

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.

Woodward's paper then went on to describe the functions within a small cartographic archives: acquisition of single items and groups of cartographic records; a record retention process; arrangement of the material according to the principle of *provenance*, or arrangement by geographical area, and for engineering and architectural plans by model or structure; storage, finding aids such as indexes, guides and inventories, card indexes to maps, and map catalogues.

Map cataloguing was discussed briefly with mention of the work that has been done by the ACML National Union Catalogue Committee in the development of the International Standard Bibliographic Description for Cartographic Materials, ISBD(CM), the second edition of the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules* (AACR 2), and the development of a manual for cataloguing cartographic materials. Cataloguing with the new rules in the Map Division of the Provincial Archives of British Columbia and the Special Collections Division of the University of British Columbia was also outlined.

In concluding, Frances Woodward pointed out that maps need not be regarded as problems to be avoided. They can be handled easily and effectively in a small collection, and they can provide a valuable additional resource for users.

Myrna Fleming of the University of Southern California prepared the second paper, read by chairman William Cunliffe of the National Archives and Records Service, on the application of automation to archival maps. Three current automated systems were considered in order to draw some general conclusions applicable to the design of any system dealing with cartographic materials. The U.S. Defense Mapping Agency and the Arizona State University Library, Map Service have automated systems for collections consisting primarily of cartographic materials; the Library of Congress Machine-Readable Cataloguing (MARC) system provides for automated collections consisting primarily of textual materials, although MARC Map is for cartographic items. Several conclusions were drawn from these examples of cartographic automation: there must be some form of area access; the data in the records in the system should include information on scale and date of situation. Fleming also spoke about the role of the librarian in making cartographic information readily available to the researcher. This task is aided by automated systems. It was pointed out that the cataloguing of cartographic materials in machine-readable form benefits not only the individual library, but the library community and its patrons as well.

The final paper, by Vivien Cartmell of the Public Archives of Canada, on the topic of the cartographic interpretation of AACR 2, opened with a brief survey of the historical development of the code. This included the 1945 publication by Boggs and Lewis, *The Classification and Cataloguing of Maps and Atlases*; AACR 1, 1967, which represented the result of 35 years of activity in the codification of cataloguing rules for American and British libraries; and AACR2, 1978, based on the same principles and underlying objectives as the earlier edition, but which pays particular attention to developments in the machine processing of bibliographic records

Although only a few people attended this session, it is obvious that there are archivists concerned about cartographic materials. During the coming years, with the burgeoning interest in this medium, it will no longer be the "thorn in the flesh" in archives and libraries, but it will attain the status it deserves.

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