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978-0-521-80377-9 - Literature, Mapping, and the Politics of Space in Early Modern Britain

Edited by Andrew Gordon and Bernhard Klein

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LITERATURE, MAPPING, AND THE POLITICS OF SPACE IN EARLY MODERN BRITAIN

Mapping has become a key term in current critical discourse, describing a particular cognitive mode of gaining control over the world, of synthesising cultural and geographical information, and of successfully navigating both physical and mental space. In this timely collection, an international team of Renaissance scholars analyses the material practice behind this semiotic concept. By examining map-driven changes in gender identities, body conception, military practices, political structures, national imaginings and imperial aspirations, the essays in this volume expose the multi-layered investments of historical 'paper landscapes' in the politics of space. Ranging widely across visual and textual artefacts implicated in the culture of mapping, from the literature of Shakespeare, Spenser, Marlowe and Jonson, to representations of body, city, nation and empire, *Literature, Mapping, and the Politics of Space* argues for a thorough re-evaluation of the impact of cartography on the shaping of social and political identities in early modern Britain.

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BRITAIN

EDITED BY

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Preface

The idea for this collection first took shape at a conference organised by the editors at Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, in July 1997 under the title *Paper Landscapes: Maps, Texts, and the Construction of Space, 1500–1700*. Although, sadly, only a fraction of the papers presented at that event could be included in this book, we hope that the collection has managed to capture the co-operative spirit and interdisciplinary excitement of that meeting. In the course of producing the book we have relied on the help, advice and support of many individuals and institutions. For some crucial editorial advice early on, we would like to thank John Gillies. For passing on some invaluable tricks of the trade, thanks are due to Sue Wiseman and Alan Stewart. For their support of the project at various key moments we are indebted to Tom Healy, Lisa Jardine and Peter Barber. Richard Helgerson, whose seminal work on maps and chorography got so many of us started on the topic, has been exemplary in his encouragement of junior scholars in the field. For their financial support of the initial conference, we would like to thank The British Council, Cologne and Queen Mary and Westfield College. For a grant towards the cost of illustrations we are grateful to The British Academy and The Society of the Friends of the University of Dortmund. At Cambridge, thanks are due to Ray Ryan and Nikki Burton for their editorial guidance, and to the two anonymous readers whose comments have helped make this a better book. Bernhard Klein wishes to thank Ina Habermann for tolerance, patience and encouragement, again.