

Bibliography for the Board on Geographic Names' 125th Anniversary Open House

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**Hosted by the Library of Congress
Geography and Map Division**

Selections and captions prepared by Hannah Stahl

This Open House display was arranged by theme: Place Name History, Traditions and Practices of the BGN, and the Power of Names. Thus, the items listed in this bibliography are arranged by the same theme and appear in the order in which they were placed for the open house. To find a record for one of these maps in our online catalog, try searching by LCCN or title.

An asterisk [] denotes an item on display in the Geography and Map Division's glass exhibit cases, located in the entry lobby to the Division.*

LCCN: Library of Congress Circulation Number – can search record by LCCN through the LOC online catalog: <https://catalog.loc.gov/>

PLACE NAME HISTORY

1. *Title: *Cosmographia (by Ptolemy)* [also in glass case]
Call no.: G1005 1482 Cosmographia Vault: fol.
LCCN: 48042060

Description:

The gazetteer section of *Cosmographia* provides latitude and longitude values known during the 2nd century CE. These values granted future mapmakers and researchers the ability to reproduce his map.

2. Title: *[Chart of the Mediterranean, Black Sea, and the coasts of Western Europe and northwest Africa]* / Mateus Prunes.
Call no.: G5672.M4P5 1559 .P7
LCCN: 2014588812
Link: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/gmd/g5672m.ct002457>

Description:

A portolan chart from 1559, lists names for Europe and Africa. The chart is characteristic of navigational information used during this time period and demonstrates the significance of place names along sailing routes.

3. *Title: *Virginia / discovered and described by Captayn John Smith, 1606.* [also in glass case]
Call no.: G3880 1624 .S52 1819 Vault
LCCN: 99439987

Description:

A facsimile of John Smith's map (as seen in the Geography and Map display case). This was the most detailed map of the Chesapeake area available until 1673. This map shows the four major rivers in Virginia as their native names: "Powhatan," "Pamunk," "Tappahannock," and "Patowomec." These rivers were eventually renamed as "James," "York," "Rappahannock," and "Potomac." For more information, see the *Research Guide: "Virginia, Discovered and Discribed: John Smith's Map of Virginia and its Derivatives,"* published by the Library of Virginia.

4. Title: *Chart showing the depth of the James and York rivers as they enter Chesapeake Bay, with towns adjacent.*
Call no.: G3842.C5P5 1781 .C4 Vault
LCCN: 74691683

Description:

The map exhibits "new" names for the rivers "Powhatan", and "Pamunk" ("James" and "York").

5. Title: *Descripción de la costa de Yucatan, Sonda de Campeche y baxos adjacentes segun su antigua situación con la derrota que practcaron en solicitud del nombrado Negrillo sin encontrarle el Paquebot del Rey titulado Sn. Carlos al mando del thene. de Navio Dn. Miguel de Alderete y el Vergantin Sn. Juan Nepomuceno al de igual classe Dn. Andres de Balderrama, lo que manifiesta la siguiente ; Diseño de la expressada costa y sus baxos corregida segun las mas seguras noticias, observaciones y sondas que se han practicado en este reconocimiento previniendo que la extensión que se da a el Veril es correspondiente a los puntos de sonda hallados ahora hasta que se compruebe mas prolixamente*

Call no.: G4412.Y8 17-- .D4 Vault

LCCN: 90683704

Link: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/gmd/g4412y.lh000534>

Description:

The map shows the name of the peninsula “Yucatan.” It was rumored that Francisco Hernandez de Cordova asked natives the name of the area, they responded with “We don’t understand your language,” which he heard as “Yucatan.”

6. *Title: *Plan of the city of intended for the permanent seat of the government of t[he] United States: projected agreeable to the direction of the President of the United States, in pursuance of an act of Congress, passed on the sixteenth day of July, MDCCXC, “establishing the permanent seat on the bank of the Potowmac.”: [Washington, D.C.] / by Pierre Charles L’Enfant [also in glass case]*

Call no.: G3850 1791 .L4 Vault

Description:

Facsimile of a manuscript map from 1791, with annotations, including edits to change the spelling of “Potowmac” to its current spelling (Potomac). These edits were made by President Jefferson, and demonstrate the early importance put on the standardization of place names.

7. Title: *Willets' map of the state of New York: containing the principal turnpike roads and the route of the canal from Erie to Hudson's River*

Call no.: G3800 1815 .W5 Vault Shelf

LCCN: 2003630396

Description:

Visualization of the Erie Canal's route, right before construction took place in 1817. A demonstration of how a place name can come to signify a feature; the end point of the canal is Lake Erie. However in this pre-canal map, the Erie Canal is just referred to as “the canal.”

8. Title: *Motor boatmen’s chart: [Atlantic Coast of the United States/prepared for] Motor Boating; [drawn by] F.W. Horenburger*

Call no.: G3709.32.C6P5 svar .M6

LCCN: 2001621604

Description:

No. 17. The New York State Barge Canal System. The map shows the Erie Canal after construction. This map demonstrates how a place name can come to signify a feature; the end point of the canal is Lake Erie.

9. Title: *Hydrographical basin of the upper Mississippi River from astronomical and barometrical observations, surveys, and information.* By J. N. Nicollet, in the years 1836, 37, 38, 39, and 40; assisted in 1838, 39 & 40, by Lieut. J. C. Fremont, of the Corps of Topographical Engineers under the superintendence of the Bureau of the Corps of Topographical Engineers and authorized by the War Department.

Call no.: G4042.M5 1843 .N5 Vault

LCCN: 78692260

Link: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/gmd/g4042m.ct001419>

Description:

This map illustrates how place names of the West were acquired. Nicollet, one of the two mapmakers who created this map, took special care to include place names on his map that were Native American and French, in origin. This map is the earliest accurate map of the eastern border of the central plains. For more information, please see Ralph Ehrenberg's "Mapping the North American Plains: A Catalog of the Exhibition," in the larger work *Mapping the North American Plains, Essays in the History of Cartography*.

10. Title: *American Gazetteer*

Call no.: E14 .M84 (1791) Vault Shelf

Description:

This gazetteer was written by Jedidiah Morse, who also authored geography textbooks. Jedidiah Morse has been called "the father of American geography." He was cited for saying his reason for creating textbooks and gazetteers was because "so imperfect are all the accounts of America hitherto published . . . that from them very little knowledge of this country can be gained." Therefore, Morse felt he needed to close this knowledge gap through the creation of gazetteers and textbooks.

11. Title: *Northeastern Africa*

Call no.: G8222 .A3 1905 .C7

LCCN: 2013594080

Description:

The map shows colonial boundaries and country names in Africa.

12. Title: *Atlas of the World* (National Geographic)

Call no.: G1021 .N38 2014

Description:

The atlas provides names and boundary comparisons with those from the 1905 map *Northeastern Africa*.

TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES OF THE BGN

13. Title: *Geographic Nomenclature*

On loan from the BGN Collection

Description:

Ogden, Herbert G., Gustave Herrle, Marcus Baker, and A.H. Thompson. National Geographic, 1891,II, 261-285. Bound reprint: [Formation of the BGN]. The volume pinpoints the formation and the initiation of traditions and practices of the BGN.

14. Title: *Minutes of Meetings 1 – 36, 1890 – 1894*

On loan from the BGN Collection

Description:

U.S. Board on Geographic Names, Bound volume is a record of the minutes from the BGN meetings. The pages are typed or mimeographed copies, and the volume contains handwritten information, and signatures.

15. Title: *Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands to Seguam Pass*

Call no.: 16011 (Nautical Chart)

Description:

This chart shows the history of BGN. The initiative for establishing the BGN to standardize names originated with agencies that produced nautical charts, where Alaskan Native American names created problems and confusion. For example, Akutan Island's native place name is "Achan-ingiiga" in Aleut. This name was voted on by the BGN in 1890, and again in 1932.

16. * Title: *First report of the United States Board on geographic names* [also in glass case]

Call no.: G105 .U5 1892

LCCN: 04018260

Description:

In addition to being an important historical document for the BGN, this report also shows the decision to name "Achan-ingiiga," an Aleutian Island, as "Akutan Island."

17. *Title: *Official gazetteer of Rhode Island* [also in glass case]

Call no.: F77 .U53

LCCN: 32028197

Description:

This is the first state volume published by the Board on Geographic Names.

18. *Title: *Block Island, town of New Shoreham, Rhode Island.* [also in glass case]

Call no: G3772.B5E635 1980 .B5 MLC

LCCN: 876911

Description: This map accompanies the *Official gazetteer of Rhode Island* and shows place name "Mohegan Bluffs," which is listed in the gazetteer. Mohegan Bluffs is named for the Mohegans, a Native American tribe that used to live on the island.

19. Title: *Ross Sea regions*
Call no.: G9802.R6 1987 .N4
LCCN: 89695770

Description:

This map was used in the BGN's centennial *World of Names* display. It exhibits historical names in Antarctica such as Roosevelt Island, a decision voted on by the BGN in 1947.

20. Title: *Case Brief (Antarctica). No. 183, No. 185, Ross Ice Shelf_12925. July 22, 1947*
On loan from the BGN Collection

Description:

This selection complements the Ross Sea Regions map.

21. Title: *Geographic Names of the Antarctic*
On loan from the BGN Collection

Description:

U.S. Board on Geographic Names. 1995, second edition. This selection complements the Ross Sea Regions map. This is the last gazetteer published by BGN.

22. Title: *Decisions on names in Hawaii*
Call no.: G105 .U54 no. 5403
LCCN: 2220953

Description:

This document is an example of a BGN decision list from the 1950s.

23. *Title: *Gazetteer of Chinese place names based on the index to V.K. Ting atlas. Compiled by the United States Board on Geographic Names. June 1944* [also in glass case]
Call no.: G2305 .T5 1934 Gazetteer 1944
LCCN: 44041247

Description:

An example of a World War Two-era Gazetteer published by the BGN. The gazetteer has Romanized versions of Chinese place names and their accompanying characters. One place name "Yunan," (Yunnan) is famous for its production of *pu-erh* tea.

24. Title: *Gabon*
On loan from the BGN Collection

Description:

This gazetteer of Gabon was published by the BGN in 1952. Accompanies the *Gazetteer of Chinese place names*. This selection provides a contrast between a Cold War gazetteer, and a WWII gazetteer.

25. *Title: *Peruuiae avriferæ regionis typus / Didaco Mendezio auctore. La Florida / auctore Hieron. Chiaues. Guastecan reg.* [also in glass case]
Call no.: G3290 1584 .O7 Vault
LCCN: 84696980
Link: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3290.ct001038r>

Description:

This map shows the place name *Cape Canaveral*, or *Cabo Cañaveral*, which was changed to *Cape Kennedy* after President Kennedy's assassination. The name change caused anger and confusion among the local population who did not support the name change. The BGN rendered a decision to reverse the change in 1973.

26. Title: *Dolph's 1972 indexed street map of the Cape Kennedy area including Cape Canaveral, Cocoa, Cocoa Beach, Merritt Island, Rockledge, Florida*
Call no.: G3932.C25 1972 .D6
LCCN: 74691362

Description:

This map shows the *Cape Kennedy* versus *Cape Canaveral* confusion just before the name was changed back.

27. Title: *Ocean Features Model*
Call no.: G9901.C18 1971 .N8 Model
LCCN: gm 71005679

Description:

A raised relief model containing physical geography feature labels.

28. Title: *Gazetteer of undersea features: names approved by the United States Board on Geographic Names*
Call no.: GC83 .G39 1990
LCCN: 90602778

Description:

This gazetteer illustrates physical geographic features such as are displayed in the Ocean Features Model, and serves as an example of the types of features named by the BGN.

29. Title: *The National Gazetteer of the United States of America, Florida*
On loan from the BGN Collection

Description:

U.S. Geological Survey, Professional Paper 1200-FL, Washington, DC, 1992.

30. Title: *Kosovo and Environs, Geographic Names Index*
On loan from the BGN Collection

Description:

May 1999, third edition. [US Army Topographic Engineering Center, geospatial Information Library Collection]. This is the last gazetteer printed by the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (formerly, National Imagery and Mapping Agency).

POWER OF NAMES

The first three maps (31-33) show the evolution of English place names adapted to names found in Massachusetts, and on to Wisconsin. Of particular focus is the place name “Bradford”. Usage of this name follows the English tradition of being named for prominent features in an area. Bradford comes from the Old English word “brad” meaning “broad” and “ford” or, “forth” meaning “ford”, or “crossing”.

ENGLAND

31. Title: *The Large English Atlas*
Call no.: G1808 .B62 1796 Vault
LCCN: map40000028

Description:

No. 40 is a map of Yorkshire, where Bradford (in this version, “Bradforth”) is located.

MASSACHUSETTS

32. Title: *Essex County; Worcester County*
33. Call no.: G3763.E7F7 1812 .E8 Vault
34. LCCN: 95683218
Link: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3763e.ct004086>

Description:

The town of Bradford is located in Essex County, Massachusetts.

WISCONSIN

35. Title: *Map of Rock County, Wisconsin*
Call no.: G4123.R6G46 1900 .W2
LCCN: 2012593173
Link: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4123r.la001436>

Description:

The town of Bradford is located in Rock County, Wisconsin.

36. Title: *Map of Country Around Pine Ridge Agency*
Call no.: Title Collection: South Dakota, Indians, 1891, 1:506,880, Chief Engineer's Office.

Description:

This selection includes location map(s) of Wounded Knee Creek, SD a year after the massacre. It illustrates feature name association with historical events.

37. Title: *Index to Names on 1:250,000 Scale Maps of Thailand Series 1501*

Call no.: G3200 s250 .U5 (Thailand) X-Copy G&M RR

Description:

This index displays a Romanized version of the capital of Thailand, Bangkok, and a shortened version of the name in Thai script. Bangkok currently holds the title of the longest name in the world. It reads, in Thai script:

กรุงเทพมหานคร อมรรัตนโกสินทร์ มหินทรายุธยา มหาดิลกภพ นพรัตนราชธานีบุรีรมย์
อุดมราชธานีเวศน์มหาสถาน อมรพิमानอวตารสถิต สักกะทัตติยวิษณุกรรมประสิทธิ์

Romanized version:

Krungthepmahanakhon Amonrattanakosin Mahintharayutthaya Mahadilokphop Noppharatchathaniburirom
Udomratchaniwetmahasathan Amonphimanawatansathit Sakkathattiyawitsanukamprasit

Translated:

“City of angels, great city of immortals, magnificent city of the nine gems, seat of the king, city of royal palaces, home of gods incarnate, erected by Vishvakarma at Indra's behest”.

38. Title: *Phēnthī Krung Thēp = Plan of Bangkok*

Call no.: G8029.B3 1936 .S5 LCCN: 93682645

Description:

This selection is a compliment to the gazetteer which shows the abbreviated form of the name “Bangkok,” which appears on this map. The map features place names in both Thai script and English.

39. Title: *Geographical study of Lost : [imaginary locality] / by Jonah Adkins*

Call no.: G9930 2006 .A3 LCCN: 2011594816

Description: This map is a depiction of real place names, and how they relate to characters in the television show *Lost* (2004-2010), and the plot of the story. The map demonstrates how real place names affect popular culture.

40. Title: *Royaume d'Amour en l'Isle de Cythere. Carte decrite par le Sr. Tristan L'Hermitte. T. Sadeler, auct*

Call no.: G9930 1650 .L5 1973

LCCN: 74695043

Description:

This map is a depiction of the Island of Kythira (Cythera), in Greece. Aphrodite was said to have first landed there, making the island a perfect place for the Royaume d'Amour (Kingdom of Love). The map, a facsimile of the original 1650 map, includes fictional place names such as “Grande Plaine d'Indifference” (the Great Plain of Indifference). These are places that lovers who travel in the Royaume d'Amour would eventually reach on their journey.

41. Title: *1931 State of New York Department of Public Works Bureau of Highways Official Map, Showing State Highways and Other Important Roads*
Call no.: Title Collection: New York, Roads, 1931, 1:, NY Dept. of Public Works, General Drafting Co. Inc. (Pub)

Description:

This map shows copyright trap, *Agloe*, located in Delaware County, New York, which was devised by the General Drafting Company Director, Otto J. Lindberg, in the 1930s. *Agloe* would be adopted by Rand McNally a few years later after a shop named “Agloe General Store” was built on the spot of the copyright trap in the original map by the General Drafting Company. Thus, the fictional became real and eventually fictional again when the store was torn down. It is listed in the GNIS as *Agloe* (Not Official), GNIS ID: 2747085. *Agloe* is featured in popular novel *Paper Towns* by John Green, in which Green makes his characters inhabit exclusively copyright traps, or paper towns.

42. Title: *Republique du Zaïre /réalisation par l’Institut géographique national du Belgique en collaboration avec l’Institut géographique du Zaïre. c. 1988; Institut géographique national (Belgium)*
Call no.: G8650 1988.15 LCCN: 90683506

Description:

This map includes the location of the Ebola River, for which the *Ebola* virus is named.

41. Title: *Prizraki proshlogo na karte Kryma, toponimicheskaiâ karta : mäshtab 1:200 000 : vklüchaet--1708 istoricheskikh nazvaniï, 934 utrachennykh naseleennykh punktov / Soiuzkarta ; kartograficheskaiâ podgotovka--A.P. Pavlenko ; redaktor-kartograf--V.N. Donitrash ; direktor--S.V. Prozorovskaia*
Call no.: G7103.C7A8 2008 .P3
LCCN: 2015585405

Description:

This is a place name map of Crimea showing the Russian/Tatar names of abandoned or destroyed populated places.

42. Title: *Darjeeling*
Call no.: Title Collection: India, Darjeeling (city), Pictorial, 1958

Description:

This map demonstrates the power of names. Darjeeling is a type of black tea associated with a region in India.

43. Title: *California Wine Map*
Call no.: Ethel M. Fair Collection

Description:

This map demonstrates the power of names. Place names like *Sonoma* or *Napa* are often associated with wine produced in those regions.

44. Title: *A map of Middle-Earth / Pauline Baynes 69 ; drawn and embellished by Pauline Baynes ; based on the cartography of J.R.R. and C.J.R. Tolkien*

Call no.: G9930 1970 .B3

LCCN: 96682592

Description:

The term “middle-earth” is from an Old English word “middangeard” or “midgard,” meaning literally “middle-earth.” It also follows the old tradition of naming places after features. The inclusion of this map in Tolkien’s novels had an impact on future fantasy novelists, such as the map and its place names found in George R.R. Martin’s popular book series *Game of Thrones*.

45. Title: *Der Cosmographen Von den Britannischen Insuln*

Call no.: G5740 1614 .M Vault

Description:

This selection complements the map of Middle Earth. It demonstrates the old tradition of naming places after features.

46. Title: *Rossig Educational Charts*

Call no.: Muriel H. Parry Collection

Description:

These charts show the solidification of place names through the use of a toy and learning tool developed for children.

47. Title: *A correct globe with new discoveries*

Call no.: G3170 18-- .C6 Vault Cabinet

LCCN: 2002627962

Description:

This globe features place names and boundaries and an interior lining of a celestial map. While beautiful, it is also a useful educational tool for memorizing place names and country boundaries.

48. Title: *Da Qing yi tong er shi san sheng yu di quan tu. /大清一统二十三省輿地全图*

/ Complete map of the twenty-three provinces of the great Qing Dynasty

Call no.: G7821.F7 1890 .S5 Vault

LCCN: gm 71002472

Link: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/gmd/g7821f.ct001902>

Description:

The hand-colored, wood-block printed map depicted on this fan shows the 23 provinces of China. It is an example of the underlying power of place names. The fan, as a decorative accessory, in essence conveys the power of China to all who view it.

49. Title: *[Powder horn with hand-drawn map of the Hudson River (above Albany), Mohawk River, Niagara region, and Lake Ontario in New York Province]*

Call no.: G3801.A9 1770 .P6 Vault Cabinet

LCCN: 2006625857

Link: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/gmd/g3801a.ct001938>

Description:

This powder horn features a map of important highways in New York State during the 1700s. It lists major rivers, towns, and forts along the routes. It is interesting to note how functional items, unrelated to mapmaking, was used to illustrate the importance of towns, forts, and rivers. A description of powder horns in the Baltimore Museum of Art exhibit catalog, *The World Encompassed* (1952) states that powder horns were “an indispensable accessory of the soldier, trader, or frontiersman,” and “offered a convenient means of carrying a map”. A soldier or other traveler could view the powder horn to ascertain his route using names like Lake Champlain, Albany, or the Mohawk Valley, that were featured on the horn.