Mapping Medieval Geographies

*Mapping Medieval Geographies* explores the ways in which geographical knowledge, ideas and traditions were formed in Europe during the Middle Ages. Leading scholars reveal the connections between Islamic, Christian, biblical and classical geographical traditions from Antiquity to the later Middle Ages and Renaissance. The book is divided into two parts: Part I focuses on the notion of geographical tradition and charts the evolution of celestial and earthly geography in terms of its intellectual, visual and textual representations; whilst Part II explores geographical imaginations; that is to say, those ‘imagined geographies’ that came into being as a result of everyday spatial and spiritual experience. Bringing together approaches from art, literary studies, intellectual history and historical geography, this pioneering volume will be essential reading for scholars concerned with visual and textual modes of geographical representation and transmission, as well as the spaces and places of knowledge creation and consumption.

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Mapping Medieval Geographies

Geographical Encounters in the Latin West and Beyond, 300–1600

Edited by

Keith D. Lilley
Dedicated to the memory of
Denis E. Cosgrove
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The essays within this book arose from a conversation I had with Denis Cosgrove during 2006–7. We recognized that across different humanities and arts disciplines in the Anglophone world there is developing scholarly momentum on the topic of ‘medieval geographies’, in which geographers such as ourselves are largely on the periphery. Partly to learn more from these ‘other’ scholars of geography, and partly to stimulate cross-disciplinary debate on medieval geographies, we applied for and received generous financial support from the Ahmanson Foundation to convene a gathering of academics working in this field. So a conference was organized and held at the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRS) at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in May 2009. I am indebted to the Ahmanson Foundation and to the Historical Geography Research Group (of the RGS-IBG) for providing funds to enable us to convene this gathering, and to the CMRS for hosting it, particularly Karen Burgess and Brett Landenberger, whose organizational efficiency and professionalism were appreciated by all who attended. I am very grateful to Denis for the enthusiasm he showed for the project right from the start, and deeply saddened that he did not live to see the results of the conversation we initiated. The volume is dedicated to Denis’s memory. My thanks are due also to the contributors here whose essays have provided me with such stimulation and insight into mapping medieval geographies, as well as to Liz Friend-Smith at the Press for her editorial thoughts and guidance, and the anonymous readers who commented on an earlier draft. Without their inputs, their efforts and scholarship, this volume would not have been possible.

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