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BERNARD ROMANS'S MAP OF FLORIDA ENGRAVED BY PAUL REVERE, AND OTHER EARLY MAPS IN THE LIBRARY OF THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

When we consider the materials, devices, tools, and instruments our forefathers used in their discoveries on the American continent and in mapping the newly-found lands, we are left wondering how it all could have been accomplished. When Christopher Columbus sailed from near Palos in Spain on August 3, 1492, he had with him the mariner's compass, which was then in use, but he had yet to learn of the variation of its magnetic needle, which caused him considerable anxiety during his first voyage. He had an infinitely better knowledge of the stars than our graduates from high school, but nothing to compare with that of the two astronomers Sir William and Sir John Herschel (1780-1850). His schooling had been the astronomy and geography of Claudius Ptolemaeus, born in 139 A. D., (whom we know as Ptolemy) whose work in geography revised, rewritten, and re-edited a number of times, contained a Catalogue of all the principal cities and ports in the Mediterranean with their latitude (Mekos) and longitude (Platos) worked out to the twelfth part of a degree. The latest issue of this work prior to Columbus's departure was published in Latin, in Rome, in 1490.

Columbus could not have taken with him the very clumsy instrument called the cross-staff, as this was first used for ascertaining the angle between the moon and a fixed star in 1514 ; but he did have some device whereby he could ascertain the speed of his ships and the distance travelled each hour of the day and night.

The floating piece of wood called the log to which is attached a long line with knots tied to it, spaced in the ratio of one-half minute to the hour, was not used until 1570. We will presume he took with him an hour glass, a minute glass, and a sun dial to be used if perchance the ship should touch land ; but the clock with a long chain and weight, without a pendulum (which was not perfected until 1680) would not have kept Palos time correctly very many days on his voyage to the west.

It might be questioned whether those who followed Columbus after his other voyages in 1493, 1498, and 1502 had any greater knowledge of navigation than he. The Cabots in 1497-1498, Da Gama 1497, Vespucci 1497-1500, Cortereals 1500-1501, and De Campo 1508 might each have been guided by the loadstone of untold wealth. Tables of declination and ascension however became common ; Nunez in 1537 invented various methods of computing the rhumb line and sailing the great circle ; two treatises were written on systematic nagivation in 1545; Mercator's chart dates from 1569 ; tables of meridional parts came into use in 1597 ; and the quadrant about 1600 - but what of these did De Leon 1513-1520, Narvaez 1528, or DeSoto 1539 know when they sailed on unknown seas or traversed unknown wildernesses? Laudonniere in 1564 surprises us in his casual reference to latitude and longitude, for the measure of a degree on the meridian was not ascertained until 1631, nor the first sextant made until 1666. Hawkins followed in 1565, Drake 1577 to 1579, many others came, and we approach the time when this account of certain old maps of Florida now in the library of The Florida Historical Society can be begun.

The earliest of these, while only a sketch 5 x 6 inches, fairly well represents the north coast of the Gulf of Mexico, Florida, and Georgia. It is referred

to as a section of Hernando Colon's map of America, 1527 ; and appears in Lowery, *Spanish Settlements in the United States, 1513-1561,* page 146.

The next map, dated 1570, gives the latitude of St. Augustine fairly correctly, although silent as to longitude, This a photograph of a manuscript map in the Department of Marine in Paris, France; and measures 10 x 14 inches.

A map of 1582, 1584 or 1595 entitled La Florida, is a print from an engraving published in Antwerp, and hung in the library of the King of France for two hundred years. W. Burnian mentions this map in his manuscript. It measures 8 x 81/2 inches, and is fairly correct in both latitude, 25 degrees to 40 degrees, and longitude, 79 degrees to 81 degrees west.

A map of Florida, dated 1594, is a print from a very beautifully embellished copper-plate engraving, picturing two ships on the high seas, and a large whale with its tail very much above the water. This map was drawn by Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues who accompanied Laudonniere and was, after the death of Le Moyne, engraved in Paris by Theodore de Bry, who was privileged to add the embellishments above mentioned. On this map the island of Cuba is more accurately shown than is the peninsula of Florida, or the coast of Georgia, which are both decidedly erroneous. In latitude it is fairly correct; but longitude is shown by lines perpendicular to the equator in the Mercator chart method, first introduced in 1569. The engraving measures 14 x 18 inches.

Another map of Florida, dated 1594, evidently by the same geographer and executed by the same engraver, on copper plate as the preceeding map, has no less than ten ships under full sail, but shows Florida with the peninsula considerably shortened (as in the previous map) together with the islands of Cuba, Haiti, and others, extending to the north coast of South

America, and as far west as Yucatan, New Spain, (now Mexico), Nicaragua, and Panama. In longitude it is supposed to cover from the 290th degree to the 330th progressing of course, entirely round the world east from Greenwich or Paris. This engraving measures 131/2 x 17 inches.

Next is a map of the Western Hemisphere, engraved in Paris, 1596, evidently by Theodore de Bry. Its title is given in full: America sive novis orbis respectv evropaeorum inferior globi terrestris pars. 1596. This map, showing a fair representation of both North and South America, was evidently drawn from Drake's quest along the Pacific coast for galleys overloaded with precious cargo. Globular in projection, this map might readily pass for a page in a modern atlas, were it not for the engraver's weakness for embellishment. In the four otherwise vacant corner spaces of the circular hemisphere, on a square sheet of paper 13 x 141/2 inches, are the four figures of Columbus 1492, Magellanius (whom we have since learned to call Magellan) 1519, Vesputius (which should have been written Vespucci) 1497, and Francisco Pisard 1526 (evidently intended for Pizarro 1528). There is no doubt of the originality of this print, but one might have wondered why Theodore de Bry had not given one of the vacant corner spaces to Drake, whose remarkable voyage had supplied much of the coast line shown on the map. The map is remarkably well drawn and shows the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn and the Equator, but the degrees of longitude run from 180 to 360 degrees, and the island of Haiti is still called Hispaniola, which was the name Columbus gave it. It is only fair to say that no engravings of Florida have ever been struck before or since more artistically engraved than those published by Theodore de Bry, although a great many are of equal merit.

1606 is the probable date of our next map. This map, is almost as well engraved as the above and is embellished with three ships, two cherubs, and two wind-roses. Lowery is of the opinion that the engraving was made from one of LeMoyne's drawings by (originally) Michael Mercator, in 1606, but is one of those maps that have been copied, enlarged, or reduced by atlas printers and publishers a number of times, some of whom would use the others' copperplate engravings after making a few additions and alterations thereto. The engraving entitled: Virginiae partis australis et Floridae partis orientalis interjacentium regionum, is doubtless the work of Jan Jansson in 1642, as the size of his print 38.5 x 50 cm. is identical with the size of this engraving.

The reader perhaps knows the various processes used in the reproduction of paintings, and it may only be necessary to give the date engraving was introduced, 1461, and perfected to such an extent that even the artist himself, who had mixed his own colours for his canvas, excelled in and contented himself with the light and dark effect to be had in cutting lightly or deeply and widely into a copper plate, and by etching through a waxed surface of the plate with needle points and, using acid, to do the work of the dry point in the hands of the engraver.

Lithography, or the art of printing from stone, was introduced about 1780, and reversed the incision of the engraver to a raised surface, by the action of acid, on that part of the stone, from which it was not desired. to obtain an impression. The process being finally simplified by placing an inked drawing face down on the warmed surface of the stone to which the ink adhered, and the paper afterwards removed by moistening. While lithography has been greatly improved upon, and now very creditably reproduces maps of every description, it cannot be compared with the

clear-cut lines of the almost lost art of engraving. And here again the writer will digress long enough to say that the United States Geological Survey has adopted as the method of publication of their maps of topography the dual process of engraving and lithographing; the former to supply lettering and lines in black ink, and the latter to supply the various colors, one at a time, to the paper.

From 1606 to 1714 is a long jump, but 1714 is the date of our next map, which happens to be a photograph 7 x 9 inches taken from an engraving which was printed by Pieter Vander, Aa, at Leyden, in Holland, 1714.

A 1729 map of Florida is a print from an engraving of the title "Florida, called by ye French Louisiana" and is by H. Moll, Geographer. It is fairly correct in latitude north of the equator, and in longitude west from London or Paris. A degree is given as 60 miles, The map extends to the coast of Mexico and shows the northern coast of the Gulf, and part of Carolina, which appears to join Florida. The coast line of Florida is far from what it is in reality. St. Augustine is shown, and the old Spanish trail stretches across Florida in a westerly direction. Evidently it was prepared to "show the limit Charles II granted to the present proprietors of Carolina in 1663." Also are shown all forts and defenses together with the date of their erection. It also indicates Pensacola as the best harbor on the coast. It measures 8 x 101/2 inches.

The writer has made reference to London and Paris as the point from which longitude was calculated. For later maps Washington, and even Ferro, one of the Canary Islands in the north Atlantic, have been used, Germany and the United States early accepted Greenwich with its large observatory, now a suburb of London, as the place of first or principal

meridian ; but it was not until an international conference had been held in Washington in 1884 that the other nations accepted Greenwich also.

Here is a map of the Florida peninsula about the year 1740 by Guillaume de la Haye, an engraver engaged in printing maps, which shows Indian villages and Spanish missions. The copy is a photograph of an engraving.

From 1763 to 1783 Florida was a British possession, so we go to London for the next map : "A Map of Florida from the Latest Authorities" (131/2 x 141/2 inches) ; printed by T. Jefferys, Geographer to His Majesty, 1763. This was so hurriedly prepared as to admit much topography not existing. It appears in Roberts, *Account of Florida*, London, 1763.

This inaccurate map was immediately followed by the appointment of William Gerard De Brahm as Surveyor General for the Southern Division of North America which position he held until 1783. By birth De Brahm was a Dutchman, and in St. Augustine met and employed one of his countrymen by the name of Bernard Romans, whom he appointed a Deputy Surveyor for Georgia in 1766 to take soundings off the shore. In a manuscript written by De Brahm, and now to be seen in Harvard University Library, an entry appears of the employment of Bernard Romans as draughtsman, mathematician and navigator.

Maps made under De Brahm's direction by his subordinates George Gould, Surveyor of the Florida coast, Captain Bishop, Captain Collet, Captain Monzon, Captain Hester, Captain Dalzel, Bernard Romans, and others, were not engraved and printed in London until 1788, 1794 and 1818 when acts of Parliament authorized their publication.

Romans severed his employment with De Brahm early in 1774, and in 1782 was, alas, a prisoner in the hands of the British. We hear of him again from an

entry taken from Paul Revere's account books [1] dated May 4th, 1774, charging Captain Bernard Romans, "To Engraving a Plate for a Map of East Florida- ten pounds, and another entry on July 9th, 1774, charges Captain Bernard Romans, "To Engraving on Copper-plate Part of a Map of Florida seven pounds."

Maps from the above two copper-plate engravings were to accompany a much advertised book bearing the title "A Concise Natural History of East and West Florida, with two whole sheet maps," by Bernard Romans, for which subscribers were urged to make payment in advance of publication, due to "the vast Expense and bodily Fatigue of the advertiser", coupled with the fact that "for eight years past he has done it at his own cost" and "now throws himself on a generous public." [2]

Elsewhere we read that he considered himself "the most skilful draughtsman in all America", and was "enabled to take more exact survey of places with paper and pencil, than 99 can besides me, take with all the circumstantial apparatus generally used."

The lettering on the large map engraved by Paul Revere is extremely well done, but the cartouches, while elaborate, are rather crudely executed, and of course are not comparable with the European engravers' art of 1594 to 1734.

There is no doubt of the genuineness of the large rolled map which The Florida Historical Society has in its possession. It was struck from the largest of the two copper plates engraved by Paul Revere. The map has shrunk but slightly in the intervening one hundred and fifty-six years, to fifty-five by sixty-four inches, and the paper is now falling away from its mounting.

[1] See P. Lee Phillips, *Notes on the Life and Works of Bernard Romans.* DeLand, Florida, The Florida State Historical Society, 1924. p. 25.

[2] Idem. ***p. 26.***

The title and description as given in *Notes on the Life and Works of Bernard Romans* by P. Lee Phillips, Custodian of Maps in the Library of Congress, published by the Florida State Historical Society, supplies the means of ready identification, to wit:

"Part of the Province of East Florida." Scale English & French leagues 20 to a degree. British statute miles 69 1/2 to a degree. Dutch miles 15 to a degree. 1 map on two sheets. 24 1/2 x 87 and 57 3/4 x 66 1/2. [3] The dedication on the first sheet reads: "To the Marine Society of the City of New York, in the province of New York, in North America, this chart is Humbly inscribed, by their most Obedt. Servant. B. Romans."

The second sheet has two dedications in cartouches, one reading : "To all Commanders of Vessels round the Globe, this Chart is respectfully dedicated; by their very humble Servant B. Romans," and "To the Honble. the Planters of Jamaica, and all Merchants Concerned in the trade of that Island, being the two Societies chiefly interested in the navigation herein explained this Chart is most respectfully dedicated, by their very hble Servt. B. Romans".

It is the second sheet of which The Florida Historical Society is fortunate enough to have a copy. This consists of two sheets of equal length mounted together, measuring over all 55 x 64 inches. [4]

It is interesting to read, by way of learning the progress made in map making, that John Lorrimer, Esquire, M. D. made observations of the eclipses of Jupiter's satellites to obtain the longitude of the entrance of Pensacola harbor in 1766. In drawing his map Romans used these observations for reckoning points along the west coast of Florida and westward. [5]

Chronologically, the next map is: "A map of the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and

[3] ***Lowery, Descriptive List of Maps of the Spanish Possessions Within the Present Limits of the United States, 1502-1820;*** Washington, 1912, p. 370: "3 sheets, 53.3 x 233, 73.7 x 161.5, 66 x 161.5 centimeters."

[4] The copy of the complete map in the Library of Congress is believed to be the only one which has survived.

[5] Phillips, op. cit. p. 128.

Georgia, comprehending the Spanish Provinces of East and West Florida, as exhibiting the boundaries as fixed by the Treaty between United States and Spain in 1783". This print is taken from an engraving, 12 1/2 x 14 1/2 inches, published in Boston, by Thomas and Andrews, from a drawing of surveys and observations by Joseph Purcell, and engraved by Amos Doolittle, New Haven, 1788. This accords with Lowery's mention. In latitude the map is fairly accurate. Its longitude has the first or principal meridian through Washington, but also gives the longitude west from London.

Another, of the date 1784 or 1789, is a print from an engraving 6 x 10 inches-"Map of the Coast of East Florida from the River St. Johns, southward to or near Cape Canaveral". T. Conder, Sculpt. This map appears in Bartram's *Travels*.. . . ., London, 1791.

1821. This "Map of Florida" is evidently struck from a copper-plate engraving and is the work of a real artist. East and West Florida are shown divided by the Appalachicola (!) River; Detailed drawings appear of Mobile, Pensacola, and Tampa harbors. The measurements are 17 x 19 inches. Only two towns, Pensacola and St. Augustine appear.

1822.. A "Map of Florida" from a copper-plate engraving depicting the coast line of Florida and the boundaries between Florida and Georgia very much as they are today. Only two counties are shown, Escambia and St. Johns, which fact furnishes the date, 1822. It is 11 x 13 inches, and is well engraved. The information is given that a degree is equal to 69 1/2 miles, but it is not said whether the degree is of latitude or longitude. The first or principal meridian is through Washington.

In 1824 Colonel Robert Butler, of Tennessee, *was* appointed Surveyor General of the Territory of Florida, with his office in Tallahassee. The township maps

drawn by each deputy surveyor under Colonel Butler's direction and that of his successors in office are very crude, but nevertheless are the best the State of Florida has today.

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