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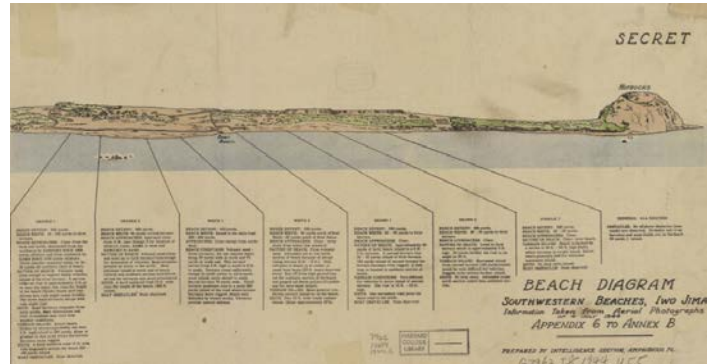
Follow the Map Exhibition at Harvard Map Collection Tells the Stories Behind the Maps

Maps don't just tell us where to go, they tell us where we've been.

Key Points:

- Free and open to the public through Friday, October 26, 2018
- Includes documents from eighteenth century explorers to a secret WWII map—and more

CAMBRIDGE, MA— Behind every map there's a map lover. The new exhibition on the Harvard Map Collection's bicentennial, [“Follow the Map: The Harvard Map Collection at 200”](#) tells the stories of the people who have created, loved, and collected the maps that formed Harvard's world-class collection.



US Navy Intelligence Section, “Beach Diagram: Southwestern Beaches, Iwo Jima,” 1944. Gift of Charles Leo Grace, 1946.

Bringing together materials from Harvard's many libraries, the exhibition follows the people behind the maps, taking us from slavery to German taxation to Europe after World War 1 to the intersection of art and science. The exhibition is free and open to the public between the hours of **9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays in the Pusey Gallery.**

The Harvard Map Collection began in 1818 with a gift of over 5,000 maps from the library of a German scholar, who amassed one of the greatest map collections of the Americas without ever crossing the Atlantic. Harvard acquired this library through a generous donation from a local merchant who made his fortune participating in the Caribbean slave trade. The story of this gift is a sobering reminder that it was paid for with dollars from an industry built on brutality, death and destruction.

“Follow the Map” opens up from this original gift to the last 200 years of mapping. With maps, letters, postcards, and photographs, the exhibition animates the mix of alumni, staff, faculty, and benefactors who have contributed to Harvard's collection. This unique blend of personalities has structured how the Harvard Map Collection continues to evolve.

At “Follow the Map” visitors can explore topics like:

- World War 2 in a secret American map of Iwo Jima and a captured Japanese military map
- A Ukrainian nationalist's maps of Ukraine collected in exile in the United States
- A map of the Rio Grande owned by a founding family of Brownsville, Texas
- An eighteenth-century map of scientific expeditions around the world to determine the precise shape of the Earth

- Landscapes and landforms by the illustrious Hungarian-American cartographer, Erwin Raisz
- Charles Sumner’s map of the spread of slavery from the same year he was beaten on the Senate floor

Since 1818, the Map Collection has collected new maps, old maps, and—in the last thirty years—geospatial data. “Follow the Map” brings the life-stories of Harvard’s collection out from the behind the maps to tell us where our maps have been and where new maps can take us.

About Harvard Library

[Harvard Library](#) is a world-class academic library, an unparalleled resource for learning and research. By creating flexible spaces and innovative services, Harvard Library inspires collaboration, reflection, experimentation, and discovery. Serving as an information hub, the Library connects users to related disciplines and to University-wide teaching resources.

Engaging users through curated discovery, digital collections, reimagined physical space, and specialized research support, Harvard Library delivers exceptional experiences to its user communities. Today, Harvard Library’s holdings range from traditional print collections to rapidly expanding access to digital resources. It is the work of the Harvard Library to provide the University’s faculty, students, and researchers—now and in the future—with comprehensive access to these materials.

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