



COLLECTING OLD MAPS



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REVISED AND EXPANDED EDITION BY
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A MAP SAYS TO YOU, 'READ ME CAREFULLY,
FOLLOW ME CLOSELY, DOUBT ME NOT.
I AM THE EARTH IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND.
WITHOUT ME, YOU ARE LOST.'

BERYL MARKHAM, *West with the Night*





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Collecting old maps is a splendid hobby. One doesn't need great means to build a great collection. Most dealers will agree that maps are undervalued, even after the recent price rises, in comparison to other antiques or art. Whether you collect 16th- and 17th-century world maps, 18th-century maps of France, 19th-century maps of Africa, or maps of Ohio, the hobby is fascinating and rewarding. However, the vastness and technical complexity of the endeavor can prove daunting to beginning collectors.

There are already many books about maps. Some are lavish coffee-table productions filled with folding pages of color reproductions of famous trophy maps, manuscript maps, and wall maps that can cost many thousands of dollars. Others are detailed descriptions of maps and the history of the mapping of different continents and seemingly endless lists of arcane detail about individual mapmakers.

But there are few serious books about map collecting, books that can guide the beginner through the early pitfalls that many others have experienced. In this book, I have kept that in mind and have deviated from previous attempts in several major ways. In this book I approach the material from the point of view of a collector and have made the collector and the collection the common thread that ties the work together. I have provided basic vocabulary and an overview of the field as background for negotiating the terra incognita of the early stages of map collecting.

Further, what good is it to a beginner to look at a book filled with examples of maps that exist largely in museums? The maps illustrating this book include many that are collectible, that can be bought from most dealers rather easily and affordably. Although map collecting has traditionally been largely antiquarian, the last few decades have seen a burgeoning interest in 19th-century and even 20th-century maps. While collecting such things as gasoline company road maps is map collecting, these activities overlap to a large degree with the area of collecting ephemera. Nonetheless, I shall attempt to integrate them into the field of antiquarian map collecting as it is more generally perceived.

All of this is in service of encouraging the great enjoyment that can come with submersion in the world of maps.

In any work such as this, many people, in addition to the author, have contributed ideas, suggestions, criticism, and assistance. My colleagues in the map trade offered support and assurance. When my enthusiasm for the project waned episodically, their "When is it coming out?" restored my flagging energies. I know of no other business where such a high degree of collegiality exists. The assistance given me, without thought of return, speaks toward the high standards held by members of this trade and is but one more reason why I hold my colleagues in such high regard.

Tom Suárez read an early draft and, despite its flaws, continued to be supportive. He loaned me many maps and answered innumerable questions. Rick Casten, George Robinson, Chris Watters, Jonathan Potter, and George and Mary Ritzlin read drafts and provided valuable insights. George Robinson, the Ritzlins, Bob Augustyn, Lee Jackson, Geof Dreher, and Sidney Knafel graciously lent images from their collections. Alan Berolzheimer helped to compile the appendix material. His copyediting and proofreading were an essential aid.

My wife, Anne Pearson, put up with a lot while the beast was gestating. I owe her big time.

F. J. Manasek, 1997
Norwich, Vermont

In 2010, after two decades in the map trade, we decided to retire; Curt to tinker with his racecars and Marti to putter in her garden. We found a young, energetic couple to take the reins at Old World Auctions and were in the process of making that transition when Frank Manasek convinced us to acquire the rights to *Collecting Old Maps*. While we knew nothing about publishing, we thought it would be a nice project to aid our transition into retirement. Before we got started though, we were again approached to take on another standard work in the map collecting sphere. We acquired the *Antique Map Price Record* (AMPR), which we integrated into the existing database at OldMaps.com. This took much longer than expected and delayed the book project.

When we finally delved into the text our objective quickly changed from simply issuing a straightforward second edition to expanding the book and making it more relevant to collectors today. Since the first edition was written nearly twenty years ago, the Internet has transformed the way maps are marketed, opened the map world up to a wider audience, and significantly increased access to related information. We also realized this was an opportunity to convert it to full color.

For readers familiar with the first edition of this book, you'll find a few structural changes to the book's organization. While maintaining Frank's approach to the nuts and bolts of collecting, parts of the book have been expanded while other areas have been simplified or even eliminated where the information is now readily available on the Internet or from printed reference works specific to the subject. You will also find new information on the history of papermaking, French Revolutionary calendar, cardinal directions and the mythological figures, symbols and allegory used in cartography.

Collecting Old Maps was written from the standpoint of the collector, specifically the novice collector, but with content comprehensive enough to benefit all collectors. Frank's intent was to present information to help a new collector navigate the unknown, and sometimes technically complex, aspects of the world of old maps. To further that end, the Timeline was created to give a succinct and chronological glimpse at the core

subjects central to mapmaking: the milestones in exploration, landmarks in map and atlas publishing, and the evolution of papermaking and printing processes.

The most significant change to this edition is the Map Gallery. Many of the maps illustrated and described in this section are different from those in the first edition. These maps were assembled to illustrate the five-century evolution of printed maps and how they changed both artistically and technically in response to various cultural and market influences. They illustrate the progression from the simple woodcuts of the incunabula period to the elegant copperplate engravings of Renaissance Italy, then to the Baroque Dutch compositions, the refined style of scientific cartographers, and finally the technically advanced, but sometimes whimsical, approach of 20th-century mapmakers. Most of these maps are illustrated in full color, which is intended to elucidate the changes in coloring fashion over time. As in the first edition, these maps represent a broad range of geographic regions, cartographic importance, and prices, and are all available in the current market. The descriptions of the maps drew information from the many excellent reference books listed in Appendix A, to whose authors we are heavily indebted. We also want to thank all those who answered a multitude of questions, provided images, and most of all encouraged us and patiently waited for the results.

While we worked diligently to make the content accurate, we are solely responsible for all errors and omissions. We will maintain a Corrigenda and Addenda on the website. Please share with us any corrections, suggestions, and additions that you would like to see in future printings.

This book was written as an introduction to the rewarding hobby of map collecting. We hope it will demystify some of the confusing aspects of the subject and put the information in a sensible context.

Marti and Curt Griggs, 2014
Sedona, Arizona
www.CollectingOldMaps.com / www.oldmaps.com