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Publisher: Routledge

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK

Journal of Geography

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rjog20>

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Robert M. Brown ^a

^a Rhode Island Normal School , Providence

Published online: 06 Feb 2008.

To cite this article: Robert M. Brown (1914) Notes on Wall Maps, Journal of Geography, 12:7, 208-210, DOI: [10.1080/00221341408983513](https://doi.org/10.1080/00221341408983513)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00221341408983513>

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Japan Current may have upon the Gulf of Alaska and upon the climate of the Territory of Alaska, and there is no doubt that this effect is very important, the State of California owes nothing to this warm current. The cool summers in the coast region of the state and the fogs which occur during that season are, in part, due to the presence of the cold water off the coast, and that part of the North Pacific Drift known as the California Current may be one of the reasons for the existence of this cold water, although a far more important reason seems to be the upwelling of the cold water from the ocean depths. It is the Pacific Ocean and the westerly winds to which we must look for the chief reasons why the climate of the Golden State is favored above that of other lands.

NOTES ON WALL MAPS

By ROBERT M. BROWN, Rhode Island Normal School, Providence

THERE is a tendency among map publishers abroad to multiply the number of maps in a series so that instead of a single map of a country, as Europe, eight or ten maps are issued. This is in response to a pedagogical principle evolved at the expense of much time both to teachers and to pupils who have attempted to read maps containing a number of items and conveying no very definite idea because of the "confusion of tongues." The best expression of this tendency appears in the Vidal-La Blanche's maps published by Armand Colin, Paris. The series comprises a large number of maps which are printed on heavy paper and because the publishers have omitted expensive mountings and the author has limited the details of the maps, any map of the set can be obtained at a cost of one-tenth to one-fifteenth the price of many wall maps now offered by publishers. On the other hand, unless care is taken the maps will not last as long as the roller type, nor are they of a very convenient size to store unless folded, a process which soon destroys a map. These maps, however, illustrate so many points which should be demanded by teachers who use wall maps that they are taken as a basis for emphasizing a few principles which are almost self-evident.

1. A wall map should display its features in such a way that they can be seen from every part of the room.

(a) We have discarded, in this country, the map with the glazed surface but at least one foreign map publisher still issues this type of map. Whatever may have been the origin of this surface finish, it is unnecessary today and the inherited maps of this kind even yet in use in some schools should be replaced. Every one who has had experience with the glazed surfaces knows that when the light strikes it at certain angles, the details are obscured.

(b) Names in small type, especially if they appear in numbers, tend to confuse. The Vidal-La Blanche series comprise for France a number of maps of which three illustrate this point. The first map is a topographic map of France in four colors without names; the second is the same map with the

names of the physiographic divisions printed on it in letters large enough to be read across the school room; and the third is the same map with the names of the rivers printed on in the same size type. It may not be generally admitted that it is best to print the names on a map but at least it is true that if it is done at all it ought to be done with judgment. Many maps used in our schools as wall maps are covered with names in type too small to be read by the teacher from her position a pointer-length away.

2. Maps should be used which follow the international color scheme. There is the same advantage in using a uniform color or sign on maps as there is in using a uniform combination of letters to stand for a certain concept. For the younger children the advantage becomes an imperative demand. To jump from a map where the states are colored green and brown to a map where elevations are brown and lowlands green is not economy, if it is not detrimental.

The best wall maps use shades of blue for oceans, the deeper shades for the greater depths, and blue for all inland bodies of water, as lakes and rivers; shades of brown for altitudes, the deeper shades for the greater heights; green for lowlands; and white or light yellow for all intermediate heights.

(a) A recent series of maps published in this country has the following legend on the North American sheet: white, 0-1000 feet; yellow, 1000-3250 feet; orange, 3250-6500 feet; brown, above 6,500 feet. The South American sheet of the same series prints and uses the legend: white, 0-1000 feet; green, 1000-3250 feet; orange, 3250-6500 feet; brown, above 6,500 feet. The North American map is distinctly yellow and the South American, green. Such an utter disregard for a simple principle of pedagogy should mark this series as undesirable for the school room. (b) The early attempts to follow an international color scheme resulted in some cases in a failure to obtain the proper value for the colors. Thus, one German map over-emphasizes the brown and another the green shades so that these attract an undue amount of attention. Later maps have corrected this fault. (c) Considerable confusion has resulted from the old type of maps because the locations of cities were not designated with sufficient emphasis. Teachers have allowed pupils to point to the name of a city rather than to the exact location. That this is a mistake is proved by the uncertainty which older pupils have in locating places on small maps. The tendency for some is to place the city at the beginning of the name and for others at the end, while the small and somewhat insignificant dot is altogether neglected. The newer maps are overcoming this by indicating the location by a circle or dot large enough to be seen from the seats. It is doubtful whether there is any advantage in printing the name of a city on a general wall map. The name, however, is frequently indicated by the initial letter or a number without destroying the effectiveness of the map.

3. It is, in general, a mistake to attempt to show many things on a single map. Our old maps which attempted to show physical and political divisions have been the cause of a great lack of appreciation of maps. They seem to have impressed the pupils in American schools with a feeling of the futility of maps as a whole. This is the problem which the present generation of teachers in this country must face. There is no momentum from the past; on the contrary, the work of previous generations is a distinct impediment. It is in this particular that the idea of publishing maps of each country in series promises advancement. It is possible to buy at a low price a set of eight maps of Europe, each map devoted to a single idea and the whole making as near a complement as can be found.

(a) A physical wall map is more valuable than a political. The only wall map of India which could be bought a few years ago was a political map and it is questionable whether it was ever worth while to display it. It ought to be said, however, that the map was published by an English house and the emphasis on colonial geography by Europeans might constitute a reason for its publication. The same publisher has recently issued a physical map of India which ought to find a ready sale in this country.

(b) Political divisions are frequently indicated on physical maps by heavy lines, often in red, and when done with care, the effectiveness of the map does not suffer.

4. The step from work based on a physical wall map to the charting of information on outline maps in color should be taken more considerately. This topic is capable of much expansion, but it is sufficient to suggest that a too early introduction of this work or too great an emphasis upon it may detract from the main theme of map work.

CURRENT INFORMATION ABOUT MEXICO

MEXICO AND THE MEXICANS

“THE Mexican Constitution is always what it means to that man on horseback who has behind him enough men with muskets to certify that he understands it.”

“The Mexican Congress is a handpicked legislature, carefully made up in a great part of adherents of the President for the time being. Even such a Congress sometimes finds the courage to assert its constitutional rights and to criticise the conduct of public business. Almost invariably, such attempts lead to the breaking up of Congress by armed force, or to the arrest of the outspoken members, and their torture, court-martial, or murder.”

“By a national election we mean a free choice of the voters in all the states, under elaborate precautions to protect and secure an honest ballot and a fair count. Such an election has not been allowed in Mexico more than twice in the ninety years of the Mexican Republic.”

“There is no use, least of all for a disturbed country like Mexico, in ex-