Geography and Map Division

Winter 2012

Volume X, Number 1

Philip Lee Phillips Society

Inside this issue:

America's First Map: Abel Buell Map on Loan to LC	2
Korean Historic Maps	3
Twitter Account Launched	5
Volunteer Highlight	5
Conference Announcement	6
Dr. John Hébert Retires	8

MAPS

LOCMaps@Twitter.com

News and information about the premier map collections of the Library of Congress.

Chief's Report 2011

One of the great pleasures of rejoining the G&M Division this past fall is the opportunity to advance the Philip Lee Phillips Society. During the coming year, we will be posting our quarterly newsletter on the Library's website and sending out two occasional papers devoted to the history of cartography. Planning is underway for a May symposium on two hundred years of mapping Washington, DC.

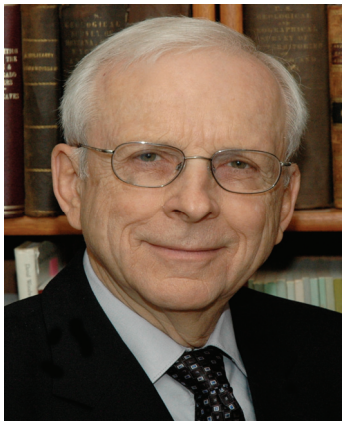
The past year was marked by significant technological, financial and staffing changes, including the retirements of Dr. John Hébert and Pam van Ee after more than 40 years of distinguished service. Dr. Hébert served as the Chief for 11 years. Mrs. Van Ee was a Specialist in Cartographic History and former Executive Director of the Phillips Society. Five other staff members also retired, and another took an outside position. Roberta Stevens, former American Library Association President, joined the management team. She is focusing on administrative issues and is assisting with planning for the Division's future.

Our outreach remains strong. We continue to build partnerships with foreign libraries to preserve rare materials. Original cartography is being created for congressional research. Our specialists share ideas with teachers about using maps in the classroom. Diplomats consult our collection in cases of boundary disputes.

We are increasingly active online. The digital collection has been visited more than a million times to date with more than seven million maps viewed. "Places in History" was launched to provide access to historical maps related to current events. A Twitter account was started to share news and announcements.

Cataloging is key to accessing the extraordinary international collections of the Division. More than 4,500 materials in Japanese, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Persian, Hebrew and Yiddish were described last year for searching in Romanized or original script.

The growth of the collection has required the relocation of more than 250,000 maps, globes and collections to offsite storage. However, we also had the opportunity to receive a donation of more than 400 map cases from the National Geo-Spatial Intelligence Agency, which will allow us to accommodate present storage needs.



Ralph E. Ehrenberg

A collection of such rarity, scope and historical value as ours requires constant care. More than 5,000 fragile maps have been preserved and placed in acid-free folders. More than 400 rare atlases have been designated for re-housing, which will ensure their longevity.

I look forward to our working together and sharing the fascinating, fun and educational treasures of the G&M Division with map enthusiasts throughout the nation.

—Ralph E. Ehrenberg

America's First National Map On Loan To LC

Legendary and Rare Cartographic Work

A Revolutionary-era convicted counterfeiter created a map of many firsts in cartographic history. It is the first map showing the United States, the "Stars and Stripes" and to be published in the United States. The map was also the first to be copyrighted in the United States.

The Library of Congress was given custody of this important piece of history in January of 2011. It is available for public viewing for the next five years.

The map is often referred to as the Abel Buell map, after its creator. It was published only six months after the Treaty of Paris that ended the Revolutionary War. The formal title of the map is *A New and correct Map of the United States of North America Layd down from the latest Observations and best Authorities agreeable to the Peace of 1783.*

Buell was born in 1742 in Killingworth, Connecticut. His life was filled with enterprises and misadventures that included textiles, minting, counterfeiting, engraving and surveying. He died penniless in 1822.

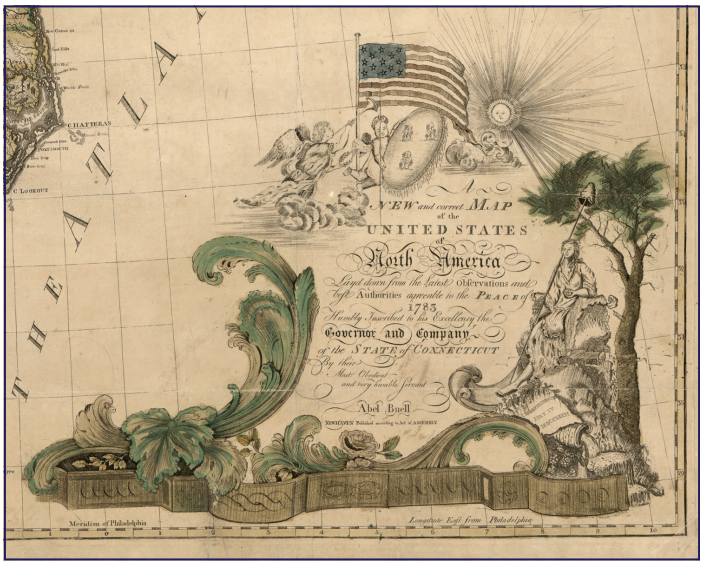
A biography of Buell was written by Lawrence Wroth and published in 1926. Titled *Abel Buell of Connecticut*, a more complete second edition was published in 1958.

When developing the map, Buell borrowed heavily from existing sources and mixed it with his own vision. The resulting political geography is a distorted representation of the country. Several states extend from the Atlantic coast to the Mississippi River. Buell's home state of Connecticut is extremely wide. It shows land claims that crossed the Hudson River and went through the Northwest Territory before finally stopping at the Mississippi River. New York is absent. Perhaps the most curious feature is that the prime meridian runs through Philadelphia, the first American capital. Buell challenged convention by not intersecting it with the Azores, London or Paris.

Buell was aware of the map's inaccuracies, and petitioned to have exclusive rights to update it for seven years. He never fulfilled his plan.

The map is visually stunning. The rarity is hand-colored and engraved on four sheets, measuring 43 x 48 inches. Lettering cascades across its surface in varying sizes and directions, which creates a dramatic visual effect.

Buell's masterpiece is rare. Seven are in existence and only two copies have been sold in the twentieth century. It the single most important American cartographic document missing from the collection of the Library of Congress, according to John Hébert, retired chief of G&M.



The map's ownership history is similarly intriguing. William L. Dayton (1807-1864), Senator from New Jersey and Minister

Story continues on page 5

Preserving Historic Korean Maps

Partnering with Korea, Donors

U-ni jo-a is the Korean expression for good luck. By way of the land of the morning calm, good fortune shined twice on G&M in 2011. A Bethesda, Maryland couple donated rare Korean maps, and the Korean National Library has given a sizeable monetary contribution to protect G&M's aging Korean map collection from decay.

Donation of Rare Maps

A beautiful hand drawn map of Korea tucked inside a scroll box was in the home of Robert and Rosalinda Yangas for several decades. A chance meeting with a scholar at the Library of Congress, however, led the couple to reconsider the intellectual value of the map.

Mr. and Mrs. Yangas left their native Philippines and worked at various times in Korea during the 1960s and 1970s. They had an interest in antiques and acquired two rare maps. The first was a single sheet manuscript of the peninsula. The other was a collection of twelve maps that contains information about Korea along with the Ryukyu Islands and Japan. These maps are titled *Tongguk paryok sanchon ilt'ong chondo* and *Ch'onda chido*, respectively.

The maps survived many travels. Initially displayed in the Yangas' Korean home, they were boxed up when the couple returned to the Philippines. In 1978, they arrived in Bethesda.

Interested in Asian-American issues, the couple attended a meeting at the Library of Congress. There they talked with a map scholar who encouraged them to treat the maps with care, explaining their rarity. Mrs. Yangas had a desire for them to "be used" by interested parties. So the couple donated the maps to the Library in June of 2011.

Partnering to Preserve

Since 2007, the Korean National Library donated more than $171,000 for conservation treatments of G&M's Korean map collection. In return, G&M is providing digital images of the maps so that Korean scholars can more readily study them. More than 30 scroll maps and sheets have been cataloged, preserved and digitized. Maps are selected from a unique collection of scrolls and woodblock prints that range in date from 1760 to 1896.

Four maps were designated for treatment in 2011: *Yojido* (179?), *Tongguk palto chido* (1896), *P'alto chido ch'ongnon* (1896), and *Chobyok*

Story continues on page 4

Tongguk paryok sanchon ilt'ong chondo translated as Map of the Mountains and Rivers of the Eastern Country (Korea). The title and red ink annotations in the lower left corner lend to the map's uniqueness. The information is about the products and industry of Jeju Island. Red circles throughout the map indicate military bases and large cities. Such a map was used by government officials and not typically available to the public.

Korean Treasures

Continued from Page 3

chondo (18??). The cost of treating the four maps was $26,615.

In November, members of the Korean government visited G&M to inspect the materials. Korean representative Chong-Suk Kang said, "Thank you for your kind introduction to maps and geographic materials, the deepest and largest [set] in the world." He added that the Library's preservation of cultural heritages contributes to the "cultural matureness" of all human beings.

Sources of LC's Collection

Most of the Library's antiquarian Korean maps were donated by Harvard professor Langdon Warner and University of Florida geographer Shannon McCune. The authorship and date of creation of many Korean maps from the collection are unknown.

Hand drawn maps, known as manuscripts, and woodblock prints make up the Korean collection. In Asia woodblock prints of maps were highly prized. Maps served both an intellectual and decorative purposes. They were often mounted on screens in the home.

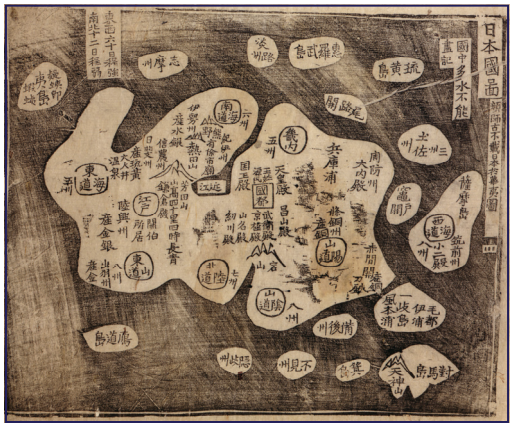
With the help of modern technology, these maps can be viewed online, and preservation techniques will ensure that the originals survive for years to come.

—Ryan Moore

Special thanks to Tammy Wong, Sonya Lee and Young-Ki Lee for their assistance with this story.

Korean Views of The World, Korea and Japan from the 1760s

Images from *Yojido*, an atlas published in the 1760s. Maps like these were created in response to encounters with European geographers. Designs, however, were based on traditional Asian resources. Frequently Chinese characters, known as *hanja* to Koreans, appeared on maps. From top: Korea's conception of the world. Peculiar to Korean maps is the internal continent that can be viewed as Asia, Africa and Europe and the external ring that represents North America and South America. Lower left: Korea, called *Tong-guk*, meaning the country to the east of China. Notice the repeated use of the character 山 that means mountain. Lower right: Japan, known as *Il-bon*. In the upper right are the characters 日本, which stand for Japan.



Twitter Account Launched

G&M started a Twitter account on June 22, 2011 and is the first Library custodial division to employ this social networking tool. It allows for brief announcements and photographs to be instantly published on the Internet.

The division "tweets" at least once every work day and provides maps for historical as well as topical subjects. Tweets have included a modern CIA map of the Kermadec Islands on July 6th, following the earthquake in that area. Another contained the maps of the first battle of Bull Run, which was visited 440 times.

Presently, the account is followed by 3,266 people and has been visited more than 15,500 times. Ian Fowler from the Collections Management Team, and Colleen Cahill, Digital Team, update and maintain the account.

Interested in Following Our Twitter Feed? The Procedure is Simple --->

—Visit—

- https://twitter.com/LOCMaps

-or-

- Use your favorite search engine and enter:

LOCmaps@Twitter.com

America's First Map

Continued from page 2

Plenipotentiary to France under Abraham Lincoln, bought it in Paris. In 1862, it was given to the New Jersey Historical Society. David M. Rubenstein purchased the map at auction from Christie's in Manhattan in 2010. The rarity sold for $2.1 million.

Mr. Rubenstein, Co-founder and Managing Director of The Carlyle Group and a member of the James Madison Council, authorized the custodial handover. In 2010, he donated $5 million to the National Book Festival and has pledged $3 million to the Visiting Scholars Center.

—- Ryan Moore

Volunteer Highlight Corner

Quick with a smile, and an engaging conversationalist, Wahid El Demerdash started volunteering in the G&M Division in August of 2010. Hailing from Egypt, he is an experienced computer professional and a cartographic researcher.

Dedicated to utilizing his skills and knowledge, Mr. El Demerdash volunteers Monday through Friday. He researches land survey maps of Egypt. In the process, he has identified more than 22,300 map sheets for the African Set Map Project. The project is funded by the Council on Library and Information Resources. The goal is to create a sheet-level inventory of G&M's African holdings.

An experienced librarian, Mr. El Demerdash helps G&M catalogers to describe Arabic-language maps. He has the ability to Romanize Arabic script and the knowledge to verify place names.

His educational background is extensive. Mr. El Demerdash earned his undergraduate degree in Business & Finance and a graduate degree in Economics & Public Administration in Cairo. He studied operations research and computer science at the American University in Cairo. He also completed coursework in quantitative analysis, mathematical statistics, and systems engineering. He holds a graduate degree in Library Science from Catholic University.

As a professional, Mr. El Demerdash was a research specialist at the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research & Technology. He served as the head of computer services for various urban planning projects and worked for Honeywell's operations in the Middle East. He was also a consultant in Saudi Arabia and Washington, DC.

A talented editor and bibliographer, he updated the article titled "Reference Books" in the 2009 *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World*. Among other areas, he has compiled bibliographic directories for science, education, and Middle Eastern Studies.

"Research and fact finding" are what Mr. El Demerdash likes the most about his volunteer work.

Family is very important to him. He greatly enjoys the company of his grandchildren. "Watching the children is a great source of knowledge," he said.

Wahid El Demerdash

Map Conference

May 18-19, 2012

Library of Congress

Visualizing the Nation's Capital: Two Hundred Years of Mapping Washington, DC.

The first conference devoted to the history of the mapping of the national capital region will cover the period from Pierre-Charles L'Enfant to the present.

For More Information Contact:

Ralph E. Ehrenberg
G&M Division
Library of Congress
101 Independence Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20540-4650
Email: plpsoc@loc.gov

Steering Committee

George Tobolowsky, Texas (Chair)

Roger S. Baskes, Ill.

Wesley A. Brown, Colo.

Joseph H. Fitzgerald, Fla.

William B. Ginsberg, N.Y.

Robert A. Highbarger, Md.

Arthur Holzheimer, Ill.

Jay Lester, N.C.

Glen McLaughlin, Calif.

Kenneth Nebenzahl, Ill.

Gary W. North, Va.

Dianne Powell, Texas

Seymour I. Schwartz, N.Y.

J. Thomas Touchton, Fla.

William Wooldridge, Va.

Academic Advisors

Louis DeVorsey, Univ. of Georgia, Emeritus

Ronald Grim, Boston Public Library

Alice Hudson, New York Public Library, Ret.

Mark Monmonier, Syracuse University

Mary Pedley, Univ. of Michigan

Dennis Reinhartz, Univ. of Texas at Arlington, Emeritus

Richard W. Stephenson, Library of Congress, Ret.

Norman J. W. Thrower, Univ. of California at LA

Cordell D. K. Yee, St. John's College, Annapolis

Ex Officio

Ralph E. Ehrenberg, Chief, G&M

John R. Hébert, Chief, G&M , 1999-2011

John A. Wolter, Chief, G&M, 1978-1991

Editorial Staff

Ryan Moore, Newsletter Editor

Ed Redmond, Occasional Papers Editor

John Hessler, Conference Papers Editor

Find Us Online

WWW.loc.gov/rr/geogmap

The *Philip Lee Phillips Society* was established in 1995 to further develop, enhance and promote the collections of the Geography and Map Division by encouraging financial donations to supplement appropriated funds for the acquisition of rare maps; by stimulating interest among map collectors, map producers, geographers, cartographers and historians in order to make the vast resources of the nation's premier cartographic and geographic collections more widely available; by facilitating gifts and bequests of significant geographic and cartographic materials to further develop its collections; and by advancing the Geography and Map Division's publication, education and exhibition programs.

The Society was named in honor of Philip Lee Phillips, who was the first to recognize the value of the Library's cartographic materials and to organize and care for them. Even before being named the first Superintendent of Maps when the Hall of Maps was established in the new Library of Congress building 1897, he devoted what time he could to the map and atlas collections that were stored in odd corners of the Capitol – sorting, arranging, cataloging and serving required items to congressional and other readers.

Dr. John Hébert Retires from G&M

Dr. John Hébert retired as Division Chief of G&M in August of 2011. He served in this capacity since 1999. He will be remembered for bringing in important acquisitions, promoting research and performing outreach. Previously he served as a senior reference assistant in G&M from 1969 to 1974 and spent 25 years in the Hispanic Division.

A trained historian, Dr. Hébert earned his B.A. in 1965 from the University of Southwestern Louisiana. He finished his M.A. in 1967 and Ph.D. in 1972, earning both from Georgetown University in Latin American History. He has great scholarly interest in the Spanish and French exploration of the Americas; he also has an interest in studying his home state of Louisiana. He has edited and contributed to numerous publications on historical topics and has compiled bibliographic guides about historic maps.

Dr. Hébert remains active in the Society, serving in an Ex-Officio capacity. He continues to research, write and plans to spend time with his family.

— From Staff Reports

Dr. John Hébert opening the conference on mapping the Civil War, May 20, 2011, sponsored by the Philip Lee Phillips Society.