

The PORTOLINI

A SAMPLING OF BOOK REVIEWS

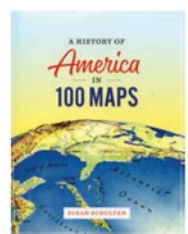
Book Review

Schulze, Susan. *A History of America in 100 Maps*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2018. Outside the United States, London: The British Library, 2018. Hardcover, 9x11 1/2 inches, 256 pages, 100 color plates, endnotes, bibliography, index. ISBN 9780226456618 (hardcover); ISBN 9780226456755 (e-book); \$35.00. Available on Amazon.com

Reviewed by J. C. McElwain

Over the last several years, a number of books have been published purporting to tell the history of a particular phenomenon in 100 objects. In a 2014 article in *Slate.com*, the author traced the development of that trend to a 2010 television series and accompanying book by the British Library called *The History of the World in 100 Objects*. The author went on to point out that the concept has been used for countries, cities, sports, hobbies, Shakespeare, and many other categories. The Smithsonian Institution even put out a book called *A History of America in 100 Objects*. So why read a book purporting to tell the history of America in 100 maps? The answer is because it is fascinating, informative and provides maps that tell a complicated story in a shorthand form that is often easier to visualize than an article or even a book on the subject.

An outstanding example of this format may be a map highlighted in this book called *Map Showing the Distribution of the Slave Population of the Southern States of the United States, compiled from the Census of 1860*, published by the U.S. Coast Survey in 1861. The map showed the concentration of slaves on a county-by-county basis. The lightest areas on the map indicated the relative absence of slaves. The book's author points out that Abraham Lincoln relied on this map in several ways.



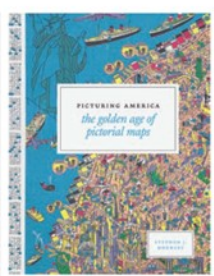
Hornby, Stephen J. *Picturing America: The Golden Age of Pictorial Maps*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press and the Library of Congress, 2017. Hardcover, 8.5 x 11 inches, 153 color plates, ISBN 9780226386041 (paper available as e-book) \$45.00

Reviewed by Cassandra Britt Furnell

Although not sought after by American map libraries, a distinctly American map, the pictorial map, was very popular in the twentieth century, reaching its greatest heights of appeal in the years following the First World War through the 1950s. Graphic and commercial artists who worked for advertising agencies, mainstream publications, and designed images for cartoons and movies, drafted pictorial maps that depicted through art, map and text American industrial advancement, American history and architecture, and distinctly American places and people. Today, pictorial maps are experiencing a "renaissance" as map collectors, librarians and scholars are realizing their dynamic role in twentieth century American cartographic history.

In *Picturing America* the content is divided into seven chapters that arrange the maps by genre and focus on those that were published in individual sheets or posters. Pictorial readers will be interested in the artist, intended and the collector discussed as well as learn how these maps were published. Most of the maps included are from the Library of Congress Geography and Map Collection, specifically from the Marcell H. Pary and Ethel M. Tate collection in the Library of Congress. One of the few libraries to collect pictorial maps and their collection is due to United States copyright laws that require publishers to deposit two copies of each map to the Library of Congress that they submit for copyright protection.

Each chapter includes a brief introduction about the maps therein, and each map is identified by title, author, a brief description and its home institution. If it is a print, a brief description and its home institution. If it is a print, a brief description and its home institution.



In colonial and federalist periods, the Great War was still the dominant force in American cartography.

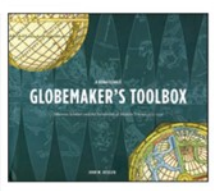
PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT REPOSITORY OF CARTOGRAPHIC NOTES

Hessler, John H. *A Renaissance Globemaker's Toolbox – Johannes Schöner and the Revolution of Modern Science 1475–1550*. Washington, DC: The Library of Congress, in association with D. Giles Limited, London, 2013. Hardcover, 9x7.5 inches (191 x 229 mm), 176 pages, 100 color illus., endnotes, index. ISBN 978-1-907804-16-8. UK£ 19.95, US\$ 29.95

Reviewed by Gregory Michalak

In 2003, the Library of Congress, on behalf of the American People, acquired a hogskin leather bound portfolio, called the Schöner-Sonnenthal, containing the only surviving copies of two of the most important maps of the early sixteenth century: the Martin Waldseemüller woodcut map of the world, dated 1507, and Waldseemüller's woodcut "Carta Marina" world map of the world of 1516. The 1507 printed map (the extant copy is probably a later edition of about 1515) is considered the first to have the name "America". The Sonnenthal was assembled by Johannes Schöner (1477–1547), a German mathematician, astronomer, geographer, instrument maker, and an early sixteenth century humanist polymath, whose two earliest terrestrial globes were masterfully influenced by the cartography of Martin Waldseemüller. The portfolio also included some printed gnomes for terrestrial and celestial navigation (1517) globes made by Schöner.

In the ten years since this national treasure came to our country, Dr. John W. Hessler, Senior Cartographic Reference Specialist in the Geography and Map Division of the Library, has studied, written, and published on the Waldseemüller maps and their milieu. The book under review—*Globemaker's Toolbox*—is the third (and last, he says) of a trilogy of works by Dr. Hessler about the Waldseemüller maps. The first was *The Naming of America: Martin Waldseemüller's 1507 World Map and the Cartographic Ancestor* (2008), which was a new trans-



era report from India. Because the terrestrial and celestial printed globe gnomes made by Schöner in 1515 and 1517 respectively were found in the Sonnenthal, these globes receive the most attention. Schöner's other terrestrial globes of 1520 and 1523 are only mentioned in passing. That Schöner continued throughout his life to draw upon the information in his Sonnenthal is a point well

THE BRAINIAC OF JEOPARDY LOVES MAPS

Jennings, Ken. *Maphead: Charting the Wide, Weird World of Geography Wonks*. New York: Scribner, 2011. 288 pages, illus. ISBN 978-1439167175. \$25.00

Reviewed by Leigh Lockwood

You must be a map wonk if you...

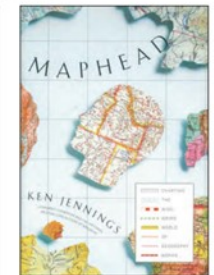
- Know what a Billy tower is.
- Duplicated Fraughtens' methodology for calculating the circumference of the earth.
- Bought surveying equipment to learn the techniques. "We read 'Maphead'...."

Mr. Jennings' autobiography revolves around his love of geography, travel, maps, and curiosity about anything spatial. If you read it, I expect you will say as I did, "Is that so?" and "I always wondered about that." and "Go figure." I was predisposed to enjoy the book very favorably because like Ken, I trace my love of maps to one atlas. In his case a Hammond (fortunately surviving storage in his parents' garage, and in mine a Rand McNally Gold's given to me by my wife on our first Christmas together.

Ken writes in a charming and personal style—sort of a wide-eyed wonder about his and others' fascination with maps and geography—good naturedly poking fun at himself and others along his meandering way. And what a pleasant journey it is. I even liked his unindoctrinated, copy-aside liberally sprinkled through the text.

Let's you think this is a lightweight volume, keep in mind that in addition to dozens of footnotes Ken makes 243 references to sources. Sources vary as widely as a Federation of American Scientists to National Park Service. References are exhaustively researched and codified as we would expect from someone whose familiarity with facts makes him a Jeopardy 74-time champion [Jeopardy is a long-playing American TV quiz show featuring trivia in history, literature, the arts, pop culture, science, sports, geography, wordplay, and more] and contender to battle IBM's Jeopardy computer.

Let's you think this is a dry tome, in Chapter 4 (page 67, for those of you who need to go directly there) Ken describes (uhhh, dear-producing) place names such as... Oh, well. The *Forwards* is a family publication so you need to buy the book. He reports that the USGS has renamed certain US-PC places "The book's good in typical historical correctness, whether that aligns with political correctness or not." Who knew? This is just one example of how books of this nature are so much more than



pretty wild in the Jennings house! "...or 'Mappette' describes... many people's hunger for maps..." Speaking of interesting, my directionally-challenged wife Carol Ann (who can take a nicely folded AAA map and refold it into the shape and size of a tennis ball to be stored under the car seat) is loving the book. This is most notably remarkable as when she looks at a road map in the car there is only a one in four chance she will have North at the top. Let her be reading Maphead. Frequently chuckling, and I had to wrestle her to get the book back for this review. But why is her bookshelves at page 67? Ken is a beaver man than I. He describes how he will give his wife "a second chance" at becoming spatially

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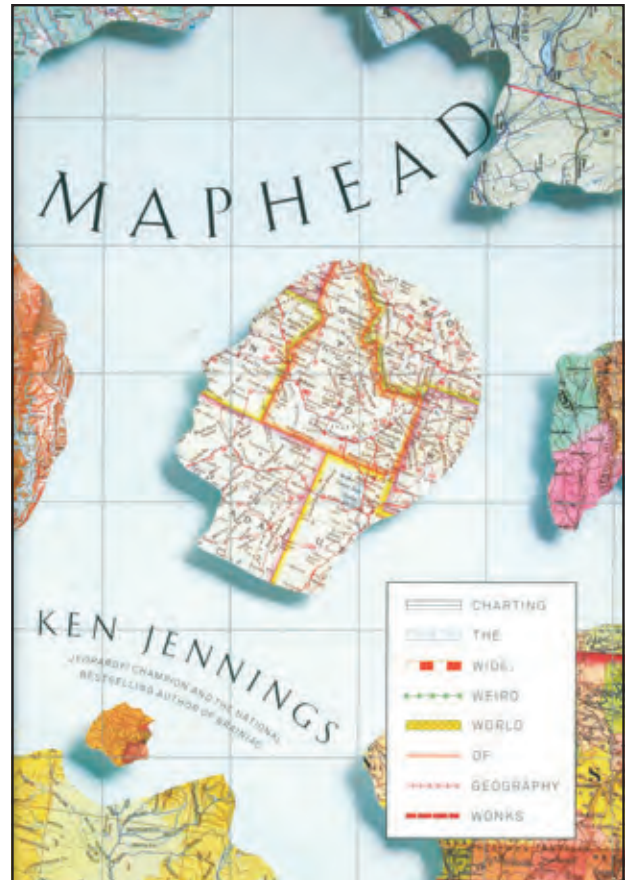
Mr. Jennings' autobiography revolves around his love of geography, travel, maps, and curiosity about anything spatial. If you read it, I expect you will say as I did, "Is that so?" and "I always wondered about that." and "Go figure." I was predisposed to review the book very favorably because like Ken, I trace my love of maps to one atlas. In his case a Hammond fortunately surviving storage in his parents' garage, and in mine a Rand McNally *Goode's* given to me by my wife on our first Christmas together.

Ken writes in a charming and personal style—sort of a wide eyed wonder about his and others' fascination with maps and geography—good naturedly poking fun at himself and others along his meandering way. And what a pleasant journey it is. I even liked his smile-producing, corny asides liberally sprinkled through the text.

Lest you think this is a lightweight volume, keep in mind that in addition to dozens of footnotes Ken makes 243 references to sources. Sources vary as widely as Federation of American Scientists to National Park Service. References are exhaustively researched and credited as we would expect from someone whose familiarity with facts made him a Jeopardy 74-time champion [Jeopardy is a long-playing American TV quiz show featuring trivia in history, literature, the arts, pop culture, science, sports, geography, wordplay, and more.] and contender to battle IBM's Jeopardy computer.

Lest you think this is a dry tome, in Chapter 4 (page 67, for those of you who need to go directly there) Ken describes ribald, blush-producing place names such as.... Oh, well. *The Portolan* is a family publication so you'll need to buy the book. He reports that the USGS has re-named certain un-PC places but "The board's goal is typical historical correctness, whether that aligns with political correctness or not." Who knew? This is just one example of hundreds of insights that I found so interesting.

How can one not be charmed by Ken's description, "So I haul out a road atlas one Friday night (weekends can get



pretty wild in the Jennings house!)...." or "Mappetite" describes "...many people's hunger for maps"

Speaking of interesting, my directionally-challenged wife Carol Ann (who can take a nicely folded AAA map and refold it into the shape and size of a tennis ball to be stored under the car seat) is loving the book. This is most notably remarkable as when she looks at a road map in the car there is only a one in four chance she will have North at the top. Yet she is reading *Maphead*, frequently chuckling, and I had to wrestle her to get the book back for this review. But why is her bookmark at page 67?

Ken is a braver man than I. He describes how he will give his wife "a second chance" at becoming spatially aware by drilling her on getting around Washington D. C. After only an hour of drilling resulting in successful navigation, Ken relates: "Aha, I was right!" she gloats, newly

empowered. "It makes me think my sense of direction isn't actually all that bad. If I cared enough to actually work on it a little." (Ken continues) I imagine that, like the Grinch's heart, her hippocampus has grown three sizes this day." Yes, Ken discusses the hippocampus in such a way that he does not lose his audience.

I confess my hippocampus must be shrinking due to use of the GPS in my car ("...hippocampus, a sea horse-shaped structure in the brain's temporal lobe, is the center of navigational function. In fact, the cabbies' hippocampi continued to grow the longer they spent on the job. Apparently size matters."). I was driving on back roads through central New Jersey a few weeks ago, blindly led by the GPS, when I suddenly realized I had no idea if I was headed north or south (except by looking at the sun), nor did I have instinctive reckoning of the relative positions of my departure point and destination. Until very recently all this was second nature. Shortly thereafter I removed the GPS from my dashboard, no doubt caused by *Maphead* reminding my subconscious that my hippocampus was wanting for exercise.

Among Ken's commentary, he sprinkles his books with thoughts like, "There must be something innate about maps, about this one specific way of picturing our world and our relation to it, that charms us, calls to us, won't let us look anywhere else in the room if there's a map on the wall." How often does he talk about me in his book?

Sometimes I feel our interest in cartography is a limited field. It uplifted me to read his description of his visit to the Library of Congress with its "... 8,500 cases, five drawers per case, two entire football fields just for maps... five and a half million maps ... and still adding between sixty and eighty thousand new maps every year... They come from everywhere. The library has offices in Cairo, Islamabad, Jakarta, Nairobi, New Delhi, and Rio..." A little later Ken describes the warring factions of Argentinian and Chilean delegations in the LOC Map Room, each requesting the same maps, never acknowledging the enemy across the room, each using the same resources attempting to rationalize their position to settle a geographic dispute.

Yes, I did read beyond page 67. I read about the mapping of India (40,000 triangles), map thefts, and dozens of other fascinating stories I enjoyed even if I had previously been aware of them. Ken brings fresh perspective and insights to every story.

There were several new stories I found delightful. Ken's description of the National Geographic Bee with its

attendant complexity, relentless pressure, made my pulse rate rise. His sensitive analysis kept me rapt, and his report of the final rounds was enthralling. He describes an eleven year old boy missing a question and leaving the contest and states, "This boy isn't much older than my own son, so his heartbreak is almost intolerably hard for me to watch."

Who knew about the Travelers' Century Club (membership limited to those who have visited one hundred or more countries), the Highpointers Club (dedicated to visiting the highest point in the 50 states), or collectors with goals such as eating at the most McDonalds (the record seems to be 12,000) or visiting every Starbucks (8,500)?


GPS be darned, I love my *Rand McNally Road Atlas* and every year buy one for each car. Ken describes the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, a forty year old contest in which participants travel a circuitous course across America never leaving their respective kitchens or dens, the entire journey made on maps. I imagined myself squinting at the atlas, finger tracing a route. Well, that was until Ken described the arcane directions provided by the contest creator.

Suffice it to say, Ken goes on to describe vividly geocaching, Google Maps and technology, confluence hunting (try to figure that one out without Ken's book), and much, much more. Buy the book, read it, and pass it along to the non-map reader in your family.

As a reviewer, sadly I have to find fault so here is my best shot: Ken does not mention our very own Washington Map Society, the *Portolan*, the Ristow Prize, and all the wonderful work carried out by our editor and many volunteers that keep our Society vibrant. I'll hope for mention in the revised edition, but in the meantime I will re-read the first edition.

P.S. Jennings dedicates the book to his parents "...And for the kid with the map." That's us. Thanks Ken!

P.S. I answered yes to the four questions at the beginning, so I proudly add my name to the Map Wonk population.

—Map Wonk Leigh Lockwood studies the NYC subway map on the inside of the car even though he has seen it hundreds of times before. He looks so much like a New Yorker he is frequently asked for directions, "Walk twelve blocks uptown which at a quick walk should take you twelve minutes, plus street crossing time." Leigh loves GPS, but when the fuse blows and the system goes down he is always prepared with the latest *Rand McNally Road Atlas* in the seat pocket behind him. 

Book Reviews

THE WORLD IN TWO HEMISPHERES

Armitage, Geoff with Ashley Baynton-Williams. *The World at Their Fingertips: Eighteenth-Century British Two-Sheet Double-Hemisphere World Maps*. Vaduz, Liechtenstein and London: The Sylvia Ioannu Foundation and The British Library, 2012. 9.75 x 12.5 inches, hard cover, 262 pages, further reading, numerous color and sepia toned black-and-white images. ISBN 978-0-7123-5877-4. £45.00 \$65.00.

Reviewed by Dennis P. Reinhartz

The Western Intellectual Revolution, culminating in the Enlightenment, remains one of the most significant periods in history. What began as the Scientific Revolution in the sixteenth century, founded on the discoveries of Nicolaus Copernicus, Galileo Galilei, Johannes Kepler, Sir Francis Bacon, Rene Descartes, and others, climaxed in the new philosophical thinking and corresponding political, economic, and social ideas and institutions of the Enlightenment in the eighteenth century, the impacts of which are still felt across the globe today. Furthermore, the effects on geographical discovery, geography, and cartography of this amazing era were no less substantial. And information about this changing new worldview ever increasingly was broadcast across nascent global civilization via printed texts and images, in part through maps.

With an ancestry dating to the early sixteenth century, one of the most important cartographic genres, presenting this new global outlook, to emerge in the Enlightenment was that of double-hemisphere world maps. This type of cartographic production reached its apex in Great Britain in the eighteenth century. It is to a comprehensive study of these British maps as a corpus that *The World at Their Fingertips* by Geoff Armitage with Ashley Baynton-Williams is committed. Both are eminently qualified for the task. Armitage is a twenty-five year veteran of the British Library Map Collection and its current Head of Maps Reference and the author of *The Shadow of the Moon: British Solar Eclipse Mapping in the Eighteenth Century* (1997), among numerous other works in the history of cartography. Baynton-Williams is a London map dealer and most recently, along with Laurence Worms, is the co-author of the well-received *British Map Engravers: A Dictionary of Engravers, Lithographers and Their Principle Employees to 1850* (2011).

As Armitage points out in the "Preface," during his research he primarily sought to answer three questions: Who were the people involved in the British map trade in the eighteenth century and what connected them? What were the reasons for making these particular maps? And who were the affected consumers of these maps, and



why were they purchasing them? He further relates that answering these questions led him into a wider investigation of the largely English and London-based trade. His findings in the form of a more general picture of it and its mechanisms comprises the first, somewhat shorter part of the book, while the second is devoted to a detailed examination of the cartography with a map plate for each of twenty-four exemplars, carto-bibliography, and publication record for every map.

After the brief "Introduction" on the Enlightenment and its cartography, Armitage begins his story with "Chapter 1" on the first map of the genre, Alexis Hubert-Jaillot's two-sheet double-hemisphere "*Mappe-monde Geo-Hydrographique, ou Description Generale du Globe Terrestre...*," published in Paris in 1674. There follow other chapters on "British mapmaking," "high points" (e.g. Halley) and "low points" (e.g. Briggs—California as an island) of British eighteenth century mapping of the world, and "related topics" (e.g. Wildey-Moll map screen). Although these maps had European continental origins and were derivative of continental design, Armitage correctly asserts that tradition eventually became much stronger in Britain.

These maps were produced by the leading figures of the British map trade and to further the agenda of the emerging global British Empire in the eighteenth century. Given the lack of strong copyright laws until late in the eighteenth century, these cartographers also freely plagiarized from each other. These world maps contributed greatly to making London the new center of the map trade, replacing Amsterdam and Paris. The target market for this type of cartography was rising middle class whose members appreciated them for their scientific appearance, with their Enlightenment emphasis on content over decoration, and as intellectual and economic status symbols.

A thorough analysis of this genre is initiated in Chapter 6, "The British Double-Hemisphere Maps." Chapter 7 then offers a "Chronological Listing and Description of British Two-Sheet Double-Hemisphere World Maps 1680–1807" and is followed by a short "Conclusion." The producers of these elephant folio format maps include names such as Berry, Moll, Senex, Bowles, Overton, and West, among others. The German-born Herman Moll (1654?–1732) is somewhat featured for the quality of his work and the influence it exerted. Each of the twenty-four entries gives a full title and description of its particular map along with its various states and some locations and references for them. Biographical information for their makers also is to be found in the different listings. Explicably, the major source for most of them is the vast British Library Map Collection.

Also especially valuable to those seriously interested in even the overall subject matter of this book are its three appendixes. The first consists of not so familiar rather lengthy quotations on the making of these maps by some of their makers—Joseph Moxon, Robert Morden (3), William Berry, and Herman Moll. They are appealing and revealing of the cartographic process. Appendix II consists of the transcripts of twenty-seven "transcripts of contemporary announcements" from cartographers' (including those already mentioned and many more) catalogs and newspapers advertising numerous of these maps, offering additional insights into the London map trade of the time. And the last appendix lists all of the known addresses for the map makers of this era. It helps to trace not only their locations, but also their business acumen and development. The definitive secondary source for this compilation cited is Worms and Baynton-Williams' aforementioned *British Map Engravers*. A selected bibliography concludes this volume.

This is a complex and very worthwhile book and not in the vein of a more popular history. It is the first real

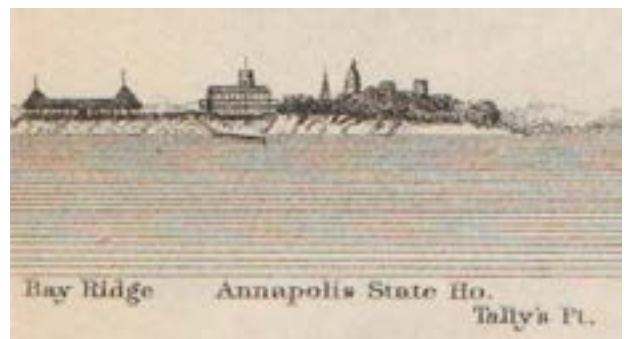
study of this significant category of world maps that reflect the cumulative gestalt of the Enlightenment, the very worldview that correspondingly shaped this major era of Western attainment. It also provides the reader with an enhanced understanding of the British cartographic commerce in the eighteenth century. While this volume is clearly and concisely written, it is not for the neophyte or generalist in the history of cartography. Its enduring value to knowledgeable individuals and learned institutions undoubtedly will be as reference volume.

—Dennis Reinhartz, a member of the Washington Map Society, is an emeritus professor of history at The University of Texas at Arlington and a past president of the Society for the History of Discoveries and the Texas Map Society. He is the author of *The Art of the Map: An Illustrated History of Map Elements and Embellishments* (Sterling, 2012), which was reviewed in Issue 86 (Spring 2013) of this journal.



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USCGS. **United States Coast Pilot. Atlantic Coast.
Part VI. Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries.**
Washington: Government Printing Office. 1889
with updates to 1898. 128, VII pp. VG. \$750.

AN HISTORIC VIEW OF NORWEGIAN NAVIGATIONAL CHARTS

Ginsberg, William B. *Sea Charts of Norway, 1585–1812*. New York: Septentrionalium Press, 2012.

Clothbound, 30x25 cm, 321 pages, 220 color and b/w images, graph and two appendices, bibliography, index of maps by title, index. ISBN 0-9787900-4-9. \$ 145. Available via www.septentrionalium.com and from Cohen & Taliaferro LLC www.ctraremaps.com

Reviewed by William A. Stanley

This is another fine addition to Dr. William Ginsberg's two previous publications dedicated to mapping of Norway and Scandinavia. Ginsberg has systematically gathered and described coastal charts by the principal geographers, publishers and mapmakers of Norway.

The publication provides a chronology of sixteenth to the nineteenth century chart descriptions with groupings capturing the development of marine cartography supported by both text and beautiful full color and sepia tone images of the chart reproductions, title pages and atlas centerfolds. The book's design moves the reader through time; carefully divided into thirteen chapters, each highlighting the works of the geographers, the variations of ownership of the printing plates, their businesses, as well as the printing periods, identifications, and the various states of issuance. Works of Waghenauer, Blaeu, then onto Colom, Theunis Jacobsz, Jansson, Goos, de Wit and van Keulen, followed by Dudley, Seller and Halley have been examined and described with their heirs and publishing houses. The clarity of the chart images is excellent and the geographic interpretations textually support the visual.

The chapters not only provide specific detail of the chart's coverage, but it captures a micro-historical glance of the economic and marine commerce of the coastal regions through the centuries. Each of the 320 illustrations and the 220 charts, graphic illustrations shows Ginsberg's efforts to ensure a comprehensive view of Norway's development in the coastal region. There is complete cartobibliographic title data with full English translations. Thus, the predominately Dutch chart makers move us through time to the predominance of the van Keulen period of navigational charts.

The English geographers follow with Dudley, Sellers and Halley, beginning from the mid-seventeenth century; with the Scandinavians efforts by Grove and then onto the French contributions to the seafaring admiralty editions by Jaillot and Bellin; concluding in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century navigational era of chart making.

The book is a well defined guide for any antiquarian map collector. The publication is laid out chronologically by chapter and then each is provided a numbered identification to include an alpha designation for each state of the chart's issue. The manner in which Ginsberg identifies

the chart with the illustration allows the reader a numerical identification with an alpha support system so as to provide an easy comparison of the illustration and the narrative description. The chart numbering guide is then supported, by a graphic at the beginning of each chapter that illustrates the chart's location and



the boundaries of that chart along a particular section of coastline. This format is maintained for each section. This greatly enhances the reader's ability to identify and comprehend the various charts of that cartographer as it follows the chronology of the subsequent decades as one moves through the publication. Atlas descriptions include tables and specific characteristics of the charts depicted. Upon completion of each chapter there is an Appendix Gazetteer of the coastal place names, etc. The publication offers bibliographic information for referenced subjects, list of map titles, and a detailed index with a brief textual description of the small illustrations where double page charts have been displayed. Ginsberg has also included several rare or unrecorded atlas editions such as Thomas Jenner's coastal atlas of 1653.

Sea Charts of Norway, 1585–1812 is a delight to read. It has the ability to stimulate one's thoughts of historical cartography in a scholarly manner and at the same time provides the map enthusiast as well as dealers a beneficial tool for any map review of Norwegian cartography. The publication is a perfect addition to any map collector's library. The striking visual appeal, the diversity of information and the high quality of the illustrations makes this book a true reference tool.

—William (Bill) Stanley is a Past President and founding member of the WMS, Retired Chief Historian, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Owner of Cartographic Associates, antique map and print dealer. 🌐

EARLY EXPLORERS IN NORTH AMERICA?

Thompson, Gunner. *Viking America*. Port Townsend, Washington: New World Discovery Institute, Misty Isles Press, and lulu.com, 2012. Hardback and paperback, 8.5 x 11 inches, 336 pages, index, bibliography. ISBN 978-0-9788916-2-6 (paper) and 978-0-9788916-6-4 (hardback). Paper \$12.00 and hardback \$30.00. Available from Lulu.com (books).

Reviewed by Birgitta Wallace

V*iking America* spans 325 size A4 pages. The book claims that transatlantic voyages began millennia ago and that there were large colonies of Minoans, Phoenicians, Romans, Welsh and Norse in the Americas, all involved in thriving commercial ventures. The author argues that, in the 12th century, B.C., the Phoenicians discovered a large and fertile land west of Libya. This, according to the author, must have been the Americas. The author goes on to argue that the Minoans and the Romans imported vital supplies from these lands; Jewish immigrants settled in what is now Mexico; the Celtic king, Arthur, established the Albion Colony in northern America, in the 530s; and Leif Eriksson's Vinland Colony grew to enormous proportions. The author argues that the European population grew to a quarter million by the 13th Century, in part by virtue of the favorable weather in the Medieval Warming Period. The author concludes that, about 1350, two-thirds of these people died of the Bubonic Plague, and the survivors merged with native groups.

It is clear that a great deal of work has gone into this book. The author has consulted a wide range of maps and works pertaining to the Middle Ages. However, an overwhelming amount of scientific evidence argues against the author's theses. This evidence falls into at least four broad categories: archeological; pictorial; documentary and cartographic.

ARCHEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

A quarter of a million Europeans would have made a significant imprint on the archaeological record, no matter what period they had lived in, especially as this colonization was said to have lasted for centuries. The Bubonic Plague did not cross the Atlantic. Iceland did have some serious epidemics in 1402 and 1495, but they had little influence on the demographics, and there is no evidence that the Plague ever reached Greenland, let alone North America.

Among the most spectacular sites in North America are massive earth works in eastern and middlewestern North America built by Adena, Hopewellian, Fort Ancient and Mississippian native cultures in a sequence beginning

c. 1000 BC and lasting into contact time. The Adena are known for their huge burial mounds, up to 295' high and 300' in diameter at the base. The Hopewell built huge ceremonial enclosures between c. 200 BC to AD 500. They were succeeded about AD1000 by the Fort Ancient and Mississippian cultures who built large ceremonial platform mounds and villages centered on a central oval plaza. The sites have been extensively excavated and researched. During the 19th century, however, they were considered too impressive to have been constructed by native people (a view not adopted by Thomas Jefferson, whose excavations clearly showed that they were indigenous constructions). In 1848 an antiquarian by the name of Ephraim George Squire and a physician, Edwin H. Davis, published *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley* based on archaeological surveys of large earthworks in that valley. Although an attempt at scientific research, the conclusions consisted of speculations on European origins of these monuments, and today's archaeologists see them as quaintly typical for their time.

PICTORIAL EVIDENCE

The author argues that turkeys are another indication of pre-Columbian contact with America. He notes that birds are depicted on the Norman Bayeux Tapestry and the Swedish Skog tapestry, both dating from the 11th century AD. He states that the birds on these tapestries are turkeys. In reality there is nothing that identifies the tapestry birds as turkeys. The stylized shapes could be any large birds. In addition, the author states that Romans imported turkeys into Europe from America, naming the birds d'indon, Indian bird. Although many readers would conclude that this was because they were imported from India, the author sees it as proof that the birds came not from India, but from the West Indies.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

As further proof of European presence in the Americas, the author turns to Marco Polo's *Travelogues* and the Rossi collection of documents, as well as the *Inventio*

Early Explorers in North America?

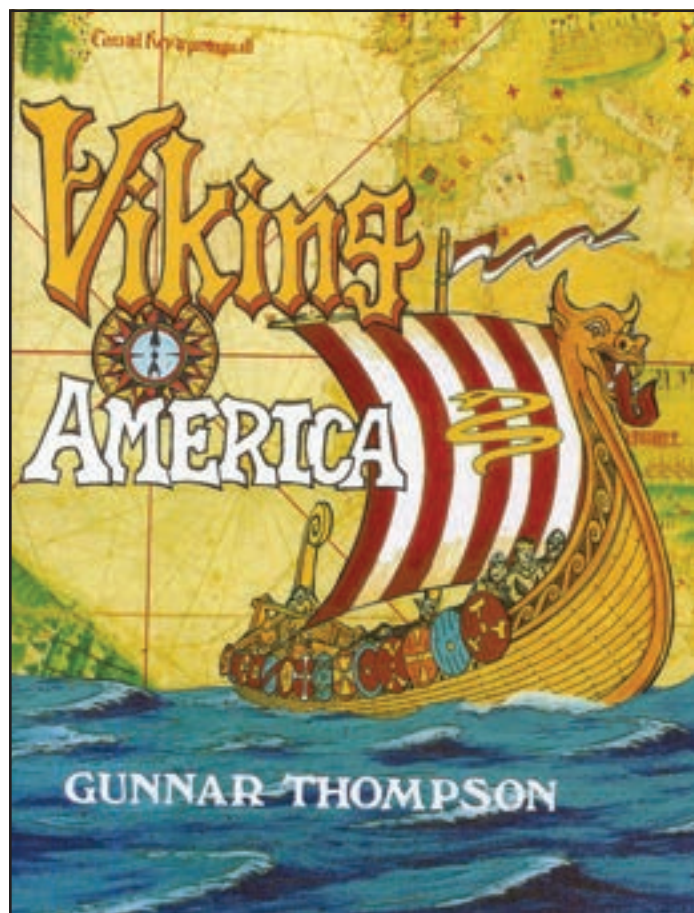
Fortunata. He sees Marco Polo's description of travels in Book I, Chapter 51 as a visit to the Canadian Arctic to fetch white gyrfalcons for Kublai Khan. Yet both Marco Polo's text and the Rossi documents state definitely that the birds came from an island in southern Siberia. Marco Polo himself locates the island in the lands of the Mekriti near Lake Baikal, 40 days of travel north of Mongolia's capital Karakorum. The text indicates that Marco Polo did not go there himself but relied on descriptions by the locals. The author places it on Baffin Island from where Marco Polo explored the entire American west coast all the way to Mexico. He also purportedly sailed the Canadian Northwest Passage (p.174).

The author is aware that sailing the Northwest Passage is not the easiest task even today when the sea ice is diminishing, but he believes that it was possible in the Medieval Warming Period, before the Little Ice Age hit around 1300. Modern research, however, indicates that the cooling began already around 1200. The King's Mirror, dating from c.1250, says that there is now sea ice around Greenland where there was none before. That a Chinese junk should have sailed the Northwest Passage in the late 1200s is improbable.

CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

The author also supports his theses by reference to the Rossi collection of maps and notes and the de Virga map. The creator of the de Virga map was a Venetian by the name of Albertinus de Virga (the author uses the Anglicized form Albertin). It was discovered in a Croatian bookshop in 1911 by the Austrian collector Albert Figdor. The map was examined by a well known expert, Professor Franz von Wieser who had no doubt about its authenticity. It was lost in the chaos of the Second World War, but good photographs of it are still available.

The de Virga map is a rectangular parchment with a calendar and two tables with inscriptions relating to it. A circular world map surrounded by decorative motifs occupies the rest of it. A fairly accurate rendition of the Mediterranean is close to the centre, with Africa and part of Asia to the south, Asia continuing east and to the north, with a large off-shore island. The European continent is fairly accurate until it reaches the Scandinavian countries and the Baltic. Here it follows a common pre-Columbian notion that the Baltic ran east-west instead of north-south, creating a totally distorted view of Sweden and Norway. Sweden is separated from Norway except



for a small "neck" running northwest. Attached to it is a large triangular land mass termed Norueca, Norway (not "North Norway" or "Norway Province" as stated by the author, pp. 252-253). Three other localities are also marked Norueca. The map historian Kirsten Seaver has suggested that they are Norwegian centers for the stockfish trade with Venice. East of Sweden is Russia and farther away Mongolia and China in a continuous mass with southeast Asia. The names and configurations make it clear that Marco Polo and Chinese maps were part of the sources for the de Virga map. The map part of the parchment is depicted in color on the back cover of the book. In the book itself the author has it only as a poor quality black and white illustration (p, 252). On the following page he shows a detail, but here he has replaced the original place names with his "identifications" of them. He has also disconnected Norueca from Sweden, whereas the two are contiguous on the original.

Although distorted, Norueca is, as pointed out by Seaver, not Greenland or any other continent. To the author, this

(continued on page 60)

PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT REPOSITORY OF CARTOGRAPHIC NOTES

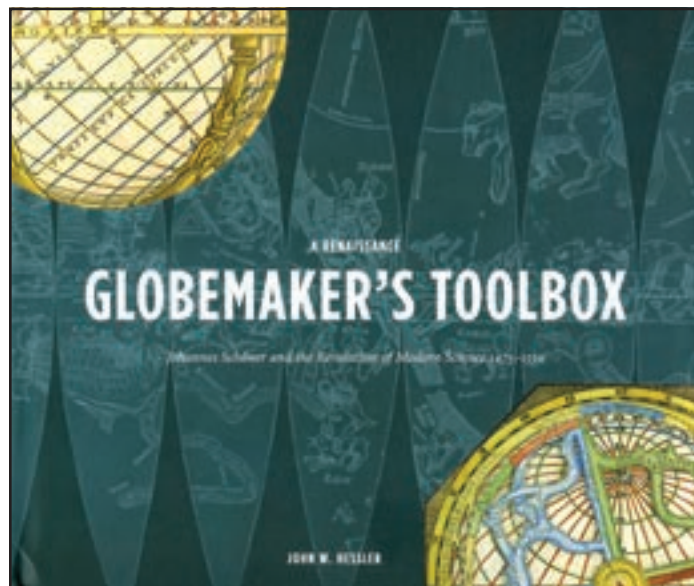
Hessler, John H. ***A Renaissance Globemaker's Toolbox – Johannes Schöner and the Revolution of Modern Science 1475–1550***. Washington, DC: The Library of Congress, in association with D. Giles Limited, London, 2013. Hardback, 9x7.5 inches (191 x 229 mm), 176 pages, 100 color illus., endnotes, index. ISBN 978–1-907804-16-8. UK£ 19.95, US\$ 29.95

Reviewed by Gregory McIntosh

In 2003, the Library of Congress, on behalf of the American People, acquired a hogskin leather bound portfolio, called the *Schöner Sammelband*, containing the only surviving copies of two of the most important maps of the early sixteenth century: the Martin Waldseemüller woodcut wall map of the world, dated 1507, and Waldseemüller's woodcut "Carta Marina" wall map of the world of 1516. The 1507 printed map (the extant copy is probably a later edition of about 1515) is renowned as the first to have the name "America." The *Sammelband* was assembled by Johannes Schöner (1477–1547), a German mathematician, astronomer, geographer, instrument maker, and an archetypal sixteenth century humanist polymath, whose two earliest terrestrial globes were markedly influenced by the cartography of Martin Waldseemüller. The portfolio also included some printed gores for terrestrial (1515) and celestial (1517) globes made by Schöner.

In the ten years since this national treasure came to our country, Dr. John W. Hessler, Senior Cartographic Reference Specialist in the Geography and Map Division of the Library, has studied, written, and published on the Waldseemüller maps and their milieu. The book under review—*Globemaker's Toolbox*—is the third (and last, he says) of a trilogy of works by Dr. Hessler about the Waldseemüller maps. The first was *The Naming of America: Martin Waldseemüller's 1507 World Map and the Cosmographiae Introductio* (2008), which was a new translation and commentary on the book published by the Vosgene Gymnasium of St.-Die, which included Martin Waldseemüller, to accompany the wall map of 1507, and illuminates their publishing activities and associated geographical ideas. The second was *Seeing the World Anew: The Radical Vision of Martin Waldseemüller's 1507 & 1516 World Maps* (2012), co-authored with Chet Van Duzer, but apportioned such that Hessler's bailiwick was the 1507 wall map.

In the third book, that under review, is presented a detailed examination of the physical contents of the *Sammelband* portfolio and how it acted as Schöner's repository of notes used for the construction of his terrestrial and celestial globes. Interesting handwritten notes by Schöner in the margins of books he owned and consulted are presented and allow us once in a while to peek over Schöner's shoulder as he contemplates a problem in natal astrology



or a report from India. Because the terrestrial and celestial printed globe gores made by Schöner in 1515 and 1517 respectively were found in the *Sammelband*, these globes receive the most attention. Schöner's other terrestrial globes of 1520 and 1523 are only mentioned in passing. That Schöner continued throughout his life to draw upon the information in his *Sammelband* is a point well realized in Hessler's investigations but there does not seem to be much added by Schöner to the *Sammelband* after 1516 or so.

The twelve sheets of the Waldseemüller 1507 world wall map and the twelve sheets of the Waldseemüller 1516 "Carta Marina" world wall map (plus an extra manuscript sheet by Schöner) are reproduced. The 1507 map sheets were earlier reproduced in Dr. Hessler's 2008 book. The 1507 sheets again and 1516 sheets were reproduced (twice each) in the sumptuous, large format publication of last year. The reproductions in the *Globemaker's Toolbox* are the smallest of the four reproduced sets of 1507 map sheets and of the three reproductions of the 1516 map sheets published in the three Hessler books, often allowing for each sheet an increased commentary over those of the 2008 and 2012 productions.

Perhaps the Most Important Repository of Cartographic Notes

The 1507 and 1516 maps are reproduced on the website <http://www.globemakerstoolbox.com>, along with many of the other illustrations and commentary from the book, and the website is a fine companion to the volume.

The three publications by John Hessler—*Naming America* (2008), *Seeing the World Anew* (2012), and *Globemaker's Toolbox*—present a rich treasure trove of information on “America’s Birth Certificate.” The 1507 map has traditionally been known for over one-hundred years as the “Baptismal Certificate of America” but “Birth Certificate” is now used. Though we have been aware of the Waldseemüller maps, the Gymnasium Vosgene of St.-Dié, and Johannes Schöner for over one-hundred years, here a scholar has taken apart the old portfolio for the rest of us to look at with him. Drawing upon the maps and gores within the *Sammelband*, Hessler also opens up many volumes of Schöner’s publications, to read Schöner’s thoughts and ruminations about astrology and mathematics. The discussion is very often accompanied by photographic reproductions of the pertinent Schöner document. This immediacy, this intimacy, is further expanded by discussions and reproductions of the many personal annotations written by Schöner in books of his still extant personal library located in Vienna. Schöner’s personal bookplate, affixed to the portfolio holding the precious Waldseemüller maps, prophetically reads: “To you, Posterity, Schöner gives this; as long as it exists there is a monument to his spirit.” John Hessler has in his book added another monument to the spirit of Johannes Schöner.


A recent speculative theory that mapmakers, including Waldseemüller, were aware of the Pacific Ocean before 1513 and the Straits of Magellan before 1522 is unfortunately given some possible credence in this book and in Hessler’s previous books. This “mystery” (as it is referred to in the books) of how Waldseemüller could know of the Pacific Ocean (that is, an ocean to the east of China and to the west of America) before Balboa seems overstated. In designing a world map of the full 360 degrees, the ocean long assumed to be to the east of China and surrounding the islands of Japan must also be to the west of America, so the mystery can be simply explained. In placing large lands and islands to the west of Europe and east of Asia (and, thus, splitting the world ocean into two), Waldseemüller had only a few choices in his graphic presentation: leave the western edges of the lands unknown and undefined (as he did in his later “Carta Marina” of 1516); encircle the lands with ocean; or some combination of the two.

Waldseemüller in his 1507 map settled upon the last option, surrounding the new lands with water but specifying with inscribed scrolls that the western margins of the lands are undefined and unknown. It seems to this reviewer that Waldseemüller’s only interest in the ocean between Asia and America, as displayed on his map, was how he could use it to define, delineate, and outline the New World, proclaimed by Vespucci, as a separate and equal world—what an artist would call the negative space. Waldseemüller places the New World of Vespucci in the world ocean, surrounded by the world ocean. It is the new, Vespuccian status of the land that Waldseemüller is highlighting, not some hypothetically necessary expanse of ocean, much less muted whisperings of a secret knowledge.

In Hessler’s books the 1507 map is said to be radical and mysterious because it is the earliest map to show a Pacific Ocean. The 1507 map (one of the earliest maps to depict all 360 degrees, preceded only by the Contarini-Rosselli printed world map of 1506) is certainly radical—for declaring and displaying a fourth part of the world outside the tripartite known world, beyond the received world view of the ancient Greeks, especially Ptolemy. Though recognizing in his three books this inspiration for Waldseemüller’s map, more emphasis appears to be placed upon Waldseemüller’s seemingly esoteric and anachronistic knowledge of the pre-scient Pacific Ocean than upon the 1507 map being the first graphic, cartographic, and iconographic image of the recasting of the world with the Fourth Continent of the *Mundus Novus*, the New World of America.

Under the influence of the two published Vespucci letters, Waldseemüller is the first cartographer to consciously depict the *Mundus Novus* as an island-continent with its own name unattached to the Ptolemaic trilobate Old World of Europe-Africa-Asia. Prior to the 1507 map, the newly discovered landmass (South America based upon Spanish voyages to Venezuela and Portuguese voyages to Brazil) was depicted tentatively with indefinite coastlines, an amorphous blob in the ocean. It was not yet imagined to be of the stature of a New World, a continent as the other three but also as an island separate from the known world. Waldseemüller’s deliberate and assertive break with Ptolemy is a radical new view of the world. It is not the tentative, extrapolative waters of the Pacific Ocean that are revolutionary; it is the artistic conception and concrete delineation of the Fourth Continent, carving out and stamping the New World as a separate, different world, a distinct identity now emblazoned as America.

The Martin Waldseemüller printed woodcut wall map of the world of 1507 is a great map, one of the greatest maps ever produced. For the man who declared this to be a New World beyond the old three continents, who claimed to have been its first discoverer, with his portrait at the top, this map gave the new continent a name which has come to symbolize more than an Extra Ptolemeum land, more than even a place. America will always be the New World, a newer tomorrow, a shining city upon a hill. Vespucci's declaratory breakthrough discovery of another world outside of the known world, and Waldseemüller's attendant world image, marks the birth of America as a name for a continent, a nation, a civilization, and an ideal. In his large, magnificent wall map of 1507, Martin Waldseemüller gives graphic declaration of America as more than merely a new, fourth part of the world—it is an independent landmass, an island-world, a New World separate and beyond the known world as it was. This is the first map to distinctly and purposefully identify the new lands as a new Fourth Continent, convincingly separate from the Old World Continent, unattached and insular. Nothing could more epitomize the birth certificate for the fledgling, yet robust, branch of human history that is America than this map, this printed proclamation. Someday, perhaps, our fellow Americans may look upon this map with the same near reverence we do today at the Statue of Liberty, the Liberty Bell, or the American Bald Eagle as enduring symbols of the American Identity. The three books by Dr. John W. Hessler may eventually lead to making the American public more aware of their country's "Birth Certificate" of 1507.

—Gregory McIntosh is the author of *The Piri Reis Map of 1513 (2000)*, reviewed in this journal, issue 49 (Winter 2000-2001), *The Johannes Ruysch and Martin Waldseemüller World Maps: The Interplay and Merging of Early Sixteenth Century New World Cartographies (2012)*, reviewed in this journal, issue 86 (Spring 2013), *Antique Map Reproductions: A Directory of Publishers & Distributors of Antique Map, Atlas & Globe Facsimiles & Reproductions (1998)*; and the forthcoming book, *The Vesconte Maggiolo World Map of 1504 in Fano, Italy: Prolegomena to the History of the Lusitano-Italian-Germanic Cartography (2013)*. He contributed chapters to *The Oxford Companion to World Exploration (2007)* and *California 49: Forty-Nine Maps of California from the Sixteenth Century to the Present (1999)*. His articles have appeared in *Imago Mundi*, *Terrae Incognitae*, *Cartographica Helvetica*, *American Neptune*, *Mercator's World*, and *The Portolan*. 


EARLY EXPLORERS IN NORTH AMERICA?

(from page 57)

enlargement of Norway is a clear indication that it includes the North American seaboard, all the way down to Florida. He returns to this in many places in the book, weaving in other map sources as well as information from his text sources, especially *Inventio Fortunata*, but its descriptions do not conform to the de Virga map.

The Rossi collection was brought to the United States in the 1930s by a descendant of Marco Polo, Marian F. Rossi. It consists of 15 documents dating from the 13th to the 16th centuries of which 5 were donated to the Library of Congress, among them a map known as "Man with a Ship" depicting Asia and continental Europe. The collection was first published in 1948 by the Russian-born cartographic historian Leo Bagrow, the founder of *Imago Mundi*. The private part of the collection was published in 1965 and 1982 in the *Felicitation Volumes of Southeast Asian Studies*. Although not giving the source, the author relies heavily on these texts, and intermingles them with the traditional Marco Polo narratives. Some maps are clearly copies, and their authenticity has at times been questioned. What appears to be Alaska on one has been viewed as a modern addition. Another map was radiocarbon-dated to 1560±100 (p. 176). The date was on the parchment, not the ink, so it does not tell us when it was drawn. Though the author believes them all to be genuine, and that the maps show, without doubt, that Marco Polo visited portions of the New World, others see no indication that the voyages went beyond Asia.

Finding new sources—new evidence that turn old ideas on their head—is the specialist's delight. However, here, the audience would have been better served if the author had dealt directly with more of the information in the literature that is inconsistent with his theories.

—Birgitta Wallace is Senior Archaeologist (Emerita), Parks Canada. Educated at Uppsala University and University of Kansas, her research has focused on Viking archaeology, with special emphasis on the westward expansion. She has worked on sites in Norway, Sweden, Nova Scotia, Israel, U.S.A., and Canada, including the *L'Anse aux Meadows* site in Newfoundland, first with the *Ingstad* expedition and later with the *Parks Canada* team. She has published widely on the *L'Anse aux Meadows* site and Vikings in North America. 

MALTA'S CARTOGRAPHIC DYNASTY MEETS THE WORLD

Ganado, Albert; Schirò, Joseph; & Attard, Claude Micallef. *The Brocktorff Mapmakers*. San Gwann, Malta: Book Distributors, Ltd (BDL), 13, Giorgio Preca Street, San Gwann, Malta SGN 3511; www.bdlbooks.com; 2011. English text. (288 pp. inc. bibliography & index; 138 maps and plans; color illustrations; B5 [9.5 x 6.75 inches]). ISBN 978-99957-33-73-5. Soft cover. € 40 Euros from bdlbooks.com. [Limited hardback edition; 100 copies; ISBN 978-99957-33-74-2; price unknown]

Reviewed by Bert Johnson

Malta is an astonishing place. The island nation has less than a half million people and is less than twice the size of the District of Columbia, but its role in world history is huge: the shipwreck of St. Paul on its shores (ca. AD 60^{*}); the defeat of the Ottoman siege (1565); the failure of the Third Reich's punishing effort to bomb it into surrender (1940–42); and the US-Soviet Summit (1989), often cited as the end of the Cold War. It calls to mind the usually misquoted, misattributed line from a story by H.H. Munro that Crete produces more history than can be consumed locally; surely Malta has a better claim to those words. So it should come as no surprise that a nation with a population smaller than that of the Lancaster, PA, metro area is producing a series of histories of cartography which exceed all expectations.

The latest is this tale of a dynasty of mapmakers whose works captured Malta (and other locales) for much of the 19th century. Its founder was a man of many talents, several names, and quite a few mysteries. He was born in Kiel, in the Duchy of Holstein, on 11 June 1781 and christened Cai Friedrich von Brockdorff. The duchies of Schleswig and Holstein owed allegiance to the Danish royal house at that time but many ethnic German families like his looked southward. Little is known of his time in Germany, but in the Napoleonic Wars he served in the Army of Hanover. When that city fell to Napoleon, he and many comrades fled to Britain, whose King George III, of the House of Hanover, was still elector of that city. They formed the King's German Legion which served with great distinction from the Baltic to the Mediterranean. Brockdorff rose from private to lieutenant but left the regiment in 1810 while posted to Sicily. He married a local teenager named Sebastiana de la Micca, sixteen years his junior. That same year they moved to Malta, opened an art studio, and their first son was born the following April. The family moved to Constantinople around 1817–1818, but soon returned to Malta.

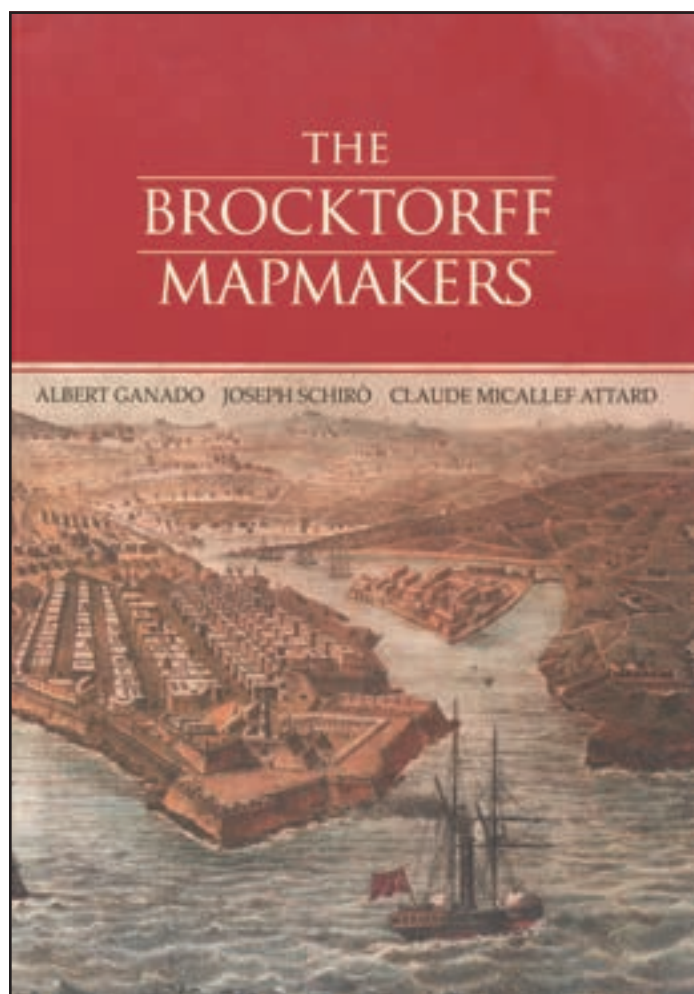
Little is known of his life in Holstein or how he got to Hanover. The males of the family had been hereditary barons of the Holy Roman Empire since 1432, but as a younger son of a minor branch, he would have had no expectation of inheritance. Presumably he had some

formal art instruction, but nothing has come to light. About the time of his Maltese migration, he changed his name from *von Brockdorff* to *de Brocktorff*, giving up the *von* (which denoted the family's minor nobility), and used *Charles* rather than *Cai* or *Karl*, although he appears to have used some variations interchangeably. No sources offer explanation for these developments, for the decision to settle in Malta, or for the brief Ottoman interregnum. What is apparent is that he and Sebastiana were proficient at making baby Brocktorffs. Their union produced at least six children who lived into adulthood, some of whom were part of the cartographic endeavor. (One source says there were twelve.) If their religious difference (he was Lutheran, she was Roman Catholic) was ever an issue, it isn't recorded; some, perhaps all, the children were baptized in their mother's faith. Charles de Brocktorff is best known in Malta today as a prolific water colorist of everything from street scenes to archaeological sites, and many of his works are considered national treasures. He was the least prolific cartographer of his lineage, but he established its role as illustrators of Malta, which led to its importance as mapmakers.

This book is the catalogue for an exhibit held from 30 November 2012 to 6 January 2013 at the National Museum of Fine Arts. It was the fruit of much labor by the Malta Map Society (MMS), building on its success with *Miniature Maps of Malta* (review: *Portolan* 77) and *German Malta Maps* (review: *Portolan* 83). The organizers had hoped to gather about 40 Brocktorff works and were amazed when they were able to offer 138 maps, plans, bird's eye views (BEV), etc. The Table of Contents has 105 entries because some are atlases and contain multiple maps.

The catalogue contains only nine works attributed to Charles de Brocktorff (1781–1850); of those, over half are unsigned but attributed. Eight of the nine are BEVs, all depicting the harbor at Valetta. The multiple tongues of fortified peninsulas offer an almost irresistible subject for an artist. Charles was also an astute businessman and quick to grasp the advantages of the new lithographic

* The Roman Catholic Feast Day of St. Paul's Shipwreck is a national holiday.



process, master its production, and incorporate it into the family business.

There are fifteen works by Federico Brocktorff (1811–1877). He did maps and BEVs of localities and archaeological sites, and while doing printing for an Anglican missionary society, he saw the market for an Arabic language atlas. He, his father, and his brother Luigi collaborated on its production. It was probably the closing of the mission printing office that prompted brothers Federico, Luigi, and Francesco to relocate to Constantinople where an Italian count had established a successful printing house for water colors and lithography. Federico and his family left Malta in 1844 and he remained in the Ottoman capital the rest of his life, where he prepared atlases in Ottoman Turkish.

There are 23 works by Luigi Brocktorff (1814–1857). The book contradicts itself on his death date. The Introduction states in one place that he died in Constantinople in 1865 at age 50, and in another that he died in that city in 1857 at age 43. While still in Malta

he made local maps and BEVs, plus other locales in the eastern Mediterranean which he presumably never saw. Of note is his map of Graham Island, a volcanic island which rose about 200 feet out of the water between Sicily and Malta, remained a few years, then eroded away, leaving a dangerous shoal. His most exotic subject was a small Ethiopian language atlas containing only seven maps. All his maps appear to have been done in Malta; none are recorded from Constantinople.

The largest number of works in this book—42—are by Giuseppe Brocktorff (c. 1817/18–1893). He had been born in Constantinople during the brief period of his parents' residence there, but did not return with his three siblings in search of work. He therefore became his father's main partner in carrying on the family business. He was personally quite talented in lithography and chromolithography. After his father's death in 1850, he and younger brother Leopoldo successfully maintained their trade. Giuseppe produced numerous maps of the Maltese islands depicting various aspects, detailed BEVs which depict changes or events in Valetta as years passed, and detail municipal maps for planning purposes. This reflects a significant portion of their business which supported government reports and publications. Leopoldo Brocktorff (1826–1886) has only one work attributed to him in this book. He performed lithography for the British Admiralty and was instrumental in helping Giuseppe maintain the family business.

This is an unusual book in that it was designed to be an exhibition catalogue but it works effectively as a history. The color rendition is excellent. Each entry has two sections of information. The first contains data that might appear near the item in the exhibit itself. This is set forth in cream colored boxes giving the name, date, dimensions, maker, orientation, and the collection from which it was loaned. The remaining text is a commentary which varies from map to map. It may address the contents of the map, describe the publication which contained it, explain phenomenon which are not immediately obvious, or set forth whatever else is useful. In dimensions, coloring, and format, this book forms the most recent in a trilogy of such publications by this same cadre of people. I sincerely hope that it will not be the last.

—Bert Johnson is a past WMS president who has lived and worked in the Med and would love to visit Malta someday.



Book Reviews

Schilder, Günther. **Early Dutch Maritime Cartography – The North Holland School of Cartography (c. 1580–c. 1620)**. Leiden, The Netherlands: Koninklijke Brill | Hes & De Graaf NV, 2017. Hardbound, 9.7 x 13.7 inches, xxiv, 692 pages, 820 illus, English, ISBN13: 9789004338029. € 175.00

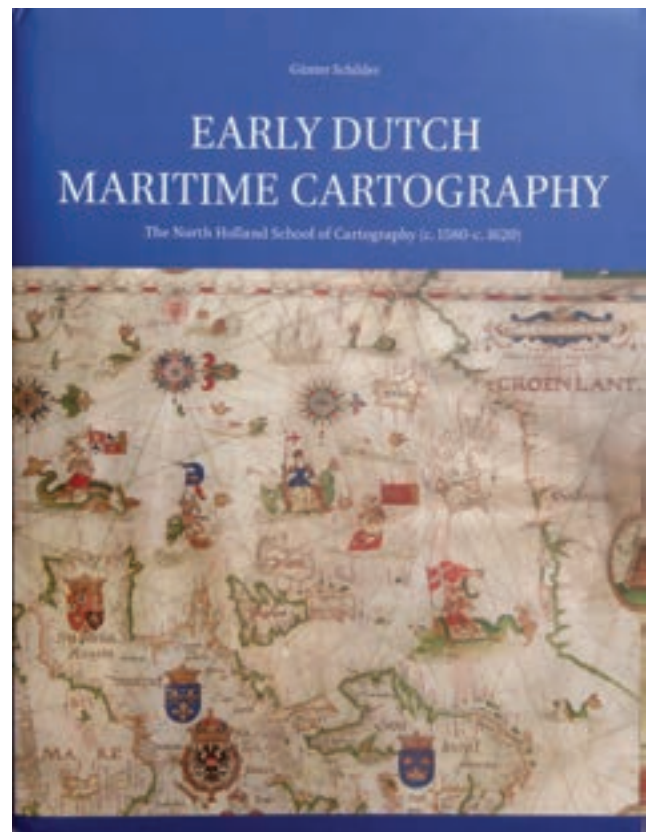
Reviewed by Richard Pflederer

This masterwork, subtitled “The North Holland School of Cartography”, is Volume 17 of the series *Explorokart Studies in the History of Cartography*. This project was initially housed at the Utrecht University but recently relocated to the University of Amsterdam, Special Collections Department. Professor Schilder is ideally positioned to present this work. He has devoted much of the past four decades to the study of all aspects of this subject, and his works on Dutch cartography are very well known. Although the chronological focus is ca. 1580–ca. 1620, the introductory material actually begins in the 1530’s and some material from the 1630’s is presented, thus covering about one hundred years of Dutch contributions to the lore of the sea. For many scholars, this is considered the golden age of Dutch seamanship. In the East, 1580 can be seen at the beginning of the decline of what Professor Charles Boxer has called ‘The Portuguese Seaborne Empire’, and the Dutch were only too happy to speed up the process of decline and displace the Portuguese in many places from Ceylon to Malacca and the Malay Peninsula to the Moluccas.

If the scope of production points on the North Holland School of Cartography is limited mostly to the ports of the Zuyder Zee such as Enkhuizen, Hoorn and Edam, the geography of the coverage is broad indeed, touching the seas and oceans that wash the shores of Europe, the Americas, and virtually every corner of the globe where Dutch ships piled their trade.

A book of most generous scale is required for such a task, and this work is not lacking in the regard of comprehensiveness and the scale of the book itself. Its large format is the perfect size for displaying in good detail images of these precious charts and maps, of which there are almost 1,000 reproduced. Its 700 pages, which includes seven appendices spread across 130 pages, should be sufficient for even the most serious scholar-reader. There is also a very complete bibliography of over 400 references.

The book is divided into sixteen chapters, ranging from functional subjects to the works of individual cartographers and authors, to specific geographical coverage areas. The functional chapters include, for example,



printed rutters, commercial considerations of the maritime chart trade and books on navigational techniques which are mostly of foreign origin translated and published in Holland. The individual cartographers cover the gamut of the giants of the period. And while the scope of world areas covered is very broad, the Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean, New Netherlands and Dutch possessions in the Far East get special attention.

The reader feels that Professor Schilder has developed a quite personal relationship with the cartographers he covers in this book. He calls them by the name of their profession they gave themselves—‘*caert-schrijvers*’ or ‘map-scribes’. The list of cartographers is long and quite complete, including Cornelis Doesdszoon, Evert Gijbetszoon,

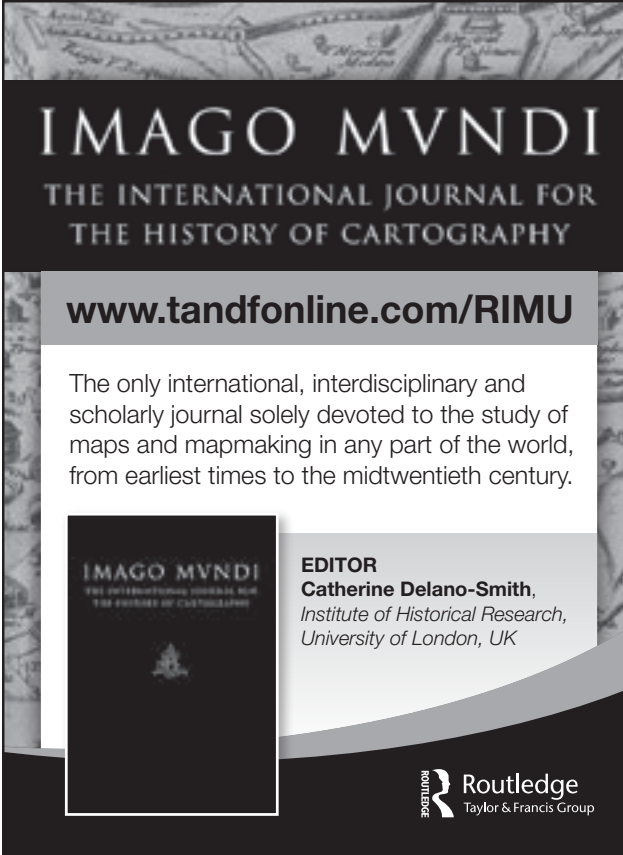
Jan Dirkszoon, Rickemans Pieterszoon, Claes Pieterszoon, Hamen Janszoon, Martin Janszoon, Joris Carolus. But two giants stand out: Lucas Janszoon Waghenaer and Jan Hugo van Linschoten. They worked in the sixteenth century and published important printed books that helped establish Holland as one of the heading centers of marine supremacy. Nonetheless the works of these two authors were quite different. The focus of Waghenaer's work, *Spiegel der Zeevaerdt*, (published in 1584 and 1585) was the coastline of European countries. His charts were beautiful and generally accurate, but represented the much-travelled trading routes, well known to European mariners. Van Linschoten actually lived in India for some years, and his work covered Portuguese Asia and the routes East, including the route down the South Atlantic, through the Indian Ocean and via the South China Sea as far as the 'island of Corea' and Japan. His *Itinerario* (published 1595 and 1596) literally opened Asia to northern Europeans, leading to the breaking of the Portuguese monopoly of these rich markets. It was different from Waghenaer in that it included extensive text as well as view of the local people and even the economic aspects of agricultural and mineral products of Asia. An English edition (1598) soon followed the Dutch edition and was used, for example, by Captain John Saris on the first British voyage to Japan in 1611–1614. There were several other editions in Latin, French and German through 1638.

The impact of the role of the Dutch in the maritime history of European expansion is hard to overstate. Today, the artifacts of this chapter of the "The North Holland School of Cartography" can be found in libraries and museums spread across the entire globe, from Amsterdam to Tokyo, from Washington to São Paulo.

Unlike many other books on maritime charts, Professor Schilder's work is quite inclusive of other related maritime production. It covers manuscript charts and printed charts, both individual charts and atlases, but it also treats printed rutters, coastal elevations and books on navigational principles. It reports on voyages of trade, voyages of exploration and scientific voyages.

Like his 2010 book co-authored with Hans Kok on sea charts of the VOC (Dutch East India Company), *Sailing for the East: History and Catalogue of Manuscript Charts on Vellum of the Dutch East India Company*, this work is comprehensive, well organized, profusely illustrated and enjoyable to read. It is an absolute must for the reference shelves of any map library as well as for anyone interested in the lore of the sea.

—Richard Pfloderer is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *The Portolan*. He is the author of *Finding their Way at Sea*, the Commentary accompanying the recent facsimile edition of the *Andrea Benincasa Atlas of 1476* and several reference books on the subject of portolan charts.







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Edelson, S. Max. ***The New Map of Empire: How Britain Imagined America before Independence***. Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 2017. Hardcover, 6-1/8 x 9-1/4 inches, 480 pages, 8 maps. Online visualizations of more than 250 original maps, plans, and charts. ISBN 9780674972117. \$ 35.00

Reviewed by Richard H. Brown

One of the issues in producing a well-illustrated map book is the maps themselves. They are often large, detailed, and difficult to adequately reproduce. And then there is the simple matter of cost. It's expensive to print large numbers of maps in color and on a large scale.

Max Edelson has come up with a solution to these problems that represents an important advancement in studying and analyzing history. Edelson has linked his book to a high resolution digital website created with the help of the National Endowment for the Humanities: MapScholar.org/Empire. The payoff: Edelson associates over 250 maps with his text, many times the number incorporated in a standard book. And by geo-referencing to Google Earth, and identifying details through zoom technology, the importance and relevance of each map can be explored in detail. While some may be uncomfortable reading a book with one hand on a computer mouse, those interested in the influence of maps on history will be well rewarded.

The New Map of Empire focuses on the British mapping of North America from the Treaty of Paris, which ended the French and Indian War in 1763 to the inception of Revolutionary War hostilities in 1775. It is an extremely fertile and underexplored period in American history, particularly when viewed from the British perspective.

At the Treaty of Paris, Britain gained full title to immense territories in North America and the Caribbean. And His Majesty's government was not about to leave the development and spoils of this acquisition to expansionist colonial Americans. Thomas Pownall, a former governor of Massachusetts and American sympathizer, expressed the British view that "unchecked growth of the colonies threatened to destroy the equilibrium of empire." Under the banner of the Board of Trade, the Royal Navy and Army set out to produce detailed maps of the coastlines and interior of the Continent. This highly organized effort sought to control and direct Colonial settlement.

Edelson organizes his book into seven chapters. The first, *A Vision for America*, highlights some of the better-known maps through the year 1755. The next five chapters form the heart of his book, exploring British mapmaking following the French and Indian War. Organized primarily by geographic region, they include: *Commanding Space*



The New Map of Empire

HOW BRITAIN IMAGINED AMERICA BEFORE INDEPENDENCE



S. Max Edelson

after the Seven Years War, Securing the Maritime Northeast, Marking the Indian Boundary, Charting Contested Caribbean Space, and Defining East Florida. These chapters are brimming with important cartographic and historical insights. Edelson's final chapter, *Atlases of Empire*, highlights the many engraved atlases that consolidated the work undertaken during these crucial years.

Edelson's foundation map for *The New Map of Empire* is Emanuel Bowen's *An Accurate Map of North America* first printed in 1755. Like numerous other maps created during that year, it is derived from John Mitchell's, A

Map of the British and French Dominions in North America. But, the Bowen clearly serves Edelson's purpose better, having been updated in 1763 for King George's proclamation line, the establishment of Quebec as the 14th colony, and the Caribbean islands ceded by France to Britain. A further reprint in 1771 incorporates the extensive British contribution to the surveying of East Florida, which had been virtually unmapped under Spanish ownership.

Bowen's North American map serves as a template for Britain's colonization initiatives, but it is the trove of local and regional maps that bring these endeavors to life. Many are manuscripts, painstakingly drawn in sufficient scale to allow colonial settlement to be micro managed from London. Most of the maps are relatively unknown and available here for the first time in an online format. They work hand-in-hand with the thoroughly researched text (as evidenced by the extensive bibliography) that gains momentum and inspiration from the skillful use of period quotations.

Edelson's material comes from a wide range of institutions including the extensive collections of the UK Archives at Kew, a modern depository of many of the maps ordered up by the Board of Trade. The work reveals the depth of talented British mapmakers in addition to such eminent names as Gerald De Brahm, Samuel Holland, and J.F.W. Des Barres.

The British effort to restore order over America's vast geography ran headlong into the freedom to migrate that colonials assumed as their right. One example of this is the establishment of George III's Proclamation Line of 1763 running from Canada to Florida through the Allegheny Mountains. Colonials were prohibited from settling west of this line. This would pin the existing population to the eastern seaboard while Britain would control the western territories through a series of Indian nations and the introduction of a vast new 14th colony, Quebec. These actions would maintain Britain's lucrative trade relationship that sent finished goods to the colonies in exchange for raw materials. The proclamation line is dramatically indicated on Daniel Paterson's *Cantonment of His Majesty's forces in North America* [1767, Library of Congress] along with military garrisons placed in the colonies to reinforce these edicts. James Madison would later describe George III's Proclamation of 1763 as the immediate prelude to the "wicked and oppressive measures which gave birth to the Revolution."

While British engineers were on the ground mapping the detail of the proclamation line and the adjacent western territory, others were at sea mapping the Gulf coast and interior of West Florida. One striking example is George Gauld's *A Survey of the Coast of west Florida from Pensacola to Cape Blaise* [1766, UK Hydrographic Office, Taunton].

Another is David Taitt's *A plan of part of the rivers Tombecke, Alabama, Tensa, Peridido, and Scambia in the province of West florida.* Taitt was a Deputy Indian Superintendent and his map not only defined areas for new settlement but also established the boundaries of proposed Indian nations.

In East Florida (encompassing the modern Florida peninsula) extensive mapping took place under William De Brahm, the talented surveyor general for the Southern District. Among the maps in this chapter were a number by James Moncrief including *Map of part of East Florida from St. John's River to Bay of Mosquitos* [1764, The National Archives of the UK, Kew]. Moncrief would go on to become an important British engineer/mapmaker during the Revolution. In the Caribbean, John Byers magisterial printed maps of the Ceded Caribbean Islands—Dominica, Bequia, St. Vincent and Tobago [1776, Library of Congress] are remarkable for their detailed depiction with existing and planned settlements.

The American Revolution put an end to British mapmaking directed at colonization and many of the engineers turned their attention to military mapmaking. Ironically, the extraordinary sums of money spent on this great endeavor created "Geographic knowledge that could only whet the appetites of provincial governments." In the end, the Americans were the beneficiaries of this fabulous body of work. And thanks to Max Edelson, so are we.

Richard H. Brown is a collector of maps and views of the French and Indian War and American Revolution. He is vice chairman of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library and a councilor of the American Antiquarian Society. In 2015, he co-authored with Paul E. Cohen Revolution: Mapping the Road to American Independence 1755–1783.



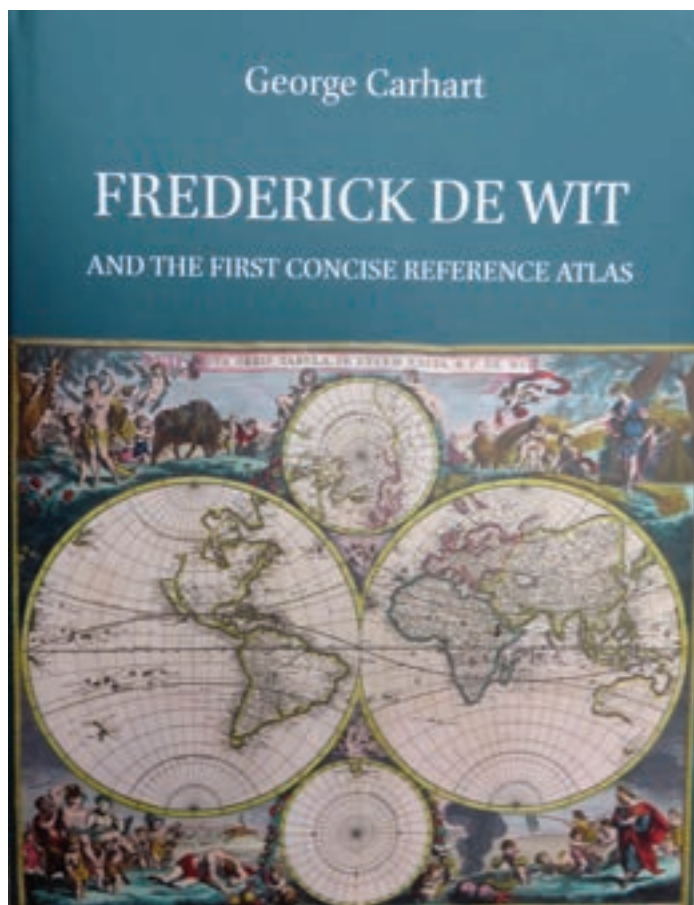
Carhart, George S. **Frederick De Wit and the First Concise Reference Atlas**. Leiden, The Netherlands: Koninklijke Brill | Hes & De Graaf NV, 2016. Hardbound, 9.50 x 12.75 inches, 589 pages, 736 color illus, English, bibliography, appendices, index. ISBN13: 9789004239030. € 125.00. \$162.00

Reviewed by Edward Kirsch

Dr. Carhart's book is substantially based upon his original research conducted over fifteen years into the atlas production of Frederick De Wit. By his own account, the author has examined at least 72 of De Wit's atlases, over 1,000 of his loose maps and a further 30 composite atlases from all over the world. Further, he has performed extensive research in archival records in the Netherlands that support his conclusions regarding De Wit's life, work and influence. The book is beautifully illustrated throughout with a plethora of color illustrations of maps, prints, archival records and portions of maps that are ably used to support the author's main themes and thesis. In addition, pages 174 to 565 consist principally of a collection high quality color images of De Wit's maps and states of specific maps. The book also includes an approximately 40-page cartobibliography of De Wit's work which can support further research regarding De Wit and 17th century Dutch cartography.

One of the author's main thesis (reflected in the title of the book) is that De Wit produced and successfully marketed "the first concise reference atlas." By "first concise reference atlas," Dr. Carhart means that de Wit by 1660 was publishing a folio atlas without text which the author characterizes as a new form of atlas. Dr. Carhart maintains that De Wit's atlases conformed to standards of uniformity in order to distinguish these atlases from contemporaneous composite atlases which are generally regarded as a collection comprised of an inconsistent number of maps that are compiled and bound to the wishes of the consumer at the time of the order. To support this assertion Dr. Carhart conducts a detailed analysis of De Wit's maps and map indexes across time. Dr. Carhart argues that De Wit has been historically underappreciated because prior scholars have categorized his atlases as composite atlases. However, his research demonstrates persuasively that the content of De Wit's atlases follows the indexes that were printed in volume; rather than the indexes being printed to follow the content of his atlases.

Dr. Carhart maintains that the Bleau family's multi-volume atlases and other leading Dutch atlases had become prohibitively expensive for all but the wealthiest at upwards of 450 Guilders for a complete colored atlas (an estimated 4,200€ today). The author speculates



that De Wit sensed an opportunity, beginning in about 1660, and filled a need for a more affordable atlas with a new compact reference atlas that sold for about seven to twenty Guilders (an estimated €65 to €187 today). With the introduction of his atlas, the author argues that De Wit changed the form in which atlases were consumed in the second half of the seventeenth century. Dr. Carhart maintains, and provides strong evidence, that De Wit actively and continually updated the content of his maps which he notes supports his position that De Wit's atlases were not wholly custom as is the case for a composite atlas.

The author's first chapter provides a biography of de Wit and a description of his business. He reviews the work of prior authors on De Wit to reveal some

misconceptions regarding De Wit by prior authors. Dr. Carhart's biographical information is based substantially on his own research using primary archival records. Although he does canvass and rely on the work of other researchers and has detailed knowledge of their work. Dr. Carhart maintains that his examination of both established and newly-identified archival evidence demonstrates that "there was only one art, print and map seller named Frederick de Wit working in Amsterdam" at this time as opposed to a family dynasty as inferred (or most often merely repeated) by prior authorities. Moreover, Dr. Carhart's thorough research enables him to paint a fuller and more accurate portrait of De Wit's life.

For example, Dr. Carhart concludes that de Wit was likely a Lutheran and not a Roman Catholic as previously believed by many other authors. Dr. Carhart uncovers newly found documents that indicate that Frederick De Wit's parents were both Lutheran. He explains that although other documents show that De Wit's first wife, Maria van der Way, whom he married on July 30, 1661, was from a wealthy Catholic family and his children were baptized Catholic this does not establish that he was a Catholic in light of community practices of the time. In Amsterdam Catholicism was tolerated at the time and it was not unheard of for a Lutheran to marry a Catholic. Further, he maintains it was normal at the time for children of a mixed faith marriage to be baptized in the mother's faith. In addition, he persuasively argues against the long-standing supposition that there was a dynasty of De Wit print and map publishers. He demonstrates instead that De Wit's father was a maker of knife handles and his only surviving son took little interest in the map and print business of his father. Taken together, the author provides a more complete biography of De Wit that is based on archival records and documents that are provided in illustrations in the book.

Dr. Carhart examines property tax records and deeds from the period to show that De Wit was a relatively affluent member of the city who had the means to speculate in real estate. For example, he notes that Frederick De Wit paid 12,000 Guilders for a large house with a prime business location on the Kalverstraat in 1678 at a time when the annual income of a skilled worker was about 145 Guilders. The author establishes that by 1662 De Wit had the means to speculate in real estate and bought and sold at least ten properties. The author notes that De Wit also acquired a property in the affluent community of Loenersloot.

Dr. Carhart also shows that De Wit was more than a successful map, art and print seller in his home of Amsterdam and had market contacts and sold

throughout Europe. He argues that De Wit's new, inexpensive, and concise reference atlas became "the reference atlas of choice across Europe." Further, he argues that De Wit was a "household name" into the early eighteenth century and demonstrates that his maps were sold under his name into the beginning of the nineteenth century.

In sum, the book provides detailed support for its propositions and is an invaluable resource for academic researchers, map dealers, and map aficionados whom have a strong interest in the work of Frederick De Wit and 17th century Dutch cartography. The reader is forewarned, however, that the book is a somewhat dense and difficult read due to the wealth of documentation and perhaps because its origins lie in a doctoral dissertation.

Mr. Kirsch is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and a former nuclear submarine officer. He has an M.B.A. in finance from American University. He also has a J.D. degree from George Washington University Law School and practices Government contracts law. He is a collector of 16th century maps and reads as much on the subject as his law practice will allow. His review of A World of Innovation—Cartography in the Time of Gerhard Mercator appeared in this journal's Issue 95 (Spring 2016).



(Title Page) *Atlas Tot Amsterdam* By Frederick de Wit in de Calverstraat bij den Dam inde Witte Paskaert. Image courtesy the David Rumsey Map Collection.

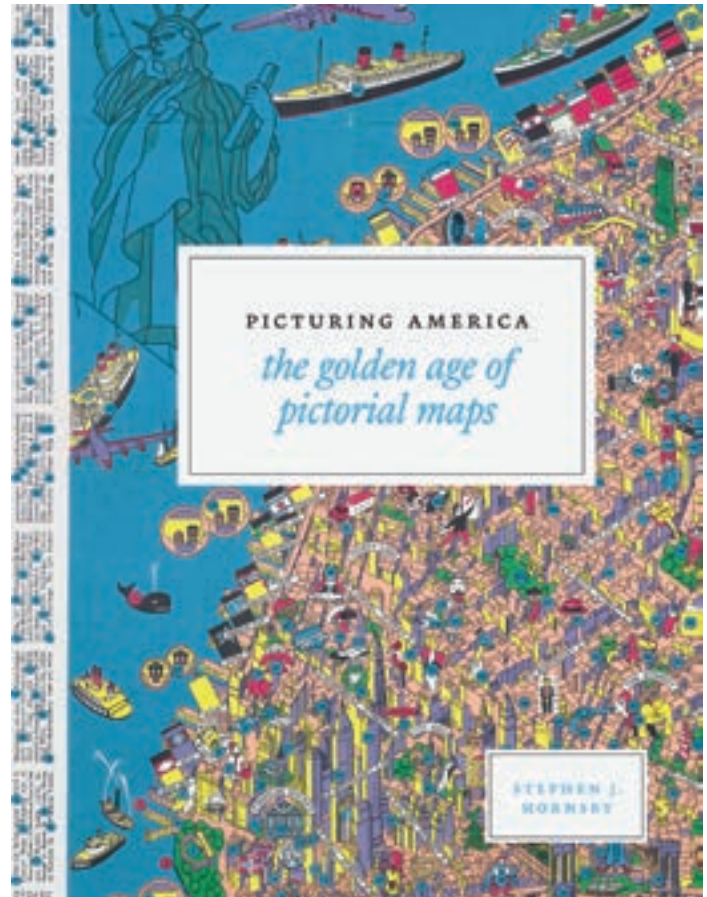
Hornsby, Stephen J. **Picturing America: The Golden Age of Pictorial Maps**. Chicago: University of Chicago Press and the Library of Congress, 2017. Hardbound, 8.5 x 11 inches, 153 color plates, ISBN 9780226386041 (also available as e-book) \$45.00

Reviewed by Cassandra Britt Farrell

Although not sought after by American map libraries, a distinctly American map, the pictographic map, was very popular in the twentieth century, reaching its greatest heights of appeal in the years following the First World War through the 1950s. Graphic and commercial artists who worked for advertising agencies, mainstream publications, and designed images for cartoons and movies, drafted pictorial maps that depicted through art, map and text American industrial advancement, American history and architecture, and distinctly American places and peoples. Today, pictorial maps are experiencing a “renaissance” as map collectors, librarians and scholars are realizing their dynamic role in twentieth century American cartographic history.

In *Picturing America* the content is divided into seven chapters that arrange the maps by genre and focuses on those that were published as individual sheets or posters. *Portolan* readers will be interested in the artists introduced and the collectors discussed as well as learn how these maps were published. Most of the maps included are from the Library of Congress’s Geography and Map Collection, specifically from the Muriel H. Parry and Ethel M. Fair collections. The Library of Congress is one of the few libraries to collect pictorial maps and their rich collection is due to United States copyright laws that require publishers to deposit two copies of each map to the Library of Congress that they submit for copyright protection.

Each chapter includes a brief introduction about the maps therein, and each map is identified by title, author, a brief description and its home institution; if it is a part of a private collection this is noted. Pictorial maps oftentimes used humor to promote traveling through the United States and there were maps published that displayed Disney characters “gamboling” their way across the United States. And, humor was used to respond to the issues of the day. The reviewer found of interest Edward McCandlish’s *Bootleggers Map of the United States*, whose map locates distilleries, speakeasies, and where hops and corn used for distillation were grown. H.J. Lawrence’s *Map Showing the Isles of Pleasure* illustrates the dangers of drinking too much alcohol! As the revival of Colonial Williamsburg coincided with the heyday of pictorial maps, Colonial Williamsburg and other like institutions used pictorial maps to educate and instruct the country about



its colonial and federalist periods. The Great War was still at the forefront of American memory and in 1932 the historical map *American Expeditionary Force* was published, showing the front from Belgium to Italy. The American Junior Red Cross even published a map instructing students how they can help out at home and at school in a border that surrounded a map illustrating settlement in the New World.

Maps of places are included like a *Map of Chicago's Gangland*. Utility companies, bus and airline companies and other American industries supported the publication of pictorial maps to advertise their businesses, to promote tourism and promote public works. Examples of each are

(continued page 82)

Fleet, Christopher, Margaret Wilkes, and Charles W. J. Withers. ***Scotland – Mapping the Islands***. Edinburgh: Birlinn Ltd., in association with The National Library of Scotland, 2016. Hardbound, 9.8 x 10 inches, 288 pages, 160 color maps, guide to sources, index. ISBN 978–1780273518. £ 30.00, \$ 42.99 .

Reviewed by Marianne M. McKee

In 1993, after a chance encounter on the island of Iona in the Scottish Hebrides, I was invited to visit the National Library of Scotland and had a special tour of the map collection with Margaret Wilkes, then Head of the Map Room. I found that besides maps, we were also enthusiastic about islands. So, when I was alerted to the forthcoming publication of a work addressing maps of the islands around Scotland in *Cairt: Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum*, I couldn't wait to order a copy. And I was not disappointed. For someone who has visited many of those islands several times, attempted to learn the Scottish Gaelic language, and found a true soul place there, *Scotland: Mapping the Islands* complemented and expanded my understanding and knowledge of a very special part of the world.

The authors, Christopher Fleet, Map Curator at the National Library of Scotland, Margaret Wilkes, now Chair of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's Collections Committee, and Charles W. J. Withers, Ogilvie Chair of Geography at the University of Edinburgh and Geographer Royal for Scotland, previously collaborated on the award-winning 2011 publication *Scotland: Mapping the Nation*. This earlier book is also arranged thematically—with a chapter on "Islands"—and is a companion to the book under discussion. Both utilized the rich collections of the National Library of Scotland.

The word "island" conjures up many images. Land surrounded by water, remote, mysterious, and unknown. And Scotland is surrounded by islands, including the Inner and Outer Hebrides off the northwest coast and the Northern Isles, which include Orkney and Shetland, north of the east coast. What this book does is bring the Scottish islands to life, layer by layer, like a geological formation, and into the full context of their history, geography, and culture.

Following a foreword by Magnus Linklater, a prominent journalist and writer born in Orkney, and the preface and acknowledgements, nine chapters organize the book by themes. The Introduction (Chapter 1) lays the ground, defining islands and their mapping and explaining the arrangement of the book. The full-color illustrations are interwoven with the text, and suggestions are made on ways to read the book—from front to back or reading the text and then the captions. One can even use the index to read island by island. I found reading the text first and then the captions was best for me.



The book progresses through eight more chapters. Individuals involved in the history and development of island map making are discussed throughout, and the following is just a sample of what is included in each section. Peopling (Chapter 2), relates to the movement of populations and the very early settlements and archaeological structures, such as Skara Brae and the standing stones on Orkney and at Callanish on Lewis, noting that these ancient features were not documented on maps until the 1800s; then Naming (Chapter 3), its importance as well as the development of a naming authority for the Norse, Scottish Gaelic, and English languages used; and Navigating (Chapter 4), so integral to maneuvering around islands and leading to the regular usage and development of marine charts and lighthouses. Three following chapters—Defending (Chapter 5), Improving (Chapter 6), and Exploiting (Chapter 7)—address the issues of a settled population and land use, including defenses and warfare; for example, Scapa Flow in Orkney during the World Wars, and Gruinard Island as a test island for anthrax, and more scientifically based maps

showing influences of soil and agriculture, natural resources, and urban planning.

Picturing (Chapter 8) depicts the developing science and technology related to map making as well as the art, including the cartouche, views, and use of color, and extends to prose and poetry. It shows the tidal island of Erraid off the coast of Mull, where David Balfour is “trapped” for four days in Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Kidnapped*, and poetry and “word pictures” are expressed by writers such as George Mackay Brown. The last section, *Escaping* (Chapter 9), speaks for itself—spiritual and literary retreats such as Iona and St. Columba, Barnhill on Jura where George Orwell wrote *1984*, the flight of Bonnie Prince Charlie in the islands, and Sir Compton Mackenzie, author of *Whiskey Galore*, buried on Barra where he lived for some time. Then, finally, tourism, focusing on the natural world and its inhabitants, travel, and islands as just a place to be.

The book is nicely designed, about 10 x 10 inches, a little heavy (as most map books are!), and the coated paper presents the maps clearly. The few comments I have in this regard is that some detail is lost in maps that cross to the facing page, page numbers are omitted on full page maps, which can be confusing, and although most of the maps are easily read, a small magnifying glass might be useful in some cases. The “Guide to Sources and Further Reading” is, in essence, an annotated bibliography and is extremely useful.

It’s a lovely book, full of extraordinary maps and stories. Islands are not just geologic land forms. Thanks to this book they are living and breathing entities with long and layered histories. As a person interested in maps, I have collected many good tourist and Ordnance Survey maps of these islands, some 30 years old now, but I really wish I had had access to *Scotland: Mapping the Islands* before I made my trips.

As Magnus Linklater put it, “Scotland’s islands were made for maps.” And here they are.

Marianne McKee, the co-editor of *Virginia in Maps*, is a past President of the Washington Map Society and a Portolan contributor. Her “Expanding a Child’s World: Map Books for Children and Young Readers,” was in issue 81 (Fall 2011); she co-authored “Trouble In Mapland: The Absconder, The Debtor, And The Affabulateur (Frederick Bossler, Samuel Lewis, And John Francis Renault) in issue 88 (Winter 2013).” Ms. McKee served for a number of years as the Map Specialist at the Library of Virginia.



(continued from page 80)

PICTURING AMERICA: THE GOLDEN AGE OF PICTORIAL MAPS

included in *Picturing America*. This reviewer was particularly interested in the discussion regarding six large wall maps illustrating the American naval war effort during the Second World War. Pictorial map publication began to wane in the years following World War Two, in part, by the retirement of its mapmakers and the increasing use of photography in advertising. Yet, the maps presented are very striking and are examples of American postwar prosperity.

Since this is the first publication to focus on this genre, libraries and collectors alike are encouraged to add this to their holdings. *Picturing America* is a nifty reference tool and readers will find of value the biographies provided of the graphic artists who made pictorial maps.

WMS member Cassandra Britt Farrell is Senior Map Archivist at the Library of Virginia in Richmond. Her article “The Library of Virginia’s Civil War Map Collection” appeared in issue 85 (Winter 2012) of this journal. Her review of *Map: Exploring the World* appeared in issue 95 (Spring 2016) and of *Treasures from the Map Room: A Journey through the Bodleian Collections* in issue 99 (Fall 2017). The viewpoints in this review are the author’s and do not reflect those of the Library of Virginia. Dr. Hornsby spoke on this subject at the WMS 2017 Annual Dinner.



A Night-club Map of Harlem. New York: Dell Publishing Company, 1933. Courtesy Library of Congress Geography and Map Division. Call number G3804. N4:2H3E622 1932 .C3. Digital ID – <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3804n.ct007809>

Book Review

Schulten, Susan. ***A History of America in 100 Maps***. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2018. Outside the United States, London: The British Library, 2018. Hardcover, 9x11 ½ inches, 256 pages, 120 color plates, endnotes, bibliography, index. ISBN 9780226458618 (Hardcover); ISBN 9780226458755 (e-book). \$35.00. Available on Amazon.com

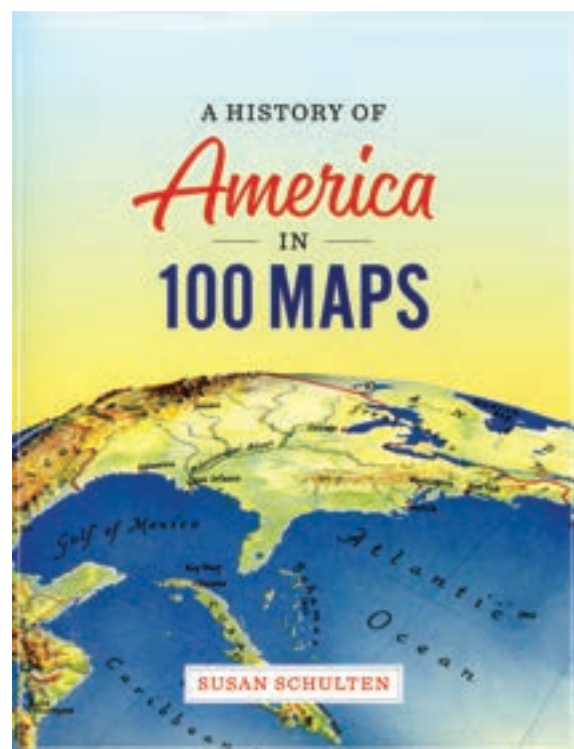
Reviewed by J. C. McElveen

Over the last several years, a number of books have been published purporting to tell the history of a particular phenomenon in 100 objects. In a 2014 article in Slate.com, the author traced the development of that trend to a 2010 television series and accompanying book by the British Library called *The History of the World in 100 Objects*. The author went on to point out that the concept has been used for countries, cities, sports, hobbies, Shakespeare, and many other categories. The Smithsonian Institution even put out a book called *A History of America in 101 Objects*. So why read a book purporting to tell the history of America in 100 maps? The answer is because it is fascinating, informative and proves that maps can tell a complicated story in a shorthand form that is often easier to visualize than an article or even a book on the subject.

An outstanding example of this truism may be a map highlighted in this book called *Map Showing the Distribution of the Slave Population of the Southern States of the United States, compiled from the Census of 1860*, published by the U. S. Coast Survey in 1861. The map showed the concentration of slaves on a county-by-county basis. The lightest areas on the map indicated the relative absence of slaves. The book's author points out that Abraham Lincoln relied on this map in several ways, in strategizing during the Civil War. It was so important to him that a famous painting (shown in the book) called *First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation of President Lincoln* shows this map.

The book consists of an introduction, nine chapters and an afterword, and it proceeds chronologically. Each chapter is preceded by a two-page overview of the period being discussed. Although the author admits that some aspects of America's story are better illustrated by maps than others, she uses the maps in this book to illustrate an incredibly wide variety of aspects of American history and culture.

She begins with maps from 1490 to 1600, which show peoples' early perceptions of the Americas and the efforts of various European countries to exploit, and then settle North America. She references maps done by Spanish,



French, Dutch and English cartographers, and points out the national biases reflected on those maps.

She then uses maps to discuss the early colonial period, from 1600 to 1700. Maps showing early exploration and settlement of Virginia, New England, New Amsterdam, Pennsylvania and the eastern provinces of Canada are used as examples. The early—and prolonged—search for a northwest passage is also discussed.

The next section of the book covers from 1700 until the conclusion of the Revolutionary War. This chapter emphasizes the use of maps of North America to advance political agendas, with French and English examples being used as dueling propaganda devices. It also utilizes maps to show interactions between Europeans and Native Americans—from trading networks to hostilities. Virginia's

tobacco culture and the slave trade are also illustrated. Finally, maps showing the lead-up to the American Revolution and some of its battles are discussed.

The next two chapters of the book, from 1783 to 1835 and from 1835 to 1874, can be discussed together, because the maps illustrate the expansion of the United States, and all that entailed. Maps from this era include those showing the development of an ultimately nationwide postal network, settlement in the Northwest and Southwest Territories, the Lewis & Clark expedition, the mapping of frontier defenses, the settlement of Texas and the subsequent Mexican War, the Oregon Trail, the California gold rush and the westward push of the railroads. As settlers moved west and immigrants began to come to the United States in large numbers, the issue of slavery became more acute, and a variety of maps depicting the extent of slavery illustrate the problem. The section ends with several maps showing aspects of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

The chapter which covers the period 1874–1914 contains fascinating maps showing immigration patterns, urbanization and the many problems associated with it, and industrialization. Maps showing the locations of coal reserves are used as an example of the pursuit of minerals of all sorts during this period, and several maps showing the ethnic and racial make-up of rapidly growing cities illustrate the problems beginning to develop there. A map showing the decline of the bison population over the 19th century is used to discuss the decline of Native American populations.

As the book moves into the 20th century, from 1914–1940, maps of World War I, women's suffrage efforts, early airline routes, roads and highways, the TVA, early civil rights milestones and many other aspects of history and culture are featured. Even maps showing gangland Chicago, the nightspots in Harlem during the Harlem Renaissance, and the geography of Hollywood are discussed.

As the book moves into World War II and beyond, (1940–1962) maps of battlefields are discussed, but so, too are maps of the Interstate Highway System, the fight against Communism, and even the original concept for Disneyland.

Finally, in the chapter devoted to the period 1962–2001, more maps illustrating potential crisis situations are discussed: the Cuban Missile Crisis, the AIDS epidemic, the Vietnam War and student unrest.

Throughout this book are interesting maps which show some aspect of American culture not ordinarily thought about as lending itself to mapping. These include the education of girls in the 19th century, illustrated by a map of the United States drawn by a student; the education of the blind, illustrated by a map that was an alternative

to the Braille system; a map called *The Geography of Sin*, showing the ways people can go wrong and the original map showing how each county voted in 1880 (with red used for Democrats and blue used for Republicans).

Are there things one could wish were included? Surely. The iconic map showing westward exploration by John C. Fremont in the early 1840s and a discussion of the significance of those expeditions would have been instructive; a Mormon migration map and discussion would have been interesting; a section on the post-Civil War military engagements with Plains tribesmen, including, perhaps, the maps generated after the Battle of the Little Bighorn, in 1876, or the Wounded Knee massacre, in 1890, could have been used to illustrate the efforts to suppress Native culture and force tribes onto reservations.

However, given the ambitious goal of this book: to cover American history from 1490 until the 21st century, using only 100 maps, those are relatively minor omissions. Anyone who loves history, or maps, or American culture should read this book, from cover to cover. It is indeed a fabulous ride.

—*J. C. McElveen* is a retired lawyer, having practiced for 40 years, and is a collector of maps and books on American exploration. He has volunteered at the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress, the National Museum of the American Indian and the Folger Shakespeare Library. He has served as the Program Chair and, subsequently, the President of the Washington Map Society. From March 21 through May 26, 2018, he curated an exhibit of maps and books entitled *Westward the Course of Empire: Exploring and Settling the American West 1803–1869*, at the Grolier Club of New York. In conjunction with that exhibit, he prepared a 155-page catalogue. He has written and spoken on map-related topics, including: *The Use of Maps in Legal Proceedings*; *From Sea to Shining Sea: The Pacific Railroad Surveys*; and *Crossing the Sierra Nevada into California: From Jedediah Smith to the Interstate Highways*. He has also reviewed books on the Lewis and Clark expedition, the Mullan Road and early western explorers, pioneers and business leaders.



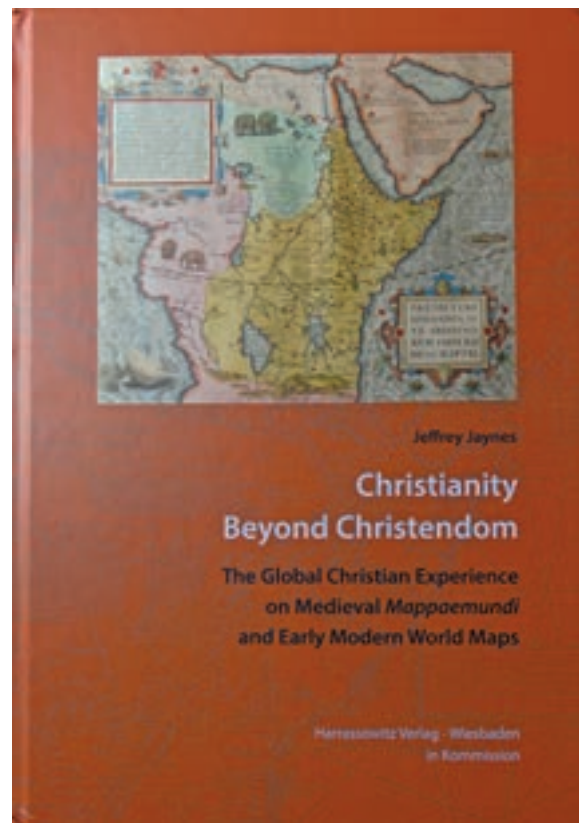
Jaynes, Jeffrey. ***Christianity Beyond Christendom. The Global Christian Experience on Medieval Mappaemundi and Early Modern World Maps.*** Wolfenbütteler Forschungen, vol. 149. Wiesbaden: Harrasowitz Verlag, 2018. Hardbound, 7.6 x 10.8 inches, 483 pp, 30 color plates, 91 b/w illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. ISBN-13: 9783447107150, ISBN-10: 3447107154, \$147.85, €128,00.

Reviewed by Marguerite Ragnow

The advance of the Christian mission across the globe was tied ineluctably to European exploration of the wider world. Missionaries both preceded and followed explorers, diplomats, and merchants into new and unknown territory. However, as Jeffrey Jaynes explains in *Christianity Beyond Christendom*, the very idea of Christendom was mutable. In this comprehensive volume, Jaynes weaves the history of cartography into the story of how European Christians understood their world, from Antiquity through the sixteenth century.

Professor Jaynes, Warner Chair of Church History at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO), is primarily concerned with the locating of Christians and Christian communities outside of Europe on medieval and early modern maps. He begins with Martin Waldseemüller's 1507 planisphere, which used the symbol of episcopal keys to enclose "the whole of Europe for the Roman Church."¹ Jaynes notes, however, that Waldseemüller's map also denotes a greater Christian presence in the far reaches of the earth, drawing on ancient tales of the Apostle Thomas' travels to India, the legend of Prester John, and the accounts of Nestorian Christians from Marco Polo. As Jaynes is quick to note, he is not the first to attempt to study these outlying forms of Christianity through maps and similar resources; he acknowledges a debt to German scholar Anna-Dorothee von den Brincken, particularly her 1973 volume, *Die "Nationes Christianorum Orientalium" im Verständnis der Lateinischen Historiographie von der Mitte des 12. bis in die zweite Hälfte des 14. Jahrhunderts*, which as the title suggests, focuses on the High Middle Ages, the 12th to the mid-14th centuries. However, Jaynes's chronological focus, from the 8th to the 16th centuries, goes beyond that of von den Brincken's and the primary objects of his study are world maps. Most useful in his introduction is a brief review of the various types of early Christianity to be found outside of Europe: Jacobite, Coptic, Ethiopian Orthodox, Armenian Apostolic, Georgian Orthodox, and Mar Thoma, as well as the better known Nestorian Christians.

The first section of his book focuses on the medieval world, beginning with a review of the maps or lack of maps of the ancient world and ending with a discussion



of what he calls the "grand" maps of the Middle Ages: the *mappaemundi* that survive as individual maps rather than those found as part of manuscript volumes. These include the Duchy of Cornwall fragment (ca. 1290), the Vercelli map (c. 1280), the Ebstrof map (c. 1300), and the Hereford Cathedral *mappamundi* (c. 1300). He ends the section with a discussion of the Peutinger Table (c. 1200–1300), an *itinerario* rather than a *mappamundi*, but one that similarly bridges the ancient and medieval worlds.

The second section is brief, just two chapters. The first, "Sea Charts and Traveler's Tales," offers a very brief introduction to portolan charts before launching an extensive discussion of medieval travel narratives focused on Asia written by the early missionaries, Marco Polo, and the spurious account of Sir John Mandeville, as well as eastern travelers to the West. This is an interesting

discussion but seems oddly paired with portolan charts, most of which depict land no farther east than the Black Sea, and points to the challenges of organizing a huge amount of material into a cohesive narrative. The second chapter in this section, "World Maps in an Age of Transition," addresses later maps like the Catalan Atlas (c. 1375) and the portolan influences to be found in them. He includes Dati's *La Sfera* and Cristoforo Boundelmonti's *Liber insularum archipelagi*, maps by Andrea Bianco and Giovanni Leardo and others, the Fra Mauro map (ca. 1452), and notes briefly the work of Henricus Martellus.

Section three ranges from the rediscovery of Ptolemy to the large wall maps by Desceliers, Gastaldi, and others, and ends with the grand atlases of the 16th century: Mercator, de Jode, Ortelius. The book ends with a brief conclusion: "New World Maps, New World Order," which brings the discussion back to Waldseemüller and to the *mappaemundi*. In this section as in those preceding it, he weaves his narrative through a chronology that steps back in time before moving forward. While this can be confusing at times, it does highlight how much the cartographic traditions he discusses overlap, and how many of them acknowledge a debt to the ancient world.

What saves this volume from simply being a catalog of maps that depict Christianity in some form outside of Europe is Jaynes's deep understanding of these forms of Christianity and how perception of them was embedded in the European world view of the time. It was, in fact, Jaynes's goal to demonstrate the extent to which Christianity was seen as a global movement. The maps he discusses will be familiar to most readers, yet I wonder how many will ever have noticed the references to Christianity outside Europe that can be found on them. Or just how much Christianity is part of the framework for cartographic knowledge not only in the Middle Ages, but in the early modern period as well. The depiction of the parting of the Red Sea on many portolan charts, the illustrations of Prester John from Africa to India, flags of both Christian institutions and Muslims in juxtaposition to one another, the "imaginary" island of St. Brenden, and paintings of the Virgin and Child in the margins and Adam and Eve in Paradise in the Far East all helped to support the concept of a universal church that encompassed the known world.

The volume is embellished with black and white photos of maps throughout and color photos at the back. In addition to a satisfying number of footnotes, there is a substantial bibliography and an index that includes both textual references and plate numbers.

While there is little new here cartographically, Jaynes's contribution is to present these early maps from a new perspective. By highlighting the Christian references to be found on these maps he reminds us how differently

religion was viewed at the time these maps were created. Early maps still present challenges to the modern scholar; in our struggle to understand them it is, perhaps, a good thing to be reminded how much context has to contribute to that understanding.

—*Marguerite Ragnow* is curator of the James Ford Bell Library at the University of Minnesota, where she also serves on the graduate faculties of History, Medieval Studies, and Early Modern Studies. Dr. Ragnow is president of the Society for the History of Discoveries as well as a member of the WMS.

ENDNOTE

- 1 Quoting Matthias Ringmann and Martin Waldseemüller, *Cosmographiae Introductio* (St. Dié, 1507), on p. 19.



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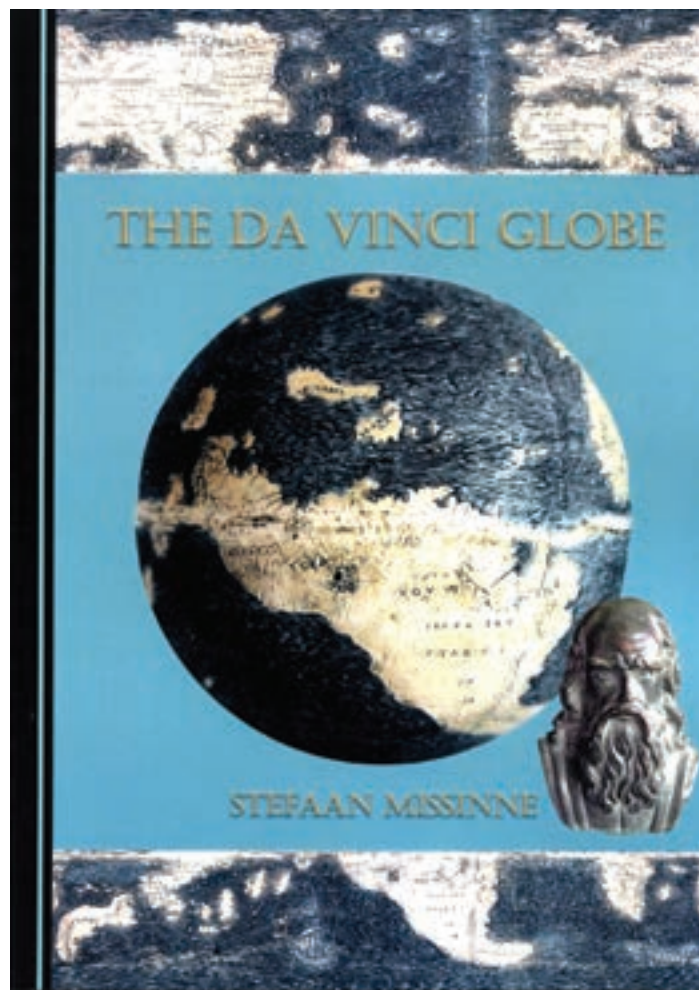
Missinne, Stefaan. *The Da Vinci Globe*. Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2018. Softbound, 20.7x29.4 cm (8.1x11.4 inches), 305 pages, 217 illustrations (most in color), charts, tables. ISBN 978–1-5275–1134–7. £ 70.99, \$ 99.95

Reviewed by Robert Karrow

Not since the announcement of the discovery of the Vinland map in 1966 has the historical cartography community been so electrified. Stefaan Missinne's article in the Fall 2013 issue of this journal started a flurry of notices in popular media, and no wonder. He proclaimed the discovery (by a collector who preferred to remain anonymous) of a very early globe, the first, he asserted, to show America. Nor was this a garden-variety globe, it was engraved on nothing less than an ostrich egg. Make that the bottom halves of two ostrich eggs. And even more remarkable, it was, with a few easily explained exceptions, identical in every detail to the famous Hunt-Lenox Globe, a copper artifact in the New York Public Library that was discovered in Paris in 1855. So surely the ostrich egg globe (hereafter OEG) was copied from the Lenox? No, impossible. No one could have had sufficient access to that globe since 1855 to have so perfectly copied every detail—and why would anyone have done so? No, amazing as it might seem, Missinne demonstrated quite convincingly that the OEG was actually the original pattern (lost for 500 years) for the mold in which the Lenox globe was cast. As if all this were not staggering enough, he concluded his article by observing “there is intriguing evidence that the creator of the ostrich egg globe drew inspiration from the workshop of Leonardo da Vinci, and this evidence merits further investigation” (p. 22).

And now, five years later, after what has clearly been a huge research undertaking in which he travelled widely and apparently spared no expense, he is back to proclaim that Leonardo da Vinci was, in fact the one and only author and fabricator. There is a good deal to be praised here: Dr. Missinne has obviously devoted himself to his task, tracking down many obscure sources, subjecting the globe to many scientific tests, and providing dozens of high-quality photographs of both the OEG and the Hunt-Lenox globe, as well as numerous color photographs from Leonardo's notebooks and manuscripts. The microphotography is superb, although one wishes it had been possible to include some kind of scale to indicate the actual size of the details photographed. The volume is well-printed on good quality paper, has a handsome cover, and one begins it eagerly.

But instead of the sober, scholarly, more-or-less chronological review that the original *Portolan* article



presented, chapter one plunges us into Leonardo's world; how ostriches were raised in Pavia, how the artist drew an egg, was a frequent visitor to Pavia, almost certainly passed by the garden where the ostriches were raised and even mentioned the garden in one of his notebooks. This leads to some of Leonardo's drawings of ovals, which leads to a chart showing the effect of age on the density of ostrich eggs, which leads to a discussion of “Leonardo's particular style of depicting ocean waves” (as demonstrated, of course, on the OEG). This leads to an assertion that the artist used a vise to join the two halves of the eggs accompanied by an illustration of

what appears to be a vise from one of his notebooks, but certainly not one that could be used to join eggshells. This is followed by a computer tomography scan of the OEG, and to further ruminations about the presence of globes in paintings. and “a small reddish copper micro droplet” on the bottom of the OEG.

As this abbreviated precis of chapter one suggests, the book as a whole has very serious organizational problems. It is profusely but not very helpfully illustrated (because of a total lack of cross-references between text and illustrations), confusingly written, with no sign of an editorial hand, densely, indeed overly, documented, and full of distracting and unnecessary tangents about all sorts of things with little if any obvious relevance to the OEG. It was quite difficult to discern the meaning or relevance of points raised, to follow the arguments, check the illustrations, and generally navigate its over-filled pages.

The book positively bristles with documentation, as if every citation, no matter how little it bears on the OEG, serves to bolster the case for Leonardo as author. At one point he refers to Leonardo’s “infinite horizon.” That sentence gets a footnote: “V. Valerio, “L’Orizzonte e l’infinito in Leonardo,” which does rather strike me as padding. There are over 800 footnotes in the volume, including one to the *World Poultry Science Journal* (not padding, but quite appropriate, and surely a first for the history of cartography) but no bibliography and no index.

His chapter X, on the scale of the globe, presents measurements made on the Hunt-Lennox globe (and beautiful photographs of those measurements) and makes much of Leonardo’s observation that the earth had a diameter of “7,000 miles.” But it concludes with a completely circular argument and the statement that there is “a 100% concordance between his definition of the diameter of the world and the diameter of the OEG” (p. 261). Yes indeed, and if he had believed the earth to have a diameter of 10,000 miles, or had he chosen to use a hen’s egg, there would still be “a 100% concordance” between the earth and the globe because a globe is a scale model of the earth.

One would dearly like to know more about the provenance of this amazing artifact, where it had been for the 500 years before it was “discovered late on Saturday afternoon, June 16th, 2012, at the London map fair.” Missinne adds the tantalizing fact that “The Dutch dealer, who sold the globe as a 19th century scrimshaw artifact, said that he had purchased it early that same day from another dealer, and that he was informed that it had been part of an important European collection for many decades.” A footnote gives a few more details of the transaction (that it took only 5 minutes and “employed a 2 Euro vintage black glass eye magnifier” (p. 4 and note 4). But in all the

remaining 270 pages of the book, we will learn nothing more of its history. On p. 262 we read “The provenance of the object has been traced back as far as possible” by which he means to 1504, the date he’s determined that Leonardo made it. He continues, “There will always be conspiracy theorists who believe the egg globe was based on a fax [?] from a picture of the Lenox globe or who even think it is impossible to conjoin two lower halves from two different ostrich egg shells.” [Editor’s Note, with thanks to a WMS member: *What a fax is in today’s technology, was not always so. In the very early 1960’s, before Xerox prevailed in copy technology, there was an early copy technology called thermofax. It produced a brown paper copy that got browner with age, and brittle. Those were “fax.” Many used the term ‘fax’ to mean a copy, even from a Xerox machine. Even today, the quality of a photograph sent via current facsimile machines can be problematic.*] These concerns give me no pause, but I would very much like to know the identity of the dealers, and especially the dealer who sold it on the morning of the 16th, and the collection of which it was “for many decades” a part. This is hardly ancient history and we deserve to know more than we have been told. Clearly, the globe was known before it came into Dr. Missinne’s possession. There is a reference, buried in a footnote on p. 148 to “a plastic reproduction of A.H.” obviously referring to the OEG (but what on earth could “A.H.” stand for?). This facsimile, apparently of German origin, is “heavier than the original. It rolls over [the OEG is stabilized by a weight inside], looks bleached, has a different diameter and a filling of white sponge. Its South Pole is characterized by a blank pale plastic spot omitting the engraved waves.” There is no reference to crudity of execution, and it would seem that such a model would have to have been made from a cast of the OEG. But wait! (same footnote): there is yet *another* facsimile, this one owned by folks in Richmond, Virginia, who bought it in an antique shop. Missinne had not handled this copy, but had seen photographs, and described losses of detail “due to errors in the mold used to make the plastic reproduction.” So sometime before its discovery at the map fair in 2012 someone had made a cast of the OEG and produced at least one quite accurate facsimile (I suppose it is possible that the Virginia example might have been made from a cast of the German facsimile, thus accounting for its errors). Surely something can be learned about these facsimiles and who had them made?

Dr. Missinne is a very lucky man. He purchased (for \$1500) a remarkable object that is clearly a genuine artifact of the early 16th century. I’m not an expert on ostrich egg art, but I’ve looked at a great many early maps and to

(continued on page 63)

Seegel, Steven. ***Map Men: Transnational Lives and Deaths of Geographers in the Making of East Central Europe***. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018. Hardbound, 320 pages, 7x10 inches, 8 color plates, 20 halftones, bibliography, index. ISBN: 9780226438498. \$ 55

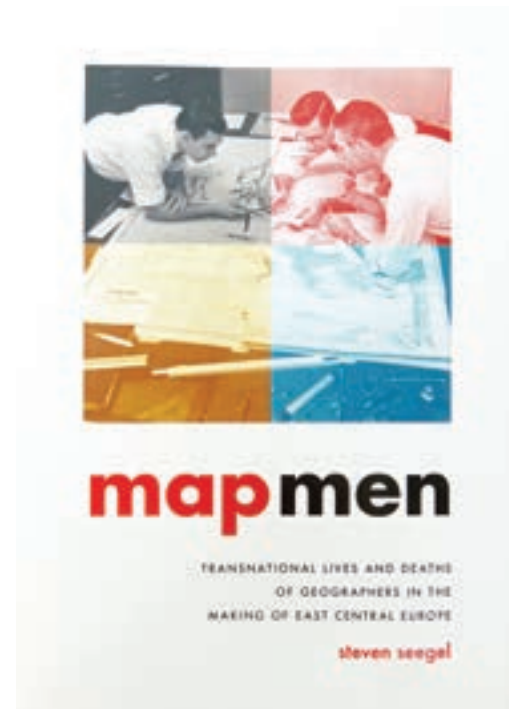
Reviewed by Wesley J. Reisser

The first decades of the twentieth century witnessed some of the most remarkable changes to the world political map ever witnessed as two world wars led to the wholesale remaking of the geopolitical order. Although many regions saw tremendous change in this region, few witnessed as much tumult in the shifting of borders and political orders as Central and Eastern Europe (which Seegel refers to as East Central Europe or in the German Ostmittel Europa). Three empires (German, Austro-Hungarian, and Russian) controlled the entire region in 1900; by 1920 this had grown to include numerous new “nation-states,” and by 1950 a series of communist satellite states under the yoke of the USSR covered the same lands.

This history has been covered countless times in histories and geographical studies of both the geographic changes themselves, and profiles of the men (in almost all cases the key political actors were indeed male) that shaped and re-shaped the map of the region. In *Map Men: Transnational Lives and Deaths of Geographers in the Making of East Central Europe*, University of Northern Colorado historian Steven Seegel focuses on the intersecting biographies of five geographers from five different nationalities who played a part in this narrative. Dr. Seegel is not new to cartographic history, as he has two prior works focused on the mapping of Ukraine and Russia’s western frontier.

Map Men follows the biographies of Albrecht Penck (Germany), Eugeniusz Romer (Poland), Stepan Rudnyts’kyi (Ukraine), Isaiah Bowman (United States), and Pal Teleki (Hungary), relying heavily on the extensive correspondence between these men, at least the links between those who were closely tied to each other at various points in the first half of the twentieth century. Seegel argues “that the interest in maps was often pathological, a sign of frustration and unfulfilled personal ambition along with a host of other emotions—fear, petty jealousy, and resentment—that nestled inside provincial, contradictory, and closed professional worlds of privilege, learning, and authority” (pg. 3). He thus embarks on a journey to deconstruct these men through a modern, and in this reviewer’s view, unfair and deeply biased critique of their scholarship and legacies.

The book focuses heavily on the often-underutilized personal correspondence of the five main characters. Seegel has extensive language skills that allowed him to delve into their work at archives in both Europe and the



U.S. This approach offers a very different look than prior biographies on several of these figures. The book does include reprints of maps by each scholar, including several beautiful color plates of key maps near the end, but none of these play a starring role in the work.

Each chapter of *Map Men* approaches the five key figures during a different time period. The book opens with backgrounds and education of the five men beginning in the 1850s, leading up through the first decade of the twentieth century. The book then delves into an investigation of the roles these men played both during World War I and in the subsequent peace treaties. The next two chapters examine the post-war era, when relationships broke down between many of the protagonists while others, especially America’s Bowman and Poland’s Romer grew to prominence in the international geographic scene. The latter chapters are understandably dominated by the rise of Nazi Germany and the cataclysm of World War II within Central and Eastern Europe. The book concludes with the deaths and a short look at the legacy of the five men, some who died during the war while others lived into the early 1950s.

Seegel portrays these five figures, whose world-views and legacy are indeed mixed, in a negative way by thrusting early 21st century values to the center point in how he analyzes their lives and legacies. Throughout the work, he describes all five men as deeply anti-Semitic, weak, and hopelessly wedded to the idea that maps and geographic information were unbiased and therefore the best means to interrogate our world and make changes to it. There are extensive works published that look at how science was misunderstood during these decades, when indeed racism was taught as science at most Western institutions, and “scientific” proposals underpinned the political settlements reached at the end of World War I. Colonialism was of course alive and well in this era, as was segregation in the United States, and class and confession played a major role in one’s position in every European country. However, this work takes these critiques to their extreme, portraying everything these men wrote and did through a lens of the values of our own time.

Seegel goes to extreme lengths to portray these biases. When writing about Penck’s work on geomorphology, he points to Penck using the German term *loess* to describe the soils of central Ukraine, claiming that using a German term, that is indeed the term in English for this soil type as well, as evidence that Penck wished for German colonization of the region (pg. 44). He similarly critiques Bowman’s support for Polish claims in what is now western Ukraine because Bowman relied heavily on maps produced by Romer for his *Geographical-Statistical Atlas of Poland* of 1916. For those who have closely studied the preparations for the 1919 Paris Peace Conference, it is well known that information on Eastern Europe was quite limited, especially in the United States, and thus it comes as little surprise that the Americans welcomed such information.

In the view of this reviewer, the most problematic claims made by Seegel are directly contradicted in other recent scholarship on this time period. Seegel made use of the Bowman papers at Johns Hopkins University, and published two World War I Inquiry maps (pg. 78) from the “Black Book,” claiming they had never before been published and without any understanding of their provenance and use, despite these maps forming the core of this reviewer’s 2012 book, *The Black Book*. The work overall ignored much of the recent scholarship by geographers on Bowman, although there is less relevant recent work on the other four key figures.

The author rarely makes maps a centerpiece of his studies, and unfortunately misinterprets many when he does use them, as his research is overwhelmingly focused on the personal letters of these men, and not on the cartographic history of the maps used in the book. For an aficionado of maps, this work will leave one sorely wishing there was more history of the maps themselves,

how they were used, and what role they and their authors played in the re-mapping of Central and Eastern Europe. Seegel concludes his work stating that “Our map men were emotional men and they had many things to hide” (pg. 226). He then plays down the importance of the map as a tool and presents a full-throated endorsement for the post-modern approach to studying maps by presenting a critique of the map as a tool and of “cartophilia.” Indeed, we must read maps with a careful lens, as they are all biased creations of their maker and/or patrons, and none of that comes as a surprise to any student of cartographic history. However, this is best accomplished in a manner that also investigates the ways in which cartographic information inform policy and change the course of history.

—*Dr. Wesley Reisser* is an adjunct professor of geography at The George Washington University, a member of the State Department’s civil service, and a National Councilor of the American Geographical Society. He is the author of “The Black Book: Woodrow Wilson’s Secret Plan for Peace” and “Energy Resources: From Science to Society,” and is the 2007 recipient of the WMS’s Ristow Prize.



(continued from page 61)

THE DA VINCI GLOBE

my curatorial eye, it “looks right.” I see no explanation for the uncanny concordance of the OEG and the Lenox globe other than a cast made directly from the OEG before the halves of the egg were cemented together. I even find the argument for Leonardo’s authorship pretty convincing, especially given his known experiments with casting metals and the extraordinary depiction of waves (quite unlike the water on any other map I know of, and reminiscent of his other depictions of water and human hair). There may even be enough evidence between these covers to make a really persuasive argument for Leonardo’s authorship, but that would require a much more carefully structured presentation.

—*Bob Karrow* retired in 2011 after 40 years on the staff of the Newberry Library in Chicago, most of them as Curator of Maps. His publications include *Mapmakers of the Sixteenth Century & Their Maps*. In retirement he continues his interest in the history of cartography as an editor, reviewer, and bibliographer.

