



## Quick Guide to the Map Room

- Cambridge University Library Map Department has over **1 million maps** of all parts of the world dating from the 15th century to the present. We are constantly adding new and older material to the collection. We also have atlases, some views, gazetteers and books on cartography.
- Maps are covered by **legal deposit** so CUL should receive a copy of everything published in Great Britain, though things do fall through the net!
- Only a small proportion of our collection is catalogued online so you need to check *Newton* (the Library's online catalogue) as well as our **card catalogue** to find out what we have. For more information on our catalogues see [www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/maps/catalogues.html](http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/maps/catalogues.html)

Note that:

- ❖ The card catalogue is arranged in one alphabetical sequence by the place covered by the map.
  - ❖ Individual maps in atlases and those in map series are not catalogued individually.
  - ❖ All of the letters and numbers, plus the punctuation (including hyphens), in classmarks are important!
- There are very few items on open access in the Map Room so for most items you will need to fill in an **order form** so that staff can fetch the items for you.
  - The Map Room has **shorter opening hours** than the rest of the Library (as we are not open in the evenings or on Saturday afternoons). There is no fetching between 12.45 and 2pm.
  - You can use your own camera to **take photographs** of items in the collection for private research purposes, but not for publication (no flash, tripods or camera noise!). The Library also has an Imaging Services Department that can make reproductions for you.
  - **Pencils only** may be used in the Map Room – no pens! We have pencils for sale if you forget to bring one.
  - To **protect maps** we try not to touch their surface and so place plastic sheets over them when close study is required.
  - Before the advent of Ordnance Survey in 1791, mapping was a very local activity often at estate or county level. Some areas are well mapped, others less so. Older maps tend to be less detailed and, the further back you go, more pictorial.
  - There are maps in other parts of CUL – most notably in the Manuscripts and Rare Books Departments and in the University Archives – and in other parts of the University, especially the Colleges.

### For More Information:

- ❖ **Ask** a member of staff in person, by phone, letter or email:-  
Map Department, Cambridge University Library, West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DR  
Tel: 01223 333041 ; Email: [maps@lib.cam.ac.uk](mailto:maps@lib.cam.ac.uk)
- ❖ Perhaps one of our **Information Sheets** will help? They cover subjects such as searching for maps in CUL's catalogues, locations of other map libraries, where to buy maps, etc. They are available in the Map Room or online at [www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/maps/information.html](http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/maps/information.html)
- ❖ Take a look at our **web pages** at [www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/maps/index.html](http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/maps/index.html), especially the Links page at [www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/maps/links.html](http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/maps/links.html)