



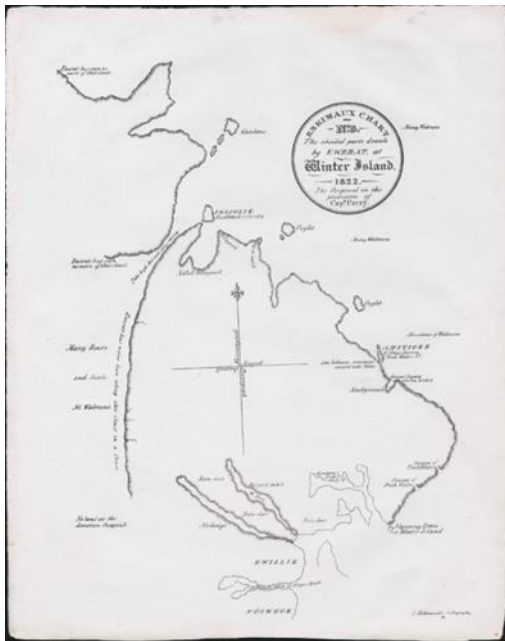
CANADIAN MUSEUM
OF HISTORY
MUSÉE CANADIEN
DE L'HISTOIRE

UNEXPECTED!

Surprising Treasures From Library and Archives Canada



For high-resolution images, please contact Stéphanie Verner at 819-776-7169 or stephanie.verner@historymuseum.ca



Knowing the Far North

Inuit mapmaker Ijiraq drew this map of the Aivilik region of present-day Nunavut for British explorer William Edward Parry, who published the maps in England. The map records the Inuktut names for places and features of the area — names that reflect knowledge of the land from time immemorial. Parry and other colonizers gave their own names to many of these places, but Inuit communities are now restoring the original names.

A set of three historical maps by Ijiraq and her fellow mapmaker, Illilliuq, feature in the exhibition, alongside a new map from the Inuit Heritage Trust that shows the extent and persistence of Indigenous place names.

Map of the Aivilik Region

Ijiraq (Ewerat) (cartographer); C. Hullmandel (lithographer), 1822

Lithographic print

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A Gift for a Fan

How did a manuscript by one of the greatest classical composers end up in Canada? In 1825, Ludwig van Beethoven composed this brief fugue entitled *Freu dich des Lebens* (“Rejoice in Life”) for a visiting fan, Canadian music teacher Théodore-Frédéric Molt, as a souvenir of their meeting.

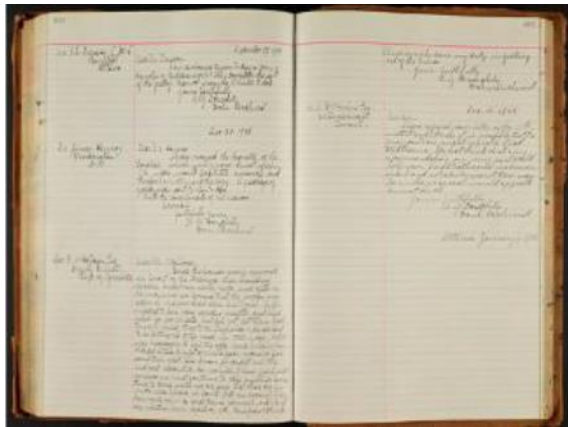
Visitors will be able to listen to a recording of the composition while viewing the precious manuscript.

Freu dich des Lebens (Rejoice in Life)

Ludwig van Beethoven, 1825

Ink on paper

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Covert Kitties

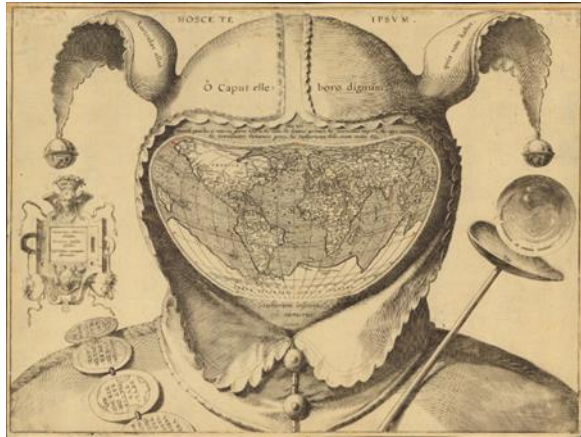
Not all state secrets are serious. In 1908, Dominion Archivist Arthur Doughty adopted three cats to control an infestation of mice in the archives building in Ottawa. He kept the whiskered watchmen a secret, to avoid embarrassing the government. This entry in Doughty’s letterbook is the only record of the cats’ employment. The original letter, enclosing receipts for the cats’ milk, has not survived.

Letterbook

Arthur Doughty, 1908

Ink on paper, leather binding

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A Fool's Paradise

This strange print just might be the most mysterious map in the world. The map at the centre, based on the work of Flemish cartographer Abraham Ortelius, allows historians to date the print to the late 1500s. The Latin mottos on the jester's cap and collar refer to fools and foolishness. These suggest that the print's purpose was probably satirical. Even with these clues, however, no one has yet identified the printmaker, nor whom he intended to mock.

Fool's Cap Map of the World: *O caput elleboro dignum* (A Head Worthy of Hellebore)

Unknown artist and engraver, about 1590
Copperplate engraving on paper

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A Temple of the Mind

This large and unusual painting, called a "tracing board," was used by a masonic lodge in rural Upper Canada (present-day Ontario) to instruct new initiates in the lessons and secrets of the society. It is a figurative representation of King Solomon's Temple, filled with objects and images that symbolize various aspects of masonic teachings. Produced around 1818, it is one of the oldest artifacts of its kind in Canada. In addition to their secret rituals, masonic lodges provided social connection and material support to men and their families in new settler communities.

Masonic Tracing Board Belonging to Rideau Lodge no. 25, Burritts Rapids, Upper Canada (Ontario)

Unknown artist, about 1818
Oil on canvas

© Library and Archives Canada, e011408996



Virtual Reality, 1770s-style

The German engraver Franz Xaver Habermann, who never visited North America, used his imagination to create this curious Québec City street scene. The title, printed backward, is a clue that this print was to be viewed through a zograscope: a trendy gadget that used a lens and a mirror to make “perspective views” appear three-dimensional. Views of exotic places delighted European audiences, who enjoyed them in middle-class parlours and at carnival sideshows.

Visitors to the exhibition will have an opportunity to peek through a reconstructed zograscope and experience this early precursor to “virtual reality.”

View of the Upper Town of Québec with the Square Leading to the Cavalier du Moulin (translation)

Franz Xaver Habermann, about 1775
Copperplate engraving on paper, watercolour

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Sanctuary in an Unwelcoming Land

Like the tracing board, this banner evokes a legendary temple — the Temple of Ko Kai — which features in the rituals of the Chee Kung Tong, or “Chinese Freemasons.” This secret society provided a variety of services to Chinese immigrants who faced racism and hardship in Canada. Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian Museum of History jointly preserve a collection of artifacts and documents recovered from the abandoned Chinese Freemasons’ Hall in Cumberland, BC, which illustrate the society’s role.

Banner: Place Guarding Ko Kai, Mountains and Rivers Forever Glorious (translation)

Unknown calligrapher, early 1900s
Ink on cotton

© Canadian Museum of History, 78-130



Accounting Records for the Second Fundraiser for the Vancouver Freemasons’ Property (translation)

Chinese Freemasons of Canada, about 1926
Ink on paper

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