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American Treasures (Exhibit Guide)

Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education

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AMERICAN TREASURES

AMERICAN TREASURES celebrates the reopening of the newly renovated and expanded Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education at the University of Southern Maine. It explores the library's rich and varied collections and its mission to preserve those collections and make them accessible. Beginning with the founding gifts by the Smith and Osher families, the library's collections emphasize Maine and New England, followed in order by the United States, the Americas, and the world. The exhibition therefore presents a sample of outstanding maps of the Americas. These maps exemplify the manner in which maps offer such compelling insights into the past that anyone, regardless of age or educational level, can enjoy and learn from them. They are indeed treasures.

The exhibition is online at <http://www.usm.maine.edu/maps/exhibition/16/home/american-treasures>.

Throughout the exhibition, colored text in the labels explains our mission. Broadly, to make old maps available

to the University community, the people of Maine, scholars, students, and visitors requires more than just displaying them physically or digitally (www.usm.maine.edu/maps). OML staff seek to interpret the maps for viewers. **AMERICAN TREASURES** explains how the library's collections are incorporated into K-12 and undergraduate education, public education through exhibitions, and scholarly research with wide import.

Making Maps Physically and Digitally Available. We work to make our collections as widely available as possible. The public can consult rare materials not only physically in the reading room but also digitally through our website. We have mounted versions of all exhibitions since 1996 on the website, now newly redesigned and expanded. We are also in the process, working with Historic Map Works PLC of Westbrook, of making digital copies available through the website (goto the "map search" tab).



I. OF MAPS AND BEAVERS

Making Maps Intellectually Accessible. Maps are complex: they are shaped by social attitudes and cultural beliefs. To understand old maps we must therefore do more than relate their content to modern maps; we must also read "between the lines." A good way to start doing

so is to consider how "decorations" actually convey specific meanings within the map's overall image. (See also section X on the facing wall.)

1. Nicolas de Fer (1646-1720)

L'Amérique, divisée selon l'étendu de ses principales parties {America, divided according to the extent of its principal parts} ([Paris], 1698|1705)

Copper engraving (with some etching) in four sheets, with hand-applied water-color, mounted on linen; 106cm x 117cm
Osher Collection

2. Herman Moll (1654?-1732)

A New and Exact Map of the Dominions of the King of Great Britain on y^e Continent of North America (London, 1715)

Copper engraving in two sheets, with hand-applied water-color; 102cm x 62cm
Smith Collection

3. Henri Abraham Châtelain (1684-1743)

Carte tres curieuse de la mer du sud, contenant des remarques nouvelles et tres utiles ... Le tout pour l'intelligence Des Dissertations suivantes {Map of the South Sea, that demands great attention, containing new and most useful remarks ... All for the comprehension of the following dissertations} (Amsterdam, [1719])

Copper engraving in four sheets, mounted in two panels, with hand-applied water color; 82.5cm x 141cm
Osher Collection

II. PRESERVING AN AMERICAN TREASURE

Preserving Old Maps. Before students, researchers, and the public can access old maps, we must first preserve them in a safe, climate-controlled environment. Only in this way can we be certain that the records of the past — both the remarkable and the mundane — will survive to be read in the future.

4. Frederick de Wit (1630-1706)

Nova totius Americae tabula emendata a F. de Wit [New map of all America, corrected by F. de Wit] (Amsterdam, 1672)
Copper engraving in six sheets, plus separately printed title banner on six sheets, side vignettes on eight, and numerous sheets of letterpress text panels, all with hand-applied water color, mounted on linen; 153cm x 197cm
Osher Collection

III. THOREAU AND MAPS

Supporting Maine History. The focus of our work is, of course, Maine and its history. Our collecting policy emphasizes the preservation of materials with a clear Maine connection, and many of our special public programs address Maine concerns.

Cooperating with Other Cultural Institutions. Items 6, 7, and 8 have all been borrowed from collections held by other cultural institutions, specifically the Harvard Map Collection in Harvard College Library (item 6) and the American Antiquarian Society (items 7 and 8). These loan items illustrate our policy of collaborating with other cultural institutions in order to extend the reach of our work. In return, we make items from our collections available to other cultural institutions.

5. Moses Greenleaf (1777-1834)

Map of the State of Maine with the Province of New Brunswick, 3rd ed. ([Portland, Me.], 1829/1844)
Copper engraving in four sheets, with hand-applied water color, plus manuscript annotations (ink and water color); 128cm x 103.5cm
Osher Collection

6. Coffin, George W. (fl.1811-1865)

A Plan of the Public Lands in the State of Maine Surveyed under Instructions from the Commissioners & Agents of the States of Massachusetts and Maine (Boston, 1835)
Lithograph, in six sheets, four sheets shown; each sheet 76cm x 57cm (paper; imprint size varies)
On loan from the Harvard Map Collection, Harvard College Library

7. Thoreau, Henry David (1817-1862)

"Plat of that part of R W Emerson's Woodlot and Meadow by Walden Pond contained within the Lincoln Bounds; the woodlot being a part of what was known in 1746 as Samuel Hapwood's 'pasture' and deeded by him as such to his 'son Jonathan, tanner.' Surveyed by H. D. Thoreau March 1850."
Manuscript (pen and black ink); 51cm x 40.5cm
On loan from American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.

8. Thoreau, Henry David (1817-1862)

"Plan of John B. Moore's Farm, Concord, Mass. Surveyed by Henry D. Thoreau Feb. 1853"
Manuscript (pen and black ink), with annotations in red ink made in November 1886 by Albert E. Wood; 39cm x 86.5cm
On loan from American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.



IV. SURVEYING INSTRUMENTS

Preserving the Tools of the Trade. In addition to preserving maps, we also seek to preserve the tools and other artifacts related to all aspects of map making. Given the importance of the early surveys of property to modern New England, we collect examples of early surveying instruments.

9. "534 Of Plotting. Feb 2. A.D. 1798."

Verso of a single leaf (pp. 533-34) from a manuscript copy of an unidentified manual of surveying, dated 1798
Manuscript (pen and ink); 31cm x 19cm (paper)
OML Collections (Gift of Christina R. Pratt)

10. Andrew Meneely (1802-1851)

Survey compass, with alidades and plumb bob, in original case (Troy, N.Y., ca. 1850)
Brass; dial 20cm diameter, sights 40cm long
Louis Oakes Collection, on permanent loan from Louis Hilton

11. Surveyor's 50-link half chain, with carrying case, mid-nineteenth century

Steel with brass handles; 10.06m long
Louis Oakes Collection, on permanent loan from Louis Hilton

12. William Austin Burt (1792-1858) and John Burt (1814-1886)

Burt's Solar Compass (without optional telescopic sight), ca. 1860
Brass; dial 17cm diameter, sights 36.5cm long
OML Collections (gift of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bassett)

13. B. P. Wilme

"Burt's Solar Compass"
Frontispiece to John Burt, *History of the Solar Compass, Invented by Wm. A. Burt* (Detroit: O. S. Gulley's Press, 1878)
Lithograph; 13cm x 22cm (paper).
OML Collections (gift of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bassett)

V. URBAN COMMUNITY

Supporting Education and Instruction. OML is a leader in the movement to integrate old maps into K-12 (primary through high school) and university instruction. Some maps resonate particularly well with students in visiting classes. Visually appealing and often related to familiar historical events, they hold students' attention; clearly designed, they are readily interpreted by students. These maps are the "work horses" of our instruction.

14. Katherine Dudley (fl.1920s)

A Map of Portland Maine and Some Places Thereabout (Boston: Tudor Press for the Portland Baby Hygiene & Child Welfare Association, 1928)
Color lithograph; 75 x 99cm
OML Collections (gift of John B. Krygier)

VI. GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES

Supporting Research with Old Maps. Because old maps are rich repositories of information from many fields of knowledge, they are a valuable resource to researchers of all ages and interests and not only to specialized map historians. Our nineteenth-century collections are of special interest for genealogists. Moreover, we are collaborating with Historic Map Works, Inc. (www.historicmapworks.com) to digitize the maps and make them available online.

15. George N. Colby (1846-1889)

Atlas of the State of Maine Including Statistics and Descriptions of its History (Houlton, Me., 1884)

- a) title page
 - b) City of Portland and Vicinity Cumberland Co. Me.
 - c) City of Augusta Kennebec Co.
 - d) City of Saco | City of Biddeford York Co.
 - e) Great Works or Bradley Village | Old Town (Penobscot Co.) | Orono Penobscot Co | Bucksport Hancock Co.
- Lithographs, hand colored with water color; 42cm x 32cm
Carpenter Collection

16. Portrait and biography of James Phinney Baxter, in *Biographical Review: This Volume Contains Biographical Sketches of Leading Citizens of Cumberland County, Maine* (Boston: Biographical Review Pub. Co., 1896), 37 and facing.

Lithograph; 29cm high (paper)
Carpenter Collection

17. Sylvester Breakmore Beckett (1812-1882)

Spread including "Booksellers and Stationers," in *The Portland Directory and Reference Book, with Business Directory Attached, for 1869* (Portland, Me.: by B. Thurston and Company, 1869)
Lithograph; 22.5cm high
Carpenter Collection

18. Cover of *Maine Business Directory for 1886* (Boston, Mass.: Briggs & Co. Publishers, 1886)

Lithograph on colored paper; 24cm high
Carpenter Collection

VII. OF CLIMATES AND EMPIRE

Supporting Education and Instruction. A key theme in both the faculty scholar's courses in the history of cartography and geography and in guest classes dealing with the history of modern American culture is the development of geographical literacy, especially through primary education. We have accordingly made a conscious effort to collect geographical text books and other works associated with past pedagogical activities.

19. Levi W. Yaggy (b.1848, fl. 1876-1921)

"The Five Zones Showing in a Graphic Manner the Climates, Peoples, Industries & Productions of the Earth," in *Yaggy's Geographical Study: Comprising Physical, Political, Geological and Astronomical Geography* (Chicago: Western Publishing House, 1887), map 8
Chromolithograph; 158cm x 96cm (paper)
OML Collections (Gift of Jean F. Hankins)

20. Ambrosius Aurelius Theodosius Macrobius (fl.399-423)

Diagram of earth's zones in *Macrobii interpretatio in somnium scipionis à Cicerone confictum* (Florence, 1515), fol. 71v
Wood cut; paper 15cm high, map 7.5cm x 7.5cm
Osher Collection

21. Charles Smith (1768-1808)

The World, frontispiece to *Universal Geography Made Easy, or, A New Geographical Pocket Companion Comprehending a Description of the Habitable World* (New York, 1795)
Copper engraving; 6cm x 9.5cm
Smith Collection

22. Jacob Abbot Cummings (1772-1820)

Cover of *First Lessons in Geography and Astronomy* (Boston: Cummings and Hilliard, 1823)
Stereotype; 15cm high
Smith Collection

23. Samuel Griswold Goodrich (1793-1860)

A National Geography, for Schools ... with a Globe Map on a New Plan (New York: Huntington and Savage, 1845)
a) discussion of zones and the degrees of civilization (pp.10-11); 29cm high
b) "globe map" (western hemisphere), with zones lightly colored; 17.5cm diameter
Osher Collection

24. George Woolworth Colton (1827-1901)

Vignettes of the character of the climatic zones, in *Colton's New Introductory Geography* (New York: Sheldon & Co., 1872), 5.
Lithograph; 24cm high
Osher Collection

25. William Swinton (1833-1892)

Introductory Geography (New York: Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor, 1882)
a) distribution of plants and animals by zone (pp.18-19)
b) defining climatic zones (p.17; shown in facsimile)
c) categories of human race (p.20; shown in facsimile)
Lithograph; each page 24cm high
Osher Collection

VIII. NEW ENGLAND CHILDREN MAKE MAPS

Another set of materials that attract student interest are the maps drawn by school children in the early Republic as part of their primary education. We have been able to collect a number of these items; as beautiful works in their own right, these maps are also sought after by collectors of folk art.

26. "A Map of the Countries situate about the North Pole as far as the 50th degree of north latitude," ca.1820

Manuscript (ink and water color) on paper; 27cm diameter;
50cm x 34cm (paper)
Smith Collection

27. Mary Hall

"Map of the northern part of the United States and the southern part of the Canadas," ca.1814

Manuscript (ink and water color) on paper; 36cm x 46cm
Osher Collection

28. Esther Baldwin (b.1815)

"The United States | Esther Baldwin, sc. Age 12 years, AD 1827"

Manuscript (ink and water color) on paper; 29cm x 44cm
Osher Collection

29. Amy Baldwin (b.1816)

"A Map of the World | Amy Baldwin sc. Age 11 years, 1827"

Manuscript (ink and water color) on paper; 33cm x 44cm
Osher Collection



30. Catharine M. Cook

"Catharine M. Cook's Book of Penmanship at Mr. Dunham's School, Windsor, Vermont, June 15th, 1818"

a) New Hampshire as both graphic map and relational table (p.16 and facing page)

b) title page (p.1; shown in facsimile)

c) world map (p.10; shown in facsimile)

d) statement of the zones (p.8; shown in facsimile)

e) map of the United States of America (between pp.14-15; shown in facsimile)

Manuscript (ink and water color) in notebook; 24cm high
Osher Collection

31. Emily Hill

"A Map of the United States of America," 1820

Manuscript (ink and water color) on several joined sheets of paper; 101cm x 111cm

Osher Collection

IX. MAPPING LATIN AMERICA

Support of Instruction. We seek to assist our colleagues at USM in integrating maps into their courses by collecting items specifically related to the subject matter. Prof. David Carey has long held special classes in the map library for his courses on Latin American history. To assist his students, we have made it a point to acquire relevant maps and atlases, including the two atlases shown here.

32. Agustin Codazzi (1793-1859)

Mapa de las Costas de Tierra-Firme [Map of the Coasts of Terra Firma] in *Atlas fisico y politico de la Republica de Venezuela*

[Physical and Political Atlas of the Republic of Venezuela]

(Paris, 1840), map 3

Lithograph, with hand-applied water color highlights; 49.5cm x 74.5cm

Osher Collection

33. Antonio García Cubas (1832-1912)

Atlas pintoresco e historico de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos

[Picturesque and Historical Atlas of the United Mexican States] (Mexico City: Debray Sucesores, 1885)

a) *Carta Etnografica* [Ethnographic Map] (pl.2)

b) *Instruccion Publica* [Public Instruction] (pl.5; shown in facsimile)

Chromolithograph; each map 52.5cm x 69cm

Osher Collection

X. FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION

Making Maps Intellectually Accessible. To make proper sense of old maps, it is first necessary to understand the reasons why they were made and used. Although people often talk about "maps" in a generic way, as if all maps are alike, there are actually significant differences in maps based upon their various functions. As a result they cannot all be treated in the same way. A major task of our outreach is therefore to make these differences clear to the users of old maps.

34. John Martin, Junr.

"... This Copey was taken from an old defaced original plan of land of Mr. Henry Pennard ..." (18 Nov. 1776)

Manuscript (ink) on paper; 31.5cm x 38cm

Osher Collection

35. William Parsons (1743-1826 or 1780-1864)

"A Plan of that part of the District of Alfred within the vicinity of the Meeting house, taken for the purpose of shewing & proving the accommodations that can be had there, for holding a Supreme Judicial Court" (ca.1800)

Manuscript (black and red ink) on paper; 77cm x 49.5cm

Osher Collection

36. Ashur Adams (1777-1860)

New England from Jedidiah Morse and Elijah Parish, *A*

Compendious History of New England (Newburyport: Thomas & Whipple, 1809)

Copper engraving; 31.5cm x 20cm

Osher Collection

Matthew Edney curated **AMERICAN TREASURES** with the valuable assistance of Yolanda Theunissen, Nancy Erickson, Ron Levere, Dr. Harold Osher, Roberta Ransley-Matteau, Robert Spencer, and Lindsey Weeks. The exhibit was installed by Stuart Hunter. The professional assistance of the staff of the Office of Marketing and Brand Management of USM is gratefully acknowledged, especially the design work of Jake McGillivray. The image for the exhibition poster was prepared by Historic Map Works, Inc.; its printing was generously funded by the Osher Library Associates and Martayan Lan Fine Antique Maps, Inc., New York.