

Using the Map Collection in the Archives at the Library of Virginia

Maps were a part of the Library of Virginia's original collection and 11 titles are listed in the 1828 catalog. Maps and atlases were acquired by the Library throughout the nineteenth century and in 1911 the Library began keeping an official record of its cartographic holdings. E. G. Swem compiled a bibliography of Virginia maps in 1914 and for the first time an inventory of Virginia maps was published. In 1924 the Library acquired one of its most important manuscript map collections, the Board of Public Works, and today there are approximately 66,000 maps housed throughout various collections. Approximately 12,000 maps are housed in the historical map collection. It includes general historical maps (manuscript, printed, and photocopies of Virginia maps from other collections), special groups of historical maps, and United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangles, drawings, and plans. The collection also contains microfilm copies of the early series of USGS Virginia topographic quadrangles, two series of Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for Virginia (from the Library of Congress and from the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company Archives), and selected nineteenth-century Virginia maps in the Library of Congress on microfiche. Since Virginia is not a public land state, there are no land-ownership maps. However, there are some maps that show residences. Modern tax maps can be found in records at local courthouses.

Principal maps of Virginia include the John Smith map (1612), the Augustine Herrman map (1673), the Fry-Jefferson map (1751/1754, 1755, and 1775), the John Henry map (1770), the Bishop Madison map (1807/1818), and the state maps of 1827 and 1859 produced by the Virginia Board of Public Works. The collection includes the 1819 copperplate used in the reprint of John Smith's *Generall Historie of Virginia*, eight of the nine original copperplates for the 1827/1859 state map and all four of the copperplates for the reduced version of the map, and the three copperplates used to print the USGS Wytheville quadrangle to 1927.

Maps are also found in the book collection of the Library, many of which are located in the Rare Book Room. Atlases can be accessed through the online catalog, and many current atlases have been placed in the Map Research Room and the East Reading Room. The Congressional Serial Set, on microfiche, and online through Congressional ProQuest (in-library use only), contains many maps that accompany government reports. An index to these maps is located in the East Reading Room and on Congressional ProQuest. The Maps on File series, located in the East Reading Room, provides copyright-free outline maps. Geology maps, soil surveys, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) maps, and National Park Service (NPS) maps are received as part of the agency's federal and state depository programs. To find out more about the Library's collection of FEMA, CIA, and NPS maps, please visit our Web site and use the online books and journals catalog. A "Words in Author" search will list the Library's holdings. FEMA maps are available online at

The Library of Virginia provides patrons with online access to several map collections including the Alan M. Voorhees map collection, the Civil War Maps Project, the Board of Public Works Inventory, and select images from the 2008–2009 gallery exhibition *From Williamsburg to Wills's Creek: The Fry-Jefferson Map of Virginia* in the online collection “The Fry-Jefferson Map, Derivatives and Surveys.” Two online map exhibitions can be accessed through the Virginia Memory portal: *From Williamsburg to Wills's Creek: The Fry-Jefferson Map of Virginia* and *Maps, Charts and Atlases: The Alan M. Voorhees Map Collection at the Library of Virginia*.

Early Maps

Many of the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century maps in the collection consist of printed maps that appeared in atlases. The decoration on these maps, including the area within the cartouche (an enclosed decorative area usually containing title, author and related information), and the use of color reflect the history and culture of the maps' creators. Many of these maps are oriented with north to the right, representing the view of those approaching the Americas from the Atlantic Ocean.

As new parts of the world were discovered and claimed, maps were used to encourage Europeans to settle in distant lands. Maps also served as vehicles for contemporary political and economic attitudes, and conflicting land claims were reflected on maps by showing boundary disputes and holdings by particular countries. The next step in mapping the New World involved constructing maps to reflect the division and ownership of lands within given boundaries.

The accuracy of these early maps ranges from the earliest crude depictions, based primarily on the reports and charts of expeditions, to the more accurate and detailed maps of the mid-eighteenth century, which were constructed by professional surveyors with appropriate instruments and methods. It should be noted that the levels of detail and accuracy of maps vary, depending on the equipment, technology, and expertise available at the time a particular map was made.

Special Groups of Historical Maps

Board of Public Works Maps

The maps generated by the Board of Public Works, beginning in 1816, constitute one of the Library's finest collections. The board was established to encourage internal improvements in the state, and Virginia was one of the first states to have such a program. These maps consist of more than 500 titles (900 sheets) of surveys and maps, primarily manuscript, generated in the development of turnpikes, canals, and railroads. They also include the county maps created by John Wood and Herman Böye from 1819 to 1825 in response to an act of the legislature. Ultimately, Wood and Böye completed 102 county maps. The collection includes copies of all known maps in this series: thirty-nine original Wood- Böye county maps and photocopies of eight other original maps, which are presently located in various repositories and courthouses. These neatly done maps have invaluable information on the location of historic structures, including mills, taverns, ferries, ironworks, churches, roads,

and private dwellings. Created prior to the construction of Bōye's 1827 state map, the county maps form the base for that map and for the 1859 edition, which was corrected by Lewis von Buchholtz.

These maps are often used in conjunction with the Board of Public Works records, of which they are a part. Researchers sometimes gain a better understanding of a project, decision, or situation by reviewing both the maps and the documents together. Researchers will want to consult the published guide, *Board of Public Works Inventory*, compiled by John S. Salmon (Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1978; 2d ed., The Library of Virginia, 1996). Recently, the online Board of Public Works Inventory was transferred to the Library's Virginia Memory portal. The published guide is available for use in Virginia Memory.

Civil War Maps

Military maps have a need for great detail. How thick are the forests? Where are the roads? Exactly where can a river or creek be crossed to the best advantage? These are the questions that a military map must answer. Railroads, buildings, some residences, and lines of defense were also noted. The successful outcome of a conflict often depended on a good map. The Library's Civil War map collection consists of manuscript maps, commercial maps, maps printed in newspapers and journals, and military maps produced in a variety of formats.

Civil War maps were constructed before or during maneuvers, and when produced afterward, they served as documentation of the event. Guides to the Civil War map collections of both the National Archives and the Library of Congress are located in the Map Research Room. (*Civil War Maps: An Annotated List of Maps and Atlases in the Library of Congress*, 2d ed., compiled by Richard W. Stephenson [Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1989]; *A Guide to Civil War Maps in the National Archives*, 2d ed. [Washington, D.C.: The National Archives, 1986])

In 2003, as part of a collaborative effort with the Library of Congress and the Virginia Historical Society, the Library's collection of Civil War maps was scanned and uploaded into the Library of Congress's online American Memory portal. Today, researchers can visit the Library of Virginia's Virginia Memory portal to access the Civil War Map Project.

Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company Maps

The collection of about 200 maps and plans (more than 1,800 sheets) of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company covers the period from 1836 to 1943 and depicts the railroad routes along the James River and Kanawha Canal towpaths; surveys of routes through the towns of Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Richmond, and Hampton; plats of railroad depots and private property condemned for the use of the railroad; and surveys of branch line routes. This series of maps is valuable to canal historians, as well as those interested in the railroad and those looking for specific places and property owners along the James River. An unpublished finding aid is available in the Map Research Room and through the Library's archives and manuscripts catalog under map accession 4364

United States Geological Survey (USGS) Maps

By far the largest series of maps in the collection are the USGS topographic quadrangle maps. More than 800 uses have been determined for these maps. They combine both natural and cultural features as well as being inexpensive and readily available. Primary users include engineers, foresters, geologists, city and state planners, and those who have recreational interests such as hiking and camping. USGS maps serve as base maps for other data and feature overlays, such as geology maps. Our collection dates from the late 1880s, when the first quadrangles were produced for Virginia. The mapping project began in 1882 with creation of the U.S. Geological Survey, whose main purpose was to map the United States through these standardized quadrangles.

Viewing a quadrangle is like seeing the land from the air, and comparing current editions with earlier ones quickly shows the amount and direction of growth in an area. Houses, churches, airports, roads, railroads, bridges, cemeteries, elevation by contours, latitude and longitude, and even the bench marks used as reference points are indicated.

The map collection no longer receives quadrangles for Virginia and the contiguous states of Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia, and the city of Washington, D.C. The USGS National Geospatial system is converting historical topographic maps to digital format, which are available at the USGS Store (www.usgs.gov) and the National Map Viewer (<http://nationalmap.gov/index.html>). As of August 2011 there are a limited number of maps available online.

Patrons can search for a specific feature by conducting a search through the Geographic Names Information System provided by the USGS Board on Geographic Names (<http://geonames.usgs.gov>). Researchers seeking a specific Virginia topographic map or topographic maps from states contiguous to Virginia can search the Library's online books and journals catalog. Guides to the use of topographic maps and to the collection of more than 200 late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century USGS geologic atlas folios are available in the Map Research Room. A helpful resource is *Geographic and Cultural Names in Virginia* by Thomas H. Biggs, *Information Circular 20* (Charlottesville: Virginia Division of Mineral Resources, 1974), which is keyed to Virginia's topographic maps by place-name, water and land features, and religious institutions.

Alan M. Voorhees Map Collection

Alan M. Voorhees was a distinguished engineer and transportation consultant who planned most of the metropolitan and local transportation systems built in the free world in the 1960s and 1970s. A collector of maps since the 1970s, Voorhees made his collection available for research by placing maps, charts, and atlases at the Library of Virginia, the Virginia Historical Society, the Library of Congress, and other institutions. In 1998 and 2003 Voorhees donated to the Library of Virginia maps that focus on the exploration of the Chesapeake Bay area and the development of Virginia within the context of both European and American history. It was a major contribution to the Library's core collection of more than 12,000 historical maps. Ink-jet prints of original Voorhees maps are available for patron research in the Library of Virginia's Map Reading Room and the collection is available online through the Library's Virginia Memory portal.

Support Materials

Several periodicals relating to maps are available to Library of Virginia researchers. These include *The Map Collector*, a well-illustrated and informative quarterly journal published in Great Britain until 1996; *Meridian*, a publication of the American Library Association; *Mapline*, a short, but useful publication of the Newberry Library in Chicago; and *Mercator's World*, which began publishing in 1996.

A selected bibliography of map resources, primarily related to Virginia maps, is also available upon request. Subjects include map history and identification, conservation, books relating to county boundaries and place-names, periodicals, and related Library of Virginia publications, including the atlas *Virginia in Maps: Four Hundred Years of Settlement, Growth, and Development*, edited by Richard Stephenson and Marianne McKee. Many of these books are located in the Map Research Room for reference use and, as of spring 2011, *Virginia in Maps* can be purchased from the Virginia Shop.

Dr. Earl Gregg Swem's descriptive list of *Maps Relating to Virginia in the Virginia State Library and Other Departments of the Commonwealth with the 17th and 18th Century Atlas-Maps in the Library of Congress*, which appeared in the *Bulletin of the Virginia State Library* (Vol. 7, April, July 1914), is still considered the basic resource on Virginia maps, describing maps that relate to Virginia through April 1914 and West Virginia through 1863. Some of the maps, however, have not been located, and some are in collections other than ours; thus the primary value of this work lies in the bibliographical information it provides.

Recently, the Library's collection of map catalogs published by various map dealers and antiquarian booksellers have been cataloged and are available for use in the Library's Map Reading Room.

Access

Arrangement. The Library of Virginia is in the process of arranging the map collection by the Library of Congress classification system. Until this process is completed, maps are arranged by the LOC system and by geographical area under a modified Dewey decimal system. Map researchers should search the Library's online books and journals catalog and the online Map Collection Index.

Serving/Handling. Preservation is the primary concern in the management of the map collection. Oversize materials are difficult to handle, and problems of excessive size and fragility are common to loose maps, whose entire surfaces are exposed to light, temperature, and humidity extremes.

Maps are served in the Map Research Room one at a time. Only pencils can be used to take notes, tracing is not permitted, and researchers are not allowed to take notes on top of maps or any documents. Researchers must not place items on maps or lean on them. Original maps are not served if an ink-jet print, photocopy, or microfiche or microfilm is available, unless the researcher has permission from the supervising archivist. Laptop

computers are allowed in the Map Research Room.

Copying. Maps no longer under copyright (more than seventy-five years old) can be copied by the Photographic and Digital Imaging Services department if they are in stable condition. Photographic (color and black-and-white) and photostatic copies, and/or color ink-jet prints are available of most maps in our collection. Maps less than 11 x 17 inches can be reproduced on a photocopier while you wait, if they are in stable condition. Researchers may use their digital camera to make copies for personal use only, and researchers are required to complete the Library's "Photographing Collections for Personal Use" form, which can be downloaded from the Library's Web site. Color and black-and-white ink-jet prints are available for items measuring up to 43 x 100 inches and digital copies can be acquired on CD and through the Library's FTP server. A price list is available upon request.

Gifts

The Library welcomes additions to the map collection. Maps of Virginia and its political subdivisions that were drawn or printed before 1900, maps that reflect the development of the commonwealth (e.g., roads, canals, railroads), maps of the southeastern and mid-Atlantic areas, and selected post-1900 maps are of special interest.

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LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA