

ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN MAP LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES  
**BULLETIN**

**Regional News**

Compiled by Martin Chandler

**British Columbia**

*David Malaher*

**Reflections on the Mapping from Home half-day virtual event**

I enjoyed the whole affair, all 4 hours of it. There are certainly some very clever people out there and I feel humbled by what they can do. Dan Cole's Keynote presentation used about 25 historical maps, and a similar number of modern ones. My 6 maps were all historical. The other six presenters used computer aided compositions/cartography. The present practice of cartography is a hybrid skill of statistics and graphical arts where geographical and political features are combined.

There was some nostalgia revealed in the Q & A session when seven people expressed their appreciation of seeing "old maps" as the centre of attention.

My specialty is the history of the Canada-USA boundary, from coast to coast. Today's presentation used only 300 miles of the boundary west of Lake Superior. This is strong fur-trade country since around 1660 and the historic Grand Portage component remains relatively unchanged. Except that the canoes no longer use birchbark; think carbon fiber and Kevlar. The boundary and the fur trade are close companions.

**Ontario**

**Toronto Reference Library**

*Kathleen Wyman*

As of July 31, 2020, I will be retiring from my position as a Map/Urban Affairs Librarian after 35 years of service.

I started my map career at York University in 1985. I obtained a position at the Toronto Reference Library in 1989 in the Urban Affairs Library and selected urban books until 2011. My career came full circle back to maps in 2012 when I was given the responsibility for map collection. These final years have kept me busy in procuring maps, atlases and urban books. A perfect ending to a great career for an undergraduate geography major who took courses that included urban planning and cartography!

When I started my map career in 1985 I became involved with ACMLA. I was secretary of ACMLA from 1987 to 1989 and assisted with various committees.

I have enjoyed all the time I spent with the ACMLA organization. During the time I was in the Urban Affairs Library, I missed working with my ACMLA colleagues and maps. I've always said that map people are the best people in the world.

I wish ACMLA and its members all the best in the future.

## **Library and Archives Canada**

*Erika Reinhardt*

The cartographic community of librarians and archivists at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) are pleased to share news of the work done with our cartographic holdings.

In early 2020, LAC completed the acquisition of the records of Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) [Canadian Glacier Inventory \(CGI\)](#) by having approximately 400 original glacier maps showing flight lines for glacier photographs transferred to its permanent holdings. These cartographic records represent the final transfer of key records of the CGI, with previous transfers including 6.8 meters of glacial datasheets, 4,149 photographs of glaciers included in the Inventory, 544 field books compiled by surveyors and scientists documenting all glaciers in Canada, along with reference material related to the CGI. LAC is currently in the process of making this significant historical collection available to climate scientists, students and other members of the researching public through digitization initiatives and partnerships with ECCC.

Archivists in LAC's Military portfolio also recently acquired more than 2,300 plans of Royal Canadian Navy ships and warship class drawings dating from 1906 until the late 1980s from the [Directorate of Supply Chain Operations](#). This important collection updates earlier naval ship plans held by LAC that are known today as the "ship modelers' collection." A team of students began work to process the material and to verify the finding aid in late 2019.

*Canadian Geographic* magazine highlighted several maps from LAC's collection as part of an on-going collaboration with the Royal Canadian Geographic Society to provide historical content for the Discovery section of the serial publication. Maps featured since January 2020 include, a manuscript map from the Avro Arrow project showing DEW line support for the Arrow; the first French language map of Quebec following Confederation; a 1758 Plan of the Fortress of Louisbourg; and A.L. Russell's 1871 Map of the Province of Manitoba. Digital copies of these maps are available in LAC's [Collections Search](#) database.

The We Are Here: Sharing Stories team continues to digitize records as part of an initiative to digitize and describe Indigenous-related collection items in LAC's holdings. Recently digitized cartographic material include George Back's field notes and sketchbooks of maps and drawings created during John Franklin's 1819-1822 overland expedition up the Coppermine River to reach the Arctic Ocean and 75 maps relating to the career of Robert Bell, geologist with the Geological Survey of Canada. LAC also digitized 63 maps of Indian agencies and reserves in British Columbia

and over 150 maps of Canada's Polar Regions from the Verner Coolie collection. A [list of digitized and described indigenous content](#) is available online on LAC's website.

Special thanks to Roderick McFall, Alexander Comber, Thora Gustafsson, and Erika Reinhardt and the We Are Here: Sharing Stories project team for their hard work.

## **McMaster University**

*Gord Beck and Christine Homuth*

### **Digitization**

When digitization operations ceased in mid-March due to the COVID-19 lockdown, we had just completed several projects, with others only awaiting the creation of metadata before upload to our digital archives. They are as follows:

#### **Apollo Missions and Planetary Mapping**

<https://library.mcmaster.ca/apollo-missions-and-planetary-mapping>

This collection of charts consists of the original mapping prepared by NASA, the USGS, and the USAF Aeronautical Chart and Information Center for the Apollo missions (1962-1976), including "landing site" and "pre-mission maps." Our Mars and other planetary mapping are still in process.

#### **WWII** (digitization partnerships)

<https://library.mcmaster.ca/wwii-topographic-map-series>

- Two hundred of approximately nine hundred maps at a scale of 1:100,000 from the *University of Alberta*, depicting the western portion of the Soviet Union and Finland from Russian, German, British, and U.S. sources. All required translation, which was accomplished by our student assistants who can read and write in Cyrillic. Many maps include the names of individual Soviet Red Army officers responsible for their production. This project is ongoing.
- Aeronautical charts from the collection of the *Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum*. This project is also ongoing.

#### **Cold War**

<https://library.mcmaster.ca/cold-war-1945-1989>

- A collection of U.S. Navy Air Navigation Charts produced for the new "jet-age" in the years 1946-47, at the very beginning of the Cold War, immediately following the end of World War II. These charts are oversized, measuring approximately six feet in length, reflecting the need to show a greater geographic area when travelling at accelerated speed. The maps have been scanned but are awaiting metadata and upload.

- Thanks to a donor, we have just acquired a complete set of original Soviet military topographic maps at a scale of 1:200,000 scale covering Afghanistan during the years of the Soviet occupation.

Twenty-four of our digitized WWII maps were requested by See-Saw films for their upcoming production, “Operation Mincemeat,” starring Colin Firth. Another twenty maps have been requested for use in the History Channel’s documentary series, “Presidents at War.”

### **Georeferencing from home**

At the start of the spring term, a number of units in the McMaster Library collaborated on an approach that allows Library staff and student assistants to georeference large amounts of digitized items from the map collection as part of their remote work. The group installed a local instance of Map Warper and populated it with hundreds of digitized maps and aerial photos from the Lloyd Reeds Map Collection. Full-time Library staff and summer student assistants were trained remotely and were able to georeference materials from the comfort and safety of their own homes. Work on this project will continue during the fall term, with plans on opening it up to the public in the future. At the time of this update, students and staff have georeferenced over 500 items from our digitized World War II map collection and local historical collection of Hamilton air photos. For more information and access - <https://library.mcmaster.ca/collections/historical-rare-maps>.