

Rediscovering the Past / Mapmaking

By the turn of the 19th century, mapping had established itself as a scientific enterprise, often government funded, and conducted by skilled military personnel. During the 19th century, European countries made national maps with enthusiasm. They were partly for economic and social improvement, and partly a statement of national identity and pride. An international collaboration mapped the seas for the benefit of all. Growing international cooperation also established Greenwich as the prime meridian (1884), agreed time zones, and led to the production of an "International Map" of the whole world. Improvements in printing technology made maps cheaper (and more widespread) and now colourful. Other types of map were published, such as geological maps, or thematic ones, showing wealth or disease.



Working Number: DZ 083
Name: Map of Oran
Holding Museum: Musée Public National des Antiquités
Date: 1840–1846
Materials: -
Curator Justification: At the turn of the 19th century, only a tiny percentage of the world had been mapped.



Working Number: UA 001
Name: Map to illustrate the Route of David Roberts Esq. R. A. in the Holy Land, Petrea and Syria
Holding Museum: Sharjah Art Museum / Sharjah Museums Authority
Date: Published 1849
Materials: Coloured steel engraving
Curator Justification: Readers were able to connect views with maps to create an idea of landscapes and environment.



Working Number: UK 081
Name: Watercolour by Claude R. Conder
Holding Museum: The Palestine Exploration Fund (PEF)
Date: 1870's
Materials: -
Curator Justification: Maps were produced by expert surveyors using cutting-edge equipment and techniques.



Working Number: UK 085
Name: SWP Geological Map
Holding Museum: The Palestine Exploration Fund (PEF)
Date: 1880's
Materials: -
Curator Justification: Maps were very useful for administrative and economic purposes.



Working Number: IT1 082
Name: Comic Map of Seat of War with Entirely New Features (London: Rock Brothers and Payne, 1854)
Holding Museum: State Archives of Palermo
Date: 1854
Materials: -
Curator Justification: Made during the Crimean War in 1854, this satirical map portrays countries and animals. The tyrannical Russian bear is faced off by the turkey (Turkey) and its allies the lion (England) and eagle (France).



Working Number: TR2 066
Name: Postal map
Holding Museum: Istanbul Postal Museum
Date: 1911
Materials: -
Curator Justification: This map charts the postal network across the Ottoman Empire.



Working Number: TR2 113
Name: Near Eastern and Balkan map
Holding Museum: Istanbul University, Nadir Eserler Kütüphanesi (Rare Books Library)
Date: 19th century
Materials: Photograph
Curator Justification: An Ottoman map of the Eastern Mediterranean, labelled in Turkish.



Working Number: RO 039
Name: Ottoman map of the Romanian countries
Holding Museum: National Museum of Romanian History
Date: Beginning of the 19th century
Materials: -
Curator Justification: An early 19th-century Ottoman map of Romania and surrounding areas, with borders between territories marked in different colours.



Working Number: RO 045
Name: Map of the 1877–1878 war
Holding Museum: National Museum of Romanian History
Date: 1877
Materials: -
Curator Justification: A map of Romania and surrounding areas at the start of the Russo-Ottoman war in 1877. Important cities and railways were marked, as well as colour-coding regions.



Working Number: AT 039
Name: Map of the Network of Caravans
Holding Museum: Austrian State Archives
Date: 1856
Materials: -
Curator Justification: The caravan routes of Egypt and Western Arabia are marked on this map.



Working Number: UK 116
Name: Map of caravan routes
Holding Museum: The British Library
Date: 1897
Materials: -
Curator Justification: This map was made to teach British students about the interconnecting trade and pilgrimage routes across North Africa.



Working Number: IT1 125
Name: A map of Tunisia (1:1,600,000) showing Italian agricultural settlements, mines, coral- and sponge-fishing areas and boat lines
Holding Museum: Italian Geographical Society (SGI)
Date: 1906
Materials: -
Curator Justification: This 1906 map of the French Protectorate of Tunisia was made in Italy. It shows Italian agricultural settlements, mines, coral- and sponge-fishing areas and shipping lines.



Working Number: LB 101
Name: Map of Beirut as it appeared in 1841
Holding Museum: American University of Beirut
Date: 1841
Materials: -
Curator Justification: A map of Beirut in 1841 before the extensive rebuilding works.



Working Number: LB 099
Name: Map of Beirut
Holding Museum: American University of Beirut, Jafet Library, Archives and Special Collections Department
Date: 1876
Materials: -
Curator Justification: A map of Beirut made in 1876 for presentation to Sultan 'Abd al-Hamid II. It is a detailed land-survey map of the area, marking the locations of government departments, consulates, military posts, educational and health institutions, public parks, cemeteries and archaeological sites.



Working Number: TR2 112
Name: Ottoman map of the period of Sultan Abdülhamid II
Holding Museum: Istanbul University, Nadir Eserler Kütüphanesi (Rare Books Library)
Date: 19th century
Materials: Photograph
Curator Justification: This map shows the Ottoman Empire under 'Abd al-Hamid II. The names of places are written in French.



Working Number: TR2 114
Name: Istanbul water pipeline map
Holding Museum: Istanbul University, Nadir Eserler Kütüphanesi (Rare Books Library)
Date: 19th century
Materials: Photograph
Curator Justification: A detailed map showing the water-pipeline network of Istanbul.
