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**Richard J. A. Talbert; Richard W. Unger** (Editors). *Cartography in Antiquity and the Middle Ages: Fresh Perspectives, New Methods*. (Technology and Change in History, 10.) xix + 299 pp., illus., bibl., index. Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2008. \$154 (cloth).

This splendidly produced volume, with sixteen color plates and fifty-eight black-and-white figures, is the result of a colloquium held in 2005 at which the recent developments and transformations of cartographical research were dis-

cussed. Thirteen experts on ancient or medieval cartography offer reflections on the enormous progress over the last thirty years, present new achievements, and develop creative ideas for the future. All the contributors share the belief that maps are cultural products of their time and must be interpreted within their political, social, and intellectual context. Here the significant results of the articles can only be roughly summarized.

In their editors' introduction, Richard Talbert and Richard Unger emphasize the potential of maps for understanding past societies and the necessity to abandon the artificial separation between the ancient and the medieval periods. Talbert's survey article outlines cartographical research on Greek and Roman mapping from 1987, when the first volume of the pathbreaking *History of Cartography* by Brian Harley and David Woodward was published, up to twenty-first-century perspectives. The wide-ranging essay by Patrick Gautier-Dalché takes account of problems and achievements in recent years regarding the transformation of the ancient heritage in maps from the early Middle Ages to the Renaissance. The author stresses the late Roman origin of medieval world maps, emphasizes the fruitful connection between literary sources and cartographic images, and accentuates the increasing significance of Christian ideology for mapmakers and map users in Carolingian times. An important issue for ancient maps is their reconstruction. Jennifer Trimble analyzes the monumental Severan marble plan of the city of Rome, whose surviving fragments allow scholars to explore its purpose and the effect on the viewer. Using the surviving copy of the Peutinger map, produced around A.D. 1200, as an example, Tom Elliott shows how the new technology of digital editing can lead to a new understanding of premodern sources. Examining the same map, Emily Albu offers convincing arguments for the assumption that it is not an ancient but, rather, a medieval creation. She even tries to establish the region of the prototype's possible origin—namely, the Carolingian Reichenau scriptorium.

Other articles consider not only the close connections between Roman and medieval times but also the crossovers between different cultures. Yossef Rapoport and Emilie Savage-Smith concentrate on the unique rectangular map of the world in the Arabic *Book of Curiosities*. They reveal that the text and illustrations of this recently discovered work, dating from around 1200, were based on mathematical geography, of which the author had an inadequate understanding. Looking at the different levels of

reality in Byzantine and Latin medieval maps, Maja Kominko explores the cartographical representations of Paradise in the work of Cosmas Indicopleustes. A comparison with the Beatus maps helps to identify the Greek and Christian ideas that influenced the mapmaker. Benjamin Z. Kedar (pp. 155–168) examines a little-known map of the land of Canaan, made around 1100 by a Jewish mapmaker named Rashi who uses Christian as well as Muslim traditions. In a careful analysis, Natalia Lozovsky emphasizes the relationship of panegyrics and maps in the Roman geo-ethnographical rhetoric of late antiquity and the Middle Ages. She notes especially the value of maps for propaganda, for the consciousness of space in the Roman world, for recording and interpreting information, for maintaining political power, and for illustrating Christian practices.

Obviously, classical maps had an influence on medieval cartography. Moreover, the diversity of maps increased in the high and late Middle Ages. Lucy E. G. Donkin examines the way in which the ends of the earth were mapped in two medieval floor mosaics and reveals how methods and information were transferred between ancient and medieval mosaic maps. Evelyn Edson interprets medieval diagrams in the late ancient and early medieval context of Orosius and Isidor. She contends that the agenda for mapmaking was fixed during the formation of the Christian identity up to the early seventh century and that afterward it expanded only in scope, size, and complexity. In the rapidly changing late medieval world, new ideas and new functions had a further impact on cartography, which became a practical tool and gained a new character. Raymond Clemens explores how maps became tools of education in a Renaissance context. His focus on Gregorio Dati and the teaching of geography in fifteenth-century Florence gives evidence for the connection between mapping, cosmology, and political power. The art historian Camille Serchuk addresses productions by artists and their commissions as well as their various designs to represent the land and to illustrate historiography; for late medieval France, she demonstrates that the same type of map could be used in different contexts and that a single artist could create a wide range of map types.

This erudite, well-grounded, and source-oriented volume presents a convincing portrait of the high standards in today's research on the history of cartography. Recent digitalization efforts, especially, have had a strong impact on the field. On the whole, the authors illustrate in considerable detail the great potential of carto-

graphical materials to serve as windows on the world in which they were created and the value of approaching these resources from a variety of different perspectives. This anthology will certainly become a reference work for the study of cartography. There is a substantial bibliography, from which recent German, Italian, and Spanish publications are missing; and the index will serve as a helpful point of orientation. *Cartography in Antiquity and the Middle Ages* can be strongly recommended as a starting point for further research.

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