

Preface

This book began as a hobby nine years ago whilst studying two relatively unknown maps, the Peter Martyr d'Anghiera, Seville, 1511, and the Giovanni Battista Ramusio, Venice, 1534. Whilst researching them I became convinced that the Martyr was the first printed map devoted to America. Considering the proliferation of reference books on the mapping of America I was surprised at how little had been written about it. My curiosity was triggered, and I wondered what the second and third maps were. This interest grew into an ever increasing database which more and more people became aware of. As it grew a number of them told me that I should put it into print. I had never undertaken such a project before and so, naturally, I was reticent. However, it was a conversation with Tony Campbell one day that finally persuaded me to do it. Many years later, this is the result.

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 (see the Introduction for further details). 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. The first such entry is the Johannes Stobnicza, Cracow, 1512.

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. 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, and it will be included in an addendum bound into my second book:

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This second book will continue the study from 1671 to 1700. In this period the English began to dominate the various influences on the mapping of North America. This was because they controlled much of the eastern seaboard and had a far greater population in North America than any other European power. There were, of course, many other contributions, noticeably from the French. There were as many maps published in these thirty years as there are included in this first book. As we enter the eighteenth century the quantity of printed maps produced grew further. At the moment I have no desire to enter the eighteenth century as the first two books have proved to be more than enough work.

Philip D. Burden

*It may be objected that I have laid my building
on other men's foundations, as indeed,
who can do otherwise in a subject of this nature.
(John Speed)*