

NATIONAL RUSSIAN CARTOGRAPHICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY AS A  
STRATEGIC COURSE FOR MAP HOLDING INSTITUTIONS OF RUSSIA

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This paper deals with issues associated with creating the Union retrospective annotated catalogue of Russian maps. Under the aegis of the National Library of Russia, the work is being done by the country's major libraries, archives and museums holding important cartographic collections. The main problems to be attacked in the course of creating the catalogue are: map retrieval and scientific description, and developing the catalogue both in conventional and electronic formats.

Fundamental investigation in the sphere of history of geography, cartography and some other fields generally begins with a search for information on the existence, content and quality of cartographic materials in a specified time and country. This involves the use of various types of bibliographies.

1. SUBJECT HISTORY. Map bibliography is among the oldest disciplinary bibliographies in Russia. The earliest prototypes date back to late 15th - early 16th centuries. As the Muscovite State grew rapidly, manuscript "drawings" of inland - and border areas were made. They were accumulated and inventoried in government agencies. The inventories served as registers and thus can not be regarded as bibliographic works in the strict sense. In the early 18th century, Russia started the then immense cartographic effort, and at the same time the first actual cartographic bibliography appeared. Russian bibliographies of maps and atlases have been generally dated from 1742, when the Library of the Academy of Sciences in Pe-

tersburg published a printed list of geographic atlases. Throughout the 18th century, several other than Academy map lists were published, and one of them can be considered as a specialized cartographic bibliography. However, the 18th-century bibliographies were not comprehensive. Throughout the 19th century, regular departmental bibliographies of state cartographic works were published (primarily by military departments), and catalogues of individual collections were compiled. In 1931 the All-Union Book Chamber started publication of the "Map Chronicle" - a regular bulletin listing the bulk of civic cartographic materials published in the territory under the Union jurisdiction. The publication is being continued, presenting primary bibliographic records. Additionally, at various times some of the country's libraries published retrospective annotated catalogues of individual collections. Thus the National Library of Russia (NLR) compiled union catalogues of 18th-first half of 19th c. Russian atlases, and a union catalogue of Petersburg city plans; and the Russian State Library (RSL) - a union catalogue of Moscow city plans.

2. AIMS OF WORK. For the first time todate, a radically new goal has been set - creation of a Union national bibliography of maps and atlases, representing the most possible comprehensive account of cartographic materials published in the territory within the jurisdiction of Russia.

The ultimate purpose of creating the Union catalogue is to record, describe and bring to scholarly use data on the existence, content, authorship and location of maps published by map-publishing establishments in Russia, both in Russian and other languages.

The principal participants in the work are the country's major libraries, archives and museums holding im-

portant cartographic collections. The leader of the team is the NLR, with its cartographic collection serving as the groundwork for creating the catalogue. Among the principal developers of the subject at present are: RSL, Russian State Archive for Ancient Deeds, Russian State Military History Museum, the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

3. The MAIN STAGES OF WORK. The first issue will contain the Union catalogue of printed maps from the 18th century to the time of massive map-printing in Russia. In turn, this will involve the following:

3.1. Definition of establishments (other than listed above) holding 18th-century maps. In Petersburg and Moscow only, over a dozen have been discovered. For completeness sake, specialized questionnaires have been distributed among establishments in other areas (for example, regional archives).

3.2. Eliciting the maps to supplement the NLR collection. This is achieved by comparing the preliminary identification list of NLR collection with collections held at other establishments.

3.3. Elaborating the structure of bibliographic citation (BC) for a map to meet the requirements of standardization and comprehensiveness. A BC is based on the map-recording standards currently in use in Russia, and on many years of scientific description of cartographic publications in the NLR and other institutions. The BC also accounts for some particular features of 18th-century maps, as:

- lack of generally accepted topographic systems, shifts in administrative divisions;
- peculiarities of mathematical groundwork in the maps (lack of a unified longitudinal system, use of different units of measurement);

- a peculiar manner of representing individual map elements;

- in some cases, particulars as to place and date of publication, and the author are missing;

- dedications and addresses to the public;

- textual insertions in the map field;

- elements of art design (cartouches, illustrations) of independent value.

In this connection, in addition to standard elements, the BC system contains supplementary annotations. Each BC ends with references, both to the sources used in describing the map, and to other bibliographies containing records on it.

4. MAP DESCRIPTION. The BC format devised is currently used in describing collections in NLR, RSL and St. Petersburg archives.

Both the description proper and the related investigations (definition of mathematical elements, dating, authorship) require sufficient qualifications. As the establishments involved are not exclusively cartographic collections and subsequently lack qualified professional experts in the field, provision has been made for specialized training. This involves seminars, counselling using NLR and RSL resources and expertise. The training program includes subjects on the history of cartography, compilation of bibliographic records for maps, along with practical training in defining individual map elements.

5. CATALOGUE DATABASE CREATION AND PUBLICATION. As the leading establishment, the NLR accumulates the map descriptions made by other participants, handles the final editing, organizes the catalogue and related indexes. It is anticipated that the Union catalogue will be created both in the conventional and electronic formats. The linguistics and software for the electronic format will

use the NLR resources.

All the abovementioned major participants in the work will hold a joint copyright, and a complete electronic version of the Union catalogue in their computer systems, to provide access for their users.

THE BRIEF EXAMPLE OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR  
FOR THE MAP DESCRIPTION

1. Institute Department Call-number	6. Annotation Legend Content of map Additional maps Index Texts Drawings, pictures Tables Cartouche
2. Title Place of composition Place of publication Author, engraver, Painter Editor Data of publication	7. Marks, ex-libris, Water-mark
3. Scale Cartographical net Element of orienting Origin of longitude	8. Bibliography
4. Material Techniques Coloring Number of sheets Size (sheet, map, slab)	9. Comment
5. Defect Restoration	10. Compiler of map description Data of map description