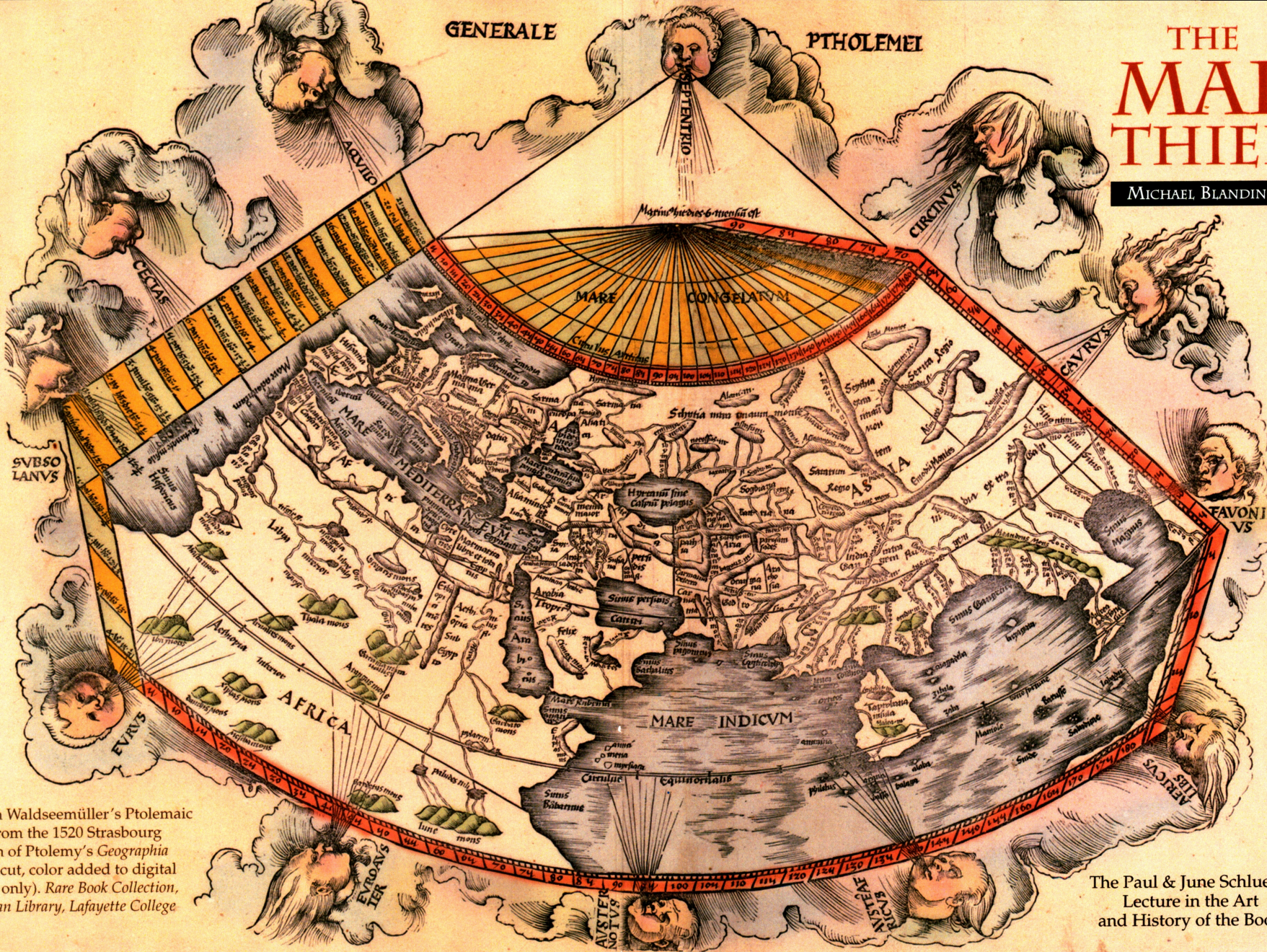


THE MAP THIEF

MICHAEL BLANDING

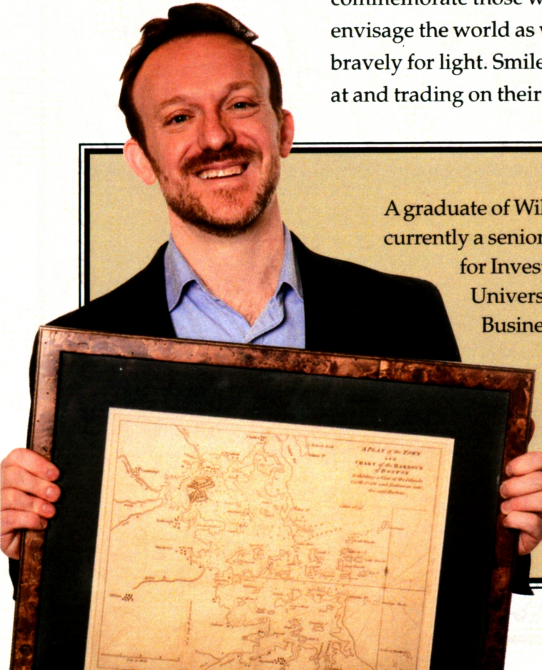


Martin Waldseemüller's Ptolemaic map from the 1520 Strasbourg edition of Ptolemy's *Geographia* (woodcut, color added to digital image only). Rare Book Collection, Skillman Library, Lafayette College

The Paul & June Schlueter Lecture in the Art and History of the Book

MICHAEL BLANDING is a Boston-based investigative journalist whose work has appeared in *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *Slate*, *Salon*, *Consumers Digest*, *The Boston Globe Magazine*, and *Boston Magazine*. His first book, *The Coke Machine: The Dirty Truth Behind the World's Favorite Soft Drink*, was published by Avery/Penguin in 2010. His latest, *The Map Thief: The Gripping Story of an Esteemed Rare-Map Dealer Who Made Millions Stealing Priceless Maps*, was published by Gotham Books in June 2014 and named an NPR Book of the Year, a New England Indie Bestseller by the New England Independent Booksellers Association, a MassBook Must-Read by the Massachusetts Center for the Book, and the winner of an NES Book Award by the New England Society of New York.

The Map Thief and its dramatic tale of the downfall of map dealer E. Forbes Smiley III, has received high praise from reviewers, including Maxwell Carter of the *Wall Street Journal*, who wrote, "Blanding's most moving passages commemorate those who helped build and, bit by bit, envisage the world as we know it ... These men groped bravely for light. Smiley, who spent decades marveling at and trading on their achievements, spurned it."

A photograph of Michael Blanding, a man with a beard and mustache, smiling and holding a large, framed, antique map. The map is mounted on a dark wooden frame and shows a detailed geographical area with various labels and lines. The background behind him is a light-colored wall with a framed text panel.

A graduate of Williams College, Blanding is currently a senior fellow at the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University and a staff writer at Harvard Business School. He has also co-written several travel guides to New England destinations for Moon Handbooks, and taught journalism at Emerson College, Northeastern University, and Grub Street Writers.

The Paul and June Schlueter
Lecture in the Art and History of the Book

THE MAP THIEF

Michael Blanding

Michael Blanding will tell the story of a map dealer-turned-criminal, E. Forbes Smiley III, who stole rare maps worth more than three million dollars from libraries around the country. Smiley was caught in 2005 when an attentive librarian spotted a razor blade he dropped on the floor of the Beinecke Library at Yale, leading to the unraveling of his deceptions. Blanding will also talk about the importance of the maps stolen by Smiley and the implications of such thefts for library security.

THURSDAY, OCT. 22, 4:30 P.M.

Gendebien Room, Skillman Library

Reception and book signing to follow

THE SCHLUETER LECTURE SERIES was established in 2007 by Drs. Paul and June Schlueter in support of Skillman Library's Special Collections. The donors intended that the lecture series cover a range of topics associated with the history, culture, production, conservation, and collection of books of all time periods and in all formats. Their generous gift also supports acquisitions for Special Collections.