

*The History of Cartography. Volume 4. Cartography in the European Enlightenment.* Edited by Mathew Edney and Mary Sponberg Pedley, University of Chicago Press, 2020. £395.00

*A Map or Chart of the Road of Love, and Harbour of Marriage* (1748) by T.P. Hydrographer to his Majesty Hymen and Prince Cupid, one of the very many maps clearly reproduced in this work, offers guidance to such hazards as the whirlpools of beauty and adultery, the Rocks of Jealousy, and Extravagance Bank, and has the Land of Desire opposite Cuckold's Shire. The scholarly text draws attention to the contrast between this as the French *Carte de l'isle du mariage* (1732), which has marriage as an island, whereas in 1748 it is presented in a more benign light with "Content Bay" and "Felicity Harbour" leading off from it.

All maps are here. The value of *The History of Cartography* to all those interested in maps has long been a given, and one further affirmed by its scale, which is unlikely to be matched. The importance of an understanding of maps to broader intellectual, cultural and political currents emerges clearly as does the very delight of maps. Indeed, as an aesthetic product, the two "parts," each substantial volumes, of this one "volume," with the total weight 7.18 kg, is a triumph. As your reviewer, I have read it, but you dear reader, can follow the helpful and clear organisation by entries, or, alternatively, just browse at random. You will find not only maps aplenty but also illustrations of many types. Turning to the conceptual clusters, and in a far from exhaustive list, there are treatments of surveying and observation, property mapping, boundary surveying, topographical surveying, urban, geographical, celestial and thematic mapping, marine charting, art, craft and cartography, science and cartography, geodetic surveying, the map trade, map collecting, administrative and military cartography, relevant individuals and institutions, maps and books, surveys and expeditions, and particular spatial contexts, which includes European colonies as well as the United States.

Thus a formidable coverage, and one of interest to readers across a wide range. Moreover, the volume repeatedly rises to the challenge. As ever, it is possible to suggest differing priorities and methods of organisation, notably a degree more of attention to the chronological context and thus to change within the period. Furthermore, there are a few mistakes that deserve correction. Thus, East Friesland was acquired by Prussia in 1744 not 1749. The Holy Roman Empire was not "a dynastic state" and its weakness was not accentuated by mapmaking. And so on. However, for a work of this scale, very few indeed, and, hopefully, they can be corrected for the online edition.

The editors offer a valuable guide to Enlightenment thought, one that is worth considering alongside Ritchie Robertson's important new *The Enlightenment: The Pursuit of Happiness 1680-1790* (2020). It is far from easy to write on the topic today, both because the Enlightenment as a movement is now seen as inherently multi-centred and diverse, but also as a product of the often bitter debate at present about its purpose, placing and value, a debate that includes an often ill-informed

attack on the West and Westernisation, as well as linked but also often very separate critiques of rationalism and secularism. To add to this has come a reaction to the developmental progressivism frequently seen in past historiography as well as a reluctance to reify enlightenment let alone an “Enlightenment Project.”

The editors’ attempt to steer readers will not meet with agreement by all. I find overly certain and sweeping the contention “If the Renaissance was the era in which Europeans discovered and mapped both the world and the self, the Enlightenment was when they discovered an autonomous earth and understood more fully the power of the state.”

As I argued in *Eighteenth-Century Europe*, it is important also to note the limitations of the states in this period. To a degree these compromised the attempts to accumulate and utilise information. Moreover, as this volume ably shows, the commercial sphere was often as, or more, significant than that of the state. In both, however, the editors are surely correct to point out the spirit of inquiry that informed much Enlightenment thought.

Throughout the scholarship adds many useful insights. Thus, for Germans, who were without any major direct stake in colonial designs or world trade, there was little impetus for Germans to sustain or develop a detailed interest in the geography of overseas countries. As a consequence, the German portrayal of the world as a whole is presented as intellectual rather than driven by more particular needs and opportunities.

Catherine Bousquet-Bressolier has helpful comments on how best to read and interpret cartographic memoirs and throws light on some of the difficulties underlining the impressive scholarship in this volume. Roger Kain argues that consent to taxation in Parliament meant that there was no need to reform the land tax “and thus no need to invoke instruments such as taxation mapping.” The strength of customs and excise revenue and administration was also part of the equation.

Jordana Dym is very interesting on “Travel and Cartography” which includes, as sub-sections, motives, methods, and preparation, maps for travellers, maps produced by travellers, acquiring local knowledge, publishing travellers’ maps, the credibility of travellers’ cartography, and the use of travellers maps. The role of travellers was to be replaced by specialists, but Dym demonstrates their earlier significance and exemplifies the success of the volume in providing a variety of interesting as well as pertinent maps.

Geoff Armitage uses his discussion of world maps to draw attention to the abandonment of historical vignettes which he suggests demonstrates “the new emphasis for geography on the situation of the terraqueous globe in the present.” (p. 1646). This is illustrated by a full-page reproduction of Louis Denis’s 1795 reprinting of Jean-Baptiste Nolin’s world map, a map accompanied by astronomical diagrams as well as allegories of the continents. The last entry, by Wolfram Dolz, is on

Adam Zürner, the mapper of Saxony, whose technique is ably described and whose work is supported by two contemporary pertinent illustrations, one showing Zürner's surveying and mapping procedures. A triumphant last entry to close the volume.

American readers will find much of interest, as well as the reproduction of many maps, from Samuel Holland's chart of Boston harbour to the erroneous mapping of Pacific North American in Philippe Buache's 1752 map of the North Pacific. The 1699 map of Casco Bay is linked to a tour of fortifications on behalf of William II by a Dutch-born military engineer.

Collectors will enjoy the discussion of their predecessors. For example, in Switzerland, a growing interest in publicly obtainable maps gave rise to an increasing number of private collections during the seventeenth century. In the following century more widespread education encouraged an interest in maps, which, in turn, helped lower prices. The current location of major collections of the period are discussed. And so also for other countries, with map collecting in Britain having a royal apogee in the person of George III who had an estimated 50,000 maps, views and atlases. John Locke had argued in 1703 that "a good collection of maps" was "very necessary" in any gentleman's library. I feel sure that he would have added this volume, and indeed this entire triumphant series which is a major achievement for scholarship, publishing and American philanthropy.

(1200 words)

Jeremy Black's map books include *Maps and History*, *Metropolis* and *Maps of War*.