

**MEDIAEVAL GEOGRAPHY,
AN ESSAY IN
ILLUSTRATION OF THE
HEREFORD MAPPA MUNDI**

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Mediaeval Geography, an Essay in Illustration of the Hereford Mappa Mundi by W. L. Bevan & H. W. Phillott

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MEDIÆVAL GEOGRAPHY

AN ESSAY

IN ILLUSTRATION OF THE

HEREFORD MAPPA MUNDI

BY

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HEREFORD

E. K. JAKEMAN. JOSEPH JONES.

1873

PREFACE.

THE present Essay owes its existence to the recent publication of a lithographed facsimile of the well-known Mappa Mundi in Hereford Cathedral. The promoters of that work undertook to supply the purchasers of it with an explanatory commentary, for the benefit of those who might lack either the time or the taste for unravelling the mysteries of Mediæval Geography. Some delay has occurred in the fulfilment of this engagement from the necessity of providing the authors of the commentary with copies of the map for the preparation of their work, but the subscribers will, it is hoped, be compensated for the delay by its greater completeness. The original design has been enlarged by the addition of an Introduction which deals with the general principles of Mediæval Geography, and the various appliances at hand for its study; it is of a somewhat discursive character, and intended rather to incite others to a further study of the subject, than to supply them with a complete manual.

The authors of the Essay disclaim all pretension to special qualifications for the task they have undertaken. They have not, previously to this, had occasion to direct their attention to Mediæval Geography, and they have laboured under some disadvantage from the difficulty of obtaining access to rare works connected with mediæval literature. Doubtless there are many scholars in this country who have made Mediæval

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Geography their special study ; and the authors of this Essay will be fully compensated for their labour if it should have the effect of drawing attention to a somewhat neglected subject, and of eliciting from some such persons as these a more complete work than the present one.

The objects which the authors of the Essay have proposed to themselves, have been not only to give a complete transcript of the contents of the map, and to identify and explain (where necessary) the meaning of the names and legends, but further to ascertain the sources whence the cartographer drew his materials, and thus to present the reader with a picture of the literary appliances in vogue among geographers of the 13th century. They cannot pretend that their researches have been completely successful ; some names have defied all attempts at identification, and the originals of the legends are in some instances still unascertained ; but these cases are exceptional, and will not, it is to be hoped, produce an unfavourable opinion as to the zeal of the authors. Should any of their readers be able to supply the *lacunæ* in the identifications of the names, it would be regarded as a favour if they would communicate their views to either of the authors.

In transcribing the names and legends, it was decided, after some deliberation, that it would be better to resolve the abbreviations which were so commonly used in writing Latin at the period of the map, but at the same time to retain the peculiarities of orthography, and in all cases to give the *ipsisima verba* of the cartographer. Wherever the sense of a passage is impaired by his mistakes, corrections have been introduced in brackets and with a different type. A table of

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the chief peculiarities in the orthography of the period has been introduced at the end of the *Introduction*, page xlvi.

The authors regret that they have been unable to throw much light on the history of the Pictorial Illustrations of the map ; whether these are to be regarded as original designs, or whether they are copies from earlier representations of the same subjects, is a point on which they are not prepared in all cases to offer an opinion ; at all events, they have not always succeeded in tracing back the designs to earlier documents. It would also be an interesting subject (but one not altogether within the scope of the present publication), to trace the genealogy of similar illustrations in a downward direction, and to see how far they may have been derived from a common source. Those who possess the earlier editions of Mandeville's *Travels*, will not fail to observe the strong family likeness in the illustration of the Sciopodes, who shaded themselves from the sun's rays by interposing the ample expanse of their single foot, as given in that work and in the Hereford map. The *Nuremberg Chronicle* (1493) contains (fol. 12) numerous illustrations in common with our map, such as the Cynocephales, or dog-headed race, the single-footed race, the men with the heads between their shoulders, the Ambari (of the map) with their feet turned backwards, the men with an orifice instead of a mouth, the Pannotii with enormous ears, the men with huge under-lip, the Satirii with cloven feet and goats' horns, the Pigmies, and the horse-footed race. In Munster's *Cosmographia Universalis* (1574) these illustrations re-appear, with the exception of the Ambari, together with illustrations of the Unicorn, the Giants, and the Phœnix.

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While the authors have jointly revised the whole of the work, it may be explained that the Rev. H. W. Phillott has contributed the chapters on Asia,—II, III, and IV., with portions of chapter V. (pp. 102-103, 108-110), and the notice of the Bestiaries in the Introduction (p. xxxiii); and that the Rev. W. L. Bevan has written the remainder of the work, comprising the Introduction, and chapters I, V, VI, VII, VIII, and IX.

The thanks of the *collaborateurs* engaged on the Hereford Map (including under this head the Rev. F. T. Havergal and Mr. Haddon, whose attention was more particularly directed to the production of the *facsimile*), are due to many friends who have kindly aided them with advice and assistance. They desire to specify more particularly the Rev. S. Clark, who has been prevented by a press of literary engagements from taking a larger share in the work; Dr. Bull, who has given much practical advice; the Rev. T. T. Smith, who aided in deciphering the names on the map with the microscope; Mr. Richard Sims, of the British Museum, for information on literary topics; and Mr. W. H. Weale, of Bruges, for his supervision of the engravers and printers during the progress of the work there. In addition to these acknowledgments of the whole body of the *collaborateurs*, the authors of the Essay desire to express their special obligations to the Rev. F. T. Havergal for his unwearied attention to the points on which they have sought his advice and assistance during the preparation of their work.

Three photographic illustrations of the following objects are introduced into the work :—(1.) The miniature "Psalter"

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map in the British Museum. (2.) A portion of the original Mappa Mundi, given for the purpose of testing the accuracy of the facsimile. (3.) The recently executed facsimile of the Mappa Mundi, which may be found useful for reference, particularly by those who have not at hand the facsimile itself. The two last have been skilfully executed by Messrs. Ladmore, photographers, Hereford ; and it may not be out of place to mention that these artists have published copies of the facsimile, of the following sizes and prices :—13 in. \times 11, at 8s. 6d. ; 11 in. \times 9, at 6s. ; and 5½ in. \times 4½, at 2s.

A list is appended of the names of those who have kindly supported the undertaking by purchasing copies of the facsimile ; a few copies remain on hand, and may be procured from the Rev. F. T. Havergal, The College, Hereford.

November 1873.