

# **REVISED\*** CTPA Quarterly Meeting Minutes Chicago's Cartographic History with Dennis McClendon CTG January 10, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 5:40pm by Donna Primas.

## **New business was discussed:**

- Lawry's was thanked for hosting the CTPA Quarterly meetings and refreshments again in 2011.
- Invoices, updated information and dues are due by the end of January for inclusion in the 2011 directory.
- Al Walavich and Sharon Sylvester will continue as education program chairs.

### **Dates to hold for upcoming CTPA events are:**

- ◆ **Tuesday January 25**, A Guides Orientation to the Art Institute. Linda Fox, Judy White will lead and Donna Primas will prepare an updated handout with information.
- ◆ **Tuesday, February 1**, - Two events in one day: the new J W Marriott and a visit to the Board of Trade at opening bell.
- ◆ **Tuesday, February 15**, an orientation to the Clarke & Glessner House. There is limited space and there will be a wait list.
- ◆ Also in February, dates to be determined for A Guide's Highlights Orientation at the Field Museum (**Thursday, February 10**) and admission to The Horse special exhibit (**Thursday, February 24**).
- ◆ In the afternoon on **Thursday, February 24**, a tour of the Smith Museum of Stained Glass at Navy Pier with Ralph Achilles who curated the installation.
- ◆ **Wednesday, March 9** CTPA quarterly meeting at Lawry's with Chicago's Cultural Historian, Tim Samuelson, who will speak on the Louis Sullivan exhibit that has been extended at the Cultural Center.
- ◆ **Friday, March 25**, the Macy's Flower Show before it opens to the public. This year's theme is "Towers of Flowers." We will also see highlights of the historic Marshall Field building.
- ◆ **Sunday, May 1**, Candidate Member Enid Rieser will give a Show Us Your Neighborhood tour of Keck homes in Hyde Park.
- ◆ Other Quarterly Meeting dates: **Wednesday, June 8**, will feature Forgotten Chicago and on **Monday, October 12**, Michael Corcoran will speak about films made in Chicago and his work on the updated edition of *Hollywood on Lake Michigan*.
- The NFTGA is having elections. Esther Banike CTG is the current President and will be stepping down. Another of our members, Terry Hall, is on the ballot for Treasurer.
- Congratulations to the new CTPA officers and thanks to the exiting officers. Congratulation to Al Walavich CTG who is the new treasurer, the post previously held for three terms by Lijana Baehr CTG. Also congrats to Judith Randall CTG who will be one of three Co-Secretaries, substituting for the post held the last term by Holly Jensen. Welcome back to the returning officers: President Donna Primas CTG, Vice President Sharon Sylvester CTG, with Ed Mazur CTG and Gina Driskell working as the other Co-Secretaries.

- Planned for 2011 are improvements to the CTPA website. It will be updated and, at the suggestion of member Lynn Neils, a new password controlled section will be added. It will be a place where members can download or view previous meeting minutes, resources, event information and other materials.

## **PROGRAM**

Our speaker for the evening was **Dennis McClendon CTG** who presented “**Cartographic Tales of Chicago History.**” Dennis showed details from various maps of the city from many decades, documenting changes, growth and sometimes just showing what “might have been” or wishful thinking!

Just a few of the diverse and interesting maps shown were:

- A James Wright map of 1834, one of the first maps of Chicago, showing few streets extending south of Madison.
- A map placing the Chicago Cemetery at North Avenue and Clark Street before the Chicago fire, about where the Chicago History Museum is now.—and a separate cemetery south of North Avenue for Catholics.
- The Burnt District (a Chicago fire map) showed how much of Chicago's commercial and business area was destroyed.
- A map showing the near west side's historic Lumber District along the South Branch of the river, while another showed how Pullman began as a town fronting on Lake Calumet.
- Some maps were fantasies of things never built. Dennis also showed a map of how the Midway Plaisance was to be a water filled canal, as it was designed by Olmstead to join Jackson and Washington Parks.
- A 1920s map of the city's electric traffic signals gave Dennis the opportunity to tell how a taxicab mogul John Hertz Car paid for the first group of traffic lights along South Michigan Avenue to prove traffic signals promoted traffic flow.
- A map of the narrow gauge underground freight tunnels was shown, noting how it was this system that was punctured and resulted in the great downtown flood of 1992.
- Way before malls existed, an early “shopping center map” by the Tribune highlighted the city areas that were centers of shopping because of their proximity to streetcar and rapid transit “transfer corners”. 63rd & Halsted was once second only to the Loop in retail sales.
- Dennis presented maps that showed the ever changing face of the city as it morphed from well worn trails to streetcars and railways to the stock yards and various business districts—all of which have left marks and preserved niches in history if you know how to read the maps!

The meeting concluded with Donna mentioning that in 2011, all the quarterly meetings at Lawry's will feature only one speaker to allow for more thorough presentations and also more time for networking.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by,  
***Gina V Driskell, CTPA Co-Secretary***

**\*REVISED with thanks to Dennis McClendon for clarifying the bullet points noted above!**