

# **The Map Collection of the Archives and Special Collections Department, Otto G. Richter Library, University of Miami**

*by Olga Espejo Beshers*

On June 1, 1978, the Archives and Special Collections Department of the Otto G. Richter Library at the University of Miami was established. At that time, the library already owned several collections and materials which became part of the newly formed department. One such collection was the Map Collection. It is comprised of 15 individual map collections acquired through purchase or donation including the General Collection and the Purdy Collection, which are still being developed.

The Collection consists of more than 3,000 maps, charts, plans, and views including government publications and others that have been originally published either separately or in books and atlases and later removed by booksellers and sold individually. Along with the original maps, the collection includes blueprints, blue line maps, facsimile reprints and photostat maps reproduced from originals located in the Library of Congress, the British Museum and other libraries and museums throughout the world.

The holdings cover nearly all areas of the world, with an emphasis on what was then termed "the New World," especially Florida, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the United States. The period covered is from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries, and includes works of famous cartographers such as Sanson, Jefferys, Mitchell, Tanner, Moll, Kitchin, and Blaeu. Subjects include history, vegetation, meteorology, and roads, among others, making this a valuable and extensive research collection, ideal for historians, geographers, cartographers, Latin Americanists, Floridiana specialists and others. Many are beautifully printed

maps with artistically decorated cartouches, detail, design, and color—especially in some of the earlier works—giving them the added dimension of true art pieces. The following synopsis of the individual map collections provides a general overview.

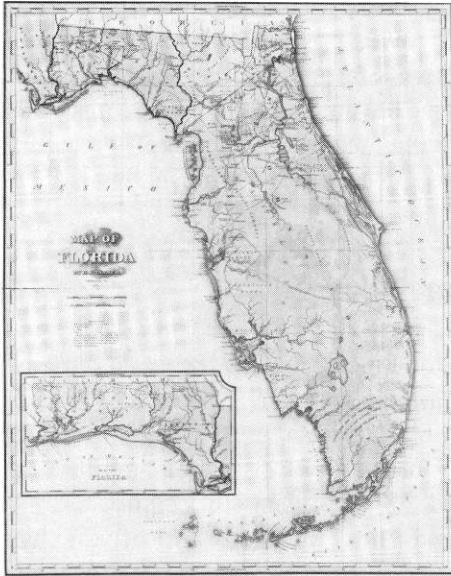
### **The General Collection**

This collection consists of more than 1,000 maps covering a wide range of countries, primarily focusing on Florida, the Caribbean, and Latin America. The Florida maps document all areas of the state, with an emphasis on Miami, Miami Beach, and Coral Gables. They cover a variety of subjects, including vegetation, population, soil, fishing, county borders and other topics. The Caribbean area is represented mostly by maps and views of Cuba, numbering over 100.

The maps in this collection have been acquired through purchases or donations. Examples of some of the more notable maps include: "The Atlantic Coastal Highway," circa 1930, by the Advertising Board of the Norfolk-Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce, and covering New York to Jacksonville with an inset of Florida and its highways; "A Map of South America According to the Best Authorities," by C. Dilly & G. Robinson, London, 1785; "Carte de La Terre Firme du Perou, du Bresil et du Pays des Amazones . . .," by Guillaume De l'Isle, Paris, 1703; "Le Bresil, dont la Coste est possedee par les Portugais et divisee en Quatorze Capitaneries," by N. Sanson d'Abbeville, Paris, 1656; "Carte reduite de L'Isle de Cube . . .," by Bellin, 1762; the eighteenth century "Nouvelle Carte Marine de toute Les Cotes de l'Amerique Montrant toutes les Isles Bayes et Rivieres . . .," by Gerard van Keulen; and the recently donated sixteenth century map, "Novae Insulae," by Sebastian Munster.

### **The Boyd Collection**

Mark F. Boyd was a medical doctor who conducted extensive research in the area of tropical medicine. He was also interested in Florida history, especially in the Spanish settle-



**Map of Florida by H.S. Tanner improved to 1825, from the Boyd Collection.**

collection reflect Boyd's interest in Florida history, early settlements and discovery. Some of the maps are photostats of originals in the Archivo de Indias in Seville, Spain, the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and from other sources. Among the maps in this collection are surveys executed by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey which documented different areas of the Florida peninsula, including the 1890 "St. Johns River from its Entrance to Jacksonville, Florida," and the 1857 "Preliminary Chart of the Entrance to Pensacola Bay, Florida." The Collection also contains several plans of forts built throughout Florida such as a "Sketch of Fort Pickens, Florida," by Lt. Langdon, 1861; "Plano del Fuerte de Sn. Marcos de Apalache" by Juan Maria Perchet, 1794; "Plan and Section of the Upper and Lower Batteries Laid Out and Begun Building 5th March 1771, for Protecting the Harbour of Pensacola," circa 1763. Other notable holdings include William Faden's "A Chart of the Gulf of Florida or New Bahama Channel Commonly Called the Gulf

ments and Native American groups. After retirement, Dr. Boyd continued to pursue his interest in history, dedicating most of his time to the study, research, and writing of Florida history and to the acquisition of maps and material to support these research endeavors.

The library purchased Boyd's personal library which included books, pamphlets, prints, and more than 1,200 maps and charts. He also bequeathed a number of other materials to the library. The breadth and depth of the collection

Passage, Between Florida, the Isle of Cuba, & the Bahama Islands,” 1794; “Map of Florida,” by H.S. Tanner, Philadelphia, circa 1825; and “Phelps & Watson’s Historical and Military Map of the Border & Southern States,” published by Phelps & Watson in New York, 1864. The collection contains also many state road maps and “working maps,” which refer to maps personally annotated by Boyd for research purposes.

## The Roney Collection

N.B.T. Roney moved to Florida in 1918, and settled in Miami Beach where he acquired extensive real estate holdings. One of his most important holdings was the Roney Plaza Hotel on Collins Ave., considered among the best hotels in the area.

In 1950, Roney donated 28 pre-twentieth century maps to the library. With the exception of one, all are of the West Indies or Florida, and include works by famous cartographers



**From the Roney Collection, *Carte du Mexique et de la Floride des terres Angloises et des Isles Antilles . . .*, par Guillaume de l'Isle, Amsterdam, Covens & Mortier, 1722.**

such as Blaeu, Sanson, Popple, and Homanno. Some of the more important pieces are: "A Map of the British Empire in North America," by Samuel Dunn, London: printed for R. Sayer, 1774; "A New Map of the West India Isles, from the latest authorities," by John Cary, London 1803; "North America from the French of Mr. d'Anville, improved with the English Surveys made since the Peace," London, printed for Robert Sayer & J. Bennett, 1775; "Carte du Mexique et de la Floride des terres Angloises et des Isles Antilles . . .," par Guillaume de l'Isle, Amsterdam, Covens & Mortier, 1722; and "A Map of the West-Indies or the Islands of America in the North Sea With Ye Adjacent Countries . . . According to Ye Newest and Most Exact Observations," by Herman Moll, [London, 1715].

### **The Karpinski Collection**

Dr. Louis C. Karpinski was a professor of mathematics at the University of Michigan and author of several books and articles including, *Mapping of the Mississippi Valley* and *Bibliography of the Printed Maps of Michigan*.

The Karpinski collection, donated in 1952, consists of 42 maps. It focuses on the Eastern part of the United States, Florida, and Latin America with most of the maps pre-dating the twentieth century. Maps in the collection include: "Carte du Golphe du Mexique et des isles Antilles, reduite de la grande carte angloise de Popple" by Ph. Buache, Paris, 1780; "Chart of the West Indies and Spanish dominions in North America," by A. Arrowsmith, London, 1803; "Preliminary chart of Florida Reefs from Key Biscayne to Pickles Reef," from a trigonometrical survey under the direction of A.D. Bache, Superintendent of the survey of the coast of the United States, 1856; and a manuscript map of Key Biscayne, surveyed in the month of February 1847 by John Jackson.

### **The Wilgus Collection**

A. Curtis Wilgus was a professor of Latin American History at the University of Florida where he organized and di-

rected the School of Inter-American Studies. Prior to moving to Florida, he taught at the University of South Carolina and at George Washington University. Wilgus authored many books and articles on Latin America and was appointed by President John F. Kennedy to the board of foreign scholarships as coordinator in the Office of Inter-American Affairs.

This collection of 215 maps, donated by Wilgus, includes works of famous French, Dutch, and English cartographers covering the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Subjects include national resources, roads, economic conditions, archaeological sites, physical features, and many others. Among the maps included in this collection are: "A Draught of the Harbours of Port Royal and Kingston, in Jamaica with the Fortifications Correctly Laid Down, Also All the Keys and Shoals Adjacent," London: J. Bew, 1782; "Pan American Highway System, Routes Actual and Projected," compiled from the latest official data furnished to the Pan American Highway Confederation, Washington, D.C., 1940; "The Pan American Railway Transportation Routes by Railway, River and Ocean," drawn by G.F. Pohlers, Washington, D.C. 1910 (Senate Doc. no. 744; 61st Cong. 3d Sess.); and "Fortune's Map of South America in Globular Perspective," 1937.

### **The Eder Collection**

Phanor James Eder, a well known international attorney, donated a large number of books, pamphlets, personal papers, magazine articles, and maps to the library in 1960. His family had settled in the Cauca Valley, Colombia, and Eder was born in Palmira in 1880. After graduation from Harvard Law School, Eder specialized in international law with a special interest in Latin America. He was author and translator of books and articles dealing principally with legal and financial matters.

Eder's interests are reflected in his collection of 59 maps which focus primarily on Latin American subjects such as a plan of the city of Cali, a map published in 1857 representing the line of the Panama railroad, and several maps depicting grain and cattle production in Mexico and Central America. Specific maps include: "Terra Firmã et novum regnum Granatense

et Popayan,” by Arnoldus Montanus, Amsterdam, 1671; “Insvlae Americanae in Oceano Septentrionali cum Terris adiacentibus,” by Blaeu, [Amsterdam, 1644]; and “Mapa del Departamento de Antioquia, Republica de Colombia ...,” Washington, Norris Peters Photo-Litho, 1900.

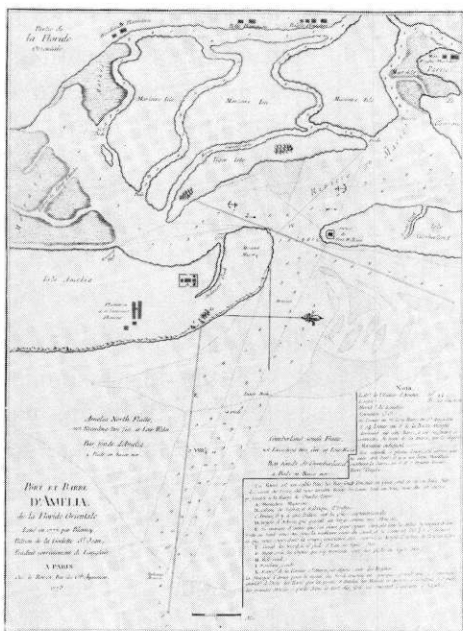
## The Willson Collection

The Minnie Moore-Willson Collection was purchased from the Elizabeth Aultman Cantrell Historical Museum in Kissimmee, Florida. Willson and her husband, James Mallory Willson, who was in real estate, were strong advocates of the Seminole Indians. Their support proved instrumental in the passage of the act by the Florida Legislature in 1913, allocating land in southern Florida for the use of the Seminoles. A long-time resident of Kissimmee, Willson was active in the Audubon Society of Kissimmee, the Kissimmee Women’s Club, and the Friends of the Florida Seminoles. She also wrote several books dealing with the Seminoles including *The Seminoles of Florida* and *Osceola: Florida’s Seminole War Chieftain*.

The 186 maps in this collection are either manuscript or published twentieth century maps primarily covering Florida and the Kissimmee area. Among the collection are “Rand, McNally & Co.’s Florida,” Chicago: Rand, McNally & Co., 1883; “A New Sectional Map of Florida,” issued by the Department of Agriculture, 1912; and “City of Kissimmee, Fla.,” J.M. Willson Jr. Real Estate and Insurance, five-acre farms in Kissimmee Gardens, circa 1909.

## The Purdy Collection

The late Helen C. Purdy, professor emeritus and former head of the Archives and Special Collections Department, donated different kinds of library material, which enhance the strengths within the department. After her retirement in 1991, Purdy started the map collection comprised at this time of five pre-twentieth century maps which cover Florida and the West



***Port et Barre d'Amelia de la Floride Orientale*, by Jacob Blamey, Paris, 1778. From the Purdy Collection.**

founder of the famous van Keulen firm of Dutch map and chart makers which for over two centuries was one of the most prestigious in Europe; and the Seller and Price chart: "Bahama and Windward Passage," published in London in the eighteenth century.

Purdy established a foundation which will provide funds to the department for the acquisition of a variety of materials, including maps principally related to Florida.

## The Tebeau Collection

Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau served 32 years as a professor of history at the University of Miami, and 23 of those as chairman of the History Department. He was one of the organizers of the Historical Association of Southern Florida and editor of its journal, *Tequesta*, for many years. In 1990, the Charlton W. Tebeau

Indies. The first donation was an eighteenth century map published in Amsterdam by Pierre Mortier: "Le Golfe de Mexique, et les Isles Voisine . . ." This was followed by "Port et Barre d'Amelia de la Floride Orientale" by Jacob Blamey, 1778; "Plan de l'île d'Amelia a la côte de la Floride Orientale, tire de la carte de la Georgie et de la Caroline meridionale de De Brahm . . ." 1779; "Pas kaart vande zuyd kust van Cuba en van geheel Yamaica . . .," published in Amsterdam, circa 1695, by Johannes van Keulen,



Chair in American History was established at the university in his honor.

Tebeau has been a generous donor and supporter of the library, and was instrumental in the acquisition of the Boyd Collection. Most of the 12 items in the Tebeau Collection are of Florida. They include: "Boundary Map, Big Cypress National Fresh Water Reserve, Florida," [19—?]; "Florida," New York: J.H. Colton & Co., 1855; and four photostat negatives of "Fort Taylor, Advanced Towers, Key West Island, Plans, Sections, Elevations & Details of Towers No. 1 & No. 2," 1863.

### **The Stoneman Douglas Collection**

Marjory Stoneman Douglas has campaigned for many years for the preservation and conservation of the Florida Everglades. Her book, *The Everglades River of Grass*, published in 1947, is a landmark volume. Douglas founded the Friends of the Library and has close ties with the Friends of the Everglades, an organization working to promote public awareness and to gain state support toward the preservation of the Everglades. Florida named its Department of Natural Resources Building after Mrs. Douglas several years ago.

Over the years Douglas has donated a number of materials to the Library including personal papers. Most of the 19 maps in this collection are of Florida and cover various subjects. Among them are: "The Everglades Conservation Areas," by the South Florida Water Management District, 1977; "Vegetation map of Southern Florida," by John H. Davis Jr., 1943; "Map of Florida," by J. Lee Williams, New York, lithographed by Greene & McGowran, 1837; and "Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project," 1966 (D.O. file no. 400-24,979).

### **The Kelleher Collection**

Joseph A. Kelleher donated a large number of items, including books, promotional materials, and 148 maps in 1964. He also made generous cash donations to the library for the purpose

of purchasing books and materials. Kelleher was a land developer and entrepreneur who owned large real estate holdings in Florida and the Bahamas.

Most of the pieces in this collection are of Florida and the Bahamas, and include a number of real estate development maps. The following are some of the maps in this collection: "Springs of Florida, map of Florida showing locations of selected springs," by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the Florida Geological Survey, Williams & Heintz Co., Washington, D.C., 1940 ed. reprinted 1944; "Map of the Everglades Drainage District of Florida," West Palm Beach, Fla., 1948; "Apalachee Bay, United States-Gulf Coast, Florida," hydrography and topography by the Coast and Geodetic Survey, with additions and revisions from the Corps of Engineers, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 1952; and "Florida Intracoastal Waterway, Miami to Elliott Key," hydrography and topography by the Coast and Geodetic Survey with additions & revisions from the Corps of Engineers, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 1949.

### **The Spencer Collection**

George S. Spencer, one time owner of an antiquarian book shop in the Miami area, donated 17 maps to the library in 1948.

The maps in this collection are of Mexico, Central America, South America, the West Indies, and the United States. Among them are the following maps: "Colton's Central America," New York: Johnson & Browning, 1855; "An Accurate Map of the West Indies with the adjacent Coast of America," by J. Russell, London: H.D. Symonds, 1794; "Johnson's Georgia and Alabama," New York: Johnson and Ward, 1863; and "Colton's Mexico," New York: Johnson & Browning, 1854.

### **The Levandowsky Collection**

In 1987 Daniel Levandowsky donated a number of maps, magazines, newspapers, posters, and pamphlets to the library,

largely collected by Levandowsky while living abroad.

This collection of 60 maps covers Africa, Asia, Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean and such subjects as meteorology, roads, city plans, aeronautical maps, and many more. Notable maps include: "Carta General de la Ciudad de Mexico," P.A.C.A.L., 1944; "Republique Islamique de Mauritaine," 1977; "Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire," le service géographique de l'A.O.F., 1938; "Carte des plantations d'Heveas, 1953;" and "Honduras, Regional Aeronautical Chart," U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, 1942.

### **The Axelson Collection**

Ivar Julius Axelson was an economist and teacher who with his wife, Mary, moved to Florida, where they opened a land office to sell acreage to the public. Mary McDougal Axelson wrote poems, novels, articles, short stories, and plays, one of which was made into a film.

This collection of 48 maps focusing on Florida was donated in 1974, along with personal papers, correspondence and miscellaneous items. It contains surveys of Dade and Monroe counties, maps of the gulf coast and such items as: "Special Road & Bridge District No. 1," Dade County and Cape Sable District, Monroe County, compiled by P. Livingston, 1920; a series of aerial photographic surveys of the Everglades area, Florida, flown by Aero Service Corp. in 1940 for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service; and aerial photo surveys of Monroe County, Florida, flown by Park Aerial Surveys in 1953 also for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

### **The Sanz Collection**

Carlos Sanz was the author of several articles and books dealing with cartography and the discovery of the new world, *El nombre de America, libros y mapas que lo impusieron* being an important contribution to this subject.

Sanz donated a number of books and this collection of 19

reproductions of maps and charts originally published between 1482 and 1598 by well known cartographers such as Mercator, Juan de la Cosa, Contarini, and Ptolemy. These maps form part of 50 items reproduced and published, with a commentary, by Sanz in his two volume work entitled: *Mapas antiguos del mundo* (siglos XV-XVI), published in Madrid in 1962.

In this work Sanz gives extensive information on the originals such as size, distinct peculiarities, particular history, location, ownership, and background on the cartographers. Among the reproductions are: "Orbis universalis descriptio" by Robert Thorne [1527], and "Americae sive nobi orbis" by Hernando de Solis, [Valladolid, 1598].

### Further Reading

M.H.S. "Special Collections of the Richter Library." *The Carrell* 3, no. 1 (June 1962): 21-22.

Morgan, Charles L. "Accent on Area and Maker in University Map Collecting." *The Carrell* 2, no. 2 (December 1961): 20-22.

Selle, Mildred H. "The Eder Collection." *The Carrell* 1, no. 1 (June 1960): 9-12.

Tebeau, Charlton W. "Dr. Mark F. Boyd and Florida Historical Writing." *The Carrell* 2, no. 2 (December 1961): 13-19.