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Mapping in the Humanities Classroom: An Assessment of Tools and Strategies

Leah Niederstadt

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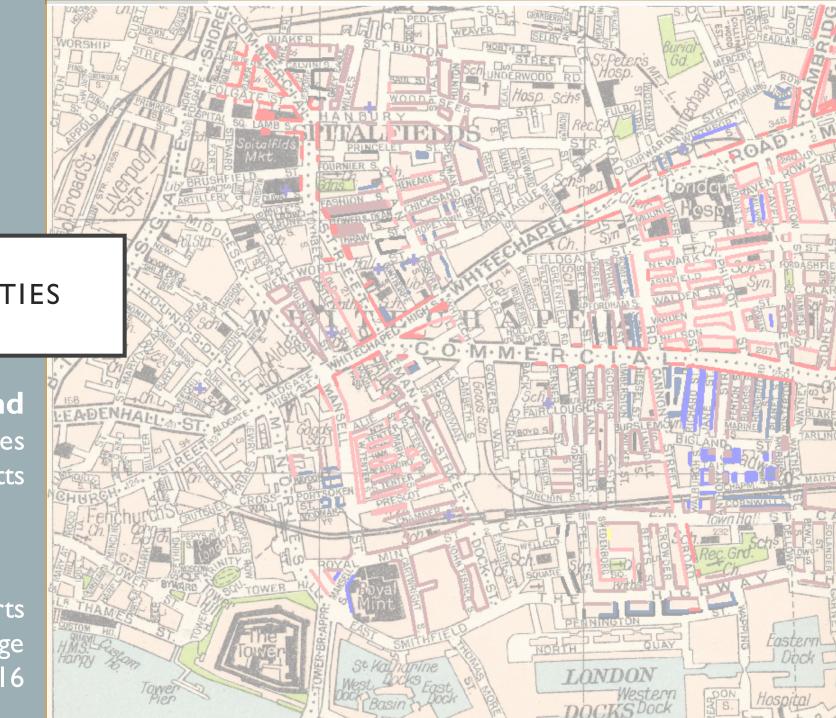
Wheaton College - Norton, lund jenni@wheatoncollege.edu

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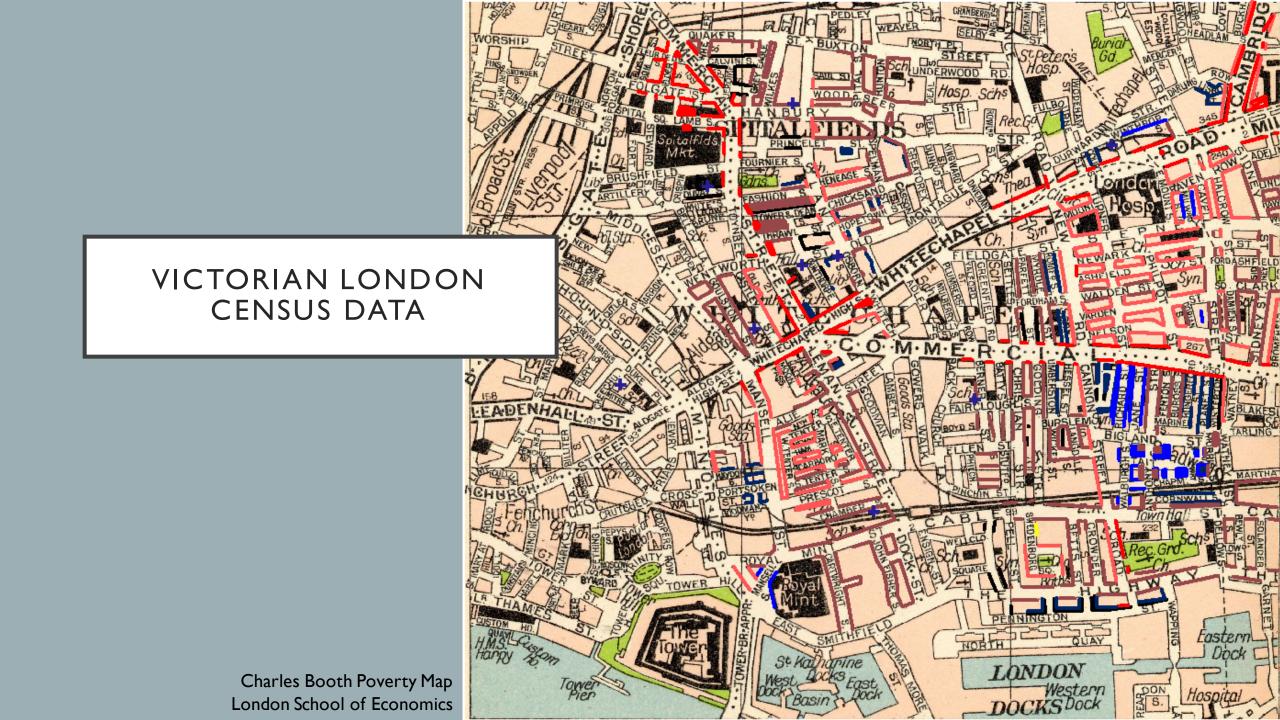


MAPPING HUMANITIES

Jenni Lund

Library & Information Services Wheaton College in Massachusetts

Blended Learning in the Liberal Arts Bryn Mawr College May 19, 2016



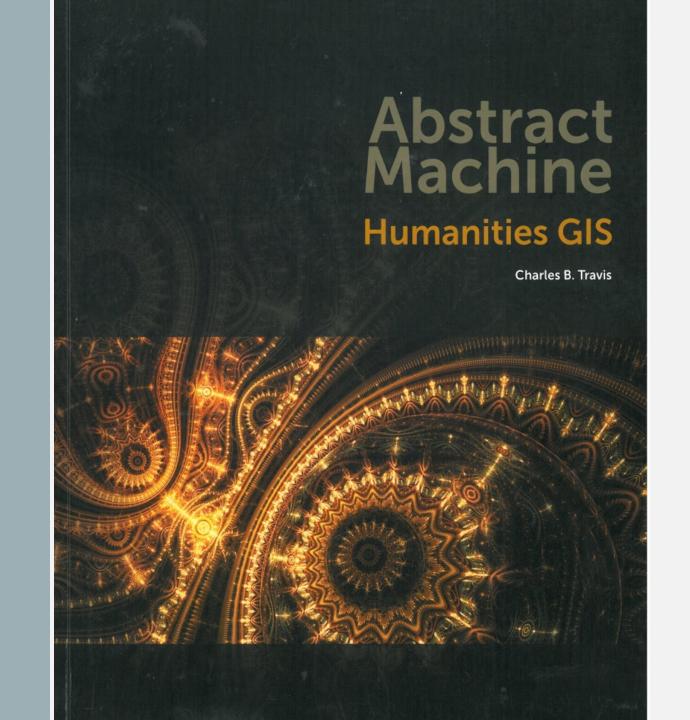
ABSTRACT MACHINE
HUMANITIES GIS
BY CHARLES B. TRAVIS

Quantitative analysis

Eyeball analysis

Telling stories

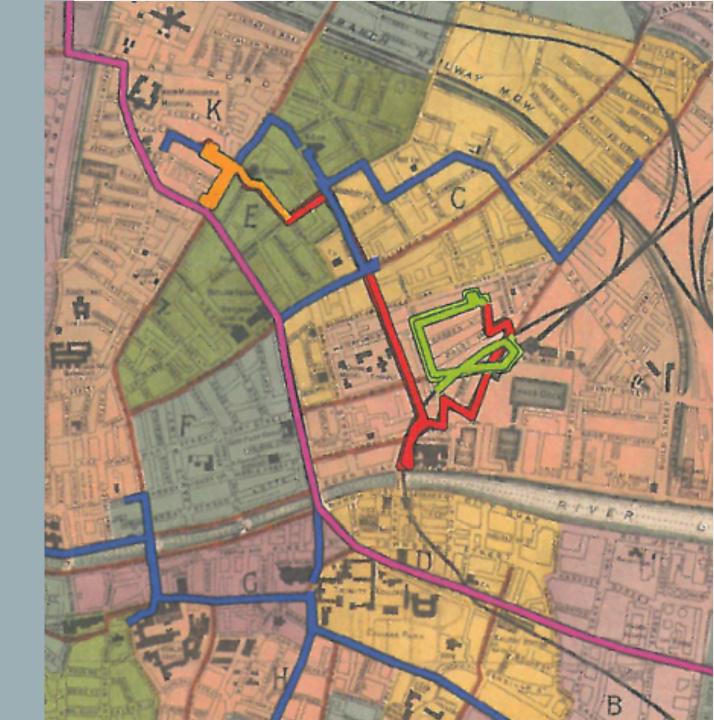
Spatial goggles

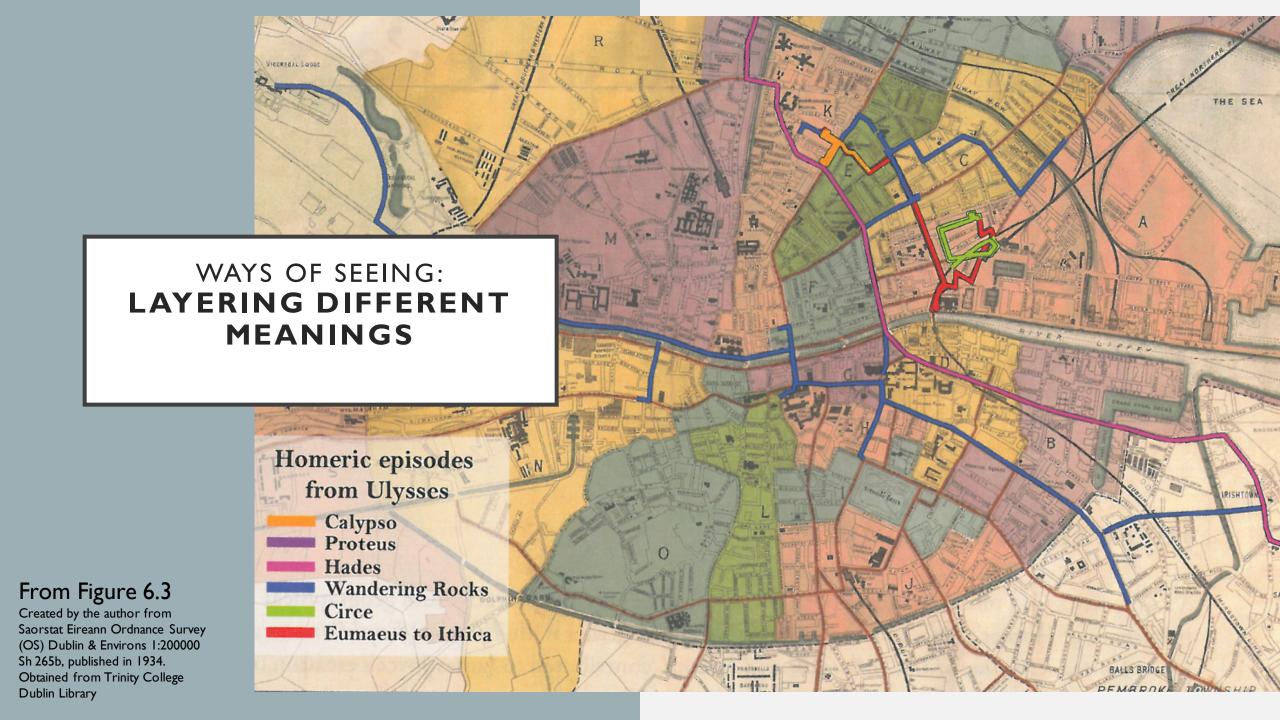


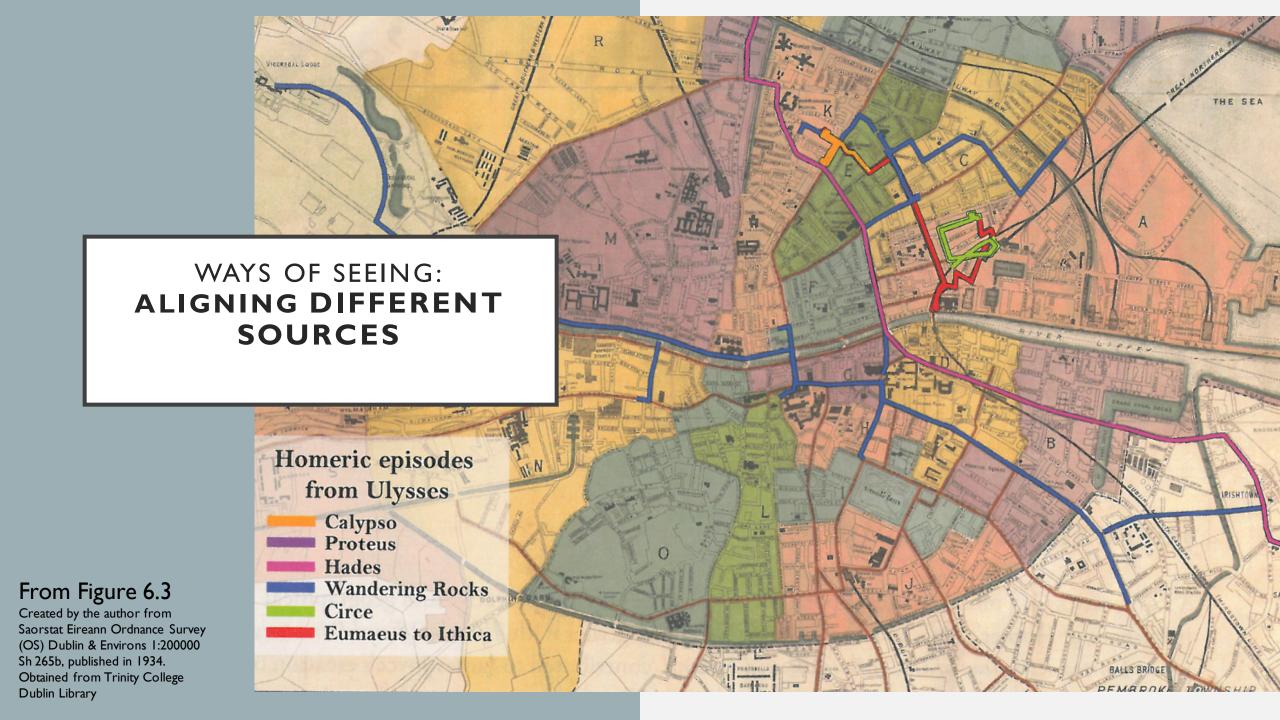
WAYS OF SEEING: **DEEP MAPPING**

From Figure 5. I

Created by the author from Map of the City of Dublin and its Environs, A. Thom & Co. Ltd., 87 Abbet Street, Dublin (1904), obtained from Trinity College Dublin Library; James Joyce, Ulysses (London: Penguin, 1992 [1922]);







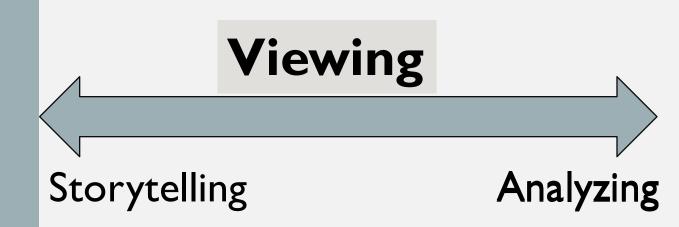
HOW TO TALK TO A TECHIE

Resist positivism & reductionism

Target "open knowledge"

Consider your map a tool for discovery

GIS CAPABILITIES



Authoring

WYSIWYG

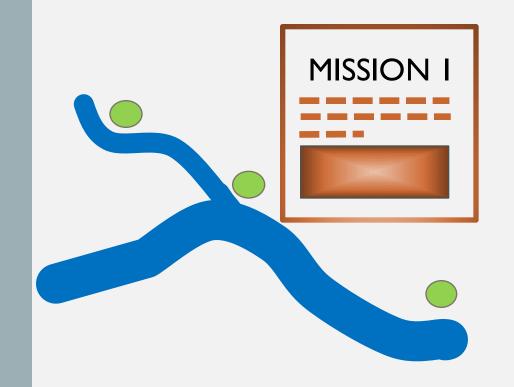
Data structure

GIS CAPABILITIES

ADD DATA WITH POINT AND CLICK



ADD DATA
WITH A SPREADSHEET



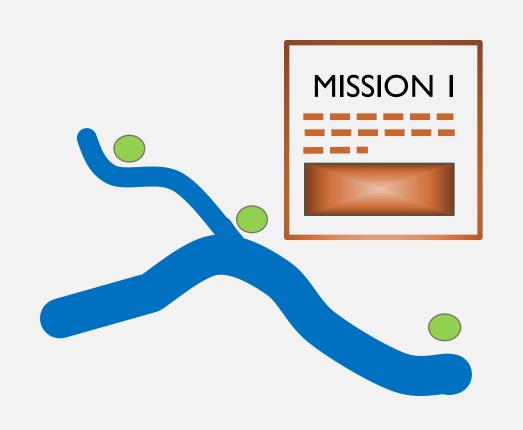
ID	TITLE
I	MISSION I
2	MISSION 2
3	HUNTING
4	WATERFALL
5	MICCIONI 2

Authoring

WYSIWYG

Data structure

GIS CAPABILITIES

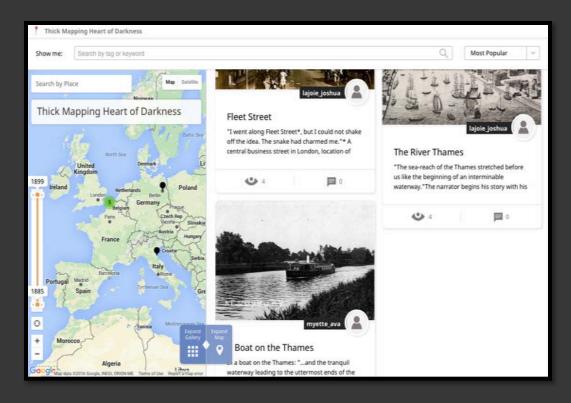


ID	TITLE			>
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4	WATE	RFAL	_	
5	ID	SOURCE		IMAGE
		Dec.12 note		
	2	Dec.15 note Marginalia		
	3			http://amaz
	4 Jan. 3		note	http://amazo
	5	Leger	nd	http://amaz

PRACTICAL ADVICE

- Call it evidence, not data
- You want to add content yourself; aim for an open map39091
- You want to maintain content in Excel

Plan for different types of evidence



"ONE-SHOT" VS. "SUSTAINED" MAPPING: TWO (BASIC) APPROACHES TO LITERATURE PEDAGOGY

Winter Jade Werner
Assistant Professor of English
Wheaton College (MA)
werner_winter@wheatoncollege.edu

AN INDEPENDENT STUDY & AN ENGLISH COURSE

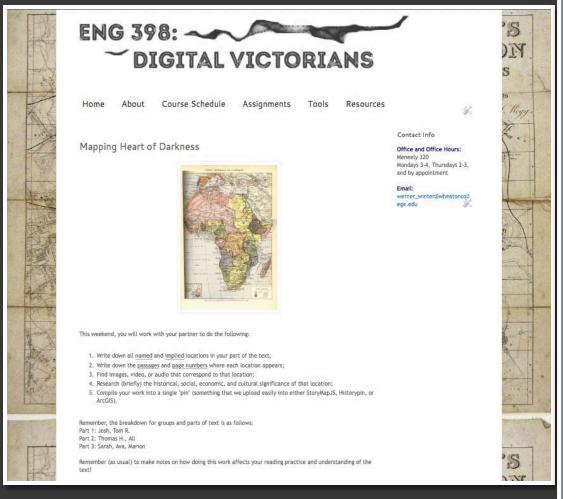
Summer Independent Study:

- One-on-one summer research in Summer 2015, conducted from a distance (I was in Oregon, student stayed at Wheaton College).
- Lasted for roughly 1.5 months.
- Used ArcGIS.
- Culminated in complete map of locations mentioned or implied in Heart of Darkness and Conrad's Congo diary.
- Additionally, student was asked to develop one-hour lesson plan to teach mapping tool and present research to ENG 398 in Fall 2015.

ENG 398, Digital Victorians:

Brief Course Description:

- "This is a course that will introduce you to basic digital methods of literary analysis by way of Victorian literature. But, even more, this is a course that asks you to think critically about what *literary* scholarship ought to do in the twenty-first century – culturally, politically, and socially. I want you to push the bounds of literary criticism, and I want you to come away from this course with a deeply reflective and critical sense of your own identity as a scholar of literature. And, to do all this, you need to understand the history of criticism, comprehend the current debates on how to "do" criticism, as well as possess the drive to explore criticism in other forms."
- 7 students.
- Overview of assortment of tools, including Annotation Studio, Voyant, Ngram Viewer, Lexos, and Juxta.
- Only 2 weeks on mapping tools. The first week focused on "one-shot mapping"



What is "one-shot" mapping?

- A strategy to introduce students to LTAs (low threshold applications) for mapping within only two class periods.
- As a result, less emphasis placed on skills acquisition and more emphasis placed on conceptual questions that arise when we think of texts in spatial terms.
- Objectives:
 - Skills: To introduce two digital tools for telling stories/analyzing texts by way of maps.
 - Conceptual (narrow): To consider what "hidden patterns" (in Franco Moretti's words) are brought to surface by focusing on the spatial world of text.
 - Conceptual (broad): To assess extent (if at all) that these digital tools challenge or modify

"literary criticism

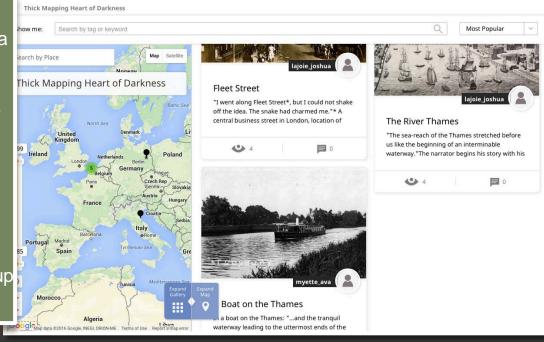


StoryMap JS

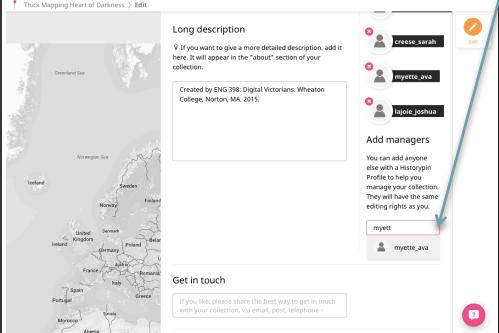
- Helps people "tell stories on the web that highlight the locations of a series of events";
- Aesthetically appealing;
- Perhaps reemphasizes causalchronological sequence of narrative;
- More conducive to individual work.

<u>Historypin</u>

- A digital gallery and map, providing a means for creating an open, crowdsourced archive of images, sound files, and text around a place, neighborhood, or location;
- Less aesthetically appealing (according to students);
- Gets rid of causal-chronological sequence of narrative;
- Because all "collections" are open,
 Historypin is more conducive to group work (with caveats).





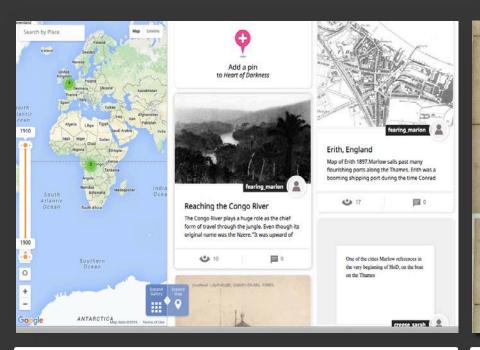


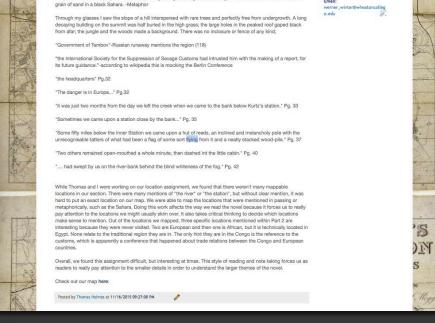
Prior to Class Period:

- Students read Heart of Darkness, making note of specific places mentioned. Students also read Franco Moretti's "Maps" from Graphs, Maps, and Trees to consider his suggestion that a literary map "offers a model of the narrative universe which rearranges its components in a non-trivial way, and may bring some hidden patterns to the surface" (54).
- Students used their Wheaton email (Google accounts) to create StoryMap JS and History Pin accounts.
- (Students emailed me to let me know their Historypin username, so I could add them to the Heart of Darkness collection I started)
- Students were instructed to explore StoryMap JS and Historypin for 15 min. each.

During Class Period:

- Students bring laptops to class (they can borrow from the library if they don't have their own);
- I introduced the backgrounds of each program;
- Students worked with partners for 45
 minutes on application of their choice to
 map locations they had recorded while
 reading Heart of Darkness. Each group was





After Class: Students continued work on their maps, following guidelines on course blog. They:

- Recorded all <u>named</u> and <u>implied</u> locations in assigned part of text.
- Found images, video, or audio corresponding to location.
- Researched (briefly) historical, social, economic, cultural significance of location.
- Compiled work into StoryMap JS or Historypin.
- Wrote a brief reflection.

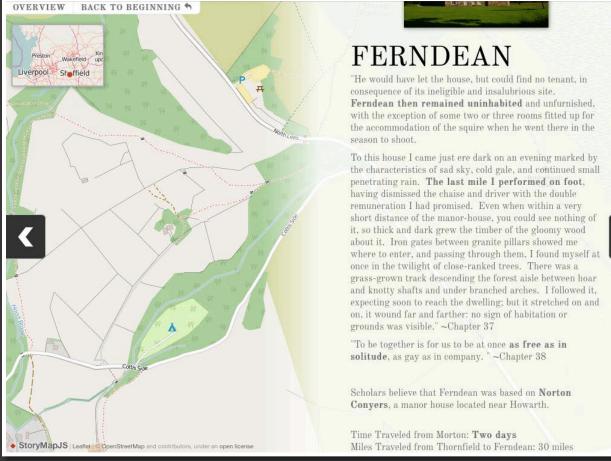
Next Class: Completed map; discussed reflections.

Outcomes: Mixed.

- Students put limited work into assignment because it was a busy time of year.
- Students complained how difficult it was to find any mappable location in HoD.
- Historypin was deeply unpopular.
- However, some interesting patterns emerged. The Part 2 Group noticed that while "there weren't many mappable locations in [their] section," they were "able to map the locations that were mentioned in passing or metaphorically."

"The 'Mapping Jane Eyre' project I decided to pursue was intended to be an interactive map of locations in the novel Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë that would demonstrate how far Jane travels in the novel. I used textual evidence to figure out where Jane travels, how far, and how long she stayed in each place. I placed this information on each slide of the StoryMap JS mapping tool, and corresponded the fictional location with a real one. The actual locations were decided by using various biographies to reach a consensus on what inspired Brontë. I added pictures of the locations to help visualize the setting, and I added quotes from each section to help guide users into what happens at each location. I wanted to combine these new ways of looking at texts with amore traditional way."

-Marion Fearing, Class of 2016



Outcomes, pt. 2: Later in the year, I had a student who decided to map *Jane Eyre* with StoryMap JS to see the extent to which the fictional geography of the novel corresponded with the actual geography of Yorkshire. She found that the novel largely *did* correspond to Brontë's Yorkshire, and she also found to her surprise that Jane travels roughly 400 miles over the course of the novel.

An infographic of the novel "Heart of Darkness"



A geographical layover of Joseph Conrad and Charlie Marlow's respective journeys -- real and fictional -- up the Congo River.

Web Map by RosenzweigT Last Modified: December 16, 2015

(0 ratings, 98 views)

Sign in to rate this item.

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Description

This digital infographic represents a series of locations pertaining to Joseph Conrad's Victorian adventure novel "Heart of Darkness." I have chosen to map the novel because it might offer answers to some of the following questions:

- Will this way of offering criticism for HoD reveal anything about Conrad's so called racism? Are Conrad's choices meant for literary purposes, or because of ideologies that he held?
- · Will it confirm the highly held notion that Conrad is Marlow?
- · Will it call into question Marlow's reliability as a narrator, or Conrad as an author?
- Can mapping a book bring something new to the reading of a book? For example, will knowing that there is a total lack of location markers (on the map) between the Central and Inner Company Stations usher in a greater sense of scale and unknown. making the narrative more claustrophobic or lonely or lost for the reader?
- . Does mapping the novel enhance the experience for the reader in any way?
- · Can visual/graphic criticism be useful for different sorts of learners?

This project was inspired by the Digital Humanities and Historical Literary Criticism, as well as the Visual Arts. With this project, I have aimed to adapt critic Franco Moretti's concept of Distant Reading for the computer age, using the program ArcGIS. The prevailing drive behind this mapping project was to determine whether distant reading could be a valuable supplement to close reading.

The project consists of an interactive map which pin points the locations given in the narrative and Conrad's personal Congo Diary, Labels in Green represent locations where Conrad (the author) stopped at on his journey from London to Kisangani. Labels in Orange are places Conrad went stopped at but have not been confirmed as 100% accurate. They are educated guesses. Labels in Purple show locations either mentioned or alluded to in the narrative of "Heart of Darkness." Labels in Blue show locations mentioned in the narrative, but not stops on Marlow's journey. Users can browse the pins on the map, find out information about the various locations that inspired or existed in the narrative.

The Digital Humanities supplement the traditional humanities disciplines by adding a method which brings them into the digital age. Using an online program like ArcGIS, a map like this can be used as a teaching tool or an infographic database of information. At the click of a label, the user can learn about the locations mentioned in the text, or in Conrad's diary, Some of the annotations even have hyperlinked images for additional information.

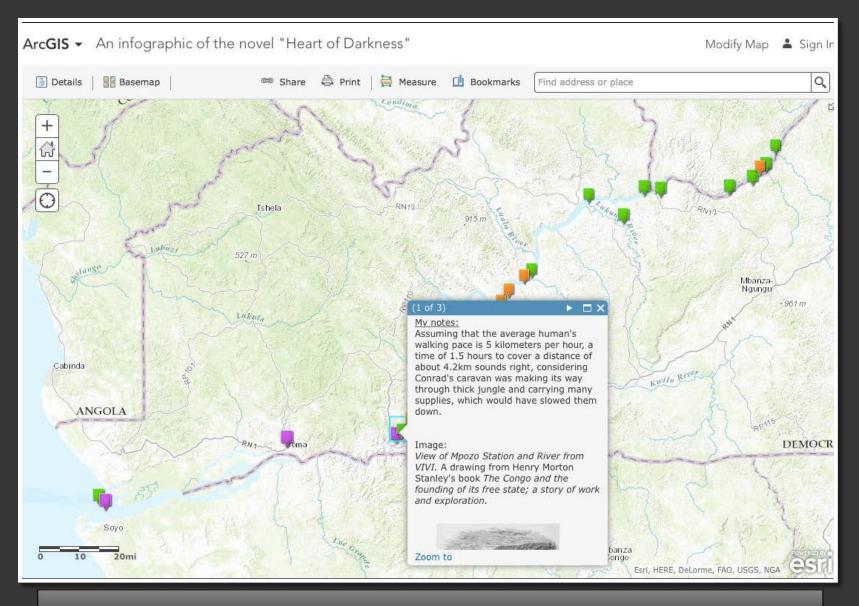
Not only does this project take full advantage of the database and interactivity, it's visual nature may also help answer long debated questions. One debate, for example, is whether or not Conrad's apparent racism was a personally held ideology or the product of his time. The lack of Purple pins on Africa, compared to those on Europe, may suggest that Conrad wanted to paint Africa as this uncivilized wilderness. Conrad would, after all, have known that this was not the case since they are all mentioned in his Congo Diary, which are the included as the Green pins.

Maybe Conrad didn't mention the place names in Africa as a literary tool to enhance the isolation or vastness of the land that he was writing about, and was having Marlow dangerously trek through. This is an adventure story, remember?

Or Conrad might be omitting them because they don't matter. The story is about the events, not the locations! Maybe the dispersion of locations means absolutely nothing! But this mapping project has been worth it if only to offer another view/stance/critical eye on the text.

What is "Sustained" Mapping?

- Working one-on-one with a student on a long-term mapping project.
- Tom Rosenzweig spent this past summer teaching himself the online program ArcGIS. This tool has the functionality of StoryMap JS and Historypin, and is more powerful than both. It is thus more difficult to learn and hence not appropriate for a one- to two-class period exercise.



Green: Where Conrad stopped

Purple: Places mentioned in HoD

Orange: Places Conrad may have stopped, but can't be confirmed as 100% accurate.

TAKEAWAYS:

One-Shot Mapping:

Pros:

- Easy to implement;
- Sparks student interest in analyzing text spatially;
- Allows for class collaboration;
- Prompts new research questions about texts.

Cons:

- Not enough time to create meaningful maps;
- Tech difficulties;
- General dislike of Historypin compared to StoryMap JS.

Sustained Mapping:

Pros:

- Promotes independent research and development of research skills;
- Informative final project;
- Gives student mastery over a single tool and text(s);
- Accomplishment can be listed on resume.

Cons:

- Critical payoff
 disproportionate to
 amount of time spent on
 work;
- Unclear future for project;
- Frustration on part of student on not having

community with whom to share final project.

Lessons for Future:

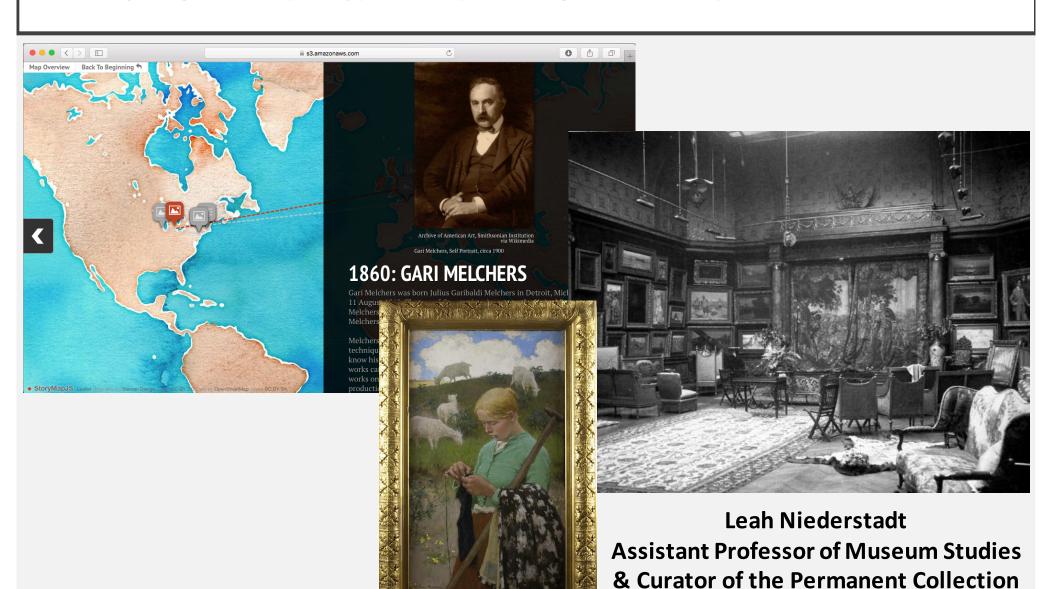
One-shot Mapping:

- Needs more than two class periods.
- Students prefer StoryMap JS; need strategy for class collaboration on this tool.
- Reflections might be more robust if completed later.

Sustained Mapping:

- More consideration of intended audience for project.
- Recognition of diminishing benefits in spending too long on project when student is *not* making large critical interventions.
- More consideration needed as to how to help student present/make accessible the research to larger community.

MAPPING OBJECTS & OWNERS: MAKING DIGITAL MAPS TO TEACH & TRACK PROVENANCE



Wheaton College (Norton, MA)

WHEATON COLLEGE PERMANENT COLLECTION





WHEATON COLLEGE PERMANENT COLLECTION









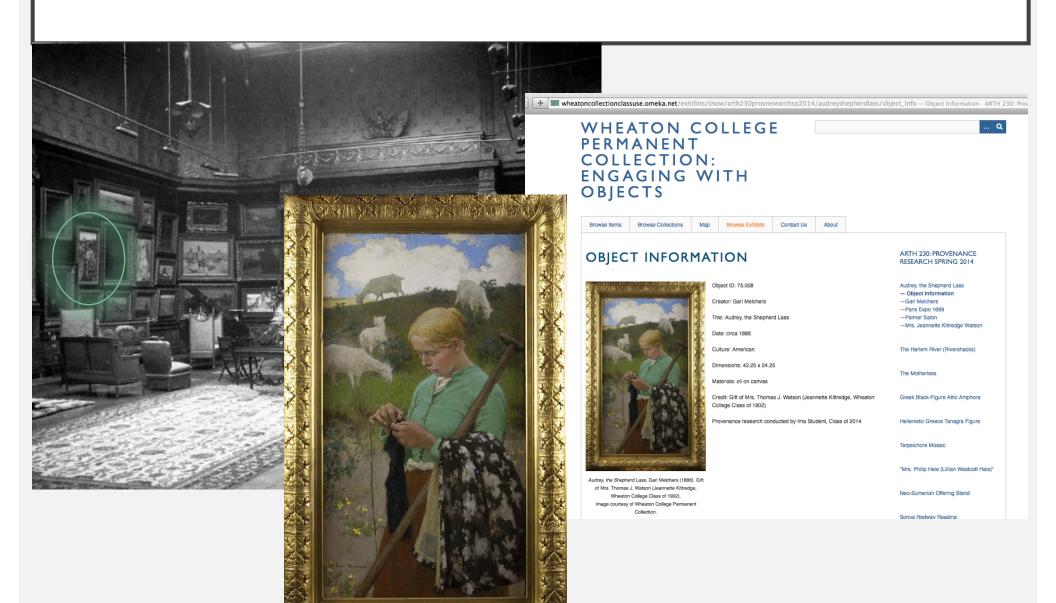








THE IMPETUS: AUDREY, THE SHEPHERD LASS



THE IMPETUS: AUDREY, THE SHEPHERD LASS



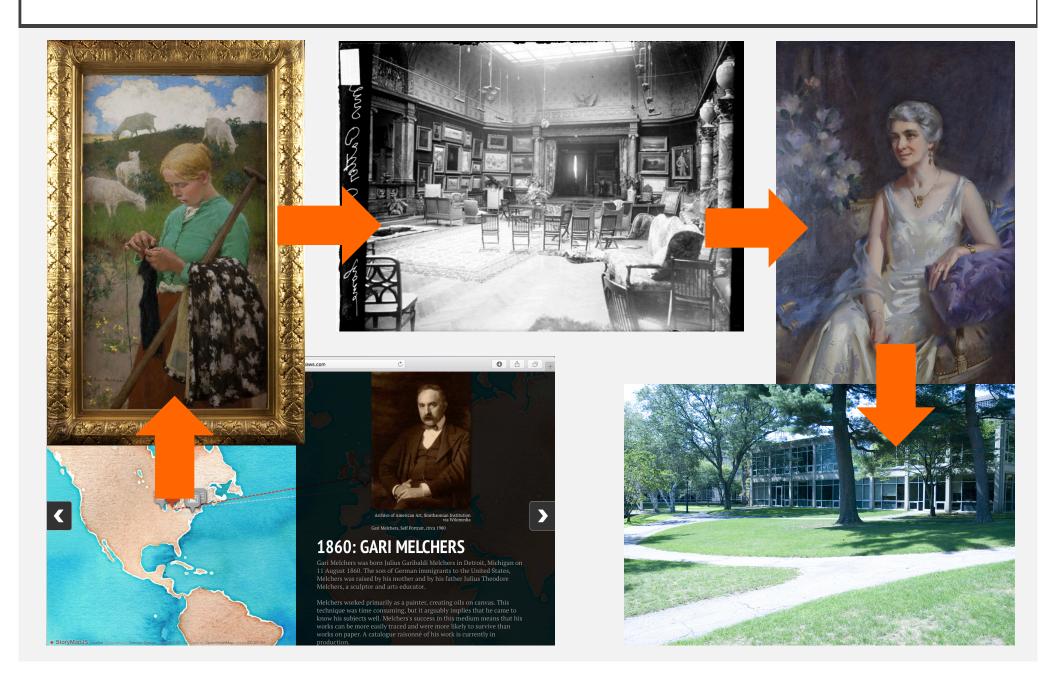
- 1886: Created in Holland
- 1889-1898: Expo (Paris, France) and the Paris Salon
- N.D.: Copenhagen, Denmark at the Exposition des Beaux-Arts Hamburg, Germany at the Grosse Kunstausstellung des Kunstvereins
- 1898: Sold to Potter & Bertha Palmer, Chicago, IL, USA
- 1898: Exhibited in Chicago, IL, USA
- 1899: Exhibited in Philadelphia, PA, USA
- Early 20th century: Displayed in Palmer home
- 1942: Sold at a Parke Bernet auction, likely to Jeannette Kittredge Watson, Class of 1902, in New York, NY, USA
- 1942-1957: Displayed in Watson home
- 1957: Donated to Wheaton College by Mrs. Watson

WHAT IS PROVENANCE?



- A record of ownership of a work of art or an antique, used as a guide to authenticity or quality. -Google
- History of ownership. -MFA, Boston
- From the French word *provenir*, which means "to come from," provenance is the history of ownership of a valued object... A full provenance provides a documented history that can help prove ownership, assign the work to a known artist, and establish the work of art's authenticity. —*Getty Institute*

WHY PROVENANCE MAPPING?



THE ASSIGNMENT: BASICS

- 4 Iterations
 - FSEM 101 Gift or Loot: Who Controls Cultural Property? (Fall 2013)

ARTH 230 Introduction to Museum Studies (Spring 2014; Summer)

2014; Fall 2015)

- 3 Digital Mapping Tools
 - Google Earth Maps (5)
 - Omeka Mini-Exhibitions (21)
 - Story Maps (13)
- Course evaluations & surveys
- 39 Objects



THE ASSIGNMENT: LEARNING OUTCOMES/GOALS

- Understand provenance and its relevance
- Understand narratives embodied in objects
- Use primary and secondary sources
 - Develop ability to "read" objects and images
- Strengthen research, writing, critical thinking, problem solving, and public speaking skills
- Increase comfort with ambiguity of research and with new technology
- Reinforce collaborative nature of learning
- Improve collection documentation
- Create means of promoting student work and collection to audiences on- and off-campus
- Develop teaching tools



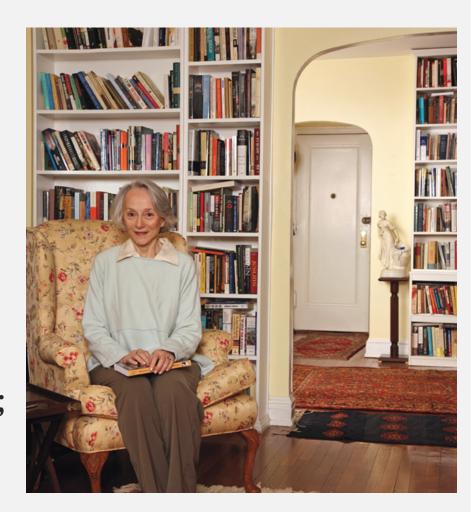
THE ASSIGNMENT: COMPONENTS

- Choose object from Google Doc list
- Initial meeting to view object and related documentation
- In- and out-of-class workshops: public speaking; identifying images; metadata; mapping technologies.
- Annotated bibliography (GRADED)
- Draft report/digital map
- Research log
- Digital map (GRADED)
- Provenance report (GRADED)
- In-class presentation (GRADED)



THE ASSIGNMENT: RESOURCES

- Objects
- Permanent Collection files
- Library-based resources (physical and digital)
- Gebbie Archives & Special Collections
- Advancement Office (microfiche)
- Interviews with: faculty and staff; donors; gallery/auction house staff; previous owners; etc.
- Geneaology websites, e.g., familysearch.com, findmypast.com

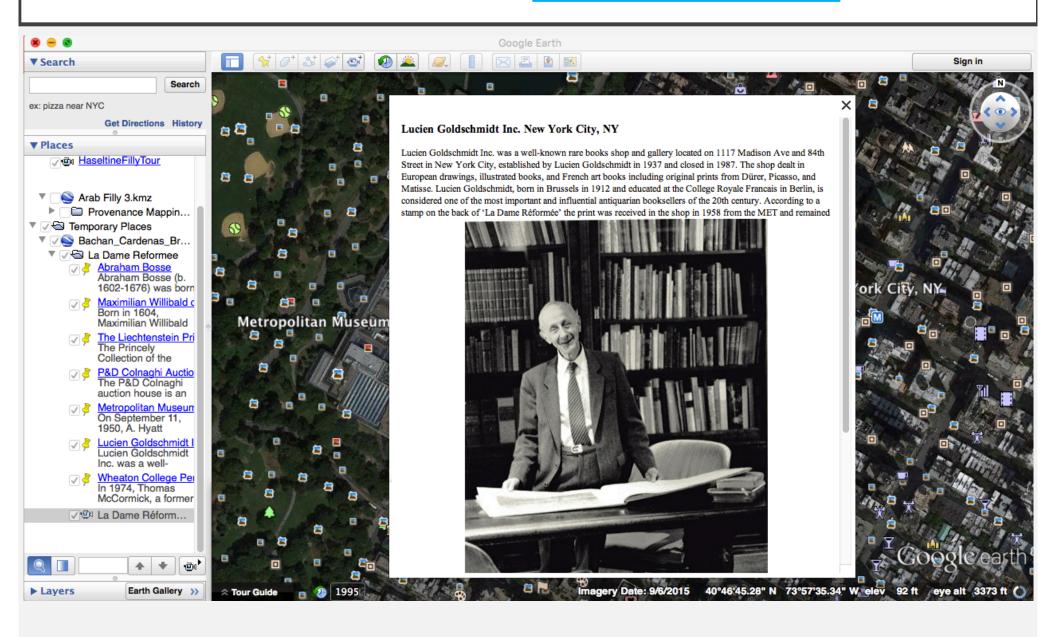


FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR: GIFT OR LOOT? (FALL 2013) PROVENANCE MAPPING: GOOGLE EARTH





FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR: GIFT OR LOOT? (FALL 2013) PROVENANCE MAPPING: GOOGLE EARTH



INTRO TO MUSEUM STUDIES (SPRING 2014) PROVENANCE MAPPING: OMEKA





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WHEATON COLLEGE PERMANENT COLLECTION: ENGAGING WITH **OBIECTS**

Browse Collections



Мар

Browse Exhibits

ARTH 230:

Browse All Browse by Tag

Provenance Research Spring 2014

In the Spring 2014 semester, students enrolled in ARTH 230: Introduction to Museum Studies were required to conduct provenance research on objects from Wheaton's Permanent Collection. Using primary source documents from the collection and the college's Gebbie Archives as well as a variety of secondary sources, they attempted to identify previous owners and/or locations for 18 objects ranging from antiquities to portraits and from books to textiles. This exhibit showcases their findings.

Contact Us



provenance, student research

ARTH 230:

Provenance Research

Summer 2014

During the 2014 summer session, students enrolled in ARTH 230: Introduction to Museum Studies were required to conduct provenance research on objects from Wheaton's Permanent Collection. Using primary source documents from the collection and the college's Gebbie Archives as well as a variety of secondary sources, they attempted to identify previous owners and/or locations for 3 objects held in the collection. This exhibit showcases their findings

class project, donor, provenance student research

Sarah Hilton, History & Public Policy Studies, Class of 2016: I

loved working on original research. It was much more exciting to know that this was my own research and my object. Rather than just compiling others thoughts on a subject, I was hunting for clues that no one else had found yet. The profound sense of ownership made the research addicting.



Browse Items Browse Collections

Browse Exhibits

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About

"MRS. PHILIP HALE (LILLIAN WESTCOTT HALE)"



Mrs. Philip Hale (Lillian Westcott Hale) was donated to Wheaton College in 1950 by Mrs. Marion Lolthrop (Class of 1907). Created by the famous gilded age American portrailist, William Merritt Chase between 1902 and 1914. The painting depicts Lillian Westcott Hale, a well established Boston artist, in a 314 pose looking down at the palette and brushes she is holding in her hands. The portrait is also known as Lady in Black, Portrait of Mrs. Philip Hale, or Mrs. Lillian Westcott Hale.

single and live by a strict moral code to make quality art, this would chance thought her career which extended into 1960, but in 1899 it was a scandal when Mrs. Hale received Chase's scholarship at attended his progressive, open-air art school in Shinnecock, Long Island [3]. In spite of this Mrs. Hale received a scholarship from Chase to attend his summer outdoor school in Long Island for the summer of 1899.

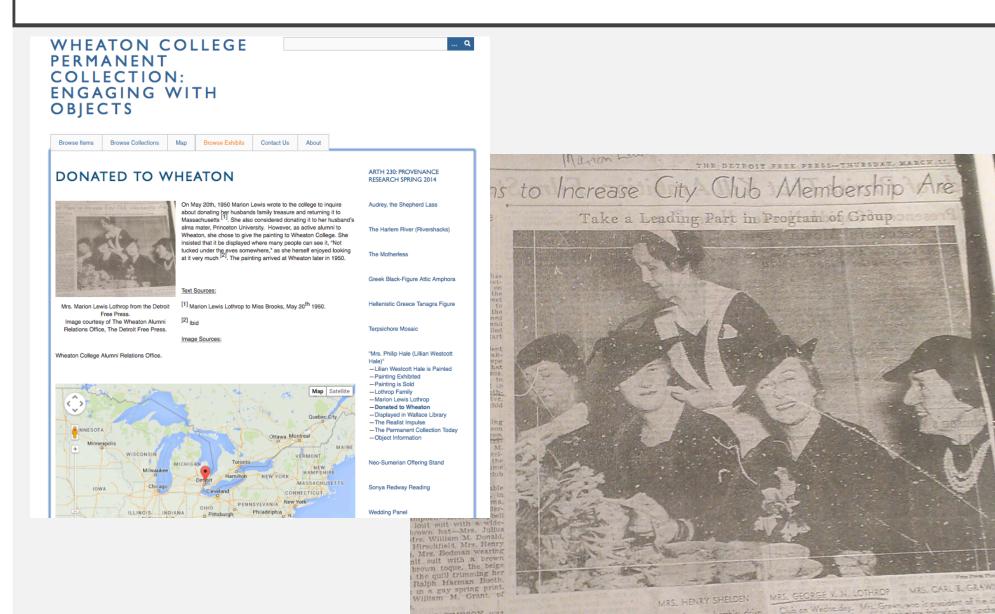
After the summer of 1899, Chase continued to occupy a studio in New York, while Lillian continued her studies at the School of Fine Arts in Boston. In 1902 Lillian became Mrs. Philip Hale as she married fellow Boston artist and teacher Philip Leslie Hale. The two lived together in Dedham and shared a studio in Boston. The story of Chase's Lillian Westcott Hale is more complicated.

Text Sources

[1] William Mettitt Chase to Harriet Westcott, March 14th, 1898, Box 53a, Folder 1444, Hale Papers, SSC in Erica Eve Hirshler, "Lilian Westcott Hale (1880-1963): a Woman Painter of the Boston School."



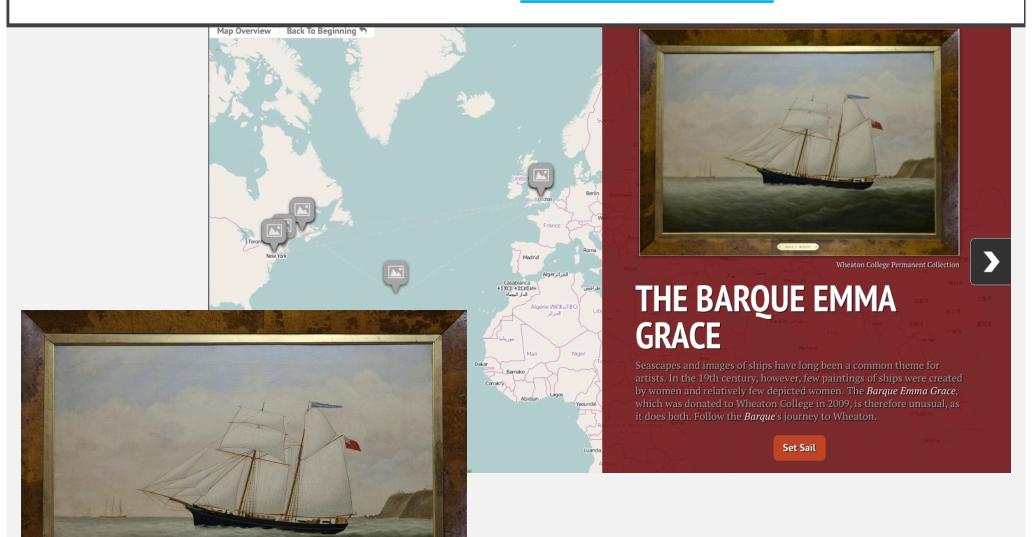
INTRO TO MUSEUM STUDIES (SPRING 2014) PROVENANCE MAPPING: OMEKA



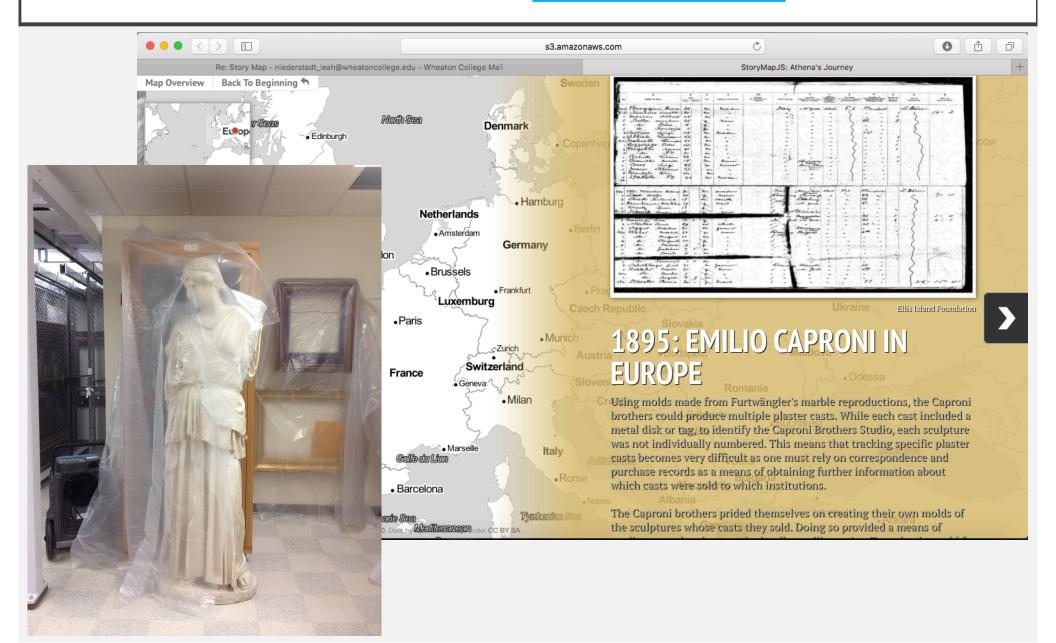
LFE SIMPSON WAS

ided at the meeting which took place following the lunch

INTRO TO MUSEUM STUDIES (FALL 2014) PROVENANCE MAPPING: STORYMAPJS



INTRO TO MUSEUM STUDIES (FALL 2014) PROVENANCE MAPPING: STORYMAPJS



SPRING 2014

- Improved comfort with ambiguity of research:
 - 4.33 post-project
- Improved comfort with new technology:
 - 4.22 post-project
- Improved research skills:
 - 4.56 post-project
- Prefer digital project: 5 out of 9
- Recommend project: 8 out of 9

FALL 2015

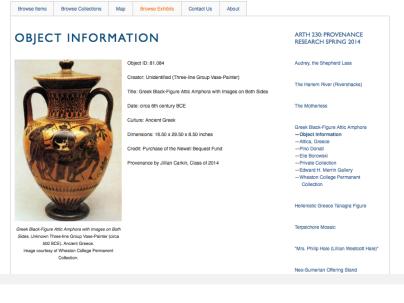
- Comfortable with ambiguity of research:
 - 3.00 pre-project
 - 4.25 post-project
- Comfortable with new technology:
 - 3.92 pre-project
 - 4.25 post-project
- Confident in my research skills:
 - 3.25 pre-project
 - 4.5 post-project
- Prefer digital project: 12 out of 12
- Recommend project: I2 out of I2

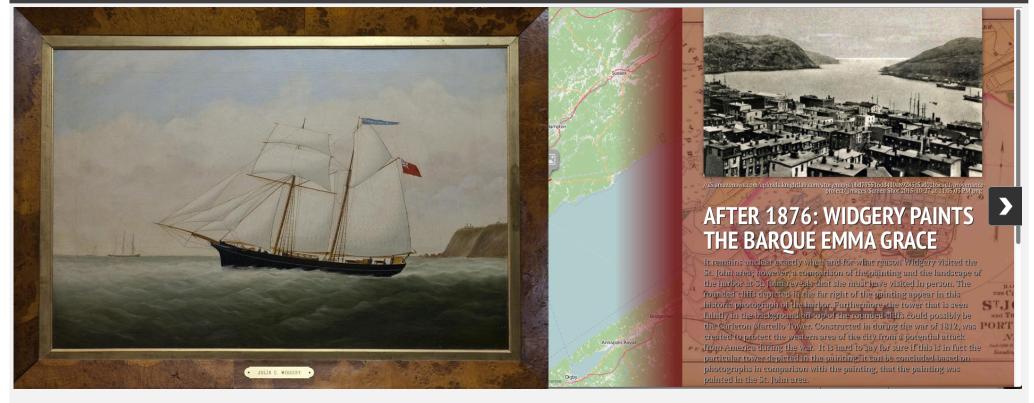


+ ■ wheatoncollectionclassuse.omeka.net/exhibits/show/arth230provresearchs

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COLLECTION:
ENGAGING WITH
OBJECTS







-Sam Barnett, Anthropology, Class of 2016 (StoryMapJS)

"I didn't like that I had to stop [the research]. My parents and friends... all saw how excited I was about the project... They said it sounded like a cool project and one that's important....I'm still obsessed with it."



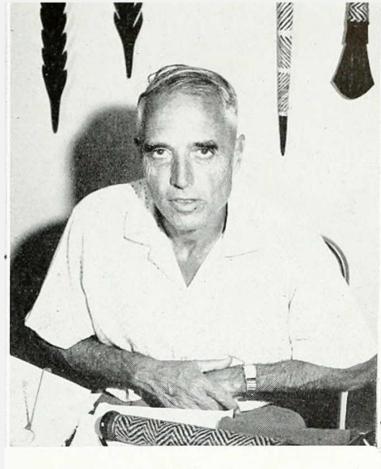
-Emma Wynne, Art History and German Studies, Class of 2018 (StoryMapJS)

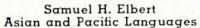
"I liked feeling like I was doing something useful for the collection, not simply writing a research paper for the sake of writing a research paper."

-Anonymous (Omeka)

"I think it should not be repeated because the parameters of the assignment cannot be controlled. Since the professor was not aware of the provenance of the object, she could not know how much, or how little, work she was assigning to her students. Further, since each project was different, different students had differing levels of difficulty in regards to their research. In addition, their [sic.] is no fair criteria for grading these projects. Someone may have worked incredibly hard but hit a dead end, or they might have just been lazy. There is no way to know. It is fundamentally unfair to grade different students differently. There should be an objective criterion, and that criterion was impossible for this assignment."



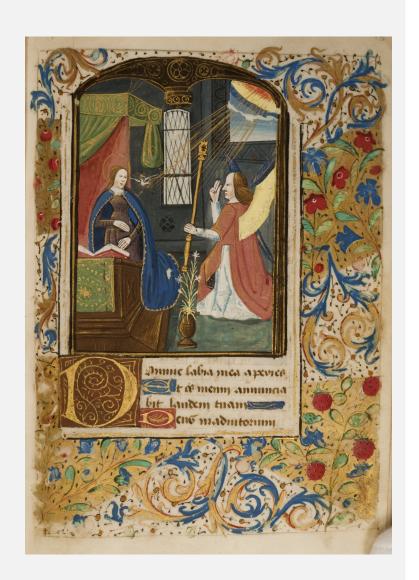






PROVENANCE MAPPING: GOING FORWARD

- Modify graded components: remove report and add research log
- Continue using StoryMapJS
- Increase clarity about the learning-tofail model and grading parameters
- Incorporate required meeting with LIS staff
- Modify assignment timeline to allow feedback on/edits to final map to be made by students, not faculty
- Trial "Gigapixel" story map to track Permanent Collections objects displayed on campus



QUESTIONS?

