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Author(s): H. R. M.

Review by: H. R. M.

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Arrian, known to have been once a great emporium. And lastly, here, in the Sapphara of Pliny and Ptolemy, shown by Glaser to represent 'Tafar (Saphar or Aphar), we have the actual name Ophir, which is to be translated "metropolis," the city of cities, just as its port was the port *par excellence* of the Eastern trade. Hither were brought the mineral riches of South Africa, the peacocks of India and Ceylon, the spices of the surrounding regions, to be eventually laden on the navies of Solomon and Hiram.

In these main conclusions we imagine that Prof. Keane will carry with him the majority of his readers, but in some points of detail he is on less firm ground. Thus the gold land of Havilah he identifies as Rhodesia, and Tharshish as its port (Sofala or Beira ?), mainly from the difficulty of finding elsewhere an adequate source of gold-supply, and the association of the names Havilah and Ophir in Genesis, as if both concerned in the same trade. Certain questions suggest themselves in this connection. Why, it may be asked, should Solomon's ships have made the long voyage to Tharshish if gold was to be had at Ophir? Why does the name Havilah not occur in connection with this trade? How is the association of Havilah with Sheba—certainly in Arabia—to be explained? If Tharshish is merely the port of Havilah (a country without political organization), should we expect to hear of "the *Kings* of Tharshish and the Isles"? Did Solomon and Hiram, or only the Himyarites, employ the slave-labour at the mines? and if the latter, how were they paid by the former? Why do we hear of peacocks as brought by the ships of Tharshish, not by ships of Ophir?

Some at least of these difficulties would be obviated by the simple supposition that Tharshish = Moscha, and was thus itself the port of Ophir, the two names being used generically by Phœnicians and Himyarites respectively as the designation of a great emporium of trade, so that the one would be virtually a translation of the other. A Tharshish in Arabia would suit well with the passage in Psalm lxxii., the second half of the verse being in this case, in accordance with the genius of Hebrew poetry, a sort of echo of the first; and also with the passages of Ezekiel, in which Tharshish, as Ophir elsewhere, is referred to in terms implying it to be a great commercial centre, rather than an outlying port.

The latter part of the book sketches the history and enterprises of the Himyarites, especially in Rhodesia. Into this we need not enter, as the subject is partly covered by Messrs. Hall and Neal's recent work, of which it is proposed shortly to give an independent notice.

E. H.

## POLAR.

DR. VON NEUMAYER AND ANTARCTIC RESEARCH.

Prof. Georg von Neumayer has collected into a substantial volume\* the numerous contributions which he has made from time to time during the last fifty years to the cause of antarctic exploration. His insistent advocacy of every branch of scientific investigation at sea, and especially towards the poles, is too well known, and has been too highly appreciated in this country, to make it necessary at this period to give a critical summary of the contents of the book before us. Dr. von Neumayer has pursued his aim unfalteringly for half a century, and the generous manner in which he brought the weight of his great influence to bear on the promotion of the British Antarctic Expedition in its early stages will

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\* 'Auf zum Südpol! 45 Jahre Wirkung zur Förderung der Erforschung der Südpolar-Region, 1855-1900.' Von Prof. Georg von Neumayer. Berlin; Vita Deutsches Verlagshaus. 1901.

not easily be forgotten. If the name of a cherished locality is ever engraved by the earnest thought of years upon a human heart, Dr. von Neumayer's is marked broad with the word *Südpol*. It is useful to have in a collected form these various papers of different date, but the volume has a warmer interest for geographers than even the centre of the frigid zone can kindle. It reveals something of the personal history of an honoured friend and master, an unexpected side-light of autobiography, reflecting the glow of an ardent and adventurous youth on the placidity of a singularly gracious age. The beauty of the photograph of the Director of the Deutsche Seewarte as he is to-day—though the picture has an air of sternness foreign to our memory of the man—will convince even a stranger that the artist's pencil did not flatter the young sailor of half a century ago. These two portraits of themselves make the book worth possessing.

Piecing together the hints in the preface, the introductions to the different memoirs, and the episodes alluded to in abstracts of the earlier lectures, we can trace the origin and growth of Dr. von Neumayer's passion for the south pole; and the task leaves us full of regret that the autobiographical framework is so narrow. Still, what there is of it is welcome, for it shows us a German, enthusiastic in his patriotism beyond the majority of his countrymen, yet unswerving in his loyalty to the great republic of science where all nations are as one.

On taking his degree in 1849, Georg Neumayer's mind was full of the exploring voyages of Ross, Wilkes, and Dumont D'Urville, and the scientific deductions of Gauss and Sabine. Resolved to pursue his studies in terrestrial magnetism and in the science of the ocean, and not without the ambition of aiding a united Germany to arise and grow into a maritime power, he made a voyage to the east coast of South America in a Hamburg ship in order to acquire a practical knowledge of nautical astronomy and navigation. On his return he passed his examination as mate, and spent several months in the effort to obtain a post in the Austrian navy, Austria being then the most powerful maritime state of the German Confederation. Failing in this, he gave a series of lectures in Hamburg on Maury's theories of the ocean and on the recent improvements in the science of navigation; and since he could find no other way of gratifying his craving to see the southern hemisphere, he shipped as a common sailor and landed at Port Jackson in Australia in 1852. Two years were spent in the Australian colonies, part of the time as gold-digger at Bendigo, and, when the digging was unfortunate, as a lecturer on navigation in a tent on the goldfields, where an audience of disappointed sailors could easily be brought together. In 1854 he returned to Europe on a sailing ship with a mutinous crew, and he came back resolved to leave no stone unturned to get up a voyage of scientific exploration towards the south pole, or a journey into the then unknown interior of Australia.

He was fortunate in making the acquaintance of Alexander von Humboldt, Dove the meteorologist, and the great chemist Liebig. King Maximilian II. of Bavaria, an enlightened patron of science, who consulted Liebig as his chief scientific counsellor, considered a memorial drawn up by Neumayer on the important results bearing on antarctic research which would accrue from the study of terrestrial magnetism at Melbourne, and granted the funds for establishing the well-known Flagstaff Observatory. In August, 1856, before leaving for Melbourne, Neumayer laid his plans for a physical observatory before the British Association at Cheltenham, and received the approval of Whewell, Airy, and Faraday.

While carrying on the magnetic and meteorological observations at the Flagstaff Observatory, and collecting on Maury's plan all possible data as to the navigation of the Southern Ocean, Dr. Neumayer took a prominent part on the committee which directed the exploration of the interior of Australia; but in 1862

he once more returned to his favourite subject of antarctic exploration. In a farewell address to his countrymen at Melbourne as he was leaving for Europe, he said—

“It would be a glorious moment in the next period of my career if I could seek the antarctic regions in a German ship, and perhaps sometime you will see me return to these shores accompanied by the pick of the youth of all German races, bound on a voyage to the south pole.”

So far did the coming of the *Gauss* cast its shadow before; though none of the young Germans now in the antarctic ice were born at that time, nor was the united German Empire, which made such a national enterprise possible, then in sight.

Dr. Neumayer always urged the practical side of antarctic research; he showed how it would increase the certainty of navigation, and how it would stimulate the spirit of maritime enterprise which, from his student days, he had recognized as an indispensable element of national greatness. Thus he took as the theme of his first serious appeal on returning to his fatherland, at Frankfort in 1865, the importance of antarctic exploration and the necessity for the foundation of a central institution for the systematic study of oceanography and marine meteorology. The latter suggestion was acted on in a liberal spirit, and in his direction of the *Deutsche Seewarte* at Hamburg, Dr. von Neumayer has fulfilled his life-work and placed his country in possession of an oceanographical institution of which Maury himself would have been proud, and which is the admiration, if not the envy, of the oceanographers of other countries. Not only has it proved of inestimable practical value to the seafarer, but it has afforded training to a number of scientific men whose names, already well known, are destined to occupy a high place amongst the students of nature.

How nearly the other design was accomplished also has probably been forgotten by most of our readers. Dr. Neumayer suggested that an expedition for antarctic research should be fitted out as a preliminary to the Transit of Venus expedition in 1874. The Vienna Academy of Sciences took the matter up cordially on the advice of Admiral Tegetthoff, and Dr. Neumayer was promised the command of an expedition to set out from Hamburg towards the end of 1870. The outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war and the birth of the German Empire interrupted the expedition; but Admiral Tegetthoff revived it in the following year, and all was going well when the sudden death of the admiral brought the plan to an untimely end; so Austria-Hungary lost the honour of renewing south polar research, and Dr. Neumayer the opportunity for becoming an explorer.

We need not enumerate Dr. von Neumayer's further efforts to revive interest in the subject in his own country and amongst the geographers of the world. He strove at the meetings of the International Geographical Congresses (especially at London in 1895), at successive gatherings of the German “Geographentag,” at other assemblies of men of science in many countries; and at last he saw the naval flag of his country flying over an expedition commanded by a man of science, while his sympathies were scarcely less heartily extended to the British National Expedition, which started almost simultaneously with a plan of complete international co-operation in the cause of science. Dr. von Neumayer acknowledges that he has not been able to give effect to all his wishes with regard to antarctic exploration, and he states, with an emphasis for which we should have thought there ought to be no necessity, that his efforts have always been solely for the advancement of science and the good of his country.

H. R. M.