



ISHMap

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MAP

No 2, 2024

From the Chair

Dear Member,

Another year full of fascinating map history events is behind us. Thank you all for your continued support of ISHMap. It has been a pleasure serving you in this second year as our Chair. I am very pleased to invite you to read this new edition of ISHMap's Newsletter, which contains a report on our activities in 2024 and an announcement for the upcoming events in 2025.

In order to increase our visibility and strengthen our connection with the international map history community, ISHMap has intensified its activities. Last year we started our Newsletter that serves as a report and an additional form of communication with our members. The comments we have received from you have been overwhelmingly positive! In addition to our Newsletter, we have redesigned and updated our website (mind the new address <https://ishmap.com>). From now on, you can find information on all our past conferences with a link to their programs, a testimony to the important role that ISHMap plays in the development of the map history field.

This year we have decided to go a step further by starting a series of one-day events that will be held in the even years, and thus between our regular symposia. These events are conceived as a specific format of scientific dialogue where we will discuss some important topics about the development of our scientific field that are not suitable for our standard symposia. Our this year's topic *Where Does Map History Go Now?*, which discussed the methodology and new discourses in map history, was hosted by the Royal Geographical Society, London (UK).

In addition, preparations for our next symposium and workshop, to be held in Paris in 2025, are in full swing. You will find more information on that event in the Newsletter. We are also working on a symposium for 2027, which will be held in Barcelona, Spain.

Last but not least, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the ISHMap Officers and Trustees for their dedicated and hard work that keeps us going. Also, many thanks to you, our members, for your continuing support, for following our activities, for renewing your membership, as well as for attending our symposia. Meanwhile, do not hesitate to contact us at ishmap.society@gmail.com and ishmap.secretary@gmail.com to share information about you with us and to follow us on X @ishmap1.

Hope to see you all in Paris!

With the best wishes,

Dr. Mirela Altic, Chair

ISHMap General Meeting and Best Map Project Award

The ISHMap General Meeting was held in Lyon on 3 July 2024 (in conjunction with ICHC). On that occasion, Officers and Trustees have been elected. In the term 2024–25 **David Weimer** will continue to serve as Vice-Chair and Secretary and **Kory Olson** as Treasurer. The elected members of the Board of Trustees are **Elizabeth Chant** (UK), **Andrea Doré** (Brazil), **Carolina Martínez** (Argentina), **André Reyes Novaes** (Brazil), **Katie Parker** (US/UK), **Anne-Sophie Pratte** (Qatar), **Anne-Rieke van Schaik** (Netherlands), and **Nicolas Verdier** (France), while the Advisory Board consists of our three distinguished members: **Matthew Edney** (US), **Jordana Dym** (US), and **Carla Lois** (Argentina).

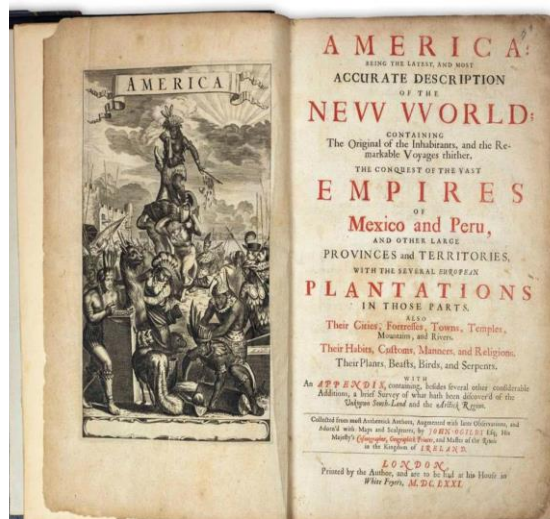
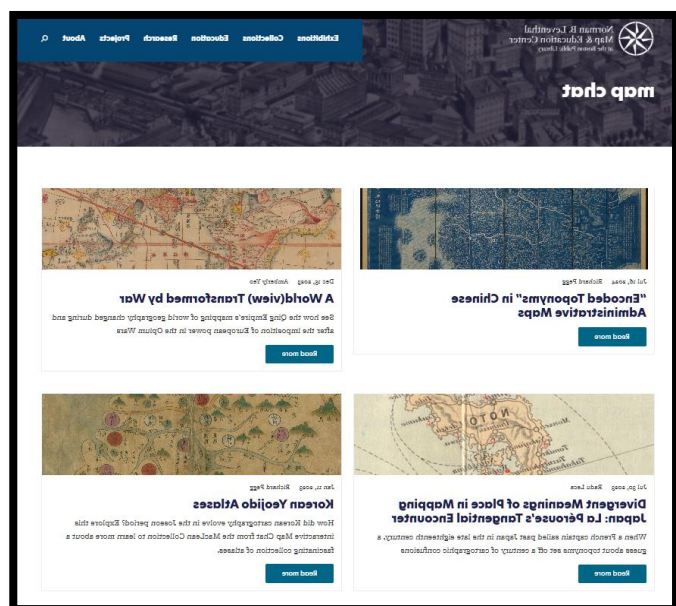
As part of the Chair report, **Mirela Altic** reported on organizational activities for the 2025 Symposium and Workshop to be held in Paris (see below for more details). The arrangements for the 2027 Symposium and Workshop—to be held in Barcelona—were also presented. The Treasurer’s report presented by **Kory Olson** confirmed the stable financial standing of the Society as well as the continuous increase in the number of members.

The meeting was concluded with the presentation of the winners of the 2024 Prize for Best Projects in Map History. The winners are:

First Prize: **Richard Pegg** for “MacLean Collection Map Chats.” It is a new digital platform launched in 2021 that has gathered international scholars from around the world to discuss maps from the MacLean Collection, promoting both map history and international knowledge exchange. The prize committee was especially impressed by the high quality essays discussing maps from different countries. This breadth allows Map Chats to create links in the map history community and foster scholarships on maps around the world in a variety of disciplines. For more, please visit <https://www.leventhalmap.org/tags/map-chat/>

Honorary Mention: **S. Max Edelson** for “John Ogilby’s America (1671): Visualizing a New World.” This interactive digital atlas—an ArcGIS StoryMaps Collection—offers a guided tour of the lavish visual content of John Ogilby’s *America: Being the Latest, and Most Accurate Description of the New World*. The prize committee loved the combination of accessible expert commentary with good graphics and easy user experience. This resource will be extremely useful for anyone teaching Early Modern cartography and history.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/a8851e7aad2a44fd8017bc8d66c7069f>



Where Does Map History Go Now?

London, 2 September 2024

Over the last fifty years, scholars, collectors, and curators have revolutionized and invigorated the practice of map history. Theoretically informed studies, grounded in new archives and shaped by new technologies, have globalized both the subject and the community of map history. As the new generation of map historians emerges, as the last of the six volumes of *The History of Cartography* approaches completion, and as *Imago Mundi*, the leading journal in the field, anticipates its second century of publication, ISHMap, in collaboration with the editors of *Imago Mundi*, organized a one-day symposium **Where Does Map History Go Now?** to discuss new approaches to the map history field. The symposium took place on 2 September 2024 at the Royal Geographical Society, London. In-person space was strictly limited to invited speakers and discussants while the ISHMap members were able to participate virtually.

Some of the topics discussed included: the History of Cartography Project as a driver of methodological changes; the effects of globalization of map history and its influence on the ways we put maps in cultural perspectives; the shifts in the geographical scope and contextualization of map study: from regional/national to transcultural studies (maps in the global history context); the power of changes in social theories and ideology; the innovations in technology as a driver of new meteorological approaches; the Imago Mundi Journal and its influence on changes in the map history paradigm.



The event consisted of 3 panels, with altogether 10 papers presented:

Panel 1. The Once and Future *History of Cartography* (Chair: A. Hiatt)

- Matthew Edney, History of Cartography Project and Trends in Map History
- André Reyes Novaes, On the Crossroads Between Map History and Decolonial Thinking
- Anne-Sophie Pratt, The Steppe on Paper: Digital and Archival Methods in the Study of Mongol Historical Maps (19th Century)

Panel 2. The Future of the Global in Map History (Chair F. Allot)

- Mirela Altic, Reflections on Temporality: Maps in Global Cultural Perspectives
- Carla Lois, Moving Beyond J.B. Harley
- Yannan Ding, Re-Provincialising the History of Cartography

Panel 3. The Future of Map History in a Digital Age (Chair: K. McDonough)

- Philip Jagessar, Digital Histories in a Paper World
- Jordana Dym / Katherine Parker, An Expanding Role for Map History Journals
- Elspeth Iralu, Rectifying a Map of Indian Country (remote presentation)
- Martin Davis, Digitised and Born-Digital Mapping: Challenges and Opportunities

It is expected that the symposium will generate a special forum section for *Imago Mundi* 77.2 (2025).



Part of the ISHMap group that attended the symposium Where Does Map History Go Now? at the RGS (photo: K. Parker)

ISHMap VIII Symposium and III Workshop

Paris, France (08–11 July 2025)

We are delighted to announce the ISHMap VIII Symposium and III Workshop that will take place in [Campus Condorcet \(Aubervilliers\)](#), Paris, France, from 8 to 11 July 2025. The Symposium and Workshop are organized as back-to-back events, enabling early career scholars to meet and exchange knowledge with renowned map historians and other members of the international community interested in the study of maps.

The Symposium is open to all working in the history of cartography. The Workshop welcomes applications from professionals at the early stages in academic and public careers. The thematic framework of the workshop and symposium is **Mapping the Cultural Crossroads**.

Our main venue, the Campus Condorcet, located north of the Paris city centre at Aubervilliers (c. 20 mins by metro), is the newest Parisian hub of education and scholarship. One of its focal points is the brand-new **Conference Centre (Centre du Colloques)** that opens onto the Place du Front Populaire, just a few steps from the metro station (Line 12). It hosts educational and cultural events such as talks, seminars, and conferences of national and international merit. With auditoriums and seminar rooms of varying sizes, it is designed to be a space where knowledge is shared.



The newly opened Conference Centre building at the Campus Condorcet that will host the 2025 ISHMap Symposium and some of the Workshop sessions

Workshop (8–9 July 2025)

A two-day [Workshop](#) (8–9 July) for early career professionals (scholars, curators, archivists, and librarians) working in the history of cartography will precede the Symposium. A total of four workshops will be offered to participants at three locations, the Condorcet Conference Centre, the National Library of France (BNF), and the National Archives. Hands-on activities led by top experts in the field will include work on the collection of East and Southeast Asian maps, a discussion on curating digitalized and digital-born maps, sessions focusing on themes on post-colonial mapping and local knowledge as well as on materiality and production of maps.

The group of attendees is limited to a maximum of 25 people to ensure sufficient time for knowledge exchange and mentoring of participants. Each participant will present their on-going project and receive feedback.

Symposium (10–11 July 2025)

The [Symposium](#) (10 and 11 July) focuses on mapping the cultural crossroads. We particularly welcomed proposals that addressed the cultural aspects of cartography, particularly cross-cultural exchanges and global circulation of knowledge. The proposals that addressed or inspired comparative approaches in map history were especially appreciated.

The opening ceremony of the Symposium will take place at the National Library of France (Richelieu site) on 9 July at 6:00 pm. The ceremony will be followed by a keynote presentation and reception. The symposium program on 10 and 11 July will be held at the Condorcet Conference Centre. We expect about 35 papers and 10–15 posters to be included in the final program of the Symposium.

Affordable accommodation will be offered to participants at the Break and Home Campus Condorcet Maison des chercheurs that offers apartments for guest researchers (early booking strongly recommended). It is situated right near the Conference Centre.



The Conference Centre (on the left) with the Campus Condorcet Maison (center of the photo)

Post-Conference Field Trip to Vincennes (12 July 2025)

A post-event trip to Vincennes, a beautiful town on the eastern outskirts of Paris, is planned for Saturday, 12 July 2025. The city is famous for its castle, the Château de Vincennes, a former fortress and royal residence dating back to the 14th century. The Château de Vincennes is also a home to the [Historical Military Archives](#) (*Service Historique de la Défense (SHD)*), which holds many important archival records, including an extensive Map Collection. The excursion participants will be offered a guided tour of this unique collection of maps and a visit to the castle itself.



A fortified complex of Vincennes that houses the *Service historique de la Défense*



The historical military archive (SHD)
in the King's pavilion



A catalogue room of the SHD

News from ISHMap Members

As we announced in the last issue of the Newsletter, we would like to establish a stronger connection with our members. Your achievements such as new papers, books, projects, or exhibitions are important to us. That is why we have asked you to send us news about you that you want to share with other members. Here are some of the responses.

Diana Lange (Germany) reported that she had just published two OPEN ACCESS papers:

Lange, Diana and Yeshi Lhendup (2024). "Exploring the Legacy of Tibetan Mapmaking. Manuscript Maps from the Harrer Collection at the Ethnographic Museum, University of Zurich, manuscript cultures, 24(1), pp. 1–61;

Lange, Diana (2024). "Mapping the Qing Empire in the Eighteenth Century: Hand-drawn Maps from the 'Qing Atlas Tradition' at the Museum am Rothenbaum in Hamburg", manuscript cultures, 20, pp. 141–158.

PJ Mode (USA) informed us on his on-line map collection. More than 400 new maps have recently been added to PJ Mode's online Persuasive Cartography hosted by Corbel University Library at <https://persuasivemaps.library.cornell.edu/>. Altogether, there are now more than 1,200 maps in the online collection, in some 27 languages, dating from 1491 to the present. Maps in the collection address a wide range of messages: religious, political, military, commercial, moral, and social. A variety of persuasive techniques have been used, including allegorical, satirical, and pictorial mapping; selective exclusion; unusual use of projections, colour, graphics and text; as well as intentional deception.

Junia Ferreira Furtado (Brazil) has just published a new book. "*L'Amérique Méridionale: The Map That Shaped Brazil in the 18th Century*" (Brill, 2024). This book explores how the origins of Brazil's modern borders can be traced by a map produced by the French cartographer J.B.B. d'Anville. It argues that this map reflects the geopolitical policies of the Portuguese diplomat D. Luis da Cunha, who was involved in Portugal's negotiations with Spain to establish Brazil's frontiers that were incorporated into the Treaty of Madrid of 1750.

Jordana Dym (USA) was invited to take part in this year's "Maps and Society" lectures in the history of cartography, hosted by the Warburg Institute (London, UK). On 31 October, she presented a talk "Looking Down, Looking Up: Wall and School Maps in Guatemala, 1860–1936."

Carla Lois (Argentina) has just announced that her new book *Terrae Incognitae: Mapping the Unknown* would be published by Brill in December. The book is about blank spots on a map and legends that speak of *terrae incognitae*. Do such lands even exist and how many types of *terrae incognitae* are there? And why do so many maps of the last five centuries insist on reserving a place for unknown geographies? This book navigates the cartographic unknown, exploring its contribution to the history of knowledge and geographical culture.

Martijn Storms (Netherlands), together with Radu Leca, edited the volume *Enduring Encounters: Maps of Japan from Leiden University Library* (Brill, 2024). Some of the highlights of this volume include annotated drafts and proofs of Siebold's map of Japan, published and discussed for the first time alongside Japanese source maps. Five essays by worldwide experts in the history of both cartography and Dutch-Japanese relations accompany extensive catalogue entries for over fifty maps. The volume is available in open access at <https://brill.com/display/title/36378>