

## FOREWORD

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, seeking to increase the scholarly usefulness of our collections and enrich the intellectual life of the Library, made a grant in 1982 to the American Philosophical Society establishing a fellowship program in bibliography, research scholarship, and staff development. The major thrust of the program is to provide fellowships for scholars who will prepare bibliographic studies on topics well represented in the Library's collections. To date, five bibliographies have been published through the Mellon Fellowship program, providing informative and authoritative guides to our collections in the transfer of science, technology, and medicine from Europe to the United States; natural history in the New World; anthropology and archaeology; genetics; and the modern life sciences.

The Society's rich collection of nearly 3,000 maps, charts, and surveys clearly merited similar treatment, and after Associate Librarian Murphy D. Smith retired in 1984, I appointed him for that purpose to a Senior Mellon Fellowship in Bibliography for 1985-86. Mr. Smith was well qualified for his task, having served the Society with distinction for thirty-two years. He spent the majority of his career in charge of the manuscript department, and came to be recognized as one of the most knowledgeable and helpful historical research librarians in the country. He has published a number of useful guides and bibliographies, most recently *Historical American sketches: an illustrated guide to sketches in the manuscript collections of the American Philosophical Society* (G. K. Hall, 1984).

The impressive catalogue of the Society's maps contained within these pages bears testimony not only to the wealth of the Library's manuscripts and imprints, but also to the indefatigable labors of its author. In retrospect, however, it became evident that a one-year fellowship was hardly sufficient to do justice to such an enormous project, and the following members of the staff generously pitched in to help bring the work to final publication: Beth Carroll-Horrocks, Manuscripts Librarian; Marian Christ, Cataloguer; David J. Rhees, Assistant Librarian for Research and Programs; and Hildegard G. Stephans, Associate Librarian.

The length of the catalogue, combined with the desire to insure its wider distribution, prompted the decision to publish it as a *Memoir* of the Society rather than in the soft-cover format of the other Mellon bibliographies.

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