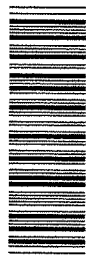


History of Cartography

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Newsletter 14

20 December 1990

Volume 2, *Cartography in the Traditional Asian Societies*

is moving into the home stretch. To speed production of the two books, we're sending them volume out for copyediting and typesetting in sections.

Book 1: *Cartography in the Traditional Islamic and South Asian Societies*

In the South Asian section, the cosmography chapter is particularly interesting, tracing spatial imagery among the complex cosmologies of the Indian subcontinent. In examining cosmological concepts, Prof. Joseph Schwartzberg (Univ. of Minnesota) found cosmographical content in many pictures that to the uninitiated would seem to have no maplike purpose. For example, a seemingly abstract painted rectangle studded with glowing jewels might represent, to a devout Jain, a specific world with a definite name and place in the cosmos. Pictures use such unlikely symbols as the human body or actual towns to describe the topography of the spiritual world. The University of Chicago Press copyedited this section this fall. It will go to the typesetter before the end of the year.

We are especially excited about the Ottoman chapters in the Islamic section because the *History* may be the first work to examine Ottoman cartography systematically. These maps married elements of both traditional Islamic and European cartographies. Though extant examples include incredibly detailed administrative maps of the aqueduct systems of Istanbul, splendid itineraries and town views, as well as two newly discovered portolan atlases similar to that of 'Ali Macar Re'is ("Skipper Ali the Hungarian"), many more artifacts are not yet even cataloged and are therefore not available for study. The University of Chicago Press copyeditor now has this section.

**Book 2: *Cartography in the Traditional East and Southeast Asian Societies***

As a result of external readers' suggestions, the East Asian section has gone through major changes. A new overview chapter on China sets the artifacts in their chronological context and sets out the *History's* thematic approach. We have abandoned the premise that cartographic history auto-

matically "progresses" toward modern scientific quantification. Such a narrow view does not match either the reality of Chinese history or the complexity of the artifactual record. For instance, two maps, the *Hua yi tu* and the *Yu ji tu*, engraved on the same stele, may seem to represent two approaches to mapmaking, one quantitative and the other descriptive. But we view their juxtaposition on the same stone as indicating that they are part of the same mapping tradition. A recent recruit to the section is Prof. Gari Ledyard (East Asian Language and Literature, Columbia Univ.) brings his knowledge of Korea's history and culture to an examination of Korea's cartographic distinctiveness. The East Asian section will be copyedited in the spring.

The chapters on Southeast Asia, now being completed by Prof. Schwartzberg, presented a unique challenge. The previous literature about the few extant artifacts is very limited; apart from cosmographic aspects of architecture we have no extant examples from before the 16th century. In spite of these difficulties, the diversity of available artifacts is absorbing: a Batik shawl contains a Javanese or Balinese map; and spatial arrangements of residences, towns, and even minor states in Indonesia have been seen as symbolic cosmographical maps.

Volume 1 continues to sell steadily; a number of postcards have come in from people who purchased the second printing. A few reviews are still appearing.

Volume 3 revised manuscripts are still arriving. This volume is larger than the two books of Volume 2. Currently we're considering dividing it between mapping on the European continent and mapping overseas; the latter book would include a systematic treatment of colonial cartographies and would address the encounter between the European and indigenous cartography.

Volumes 4-6 are on hold, and we are asking our patient authors to keep track of recent research in their areas to incorporate into the final versions of their essays. When both books of Volume 2 have gone to press, we shall have a little more time for editing and further planning.

Miscellaneous GEOGRAPHY LIBRARY

Various journals have reviewed Kevin's catalog of the John Carter Brown Library exhibition of the George and Nancy Parker collection, *The Mapping of the Great Lakes in the Seventeenth Century*. All the reviews we've seen have been enthusiastic, and one reviewer suggested that Mr. and Mrs. Parker, in their support of the exhibit and catalog, offer an example to other map collectors to sponsor serious scholarship in the field.

In February we'll be watching public television for a 6-program series, about the history of cartography. The Project and its authors gave extensive advice to England's Granada TV, Ltd. during the planning and research for *The Shape of the World*. Granada previewed programs 1 and 4 in England in September.

Cordell Yee's slide presentation to the Washington Map Society March meeting, "Text and Image in Chinese Maps," discussed the difference between traditional Chinese approaches to cartography and the ones we take for granted in the West. Cordell is Assistant Editor for Volume 2, Book 2 and began his talk with a progress report on the Project. An abbreviated version of his talk will appear in the January issue of the Washington Map Society Newsletter.

Last spring the Newberry Library Hermon Dunlap Smith supported our author Catherine Delano Smith in a second period of residence for her work on volumes 3 and 4.

Milwaukee Activities

The Office for Map History, which Brian directs, just celebrated the official opening of the facsimile exhibition "Maps and the Columbian Encounter." The panel display of 41 maps and over 100 other illustrations explores the development of early colonial mapping, shows the interaction between indigenous and European cartography to the early 17th century, and allows visitors to compare the world views of pre-conquest indigenous civilizations with those of pre-Columbian Europe. The exhibition, now booked to appear in 18 states, is a cooperative venture of the American Geographical Society Collection, The James Ford Bell Collection, the William L. Clements Library, and The Newberry Library. A major exhibition in 1992 will show the original maps. Brian has written an interpretive guide to the exhibition containing 120 illustrations. It is available for \$12.95 from the Office for Map History, P.O. Box 399, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Checks may be made payable to University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

History author Helen Wallis inaugurated the Arthur Holzheimer annual "Maps and America" lecture series with a talk "Columbus and the Early Maps of America: Island and Mainland in the Ocean Sea." AGS Collection fellows for

1990 were G. Malcolm Lewis (Project author from England), W. A. R. Richardson (Australia), and Zsolt Török (Hungary). Vol. 5 author Alexey Postnikov (U.S.S.R.) will arrive in March after a period in residence at the Newberry Library. Mark Warhus coordinates the Columbus exhibit and continues to run the Office for Map History.

Editors' Outreach

Both David and Brian have published various papers and given a number of public presentations over the course of the year. Brian's "mildly controversial" lecture at the International Map Collector's Society meeting this fall, "The Naming of America," examined alternative theories of how Waldseemüller came to enter the name "America" on his famous New World map. Brian notes that the participants responded positively even when they disagreed with what he had to say. UNESCO sought Brian's advice for the spring issue of its multilingual publication *The Courier*, which will focus on cartography. The issue will contain Brian's short overview of the history of cartography. Brian is also advising the New England Humanities Council about a panel exhibit of texts and maps.



David found his 6-month sabbatical leave at the Newberry Library a welcome opportunity to pull together a decade of notes and bibliographies on the 16th-century Italian map trade, finish up his watermark work, and look at the Novacco Collection in depth. Though several publication projects arose out of this work, only the descriptive bibliography of 94 maps and prints of Paolo Forlani will appear this year (Hermon Dunlap Smith Special Publication 4, available for \$8.00 from the Hermon Dunlap Smith Center, the Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., Chicago, IL 60610). Also in the works are a biographical article on Forlani, a paper on the use of offset images in cartobibliography, and a watermark catalog of radiographs gathered over the last 10 years. The National Gallery of Art, with David's advice, will include an impressive assortment of original maps in its planned exhibition *Art at the Time of Columbus*. David is encouraged to see major art museums accepting maps as one of history's standard art forms.

Co-Editors of *The History of Cartography* are Prof. David Woodward of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Prof. J. Brian Harley of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The main Project office is in Madison, staffed by Managing Editor Judith Leimer, Research Associate Kevin Kaufman, Administrative Assistant Susan MacKerer, Project Assistants Christina Dando (illustrations) and Paula Rebert (references), with clerical help from Karen Beidel. Program Assistant Ellen Hanlon holds together the Milwaukee branch office with Brian. All of us at the History of Cartography Project wish you a very happy holiday season.