The Peutinger Map is the only map of the Roman world to come down to us from antiquity. An elongated object full of colorful detail and featuring land routes across Europe, North Africa, and the Near East, it was mysteriously rediscovered around 1500 and then came into the ownership of Konrad Peutinger, for whom it is named. Today it is among the treasures of the Austrian National Library in Vienna. Richard J. A. Talbert’s Rome’s World: The Peutinger Map Reconsidered offers a long overdue reinterpretation and appreciation of the map as a masterpiece of both mapmaking and imperial Roman ideology. Here, the ancient world’s traditional span, from the Atlantic to India, is dramatically remolded; lands and routes take pride of place, whereas seas are compressed. Talbert posits that the map’s true purpose was not to assist travelers along Rome’s highways, but rather to celebrate the restoration of peace and order by Diocletian’s Tetrarchy. Such creative cartography, he demonstrates, influenced the development of medieval mapmaking. With the aid of digital technology, this book enables readers to engage with the Peutinger Map in all of its fascinating immensity more closely than ever before.

Richard J. A. Talbert is William Rand Kenan, Jr., Professor of History and Classics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he has taken the lead in establishing the Ancient World Mapping Center. He is the author of several books, including The Senate of Imperial Rome and the collaborative Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World.
Mezzotint of Franz Christoph von Scheyb in an aristocratic pose as Secretary for Lower Austria, a post he occupied from 1739 onward. Here we see him proudly unrolling his full-size engraving of the Peutinger map, published in 1753, so that Vienna (Vindobona) rather than Rome occupies the central position.
ROME’S WORLD

THE PEUTINGER MAP
RECONSIDERED

RICHARD J. A. TALBERT

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

in association with Tom Elliott,

assisted by Nora Harris, Gannon Hubbard,
David O’Brien, and Graham Shepherd

with a contribution by Martin Steinmann
This book is dedicated to the memory of my parents,

John (d. September 2, 2007)  
and Susan (d. September 25, 2007),  
who did not live to see its completion
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www.cambridge.org/9780521764803

MAPS

A Peutinger map: seamless whole, in color, with overlaid layers prepared by Nora Harris (use with Appendix 8)

B (i) Peutinger map: monochrome photographs of each of the eleven parchments as taken at full size or more in 1888 by Carl Angerer and Alexander Göschl
(ii) Peutinger map: digital color photographs of each of the

DATABASE

Peutinger map names and features, with Commentary (use with Appendix 7):

FEATURES AND NOTICES
Complete list by grid square
Complete alphabetical list
Names and notices in red ink
Complete list by reference number

LISTS BY FEATURE TYPE
Networked names, no symbols
Complete alphabetical listing
Alphabetical listings by initial letter
Networked symbols, named
Complete alphabetical listing
Alphabetical listings by initial letter
Networked symbols, unnamed
Listing by reference number
Unnamed or illegible features
Listing by reference number
Isolated names
Complete alphabetical listing
Alphabetical listings by initial letter
Isolated symbols, named
Complete alphabetical listing
Isolated symbols, unnamed
Listing by reference number
Islands
Complete alphabetical listing
Alphabetical listings by initial letter
Listing by reference number

Mountains
Complete alphabetical listing
Listing by reference number
Peoples
Complete alphabetical listing
Alphabetical listings by initial letter
Regions
Complete alphabetical listing
Alphabetical listings by initial letter
Rivers
Complete alphabetical listing
Alphabetical listings by initial letter
Listing by reference number
Special features and notices
Complete alphabetical listing
Water, other than rivers
Complete alphabetical listing
Alphabetical listings by initial letter
Listing by reference number

SYMBOL CLASSIFICATION

WORKS CITED

CONCORDANCES OF REFERENCES

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TABLE

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Experience and accident mixed with frustration and optimism have combined to launch this study. I probably read about its object first in one of my schoolbooks, the 1961 revision of *Everyman’s Classical Atlas* introduced by J. Oliver Thomson (“As a map this ribbon is absurd, but its aim is only to give roads with their stations . . .”), and over time I grew accustomed to the illustrations of one segment or another seen in publications of all kinds about Roman history and culture. Once I became seriously engaged with cartography from the 1980s, my awareness of the importance of the Peutinger “Table” or Map sharpened correspondingly. As the *Barrington Atlas* took shape during the 1990s, I witnessed at first hand the heavy dependence that many contributors laid upon this “absurd” survival for place-names and routes across the entire Roman world. At the same time, when I ventured into the emerging debate about Romans’ “map consciousness” or the lack of it, colleagues’ widespread preference for excluding this item from consideration on the grounds that it should be viewed as a diagram rather than a map came to seem less and less justifiable. I was for a long time incredulous that no full-scale presentation and analysis of it had appeared since World War I. Although color photographs had eventually been published in 1976, many scholars had still not abandoned their reliance upon the more accessible nineteenth-century lithographed drawings. In addition, the map’s segments continued to be numbered in two different sequences, while any system of reference for individual features had yet to be devised. Above all, a new evaluation of the map was lacking; no alternative had been proposed to the age-old dismissal encapsulated in Thomson’s pithy summation of 1961.

By the late 1990s, therefore, I was convinced that the challenge of attempting to present the Peutinger map afresh and to rethink its character and purpose might repay the inevitable risks. Now, a decade later, with the work ready for publication at last, I dare to think that the struggle has been justified. To imagine that my conclusions will meet with universal
acceptance would be unrealistic, but if nothing else the new approaches on which they are based may deter scholars from persisting complacently with the claim that the map is a mere road diagram of minimal cartographic or cultural significance. Issues of its design, context, purpose, and impact raised here can no longer be ignored. A rich, layered context now emerges for the map. This identification leads in turn to a refined grasp of the map's long-term impact and its importance in the history of cartography. Moreover, tools are developed that permit everyone to study the map closely and to refer conveniently to each of its components.

From the outset, the creation of these tools has demanded collaboration, skills, and labor on an extensive scale. As has become painfully clear to those who have dared to work with the map over the centuries, it is the most exacting of taskmasters, but at the same time an unfailingly alluring one. In the twenty-first century, as I soon came to realize, it would be less practical and less affordable than ever to present the map in print as a single item, especially at full size and in color. Once some formidable technical obstacles were overcome, however, electronic publication has proved itself well suited to the purpose. In this connection, no one has done more than Tom Elliott to demonstrate to me the extraordinary potential of digital technology and to overcome the countless obstacles arising from its application. His vision and persistence are beyond praise; it is hard to imagine how this work could have been accomplished without them, and I am deeply grateful to him. I am keenly aware, too, that electronic publication of the map is contingent upon authorization from the Austrian National Library to reproduce its scanned images; lasting thanks are due to the library for its alacrity in granting this request. No less is Princeton University Press to be thanked for permitting the use of geo-registered raster images of a substantial “mosaic” of maps from the Barrington Atlas. Cambridge University Press is to be thanked above all. I am especially grateful that my editor, Beatrice Rehl, and her colleagues have shared my enthusiasm for a hybrid format, which allows the book's text matter to be presented both electronically and in a printed volume for readers' convenience.

To an embarrassing degree, completion of this book has depended upon collaborative effort and support from individuals and institutions on both sides of the Atlantic. I welcome the chance to thank them all at last, however inadequately. An appropriate order can hardly be determined, but without doubt the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, should be mentioned first, in particular for generous financial support, for its outstanding libraries, and for its sponsorship of the Ancient World Mapping Center, where almost all the digital work on the map was done. At different stages over several years, Nora Harris, Gannon Hubbard, David O'Brien, and Graham Shepherd played key roles in this exacting, complex activity.
at the Center under Tom Elliott’s direction; assistance was also rendered there by Jeffrey Becker, Andrew Hull, Joshua Moffitt, Elizabeth Robinson, Brian Turner, and Sarah Willis. David O’Brien’s work was supported by an award from the Loeb Classical Library Foundation. I realize that it can seem invidious to name only certain staff members within Chapel Hill’s libraries when all have been so supportive; at the same time, it is impossible for me not to mention Sellers Lawrence, Celia Pratt, and John Rutledge for their exceptional service. Among academic colleagues over the years at Chapel Hill and at Duke nearby, I thank especially Robert Babcock, Tolly Boatwright, David Ganz, George Houston, Terence McIntosh, Michael McVaugh, Fred Naiden, Francis Newton, Grant Parker, William Race, Werner Riess, Philip Stadter, and Siegfried Wenzel; among my former students I thank Ricky Law and Sonia Wilson.

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Thanks are due to several libraries, above all to the National Library of Austria, Vienna, and to the successive directors of its Handschriften-sammlung, Ernst Gamillscheg and Andreas Fingernagel, for granting the privilege of three visits to inspect the map itself, two on my part and one by Martin Steinmann. Other libraries (and in some instances individual staff members) to be thanked are: Library of Congress, Washington, DC; New York Public Library (Alice Hudson); Widener Library, Harvard University (David Cobb); Newberry Library, Chicago (James Akerman); British Library, London; Royal Geographical Society Library, London (Francis Herbert); Bodleian Library, Oxford (Nick Millea); John Rylands University Library, Manchester; Robinson Library, University of Newcastle; Bibliothèque de l’Université Mons-Hainaut, Belgium (Christine Gobeaux); Stadtbibliothek, Trier, Germany (Reiner Nolden); Universität Basel Library, Switzerland; American Academy in Rome Library (Christina Huemer); Slovenian National Library, Ljubljana (Jasna Hrovat); also the National Museum of Slovenia, Ljubljana (Polona Bitenc).

Fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the J. S. Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and the National Humanities Center (Goheen Fellowship) played a vital and much appreciated role in the launching of my research for this book; a Harley Research Fellowship in the History of Cartography, held in London, advanced its completion.

I could never have reached the point of completion, however, without the support, patience, and skills of my wife, Zandra, and our two sons, Daniel and Patrick. Responsibility for any shortcomings remains mine alone. Unlike some of the map’s previous editors, I lack the confidence to claim that all slips in its presentation have been eliminated, despite my best efforts.

Chapel Hill, NC
July 2009
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AE</td>
<td><em>L’Année épigraphique</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAH</td>
<td><em>The Cambridge Ancient History</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIL</td>
<td><em>Corpus Inscriptionum Latinum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRAI</td>
<td><em>Comptes Rendus des séances de l’Académie des Inscriptions et belles-lettres</em> (Paris)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGH</td>
<td>F Jacoby, <em>Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker</em> (Berlin and Leiden, 1923–)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLM</td>
<td>A. Riese (ed.), <em>Geographi Latini Minores</em> (Heilbronn, 1878)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gött. gel. Anz.</td>
<td><em>Göttingische gelehrte Anzeigen</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ItAnt</td>
<td><em>Imperatoris Antonini Augusti Itineraria Provinciarum</em>. In O. Cuntz (ed.), <em>Itineraria Romana</em>, vol. 1 (Leipzig: Teubner, 1929); see also Appendix 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ItBurd</td>
<td><em>Itinerarium Burdigalense</em>. In P. Geyer (ed.), <em>Itinéraire et Atlas Geographica</em>, Corpus Christianorum Series Latina 175 (Turnhout [Belgium], 1965), 1–26; see also Appendix 9</td>
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<td>Abbreviation</td>
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<tr>
<td>JRA</td>
<td><em>Journal of Roman Archaeology</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>JRS</td>
<td><em>The Journal of Roman Studies</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEFRA</td>
<td><em>Mélanges d’Archéologie et d’Histoire de l’Ecole Française de Rome</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIR²</td>
<td><em>Prosopographia Imperii Romani saec. I. II. III</em>, 2nd ed. (Berlin and Leipzig, 1933–)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pliny, NH</td>
<td>Pliny the Elder, <em>Naturalis Historia</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>RAC</td>
<td><em>Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>SEG</td>
<td><em>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</em></td>
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<td>TLL</td>
<td><em>Thesaurus Linguae Latinae</em></td>
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