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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.

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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107038257

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First published 2014

Reprinted 2015

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJJ International Ltd. Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data
 Strabo.

[Geographica. English. 2014]

The Geography of Strabo / translated by Duane W. Roller.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-03825-7 (hardback)

I. Geography – Early works to 1800. I. Roller, Duane W., translator. II. Title.

G87.S9 2014

913–dc23

2014006702

ISBN 978-1-107-03825-7 Hardback

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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-outdated 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 Eratosthenes 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 inter-library 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

<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i>
<i>ArchPhilos</i>	<i>Archives de philosophie</i>
<i>BNJ</i>	<i>Brill's New Jacoby.</i>
<i>BNP</i>	<i>Brill's New Pauly</i>
<i>C&M</i>	<i>Classica et Mediaevalia</i>
<i>CHL</i>	<i>Commentationes humanarum litterarum</i>
<i>CP</i>	<i>Classical Philology</i>
<i>CW</i>	<i>Classical World</i>
<i>DK</i>	Hermann Diels, <i>Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker</i> (ed. Walther Kranz, sixth edition, Berlin 1951–2)
<i>FGrHist</i>	Felix Jacoby, <i>Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker</i>
<i>FHG</i>	Karl Müller and Theodor Müller, <i>Fragmenta historicorum graecorum</i>
<i>G&R</i>	<i>Greece and Rome</i>
<i>GB</i>	<i>Grazer Beiträge</i>
<i>GGM</i>	Karl Müller, <i>Geographi graeci minores</i>
<i>HRF</i>	Hermann Peter, <i>Historicorum romanorum fragmenta</i>
<i>IG</i>	<i>Inscriptiones graecae</i>
<i>JRS</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
<i>LSJ</i>	Liddell, Scott, and Jones, <i>Greek-English Lexicon</i>
<i>MediterrAnt</i>	<i>Mediterraneo Antico</i>
<i>OGIS</i>	Wilhelm Dittenberger, <i>Orientis Graeci Inscriptiones Selectae</i>
<i>OTerr</i>	<i>Orbis Terrarum</i>
<i>PIR</i>	<i>Prosographia imperii romani</i>
<i>PP</i>	<i>La parola del passato</i>
<i>Radt</i>	<i>Strabons Geographika</i> (ed. Stefan Radt, Göttingen, 2002–10)
<i>RE</i>	Pauly-Wissowa, <i>Real-Encyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft</i>
<i>RhM</i>	<i>Rheinisches Museum für Philologie</i>
<i>ZPE</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>

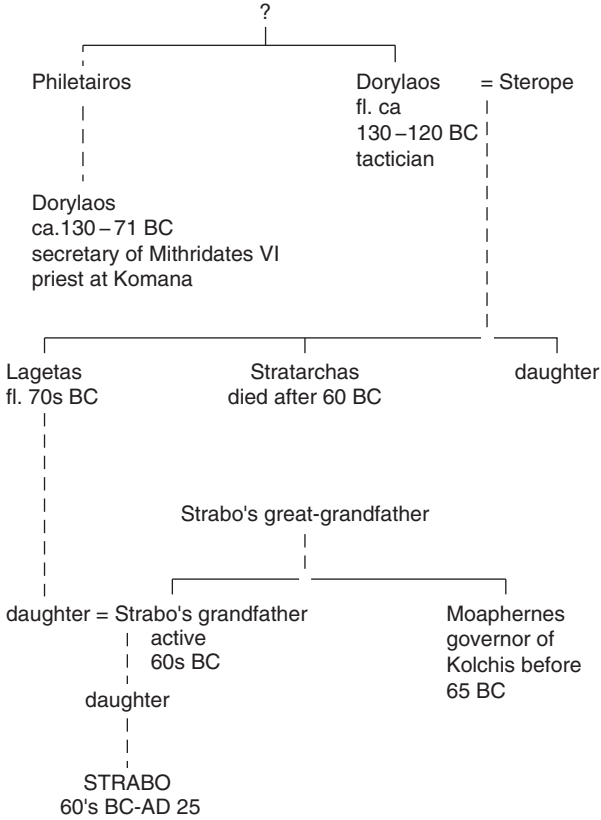


Fig. 1: The stemma of the family of Strabo

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

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- 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 Istros
- 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

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- 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. Caucasian 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. Parthyaia
- Part 10. Aria and Margiane
- Part 11. Baktaria and Sogdiane
- Part 12. The Tauros
- Part 13. Media
- Part 14. Armenia

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

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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]



Map 1: The ancient world

