



## OCCASIONAL PAPER NO. 12



# CARTOCRAVATIA, OR THE DISEASE OF COLLECTING MAP TIES

by  
*Leonard A. Rothman, M.D.*

*February 2013*

# CARTOCRAVATIA

## Dr. Leonard Rothman

**LEONARD ROTHMAN:** *Cartographic interests:* Major interests: History of Cartography and Holy Land maps, atlases, and travel books, from 1482 to the present. Other cartographic collections: map neckties, map globes, and human anatomy atlases  
*Professional Background:* Physician-Obstetrics and Gynecology. *Comments* My interest in maps was sparked and fostered by a large antique Balkan Wars map (handed down from my wife Juliet's family) and frequent visits to the Old Print Gallery in the Georgetown area of Washington DC. I have shared maps from my maps at exhibitions at the Library of Congress, St John's College in Annapolis MD, the Museum of Natural History in Santa Barbara, and at



the Judah Magnes Museum in Berkeley CA. I am a member of IMCoS, the Phillip Lee Phillips Society, and the Washington, D.C., and California Map Societies. I enjoy attending the California Map Society's meetings and have occasionally also lectured on various cartographic subjects. Recently I and some other members started a California Map Society San Francisco area satellite group, called BAM (Bay Area Maps). We meet in members' homes several times a year and discuss maps from our own collections. This has been very successful and has been a great addition to the more formal and academic semi-annual California Map Society meetings. The picture is of Len in front of his custom map necktie cabinet that he built into one of the walls in his home.



The California Map Society was founded in 1978, an outgrowth of the historically-oriented Sir Francis Drake Quadracentennial Commission, State of California. The focus of the Society has been on maps of California, mapping in California, map collections and map collecting. As such, the Society is not centered on a single cartographic aspect or group; rather it retains a diversified membership and reaches out to all map enthusiasts. Everyone is welcome at our Society's meetings and costs are nominal. Visit our website, [www.californiamapsociety.org](http://www.californiamapsociety.org) for information about recent and upcoming meetings, membership, and more.

### OFFICERS FOR 2012 – 2013

President	Fred DeJarlais
Vice President, Northern California	Leonard Rothman
Vice President, Southern California	John Fleming
Treasurer	Susan Caughey
Secretary	Pat Boyce
Newsletter Editors	Bill Warren and Susan Caughey

© February 2013. Published by the California Map Society. All rights reserved. [This text of this paper was originally published in *The Portolan, Journal of the Washington Map Society, Issue 71, Spring, 2008*, and is reprinted here with their permission.]

# CARTOCRAVATIA

Neckties are a means of identification. Prep school ties, college ties, professional-symbol ties, company logo ties and club ties are but a few examples. Map neckties are very popular with map collectors. Therefore, it is appropriate that we learn about the history of the necktie, the classification of map neckties, and the easiest ways to collect them. I have always liked to wear a necktie, so, when I saw other map collectors wearing map neckties at map meetings, I knew that this would be a fun pursuit for me. Coincidentally, I had decided to collect only Holy Land and Jerusalem maps, and was in the process of selling all my others. Collecting map neckties became my way to maintaining a diverse map collection in a uniquely fun way. The time and storage space commitments of this endeavor are minimal, and by wearing map neckties, I can always have a map from my collection on exhibit wherever I happen to be.



Figure 1 City streets San Francisco and New York. Please go to the [Cartocravatia Gallery of Ties](#) at our website to see enlarged images of all pictures in this Occasional Paper.



Figure 2 Left to right: Southeast Asia; Antarctica; South America; Africa. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.

The history of neckties is very long. They were first noted as a fashion accessory 5000 years ago. The ancient Egyptians wore a rectangular cloth that hung from the neck down to the shoulder. Similar cloths were also noted as a fashion accessory or high honor during the reign of the first Chinese Emperor, Shih Huang Ti, who died in 210 B.C.E. All of the 7,500 terracotta soldiers that were buried with his sarcophagus wore a silk neck cloth. The Romans usually did not wear neck coverings. However, the

orators wore cloths to keep their necks warm so as to protect their voices, and the Emperor, Trajan, in 113 A.C.E., erected a column in Rome to commemorate his victory over the Dacians. All figures on the column wear a neck covering of either a short necktie or knotted kerchief.

Neckties or cravats (French) were noted again in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when, during the thirty years war, 6500 Croatian soldiers came to Paris to support Louis XIV. Their traditional outfits included cloth scarves tied around their necks. By 1650, the Croatian scarf became accepted



Figure 3 Left to right: U.S. National Weather Service Map; U.S. Nautical Chart of San Francisco Bay; Nautical 1559 Portuguese Map of Africa and the Americas. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.



Figure 4 Many ties such as these astronomical ones have impressive detail. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.

The softest Stock, a bundle of frilly lace, was worn by dandies in England and America. The cotton Bandanna, a colorful plain or patterned cloth tied around the neck, was imported from India to England in 1700, and later became popular neckwear on both sides of the Atlantic. In the Americas, bandannas were commonly worn by cowboys. They also became an integral part of sailor uniforms in England, and of children's sailor suits. The Incroyable (Incredible), a neck cloth that rose up to the ears and nose, was worn by nonconformist French royal sympathizers.



Figure 6 Left to right: Seeing the World with glasses; Save the Children; Globes and atlases; Save the Children; Geography Class and Teaching; Teaching the Tools of Traveling; Cruising the Globe. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.

neckwear in France, and the expression ‘a la Cravate’ was substituted for “a la Croate” The French kings even maintained an elite regiment, the Cravate Royale, until the French Revolution. Cravats also became fashionable in England and Holland during that time.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, other forms of the cravat included the Steenkirk, a loosely wrapped scarf with the long lower end attached to the jacket. The Stock, a stiff neck wrap made of cardboard, wood, or whalebone, was followed by the softened Stock, made of thick cloth.



Figure 5 Left to right: Compass Rose; Aids to Mapmaking; Compass Rose; Aids to Navigation; Compass Rose. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Bow tie became popular. The Byron tie, usually a big floppy bow, was named after Lord Byron, although he rarely wore neck cloths. The Plantation tie, a ribbon tied in bows around the collar of a low-collared shirt, was frequently worn by United States plantation owners. This necktie was also sported by Mark Twain, riverboat gamblers, country music singers, square dancers, and Colonel Sanders (of Kentucky fried chicken fame). George Bryan “Beau” Brummell popularized the white neckcloth, which eventually evolved into the modern white collared shirt. The Cambridge



Figure 7 Left to right: London; Boston MTA; New York City Subways; Chicago Transit. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.



Figure 8 Left to right: Moscow, Paris, Boston, Jerusalem, Constantinople, London, an ancient city. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.



Figure 9 Left to right: Northwest Coast, USA; Alaska and the Arctic; Wolong Natural Reserve, China. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.

Cricket Club created a Sporting flag tie, and the Oxford Rowing Club created the first school tie. During this period, the British military created over 200 different regimental ties to identify specific regiments. These ties easily stood out among the standardized color of their uniforms. Other school neckties, clan neckties, club neckties, etc., etc., followed suit. The Ascot (a very wide cravat), was commonly worn on formal occasions well into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Figure 10 Left to right: Era of Steam Trains and the Great Lakes; Balloons over the Americas; New Hampshire on the Move; Barnstorming over the Americas; Commercial Aircraft over the World (2). Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Designer tie, made from women's clothing fabrics, was invented by the French fashion designer Jean Patou. The Bolo tie, made of leather or cloth string, with a silver or turquoise clasp, was invented and patented by Victor Cederstaff in the 1940's, and became the official Arizona state neckwear in 1971.

The Map necktie probably first appeared after 1950,

and has been documented only recently. Map neckties were officially recognized in the map world when Lori Geissenhaimer, a featured speaker at a Washington Map Society meeting in 2001, discussed the way in "Civitas", manufactures city map neckties and scarves. In 2002, she followed this with an article in the Portolan on the same subject. In 2007, I presented on the history of neckties and my map necktie collection at the June meeting of the California Map Society. Also in 2007, a picture of Matthew Davis, an earthquake specialist, wearing the San Andreas fault map



Figure 11 Left to right: Lewis and Clark Expedition (1803-1806); Over the USA by Air (1910); Transcontinental Railroad, Western States; Covered Wagons on the Oregon Trail; Journals from the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.



Figure 12. Left to right: Hawaii; Texas; States of the U.S.; USA Flag; States of the USA; Texas; Florida; New Jersey. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.

necktie, was prominently displayed in the “Historical Atlas of California”

As with any other map collection, map neckties can be divided according to the standard cartographic divisions: WORLD, AMERICAS, EUROPE, AFRICA, ASIA, NORTH AND SOUTH POLE, HOLY LAND, CELESTIAL, COUNTRIES, STATES AND PROVINCES, CITIES, CURIOSITIES, CARTOGRAPHIC INSTRUMENTS and GLOBES. Further

subdivisions might include COLORS, BODIES OF WATER, COASTS, ISLANDS, PROJECTIONS, SEA CHARTS, COMPASS ROSES, HISTORICAL

PLACES, HISTORICAL EVENTS, and types of TRANSPORTATION. The divisions will really depend on your interests and the extent of your collection. I have used this system quite successfully to create order in my map necktie collection.

Collecting map neckties is not difficult. There are only five practical ways to collect, and only one of these is dependable:

1. Hotel gift shops
2. Historical Site gift shops
3. Tourist gift and souvenir shops
4. The Internet (easy and dependable)

To search map neckties online, go to any of the popular search engines and type in the word: neckties, or the word: map neckties. Websites for all types of neckties, and map neckties in particular, will be displayed. Perusing these websites will give you an idea of what is available. Most of the general necktie websites have some map neckties that are not available on the map necktie websites, so these sites should not be missed. I have ordered from many of them and have been very satisfied. Ebay is another occasional source. The fifth source, receiving map neckties as gifts, is always fun but not a frequent one, because map neckties are not usually found in most shops or department stores.



Figure 13 Left to right: Columbus from Africa and the Caribbean; USA; World 1556; Civil War Battle Map (Virginia 1864); World (2); Aids to Navigation and Nova Scotia. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.

Storage of the ties is a very important aspect of preservation, and also enables the appropriate necktie to be easily found for any occasion with a minimum of fuss. There is nothing more frustrating than searching at the last minute, through a jumbled mass of neckties hanging in a dark closet, for that special necktie that’s just right for the occasion. I prefer a “tie safe” (a.k.a. cabinet.), either freestanding or built into a wall, with the neckties hanging on necktie racks and arranged in an orderly fashion. Another method involves rolling them in individual plastic tubes for storage in a chest or drawer. A very small collection might just be added to the regular tie rack.



Figure 14 Left to right: The Thirteen Colonies; Northern Pacific Railroads; Horse drawn and Horseless Carriages; World; The Travels of Mickey Mouse; World; Italy and Rome. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.

Collecting map neckties has been associated with two new medical illnesses:

- CARTOCRAVATOPHILIA - the pathological attraction to map neckties, identified as a severe illness, or a mere eccentricity depending on the victims financial and or social status.
- CARTOCRAVATOPOX – a rare but highly contagious infection, caused by a cybervirus, mediated by a necktie-shaped cyber worm, which I discovered while researching this article.



Figure 15 Left to right: Globe of the Americas; The Moon; Solar System; Constellations; Celestial (Barlow 1790); Zodiac. Click on image to enlarge.

To quote John G. Doll: “Collect whatever appeals to you, learn all that you can about it, and treasure it – it is yours and it is a piece of history.”

Happy hunting.

**Note:** Two enlarged images of each of the pictures in this Occasional Paper are available at the California Map Society website at [Cartocravatia Gallery of Ties](#) under Occasional Paper No. 12 on the CMS Publications page within the Research and Education section.



Figure 16 Left to right: San Francisco; Los Angeles; Boston; Philadelphia; Washington, D.C.; Atlanta; New Orleans. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.



Figure 17 Left to right: London and England; Boston and Paul Revere's Ride; Texas (2); Africa; Rome (1582); Travelers. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.



Figure 18 Left to right: 1775 Paul Revere's Ride from Boston to Concord; North America; Baja California; Japan and Tokyo; Exploration; Americas; 17th Century Celestial Map. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.



Figure 19 Left to right: America's Forests; Americas; World in 1862; World in 1830 (Johnson); New York City; World; Ironclad Warships, Virginia, 1862; Yosemite and Kings Canyon National Parks. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.



Figure 20 Left to right: Straits of Anian; San Andreas Fault; Napa, CA, Vineyards; Santa Fe Trail; Route 66; Florida West Coast; Lighthouses of the Mid-Atlantic Coast. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.



Figure 21 Left to right: New Zealand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Japan; West Indies, Falkland Islands; Ireland; Atlantic coast of Europe; Medieval Sardinia. Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.





Figure 22 Left to right: Celestial Map, 17th Century; Planets (2); Celestial Map, 17th Century; Constellations (2). Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.



Figure 23 Left to right: 100 BCE Nile River and Egypt (Ortelius, 1580); Terra Santa (Blau 1629) of ~1200 BCE; Minorca 200 CE; Roman Peutingering Map 300 CE (1300s). Go to [Gallery of Ties](#) for enlarged images.

## Bibliography

1. Johnson, D., *Neckties through the ages*. [www.infoplease.com](http://www.infoplease.com), (downloaded 2/13/04)
2. Wikipedia, *History of the necktie* in [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org) (downloaded 5/1/2007)
3. ABC Neckties *The history of neckties* [www.abcneckties.com](http://www.abcneckties.com) (downloaded 1/26/2004)
4. Geissenhainer, L *Truth and Beauty-The Real World of Maps*, The Portolan (Winter 2003/04) p 38
5. Doll, J.G. "How to live with Collectomania" *The Map Collector* Vol. 42 (1988), p 34-35
6. Hayes, D. "Historical Atlas of California" (2007), p 236