

A SEPARATE APARTMENT FOR MAPS AND ATLASES IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

By Philip Lee Phillips, F.R.G.S.

Compiled and edited by Richard W. Stephenson

PHILIP LEE PHILLIPS SOCIETY
OCCASIONAL PAPER SERIES, NO. 1

GEOGRAPHY AND MAP DIVISION
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1998



Figure 1. Portrait of Philip Lee Phillips, first superintendent of the Hall of Maps and Charts, 1897–1924.

PREFACE

With this publication, the Philip Lee Phillips Society inaugurates an occasional paper series devoted to special themes or subjects pertaining to the work of the Geography and Map Division or its collections. The Phillips Society was established in 1995 to help develop, enhance, and promote the collections of the Geography and Map Division, and it is appropriate that the subject of the first issue of the new series is Philip Lee Phillips, in whose honor the Society is named.

The first superintendent of the Hall of Maps and Charts, Phillips laid the foundation for the Geography and Map Division during his tenure from 1897 to 1924. The son of Philip Phillips, a Washington lawyer and former pre-Civil War representative from Alabama, Philip Lee Phillips had worked in the Library of Congress since 1876, with his father apparently secretly paying his son's salary for the first four years of his employment. Initially employed as a book cataloger, Phillips cataloged maps in his spare time and by 1897, when the Library moved its collections from the Capitol building to the newly constructed Library of Congress building (now named the Thomas Jefferson Building), he had compiled a bibliography of some 35,000 titles, which was published as *A List of Maps of America in the Library of Congress* by the Government Printing Office in 1901.

Following a visit to map collections in New York, Boston, and Cambridge, Phillips devised his own system for classifying and arranging the Library's growing map collection. His general system of map arrangement is still followed by the Geography and Map Division, and provided the basic framework for the geographic classification system later adopted by the Division and many libraries throughout the world.

Phillips also developed the basic collections development policies that are followed to this day. During three years, from 1907 to 1909, he travelled abroad at his own expense to acquire rare items, particularly atlases, since the Library's collection had become so extensive by that time that he was unable to find material that it lacked in the ordinary sales catalogs. On these trips he purchased numerous atlases that now form the basis of the Library's great atlas collection. By the time of Phillips' death on January 4, 1924, after 45 years of service, the map collection had grown under his stewardship from approximately 40,000 maps to over 524,000 items.

Phillips was an untiring bibliographer and researcher. During his long career in the Library, he published or edited 21 major cartobibliographies, guides, and checklists including such seminal works as *A List of Maps of America in the Library of Congress* (1901, 1,137 pages); *A List of Geographical Atlases in the Library of Congress*, published in four volumes between 1909 and 1920 (five additional volumes were subsequently prepared by Clara Egli LeGear); and *The Lowery Collection: A Descriptive List of Maps of the Spanish Possessions Within the Present Limits of the United States, 1502-1820*. (1912, 567 pages).

It is appropriate that this homage to Phillips was prepared by Richard W. Stephenson, whose tenure of 41 years in the Division has been exceeded only by Phillips and LeGear. Mr. Stephenson began his employment with the Library during the height of World War II with a temporary appointment when he was just 14 years old. He has held various senior positions, including head of acquisitions (1966-1970), head of the reference and bibliography section (1970-1987), and specialist in American Cartographic History (1987-1992). A graduate

of Wilson Teachers College and George Washington University, Mr. Stephenson's extensive publications include basic cartobibliographies whose subjects range from the Civil War to county landownership maps.

This paper was presented at the first annual dinner meeting of the Phillips Society on April 26, 1996.

Ralph E. Ehrenberg, Chief
Geography and Map Division

A SEPARATE APARTMENT FOR MAPS AND ATLASES
IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

By Philip Lee Phillips, F.R.G.S.

This address, which was compiled and edited by Richard W. Stephenson largely from reports and other writings by Philip Lee Phillips, was originally presented at the first annual dinner of the Philip Lee Phillips Society, April 26, 1996. The speaker was Philip Lee Phillips, F.R.G.S., as portrayed by Stephenson. The address incorporates whenever possible Phillips' ideas and phrases as expressed in his reports and other writings. In addition, Stephenson has made use of the Phillips family papers and a few published works by other writers. The setting of this address is the Library of Congress (known today as the Jefferson Building) and the year is 1923. Phillips is 67 years old.

Ladies and gentleman,

Thank you for inviting me to speak to you at this first meeting of the Phillips Society. It is impossible for me to find the words to express how deeply moved am I that you have chosen to name the Society after me. This is an honor that falls to few men or women. That such a Society to support the map collections and program of the Library of Congress is needed, let there be no doubt. Experience has shown that it is unlikely that the small staff and legislative appropriations assigned to the map department will ever be enough to accomplish all that needs to be done to enrich, preserve, and make known the cartographic collections of the Library of Congress. The support of interested citizens such as yourselves, working together in a dynamic organization, have the potential of raising the national map and atlas collection to an unparalleled level of excellence.

Before I begin to discuss the origins and growth of the map library, let me first tell you a little about myself. I came into this world on March 1, 1856, the last of nine children born to what was considered a prominent southern family living in Washington, D.C. My father Philip Phillips, originally from Charleston, South Carolina, was a successful lawyer in Washington. Although I was named for my father, I was given the middle name of Lee and it is by this name that I am known to my family and friends. Father had previously served in the state legislatures of South Carolina and Alabama and it was from the latter state that he was elected in 1853 to the thirty-third Congress of the United States. Father declined to serve a second term, preferring instead to establish a law practice in the nation's capital.

My mother, Eugenia Levy Phillips, was born in Savannah, Georgia. Mother loved to entertain on a grand scale and was very well known among the notable southern families that then made up much of Washington's society.

My idyllic childhood was abruptly interrupted by growing tensions between the northern and southern states. Although Father was against secession, sentiments for the southern cause ran strong within the family. Shortly after the outbreak of war, my mother, aunt, and my sisters Fanny and Lina were arrested by Federal officials and placed in confinement in the home of the notorious Confederate spy, Rose O'Neale Greenhow. Fortunately, my father's friend, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, intervened and the entire family was allowed to resettle in New Orleans.

Unfortunately, my mother's alleged reputation preceded her and she was soon in trouble with the Federal military governor of New Orleans, Benjamin F. Butler. I am embarrassed to relate to you that, unwittingly, I was the cause of my mother's initial run-in with

the infamous Butler. Then six years old, I was playing on an upper verandah of our home when I apparently made some noise that attracted the attention of a squad of soldiers passing on the street below. One hour later Mother was arrested on the false charge of encouraging her children to spit upon Union soldiers. She and my father apologized for the misunderstanding and the charge was dropped. A short time later, however, she was arrested for being disrespectful during the funeral procession for a Union officer. My father's connections were of little help this time and she was imprisoned for three months on Ship Island under very harsh conditions.

After Mother's release from prison, we moved to La Grange, Georgia, and settled on a farm until the war was over. It was here in this rural setting that I began my education with private tutors. In 1867, Father was allowed to re-establish his law practice in Washington, and at the age of ten I began my education in the city's public schools.

Father had hoped that I would follow in his footsteps and those of my older brother, William Hallett, and become a lawyer. Acceding to his wishes, I entered Columbian College of Law in 1874, but it soon became painfully clear that I had no interest or inclination toward the legal profession. My legal training thus ended after only one year of haphazard study.

Not quite knowing what to do with a son whose interests lay more in American history and culture than law, Father, in exasperation, assisted me in finding a position at the Library of Congress. Although I did not know it at the time, Father secretly paid my salary for nearly four years until I proved myself worthy and was placed on the Library's payroll on July 1, 1879.

When I began my career, the Library was situated in unbelievably crowded quarters in the Capitol building. The one narrow reading room in the north wing was capable of seating only twenty readers and the collections of books, periodicals, prints, and maps were dispersed among every nook and cranny that could be found in the vast building.

The Librarian of Congress since 1864 was the remarkable Ainsworth Rand Spofford, a former bookseller and newspaperman from Cincinnati, Ohio. Spofford worked tirelessly to expand and broaden the collections as well as promote the Library's unique dual functions as a legislative library and the nation's library. Within the first six years of his leadership, for example, the collections were significantly enlarged and enriched by the transfer of the 40,000-volume Smithsonian Institution Library in 1865, the purchase for \$100,000 in 1867 of the great Peter Force American history library containing nearly 23,000 books, 40,000 pamphlets, and over 1,200 maps and views, and the arrival in 1871 of nearly 20,000 items that had been deposited for copyright. The latter was the result of the new Copyright Act of 1870 championed by Mr. Spofford in which registration and deposit were centralized in the Library of Congress.

Although I was officially assigned the duties of a book cataloger, I actually spent a good deal of my time searching for and retrieving items from remote places in the Capitol. These searches, especially those involving non-book materials, brought me into contact with the varied maps and charts that over the years had accumulated in the Library. My basic interests in geography and American history were peaked by the discovery and examination of these items and it wasn't long before I began to develop a modest reputation among the staff for knowing more about the Library's holdings of maps and atlases than anyone else. Even Mr. Spofford turned to me with more and more frequency when questions were raised concerning the Library's cartographic collections.

In 1878, partly as an aid to my memory, I began to make a card record of all separate maps of America that I could find including those in books and journals. As you may know, many maps of rare interest are buried in books and atlases, and difficult to find when most wanted. They are often torn from their original places and their history becomes a question of doubt. These I endeavored to identify. (*See figure 2.*)

Fry (Joshua) and Jefferson (Peter).
 1879. A map of the most inhabited part of Virginia,
 containing the whole province of Maryland, with
 part of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and North Carolina.
 1751. Engraved by Thos. Jefferys. 31x50. London, T. Jefferys.
 [1755] - Same. American maps, v. 3, no. 26

Sisson (John).
 1881. A map of Kentucky drawn from actual observation
 18x19p. London, J. Stockdale, 1793.
 In Morse (Jedediah). Maps of America, to accompany "The
 American geography. A new ed. [anon.] 12: London, J.
 Stockdale, 1794-1794, no. 24.

Figure 2. Sample of Phillips' original handwritten bibliographic entries for "Maps of America."

After 20 years of labor in the old library in ransacking through hidden sources, I was satisfied that the completeness of the catalog was such that it would be a valuable assistance to the Library if published. Therefore, with some regularity I began to encourage the Librarian to seek an appropriation from Congress for publishing a monograph describing the maps of America. At my own expense I arranged to have the handwritten cards reduced to 1,700 typewritten pages containing an average of eight titles to the page. My recommendations eventually bore fruit with the publication in 1901 of *A List of Maps of America in the Library of Congress, Preceded by a List of Works Relating to Cartography*, the first printed catalog of the map department. (See figure 3.)

As you will note from the title, I prefaced this volume with a modest list of works relating to cartography. It had been my hope that in time I would add to and improve the bibliography of cartography and make of it a work of more extensive scope. Indeed, working at odd occasions over the next few years, I eventually assembled an estimated 30,484 citations embracing everything relating to the makers and making of maps, atlases, and views throughout the world. It remains one of my greatest disappointments that I have been unable to obtain the support needed to publish this unique bibliography of cartography. Nevertheless, the bibliography is frequently consulted and remains one of the most valuable reference tools in the Division of Maps and Charts. The typescript that I had prepared for the printer, now bound in 19 volumes, may be examined in the Division of Maps at your leisure.

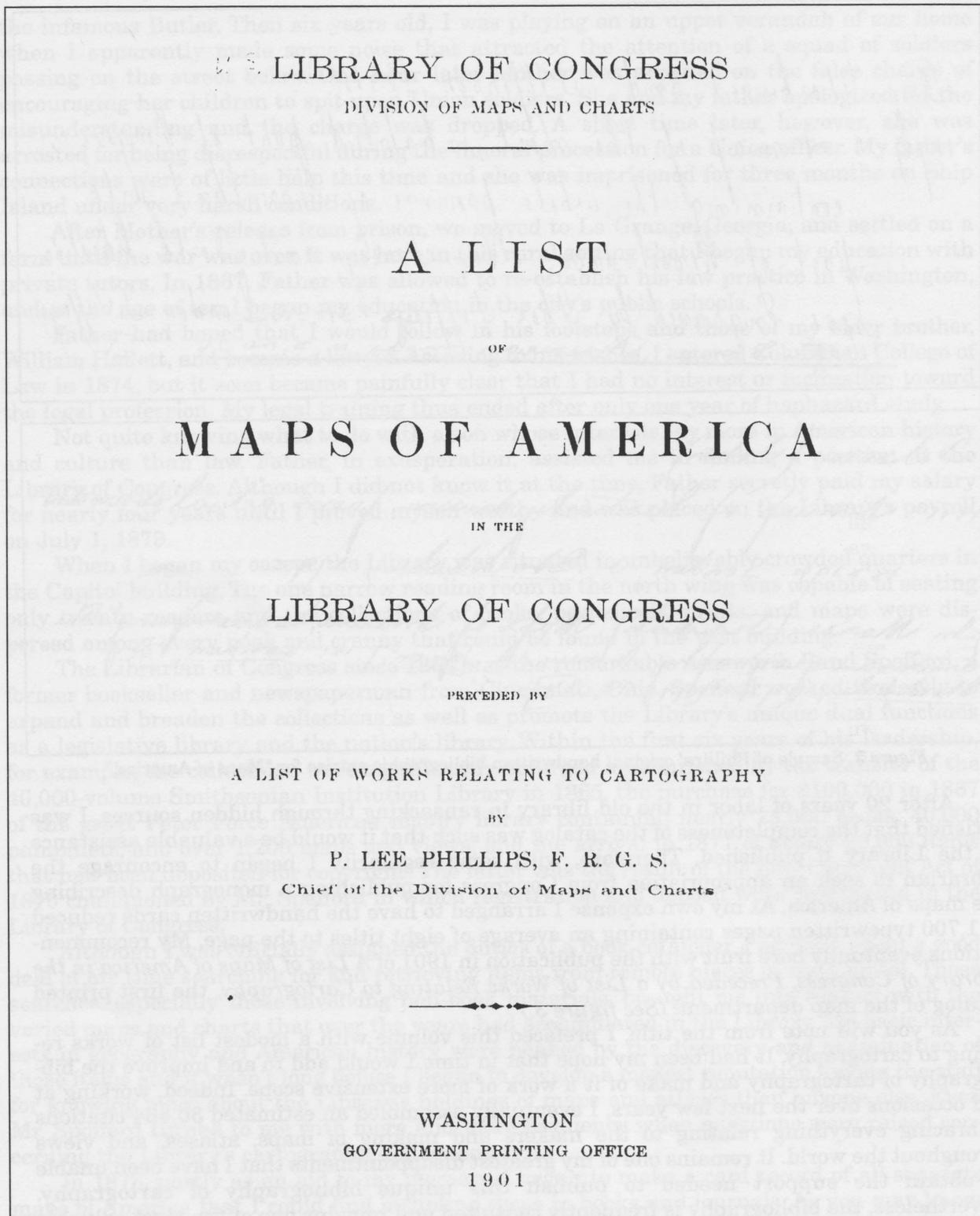


Figure 3. Title page of *A List of Maps of America in the Library of Congress*, the first printed catalog issued by the map department.

My first two decades of employment were spent working under very difficult physical constraints as more and more accessions, particularly copyright deposits, were packed into the limited space available within the Capitol building. Things seemed to brighten somewhat in 1886 when Congress authorized the construction of a separate building for the Library, but another eleven years were to pass before it was ready for occupancy.

As the monumental structure neared completion, Congress approved the reorganization of the Library into several departments including one for maps and charts. Funds were also appropriated at this time for additional staff, including the hiring of a superintendent of the Hall of Maps and Charts at \$2,000 and two assistants, at \$900 each.

It may be of interest to this Society that as early as 1872, Mr. Spofford recommended to Congress that a separate department of maps and charts be established when suitable facilities were available to house the Congressional Library. His support never wavered through the years and it was largely due to him that a department of maps and charts was authorized by the Legislature.

As the time approached to move into the new building, Mr. Spofford, then 72 years old, stepped down as Librarian of Congress and assumed the position of Chief Assistant Librarian, a position he held under two librarians of Congress until his death in 1908. John Russell Young, a newspaper man and diplomat, was appointed the new Librarian of Congress. Mr. Young died suddenly on January 17, 1899, following a fall on a slippery pavement and he was succeeded by Herbert Putnam, but this is getting ahead of my story. To Mr. Young fell the task of filling the key supervisory positions authorized by Congress. Although I was not privy to the facts, it is rumored that Mr. Young first considered a Mr. James B. Harmer for the position of Superintendent of the Hall of Maps and Charts. Probably on the advice of Mr. Spofford and perhaps others, however, I am pleased to say that I was appointed to the position on September 1, 1897.

The old library closed on July 31, 1897, and the long awaited transfer of the collections began two days later. Within 10 weeks, laborers hired for the occasion, working under the direction of the regular staff, moved some 800 tons of materials to the new building by means of horse-drawn wagons. Maps and atlases as they were identified were carried to the north curtain on the building's second floor where they were dumped in absolute confusion. Out of this chaos much time was needed to systematize and geographically arrange them so that in a few moments such maps as were wanted by the student could be found without difficulty. (*See figure 4.*)

Notwithstanding the admonition "Don't try to find a convenient form of arrangement for maps. There is none," published by the American Library Association in 1894, I felt obliged to personally visit many libraries in other cities in order to find out if any system of classification and treatment was used which would be a precedent to follow in arranging our collection. I found them all in a very primitive condition in regard to their maps and awaiting this Library to take the initiative. I then examined the few published volumes on the subject of cartography and found the same indifference to a practical arrangement of a large collection of maps. It became necessary, therefore, to devise a plan suitable to our necessities.

With the assistance of Miss Anita Stephens and Mr. Charles W. Wells, who had been detailed from the Government Printing Office to assist us, we began the seemingly insurmountable task of sorting, cleaning, and mending the some 50,000 items that had been placed in my charge. Each map was then placed into a folded sheet of strong Manila paper equal to it in size. After this it was titled in the extreme left hand corner with its subject (i.e., area depicted), date, and author.

The most puzzling form of map to arrange is the roller map. They require, when very numerous as in the case in the Library, special furniture and even then are very difficult to



Figure 4. Earliest known picture of the Hall of Maps and Charts in its original location on the second floor of the north curtain of the Jefferson building. Taken on October 18, 1898, this view shows Phillips seated at a desk in the middle of the room with his assistant Miss Anita Stevens on the right and Mr. Charles W. Wells on the left.

handle. As most of the roller maps are varnished, time seems to stiffen them in a way to be almost unmanageable. The text rubs off and the size for purposes of examination is clumsy and difficult to consult. I decided to abolish the roller map by slicing them in sheets according to the size. The sheets are connected together with narrow cotton tape and then folded and placed within Manila paper in the same manner as the sheet maps.

During much of our first year of existence, my only permanent assistant was Anita Stephens. Needless to say, she had many miscellaneous duties which she performed intelligently and assiduously. Besides doing my typewriting, she cataloged maps and atlases and trained herself to assist the student seeking information.

Charles Wells, who was detailed from the Government Printing Office to the Hall of Maps and Charts on December 9, 1897, proved to be an absolute necessity in this department. His work was the best and without him we would have been almost at a standstill. Under his skillful knife the roller maps were sectioned and placed in folders and many valuable maps have been mounted on linen.

The classification system that I developed at this time was strictly an area-chronological one in which countries were arranged alphabetically under the continent in which they are situated. Maps of each country were then arranged chronologically.

For want of map cases, the maps were filed by this simple classification scheme in piles on tables so that they could be easily found if needed. From chaos this great collection was so systematized that within a few minutes all maps and atlases were accessible. In spite of our great effort, however, it was recognized that our work had only begun. It could be readily seen that these fifty thousand or more maps should be cataloged so that we and the world would know by our cards the value and extent of our collection. The lack of staff through the years, however, has prevented us from reaching this goal.

Within a few years, the number of sheet maps had increased to a point that I decided it would be more practical to subdivide the maps of each country into five categories. First I placed special maps arranged alphabetically by subject; second, general maps arranged by date; third, subdivisions arranged alphabetically and then by date; fourth, cities and towns arranged alphabetically and then by date; and fifth, miscellaneous maps. The latter is a catchall category in which maps of such things as regions, mountains, and streams are filed.

The long anticipated move of the Hall of Maps and Charts from its temporary quarters on the second floor to permanent facilities on the first floor occurred on May 28, 1900. The new facility was equipped with a reference counter, several readers' tables, two Jenkins roller cases containing frequently consulted maps, atlas shelves, and of special importance, 13 oak map cases especially designed for the Hall of Maps and Charts. The cases were found sufficient to contain all the maps relating to America and also a few miscellaneous subjects; but not sufficient to contain the large number of maps relating to other portions of the world. Six additional cases arrived in 1901 and seven years later, specially constructed metal cases were installed in two levels, virtually filling from floor to ceiling the area designated for the map department. (See figure 5.)



Figure 5. Photograph taken between 1915 and 1917 showing the Division's reading room in its second, more permanent location on the first floor of the Jefferson building. Phillips is the second from the left standing behind the reading room counter.

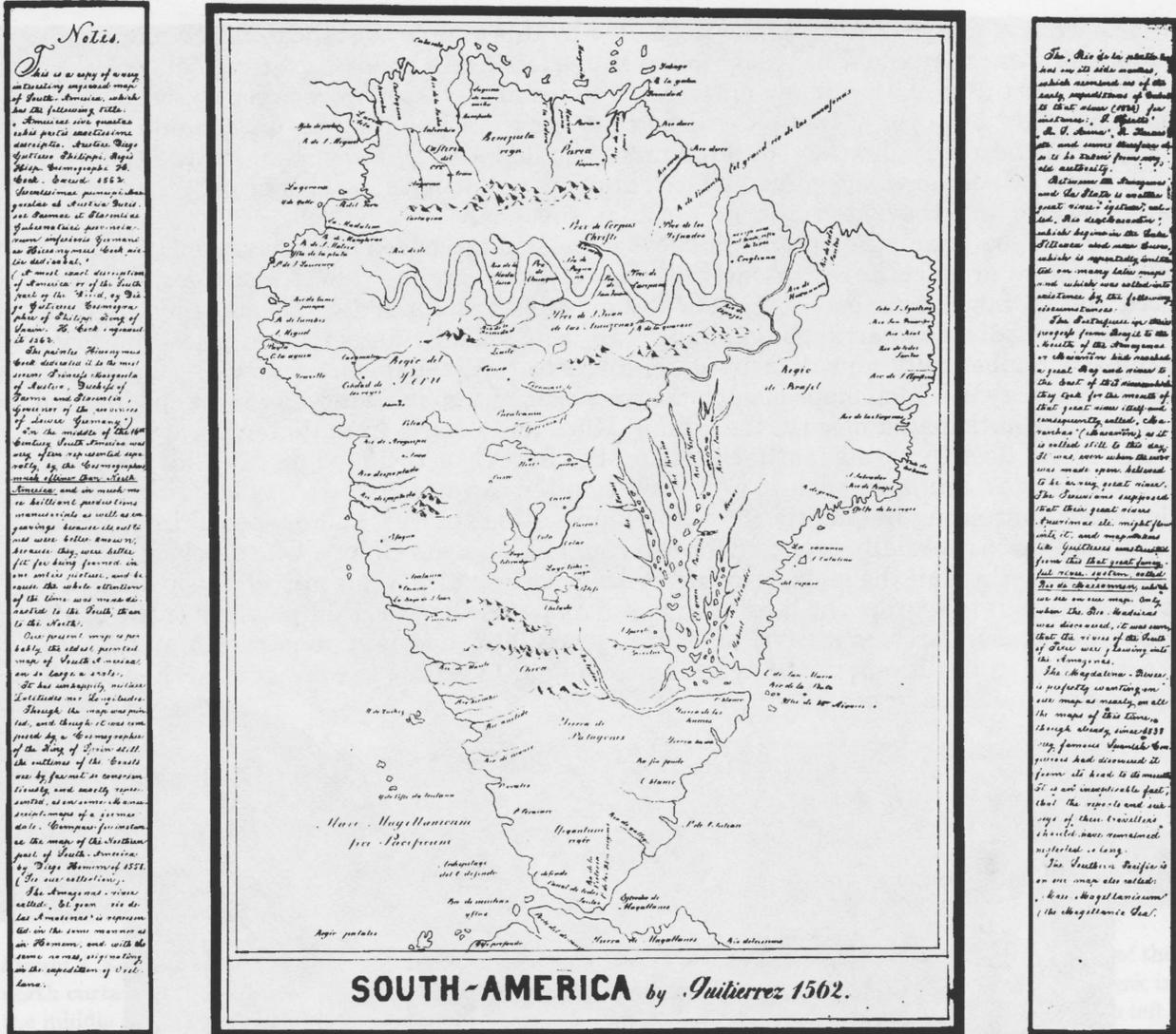


Figure 6. Sample map from the Johann Georg Kohl Collection, showing Kohl's tracing of Diego Gutiérrez's 1562 map of South America.

During our first year in our new quarters, there were 513 students that sought information in the Division. I say students instead of readers for the reason that our visitors come only for research and not for amusement. Each of these students requires the personal help of myself or one of my assistants, for lengthy and close examination of many subjects at issue. We cannot, as in other divisions of the Library, leave the visitor to his own devices, for the prevalent ignorance of maps renders help imperative. Within two years of opening our reading room, we were serving nearly 3,000 readers a year.

With the equipment needed to house a map library arriving or in place, and with a small but dedicated staff to assist me, I turned my attention to improving and expanding the collection in a logical fashion. With the exception of a few special purchases authorized by Congress, such as the collections of the Comte de Rochambeau, William Faden, and Peter Force, I do not know of any effort made in the past to increase our collection of maps and

charts, either by gift or purchase. To remedy this, I set about acquiring as many maps of America as possible, some foreign charts and topographic series, recent maps of foreign countries, and modern and antiquarian atlases. In addition, Federal government agencies were requested to deposit their map production in the Library, as well as any obsolete cartographic items no longer needed for their current work.

I was especially pleased with the transfer from the Department of State on July 17, 1903, of the 474 hand drawn copies of maps that made up the Johann Georg Kohl collection of early maps relating to America. Since 1897, I had advocated that it would be most appropriate that this collection be turned over to the map department. In 1904, the Library of Congress reprinted Justin Winsor's bibliography of the Kohl collection that had been published by Harvard University in 1886. To increase its usefulness as a catalog before it was reprinted by the Library, I added an author list of the maps and a dictionary index of all subjects and authors mentioned in the work. (*See figure 6.*)

In 1905, 1907, and 1909, I traveled to Europe at no expense to the Government except several weeks of extra time to acquire rare maps and atlases for the Library's collections. The trips were productive of good results in the wealth of material secured.

Possibly the most noteworthy in rareness, cheapness, and financial value acquired during the 1907 trip was Henry Pelham's "A Plan of Boston in New England with Its Environs...with the Military Works Constructed...in the Years 1775 and 1776." The map was published in London and is especially interesting owing to the signature in manuscript, of Henry Pelham, the maker. If sold, it would pay all the expenses of an official trip to Europe of over three months.

That my acquisition trips were a success, it was undoubtedly due to the fact that I visited the foreign dealers and was fortunate in being ahead of several of the professional buyers. The increasing demand and diligent search by American dealers who re-sell at a great advance is rapidly reducing the supply of this material.

Let me cite just a few accessions from these trips to give you some idea of the quality of material then available in Europe for relatively small sums of money.

1) Jean Andre Bremond's portolano on vellum of the Mediterranean Sea and Western Europe. The five manuscript charts that make up this beautiful atlas were drawn by Bremond in Marseille in 1670.

2) "A Compleat Description of the Province of Carolina in 3 Pts..." published in London by Edward Crisp in 1711. This map has been secured after a search covering many years. I am aware of only one other copy and that is in the British Public Record Office. It is one of the most important maps of the region indicating the names and location of more than 300 settlers then living in the Colony. (*See figure 7.*)

3) John Filson's map of Kentucky published in Philadelphia in 1784 and dedicated to the Congress of the United States and George Washington. This map has been reproduced in exact facsimile by Lowdermilk and Company with a bibliographical description by me. (*See figure 8.*)

4) John Farrer's "A Mapp of Virginia Discovered to Ye Hills..., John Goddard Sculp. Domina Virginia Farrer Collegit. Are sold by John Overton without Newgate at the corner of little old Baly." This edition of John Farrer's map by his daughter Virginia seems to be quite unknown to bibliographers. It is a slightly later impression from the original plate of 1651 and was made about

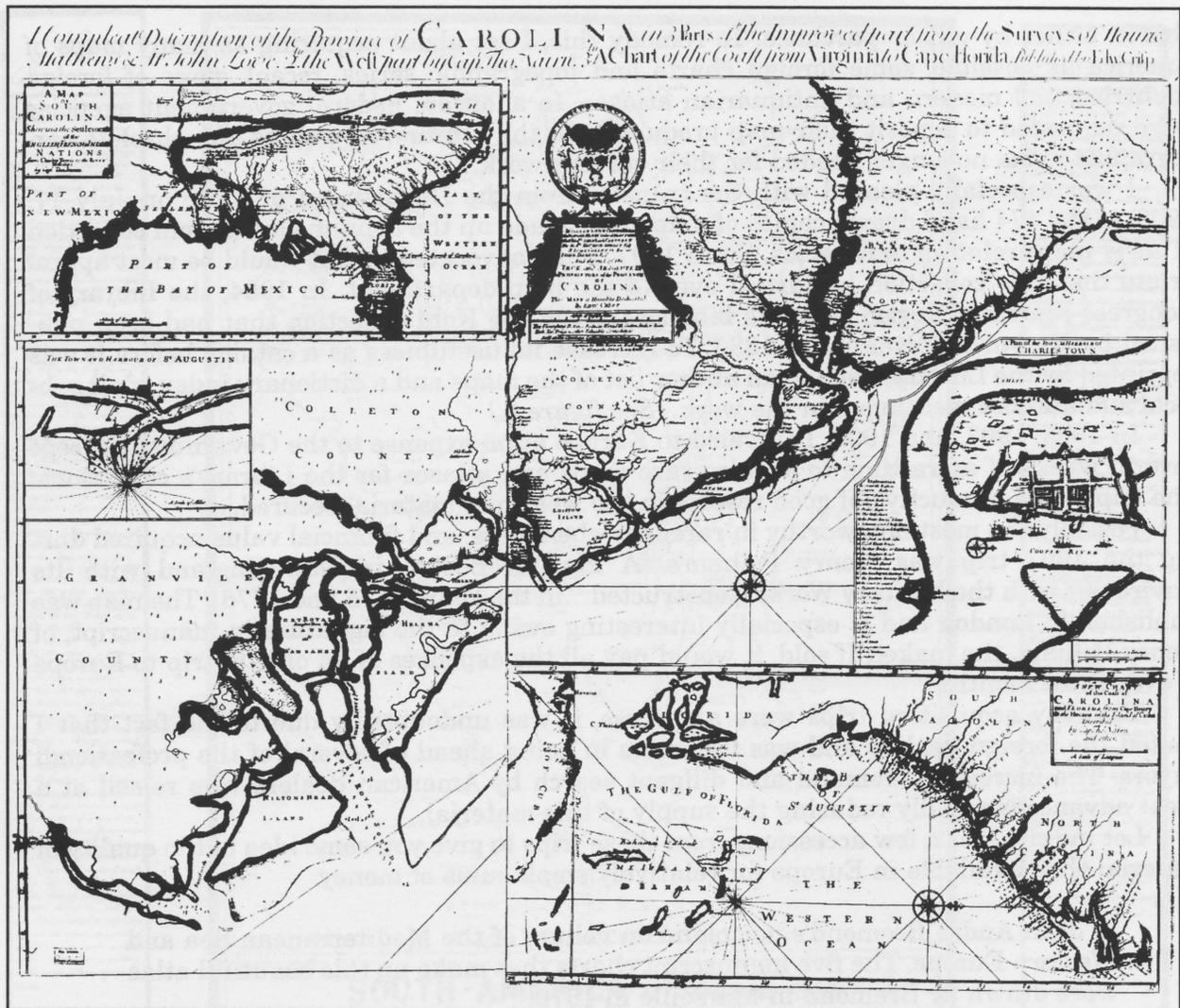


Figure 7. Edward Crisp's 1711 map of South Carolina.

1670 and published in the third edition of Williams's work *Virginia in America*.

5) The exceedingly rare map of the United States published in London on April 3, 1783, by John Wallis. The symbolic cartouche represents George Washington, with a figure of Liberty on his left, while Benjamin Franklin is depicted to the right of the cartouche attended by two figures representing War and Justice. At the top is the American flag with the Angel of Peace. (See figure 9.)

6) The first edition of Robert Dudley's *Dell' Arcano del Mare...* published in Florence in 1646–1647. This is a perfect copy of a very rare and valuable sea atlas with its little known geographical information relating to America. The only other perfect copy in this country is in the library of Harvard University.



Figure 8. John Filson's 1784 map of Kentucky.

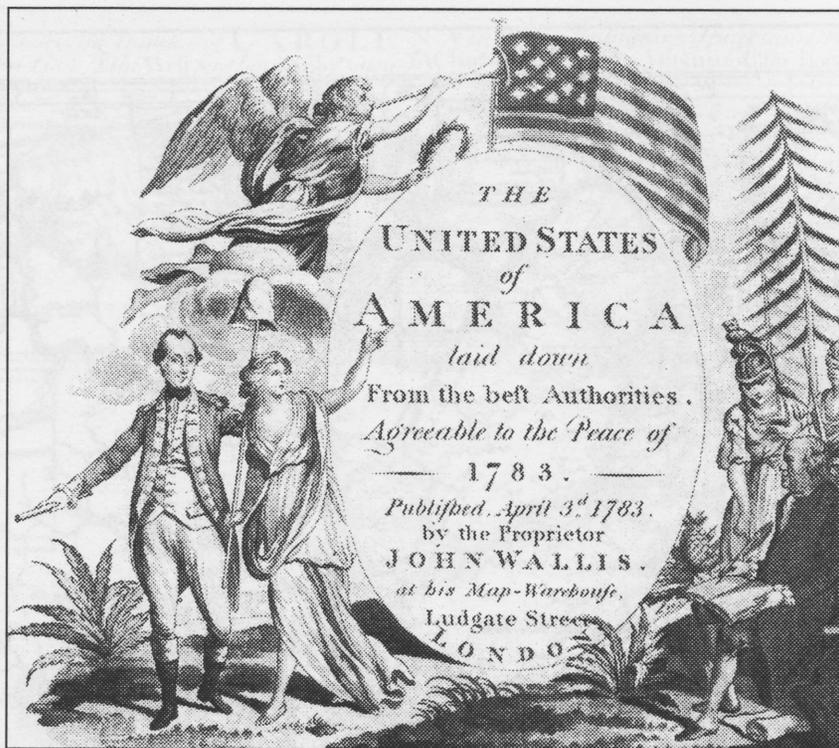


Figure 9. The cartouche from John Wallis' 1783 map of the United States presents an American motif, with its portrayal of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and the new nation's flag.

7) A map of the world printed on gores, intended to be mounted as a globe, being one of the reduced copies of the gigantic globe measuring fifteen feet in diameter, constructed in 1683 by order of King Louis XIV, by the celebrated Venetian cartographer, Marco Vincenzo Coronelli. These smaller gores measure $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter and were published in Venice in 1688. I found the gores while browsing about some old shops in London. The dealer was in negotiation with a man for its purchase, but the latter had haggled a little too long. Happily, American cash and promptness secured the prize for the Library of Congress.

8) Antoine Lafreri's very rare *Geografia Tavole Moderne di Geografia de la Maggior Parte del Mondo...*, published in Rome about 1575. The 102 maps included in this atlas were originally issued separately. I acquired it in London from Messrs. Stevens Son and Stiles. (See figure 10).

9) Abraham Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum...The Theatre of the Whole World*, published in London by John Norton, between 1606 and 1608. This edition of Ortelius' atlas is the first folio atlas of the world printed in the English language.

10) Forty manuscript maps purchased in Paris, relating mostly to the French campaign in Santo Domingo during the reign of Napoleon I. Historically and cartographically this collection is most valuable.

This is neither the time nor place to cite ad infinitum the numerous map publications with which I have been associated during my long career. One, however, that I must refer to is the definitive list of atlases in the Library of Congress. Following our move into permanent quarters in 1900, we began the preparation of a list of all the atlases in the Map Division, by subjects with an index of authors. The contents of each atlas were noted, especially the part relating to America. Initially, I thought that if we concentrated on this work alone, it would require a year's work. As is frequently the case, however, other important assignments intervened and it wasn't until 1909 that the *List of Geographical Atlases in the Library of Congress, with Bibliographical Notes* was published in two volumes. Described

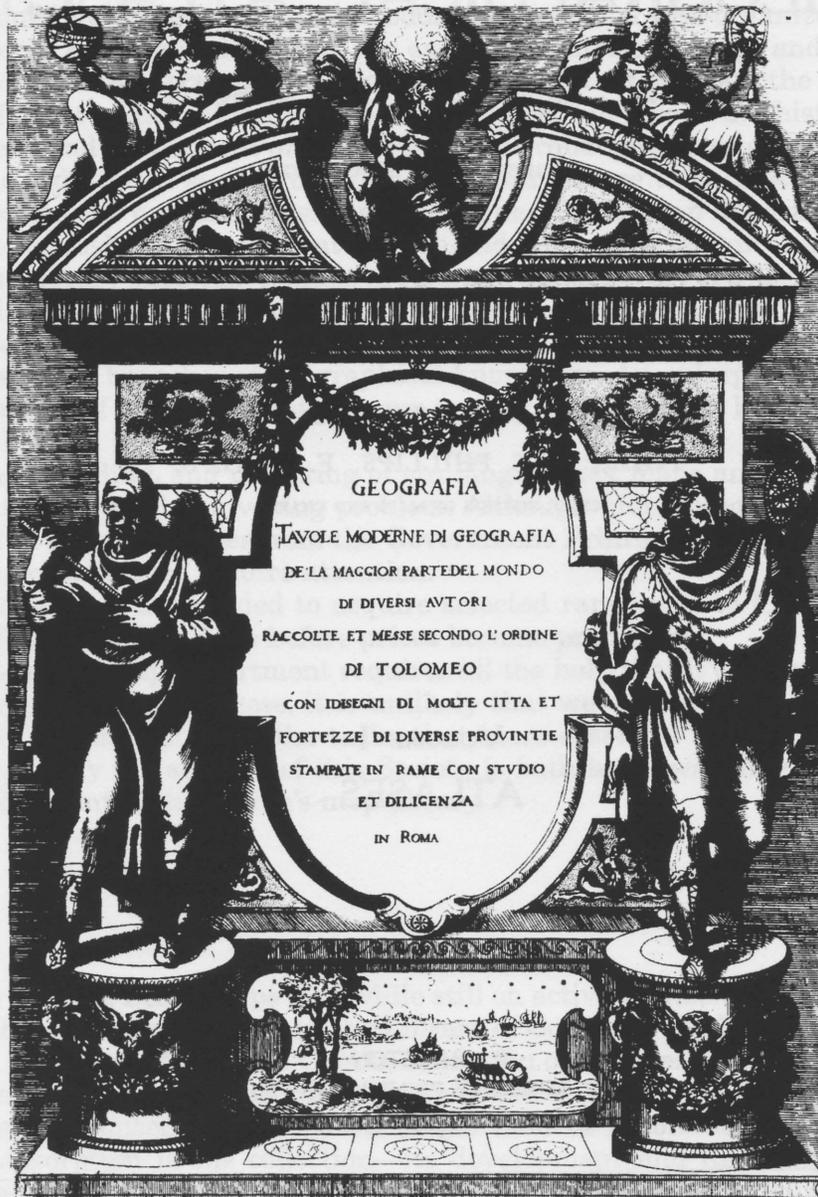


Figure 10. Title page to Antoine Lafreri's *Geografia Tavole Moderne di Geografia de la Maggior Parte del Mondo*, a composite atlas published about 1575.

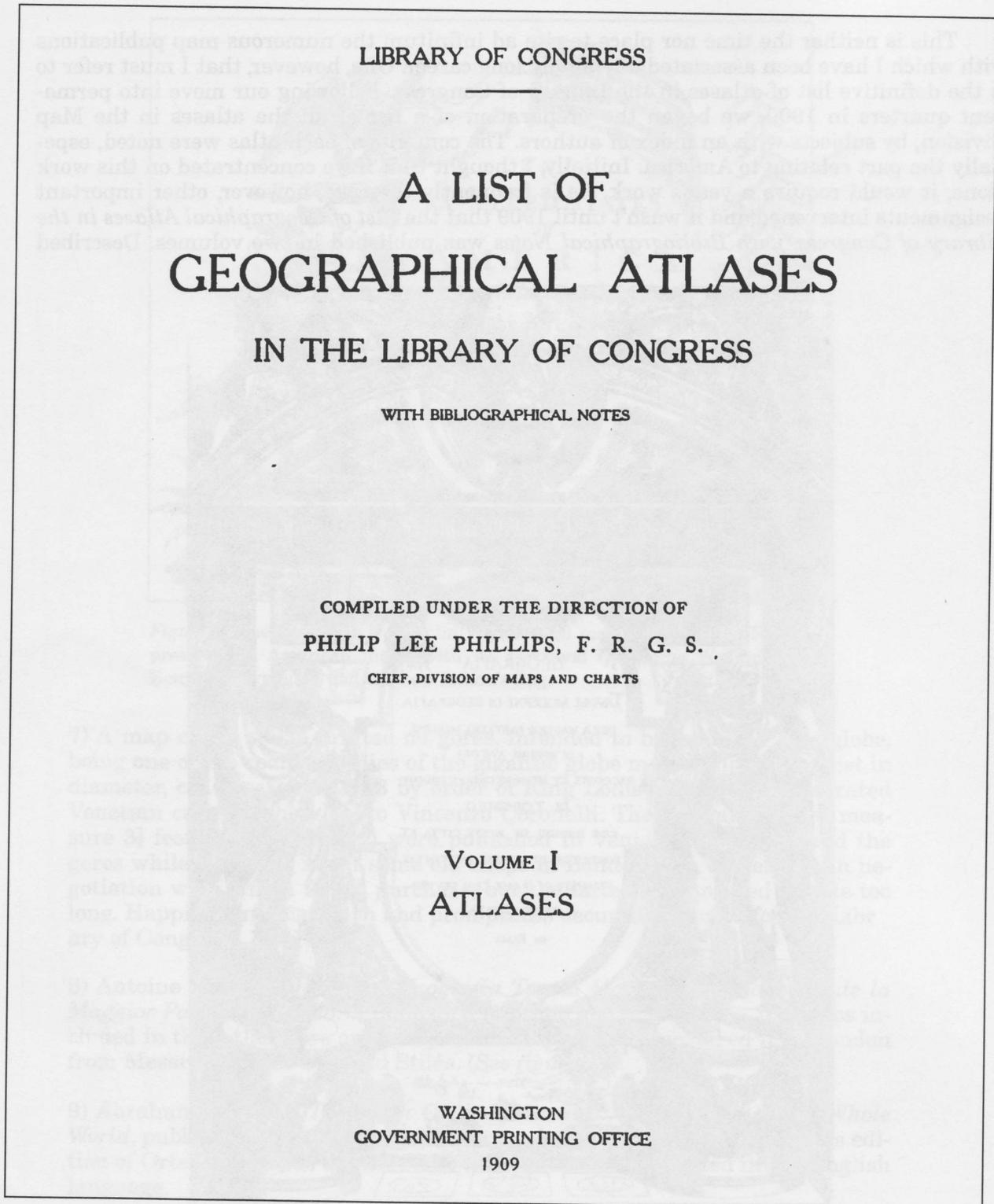


Figure 11. Title page of the first volume of the Division's multi-volume bibliography of atlases, *A List of Geographical Atlases in the Library of Congress*, initiated by Phillips in 1909, and completed by Clara Egli LeGear in 1992.

here in detail were the 3,470 geographical atlases then included in the collections. In 1914, the Library published a third volume containing descriptions of 822 additional atlases, mostly received since the publication of the initial volumes. Finally, a fourth volume was issued in 1920 describing 1,237 atlases acquired since 1914. I am extremely pleased with the publication of the *List of Geographical Atlases*. Not only does it provide us with rapid access to the individual contents of the atlases in the Library of Congress, but it furnishes the student of cartography throughout the world with an invaluable bibliographical tool not previously available. (See figure 11).

A little more than a quarter of a century has passed since a separate apartment for maps, charts, and atlases was established in the Library of Congress. In that short space of time the collections have grown from 50,000 odds and ends to a well-organized collection of some 524,000 pieces ranging in date from the earliest examples of maps and atlases to the most recent map submitted for copyright deposit. This collection, which is the largest extant, will in time be of great value, not only to the cartographer, but also to the historian. In spite of the enlargement and enrichment of the cartographic collections, however, much work remains to be done. Additional staff is urgently needed if we are to successfully catalog our maps and atlases. As the number of assistants assigned to the map department has never exceeded six, the necessity is greater that they should have some technical knowledge or at least considerable library experience. Maps are here in almost every civilized language, both ancient and modern. All the rules of cataloging are necessary, both as to author and subject. My assistants not only have to do cataloging but they are here to give information to numerous students on all branches of geographical knowledge. An enlarged and well-trained staff is also necessary if we are to continue our program of having at least one publication in progress at all times.

The cleaning, mending, and mounting of our single sheet maps and the repair and re-binding of our atlases remains a vexing problem. Although much progress has been made due to the detail of a map mounter from the Government Printing Office to assist us, many maps and atlases remain that require attention.

Additional resources are needed to acquire selected rare items to fill existing gaps in our collections. This should be done before prices become prohibitive.

As you can see, the map department requires all the help that it can get. Given the size and scope of the Library of Congress, it is unlikely that we will ever have the money and staff necessary to accomplish all of the tasks that seem essential to a map library of this magnitude. This is why the support of this Society is both heart-warming and essential to the further development of the nation's map library.

Postscript.

On January 4, 1924, Lee Phillips died while still on active service with the Library. Thus ended a career that spanned 48 years in the Library of Congress, the last 27 of which as the first chief of the Division of Maps and Charts. Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam wrote that "Phillips was a notable example of the success and distinction to be won by early, continuous, and tireless concentration upon a single field of scholarship. His interest was maps... Entire absorption in his collection—its development and its interpretation—had brought him to a precision of knowledge regarding its contents which constituted him a recognized authority, without recourse to whom conclusions in American cartography would be unsafe; the authority to whom, for example, our own Government necessarily had recourse on cartographic issues with foreign powers."