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# NEWSLETTER

OF THE CALIFORNIA MAP SOCIETY

Volume 2016, Issue 1 April 2016

[www.californiamapsociety.org](http://www.californiamapsociety.org)

## SPRING MEETING, JUNE 4, 2016 SAN FRANCISCO

Northern California Meeting  
Saturday, June 4, 2016, 10:00 am  
San Francisco Main Library,  
Koret Auditorium  
100 Larkin Street  
San Francisco, CA

The Koret Auditorium in San Francisco's Main Library at 100 Larkin St will be the site of our June 4, 2016 meeting. Because the meeting is at the library it is open to the general public and will be free for all. Light

refreshments will be available and you are on your own for lunch. The meeting starts at 10 am. **Please arrive between 9:30 and 10am to register in the Latino-Hispanic Room** where there will be a registration table with a sign-in sheet for members and guests along with some coffee and treats from Starbucks. **Only the Grove St entrance will be open before 10 so please use that entrance.** Outside the Koret auditorium we will have a table with CMS materials and a list of lunch restaurants for attendees. The meeting has been planned by Vice President for Northern California **Dr Nick Kanas** and will start promptly at 10 am.

After the usual welcoming our first speakers will be **Susan Goldstein**, the Archivist for the City of San Francisco, and **Christina Moretta** who is the Photo Curator at the [San Francisco History Center](#) (more about it later). They will talk about discovering San Francisco through maps, from the analog to the digital. Wondering what an analog map is? Come and find out!

Perhaps a different view of San Francisco's history will be shown through maps made between 1839 and 1854 by our next speaker, **Charles Fracchia**. Mr Fracchia is the founder of the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society, which has more than 3,000 members and a mission of

## CRUELEST ACTS IN MAP WORLD REVEALED

You've got to be sorry you missed hearing about the darkest side of the map world as told by Michael Blanding in the first of The California Map Society Lecture Series annual lectures held last September. Blanding is the author of [The Map Thief](#), published by Gotham Books in 2014 and reviewed by Bill Warren in this newsletter in October of that year.



*Michael Blanding in La Jolla, courtesy Pat Boyce.*

Blanding read from the first chapter how in 2005 E. Forbes Smiley, a well-known East Coast map dealer, was sitting in Yale's Beinecke Library studying a rare atlas when he coughed and reached into his pocket for his handkerchief and unknowingly pulled

out an X-Acto knife which fell to the floor. An alert librarian spotted the knife soon after Smiley left for lunch. By the time he returned the alarmed librarians had notified security. Smiley was eventually found to have the rare and fabulously valuable John Smith 1612 map of Virginia tucked

*continued at BLANDING, page 6*

*continued at SPRING, page 3*



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

April 2016

Over the next several months we will have our annual meeting at the San Francisco Public Library organized by Nick Kanas, our Northern California VP and a visit to the CSU Northridge Library to view their Sanborn Map Collection organized by our Southern California VP, Jon Jablonski. Both will be excellent events and I encourage your participation.

We had our first event under our Stanford alliance last September with an author talk by Michael Blanding on his book *The Map Thief*. We had 75+ members and their guests attend sessions held at the Stanford Libraries, Los Angeles Central Library and the Map and Atlas Museum of La Jolla. Michael's talk was very well received.

Under our arrangement with Stanford we will sponsor two events per year. We are structuring the events to facilitate participation by both our Northern and Southern California members. We are currently planning

events for next fall and winter as follows:

### The California Map Society Graduate Student Paper at Stanford Libraries and in Southern California

Stanford will solicit graduate school candidates from California Universities. A panel of professors and several CMS members will judge the candidates. The winning candidate will receive a \$1,500 cash award and a year's free membership to our society. The winner will present his/her paper at the Rumsey Map Center in mid-October and at the Southern California general meeting shortly thereafter. Expect a high quality presentation. In putting together this program we are using the Ristow Prize presented by the Washington Map society as our guide.

### The California Map Society Lecture Series

We will hold our second lecture series event next winter probably in the same locations as last September. We will begin a process this summer of identifying a speaker. The speaker could be an author with a current book or a cartographer who would generate a high degree of interest among our members. If you have suggestions, please contact me.

I welcome your feedback and program suggestions. You can email me at [president@californiamapsociety.org](mailto:president@californiamapsociety.org).

**John Fleming, President**

IN MEMORIAM  
Eberhard "Eb" Giesecke  
Henry L. Snyder

CMS NEWSLETTER



1539 Magnus. Big mistake. Simon Collection.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

This is my last newsletter. I am stepping off the board of CMS. It has been an honor to serve and I am grateful for the opportunity.

**It is unlikely that there will be further CMS newsletters unless someone steps in to fill the position of VP for Publications.**

Requirements for the job are good humor, organization, time for board meetings and facility with the computer. The rewards include friendships made and advancement of the community that is CMS along with the creation of portfolio pieces if you want to find other opportunities for graphic design and page layout work. Please email me at [vp-pubs@californiamapsociety.org](mailto:vp-pubs@californiamapsociety.org) if you have questions about the position.

I wish to offer thanks and acknowledgment to all those volunteers who helped make this newsletter possible.

*Articles:* Susan Caughey, Bill Warren, Bill Eaton, John Fleming.

*Images:* Pat Boyce, Juliet Rothman, Phil Simon.

*Map to Meeting:* Fred DeJarlais.

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*Mailing chores:* Ed English.

**Mary Holder,  
CMS Publications VP**

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*SPRING, from page 1*

preserving Bay Area history through a broad spectrum of programs, most notably its history walks throughout the City. He is a well-known author and lecturer.

Our scope will widen to include the State of California when **Jim Schein** talks about tracing the development of California through maps. Mr Schein is a map dealer with [a retail store](#) in North Beach (one of the last of the breed).

At noon the meeting will adjourn to the Library's 6<sup>th</sup> floor where the **San Francisco History Center** is located. The Center contains a research collection of maps, books, newspapers, magazines, photographs, posters, ephemera, archives and manuscript collections documenting all aspects of San Francisco life and history. It also houses the archives for the City and County of San Francisco. Susan Goldstein and her staff will show us some very special maps from the Center's large collection.

You will have about an hour and a half for lunch on your own. There are a gazillion nearby lunch choices and a list of suggestions will be available at the meeting.

Following lunch one of our favorite speakers, **Wes Brown**, a long-time CMS member who lives in Denver, will talk about the different ways the world was viewed in the year 1500 as shown by maps produced that year. Mr Brown has been a map collector, student of maps, and author for over thirty years. His primary map collecting interests are the earliest world maps up to the year 1540 and the exploration and settlement of Colorado from the 16th through 20th centuries. He co-founded the [Rocky](#)

[Mountain Map Society](#) in 1990.

**Kerri Young** is the Community Officer of Historypin. [Historypin](#) is an online, user-generated archive of historical photos, videos, audio recordings and personal recollections. Users are able to pin the location and date of their content to Google Maps and also overlay historical photographs and compare them with the contemporary location. The project was created by the non-profit company Shift, with funding and support from Google. The website has over 200,000 assets and recollections from all over the world "pinned" to the Historypin map. Ms Young will talk about using old photographs to make new maps.

We will have a break in the Latino-Hispanic Room after this talk and members will have a chance to refuel with snacks and socializing.

The middle of the afternoon is a time when a lot of us start thinking about heading home. But please try to curb that urge and stay and support the **winners of our student paper competition**. They are from UC Berkeley and will have some unusual topics. CMS will award an honorarium to each winner.

The program will close with the Society's Annual Meeting and election of officers.

*Article by Susan Caughy, with many thanks. — ed.*

REGISTER ONLINE FOR THE  
SPRING MEETING

<http://www.californiamapsociety.org/meetings-events/next-meeting/registration-june-4-2016-meeting>

CMS NEWSLETTER



*1561 S. Munster wood block cannibals in S. America, Simon Collection*



## DIGITAL CMS

Are you a web surfer? Hang ten, digitally speaking, on your way to [www.californiamapsociety.org](http://www.californiamapsociety.org)

Facebook fan? Stay up to date at [facebook.com/CaliforniaMapSociety](https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaMapSociety)

Are you a **Twitter** aficionado? Find our tweets [@CalMaps](https://twitter.com/CalMaps).



The California Map Society meeting will be held at the **Koret Auditorium** of the **Main Branch of the San Francisco Public Library, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco.**

The library is close to the Civic Center BART and Muni stations and **use of public transit is encouraged.**

There is parking under the Civic Center Plaza. Rates are graduated by time and increase to \$5.50 per hour.

For **rate information** please refer to the following webpage:

<https://www.sfmta.com/getting-around/parking/parking-garages/civic-center-garage>

For online directions in advance of driving to the meeting please refer to this webpage:

<http://bit.ly/1RkT787>

California Map Society Northern California Conference, June 4, 2016

Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

- 9:30 - 10:00 AM **CMS Member Check-in** (Latino-Hispanic Room, across the hall from the Koret Auditorium)
- 10:00 - 10:10 **Welcome:** John Fleming, CMS Pres.; and Nick Kanas, M.D., CMS N. Calif. VP
- 10:10 - 10:30 **Susan Goldstein**, M.L.I.S., M.A. (History), City Archivist, and **Christina Moretta**, M.L.I.S., M.A. (History), Photo Curator, San Francisco History Center/Book Arts and Special Collections, San Francisco Public Library. Their talk will be on “Discovering San Francisco through Maps: from Analog to Digital.”
- 10:30 - 11:15 **Charles Fracchia**, Founder of the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society. He is the author of 14 books, five of them on San Francisco history. His talk will focus on: “Early Mapping of San Francisco: 1839-1854,” which will tell the story of the origin of this city through the use of early antiquarian maps.
- 11:15 - 12:00 PM **Jim Schein**, Owner of Schein and Schein Map Store: “Tracing the Development of California through its Maps.” Jim will give us an overview of the state’s development through the use of important historical maps of California.
- 12:00 - 12:30 **Viewing old maps** of the Bay Area and California in the San Francisco History Center (6<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Francisco Public Library). Susan Goldstein and her staff will show us some examples of the special maps in this wonderful collection.
- 12:30 - 2:00 **Lunch** (participants will eat lunch on their own at a nearby restaurant)
- 2:00 - 2:45 **Wes Brown**, Founder, Rocky Mountain Map Society, and CMS Member: “1500: The Year of Eight Separate World Views on Mapping.” His talk will discuss Greek and Roman maps, maps of Claudius Ptolemy, classical Islamic Maps, Biblically-based European maps, portolan charts, maps of European Renaissance, Chinese maps, and Asian Indian maps.
- 2:45 - 3:30 **Kerri Young**, Community Officer, Historypin: “Using Old Photographs to Make New Maps.” She will discuss digital projects that leverage historical maps and photos to give us a better visual understand of the past, such as the fairgrounds of San Francisco’s 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition.
- 3:30 - 3:40 **Break** (Latino-Hispanic Room)
- 3:40 - 4:30 **Student Presentations/Members Present Their Favorite Maps**
- 4:30 - 5:00 **California Map Society Annual Meeting**

This Conference is cosponsored with the San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

*BLANDING, continued from page 1*

into the breast pocket of his blazer.

Blanding, an experienced investigative reporter, gave a thrilling talk as he detailed the rise and fall of E. Forbes Smiley. He had a total of six hours of interviews with Smiley after the thief got out of prison before Smiley refused to talk any more. He also spoke to FBI agents, librarians and map dealers as he pieced together the story and the man.

In the end it was discovered that Smiley had stolen maps—cut them from books and atlases—from at least six libraries. In the end Smiley helped the FBI identify 97 maps worth about \$3 million, although many more were suspected to have been taken. Blanding described Smiley as a brilliant but flawed individual. He was the most knowledgeable person in the world about certain maps and their states but he couldn't manage his finances. Deep in debt, he quickly sold them to his wealthy clientele for hundreds of thousands of dollars. He stole out of desperation for the money, not for the love of the maps he took.

Several well-known map dealers both in the US and Europe bought from Smiley. The second tragedy of the story is that these dealers, who unknowingly sold stolen property, had to reimburse their clients for the maps which were returned to the libraries. These innocent dealers were left holding the bag. Smiley owes them restitution; one reports he gets a check for \$25 or \$50 every few months.

This first California Map Society Lecture Series lecture was held at Stanford where about 75 CMS members, students, faculty and members of the public attended. A few days later Blanding appeared at the Los Angeles Central Library to a smaller group and later at the Map and Atlas Museum in La Jolla.

*Article by Susan Caughey, with many thanks. — ed.*

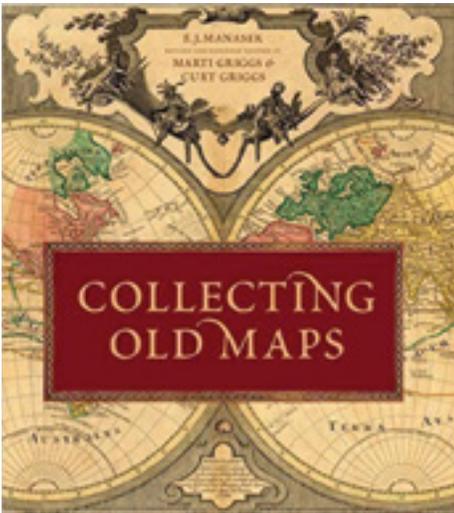
## BAM MEETING

On a warm sunny Sunday afternoon in September, after the last newsletter went to press, the Bay Area Map Group gathered at the lovely home of Phil Simon and Jan Kish. They were very gracious hosts, as always. Phil showed some beautiful maps, some of which are reproduced in this issue of the newsletter, and we enjoyed some wonderful food and wine, courtesy of Jan, a gourmet chef. Members brought maps to discuss and Susan Caughey brought a hand printing roller made of rubber with a world map in relief used in a Canadian school in the 19th century. Amazing! A very pleasant afternoon and one of the best benefits of CMS membership.



*Photos courtesy of Juliet Rothman*

## BOOK REVIEW



**Collecting Old Maps** by Frank Manasek, revised and expanded by Marti and Curt Griggs, Old Maps Press; 2nd edition (2015). 352 pages. For more info please see the website, <http://www.collectingoldmaps.com>. Available for \$75 from this site.

When I first heard this book was being revised I was a little annoyed. Ever since the original edition in 1998 I have been recommending this book to anyone who ever wondered why antiquarian maps were of any interest. Frank Manasek was a map dealer, but also a chemist and teacher and this book was written to enlighten not only the novice but the seasoned collector. I personally used the appendixes which included a foreign language dictionary of map words, a technical explanation of paper making, and of course, a section on “chemistry for map collectors.”

We could overlook the fact that all maps were shown in black and white, after all that was how they were printed. The list of mapmakers was rather incomplete. Overall it was a splendid work which every serious collector should possess in their collection.

Well, OK, lots of things have changed in the eighteen years since the book was first printed. Marti and Curt have

revised - well just about everything. The maps are all in color; even the black and white illustrations have pleasing parchment like backgrounds. The map reproduction work is exceedingly well done and often on larger scale than those of the first edition. The reference section now includes recent scholars' works and mercifully some of the technical material has been replaced with less esoteric illustrations, even a double foldout timeline of production techniques.

The authors offer good advice on what makes maps rare and how they are brought to market. They also approach the other end of the market, how to dispose of your collection productively. Most collectable maps appreciate in value over time, but collectors are repeatedly warned that cashing in that appreciation can be difficult, requiring both market knowledge and patience. Buying maps as investments is not advised.

Carefully selected examples illustrate the evolution of the map making process over time. Bizarre geography is always fun to explore as are pictorial maps from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The explanations of why each particular map was included are precise and well written.

The book is aimed at the novice collector but also includes much information even the more knowledgeable map aficionado can use. A most useful guide, beautifully printed and delightfully written by map experts.

*Reviewed by Bill Warren, with many thanks.  
— ed.*



*1539 Magnus, Simon Collection*

## WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEBSITE?

from [Bill Eaton, CMS VP IT](#)

The books page of our website, [www.californiamapsociety.org/research-education/books](http://www.californiamapsociety.org/research-education/books) holds new reviews from our own Julie Sweetkind-Singer. She covers the following fascinating cartographic histories among others:

Mapping Mormonism. An interesting book on the history of Mormonism using large amounts of geographic data to plot the movement of the settlers to the West, economic development of the church, and the spread of Mormonism around the globe.

Capitalism and Cartography in the Dutch Golden Age covers the spread of the Dutch commercial empire and explores the fascinating history of corporate cartography from ca. 1600 to 1650.

A World of Innovation: Cartography in the Time of Gerard Mercator, Gerhard Mercator (1512-1594), the most important cartographer and globe maker of the 16th century, is remembered for his publication *Atlas Cosmographicae Meditationes de Fabrica Mundi et Fabricati Figura* (1595), and for his cylindrical map projection (1569) - still the most widely used projection today.

The Long Now Foundation offers a fascinating interactive map on 5000 years of warfare at [blog.longnow.org](http://blog.longnow.org). Well worth checking out for this and other aspects.

See you at the San Francisco Public Library on June 4!





1539 Olas Magnus, "Carta Marina", sailors trying to scare away sea monsters by blowing trumpets, tossing cargo overboard to sail faster, Simon Collection

## CMS: WHO WE ARE

The California Map Society was founded in 1978 and became a non-profit corporation in 1987. We are a 501(C)(3) organization. Our purpose is to educate, preserve and disseminate information relating to historical and contemporary cartography, primarily that of California, both for our members and for the general public.

We do this by:

- (a) holding conferences twice a year, one in the spring in Northern California and one in the fall in Southern California;
- (b) sponsoring the annual California Map Society Graduate Student Paper presented at Stanford University and in Southern California;
- (c) sponsoring the California Map Society Lecture Series at Stanford Libraries and in two Southern California locations;
- (d) sponsoring a college student paper competition each year in Northern and Southern California;
- (e) creating and maintaining a website that disseminates information worldwide about the Society, cartography and related matters;
- (f) educating the public through occasional publications and media presentations;
- (g) supporting advancement in map production, utilization and preservation; and,
- (h) encouraging research and teaching in the field of cartography.

California Map Society copyright 2016.

## CALIFORNIA MAP SOCIETY OFFICERS 2015 - 2016

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## OF NOTE

### Asian Art Museum, San Francisco China At the Center: Rare Ricci and Verbiest World Maps

March 4 - May 8, 2016

Developed by Matteo Ricci while in China it is the earliest known Chinese map to depict the Americas. The 1674 Verbiest world map, created by Ferdinand Verbiest for the Chinese court, is being exhibited at San Francisco's [Asian Art Museum](#) for the first time ever. *Late Breaking News: [Great program on April 23.](#)*

### The Huntington Geographies of Wonder: Origin Stories of America's National Parks, 1872-1933.

May 14 - Sept 03, 2016

Commemorating the centennial of the National Park Service, [this exhibition](#) features some 100 items drawn from The Huntington's extensive collection of rare books, manuscripts, photos and more.