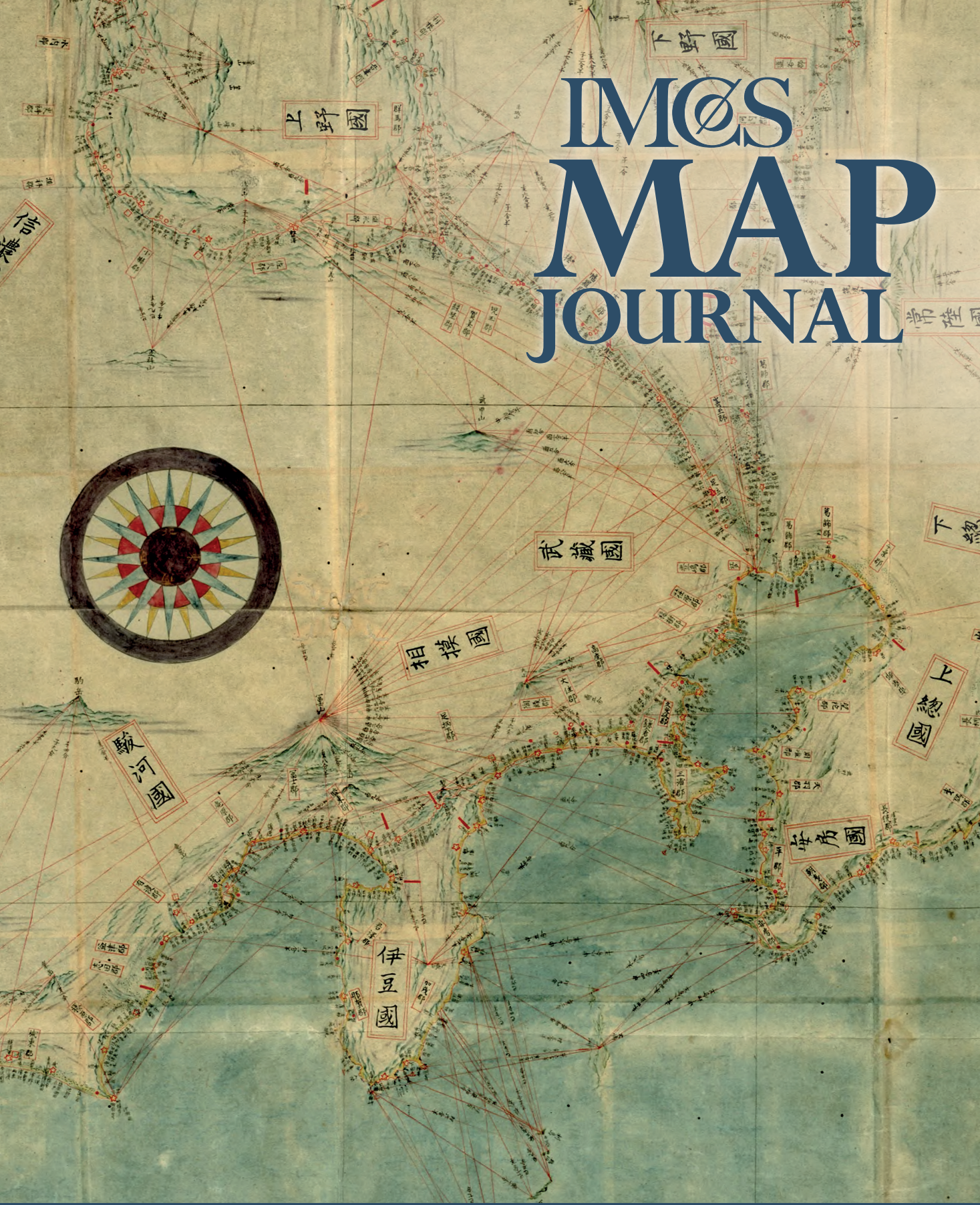


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INTERNATIONAL MAP COLLECTORS' SOCIETY DECEMBER 2025 | No.183



Herman Moll's monumental wall map of South East Asia published circa 1726

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ARTICLES

Inō Tadataka: The Japanese surveyor who walked 40 million steps to map Japan 6
John F. Brock

The First Hebrew World Atlas and Jewish Farming Settlements in Western Canada 18
Stephen E. Nagler

REGULAR ITEMS

New Members 2

Letter from the Chairman 3

Editorial 5

National Representatives 5

IMCoS Matters
- Dates for your Diary 30
- IMCoS-Helen Wallis Award, 2025 32
- Report from the 42nd IMCoS International Symposium, Portland, Maine 34

43rd IMCoS International Symposium Programme, Japan 2026 42

Mapping Matters
- Obituary Albert Ganado (1924–2025) 46

Book Reviews 49
The Library of Lost Maps by James Cheshire (Richard Oliver) ♦ *London Topographical Record XXXIII*, edited by Sheila O'Connell (Richard Oliver)

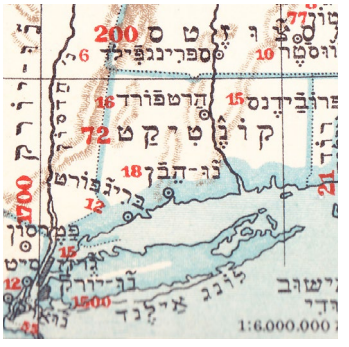
Exhibition Reviews
Cataloniae Descriptio, El patrimoni cartogràfic de Catalunya
Agustin Hernando Rica 52
Secret Maps
Mike Sweeting 55

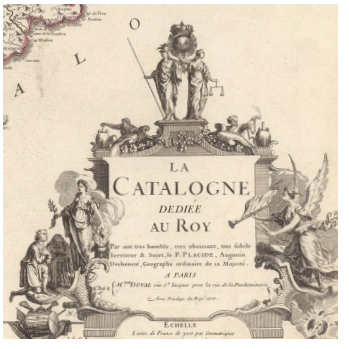
Cartography Calendar 58

Contributing to the *IMCoS Map Journal* 62

Index of Advertisers 63



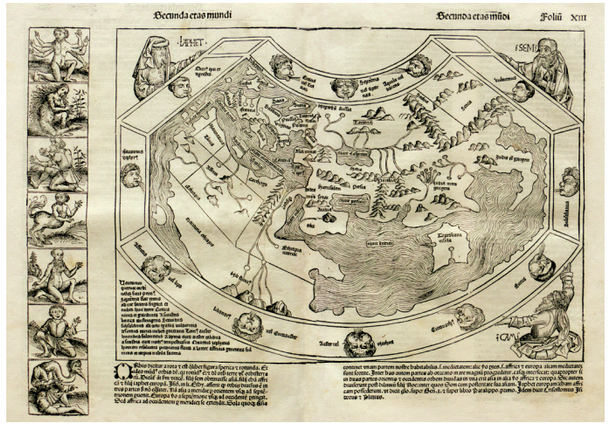




Front cover Detail from Inō Tadataka 'Scaled Map of Coastal Japan, The Eastern Provinces'. Library of Congress https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.wdl/wdl.11825

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Mike Sweeting

I ended my previous Chairman's Letter with a challenge to keep map collecting relational. This plea derived from the fact that for most of us the act of collecting has become more of an online activity. Nonetheless, an event like our annual International Symposium, which this year took place in Portland, Maine, was a feast of the relational aspect of the map world. I will not go into a full description of what took place. That can be found elsewhere in the Journal. I will, however, remark on what has stuck in my mind and that of my wife Lesley.

First must be the welcoming attitude of the organizing team and the staff of the Osher Map Library as a whole, including the Trustees we met. In a recent interrogation by myself, Lesley remarked on the pleasant conversations enjoyed during both boat trips, during all meals – whether together or in smaller groups, and following presentations or viewings. Several of the less 'mappy' attendees said similar, adding that the interest seemed to attract interesting people!

On a personal note, I very much enjoyed a cocktail (or two) in the roof bar of our hotel to celebrate my birthday. Partly through the lectures themselves, and partly through poking around, my intellectual interest in the context of where we were was aroused. Through the maps one could see how the 'skeleton' of modern Portland was formed, how Maine came to be a State, and how attitudes to the area's natural riches determined both boom and bust. Beneath that skeleton, too, one could observe the earlier human use of the land, older place-names and a different way of life. It helped that I studied anthropology at PhD level, admire Longfellow, whose home we visited; and like modern art, as displayed in Portland Art Museum. I also seriously admire clam chowder and lobster dinners!

It was good to see younger collectors and scholars present. I was particularly envious of one who came with both tent and canoe! Several collectors arrived as the Victorians use to say 'en famille', with a younger generation well represented.

Others who attended will, of course, have different moments to treasure and different triggers for thought and reflection. I write as a family and outdoor orientated Englishman who had never been to Maine before, with no US collecting interests. However, even I could see that we were being shown world class, world significant maps and related artifacts. We were also being drawn into a serious academic conversation regarding Maine's past and future with maps and mapping as the main medium.

In conclusion the hopes that I expressed in my summer letter were met in my September experience. I am sure for all others who attended Portland, the same can be said. I hear of a recent good time had by all at the Newberry Library in Chicago and trust that you, dear member, will have something very similar very soon!

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EDITORIAL

Ljiljana Ortolja-Baird

Described by Keat's as a season of 'mellow fruitfulness', autumn is also predictably abundant with conferences and book fairs. This September IMCoS enjoyed its International Symposium in Portland, Maine. This was its 42nd iteration, quite a feat for a small society that staged its first symposium in Amsterdam in 1982. The longevity of this annual event can be attributed to the quality of the lectures and the extra-curricular activities of map showings and excursions offered by the host, and the general conviviality of the occasion. I look forward to the next in Japan.

One conference I am sorry to have missed was the Barry Lawrence Ruderman Conference on Cartography that took place in October at the David Rumsey Map Center. Its title, *Above and Below*, promising talks on 'cartography of anything but the earth's surface' made me sit up and wonder where the discussions might go. Finding new perspectives is a hallmark of these biennial lectures. Each of the five previous conferences has offered a fresh and challenging theme for investigation. The first, in 2017, was designed to shed light on cartographic areas that have otherwise been ignored; the second focused on the relationship between gender, sexuality, and cartography; the third on Indigenous mapping; and the fourth concentrated on data visualization, on how maps can communicate all kinds of information. The lectures presented at past conferences are available to view at https://ruderman.sites.stanford.edu/node/76. This is a marvellous resource.

As might be expected, cartographic topics avoiding discussion of the earth's surface would address the heavens and oceans. The speakers did just that but the areas of their research took the audience to unfamiliar cartographic territories. Discussed was the mapping of anthropogenic weather; the use of radio echo sounds in the mapping of glaciers and icy planetary bodies; the Sloan Digital Survey which is mapping the sky with multi-object spectroscopy, aiming to extract the maximum information about the physics of star, black hole and galaxy formation; the work of the company TeleGeography which maps the data flows that shape the information economy, the fibre optic submarine cables that make the global internet possible and the communications hubs and data centres that comprise key work sites for the online world and the companies whose investments and relationships power the development of future networks.

Anchoring some of these forward-looking topics was Betsy Mason's lecture on the pioneering work of geologist Maria Tharp whose groundbreaking mapping of the ocean floor revolutionised the way we understand the subsea terrain (three quarters of the earth's surface) and precipitated a change in the then understanding of tectonic plates. The lecture was a reminder of the long line of outstanding cartographical pioneers who have provided stepping-stones to the research the audience was privileged to hear at the conference.

Before I wrap up this year I wish you all a happy festive season and look forward to seeing you at the next Show & Tell event in March.



INŌ TADATAKA

The Japanese surveyor who walked 40 million steps to map Japan

John F. Brock

While browsing the net to see what conferences with a historical mapping and surveying theme were being offered in 2019, the ICC (International Cartographic Conference) caught my attention, mainly because among the promotional material for their conference was a 1995 postage stamp celebrating the 250th year since the birth of the legendary surveyor Inō Tadataka.[1] The Japanese postal service had struck an 80 yen stamp in tribute to his monumental survey.

Inō Tadataka (1745–1818) was responsible for surveying Japan and its islands, providing the data for the first map of its territory that relied on scientific surveying methods. Although it was published posthumously in 1821, he is rightly lauded as the genius behind this cartographic masterpiece. Inō began his survey at the advanced age of 55 years and spent the last seventeen years of his life walking and measuring the entirety of Japan's coastal boundaries. It is estimated that he walked 40 million steps in this epic enterprise and to honour his achievement, every year a theatre performance about his life is now staged.[2]

In this article I shall trace the great man's life, highlight the Edo period (1603–1868) of Japanese history during which Inō was practising, and describe the techniques and surveying equipment he and his survey teams used.

Inō's life before mapping

Inō Tadataka was born Chukei ne Sanjiro on 11 February 1745 to Sadatsune Jimbo. He was the third and youngest child of the village officer of Onzumimura in the Province of Kazusa. His humble place of origin was near to modern Narita Airport in what is now the northern Chiba Prefecture. Not a lot is known of Inō's early years except that after his mother's death, when he was six, his father remarried and Chukei was left in straitened circumstances with various relatives. During this time he is said to have been taught mathematics and medicine, purported to be subjects which promised distinction even for commoners.

At 17 he married into the Inō family, part of a wealthy clan of the Sawara region. They had businesses in rice and sake production as well as shipping. At their height, the family owned 36 breweries in the area. The Inōs were also major stakeholders of land in the district. Upon his marriage Chukei was rechristened Inō Suburōeman Tadataka. The middle name was the hereditary name assigned to all the heads of the Inō clan with Tadataka as his given name. As head of the village and the family organization, Inō maintained scrupulous values, was never tempted by wealth and power, and always demonstrated a genuine concern for his people. When food was short and the tax department tried to impose an unfair levy on the desperate farmers, Inō and another family member paid their dues.

In 1790 he passed the majority of the running of the family business to his son, and with more leisure time he took up the study of astronomy and taught himself land surveying. He studied available texts on land surveying – *Ryōchi-shinan* (A Guide Book to Land Surveying, 1733) by Masahiro Murai and *Choken-bengi* (Discussions of Surveying, 1734) by Dōkan Shimada – which provided him with the skills to define the boundaries of the farms in the region. Some of the maps he made at that time, along with plans of his dwellings in 1792 and 1794, are preserved. They display his early surveying competence and skill in using instruments such as the gnomon, magnetic compass (circumferentor) and the simple vertical circle, although these instruments were unfit for precise mapping purposes. Examples of the kind of instruments he used for these early surveys are on view at the Inō Tadataka Museum in his hometown of Sawara.

Inō grew up in a period when the average life expectancy was around 50 years. Therefore, his decision to retire aged 50 was not out of the ordinary. What he chose to do next, however, was quite extraordinary for the time. He regarded the next phase of his life as an opportunity to study astronomical measurements under the direction of Takahashi Yoshitoki (1764–1853), the shogunate's

Fig. 1 Ohiro Okuma, bronze statue of Inō Tadataka, erected in 1919 in Katori close to the Inō Tadataka Museum in Sawara.

official astronomer. Under Takahashi's guidance Inō hoped to master the techniques of accurate surveying and eventually undertake a complete survey of Japan. He took up residence in Edo (Tokyo),[3] where he converted his house into a private observatory. He filled it with scientific instruments that rivalled those in the shogun's official observatory in Asakusabashi.[4] After a five-year internship, Inō emerged from the master's tutelage able 'to determine accurately the length of the earth's meridian – and thus able to calculate the size of the planet earth'.[5] Returning from his first survey in 1800, Inō calculated the length of one degree of the meridian arc to be 106 kilometres.

Motivated and encouraged by his much younger master, Inō burdened himself with the onerous task of making the first accurate map of Japan. Although he self-funded the initial part of the project, he still needed to apply for official permission to do so. He wrote:

> Now that I have studied day and night for six years as a pupil of Mr. Sakuzaemon Takahashi I am able to make measurements without error. For the purpose, I have collected various instruments and expended more money than would befit my position. Though it is but the hobby of a retired old man, it often makes me feel sinful. So I have wished to make maps that might serve as reference to coming generations.[6]

Surveying in the Edo period (1603–1868)

During the Edo period, Japan followed the policy of Sakoku, which translates as 'a country in chains'. Japan sought almost complete isolation from the rest of the world, banning Christianity and restricting overseas travel and trade, although maintaining limited trading relationships with China and Dutch traders living on an island in Nagasaki harbour. Foreign scientific publications were restricted to Chinese and Dutch. Inō had to learn these foreign languages to acquire the necessary skills he needed for his project. He was also confronted with a scarcity of accurate surveying instruments, which compelled him to manufacture them himself from designs he found in foreign instrument manuals.

It was strictly forbidden to conduct any surveying in public streets or areas classified as inappropriate by the martial law invoked by the Tokugawa shogunate, which virtually controlled all aspects of human existence in Japan. Domestic travel was regulated, requiring surveyors to obtain permission in each domain for their operations. To endorse the legitimacy of his survey teams, each party was required to possess a flag granting them the authority to carry out the survey measurements they required.

Inō's ten surveys

The distance covered by Inō and his survey parties is estimated to be 40,000 kilometres. The distance is made up of the coastline of Japan, divided into its five islands of Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku and Okinawa (29,751 kms) plus Inō's total traverse distance, including side excursions to parts of the interior, such as Mount Hakodate. So a distance of around 40,000,000 metres is fully credible.

The seventeen-year project was carried out in two stages – the eastern portion and the western portion – comprising ten surveying expeditions. The first survey, made up of five team members, started on 11 June 1800 with the intention to map the northeastern regions of Honshu to Hokkaido, finally reaching Bekkai (Betsukai) in the far northeast of Hokkaido, an area frequented by Russian ships that traded openly with the Ainu people. This work was done entirely by pacing and with interspersed astronomical observations. Inō and his team covered some 3,244 kilometres. This stage of the survey lasted 180 days and was totally funded by Inō. The next expedition, however, was paid for by the Bakufu government who acknowledged the importance of the work.

The second expedition left Tokyo in the summer of 1801 and took six months to survey the Eastern coast of Honshu from south of the capital to the far north of the island: 64 days to survey the area between Edo (Tokyo) and Izu and a further 166 days to complete the rocky northeastern coastline of Honshu. They measured the interior route on the return journey, which was over 3,122 kilometres. Route three surveyed the west coast of Tohoku (northern Honshu) in 1802 and the fourth section was undertaken in 1803 and lasted 219 days, covering the area between Tokai and Hokuriku in south central Honshu. These expeditions were heavily subsidised by Inō personally. Shogun Tokugawa Ienari (1787–1837) was greatly impressed with Inō's surveys of eastern Japan which he had submitted to the government in 1804 and made him a shogunate official.

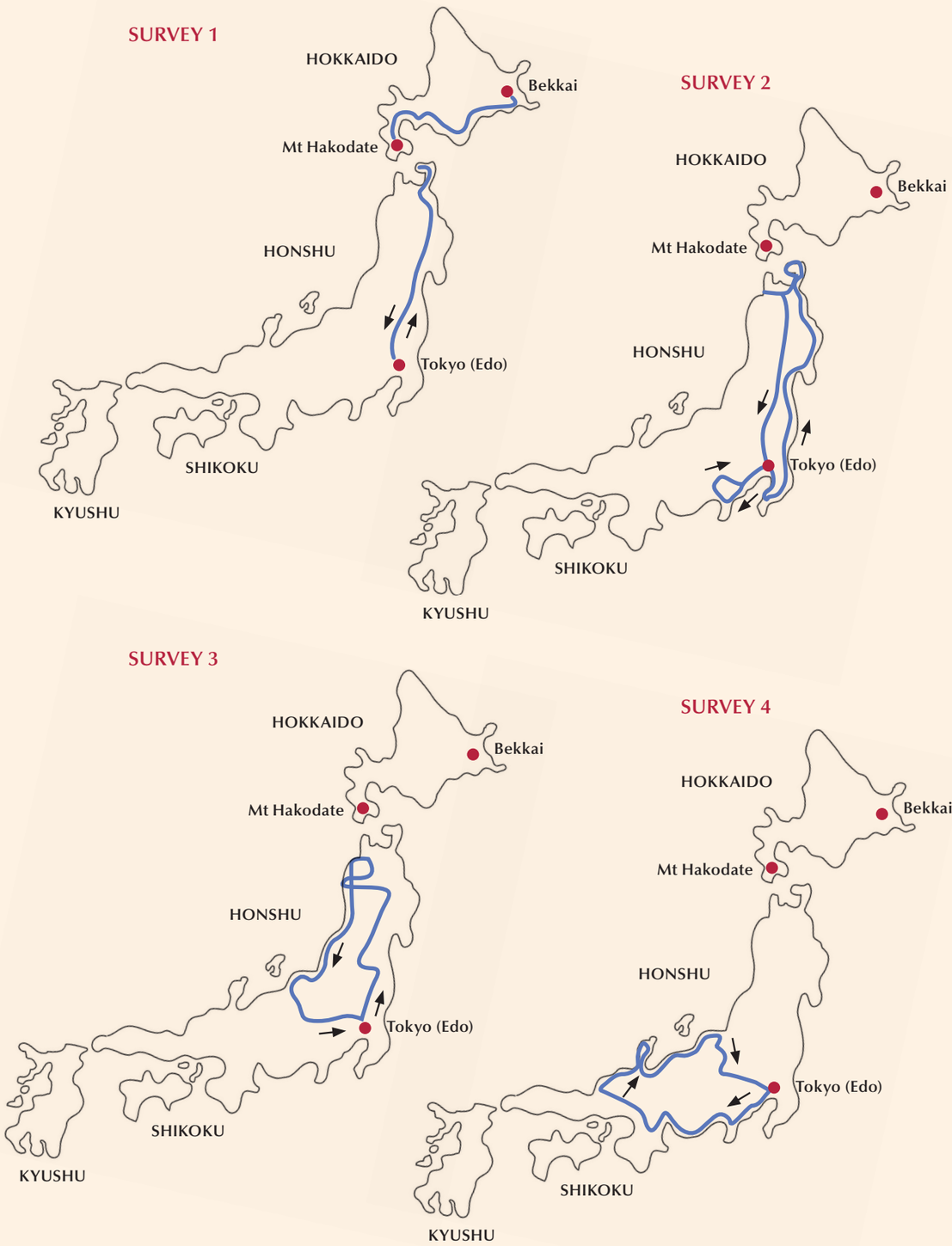


Fig. 2 Survey routes 1–4 completed by Inō and his team on Honshu and Hokkaido.

Survey	Destination	Depart	Return	Days
1	Edo (Tokyo) – Ezo (area of northeast Honshu and Hokkaido	11:06:1800	7: 12: 1800	180
2a	Edo – Izu (Peninsula)	14:05:1801	16: 7:1801	64
2b	Honshu East Coast	29:07:1801	10:01:1802	166
3	Uetsu Northwest Coast	10:07:1802	18:11:1802	132
4	Remaining coast east of Owari (Aichi) and Echizen (Fukui)	16:04:1803	20:11:1803	219
5	Kansai and Chugoku districts	25:03:1805	24:12:1806	640
6	Shikoku Island and Ise (Shima Peninsula)	21:02:1808	3: 03: 1809	377
7	Kyushu (1)	6:10:1809	28:06:1811	631
8	Kyushu (2)	9:01:1812	9: 07: 1814	913
9	Islands of Izu	4:06:1815	8: 05: 1816	340
10	Edo (Tokyo) city streets	29:09:1816	11: 12:1816	74

From this time forward the last six surveying stages were funded by the Tokugawa Shogunate. They took place in the following sequence: Kansai and Chugoku districts, 1805–06; Survey #6: Shikoku and Ise, 1808–09; Survey #7: Kyushu Part 1, 1809–11; Survey #8: Kyushu Part 2, 1811–14; Survey #9: Izu and Islands, 1815–16 (Inō did not participate); Survey #10: Edo, 1816. Inō supervised nine out of the ten expeditions, missing the ninth survey after he contracted malaria. His last fieldwork was surveying the city of Edo in 1816.

Inō's survey methods

'Inō's surveying technique for all the surveys except the first was based on the traverse method. This method determines the relative positions of multiple points by measuring angles and distances'.[7] He measured angles in both forward and backward directions and used ropes and chains to measure distances. To help correct cumulative errors in the traverse method he used astronomical surveying techniques that he carried out each night. His process is clearly described in the manuscript *Inō-Tōga-Sensei-ryu-ryōchi-denshuroku* (Record of Training in Land-Surveying of Master Tōga Inō's School) which is a detailed account of his surveying methods.[8]

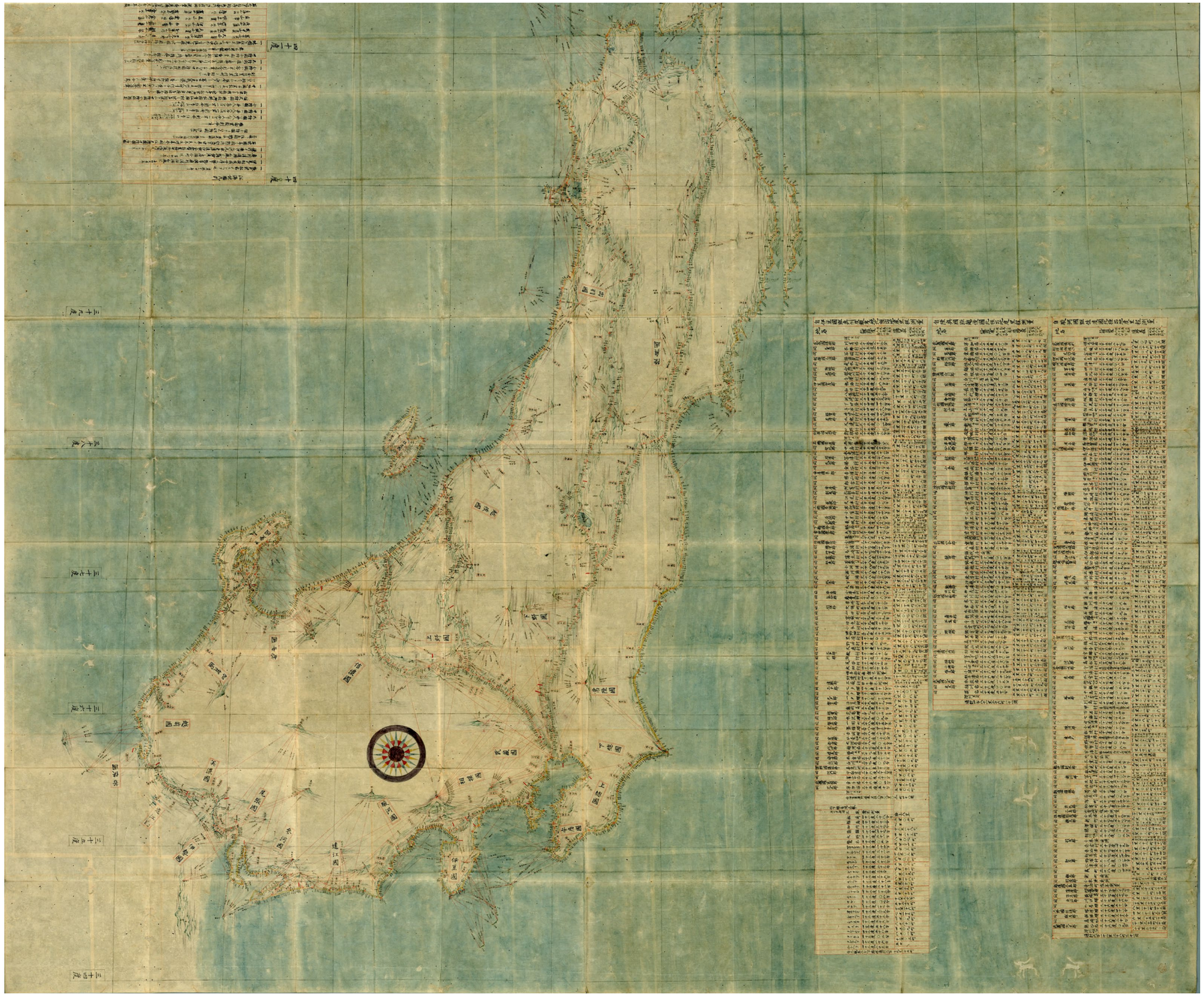
He used a theodolite with magnetic bearings, which had its shortcomings. There were inaccuracies in establishing true north because of the changing magnetic declination and the interference from local magnetic anomalies. It would appear most likely that Inō was aware that the variations between magnetic and true azimuth in Japan during his lifetime were almost the same. The magnetic declination currently in this part of the planet is a lot different from what it was then. In 1800 it was near zero in Edo; today it is –7° 22'. There is a continual change in magnetic declination all over the world which, with regular monitoring, demonstrates non-linear variations over time at variable rates in different regions of the earth.

Near the extremities of the finished maps are some slight discrepancies in longitude towards the east. Such an effect is attributable to the absence of precise chronometers which forced Inō to calculate his longitudes mathematically. Another contributing factor to the lesser accuracy of his base traverse was the accuracy specification associated with reading magnetic bearings without optical enlargement which rendered the expected precision of the azimuth observations to be no better than 20 minutes of arc. However, these systematic errors could be eliminated by continuous adjustment to azimuth readings, correcting them to his precise astro-determinations carried out progressively through his traverses.

Other survey instruments employed by Inō on his standard survey traverses are a measuring scale, measuring pole, measuring rope, perambulator, magnetic compass, small magnetic theodolite, a semi-circular magnetic theodolite, middle- and large-size



Fig. 3 1873 copy of No 76 from 'Complete Map of the Coastal Lands of Japan' covering the area of Echigo, Tokimizu, Nagaoke, Katamashi on the coast of the Japan Sea. National Diet Library Digital Collection http://dl.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/1286627 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ino-zu-76-Echigo.jpg



magnetic theodolites, and a small quadrant as an inclinometer.[9] The astronomical equipment used by Inō comprised a quadrant, transit instrument, pendulum clock, eclipsometer, gnomon and telescope.

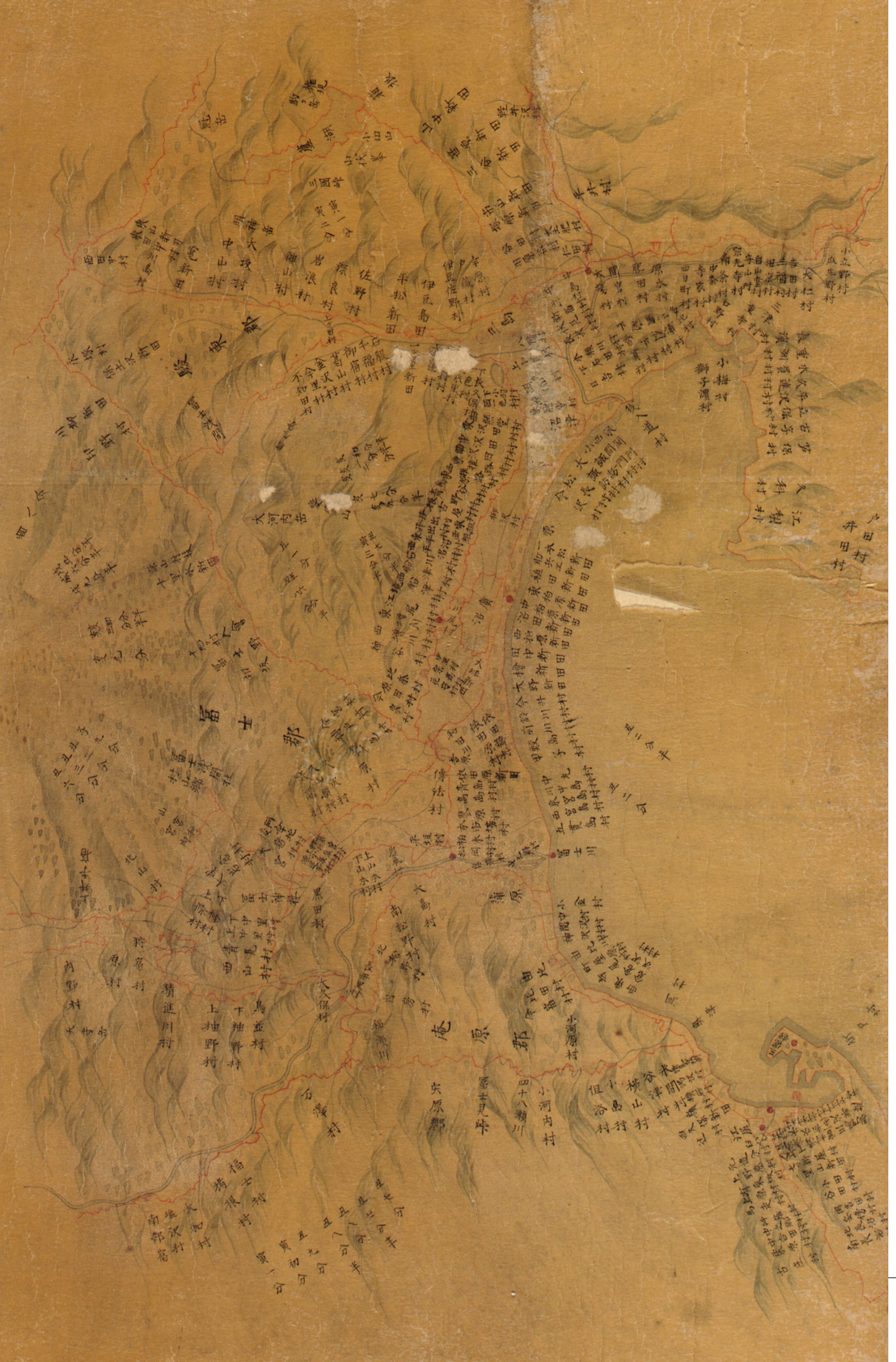
The standard of measurement adopted by Inō

The world of measurement during Inō's lifetime was not regulated or limited by a set of distances decreed by international standards. They were more often than not a hotchpotch of dimensions related to everyday objects like acorns or beans, with some more formal directions emanating in the form of regal orders to measure in accordance with the length of the king's arm or other such ill-defined criteria. Japan was no exception to these local customs and traditions and enshrined within the Daiho Statute, issued in AD 702, the standard lineal measure known as the *shaku* was handed down from generation to generation finally ending up with the Shogun Yoshimune Tokugawa (1684–1751) who divinely decreed that, through consultation with ancient documents, he introduced a new scale as a duplicate of the smaller scale of Daiho preserved in the ancient storehouse of the Kumano Shrine. He named it the *Kyoho-shaku*. Because the shogunate did not rigidly control the use of either of these linear standards, two distance bases were allowed to co-exist and were used by carpenters: the *Nembatsu-shaku* (equal to the *Kyoho-shaku*) and the *Matashiro-shaku*, which was a little shorter. Traditional literature has it that Inō adopted a scale of measurement being the mean of the *Kyoho-shaku* and *Matashiro-shaku*, making his dimension 2 *rin* shorter than the first and 2 *rin* longer than the second dimension. Inō's scale was adopted for the legal standard. In present-day Japan the length of the legal unit is exactly equivalent with that adopted by Inō for his survey. As can be seen, Inō's distance standard is in close alignment with the British Imperial foot of 0.3048 metre.

The map projection used by Inō for his map and atlas

For his survey Inō selected a map projection that

Fig. 4 'Scaled Coastal Map of Japan, Eastern Provinces' (Ino Maps), 1804. Shown here on this manuscript map is the smallest-scale version (1:432,000) of Inō Tadataka's great map of Japan. The lines which radiate from the summits of mountains and the islands were used to measure the azimuth from certain fixed points.
Library of Congress. https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.wdl/wdl.11825



would closely represent the true geographical shape of his country with its location above latitude 35° N. His choice of a Sanson-Flamsteed Sinusoidal map projection was ideal for his purpose. It avoided the distortions, which are encountered with a Mercator projection as it moves north, or south. It is has lines of latitude parallel to each other with the meridians of longitude curved and converging in a similar manner to the surface of an equal area projection. Inō's choice of a prime meridian was through Kyoto at longitude 135° 45'E with a latitude near to 35°N, being a meridian line not far from the middle between the eastern and western limits of the Japanese coast which are 129° 35'E and 145° 20'E.

The maps

Inō died in 1818, before the great map of Japan was published. His team carried on with the project after his death, completing it in 1821. It was officially presented to the Tokugawa Government in three sizes: the large-scale map was made up of 214 sheets at the scale of 1:36,000 occupying a surface area of 47 × 45 metres; a medium-sized map in eight sheets at a scale of 1:216,000; and a small version consisting of three sheets at 1:432,000 were also created. In addition to these loose sheet maps, an atlas – *Dai Nihon Enkai Yochi Zenzu* (Maps of the Japanese Coastal Areas) – was compiled displaying the same sequence of map sheets as those making up the three differently sized maps.

Inō's monumental endeavour did not get the public recognition it deserved at the time of publication. The Tokugawa Government never published the maps, preferring to use *kuni ezu* (provincial maps). Two manuscript sets of the maps were made: one for the shogunate, the other for the Inō family. The government's set was lost in a fire at the Imperial Palace in 1873. The Inō family presented their copies to the Government. They were housed in the Library of the Tokyo Imperial University; this was destroyed in the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923.[10] Although the originals no longer exist copies were made.[11]

A manuscript copy of Inō's small-scale maps was presented to the first British Minister Plenipotentiary, Sir Rutherford Alcock, in Japan when the British arrived in 1861 to survey the nation's coast.[12] The British were so impressed with the accuracy of the maps that they based their chart on them. The maps were received by the Hydrographic Department on 11 April from H.M. ships *Actaeon* and *Dove*.

The German physician Franz von Siebold (1796–1866) on his return to Europe in 1829 was discovered by Japanese officials to have had amongst his belongings Inō's map of the whole of Japan. Possession of maps of Japan was illegal and Siebold was banished but not before making a copy of it which he later published as 'Map of the Japanese Empire from the Original Maps and astronomical observations of the Japanese'.[13]

A nearly complete copy of Inō's large-scale map of Japan, which had been created by the Japanese Army, was discovered in the Library of Congress' collection in 2001. It is missing some fifty sheets. This significant find represents a major part of the collection of maps transferred from Japanese military agencies after World War II.[14]

Writings by Inō

Amazingly during his tireless and demanding surveying he found time to write. There are numerous bound volumes containing his field survey and astronomical observations. His diaries not only document the daily surveying activities and weather conditions but also provide geographical and social data such as the number of houses and inhabitants in a village. Note 15 offers a short selection of his writings[15] which have been preserved and are housed in the Inō Tadataka Museum in Sawara.[16]

Commemorating Inō today

Following some years of illness, Inō passed away in his house on Kamejima-chō (Tokyo) in his 73rd year on 17 May 1818 from chronic bronchitis. Immediately prior to his death Inō said:

> My accomplishment of the great task of surveying Japan and my present reputation are due to the guidance and instruction of my teacher, Mr. Yoshitoki Takahashi. So I wish my remains to be buried beside the grave of my teacher, in token of the great debt I owe him.[17]

In fulfilment of his last wish, the star student and his *sensei* now lie side by side in the graveyard of the Genkuji Temple in Asakusa, Tokyo.

Inōue Hisashi's play, inspired by Inō's superhuman success at an advanced age, spawned the film *Inō Tadataka: The Dream of the Meridian* and an animated

Fig. 5 Undated copy of Ino map 'Suruga no Kuni zu' in the today's prefecture of Shizuoka. Mt Fuji is at the centre of the map. A label attached to the map reads 'Copy of reduced map by Inō (71 years ago).' Library of Congress https://www.loc.gov/resource/g7963s.ct001264/?r=0.206,0.393,0.611,0.276,0

commercial for a TV show called *Gateway to Your Dreams* with the tag line: 'No matter how old you are, you should never give up on your dreams'. Numerous statues and plaques honouring the great man are scattered throughout the country. His home has been preserved in Sawara and the Inō Tadataka Museum is nearby. A tea has been named after him called *Chukei-gonomi* which translates as Chukei Style Tea and can be purchased from one of the Inō family tea dealers. He is a revered figure in Japanese history, honoured for his remarkable achievements in precise mapping during a time long before GPS, drone and aerial photogrammetry and remote sensing from satellites.

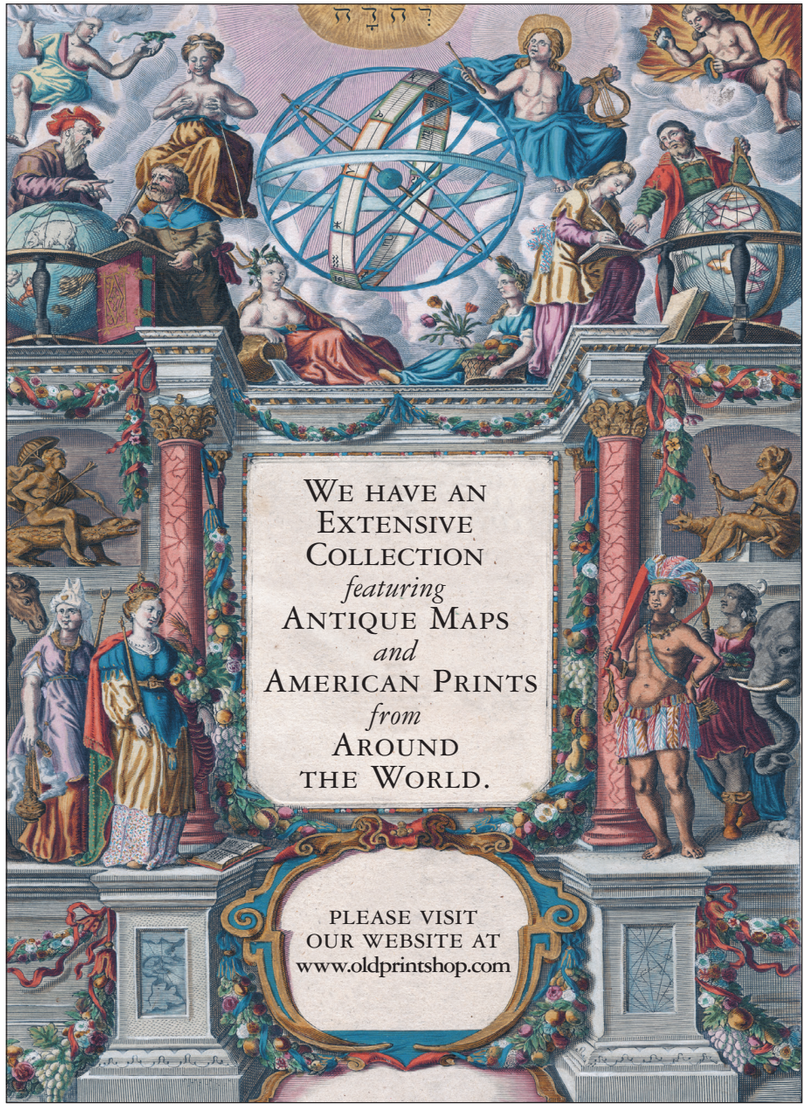
Notes

1 The 29th International Cartographic Conference and 18th General Assembly took place in Tokyo, Japan, 15–20 July 2019. See John F. Brock, 'Japan's most famous Surveyor Inō Tadataka and his iconic 1821 map of Japan', 29th International Cartographic Conference, Tokyo, Japan 2019.
2 Inōue Hisashi, (1934–2010), *The Man Who Walked Forty Million Steps*, first performed in 1986.
3 Edo (Yedo, Jedo) was renamed Tokyo in 1868 after the Meiji Restoration.
4 M. William Steele, 'The man who walked 40 million steps: Inō Tadataka and the modern mapping of Japan', *Asian Cultural Studies* 45 (2019): p. 95.
5 Ibid., p. 96.
6 Ryōkichi Ōtani, *Tadataka Inō: The Japanese Land-Surveyor*, trans. Kasue Sugimura, Tokyo: S. Iwanami, 1932, p. 75.
7 Yuki Iwai and Yuji Murayama, 'A historical geography of surveying: Inoh Tadataka's east and central Japan cartographic expeditions (1800–1803)', *Journal of Historical Geography* 89, 2025, pp. 162–67
8 Ryōkichi Ōtani, 1932, pp. 154–57.
9 To understand more detailed functions of the instruments used by Inō, see Otani, *Tadataka Inō*, Note 6.
10 Mutsumi Hoyanagi, 'Re-appreciation of Ino's maps, the first maps of Japan based on actual surveys, Reprinted from Geographical reports of Tokyo Metropolitan University, No. 2 (July 1967), pp.147–162.
11 Kazutaka Unno, 'Cartography in Japan', Chapter 11, *History of Cartography*, Vol. 2 Book 2, pp
12 See Note 10.
13 See Note 11.
14 Library of Congress, https://guides.loc.gov/maps-illustrated-guide/asian-maps
15 *Sokuryō-nikki* [Survey Journals]: 28 volumes recording in minute detail his surveying activities from 1800 to 1816.
Santō-hōiki [Record of the Azimuths of Mountains and Islands] 67 volumes. They provide valuable data for the historic evolution of magnetic declination from the early nineteenth century.
Hokkyoku-kōdu-sokuryōki [Record of Latitude Measurements]: a record of observed differences between the meridian altitudes of fixed stars.
Kōsei-shikōdohyō [Table of Apparent Altitudes of Fixed Star]; contains Inō's personal observations made at the control station at Yedo.
Kokugan-chuya-jikoku [Lengths of Day and Night in Different Places): in two volumes listing sunrise and sunset times as well as twilight duration.
Taisuhyō-kigenjutsu-narabini-yōho [Principles and Uses of the Logarithm Table].
Inō-Tōga-Sensei-ryu-ryōchi-denshuroku [Record of Training in Land-Surveying of Master Tōga Inō's School]: manuscript on land surveying in two volumes, written by Inō's pupil Keijiro Shin Watanabe, after Inō's death in accordance with his will.
Chikyu-sokuenjutso-mondō [Questions and Answers on the Method of the Distance Measurement on the Earth]
Kyukatsuyen-hassenhyō [Method of Computing Trigonometrical Tables]
16 An inventory of 2,345 items of Inō's maps, drawings, documents, books and survey instruments can be found at https://www.city.katori.lg.jp/sightseeing/museum/en/kokuho.html
17 Ryōkichi Ōtani, 1932, p. 138.

John F. Brock has been a private land surveyor since 1973 and is the Director of Brock Surveys in Parramatta (near Sydney, New South Wales). He has published widely and his publications have been awarded 'Article of the month' in the *International Federation of Surveyors Journal* (FIG) in 2005, 2012, 2014, 2017 and 2023. He has received the Institution of Surveyors NSW Halloran Award for Contributions to Surveying History and was named a Fellow of ISNSW in 1999. He has recently been appointed Director of FIG.
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THE FIRST HEBREW WORLD ATLAS AND JEWISH FARMING SETTLEMENTS IN WESTERN CANADA

Stephen E. Nagler

In 1925 the publishing house HaSefer ('the book') issued the first modern world atlas in the Hebrew language, now often known as the Jabotinsky atlas.[1] The atlas was jointly edited by Vladimir (Ze'ev) Jabotinsky and Samuel (Shmuel) Perlman (Fig. 1). Perlman (1887–1958) was an editor, translator and educator. He was an early editor of the Hebrew language newspaper *Ha'aretz* and later served as the Dean of Hebrew College in Boston. Jabotinsky (1880–1940) was a journalist, best known as the founding father of revisionist Zionism, a right-wing alternative to the socialist-oriented Labor Zionism championed by the likes of David Ben-Gurion. Jabotinsky was also deeply involved in the movement to revitalize Hebrew as a modern vernacular language. In addition to writing, he translated numerous works into Hebrew, including Dante's *Inferno* and the poetry of Edgar Allan Poe. The first Hebrew atlas was a key contribution to this linguistic project (Fig. 2).

Although the company that published the atlas was registered in London, most of the cartographic work was done in Germany and the atlas was printed in Leipzig. The introduction explains that it was primarily intended for use in schools, but as the first 'Hebrew Geography' it was necessary to introduce new terminology and was expected to be used more broadly. The atlas also contained a great deal of geographical, demographic, and historical information pertaining to the worldwide Jewish community. As discussed below special attention





Fig. 1 The editors of *The Hebrew Geographical Atlas*, Vladimir Jabotinsky (left) and Samuel Perlman (right). Jabotinsky's photo was taken by Britt in Paris, 1926 (courtesy of Israel government press office). Perlman photo is courtesy of Hebrew College, Boston.



Fig. 2 Title page of the Atlas, which gives the number of geographical and historical maps and diagrams and states there are 48 pages of explanatory text. The decoration is a line drawing of the old city of Jerusalem. Courtesy of the author.

was paid to Jewish involvement in agriculture, and arguably the atlas may be thought of as an example of 'persuasive cartography' as defined by P. J. Mode (see, https://persuasivemaps.library.cornell.edu).

The atlas was sold worldwide and publicity leaflets were printed in several languages of which examples can be found in English, French, and German.[2] An advertisement directed to prospective American buyers of the atlas shows prices for different bindings: leather ($6.50), cloth ($4.00) or paper ($3.00). The text of the advertisement, reproduced below, gives details of the publication and its contents:

The Hebrew Geographical Atlas
(for school and home)
Editors V. Jabotinsky & Dr. S. Perlman
Geography: 39 maps and 25 diagrams
History: 2 maps and 21 diagrams
48 pages of explanatory text
Size: 11 × 9 ½ ins
Printed in 8 colours by Messrs.
Wagner and Debes, Leipzig

The maps contain everything essential concerning the physical, political and economic geography: astronomical information: hemispheres, isothermes, races, religions and languages; geographical discoveries, colonies, ways of communications, Diasporah: Centres of Jewish population in Europe, Jewish colonies in the Argentine and Brazil, Palestine (Geology, economic situation); maps of every quarter of the globe (physical and political); race, peoples, colonization, the ancient East; historical Palestine, ancient Rome and Greece: the Empire of Islam, the Crusades: the principal epochs of European history. Special indications to show the Jewish population in towns and countries.

The initial production run of the atlas was scheduled for 5,000 copies but later expanded to possibly as many as 10,000.[3] A second edition was discussed in the 1930s and 1940s, but it seems that only the first edition was published. Today many institutional libraries hold copies of the atlas, and of interest to the collector, examples show up periodically for sale or at auction.

The single map that has received the most attention and has been widely discussed elsewhere is the two-page map of *Eretz Israel* (the land of Israel) on plates 14 and 15.[4] The map points out significant Jewish urban and rural settlements as well as rural tracts of land purchased by Jewish individuals or organizations in Palestine under the British mandate prior to 1924. Note that the interested reader can find this map and others not depicted here online.

The atlas contains several maps of Europe with geological, political and other information. Of special interest is a two-page map of the centre of the Jewish population in Europe, plates 24 and 25. Issued between the two world wars, this map is a particularly poignant record of a community that would largely vanish only twenty years later. Cities and towns with major Jewish populations are indicated. The map also depicts the borders separating different Jewish cultural groups: Litvak (i.e., Lithuanian), other Ashkenazim, and Sephardim.

Some of the most interesting aspects of the atlas can be illustrated by the maps of North America. The first of these is a physical map (plate 30), with an inset showing an ethnic distribution map highlighting various first-nation tribes and indicating that the population of North America was 2.5 per cent Jewish. A political map of North America (plate 31) is shown in Figure 3, and a more detailed map

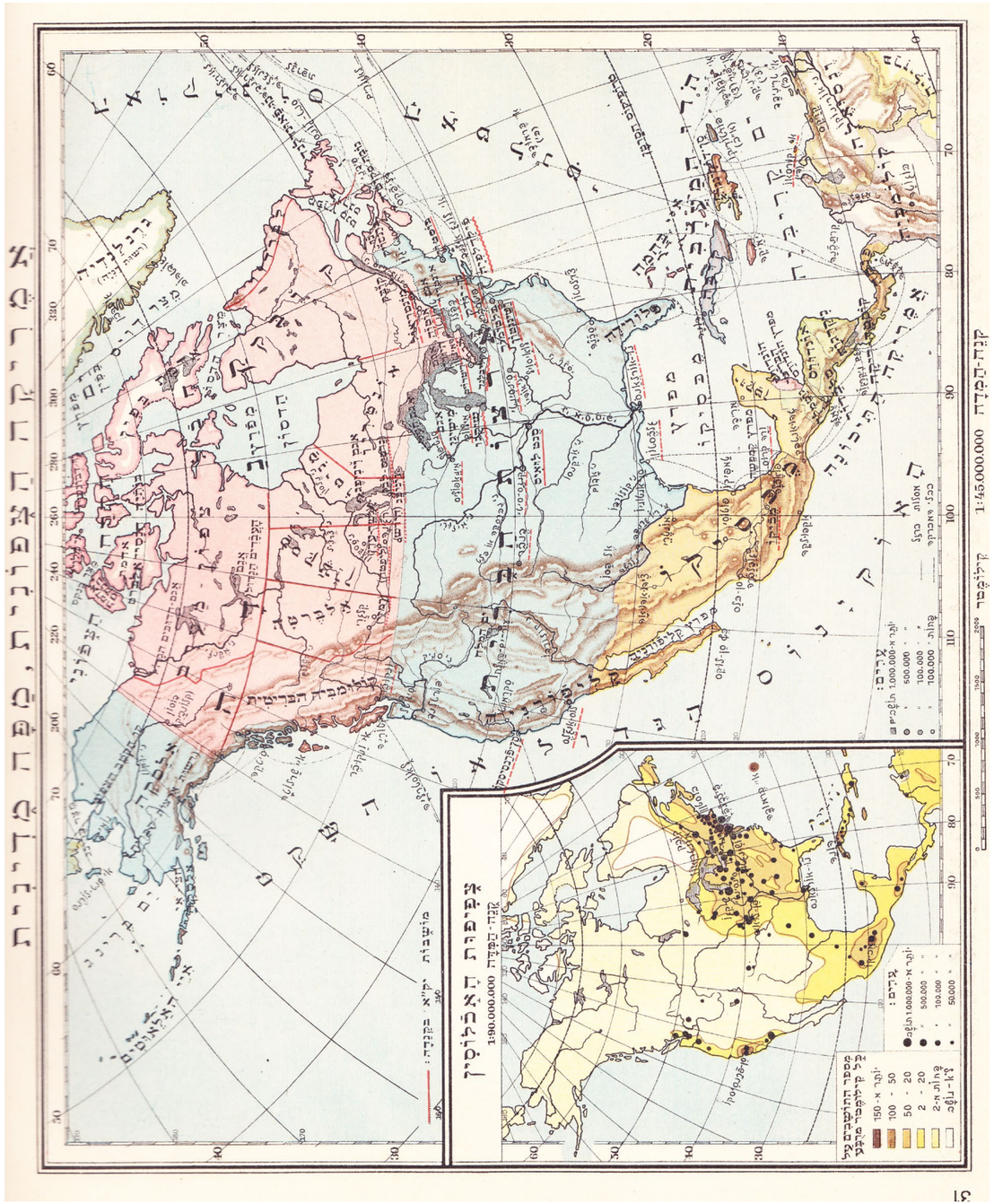


Fig. 3 Plate 31, a political map of North America. The inset shows a map of population density. Courtesy of the author.

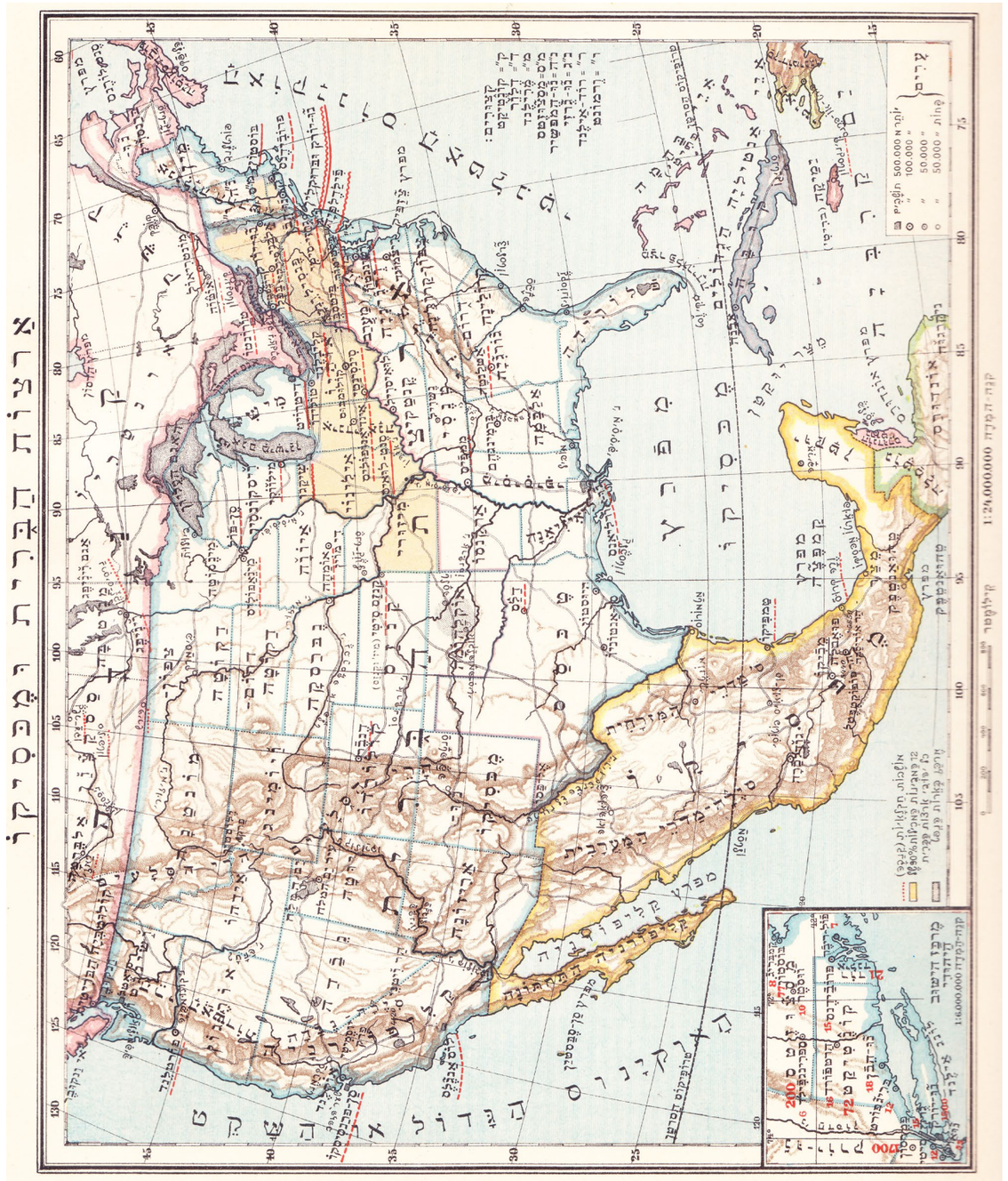


Fig. 4 Plate 32, map of the United States and Mexico. The inset shows the centre of the Jewish population is in the northeastern USA with numbers labelled in thousands. The legend {on the far right} notes the Jewish agricultural settlements in Canada visible just north of the border, and the twelve states shaded yellow contained 90 per cent of the Jewish population in the USA. Courtesy of the author.

(plate 32) of the United States including Mexico and the southern border region of Canada is shown in Figure 4. This map highlights the Jewish population centres. The states containing 90 per cent of the Jewish population of the USA are shaded yellow. Notably the atlas was composed before the large Jewish migration to Florida, and Miami is not even indicated on the map.

As befits a school atlas, the maps are rather sparsely labelled and, with some exceptions, only major features are highlighted. Much modern Hebrew cartographic and geographical terminology had still to be developed for the atlas and since the language evolved rapidly not all of it has persisted. The introduction suggests that the choices used in naming foreign towns followed the usual rules observed in other languages, but in practice it seems the conventions were rather fluid. The names chosen for geographical features used a mixture of translation and transliteration, in many cases without any obvious systematic pattern, and inconsistencies are even found between maps in the atlas. The Peace River in British Columbia and Alberta is translated as *Nahar HaShalom* (נהר השלום) in both Plates 30 and 31. Conversely, as shown in Figure 5, on the physical map the Snake River is translated as *Nahar Hanachash* (נהר הנחש), while the political map uses the transliteration *Nahar Snake* (נהר סניק)! The 1997 *New Israeli University Atlas* uses transliterations for both rivers, with translations in parentheses.[5]

As an example of terminology that has changed: in the Jabotinsky atlas lakes are consistently labelled with the Hebrew word *agam* (אגם), whereas more modern Hebrew atlases use the term *yama* (ימה).[6] Figure 6 shows a close-up view of the Great Lakes region depicted on plate 32. Lake Superior is labelled in translation as *Agam HaElyon* (אגם העליון) while modern atlases transliterate the name, yielding *Yamat Superior* (ימת סופיריר). The same translations were also used to name Great Bear Lake and Great Slave Lake (see, e.g. Figure 3 Plate 31), and these have persisted albeit with the change in the word used to translate 'lake'. In some cases, the spellings of transliterated names also evolved; for example, in modern Hebrew atlases Lake Huron moved from היורון to יורון. One exception to the use of *agam* in the Jabotinsky atlas is the naming of the Great Salt Lake, which is translated as *Yam HaMelach* (ים המלח), that is, the Salt Sea. Modern atlases use *Yamat HaMelach HaGedola* (ימת המלח הגדולה), a direct translation of the Great Salt Lake. Perhaps somewhat amusingly, as seen in Figure 5, the 1925 atlas translates the name of Salt Lake City as 'ים-המלח-עיר'(City of the Salt Sea), while the contemporary atlases use transliteration, namely סולט ליק סיטי.

Many names of other geographical features exhibit similar peculiarities. For instance, the Rocky Mountains in Jabotinsky's atlas are written as *Harei HaSela'im* (הרי הסלעים), whereas most modern atlases use *Harei Rocky* (הרי רוקי), albeit some with the translation in small print or parentheses.



Fig. 5 A close-up comparison of a selection from the physical (left) and political (right) maps of North America. The differing labels for the Snake River are indicated by a green arrow. Note that the Hebrew word for river (nahar) is abbreviated to 'nun'. The Great Salt Lake is south of the Snake River, near the lower right-hand corner of each image.



Fig. 6 A close-up view of the area of the Great Lakes from Plate 32. Cities with significant Jewish populations are underlined in red, with solid lines indicating larger populations.

The map of western Canada (Fig. 7) contains several surprises. Edmonton, the capital of Alberta, is missing and the other large city in the province, Calgary, is shown in small Hebrew script letters (קלגרי). On the other hand, the tiny village of Rumsey is shown in clear Hebrew block letters (רמזי). Similarly, Regina, Saskatchewan, is labelled in small script; Saskatoon and other principal cities and towns in the province are missing altogether. However, clear labelling in block letters is given to the small centres of Lipton (ליפטון), Hirsch (הירש) and Edenbridge, with the latter translated as *Gesher-Eden* (גשר-עדן). The city of Winnipeg, Manitoba, is shown in block letters, as is the hamlet of Narcisse-Leven (נרסיס-לבן), with all other towns absent. The relatively unknown hamlets given emphasis on the map were among the most prominent of the Jewish farming settlements in western Canada that had been homesteaded with the support and loans from the Jewish Colonization Association (JCA).[7] This fact is indicated in legends on the political map of North America as well as on the map of the United States and Mexico.

The Jewish Colonization Association was a charity established with strong leadership from the philanthropist Baron Maurice de Hirsch who was motivated to assist Jews being persecuted in Eastern Europe. In particular it promoted Jewish emigration to regions where they could own land and farm. The JCA was incorporated in London but based primarily in Paris, in close association with the *Alliance Israelite Universelle*. The stated principal objectives of the JCA were:

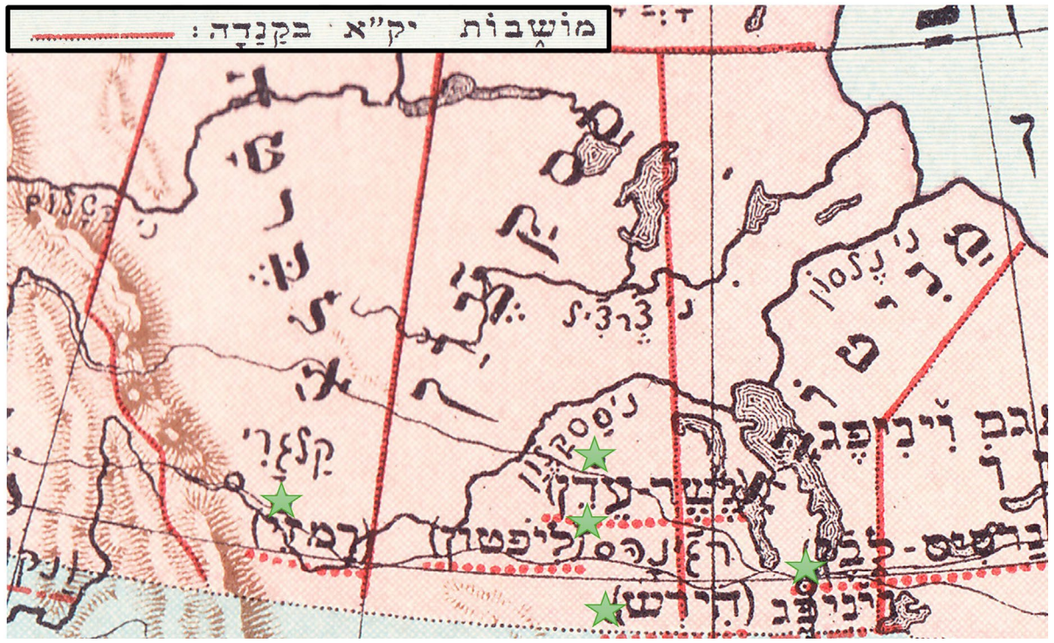




Fig. 7 Enlarged portion of Plate 31 showing western Canada, with five Jewish farming settlements labelled in block letters. They are also underlined in dotted red lines and indicated by superposed green stars. The inset at the top contains the legend describing these as farming colonies sponsored by the JCA in Canada.

Fig. 8 Enlarged portion of a 1922 J. G. Bartholomew map of Alberta and Saskatchewan, showing that Rumsey is located to the northeast of Calgary. The inset (bottom right corner) shows that the Jabotinsky atlas had incorrectly located Rumsey (זמר) to the southeast of Calgary near to the US border. Courtesy of the David Rumsey Map Collection, David Rumsey Map Center, Stanford University Libraries, California.

TABLE 1

JEWISH FARMING SETTLEMENTS IN THE CANADIAN PRAIRIE PROVINCES, *c.*1925

Major settlements are indicated in boldface.

MANITOBA

Bender (Narcisse Leven) (a, b, c); **Camper (New Hirsch)** (b, c); Gimli (b, c); Kildonan (c); Lorette (b, c); Pine Ridge (b, c); Rosenfeld (b, c); Ste. Anne (b, c); Transcona, (b, c)

SASKATCHEWAN

Alsask South (c); **Cupar** (b, c); Dunfermline (b, c); **Edenbridge** (a, b, c); **Eyre** (b, c); **Hirsch** (a, b, c); Kamsack (b, c); **Lipton** (b, c); Limerick (b, c); Maxwellton (b) Oungre (c); **Rosetown** (b, c); **Sonnenfeld (New Herman)** (b, c); Theodore (b, c); **Wapella** (b, c); Watrous (b, c); White Bear (b, c)

ALBERTA

Compeer (b); Empress (b, c); unnamed near Edmonton (b); **Montefiore (Alsask North)** (b, c); Rumsey (a, b, c); Trochu (b, c)

(a) Jabotinsky and Perlman, *The Hebrew Geographical Atlas* (see note 1).
(b) S. Belkin, *The Jew in Canada* (see note 12)
(c) Y. Katz and J. C. Lehr, *The Last Best West: Essays on the Historical Geography of the Canadian Prairies* (see note 12)

A. To assist and promote the emigration of Jews from any part of Europe or Asia, and principally from countries in which they were being subjected to special taxes or political or other disabilities, to any other parts of the world, and to form and establish colonies in various parts of North and South America and other countries for agricultural, commercial and other purposes;
B. to purchase in any part of the world lands that could be colonized;
C. to accept gifts for the benefit of Jewish communities or individuals;
D. to establish commercial or agricultural settlements on the lands acquired.[8]

The first agricultural settlement in the New World sponsored by the JCA was Moisesville in Argentina where de Hirsch arranged to purchase land even before the JCA was formally constituted.[9] The first Russian Jewish settlers arrived there in 1890.

The situation in Canada was somewhat different. Following the acquisition of Rupert's Land by the Canadian government in 1869, the Dominion Lands Act of 1872 was passed.[10] The act enabled a major survey that divided land in western Canada into a grid of townships, each consisting of 36 sections, further subdivided into quarter-sections of 160 acres apiece. The quarter sections were available for homesteading, with rules that changed over time. Immigration was strongly encouraged by politicians like Clifford Sifton (Canada's Minister of the Interior from 1896 to 1905) who coined the phrase 'the last, best west'.

Around the turn of the century the Canadian Northwest Land Regulations, which applied to surveyed land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and the Peace River area of British Columbia, allowed a sole head of family (male or female) or any male over the age of 18 to apply for a quarter-section homestead with a ten-dollar fee.[11] The homesteader was required to cultivate and live on

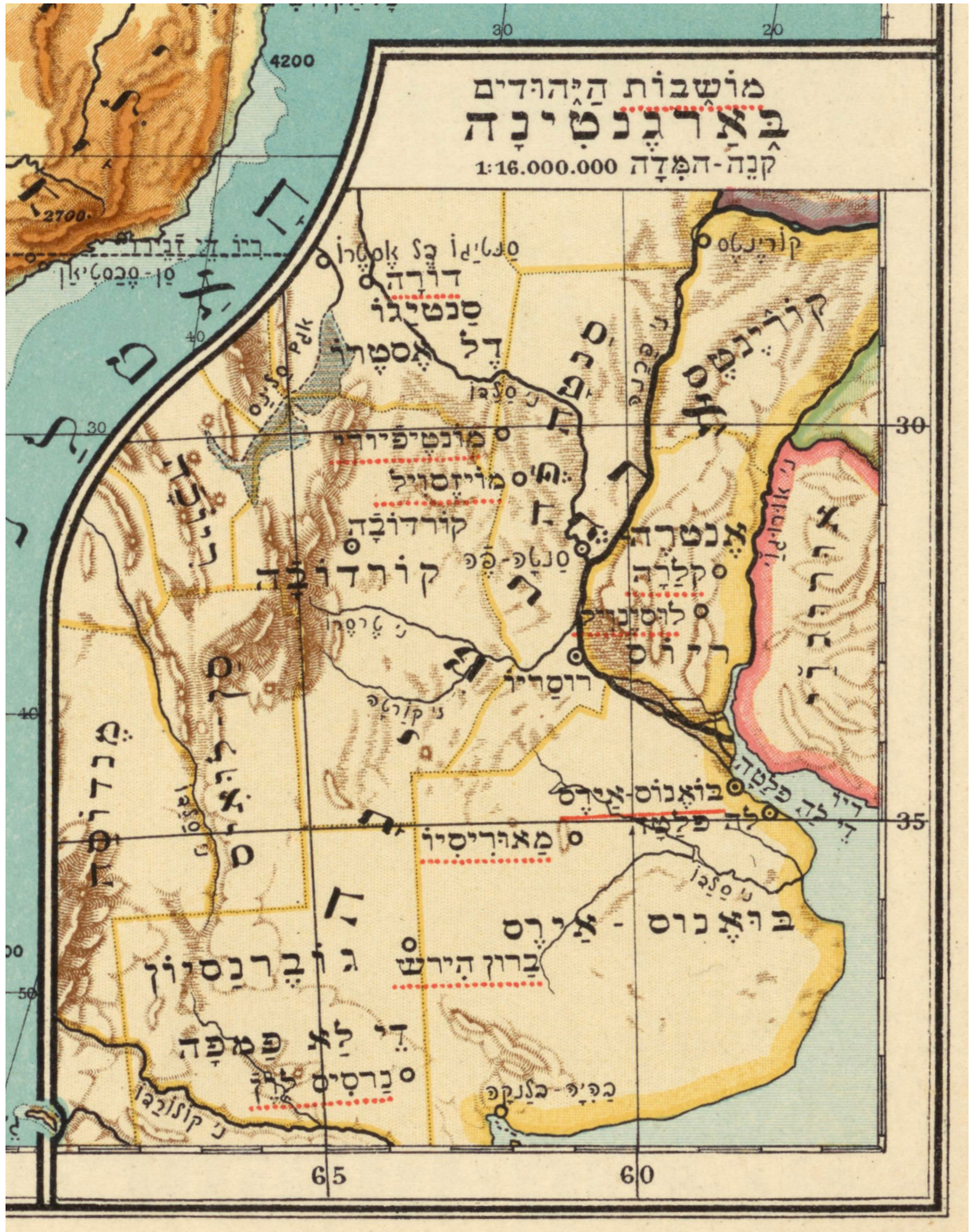


Fig. 9 Inset from map of South America (Plate 33) showing Jewish farming colonies in Argentina, each underlined by a red dotted line. Provided by Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education, https://oshermaps.org/map/57820.0045

the land for a minimum of six months a year for each of three years. Where available, homesteaders in good standing could obtain another quarter section alongside the homestead at a price of three dollars per acre. Despite the harsh conditions on the Canadian prairie many people flocked to take advantage of these opportunities, with immigrants from the same region or with the same religion often grouping together to homestead near each other.

The first recorded Jewish farming settlement, 'New Jerusalem' near Moosomin, Saskatchewan, predated the JCA by some ten years.[12] Both this colony, and another one formed later at Blank's Lake and nearby Pine Lake, close to Red Deer, Alberta, ultimately failed. The Wapella colony, in Saskatchewan, also formed independently in the late 1880s, was more successful. In 1892 the JCA provided loans to enable an initial forty-seven Russian Jewish families to homestead near Oxbow, Saskatchewan, and this was the founding of the Hirsch farming settlement.[13] In 1896 five farmers from Red Deer relocated to Hirsch.

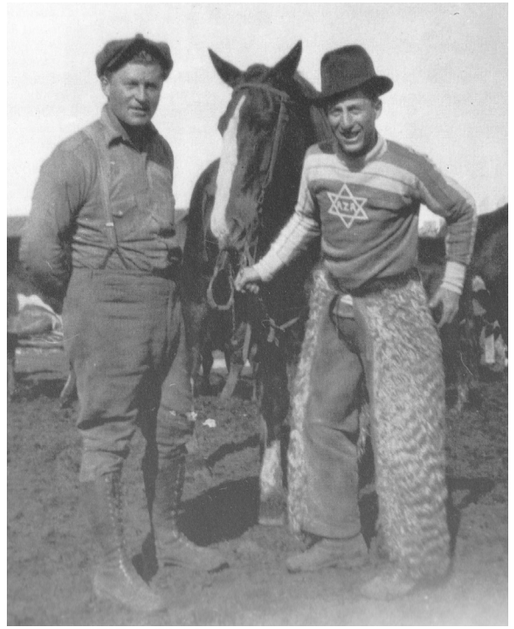


Fig. 10 Photograph of Sam Raskin (left) and Allan (Curly) Gurevitch (right), taken at the Rumsey Lazy S. Ranch c.1930. Curly Gurevitch, a first cousin of the author's grandmother, farmed in Rumsey until 1958. Photograph courtesy of Darrell Gurevitch.

The Lipton colony was formed north of Qu'Apelle, Saskatchewan, in 1901 by a group of Jewish refugees fleeing persecution in Romania. Bender, formed in 1903 near Winnipeg, Manitoba, was later re-named to honour Narcisse Leven who took over as president of the JCA after the death of Baron de Hirsch.[14] The settlements at Edenbridge and Rumsey were formed by groups of homesteaders around 1906. It is said that the name Edenbridge was the result of a tongue-in-cheek reference to a nearby bridge as the '*Yidden* bridge'. By 1912 various sources confirm the presence of fourteen significant Jewish farming colonies in the three Canadian Prairie provinces.[15] There were at least sixteen additional minor settlements although various sources give slightly inconsistent counts of the latter (Table 1). No further JCA colonies were established after the First World War. A 1920 Canadian government survey showed that more than 3,500 Jews were living on farms in Canada.[16]

The notes in Jabotinsky's atlas are consistent with the other sources and mention the existence of scattered settlements plus fourteen significant colonies, naming the most important as Edenbridge, Lipton, and Hirsch. The notes also indicate that *Gesher-Eden* was known as Edenbridge. The emphasis on these farming settlements seemingly reflects the ideology of those who composed the atlas. They believed that inculcating in Jews a desire to return to the land and take up agriculture generally would both lead to a healthier culture and stimulate more members of the community to move to Mandatory Palestine and help work the land in a future Jewish state.

Jabotinsky, in particular, advocated individual land ownership in contrast to the collective farming favoured by many of the socialist Jews then in Palestine. Documenting the existence of the farming settlements was evidently more important to the makers of the atlas than providing accurate geographical information. As a case in point, the map in the Jabotinsky atlas shows Rumsey located southeast of Calgary whereas contemporary maps, for example, the one published in a 1922 Bartholomew Atlas, correctly locate it to the northeast (Fig. 8).[17]

Beyond western Canada, the atlas also includes an inset in the physical map (plate 33) of South America (Fig. 9) showing several Jewish farming colonies in Argentina: Baron Hirsch, Clara, Dora, Lucienville,

Mauricio, Moisesville, Montifiore, and Narcisse (see note 13). The political map of South America (plate 34) has a similar inset showing the Brazilian settlements of Philippson and Quatro-Irmãos.

The Jabotinsky atlas provided a snapshot of the Jewish world in the 1920s. Things were about to undergo some dramatic change. The Great Depression and the dustbowls of the 1930s affected the Canadian Prairie farms and many were abandoned for economic reasons. Jewish farmers who wished to practise their religion on remote farms in the Canadian prairies faced other challenges. Gradually, they either left the farms for city life or were assimilated into the surrounding communities. By the 1960s only minimal traces of these Jewish farming communities remained. Their presence in the first Hebrew atlas is now a fascinating window into a bygone time.

Notes

1 Vladimir (Ze'ev) Jabotinsky and S. Perlman, ed., ba-'arikhat *The Hebrew Geographical Atlas* (אטלס / בעריכת ז. ז'בוטינסקי, ש. פרלמן) (London: HaSefer, 1925). A digital version of the atlas is available online, courtesy of the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education, University of Southern Maine, at https://oshermaps.org/map/57820.0001. Within the United States the atlas can also be accessed online at https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003563061

2 Documents including the order forms were accessed courtesy of the Jabotinsky Institute, Tel Aviv (https://en.jabotinsky.org/). They can be viewed by searching the institute's archive files using the keyword 'atlas', locating the item reference coded: A 1– 4/ 17/ 3, and downloading the relevant file 104889.pdf.

3 See note 2.

4 E. and G. Wajntraub, *Hebrew Maps of the Holy Land* (Vienna: Bruder Hollinek, 1992), W.95, p. 250 and Appendix 4; A. Rovner, 'Jewish geographies: Jabotinsky and modernism', *Partial Answers: Journal of Literature and the History of Ideas* 15:2 (2017): pp. 315–39; R. Rubin, *Portraying the Land: Hebrew Maps of the Land of Israel from Rashi to the Early 20th Century* (Berlin: De Gruyter and Magnes, 2018), pp. 378–80.

5 M. Brawer, ed., *The New Israeli University Atlas* (Tel Aviv: Yavneh, 1997).

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7 T. Norman, *An Outstretched Arm: A History of the Jewish Colonization Association* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1985).

8 Ibid.

9 M. D. Winsberg, 'Jewish agriculture colonization in Argentina', *Geographical Review* 54:4 (1964): pp. 487–501; and Norman, *An Outstretched Arm* (see note 7).

10 Rupert's Land comprised all of Manitoba and most of southern Saskatchewan and Alberta. See, for example, Eli Yarhi and T. D. Regel, 'Dominion Lands Act', in the online *Canadian Encyclopedia*. (https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/dominion-lands-policy), publisher Feb. 7, 2006; last updated by Andrew McIntosh, Aug. 11, 2023.

11 Rumsey-Rowley Historical Society, *Pioneer Days: Rumsey-Rowley, Book Two* (Calgary: Friesen, 1982).

12 S. Belkin, 'Jewish Colonization in Canada' in *The Jew in Canada* (Toronto: Jewish Publications Ltd., 1986), pp. 483–88; Y. Katz and J. C. Lehr, *The Last Best West: Essays on the Historical Geography of the Canadian Prairies* (Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 1999), pp. 44–61; T. H. Friedgut, 'Jewish pioneers on Canada's prairies: the Lipton Jewish agricultural colony', *Jewish History* 21:3/4 (2007): pp. 385–411; E. Schloss, 'A history of Jewish farming colonies in Alberta and Saskatchewan', *Heritage: The Journal of the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta* 24:1 (2022): pp. 3–31; M. Wolff, 'The Jews of Canada', *The American Jewish Year Book* 27 (1925): pp 154–229.

13 Norman, *An Outstretched Arm* (see note 7); Belkin in *The Jew in Canada* (see note 12), pp. 483–88.

14 Belkin in *The Jew in Canada* (see note 12), pp. 483–88.

15 Ibid.; Katz and Lehr, *The Last Best West* (see note 12), pp. 44–61; Friedgut, 'Jewish pioneers on Canada's prairies (see note 12), pp. 385–411.

16 Belkin in *The Jew in Canada* (see note 12), pp. 483–88.

17 The Edinburgh Geographical Institute, J.G. Bartholomew and Son, *'The Times' Atlas* (London: The Times, 1922), plate 88, 'Alberta & Saskatchewan'. David Rumsey Map Collection, David Rumsey Map Center, Stanford Libraries.

Acknowledgements

The author thanks Professor Norman Ravvin for insightful discussions and for drawing his attention to the order form discussed in the text. Additional useful input was received from J. Nagler and D. Gurevitch, who also provided the photograph used in Figure 10. Finally I thank the Osher Map Library (www.oshermaps.org) and staff for their help with making the atlas and its images available to the reader.

Stephen E. Nagler is a physicist who has spent most of his career researching condensed matter and quantum materials. He has been interested in maps for most of his life and in the 1970s worked seasonally as a surveyor. His great-great grandfather and several other family members homesteaded in Rumsey, Alberta.





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IMCOS MATTERS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1 February 2026
Nominations for the IMCoS-Helen Wallis Award
Please send in your nominations for the 2026 Award by 1 February 2026. The award is given to an individual, who in the opinion of the selection sub-committee has been responsible for cartographic contributions of great merit and wide interest to map collectors worldwide. You can nominate a collector, dealer, independent researcher, librarian or academic. Though the Award is intended to recognize individual merit, in special circumstances a group of people or an organization could be considered. The nominee should demonstrate their enthusiasm by actively promoting the history of cartography, be that through study, publications, assistance to other categories (for example as benefactors) or in the field of organizing societies, visits, symposia, exhibitions, talks, internet activities or the like. A list of past winners can be viewed on the IMCoS website (www.imcos.org/about-us/awards/). Please email your nominations with reasons for your choice to the Chairman of the Committee Peter Barber (peter_barber@me.com) or the Editor Ljiljana Ortolja-Baird (editor@gmail.com) by no later than 1 February 2026.

March 2026 IMCoS 'Show & Tell'
(date to be confirmed)
Members wishing to participate in the next Show & Tell event are invited to email their expression of interest to Mike Sweeting (drsweeting@aol.com). Each presenter is given 5–10 minutes to share a favourite map or cartographic item. If you are interested and have not attended previously and wish to know how the event works, you can watch a video of a past Show & Tell. There are two ways to see the event:
1. The event is now an exhibition on The Digital Gallery. Please click on the link
https://www.pixeum.org/search?search = IMCOS
2. A video of a past Show & Tell is available on our IMCoS YouTube channel, which can be accessed at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFXuJDSyASPxll6guQrSX_Qor at
www. imcos.org/show-tell-3/

Maps & Society Lectures
IMCoS has been supporting the **Maps & Society lecture series** since its beginnings in 1991. The series was initiated by Catherine Delano-Smith (Institute of Historical Research, University of London) and Tony Campbell (formally, The British Library), both long-time members of IMCoS. Today Catherine is assisted by Philip Jagessar (King's College London) with Alessandro Scafi (Warburg Institute).

The lectures focus on maps and mapping from the earliest times to the twentieth century and, as the series title suggests, the social and cultural factors in which maps are made and used. Speakers are drawn from a large pool of international academics, librarians, map collectors, and dealers and, apart from one occasion, no speaker is repeated, which ensures a wide variety of subjects.

Your editor is a regular member of the audience, and I would encourage local members and members from further afield to attend when they are London. For those unable to attend in person the lectures can be accessed on Zoom by contacting the Warburg (https://warburg.sas.ac.uk/news-events/whats/lectures-talks/maps-society-lecture-series).

The lectures are free and take place at 5 pm at the Warburg Institute Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB. Admission is free. Refreshments are served after the lecture.

Information: c.delano-smith@sas.ac.uk or philip.jagessar@kcl.ac.uk

Programme 2025 – 2026
6 Nov 2025
Simon Morris (London Topographical Society): 'Mapping Local London – London Parish Maps to 1900'

4 Dec 2025
Noémi Ujházy (University of Nottingham): 'Mapping Soils in the Early 20th Century and the Material Politics of Internationalism'

29 Jan 2026
Elizabeth Chant (University of Warwick): 'Road Maps, Leisure Travel and Petromodernity in 20th Century Argentina'

26 Feb 2026
Bob Headland (Scott Polar Research Institute): 'Cartographical Conundrums and Antarctic Sovereignty' (Hakluyt Society Lecture)

26 Mar 2026
Mimi Cheng (Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz): 'Aesthetics and Authority in 19th Century Maps of China'

7 May 2026
Anthony Terry (Independent Researcher): 'The Derrotero Ingles: Unravelling the Mysteries of an early 18th-Century English Waggoner in Peru'

4 June 2026 IMCoS visit to Eton College
A visit to Eton College, Windsor is being planned for the first week of June. The College is a short walk from Windsor & Eton Riverside station. Trains run regularly from London Waterloo station and the journey takes approximately 50 minutes. For those driving, there are several public car parks in walking distance of the College.

The visit will include a viewing of the map and travel literature collections held at Eton Library and will be followed by a tour of the College.

More information will be available early next year.

6 June 2026, London
The **IMCoS Annual General Meeting** will take place on Saturday morning before the opening of the London Map Fair at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington, London SW7.
Details will be available closer to the date on the IMCoS website: www.imcos.org

6 – 7 June 2026, London
The 2026 **London Map Fair** will take place at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington, London SW7. It is open from 12 noon until 7 pm on Saturday and from 10 am to 6 pm on Sunday. Entry is free.
Information: https://www.londonmapfairs.com

8 June – 14 September 2026, Iceland
The exhibition ***Imaging Iceland: the earliest printed maps 1507/08–1598*** which opens at the Akureyi Museum next summer will be assembled from the collection of IMCoS members Karl-Werner and Gisela Schulte. They donated their collection of maps of Iceland to the museum in 2015 and since then they have regularly curated special exhibitions drawn from their collection. To mark his 80th birthday, next year, Karl-Werner is curating ***Imaging Iceland*** and extends a hearty welcome to IMCoS members who are planning a visit to the Land of Ice and Fire. He is offering them a special guided tour through the exhibition. He can be contacted at karlwernerschulte @icloud.com
Akureyri Museum (https://www.minjasafnid.is).

November 2026, Tokyo & Kyoto
43rd IMCoS International Symposium
The Japan Map Society will be hosting the 43rd IMCoS International Symposium. The conference is split between two destinations: Tokyo and Kyoto, with the first part taking place in the capital on the 9 and 10 November and the second in Kyoto on the 12th and 13th. There will be a pre-symposium tour to Nikko on the 8 November and a post-symposium trip to Kyushu.

The draft programme can be found on pages 42–45.

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IMCOS-HELEN WALLIS AWARD, 2025 CITATION

**Mary Pedley, William L. Clements Library,
University of Michigan**

The Helen Wallis Award has been given since 1983. Named for Dr Helen Margaret Wallis (1924–1995), who was the Map Librarian of the Map Room in the British Museum (later British Library) from 1967 till 1986. She also was the President of IMCoS from 1986 until 1993 and was actively involved in driving the Society forward in the years following. These multiple roles enhanced her love of outreach, collaboration, and conference going, activities that matched her ebullient personality; she positively celebrated the links between map collectors, dealers, academics, librarians, map curators, the very folk who make up IMCoS. Today's award winner equally fills the Helen Wallis profile. In the manner of Tony Campbell, who presented this award for many years by introducing the winner with a series of clues as to identity, I will give you a few hints.

Our winner trained as a geographer who had thoughts of becoming a land surveyor after mastering the intricacies of the modern plane table and theodolite but a distinct dislike of the out-of-doors and its pitiless sun and relentless bugs drove a retreat to the library and the archive as more suitable habitats for mapwork. This Brit by birth and Brit by beer was nonetheless drawn during the financially straitened 1980s to the broader horizons and richer graduate support available in North America. A Ph.D. thesis required travel via the archives to study India and solidified an approach to the history of cartography that was broad in scope, one that dissected the motives and complications of the large endeavours of imperial mapping. The work was rooted by the profound influence of previous Wallis Award winners: fellow countrymen and University of Wisconsin professors, David Woodward and Brian Harley (1992) who had provided mentorship and a job as a graduate assistant on the fledgling History of Cartography Project.

As a further clue, it is fitting that we are sitting on the campus of the University of Southern Maine, facing the Osher Map Library, named for its founder and major donor Dr Harold Osher, who was given the Helen Wallis Award in 2012. Our winner today was instrumental in helping Dr Osher create both a map collection of international distinction for its breadth and depth and an elegant library of many functions, in whose success saw our winner play a leading role.

Yet, despite a lifetime of interest, passion, and scholarship about maps and mapping, the opening line of the winner's 2019 book tells us: "There is no such thing as cartography, and this is a book about it."

By now you know who I am talking about: the Harold Osher Chair in the History of Cartography, Professor of Geography, Osher Map Library Faculty Scholar, and blogger under the handle Mapping as Process, Dr Matthew H. Edney. Scholar, teacher, researcher, editor, director, and good friend. And only a good friend can ask: how can someone so deeply immersed in maps, indeed, whose professional life depends on them, come up with such a jarring statement as "cartography is dead"? Knowing Matthew means knowing that he has a further passion beyond maps: words and what they mean. Not just any words, but words that pack a hidden wallop when used to describe maps, whether it is the hyperbolic – "first" "earliest" "only" – or descriptive – "accurate" "scientific" "progress" "good" and "better" – or the big nouns themes into which maps are fit – "discovery" and "cartography." All of them give Matthew pause: he stops and says "wait a minute" – how does this word mean – what did it mean when first coined and how does it come to mean what we think it means now – and what does it mean for a map and how we understand it? This pursuit of detail takes Matthew down necessary but deep rabbit holes to gain the broad understanding of historical context, knowing as he does that context is everything when looking at a map. And so it is with the language that we employ to describe maps. "Cartography," as he has painstakingly shown us, is a catch-all term for everything "mappy," from the drawing of maps to the collecting of maps to the study of maps and to the imbuing of maps with powers that they often do not have.

His dogged determination to clarify the language around maps and within maps is what makes Matthew a Helen Wallis Award winner. His life work ticks all the boxes of the award: his active engagement in the development of a map collection, his study and continuous work with early maps through his research and teaching, both at this university and extra curricular schools. He is the go-to commentator for radio programmes, talk shows, and other blog posts and



Professor Matthew H. Edney winner of the 2025 IMCoS-Helen Wallis Award. He was joined by last year's winner Mary Pedley who was unable to attend her own presentation ceremony which took place in Malta.

podcasts related to maps. His own blog, Mapping as Process, is a rich compendium of his own research in progress, with access to his quite daunting bibliography, complete with links to articles and books listed. Last but hardly least, he is the successor to David Woodward and Brian Harley as the Director of the History of Cartography Project at the University of Wisconsin, an endeavour which has just completed its 50 year goal of producing a series of reference works on the history of cartography from prehistoric times to the twentieth century. This achievement alone should be enough for one person: to conceptualize and bring to fruition these summarizing works of reference, designed both to introduce the history of maps and mapping to newcomers to the field and to serve as a guidepost and reference reminder to seasoned scholars, simply because one person can't remember everything! The behind the scenes work of ensuring funding for these volumes and the support of the staff whose work was essential to their production was in itself a singular achievement.

The most compelling aspect of Matthew Edney's contributions to our world of maps is his willingness to share his scholarship widely, in any place and in almost any format. Matthew's colleagues here in Maine and around the globe know him to be incredibly generous with his time, knowledge, and advice. He is as adept in the classroom, where he teaches courses such as: Maps, Territory, and Power and Global History: Mapping the World Across Cultures, as he is on the podcast, on the screen or as a workshop participant, with the schoolkids who come to the Osher or the members of local historical societies. His generosity of spirit is matched by his kindness. Indeed, his bottomless patience is called upon by those who don't understand entirely why cartography is dead: he is always happy to explain it!

Please join me in congratulating the next Helen Wallis award winner: Matthew Edney.

REPORT FROM THE 42ND IMCOS INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM IN PORTLAND, MAINE, 2025

Fredric (Fred) and Eilene Shauger



Fig 1 Katherine Dudley, 'A Map of Portland Maine and some Places Thereabout', 1928. Provided by Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education.

The 42nd International Map Collectors' Society (IMCoS) Symposium was held in Portland, Maine, from 11 –14 September. Hosted by the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education on the campus of the University of Southern Maine, this year's symposium centered on the theme: 'Reflections and New Perspectives on Mapping Maine, New England and Maritime Canada'. The event gathered map scholars, enthusiasts, and educators to delve into the region's distinguished cartographic heritage.

Opening Activities

The Symposium's unofficial opening featured a scenic 'mail' boat ride around Casco Bay, allowing participants to reconnect with familiar faces and form new connections. Casco Bay is sometimes referred to as the Calendar Islands, while a charming nomenclature, the Bay has twice as many islands – 785, as well as six lighthouses, eight forts, and 1,000 species of marine life, including 150 water birds. The coastal tour offered first-time visitors an interesting perspective of their host city.

That evening, all attendees convened at the Osher Library for check-in and orientation and visit to the exhibition *Founding Memories: America at 250*. The exhibition investigates the iconography of the Revolution. 'Over the course of the past 250 years, the ways in which the Revolutionary War has been portrayed on cartographic materials has continually changed and shifted, ranging from celebratory and patriotic items to items challenging the nation to fully live up to its Revolutionary ideals of equality, freedom, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness'.

The formal programme began in Hannaford Hall with hors d'oeuvres, followed by a welcome address from Dr Libby Bischof, executive director of the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education and central to organizing and managing the Symposium. She called our attention to the many ways land and its geography can be understood, and introduced the keynote speaker James Eric Francis, Sr. As a member of the Penobscot Nation and Tribal Historian, Mr Francis shared the history of his people and their ongoing efforts to preserve their culture and traditions, particularly their influence on place-names and mapping traditions in the area.

12 September
'Local and Regional Context'

Day 1 featured presentations about Maine's historical significance as an economic hub, its unique mapping characteristics, and ongoing changes in Portland's landscape. **Dr Matthew Edney**, a longtime faculty scholar at the Osher Map Library gave the opening lecture – 'Situating New England and the Maritimes Geographically and Cartographically'– providing insight into Maine's early history as the economic centre of the English colonies – a status that spurred the need for mapping the region. He emphasized the distinct characteristics of Maine's maps compared to those of the southern British colonies, highlighting the region's agricultural pursuits and logging enterprises that contributed to its historical prominence.

Dr Libby Bischof, in addition to her executive positions, is Professor of History at the University of Southern Maine. She is a public historian. Relying on that discipline in her lecture 'Mapping and Charting the History of Portland Maine', she read the poem *Lost thoughts of Youth* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882), a long-term resident of Portland, about coming home. His youthful memories did not match the town he visits. Portland had changed so much that Longfellow could not come home. Bischof used a variety of maps from the Osher collections to demonstrate the changes made to Longfellow's

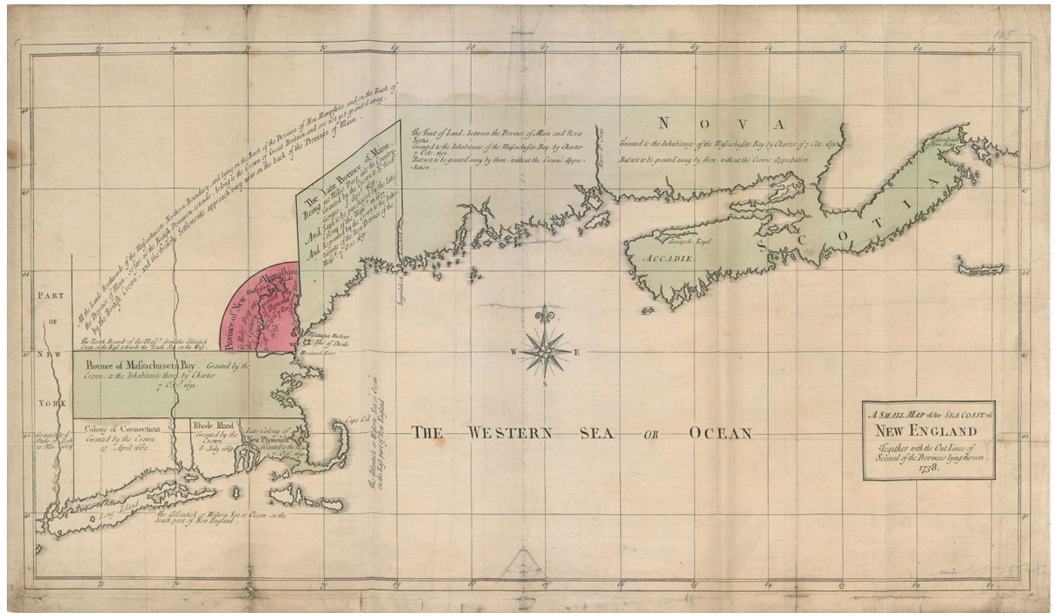


Fig 2 Cyprian Southack, 'A small map of the Sea Coast of New England, Together with the Out Lines of Several of the Provinces Lying theron', 1738. Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center, https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:hx11z5616. This work is licensed for use under a Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial Share Alike License (CC BY-NC-SA).

'beautiful town/that is seated by the sea'. Among the changes were landfills that enlarged the city, partitioning of the land, demolition of old buildings and the arrival of the railroad. All these changes constantly altered the face of Portland.

The morning concluded with a presentation by **Dr Garrett Nash Nelson**, President and Curator of the Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library. Nelson introduced the ARGO (American Revolutionary Geographies online) system. Using the latest technology, museums, libraries and archives share their digital collections of revolutionary war maps to create a user-friendly portal. Maps are freely accessible to all. The systems allow researchers to identify a particular map in one institution and simultaneously locate matching examples in affiliated repositories. (https://www.argomaps.org/).

The session concluded with a lunch provided by the Leventhal Library, notable for its memorable apple pie.

As a follow up to Dr Bishof's talk about Portland through the eyes of poet Longfellow, the afternoon sessions were held in the **Maine Historical Society** (estab. 1822). The Society is located in two buildings one of which is the Longfellow house where he spent his youth and early adulthood. Built in the late eighteenth century by his grandparents, it is preserved in its original condition without electricity or plumbing. Its garden, the location for the evening's cocktail reception, is designed following Colonial Revival principles with planting suggestions made by Longfellow's niece Ann, the last family member to live in the house.

An exhibition of maps used for surveying land in Portland prior to sales was showcased in the Brown Library (Fig. 4). The collection included manuscripts and documents ranging from basic sketches to elaborate maps adorned with compass roses and cartouches.

September 13
'Education and Exhibitions'

A panel of educators shared their experiences of integrating maps, primarily from the Osher collection, into their teaching. All were recipients of Osher Fellowships. The fellowships are designed to provide educators with the tools and access to Osher's cartographic materials and staff expertise to introduce maps into their curriculum. They demonstrated how geographical information, along with associated images and texts provide students with new perspectives on an evolving world. **Adam Schmitt**, Associate Professor of History at the University of Southern Maine related how teachers and students obtain a new perspective of history by integrating maps into their studies. **Dr Timothy Ruback** is an Associate Professor at the University and teaches courses on international politics and the United Nations. He uses maps in his lectures on border politics, US foreign policy and global terrorism. **Dr Brenda Zollistch** teaches at the Muskie School of Public Service at the University. Her graduate courses in public policy analysis use the cartographic information made available by the Osher. **Daniella Clark** and **Andrew Kosak** are both teachers in middle school; they explained how they regularly incorporate cartographic content sourced from the Osher Library. Associate Professor in Electric Engineering **Dr Ashanti Maxworth** related a project she set for her students from resources at Osher on the history of magnetic fields in a coaxial cable. **Dr Paula Gerstenblatt** Professor of Social Work (USM) created an assignment 'Mapping a Social Issue' which has been continued by other social work faculties.

To complement the morning's presentations the Osher Library presented an exhibition highlighting how its collection enriches interdisciplinary curricula. Among the featured items was a world wall map by



Fig. 3 Billy Gerard Frank, *Indigo: Entanglements No. 6*. 2022. Mixed media. Osher Collection.



Fig. 4 Thomas Johnston, 1754 copy of 'A True Coppy from an Ancient Plan of of E. Hutchinson's Esqr. & from Jos. Heath in 1729 & Phins. Jones's Survey in 1731 & from John North's Late Survey in 1752'. https://digitalmaine.com/maps/207/



Above: The cohort of attendees at the 42nd IMCoS International Symposium in front of the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education.

Frederick DeWit (1680), which drew attention for its vivid coloured cartouches depicting sea battles and city views. On the opposite wall, one of Osher's most recent acquisitions, is a map by twenty-first-century artist Billy Gerard Frank (Fig. 3). The accompanying caption says its purpose is 'to help viewers understand the ways in which maps can be read in new ways when placed alongside other primary sources'. The exhibition also included student-drawn maps and map games. On the walls were entries for the annual 'Osher Illustrated Mapmaking Contest' for Maine elementary school students. The competition was inaugurated in 2016 and attracts hundreds of entries each year.

That afternoon, participants chose between a harbour cruise of **Boothbay** – hoping to spot seals, dolphins, and whales – or a visit to the **Maine Maritime Botanical Gardens**. The authors selected the latter. Developed twenty years ago, the gardens featured beds of vibrant dahlias in shades of yellow, orange, pink, and red, interspersed with annuals and perennials. Hydrangeas ranged from bright white to deep pink and rose. The flower and shrub beds followed the land's topography, and wooden 'Urchins' and water features added interest throughout. Butterflies and hummingbirds were abundant.

Opposite top: Our visit to at the Brown Library, Portland to view manuscript maps of land surveys and purchases made in eighteenth-century Maine. The exhibition was prepared for us by the staff at the Maine Historical Society.

Centre: Libby Bischof receiving her gift of thanks for the amazing work she and her team did to make the conference such a success. Flanked on either side by IMCoS Chairman Mike Sweeting (*r.*) and International Chairman Wes Brown (*l*).

Tom Sander, Fred Shauger, Eilene Shauger, Jim Hensiger, and Libby Bischof map viewing at the Osher Library. In the background hangs a portrait of Peggy and Harold Osher whose map collection with that of Lawrence and Eleanor Smith form the library's founding collections.

Bottom: Jenny and Ian Harvey bibbed up for their lobster at the farewell dinner.

Dealers Philip Burden (London) and Michael Buehler (Boston) and Lorraine Sherry, Secretary of the Rocky Mountain Map Society.

Photos by Paul Lim with contributions from Jenny Harvey and the Editor.











14 September

The Osher Map Library's Treasures

A highlight of the symposium was the tour of the Osher Map Library's treasures, introduced by Matthew Edney with members of the Osher family present. Edney recounted the library's history and the generous gift of its collection, now numbering 500,000 items. Libby Bischof discussed the library's endowment and outreach initiatives.

Among the collection's standout pieces is Lucus Brandis' 'Holy Land Map', published in his encyclopaedic work on Christianity: *Rudimentum novitiorum sive chronicarum historiarum epitome,* issued in 1475. It is regarded as the first modern printed map because it is not derived from a classical source. It is the oldest map in the library. Louis Miller, (Assistant Director for Research and Fellowship Programs and Cartographic Librarian at Osher), presented on this map, detailing its intricacies and biblical scenes.

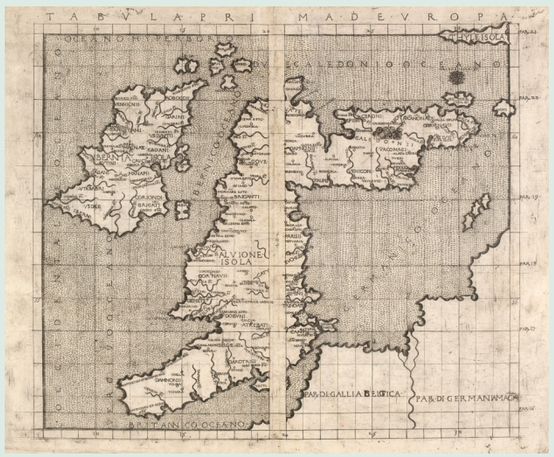
Special maps from the Osher collection were displayed for attendees, including Samuel de Champlain's map of New England (1613). Each participant had ten minutes in 'the vault', a climate-controlled room accessible by elevator, where treasures such as the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* by Abraham Ortelius (1570–1612), the Blaeu *Atlas Maior* (1662–1665), and Johannes Schott's edition of Ptolemy's *Geographia* (1513) were exhibited. (The author joined two groups for this activity.)

Toshikazu (Toshi) Kaida closed the morning's activities with a presentation video previewing the next annual symposium, which will be held in Japan (see pages 42–45 for the draft programme).

The traditional gala dinner was held that night at Wolf's Neck Farm, forty minutes north of Portland, with lobster as the most popular dish. The farm was started by Lawrence M.C. Smith and Eleanor Houston Smith in the 1950s to raise organic beef. At the centre of their endeavour was conservation and sustainable agriculture without chemical pesticides. The farm was donated to the University of Southern Maine to be managed as a non-profit community resource. The Smith Center for Cartographic Education in the Library's name reflects the generosity of the family in aiding it in its preservation of Maine's cartographic heritage for future generations.

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Claudius Ptolemy – Francesco Berlinghieri. Untitled map of the British Isles published in 'Geographia di Francesco Berlinghieri Fiorentino in terza rima...'. Florence 1482.

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15–17 September: Post-Symposium Excursion

The 3-day excursion was orchestrated by Libby Bischof. It began with a drive north from Portland, offering views of Maine's stunning coastline. The forests had yet to display fall colours. In Brunswick, the group visited **Bowdoin College**, where Frank Goodwin led a museum tour. Entry was through a glass portal leading to a first-floor exhibition of Gordon Parks' photographs documenting rural America during World War II. Upstairs, in a small ancient history salon was displayed four Assyrian steles commemorating King Ashurbanipal's achievements, with remnants of original colour visible. Reflecting IMCoS's interests, a copy of the view of Bologna from the *Nuremberg Chronicle* (1493) was also on display.

The group continued to **Bar Harbor**, their final destination for the day.

16 September: Acadia National Park

The fine weather persisted as participants explored Acadia National Park. The visit began with a van ascent up the winding, single-lane road to the summit of Cadillac Mountain, where panoramic views encompassed the Atlantic Ocean, bay, and woodlands. Sand Beach, a horseshoe-shaped stretch flanked by cliffs and waves, and Jordan Pond, a freshwater lake with hiking trails and a restaurant renowned for popovers and blueberry pie, were highlights. In Bar Harbor, the small Abbe Museum honoured Maine's five Indigenous tribes, with artifacts and wall murals featuring maps that illustrated shifting tribal lands over time.

17 September: Closing activities

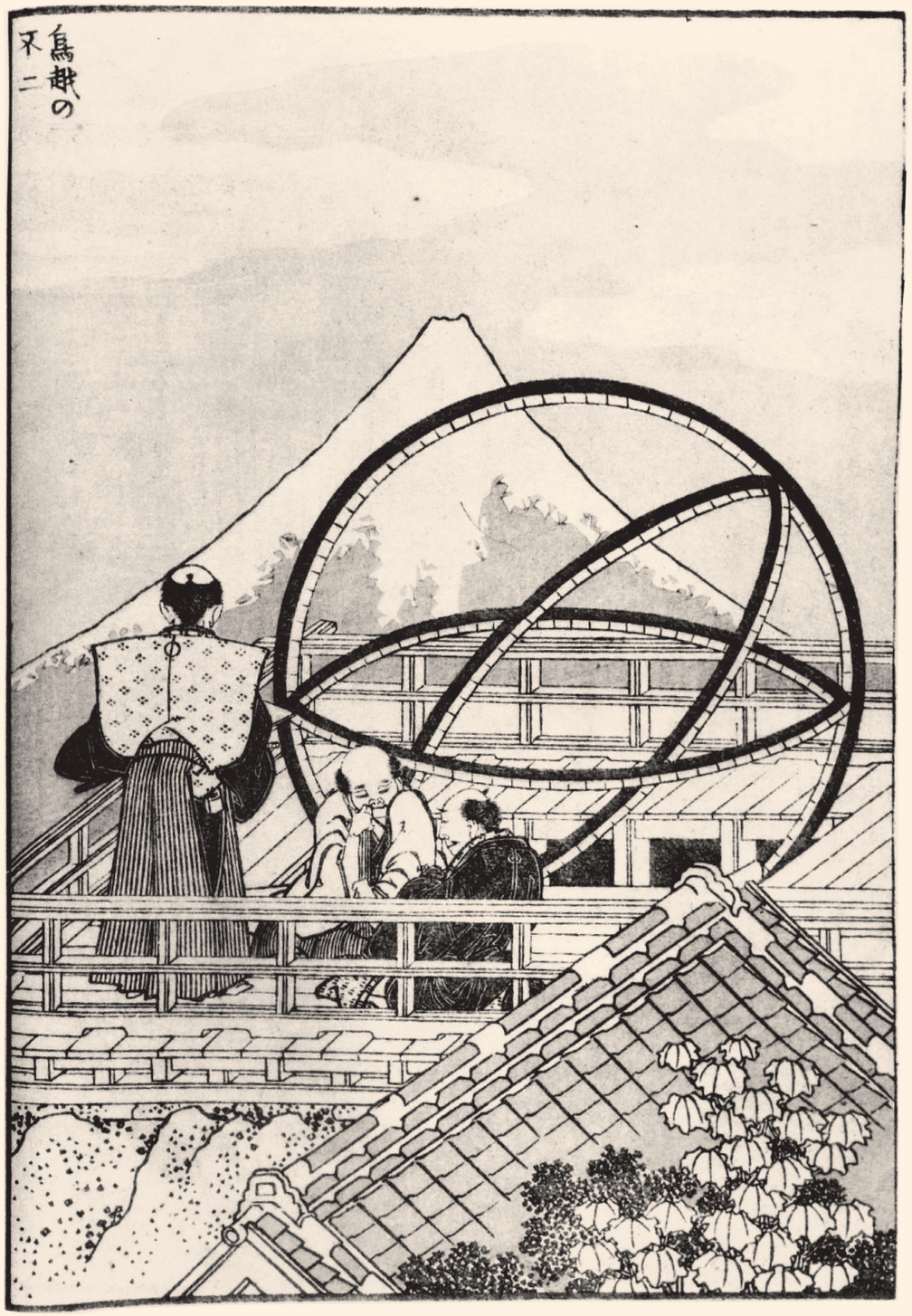
The excursion's final day began with a visit to the **Thuya Gardens,** entered through an intricately carved wooden gate. The gardens, modeled after those of an English estate, showcased rows of blooming dahlias, perennials, and annuals, planted to emphasize their vibrant colours. Butterflies and hummingbirds were drawn to the abundant nectar. The gardens extended into wooded areas populated with native moss, shade plants, and appropriate trees.

On the return to Portland, the group saw the **Penobscot Narrows Bridge**, a striking modern suspension bridge with an observation tower. An elevator ride to the top offered spectacular 360-degree views. A wall plaque prominently displayed a copy of Champlain's map of New England – the same map exhibited at the Osher Library days earlier.

The final group activity was a luncheon at Young's Lobster Pond, where lobster traps lined the outdoor seating area, providing a fitting conclusion to the 42nd IMCoS Symposium.



Bar Harbor



IMCOS 43RD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM TOKYO & KYOTO

9–13 November 2026

EARLY INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE WESTERN WORLD AND JAPAN SEEN THROUGH HISTORICAL MAPS

Japan Cartographers Association (JCA) and the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) will host the 2026 conference.

There will also be an optional one-day pre-symposium trip to Nikko, and an optional two-day post-symposium tour to Kyushu, including a stay at Yufuin or Beppu hot springs.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Pre-symposium tour to Nikko (optional)

Sunday 8 November 2026 Nikko

7:20 am – 6:30 pm Express train from Tokyo to Nikko (approximately 125 kilometres in the mountains north of Tokyo, a journey of less than 2 hours). We will visit the Kegon Waterfall, Chuzenji Lake, Tōshōgu Shrine (see photo overleaf), Rinnōji Temple, and Kanaya Museum.
Dinner on your own in Tokyo

Monday 9 November 2026 Tokyo

The Symposium venue will be in the vicinity of the Kanda District of Tokyo.
Opening, presentations & map viewing

8:30 am Arrival and Coffee/Tea
9:15 am Opening by Tokyo Chair of JCA and a representative of IMCoS
Presentations on Japanese mapmaking and coffee break
11:30 am Lunch on your own
12:30 pm – 3:00 pm Presentations about maps of China and their influence on Japanese mapmaking
Coffee break
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm Map viewing at Meiji University Library (Ashida Bunko map collection)
4:30 pm – 6:30 pm Jimbōchō on your own. (This is Tokyo's centre for antique and vintage book stores, general antiques and curios and publishing houses)
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Welcome dinner (close to Jimbōchō)

Katsushika Hokusai, 'Torigoe no Fuji'. The shogunate astronomical observatory in Asakusa (1782–1869) with Mt Fuji in the background. From *One Hundred Views of Mt Fuji*. Wikimedia Commons.



View of Shinjuku skyscrapers and Mt Fuji.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokyo#/media/File:Skyscrapers_of_Shinjuku_2009_January.jpg

Tuesday 10 November 2026

Presentations and Excursion to Sawara
8:45 am Arrival and Coffee/Tea
9:15 am Presentations about world famous collections of historical Japanese maps
10:45 am – 1:00 pm Sawara tour by bus (preordered lunch box on bus)
Visit to the Inō Museum, Festival Float Museum, Canal boating, Katri shrine
4:00 pm – 5:45 pm return to Tokyo by bus
Dinner on your own

Wednesday 11 November 2026

Travel day from Tokyo to Kyoto

Thursday 12 November 2026

Kyoto Opening, presentations & map viewing
The Kyoto venue is the Nichibunken Hall, 3-2 Goryo Oeyama-cho, Nishikyo-ku, Kyoto 610-1192 Japan

Private Shuttle bus to Nichibunken. It departs from Hankyu Rakusaiguchi Station at 8:00, 8:45 and 9:30 am. It takes approximately 20 minutes. Otherwise, you can take a taxi.
8:45 am Arrival and Coffee/Tea
9:15 am Opening by Kyoto Chair
Presentations about cultural interactions between the East and West
Coffee break
12:00 pm Lunch on your own
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Presentations addressing current studies of Japanese maps and world famous collections of historical Japanese maps
Coffee break
3:10 pm – 4:10 pm Map viewing at Nichibunken Library with Professor Frederik Cryns
Shuttle bus to Hankyu Rakusaiguchi Station departs at 4:20 and 5:00 pm. Otherwise, you can take a taxi or public bus.
5:30 pm Explore Kyoto and dinner on your own
OPTIONAL: 7:00 pm Dinner and performance of traditional music and dance by Maiko performers.



The Yomeimon Gate at the Nikko Toshogu Shrine. Nikko City is famous for its shrines and temples, specifically a group of 103 shrines and temples of great artistic and historical value which, together with their natural surroundings, are registered as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikk%C5%8D_T%C5%8Dsh%C5%8D-g%C5%AB#/media/File:Nikko_Toshogu_Yomeimon_Gate_2024.jpg

Friday 13 November 2026

Excursion to Unsōdō Publishing House, Nara and Tenri
Bus departs from Hotel Okura at 9 am and from Kyoto Station at 9:15 am.
Unsōdō is famous for producing exquisite art books and wood block printing. You will be able to view their collection of old woodblocks.
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Bus to Nara, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
(pre-ordered lunch box on the bus)
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Guided tour of Tōdaiji, the Buddhist temple complex
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Visit to Tenri Library and Sankōkan Museum
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm OPTIONAL Farewell Dinner in Kyoto (Location TBD)

Post-Symposium Tour to Kyushu (optional)

14 November 2026

7:30 am Meet at Kyoto Station
8:03 am – 10:30 am Sanyo Shinkansen (high speed rail) to Kokura
10:30 am – 12 pm Visit to the Zenrin Museum which houses the Jason Hubbard collection of maps of Japan
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Visit to Kokura Castle
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm Bus to Yufuin or Beppu where we will stay the night at a hot spring hotel.

15 November 2026

8:30 am – 10:45 am in Beppu with a tour of *Jigoku-meguri* hot springs (1.5 hrs)
1:00 pm Individual departures from Hakata (famous for its ramen noodles)

† Albert Ganado (1924–2025)

'A life not so ordinary'

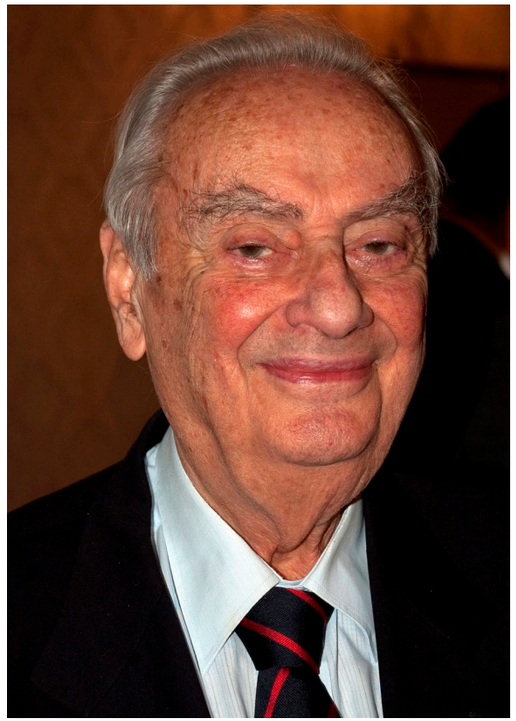
Founding president of the Malta Map Society, Dr Albert Ganado, died at his home in Valletta, Malta, on 2 November at the grand age of 101. This has meant Malta has lost one of its most prominent map collectors and scholars. Last year Joseph Schirò President of the Malta Map Society celebrated his life with 'A Mapping Milestone: Dr Albert Ganado celebrates 100 years' in this journal (See *IMCoS Map Journal*, No. 178, September 2024).

Dr Ganado was a lawyer, map collector, scholar of Maltese history and served as a gunner in the Royal Malta Artillery during World War Two. He was married to Muriel in 1949. They had two daughters Berta and Rita. After the war he started collecting early maps of Malta, with his first big purchase in 1953 in London from Francis Edwards Ltd.

His map collection was extensive, ranging from woodcuts to copper-plated engravings and lithography. Possibly his greatest collecting achievement was when he managed to acquire most of the so-called Lafreri maps of Malta which were still in private hands. His great interest was sixteenth-century Italian cartography. In 2008 Ganado gave his collection of maps to the government in exchange for his family home in Valletta. These are now in the National Art Museum (MUŻA) and are known as the Albert Ganado Malta Map Collection (AGMMC).

He was a prolific author and a regular contributor to the *IMCoS Journal* writing on his latest research and discoveries of maps of Malta. His magnum opus is the two-volume scholarly work *A Study in depth of 143 Maps representing the Great Siege of Malta of 1565*, an account of the Siege through maps, which he co-authored with Chev. Dr Maurice Agius-Vadala. His other published works include *The Early Maltese Cartographers* (2012), *German Malta Maps* (2011) (with Joseph Schirò and Claude Micaleff Attard), *Miniature maps of Malta* (2009).

Albert Ganado has been described as a 'true guardian of our cartographic memory and a generous mentor to all who cared about it. His unwavering dedication and the breadth of his vision, made him a man much larger than life!' Hans Kok, a past chairman of the International Map Collectors' Society defined him as the 'eminence *grise* of Maltese cartography', and an award speech given by Tony Campbell, stated 'this year's worthy winner of the Helen Wallis-IMCoS Award goes to the outstanding luminary of cartographic Melitensia, Chevalier Dr Albert Ganado'.



Portrait of Dr Ganado in 2016 during the launching of his book *The Pre-Siege Maps of Malta*. Pamaltam. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ganado_2016.jpg

His passion and dedication to the mapping of Malta has helped to ensure that its maps and history will be available to future generations. The title of his memoir *A life not so ordinary* is a fitting summation of his 101 years.

A celebration of his life was held on 5 November at St Paul Shipwrecked collegiate church, Valletta.

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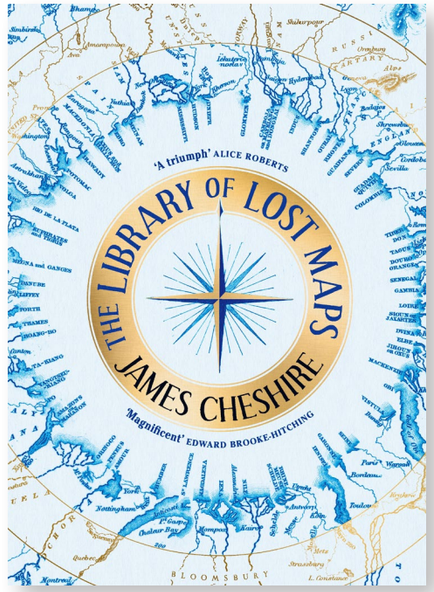
Frederik de Wit, 1660

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Library of Lost Maps *by James Cheshire. London: Bloomsbury, 2025. ISBNs: 9781526676610 (hardback), 9781526676597 (e-book), 9781526676580 (ePDF). 384, illus. £30.00 hardback.*



Whilst the contents of the British Library and the five other 'legal deposit' libraries in the British Isles grow with each day, it has long been otherwise with many university and other institutional collections. These have been either static or in actual decline since the early 1980s, and many have simply ceased to exist. The reason is not far to seek: maps are labour intensive both to make and to store, retrieve and to replace. Only atlases and suitably specially-treated folded maps are suitable to unsupervised open-access shelves; atlases are bulky, and space constraints mean that at best only a 'library edition' of the standard topographic map of the country is likely to be found on open-access in an institutional library – and quite often even that is not to be found. Such map collections have declined for two reasons: pressure on staff, and an ever-growing corpus of online mapping, including elusive but 'important' historical mapping. An accumulation of increasingly obsolescent paper, with the salary of someone to preside over it, cannot compete with online access to up-to-date mapping financed by a corporate subscription. True, those outside the institution cannot access the online 'collection'; but there are in practice so few of those who are disadvantaged that this doesn't matter to those who pay the subscription.

The run-down of academic map libraries has not always been well managed. 'Teaching collections' of relatively recent but nonetheless now outdated maps produced by national mapping agencies are notoriously unsaleable, and the same applies to sets of single sheets of standard topographic map series. The green-minded hope that these will go for paper-recycling rather as landfill. Other maps are more unusual, but their value is not always appreciated, and what ought to be preserved is likely either to be completely lost, or possibly 'rescued' by someone with no connection to the 'map fraternity', so that, for want of that connection, the map is often lost to view. Such mapping is some of Hubert Llewllyn Smith's follow-up in the 1920s to Charles Booth's late Victorian survey of London poverty, described and illustrated in this book.

The alternative to complete closure and 'dispersal' is to 'mothball' the collection and to give responsibility for it to someone whose prime responsibilities lie elsewhere, and who may or may not know anything about maps. From the institution's point of view this has the advantage that it can claim that the 'map collection' is intact, which may deflect awkward questions, without spending significant money on it – unless and until it decides that it prefers the map library's space to its company.

Such an effectively 'mothballed' collection is the subject of this book: that of University College London (UCL). James Cheshire was given responsibility for it in 2022, and 'guessed it had been years since the library welcomed a new map into its collection'. He set about exploring it, and some of the more interesting discoveries are presented in *The Library of Lost Maps*. Apparently there are 440 drawers in the map-room, and evidently mostly well-filled, and far fewer than 440 maps are described in these pages. I suspect that the bulk of the collection by volume is composed of standard topographic mapping of Britain and elsewhere, which is just the sort of

mapping that is *carta non gratia*. It was not always so: immediately after World War II the British military disposed of large quantities of both its own mapping and captured Axis mapping to those university libraries that were then in being, including UCL – and the universities were only too pleased to have them. These donations were augmented later by disposals of duplicate copies of maps from the Ministry of Defence map library, and run-downs of such as the Ordnance Survey Record Map Library in the late 1960s: these later disposals were especially helpful for the growth of collections in universities and colleges of post-war foundation.

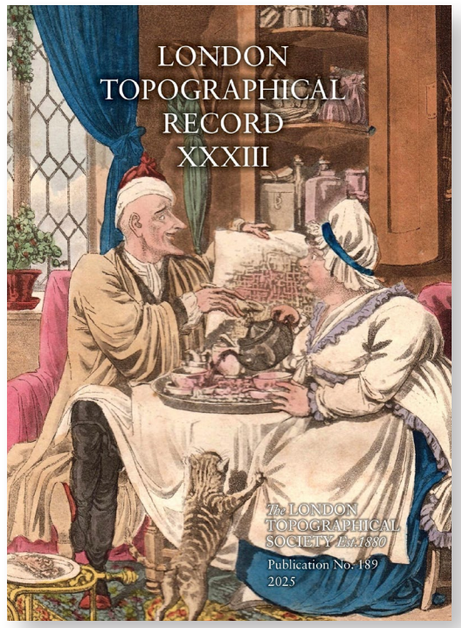
Amongst the maps described, some of which are bound to be relatively new to most readers of this *Journal*, are George Bellas Greenough's geological map of India of 1854 (Greenough gets a better press here than he tends to get in biographies of his less well-resourced rival, William Smith); the maps of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge of the 1830s and 1840s; a number of German atlases, including by Heinrich Berghaus (his *Physikalischer Atlas* was published from 1838 onwards), various ethnographic maps, including their use in the preparations for the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, and a number of propaganda maps produced following the consequent boundary changes; the maps of J.F. Horrabin of the 1930s and later; the activities, overt and otherwise, of Alexander Radó across the middle decades of the twentieth century; maps for the bombing of Hiroshima (a chapter to themselves); Erwin Schneider's mapping of Everest; Marie Tharp and Bruce Heezen's ocean-floor mapping; and some early digital mapping, about which some will feel that the less said the better! Effectively absent are 'standard' topographic map series; those that do appear have been adapted in some way, such as target mapping of Hiroshima. As such, the book is one of 'quality' rather than 'quantity'.

The book has been very much 'designed', and the page-count is, as it seems to your reviewer, padded out with oblique views of some of the maps described, which don't really add anything significant to the information content of the book as a whole. It is wearisomely unnecessary to say that, as usual, no proper allowance has been made for gutters, and that nearly every map spread across an opening has an ugly hiatus somewhere. No map extract seems to be at its original scale: all are either reduced or enlarged. However, all the maps described are illustrated by a 'Map Gallery' of 'thumbnails' proportional to the size of each map, which enables an appreciation of relative size, but is necessarily not revealing of detail. Altogether, I could have done with fewer obliques and more conventional extracts of consistent scale.

This book, then, can be seen as having a twofold purpose: it draws attention to a variety of interesting and thought-provoking maps, and it supports the case for the continuation of university and other institutional map libraries generally, and that of UCL in particular. Subject to reservations about 'design', it would make a good present, though perhaps a little late for Christmas by the time that this review appears. Easter, perhaps?

Richard Oliver, Exeter, UK

London Topographical Record XXXIII, *edited by Sheila O'Connell. The London Topographical Society (Publication No. 189), 2025. ISBN: 978090208772. HB, [x] + 336 pp, illus, maps. Price to non-members £30.00.*



Every few years there is an exception to the usual publication pattern of the London Topographical Society (LTS), of either 'graphics' or edited texts: the *London Topographical Record*. This takes the place of a more regular journal, and often contains articles of map-historical interest. The latest issue of the *Record* is reviewed here because of two important articles: Laurence Worms on 'The Lesser Maps of London', and Peter Barber on a map of Hatfield, Hertfordshire and Middlesex of 1610, produced for Robert Cecil, first Earl of Salisbury.

The 'Lesser Maps' might almost be defined as those not, as yet anyway, reproduced in some form by the LTS. 'Greater' maps reproduced to date are all the original surveys before 1850: the Copperplate Map (what remains of it; 1550s) and its 'Agas' woodcut derivative (a little later, and a 'special case'), Faithorne & Newcourt (1658), Ogilby & Morgan (1682), Rocque (1740s) and Horwood (1790s). The 'lesser maps' all probably derive from these original surveys, possibly at more than one remove: the cost of surveying somewhere so large as London would inhibit any original overall mapping for the mass way-finding market. Laurence Worms estimates that there could be about 500 separate printed maps, over 300 of which might be termed general-user maps for individual sale, as opposed to maps designed for inclusion in atlases or books, or of thematic intent. It is these general-user maps which would be seen by most of the audience for maps. Practically all of that 300-odd must include a derivative element, but at least some include original information and, given that the 'greater maps' were produced at such long intervals – an average of fifty years or so – ought to yield important supplementary information to those interested in London's past topography. The important and as yet unanswered – possibly unanswerable – question is how the additional data was acquired; how rigorous were the various surveys?

Several of these more significant-seeming 'lesser maps' are illustrated here. They include some which extend well beyond the then contiguous built-up area. Indeed, this is a characteristic of about a third of the 'lesser maps': 'It becomes a question of how far did London actually extend in the mind of its inhabitants?' If the LTS runs short of ideas for non-map publication, then there would seem to be plenty of 'lesser maps' awaiting their attention. Perhaps one or more large-format volumes?

The 'Cecil' map is in manuscript, it remains in the custody of the present Earl of Salisbury at its original home, Hatfield House, and it is little known and cited. A roughly half-scale reproduction is included here as a loose insert: the convenience of looking at the whole map at once could surely have been addressed by a full-page quarter-size reproduction of the whole map, and a half-sized reproduction spread over four pages: the make-up of this volume would enable these extra five pages, and fit into neat 'gatherings' of sixteen pages. As it is, this will show wear after a few openings and refoldings: librarians curse this, and so should private readers. This is a great pity, for the map well deserves discussion and analysis, not least because of the differing treatment of detail. The scale varies considerably: a scheme for Hatfield House is shown at a significantly larger relative scale than anything else. The area covered is effectively south from Hatfield to the Thames, east to the Lea, and west to St Albans.

In 1610 Cecil had only recently acquired Hatfield, King James I having exchanged it, and seventeen manors, for Theobalds, a few miles away, which offered better hunting. The map under discussion seems to have been multi-purpose. One use was land management strategy, including scheming the enclosure of Hatfield Wood (800 hectares) to the south. Another was transport planning for materials coming to build Hatfield House, some of which would have come as close as possible by water. 'It is, however, predominantly a map of travel – but a radically novel one.' It is argued that the map is designed to be used as a satnav is today: whilst travelling, rather than for planning in advance. Rather than serving as a general-purpose road map, it concentrates on routes to and from Hatfield, and omits a great many other roads that were irrelevant to potential visitors to the house. On the other hand, details vital for way-finding, such as road forks, are carefully mapped. So are mansions, depicted in categories according to size and perceived importance: a particular quirk of depicting them suggests that the authors may have been the Hanningfields of Essex.

With the caveat about the awkward inset, these are two articles and a volume well worth the attention of anyone with an interest in British topography and map history. And the remainder of the volume is equally worthwhile.

Richard Oliver, Exeter, UK

Front cover image: Courtesy of Ash Rare Books

EXHIBITION REVIEW 1

Cataloniae Descriptio: El patrimoni cartogràfic de Catalunya

Mataró (Barcelona) 1 Oct – 5 Dec 2025

On 1 October 2025, I attended the opening of the exhibition entitled *CATALONIAE DESCRIPTIO. El patrimoni cartogràfic de Catalunya* (The cartographic heritage of Catalonia), held at the *Arxiu Comarcal del Maresme* (Mataró). The exhibition of forty items illustrates the shaping of Catalonia's geographic image between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries. In addition to the maps published in that period, six frontispieces from the earliest atlases that included maps of Catalonia are also on display, beginning with *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* by Abraham Ortelius (1527–1598), and followed by Mercator's *Atlas* edited by Jodocus Hondius (1563–1612), and other sumptuous examples that epitomize the Golden Age of cartography by these Netherlandish masters.

The purpose of this exhibition was to raise awareness of a cultural heritage that remains largely unknown to the public, inviting visitors to examine how successive authors have interpreted and represented Catalonia, from the earliest depiction (Vrients, 1606) to the first lithographed edition (Schlieben, 1825). A careful viewing of the exhibition reveals the intellectual, artistic, and emotional qualities of these cultural artifacts and helps us appreciate the prominent role that maps have played throughout history. Through its study, cartography emerges as a creative invention that has enabled the imagination of spatial relationships – the position of places, the distances between them – and an understanding of the land's morphology and its most salient natural features.

The exhibition opens with J. B. Vrients' (1552–1612) canonical depiction of Catalonia, produced in Antwerp in 1606. Inspired by an early manuscript sent by the Catalonian authorities to Vrients to be engraved and printed, the map is crowded with accurately positioned place-names. It was designed as a single-sheet supplement to the *Theatrum*, whose plates Vrients had acquired from Ortelius's nephew. Only one copy of this monumental print is known to survive and it was followed by exquisitely engraved maps drawn by his Amsterdam rivals: J. Hondius (1611) and later G. Blaeu (1634). The next group of maps in the exhibition were produced in Paris, initially by mapmakers who shamelessly copied the information and style of their northern competitors (Jean Boisseau, (1642), then Nicolas Sanson). However, Sanson's 1660 map significantly altered the model they inherited by incorporating new territorial data such as the administrative divisions and borders established after the Treaty of the Pyrenees (1659) and redrawing, although inaccurately, the coastline. The source for the coastal distortion is unknown.

The prestige enjoyed by Sanson accounts for the influence he exerted on later mapmakers based in Amsterdam, such as Frederick de Wit (1630–1706) and Nicolas Visscher (1649–1702), who, two decades later, endeavoured to synthesize the work of Vrients and Sanson in their mapping of Catalonia. Their works are distinguished by elegant cartouches, mastery of engraving, and seductive colouring and demonstrate the influence of the Dutch Golden Age.

Maps produced in the early eighteenth century reflected the political confrontation between the Habsburgs and the Bourbons over the Spanish succession (1701–1714), most expressing sympathy for the former and hostility toward the French. The most eloquent visual statement of this conflict appears in the cartouche of the map produced by J. B. Homann (1664–1724) in 1707. One factor explaining the continued publication of maps of Catalonia from publishing houses in Paris, Amsterdam and other places throughout the century is the French policy of territorial expansion and the presence of its troops in Catalonia. The succession of battles fought on Catalan soil and the capture of its principal cities – especially Barcelona – fueled the need to understand the geography of the territory and to follow the progress of war reports reaching Paris. It also allowed the French nobility to comprehend and evaluate the extent of the conflict and the strategies deployed by their commanders. This sensibility accounts for the presence of maps illustrating fortified towns (Baudrand, 1695) or larger-scale works (Placide de St. Hélène 1706). Their cartouches reflect the martial spirit of both their creators and intended audiences.

Other countries also began to produce maps of Catalonia to include in their atlases. Owing to the



Front cover of the exhibition catalogue showing the elaborate cartouche on J.B. Homann's 'Principatus Cataloniae', 1707.

period of their creation, French influence on the depiction of the region is clearly discernible, particularly in the adoption of the coastal outline introduced by Nicolas Sanson. Examples include those published in Italy, both in anthologies produced by religious orders for the administration of their provinces (Cassine, 1713) and in commercial collections issued in Rome (Cantelli, 1690) or Naples (Petrini, *ca.* 1700). The exhibition also includes maps of the region intended for English readers (Morden, 1684; Berry, *ca.* 1708) and German-speaking audiences (Reilly, 1789; Güssefeld, 1798).

Despite limited display space, there are two exhibition cases containing miniature maps: from early epitomes (Vrients, 1609) to those illustrating travel books (Van der Aa, 1707), and allegorical prints glorifying the conquest of Catalonia by Louis XIV (Jollain, 1694). Space constraints unfortunately precluded the inclusion of wall maps or multi-sheet prints, particularly those drawn in Catalonia during the eighteenth century (Aparici, 1720; Darnius, 1726).

This exhibition continues a tradition of initiatives designed to foster appreciation of Catalonia's cartographic heritage for which two earlier exhibitions deserve special mention. The first was organized in 1986, on the occasion of the IMCoS International Symposium held in Barcelona. Attendees had the opportunity to enjoy the exhibition and participate in related activities, some memorable for their historic venues, such as the city's medieval shipyards and home to the Maritime Museum. A reproduction of the earliest surviving wall map of Catalonia (Vrients, 1606), preserved in the *Cartes et Plans* section of the French National Library, was also presented – its existence had been unknown until a few years before the Symposium. To mark the event the first comprehensive catalogue featuring photographs of all known maps of Catalonia was published.

The second exhibition took place in 2001 during the Congress of the International Association of Bibliophiles in Barcelona. It showcased newly discovered items and resulted in the publication of a catalogue by the *Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya*, which is accessible on its website (Els mapes del territori del Catalunya durant dos-cents anys 1600–1800–Botiga electrònica). The current exhibition has been likewise promoted by the *Associació de Bibliòfils de Barcelona*, whose members have generously contributed the prized items on display.

In keeping with the precedent set by the two previous exhibitions, this one is also accompanied by a catalogue:*El patrimoni cartogràfic de Catalunya* (Barcelona: Editorial Efados, 2025. www.efados.cat). The book is divided into two parts. The first contains six scholarly essays tracing the history of Catalan cartography from the mysteries surrounding the creation of the first known map at the close of the sixteenth century to the efforts undertaken in the early nineteenth century, after the Napoleonic invasion, to produce a national topographic survey. Intermediate chapters examine the maps produced in Catalonia and Madrid during the eighteenth century, under the new Bourbon policy and the Enlightenment-driven desire of reformist ministers to obtain extensive data about the territories they governed. Part 2 features sixty-seven maps of Catalonia, each accompanied by commentary, from the earliest examples already mentioned to the most recent, created in the nineteenth century when production was encouraged by an increasingly fervent nationalist sentiment.

Agustín Hernando, Barcelona



EXHIBITION REVIEW 2

Secret Maps

The British Library, London, 24 October 2025 – 18 January 2026

Initial impressions

Although it was only the second day of the Exhibition and a Saturday, I was still pleasantly surprised by the high turnout on a sunny day in London. I was even more surprised at the multi-generational demographic of the attendees. It is easy to underestimate just how much the general public is fascinated by maps and mapping. The team responsible for the promotion of the exhibition should give themselves a hearty pat on the back for the wide media coverage and their own direct publicity campaign.

My first thought on entering the exhibition was 'What an absolutely fantastic choice of maps'. If you attend, do NOT rush past the first few items in the opening section 'Imperial Secrets' that I will describe more fully below.

However, the exhibition design, to my untutored eye, looked rather cheap – largely constructed of hardboard and Formica, with some TV monitors and industrial ceiling strip lighting. A possible aim was not to detract from the exhibits or to give an appearance of wartime make-do architecture where secrets were devised and maps made. Each time I saw a wobbly joint or what looked like an unfinished display, I flinched. Many map lovers love maps for their aesthetics, not just their narrative or cultural positioning. I am one of those people, and my low perception of the standard of presentation jarred the whole time in there.

A second point of disquiet was the exhibition's desire to interpret maps as some kind of game counter in the great story of Marxist Internationalism. Most of the labelling seems to have been done by a child of 60s radicalism whose best friend is a current sociology student. This bias was reflected in the range of map-related books in the shop. Accompanying the exhibition and acting as the exhibition catalogue is *Secret Maps: How they conceal and reveal the world*, authored by the exhibition's three curators (£40, £35 on the day). Flipping through after my visit my conclusion is that though the text is well tailored to each map's description in the actual exhibition, the effect is of an even more didactic hostility to western culture – the very culture that produced over 90 percent of what we were seeing.

Exhibition sections

The exhibition is divided into four sections: 'Imperial Secrets', 'State Secrets', 'Secrets in Society' and 'Personal Secrets'. I found their logic impressive, although continued to feel that I was learning as much about the organisers' political leanings as secret mapping!

The emphasis of the first section is on secrets derived from what is perceived as imperial (ist) activity, almost entirely though from the activities of Spanish and British Empires, although I don't myself see how late Medieval England was 'imperial' - or, for that matter, that early modern England had any deliberate imperial aims. It took us eight centuries from the Normans to get round to a 'Queen-Emperor'! That aside, who wouldn't want to see 'The Secret Book of Secrets' from 1325 owned by King Edward III? Or a marvellous example of the Jesters Map? Or an early 1800s map of the Tibetan Highlands? And that is in just the first few feet! The secrecy theme and the critique of what would become western imperialism fit quite well here. Obviously, military security and commercial gain did and do feature in the control and production of many maps, although one was left with the distinct impression that only one nation did the world's invading. You will not find Japanese maps designed for invading China here, or Chinese maps to assist in the subjugation of Korea. The word 'exploration' will not be found either, since it is presumed that scientific interest, the desire for adventure, trade or human curiosity had no relevance.

However, the next section, 'State Secrets' does start to supply a corrective, possibly with a different labeller or curator. The emphasis here is on how a state manages confidential information through use or control of the use of maps, whether it be Mayan taxation or things like D-Day deception and Allied Prisoner of War escape maps. There is a real sense of fun in the inclusion of a set of Lady Mountbatten's lingerie made from silk escape maps. The description of a Mexican manuscript map of the 1580s at least acknowledges that *all* states like to know who they control! I was particularly drawn to Lord Cecil of



A map of Northumberland from a 1570's atlas created for Elizabeth I's minister Lord Burghley, *The Saxton-Burghley Atlas*, © British Library Board.

Burghley's hand annotated map of Northumberland, despite the lack of attribution of the map to its maker. At the other end of the spectrum was text in essence laying at Britain's door the Muslim League's intransigent demands for India's Partition and the USA's intransigent demands that it be done prematurely. (Britain and Ghandi were in fact the only actors specifically *against* it!)

Section 3, 'Secrets in Society' was a real mix, in both a good and a bad way. It very effectively brought the secrecy issue up to date, with some interesting and significant material on the use of satellite imagery, GPS and mobile phone signals in espionage. A major thread was on how the sheer scale of information gathering, even if merely commercially confidential like phone signal location, once transferred to a map overlay may expose a major state secret. However, an obsession with freeing us all from the 'colonial' miasma led to substantial contradictions. This leads to the final section, which to me was inconsistent with the overall secrecy theme.

This fourth section, 'Personal Maps' confusingly embedded in the third, particularly displays several contradictions. Interestingly, but arguably utterly unnecessarily, it features a project whereby a South African community was encouraged to use GPS to map landscape features in accordance with their own priorities. Apparently, this was empowering and decolonialising. What I saw was photos of two white graduate students chivvying locals to use western technology to fulfil a western obsession – presumably so that they themselves could get western further degrees. Suddenly, instead of secrecy the theme becomes accessibility and transparency.

Conclusion

If I were reviewing only the choice of maps and other artefacts, I would give the exhibition almost top marks. Aesthetically I give it a grudging 4 out of 10. Intellectually, and rather ironically considering my harsh comments above, I give it a 9! The obvious bias made me think a great deal. It also resulted in some very good points that *different* biases would not have revealed. Was it worth the £20 timed entrance fee (i.e. without option for later free return)? In my case, the answer remains a resounding 'yes'.

Mike Sweeting, Stamford, UK

CARTOGRAPHY CALENDAR

Lectures & Conferences

11 December 2025, London (Hybrid)
The Future Map of the World, with Tim Marshall explores how the political map of the world may or may not change in the years ahead. Lecture will be held 19.00 – 20.30 in Pigott Theatre, British Library. Book now for in-person attendance or for Zoom online. Information www.tickets.bl.uk/4012/4014

11 December 2025, (Online)
Lecture by **Tom Harper** (The British Library) on ***Secret Maps*****,** The British Library's new map exhibition. Hosted by the Washington Map Society in partnership with the California, Chicago, New York, Philip Lee Phillips, Rocky Mountain, and Texas Map Societies. Information: RSVP to John Docktor at washmap@gmail.com in order to receive the meeting ID and passcode. Meeting starts at 7pm ET, 6 pm CT, 5pm MT, 4pm PT.

14 January 2026, Oxford
The 33rd Annual Series Oxford Seminars in Cartography will be having a ***Field Trip – Mapping the North*** with **Charlotta Forss** (Södertörn University, Stockholm). This is an in-person event and booking is essential. Information: nick.millea@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

22 January 2026, Washington (Online)
Mark Giordano (Vice Dean for Undergraduate Affairs and Professor of Geography, Georgetown University) will discuss ***Teaching Geopolitics with Maps*****.** Hosted by the Washington Map Society in partnership with the California, Chicago, New York, Philip Lee Phillips, Rocky Mountain, and Texas Map Societies. Georgetown University's 'Map of the Modern World' is likely the largest class in the world that still uses maps to teach geopolitics and world affairs. RSVP to John Docktor at washmap@gmail.com in order to receive the meeting ID and passcode. Meeting starts at 7pm ET, 6pm CT, 5pm MT, 4pm PT.

28–30 January 2026, London
This new 3-day ***Historic Maps: Interpreting Stories of Place / Discovery Course 1*** will introduce you to our vast range of physical map collections, historical maps and topographical rare books. Course is offered by Institute of Historical Research. Information: https://www.history.ac.uk/news-events/

29 January 2026, London (Hybrid)
Elizabeth Chant (University of Warwick): ***Road Maps, Leisure Travel and Petro-modernity in 20th Century Argentina*** (Maps and Society lectures in the history of cartography), hosted by the Warburg Institute. Meetings will start at the usual time of 5 pm (GMT). All meetings are free. For online attendance, please register online at the Warburg in advance to receive a Zoom link on the day. Information: c.delano-smith@sas.ac.uk or philip.jagessar@kcl.ac.uk

9-10 February 2026, Perth, Scotland
University of the Highlands and islands Institute for Northern Studies, together with the National Library of Scotland and Landscape Research Group, launched ***Mapping Identities: Visual Depictions of Scotland*****.** This project brings together scholars from a wide range of disciplines to explore the ways in which maps have been, and are still, used to interpret and shape Scotland's understanding of the present, past and future. Information: https://www.uhi.ac.uk

12 February 2026, Oxford (Online)
33rd Annual Series Oxford Seminars In Cartography run from 4 pm to 6 pm (UK time) via Zoom Webinar. **Camille Serchuk** (Southern Connecticut State University) in conversation with Elizabeth Baigent (School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford) will talk about ***Map Readings – 'Lies of the Land: Painted maps in Late Medieval and Early Modern France'***. Information: nick.millea@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

19–21 February 2026, San Francisco
72nd Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America
Premodern Mapping Today will address any aspect of mapping in the premodern world (pre-1700), from any mapping tradition. Information from Ricardo Padrón pardon@virginia.edu

19 February 2026, Washington (Online)
In the lecture ***Astrotopophilia: A Love of Place with Maps of Space*****, Sam Cartwright** (PhD candidate, Department of Geological Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder) will trace the history of planetary cartography from the earliest telescope sketches to today's high-resolution imagery and explore the indelible link between maps and humanity's fascination with space. Hosted by the Washington Map Society in partnership with the California, Chicago, New York, Philip Lee Phillips, Rocky Mountain, and Texas Map Societies. RSVP to John Docktor at washmap@gmail.com in order to receive the meeting ID and passcode. Meeting starts at 7 pm ET, 6 pm CT, 5 pm MT, 4 pm PT.

24 February 2026, Cambridge (Online)
The Cambridge Seminars in the History of Cartography will meet at 5.30pm UK time. **Adrian Webb** will discuss ***Churchill's secret chart-makers*****.** Joining instructions will be circulated nearer the time. Please send an email to events@emma.cam.ac.uk if you wish to join the mailing list. Information: **Sarah Bendall** at sarah.bendall@emma.cam.ac.uk

26 February 2026, London (Hybrid)
Bob Headland (Scott Polar Research Institute): ***Cartographical Conundrums and Antarctic Sovereignty*** at the Maps and Society lectures in the history of cartography at the Warburg Institute. Meetings will start at the usual time of 5pm (GMT). All meetings are free. For online attendance, please register online in advance to receive a Zoom link on the day. Information: c.delano-smith@sas.ac.uk or philip.jagessar@kcl.ac.uk

12 March 2026, Oxford (Online)
The 33rd Annual Series Oxford Seminars In Cartography run from 4.30 pm to 6 pm (UK time) via Zoom Webinar. **Vera Dorofeeva-Lichtmann** (L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris) will talk about ***The unique large-format print of the General Map of the Qing Empire by Li Mingche 李明徹 (1751–1832) in Göttingen: tracing its cartographical origins and journey to a German university*****.** Information: nick.millea@bodleian.ox.ac

19 March 2026, Washington (Online)
Louis Miller (Assistant Director for Research and Fellowship Programs and Cartographic Reference & Teaching Librarian, Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education) will speak about ***Resurrecting 'Rhat Soupe': Alcohol and Allegorical Maps in Mid-19th Century America*****.** Hosted by the Washington Map Society, in partnership with the California, Chicago, New York, Philip Lee Phillips, Rocky Mountain, and Texas Map Societies. RSVP to John Docktor at washmap@gmail.com in order to receive the meeting ID and passcode. Meeting at 7pm ET, 6pm CT, 5pm MT, 4pm PT.

26 March 2026, London (Hybrid)
Mimi Cheng (Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz): ***Aesthetics and Authority in 19th Century Maps of China*****.** We're very pleased to invite you to this year's Maps and Society lectures in the history of cartography, hosted by the Warburg Institute. Meetings are free and will start at 5pm (GMT). For online attendance, please register with the Warburg Institute in advance. Information: c.delano-smith@sas.ac.uk or philip.jagessar@kcl.ac.uk

8–10 April 2026, La Plata, Buenos Aires
The *XI Simposio Iberoamericano de Historia de la Cartografía* will take place in Sergio Karakachoff Graduate Center – National University of La Plata. The symposium theme is ***Mapear y proyectar. Territorios dibujados, diseñados y representados*****.** Registration is free. The official languages will be Spanish and Portuguese. Information: xisiahc@gmail.com

10 April 2026, Paris
The History Commission of the French Cartography Committee and the National Library of France are joining forces to organise a one-day symposium to coincide with the exhibition ***Cartes imaginaires, imaginaire des cartes <Maps of the Imagination, Imagination of Maps>***. The symposium will be held at the François-Mitterrand site of the BnF in Paris. Information from Catherine Hofmann: catherine.hofmann@bnf.fr

5 May 2026, Cambridge (Online)
The Cambridge Seminars in the History of Cartography will meet at 5.30pm UK time. **Juliette Dumasy**, Université d'Orléans, will discuss ***The rise of local cartography in Europe, 12th–14th century***. All are welcome. Joining instructions will be circulated nearer the time. Please send an email to events@emma.cam.ac.uk if you wish to join the mailing list. Information: sarah.bendall@emma.cam.ac.uk

7 May 2026, London (Hybrid)
Maps and Society lectures in the history of cartography, hosted by the Warburg Institute. **Anthony Terry** (Independent Researcher): ***The Derrotero Ingles: Unravelling the Mysteries of an early 18th Century English Waggoner in Peru***. Meetings will start 5 pm (GMT) All meetings are free. For those attending online, please register with the Warburg in advance. Information: c.delano-smith@sas.ac.uk or philip.jagessar@kcl.ac.uk

4 June 2026, Oxford (Online)
The 33rd Annual Series Oxford Seminars In Cartography run from 4.30 pm to 6 pm (UK time) via Zoom Webinar. **Jean-Marc Besse** (L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris) will discuss ***Geography and Catholic censorship in Europe at the end of the sixteenth century***. Information: nick.millea@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

6 June 2026, London
The *Annual General Meeting* of the International Map Collectors' Society will be held at Royal Geographical Society. Additional details to be announced.
Information: www.imcos.org

6–7 June 2026, London
The **London Map Fair,** the largest antique map fair in Europe will be held in the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore. Saturday 12 pm to 7 pm and Sunday 10 am to 6 pm. Information: www.londonmapfairs.com

Looking Foreward

7–11 July 2026, Prague & Brno
The theme for the 31st International Conference on the History of Cartography (ICHC) is **Bridging the Past and Present in Cartography**. Information: ichc2026@hiu.cas.cz

29 July – 1 August 2026, St. John's, Newfoundland
The Society for the History of Discoveries annual conference will be held at Memorial University. Panels will run all day Thursday and Friday, with the Annual Banquet Thursday evening. On Saturday 1 August, there will be optional tours/excursions. Information: https://discoveryhistory.org

1–3 October 2026, Arlington, Texas
The 15th biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography will be conjoined with the Texas Map Society's annual meeting. Both events will take place in the Central Library at the University of Texas at Arlington. The Virginia Garrett Lectures will take place on Thursday and Friday and will focus on the Cartography of Antarctica. The Texas Map Society's meeting will take place on Saturday. Additional details and registration will be available in May 2026.

8–14 November 2026, Tokyo and Kyoto
The 43rd International Map Collectors' Symposium takes place in Japan.
A pre-symposium tour is planned on 8 November to Nikko and a post-symposium tour is planned for 14-15 September to Kyushu, Japan's most southerly island. The draft programme can be found on pp. 42–45. Information: www.imcos.org

Exhibitions

Until 11 December 2025, Stanford, California
The Branner Earth Sciences Library & Map Collections exhibition ***The Colonial Gulf: How Empires Documented a Region*** explores how the British, Ottoman and American empires documented the human and non-human geography, resources, and landscapes of the Persian Gulf and Arabian Peninsula in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It features historical maps and artifacts from the collections of the Library and the David Rumsey Map Center alongside cartographic visualizations created by the OpenGulf research collective. This exhibition is also available to view digitally.
Information: https://events.stanford.edu/event/

Until 28 December 2025, Philadelphia
Philadelphia, the Revolutionary City, at American Philosophical Society Museum, turns the clichéd view of Revolutionary Philadelphia on its head. Using a variety of material objects, maps, letters, documents, broadsides, and other ephemera the exhibition depicts Philadelphia from 1760 to the early 1780s as a diverse, dynamic city in which loyalties were sometimes murky and changeable.
Information: https://www.amphilsoc.org/museum/exhibitions/philadelphia-revolutionary-city

Until 5 January 2026, Marseille
Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée ***Reading the Sky / Beneath the Stars of the Mediterranean*** focuses on the understanding of the night sky in the Mediterranean, as seen from Earth. From the first surveys of the ancient Mesopotamian sky to the vogue for contemporary astrology, via medieval Arab-Muslim astronomy and the Galilean revolution, the societies of the Mediterranean basin have referred to the stars to situate themselves in the cosmos and organize their lives on Earth. Knowledge and beliefs circulated between the two shores, creating a common culture of the sky that still nourishes our contemporary approach to the stars. Information: www.mucem.org

Until 18 January 2026, London
The British Library exhibition ***Secret Maps*** focuses on the relationship between mapping and secrecy in a global context between the 9th and 21st centuries.
Information: https://www.bl.uk/press/

Until 31 January 2026, Cebu, Philippines
The exhibition ***Classics of Philippine Cartography from the 16th to the 20th centuries*** showcases rare historical maps and sea charts of the Philippine archipelago, drawn from the collections of PHIMCOS members and institutions in the Philippines, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK.
Information: https://phimcos.org

Until 14 February 2026, Chicago
At the Newberry, Trienens Galleries, ***Mapping Outside the Lines*** explores how maps use lines to make the world legible with examples of mapmakers and artists who have created, bent, and broken these linear rules.
Information: https://www.newberry.org/calendar/exhibitions

Until March 2026, Boston
The Leventhal Map & Education Center will mark the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War with ***Terrains of Independence***. The exhibition poses a central geographical question: what was it about Boston and Massachusetts in the last half of the eighteenth century that made the region such a tinderbox for Revolutionary activity?
Information: 222315https://https://www.leventhalmap.org/tags/terrains-of-independence/

Opening 24 March– 19 July 19, 2026, Paris
The exhibition ***Cartes imaginaires, imaginaire des cartes <Maps of the Imagination, Imagination of Maps>*** can be seen at the François-Mitterrand site of the BnF.
Information: www.bnf.fr/fr/agenda/cartographies-imaginaires

Opening 29 March 2026, New York
Museum of Chinese in America
How do maps contribute to a sense of national and cultural identity? During the first decades of the nineteenth century, China was in a moment of transition, grappling with its geopolitical status as both an ancient and modern nation-state. It was in this moment that two series of large-format maps, one terrestrial and one celestial, were printed in the city of Suzhou. ***Heaven & Earth: The Blue Maps of China*** captured Chinese ideas about the relationship between terrestrial and celestial space, and provide insight today into how Chinese scholars and artists conceptualized the world around them. This exhibition considers these two blue maps in the context of their production, consumption, and functionality, revealing them as unique objects in the global history of mapmaking.
Information: www. mocany.org

Until 13 June 2026, Portland, Maine
For America's sesquicentennial (250th anniversary), the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education at the University of Southern Maine has organized a year-long exhibition ***Founding Memories: America at 250*** that highlights how the iconography of the American Revolution has been incorporated onto a wide variety of maps and cartographic materials from the 1770s to the 1970s.
Information:https://oshermaps.org

Until 2 August 2026, Denver
History Colorado Center
The exhibition ***Expedition 1776: The Journey of Domínguez & Escalante*** traces Spain's growing knowledge of the West with a specially assembled collection of rare archival maps. It will reveal how the cartographic contributions made by the two Franciscan priests Domínguez and Escalante during their expeditions shaped maps of the region well into the American settlement period.
Information: www.historycolorado.org



Antonio Vélez y Escalante, 'Derrotero hecho por Antonio Vélez y Escalante, misionero para mejor conocimiento de las misiones, pueblos de indios y presidios que se hallan en el Camino de Monterrey a Santa Fe de Nuebo Mexico', 1777. http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4300.ct00151 Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division.

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IMCoS invites contributions on all areas and periods of map history and map making. Articles normally range between 3,000–6,000 words plus endnotes. As many of the journal's readers will not have English as their first language, the Editor encourages authors to write clearly, with no ambiguities. Also bear in mind that this field of study embraces many disciplines; your area of specialisation must therefore be intelligible to a broad audience. For authors not writing in English as their native language, the Editor will provide assistance.

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- Authors will receive four free copies of the issue of the journal in which their article appears.

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- Articles can range between 3,000–6,000 words plus endnotes. If an article is longer please contact the Editor who will make a final decision on whether it can be included.
- Articles should be emailed to the Editor as a Word document.
- Typescripts should be double-spaced.
- Number all pages.
- **Do not format the article.**
- 4–8 illustrations/photographs. Please read the section below on image size and resolution.
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- DO NOT EMBED IMAGES INTO THE TEXT. Indicate on your typescript where the images ideally should go in the text.
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- The author should supply a short profile of themselves of 30–50 words.
- **Shorter articles** of 1,500–2,500 are placed in our 'Worth a Look' section with a maximum of 2–3 images.
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- Digital images can be submitted either as attachments to an email (individually), or preferably via an Internet-based large file transfer site such as WeTransfer or Dropbox.
- We need jpegs or tiffs at a minimum resolution of 300 dpi and at a size no smaller than 20 cms across. The larger the image the better – this gives full flexibility for design and good detail. 5 or 6 MB is more likely to be appropriate. Files should have the quality option set between 8 (high) and 12 (maximum). Good tiff files are larger and are best sent via an Internet-based large file transfer site on a CD-ROM or USB memory stick.
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For further information contact the Editor,
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INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Altea Gallery	2
The Antiquarium	inside back cover
Antiquariaat Sanderus	48
Barry Lawrence Ruderman	outside back cover
Carta Historica	29
Clive A. Burden Ltd	47
Dominic Winter Auctioneers	40
Frame	54
Kunstantiquariat Monika Schmidt	2
Le Bail-Weissert	31
Loeb-Larocque	47
Luke A Vavra	29
The Map House	inside front cover
Neatline Antique Maps	4
The Old Print Shop Inc.	17
Old World Auctions	4
Paulus Swaen	47
Reiss & Sohn	48

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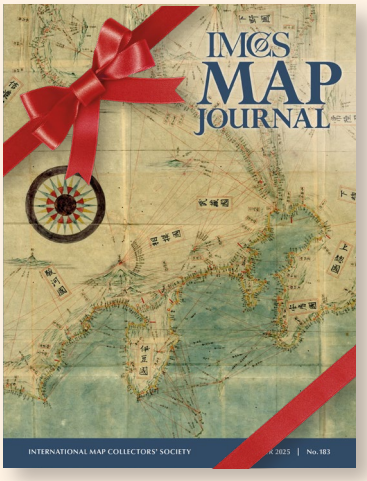
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Email **ljiljana.editor@gmail.com**

Copy and other material for future issues should be submitted to:

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Ludovico Ughi, 1729 [1739]

FINE MAPS & ENGRAVINGS | QUALITY FRAMING | Est. 1990

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