

The Southern Methodist University Map-Library

Eleanor Maclay, Librarian

In an especially equipped room in the Fondren Science Building on the campus of Southern Methodist University may be found the University's sheet map collection. There steel map cases hold a file of more than 93,000 maps and charts and 3,500 aerial photographs. In addition, atlases, gazetteers, and cartographic bibliographies are available for research and the large world globe offers more than 22,000 place names for reference. There are map tables suitable for assembling map series.

The Map Library now ranks as one of the ten largest university map libraries in the United States and the largest in the Southwest. It has expanded from an original collection of some 27,000 maps and photos to its present size through the depository program of the major governmental mapping agencies and through private acquisition.

Using the original map file of the Geology Department as the basic collection, the University opened its Map Library soon after the close of World War II when Southern Methodist University elected to participate in the U.S. Army Map Service's depository program. From 1946 through 1950 the Map Library received two copies of each map produced by this agency as well as some 27,000 foreign maps taken by Allied Forces during the war from German and Japanese military installations. Because of the limited quantity of these captured maps distribution was made to a few libraries selected according to geographical location.

The depository program of the Army Map Service arose from a need throughout the United States of adequate mapping information. The nation's lack of maps of value to the war effort in Europe and Asia was apparent in 1941 and led to the establishment of the Army Map Service in Washington, D.C., as the chief mapping agency for land areas other than those of the United States and its territories. The Army Map Service has grown to tremendous proportions and today ranks with Great Britain's War Office as one of the largest mapping agencies in the world. Finding itself at the close of World War II with a surplus of maps, realizing the danger of a concentration of our map resources in Washing-

ton, and recognizing the need for more adequate mapping information throughout the country, the Army Map Service established its depository program for university and public libraries.

Because of its strategic location in the Southwest, the enthusiasm of the Geography and Geology Departments, and the willingness of the University to provide the necessary facilities to maintain the collection, Southern Methodist University was selected to participate in the program and received more than 54,000 maps until the press of the Korean situation forced the Army Map Service to discontinue this distribution. It is hoped that this program will be reinstated and that our University will once again receive maps from this important source.

The Map Library, however, has continued to expand through participation in other government depository programs. Since 1916 Southern Methodist University has received the topographic quadrangles of the U. S. Geological Survey, the second largest government mapping agency and the one responsible for mapping the United States and its territories. Today the Map Library receives, in addition to its topographic maps, the Geological Survey's geophysical, mineral, and oil and gas investigations and geologic quadrangles. These maps are an invaluable part of the collection.

In 1952 the Map Library was added to the depository list of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, and today receives both the nautical and aeronautical charts which this agency publishes. These charts cover the land and water areas of the United States and its territories.

Through purchase and exchange the Map Library's file contains maps produced by the American Geographical Society, the National Geographic Society, the Italian Touring Club, the British Ordnance Survey, the U.S. Hydrographic Office, the U.S. Aeronautical Chart and Information Center, the General Drafting Company, the Mississippi River Commission, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the official mapping agencies of Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, and other foreign countries.

The Map Library, as one of Southern Methodist University's five libraries, is under the administration of the Director of Libraries. The maps are filed flat and unfolded where possible and are catalogued under the Library of Congress

classification schedule. This system has a geographical basis, with the result that all maps of an area, whether general or subject, fall under the same classification number and are more readily accessible to the researcher. Index maps as well as a card catalog are provided for use in locating maps within the collection.

Although the Map Library's file contains a majority of geographic and geologic maps, all departments of the University and the general public as well find the collection useful. Petroleum geologists make use of the various mineral investigations and subsurface maps; engineers constructing television equipment require detailed contour maps; and military intelligence units need general maps for strategic planning. History students find of value the files of maps of Civil War battles and military installations and the maps of the United States made in the early 1800's depicting geographical exploration and expansion. Sociologists are interested in the collection of population and census maps; business researchers use the maps showing economic resources of various countries; and medical technologists find helpful the American Geographical Society's series on the distribution of certain diseases throughout the world. These are but a few examples of the wide range of information provided by the collection.

The Map Library has maps of all areas but there is a wealth of material covering the United States, Latin America, and Europe. Of particular importance are the U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangles and geologic folios; state geologic maps; and thesis maps of the geology of Dallas County. The best source for Latin America is the American Geographical Society's Map of Hispanic America of which the Map Library has a complete file. There are also detailed maps of Brazil, Venezuela, and Mexico.

Because of the Army Map Service's depository program the Map Library has unusually good coverage of Europe and Mediterranean Africa. The captured map collection contains maps produced by German, Italian, Polish, Russian, Norwegian, Yugoslavian, and French agencies. Of particular interest is the file of detailed topographic maps of Germany on the scale of 1:25,000 and Dietrich Reimer's geologic map of Europe on the scale of 1:1,500,000.

Another important part of the Map Library's resources is the atlas collection. Because of the quality of its maps and the wealth of information each map contains the Italian Touring Club's *Atlante Internazionale* with separate place name index is one of the outstanding works of its kind.

The TIMES Atlas, of which the volumes on Europe and Africa have been received, is very useful because of the clarity and accuracy of its maps.

The Map Library also has a number of Russian atlases. These, along with the captured maps of Russia, make the Map Library particularly rich in map sources of Soviet lands. There are also atlases of Mexico, Costa Rica, and Australia and such special purposes atlases as the two-volume *Atlas of the World's Resources*, *Atlas of American Agriculture*, *Portfolio of U.S. Census Maps*, and *Ice Atlas of the Northern Hemisphere*.

Other sources of information for the map researcher are the collection of gazetteers and cartographic bibliographies. *The Columbia-Lippincott Gazetteer of the World*, and *Webster's Geographical Dictionary* are most helpful in locating places for further research within the collection. The gazetteers and glossaries of the Army Map Service aid in place name location and in interpretation of foreign language maps.

The Map Library offers an additional service through its collection of map bibliographies and the brochures of commercial mapping companies. The most comprehensive of the bibliographies is the *Bibliographie Cartographique Internationale*, an annual listing of new map publications throughout the world. The Library of Congress issues yearly its *Catalog of Copyright Entries: Maps and Atlases*, which is of particular assistance in locating maps published by U.S. firms. *Price List 53* of the Superintendent of Documents and *Publications of the Geological Survey* are also valuable sources of U. S. government maps.

Plans for expansion of the Map Library call for additional map cases to ease the crowded ones now in use. Because of its location in the Southwest the Map Library considers maps of Latin America prime acquisitions for the files. It is hoped that the collection of U.S. Hydrographic Office nautical charts, U.S. Aeronautical Chart and Information Center aeronautical charts, and British Ordnance Survey maps

may be expanded. The aerial photo collection now contains county coverage for northeast Texas and scattered coverage for other sections of the state. Plans to enlarge this collection have already begun with the recent purchase of detailed photos of Dallas County taken during different periods of the city's development.

The University offers a unique service to its students and faculty and to the general public through the Map Library. Maps of all areas of the world may be found within the collection with atlases, gazetteers, and other aids to assist the researcher looking for great detail or the casual inquirer seeking general information. The classification and filing system, the indexing and card catalog, and the arrangement of the map room have been planned to make map research easy and enjoyable.

Francois Crepin on Botanizing*

Lloyd H. Shinnors

Late in the 19th Century the younger Hooker was led to exclaim to some of the botanical students of the day, "You young men do not know your plants!" What would he think of the modern graduate in botany? Now one gets a Ph.D. in the science without knowing most of the plants he encounters every day. Chromosomes, statistics, fancied phylogenies, current fads in morphology and physiology — about such things, like the modern major general, he is "teeming with a lot of news," at least until oral exams are over. If he goes on to teach, it will be to relay the same things, occasionally refurbished, to hordes of freshmen. The general student, though he have no intention or desire to become a professional botanist, must nevertheless master the technicalities of the whole professional field. A simple, direct, spontaneous interest in plants will not do; that is not Science. But to preserve him from extreme specialization, he may be compelled to take "integrated" courses, "progressive education" courses (to what?), or "general education" courses. He must not take up any modest, specific pursuit that he can go ahead with on his own, and that will remain actively a part of his life; such things are old-fashioned.

No one has yet explained clearly just what was so bad about those old-fashioned ways. Amateur naturalists of the past century contributed heavily to the great research collections in our museums, and very many of them carried on worthy research among themselves. Their avocations were useful and beneficial both to themselves and to others; they were not merely devices to waste time. Today in America the amateur naturalist is nearing extinction. Part of this may be laid to

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