

A PORTFOLIO OF INTERESTING MAPS THROUGH TIME

Maps are documents to be read and re-read. They have been and are used for getting from one place to another, to define boundaries, to be studied for historical analysis, to use for political advantage, to tell a story, and simply to enjoy. There are virtually an endless number of maps that have been created, some on vellum (animal skin), countless on paper, and virtually endlessly in digital forms, and on other media too. Some maps are the result of someone drawing them by hand (referred to as manuscript maps), some are the result of data gatherers providing their information to map makers (engravers) who in turn provided their work to publishers, and some are the result of mathematical formulas applied to vast amounts of data, for use on electronic devices and other media. Maps have been and are essential to human endeavor.

This portfolio, prepared by a Washington Map Society Member, is a sampling of different types of maps, from different eras, some of which have historical significance, that we hope is an impetus for you to Explore the World of Maps even further.

Images of the maps have been provided as a courtesy by the Library of Congress and WMS members. They are presented in approximately chronological order.



World Map, Hartmann Schedel, 1493

Contained in the Nuremberg Chronicles, an encyclopedia of history with maps and drawings.



World Map, Martin Waldseemüller, 1507

The first map to include the name America, a wall map of twelve sections, is the only extant copy.

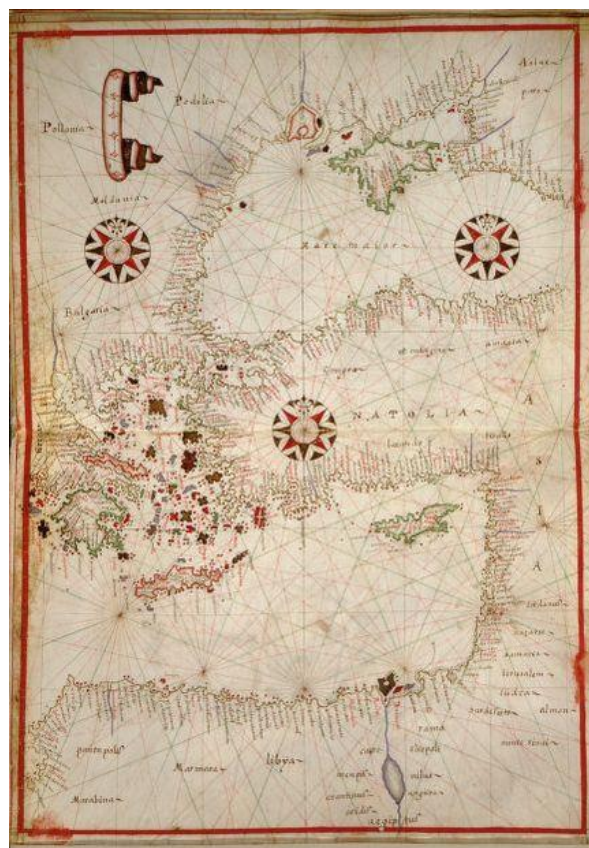


Islandia, Abraham Ortelius, 1585

From the father of the first atlas, one of his most decorative maps, first fairly accurate map of Iceland.



Plan of the City of Paris, Georg Braun & Frans Hogenberg, 1572
From their six volume *Civitas Orbis Terrarum* (Cities of the World).



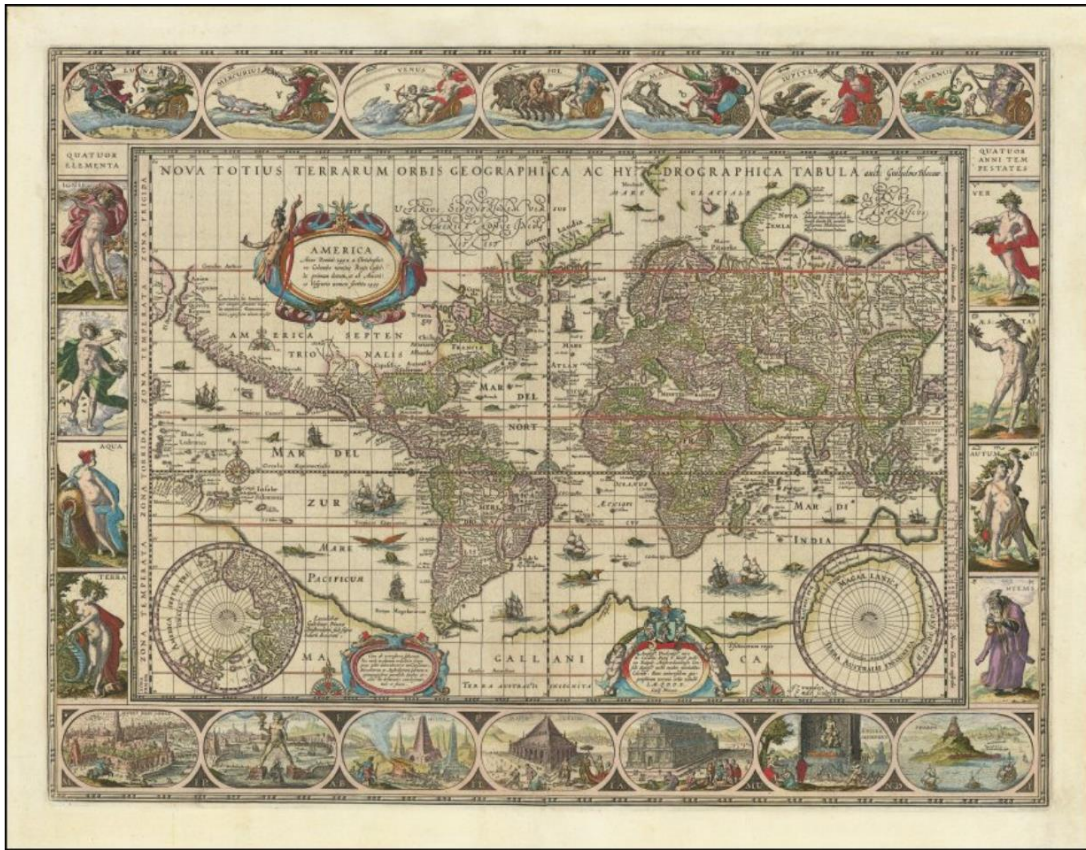
Portolan Chart of the Western Mediterranean, Joan Oliva, 1590
A sea chart produced with pen and ink on vellum.



Maris Pacifici, Abraham Ortelius, 1585
 First stand-alone map of the Pacific Ocean.



Leo Belgicus, Pieter van den Keere, 1617
 Highly decorative map of the Low Countries (Netherlands/Belgium) shown as a lion; a propaganda tool.



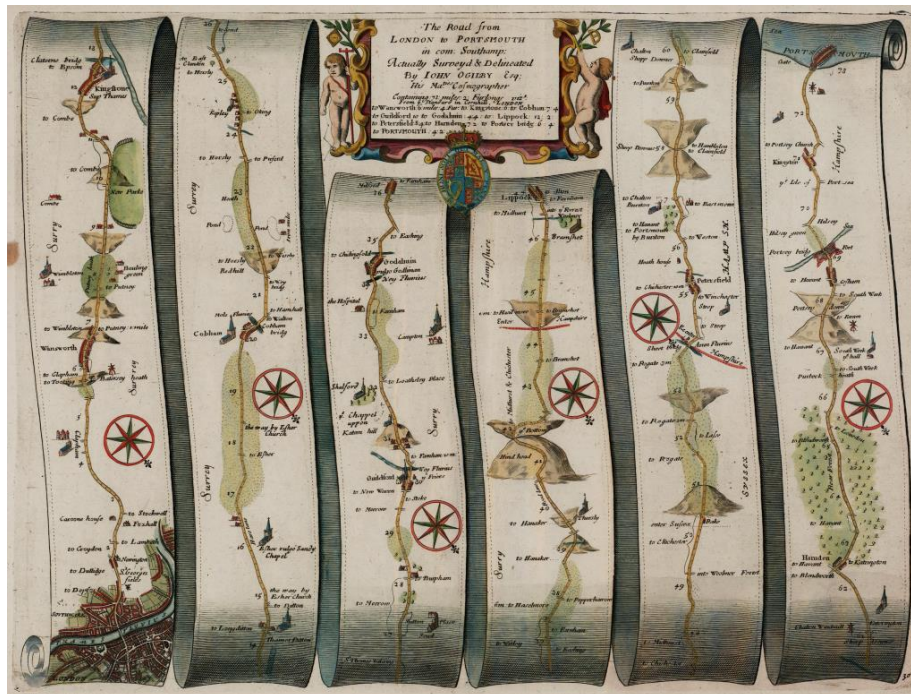
World Map, Guillaume (Willem Janszoon) Blaeu, 1635
 A work of art from the Golden Age of Dutch Cartography.



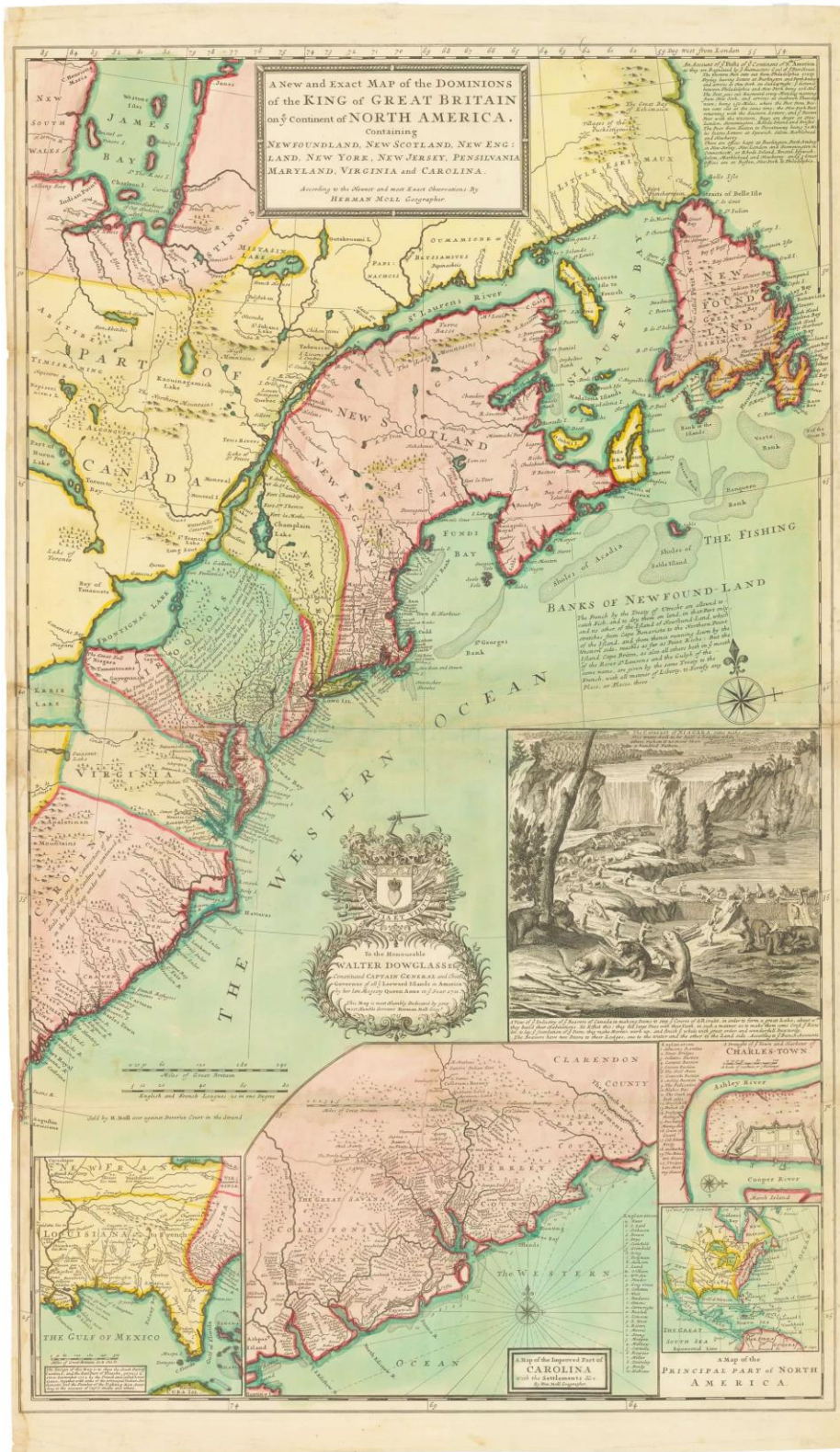
America Septentrionalis, Henricus Hondius & Jan Jansson, 1641
 The influential map that perpetuated the myth of California as an island.



Celestial Map of the Northern Sky, Andreas Cellarius, 1660
A beautiful example of mapping the stars and the constellations.



The Road from London to Portsmouth, John Ogilby, 1680
A strip-form like map from the first road atlas published.



Dominions of the King of Great Britain on ye Continent of North America, Herman Moll, 1715
 Known as the “Beaver Map” because of the inset, it is a seminal map of English settlement.



Carte de la Lousiane et du Cours du Mississippi, Guillaume De L'Isle, 1718
 The seminal map of the lower Mississippi and the first map to name Texas.



A Survey of Belhaven, George Washington, 1748
 A hand drawn surveyor's map of what is now Alexandria, VA, by the first President of the U.S.A.



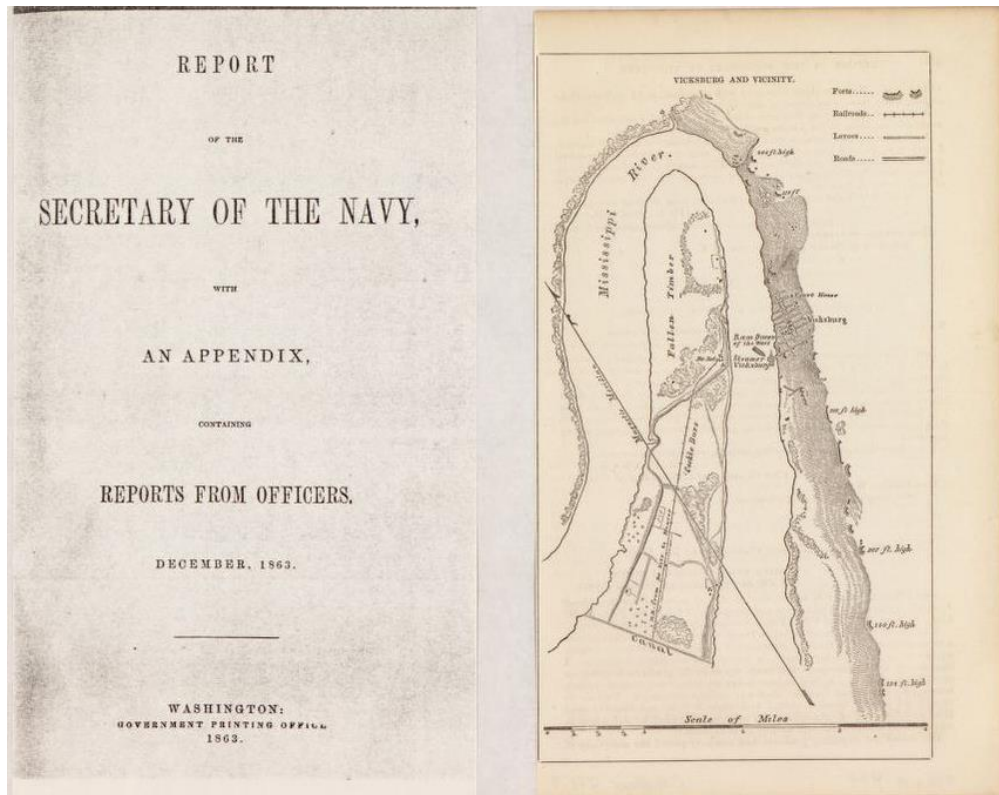
Virginia and the Province of Maryland, Joshua Fry & Peter Jefferson, 1755
 The key map in the mapping of the region; Peter is the father of Thomas.



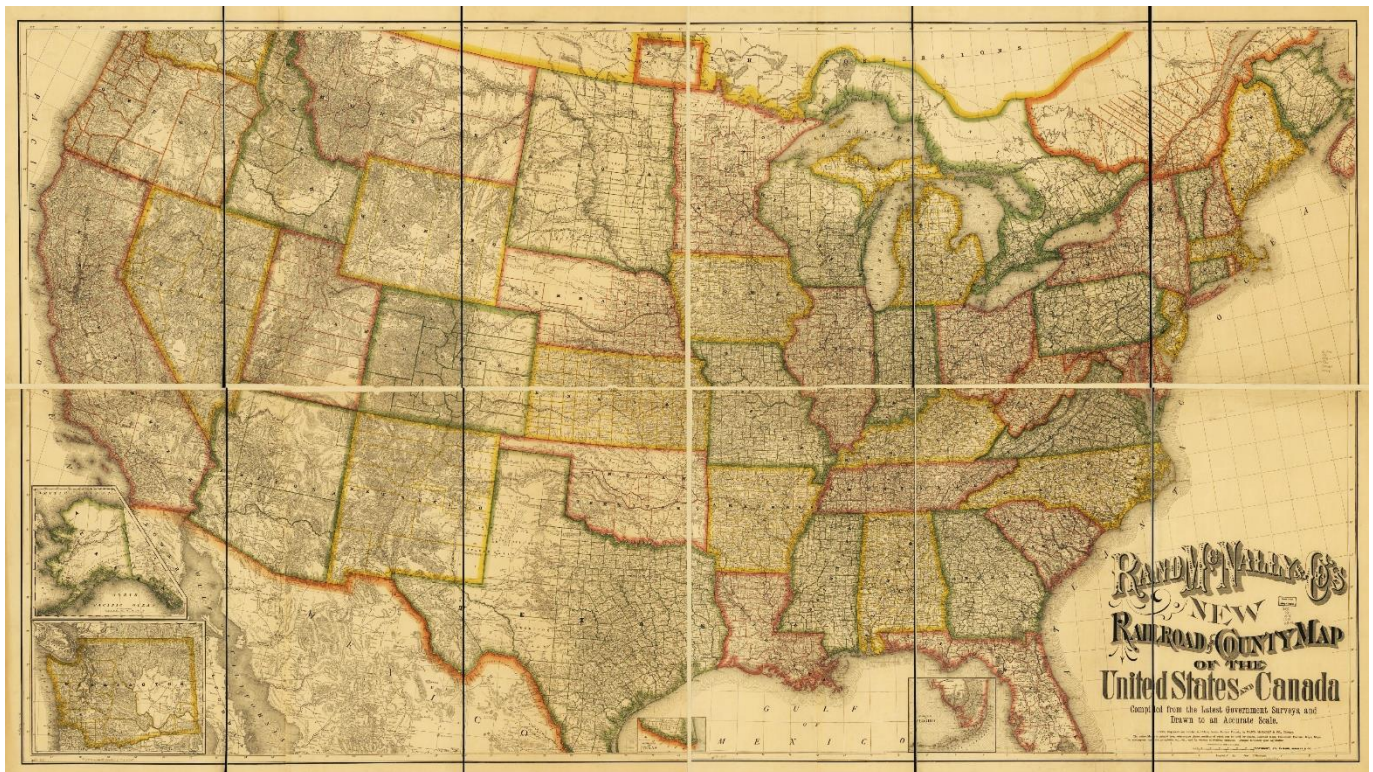
Boston: Its Environs and Harbour with the Rebel Works, Thomas Hyde Page, 1775
 A revolutionary war map showing where the rebels established fortifications.



Strata of England and Wales, William Smith, 1815
The first geological map of a country; considered a map that changed the world.



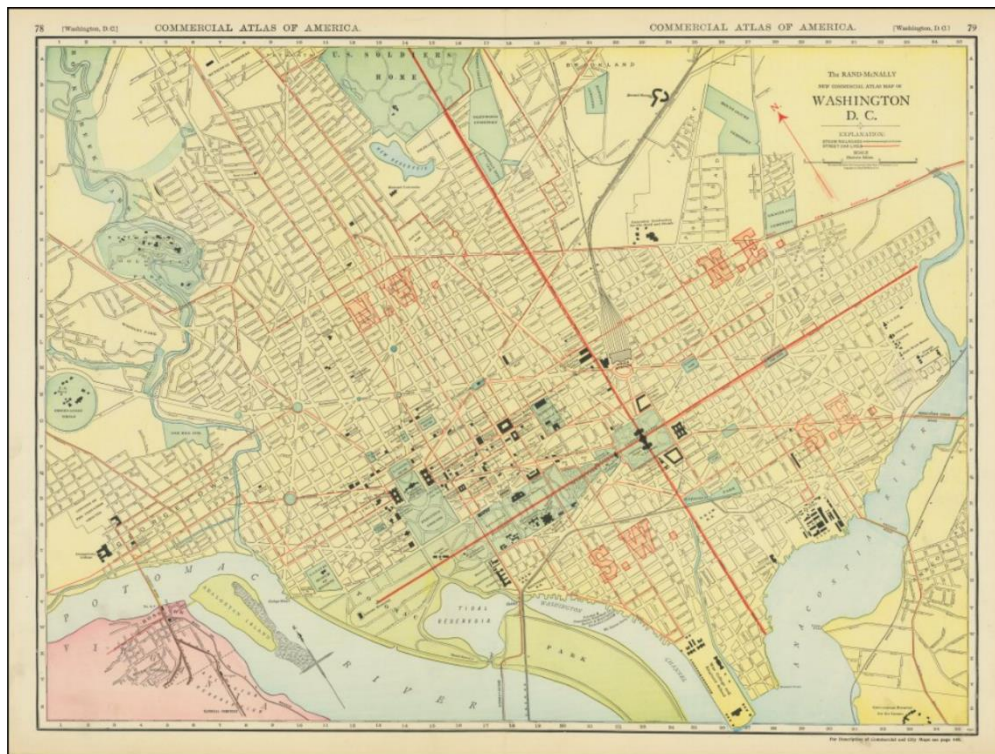
Vicksburg & Vicinity, Report to the Secretary of the Navy, 1863
 A civil war field survey by officers provided to upper command.



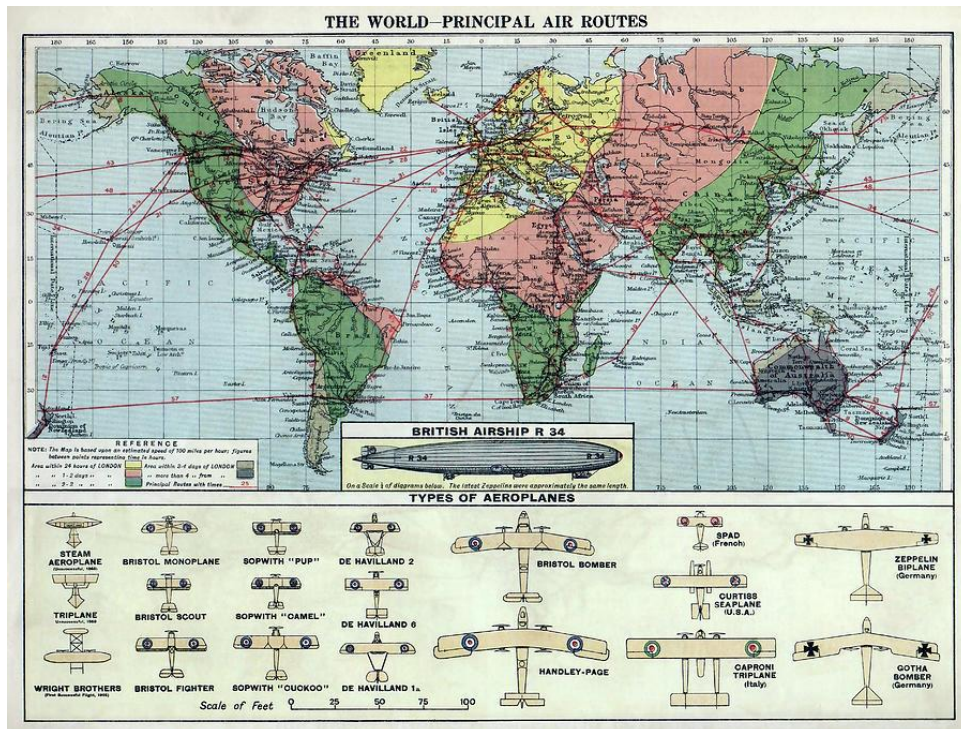
Railroad and County Map of the United States and Canada, Rand McNally, 1876
 Charting the changes in the country and its railroads.



Hark! Hark! The Dogs Do Bark!, Walter Emanuel, 1914
 A serio comic map of Europe at War to make political points.



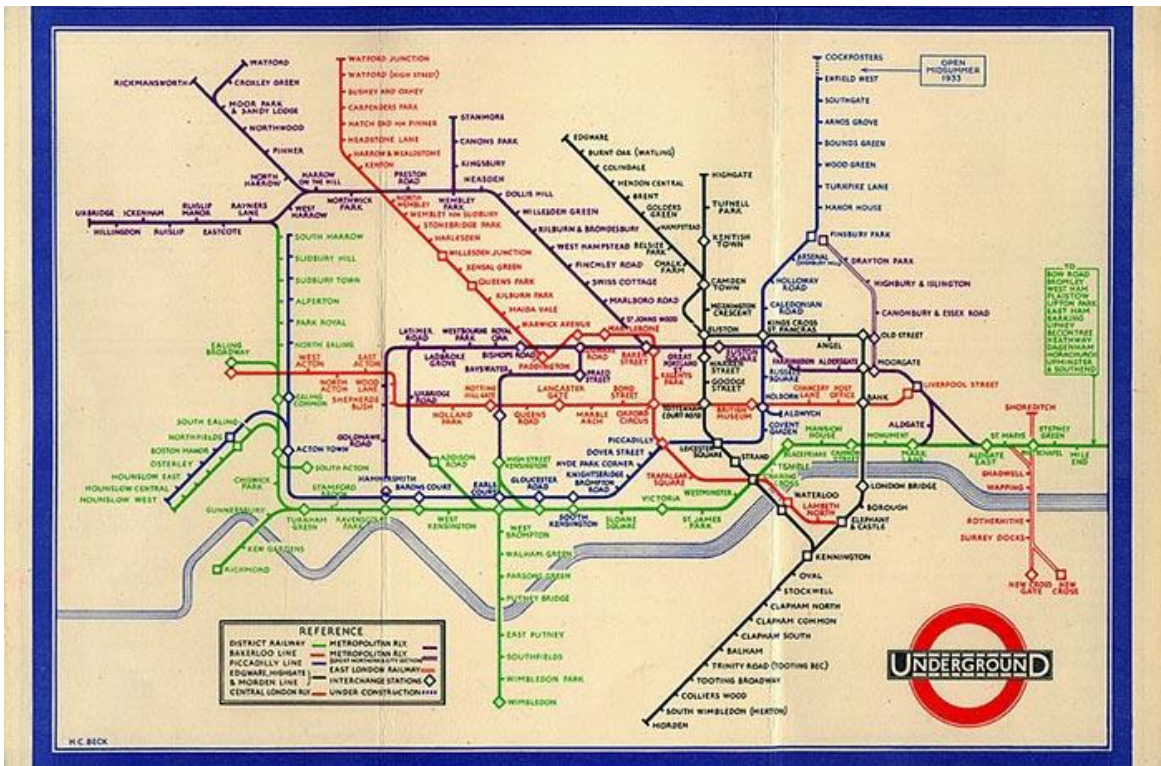
Washington D.C., Rand McNally, 1914
 A map that shows the evolution of a city since the original L'Enfant plan.



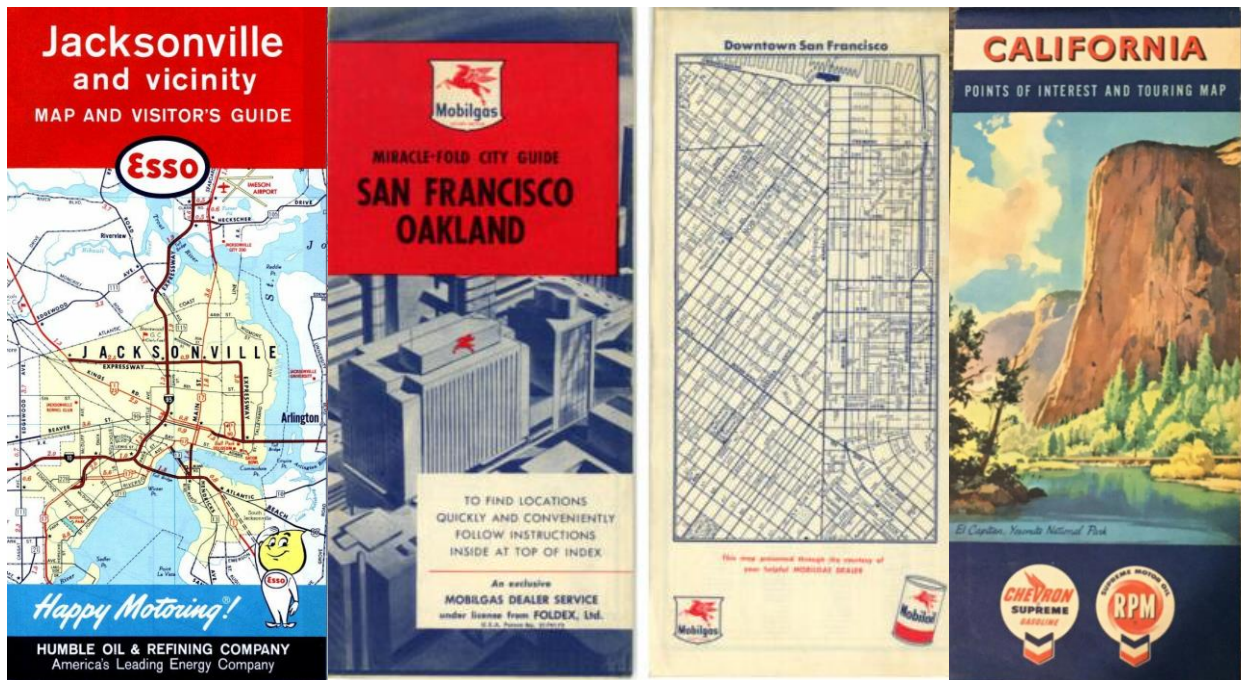
The World – Principal Air Routes, Daniel Hagerman, 1920
 A forerunner of maps illustrating where air traffic goes.



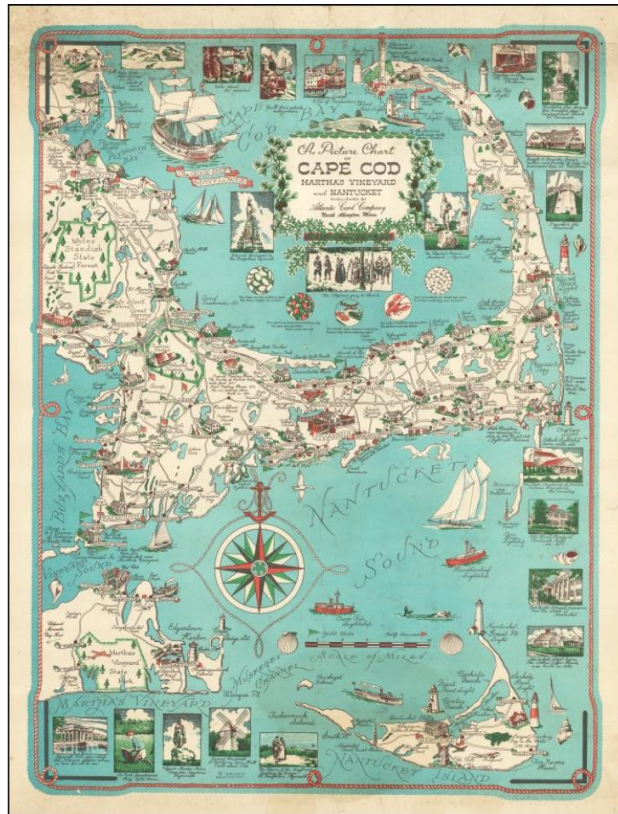
Yosemite National Park, Jo Mora, 1931
 A pictorial, tourist map with detail and commentary by an artist of the era.



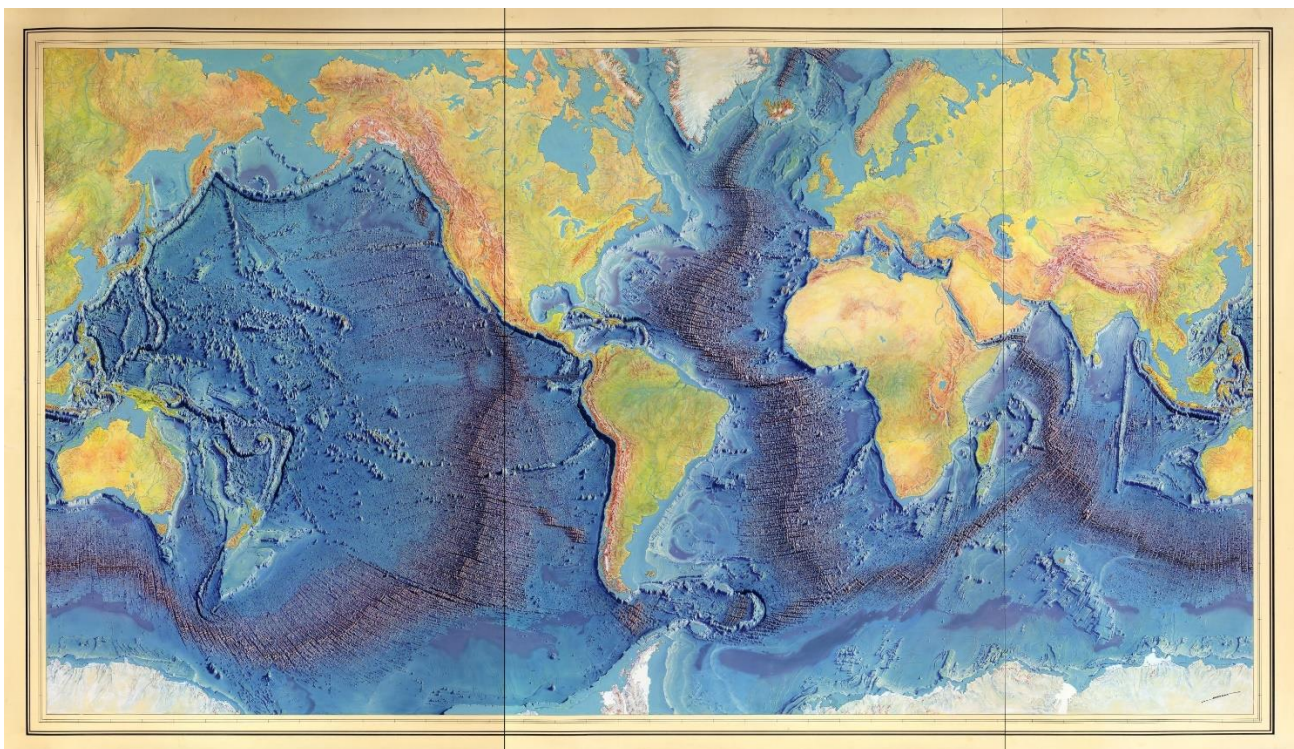
Underground (Map of the London Tube), Harry Beck, 1933
 A first of its kind that spawned a way to map city wide transit systems.



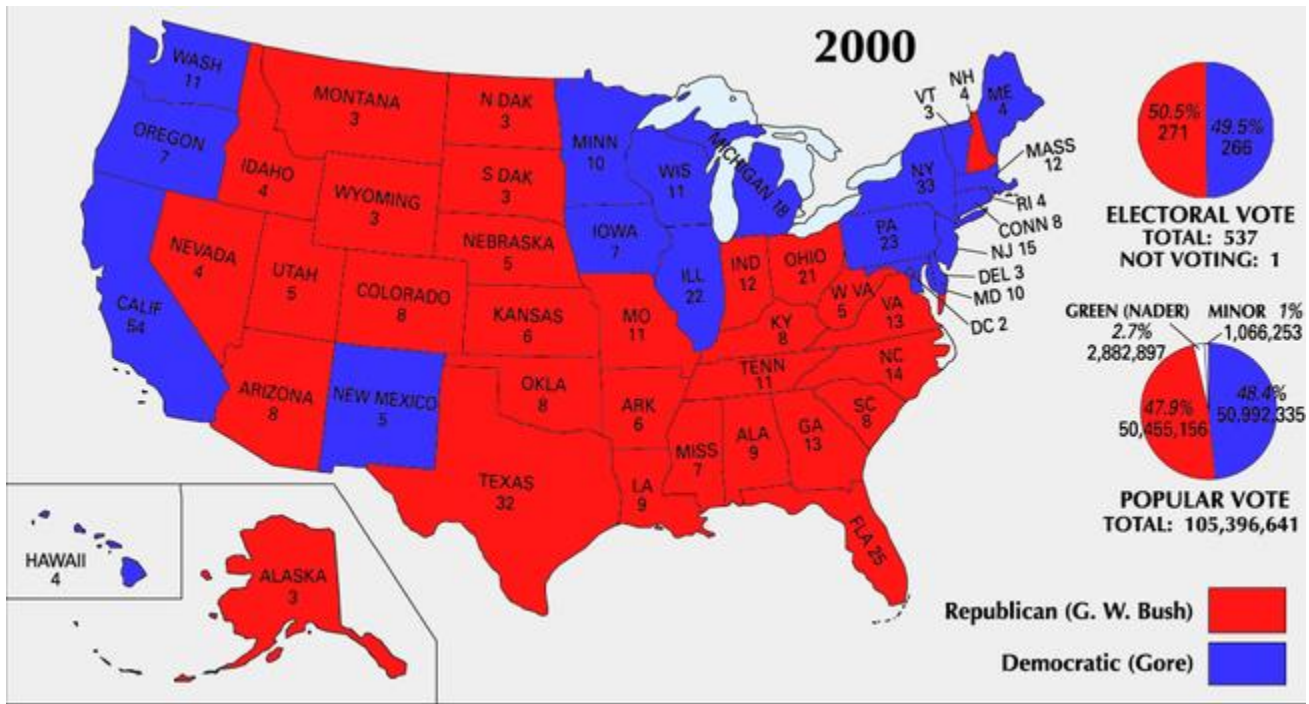
Road Maps for Drivers, various oil companies, from the 1930s onward.
 A favorite way to find one's way on road trips that was used for decades.



A Picture Chart of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard & Nantucket, Atlantic Card Company, 1949
A pictorial map for tourists whose type was very popular in its day.

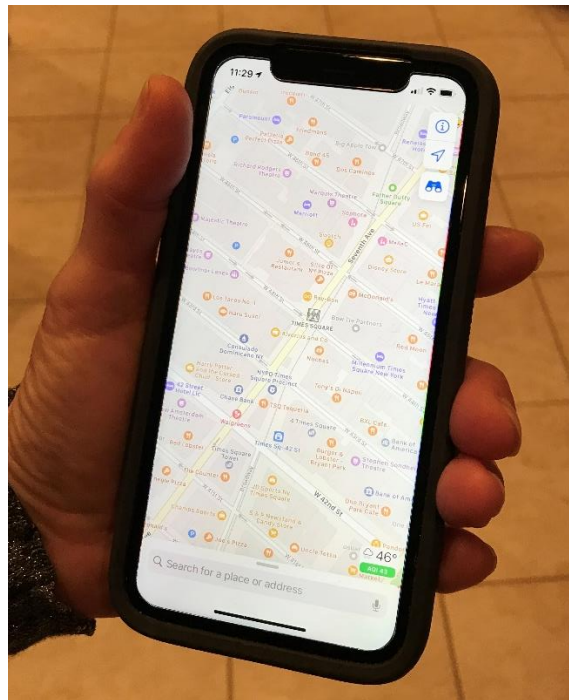


The Ocean Floors, Heinrich Berann based on the work of Bruce Heezen & Marie Tharp, 1977
A manuscript painting map developed from the comprehensive research of two people.



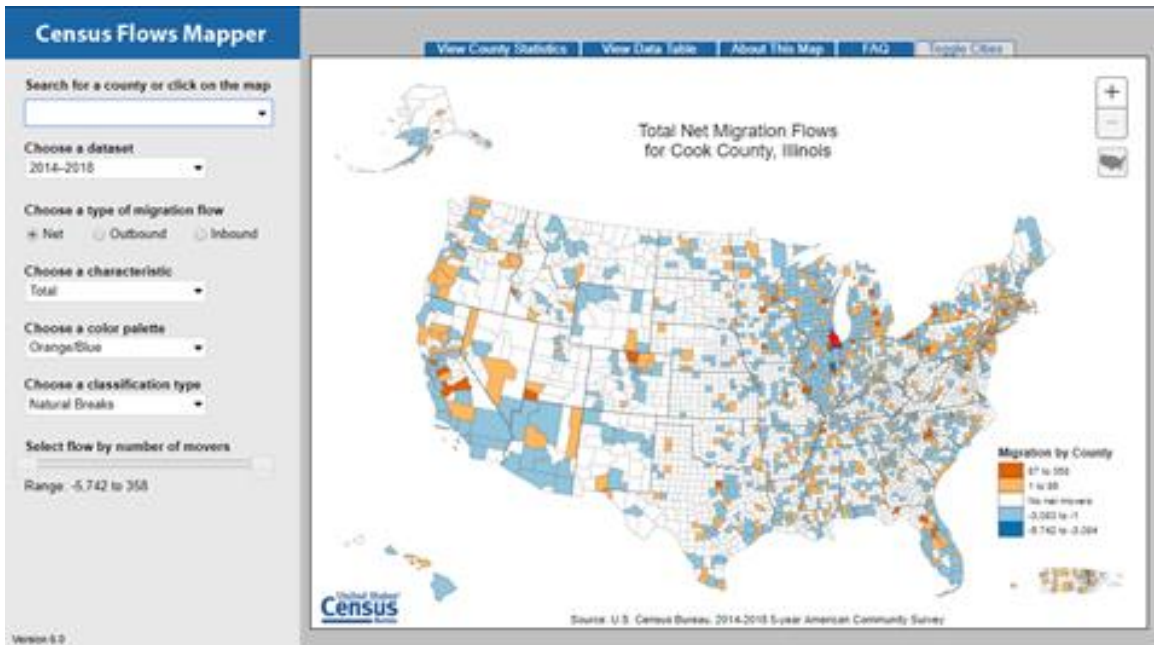
Election Map, 2000

One of many ways maps are used to convey information in a clear way.

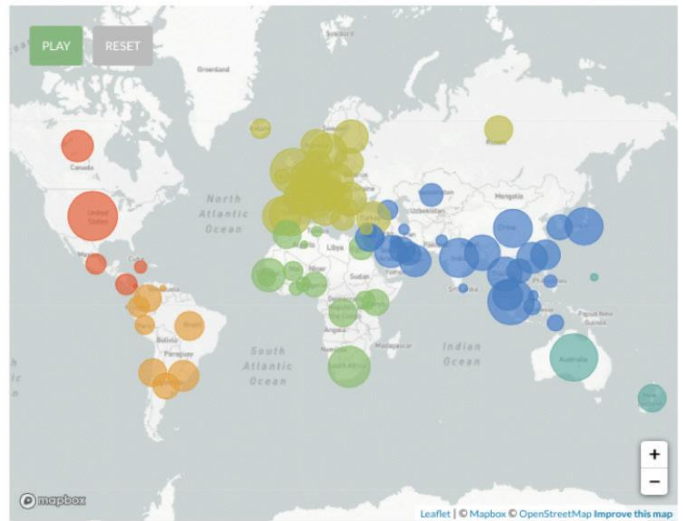
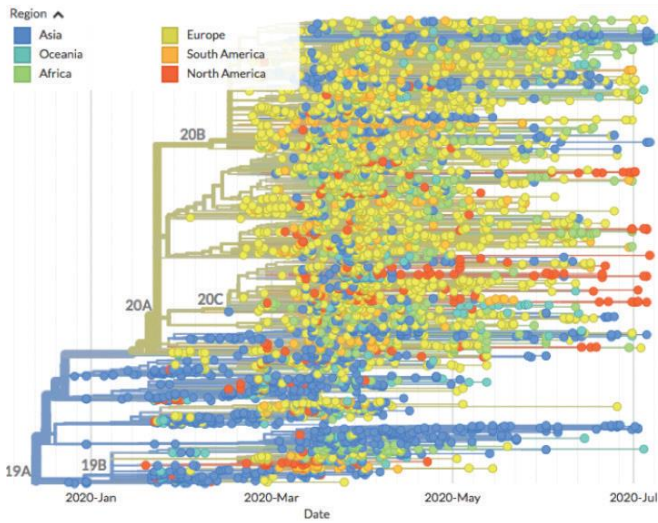


Modern Day Map via GPS software on a Cell Phone, 2019

A prime example of the digitization of mapping.



Census Flows Mapper, U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 to current
An interactive tool, available online, to portray and analyze census data.



Geo-spatially resolved phylogenetic tree of COVID-19. Courtesy Next Strain, 2020.

Massive data analysis using super computers to map a pandemic.

As discussed in *The Portolan* article by John Hessler (see Articles & Papers section of this website)