



The Neatline

A Newsletter of the Texas Map Society

Volume I • Number 2 • September 1998

Fall Meeting Held in Conjunction with First Garrett Lectures

The fall meeting of the Texas Map Society (TMS) will be held on Saturday, October 3, 1998, at The University of Texas at Arlington. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the first biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures in Cartographic History. The Garrett Lectures open on Friday beginning with registration at 9:00am and ending with dinner and a presentation by Ralph Ehrenberg, recently retired Head of the Geography and Map Division, the Library of Congress. All the sessions, lunch, a wine reception and exhibition opening, as well as dinner, will be held on the sixth floor of the Central Library, 702 College Street, The University of Texas at Arlington campus.

The Texas Map Society's fall meeting will convene at the same place on Saturday morning at 9:00 am. Program events are detailed to the right. As usual, the meeting will begin with coffee, tea, and conversation at the registration table. The presenters come from a variety of backgrounds, including collectors and academics, and will cover a diverse field of cartographic interest.

Society members will be offered a discount registration fee when they attend both meetings. Registration for the Garrett Lectures, including meals and reception is \$30; for the society's meeting, also including meals, is \$20. The combined total of \$50 has been discounted to \$45 for those attending both events. Registration brochures have been sent to all current TMS members, but if you have not received yours, or you have names of friends and associates who would like an information/registration packet, please contact the society's secretary/treasurer, Dr. David Buisseret, Texas Map Society, History Dept., UTA, Box 19529, Arlington, Texas 76019, phone: (817) 272-2861, or e-mail: buisseret@utarlg.uta.edu

Program

9:00-10:00 am

Registration

10:00 am

Welcome

Jenkins Garrett

President, Texas Map Society

10:15 am

"Table Land Cartography: Spanish and American Mapping of the Old Llano Estacado"

John Miller Morris

University of Texas at San Antonio

11:00 am

Break

11:15 am

"A National Palette: Dutch Identity Through Maps and Paintings"

Lisa Davis-Allen

University of Texas at Tyler

12:15-1:30 pm

Lunch (*provided*)/Business Meeting

1:30 pm

"Automobile Road Maps: 20th-Century Icons"

Jeff Dunn

Dallas, Texas

2:30 pm

"A Look at Earth History Through Maps"

Chris Scotese

University of Texas at Arlington

3:15 pm

Break

3:30 pm

Kit's Cartographic Corner

TMS members to bring maps of interest

4:30 pm

Meeting adjourns



Presentations and Speakers

Society meets in Austin for first time: Report on the capital presentations

The Texas Map Society met in Austin, Texas, in the auditorium of the Capitol Extension on April 25, 1998. Sixty-three people attended the meeting and heard the following presentations.

Dr. Robert Martin, director of the Texas State Library and Archives, gave a presentation on "The Map Making Empresario: Stephen F. Austin and the Maps of Texas." Martin recalled becoming interested in Stephen F. Austin in the late 1970s, when Martin worked at the Barker Texas History Center and had the opportunity to work with the maps in the Austin Papers. Building on research begun two decades ago, Martin traced Austin's cartographic work and the reasons behind it. Austin, the most successful and earliest of the empresarios, committed himself to producing a printed map of Texas shortly after arriving there in the early 1820s. Austin went about this systematically by commissioning surveyors, amassing reports from others, making observations himself, and examining maps he acquired. Austin compiled this information and, in 1828, began making preparations to have the map printed. Henry S. Tanner, perhaps the leading mapmaker in the U. S., published the first edition of Austin's map of Texas in 1830. There were many subsequent editions. Martin concluded that Austin produced the maps to encourage settlement in Texas, to push his own colonization plans, and to bring Texas into the public view.

Richard Francaviglia and **Jack Jackson** conducted a roundtable discussion of maps of the Texas coast. Their discussion focused on significant maps depicting the Texas coast in the early eighteenth century, especially those

of the French cartographer Guillaume Delisle. Francaviglia began by discussing the numerous geographical, cultural, and technological factors that made the Texas coast difficult to navigate and map. Jackson then described how maps of the period reflected both the changes in geographic knowledge as well as the talents and idiosyncrasies of cartographers. Both discussants noted the persistence of cartographic errors, as well as the correct depiction of features, on maps of the Texas coast. In conducting the discussion, Jackson called upon examples from his award-winning book, *Flags Along the Coast* (1995), and Francaviglia shared insights from his recently-published book on Texas maritime history entitle, *From Sail to Steam* (1998).

Patricia Ingram and **Kenneth Grant**, both members of the preservation staff of the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at UT-Austin, discussed "Preservation and Conservation of Maps." Ingram focused most of her remarks on the causes of paper deterioration and what can be done to slow down the process. She pointed to ultraviolet light, humidity, fluctuating temperatures, poor storage conditions, insects, and people and poor handling techniques as the leading causes of paper breaking down. To combat these she recommended the use of ultraviolet filters on lights and frames, the use of acid-free boxes and storage enclosures, controlling temperature and humidity so that they do not fluctuate wildly, handling items carefully,



and being prepared with a plan should disaster strike. Grant discussed the once-accepted technique of lamination—a technique that is no longer recommended for preservation purposes. He also discussed the process one must go through to reverse lamination. Rather than laminating today, the recommended procedure is encapsulation—literally sandwiching an item between two pieces of inert mylar held together with double-sided tape.

In the afternoon, **Michael Moore**, **Doug Howard**, and others from the Texas General Land Office gave a behind-the-scenes tour of the maps and atlases held in the Surveying Division of the office. Also, Laura Saegert and John Anderson, both of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, gave a tour of the maps held in the State Library.

—Richard Francaviglia
and Gerald Saxon

Book Review

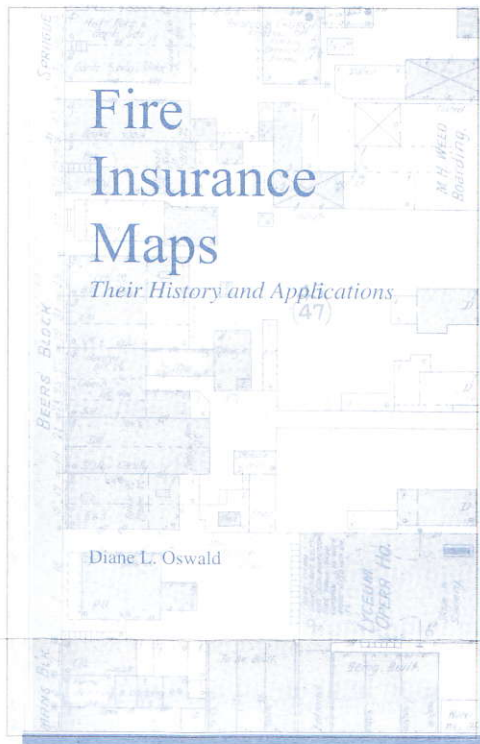
Fire Insurance Maps: Their History and Applications

By Diane L. Oswald

Bryan, Texas: Lacewing Press, 1997. Pp. 102. Maps, illustrations, bibliography, index. ISBN 0-9659698-0-0. Paper.

Fire insurance maps are special-purpose plans that document the built environment. In particular, they detail the structural characteristics and functions of buildings and their environs as they pertain to fire hazards or prevention. The most enduring are known as Sanborn maps and refer to the cartographic depiction of selected cities by the commercial producer. These maps provide an outline of each building, show the types of construction materials used, and identify commercial and industrial establishments within a set of standards that served the fire insurance industry for over a century. Sanborn also is the name of the company, that in 1889, absorbed the business and all copyrights of the pioneer mapmaker and innovator of the cartographic model, William Perris. Fire insurance maps, as Diane Oswald points out in her book, are not given the interest or the respect that they are due. It is only in the last decades that historians and others have begun to look to these colorfully detailed city maps to support research and study into a variety of topics.

Oswald, map collector and dealer in antiquarian maps, explains her latent interest in the genre and seeks to share her budding knowledge. In this small book, she quickly traces the heritage of the maps along with the corporate need of the insurance industry to control risks that gave birth to the cartographic form. She also looks at the



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Oswald also includes an appendix with a “Milestones in Mapping” chronology and a list of “Selected Vendors” who offer copies of the maps. While this small volume will not carry the scholarly tag—there are no footnotes nor the usual reference upon reference to scholarly information, the book will give the reader the pertinent facts about the maps and their makers as well as their value to research and study. Diane Oswald has brought attention to fire insurance maps as an interesting and collectable source with her lively little book.

individuals who created and standardized the extraordinary mapping of America’s cities and towns in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Oswald describes and depicts the evolving maps and their symbolism while spicing the accounts with antidotes of the men whom surveyed the cities as well as those that produced the maps. The author is generous with examples of the predecessors of Sanborn maps and how they contributed the final form. There are also enough original Sanborn illustrations to point out how they recorded the history of the built environment. In addition, several period cartoons contribute to her light-hearted approach to the subject.

This volume is a brief presentation of the history and value of the fire insurance maps. It is an easy read with its inclusion of tall tales and lively illustrations.

—Katherine R. Goodwin

Second Issue The Neatline

It is good that we can include in this second issue details not only of our fifth meeting, but also of the first set of Virginia Garrett Lectures in the History of Cartography. The study of the history of maps is in its infancy, and lecture-series like these are one of the best ways of systematically investigating various aspects of the subject. We are fortunate in being able to team the lectures with a Map Society meeting, bringing participants, as we hope, something for everybody. On the subject of the Map Society meeting, do please consider contributing to "Kit's Kartographic Korner," by bringing a special map from your collection for display. It is interesting to have to think about why such a map is particularly

important (if chiefly to its owner), and you may well learn something new from the comments of other members. If you do want to bring something, please call or/ write Kit Goodwin, c/o Special Collections, UTA Libraries, Box 19497, Arlington, TX 76019; phone (817) 272-5329; or e-mail goodwin@library.uta.edu. The feature map in *The Neatline* is this time from new member Jeff Dunn; he will also be talking on collecting road maps at the meeting.

We have recently sent out about 5,000 invitations to join the Society, and hope that some of these will bear fruit in the shape of new members; we are always happy to send a copy of our membership brochure to anybody whom you may recommend. In general, map societies around the

country, many of them founded in the past ten years, are fulfilling the highly constructive function of bringing together enthusiasts, and also advancing knowledge of the subject. Here in Texas, we too bring together a wide range of enthusiasts, and are slowly getting known in the community. As evidence, the Society has recently been asked by the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History to participate in their "Exploring Geography" special event day scheduled for Saturday, November 14th. Maps play an important role in many different areas of life, and we should make sure that anybody interested in them knows about us!

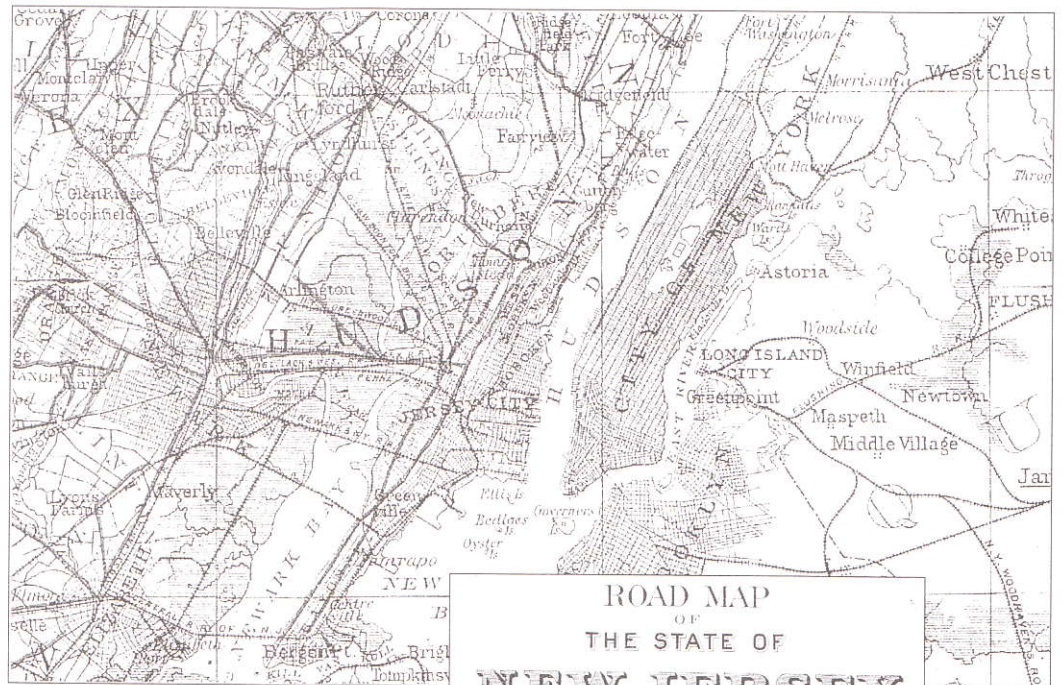
—David Buisseret
Secretary/Treasurer

FEATURE MAP

The Road Map of the State of New Jersey, detail dated 1903, is considered the earliest known official highway map of all the states. This one was especially prepared for the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition held in St. Louis, Missouri, and was displayed as part of an exhibition sponsored by the state of New Jersey.

Although an extensive road system is designated by heavy red lines on this rare map, the legend contains the disclaimer: "for want of space many Stone roads...and many miles of light gravel roads along the Atlantic coast are not shown."

The map is courtesy of Texas Map Society member Jeffery Dunn of Dallas, Texas.



Feature Map

We should like in each issue of *The Neatline* to feature a map that appeals to one of our members, and you are invited to submit such maps to the editor, preferably in the shape of a glossy black and white 8 x 10 print, with a short commentary.