

# WILEY



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Review: Wiltshire Maps

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unprofitable. We hope that Mr. Arber will continue his researches in this "strange land" which he has discovered, and that followers in his footsteps will not be few.

J. D. F.

#### WILTSHIRE MAPS.

'A Descriptive Catalogue of the Printed Maps of Wiltshire, from 1576 to the publication of the 25-inch Ordnance Survey, 1885.' By Mr. Thomas Chubb, of the Map Room, British Museum. (*Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*, vol. 37, p. 211.) 16 pp. Devizes. 1911.

This is a valuable contribution to the special subject of British county maps, which forms a section of the limited but slowly growing literature of engraved cartography. It is founded on the first attempt at a complete study of the maps of an individual county—the 'Hertfordshire Maps' of Sir H. G. Fordham, completed in 1907.

In a brief introduction the author refers to some of the earlier maps of a local character, and sketches out the frame of the Catalogue which follows, embracing the printed maps of Wiltshire from that of Christopher Saxton, dated 1576, to 1885, the date of publication of the 25-inch Ordnance Survey maps, with which the need of any special local or county maps finally disappears. The arrangement is in order of date of impression of the maps themselves, which sometimes precedes that of the atlases or other topographical works in which they appear. This is, perhaps, the most convenient course to adopt, though it has the disadvantage of placing some maps under a date which is not of so general application, or so easily traced as that of the atlas to which they belong. Thus Saxton's map is dated 1576, but one would look naturally for it under 1579, the date of the atlas in which it is found. On the other hand, the author adopts the *atlas-date* (1617) for Peter Keer's small map in Regnerus Vitellius's 'Epitome of Camden's Britannia,' whereas the map is one of a set engraved after Saxton, some of which are dated 1599, which may be safely taken to be the *map-date* of the whole set. The use of a variety of type has added greatly to the facility with which the date, title, and descriptive text, or biographical notes can be picked out. Some of the biographical references are especially valuable, and add to the general interest of the compilation. The Catalogue itself seems very complete. One or two omissions, *e.g.* those of the maps of Wiltshire in 'Bowles' Pocket Atlas of the Counties of South Britain or England and Wales,' issued about 1785, and in 'Langley's New County Atlas of England and Wales' (1818), may be noticed. The author does not seem to connect with the playing-card series of small county maps, issued by Robert Morden about 1680, that made use of in Turpin's 'Brief Description,' attributed to 1750. These dates are very wide apart, but it seems, on inspection, that the impressions in the two atlases are identical. A similar use of old plates is that of the county maps engraved by John Seller, and published in the *Anglia Contracta* of 1695, which reappeared in Francis Grose's 'Antiquities of England and Wales, 1776.' Recent investigations have disclosed a larger number of issues of each of the three series of John Cary's atlases ('New English Atlas,' folio; 'New and Correct Atlas,' quarto; and 'Traveller's Companion,' octavo) than are catalogued by the author. The notes on Cary's publications are also insufficient, and give no idea of the quantity or value of his work. Subject to these trifling defects, for which the difficulty incidental to the subject is an ample justification, nothing but good can be said of this publication, and of the care and industry of its compiler. The tabular index, arranged under the names of authors, engravers,

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and publishers, giving the date, title, and dimensions of each map, and the title of the work (if any) in which it appears, is a valuable feature of the catalogue.

## ASIA.

### CENTRAL ASIA.

'The Ruins of Desert Cathay.' By M. Aurel Stein. London : Macmillan, 1912. 42s. net.

This work is another monument to Dr. Stein's indefatigable industry, his untiring persistence, his never-wavering courage, and his inexhaustible optimism and patience. It is a wonderful record. The only regret is that the good things there are in this book are so difficult to excavate. The record is of an expedition whose object was the discovery of hidden treasures. To obtain those treasures Dr. Stein had to have at his disposal ample time, and to be possessed of dogged persistency of purpose. And these same things are no less required by the reader who would seek the valuable things in Dr. Stein's book. He must have plenty of leisure and must steadily persevere, and his efforts will then reap a rich reward. He will imbibe something of Dr. Stein's own enthusiasm. He will plod on through masses of minutiae in the cheerful hope of being rewarded in the end. He will be undaunted by interminable delays in reaching his objective. But when at length his goal is reached he will find a rich reward.

For it is of fascinating interest to read of, and to have presented before us, excellent pictures of objects which have lain hidden beneath the sands of the remotest desert in the world for fifteen or sixteen centuries. It is even more interesting to know that these objects, manuscripts, images of Buddha, coins, domestic utensils, frescoes, rolls of silk, etc., testify to the existence of a civilization which was a curious blending of the civilizations of China, India, and the classical West.

With the experience of his previous journeys to guide him, Dr. Stein from the very first made valuable archæological discoveries. At Niya he found the remains of an office with records intact dating back to the third century A.D. Here were accounts, lists, official files, and archives of rectangular documents—probably bonds and agreements—with double seals intact, and envelopes still unopened. The seals were of classical workmanship representing Heracles, Zeus, and helmeted busts. While the documents showed that the administration was carried on in an Indian language and script, and that immigration must have occurred from North-West India. Sheaves of corn in perfect preservation, household objects, and wooden implements were also found in the same ruins. And as we read the record of the "find" we understand Dr. Stein's enthusiasm and his zest to make still further discoveries among these long-buried cities.

Perhaps his most fascinating quest was the ruins at Lop-Nor. These had previously been discovered by Dr. Sven Hedin, but Dr. Stein approached them from a different direction and had to pick them out in a waterless desert a week's journey from his base. On the accuracy of Sven Hedin's position for these ruins all depended. Stein, giving his camels a good drink of water to last them several weeks, and taking with him blocks of ice, plunged into the sandy ocean. "The overpowering vastness which the desolation of the lifeless Lop desert produced" was relieved only by the occasional sight of the great ranges of the Tian Shan on the north and the Kun Lun on the south. He set up prominent marks for his men to find their way back by, and established a dépôt of thirty pony-