

ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN MAP LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES
BULLETIN

My Protracted Stay in New Zealand 2019-2020; So Far!

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I arrived in Wellington, NZ, on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2019. As I write it is now November 14, 2020. With me I brought a few winter things, but mostly warmer weather clothing, as I was arriving in mid-summer. The plan was to spend about 3 months with my daughter and her husband in Wadestown, a suburb of Wellington. It is very hilly in Wellington but it is a beautiful city clustered on hills around an enclosed harbour that has some reminiscence to St. John's. The steep streets mean the houses are often seemingly precariously perched on hillsides. Access to the house from the street involves about 70 paces of an uphill footpath plus about 20 steps to the front door. This type of access is quite common all over the city and some houses even have their own cable cars. The brilliant sun and views from their house are offset by the frequent strong wind, which is not unusual in this blustery city!

Among our adventures was taking a trip to Sydney, Australia, on March 1 along with my daughter and her husband. The main purpose of this visit was to see two maps of Newfoundland harbours drawn about 1763 by James Cook. One of these was of St. John's, where my family had lived for 28 years. Our house was on Ordnance Street, named for the location of the Ordnance Depot for Fort William, which was located roughly across the street from our house. I ran across this map in early 2019, unexpectedly, on page 90 as I was reading through a book called "Explorers' Sketchbooks: The Art of Discovery & Adventure," by Huw Lewis-Jones and Kari Herbert and published by Chronicle Books LLC in 2017. The map was not in my online bibliography nor in listings of maps by Captain Cook prepared by Andrew David, a noted English historian of cartography. It referenced the location of the map, and I was able to see a digital image online on the web site of the State Library of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. This whetted my appetite to know more!

I corresponded with staff at the State Library of New South Wales (Figure 1) over several months, and eventually an appointment was made for me and my daughter to see these maps on March 3, 2020. These maps/plans had been included among materials about the South Pacific that were held by this library. It is still unclear to me how these maps came to be there. Julie Sweeten, a librarian, and Glenn Wells, a cataloguer, were the supervisors of our visit. *Figure 2* shows me looking at the maps while holding a Map Scale Indicator that the State Library owns. They were amazed and delighted to learn that my late husband, Clifford H. Wood, was the one who created the indicator and from whom they obtained it several years ago. It seemed to make them much more interested in the maps. When we left after jotting notes, making measurements, and taking photos, Glen planned to fully catalogue the maps, as it had not been done previously. I have just recently

received that information from him and plan to update The Newfoundland and Labrador Map Bibliography with it very soon. The bibliography is online at <https://capelin.library.mun.ca/v/map>.



Figure 1. Inside the State Library of New South Wales. Photo Credit: Jennifer G. Cauchi, 2020.



Figure 2. Alberta Auringer Wood at State Library of New South Wales, standing over a James Cook map holding a Map Scale Indicator.

Photo Credit: Jennifer G. Cauchi, 2020.

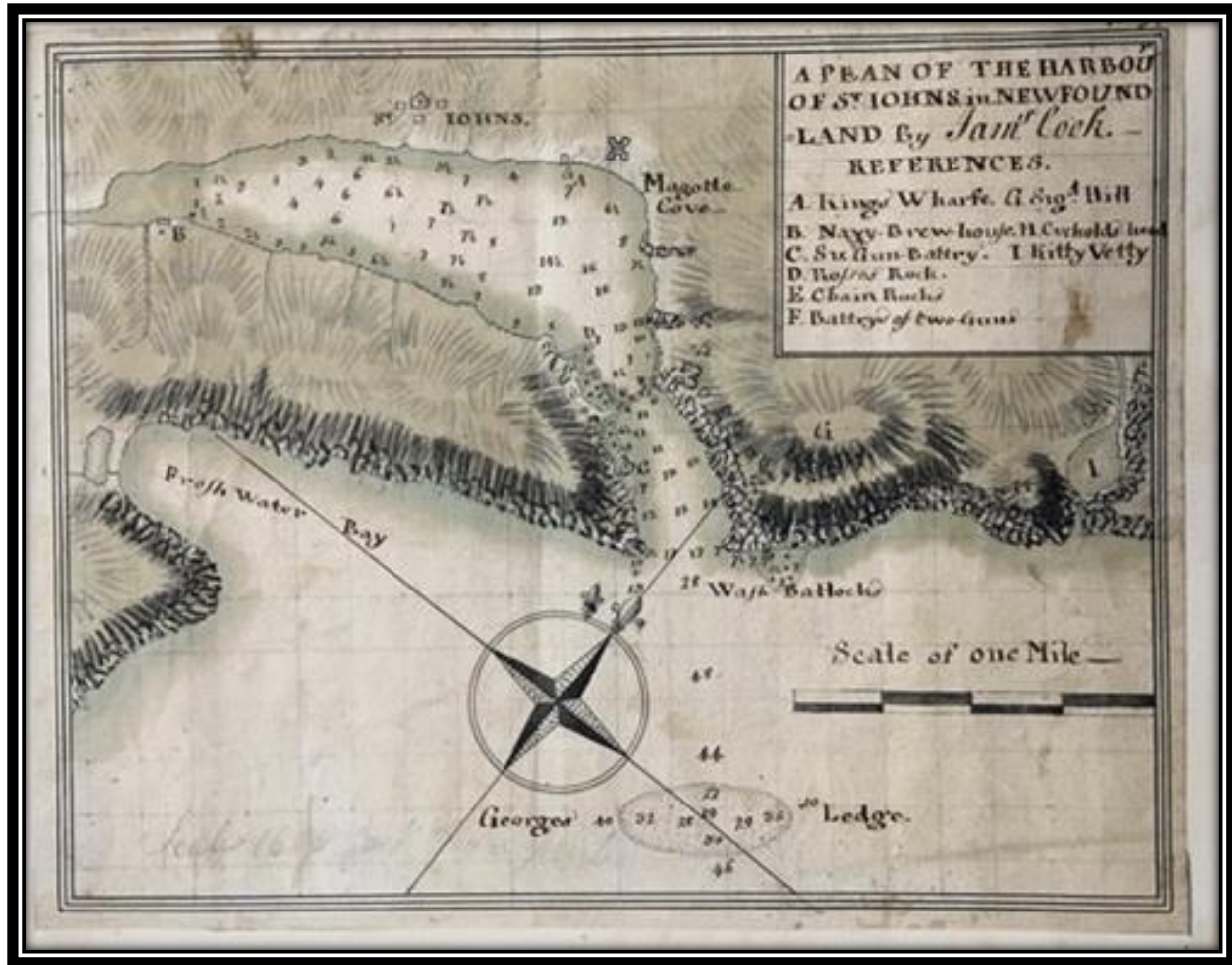


Figure 3. A Plan of the Harbour of St John's in Newfoundland, by James Cook (magnified section below).
Photo Credit: Jennifer G. Cauchi, 2020.



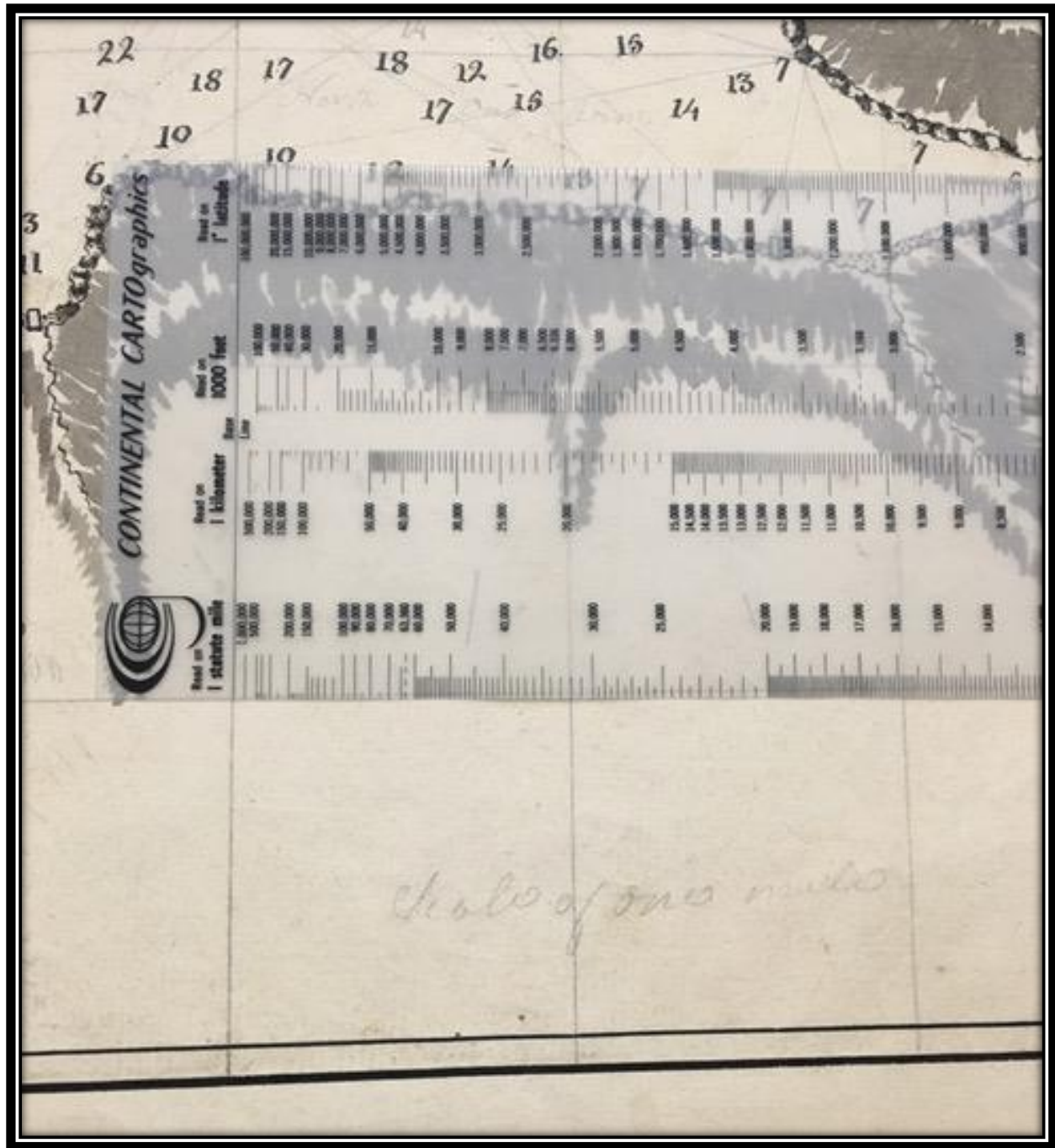


Figure 4. Map Scale Indicator in use. Photo Credit: Jennifer G. Cauchi, 2020.

After enjoying other scenic sites and sights of Sydney, we arrived home on March 6. Shortly after our return home, the Covid-19 lockdown occurred in New Zealand; maybe more in earnest than in other parts of the world. This meant my visitor visa was extended until September 25, and I was a Covid-19 refugee like many other travellers. During this time, my daughter and her husband worked from home, until control of the virus spread was more contained. We did not go anywhere without our masks during the Level 3 (some restrictions in place) and Level 4 Lockdown. I was able to take walks around our neighbourhood that involved some up and some down hills, with not much just on a level. Gradually, we reached Level 2 where most people could return to work and finally Level 1, where most activities were almost back to normal. While there have been several smaller outbreaks in Auckland that have resulted in some return to higher alert levels for that region, the government here has done an admirable job of working swiftly to close borders, while still supporting returning Kiwis with a network of managed isolation facilities in hotels, and encouraging everyone to use a contact tracing app as well as hygiene measures (masks, hand washing, and social distancing).

As of the end of November, 2020, the country is all at Level 1 now, and with some exceptions, no foreigners are allowed in as of this date. There have been a few minor new virus cases, which are all related to those who are in managed isolation. Fortunately we have been able to remain at Level 1, which means we can mostly live normally, and we don't take it for granted. The country was in full lockdown for about 6 weeks which did have a severe economic impact, especially on small businesses and the tourism industry. The government stepped in to provide a wage subsidy for those affected as well as other forms of economic assistance and there has been some positive rebounding already in some areas. However, tourism is still likely to be quite adversely affected for some time, even with Kiwis travelling and vacationing locally as much as possible.

I enjoy this country and Wellington: its climate, scenery, and people. I keep busy with reading, writing emails, taking walks, doing bus trips downtown, which is very walkable and vibrant. Since we've been able to (and I am very conscious how lucky we are to be able to do these things), I've been going regularly to movies and lunches with a next door neighbour, visiting with my son-in-law's family, staying in touch via video chats with family and friends in Port Huron and elsewhere, or going shopping or out to eat with my daughter and son-in-law. I've been working on puzzles (a 1594 double-hemisphere world map by Petrus Plancius is the current one), and doing some small things around the house, like trying to make friends with Bitta the resident Siamese cat. Time has flown by!

Alberta Auringer Wood Graduated from The University of Michigan with BA and MA degrees in Geography and MA in Library Science. Worked for more than 40 years in various libraries, primarily in a capacity related to maps, including over 27 years at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Member of various cartography and map library related associations including the now defunct American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (a Past President), the Canadian Cartographic Association (Honorary Member and a past Secretary) and ACMLA (a Past President). In addition to over 40 articles, co-editing of six books, writing numerous reviews and compiling many listings of new books and atlases, she is the author of four books and an ongoing carto bibliographic database.