

the best-fit method employed the use of the Affine  
computer program to evaluate the conformity of the  
projections.

**ABSTRACT**

Title of Thesis: Accuracy And Distortion In Historical  
Maps: A Study Of Augustine Herrman's  
1673 Map Of The Chesapeake Bay

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Degree and Year: Master of Arts, 1992

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Augustine Herrman's 1673 map has been generally  
accepted in historical cartography as a classical example  
of a mother map. As a source of original geographic  
information of the seventeenth century, the map needs to  
be evaluated by techniques which have not been used in  
traditional historical cartography. The established  
constructs of historical cartography limit the scope of  
comparative mapping analysis as a geographic study. The  
accepted presentations of temporal sequencing and physical  
comparison of early maps and charts as historical  
documents are incorporated in this study. These  
traditional techniques are augmented by the assessment of  
the map's accuracy which focuses on the best-fit method  
comparing the projection conformity of the Herrman map to  
contemporary nautical charts of the same region. Once the  
historic map and the contemporary charts were digitized,