

Celebrating 400 Years of Unsung Contributions to the Mapping World

WOMEN IN CARTOGRAPHY

This exhibition recognizes and celebrates the long-overlooked role of women in the world of mapping, bringing to light their stories, accomplishments, and most importantly their maps. Women have been involved in mapping for centuries but, as with science, architecture, art, and other fields, they are often missing from the historical record, or their roles are trivialized as “simply widows” or “simply colorists.” This exhibition recognizes and celebrates women as map makers, publishers, printers, engravers, colorists, map sellers, and even as trainers of apprentices. Now, in the twenty-first century, many women work in the field of GIS and geovisualization, using statistical and computer graphic skills to create cutting edge maps.

Women have had many cartographic roles, depending on social and economic circumstances. Before 1800, women were integral, if generally obscure, members of the map trade (Section I); however, the industrialization and corporatization of the print trades led women to be excluded from the economic sphere of cartography. At the same time, the growth of Western economies gave new opportunities for women. However, they often thought it necessary to use only their initials rather than their full, feminine names. The growth of public education in the early nineteenth century, particularly in the U.S., included the formation of schools for young girls, where in addition to home-skills they were taught

geography, often by drawing and embroidering maps and globes; women increasingly wrote school textbooks and often designed their maps as well (Section III). Women actively participated in the creation of maps for newly developing markets associated with automobile travel and tourism, preparing pictorial tourist maps (Section II) and city guides (Section IV). In academia, women have made ground-breaking maps of social, physical, and historical phenomena, using both traditional and now digital techniques (Section V). And, during World War II, when women filled the labor shortages created by mass conscription of men, thousands of women made maps for the U.S. military, only to leave the field after the war's end (Section VI).



The above image of an engraver's workshop, showing several women at work, is from Denis Diderot and Jean Le Rond D'Alambert, *Encyclopédie, ou dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers* (Paris, 1755), 5: pl. 1.

I. Women in the Early Modern Map Trades: Engravers, Printers, Publishers

1. Coletta (née Kaerius [van der Keere]) Hondius, engraver

[Portrait of Gerard Mercator and Jodocus Hondius]

Frontispiece in Gerhard Mercator and Jodocus Hondius, *Gerardi Mercatoris et I. Hondii Atlas ou, Representation du monde universel, et des parties d'icelui faicte en tables et descriptions tresamples, et exactes* (Amsterdam, 1633)

Facsimile of hand-colored copper engraving, 46 x 53 cm

Smith Collection

2. Marie Catherine Haussard, engraver

Gilles Robert de Vaugondy, *Partie de l'Amérique Septent. qui comprend la Nouvelle France ou le Canada, par le Sr. Robert de Vaugondy Géog. ordinaire du Roy. Avec privilege 1755.*

From: Gilles Robert de Vaugondy, *Atlas universel* (Paris, 1757)

Hand-colored copper engraving, 47 x 60 cm

Osher Collection

3. Elizabeth Haussard, engraver

From: Didier Robert de Vaugondy, *Carte de la Virginie et du Maryland dressée sur la grande carte Angloise de Mrs. Josué Fry et Pierre Jefferson, par le Sr. Robert de Vaugondy Géographe ordinaire du Roi* (Paris, 1755)

Gilles Robert and Didier Robert de Vaugondy, *Atlas universel* (Paris, 1757)

Hand-colored copper engraving, 48 x 64 cm

Osher Collection

4. Anna van Alphen Elzevier, printer

Nicolas Visscher, *Orbis terrarum tabula recens emendata et in lucem edita per N. Visscher* (Amsterdam, 1663)

Hand-colored copper engraving, 32 x 50 cm

Osher Collection

5. Selina Price Hall, publisher

Suffolk

(London: Chapman & Hall, 1832)

Hand-colored copper engraving, 19 x 24 cm

Story Collection

6. Elizabeth Lenthall Stone, lithographer

F. C. DeKrafft, *Map of the City of Washington*

(Washington, D.C., 1840)

Lithograph, 38 x 52 cm

Osher Collection

7. Supplement to *New-York Journal*, no. 2013 (June 2, 1785)

Letterpress, 36 x 19 cm

Osher Collection

8. Weduwe [widow of] Joannis Cnobbaert, publisher

Titlepage of Famianus Strada, *De bello Belgico decas secanda* (Antwerp, 1648)

Facsimile of hand-colored copper engraving, 28 x 16 cm

Osher Collection

9. Elizabeth Lowe, publisher

Peter Stent, *Vigorniensis vulgo Worcestershire comitatus descriptio, continens in se (praeter civitatem Vigorniae) oppida mercatoria novem ecclesiasq. parochiales CLII* (London, 1680)

Hand-colored copper engraving, 36 x 47 cm

Miche Collection

10. Elizabeth Versey Visscher, publisher

Nicolas Visscher, *Flandriae Comitatus pars Batava, tam in ejusdem sujacentia quam vicina territoria, accuratissima divisa per Nicolaum Visscher, Amst: Bat cum Privil: Ordin. Gen. Belgii Foederati* (Amsterdam, after 1726)

Hand-colored copper engraving, 49 x 54 cm

Smith Collection

11. Mary Ann Rocque, publisher

John Rocque, *A General Map of North America; In which is Express'd the Several New Roads, Forts, Engagements, &c. taken from Actual Surveys and Observations Made in the Army employ'd there, from the Year 1754, to 1761. Drawn by the late John Rocque, Topographer to His Majesty* (London: M. A. Rocque, 1761)

Copper engraving, 86 x 90 cm on four sheets, each 43 x 45 cm

Osher Collection

12. Penelope Steel, chart and bookseller

David Steel, *The East Coast of England, from Folkstone to Hasborough Gat; Including All the Channels of the River Thames up to London* (London, 1803)

Copper engraving in 2 sheets, 81 x 127 cm

OML Collections

II. Women and the Modern Mapping of Place

13. Katherine Dudley, cartographer

A Map of Portland Maine and Some Places Thereabout 1928 (Boston: The Tudor Press for the Portland Baby Hygiene and Child Welfare Association, 1928)

Color lithograph, 75 x 99 cm

OML Collections



14. Elizabeth Shurtleff

Map of the Isles of Shoals, formerly known as Smith's Isles (Boston: Walker Lith. & Pub. Co., 1927)

Color lithograph, 68 x 50 cm

Moore Collection

15. Mildred Burrage

"Falmouth Neck As it was when destroyed by Mowatt, October 18, 1775"

Reduced facsimile of painted gesso map, 107 x 155 cm (original).

Courtesy of Maine Historical Society

15b. William Willis

Falmouth Neck, As it was when destroyed by Mowett, Oct. 18, 1775

From William Willis, *The History of Portland, from its First Settlement: With Notices of the Neighbouring Towns, and of the Changes of Government in Maine*, 2 vols. (Portland: Day, Fraser & Co., and Charles Day & Co., 1831–33), 2: opp. 156.

Reduced facsimile of lithograph by Pendleton's Lithography, Boston, 41 x 60 cm (original)

Osher Collection

16. Jane Crosen

Casco Bay and the Calendar Islands (1998)

Monochrome lithograph, 40 x 50 cm

OML Collections

17. Ruth Rhoads Lepper [Gardner], cartographer and publisher

Mid-Coast Maine ([Brunswick, Me], 1979)

Color lithograph, 37 x 54 cm

OML Collections

18. Ruth Rhoads Lepper [Gardner], cartographer and publisher

The Maine Coast from Kittery to Cape Elizabeth (Southport, Me., 1977)

Color lithograph, 53 x 39 cm

OML Collections



19. Ruth Rhoads Lepper [Gardner], cartographer and publisher

The Maine Coast: A Map of Casco Bay (West Southport, 1960)

Color lithograph, 53 x 39 cm

OML Collections

20. Helen Prentiss Huckins

The Moosehead Lake Region (1931)

Color lithograph, 51 x 32 cm

OML Collections

21. Constance Brown

The Hudson River and its watershed (2007)

75 x 52 cm

Facsimile courtesy of the Leventhal Map Center at Boston Public Library

III. Women and Pedagogy

22. Emily Hill

"*A Map of the United States of America*" (1820)

Manuscript, 100 x 114 cm

Osher Collection

23. Mary Hall

"Map of the northern part of the United States and the southern part of the Canadas" (1814)

Manuscript, 36 x 47 cm

Osher Collection

24. Anna Seile, publisher

Africae nova descriptio Impensis Annae Seile. 1663

In Peter Heylyn, *Cosmography in four books. Containing the chorography and history of the whole world: and all the principal kingdoms, provinces, seas and isles thereof ... revised and corrected by the author himself immediately before his death* (London, 1677)

Copper engraving, 33 x 40 cm, in 36cm-tall book

Smith Collection

25. Emma Willard, author

Map No. 1. The World as Known to the Ancients

In William C. Woodbridge and Emma Willard, *Ancient Atlas, to Accompany the Universal Geography* (Hartford: Belknap and Hamersley, 1827)

Hand-colored copper engraving, 29 x 44

Osher Collection

26. Marinda Branson Moore

Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, and Part of Pennsylvania

In Marinda Branson Moore, *Primary Geography, Arranged as a Reading Book for Common Schools*, 2nd ed.

(Raleigh, N.C.: Branson and Farrar, 1864)

Hand-colored lithograph, 16 x 28 cm

OML Collections

27. Sarah Sophia Cornell

The World in Hemispheres

In: S. S. Cornell, *Cornell's Intermediate Geography: Forming Part Second of a Systematic Series of School Geographies*, revised ed. (New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1869)

Hand-colored lithograph, 25 x 40 cm

Osher Collection

IV. Women, Cities, and Spatial Analysis

28–31. Agnes Sinclair Holbrook

Hull-House Maps and Papers presentation of nationalities and wages in a congested district of Chicago together with comments and essays on problems growing out of the social conditions by residents of Hull-House, a social settlement at 335 South Halsted Street, Chicago, Ill. (Chicago, 1895)

University of Maine Orono Collections

28) Wage Maps

Colored lithograph, 33 x 110 cm

29) Nationalities maps

Colored lithograph, 33 x 110 cm

30) Measurements of 154 Defective Chicago Factory-Children – 14-16 Years Old – 22 cm



31. Ilonka Karasz

Decorative cover to:
Sarah M. Lockwood,
*New York, Not So Little
and Not So Old* (New
York: Doubleday, Page,
& Co., 1926)
Color lithograph, 26 x
20 cm
OML Collections

32. Paula Scher

World Trade Map
In: *Maps: Paintings,
Installations, Drawings
and Prints* (New York:
Princeton Architectural
Press, 2012)
Color lithograph, 29 x
54 cm
OML Ref. Collections

33. Toy Lasker

Avenues and Maine Cross Streets and Crosstown Buses
In: *Flashmaps, Instant Guide to New York* (New York, 1986)
Color lithograph, 28 x 10 cm
Auletta Collection

34. Phyllis Pearsall

Westminister
In: *London A-Z street atlas and index*
16 x 19 cm
OML collection

35. Ruth Taylor [White]

Colorado
In: Frank J. Taylor and Ruth Taylor, *Our U.S.A. A Gay Geography*
(Boston: Little, Brown, & Co., 1935), 19.
Color lithograph, 22 x 28 cm
Gibb Collection

36. Joni Seager

Rape
In: *Penguin Atlas of women in the world*
24 x 36 cm
OML Collections

37. Barbara Petchenik

Population
In Lester J. Cappon, ed., *Atlas of Early American History: The
Revolutionary Era, 1760–1790* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University
Press for the Newberry Library and the Institute of Early American
History and Culture, 1976), 66–67.
40 x 29 cm

38. Photo of Marie Tharp by Steve Sagala

Courtesy of Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University

39–40. Marie Tharp and Bruce Heezen

39) *Physiographic Diagram, Atlantic Ocean (Sheet 1)* (New York,
1957)

Color lithograph, 75 x 141 cm

Neikirk collection



40) *Physiographic Diagram of the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea, the
South China Sea, the Sulu Sea and the Celebes Sea* (New York:
Geological Society of America, 1964)

148 x 119 cm

OML Collections

41. Anne Potenzo Mountford

Approaches to Io-Jima (Sulphur Island) (Washington D.C., 1944)
35 x 48 cm
OML Collections

41b. Enlarged from: *Approaches to Io-Jima (Sulphur Island)*

42. Photo of Anne Potenzo Mountford

43. Emily Garfield

Growing Fields (Cityspace #100)
Digital print 27 x 35 cm
OML collection

Slideshow images 2-7 courtesy of Claire Kiedrowski and Kappa Mapping. Slideshow images 9-13 courtesy of Dr. Anne Kelly Knowles.

Dedication

“Women in Cartography” is dedicated to Yolanda Theunissen, former OML Curator, who invited Alice Hudson to share this facet of women’s history, illustrated with maps from the Osher Map Library collections, to Mary Ritzlin, of George Ritzlin firm in Illinois, who for decades has shared in the research and enlightening of us all about women in the map trade, and to Margaret Pearce, once a student intern with NYPL’s Map Division and who now is a leader in the field of GIS mapping.

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