

# KINGSLEY A. TAFT MAP ROOM

Permanent collection of the Supreme Court of Ohio



# The Law, the Land and the People

These works are part of the Ohio Judicial Center's collection of public art. Since it opened in 1933, the building has been home to numerous soaring and spectacular murals and neoclassical, awe-inspiring architecture.

The maps portrayed in this piece are part of a larger collection portraying themes exploring the beauty of the law, the diversity of our land and the nobility of Ohio's most precious resource: its people.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The French-language text of the maps in the Kingsley A. Taft Map Room is not uniform in its use of accent marks. The text of this document reflects the inconsistencies.



# About the Kingsley A. Taft Map Room

The Kingsley A. Taft Map Room features a well-preserved collection of 16 original, historically significant maps donated by Sheldon A. Taft, son of the late Chief Justice.

The maps, which date back to the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, reflect the evolution of the mapping of the area that became the northeastern part of the United States, including Ohio.

The collection is the product of nearly 25 years of research on the part of Sheldon Taft, who assembled the maps from a variety of sources, including historical map stores in New York and London, house sales and in one case, a street vendor in Venice.

The descriptions in this brochure proceed clockwise in the room. Facing the portrait of the Chief Justice, the first map is to the left.

The Kingsley A. Taft Map Room is not a part of the self-guided tour of the Ohio Judicial Center, but can be visited by appointment. For more information, call 614.387.9000.

# The Collection

## America Septentrionalis

*Created by H. Jansson/J. Hondius, 1636 - circa 1641.*

This earliest map of the collection represents the first separate Dutch atlas map of North America. The state of California is seen here as an island floating off the west coast of North America, which was a common misconception among early map makers. In addition, only one of the Great Lakes is shown, Lac des Iroquois, which is present-day Lake Ontario. The portrayal of the other four Great Lakes awaited later map makers.



# Le Canada, ou Nouvelle France



*Created by N. Sanson/A. DeWinter, published in Amsterdam circa 1690.*

Sanson created the first map to show all five Great Lakes, but Lac Superior (Lake Superior) and Lac des Puans (Lake Michigan) are shown with no western edges.

# Carte du Canada ou de la Nouvelle France et des Decouvertes qui y ont été faites

*G. De l'Isle, Paris, 1703 - circa 1706.*

This is an early edition of an important and influential map — one of the best of Canada of the period. Guillaume de l'Isle was the best map maker of his time, enjoying reportage from the French network of travelers, missionaries, merchants and military adventurers concerning their activities around the world. Despite some erroneous detail to the west, the depiction of the Great Lakes, their relation to Hudson Bay, and of the rivers and lakes of the north is better than anything prior. This early issue displays the finely engraved title cartouche with a detail rarely seen on this plate.



# A Map of Louisiana and of the River Mississippi

*J. Senex, London, 1721.*

A scarce map, this is the first English copy of De l'Isle's map of the region published in 1718 marking French territorial claims at the expense of the English. Senex's map covers a smaller area, excluding New York and the French settlement in Carolina. The figured key refers to "Habitations of the Indians," "Promiscuous Nations" and "Nations Destroyed." The decorative and elaborate cartouche in the lower right corner is a dedication to William Law of Lawreston, thought to be related to John Law, whose involvement with the Banque Generale, the Mississippi Scheme and money-making schemes in the Mississippi region in general led to much financial speculation throughout Europe.



# The Gentleman's Magazine Map of North America

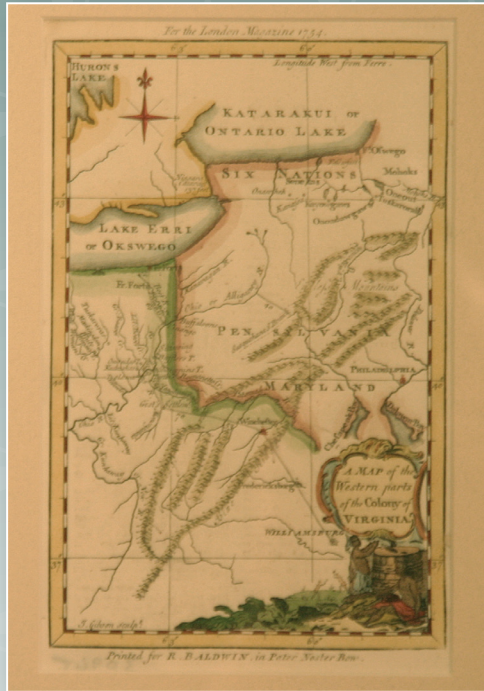
*Author unknown, April 1744.*

This map is a remarkably accurate portrayal on a fold-out page of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, published in London. It shows the eastern seaboard states extending to the Mississippi River.





# A Map of the Western parts of the Colony of Virginia



*Author unknown, 1754.*

This map focuses on the western parts of the Colony of Virginia, and despite its title, also includes most of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, western New York and western Pennsylvania. In addition, the map features many destinations of the first pioneers to break through the Appalachians and settle in the Ohio country in the late 1740s, and describes part of the Ohio territory that George Washington surveyed and coveted in the early 1750s. The map was engraved by J. Gibson to accompany an article in *London Magazine* in June 1754.

# Canada Louisiane et Terres Angloises

*Created by d'Anville, November 1755.*

This map is actually four sheets fitted together to show North America east of the Mississippi River. Because the measuring of longitude was still uncertain at that time, the longitude of la Belle Riviere (the Ohio River) is portrayed about 60 miles west of its proper position relative to Lake Erie. The lower right sheet provides a more detailed map of the Le Fleuve Saint-Laurent (St. Lawrence River). Pale red coloring denotes the area east of the Mississippi River, while pale green coloring denotes the area to the west.





# Esquisse des Rivieres Muskinghum, Esquisse du Sioto & Esquisse de la Riviere du Grand Castor

*Created by Tardieu, undated.*

These maps are based upon Journal du General Bouquet, les Lettres d'un Cultivateur Ameriquain, and Journal du Gl. Richard Butler, respectively. In 1764, Bouquet, then a colonel, led an expedition from Fort Pitt to Coshocton, Ohio, to free more than 200 captives of the American Indians. Three separate maps are represented here side-by-side on a single sheet. The maps include many geographical details, including the Fleuve de l'Ohyo (Ohio River), as well as information about the location of known American Indian villages of the time.



# A New General Map of America



*Created by Eman. Bowen, undated.*

This map shows the Western Hemisphere from the Solomon Isles in the west to the edge of Spain to the east. The borders of the eastern seaboard states of the United States are inaccurately shown, with western Pennsylvania not included in that state. The Louisiana Territory is shown on both sides of the Mississippi River, as in the d'Anville map (*page 8*).

# Carte de la Partie de l'Amérique Septentrionale qui comprend les Possessions Anglaises

*Author unknown, undated.*

This map details eastern Canada, which includes the northern États Unis (United States); however, the states are not demarcated individually. Pittsburgh is represented as “Ft. Pitt,” what is now southern Ohio is described as “Virginie” and the occupants of the region are identified as “Indiens de l’Ohio.”



# North America, from the Latest Authorities



*Author unknown, undated.*

This paper map is glued onto a thin wood base and cut into interlocking puzzle pieces. It includes the cities of Detroit and Sandusky, but not Chicago or St. Louis, which is shown as “Ft. Masac.” The map features the Columbia River, described alternatively as “River of the West” and “Oregon R.” Canada is represented by pale green coloring.

# Carte Générale des Etats de Virginie, Maryland, Delaware, Pensilvanie, Nouveau-Jersey, New-York, Connecticut et Isle de Rhodes

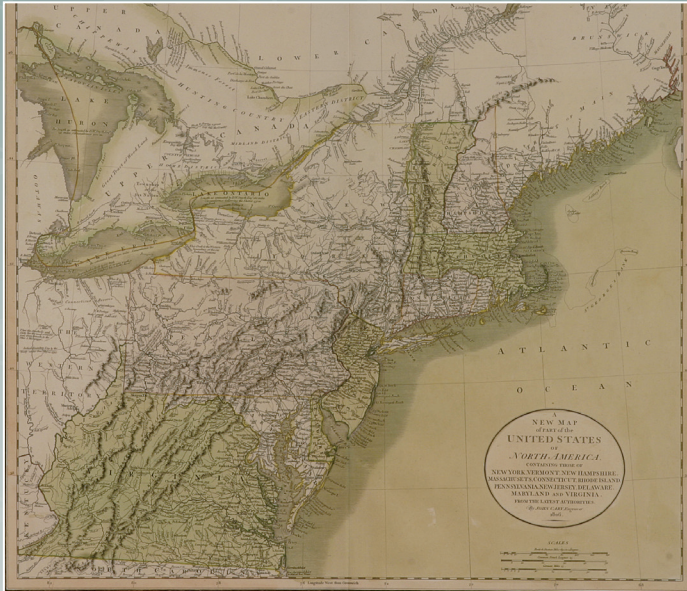
*Undated.*

This map, plagiarized and updated from the maps of Louis Evans and Thomas Jefferys, features both French and English geographical information, including Etat de Kentuke (Kentucky), suggesting the map was published after Kentucky's statehood in 1792. Towns represented on the map include Pittsburg, F. Sandusky, Louisville and Oswego.





# A New Map of Part of the United States of North America



*Created by John Cary, 1806.*

This map shows the United States north of North Carolina and east of western Ohio, including the Scioto River. The map incorrectly identifies Ohio not as a state, but as the Western Territory of the United States.

# Ohio and Indiana

*Author unknown, undated, but likely published circa 1835.*

This map depicts all of the Ohio & Erie Canal, but only a portion of the Miami Erie Canal, from Cincinnati to Dayton, is shown. Upon its completion, the canal ultimately led to Lake Erie. The map also shows the northwest border of Ohio at that time, which included the mouth of the Maumee River and what is now Toledo, in Michigan.



# A New Map of Ohio

*Created by Samuel Augustus Mitchell, 1846.*

This map was published in Mitchell's *New Universal Atlas*, which included finely engraved and delicately hand-colored maps and plans of all areas of the world. The inset is a detailed plan of Cincinnati. Steamboat routes are listed at the top and a profile plan of the Ohio Canal appears at the bottom. The map also depicts the original and new boundaries of Ohio and Michigan.





KINGSLEY A. TAFT  
1903 — 1970

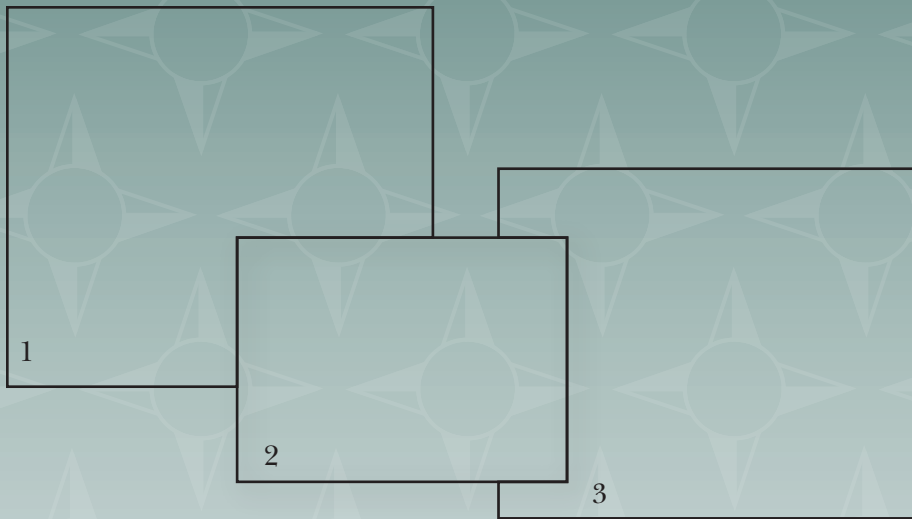
# Kingsley A. Taft

Kingsley A. Taft had a prolific political career that included election to the Shaker Heights Board of Education, the Ohio House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. The capstone of his career was the more than 22 years he sat on the Supreme Court of Ohio. Taft's service with the Supreme Court began with his election to the Court in 1948. He was re-elected in 1954 and 1960. He was elected Chief Justice in 1962 and re-elected in 1968. He served until his sudden death at age 66 in 1970.

Kingsley Taft was a member of the Cleveland Taft family, which is distantly related to the Cincinnati Taft family. The two lines are connected through a common ancestor who lived in Massachusetts more than 300 years ago.

A portrait of the distinguished Chief Justice Taft, commissioned for the Court after his death, hangs on the south wall of the Map Room. The portrait was painted by Cleveland artist Nancy Bunch Sheridan, who later was commissioned for several other portraits of Justices on display in the Ohio Judicial Center.

The artist created the portrait using photographs of Taft taken shortly before his death by the Toledo *Blade* to accompany an article about Taft and the Court.



## FRONT COVER IMAGE DETAILS

All maps donated by Sheldon A. Taft.

1. *Carte de la Partie de l'Amérique Septentrionale qui comprend les Possessions Anglaises*, author unknown, undated.
2. *North America, from the Latest Authorities*, author unknown, undated.
3. *America Septentrionalis*, created by H. Jansson/J. Hondius, 1636 - circa 1641.





# THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

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