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GEOGRAPHY IN CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY

What were the limits of knowledge of the physical world in Greek and Roman antiquity? How far did travellers reach and what did they know about far-away regions? How did they describe foreign countries and peoples? How did they measure the earth, and distances and heights upon it? Did they use maps? Ideas about the physical and cultural world are the key to understanding ancient history, but until now there has been no up-to-date introduction to ancient geography. Employing a variety of sources – philosophical and scientific texts, poems and travelogues, papyri and visual evidence – this book explores the origins and development of geographical ideas in classical antiquity and the techniques for describing landscape, topography and ethnography.

DANIELA DUECK is a Senior Lecturer in the Departments of History and Classical Studies at Bar Ilan University. She is the author of *Strabo of Amasia: A Greek Man of Letters in Augustan Rome* (2000) and co-editor (with Hugh Lindsay and Sarah Pothecary) of *Strabo's Cultural Geography: The Making of a Kolossourgia* (2005). She is interested in ancient geography and ethnography and is currently conducting a research project on geographical fragments supported by the Israel Science Foundation.

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Unless otherwise indicated, translations of literary texts in this book are slightly modified versions of the Loeb Classical Library editions where available.

Chronology

Date	Authors	Texts	Events
BCE			
17th–13th centuries		Linear B ('Pylian geography')	
8th century	[Homer] (c. 700)	<i>Iliad</i> and <i>Odyssey</i>	Beginning of Greek colonization in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea
7th century	Aristeas of Proconnesus (c. 675)	<i>Arimaspea</i>	Aristeas travels north of the Black Sea; reaches the Sea of Azov
6th century		First <i>periploi</i>	c. 600 Necho II of Egypt digs a canal from the Nile to the Arabian Gulf; he sends a Phoenician expedition to circumnavigate Africa
	Scylax of Caryanda (c. 515)	<i>Massaliote periplous</i> <i>Periplous of places outside the Pillars of Hercales</i> <i>periodos gês</i>	Euthymenes explores the west coast of Africa
	Hecataeus of Miletus (c. 550–490)	<i>periodos gês</i> or <i>periêgêsis</i>	c. 515 Scylax of Caryanda is sent by Darius I to sail down the Indus river and circumnavigate Arabia c. 500 Hanno of Carthage sails along the Atlantic coasts of Africa c. 500 Himilco of Carthage sails along the Atlantic coasts of Europe
5th century	Herodotus of Halicarnassus (c. 484–c. 428)	<i>History</i>	Xerxes sends Sataspes to circumnavigate Africa
	[Hippocrates] (469–399)	<i>On Airs, Waters, Places</i>	Athenian League spreads in the Aegean

Chronology

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Date	Authors	Texts	Events
	Ctesias of Cnidus (late 5th century)	<i>Persika</i> <i>Indika</i> <i>Periplus</i>	
4th century	Xenophon (c. 428– c. 354)	<i>Anabasis</i>	c. 401 Greek mercenaries’ journey from inner Asia to the Greek mainland
	Ephorus of Cyme (c. 405–330)	<i>Histories</i>	Campaigns of Alexander the Great
	Nearchus of Crete (c. 360–295)	Description of India <i>Periplus</i> of his voyage	Nearchus of Crete sails from India to the Persian Gulf Pytheas’ journey to the North Atlantic
	Onesicritus of Astypalaea (c. 360–290)	Description of India	
	Megasthenes (c. 350–290)	<i>Indika</i>	
	Ophelas of Cyrene (fl. c. 320–310)	<i>Periplus</i> of the Atlantic coast of Africa	
	Pytheas of Massalia (fl. c. 310–306)	<i>On the Ocean</i>	
	[Pseudo-Scylax]	<i>Periplus</i> of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea Partial Greek translation of Hanno’s voyage	
3rd century	Dicaearchus of Messana (340–290)	<i>periodos gês</i>	c. 284 Patrocles, admiral of Seleucus I, explores the Caspian Sea
	Hecataeus of Abdera (c. 323–290)	<i>Aigyptiaka</i>	Demodamas, a military commander of Seleucus and Antiochus, crosses the Jaxartes
	Apollonius of Rhodes (c. 295–c.246)	<i>Argonautica</i>	241 End of First Punic War; Rome annexes Sicily
	Eratosthenes of Cyrene (c. 276–195)	<i>Geographika</i> <i>On the Measurement of the Earth</i>	
	Polybius (c. 200–118)	<i>Histories</i> On living conditions in the equatorial region	

Date	Authors	Texts	Events
2nd century	Agatharchides of Cnidus (c. 200–140)	<i>Periplous</i> of the Erythraean Sea	c. 150 Crates of Mallus displays his globe in Pergamum with four <i>oikoumenai</i> on it
	Hipparchus of Nicaea (c. 190–126)	<i>Against the Geography of Eratosthenes</i>	Ptolemy VIII sends Eudoxus of Cyzicus to explore the route between Egypt and India; he attempts the circumnavigation of Africa
	Artemidorus of Ephesus (c. 100)	Description of the world	
1st century		[Anonymous], <i>Geography</i> in iambic trimeters dedicated to Nicomedes of Bithynia ('Pseudo-Scymnus') (c. 100)	26–24 Aelius Gallus, the Roman governor of Egypt, explores Arabia and Ethiopia
	Posidonius of Apamea (c. 135–c. 50)	<i>On the Ocean</i>	19 L. Cornelius Balbus, defeats the Saharan tribe of the Garamantes
	Dionysius son of Calliphon (c. 100–87 BCE)	Description of Greece	
	Xenophon of Lampsacus (100–60 BCE)	<i>Periplous</i> of the coasts of northern and western Europe	
	Julius Caesar (100–44)	<i>Gallic War</i>	
	Varro Atacinus (82–30)	<i>Argonautica Chorographia</i>	
	Alexander 'Lychnus' of Ephesus (75–45)	Geographical epics	
	M. Vipsanius Agrippa (c. 64–12)	Geographical commentary	
	Menippus of Pergamum (fl. c. 20)	<i>Periplous</i> of the inner sea (Mediterranean)	
	Isidorus of Charax (c. 40–1)	<i>Stathmoi Parthikoi</i> (<i>Parthian Stations</i>)	

Chronology

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Date	Authors	Texts	Events	
CE				
1st century	Strabo of Amasia (64 BCE–23 CE)	<i>Geography</i>	Consolidation of the Roman Empire under Augustus 43 Claudius' campaign in Britain	
	Iouba II of Mauretania (c. 50 BCE–23 CE)	<i>Libyaka</i> <i>Assyriaka</i> <i>Arabika</i> Commentary on Hanno's voyage		
	Augustus (63 BCE–14 CE)	<i>Res Gestae</i>		
	Pomponius Mela (fl. 43/44)	<i>De chorographia</i>		
		<i>Stadiasmus Provinciae Lyciae</i> (c. 43)		
	Pliny the Elder (c. 23–79)	<i>Natural History</i>		
	[Anonymous] (mid 1st century)	<i>Periplus Maris Erythraei</i>		
	C. Valerius Flaccus (fl. 80–92)	<i>Argonautica</i>		
2nd century	Cornelius Tacitus (c. 55–120)	<i>Agricola</i> <i>Germania</i> <i>Histories</i> <i>Annals</i>	101–106 Trajan's victories over Dacia	
		Claudius Ptolemaeus (c. 90–168)		<i>Almagest</i> <i>Geography</i>
		Dionysius of Alexandria (fl. 130–138)		Poetic description of the world (hexameters)
Arrian (120–170)	<i>Periplus</i> of the Black Sea			
Pausanias of Magnesia (fl. c. 150–180)	<i>Periegesis Hellados</i> (<i>Description of Greece</i>)			
	<i>Forma Urbis Romae</i> (c. 200)			
3rd century	Iunius Solinus (fl. c. 300)	<i>Collectanea Rerum Memorabilium</i>		
		<i>Tabula Peutingeriana</i> (c. 300?)		
		Antonine Itinerary		

Date	Authors	Texts	Events
4th century	Theophanes of Hermopolis (c. 320)	<i>Itinerarium</i> to and from Antioch	
		[Anonymous], <i>Itinerarium Burdigalense</i> or <i>Itinerarium Hierosolymitanum</i> (c. 333)	
	Postumius Rufius Festus Avienus (340–380)	<i>Descriptio Orbis Terrae</i> <i>Ora Maritima</i>	
	Marcianus of Heraclea (c. 400)	<i>Periplous</i> of the Outer Sea	
6th century	Stephanus of Byzantium	<i>Ethnika</i>	

Abbreviations

<i>AE</i>	<i>L'Année Épigraphique</i>
<i>AHB</i>	<i>Ancient History Bulletin</i>
<i>AJA</i>	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>
<i>AJPh</i>	<i>American Journal of Philology</i>
<i>AncSoc</i>	<i>Ancient Society</i>
<i>AncW</i>	<i>The Ancient World</i>
<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt, 1972–</i>
<i>BICS</i>	<i>Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies</i>
<i>C&M</i>	<i>Classica et Mediaevalia</i>
<i>CIL</i>	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, 1863–</i>
<i>ClAnt</i>	<i>Classical Antiquity</i>
<i>CPh</i>	<i>Classical Philology</i>
<i>CQ</i>	<i>Classical Quarterly</i>
<i>CRAI</i>	<i>Comptes rendus de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres</i>
<i>DHA</i>	<i>Dialogues d'histoire ancienne</i>
<i>FGrHist</i>	F. Jacoby, <i>Fragmente der griechischen Historiker</i> , Berlin, 1923–
<i>G&R</i>	<i>Greece and Rome</i>
<i>GGM</i>	C. Müller, <i>Geographi Graeci Minores</i> , Paris, 1855–1861
<i>GLM</i>	A. Riese, <i>Geographi Latini Minores</i> , Heilbronn, 1878
<i>GRBS</i>	<i>Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies</i>
<i>HSPh</i>	<i>Harvard Studies in Classical Philology</i>
<i>JAOS</i>	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
<i>JARCE</i>	<i>Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt</i>
<i>JEA</i>	<i>Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i>
<i>JHS</i>	<i>Journal of Hellenic Studies</i>
<i>JRA</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Archaeology</i>
<i>JRS</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
<i>LEC</i>	<i>Les études classiques</i>

<i>LSJ</i>	H.G. Liddell, R. Scott and H.S. Jones, <i>A Greek–English Lexicon</i> , 9th edn., Oxford, 1996
<i>RE</i>	<i>Paulys Real-encyclopaedie der Klassischen Altertumswissenschaft</i> , Stuttgart and Munich, 1894–
<i>REA</i>	<i>Revue des études anciennes</i>
<i>REL</i>	<i>Revue des études latines</i>
<i>RhM</i>	<i>Rheinisches Museum für Philologie</i>
<i>RIB</i>	R.G. Collingwood and R.P. Wright, <i>The Roman Inscriptions of Britain</i> , Oxford, 1965–
<i>SCI</i>	<i>Scripta Classica Israelica</i>
<i>SEG</i>	<i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</i> , 1923–
<i>SH</i>	<i>Supplementum Hellenisticum</i>
<i>TAPhA</i>	<i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i>