The NEATLINE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS MAP SOCIETY

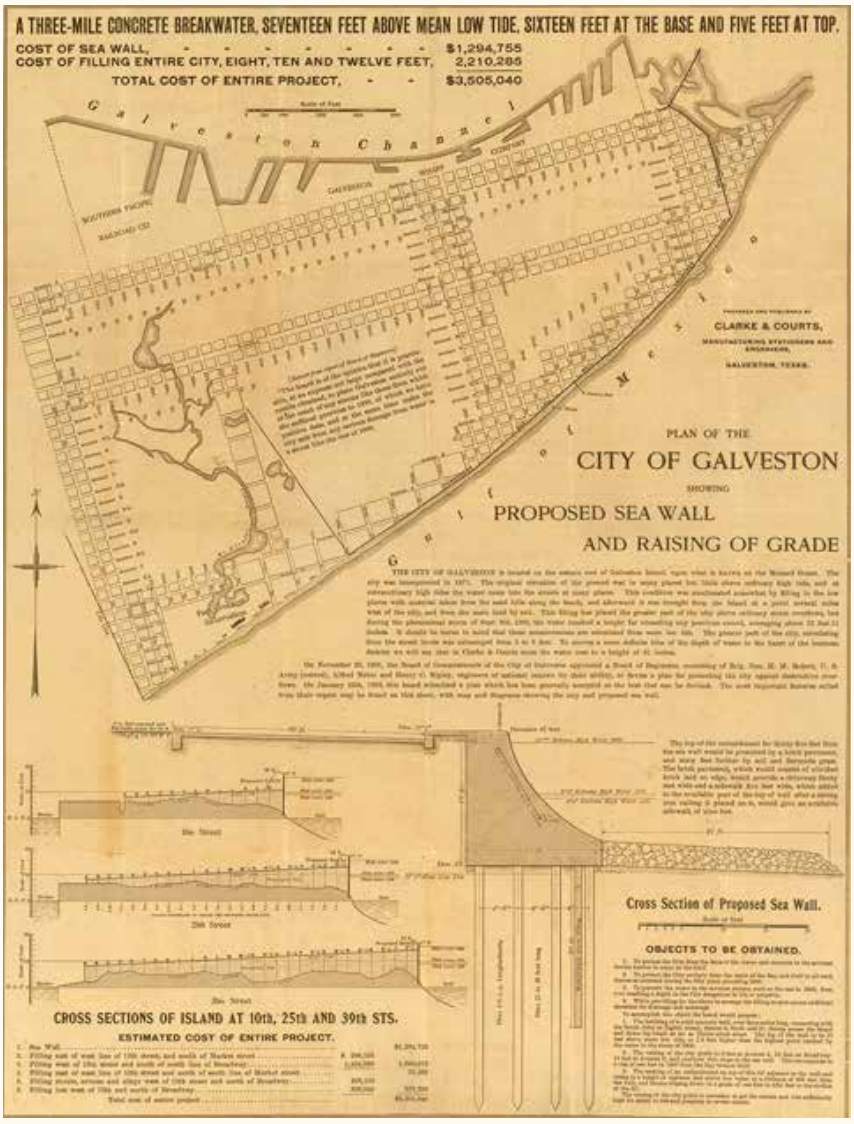
Issue 41 • Spring 2026

The Spring Meeting of the Texas Map Society

Mapping the Gulf of Mexico

Saturday • April 11, 2026

Rosenberg Library in Galveston



Plan of the City of Galveston, Texas, Showing Proposed Sea Wall and Raising of Grade. Clarke & Courts. Galveston, 1902. • Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library

For additional meeting details see pages 3-4

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Spring! I hope this newsletter finds you well. I missed seeing everyone at the Fall meeting in Arlington – what a time to be ill! I heard nothing but wonderful things about the meeting and am so grateful to all of the folks who stepped in to make it a success – especially our Vice President Lydia Towns who jumped in and made do with what she had on hand to keep things going. Thanks also to Imre Demhardt for jumping in to do a spontaneous presentation in the program slot I was to fill. I would also like to express my thanks to the UTA Library staff for coordinating things and UTA History PhD student Hannah Shepherd for volunteering her time. I appreciate everyone who pitched in that day.

I am very glad that we were able to co-host a tribute to former TMS President Dianne Powell and keep the Garrett family legacy at the forefront of Texas map collecting. I hope everyone in attendance enjoyed the meeting.

Speaking of meetings, mark your calendars for the Spring meeting, April 10-11 and the Fall meeting October 1-3. This year's Spring meeting will take place in Galveston focusing on mapping the Gulf of Mexico. Besides presentations on mapping the Gulf, there will be a tour at the Rosenberg Library, possibly a trip to the Bryan Museum (or other venue on the island), and a casual dinner hosted by TMS members Jim & Betty Key. Stay tuned for more details on registration. If you have something you would like to present, please contact me as soon as possible.

This Fall we will rejoin the biannual Virginia Garrett Lectures in Cartography, whose theme this year is Antarctica and will feature maps from David Finfrock's collection. If you have suggestions for meeting locations for 2027 and beyond, please propose them.

I look forward to all we have planned for the future of TMS and hope to see you all in Galveston in April.

- Mylynka Kilgore Cardona, PhD • President, TMS

FROM THE EDITOR

Unfortunately, the proposed TMS meeting last year in Galveston had to be cancelled. But the society has revamped and come up with a great program at the same location this spring. We certainly hope many TMS members will be able join us in Galveston on April 11. And on the way to or from the meeting, you may want to stop for a visit to the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site. If you have never been, it is a must-see for anyone interested in Texas history. I posted a short article about a map of the battleground in this issue. You can read more about the park here: https://thc.texas.gov/historic-sites/san-jacinto-battleground

I am very thankful for those TMS members who supply material for each edition of this newsletter. Martin van Braumann is a regular contributor and actually wrote two articles for this spring edition. And The General Land Office always comes through for me. As always, I would particularly like to see TMS members write up short articles for the *My Favorite Map* feature. Thanks to Madeline Lowry the cartographic archivist at UTA's Special Collections for this edition's selection. Perhaps YOU can provide one for the fall edition.

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. And remember that all previous editions of the newletter are now indexed on the website, so it is easier to find particular articles in past editions.

- David Finfrock, Editor of *The Neatline*.

Texas Map Society

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Texas Map Society members and others who helped produce this issue are: Mylynka Cardona, David Finfrock, James Harkins, Madeline Lowry, Evan Spencer, Martin Van Brauman, the staff of the Texas General Land Office, and our 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.

Mapping the Gulf of Mexico

By Mylynka Kilgore Cardona, PhD

TMS Spring Meeting 2026

This year's Spring Meeting will be held in the Wortham Auditorium at the Rosenberg Library in beautiful Galveston, Texas. The Rosenberg Library is the only public library on Galveston Island. Originally the successor to the Galveston Mercantile Library, founded in 1871, it is the oldest public library in Texas in continuous operation. The Rosenberg Library also houses the Galveston & Texas History Center, which collects materials relating to Galveston and early Texas.

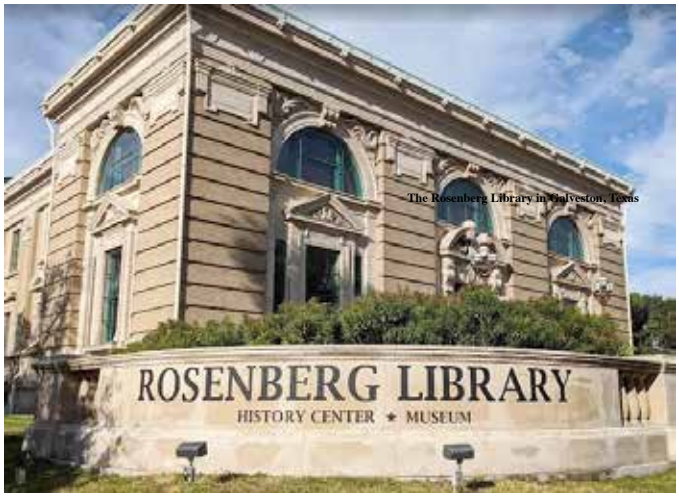
The theme of the Spring Meeting is "Mapping the Gulf of Mexico" and a Call for Papers has gone out in the hopes that we will attract a wide variety of map collectors, historians of cartography, marine scientists, geographers, archivists, digital humanities scholars, and others to explore the Gulf as a contested and evolving space. I encourage members to consider their collections and/or their scholarship and to contact either Lydia Towns, or myself, with their interest to present a 20-minute paper at the meeting. If you have students doing work on any aspect of the mapping of Texas, please encourage them to present.

We are currently working on setting up a tour in the Rosenberg Library's archives and museum and potentially an outing to another museum on the island.

Long time members Jim & Betty Key have graciously offered to host a gathering at their Galveston home for all of the meeting participants and attendees. We hope the weather will be outstanding so we can enjoy a Gulf Coast spring evening and maybe even do a little bit of coastal birdwatching.

Stay tuned for forthcoming information on the program, hotel, and news.

Insulae Americanae in Oceano Septentrionale, cum Terris adiacentibus, Joannes Janssonius. Amsterdam, 1660.



The Rosenberg Library in Galveston, Texas

1911 postcard of the Rosenberg Library in Galveston, Texas
From the Jenkins Garrett Postcard Collection in UTA's Special Collections

Les Costes aux Environs de la Riviere de Misisipi, Nicholas de Fer. Paris, 1705.

Continued on page 4

A New & Accurate Map of Mexico or New Spain... , Emanuel Bowen. London, 1747

TMS Graphics Designer Carol Lehman is Retiring

By David Finfrock

After several decades of dedicated service to the Texas Map Society, our graphics designer Carol Lehman has decided to retire. This news hit me hard, as Carol and I have worked together on making *The Neatline* a worthy publication since issue #9 in Spring 2010. And I never could have made it to this issue #41 without her.

While I gather articles from the TMS officers and membership, and write a few of my own, it has been Carol who has assembled those articles, photographs and map images into layouts for a publication that the entire society can be proud of. And I want to issue a hearty thank you to Carol for all of those years of service.

Looking ahead, the officers and board members will be making a decision sometime this spring on who will take over as graphic designer for the fall edition.

Carol and Michael Lehman, Spring 2025

A Note from Carol

I included my husband in this photo since he worked behind the scenes to help me with Microsoft issues that this MAC user didn't undersand. I really enjoyed working on *The Neatline* with David who is a wonderful editor.

SAVE THE DATE

2026 Virginia Garrett Lectures
Frozen Frontiers

The 15th Biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography will be held at the University of Texas at Arlington Libraries' Special Collections on October 1st and 2nd, 2026. This year's event, ***Frozen Frontiers: 500 Years of Mapping Antarctica***, will explore how the southern continent was imagined, charted, and portrayed on maps from the early modern era to present day.

The two-day program will feature lectures, panel discussions, and special events that explore the cultural, political, and scientific influences that have shaped Antarctic cartography over five centuries. An accompanying exhibit will allow viewers to journey through ice and time by exploring the pivotal maps that defined Antarctica from the cartographic collections at UTA's Special Collections.

This event is open to all. Registration is not required but is recommended. More information about how to register and a detailed schedule of events is coming soon to the Libraries' website at: https://libraries.uta.edu/news-events/current
The event will be followed by the Texas Map Society's 2026 fall meeting on Saturday, October 3rd, 2026, also at the University of Texas at Arlington.

For questions regarding the Virginia Garrett Lectures, contact Madeline Lowry (madeline.lowry@uta.edu)
For questions regarding the Texas Map Society's fall meeting, contact Mylynka Cardona (mylynka.cardona@etamu.edu)

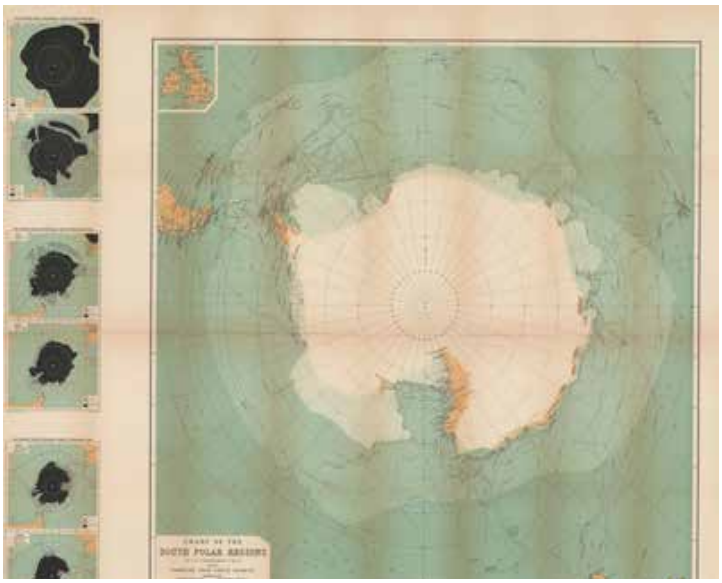


Chart of the South Polar Region, **J. G. Bartholomew, 1905, UTA Special Collections, 2025-417**

Review of the Fall 2025 TMS Meeting in Arlington

By David Finfrock

The fall meeting of the Texas Map Society occurred at UTA October 3-4. The theme of the gathering was to honor Dianne Powell, both for her services to the organization as a former president, and for her generous donation of maps to UTA's Special Collections over the years. Unfortunately, our current president, Mylynka Cardona, was ill and unable to attend the meeting. But Lydia Towns stepped in and ably filled the breech to preside over the meeting.

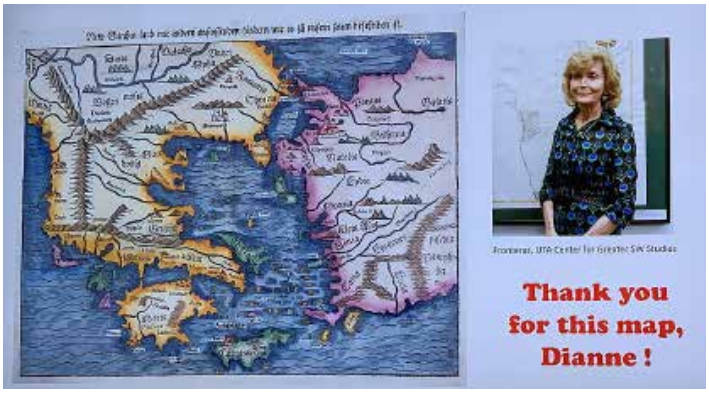
The event began on Friday evening with a celebration titled: Dianne Powell Tribute - Collecting In and About Texas. A panel discussion described how important the donations of Dianne Powell and the entire Garrett family were to UTA's Special Collections. That was followed by a tour of the exhibit of many of Dianne's maps that were on display.

The Saturday, October 4, Texas Map Society program featured discussions of some of those maps she had donated. It began with UTA's Dr. Imre Demhardt who discussed Sebastian Munster's ca. 1550 New Griechen land mit andern anstossenden Landern wie es zu unsern zeiten beschriben ist. He explained the sources of the map, along with details about the topography, toponyms and map colors used. The map was based on Waldseemuller's map, which was in turn based on Ptolemy's geography. Munster was so influential that he eventually was honored on a 100 mark bill of German currency in the late 20th century.

The next speaker was Dr. Gene Rhea Tucker of Temple College who gave an entertaining talk about Georg Braun's 1572 Mexico Regia et Celebris Hispaniae Novae Civitas (and) Cusco, Regni Peru in Novo Orbe Caput. This map was from a companion set to Ortelius' famed map atlas which incorporated various city views from across the world. This one in particular featured city views of Mexico City and Cuzco. These were based on Spanish texts, maps, and illustrations sent from the New World in the 1520s.

Continued on page 7

TMS Vice President Lydia Towns

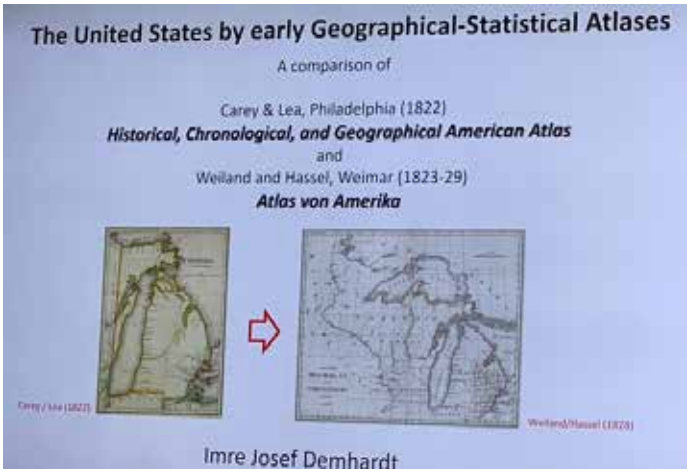


"Thank you Dianne"

German 100 mark bill

A New Map of the World

Fall 2025 Meeting *continued*



Comparison of two Michigan Maps

The next planned speaker was Mylynka Cardona who had planned to talk about Pieter van der Aa's 1713 Planisphere Terrestre Suivant les nouvelle Observations des Astronomes Dressee et presente Roy Tres Chretien par Mr. Cassini le Fils. But since she was ill, Dr. Imre Demhardt made a heroic last-minute substitution and spoke instead on a comparison of two maps: the Michigan territory map in Carey & Lea's 1822 Historical, Chronological and Geographical American Atlas, and Carl Ferdinand Weimar's 1823-1828 map of the same region in the Atlas von Amerika. Although they weren't maps donated by Dianne Powell, they still made for a fascinating discussion. The first to incorporate historical and geographical data into a map was Emmanuel de las Casas in his 1801 Atlas Historique, Généalogique, Chronologique et Géographique which became an immediate commercial success. That style of atlas was therefore copied by others, including the two that Dr. Demhardt discussed. Not surprisingly, given his heritage (and sense of humor), Demhardt suggested that the Weimar map of Michigan was superior to the Carey & Lea version.

TMS members enjoying lunch

For the final presentation of the morning, Dr. Alistair Maeer of Texas Wesleyan University discussed another of Dianne's donated maps: John Senex's 1721 A New Map of the World from the Latest Observations Most Humbly Inscribed to his Royal Highness George Prince of Wales. He discussed the map itself, with the unfinished coast of North America inviting exploration. But much of the talk was focused on the extreme Eurocentricity of the elaborate cartouche. Maeer also described the feud between Senex and his rival mapmaker Herman Moll.

That led to a very entertaining Q&A with Moll enthusiast Dr. Dennis Reinhartz in the audience.

A TMS business meeting was then held, discussing the need to find a new treasurer, and a forthcoming decision to change our communications from Constant Contact to Wild Apricot. After a brief preview of coming events in 2026, including a return to Galveston in the spring, the group adjourned for conversation and a relaxing lunch (complete with cartographic cookies!)

The afternoon session began with a presentation from Keshav Dimri, who was awarded the 2025 Virginia Garrett Award in Cartography for his paper on "Mapping the Divine". It was a careful and creative analysis of Hieronymus Bosch's ca. 1500 triptych painting The Garden of Earthly Delights. He explained how maps are frequently perceived as artwork, but that in this case, how artwork can also be perceived as a map. Dimri discussed how the painting showed four rivers flowing from Eden, just as did medieval mappamundi. He also noted how all the animals in the painting are of African origin, implying that the Garden of Eden was located in Africa.

Dimri was then joined by three previous winners of the Virginia Garrett Award in Cartography for a roundtable discussion: Robert Caldwell, Candace Carlisle Vilas and Justin Cole. They all emphasized how critically important the UTA Special Collections, and particularly the Virginia Garrett collections were to their research. In many cases the maps they discovered there led to complete changes in focus for their theses.

To end the day's events, we held our traditional TMS Map Corner. Several members shared their cartographic treasures before we moved to the Special Collections library. There we got another close view of the maps that had been discussed earlier in the day. We also enjoyed the opportunity to view several tables that held previously donated maps, courtesy of Dennis Reinhartz, David Finfrock and Jack Franke. There was a special celebration when Cartographic Archivist Madeline Lowry opened a new donated map from Jack Franke that had arrived only 24 hours earlier. Not surprisingly it was another beautiful old map of Africa. What a splendid way to end the day.

All photos courtesy of David Finfrock

MY FAVORITE MAP

Antarctic Conjecture and Speculative Geography

By Madeline Lowry

Over the past year, in preparation for the 2026 Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography, UTA Libraries Special Collections has been accumulating a large number of Antarctic maps. Many of these have generously been donated by David Finfrock while others have been purchased with funds from the Virginia Garrett Endowment. It seems like new and exciting acquisitions arrive in our map room every month if not every week! But there is one new Antarctic map that has especially piqued my interest as a print-history enthusiast – Philippe Buache's 1757 map, *Carte des Terres Australes Comprises entre le Tropique du Capricorne et le Pole Antarctique*.

Carte des Terres Australes Comprises entre le Tropique du Capricorne et le Pole Antarctique, **Philippe Buache, 1757, UTA Special Collections, 2026-70.**

Historical Approaches to Mapping the Unknown

This is Buache's second attempt to map the imagined southern continent that had not yet been discovered. It truly highlights the way Enlightenment cartographers grappled with unexplored regions of the world in a time when geography hovered between scientific evidence and informed hypotheses. Buache was considered a major figure in "speculative geography" or "theoretical geography" where physical landscapes were deduced from natural laws and reasoning rather than from empirical evidence. This approach became popular in Paris in the 18th century but has been used by cartographers for millennia.

We can trace the ideas of a southern continent back to ancient Greek thinkers. Philosophers like Parmenides and Aristotle suggested that the Earth was divided into climatic zones and that there must be large landmasses in the Southern Hemisphere to balance out what was in the Northern Hemisphere. This idea was later reinforced by Claudius Ptolemy in his *Geographia*. Although he didn't describe Antarctica specifically, he depicted a large southern landmass that enclosed the Indian Ocean, effectively creating a southern continent.

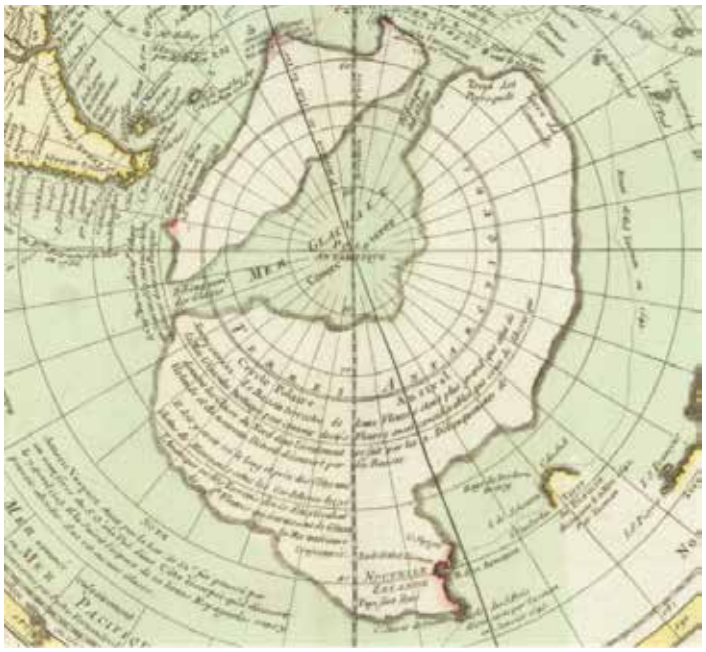
These classical ideas were adopted by cartographers through the Middle Ages and well into the Renaissance, which we can see reflected in many 16th century maps such as Abraham Ortelius' *Typus Orbis Terrarum*. But as 17th century European voyages charted more coastlines in the southern hemisphere, the idea of a grand southern continent began to fade from popular consensus. By the 18th century, most maps, especially Dutch maps, stop depicting *Terra Australis* all together. This is why Buache's speculative depiction of the southern continent in 1757 was exceptionally controversial.

Typus Orbus Terrarum,**Abraham Ortelius, 1570 (1588), UTA Special Collections, 2025-191**

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

Buache's *Terra Australes*

Buache's depictions relied on a mix of the most recently collected information from Antarctic explorers, scientific understandings of similar climatic regions, and his own academic conjecture. In this map we can see that he drew from the supposed Portuguese coastal sightings by labeling *Terres des Perroquets* and even the more dubious Gonneville sighting claim of *Terra de Gonneville*. It is also notable that New Zealand, which was contacted by Abel Tasman in 1642, is still attached to the southern continent. New Zealand would not be fully circumnavigated until Captain James Cook's first voyage in 1769, so Buache hypothesized that this land visited by Tasman would in fact be a part of *Terra Australes*.



Buache's *Carte des Terres Australes* **zoomed in.**

But the most striking difference in this map from other speculative maps of *Terra Australes* is the fragmented land. Rather than depicting one singular frozen continent, Buache presents two large landmasses with a large *Mer Glaciale,* or freezing sea, running through the middle. Buache developed this split-sea theory over several years. In his 1767 paper, "Geographical and Physical Observations, including a Theory of the Antarctic Regions, and the frozen sea which they are supposed to contain", published by the *Gentleman's Magazine*, Buache explains that the south pole must contain a frozen sea in order to produce the large icebergs that explorers such as Bouvet and Halley had encountered. In the margins of the map, Buache even makes textual notes on Jean-Baptiste Charles Bouvet de Lozier's 1738 expedition where these iceberg reports came from.

Although Buache primarily based his theories on the scientific and empirical evidence available to him, he still makes sure to state on the map that this inland sea is just conjecture. Buache's map, although ultimately incorrect, still holds historical significance. It marks a transitional moment in cartography, when mapmakers increasingly sought to align their work with scientific principles rather than tradition or myth. Buache's willingness to label conjecture as conjecture represents an important methodological shift, even if his conclusions were flawed. The map also reminds us that cartography has never been a purely descriptive activity. It is always shaped by cultural assumptions, scientific theories, and the desire to impose order to uncertainty.

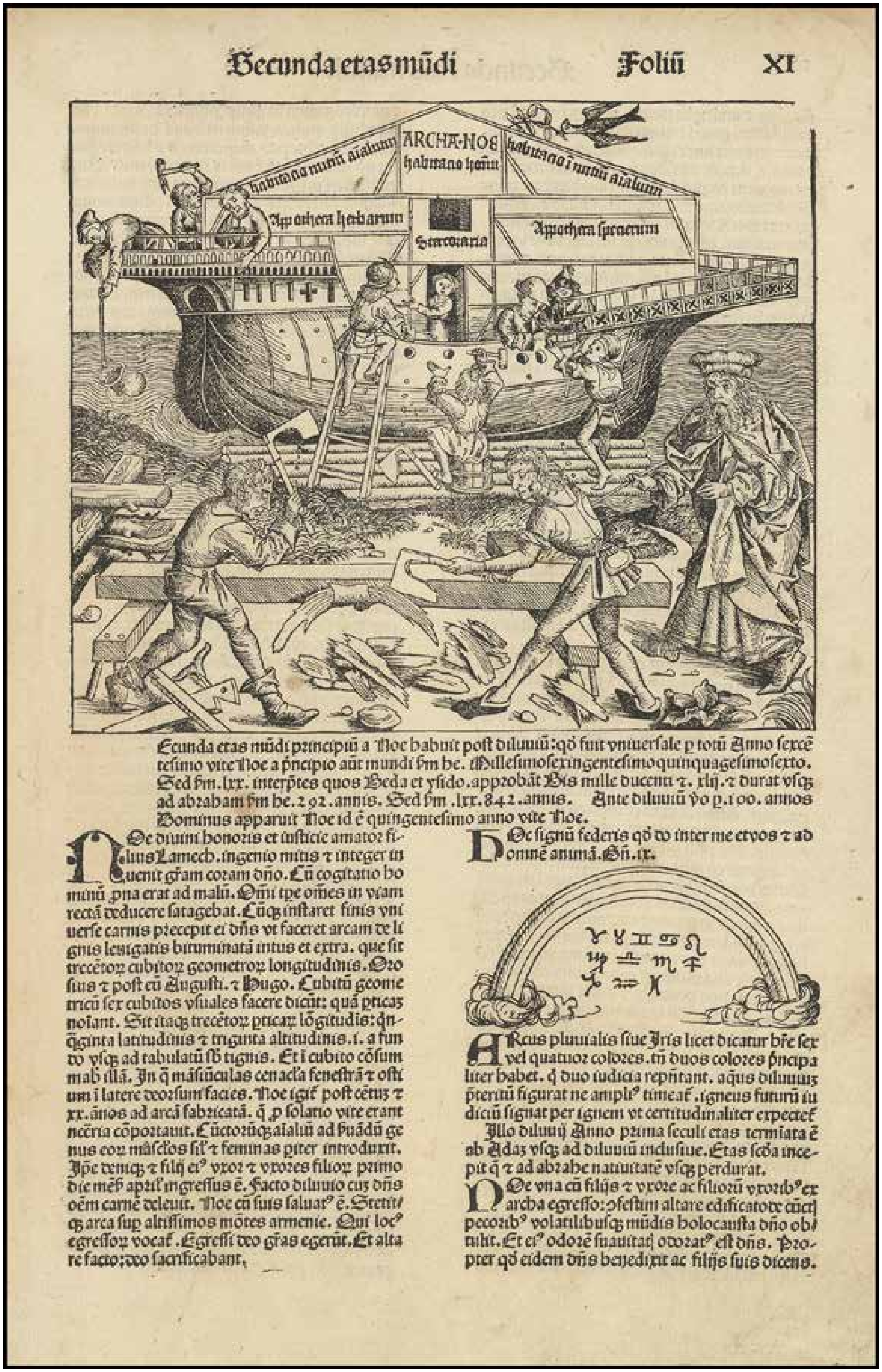
The Page Beyond the Geography

As a print-history enthusiast, this map excites me for more than its cartographic historical significance. I am also interested in the piece of paper itself. Like many 18th century maps, Buache's map was printed on high quality paper, made from cotton and linen rags. When held to the light, you can see the horizontal chain lines and irregular edges that are typical of this material. But you can also see a visible watermark of grapes which was an exceptionally popular motif among French papermakers.

Watermark on Buache's *Carte des Terres Australes*

Unfortunately, because the grape motif was so popular, this doesn't exactly help us identify the specific papermaker. But it does likely confirm its place and time of production. The material components of the map highlight its value and show us a more complete picture of the printing, publishing, and cartography enterprise of the time. And this is especially exciting in classroom settings as it allows us to incorporate the map into more discussions across subject lines.

This semester at UTA, we have already used this Buache map in different art, history, and even communication classes to explore the history of Antarctica. But we were also able to bring it into a book history class to introduce students to different print making techniques. Looking at maps from every angle allows us to reach more audiences and engage with more students and faculty. Buache's *Carte des Terres Australes* remains important to the history of cartography as an example of 18th century thinking, but it also continues to create new avenues of research and engage scholars from across different fields.


Secunda etas mūdi Foliū XI

ARCHA-NOE habitacio hoīu
habitacio iumēt aīalium
habitacio i mūdi aīalium
Apotheca herbarum
Sterco[r]aria
Apotheca specierum

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Hoc signū federis qd do inter me et vos ꝛ ad omnē animā. Gñ. ix.

Arcus pluuialis siue Iris licet dicatur hr̄e sex vel quatuor colores. tn̄ duos colores pncipaliter habet. q duo iudicia repñtant. aq̄s diluuiuꝫ pteritū figurat ne amplꝰ timeat. igneus futurū iudiciū signat per ignem vt certitudinaliter expectet.

Illo diluuij Anno prima seculi etas terminata ē ab Adaꝫ vsqꝫ ad diluuiū inclusiue. Etas scda incepit q ꝛ ad abrahe natiuitatē vsqꝫ perdurat.

Noe vna cū filijs ꝛ vxore ac filioꝝ vxoribꝰ ex archa egresso: ꝯfestim altare edificato de cūctis pecoribꝰ volatilibusqꝫ mūdis holocausta dño obtulit. Et eiꝰ odorē suauitatis odoratꝰ est dñs. Propter qd eidem dñs benedixit ac filijs suis dicens.

ARCHA-NOE, from the 1493 Latin edition of the Nuremberg Chronicle

Fifteenth Century Ship Building of Noah's Ark

By Martin M. van Brauman

The illustration, *ARCHA-NOE*, shows medieval construction of Noah's Ark. This illustration was one of five plates, in which the original drawings were discovered in 1972 and are believed to be attributable to the work of Albrecht Dürer. The woodcut was published in *The Nuremberg Chronicle* (*Weltchronik, Liber Chronicarum ab inicio mundi*) by Hartmann Schedel[1] in the rare July 1493 Latin edition.[2] The main page of the woodcut has the title *Becunda etas mũdi* (Second age of the world) and page *Foliũ XI* (leaf) with the verso page titled *Becunda etas mundi.* With this illustration, the second age of the world begins with the rainbow in the clouds and the end of the flood. The three greatest books printed during the fifteenth century were the *Gutenberg Bible*, the *Nuremberg Chronicle* and *Ptolemy's Geographia.*

The *Chronicle* was the first secular book to include the style of lavish illustrations previously reserved for Bibles and other liturgical works. Schedel was famous for his writing of the text in the *Chronicle*.[3] The *Liber Chronicarum*, Nuremberg Chronicle was named for the place of publication by the editor Schedel. The book was organized not geographically, but by the six ages of the world with the seventh age as its climax – the end of the world within 2 to 3 generations.[4] The work is medieval in organization and historical method, but the geography belongs to the transitional period during the late fifteenth century.

The Ark resembles a fifteenth century Carrack ship type with a forecastle or an upper forward deck for living quarters and an aftercastle in the stern of the ship. The *Appothera herbarum* was a storehouse for plants and herbs. The *Stercoraria* was the dug storage area.

In the foreground, two men cut beams from timber under the instructions of Noah with his pointing rod. Noah resembles a Jewish rabbi with the beard and long hair, giving instructions, and the workers' dress are of that period. The curved shape of the axes are distinctive of that century. In the background, carpenters are working with a mallet and a dual back spiked hammer on the Ark and others are loading provisions by a basket.

The Ark scene illustrates how a European ship of that century was built. The ship is already in the water and docked at the construction site as the Ark was being prepared for travel. However, with no masts for sails, the ship would only float on the rising water levels and not be driven by any winds.

Over the Ark, a dove brings an olive branch in its beak.

The dove came back to him in the evening – and behold! an olive leaf it had plucked with its mouth. Genesis 8:11.

In the text below, the illustration of a rainbow in the clouds symbolizes the covenant between God and man with interpreted ancient Hebrew letters underneath the rainbow.

I have set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. And it shall happen, when I cloud the earth with a cloud, and the bow will be seen in the cloud. I will remember My covenant between Me and you and every living being among all flesh, and the water shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be in the cloud, and I will look upon it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living being, among all flesh that is on earth. Genesis 9:13-16.

The Hebrew letters under the rainbow represent ancient Hebrew of which medieval scholars would be aware of original Hebrew from proto-Hebrew, Middle-Egyptian, Middle Kingdom to the Iron Age in Canaan. Fifteenth century European universities had departments for the study of sacred languages of Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic and would study Rabbinic texts. As a guess of possible letters from right to left and down, the first letter is a *Tav*, the second letter is a *Vav*, the third letter is a *Chet*, the fourth and fifth is *Ayin*, the sixth letter second row is a *Samech*, the seventh letter is *Mem*, the eighth letter is a *Nun*, the nineth letter may be a *Kaf*, the tenth letter third row may be another *Chet*, the eleventh letter is *Zayin* and the twelfth is *Tsadi*. The letters probably represent abbreviations of words from *Genesis 9* of God speaking to Noah. The above letters are only a guess from reviewing ancient alphabet charts.[5]

Endnotes

[1] Hartmann Schedel (1440-1514) was a German physician, humanist and historian and one of the first cartographers to use the printing press. He was born and died in Nuremberg (Nürnberg), one of the largest cities in the Holy Roman Empire in the 1490s at the time of the Nuremberg Chronicle. Nuremberg was one of the great cultural centers of Germany during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance and was especially prominent in the theory and practice of geographical science.

[2] The first print run of the *Chronicle* was between March 16, 1492 and June 12, 1493 for the Latin edition of July 1493 and December 23, 1493, for the German translation. Georg Alt was translating the *Chronicle* into German, even as the Latin version was being written. The printer, Anton Koberger, headed one of the largest printing operations of the time with 24 presses and a staff of nearly hundred. The printer was Anton Koberger on a commission from the merchants Sebald Schreyer and Sebastian Kammermeister. Koberger employed the master engravers, Michael Wolgemut (1434-1519) and William Pleydenwurff (1460-1494). Pleydenwurff was also a painter and illustrator and his stepfather was Wohlgemut. Albrecht Dürer served his apprenticeship in Koberger's shop with Wolgemut. Koberger was Dürer's godfather and it is possible that he prepared the some of the drawings for the engravings and engraved a number of the scenes for this work.

[3] Schedel used the assistance of Medieval and Renaissance writers such as Bede, Vincent of Beauvais, Martin of Tropau, Flavio Biondo, Bartolomeo Platina, Aeneas Piccolomini and Jacobus Philippus Foresti de Bergamo.

[4] The first age was from creation to the Flood. The second age ended with King David. The third age ended with the Babylonian captivity. The fourth age ended with the birth of Jesus. The fifth age was up to the present time (1490s) and the sixth age would conclude with the End the World and the Last Judgment and then the New Jerusalem, which people were assuming would occur within a few generations.

[5] Jeff A. Benner, "Hebrew Alphabet Chart: Evolution from Pictograph to Greek," containing charts from Hebrew Grammar by Wilhelm Gesenius and a chart from Dr. Douglas Petrovich.

UTA Special Collections presents Atlas of Champions

By Evan Spencer, Outreach & Instruction Archivist at UTA Special Collection

Croatia: Fisikalna Karta Hrvatske, Slavonije, e Dalmacije, by Karlo Herdlickza and F. Köke, 1900, UTA Special Collections

This summer, 48 nations will meet on the soccer fields of North America in the "world's premier international competition", the FIFA World Cup. To celebrate the world coming together on the field, UTA Special Collections is proud to present *Atlas of Champions: Historic Maps of the 2026 World Cup Nations*, an exhibition featuring one map to represent each nation in the event.

As athletes and spectators travel from across the globe to view games, you can explore the vibrant cartographic history of the world! This exhibition will celebrate the diverse holdings of the Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library by showcasing maps of many different styles and mediums, from as old as 1513 (Martin Waldseemüller's *Tabula Moderna et Nova Hispanie* – representing Spain*)* to as recent as 2022 (a tourist map of Doha from the last World Cup – representing Qatar).

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England: A Map of England from the latest observations, by John Senex, 1721, UTA Special Collections

Ghana: Map of the Gold Coast including the British Mandate of Togoland, by War Office and Edward Stanford, 1911, UTA Special Collections

Atlas of Champions *continued*

Spain Map: Tabula Moderna et Nova Hispanie, Martin Waldseemüller, 1513, UTA Special Collections

Panama: Carta Maritima del Reyno de Tierra Firme u Castilla del Oro comprehende del istmo de Panama..., by Juan López, 1785, UTA Special Collections

One of my favorite inclusions is the newly acquired Herdliczka & Koke map *Fisikalna Karta Hrvatske, Slavonije, e Dalmacije*, a Croatian-language map representing Croatia in the exhibit. This map will be displayed alongside Croatia's Group L adversaries England (Senex's *A New Map of England* from his 1721 atlas), Ghana (British War Office *Map of the Gold Coast* from 1911), and Panama (Juan Lopez's *Carta Maritima del... istmo de Panama* from 1785).

In all, *Atlas of Champions* brings together 56 maps that are seemingly unrelated but are connected by the World Cup. The exhibit will be on view at Special Collections from mid-April through September 2026. A partial version will also be on view at the Arlington Museum of Art from May through August.

Qatar Map: FIFA World Cup 2022, by Fédération Internationale de Football Association, UTA Special Collections

Cloth Escape Maps of the European Theatre During WW II

By Martin M. van Brauman

During World War II, the United States and Great Britain produced over 3.5 million cloth maps for military personnel to use as escape maps in enemy occupied territory. The maps were to help primarily airmen shot down and in evading capture, but also cloth maps were used to assist in the movement of Allied armies in the Theatres of war. US military intelligence established an intelligence unit, MIS-X, which was responsible for the production of cloth maps for the US military.

The cloth maps for escape and evasion maps were durable, did not rustle at night, folded very compactly for concealment and had waterproof dyes so colors would not run when wet. The map production was a new form and specialized technique in map design. The lithographic process produced thousands of copies of the same maps, containing many different shades of color, printed on both sides of the same piece of material and with the same degree of accuracy.

The first US cloth maps were printed on balloon cloth and silk, but better material, acetate rayon, was used for all subsequent cloth escape maps. The American maps were supplied by the Army Map Service.[6] The Army Map Service used the Kaumagraph Company of Wilmington, Delaware, to research the best fabric for lithography on cloth. Working with the DuPont Corporation and Burlington Mills, Kaumagraph suggested acetate rayon. The Army Map Service also asked for samples of acetate rayon fabric from the Celanese Corporation of America, a manufacturer of rayon yarns, who later sent rolls of their fabric to Kaumagraph for printing samples. Kaumagraph's produced fabrics and the Celanese fabrics were similar if not identical.[7]

In August 1943, the Army Map Service commenced mass production of the 2-sided cloth maps. The Army Map Service had 17 high-speed lithographic offset presses, which were printing 4,000 to 4,500 impressions per hour and turning out 4 to 5 million military maps per month.[8] The Army Map Service placed most printing orders with the Kaumagraph Company of New York, the Sweeney Lithograph Company of Belleville, New Jersey, and A.D. Steinbach and Sons, Inc. of New Haven, CT.[9] However, the maps below were not printed by these three companies, since the maps do not have their marks.

The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) established a Map Information Section in February 1942 for obtaining maps from existing resources at the Army Map Service, the Library of Congress, the Department of State and the American Geographical Society. The Operational and Research Staff of the OSS built a collection of maps in the OSS Map Library.[10] The OSS worked with the Army Map Service to prepare military operational maps.

The maps in the article are cloth maps used by the OSS, America's first wartime espionage service[11] and also were used by the Reconnaissance Companies of Tank Destroyer Battalions.[12] OSS agents conducted espionage services during the war and behind enemy lines.[13] The maps below were folded in a 6" by 6" brown pouch and marked on the outside by "EUR."[14] In the pouch, there were duplicate maps of ***Figs. 1*** and ***2***, which maps would be important for the OSS. The Allied and Axis powers boundary information provide some indication of the time period of a map. The map in ***Fig. 1*** shows the Western Front before the Ardennes Offensive in Belgium, Luxembourg and France between December 16, 1944, and January 28, 1945 (the Battle of the Bulge) and after the Allied D-Day landing of June 1944 and the liberation of Paris.

In 1943, a set of much larger format cloth maps was produced for the European theatre of varying dimensions, which were the maps in ***Figs. 3-8***.[15] The maps were based on maps of the International Map of the World (IMW) series. Each map was a composite of nine existing IMW sheets. The maps had no formal identification and were undated. The IMW series maps were topographical maps that included different color shadings to indicate changes in regional elevations. Up to seven basic colors were used for distinct shades on elevations. The cloth maps included towns, railroads, canals, many other features and scales for distances.

These maps were numbered by the prefix 43, followed by an upper-case letter, such as 43/A to 43/D, 43K (East) and 43K (West) and printed back-to-back per cloth. These maps are shown in ***Figures 3*** through ***8***. The cloth map of Holland, Belgium, France, Switzerland and Germany, Sheet D, [***Fig. 6***] is featured in John G. Doll's book, which indicates the use of the IMW maps by the OSS.[16]

Figures 1 and ***2*** shown maps numbered as 9.C and the reverse side 2.B. These cloth maps with 9.C [the Western Front] on one side and 2.B [the railways, road systems and the international boundaries with Berlin in the center of the map] on the reverse side have not been identified by the printing source, but the information on the maps would be very important for the OSS agents.[17]

Map France (9.C) [**Fig. 1**] The map of France shows the boundary between occupied and non-occupied France with a solid red line. The map shows the Coastal Defense Area in bold red hash marks. The *Southern Boundary to Zone Interdite*

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Cloth Escape Maps *continued*

(forbidden) is shown with red "XX's" and solid green lines show international boundaries. The map shows the boundary with Spain, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland and western Germany. The map shows rivers, canals, roads, railways and the Reichsautobahnen. The map appears to show the time period before the Battle of the Bulge. [16 ½ x 23 ¼ in.

Map Germany (2.B) **[Fig. 2]** On the reverse side of **Fig. 1**, the map shows Germany surrounded by Poland, eastern part of Russia, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, western part of France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Holland. The map shows the international boundaries in 1941 and 1939. The map shows rivers, canals, roads, railways and the Reichsautobahnen. [16 ½ x 23 ¼ in.]

Map Sheet A (43/A) **[Fig. 3]** Map Sheet A shows France (North West), Belgium (West/Central), and part of Holland. The map shows the International Frontiers with a solid red line. The map shows rivers, canals, roads, railways and the Autobahnen. [26 ½ x 29 in.]

The upper insert maps show the Pyrenees (East/Central) and the Pyrenees (West). The upper maps show the Franco Frontier and the North Limit of the Forbidden Zone and provide woods and mountain range elevations by color.

Map Sheet B (43/B) **[Fig. 4]** On the reverse side of Sheet A is Sheet B, which shows two maps. On the left side, the German and Swiss Frontier is shown with a solid red line for the International Frontiers. This section shows details of woods, meadows, aeodromes, chapels, churches, monasteries, factory blast furnaces, etc. [26 ½ x 29 in.]

The center of the map shows France (South West) and Spain (North). The Northern Limit of the Forbidden Zone in Germany is shown with a solid blue line. The Line of Demarcation is shown with a solid green line. Instructions provide that "Where the Line runs beside a road, it should be taken that the road forms the boundary." "Elsewhere, the Line follows mountain pathways or rivers and is only approximate." "The Heights engraved on the map are in Metres." International Frontier is shown in a solid red line.

Map Sheets C (43/C) **[Fig. 5]** Map of Sheet C shows Holland, Belgium (except West Coast), Germany (West/Central) and France (North East). The map shows railways, canals, Autobahnen and roads. There is a scale of heights in color of the topography. International Frontiers are drawn with solid dark red lines. Former Frontiers are solid dark purple lines. [26 ½ x 29 in.]

Continued on page 16

Cloth Escape Maps *continued*

Map Sheet D (43/D) **[Fig. 6]** On the reverse of Sheet C, Sheet D on the left side shows France (South East), Germany (South West) and Switzerland (except South East). On the right side is Belgium and Germany (New Frontier). The map provides the Line of Demarcation with a solid green line in France. The International Frontier is a solid dark red line and Former Frontier is a solid purple line. The maps show the usual canals, railways, roads and Autobahnen. [26 ½ x 29 in.]

Map 43/K (East) Spain (North East) and France (South West) **[Fig. 7]** The map shows Spain from the Bay of Biscay to Barcelona on the Mediterranean. The Northern Limit of Southern Forbidden Zone is a solid green line. The Southern End of Line of demarcation is a broken red line. The map shows Boundaries both international and provincial. The map provides a Pronunciation Glossary of Spanish and Portuguese. [23 ½ x 20 ½ in.]

Map 43/K (West) Portugal (North) and Spain (North West) **[Fig. 8]** The map references the Legend on the reverse of 43/K (East), which is the map on the reverse sheet. The map provides a Scale of inches to miles and kilometers. [23 ½ x 20 ½ in.]

Conclusion

These cloth escape maps tell a story of the challenges after landing in France of the Allied armies march through Europe to defeat the enemy during WWII. The maps provide a glimpse of the territory that our parents, grandparents and great grandparents had to travel and their struggle through the battlefields.

The silent generation did not tell us much of their story, but we have some bits and pieces from other sources to guess at some of the unanswered questions of what they experienced. It is too late to ask those questions directly. The cloth maps of WWII do present a small window into their struggle that they wanted to forget and not discuss with their children and grandchildren.

Endnotes

1 See William H. Nichols, "The Making of Military Maps," *The National Geographic Magazine*, Volume LXXXIII, No. 6, June 1943, pp. 764-778.

2 The Celanese Corporation manufactured yarns from its weaving mills, which it sold to cloth mills such as Kaumagraph
.

3 Nichols, p. 778.

4 The printers placed identifying marks on the printed map sheets: Kaumagraph Company of New York City (KG); Sweeney Lithograph Company of Belleville, NJ (SF); and A.D. Steinbach and Sons, Inc. of New Haven, CT (SS).

5 Leonard S. Wilson, "Library Filing, Classification, and Cataloging of Maps, With Special Reference to Wartime Experience," Annuals Association American Geography, 1948, Vol. 38, No. 1, pp. 6-37.

6 The OSS was created in July 1942 by President Roosevelt, who named Col. William J. Donovan as the director. The OSS recruited from both military and civilian people with special skills. The wartime counterintelligence mission was detecting and combating enemy espionage, subversion, sabotage and hunting down major Nazi party officials, members of the German General Staff and war criminals.

7 See Harry Yeide, *The Tank Killers, A History of America's World War II Tank Destroyer Force, Havertown:* Casemate, 1st ed. 2004, seventh picture after p. 148 of Reconnaissance Company captain of a Tank Destroyer Battalion examining apparently a cloth map. Reconnaissance Companies played a vital function of gathering tactical information and coordinating the movement of infantry divisions.

8 The cloth maps belonged to Martin M. van Brauman, senior, who was an officer in the 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, Company C. The 692nd Battalion arrived at Cherbourg France on 23 September 1944 as one of the first ships to enter the port. The Battalion entered the battle near Wustwezel, Belgium around the 28th of October and fought along the Siegfried Line near Stolberg in November. During the Battle of the Bulge (the Ardennes battle), it fought along the Roer River and then drove to the Rhine River and Cologne in late February and early March. Company C supported the 104th Infantry Division of the First Army. Martin was recruited during the Battle of the Bulge into the OSS to go behind German lines and with the German underground in southern Germany to hunt down Hermann Göring and Julius Streicher. He later assumed occupational duties as a Government Safety Officer in Nuremberg to capture Gestapo agents and high-ranking SS officers. He came upon two high-ranking SS officers in an underground tunnel in Nuremberg, who had shot each other by suicide. The 692nd liberated Dachau and the OSS documented the horrors of the concentration camp, which he witnessed. See Yeide, p. 268.

9 See John G. *Doll, Cloth Maps, Charts and Blood Chits of World War II*, Hoosick Falls: Merriam Press, 10th ed. 2020, p. 161, an example of a map pouch.

10 Barbara Bond, "Maps Printed on Silk," *The Map Collector*, Issue No. 22, March 1983, pp. 10-13.

11 Doll, p. 162

12 Col. William L. O'Donovan, Director of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), sent letters in April 15th and 19th of 1943 about "Celanese Cloth for Map Prints" to Lt. Col. F. W. Mast, Army Service MIS-X.

Map of the San Jacinto Battlefield

Editor's note - Considering our spring meeting of the Texas Map Society will be in Galveston, not far from San Jacinto, and we will be meeting just 10 days before the anniversary of that historic Texas battle, I thought it would be a good idea to include this article from the staff of the General Land Office on a map and books they acquired in 2025.

The General Land Office acquires individual maps, historic bound volumes, and manuscript collections via donation and purchase to help supplement the agency's archival holdings and provide additional resources for the genealogists, surveyors, historians, and other professional researchers who use our records. This also helps us fulfill the educational mission of our Save Texas History Program.

In honor of San Jacinto Day, the agency recently acquired H. Yoakum's important nineteenth-century book, *History of Texas from its First Settlement in 1685 to its Annexation to the United States in 1846* (2 vols.), which features this military map of the San Jacinto Battleground.

Click the links below to access free PDFs of Volume 1 and Volume 2 of this rare book:

Volume 1 - https://historictexasmaps.com/collection/search-results/97390-history-of-texas-from-its-first-settlement-in-1685-to-its-annexation-to-the-united-states-in-1846-vol-1-general-map-collection?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Volume 2 - https://historictexasmaps.com/collection/search-results/97391-history-of-texas-from-its-first-settlement-in-1685-to-its-annexation-to-the-united-states-in-1846-vol-2-general-map-collection?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

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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."

Please help us keep our signals straight! Send updates of your contact information (email address & physical address) to:

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