

provincial, federal and territorial archives was reported on by Bill MacKinnon. Both projects are nearing completion and final reports should be available by early 1982.

One of the sessions of most direct relevance to archivists was that concerning architectural records. Despite a minor underlying controversy that such a discussion lay outside the bounds of a conference of map librarians and archivists, the session was very informative and well received. Many map archivists across the country are finding themselves responsible for collections of architectural drawings and it became apparent during the proceedings that several map libraries have similar holdings. Annalise Walker, Curator of the Canadian Architectural Archives (CAA) in Calgary, described the procedures involved in acquiring and cataloguing architects' plans, long-range objectives of the CAA, cooperation with the National Architectural Archives at the Public Archives of Canada, and future hoped-for cooperation with other institutions collecting architectural records. The session was rounded out by Garry Shutlak, conference chairman, who described the Nova Scotia experience with regard to architectural archives.

Special speaker for the conference was Michael Staveley, Chairman of the Geography Department at Memorial University, who presented a paper entitled "Saskatchewan by the Sea: the Topographical Work of Alexander Murray." This presentation outlined the career of the Scottish-born Murray, who attempted unsuccessfully to survey Newfoundland using a system employed in western Canada. This, coupled with a tour of the Byzantine-style St. George's Church where the "uncommon obdurate" hydrographer J.F.W. DesBarres is buried, highlighted the historical aspects of the gathering.

Items of note from the annual business meeting included the announcement of two planned publications sponsored by the Association. One is Coolie Verner's manuscript, "Carto-bibliographical Description" to be edited by Ed Dahl, and the other is a volume of essays on Canadian cartography. The officers of the Association for 1981-1982 were announced as follows: President: Lorraine Dubreuil; Vice-President: Bill MacKinnon; Second Vice-President: Jack Corse; Past-President: Tom Nagy; Secretary: Elizabeth Hamilton; Treasurer: Tara Naryansingh. The Association has accepted an invitation from the National Map Collection to hold the 1982 conference in Ottawa, in celebration of the Collection's seventy-fifth anniversary. The theme of that conference will be "Map Producers and Map Collections: Perspectives on Cooperation".

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## **The IXth International Conference on the History of Cartography**

It is impossible to write about the IXth International Conference on the History of Cartography without recalling the sights, sounds and smells of Italy. Pisa, Florence and Rome provided the venues for this conference, held under the aegis of the Domus Galilaeana of Pisa and its amiable and capable President, Professor Vincenzo Cappelletti. Other institutions which helped to sponsor the conference were "Imago Mundi" and the International Society for the History of Cartography based in London, the Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza and the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana in Florence, the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana and the Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana in Rome.

The idyllic setting and superb organization contributed to make this meeting of scholars and interested laymen a totally enjoyable experience. The difficult technical co-ordination of

simultaneous trilingual translation and slide presentations for every speaker, often using two projectors, was managed with great Italian aplomb.

Naturally, because the conference was held in Italy, emphasis was placed on the works of Italian cartographers. Sessions were held on European Cartography, Regional Cartography, Italian Cartographers, Art in Cartography, Cartographic Techniques and Symbols, Cartography of Primitive Peoples, Cartographic Collections, Cartography of Explorations and Colonies, Cartography of the World and Cartography of the Seas.

As with most conferences there were the initiated and uninitiated and being one of the latter, usually concerned with more recent forms of cartography, I found myself a bit overwhelmed with the chronology of sixteenth-century cartography. Most exciting for me to hear, and for the historian and archivist as well, were the tales and details of recent significant "finds" of "new" old maps. One such example was given by Dr. Andrew S. Cook of the India Office Library in London, in the session on Cartography of the Seas. He reported the finding of six coloured manuscript vellum charts in his paper, "More Manuscript Charts by John Thornton for the Oriental Navigation (The English Pilot, The Third Book)." These charts were part of the Cotton family papers deposited in the Cambridge County Record Office. The chart which alerted attention to this collection had been displayed in an exhibition as part of celebrations to mark International Archives Week in October 1979.

The session "Italian Cartographers" was especially appropriate and the papers presented in this session were interesting in their diversity. Dr. Elizabeth Clutton, a geographer from the University of Sheffield, presented a paper entitled "Manuscript Maps of Crete (1612-1629) by Francesco Basilicata: A Source for Marco Boschini." Dr. Clutton presented the results of a systematic study of the cartography of the manuscript maps of Basilicata, an Italian military engineer who worked in Crete from about 1612 to about 1638. Clutton discussed these maps with respect to the shape of the outline of Crete, the coastal and interior place names and the representation of topographical detail. She then linked these details to a printed work by Marco Boschini published in Venice in 1651.

New ground was broken by Dr. David Woodward of the University of Wisconsin Department of Geography (formerly of the Newberry Library, Chicago) in his paper "A New Objective Method of Analyzing Watermarks on Sixteenth-Century Italian Printed Maps." Woodward commenced by stating that "among the responsibilities of the historian of cartography are the documentation and explanation of the map trades in major centers and periods." He noted that there is very little documented research into the body of knowledge of map production during the height of the Venetian trade in the 1560s. Dating these early printed maps is a complicated process and usually includes consideration of the geographical content, the historical context and the bibliographical or physical form. Dr. Woodward suggested that along with detailed listing of published maps and careful analysis of plate histories, what is needed is a precise study of the paper on which these maps are printed. In his paper Woodward noted that of the three main methods of watermark photography and radiography now being applied for document analysis, beta radiography seems the most promising for the study of sixteenth-century Italian map paper. He went on to describe how a group of watermarks were digitized and then analyzed using equipment at the University of Wisconsin's Center for Remote Sensing. He indicated that these techniques would also be applicable to other classes of documents such as prints, books, legal documents, manuscripts and music produced in sixteenth-century Italy.

Not to be overlooked in this report were the numerous superb social events arranged for all participants. These included the "Vin d'honneur" held in the Library Cloister of the Biblioteca Laurenziana in Florence, a sixteenth-century dinner served at a Medici palace high in the olive groves above Florence, and the reception and dinner given on the last night in Rome by the Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana at the Villa Caffarelli.

Another outstanding aspect of the whirlwind week were the magnificent exhibitions of early cartographic materials organized especially for the conference. Those at the Biblioteca Laurenziana in Florence and the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana in Rome were the most spectacular. The Biblioteca Laurenziana displayed a wealth of early cartographic material including brilliantly coloured maps from Ptolemy atlases and exquisite portolan charts on vellum. The Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana produced a large glossy catalogue of the exhibition especially for the conference. The catalogue, *Manoscritte Cartografici e Strumenti Scientifici nella Biblioteca Vaticana*, includes fifteen large colour plates of some of the most beautiful and rare manuscripts in the exhibition.

The value of the IXth International Conference on the History of Cartography cannot be summed up in a few words. It is sufficient to say that the organization was first class, the papers were informative, the locale was beautiful, the exhibitions excellent and the social ambiance one of intellectual conviviality. The next gathering of this group of people from widely differing backgrounds but with many common interests will be held in Dublin in the fall of 1983. As yet the full papers of the IXth conference have not been published, but it is hoped that the Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana, as promised in Rome, will publish them soon.

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## **“Description of Cartographic Records,” Society of American Archivists, 1981**

The 45th annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists convened at Berkeley, California from September 1 to 4, 1981. Cartographic materials had some exposure at the conference: there were two workshops to instruct on the basics of arrangement, description, storage and preservation and three papers were presented in a session titled “Description of Cartographic Records.”

In the first of these papers Frances Woodward of the University of British Columbia discussed cartographic archives in small collections. The unusual nature of this medium has been a “thorn in the flesh” of both archives and libraries, even though maps predate written language. Yet activity in map librarianship increased greatly after the formation of independent map library associations from 1967 onwards. But map archivists have yet to make their presence felt. The work of Ralph Ehrenberg, the major voice in the field, was noted, including his manual which is to be available this year. The different types of archives were outlined, those being federal, state, provincial, county, regional and so on, and the way in which treatment of the material differs in each type of institution was described.

There followed a fairly lengthy discussion on recent surveys of archives: that of the Association of Canadian Archivists on university archives (1979-80) and the Association of Canadian Map Libraries (ACML) survey of cartographic archives in Canadian universities (1981). The results of the latter survey seem to indicate that there is no clear understanding as to the distinction between cartographic archives and historical map collections, who should be responsible for them, or how the material should be treated. It was clear, however, that more communication between map librarians and cartographic archivists is needed.