

Spring 2010

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Osher Library Associates

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NORUMBEGA NEWS

No. 14

NEWSLETTER OF THE OSHER LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

Spring 2010

Letter from the President

The grand opening on October 16-18 surpassed all our expectations. After months of preparations, even the weather cooperated with crisp sunny fall days. During the three day celebration, over 500 visitors joined members of the Smith and Osher families and USM representatives for a series of daytime and evening programs in the new facility.

The promotional efforts of Bob Caswell, USM's Public Affairs director, were rewarded with half a dozen well placed articles and editorials in the *Portland Press Herald* and other local newspapers. All three network TV stations broadcast the opening with clips on the evening news. A seven minute segment, produced by Tom Handel, aired on Community Television Network.

Maine Public Radio conducted an interview with Matthew Edney, disseminating the news to listeners statewide. This media coverage accounted for the strong attendance figures during the opening weekend and for several weeks thereafter.

Within the library community, the Osher Map Library (OML) was featured in the December online journal for Lyrasis, a membership organization serving libraries and information professionals on the east coast. Regional press coverage continues with articles scheduled to appear this spring in the *Boston Globe Sunday Magazine* and *AAA New England Journeys Magazine*.

Outside Maine we would like to thank the Boston Map Society, the North American

Cartographic Information Society (NACIS), the North East Map Organization (NEMO), the Society for the History of Discoveries, and the Washington Map Society for promoting OML's opening at the national level.

During the first ten weeks after the grand opening, about 1,000 people saw the map library, the globe collection, and the current exhibition, "American Treasures." OML staff conducted 41 "behind the scenes" group tours for 337 people; hosted 5 receptions for 150 members of professional organizations; provided accommodations for a conference with 80 attendees; and taught 5 classes for 119 area elementary school students. Several map organizations have already reserved OML for their conference site in 2011.

This spring semester USM Faculty and students are becoming reacquainted with the map collection and its services. In addition to teaching special classes, Prof. Matthew Edney is holding two undergraduate courses for the Department of Geography/Anthropology in the Sam L. Cohen Educational Center.

The successful relaunching of OML could not have been accomplished without the year-long commitment of the individual members of the USM Reopening Planning Committee, the Osher Library Associates (OLA) Planning Committee, and the staff of USM Office of Marketing and Brand Management. We are grateful to all for their support.

—Harry R. Pringle



Save the Date

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2010

7 P.M.

**Guest Lecture
in the Sam L. Cohen
Educational Center
of the Osher Map Library
at 16 Bedford Street, Portland**

Presented by Stephen J. Hornsby, director of the Canadian-American Center and professor of Geography and Canadian Studies at the University of Maine.

The Historical Atlas of Maine is scheduled for publication later this year. This project has involved more than 30 scholars and taken more than a decade to produce. It promises to be the most comprehensive state historical atlas ever published.

This lecture is co-hosted by the North East Map Organization and OML in conjunction with NEMO's annual meeting on June 3-4.

Grand Opening October 16-18, 2009

Here are some highlights of some of the events and programs held during the opening weekend. Overall, OML hosted over five hundred visitors during the grand opening festivities. It was a wonderful and memorable weekend to introduce OML's old and new friends and supporters to the new and expanded Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education.

Photos by Ron Levere and R.C. Veit.

Friday, October 15, 2009

(1-2) During the afternoon the Board of Review of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at Boston Public Library (BPL) convened their bi-annual meeting in the Sam L. Cohen Education Center in the Osher Map Library. Board members toured the new storage systems on the upper floors. They were particularly interested in the compact storage systems since they are planning to renovate the Map Center at BPL.

(3) That evening, the first reception was held in the new arcade, putting both the space and the planning to the test.

(4) Charles Carpenter, CEO of Historic Map Works (HMW) in Westbrook, ME, demonstrates to Provost Kate Forhan a new iPhone application that ties historical maps digitized by HMW to modern images.

(5) John W. Hessler, Senior Cartographic Librarian at the Library of Congress, viewed the Thoreau survey maps in the "American Treasures" exhibition in the new Bernard and Barbro Osher Gallery.

(6) Later that evening, Professor Edney introduced John Hessler at the Hannaford Lecture Hall for the Mattson/New York Times Lecture on "Thoreau's Cartographic Explorations."

Saturday, October 17 2009

(7) A daylong conference, *New Directions in the Study of Early American Cartographies*, was held in the Sam L. Cohen Educational Center. This was the first of a new biennial series organized by Professor Matthew Edney.

(8) In the afternoon, OML staff conducted several behind the scene group tours for conference attendees. The new Imaging Center with state of the art Capture One camera system was a popular stop. OML hopes to complete digitizing the rare map collection within the next three years.



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Saturday evening, Oct. 17, 2009

(9) The OML team gathered briefly to review their assignments during the evening program. From left to right, Holly Hurd, graduate assistant; Ron Levere, co-ordinator of the Imaging Center; Lindsey Weeks, administrative assistant; Bob Spencer, cartographic assistant; David Neikirk, Imaging Center work study assistant; Renee Keul, Graduate assistant.

(10) Peter and Sally Enggass took a moment to show their new donation to the Enggass Collection of Iberian Maps to curator Yolanda Theunissen, and cataloger Roberta Ransley Matteau.

(11) Selma Botman, USM President, introduces videotaped remarks by Senator George Mitchell, U.S. Special Envoy for Mideast Peace, who was on an urgent diplomatic mission and unable to attend.

(12) Susie Kim, head of Koetter Kim and Associates, celebrates with Yolanda Theunissen, OML Curator. The Boston based architecture and urban planning firm designed the University Commons Project which includes the Wishcamper Center and the OML addition.

(13) Samuel H. Smith speaks on behalf of his family and shares some background about his parents' cartographic collection.

(14) Dr. Harold L. Osher and his wife Peggy thank the assembled guests for their support during the fund-raising campaign.

(15) Several Smith family members gather for a group photo before the closed globe cases. From left to right: James and Sallie Kise, Meredith S. S. Smith, Samuel H. Smith, and Lewis and Trini Smith.

(16) The Osher Family assemble for a group photo. In front row from left to right: Alana Osher; Dr. Judy Osher (Mrs. Joel Bresler), Dr. Harold Osher, Peggy Osher, Susan and Bill Epstein. Back row: Dr. Sam Osher and Joel Bresler.

Sunday, October 18, 2009

(17-18) At the ribbon cutting ceremony, officiated by USM President Selma Botman, several other dignitaries briefly addressed the assembled guests: Mayor Jill C. Duson, State Representative Ann Haskell, Congressman Mike Michaud; State Representative Mary Nelson, Dr. Harold and Peggy Osher, Chancellor Richard Pattenaude, OLA President Harry Pringle, and Meredith Smith speaking on behalf of the Smith family.

A Selection of Congratulatory Messages

"The building itself is beautiful and enhances Forest Avenue. Its landscaping is also noteworthy! But, of course it's the maps (and globes) that are so amazing. I bet I represent lots of grateful residents."

—Pamela Lord
Portland, Maine

"The Osher Map Library is a superb educational center, and will be for decades ahead for all from school children to scholars."

—Rob Oden, President
Carleton College, Minnesota

"Wow—what a marvelous job was done on the library expansion! Lucky Portland (and all of us) to have such a treasure in our midst."

—Noni and Charlton Ames
Portland, Maine

"The educational value of what the Osher Map Library has accomplished physically (as to collections, conservation and storage)—and the programs that are resulting from that accomplishment—are a very special contribution to the Maine Community. It confirms that the visual and the 'telling' go together in maps in a very special way that people understand and enjoy."

—Tom Touchton
Tampa, Florida

"It was a spectacular 'Grand Opening' and the whole area is now aware of the magnitude of the project."

—Kenneth Nelson
Falmouth, Maine

"Congratulations on the successful, informative and entertaining grand opening of the map center. We enjoyed it immensely and our grand children emerged with an appreciation of old and new maps."

—Robert French
USM Professor Emeritus of Geography
and Shirley French, Spruce Head, Maine

"What a wonderful weekend to celebrate an extraordinary new addition to Portland's cultural treasures."

—Richard Auletta, Prof. of Linguistics
Long Island University, New York

"The Osher/Smith Collection is phenomenal and the building is beautiful. All of you on the staff well deserve all the praise that was heaped upon you."

—Ann Spencer
Bath, Maine

"You have worked wonders and scholars and citizens alike will benefit from your collection for generations to come."

—Mary Bitterman
San Francisco, California

"I wanted, first of all, to congratulate [Matthew Edney] on the excellent conference you mounted on the occasion of Osher's coming out, and then also to express my admiration for all that has been done here to make the operation a leader, nationally and internationally."

—Norman Fiering, Director and Librarian
Emeritus, John Carter Brown Library

Future Exhibition

SEPTEMBER 15–DECEMBER 15, 2010

Envisioning the World: The First Printed Maps, 1472-1700

This traveling exhibition, organized by Eric Stanley and Henry Wendt, originated at the Sonoma County Museum. Through the language of cartography it explores the major trends in intellectual history from the early Renaissance to the scientific era of the enlightenment. The maps in this exhibition are drawn from the collection of Henry and Holly Wendt.

OSHER LIBRARY ASSOCIATES NEWSLETTER NO. 12

Published by the Associates of the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education at the University of Southern Maine.

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