

**Thomas F. Saarinen collection.**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Geography & Map Division**  
**Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2015**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/gmd.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2004626092>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/eadgmd.gm015008>

Prepared by Ryan Moore

Finding aid encoded by the Library of Congress Geography & Map Division, 2015  
Revised 2020-06

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Thomas F. Saarinen collection.

**Span Dates:** 1986-1992

**Call No.:** G3201.A67 coll .S2 Saarinen

**Creator:** Saarinen, Thomas F.

**Extent:** ca. 4,100 pieces (chiefly ms. maps) : some printed items, some col.

**Extent:** 204 folders

**Extent:** 7 bankers boxes (7 linear ft.)

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Geography & Map Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2004626092>

**Summary:** Thomas F. Saarinen was a geographer who extended the technique of mental or cognitive mapping to the world scale. He collected the first broad, worldwide sample in his research project titled, Parochial Views of the World. The collection consists of the raw data from that project and represents findings and administrative issues. Specifically, present are some 3,900 sketch maps of the world drawn by students from 71 sites in 52 countries; these maps were analyzed based on their positioning on sheets of paper ca. 8 1/2 x 11 inches. The collection also includes statistics, discussion papers, thesis papers, books, magazines, published articles, correspondence related to the project.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Saarinen, Thomas F. (Thomas Frederick)

### Subjects

Geographical perception--Maps.

### Form/Genre

Manuscript maps.

Maps.

Mental maps.

World maps.

## Provenance

In 1999, the Saarinen Collection was received as a gift from Dr. Thomas F. Saarinen, Department of Geography at the University of Arizona.

## Processing History

The Saarinen Collection was arranged and described by Herb Gilder, G&M Volunteer, in 2003. The arrangement and description was updated by Ryan Moore in 2015.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright of the Saarinen Collection is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The Saarinen Collection is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Geography & Map Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Saarinen Collection, Geography & Map Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Thomas F. Saarinen was born in 1934 in Calgary, Canada.

In 1956, Saarinen earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Pursuing his interests in geography, in 1964, he completed a master's degree in Geography at the University of Chicago. In 1966, he received his doctorate in Geography from the University of Chicago.

Professor Saarinen began his academic career at the University of Indiana, where he worked from 1961 to 1962. In 1965, he accepted a faculty position in the Department of Geography at the University of Arizona from where he retired in 1992.

He served on the editorial boards of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Environmental Design Research Association, and Internal Association for the Study of People and Their Physical Surroundings. He was affiliated with the Association of American Geographers and the American Geographical Society.

## Scope and Content Note

The Saarinen Collection contains some 4,100 pieces (chiefly ms. maps), as well as conference proceeding and other publications that discuss Saarinen mental maps. The collection also contains professional files that detail administrative issues of the project.

## Arrangement of the Collection

The Saarinen Collection is organized in three series.

- [Series I](#) Saarinen Mental Maps Collection
- [Series II](#) Saarinen Mental Maps, Publications about
- [Series III](#) Professional Records and Files Concerning the Project

## Description of Series

### Container

### Series

#### Saarinen Mental Maps Collection

Countries are arranged in alphabetical order. In some cases, multiple surveys were taken in a country, and those sublocations are listed in alphabetical order. Some country surveys include a summary file.

#### Saarinen Mental Maps Collection, Publications about

Article title and author are given. The type of publication is listed, such as serial, conference proceeding, etc.

#### Professional Records and Files Concerning the Project

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| FOLDER 140 | Centering of Mental Maps of the World, National Geographic Research, Vol. 4, 1988<br>Serial<br>Saarinen, T. F.   |
| FOLDER 141 | Mental Maps of the World: The Case of Singapore Students<br>Serial<br>Savage, Victor R.  |
| FOLDER 142 | Sketch Maps of the World as Surrogates for World Geographpic Knowledge<br>Serial<br>Saarinen, T. F.  |
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| FOLDER 204 | Student Maps of World 1971 [Sketch Maps received from Australia, Bulgaria and Israel after project was completed]<br>Subject File<br>Saarinen, T. F.   |