The Medieval Peutinger Map

The Peutinger map remains the sole medieval survivor of an imperial world-mapping tradition. Showing rivers, lakes, islands, and mountains while also naming regions and the peoples who once claimed the landscape, it depicts most of the inhabited world as it was known to the ancients, from Britain's southern coastline to the farthest reaches of Alexander's conquests in India. Onto this panorama the mapmaker has plotted the ancient Roman road network, with hundreds of images along the route and distances marked from point to point. This book challenges the artifact's self-presentation as a Roman map by examining its medieval contexts of crusade, imperial ambitions, and competition between the German-Roman Empire and the papacy.

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Imperial Roman Revival in a German Empire

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CONTENTS

List of Figures page ix
List of Plates xi
Acknowledgments xiii

1. INTRODUCTION 1
   The World of the Peutinger Map 3
   The Material Object 4
   A Brief History of the Map 13

2. ROMAN ROADS AND ROMAN PERCEPTIONS OF SPACE 19
   The Roads and the Route Network 19
   The Roman Cosmic View 24

3. THE BATTLE OF THE MAPS 31
   The Challenge of the Christian Oikoumene 31
   The Secular Counterpoint: Display Maps of Roman Imperium 35
   Early Christian Mapping 36
   Charlemagne and the Battle of the Maps: The Roads, the Orb, the Maps 42
   A Carolingian Mediator or a Carolingian Prototype? 47
# Contents

4. **Christian Maps and the Peutinger Map** 59  
   Route Maps of Matthew Paris 66  
   The Gough Map of Britain 68  
   The Peutinger Map and Mappae Mundi 70  

5. **German Emperors, Crusades, and an Imperial Map** 73  
   Dating the Medieval Imperial Map 76  
   Imperial Claims of Popes and Hohenstaufen 78  
   Symbols of Imperium 83  
   Tracking the Peutinger Map to Swabian Monasteries 85  
   Hohenstaufen Ambitions and the Map's Imperial Design 89  

6. **Images and the Medieval Map** 95  
   Imperial Tychai and the Three Personified Cities 95  
   Antioch and the Lure of the East 103  
   Six Walled and Towered Cities 108  
   The Peloponnese and Mediterranean Islands: Hohenstaufen Ties 110  
   Mediterranean Trees in German Forests 115  
   The Map in the Longer Twelfth Century 116  

7. **Conclusion: Roman Roads and Romanitas: The Medieval Map in the Holy Roman Empire** 119  

   *Notes* 123  
   *Works Cited* 151  
   *Index* 165
FIGURES

1.1 Ad aqvas Hercvlis (3C1 on the Peutinger map)  7
1.2 Oplont[.].s (5B5 on the Peutinger map)  8
1.3 Ara alexandri (11A3 on the Peutinger map)  11
1.4 Arae Alexandri (11B4–11B5 on the Peutinger map)  12
1.5 Anteadicta Hervsalem mo[d] helyacapitolina, “Previously called Jerusalem, now Aelia Capitolina” (9C1 on the Peutinger map)  12
2.1 Appian Way  20
3.1 Cosmas’s Christian Topography, the antipodes. Florence, Laurentian Library, Ms. Plut. 9.28, c. 98v  34
3.2 Jerusalem and environs on the Madaba map  37
3.3 Charlemagne, ca. tenth to eleventh centuries CE, Louvre, Paris  43
3.4 The Plan of St. Gall, St. Gall, Stiftsbibliothek, cod. 1092  52
3.5 Alamannia (2A5 on the Peutinger map)  53
3.6 Notitia Dignitatum, Personifications of Italia, Illyricum, and Africa. MS. Canon. Misc. 378, fol. 132r  55
4.1 Turin Beatus map (early twelfth century). MS. I.II.1. fols. 45v–46r. Biblioteca Nazionale Universitaria di Torino  60
4.2 Hereford mappa mundi (ca. 1300; detail)  64
4.3 London on the Gough map. Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford  69
5.1 Regensburg (3A4 on the Peutinger map)  75
5.2 King Philip’s seal, BayHStA, Kloster Aldersbach Urk. 10  81
6.1 The Tyche of Antioch, Roman reproduction of a bronze by Eutychides. Galleria dei Candelabri, Vatican Museums  97
6.2 Roma (4B5 on the Peutinger map)  98
6.3 Constantinople (8B1 on the Peutinger map)  99
6.4 Antioch (9B4 on the Peutinger map)  100
LIST OF FIGURES

6.5 Figure of St. Theodore from the south porch of Chartres Cathedral (ca. 1230) 103
6.6 Alexandria should be here (8C3 on the Peutinger map) 104
6.7 Segment 9 of the Peutinger map 105
6.8 The Isthmus of Corinth (6B5) and the Peloponnese on the Peutinger map 111
6.9 Sicily (5C5/6C1 on the Peutinger map) 111
6.10 Sardinia (2C5 on the Peutinger map) 111
6.11 Thessalonica on the Peutinger map (7B2) 114
PLATES

2. Burgo de Osma Beatus world map (1086). Archivo de la Catedral, Cod. 1, fols. 34v–35r.
7. Frederick II, *De arte venandi cum avibus*. Vatican BAV Pal. Lat. 1071, fol. 1v.

Plates follow page xvi.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Richard Talbert introduced me to the Peutinger map at an NEH seminar he codirected with Michael Maas in the summer of 2000 in Rome, and he shared his research with me as he worked on *Rome’s World: The Peutinger Map Reconsidered* (Cambridge University Press, 2010). This book and the associated website and database (http://www.cambridge.org/us/talbert/) are essential resources for study of the map, as is his *Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World*. I am grateful for Richard’s advice and for sharing the map’s images. My seminar presentation that summer, comparing the map with the Bayeux Tapestry, allowed me to try out some of the ideas I developed over years of research, while the seminar leaders and participants helped launch a project that has let me walk small stretches of Roman roads, including the Via Appia and Egnatia, and visit sites as far east as Antioch.

Many scholars laid the foundations for this book, including fellow charter members of the University of California Multi-Campus Research Group on the History and Culture of Late Antiquity: Claudia Rapp, Hal Drake, Susanna Elm, and Michele Salzman, who encouraged me to pursue theoretical questions and consider the development of a mapping consciousness in late antiquity. The Borchart Foundation funded our conference at the lovely Chateau La Bretesche in the Loire Valley, where I presented preliminary results. Catherine Delano Smith gave the work an invaluable boost in its early stages, asking wise questions that sharpened the arguments and led to my
first publication on the map. Natalia Lozovsky and David Traill selflessly gave precious time and shared their extraordinary expertise, correcting early versions of the book manuscript.

I am grateful to Andreas Fingernagel, who met with me in Vienna and shared insights earned from close examination of the map. Back in Davis, Classics librarian Adam Siegel found and purchased a copy of Ekkehard Weber’s full-size Peutinger map reproduction, now available for easy reference in Special Collections at Shields Library. Other scholars and archivists offered generous assistance with the images, including Andreas Gamerith (Stiftsbibliothek Zwettl), Robbi Siegel (Art Resource), Rosemary Firman and Lucy Barrell (Hereford Cathedral), Claudia Mannsbart (Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv), Peter Prokop (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Vienna), Leonardo Meoni (Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana), Tricia Buckingham (Bodleian Libraries), Zoubida Zerkane (Bibliothèque nationale de France), and Colum P. Hourihane (Index of Christian Art).

As I presented papers on the map, I gained valuable feedback from many colleagues on the panels and in the audiences. Marcia Kupfer heard the first of those conference papers (Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity Conference IV at San Francisco State University in 2001) and one of the most recent (International Medieval Conference in Leeds in 2012), and, in both instances, she gave advice that vastly improved my understanding of mappae mundi. For their invitations and gracious hosting, I am delighted to thank especially Steven Isaac (Longwood University), Louis Hamilton and Stefano Riccioni (conference at Drew University), and Richard Talbert and Richart Unger (at Dalhousie University). At a Byzantine Studies Association of North America Conference, Lawrence Nees chaired a session during which I presented on the map’s Byzantine lands, and his close advice, generously offered, helped me refine my understanding of the images and rewrite a chapter. He also sent me to Rebecca Corrie, who read sections and offered insights that improved the book immeasurably. Diliana Angelova and anonymous readers for the Press helped me clarify other pesky issues, while my editor Beatrice Rehl and her assistant Anastasia Graf gave much valued advice and assistance.

I wrote sections of the book thanks to a University of California (UC), Davis, Humanities Institute Residential Fellowship and a residency at the University of California’s Washington Center, where I also found excellent resources and
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

stimulating conversation at Dumbarton Oaks. I am especially fortunate in
my UC Davis Classics colleagues, who have nurtured a program congenial for
teaching and research: Don Abbott, Charlayne Allan, Tim Brelinski, Patricia
Bulman, Catherine Chin, Ralph Hexter, Valentina Popescu, John Rundin,
Carey Seal, Rex Stem, David Traill (the ideal program director and friend),
and the newest members Anna Uhlig and Claire Waters. Our smart and hard-
working office staff, especially Laura Barrera and Yvonne Bohan, helped me
out of many a quandary. Dean Jessie Ann Owens offered essential sup-
port, including a publication subvention matched by the UC Davis Office of
Research.

Friends and colleagues have enriched my life by sharing travel, food and
wine, pool playing, music, and kind enthusiasm for medieval mapping. These
include Beverly Bossler and James Tsui, Joan Cadden, Cecilia Colombi and
Robert Powell, Lucia and Michael Gates, Ari and Lesley Kelman, Michael
Maas, Susan Mann, Joby and Ted Margadant, Sally McKee, Rosemary Capps
Merchant, Peter and Kristen Onuf, Pablo Ortiz, Ana Peluffo, Jaana Remes
and Andres Resendez, Chris Reynolds and Alessa Johns, Gabriel Reynolds,
Michele Salzman and Steven Brint, Rosamaria and Emil Tanghetti, Chuck
Walker and Zoila Mendoza, Louis Warren, Sam Warren, Spring Warren, and
indefatigable correspondent David Konstan. I am sorry that my parents, Doris
and Emil Albu, did not live to see this book completed. I remain thankful for
their devoted care, and for the love and support of family, especially Tom and
Pat Albu, Jim and Rhonda Albu, and Carole and Marty Goldberg.

My daughter Emily Elisabeth has been a constant source of joy, as has
Alan Taylor, who created for us a loving home filled with laughter and bogus
antiquities.