

# Preface

This book began an apparent lifetime ago. It was to list in one source all known printed maps issued before 1700 relating to any part of North America, with the sole exception of those of the world. At the time I had no idea quite how big a project it would become. The original intention was to publish it in one book but half way through it had already become a large work. I decided to issue it in two halves, the first covering the period to 1670. It may seem improbable that 1670 would be a halfway point but it was. The first contained 410 entries, this has slightly fewer at 364. However, many contain larger descriptions.

The arrival of Christopher Columbus on the American continent in 1492 followed arguably the most influential European invention of the second millennium: printing by the use of movable type. However, printing had already been in use in Asia where it dates back to the eleventh century in China. The effect of being able to create multiple copies of a document in a short space of time was incalculable and it provided much of the stimulus for the Renaissance. The first printed book was the celebrated Gutenberg Bible, c.1455. The spread of the printed word throughout Europe brought knowledge to considerably more people than was possible before, when everything was reproduced in manuscript. This is exemplified by news of Columbus' discovery. The new technology's application to printing images soon led to a desire for maps. These began to appear in the 1470s. For students of American history this background means that one of the most important geographical discoveries of man is fully documented in print. Much has been written on the printed word in relation to America, and many works exist on the cartography of it, however, none has attempted to comprehensively detail every known printed map.

Maps are one of the most fascinating media. They condense into one document an immense amount of information. This book concentrates on the mapping of North America; to have included Central and South America would have increased the scope of the book beyond my desire. To define the limits of inclusion I set the following geographical boundaries: every printed map that depicts any part of North America is included. That is those concentrating on, or delineating in some detail, the area north of the present Mexican border with the United States of America. The only ones not included are world maps as these items have been well covered in Rodney Shirley's *The Mapping of the World*. However, some world maps do make it into this book as they are in two sheets, one hemisphere each. Often one may see the western hemisphere without being aware that it is part of a larger work.

Each map is discussed in detail, with a description of both its publication and background history, including those of the cartographers, printers and publishers involved. Also, if any explorations are recorded, a description of them is included. Following this in each case are a list of references and a list of known examples of the map that survive. The latter has a strong emphasis on North American locations. Lastly, but by no means least, each entry is accompanied by a detailed photograph of the map. It must be realised that when dealing in extremely scarce material, a number of maps have not survived at all. Of the majority I am sure no record survives; however, where known these lost maps are listed in the back of the book. In the course of my research I have uncovered some of them, and I am sure that a number more will come to light. New material relevant to the first book that has come forth since its publication is fully described in the Corrigenda and Addenda. One of the main advantages of this sort of work is

that it provides the platform from which further serious studies can be made. Please contact me with any new information that you find. I plan to post on my website any further relevant subject matter.

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As we enter the eighteenth century the quantity of printed maps produced grew further. At the moment I have no desire to enter into writing about this period as a comparison of the first two books illustrates just how big the explosion of map production is. I hope you enjoy this book.

Philip D. Burden

*No one can know better than himself the imperfections and short-comings of the Catalogue, but his experience has taught him that it is better to let the generous reader have the pleasure of finding out the mistakes for himself rather than attempt to indicate and apologize for them. Let him that is free from errata in his own life point them out and crow. The writer will reciprocate on opportunity. No man ever yet, he thinks, printed a catalogue perfect in the eyes of others.*

*(Henry Stevens, nineteenth century bookdealer)*