in which the lines of longitude converge as they extend toward the poles, but without completely converging at the poles. **Cordiform projections** were used in the 16th century, and are formed with parallels depicted as equally spaced arcs creating a heart shape. Abraham Ortelius is known for using an **Oval projection** for his world maps, in which the parallels are not evenly spaced and the meridians are circular. Gerard Mercator popularized a cylindrical map projection, now known as **Mercator projection**, with lines of longitude and latitude remaining straight. Another common type is the **Hemispheric projection**, in which each hemisphere is projected into a circle with the lines of longitude converging at the poles. **Polar projections** are a subset of hemispheric projections, as they depict the world as seen from one (or both) of the poles, still within a circular shape. Although there are many other types of map projections, these are the most commonly found on world maps.

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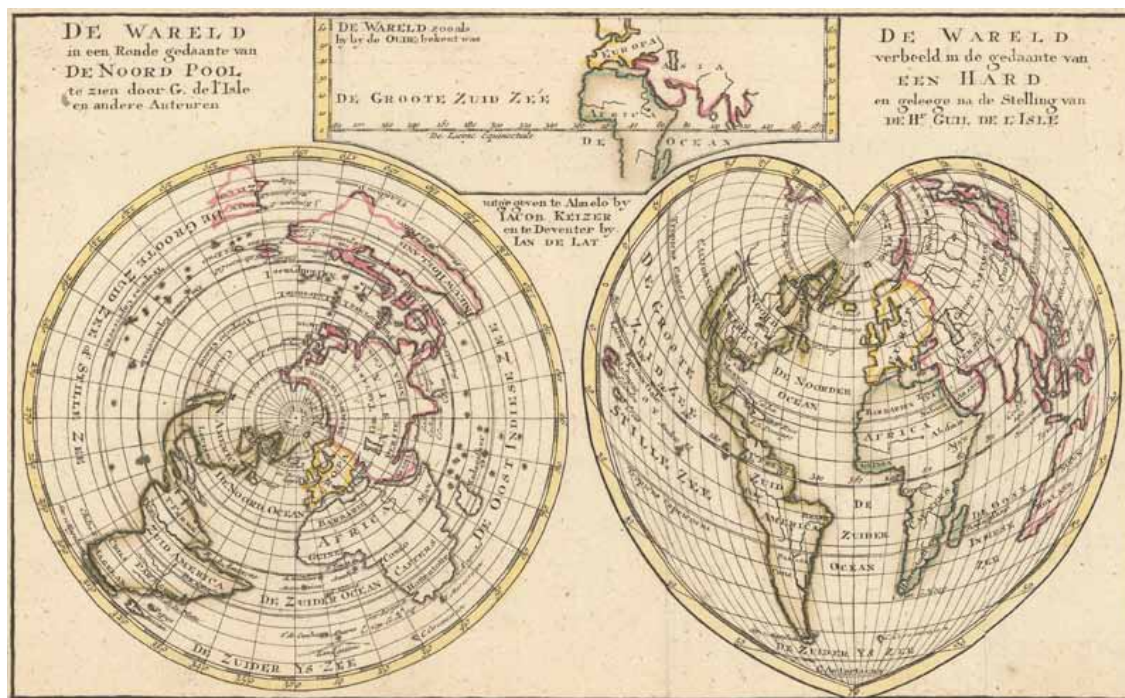


Ptolemaic Projection. Ptolemy/Mercator, *Universalis Tabula Iuxta Ptolemaeum*, 1695.



Oval Projection. Abraham Ortelius, *Typus Orbis Terrarum*, 1581.

A Cataloger's Perspective *continued*



Polar Projection (left) & Cordiform Projection (right). Keizer/De Lat, *De Wareld in een Ronde Gedaante van de Noord Pool te Zien...* [on sheet with] *De Wareld Verbeeld in de Gedaante van een Hard en Geleege*, 1786.



Mercator Projection. Willem Blaeu, *Nova Totius Terrarum Orbis Geographica ac Hydrographica Tabula*, 1606.



Double-Hemisphere Projection. Hondius/Le Clerc, *Orbis Terrae Novissima Descriptio*, 1633.

The Shape of the Western Hemisphere

Of course the earliest world maps only illustrated the eastern hemisphere, which we typically call the "ancient world." Once details of Christopher Columbus' and Amerigo Vespucci's explorations in the New World made their way to the cartographers in Europe, bits of North and South America began appearing on maps. The shape of the Western Hemisphere changed dramatically during the 16th and 17th centuries, and is one of the key elements to note on a world map. One of the

features to look for is the shape of the western coast of North America, which transitioned from an expansive landmass leaning towards Asia, to California as an island, to an interrupted coastline left mostly blank. The shape of South America changed too, as Abraham Ortelius depicted the continent with a large bulge on the west coast in 1570, which was then copied by other cartographers before Ortelius corrected it in his revised world map circa 1586.

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A Cataloger's Perspective *continued*



North America is shown as a long slender landmass labeled *Baccalarum*. Peter Bienewitz Apianus, *Charta Cosmographica, cum Ventorum Propria Natura et Operatione*, 1553.



North America is shown with the large cleft nearly separating the east coast from the continent, often referred to as the Sea of Verazano. Sebastian Munster, *Das Erst General Inthaltend die Beschreibung und den Circkel des Gantzen Erdtrichs und Mores*, 1556



The oversized northwestern coast of North America bulges toward Asia. Rumold Mercator, *Orbis Terrae Compendiosa Descriptio*, 1587.



South America is depicted with an unusual bulged southwestern coastline. Abraham Ortelius, *Typus Orbis Terrarum*, 1581.



California is depicted as an island, but the remainder of the Pacific Northwest remains blank. Frederick de Wit, *Nova Orbis Tabula, in Lucem Edita*, 1670.



An indistinct coastline named *Terra Esonis* appears above California extending west toward Asia, and California is here depicted as a peninsula. Johann Baptist Homann, *Planiglobii Terrestris cum Utroq Hemisphaerio Caelesti Generalis Repraesentatio*, 1744.

Continued on page 19

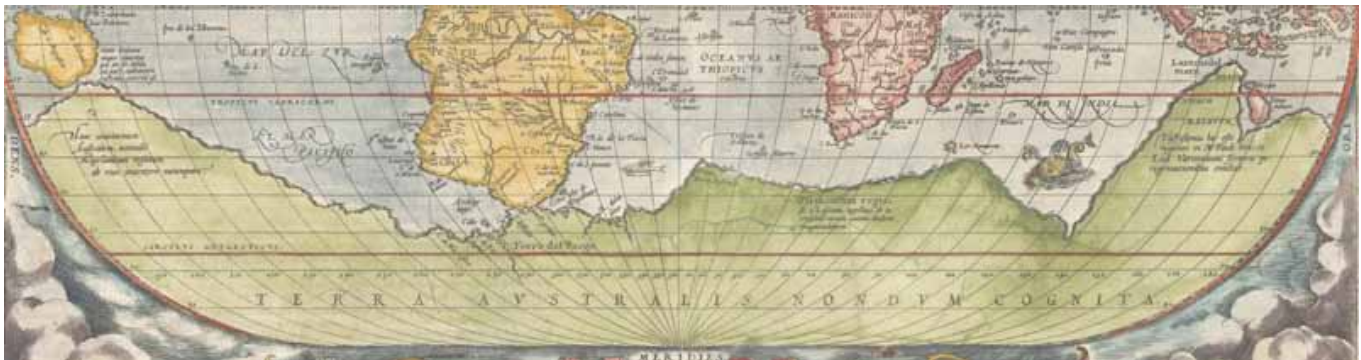
A Cataloger's Perspective *continued*

Terra Australis

Terra Australis, or the great Southern Continent, began appearing with consistency on maps in the early 16th century. Although this area was not well explored until later in the 17th century, the theory of a large continent at the southern pole began as early as the 2nd century through the works of Claudius Ptolemy. The theory was that the vast landmasses north of the equator had to be balanced by an equal amount of landmass

south of the equator. The shape of Terra Australis changed over the decades with new explorations, such as Jacob Le Maire's discovery in 1616 that Tierra del Fuego was not attached to the Southern Continent, and Abel Tasman's voyages to Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand in 1642-44 that further limited the possible size of the Southern Continent.

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A huge Terra Australis Nondum Cognita makes up the imaginary Southern Continent. Abraham Ortelius, *Typus Orbis Terrarum*, 1581.



The Southerne Unknownne Land shows the large conjectured continent covering much of the southern hemisphere, yet without a continuous outline. John Speed, *A New and Accurat Map of the World*, 1626.



Australia is separated from the Southern Continent, which is faintly outlined and labeled *Terre Australe Magellanique et Incogneue*. Nicolas Sanson, *L'Hydrographie ou Description de l'Eau*, 1652.

A Cataloger's Perspective *continued*

Australia, Tasmania & New Zealand

A large landmass east of the Indian Ocean was imagined long before Australia was discovered by European explorers. This is evidenced by 16th to 17th century world maps, which often identify the names of Beach, Lucach and Maletur as part of the Southern Continent in the general vicinity of Australia based on Marco Polo's reports of these southern Kingdoms. Dutch explorations of the northern and western coasts of Australia then began appearing sporadically on maps beginning in the 1630s. Tasman's important voyages added Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) and Staten Land (New Zealand) to the map and further solidified the cartography of the northern and western coasts of New Holland (Australia). Despite the advances made by the Dutch, French cartography from the mid-17th to mid-18th centuries ignored

these findings and instead incorporated imaginary and misleading representations of Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand. These were later corrected, particularly in light of French explorers such as La Perouse, Bougainville and Freycinet, which further charted the southern coast of Australia. The first voyage of Captain James Cook (1768-71) finally gave a complete outline for New Zealand and the eastern coast of Australia, and Tasmania was confirmed as an island separate from Australia by George Bass and Matthew Flinders in 1798. In addition to updates in cartography, also note the name changes of the continent, including Terra Australis Incognita, Company's New Netherlands, New Holland, Notasie, and the native name Ulimaroa.

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The huge *Terra Australis* includes the lands of Lucach, Maletur and Beach (from the travel account of Marco Polo) noted along the coast in the vicinity of present-day Australia. Rumold Mercator, *Orbis Terrae Compendiosa Descriptio*, 1587.



The Dutch discoveries in Australia and Van Diemen's Land are shown and Australia is named 't Landt van de Eendracht after Dirk Hartog's 1616 exploration on the ship Eendracht. Nicolas Visscher, *Orbis Terrarum Typus de Integro in Plurimis Emendatus, Auctus, et Incunclis Illustratus*, 1650.



Australia is partially delineated, but without the cartographic advances made by the Dutch, giving it a very rudimentary outline. Nicolas Sanson, *L'Hydrographie ou Description de l'Eau*, 1652.



Although the Dutch discoveries in Australia have been incorporated, thus improving the shape of the western portion of the continent, Australia is still connected to the great Southern Continent. Henry Abraham Chatelain, *Mappemonde ou Description Generale du Globe Terrestre*, 1708.

A Cataloger's Perspective *continued*



Australia is shown attached to both Tasmania and New Guinea with a conjectural eastern coastline incorporating *Terre du S. Esprit* (New Hebrides). Janvier/Lattre, *Mappe-Monde ou Description du Globe Terrestre, Assujettie aux Observations Astronomiques*, 1762.



Australia is named both *New Holland* and *Terra Australis*, with new place names noted along the eastern coast based on Captain Cook's first voyage. Samuel Dunn, *A General Map of the World, or Terraqueous Globe*, 1794.

The Northern Passage

Conjectural cartography also abounds near the North Pole, where a direct Northern Passage was sought to connect the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, thereby simplifying the lucrative trade route between Europe and Asia. European cartographers imagined this passage heading both east over Europe

and Russia, as well as west over North America. After numerous unsuccessful voyages, including Martin Frobisher, Henry Hudson, Hugh Willoughby, and Vitus Bering, the regions surrounding the Arctic Ocean became more accurately portrayed on maps.

Continued on page 22



A prominent Northern Passage, extending both east and west, snakes its way south of the four islands making up the arctic regions. Abraham Ortelius, *Typus Orbis Terrarum*, 1581.



In North America there is a distinct Northwest Passage connecting Hudson Bay with the large Sea of the West and the Pacific. Janvier/Lattre, *Mappe-Monde ou Description du Globe Terrestre, Assujettie aux Observations Astronomiques*, 1762.



The northwest coast of North America is depicted in an odd configuration, with a Northwest Passage stretching from the Hudson Bay to the Pacific. Robert de Vaugondy/Delamarche, *Mappe-Monde par Robert de Vaugondy Geographe*, 1795.

A Cataloger's Perspective *continued*

Tracks of Explorers

Since world maps depict new geographical discoveries, it is fitting that the explorers who made these findings are also highlighted. Notations of various discoveries (along with the year in which they occurred) are often included on world maps, which demonstrated to patrons that the map was as up-to-date as

possible. Many world maps, particularly in the 18th century, focus on the tracks of various explorers, which are shown crisscrossing the seas. Showing the routes of the voyages of Magellan, Drake, Le Maire, Dampier, Anson, Cook, and others helps connect the geography of the map with the history behind it.



The routes of several important explorers and their discoveries are marked, including Magellan, Tasman, Noort, Gaytan, Quiros, and Mendana. Tobias Conrad Lotter, *Mappa Totius Mundi Adornata Juxta Observationes Dnn Academiae Regalis Scientiarum*, 1775.



The tracks of Captain Cook on his three major voyages of exploration are outlined throughout the map. Samuel John Neele, *A General Chart of the World on Mercators Projection Exhibiting All the New Discoveries and the Tracks, of the Different Circum Navigators*, 1808.

Decorative Elements

World maps were usually the most lavish maps published in an atlas, so there are numerous decorative elements that can be found. Many early maps feature mythical creatures, such as windheads blowing wind from each direction, putti holding banners or simply filling empty space, and sea monsters warning of the dangers of sailing uncharted waters. Allegorical figures are also common, including figures representing each of the continents, the four seasons, or the four elements (earth, air, wind and fire), as well as

Greek and Roman gods such as Zeus, Poseidon, Atlas, Mercury, and Athena. Extraordinary **cartes-a-figures** maps feature figures within the borders, often showing people from various continents in their native costumes, and can even include views of important cities around the world. These elements certainly make the maps more beautiful and desirable, and can also inform the viewer of the extent of European knowledge of the people and places around the world at the time.

Continued on page 23



This lively allegorical scene represents the element of air as the heavenly realm ruled by Zeus and Hera. Justus Danckerts, *Nova Totius Terrarum Orbis Tabula*, 1680.

A Cataloger's Perspective *continued*



This map is surrounded by allegorical representations of the continents complemented by native inhabitants and wildlife. Nicolas Visscher, *Orbis Terrarum Typus de Integro in Plurimis Emendatus, Auctus, et Incunclis Illustratus*, 1650.



The carte-a-figures border of this world map includes allegorical representations of the planets and the seasons. Willem Blaeu, *Nova Totius Terrarum Orbis Geographica ac Hydrographica Tabula*, 1635.



This lovely celestial hemisphere is flanked by figural representations of Fire and Air. John Speed, *A New and Accurat Map of the World*, 1626.

From the World to the Continents

Of course there are many more features to find on world maps, and we hope you will peruse them more thoroughly to note other common themes and interesting changes made over time. Many of these additional changes will be discussed in our future newsletters on each of the continents, so stay tuned!

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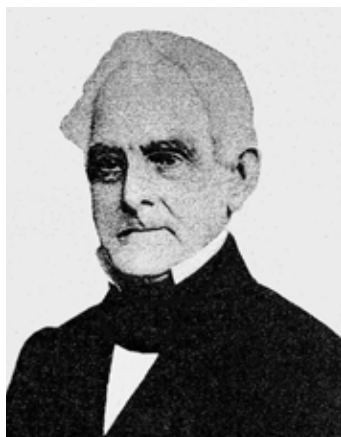
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The School Atlases of Samuel Augustus Mitchell, 1839-1851

By Walter E. Wilson

This is the eighth in a series of articles featuring American school atlases published between 1835 and 1850. Previous editions have covered Daniel Adams, Thomas Smiley, Richard McAllister Smith, Roswell Chamberlain Smith, William Channing Woodbridge, Conrad Malte-Brun, Samuel Griswold Goodrich, and Jesse Olney.

Samuel Augustus Mitchell was one of the most successful school atlas publishers of the era between 1839 and 1850 and beyond. In addition to his school atlases, Mitchell, and his namesake son, produced a long series of maps, geographies, travel guides, and atlases for over 50 years. The Mitchell family published some of the finest maps in the United States and were among the most prominent publishers in the country.



Samuel Augustus Mitchell (1792-1868). This rare portrait of Mitchell is from a 1907 book by Frederick Calvin Norton.

Mitchell was born in Bristol, Connecticut in 1792, the youngest of nine children. He became a teacher in Connecticut, but was dissatisfied with the available textbooks. He believed that he could write and publish better works. Despite his lack of training as a cartographer, engraver, or printer; he was determined to create high quality maps, atlases, and geography books. In about 1830, he moved his wife of 15 years, the former Rhoda Ann Fuller, his three girls and son to Philadelphia. That city was

a major center for commercial publishing in America at the time. Unlike many of his contemporaries, Mitchell's school geographies and atlases were not his first publishing effort.

Mitchell began his business in 1831 after purchasing Anthony Finley's 1826 map engravings. He re-issued the *New American Atlas*, but significantly improved and revised each map with the help of Finley's chief engraver, J.H. Young. Young continually added decorative borders and updated the plates, particularly in the South and West, to keep pace with America's rapid growth and their many competitors.

James Hamilton Young (1817-1866) was an Irish-American cartographer, draftsman and engraver. Arguably the finest map engraver in America of his day, he was also a knowledgeable and discerning compiler of sources and a designer of maps. He had a long and fruitful partnership with Mitchell, who served as editor, publisher, and business manager.

With the success of the *New American Atlas*, Mitchell started issuing individual maps in pocket and large wall-sized formats. In

1832, Mitchell offered the *Traveller's Guide Through the United States, A Map of the Roads, Distances, Steam Boat & Canal Routes &c.* It would become one of his most popular and enduring works. It was a steel engraved map, one of the first to use this technique in American publishing.

In 1832 and 1833, he and Young issued two wall maps that dominated the market for years. Mitchell did not begin his long run of school atlases until 1839. By this time and continuing through 1853, Mitchell's publishing house was Thomas, Cowperthwait & Company, of Philadelphia. With this and other publishers, Mitchell's company would produce twenty four different geographical publications to including numerous volumes designed for students. An 1851 ad for Mitchell's books accurately boasted that:

"There are no works published in this country that are more in demand, or that have a wider circulation than those of Mr. Mitchell. There are upwards of 350,000 copies of his geographical works sold annually, and more than 250 workmen are constantly employed upon them."

Mitchell touted his company as the only publisher producing a "full series of geographics" for students in the United States. In addition to tailoring geography volumes for intermediate, primary, & high school students, his portfolio included *Mitchell's Atlas of Outline Maps*, *Key to the Study of Maps*, *View of the Heavens*, plus ancient and biblical atlases. Most importantly for this article, is Mitchell's *School Atlas* series that ran from 1839 to 1886.

Mitchell borrowed from the latest and best sources for his school atlas maps, and, as was the practice of the era, other publishers did the same with his works. Perhaps most notable were the vivid colors he used to differentiate the various countries and states—pink, yellow, pale green, and light blue.

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No. 9. Map of the Western States from Mitchell's *School Atlas* (unrevised).

School Atlases *continued*

This color scheme became the cartographic norm in American school atlases. These hand-colored maps were ingrained in American culture. It was this style of map that Mark Twain had in mind when he penned the following exchange between Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn in *Tom Sawyer Abroad*. The two boys were drifting along in a balloon and arguing whether or not they were over Illinois or Indiana.

Huck: *...if we was going so fast we ought to be past Illinois, oughtn't we?*

Tom: *Certainly.*

Huck: *Well we ain't.*

Tom: *What's the reason we ain't?*

Huck: *I know by the color. We're right over Illinois yet. And you can see for yourself that Indiana ain't in sight.*

Tom: *I wonder what's the matter with you, Huck. You know by the color?*

Huck: *Yes I do.*

Tom: *What's the color got to do with it?*

Huck: *It's got everything to do with it. Illinois is green, Indiana is pink. You show me any pink down here, if you can. No sir; it's green.*

Tom: *Indiana pink? Why, what a lie?*

Huck: *It ain't no lie; I've seen it on the map, and it's pink.*

From 1839 to 1850, Mitchell's school geographies and atlases were a dominant force in American education. At first glance, his *School Atlas* of 1839 appears very similar to the one of 1850 and

every one in between. Each one was of the same size, color, and design, particularly on the front covers. They were all salmon-colored with an ornately framed picture of a seated instructor pointing to an area on a large globe for the benefit of four attentive young men.

All of the atlases are printed on paper over stiff boards with a black leather spine and dimensions of about 12.2 by 9.8 inches (31 x 25 cm). J.H. Young or W. Williams engraved all of the maps and they are all blank on the verso. There were however, four distinct editions of the atlas printed during this period:

1839-1841 *Mitchell's School Atlas*, 16-18 maps, listed on back cover.

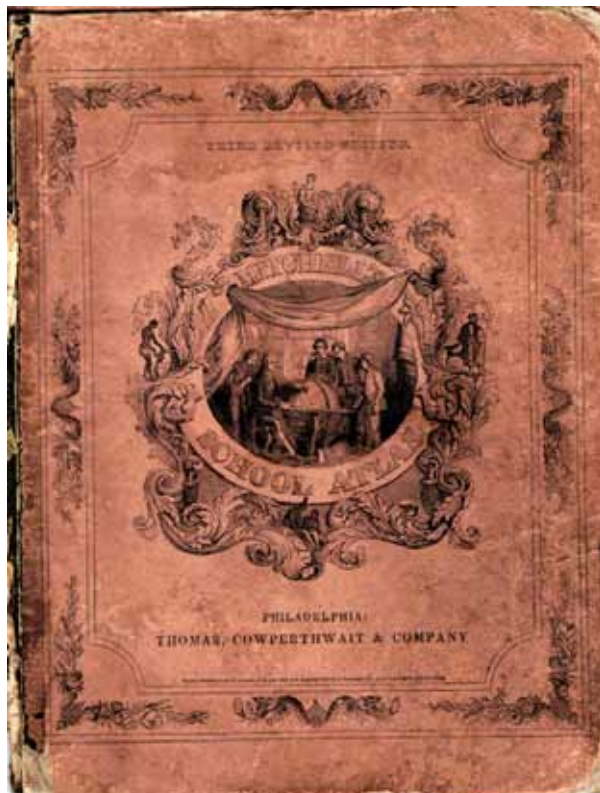
1842-1845 *Mitchell's School Atlas, Revised Edition*, 18 maps, listed on back cover.

1846-1848 *Mitchell's School Atlas, 2nd Revised Edition*, 28 maps, listed on title page.

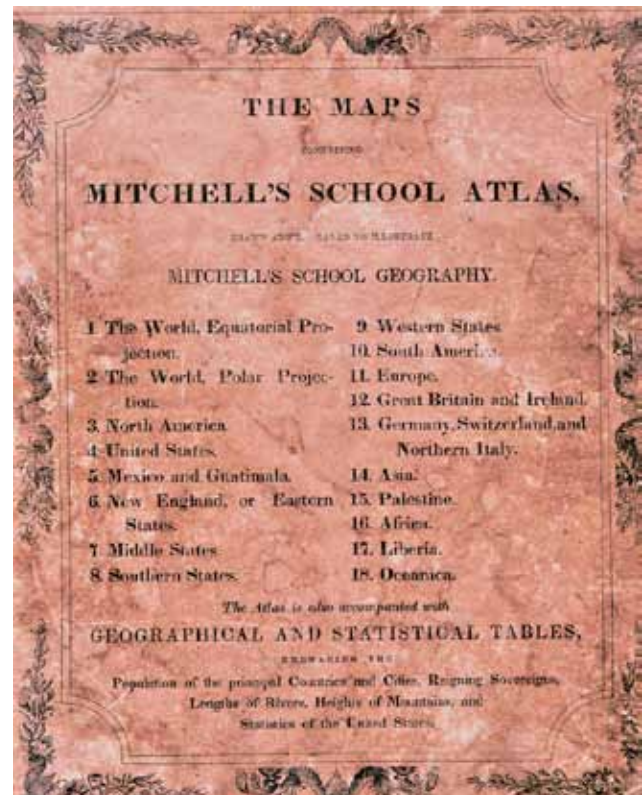
1849-1851 *Mitchell's School Atlas, 3rd Revised Edition*, 28 maps, listed on title page.

Despite what seems like a straightforward listing, precise identification of the atlases and individual maps within them can be difficult. There were many variations and printings that did not result in a separate edition number. Mitchell made numerous updates and changes to the plates and statistical tables within individual editions. The *Map of North America*, for example,

Continued on page 26



Front Cover, Mitchell's *School Atlas*, Third Revised Edition, 1850.



Back Cover, Mitchell's *School Atlas*, (unrevised), 1841.

School Atlases *continued*

retains the date 1839 in all four editions despite numerous alterations. Some maps are unchanged from one edition to another, while others have subtle changes even within a particular edition. Other atlases may contain nearly identical maps but will have minor updates to the statistical tables in the front of atlases. As a result of these factors, dealers, auctioneers, and collectors struggle to accurately distinguish and describe Mitchell's *School Atlases* and maps.

The 1839 first printing of the School Atlas had 16 maps on 12 plates (5 double-paged). After that first year, Mitchell added two maps on separate plates: Great Britain and Ireland, plus one of Germany, Switzerland, and Northern Italy. Both were dated 1840, and inserted as maps number #12 and #13, which forced a renumbering of the Maps of Asia (#14 with #15 Palestine inset), Africa (#16 with #17 Liberia inset) and Oceanica (#18). Except for the two additions and renumbering of 5 maps (3 plates), there appears to be no other changes. .

The following year, however, there are several other changes that appear to be confined to maps that show the Republic of Texas. These updates are on the maps of #3 “North America,” #4 “United States and Texas” and the accompanying inset map #5 “Mexico and Guatemala” (sic).



No. 4. Map of the United States and Texas and inset No 5 Map of Mexico and Guatemala from Mitchell's *S* (unrevised, 1840).

This second version of the 18-map “unrevised” version, appears to be identical except that it no longer depicts Houston as the capital. Instead, it adds Austin as the capital on all three maps. The U.S. and Texas map also adds Galveston City, and shortens the city of “San Felipe de Austin” to just “San Felipe.”

A “Revised Edition” *School Atlas* appeared in 1842. Like the previous edition, it lists 18 maps on the back cover and has 14 map plates. The only apparent difference between the covers is the appearance of the words “Revised Edition” above the front cartouche. There are, however, numerous updates throughout. The data in the statistical tables is brought up to date, e.g., Reigning Sovereigns as of 1840 and U.S. Universities as of 1841. All but four of the map plates appear to have changes. Some are fairly

Continued on page 27



No. 3. Map of North America from Mitchell's *School Atlas* (unrevised, 1840).



Republic of Texas showing Houston as the capital; enlarged from the No. 4. Map of the United States and Texas from Mitchell's *School Atlas* (unrevised, 1840).

School Atlases *continued*

significant such as the addition of an Antarctic inset to the world map page. The “Map of the New England States” is enlarged to a double page plate and it adds two city insets (Boston & Providence, and New Haven & Hartford). None of these three new inset maps are numbered and they did not make their way into the back page index.

There are numerous updates to the maps that depict the Republic of Texas. Maps #3 of North America, #4 of the U.S., and inset #5 of Mexico, all color and outline Texas in its large “stovepipe” configuration. The map of North America also adds the city of Galveston. The #4 “Map of the United States and Texas” adds the “San Jacinto 1836” battle site, several other cities, and corrects the location of Milam and Sabine City. The #5 inset map adds the city of Nacogdoches and Matagorda Bay.

The map of the Southern States only depicts a sliver of East Texas, but like its counterparts, it updates and corrects the Texas entries. It also adds the overlay “Western States” to Arkansas and Tennessee. It includes the new counties of Arkansas and Louisiana (e.g., Caddo), and a new railroad connection in Georgia (Savannah to Marietta). The map of the Middle States includes a minor update (i.e., adds the U.S.-Canada boundary line).

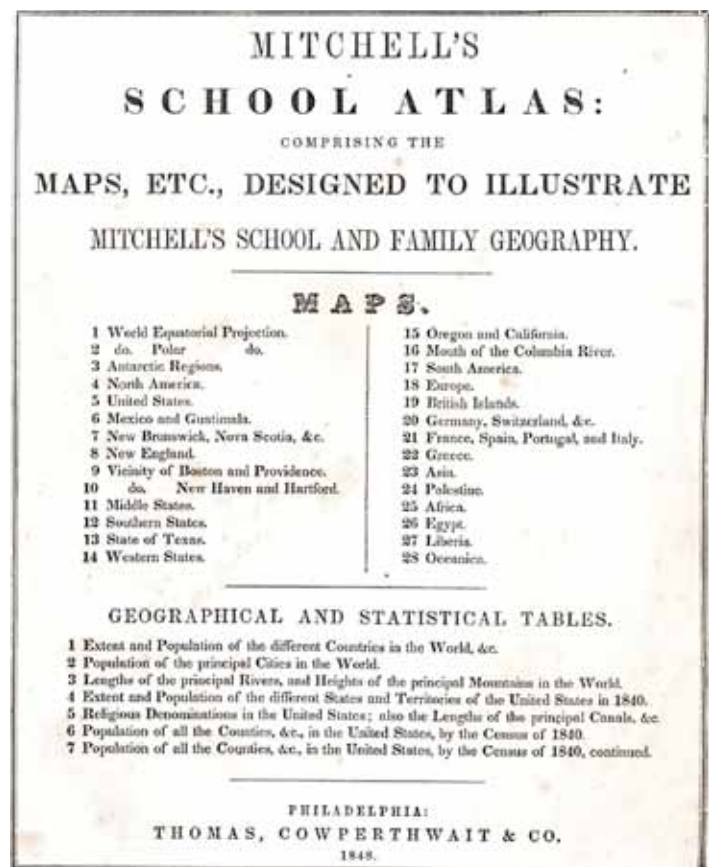
There are several updates to the map showing the Western States, which in the early 1840’s meant Missouri, Illinois,

and Iowa Territory. It adds new counties and cities in Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa, e.g., Iowa City as the territorial capital. Four other maps have minor changes and additions. The map of South America combines the previously separated North and South Peru. Great Britain’s population is updated from 25 to 27 million. Africa has an annotation about Napoleon being imprisoned on St. Helena, and the map of Oceanica removes the “New Holland” label from Australia and states that the United Kingdom has annexed New Zealand.

Mitchell significantly expanded and updated the 2nd Revised Edition of his *School Atlas*. First, he removed the map listing from the back cover and placed it on a newly created title page. This edition has 28 maps on 18 plates. Three of the inset maps had been in the previous edition, but were not listed in the index.

The seven new maps include #7 New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, #21 France, Spain, Portugal & Italy with an inset of #22 Greece, and a new inset #26 of Egypt on the Map of Africa. There are three new American maps. One is a separate map of #13 State of Texas and another shows #15 Oregon and California Territories with an inset of #16, The Columbia River.

Continued on page 28



Title Page from Mitchell’s *School Atlas*, Second Revised Edition, 1848.

No. 3. Map of North American from Mitchell’s *School Atlas* (unrevised, 1841).

School Atlases *continued*



No. 15. Map of Oregon and Upper California, from Mitchell's *School Atlas*, Second Revised Edition, 1848.

The maps in the 2nd edition that depict the American West have been updated to show the presumed acquisition of Western territories from Mexico. Oregon Territory's border with Canada now reflects the 1846 treaty with the United Kingdom and Texas appears as a state rather than an independent republic. The Map of the United States also corrects geographic details such as the proper location and naming of the Great Salt Lake and the elimination of the fictional Lake Buenaventura.

Perhaps the most significant addition to this atlas is the previously mentioned map of Texas. This one-page map is the only one within this school atlas series that Mitchell dedicated to a single state. With the possible exception of the relatively rare example in Olney's 25-map school atlas of 1849, it is the most desirable American school atlas map among collectors. It represents a full-page, reduced scale replica of John Arrowsmith's iconic and often copied 1841 map of Texas and is dated 1846. It also appears in the 3rd Revised Edition without alteration until the 4th Revised Edition, issued in 1852. The only differentiation among the various 2nd and 3rd atlas editions appears to be the number of holes at the margin where it was sewn into the binding. In the early 2nd Revised Edition atlases, the map has only 4 holes, later versions have five, and the 3rd Revised Edition has six holes.



No. 13. Map of the State of Texas, from Mitchell's *School Atlas*, Second Revised Edition, 1848.

Mitchell may have copied Arrowsmith, but he added a great deal of information to the map that enhances its interest and significance. It is the first to name Dallas. It adds other cities in north central and northeast Texas and names Corpus Christi in place of Grayson. The Arrowsmith map depicts Texas Counties through 1839, but Mitchell reflects counties through 1843. There were no new counties formed between January 1843 and March 1846, making it a very current map.

Mitchell was not as blatant in promoting Texas as was Arrowsmith. However, the map does tout the "High Prairies," "Wild Horses," and a "Silver Mine." In a sobering counter to these desirable attributes, he also identifies the locations of the many Native American tribes of Texas including the Comanches, Lipans, and Apaches. He also adds important battle sites in Texas such as, San Jacinto, Palo Alto, Palma de la Resaca, and Ft. Alamo.

Overall, there are some subtle differences within the versions of the 2nd Revised Editions. The most obvious is the inclusion of a date on the title page (1846-1849), but even then there are variations within this edition that have the same date. For example, some of the 1848 editions update the Reigning Sovereigns with

Continued on page 29

School Atlases *continued*

Pope Pius IX (1846) and Frederick-Wm of Hesse-Cassel (1847). This version also has “* See School Geography page 267” in reference to the European country of Lucca at bottom right of the page, displacing the page number “2.”

The 3rd and last major revision to Mitchell’s School Atlas of the era ran through 1851. Like the 2nd Revised Edition, it also has 28 maps on 18 plates. The 3rd edition has three new maps and one other has been converted from an inset to a full page map. The first new addition replaces the “Mexico and Guatemala” inset on the U.S. map. In its place, the map fills in the remainder of the Southwestern United States and adds a smaller inset map at the lower left. This revision allowed the elimination of the previous map of California and Oregon Territories and its Columbia River inset. It updates the status of the Western territories, but also makes one last important change to the U.S. border in the northeast. Mitchell belatedly updates the boundary between Maine and Canada that resulted from an 1842 treaty with the United Kingdom.

The new #6 inset on the map of the U.S. identifies an area of great national interest in 1849, the “Map of the Gold Region of California.” It shows Sutter’s Buttes, Sacramento City, and all of the important creeks of the gold region. The map also inaccurately imagines how Texas might look when accounting for the formation of New Mexico Territory after the Compromise of 1850.



Enlargement of No. 5. Map of the United States and inset No. 6. Map of the Gold Region of California from Mitchell’s *School Atlas*, Third Revised Edition, 1850.

No longer an inset, the new full-page #15 “Map of Mexico, Guatemala and the West Indies” has its own inset (#16) that shows the area between Mexico City and Vera Cruz, the site of recent Mexican War battles. Other maps retain the previous numbering sequence and the Map of the State of Texas is unchanged. The regional maps of the U.S. reflect updates for new cities and counties, and the extension of rail road lines.

After a long and successful career, Samuel Mitchell, retired in 1860. He turned the business over to his son, S. Augustus Mitchell, Jr., who was a successful mapmaker in his own right. Despite the firms’ increasing volume, he never compromised the quality standards of his father. All of the maps remained hand-engraved and the printed pages continued to be hand-colored until the end of the century. Samuel Mitchell Sr. died in Philadelphia on December, 20 1868, followed by his son in 1882, but the firm continued publishing into the 1890’s. The Mitchell name left an important mark on American commercial cartography. For all the success of his atlases that were intended for the adult market, it was his school geographies and atlases that were the most prolific and influential.

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Project to stabilize and display a 17th-century Dutch map at Ransom Center in Austin

By Elizabeth Page

A one-of-a-kind 17th-century map housed at the Harry Ransom Center on The University of Texas campus for decades, currently too fragile to display, is now the subject of an intensive conservation project that will utilize scientific analysis to reveal the hidden story behind the map's production and significance.

Senior conservators at the Ransom Center have assembled a team that includes Kress Paper Conservation Fellow Emily Farek and a number of collaborators, both at UT and throughout the country, working in consultation with conservator T.K. McClintock of Studio TKM.

In addition to using specialized techniques to conserve, stabilize, and analyze this extraordinary artifact, currently too fragile to display, the project team plans to present the map and new information during a future exhibition at the Center in 2021.

Created by celebrated Dutch cartographer Joan Blaeu in 1648, the 10' x 7' map titled *Nova totius terrarum orbis tabula*, is commonly known as the Blaeu World Map. This grand map is composed of 21 hand-printed engraved images that show the

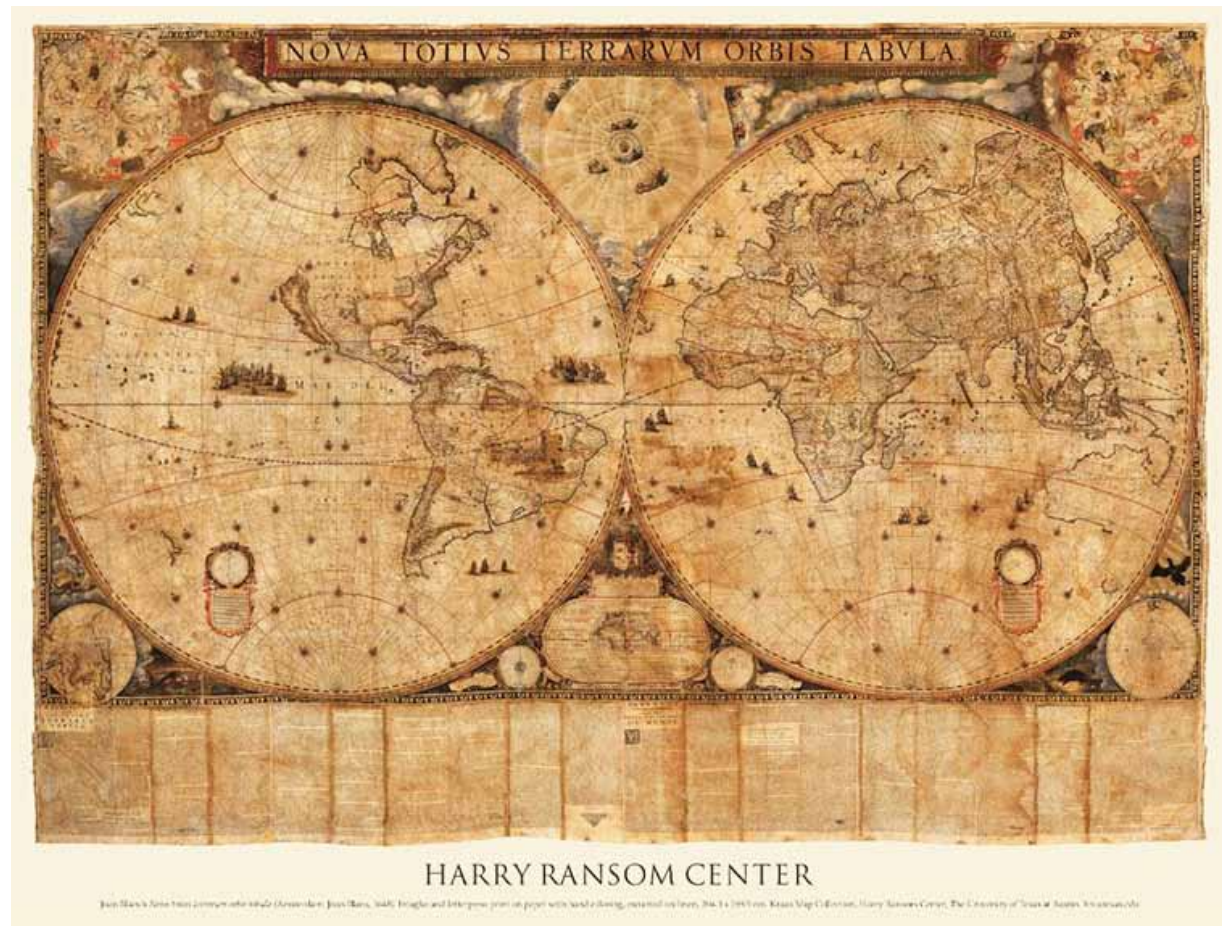
known geography of the Earth at that time, along with images of the zodiac constellations and diagrams of the solar system.

The Blaeu World Map was created as a gift for the Spanish ambassador Gaspar De Bracamonte y Guzmán and not for navigation. "But, the same information that you would use to depict the positions of features on the surface of the Earth and to depict stars and constellations, would be used for making practical and smaller maps," the University of Texas at Austin Associate Professor of History Bruce Hunt said.

A ten-sheet letterpress-printed informative text along the bottom edge of the map describes the nature of various landforms, climates around the globe, and provides navigational information. Hand-painted illustrations show three astronomical systems: Ptolemaic, Copernican, and Tychoenic.

According to Hunt, it was Joan's father Willem Bleau who initially reached for the stars, taking the Blaeu family from herring fishermen to leading mapmakers of their era. When Willem was a

Continued on page 31



Measuring nearly 10 feet wide and 7 feet tall, the map is striking in its size, imagery, and detailed decoration. Titled *Nova totius terrarum orbis tabula*, it is known as the Blaeu World Map and was created by Dutch cartographer Joan Blaeu in 1648.

17th-century Dutch map *continued*



Various tools used by conservators for preservation and conservation work. Research is taking place on the science behind the map, such as identifying pigments, binders, adhesives, and fibers that were used to create it. This research not only develops an understanding about how the map was made, but also will help conservation scientists anticipate the way its materials may degrade over time.

young man in his early 20s, he traveled to the island of *Hven*, now part of Sweden, but then part of Denmark. Tycho Brahe, a high-ranking Danish nobleman who was known for his accurate astronomical observations and the development of the Tychonic astronomical system, was the feudal lord of the island. Between the late 1570s to the late 1590s, Brahe constructed one of the greatest pre-telescopic astronomical observatories in the world.

“Blaeu was [on Sven] from the end of 1595 to the first half of 1596, and Tycho introduced Willem to astronomy and cartography,” Hunt said.

Blaeu spent about six months on the island with Brahe, and while he already had developed a keen interest in navigation and mapping, it would be his interaction with Brahe that would transform him into a serious mapmaker.

When Willem Blaeu died in 1638, his son Joan, who had taken up the same line of work, continued the business for some time afterward. He printed this Blaeu World Map about 10 years after his father’s death, Hunt said.

Blaeu also published a gigantic atlas known as the *Atlas maior*, which includes illustrations of Brahe’s island, his instruments, and his observatory. Joan Blaeu then became one of the leading cartographers and map and globe publishers, and this gigantic map is one of his grand projects. There are two other similar surviving maps in the world, but each of the three is unique in its hand-coloring and illustration.

Striking to look at on the surface, the Blaeu World Map has even more to offer the viewer through a deeper understanding of the map’s hand-coloring, constellations, landforms, diagrams, layered structure, and more. Hidden aspects of the map will be uncovered and revealed during this project, Farek said.



Conservators employ specialized techniques to conserve and stabilize objects like this extraordinary map. In addition to analyzing the map and treating it for long-term preservation, the Blaeu Map project team hopes to discover more about the map’s production and significance.

“We can identify the pigments, binders, adhesives, and fibers that were used to create the map as we see it today,” Farek said. “This research not only helps us interpret the map and understand how it was made, but also to anticipate the way its materials may degrade over time.”

Efforts to preserve the map will make it accessible to researchers and allow it to be exhibited to the public for the first time.



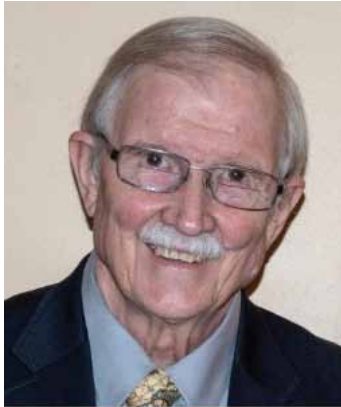
Detail of *Nova Totius Terrarum Orbis Tabula* (Blaeu World Map), 1648.

OBITUARIES

Hubert O. (Bert) Johnson (1946-2019)

Hubert O. (Bert) Johnson, a long-time member and leader and supporter of the Washington Map Society and Texas Map Society, died in early November in Alexandria, Virginia, after a heart attack. He was 73. Bert, as he was known to family, colleagues, and his many friends, was born in Harris County, Texas, on 16 October 1946. A graduate of American University (BA, International Relations); and the University of Utah (MA, Middle Eastern Studies), he was commissioned into the USAF through ROTC and served from September 1969 to October 1994, spending his entire career as a Special Agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI). He held field, staff, and command positions with AFOSI, serving overseas tours in Iran, England, Greece, and Spain. Following his retirement from the USAF, Bert was a contractor with counterintelligence roles at the Department of Energy, AFOSI, and the National Reconnaissance Office. He worked at the NRO until shortly before his death on 7 November.

Bert served as a volunteer in the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress in Washington DC. In 1992 he joined the Washington Map Society and served it in many ways. He was Chair of the Ristow Prize competition from 1995-1996 and 2003-2005. He was Vice President from 1996-1997, then President from 1997-1998. Most recently he served as Vice President again from May 2018-August



2019. Besides these many roles, Bert was a prolific writer for the Society's journal, *The Portolan* – his book reviews and thoughtful articles appeared in 66 issues of the journal, more than any other author

Bert especially enjoyed traveling to international cartographic conferences, especially the International Conference on the History of Cartography – he attended nine consecutive meetings of that event from 1999-2015. His prime cartographic interest was the mapping of the Mediterranean region, and he listed among his many interests: "Greece & Aegean; Persia/Iran;

Caspian & Gulf; Tripoli; Libya; Schleswig / Joseph Roux; FC de Krafft; Adam Olearius; Rhigas Pheraios; compass/wind roses; maps on wine labels."

Bert is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Mary Lee Kochensparger Johnson of Alexandria.

Bert was one of the first to greet and make me feel welcome to the WMS. Learning that I was from Texas, he introduced me to the Texas Map Society. He, of course, was also a member of TMS. When I moved to Texas, he would frequently travel to our meetings here and, no surprise, he was a friend to all he met. He will be greatly missed, but his example of loving kindness will continue in all of those who knew him.

—Walt Wilson

Putting Pandemics and the World in Perspective

By Imre Demhardt

Professor & Jenkins and Virginia Garrett Chair in the History of Cartography
Chair: International Cartographic Association, Commission on the History of Cartography

In times of the Coronavirus it is good to remember that pandemic diseases through the ages are a reoccurring and terrifying challenge, but all of them eventually have been overcome (or can at least be held at bay). Such stories of onslaught and perseverance are mirrored in maps, too. Some of you might be interested to read a historical case study on how a nineteenth century pandemic was spread – and finally overcome – in the English university town of Oxford. The Washington Map Society, in its journal *The Portolan*, Issue 101 (Spring 2018) published that paper written by a graduate student studying to become a medical doctor, and graciously made it available for public circulation. Here is the link:

https://www.classcreator.com/000/0/9/8/22890/userfiles/file/Portolan_101_-_Mapping_Public_Health_in_Nineteenth-Century_Oxford_-_hi-res_watermarked.pdf

On a lighter note, it probably won't surprise you that as a map guy, my perspective on the world and happenings is also a cartographic one. The first truism about that passion which students in the intro class on old maps are getting to hear from me is that there is hardly anything under the sun which cannot be expressed by a map. To think, pause, and on occasion provide some comic relief, please find below a link to one of my favored websites on thematic maps. It helps to explain the world, or at least some more or less important aspects of it:

<https://twistedifter.com/2013/08/maps-that-will-help-you-make-sense-of-the-world/>

OBITUARIES

John Martin (Marty) Davis, Jr. (1944-2019)

John Martin “Marty” Davis, Jr., a longtime member and former President of the Texas Map Society, died 7 December 2019 following a lengthy illness. He was 74 years old.

Davis and his wife Yana were instrumental in the creation of the Yana and Marty Davis Map Collection at the Museum of the Big Bend in Alpine, Texas. It is one of the largest and most diversified collections of maps in the state.

Davis was a long time resident of Dallas but spent a significant amount of time at his home in Fort Davis, Texas. He attended Southern Methodist University where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration, 1967, and a Juris Doctorate, 1970, Order of the Coif Honors. That same year, Marty enlisted in the Navy, where he would spend the following six years serving as a lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General Corps. After military service, Marty worked briefly as a tax attorney for Haskins and Sells in Savannah, Georgia, before opening his own accounting firm, Davis Clark and Co., which he continued to operate in Dallas until his retirement in 2008. Davis was a member of several boards that are dedicated to research and preservation of the history of Texas. He was a member of the Texas Map Society and board member of the Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation in Dallas. Davis also served on the Sul Ross President’s Advisory Board, the University Foundation Board and the Museum of the Big Bend Director’s Advisory Council.

“Marty was an advocate for the Museum of the Big Bend and Sul Ross State University,” said President Bill Kibler. “He was well known as a philanthropist particularly for the museum but his love of Sul Ross extended to all areas of academics and cultural activities. He was a man who loved this region and the people. Marty will be sorely missed by so many of his friends at the university.”

“Our thoughts and prayers are with Yana and Marty’s entire family at this time,” he said.

A recipient of the “Slingin’” Sammy Baugh Award, Davis was awarded an honorary Doctorate of History honoris causa from Sul Ross during Spring, 2016 Commencement. For his philanthropic works, Davis was recognized with the Dallas Heritage Award and the Obelisk Award for Support of the Arts in Dallas.

Davis had a friendship with Sul Ross and the Museum of the Big Bend that lasted more than a decade. In addition to the donation of his and Yana’s extensive map collection, Davis championed fundraising efforts to renovate the historic Museum of the Big Bend Texas Centennial building and co-



chaired the capital campaign for the new Museum Complex

“I first met Marty in 2004 in the Museum’s gift shop,” said Museum Director Mary Bones. “Since then, he has always been an advocate for the Museum and Sul Ross. Marty was always thinking of ways he could help.”

“Marty was one of the biggest supporters the University and the Museum have had,” said Judy Alton, Chair of the Museum of the Big Bend Director’s Advisory Council.

“He was totally dedicated to the mission of the museum and strove to help tell the story of the land and the people of the Big Bend area.”

Outside of his work as a lawyer and CPA, Marty spent much of his free time contributing to educational and philanthropic organizations. A member of the Philosophical Society of Texas, he authored or co-authored five books, including *Texas Land Grants 1750-1900: A Documentary History*, *Civil War Taxes: A Documentary History 1861-1900, A Documentary History*, *Parole, Pardon, Pass and Amnesty Documents of the Civil War*, *Confederate Treasury Certificates: A Collector’s Guide to IDR’s*, and *Going to Texas: Five Centuries of Texas Maps*. It was Marty’s endless curiosity and desire to contribute that led him to compiling one of the largest Texas map collections in the United States, eventually donating it to the Museum of the Big Bend at Sul Ross University. This contribution, along with his fundraising and advocacy efforts on behalf of the school, led to an honorary doctorate in 2016. In addition, Marty contributed his time to the Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation, the Texas Map Society, where he served as president, and the Dallas Heritage Village. For his philanthropic work with the arts in Dallas, he was awarded the Obelisk Award twice, and he will forever be remembered as someone whose generous contributions to universities, museums, and arts organizations across Texas helped further their missions of education and understanding. His dedication to these missions and organizations will be greatly missed.

A memorial service was held for Marty at the Perkins Chapel on the Southern Methodist University campus on 15 January, 2020, and he was buried at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Fort Davis, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested that any remembrance contributions be made to the Museum of the Big Bend, 400 N. Harrison, Alpine, Texas 79832.



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Texas Map Society Mission

The mission of the organization is: "The Texas Map Society supports and promotes map collecting, cartography, and the study of cartographic history." According to the "Who We Are" section of the website, which is language that came from the previous web page: "The Texas Map Society was organized in November 1996 to foster the study, understanding, preservation, restoration, and collection of historical maps as well as the general history of cartography. Membership only requires an interest in maps of any nature or focus. Members participate in special events and programs. TMS is one of only a few such societies in the United States and the only one in Texas."

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