

THE NORTH POLE.



PAC, H3/1000/[1635]



PAC, NMC 0001495



PAC, NMC 0021947

Birdseye View of Dawson, Yukon Ter., 1903.

We learn to look at the world by first looking at maps. Most maps teach us to regard north as up, south as down, with the equator smack in the centre; and most are abstract — a state, a province, a country or even a continent are presented in single, improbable colours. (The British Empire was never solid red). Here are a few maps that changed the rules.

In 1635, a mapmaker decided to depict the world from above the North Pole or "Polus Arcticus." In 1546 the East Coast of North America was mapped from what might be termed a Gulf of Mexico point of view. The cartographers who plotted Montreal in 1759 and Dawson City in 1903 gave us urban grids with background details.



PAC, A/1000/1546