

The Mapping of North America

Volume 2

by Philip D. Burden

Reviews

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The Mapping of North America II by Philip D Burden. Raleigh Publications, Elmcote House, The Green, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 3HN, UK. 2007.

Pages 66 + 540; 12 colour plates and 392 black-and-white illustrations.

ISBN 978-0-9527733-1-3. Hardback, price £175 or US\$325. See website

www.caburden.com for ordering and for details of postage rates.

There must be very few IMCoS members who are not aware of Philip Burden's large volume *The Mapping of North America I* which encompassed all the North American maps (410 in number) from the period 1511 to 1670. This second volume moves forward thirty years to 1700, describing a further 364 maps.

Seymour Schwartz provides a succinct foreword to the work and comments on the spread of British colonisation throughout the 17th century, coupled with French expansion south and westwards and the revised geographical relationship between California and the rest of the continent. There was thus an increase in the number of maps of parts of North America over this time and in consequence more historical and geographical detail to be analysed and presented.

First, however, there is a lengthy *Corrigenda & Addenda* which parallels the equivalent section in the reviewer's own *The Mapping of the World* and assembles information brought to light since publication of volume I. Burden's valuable *Corrigenda & Addenda* covers no less than 142 such items, some of which are substantial entries describing 'new' maps. There is then an informative *Introduction* or overview of North American cartographical developments from 1670 – 1700 accompanied by 15 colour plates. The main cartobibliography maintains the numerical sequence of entries, starting with entry 411 as volume I concluded with entry 410. Particularly helpful are the commendably clear black-and-white plates, usually one (and in a few cases two) for each entry.

The textual entries themselves are full and detailed, sometimes extending over more than one page. For instance, the commentary on the important North American map of 1700 by Claude and Guillaume De L'Isle takes up two pages with two plates and a listing of seven states up to 1718. In addition there is acknowledgement of the map's influence on Pierre Mortier c.1707, Petrus Schenk 1708, Jeremiah Wolff c.1710, the Chatelain firm 1713, and Tobias Contrad Lotter 1772. As well as historical, social and geographical information, Burden places the map-maker and/or publisher in context and deals as fully as practicable with subsequent editions and states, including publications post-1700. References are cited in brief as are a selection of locations. The only criticism I might levy (and not in all cases) is that the artistic detail of cartouches (fauna, flora, peoples, classical attributes, navigational instruments etc) is given less attention than deserved.

As in volume I, there are several useful appendices, including Lost Maps; California as an Island; and First on American Maps. There is also a full alphabetical title index and a bibliography.

Philip Burden's two volumes form an unrivalled colossus of North American mapping. The binding of the review copy of volume II in my hands appears firm and, unless seriously abused, unlikely to suffer from the weakening experienced by some purchasers of the first volume. I thoroughly commend this work to collectors, dealers, museum and institutional curators, geographers, historians and others alike.

Rodney Shirley

Imago Mundi Volume 61:1 pp. 105-6.

The Mapping of North America II: A List of Printed Maps, 1671–1700. By Philip D. Burden. Rickmansworth, Herts: Raleigh Publications, 2007. ISBN 978-0-9527733-1-3. Pp. lxvi, 540, illus. STG £175 (cloth).

As with many other fields of scholarship, the history of cartography has benefited from information posted on the internet. Whether in the form of online journals and forums, full-text retrieval of published articles, image databases, discussion lists or catalogues of collections, the availability of research, opinion and bibliographic description continues to expand. Yet ready access to electronic data, the touted marriage of utility and convenience in

the form of a 'virtual reference shelf', has not diminished the need for published cartobibliographies. By bringing together in a single place records of a group of maps united by some common characteristic, the capable cartobibliographer enables one to answer narrowly or broadly focused questions, employing pre-internet skills.

In *The Mapping of North America II*, Philip Burden continues his comprehensive examination of printed maps of that region. The earlier volume, issued in 1996 as *The Mapping of North America*, addressed maps of North America printed between 1511 and 1670 in 410 entries. His new work consists of 364 entries that encompass a twenty-nine-year period; tangible evidence of the growth of European publishing and expanding cartographic production. Preceding the catalogue are thirty-six pages of revisions and additional bibliographical references, plus other maps and variant states omitted from the original volume. To this the author adds an introduction that briefly outlines the early mapping of North America by the European powers with a stake in the region: Sweden, the Netherlands, England, Spain and France.

Burden's stated goal is to document every printed map that shows all or part of North America, excluding world maps. Some double-hemisphere world maps printed on two sheets, such as that of Johann Zahn (Nuremberg, 1696), are, however, included. Maps employing polar projections of the northern hemisphere are also represented. The scales of items listed in the cartobibliography vary greatly, ranging from harbour charts and urban plans to maps of the Western Hemisphere.

Each entry consists of the name of the creator, imprint, title (following original capitalization, with line breaks indicated), medium (form of reproduction), size in millimetres, source (if the map is part of a book or atlas), references to pertinent literature, and locations of examples. Because the arrangement is chronological, the place and date of publication appear highlighted on the same line as the creator's name. The various states of each map are meticulously described, with variations noted. In a number of instances the author provides information that establishes previously unrecorded states of maps. Burden's comments on using the book explain his rationale for characterizing extant proof printings as a map's first state, which is something of a departure from most discussions of the sequence of printing impressions.

Each entry also consists of a narrative, ranging in length from a paragraph to several pages, which can include information on cartographic antecedents, the map's printing history, the inclusion of notable geographic or toponymic features, as well as details on the individuals involved in the map's creation. Where appropriate, the author summarizes explorations or events that serve to place the map in its historical context.

While the author draws on a wide range of literature, some omissions occur. For example, Burden, like others *Imago Mundi* 61:1 2009 Book Reviews 105 before him, attributes *A Map of New-England* (Boston, 1677), to engraver and printer, John Foster. Yet research by Matthew Edney and Susan Cimburek, published in *The William & Mary Quarterly* (spring 2004), convincingly establishes William Hubbard, in whose book the map appeared, as the map's author. Burden cites the article in his bibliography, but its contents are not reflected in his entry for the map.

Seven appendices of greater or lesser consequence follow the entries. An inventory of maps that have been recorded in contemporary advertisements and other print sources, but for which no extant examples exist, illustrates an intriguing gap in the cultural record. But the brief 'Chronology of Discovery and Events' (for example, '1687—La Salle murdered') strikes one as superfluous and even contains errors. For those interested in the perpetuation of geographical fancies, Burden lists 155 maps on which California is depicted as an island, ground already covered in the 1995 illustrated checklist, *The Mapping of California as an Island* by Glen McLaughlin and Nancy H. Mayo. Far more useful is Appendix 5, a summary of locations of European cartographic production with totals enumerated by date range. A bibliography of sources and an index complete the book.

The numerous reproductions (each entry is illustrated with a clear black-and-white image) add to the book's considerable research value. While the price of *The Mapping of North America II* may put it beyond the reach of those with only a casual interest in the subject, it will be a requisite purchase for librarians and curators, map dealers and serious collectors.

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