

# Swashbuckler's success story is cartographer's delight

In 1682, a bunch of maps helped both a notorious swashbuckler and the king of England out of extremely difficult "straits."

Instead of being imprisoned in disgrace, high-seas outlaw Bartholomew Sharp was commissioned captain in the Royal Navy — probably because he provided his king with the exclusive Spanish maps.

The Hack Atlas, recently purchased by the University of Michigan's Clements Library for a record \$100,000, was used by the pirate to ransom his own life. England used it to unlock the secrets of the Pacific coastline from the Straits of Magellan to North America.

Michigan's atlas, the largest of the 11 copies in existence, "is one of the most important, and the most expensive books ever acquired by the library or anywhere in Michigan," according to John C. Dann, Clements Library director.

THE SPANISH, who dominated trade in the area of the New World recorded by the atlas, understood "the potential vulnerability of their treasure ships in the relatively unguarded Pacific waters, and guarded geographical knowledge of the area as vital state secrets," Dann explains.

When Sharp returned to England, he gave the atlas to a famous London cartographer, William Hack. The U-M

Clements Library edition apparently changed hands among government officials, notably George Grenville, English prime minister in 1763-1765.

His more recent owner was Arthur A. Houghton Jr., a book collector and president of the Corning Glass Co., who was the last private individual to purchase a copy of the atlas.

AS FOR SHARP, he faded into the West Indies on another plundering excursion after saving his neck with the treasure maps. The atlas was part of the spoils of his first raid, modeled after an earlier campaign by the infamous English pirate Henry Morgan, Dann explains.

Morgan, accompanied by English, French and Indian cutthroats, marched across the isthmus of Panama to the Pacific, commandeered some boats and ransacked several Spanish towns. En route to the coast, the pirates turned 50 Spanish prisoners over to the local Indians who tortured them to death.

But, as Dann points out, "there was no honor among these thieves."

The rogues fought so much among themselves that by 1681 — a year after they had grouped together — their fleet of seven ships was reduced to a single vessel. That ship, of course, was commanded by none other than Sharp himself.

One of Sharp's prey was the treasure

**'The maps would prove to be worth far more to Sharp and the English than the lost treasure (about \$1 million in silver in today's currency, — deep sixed) which Sharp had mistaken for tin or lead.'**

— John Dann, Clements Library director

ship the San Rosario, bearing the atlas, a beautiful young woman, and 700 pigs of silver. But, dilled by the "temporary distraction" of the woman, as Dann tells it, Sharp's captives, anticipating the maps' watery grave, cried out "Farewell South Sea!" Dann says.

"The maps," he concludes the story, "would prove to be worth far more to Sharp and the English than the lost treasure, which Sharp had mistaken for tin or lead."

"Sharp's discoveries," Dann adds, "and the Hack atlas clearly encouraged British navigation. A number of naval voyages and piratical exploits, and even colonization efforts, were launched as a direct result."

LAST MONTH New York book dealer H.P. Kraus obtained the atlas for the

U-M library from Christie's in London.

The acquisition was made possible by several bequests and a large grant from the Lilly Endowment established in honor of the close friendship between Eli Lilly and Howard H. Peckham, retired director of the Clements Library. Additional contributions toward the atlas are being sought by the Clements Library Associates.

The 300-year-old book with 184 maps includes three-dimensional charts showing the land from the perspective

of both sea-level and the air. The Galapagos Islands and Peeps Island, an imaginary region near the tip of South America, as well as the Pacific coastline are recorded in color, mostly greens and greys, but also red, yellow and orange.

Scholars who are interested in obtaining information about using the atlas for research should contact Dann at the U-M library (313-764-2347), open to the public from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays.

## Bullard seeks state penalty for apartheid

Investment of state funds in U.S. corporations which operate in countries promoting discrimination would be prohibited under a package of bills introduced in the House last week.

The 10-bill package, introduced by State Rep. Perry Bullard, D-Ann Arbor, is aimed primarily at corporations doing business in South Africa, and mandates that educational institutions, the state treasurer and board members responsible for the investment of public pension funds shall not invest in any business which "through its action or inaction" practices or condones discrimination against any individual.

"It is a well known fact that the South African government follows oppressively racist policies which deny basic human rights to the black majority — 85 percent of its population," said Bullard.

"The real impact of U.S. corporations in South Africa rests in the enormous amount of capital and technology placed at the South African government's disposal by these businesses.

American capital and credit play a pivotal role in assisting the South African government to maintain and enforce its apartheid policies of racial discrimination."

The U.S. is the second largest investor in South Africa, and the supplier of almost 1/3 of its overseas credit. About 539 U.S. companies operate in South Africa with an aggregate direct investment of \$1,700 million — approximately 17 percent of South Africa's total foreign investment.

Much of this investment goes to areas that are of strategic importance to South Africa: motor vehicles, heavy engineering, electronics and computers, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and oils. U.S. and western banks have granted substantial loans amounting to approximately \$2.2 billion to the South African government and its government-controlled corporations.

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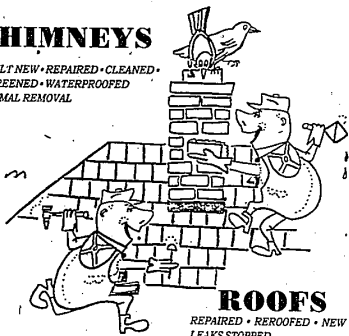
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