

Cartographic Collections at the University of British Columbia Library

by FRANCES WOODWARD

The University of British Columbia was founded in 1914. During that fateful summer the University Library faced its first crisis when J.T. Gerould, Librarian of the University of Minnesota, who had been hired to buy books in Europe, was detained in Leipzig as a spy.¹ Though the Library has not often since been caught up so colorfully in historical events, it has long collected materials of value for historical research. The germ of the present historical collection arrived at the Library in 1931 when the Valedictory Class of Arts donated a large collection of books, manuscripts, newspapers, photographs and maps relating to Pacific Northwest history. Over the years, the collection of historical materials has grown to serve students and faculty, but, as a publicly funded institution, the Library may be used by anyone. In the 1940s, the F.W. Howay and Robie Reid collections of books, manuscripts, maps, and photographs relating to Pacific Northwest history were donated to the University. In 1960, an expansion of the Main Library building enabled the formation of a Special Collections Division to bring together the house collections of rare and "special" books, the University archives, and historical maps, manuscripts and photographs.

Not until 1966 was a librarian appointed with responsibility for the historical map collection. At that time, there were about 4000 maps, some of which related to Canadian and Pacific Northwest history, and some of which formed the nucleus of a representative collection for the study of the history of cartography and the historical cartography of North America. Other maps and plans related to the University. In addition, there was a valuable collection of Japanese maps of Tokugawa era (1645-1867).

Since 1966, most of the historical maps have been cataloged and most of the maps accompanying manuscript and record collections have been inventoried. The Division now has approximately 7000 maps ranging from wall maps to

1 Laurenda Daniells, "The Special Collections of the Library of U.B.C.," *British Columbia Library Quarterly*, v. 36 (Spring 1973): 41-59.

microforms. As the collection has grown, the number of maps consulted has increased from 70 in 1960 to 626 in 1980.

THE HOWAY AND REID COLLECTIONS

The map collection begun with the donation by the Valedictory Class of 1931 was greatly enlarged by the bequests of Judge F.W. Howay in 1944 and Dr. Robie Reid in 1945. Among the atlases in Howay's collection were Cook's atlas to his *Voyage to the Pacific Ocean* (London, 1784), and Espinoza's *Atlas para el viage de las goletas Suil y Mexicana al reconocimiento del Estrecho de Juan de Fuca en 1792* (Madrid, 1802). Dr. Reid's bequest contained Dufлот de Mofras' *Exploration du Territoire de l'Oregon, des Californies et de la Mer Vermeille---Atlas* (Paris, 1844). The publication of Cook's *Voyage* brought the North West Coast to the attention of the world, and his charts were heavily used by later explorers and cartographers. Vancouver's voyage established Britain's claim to the North West Coast, and his charts, which combined the results of surveys by the Spaniards as well as his own remained the most detailed maps of the coast for many years. Espinoza's *Atlas* was the first Spanish publication of charts of the North West Coast. Dufлот de Mofras' *Atlas* includes one of the first published maps to depict the geography of the area between the coast and the Rockies.

Howay was a founder of the Historic Sites Board of Canada and the British Columbia Historical Association, and was the first to write on many British Columbia historical topics. If a publication was not available for his library, he often acquired a copy. If there was no English translation, he had one made. In this way he acquired a sizable collection including maps, in original or copy form, of western Canada and the Pacific Northwest.

Howay's maps range from Delisle's maps showing the mythical geography of de Fonte to British Admiralty charts, Spanish voyages of exploration, blueprints of the site of an Hudson's Bay fort, photocopies of the manuscript maps in the British Columbia Department of Legal Surveys, promotional maps for new British Columbia "cities." Howay's friend, Robie L. Reid, was a lawyer and historian, a founding member of the B.C. Historical Association. He was also instrumental in launching the *British Columbia Historical Quarterly*.

About the same time as the Howay and Reid bequests, Mrs. A.J.T. Taylor presented the Library with her husband's Arctic collection, much of which had been assembled with the help of his friend, the Arctic explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson. Taylor, a native of Victoria, was a prominent engineer in British Columbia involved in building the Lion's Gate Bridge, the British Properties, and the Capilano Estates. During the War he was an advisor to the British Ministry of Production in London and New York, and for ten years was responsible for the Guinness interests in British Columbia.

ROGERS-TUCKER MAP COLLECTION

In 1961, funds were donated in memory of a former faculty member, Dr. Gilbert Tucker, to set up a collection of historical maps of Canada, with emphasis on French Canada and the Pacific. Gilbert North Tucker (1896-1955), a native of Vancouver, was a professor of Canadian history at UBC from 1948 until his death. While there, he helped the University Library to develop the best collection of

history and literature of French Canada west of Montréal, and he was working on a critical study of the historians of French Canada when he died. Mrs. Tucker became interested in the project to establish an historical cartography collection, and her sister, Mrs. E.T. Rogers, Sr., (of the B.C. Sugar Refinery family) provided the initial funds and some later donations. This provided an opportunity to begin the development of a more general collection of historical cartography, with emphasis on North America.

With the advice of Professors Coolie Verner and A.L. Farley, Basil Stuart Stubbs, then head of Special Collections, was able to develop a representative collection of the work of many important cartographers prior to 1850, such as Ortelius, Mercator, Jansson, Jaillot, Robert de Vaugondy, Delisle, Bellin, Jefferys, Faden and the Arrowsmiths. Dr. Farley is a professor of Geography at UBC. His doctoral dissertation was on the historical cartography of British Columbia, and he has published two atlases of British Columbia. Basil Stuart Stubbs was University Librarian from 1964 to 1981 when he became the Director of School of Librarianship. He collaborated with Dr. Verner, a professor of Adult Education with a penchant for historical cartography, on a cartographical history of Canada called *The Northpart of America* which was finally published a few days before Verner's² death in 1979.

As most of the important atlases were already beyond our means, the policy was established to acquire as many facsimile atlases and maps, and historical cartography literature as possible, as they were published. All of the atlases published by Theatrum Orbis Terrarum and much of the literature reprinted by Meridian Press were acquired as well as all the facsimile maps we could find, until the volume of reprints rose and the availability of funds diminished, forcing a more selective acquisitions policy to be adopted.

Coolie Verner added a number of interesting items over the years, culminating with the bequest of his library, map collection and papers in 1979. His map collection consisting of some 400 maps, including originals and photocopies, has been used in research for the forthcoming exhibition of the Glenbow-Alberta Institute on the opening of the Canadian West.

GEORGE H. BEANS COLLECTION

In 1964 the collection of Japanese maps of the Tokugawa Era (1645-1867) which had been compiled by George H. Beans, of the Philadelphia Seed Company, came on the market. Beans had published a catalogue of his collection in *A List of Japanese Maps of the Tokugawa Era*, with three supplements, between 1951 and 1963, at his Tall Tree Library press in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania. He then decided that his collection was about as complete as he could make it, and began to look for a new area of collecting.

2 For an obituary, see Edward H. Dahl, "Professor Coolie Verner 1917-1979," *Cartographica*, v. 17 (Spring 1980): 118-120; for a bibliography of his work, see Frances Woodward, "Coolie Verner's publications relating to the history of cartography and carto-bibliography," *Cartographica*, v. 17 (Spring 1980): 120-122; for a review, see Edward H. Dahl and Conrad E. Heidenreich, "A critical analysis of *The Northpart of America*, a facsimile atlas of early Canadian maps," *Cartographica*, v. 17 (Spring 1980): 1-23.

Basil Stuart Stubbs, then head of Special Collections, was personally interested in cartography and in Japanese culture, and felt that, as Asian Studies is a specialty of this University, the Library would be justified in acquiring the Beans Collection. He was able to interest some Friends of the Library to make money available for the purchase. The University is interested in Asian Studies because of British Columbia's large Asian population, position on the Pacific Coast, and trade relations with Asian countries.

The transfer of the Beans Collection from Pennsylvania to Vancouver was reported in the international journal for the history of cartography, *Imago Mundi* (v. 18, 1964, p. 90), which stated that "it is the intention to continue to develop it along the lines originally set out" by Mr. Beans in the "Introduction" to his *List*. Maps have been added to the collections by the University of British Columbia Library, including some which did not appear in the *List* or any of the *Supplements*. The collection now contains almost 900 maps.

This collection includes a large number of sheet maps, several scrolls, some screens, *Fukanzus* ("bird's-eye views" of landscapes), many "atlases" and geographies. In addition, there are maps on Imari porcelain and a printing block. Although most of the maps are printed from wood blocks, there are some copper engravings as well. Besides maps of Japan as a whole, there are maps of the various provinces, of cities such as Edo (Tokyo), routes to shrines, water and land highways and plans of shrines and castles. Other areas of the world are represented with maps of the world and the major continents, including America, and countries, such as China, and the United States. Many of the prominent Japanese artists of the period are represented, such as Hokusai, Hiroshige, and Sadahide.

Many of the maps are beautiful works of art, with colours as bright as when they were printed, or in some cases, painted. Careful attention has been paid to detail, such as the people depicted along the Tokaido Road and the caves on the slopes of Mount Fujiyama. The period covered by this collection reveals a change in cartographic style from the artistic "bird's-eye view" to the utilitarian scientific cartography of the West. Printing methods, too, change from crude black and white wood block prints, through sophisticated, highly detailed, multi-coloured prints to copper-plate engravings. The Buddhist view of the world with a large China at the centre and the rest of the world around its periphery gives way to the Mercator's projection which depicts the world according to scientific rather than religious principles.

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

The major collection in the University Archives is that of campus plans ranging from photographs of manuscript plans submitted in the Provincial Government's competition for a university in 1912 to the latest plans on three scales compiled from aerial surveys in 1980. Some of the plans are manuscripts or photocopies, but most are lithographed maps, mainly by the University's Information Services or Physical Plant. There are also a few air photographs in the Archives collection, but more are to be found in the Department of Geography's Map Library, which has a large collection of air photography of British Columbia.

The Archives has a small number of maps produced by individuals or departments on campus, such as the *British Columbia Atlas of Resources*, and its

successor, the *Atlas of British Columbia*, and the climate maps produced for the Canada Land Inventory – ARDA in 1965-66, all compiled under the direction of A.L. Farley, and the *Vegetation of the Southwestern Fraser Lowland, 1858-1880*, compiled under the direction of Margaret North, also of the Geography Department.

There are a number of collections of papers in the Archives which include maps and architectural plans, such as those of Coolie Verner, M.Y. Williams, former head of the Department of Geology who worked with the Geological Survey of Canada at various times, Gilbert Tucker who collected copies of maps and plans of New France, and Thompson, Berwick, Pratt & Partners, an architectural firm involved with the University since the firm's founders won the initial competition in 1912. There are also some small archival collections which are composed solely of maps, such as that of three maps of the old Fairview Campus compiled for the Archives by a former student from his field notes made in 1923, and blueprints of maps made by students in the Department of Sociology laboratories in the 1940s.

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Many of the manuscript collections in the Division contain maps. In an effort to make the maps more accessible, and to provide them with better storage conditions, a programme was begun to remove folded maps from the record boxes, flatten them, and store them in map cabinets, and at the same time to identify those in need of further conservation and restoration. An inventory of maps from each manuscript collection is made, and a copy is kept with the inventory for that manuscript collection. Another copy is sent to the Map Division of the University Library. Additional copies may be sent to the donor or anyone who might have a particular interest in that collection.

Most of the early collections were literary or historical in nature, but over the years the emphasis has changed to labour and political organizations and industries in British Columbia, particularly in Vancouver. The first political collection to be acquired was the Angus MacInnis Memorial Collection.³ This collection is composed mainly of the records transferred from the Boag Foundation in 1964, consisting of socialist and early CCF records. Later political acquisitions were the provincial office papers of the New Democratic Party (first deposit 1972), the Liberal Party (1972) and the Progressive Conservative Party (received 1976). The maps in these political collections are mainly of electoral districts, mostly provincial ridings, in various elections.

Of the "Industrial" collections, one of the largest is the British Columbia Electric Railway company, acquired in 1964 when the Provincial Government expropriated the BCER Company and the British Columbia Power Commission to form the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority. This collection of 650 maps (ranging from 1861 to 1961) is composed of manuscript, blueprint and lithographed maps, diagrams, engineering and architectural drawings used by the Company in connection with its street and interurban railway lines, hydroelectric development

3 For further information about the MacInnis and other collections see George Brandak, "Labour sources in the UBC Library's Special Collections Division," *Archivaria*, no. 4 (Summer 1977): 166-176.

and distribution, and property. An example of the lithographed maps is D.R. Harris' *1905 Map of New Westminster District* [1:63 360], which measures 83 x 231 cm. This very useful map of the Lower Fraser Valley as far east as Hope shows roads, railroads, surveyed lots and townships, timber berths, municipalities, reserved lands, salmon canneries on the Fraser River, and some topography. In addition, on this copy red and blue lines have been added to show BCER belt lines. A number of the manuscript plans are details of company property, railway right of way, and railway transmission line crossings. There are architectural plans of barns, stations and streetcars.

The Edwin F. Carter Collection (1919-1958) is composed of 439 manuscript and blueprint engineering and architectural plans of grain elevators, houses, ships and related equipment in British Columbia, Australia and Shanghai. Part of the collection relating to Carter's work on the west coast of the United States was transferred to the University of Washington when the collection was acquired in 1977.

Most of the other "industrial" collections are smaller, and are generally related to the British Columbia fishing industry including plans of canneries, and machines, such as the "iron chink," and fishing vessels and equipment. The records of the Reliance Motor and Machine Works (1924-1963), acquired in 1980, include plans, specifications and other details for machinery for many other companies, including BCER and fishing companies and canneries. Three small collections are related to mining (Cariboo Gold Quartz Mining Company, Dolly Varden Mines, and J.G.G. Hall), and three to forestry (P.S. Bonney, Clair G. Dunham, and C.D. Orchard.) The Insurers' Advisory Organization (1890-1969) collection, acquired from the Pacific Region headquarters in 1975, is probably the largest collection. Most of the collection consists of fire insurance plans of British Columbia (and some Yukon municipalities), including both copies of plans returned by individual insurance companies and the head office Plan Division working copies. In addition there are detailed plans of a few office buildings, rough field sketches of parts of municipalities, and working copies of town plans. The majority of the fire insurance plans are the standard 1:600 scale on 25 x 21 inch sheets. About half a dozen are odd shapes and sizes, and the final edition of the fourteen-volume plan of Vancouver, and the volume of cannery plans are on the small format 13 x 12 inch sheets. In addition, there are small format municipal Water Works Maps which accompany Inspection Reports.

Use

As access to a collection is improved, its use increases. The IAO collection has been the most heavily used, ranging from class assignments in a variety of disciplines to documentation for urban historians, architectural conservationists, heritage site planners, sociologists, and industrial and economic historians. Copies of insurance plans have been used to illustrate articles, reports, talks and exhibitions. Use of the other collections is growing. The BCER Collection is a particularly valuable one for the Lower Mainland and Greater Victoria. Of all the collections, the maps in this collection are used the most by users of the related textual records. In general, however, most users are seeking specific maps or maps of a certain area. Few users of the textual records have taken time to look at the maps, even though a copy of the map inventory is attached to the general inventory to the collection. It seems that cartographic archives and map libraries must

educate people to regard maps as more than illustrations to be left to the last minute if they are considered at all.

ACQUISITION

By the time the various historical collections were consolidated in 1960, the nucleus of a valuable historical map collection was well established. Since then, the growth of the map collection has followed guidelines similar to the acquisition policy of the Division. Maps, atlases and reference material supplementing existing holdings have been acquired. In order not to duplicate maps kept in the Library's Map division, maps of a date later than 1900 are not normally acquired. However, for conservation reasons sets of the various map series of the old British Columbia Department of Lands, such as the Pre-emptor's, Degree, Topographic, Regional, and General series are kept in Special Collections. Other twentieth century maps are acquired only if they are rare or fragile, except in special areas such as fire insurance plans.

With ever increasing attention being paid to our architectural heritage, the demand for architectural plans is growing. At present our major collection of architectural plans is concerned with our own institution, but we have a few in other collections. We would, of course, like to expand this area of our collecting, particularly to meet the needs of our own students.

A relatively recent aspect of our collecting is in the area of technology. We have a number of collections containing engineering drawings, mainly in the areas of fishing and shipping. Fishing is one of the major areas of research on this campus.

CONSERVATION

Conservation is probably our most pressing problem. Every aspect of the collection has outgrown our facilities. The Division's total staff has grown from two librarians and two library assistants in 1966 to three librarians, two archivists, and three library assistants in 1981. The book collection is catalogued by the Library's Cataloguing Division, but the five professionals are responsible for all other processing, acquisitions and reference carried on in the Division. Both the historical maps and the cartographic records are the responsibility of one librarian/archivist on a less than half-time basis. In-house conservation is minimal, but in the last few years a portion of the Library's budget for binding has been allotted to Special Collections for conservation, enabling us to get proper treatment for ten to twenty maps a year. Unfortunately, the nearest independent conservator who has the knowledge and equipment to preserve our maps is now in Victoria.

EXHIBITIONS

The University's Fine Arts Gallery had an exhibition of maps from the Beans Collection in 1966, and the Special Collections Division has used them in displays a number of times since then. The most recent display was a small exhibition provided for the official opening of the new Asian Centre in June 1981. A number of lectures and reports have been given using this collection, including a paper presented by Basil Stuart Stubbs to the Association of Canadian Map Libraries in Vancouver in 1970.⁴

The Special Collections Division has some display cases within the Division. Many exhibitions in these cases have used maps from our collections, usually along

with other material, but on a number of occasions they have been displayed on their own. A number of maps have been loaned to museums and galleries with proper staff and facilities for exhibitions. Several maps were used in the Captain Cook Bicentennial Exhibition mounted by the Vancouver Museum in 1978. A proper exhibition area is planned for Special Collections in the new library, whenever it may materialize.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Several maps from the collection are described according to *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, Second Edition, and illustrated in the following pages.

Fig. 1. A chart shewing part of the Coast of N.W. America, with the track's of His Majesty's sloop Discovery and armed tender Chatham; / commanded by George Vancouver esqr. and prepared under his immediate inspection by Lieut. Joseph Baker, in which the continental shore has been traced and determined from Lat. 45° 30' N. and Long. 236° 12' E. to Lat. 52° 15' N. and Long. 232° 40' E. at the different periods shewn by the tracks.—Scale [1:950 400].—London : Published May 1st. 1798, by J. Edwards Pall Mall & G. Robinson Paternoster Row.—1 map : engraved ; 75.8 x 59.2 cm.—3 insets.

Fig. 2 Plan of the city of Vancouver western terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway / compiled and prepared by R.E. Palmer, C.E.—Scale [1:10 800].—Vancouver : Rand Brothers, 1891.—1 map : lith. ; 61 x 110.7 cm.

ROGERS-TUCKER COLLECTION

Fig. 3. Nuove scoperte de' Russi al nord del Mare del sud si nell'Asia, che nell'America / con privilegio dell'Eccmo Senato.—Scale [1:17 107 200].—Venezia : Presso Antonio Zatta, 1776.—1 map : eng., col. ; 29.3 x 38.2 cm.

GEORGE H. BEANS COLLECTION

Fig. 4. [Map of Japan].—Scale [1:1 357 714].—Hizen : Bunsei 9 [1826].—1 map : Imari ; diameter 41 cm.

Fig. 5. Togoku Zenzu [The whole view of China / painted by] Hokusai, [engraved by] Egawa Sentaro.—Scale [1:20 000 000].—Edo : Seiundo, Tenpo 11 [1840].—1 map : woodcut, col. ; 41 x 54 cm.

Fig. 6. Settsu-koku Arima-san Shokei-zu [A view map of Mt. Arima in the province of Settsu / painted by] Gosoken Tachibana no Morikuni.—Scale not determined.—Osaka : Izumiya Jubei, Tenmei 2 [1782, reprinted] Kansei 12 [1800].—3 maps : woodcut, col. ; 19 x 27 cm. each.—in guide book by Tachibana Morikuni.

4 Basil Stuart Stubbs, "Historical development of Japanese maps," *Association of Canadian Map Libraries Proceedings*, v. 4 (1970): 9-13.

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Fig 7. University of British Columbia bird's-eye view / Sharp & Thompson As.R.I.B.A. architects, London Building, Vancouver, B.C. June 1914. – Scale [1:57 600. – Vancouver : Sharp & Thompson, 1914]. – 1 map : ms. ; 161.5 x 92.3 cm.

Fig. 8. Revised sketch for Anglican College group, University of British Columbia / Sharp & Thompson, Assocs.R.I.B.A.Architects, March, 1925. – Scale [1:240 ? . – Vancouver : Sharp & Thompson, 1925]. – 1 map : ms. ; 28 x 40 cm.

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Fig. 9. [Aiyansh district] / map prepared by Jacob Russ alias Hadagim Lakha showing the location of his ancestral hunting ground, called Laklako, also claimed by Abbi of Gitwingak / copy [by] J.B. McCullagh. – Scale [1:247 104. – Aiyansh : J.B. McCullagh, 191-]. – 1 map : ms. ; 42 x 29 cm – Howay Collection.

Fig. 10. Sterling Shipyards Ltd., Vancouver B.C. Canadian Fishing Co. Ltd. / B.C. Underwriters' Association, August 1947– Scale [1:600. – Vancouver : B.C. Underwriters' Association, 1947]. – 1 map : photocopy, ms. col. ; 51 x 43 cm. – IAO Collection.

Résumé

Cet article décrit l'origine et le développement de la collection des cartes historiques et des archives cartographiques à la Bibliothèque de l'Université de Colombie Britannique. Plusieurs des grandes collections sont dépeintes ainsi que quelques problèmes qui se présentent en conservant une petite collection de cartes historiques et les matériaux cartographiques apparentés sont énumérés.



Figure 2.

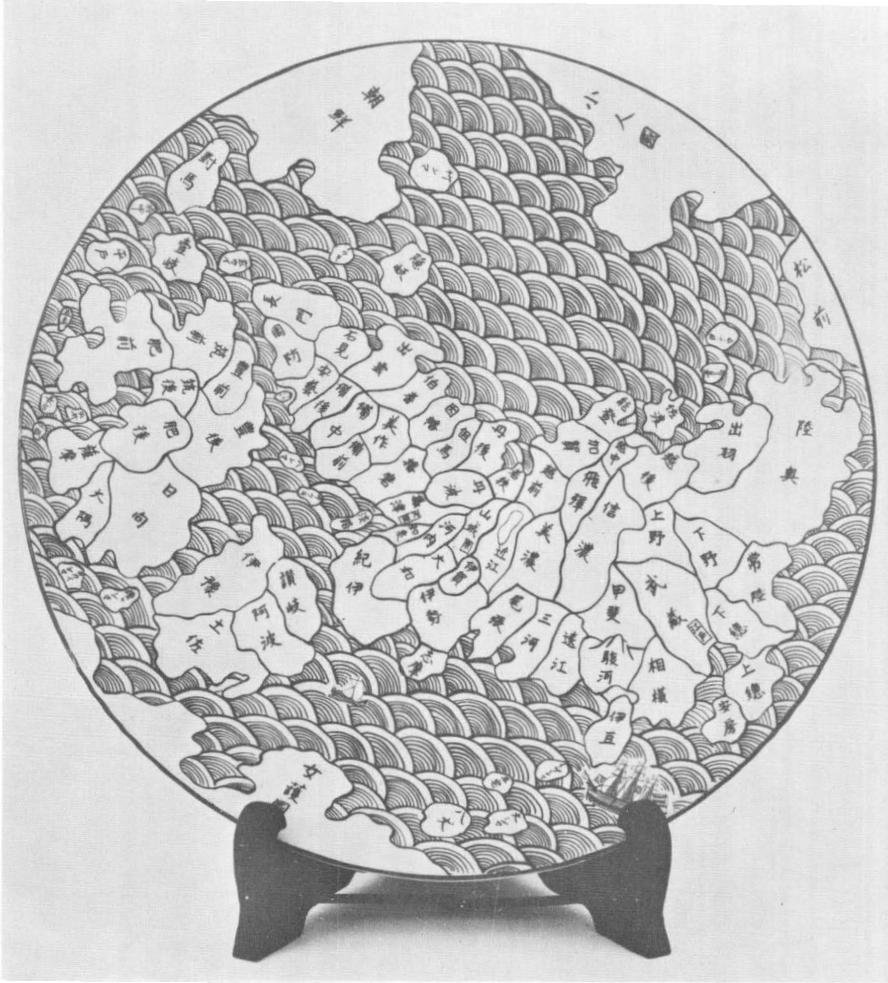


Figure 4.

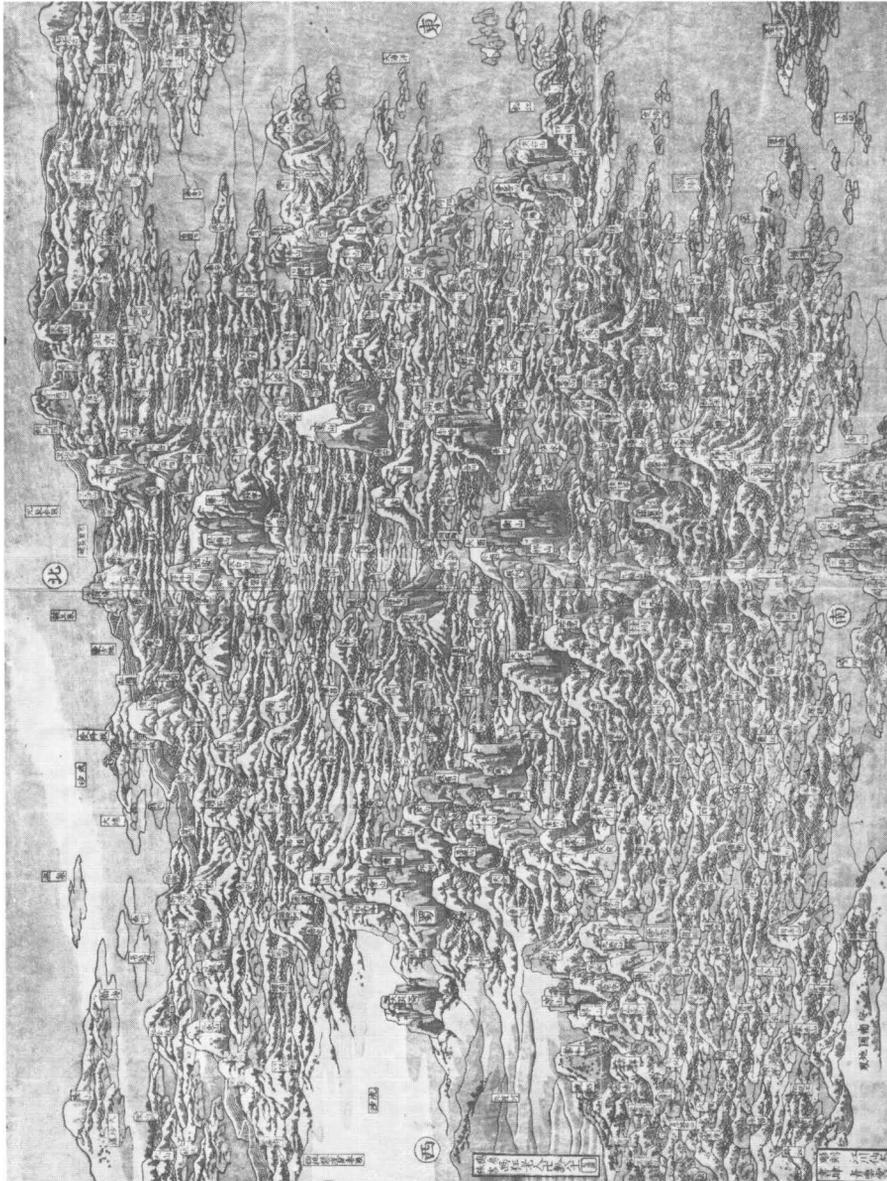


Figure 5.

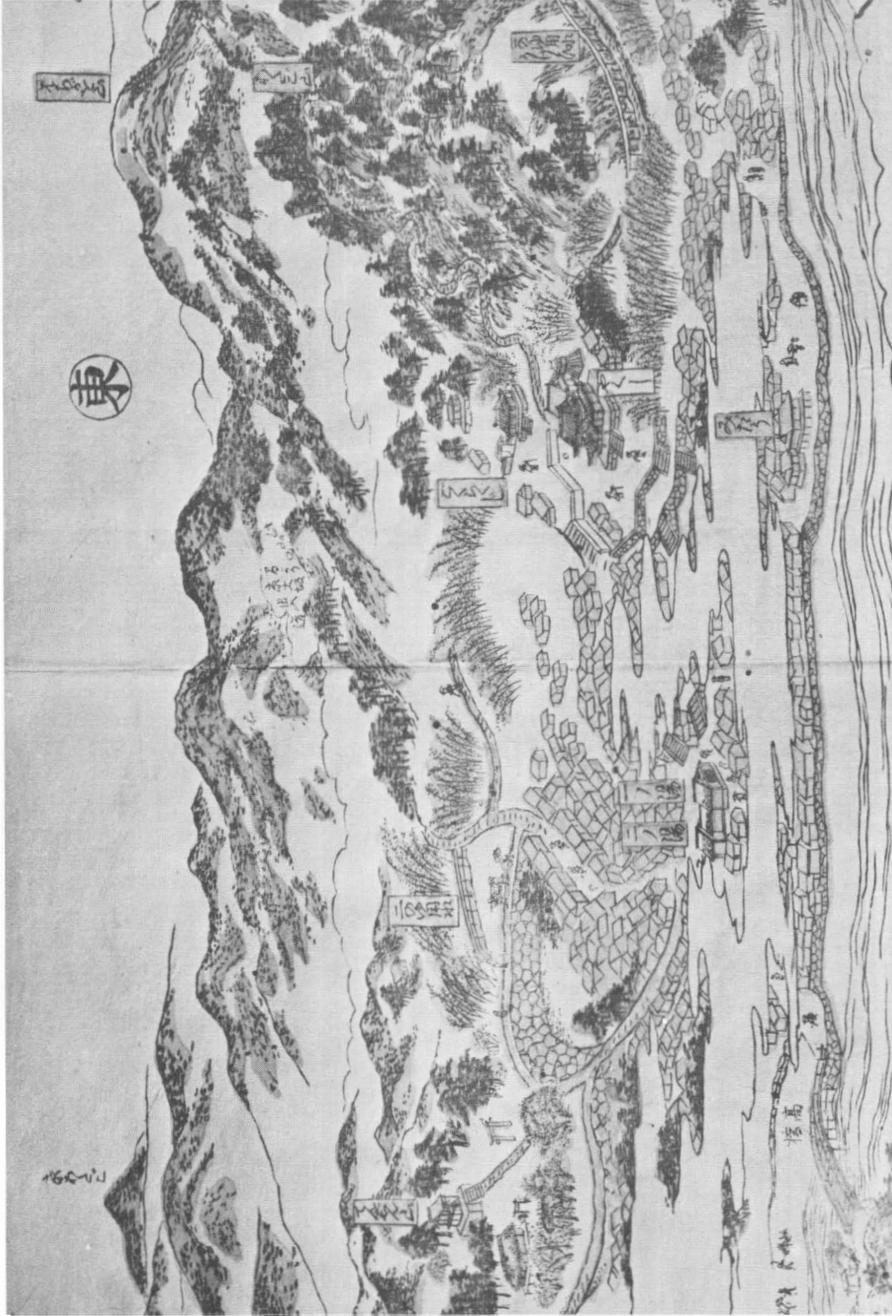


Figure 6.

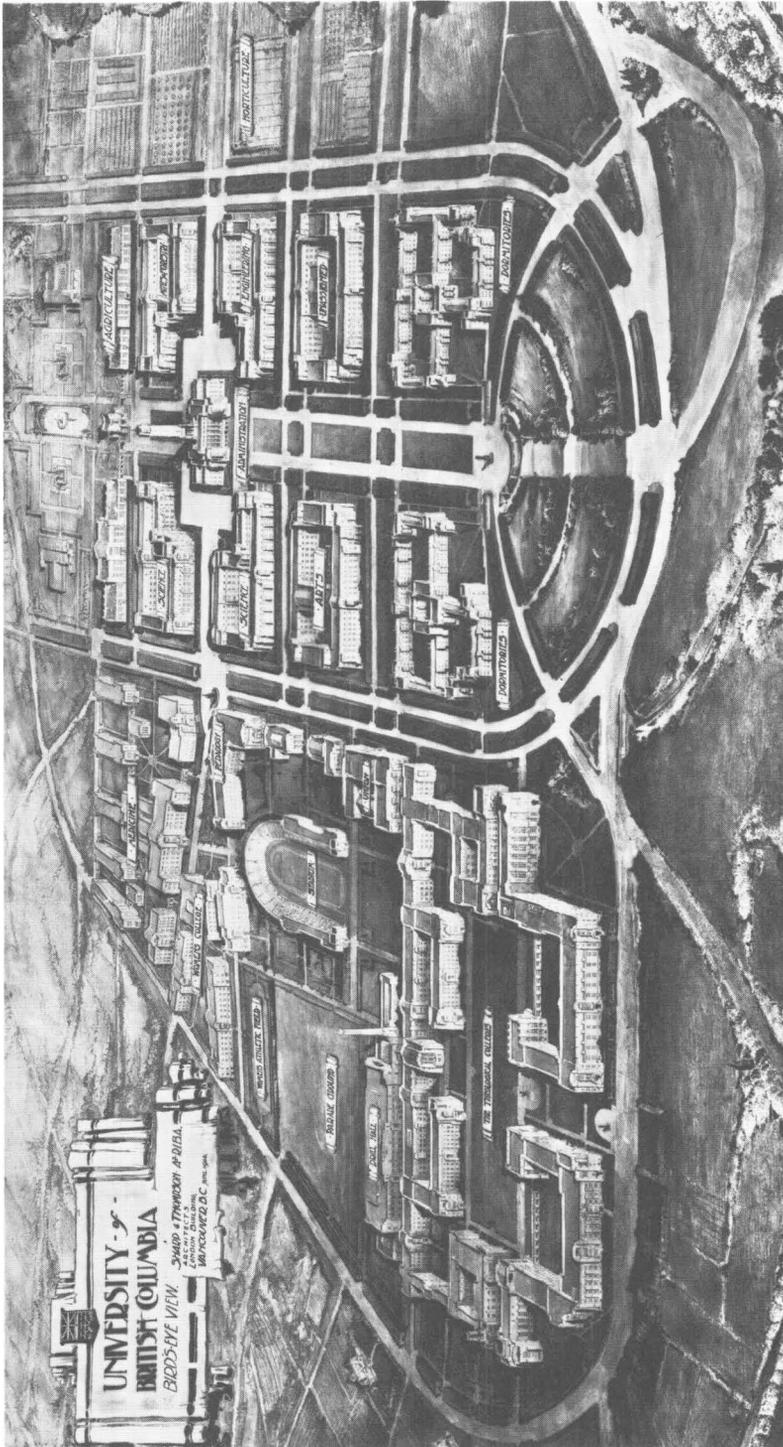


Figure 7.

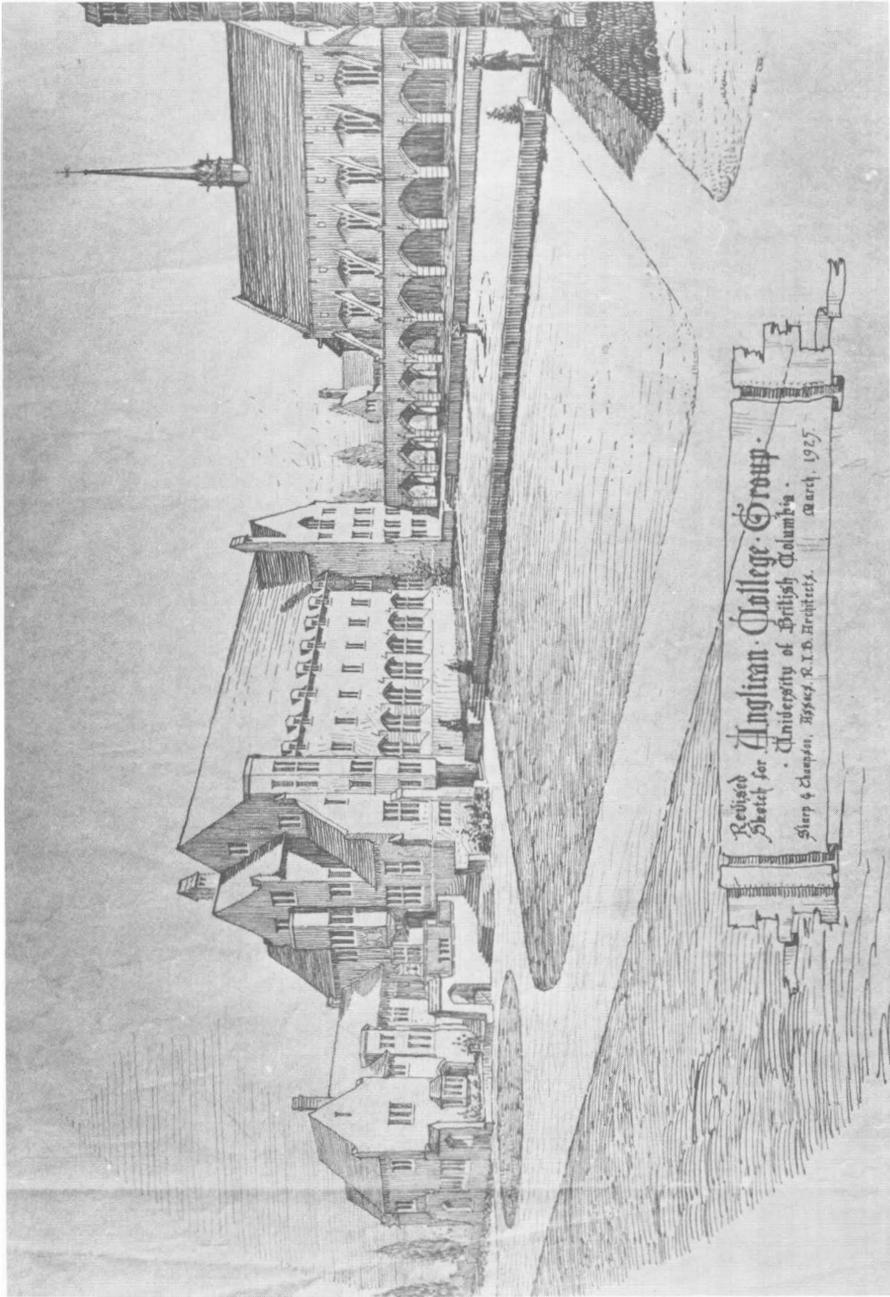


Figure 8.

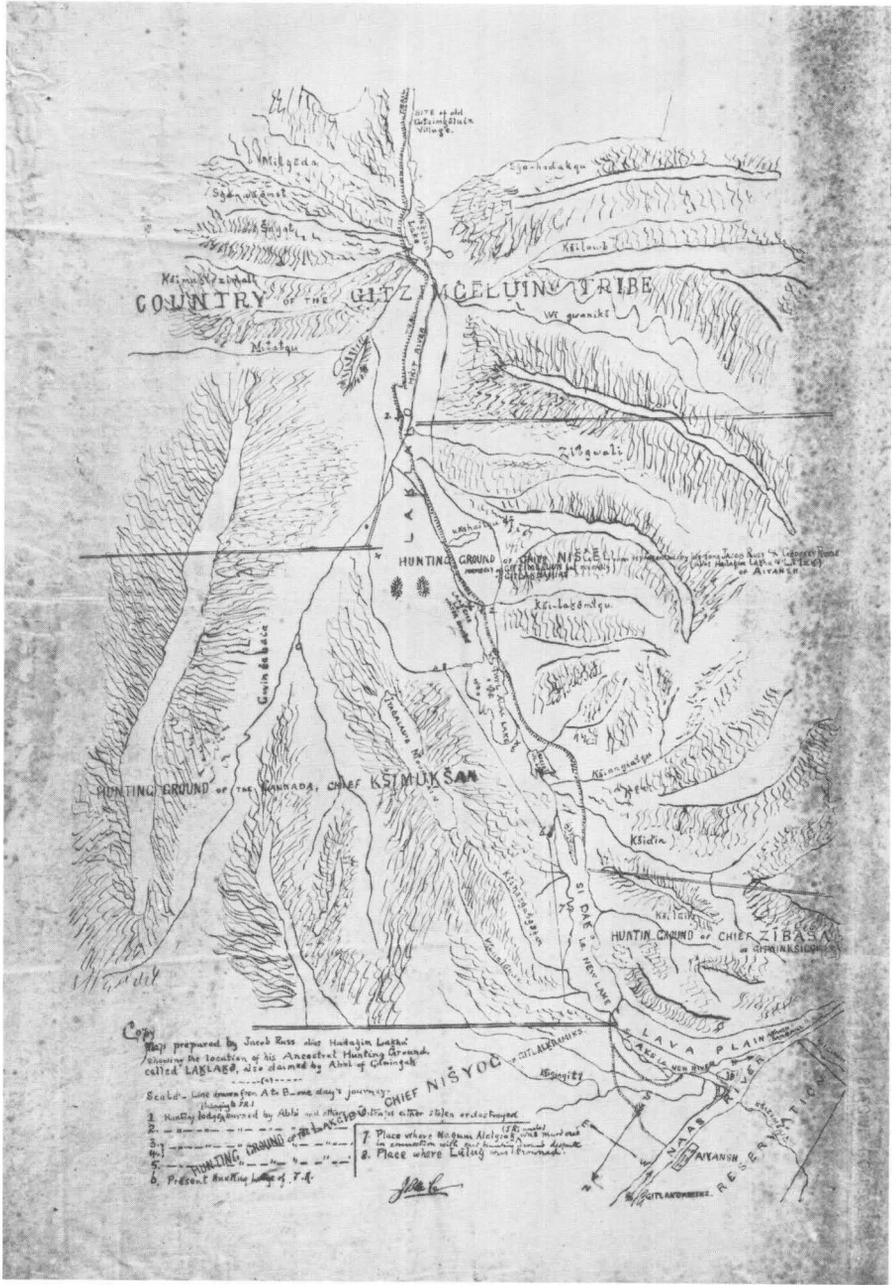


Figure 9.

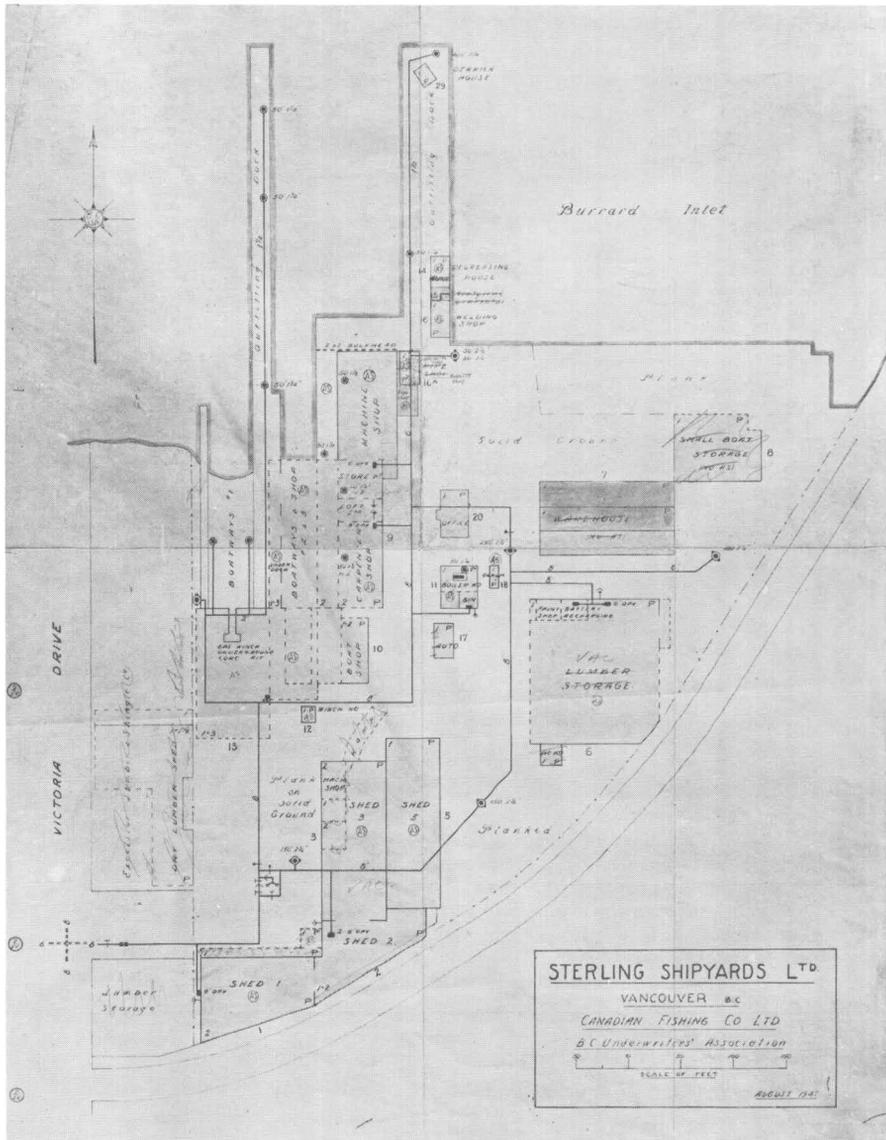


Figure 10.