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GEOG 577.01: Seminar in Geographical Thought

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Seminar in Geographical Thought (GEOG 577)

General Information

Time          Autumn Semester, 2000; W, 4:10-7:00
Place         Social Sciences Building, Room 262
Instructor    Jeffrey A. Gritzner, Professor
Office        Social Sciences Building, Room 303
Office Hours  T: 4:00-5:00; W, 9:00-12:00; R, 2:30-3:30; or by
              appointment
Telephone     243-5626 (office); 273-0665 (home)
Textbook      Martin, Geoffrey J., and Preston E. James. All
              Possible Worlds: A History of Geographical
              Ideas. 3d ed. New York City: John Wiley &
              Sons, 1993. To familiarize yourself with the
              authors, please read the biographical sketches
              on pages xi-xii.

Optional       National Research Council. Rediscovering Geography:
Publication   New Relevance for Science and Society.

The National Research Council is the operating
agency of the National Academy of Sciences and the
National Academy of Engineering. The parent society, the National Academy of Sciences, was
chartered by the Lincoln Administration in 1863; is
dedicated to the furtherance of science and its use
for the general welfare; and is called upon to serve
as an official adviser to the federal government on
questions of science or technology.

Nature of the Course

The Seminar in Geographical Thought is a graduate seminar.
Enquiry, student reports, and discussion are the principal
ingredients of the seminar. For a general discussion of the
approach taken, please see Carl O. Sauer, "The Seminar as
Exploration," Historical Geography Newsletter 6, no. 1 (1976): 31-
34. The principal role of the instructor will be to introduce
topics, serve as a resource person, coordinate class discussions,
ask pertinent questions, and place the topics addressed in context.
Hence, the instructor serves largely as a facilitator and
coordinator; the actual teaching will be conducted by the students
themselves.
In Geographical Thought, we are concerned chiefly with the origins, evolution, and content of our discipline. Just as a map is an essential tool for the traveller in an unfamiliar land, so too is a knowledge of our intellectual past essential if we are to understand and appreciate our discipline. We shall focus upon key individuals and their contributions; the origin and diffusion of important geographical concepts and skills; the evolution of geographical knowledge; and the events and developments that significantly influenced geographical thought. Our time frame will be from the dawn of history to the modern era.

The Mansfield Library has a satisfactory collection of books devoted to geographical thought. Those placed on reserve are denoted with an asterisk in the list of Principal References below. In addition to the Mansfield holdings, my personal library contains some publications that you might find to be useful. You are welcome to use them: Simply note your name, the date, and the title of the publication(s) on the check-out pad. Given the nature of the seminar, it is probable that several of you will require the same publications at the same time. Hence, please return the books as quickly as possible when you are through with them.

Evaluation

Course grades will be based upon the following:

Class notebook. The purpose of the notebook requirement is to assist you in developing an organized, detailed, and hopefully useful set of resource materials pertaining to geographical thought. Notebooks should contain the following items:

- Course notes that are as detailed as possible.

- Notes on class reports (taken on the outlines which will be provided by the student presenting the report).

- Bibliographical references and any other items that you may wish to include—such as copies of relevant articles, maps, abstracts, reviews, &c.

- A well-organized format—to include a table of contents and some form of indexing which will make it possible for you to quickly access needed information. (N.B. Do not index by the date of the lecture.) It is recommended that you purchase a three-ring notebook, for which you eventually might require two sets of index tabs or dividers.

In evaluating the notebooks, I shall look for the following:

- The content and organization of class notes: Have the notes been taken carefully? Are they complete? Has information been added in those instances where data were
lacking? Can the notebook serve as a ready source of information? Are notes organized in some useful and meaningful manner?

- Evidence of initiative, interest, and professionalism: For example, the addition of bibliographical references with brief abstracts or annotations; photocopies of significant articles, highlighted to indicate that you have read them; and additional items, of any nature, that are of interest or use to you—although perhaps not discussed in class.

**Reading.** It is assumed that (i) you will read all assigned readings; (ii) will conduct in-depth, graduate-level research on the topics which you are assigned or select for oral and written reports; and (iii) that you will read a minimum of 1000 pages of literature devoted to the evolution of geographical thought. Full bibliographical citations and a summary of each book or article read should be made, and placed at the end of your notebook. You are not necessarily expected to read entire books. I should prefer that you sample several works (different authors, approaches, content, &c.) in order to become as familiar as possible with the broad spectrum of literature on geographical thought. Basically, browse the stacks and read what interests you.

**Class reports.** During the quarter, each of you will present reports concerned with key individuals and their contributions to geographical thought, as well as other topics of importance or interest in relation to mankind’s knowledge of geography and the earth. The reports will be presented orally to the class from detailed notes (a copy of which will be given to the instructor prior to your presentation). The presenter is also to provide each student in the class with an outline upon which to take notes—so leave plenty of space. The instructor’s copy of the presenter’s notes will be filed in my office so that other students can review the presentation and material at their leisure.

Major reports should average twenty to thirty minutes in length. Proposed topics are appended. In preparing your reports, it is expected that you will use primary references to the extent possible. If, for example, your report deals with Aristotle, you should read at least one of his relevant works. Secondary sources will be useful in formulating your own impressions based upon the comments and judgments of others. Tertiary works should not be used unless their content can be justified.

- Primary: The original work of an individual—albeit, often in translation.

- Secondary: Someone else’s interpretation of primary works—for example, Bunbury’s commentaries upon classical authors.
• Tertiary: General reference works, such as an encyclopaedia or textbook—for example, Martin and James' *All Possible Worlds*.

Reports on individuals (the "major" reports) should include the following:

• A brief biographical sketch.
• The principal contributions of the individual.
• An evaluation of the strengths, weaknesses, and general impact of the person's works.
• A copy of any appropriate map or maps.
• A comprehensive bibliography of pertinent works—both primary and secondary.

Minor reports should average ten minutes in length. Proposed topics are appended. The topics focus upon a variety of myths, legends, places (real or imagined), events, &c. which had some bearing upon the evolution of geographical thought.

A primary objective of the assigned reports is to familiarize you with a broad spectrum of literature pertaining both directly and indirectly to the history of geographical thought. You will quickly find that much of the literature upon which you will depend is not found in standard geographical publications. It is therefore essential that you familiarize yourself with the broad range of resources available through the Mansfield Library. Should you be unable to locate adequate information on your topics, please come to me for suggestions.

**A word of caution:** The reports cannot be prepared overnight or during a week-end. Your reading and research should begin as soon as reports are assigned.

I shall present the initial major and minor reports, thereby providing some sense of how they might be organized and presented. A part of your grade will be based upon your ability to identify and focus upon the geographical relevance of the topic in question.

**Discussion.** You are expected to participate in enlightened class discussion. The degree to which you are able to contribute—adding information which may have been overlooked by the person presenting a report, posing thoughtful questions, being critical of statements made, &c.—should serve as a valid reflection of your outside reading. Prior to each of the reports, you should do a bit of background reading (secondary or tertiary sources) upon the topic to be discussed.
Attendance. Given the seminar format of the course, it is imperative that you maintain a perfect record of attendance if possible. In the event that you are unable to attend the class on the date that you are scheduled to give a report, it is essential that you notify me as far in advance as possible so that your time slot can be filled by another student.

Final examination. None.

It is hoped and anticipated that all students in the seminar will possess a level of professional interest, responsibility, discipline, and commitment to earn a final grade of "A." Unlike undergraduate lecture courses in which students take a number of examinations, the grading of seminar work must by its very nature be somewhat subjective. Attitude, interest, participation, and other less tangible factors are as important as your reports in many respects.

Principal References


A collection of writings permitting an understanding of the field as a whole, and revealing the interactions of its component parts. Part I recounts the history of geography; Part II is concerned with how conceptions of of geography have changed in different social and intellectual contexts; Part III focusses upon nature, culture, and landscape; Part IV considers region, place, and locality; Part V is concerned with space, time, and space-time.


A collection of articles devoted to the history of geography, with emphasis upon its evolution in the British Isles. Baker was a highly respected figure whose research and writing focussed upon the history of geography, historical geography, and the geography of exploration and discovery. This volume is a collection of selected works compiled by a number of his former students to commemorate his retirement from the University of Oxford.


An excellent summary of exploration from the European perspective. It encompasses the period of early navigation in the eastern Mediterranean (ca. 2000 B.C.) to twentieth century
polar exploration. Primarily regional in its organization; good maps; an excellent (fifty-four page) index of terms, locations, individuals, &c. Perhaps the best single volume from which to obtain an overview of exploration and discovery.


This book contains valuable biographical descriptions of American geographers prominent in the area of geographical education.


Vol. 1 develops geography in the Christian World from ca. A.D. 300 to 900. Chapter topics include: the travels of pilgrims; commercial and missionary travel; geographical theory; and the nature of "non-Christian" (Moslem) geography.

Vol. 2 covers the period from 900 to 1260. It includes the exploration of the Vikings; the Crusades to the Holy Land; Hebrew geographers; diplomatic, missionary, and commercial travel; and the status of geographic theory at the time.

Vol. 3 is devoted to the period from 1260 to 1420. Topics include travels to Asia (for example, the brothers Polo); other commercial travel; maritime exploration; additional comments upon the pilgrims of the Middle East; and the status of geographical theory in both the Christian and non-Christian worlds.

At the turn of the century, when the volumes were written, it may have appeared that 1420 was the "Dawn of Modern Geography," but today such a title appears to be somewhat misleading. The volumes are a very good source of information on "Christian geographers" and geographical activity during the so-called "Dark Ages" of Western Civilization. There is an extensive index to facilitate use and cross-referencing.


Book Two, "The Earth and the Seas," provides interesting insights into the environmental and social contexts of exploration. Included, for example, are discussions of
navigation and the constraints of secrecy upon our knowledge of the past.


An extremely detailed account of the history of geography from the pre-Homeric period of Classical Greece through the second century A.D. The survey of individuals and events includes a summary of geographical lore, knowledge, and activity which set the stage for the Homeric Period, and continues through "Roman Writers after Ptolemy." Sections covering individual contributors are extremely detailed (for example, more than 150 minor contributors to geographical thought during the era of classical Greek and Roman antiquity). Bunbury includes many translations from original manuscripts and each entry includes a detailed analysis of the works or activities, as well as an assessment of their validity and impact upon developing geographical thought. There are many original and reconstructed maps; a table of contents which includes reference to all chapter subheadings; detailed citations to literary sources; and an index of individuals, topics, locations, &c. For reports on individuals through Ptolemy, Bunbury is an excellent secondary source of information.


Traces the development of modern geography through prominent German and French contributors. The scope is limited to the development of the regional concept. A cursory summary of the period from Strabo to Kant is followed by in-depth analysis of the contributions of von Humboldt, Ritter, Ratzel, von Richthofen, Penck, Hettner, Schluter, and succeeding generations, concluding with post-World War II trends and developments. The section on French geography focusses primarily upon Le Play, Vidal de la Blache and his contemporaries, and Vidal’s students. Post-war trends also are discussed. Contains valuable subject and name reference indices. One interesting feature of the book is the photographic section which includes photographs of many prominent, early geographers.


A detailed temporal and conceptual assessment of the origin, nature, and application of the regional concept. The book is divided into three sections: "History" (for example, Strabo and Ptolemy, Varenius and Cluverius, and von Humboldt and Ritter—and their various impacts upon the modern era);
"Theory" (perhaps the most detailed analysis of the regional concept yet written); and "Practice" (educational and applied uses of the concept).


An analysis of the evolution of the regional concept in American geography, and a detailed discussion of its leading contributors.


Perhaps the single most definitive work on the development of geographical thought in terms of its comprehensive coverage. Individuals and their contributions serve as the framework in which exploration and the development of geographical knowledge, concepts, tools, skills, &c. are examined in detail. Covers the period from the dawn of Western Civilization (including cultural contributions from the Orient) to the early twentieth century. In addition to very thorough coverage of the Greek and Roman periods, the book contains chapters on Moslem geography, the Renaissance Period of European geography, missionaries to the East, Portuguese exploration, the early German School, the Flemish School, measurement and cartography, the evolution of the ship, exploration, and the evolution of each major sub-field found within contemporary geography (as of the 1930s). An excellent reference in terms of its broad scope (similar to James and Martin), but does not match Bunbury for the comprehensive coverage of individual contributors in the distant past.


A collection of geographical ideas presented in sequential order. English translations of many original passages add to the value of the book as a primary source of information. Emphasis is placed upon geographical theory, rather than upon the exploration of place as implied by the title. The volume is divided into two sections: "Early Geographers" of the Greek Period through von Humboldt and Ritter (including Moslem and Renaissance contributors), and the "Modern Period," which is subdivided into national groups—including German, French, British, Russian, and American contributions. Does not include an analysis of what the authors refer to as the "New Geography" (contemporary theoretical directions).
*Freeman, Thomas W.  
* *A Hundred Years of Geography.*  

The book considers past achievements and growth in the various topical areas of geography (physical, regional, economic, social, and cartography). Emphasis is upon geography in the British realm since the turn of the century. Contains selected, brief biographies of selected geographers—not limited to British contributors. Most valuable, perhaps, for its listing of some rather obscure individuals for whom information is generally unavailable.

Freeman, Thomas W., Marguerita Oughton, and Philippe Pinchemel.  
*Geographers: Biobibliographic Studies.*  
London: Mansell Information, 1977 (Vol. 1) and 1978 (Vol. 2, by Freeman and Pinchemel only).

A continuing International Geographical Union series on major contributors to the development of geographical thought. Detailed biographical and bibliographical information on each of the thirty-eight geographers who are included in the first two volumes. Includes Russian and Oriental contributors. Most entries are post-1750. Excellent index.

*Fuson, Robert H.*  

A brief, though well done, analysis of the development of geographical thought. Begins with Oriental contributions to Greek geographical thought. In addition to the "standard" information which one might expect to find in a comprehensive volume on the history of geographical thought (the title is misleading in this regard), the author discusses the geographical awareness of Oriental, Muslim, Norse, Pacific, and Native American peoples. The brevity of the book (around 120 pages) limits its value as a research tool. Nevertheless, it is perhaps the best, concise work of its kind available.

Glacken, Clarence F.  
*Traces on the Rhodian Shore.*  

A definitive study of nature and culture in Western thought from antiquity to the end of the eighteenth century. The book focusses upon three interlocking themes: the idea of an earth created by design; the influence of environment upon man; and the influence of man upon his environment. Glacken argues that in Western thought interpretations of the relationship of culture to nature have been based mainly upon these three ideas, sometimes with the major emphasis on one, often in combinations, as they are not mutually exclusive. He believes that this body of thought is part of the matrix from
which the social sciences emerged in the nineteenth century. The volume is considered by many scholars to be the finest single example of scholarly research ever published by an American geographer.


An excellent source of detailed information regarding cartography in prehistoric, ancient, and medieval Europe; in the Mediterranean region; and in traditional Islamic and South Asian societies.


A critical survey of the changing concept of the nature of geography and those fields or sub-fields that it encompasses—in essence, the development of geographical methodology as interpreted by the author. The temporal span is from ca. 1750 to the date of publication. Special attention is devoted to the concept of landscape; geography as the study of areal differentiation of the earth's surface; and the relationship between geography and history. Exceptionally good treatment of European contributors to American geographical thought and of the principal individuals involved in directing the course of the discipline’s "modern" evolution. Some geographers have taken exception to several of Hartshorne’s somewhat dogmatic views. Nevertheless, the volume must be considered as a landmark contribution with which all professional geographers should be familiar.


Perhaps best described as being an update of Hartshorne’s 1939 publication. A number of conceptual and methodological questions common to geographical enquiry are analyzed in light of recent trends and changing perspectives. Chief among these are (i) the meaning of "geography as the study of areal differentiation" and the "earth’s surface," (ii) the question of dualism between physical and human geography, and (iii) the matter of geography as a science involved in the formulation of laws, as opposed to mere description.

A brief (around 170 pages) book written from the author's course notes and outline. Despite its brevity, it fills a major gap in the literature, and is very well written. Its chapters are devoted to (i) "What Is Geography?" (ii) "The Foundations of Scientific Geography" (the traditional historical approach including key individuals; conceptual positions, such as environmental determinism vs. possibilism and landscapes vs. regions; and developments in France and England), (iii) "Paradigms and Revolutions" (a thoughtful analysis of each of the major directions taken by geography in recent decades), (iv) "Positivist and Critical Science" (emphasis upon the various "-isms" within geographical thought), and (v) "Geography, A Discipline of Synthesis" (approaches to geographical research and the presentation of data; analysis and synthesis; explanation; &c.). An excellent source for trends and developments in geography.


An earlier edition of our textbook. *All Possible Worlds* has long served as a basic textbook in the history of geographical thought. A current edition has been ordered for the library, but has not arrived as of 1-IX-1998.


This book, prepared under the auspices of the Association of American Geographers, has aptly been described as being "a progress report on the objectives and procedures of geographic research as of January, 1954." It is a collection of papers contributed by leading scholars, each writing on a major sub-field within geography, as they existed in the early 1950s. This volume represents our best "state-of-the-art" reference for mid-century geography in the United States, and is an invaluable aid to anyone involved in the study of the historical development of geographical sub-fields.


A comprehensive history of the Association of American Geographers' first seventy-five years—including the roles of key individuals, association programs, and the impact of the association upon the growth and development of geography in
the United States.


This book provides biographies of fifty-one American geographers who were identified as leaders in research through questionnaire survey. The biographies provide insights into individuals responsible for the development of American geography during the last 100 years.


The development of geographical thought from the dawn of the historical period to the Age of Discovery. An excellent blending of conceptual developments and the key individuals with whom each is associated.


The volume presents a panorama of geographical writings ranging in time and scope from the early Greeks to von Humboldt and Ritter, and from the dawn of geographical thought in the West to the emergence of topical specialization. It includes a wealth of material from non-Western sources, particularly Moslem and Chinese, that has not been collected previously. An excellent companion reader. Principal limitation is the brevity of most entries.


From The Epic of Gilgamesh to the age of mass tourism, travel has profoundly altered our sense of ourselves and our sense of the world. Leed explores the great travel traditions of the West: "heroic travel," as in the adventures of Odysseus and the chivalric exploits of medieval knights; "sacred travel," as in the holy pilgrimages of penance and purification; and "philosophical travel" in search of knowledge, whether social, as in Marco Polo’s itineraries of the East, or scientific, as in Darwin’s discoveries aboard the Beagle.


Livingstone describes the activities of the explorers and map-makers of Renaissance and early modern Europe; the rôle of geography during the Scientific Revolution, Enlightenment, and
the Darwinian Revolution; and interactions between geography and empire building in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He provides an account of the trends, developments, and revolutions by which geography has emerged as a multi-faceted discipline offering unique and revealing perspectives upon a wide range of social and environmental issues.


The Muslim world of the eleventh century was a great civilization, a center of art and science stretching from Spain to the Middle East, while Europe lay slumbering in the Dark Ages. The two worlds knew little of one another. Slowly, inevitably, however, Europe and Islam came together through trade and war, crusade and diplomacy. The Muslims began to take note of the Europeans and to write about them, to acquire information on languages, science, government, religion, and economics.


Standard textbook and reference work in the United States for courses concerned with the evolution of geographical thought and method. A "must" volume for the library of any serious student of geography. The first chapter is devoted to the nature and definition of geography. The remainder of the volume is divided into two sections: "Classical" (rather brief) and "Modern" (beginning with the nineteenth century). The overall balance of topic coverage is excellent. Geographical developments in Germany, France, Great Britain, the former Soviet Union, Canada, Sweden, and Japan are treated individually—as is the United States. The authors' analysis of developments in geography in the United States, from its inception to the present, is highly detailed. Well indexed; excellent bibliography; somewhat dated thumbnail biographical sketches of individuals who have contributed to the growth and development of geographical thought since classical antiquity.


*Rediscovering Geography* is the first comprehensive assessment of geography in the United States in almost thirty years. It provides a broad overview of the discipline, and shows how its perspectives and tools are being used by educators, business people, researchers, and policymakers to address a wide range of scientific problems and societal needs. For comparative


Peet looks in detail at the main trends in human geographical thought over the last thirty years, relating these to broader themes in philosophy and social theory. Beginning with existential phenomenology and humanistic geography, the book covers radical geography and Marxism, structuralism, structuration theory, realism, locality studies, various streams of post-structuralism and post-modernism, and feminism.


The atlas begins with the earliest recorded journeys of exploration in Eurasia and Africa, and ranges from the time of the Phoenicians' voyages in the Atlantic and Egyptians' travels in the Arabian Sea to the deep ocean explorations of today. In each section, the main routes of explorers are depicted, while photographs, paintings, and engravings portray the terrain through which the explorers passed. Also included are maps from different historical periods which reveal cartographers' growing knowledge of the shape of the world's continents and oceans. The final section of the atlas contains biographical details of many of the explorers.


A history of scientific philosophies, discoveries, inventions, and innovations in the Western World. Detailed coverage is given to key individuals (for example, Plato, Socrates, Eratosthenes, and Darwin); major centers of innovation (Mesopotamia, the Egean, Egypt, &c.); and major disciplines (for example, geography, medicine, astronomy, and mathematics). An excellent index allows the volumes to be used with the ease of an encyclopædia.


This volume brings together the work of twenty historians, anthropologists, and literary scholars in an examination of the nature of encounters between Europeans and other peoples
of the world from 1450 to 1800. Part I is concerned with European perceptions of others in the Late Middle Ages; Part II discusses Europeans from the perspectives of other peoples; Part III explores adjustments to the encounters; Part IV is concerned with "Observers Observed: Reflections on Encounters in the Age of Captain Cook."


An excellent source of information regarding the various myths and traveller's tales that encouraged New World exploration: Atlantis, the Fountain of Youth, the Amazons, the Gilded Man, the Seven Cities, Quivira, the Strait of Anian, and many others. Speck also provides critical portraits of prominent explorers—including Gonzalo Jimenez de Quesada, Francisco Vasquez Coronado, Hernando De Soto, Ferdinand Magellan, Sebastian Cabot, Henry Hudson, and several others.


A collection of articles by noted geographers. Part I of the volume is devoted to the founding of geography and the various "schools" of geographical thought that emerged in Europe—including a detailed analysis of "Environmentalist and Possibilism." Part II is devoted to "The Environment as a Factor," and contains chapters on geomorphology, meteorology, climatic influences, soils, settlement, the Arctic, Antarctica, the tropics, regionalism, and land-use surveys. Part III, "Special Fields of Geography," is devoted to each of twelve specialized fields of geography. An undertone of environmentalism permeates the volume, thereby making it an excellent source of attitudes and beliefs associated with this philosophical position. It also contributes valuable insights into mid-century British geography, its various sub-fields, and the writings of many leading figures of the time. Particularly unusual chapters would include: "The West Slav Geographers" by J. Král and J. Kondracki; "Settlement by the Modern Pioneer" by Isaiah Bowman; "Geography as a Practical Subject" by D. F. Putnam; "Geography and Empire" by Charles B. Fawcett; "Racial Geography" by Griffith Taylor; "Geography and Aviation" by Ellsworth Huntington; "Geopolitics and Geopacifics" by Griffith Taylor; and the landmark study in historical geography, "The Relations of Geography and History," by H. C. Darby.


Focusses chiefly upon the geographical contributions of the Greeks and Romans, though an opening chapter is reserved for
their predecessors. Presentation is arranged chronologically in four sections, the development of each being further divided on a regional basis. The culminating chapter in each section surveys the theoretical contributions of each period. Notes are abundant throughout, though the index is brief and there is no formal bibliography. The treatment of topics in the theoretical chapters is extensive, both in the description of particular contributions and their ramifications.


A summary of E. H. Bunbury’s comprehensive two volume work updated to include new information, viewpoints, and trends based upon developments occurring during the final three decades of the nineteenth century (the first edition was published in 1897). Major improvements are those pertaining to the understanding of early Mediterranean contributions to geographical thought.


A four-part summary of Greek knowledge and attitudes relating to geographical phenomena. Part I considers cosmology and concepts of climatology, geology, physical geography, and the dawn of scientific geography. Part II focusses upon climatology, physical geography, and political geography. Part III deals with exploration and the growth of knowledge, as well as descriptive or topographic geography. Part IV stresses mathematics.


Emphasis is upon the history of academic geography in the United States from the mid-nineteenth century to the date of publication. The book’s greatest contribution is its information and analysis pertaining to geography in higher education in this country.


Wright assesses the status of geographical thought, concepts, knowledge, and accomplishments at the end of the Medieval Period of Western Civilization. Information was drawn from a broad range of sources: imagination and hypothesis; cosmological speculation, astrological concepts; religious
dogma; traditional beliefs; and the observations of travellers. The first five chapters provide an outline of the influence of classical, Oriental, and Biblical ideas upon medieval European geography; a review of literary and cartographic sources; and a view of the place of geography in learning. Concluding sections include topical and regional surveys of the geographical lore and knowledge of the period.


Essentially a history of the American Geographical Society, published upon the occasion of its centennial anniversary. The accomplishments of the society and its members are highlighted, with an emphasis upon their rôle in influencing the growth and development of geographical research and teaching in this country.

*On two-day reserve in the Mansfield Library*
Proposed Topics for Major Reports

Homer (ca. 900 B.C.)

Hecataeus (ca. 550-ca. 475 B.C.)

Yü (fifth century B.C.)

Herodotus (ca. 484-425 B.C.)

Plato (428-348 B.C.)

Aristotle (384-322 B.C.)

Alexander of Macedon (356-323 B.C.)

Eratosthenes of Cyrene (fl. 220 B.C.)

Ch'ien Chang (2nd century B.C.)

Strabo (ca. 64 B.C.-A.D. 20)

Ptolemy (A.D. 90-168)

Silvia of Aquitaine (4th century A.D.)

Geographical Knowledge at the Time of the Crusades (1095-1291)

Muslim Contributions—Including Discussion of the Accomplishments of al-Idrisi (1099-1154), Ibn Battuta (1304-1368), and Ibn Khaldun (1332-1406)

Opening of the Orient—Including Discussion of Marco Polo (1254-1323), &c.

Prince Henry ("The Navigator") of Portugal (1394-1460)

Christopher Columbus (1451-1506)

Sixteenth Century Cartography—Including Discussion of Martin Waldseemüller (1470-1518), Gerardus Mercator (1512-1594), and Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598)

Francis Drake (1540-1596)

Richard Hakluyt (ca. 1552-1616)

Bernhardus Varenius (1622-1650)
Georges-Louis Leclerc de Buffon (1707-1788)
Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)
James Cook (1728-1779)
Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859)
Peter Fidler (1769-1822)
David Thompson (1770-1857)
Carl Ritter (1779-1859)
Mary Somerville (1780-1872)
Johann Heinrich Von Thünen (1783-1850)
George Perkins Marsh (1801-1882)
Jean-Louis Rodolphe Agassiz (1807-1873)
Charles Darwin (1809-1882)
John Charles Frémont (1813-1890)
John Wesley Powell (1834-1902)
Friedrich Ratzel (1844-1904)
Paul Vidal de la Blache (1845-1918)
William Morris Davis (1850-1934)
Fridtjof Nansen (1861-1930)
Mark Jefferson (1863-1949)
Ellen Churchill Semple (1863-1932)
Simion Mehedinti (1868-1962)
Vladimir Kamarov (1869-1945)
Naomasa Yamasaki (1870-1928)
Joseph Russell Smith (1874-1966)
Ellsworth Huntington (1876-1947)
Isaiah Bowman (1878-1950)
Millicent Todd Bingham (1880-1968)
Carl O. Sauer (1889-1975)
Richard Hartshorne (1899-1992)
John Brinckerhoff Jackson (1909-1996)
Gilbert F. White (b. 1911)
Yi-Fu Tuan (b. 1930)
Anne Buttimer (b. 1938)
Proposed Topics for Minor Reports

The "Land of Punt" (fourth millennium B.C.)

The Cassiterides ("Tin Islands") and Electrides ("Amber Islands") (several millennia B.C.)

Red Sea Canals (to the Nile) (ca. 1900 B.C.-A.D. 98)

Atlas (ca. 900 B.C.)

King Necho (Egypt) and the Circumnavigation of Africa (609-594 B.C.)

The Silk Road

"Mountains of the Moon" (ca. 500 B.C.-A.D. 1900s)

The "Seven Seas" (and other enumerations of seven) (ca. 500 B.C. to the present)

"Amazons" (ca. 900 B.C.-A.D. 1700s)

Concept of Spherical Earth (ca. 500 B.C. to A.D. 1500)

The "Lost Continent of Atlantis" (third century B.C.)

"Australis," the Southern Continent (third century B.C.-eighteenth century A.D.)

The "Four Quarters of the Earth" (second century B.C.)

Thule (ca. 325 B.C. to the era of Arctic exploration)

"T-O" Maps ("Dark Ages")

Lop Nor, the "Wandering Lake" (second century B.C.-nineteenth century A.D.)

The Norse Greenland Colonies (est. A.D. 986)

Prester John (ca. tenth to fifteenth centuries A.D.)
Technical Means of Reckoning Navigational Location (antiquity to the Age of Discovery)

Horse Latitudes and the Sargasso Sea (sixteenth and seventeenth centuries A.D.)

The Maelstrom (sixteenth century A.D.)

Mythical Islands of the Atlantic (antiquity through the Age of Discovery)

Timbuktu (myth and reality)

Lure of the Fantastic (Seven Cities of Gold, El Dorado, the Fountain of Youth, &c.)

Concluding Columbus' Mission (Northwest Passage, Strait of Anian, River of the West, &c.)

Sacajewa (Lewis and Clark Expedition)