FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 14, 2006

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Boston Public Library Identifies Missing Maps

Boston, MA—With the conclusion of the recent Forbes Smiley map theft case, in which the former map dealer was convicted of stealing maps from several major libraries including Boston Public (BPL), the BPL is releasing a list of 36 maps currently classified as missing from its Norman B. Leventhal Map Center, Rare Books, and Special Collections departments (list below). In accord with the other libraries involved in the Smiley case, the Boston Public Library is releasing this list in an effort to aid in the recovery of missing map materials throughout the scholarly community.

Anyone who has information about, or knows the location of, any of these maps is asked to please notify Ronald E. Grim, Curator of Maps, Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library at rgrim@bpl.org.

Information pertaining to the maps missing from other institutions can be found on the New York Map Society’s website at http://www.nymapsociety.org/FEATURES/WORAM.HTM.

Boston Public Library - Missing Antiquarian Maps

   a. “Carte geographique de la Nouvelle Franse faitctte (large map originally in two parts)
   b. “Carte geographique de la Nouvelle Franse in sonvray monclin.”

2. Composite atlas entitled [Collection of Old Maps]. 2 volumes of maps published primarily in the late 17th century by various authors including DeWitt, Visscher, Bleau, and Lea. Hand written table of contents indicates the geographic area of the maps, but usually does not include precise titles or authors.

   a. Missing map opposite p. 110, “Lac Superieur et autres lieux ou sont les Missions de Peres de la Compagne des Jesus.”

4. Des Barres, Joseph F.W. The Atlantic Neptune (London, 1777). Seven plates are missing from three of the five volumes.
b. Vol. 2, part 2 is missing no. 57, “Nantucket Island.”
c. Vol. 2, part 3, is missing five items:
   (1). no. 68, “Charlestown, the capital of South Carolina.”
   (2). no. 72, “A Plan of the harbor of St.
   Augustine.”
   (3). no. 73, “The northeast shore of the Gulph of Mexico.”
   (4). no. 74, “Gulph of Mexico.”
   (5). no. 75, “A Chart of the bay and harbour of Pensacola.”

5. de Bry, Theodore. *Collections, Segunda Editio*, volumes 6-7 (6 parts)
   a. Part 1 is missing John Whites’s map of Virginia.
   b. Part 2 is missing map of Florida.
   c. Part 4 is missing map of the West Indies.

6. Dudley, Robert. *Dell’ Arcano del Mare …* (Florence, 1646).
   a. vol. 1, book 2, map no. [10], “Carte seconda generale del America” (Florida to St. Lawrence Gulf).

   a. no. [1], “A new and accurate chart shewing the variations of the compass in the Western & Southern oceans as observed in ye year 1700 by … Edm. Hailey.”
   b. no. [2], “A new and correct chart of the north part of America from New Found Land to Hudsons Bay.”

   a. A General map of the Middle British Colonies in America …”

   a. “A Map of the country between Albemarle Sound and Lake Erie, comprehending the whole of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Pensylvania …”

    b. map no. 29, “East Prospect of the City of Philadelphia,” by George Heap and Nicholas Scull.

   a. Map W15, “De Noord oost zyte van Yerlanst van Caap de Hoorn tot aen Hedehde” [northeast side of Ireland].

   a. Map no. 4, “Mapa de Africa,” according to handwritten table of contents.

   a. Opposite p. 283, “Plan of the City of Washington.”

   a. Map no. 8, “A New and Exact Map of the Dominions of the King of Great Britain on ye continent of North America …”

16. Norman William. *[The American Pilot* (Boston, ca. 1798)].
   a. No. [2], “A New and General Chart of the West Indies.”

   a. No. [1], “Chart of Nantucket Shoals.”
   b. No. [5], “New and Accurate Chart of the Bay of Chesapeake.”
   c. No. [7], “Chart of New England from South Shoal to Cape Sable.”
   d. No. [8], [Chart of Coast of Maine]..

   a. “Virginia” (p. 1692).

   a. Map no. 30, “A Chart of the West Indies from Cape Cod to the river Oronoque.”

   a. Leaves 9-10, “America”
About the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center:
Launched in July 2004, The Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library is a public-private partnership, created to preserve and provide free public access to the Boston Public Library’s collection of 200,000 maps and 5,000 atlases. Its goal is to maximize the educational potential of these historical and contemporary maps of the World, the United States, and the New England region. For more information on the Map Center visit www.leventhalmapcenter.org.

About the Boston Public Library:
Established in 1848, the BPL was the first publicly supported municipal library in America, the first public library to lend books, the first to have a branch library and the first to have a children’s room. Today, the BPL has 27 neighborhood branches, free Internet access, two unique restaurants, an award-winning website (www.bpl.org) and an on-line store featuring reproductions of the BPL’s priceless photographs and artwork. Each year, the BPL hosts nearly 5,000 programs and events, answers more than one million reference questions and serves millions of people in its National Historic Landmark McKim Building in Copley Square. All of its programs and exhibits are free and open to the public.

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