



Norman B. Leventhal Map Center
at the Boston Public Library

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
August 19, 2015

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4 NEW MAPS FROM KING GEORGE'S COLLECTION TO JOIN AMERICAN REVOLUTION EXHIBITION

*We Are One: Mapping America's Road from Revolution to Independence runs May 2 through
November 29*

Boston, MA – This week, four new maps from the King George III Topographical Collection (known as the K-Top) and other collections at the British Library will be added to the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center's newest exhibition, *We Are One: Mapping America's Road from Revolution to Independence*. These maps are one-of-a-kind, watercolor paintings in a beautiful 18th century style.

William Brasier's brilliantly colored and drafted manuscript survey of Fort Ticonderoga (<http://maps.bpl.org/id/n51373>) shows the fort, coastline of Lake Champlain, hills and surrounding forests. It was prepared in 1759, shortly after the British captured the French forts located near the southern end of Lake Champlain during the French and Indian War.

Richard Williams, a twenty-five-year-old lieutenant in the British Army, arrived in Boston during the British occupation at the beginning of the Revolutionary War. A talented artist, he sketched, mapped and painted the city. *A Plan of Boston and its Environs* (<http://maps.bpl.org/id/n51374>) is considered to be the finest early map of Boston, hand drawn with watercolor, it shows the position of both British and American troops during the fall of 1775. This map provided the basis for a printed map that was published in London just one week before the British were forced to evacuate Boston.

The other items are also by Williams and are two sections of a series of six watercolor landscapes providing a 360-degree panoramic view from Beacon Hill. One depicts British encampments in the foreground with George Washington's headquarters across the Charles River. The other scene features North Boston with the ruins of Charlestown, which burned during the Battle of Bunker Hill. (<http://www.bpl.org/exhibitions/current-exhibitions/we-are-one/view-the-exhibition-3/we-are-one-53a/>)

The King George III Topographical Collection at the British Library includes more than 50,000 maps, watercolors, drawings, prints and ephemera from the vast holdings amassed by a monarch for whom geography was a personal passion as well as a professional necessity.

The British Library is one of twelve partner institutions participating in the Leventhal Map Center's American Revolution Portal. The Portal will eventually include 4,000 of the rarest maps dated between 1750-1800 from the Leventhal Map Center (LMC), Library of Congress, American Antiquarian Society, Newberry Library and other public institutions and private lenders. More than 300 digitized maps from the British Library are on the LMC website, <http://maps.bpl.org/highlights/ar/american-revolutionary-war-era>

In addition to the British Library maps and views, there are two items borrowed from other institutions that are now on view in the exhibition:

A hand colored and engraved view of Concord, Massachusetts, borrowed from the Connecticut Historical Society, illustrates the first battle of the American Revolution. Prepared by Amos Doolittle, an American engraver, the view documents Concord's role in the engagement. Doolittle visited the site soon after the battle and interviewed participants. His view features British soldiers marching into Concord. Some soldiers throw American arms into the millpond in the background, while others check local homes. Two British officers stand in the cemetery and use a telescope to view the nearby American soldiers. (<http://www.bpl.org/exhibitions/current-exhibitions/we-are-one/view-the-exhibition-3/we-are-one-57b/>)

Finally, LMC is featuring one of four surviving manuscript maps, known as cantonment maps, prepared in 1765 and 1766. They show the changing location of British troops garrisoned in North America following the French and Indian War. The new taxes which the British government levied on the American colonists contributed to their growing dissatisfaction within the British Empire. This particular version of the cantonment map was borrowed from the William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan. (<http://www.bpl.org/exhibitions/current-exhibitions/we-are-one/view-the-exhibition-2/we-are-one-51/>)

We Are One is located on the first floor of the Central Library's McKim building, which faces Dartmouth Street. The exhibition is open during the following hours: Monday–Thursday: 10 a.m.–7 p.m.; Friday–Saturday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; and Sunday: 1–5 p.m. Visit our exhibition website (<http://maps.bpl.org/WeAreOne>).

About the NORMAN B. LEVENTHAL MAP CENTER

The Norman B. Leventhal Map Center is ranked among the top 10 map centers in the United States for the size of its collection, the significance of its historic (pre-1900) material, and its

advanced digitization program. It is unique among the major collections because it also combines these features with exceptional educational and teacher training programs to advance geographic literacy among students in grades K-12 and enhance the teaching of subjects from history to mathematics to language arts. The collection is also the second largest in the country located in a public library, ensuring unlimited access to these invaluable resources for scholars, educators, and the general public. The Leventhal Map Center, created in 2004, is a nonprofit organization established as a public-private partnership between the Boston Public Library and philanthropist Norman Leventhal. Its mission is to use the Boston Public Library's permanent collection of 200,000 maps and 5,000 atlases and a select group of rare maps collected by Mr. Leventhal for the enjoyment and education of all through exhibitions, educational programs, and a website that includes thousands of digitized maps at maps.bpl.org. The map collection is global in scope, dating from the 15th century to the present, with a particular strength in maps and atlases of Boston, Massachusetts, and New England.

About BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Boston Public Library has a Central Library, twenty-four branches, map center, business library, and a website filled with digital content and services. Established in 1848, the Boston Public Library has pioneered public library service in America. It was the first large free municipal library in the United States, the first public library to lend books, the first to have a branch library, and the first to have a children's room. Each year, the Boston Public Library hosts thousands of programs and serves millions of people. All of its programs and exhibitions are free and open to the public. At the Boston Public Library, books are just the beginning. To learn more, visit www.bpl.org.

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