

THE HISTORY OF CARTOGRAPHY

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Newsletter 15

13 January 1991

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UNIV. OF WIS.-MADISON

GEOGRAPHY LIBRARY New Funding Initiatives

J. Brian Harley 1932-1991

We were shocked and deeply saddened by the sudden death of our friend, colleague, and mentor, Brian Harley, on Friday, 20 December 1991. Brian suffered a heart attack on the way to his office at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his daughters, Karen, Claire, and Sarah.

A memorial service will take place on Friday, 31 January 1992, at 3 p.m. in the American Geographical Society Conference Room, 4th floor, Golda Meir Library, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Another service will be held at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, London, at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 17 March 1992, in London.

Donations in Brian's memory to help support his many projects may be made as follows:

For fellowships, lectures, and the *Maps and the Columbian Encounter Project*: to the J. Brian Harley Memorial Fund at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Foundation, 3230 East Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee, WI, 53211, U.S.A.

For *The History of Cartography Project*: to the J. Brian Harley Memorial Fund at the University of Wisconsin Foundation, 150 E. Gilman Street, P.O. Box 8860, Madison, WI, 53708-8860, U.S.A.

Brian and David Woodward conceived of the *History* Project in 1977; the *History's* emphasis on the function of maps resulted in part from Brian's attention to their political and social contexts. Brian continually reviewed basic assumptions about cartography, often looking to critical approaches from other disciplines to see maps in a new light. His influence on the *History* will be evident in all the volumes of the series.

Brian's knowledge, experience, wisdom, generosity, and wit are irreplaceable. His loss to the field is incalculable. As he quoted in a recent article in the *UWM Research Profile*, "This is a field where the vineyard is large, and the laborers few." Brian did the work of many laborers, but we know that his inspiring example will encourage us and others to continue it.

Many thanks to all of you who answered our requests for support. The response was heartening. In addition to acknowledging gifts in the next book, we're giving all 1991 donors the first of a numbered series of literary quotations about maps and mapping. We hope to produce a new broadsheet, hand-printed letterpress, each year.

Special thanks go to the various regional map societies that are supporting our work and to those map dealers who have published a call for funding in their catalogs and newsletters: Richard Arkway, Martayan Lan and Augustyn, Jonathan Potter, George Ritzlin, Thomas Suarez, and Overlee Farm Books.

Volume News

Cartography in the Traditional Islamic and South Asian Societies will be out in Spring. Forty color plates and 358 half-tones illustrate Book 1 of Volume 2; many of these artifacts have never been described or illustrated before. After brief introductions, each part contains essays describing the maps, their makers, and functions. For the Islamic world, we have chapters on Arab geographical maps, celestial mapping, cosmography, geodesy, nautical charts, qibla maps (that locate the direction of Mecca for prayer), and a sub-section on Ottoman mapping. The South Asian chapters deal with cosmography, geographical mapping, and nautical maps. Our work on this book let us see that we could not divide the Old World into East and West as if they were completely distinctive. But exchanges among the cultures were neither transparent nor complete; transmission rarely involved unqualified adoption.

As Book 1 comes out, Book 2, *Cartography in the Traditional East and Southeast Asian Societies* will go to the copyeditor.

Volume 1 continues to sell steadily, and many of its purchasers returned the "registration cards" requesting more information. In 1991, *Imago Mundi* published an extended review by Leonid S. Chekin and Alexander V. Podossinov that impressed us with the depth of the reviewers' reading of the Volume. A version of the review appeared in Russian last January in *Journal of Ancient History*.

In spring of 1991, PBS broadcast *The Shape of the World*, a six-program series about the history of cartography and discovery. Patrick Stewart (of *Star Trek*) narrated the shows. Granada TV, Ltd., produced the series with significant input from Project editors and authors.

In June the *Unesco Courier* devoted an entire issue to maps and mapmakers. Brian wrote the lead article, "The New History of Cartography," and was an advisor for the issue. David and Brian also wrote an article on maps and Columbus for the December 1991 issue of *Américas*, a publication of the Organization of American States. Brian received the Medal of the British Cartographic Society for "Contributions to International Cartography," and the Center for Twentieth-Century Studies in Milwaukee selected him as a fellow in residence for the 1991-92 academic year.

As a consultant for the National Gallery exhibit *Circa 1492*, David was happy to see maps play a significant role. He spoke about world views of the time for a symposium at the Gallery, Nov. 30-Dec. 1. Earlier in November, his talk "The Aesthetics and History of Cartography," opened the New York Historical Society's series of lectures accompanying their exhibit "Imagining the New World."

The International Conference on the History of Cartography drew more than 200 participants to Sweden in June. David and Michael Conzen constitute the program committee for the next conference, set for Chicago in 1993.

David arranged for Madison to host the traveling exhibit "Maps and the Columbian Encounter" in July; Brian gave a talk about how the mapmakers' values permeated the maps.

The History of Science Society and the Society for the History of Technology held their annual meeting in Madison this year. The Project held a reception, and despite cold and rainy October weather, more than 40 guests came to Science Hall to talk to Project staff.

Catherine Delano Smith worked at Yale University and The Newberry Library in early fall. She and Tony Campbell organized a new annual seminar series, "Maps and Society," at the Warburg Institute of the University of London, sponsored by Lawrence Worms and Jonathan Potter, with support from IMCOS and *The Map Collector*. Speakers for 1991-92 include authors Paul Harvey, William Ravenhill, Denis Cosgrove, and John Andrews.

Alexey Postnikov spent the spring in residence at the American Geographical Society Collection after a stay at The Newberry Library. Michael Conzen delivered April's *Maps and America* Lecture, "Prospects of Plenty: County Atlases and 19th Century American Materialism," at the AGS in Milwaukee. Judith Boltz will be at the British Library through August, 1992.

Project Staff

The History of Cartography Project offices are in Madison, Wisconsin. Prof. David Woodward directs the Project, which is staffed by Managing Editor Judith Leimer, Administrative Assistant Susan MacKerer, Project Assistants Christina Dando (illustrations) and Barbara Whelan (references), with clerical help from Charles Dean. Research Associate Kevin Kaufman, a staff member since 1983, left the Project this year to move to Columbus, Ohio. Project Assistant Paula Rebert (references) also left to accept an internship at the Library of Congress. The Project Office at UW-Milwaukee is staffed by Program Assistant Ellen Hanlon and Research Assistant Pellervo Kokkonen. Mark Warhus continues to coordinate activities at the Office for Map History.



Al-Idrisi's World Map from the Oxford Poccoke Manuscript
Dated 1456 and copied from 'Ali ibn Hasan al Hüfi al-Qāsimi.