

Minto map collection

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



**Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
June 2024**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2024593555>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/eadgmd.gm024006>

Prepared by Richard Devery

Finding aid encoded by the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, June 2024

Collection Summary

Title: Minto map collection

Inclusive Dates: 1769-1811

Bulk Dates: 1809-1811

Call No.: G8070 coll .M6

Creator: Minto, Gilbert Elliot, Earl of, 1751-1814

Extent: 14 manuscript maps

Extent: 1 accompanying text

Language: Collection material primarily in English, many with Dutch placenames. One map in Dutch.

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2024593555>

Summary: The Minto map collection contains 14 manuscript maps of Penang (Malaya), Sumatra, Java, and Ternate (Dutch East Indies) and a short text accompanying one of the maps. The maps were collected on behalf of and owned by Gilbert Elliot, Earl of Minto, likely during his tenure as Governor-General of India from 1807-1814. These richly colored and illustrated maps show forts, cities, notable geographic features, and soundings of the waters surrounding and between islands. The maps reflect the geopolitical conflicts between the British, Dutch, and French empires in the Indonesian region during the Napoleonic Wars.

Provenance

This collection was originally assembled by Gilbert Elliot, Earl of Minto, circa 1811. It is a small selection of a larger collection held in the British Library, India Office Library and Records. This selection of maps, with one exception, were purchased by the Library in 1944. The map of Prince Wales Island was purchased from William Robinson, Ltd in July 1946.

Processing History

The collection was initially processed and compiled in a cartobibliography by John A. Wolter in 1999. The collection was reassessed in 2024 by Richard Devery.

Additional Guides

This finding aid is a result of an article in the Philip Lee Phillips Map Society's *Occasional Paper Series* by John A. Wolter, Chief of the Geography and Map Division (1978-1991): [The Napoleonic War in the Dutch East Indies: an essay and cartobibliography of the Minto collection](#), which is [fully digitized and viewable online](#). Dr. Wolter's study contains detailed historical context and descriptions of each map, and a historical summary of Britain's actions in the archipelago during the time leading up to the creation of the maps.

Other Repositories

See also the British Library, India Office Library and Records, for additional maps belonging to Gilbert Elliot.

Related Material

See also:

- Raffles, Sir Thomas Stamford, (1781-1826), Knight, colonial governor: letters etc to Lord Minto. MSS Eur F 148.
- See also the online copy of Major William Thorn's *Memoir of the conquest of Java*: <https://lccn.loc.gov/05008845>. Maj. Thorn conducted cartographic surveys during the British occupation of Java, and many of the maps in his memoir are similar to and related to those in this collection.

Materials Cataloged Separately

One map in the Minto collection is cataloged separately:

- [Plan of Ternate \[Dutch East Indies\]](#)

Copyright Status

Materials from the Minto map collection are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

Access and Restrictions

The Minto map collection is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the [Geography and 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, Minto map collection, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Gilbert Elliot-Murray-Kynynmound, 1st Earl of Minto (1751-1814) served as Governor-General of India from 1807-1813. Prior to this service, Elliot studied law and served in Britain's Parliament beginning in 1776. He was a governor of Corsica (1794) and later an envoy to Vienna. His tenure as Governor-General of India is noted for his facilitation of the Treaty of Amritsar in 1809 that created boundaries between British-Indian territories and the Punjab. He was also notable for leading the conquest of Réunion (called Bourbon at the time) and Mauritius, and for driving Napoleon's forces out of Amboina, the Moluccas, and Java.

The British maintained an intermittent presence in the East Indies from the 17th century through the beginning of the 19th. Commercial interests long dictated this presence: nutmeg, mace, pepper, and other spices brought commercial interests from Europe. The British government and various commercial concerns -- most notably the East India Company and its various precursors -- sparred with the Dutch, French, and indigenous populations in the Malaysian and Indonesian archipelago in the 200 years between the first settlements and Gilbert Elliot's tenure as Governor-General.

The island of Penang in the northern region of the Straits of Malacca was the site of the British colony Pulo Penang (later renamed Prince of Wales Island), established in 1786, which would come to serve as a strategic outpost for the geopolitical adventurism of the British Crown and East India Company. In the coming decades, Prince of Wales Island would become the jumping-off-point for the British attacks on the Dutch East Indies, most notably Java. Throughout 1806-1811, the British battled Dutch and French forces for control of Java, Madura, Sumatra, Mauritius, Bourbon, and the Spice Islands.

Upon leaving Java to assume duties as Governor-General in Bengal, Lord Minto appointed Thomas Stamford Raffles as Lieutenant-Governor to represent him on the island. Raffles promptly ordered a collection of Dutch maps of the island and commissioned new surveys. As part of this general mapping drive, the British identified important coasts, harbors, fortifications, and other geographic features of note in the Indonesian archipelago, many of which are depicted in this collection.

Scope and Content Note

The maps in this collection primarily depict important geographic features of the Indonesian islands.

Series 1: Malaya, Penang (Prince of Wales Island) contains a single map showing the first major settlement of the British in the region, Prince of Wales Island. The map shows soundings of the coast, high water lines, instructions for traversing the waters around the island, and the topography of the island.

Series 2: Sumatra contains 2 maps. The first is a Dutch map and the oldest in the collection, made in 1769, showing sites of economic significance, such as plantations, Dutch and Indonesian settlements, trees, and river soundings. The map is annotated in English by an unknown hand.

Series 3: Java is the largest series in the collection, containing 9 maps. The maps in this series are all of British origin and show locations of British and Dutch forts, volcanos, administrative boundaries, shoreline characteristics, water hazards, soundings, and rivers. One map in this series (Item 12) is a military map, depicting troop movements on Java during the siege of Fort Cornelis (August 13-26, 1811).

Series 4: Dutch East Indies, Ternate contains two maps showing the locations of fortifications, landing zones, gun batteries, and hills. One map (Item 13) is unfinished.

Arrangement

The Minto map collection is organized in 4 series:

- Series 1: Malaya, Penang (Prince of Wales Island)
- Series 2: Sumatra
- Series 3: Java
- Series 4: Dutch East Indies, Ternate

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

Blacker, Valentine, 1778-1823
Farquhar, William, 1774-1839
Mackenzie, Colin, 1753?-1821
Minto, Gilbert Elliot, Earl of, 1751-1814
Minto, Gilbert Elliot, Earl of, 1751-1814, collector.
Raffles, Thomas Stamford, Sir, 1781-1826
Whatman, James, 1777-1843

Subjects

Napoleonic Wars, 1800-1815--Campaigns--Indian Ocean Region--Maps.
Napoleonic Wars, 1800-1815--Naval operations, British--Maps.

Places

Indonesia--Maps.
Java (Indonesia)--Maps.
Pinang Island (Pulau Pinang, Malaysia)--Maps.
Sumatra (Indonesia)--Early maps to 1800.
Ternate (Indonesia)--Maps.

Form/Genre

Bathymetric maps.
Manuscript maps.
Military maps.

Container List

Container	Contents
	<p>Minto map collection 1769-1811, bulk 1809-1811</p> <p>Extent: 14 maps Extent: 1 text Series 1: Malaya, Penang (Prince of Wales Island), 1809</p>
ITEM 1	<p>A plan of Prince of Wales Island and the harbour of Fort Cornwallis, exhibiting a view of the Queda Shore from the Carrian River to Quala Mooda Point, being the extent of coast granted the honorable company by the king of that country, surveyed agreeable to the orders of the Honble., the Governor and council in the year 1809, by their most obedient humble servant Jerh. McCarthy, surveyor to the government, 1809</p> <p>Cartographer: McCarthy, Jeremiah Scale: 1:63,360 118 x 59 cm Mounted on linen. Pen-and-ink, hand-colored. 1 map on 2 sheets.</p> <p>Series 2: Sumatra, 1769-1809</p>
ITEM 2	<p>Caart van de Rivier Palembang meetkundig opgenoomen in Jünÿ en Jülÿ Ao. 1769 door</p> <p>Cartographer: Sparo, A. 160 x 47 cm Mounted on cloth. Pen-and-ink, hand-colored manuscript. In Dutch.</p>
ITEM 3	<p>A plan of the bay and river of Siac on the island of Sumatra, surveyed by the orders of the honorable the governor and council of Prince of Wales Island in the year 1809, by Mr. F Linch and laid down on a smaller scale, by Jerh. McCarthy, surveyor to the government, 1809</p> <p>Cartographer: Linch, F.; McCarthy, Jeremiah 137 x 71 cm Mounted on cloth. Pen-and-ink, hand-colored manuscript.</p> <p>Series 3: Java, 1806-1811</p>
ITEM 4	<p>A map of the island of Java, circa 1808</p> <p>Scale: approximately 1:440,000 Watermark: J. Whatman, 1808 87 x 250 cm Mounted on cloth. Pen-and-ink, hand-colored manuscript. Some placenames and some text in Dutch. Some placenames in English.</p>
ITEM 5	<p>A map of the islands of Java and Madura, circa 1810s</p> <p>Cartographer: Blacker, Valentine, 1778-1823 Scale: approximately 1:633,600 Watermark: J. Whatman, 1806 61 x 176 cm</p>

Series 3: Java, 1806-1811

Container	Contents
	Mounted on cloth. Pen-and-ink, hand-colored manuscript.
ITEM 6	A map, part of the island Java shewing the part of the country belonging to the chiefs of Souracarta and Djocjacarta, circa 1810s Scale: approximately 1:440,000 57 x 95 Mounted on cloth. Pen-and-ink, hand-colored manuscript.
ITEM 7	Placenames in Dutch, text in English. A chart of the north coast of Java from Rambang to Batavia, copied from a Dutch manuscript in the possession of Thomas Raffles, Esq. 1811 Scale: approximately 1:495,000 66 x 141 cm Mounted on cloth. Unfinished, pen-and-ink, hand-colored manuscript.
ITEM 8	Placenames in Dutch, title in English. [A chart of the north coast of Java from Rambang to Batavia], circa 1811 Scale: approximately 1:490,000 68 x 134 cm Mounted on cloth. Pen-and-ink, hand-colored manuscript.
ITEM 9	Placenames in Dutch. More complete version of Item 8. [Map of Java], 1811 Cartographer: Farquhar, William, 1774-1839 Scale: approximately 1:1,750,000 40 x 68 cm Mounted on cloth.
ITEM 10	Pen-and-ink, hand-colored manuscript. Map of the island of Great Java compiled from the maps of Valentyn and other authorities by Wm. Farquhar, Capt. 1811 Cartographer: Farquhar, William, 1774-1839 Scale: approximately 1:500,000 Watermark: Portal & Bridges, 1801. 46 x 174 cm Mounted on cloth.
ITEM 11	Pen-and-ink, hand-colored manuscript. [Map of the coastline of northwestern Java from Baly to P. Mandalieque, including the island of Madura], circa 1811 77 x 132 cm Mounted on cloth.
ITEM 12	Pen-and-ink, hand-colored manuscript. Plan of the entrenched lines & redoubts of Cornelis; with the attacks, carried on against the enemy, from the 13th to the 26 August 1811; from actual survey. Respectfully presented to the right honble. Lord Minto, Governor General of India etc., etc., by his most obedient servant C. MacKenzie, Ch. Engr. to the Expdn. 1811 Cartographer: Mackenzie, Colin, 1753?-1821 Scale: 1:8,050 84 x 41 cm Pen-and-ink, hand-colored manuscript.

Series 3: Java, 1806-1811

Container	Contents
ITEM 12a	Reference to the attacks on the enemy's posts at Meester Cornelis on 26th August 1811 Manuscript notes regarding Item 12. Series 4: Dutch East Indies, Ternate, 1807
ITEM 13	[Map of Hierie, Ternate, Tidore, Maytarra, Eilongan, and part of Gillolo (Halmahera) Islands], 1807 86 x 110 cm Mounted on cloth. Unfinished, pen-and-ink, hand-colored manuscript.
ITEM 14	Plan of Ternate, circa 1807 Scale: approximately 1:5,400 53 x 149 cm Mounted on cloth. Pen-and-ink, hand-colored manuscript. Cataloged separately: https://lccn.loc.gov/2010588436