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978-1-108-02405-1 - A Description of British Guiana, Geographical and Statistical

Robert Hermann Schomburgk

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A Description of British Guiana, Geographical and Statistical

Sir Robert Hermann Schomburgk (1804–65) was a German-born surveyor and traveller. In 1835–9 he explored British Guiana for the Royal Geographical Society. In 1840 he was appointed to define its boundaries with Brazil, as Brazilian encroachments were wiping out native tribes. His report to the Colonial Office was published as *A Description of British Guiana, Geographical and Statistical* in 1840, and was the first detailed account of the colony. As well as surveying the land, and being the first European to reach the source of the Essequibo River, he discovered many new species of plants. His work on the boundaries led to the establishment of the ‘Schomburgk Line’, which was the basis for the definition of the borders with Brazil and Venezuela at the end of the century. He was knighted in 1845, and spent much of the rest of his life abroad as a British consul.

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A Description of British Guiana, Geographical and Statistical

*Exhibiting its Resources and Capabilities,
together with the Present and Future
Condition and Prospects of the Colony*

ROBERT HERMANN SCHOMBURGK



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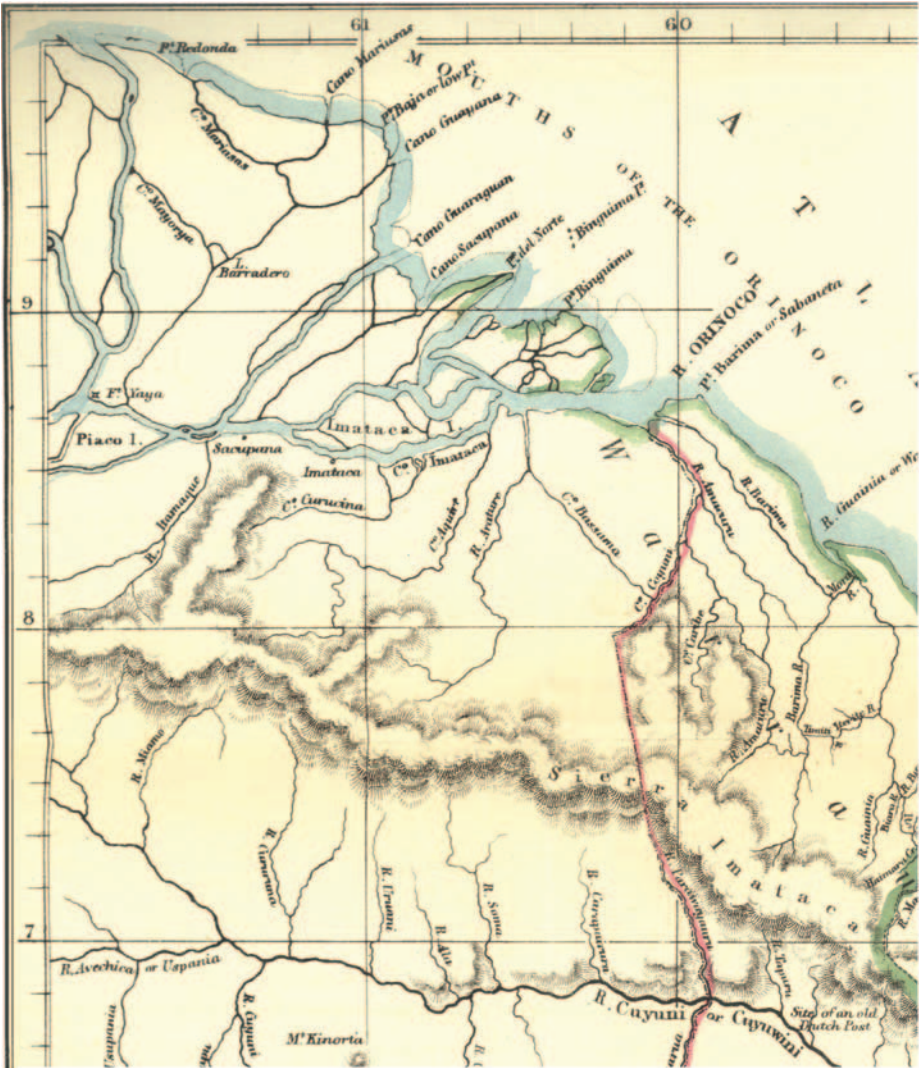
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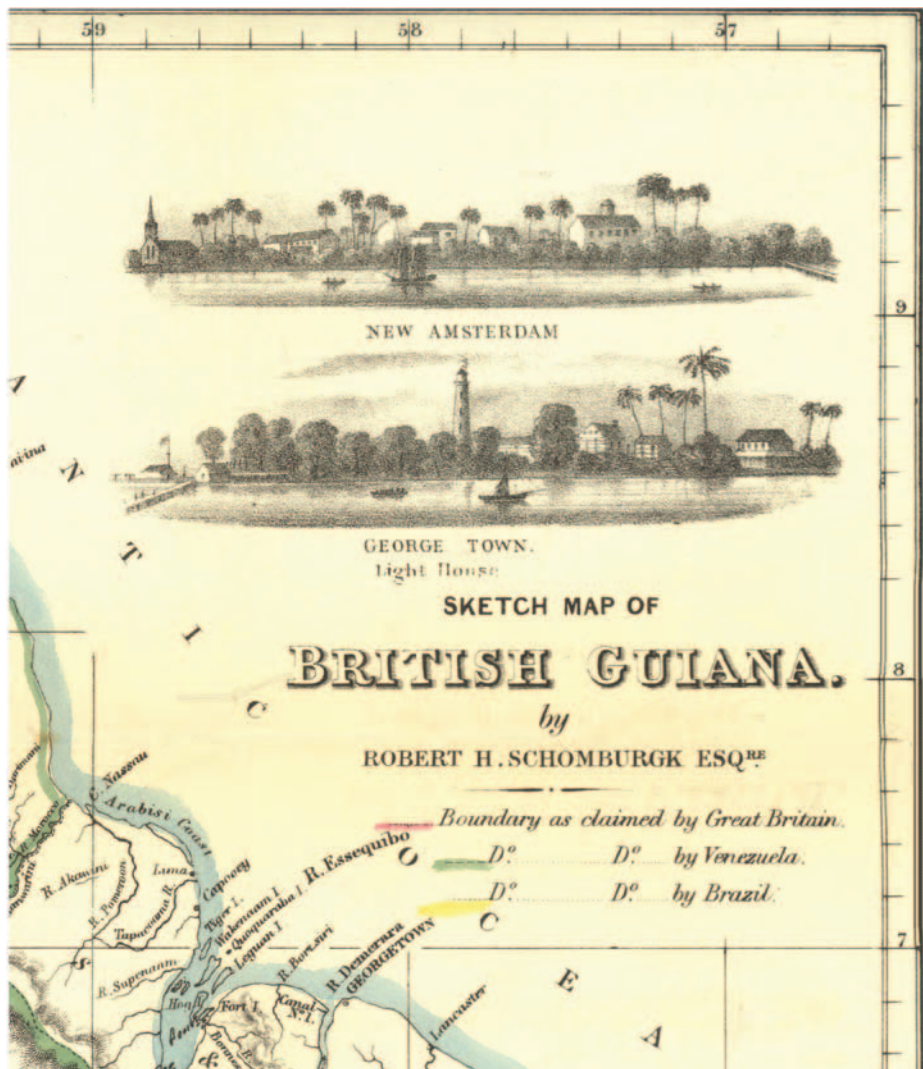


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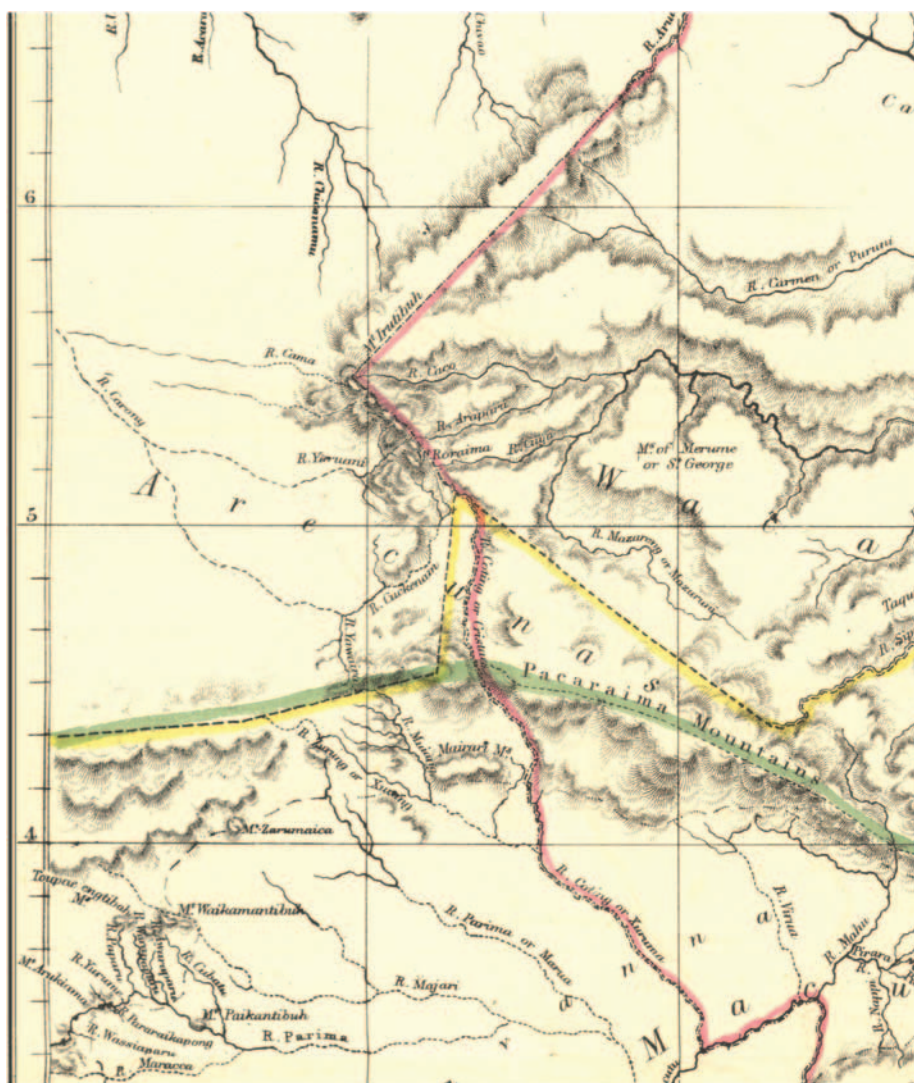
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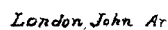


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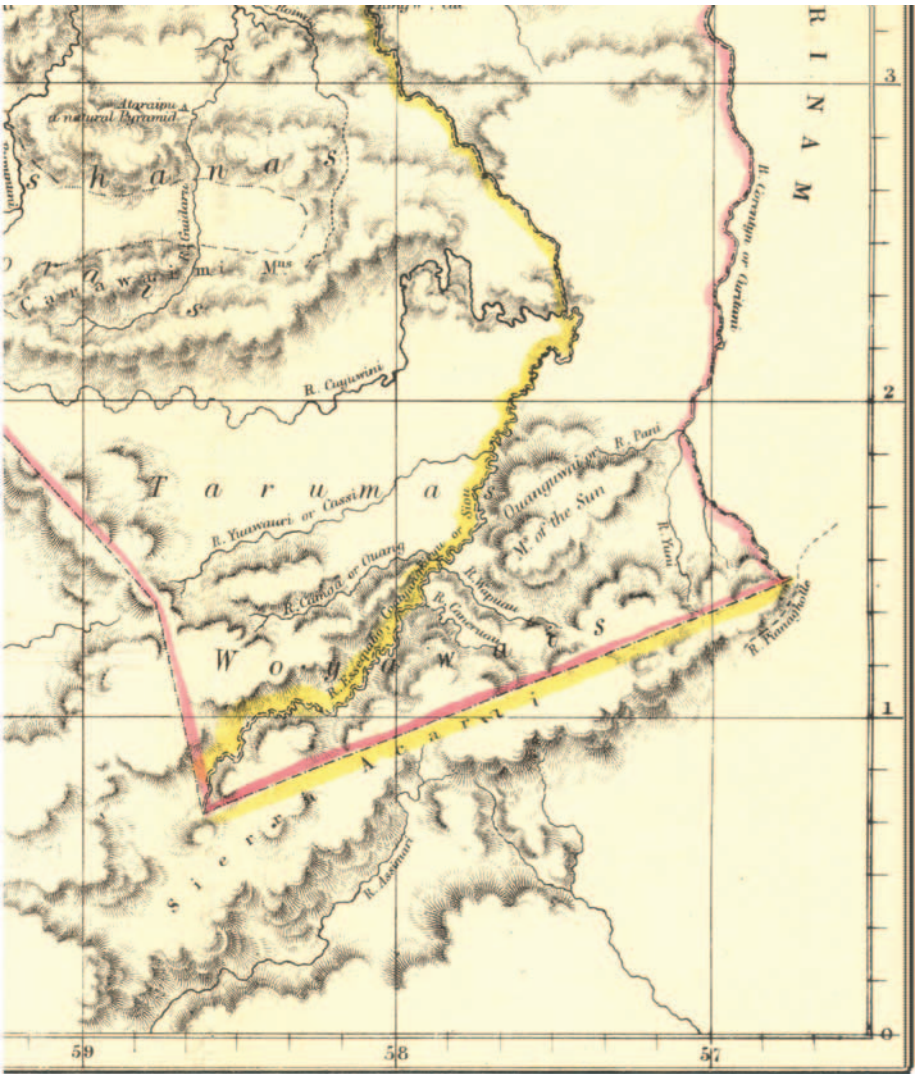


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John Arrowsmith.

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A DESCRIPTION
OF
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GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL:
EXHIBITING
ITS RESOURCES AND CAPABILITIES,
TOGETHER WITH
THE PRESENT AND FUTURE CONDITION AND PROSPECTS
OF THE COLONY.
BY
ROBERT H. SCHOMBURGK, Esq.

LONDON:
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THE object of the present work is to give an account of whatever relates to the physical structure, natural productions, and present and future capabilities of the colony of British Guiana, including the statistical information I have been able to procure. The result of my personal examinations in the course of my expeditions of discovery during successive years from 1835 to 1839, is offered in a spirit of strict impartiality. The pursuit of science alone led me to Guiana, and if by my statements of facts the interest of the province, as a British colony, is advanced, my object is attained.

Though the accompanying map is incomplete, many of its details resting on information procured from the natives, yet the greater portion has been laid down from my own personal observations, and offers a correct view of the facilities which the numerous rivers and their tributaries afford for internal navigation, and will show how important it is to the colony that its boundaries should be more clearly defined than at present, and freed from the encroaching claims of the adjacent states, which, if admitted, would deprive British Guiana of the greater part of her most valuable territory.

ROBERT H. SCHOMBURGK.

London, May 1840.

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