Review: Early Travel

Author(s): Clements R. Markham

Review by: Clements R. Markham

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 22, No. 5 (Nov., 1903), pp. 556-557

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1775709>

Accessed: 27-06-2016 03:54 UTC

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at

<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers), Wiley are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Geographical Journal*

Ruge's views on points of wider interest in the history of cartography. The Dati sketches he is inclined to consider rather as representing a class of early route-maps than as the prototypes of the Portolani. The Pisan chart may, he thinks, date back (as regards its sources, at least) to a time prior to the first Genoese navigations in the Atlantic, while in any case it can only mark the first beginnings of coast-surveys on the Atlantic coasts of Africa, such as were probably inaugurated soon after the Genoese expedition to Ceuta in 1234-35. He throughout strenuously upholds the claim of the Italians, as against the Catalans, to be considered as the first producers of Portolani; accepting the Italian origin of Dalorto's (or "Dulcert's") maps of 1325 and 1339, and pointing to the Italian influence traceable in subsequent Catalan maps.* The second of these two maps of Dalorto's marks a new era in the development of knowledge of the African coasts, the regular succession of names given by it being continued, with comparatively few additions, right through the fifteenth century. Prof. Ruge follows Kretschmer in holding that Perrinus and Petrus Vesconte were two distinct individuals, and also that Petrus was the author of the maps in Sanudo's 'Liber Secretorum fidelium Crucis.' The famous 1448 map of Andrea Bianco ushered in the advance of knowledge respecting the coast south of Cape Bojador, but it is to Roselli, and especially to his chart preserved in the Egerton collection at the British Museum, that the principal merit is assigned for the evidences of a critical spirit displayed. On grounds which are not entirely convincing, Prof. Ruge assigns to this map a date subsequent to 1470. For a comparison of the main types during this period, he gives a table showing side by side the legends occurring on each of the maps from Tangiers to Cape Bojador.

In the second part of the monograph, the author discusses in turn each of the sixty-seven names, tracing the variations in form that are met with in the several maps, and, where possible, identifying them by the aid of ancient or modern descriptions. In the case of some of the names (*e.g.* Rotima, which appeared in one form or another on many maps of the fourteenth or fifteenth centuries, to be finally discarded by Roselli), no satisfactory explanation can be arrived at, while in others the disappearance of the name (*e.g.* Tusimusi, Turocuco, etc.) was due to the decline of the place from former importance. Special attention is given to the legends between Aglu and Cape Bojador, of which a comparative view is again given. Prof. Ruge shows that this permits the conclusion that, as a period of advance was ushered in by the maps of Dalorto in the fourteenth century, so in the fifteenth a new improvement is especially to be dated from the "Ginea Portogalexe" preserved in the Egerton collection at the British Museum.

GENERAL.

EARLY TRAVEL.

'The Text and Versions of John de Plano Carpini and William de Rubruquis as printed for the first time by Hakluyt in 1598, together with some shorter pieces.'
 Edited by C. Raymond Beazley, M.A., Fellow of Merton College, Oxford.

When the Hakluyt Society contemplated the reprinting of the 'Principal Navigations,' the first volume was assigned to the editorship of Mr. Raymond Beazley. The Society abandoned its intention when a similar undertaking was announced by a Glasgow publisher. But in the meanwhile Mr. Beazley had proceeded with his task with his usual indefatigable industry, and his elaborate

* Prof. Errera has lately shown that Roselli, in his map of 1447, acknowledges the influence of Beccario of Genoa (*ante*, p. 113).

notes were the results of such careful and successful research that the Council thought it right to include this opening portion of the 'Principal Navigations,' with Mr. Beazley's annotations, in a special octavo volume of 345 pages, including index.

Mr. Beazley supplies useful notes for the extracts from Geoffrey of Monmouth, the voyages of Oht-her and Wulfstan, the chapter on the Cinque Ports, and the letter of Ivo of Narbonne; but he has concentrated his attention mainly on the journeys of Carpini and Rubruquis.

Mr. Rockhill has truly said that the narrative of Friar William of Rubruch should reach as high in geographical literature as that of Marco Polo, his better-known successor; and that of Carpini completes and corroborates the story of Rubruquis. Hakluyt printed from a manuscript then in the library of Lord Lumley. In the course of his researches with a view to the collation of Hakluyt's text with existing manuscripts, Mr. Beazley made two important discoveries. The first was that a manuscript in the British Museum, hitherto supposed to be quite distinct from the Lumley manuscript, was identical. The second was the existence of a hitherto unexamined manuscript of Carpini in the library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. There are only three other manuscripts, one at Leyden, one in the Bibliotheque Nationale of Paris, and a fifth, which is only a copy of Hakluyt's text, also in Paris.

Of the manuscripts of Rubruquis, there are three at Cambridge, one in London, and one in Leyden.

Mr. Beazley has made a detailed re-examination of these manuscripts, noting the differences between the readings, which entailed an immense amount of labour combined with very profound learning and great critical insight. No one could have achieved such a literary undertaking unless he was endowed with indefatigable perseverance, and with an amount of zeal and devotion to the cause of geographical research which are deserving of the highest commendation. The narratives of the two travellers are worthy of the infinite care that has been bestowed upon them, and geographers owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Beazley for a work which is really a monument of patient and intelligent research.

CLEMENTS R. MARKHAM.

A GEOGRAPHICAL YEAR-BOOK.

'Geographen-Kalender; . . . herausgegeben von Dr. Hermann Haack.' Erster Jahrgang, 1903-1904. Gotha: Perthes. 1903.

While not intended to take the place of more elaborate works of reference, such as the 'Statesman's Year-book' or Wagner's 'Geographisches Jahrbuch,' this little book, from its compact and handy form, and the inclusion of certain features not found in former publications of the kind, is certain to take its place as an indispensable work of reference for geographers, no matter of what nationality. Besides presenting a valuable bird's-eye view of the progress of geography in all its branches during the past year, it supplies both the geographer and the general reader with a large amount of practical information of a kind which is constantly required, but which is not always easy to obtain ready to hand. Thus the useful tables included under the heading "Kalendarium" supply data respecting the dimensions of the earth, the area of a one-degree trapezium in different latitudes, the lengths of the degree both of latitude and longitude according to the variation of the former, the determination and comparison of map-scales, etc. The second section deals with the events of the year in the field of international political relations, the development of communications, and the like; while the third, from the experienced pen of Dr. H. Wichmann, gives a comprehensive summary of