THE GEOGRAPHY OF STRABO

The Geography of Strabo is the only surviving work of its type in Greek literature, and the major source for the history of Greek scholarship on geography and the formative processes of the earth. In addition, this lengthy and complex work contains a vast amount of information on other topics, including the journey of Alexander the Great, cultic history, the history of the eastern Mediterranean in the first century BC, and women’s history. Modern knowledge of seminal geographical authors such as Eratosthenes and Hipparchos relies almost totally on Strabo’s use of them. This is the first complete English translation in nearly a century, and the first to make use of recent scholarship on the Greek text itself and on the history of geography. The translation is supplemented by a detailed discussion of Strabo’s life and his purpose in writing the Geography, as well as the sources that he used.

Duane W. Roller is Professor Emeritus of Classics at the Ohio State University. An historian and archaeologist, he is the author of ten books, most recently Cleopatra: A Biography (2010) and Eratosthenes’ Geography (2010), and over a hundred and fifty scholarly articles on topics in archaeology, ancient history, classical studies, and musicology. He has also excavated in Greece, Italy, Turkey, Jordan, and Israel.
THE GEOGRAPHY
OF STRABO

Translated by
DUANE W. ROLLER
Contents

Preface vii
Abbreviations ix
Figure 1: The stemma of the family of Strabo x
Structural analysis of the Geography xi
Map 1: The ancient world xvi
Map 2: The inhabited world in Hellenistic times xvii

Introduction 1

The Translation 35
Book 1 37
Book 2 93
Book 3 151
Book 4 186
Book 5 216
Book 6 253
Book 7 286
Book 8 335
Book 9 386
Book 10 435
Book 11 475
Book 12 513
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book 13</td>
<td>555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book 14</td>
<td>599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book 15</td>
<td>645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book 16</td>
<td>689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book 17</td>
<td>731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 1: Glossary of untranslated words</td>
<td>778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 2: The sources of the fragments</td>
<td>782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td>789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of passages cited</td>
<td>793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>811</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preface

The Geography of Strabo is known to all, quoted by many, and understood by few. It is a complex, wandering work, the only survivor of its genre in Greek and one of the longest extant works in Greek literature. Generally it is mined for interesting tidbits rather than comprehended as a whole. Previous to this edition it had not been translated into English since the completion of the now-outrated Loeb version in the 1930s (which was thirty years in preparation), and there has been no full English commentary. In the hopes that this fascinating and wide-ranging treatise will become more accessible, this volume is the first of two that together will provide a modern English translation and extensive commentary.

Strabo probably began collecting data for the Geography as early as the 20s BC. Yet the work was not completed until sometime in the 20s AD. This half-century that saw the end of the civil war against Antonius and Kleopatra, the entire reign of Augustus, and the first decade of that of Tiberius, was one of immense change in the Mediterranean world. It included a vast expansion of geographical knowledge, especially in western Europe, the Kaspian region, and western North Africa. Strabo built on the existing data from his predecessors (especially the Geography of Eratosthenes, the work that created the discipline), as well as the explorations of the late Hellenistic period, such as those which established the sea route to the Indian peninsula. Yet buried within the geographical account is a vast amount of cultural history unavailable from any other extant source. The work is also the beginning of the discipline of topographical research, with Strabo’s insightful attempts to locate Nestor’s Pylos or the site of Troy.

This project developed out of the translator’s previous work in translating and editing geographical texts dependent on Strabo, such as the Geography of Eratothenes and the Indika of Megasthenes (BNJ #715), as well as Strabo’s own Historical Commentaries (BNJ #91). The study of ancient geography also requires fieldwork, and although visiting every site mentioned by Strabo
would probably be impossible, much of the terrain discussed by the geographer has been re-examined.

The sheer length of Strabo’s text has meant that it is not feasible to put both a translation and commentary into a single volume, yet this translation is prelude to a complete commentary. Much of this translation was actually created in Santa Fe, in a high desert landscape that Strabo would have found familiar. The translator would like to thank the exceedingly efficient interlibrary loan services of the Ohio State University, as well as the Harvard College Library and the libraries of the University of California at Berkeley and the University of New Mexico.

Special thanks also go to the many colleagues whose assistance made this work possible, especially Jeffrey Becker and the staff of the Ancient World Mapping Center, Kai Brodersen, David C. Braund, Stanley Burstein, D. T. Potts, Klaus Geus, David F. Graf, David E. Hahm, Georgia L. Irby, Molly Ayn Jones-Lewis, Susanne Lamm, Henry MacAdam, James D. Muhly, Letitia K. Roller, John Scarborough; Michael Sharp, Samantha Richter, Gill Cloke, Elizabeth Davey, and many others at Cambridge University Press; Richard Stoneman, and Richard Talbert.
Abbreviations

ANRW  Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt
ArchPhil  Archives de philosophie
BNJ  Brill’s New Jacoby
BNP  Brill’s New Pauly
C&M  Classica et Mediaevalia
CHL  Commentationes humanarum litterarum
CP  Classical Philology
CW  Classical World
FGrHist  Felix Jacoby, Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker
FHG  Karl Müller and Theodor Müller, Fragmenta historicorum graecorum
G&R  Greece and Rome
GB  Grazer Beiträge
GGM  Karl Müller, Geographi graeci minores
HRF  Hermann Peter, Historicorum romanorum fragmenta
IG  Inscriptiones graecae
JRS  Journal of Roman Studies
LSJ  Liddell, Scott, and Jones, Greek-English Lexicon
MediterrAnt  Mediterraneo Antico
OGIS  Wilhelm Dittenberger, Orientis Graeci Inscriptiones Selectae
OTerr  Orbis Terrarum
PIR  Prosopographia imperii romani
PP  La parola del passato
Radt  Strabons Geographika (ed. Stefan Radt, Göttingen, 2002–10)
RE  Pauly-Wissowa, Real-Encyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft
RhM  Rheinisches Museum für Philologie
ZPE  Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik
Tibios and his son Theophilos cannot be fitted exactly in the stemma. They were both cousins of Strabo’s maternal grandfather (and thus cousins of Strabo himself), and were executed in the early 60s BC.
Structural analysis of the Geography

Books 1–2: Introduction, history of geography, and scientific analysis of the earth

Book 1: Introduction and predecessors

Part 1. Introduction and purpose of the work
Part 2. Homeric geography
Part 3. Siltation, deposition, and other changes to the earth
Part 4. The surface of the earth

Book 2: Further Discussion of Predecessors

Part 1. The plan of the inhabited world
Part 2. Poseidonios and the zones
Part 3. Polybios and Poseidonios: The zones and the Ocean
Part 4. Polybios and the Internal Sea
Part 5. The nature of the inhabited world

Books 3–4: The West

Book 3: Iberia

Part 1. Introduction and coastal Tourdetania
Part 2. Interior Tourdetania
Part 3. Lusitania
Part 4. Coastal Iberia
Part 5. The islands

Book 4: Transalpine Keltike

Part 1. Introduction and Narbonitis
Part 2. Aquitania
xii Structural analysis of the *Geography*

Part 3. Interior Keltike
Part 4. The northwestern coast, and ethnography
Part 5. The Keltic islands
Part 6. The Alps

**Books 5–6: Italia and Sikelia**

*Book 5: Northern and central Italia*

Part 1. Introduction, Padus Valley, and northeastern Italia
Part 2. Northwestern Italia
Part 3. Sabina and Latina
Part 4. The central interior and Campania

*Book 6: Southern Italia and Sikelia*

Part 1. Leukania and Brettia
Part 2. Sikelia
Part 3. Iapygia and Apulia
Part 4. The history of Rome
[State of Roman rule]

**Books 7–11: The northern and eastern parts of the world and the Hellenic peninsula**

*Book 7: Northern and eastern Europe*

Part 1. Introduction and the territory north of the Rhenos
Part 2. The Kimbrians and the far north
Part 3. Far northeastern Europe
Part 4. The Tauric Chersonesos
Part 5. Northeastern Europe south of the Istrros
Part 6. The western coast of the Pontos
Part 7. The northern Hellenic peninsula
[Fragments of the remainder of Book 7]

*Book 8: The Peloponnesos*

Part 1. General comments on Hellas
Part 2. General comments on the Peloponnesos
Structural analysis of the *Geography*

Part 3. Eleia
Part 4. Messenia
Part 5. Lakonia
Part 6. The Argolid and Corinthia
Part 7. Achaia
Part 8. Arkadia, and final comments on the Peloponnesos

*Book 9: East central Hellas*

Part 1. Attika
Part 2. Boiotia
Part 3. Phokis
Part 4. Lokris
Part 5. Thessaly

*Book 10: West central Hellas and the Hellenic islands*

Part 1. Euboia
Part 2. Aitolia, Akarnania, and the western islands
Part 3. The Kouretians
Part 4. Crete
Part 5. The smaller islands

*Book 11: The northeastern part of the inhabited world*

Part 1. Introduction to Asia
Part 2. The territory north and east of the Euxeinos
Part 3. Kaukaskan Iberia
Part 4. Albania
Part 5. The Amazons and the Kaukasos
Part 6. The Kaspian Sea
Part 7. Hyrkania
Part 8. East of the Hyrkanian Sea
Part 9. Parthyai
Part 10. Aria and Margiane
Part 11. Baktria and Sogdiane
Part 12. The Tauros
Part 13. Media
Part 14. Armenia
xiv Structural analysis of the Geography

Books 12–14: Anatolia

Book 12: Central and northern Anatolia

[an uncertain amount of the start of Book 12 is lost]
Part 1. Introduction to Kappadokia
Part 2. Kappadokia (continued)
Part 3. Paphlagonia and Pontos
Part 4. Bithynia
Part 5. Galatia
Part 6. Lykaonia
Part 7. Pisidia
Part 8. Mysia and Phrygia

Book 13: Northwestern and west central Anatolia

Part 1. The Troad and northern Aiolis
Part 2. Lesbos
Part 3. The remainder of Aiolis
Part 4. Pergamon and Lydia

Book 14: Southern Anatolia and Cyprus

Part 1. Ionia
Part 2. Karia and Rhodes
Part 3. Lykia
Part 4. Pamphylia
Part 5. Kilikia
Part 6. Cyprus

Books 15–17: The Far East, Egypt, and Libya

Book 15: Indike and the Persian plateau

Part 1. Indike
Part 2. Ariane
Part 3. Persis
Structural analysis of the *Geography*

*Book 16: Assyria, Phoenicia, and Arabia*

Part 1. Assyria
Part 2. Syria
  [digression on Jewish religion]
Part 3. The Persian Gulf
Part 4. Arabia
  [expedition of Aelius Gallus]

*Book 17: Egypt, Libya, and conclusion*

Part 1. Egypt and the Upper Nile
  [Strabo’s voyage]
Part 2. Aithiopian and Egyptian customs
Part 3. Libya, and conclusion
  [State of Roman Rule]