

Antiquity

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Editorial Notes

PLANNING is naturally repugnant to many people, in the realm of action as well as of thought (assuming such realms to exist and to be separable). It is therefore not altogether surprising that there should still be no adequate map of the Roman Empire, none indeed so informative as the graphic representation of it compiled in the 6th century and now in the National Library at Vienna. The reason is not far to seek; there is a great gulf fixed between the historian and the cartographer. The historian deals with the written word, which is both the subject matter of his researches and the vehicle that conveys his discoveries to the world at large. He resides as a rule in Universities and has little or no contact with the makers of maps. Cartographers, on the other hand, are paid to produce maps for the use of soldiers, motorists, hikers, and others who use them to find their way about. The technique of map-production is a closed and uncut book to most historians; and the realm of history is one that the cartographer seldom has the time or even the desire to explore. Between the two professions, however, there is of course no antagonism; there is merely lack of contact, and perhaps of any recognition that such contact might be mutually profitable.



It was with some knowledge of these facts that the present writer proposed in 1928 the compilation, by international collaboration, of a

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Map of the Roman Empire on a scale of 1 : 1,000,000 (about 16 miles to the inch). The basis for the publication of such a map existed in the shape of the International Map of the World on the same scale, though it is significant of the gulf referred to above that no one of the historians and archaeologists now compiling this (Roman) map had ever heard of the International Map. (For this state of affairs the cartographers must surely accept some of the responsibility). So far as the area of the Roman Empire is concerned the International $\frac{1}{M}$ map is already available, only a few of the 52 sheets (and those not important ones) still remaining unpublished.



The proposal met with a good response, especially in Italy; and as the outcome of further conferences a definite programme of work was adopted. The organization was at first in the hands of the International Geographical Union, at whose Congress in Cambridge the proposal was made. In 1931, however, the scheme was entrusted to the Central Bureau of the International $\frac{1}{M}$ map, whose headquarters are located at Southampton, at the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain. In 1932 the President of the Bureau, Brigadier Winterbotham, received an invitation from the Italian Government to attend a conference of all those who had hitherto participated in the scheme. The conference took place in Rome in November last and was generally agreed to be a great success.



Representatives of Italy, Great Britain, France, Germany, Spain and Portugal were present and representatives of other countries invited were only prevented from attending by reasons of a professional or geographical character. At the formal meetings the practical difficulties encountered by the compilers of the map were pooled and discussed, and the suggestions made were voted upon and adopted, either unanimously or (in a few minor instances) by a majority vote. There was one matter which was agreed upon without discussion and with unanimous enthusiasm, and that was the character of the welcome extended to the conference by the Italian Government. Everyone conspired to make the visit both enjoyable and profitable.

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Excursions were organized to the principal archaeological sites—in Rome itself, at Ostia and at Pompeii and Herculaneum, and it was agreed by all members of the conference that Italy is now an archaeologists' paradise.



Specimens of the seven sheets of the map already printed were presented ; these will now be published and put on sale at an early date. (The maps can be obtained from official agents in each country, the agent in Great Britain being Mr Edward Stanford, Long Acre, London, w.c. 1). After the conference one of the British representatives visited Vienna, Budapest and Basel and obtained the collaboration of archaeologists and historians in Austria, Hungary and Switzerland. It should further be stated that the Egyptian Government is actively cooperating and hopes shortly to produce a sheet of the map. The scheme has therefore passed from the realm of abstract ideas to that of a concrete undertaking ; it is producing what it was intended to produce ; and there is no reason why it should not be carried to a successful conclusion within a reasonable lapse of time, provided it is not thwarted by events in the outside world of affairs.



A correspondent has asked us to express an opinion about the 'proper function of local societies', using the word 'local' in contrast to 'national'. As a matter of fact he gave one himself with which we are in complete agreement, namely, that it consists in the 'collection and publication of *facts* without attendant masses of verbiage which attempt the collation of all the various aspects of a given problem'. It is not, for instance, necessary to discuss the whole of the British Bronze Age when the discovery of a bronze axe is recorded in the Transactions of the Stilton and South Lincolnshire Natural History and Philosophical Society, to take an imaginary example. Such discussions do not arise on such occasions and should be firmly ruled out by the Editor. They make it more difficult for the reader to discover the facts, which is what he wants. Irrelevant theorizing has been the besetting sin of the local archaeologist from the earliest times, and it is time it stopped.

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Another correspondent suggests a short article on the ethics of publication. 'For instance, should mention be made of any object in a museum which is open to the public without the permission of the finder? It stands to reason, unless the object has been in the museum for a long time, that it should not be photographed nor drawn, but how long should the interval be before mention of it becomes public property? As a rule, objects kept by a State Museum are immediately put on view before the report on them has been issued to the excavator, which seems to me to be rather hard on the latter'. Here is a *practical* problem of ethics for the students and professors of Moral Philosophy to solve. We leave it there, adding however that we cannot undertake to answer, or even acknowledge, letters we may receive on the subject.



We have received many agreeable communications with reference to our 'domestic' notes in the December number and we wish to thank all those who have already so promptly sent their subscriptions for 1933. On several occasions we have pointed out that spontaneous payment is a very great help and we would ask attention to the notice printed below.

The SUBSCRIPTION to ANTIQUITY for 1933 is now DUE. We would remind our Subscribers of the form and envelope inserted in the December number for the purpose of remitting payments. *An early response will be much appreciated as this will save avoidable trouble in having to send out direct reminders.*

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