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URBAN CARTOGRAPHY AND THE MAPPING OF CHICAGO*

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ABSTRACT. City maps are among the oldest and most popular forms of cartographic representation, yet urban cartography has received only limited scholarly attention. A review of the early history of city mapping suggests a progression of representational forms from profile to perspective to plan, a progression that parallels urban growth. The history of urban mapping reflects a desire to comprehend the geography of the city for reasons of curiosity and practical necessity, but the map also may become an icon that engenders a sense of pride and belonging, if not allegiance and control. An examination of Chicago maps indicates that, in addition to evolution in representational styles, the subjects of maps change to serve demands of the moment. City maps not only constitute a rich historical archive but also are dynamic agents in urban development. The urban landscape is shaped by cartographic vision. *Keywords:* *Chicago, city maps, urban cartography.*

The mapping of cities probably began shortly after people started to congregate in settlements. A parallel progression in urban development and cartographic representation is documented by a body of city maps that can be traced from prehistory. Popular interest in these maps is nearly as old as the maps themselves, and the number of recent works suggests that their popularity has not diminished. In addition to beautifully illustrated volumes on the cartography of New York (Augustyn and Cohen 1997), Boston (Krieger and Cobb 1999), Detroit (Dunningan 2001), and Washington, D.C. (Reps 1991; I. Miller 2002), a recent exhibition explores several international cities, including Jerusalem, Rome, Paris, and Amsterdam (N. Miller 2000).

In spite of the long history of city mapping, the staggering number of maps produced, and the popular interest in these maps, urban cartography has received surprisingly little scholarly attention (Buisseret 1998; N. Miller 2000). Beyond popular works that explore specific cities, the subject is addressed in the occasional book

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