

mapping operations are presented in easily understood terms and illustrated with both actual footage and action diagrams. Interspersed throughout the explanations of modern cartographic activities are vignettes designed to give a brief look at the history of Western cartography. Examples include a Babylonian map more than 4,000 years old, a Ptolemaic representation of the world, the Hereford Map, the 1492 sketch of Hispaniola by Columbus, parts of the Catalan Atlas (1375), Cook's charts of the North Pacific, and the Cassini maps of France.

The length of the film (4,000 years in less than one-half hour) is my major criticism since so much had to be left out. To the film's credit, many types of maps are introduced: plan views, maritime and aviation charts, as well as relief, computer, and thematic maps (which are particularly well documented). A few of the major historical advances in cartography are touched on — including Ptolemy's role in constructing map projections and Harrison's invention of the chronometer — but many other notable events go unmentioned.

While I agree with the producers' notion that the film should appeal to a wide audience and age range (they suggest 6th grade through college), I do not find that it would always be a "useful adjunct to introductory coursework in geography and cartography at the college and community college level." As a cartography instructor, I believe that it would be more beneficial to a geography class where a brief introduction to mapping is needed rather than in a cartography class where most of the film's topics are, or should be, covered in greater detail.

ATLAS REVIEW

Les Villes "Européennes"

(ISBN 2-11-002200-0; price 120F or \$20.00) and

La France dans L'Espace Européen

(ISBN 2-86912-023-X; no price available)

(Montpellier: Groupement d'Intérêt Public RECLUS, 1989)

reviewed by Peter Gould, Penn State University

Directed or authored by Roger Brunet, and supported by the imagination and resources of Informations RECLUS, two more publications from La Maison de la Géographie have appeared to inform an educated citizenry about their place in the world, and their geographic relationships with other places. Both publications rely almost exclusively on computer based systems for data storage and mapping, ensuring easy comparison and rapid publication. *Le Villes*

"Européennes" was commissioned by DATAR (La Délégation à l'Aménagement du Territoire et à l'Action Régionale), to situate the cities and towns of France within a larger European context. What comes through, again and again, is that simple, 'everyday' mapping, informed by a lively geographic imagination, can catch the public eye and make people reflect upon their geography.

Each plate focuses on the 165 central places over 200,000 people in Western Europe (excluding Norway and Sweden, but including Greece), and provides an informing perspective on their functions. Sounds simple? Yes. Sounds dull (another urban classification)? Not at all. For many people it will be the first time that they have been presented with a *European*, as opposed to a national, view. As cartographers and geographers, we forget too readily how the geographically informed map can hold the attention of a thoughtful public.

For example, *Le Monde*, arguably the most politically sophisticated newspaper in the world, republished the map of international urban functions "with astonishing success." People want to know . . . about cultural characteristics, and research, economic power, communications, publishing, conferences, the arts, air traffic, banks, multinational firms, birth rates . . . and more. Including a 'general classification' of cities synthesizing the obvious interrelationships between their functions. Each plate has an informative page of text, not the least the last one on the *Tissus de Villes*, a broad brushstroke map that gives an overview of the central 'dorsal fin' of Europe, as well as the *Finisterres* (literally, the ends of the earth!).

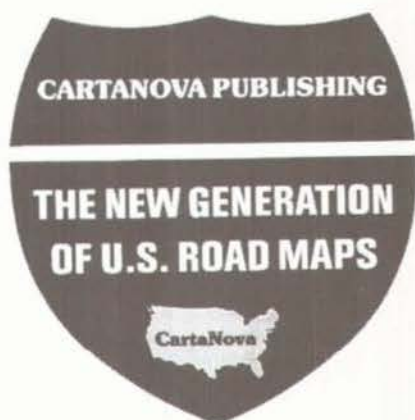
La France dans L'Espace Européen looks towards the 'New Europe' of 1993 (and who today can tell what that might contain?), and so helps the French people to see themselves in this larger social and economic context. The first ten plates display France in Western Europe (the 'access by air' plate is wretched, and could have been much more informative if constructed along the lines of Törnqvist's face-to-face contact map), while the remaining 20 plates focus on France itself using a variety of scales and generalizations. A map of France based on a square lattice of approximately 5,000 cells gives an intriguing picture of fiscal potentiality, and judging from a recent issue of *MappeMonde* we may see more of these highly detailed views. All the plates were created by the team working on *l'Atlas de France* (in preparation).

In brief, atlas-making does not have to be a huge undertaking, producing plates already years out of date when they appear. Computer aided design, and vivid color printing, allow us to produce clear, up-to-date, and intellectually

stimulating maps that can be put into the hands of the public — including the youngest citizens in our schools. From top officials in government to the newest members of society France is forging ahead. Will our comparable 'institutions' please copy?

100% REALISTIC MAPS NOW AVAILABLE

In a recent cleverly-trimmed brochure, CartaNova Publishing (Burgemeisterstr. 32, 1000 Berlin (West) 42, West Germany) has announced publication of eight new regional road maps of the



United States. The most remarkable feature of this new map series is its accuracy, which CartaNova claims to be absolute. To quote the brochure: "CartaNova Maps present the road system absolutely accurately and realistically [sic]. That goes for the entire run of the road, for each intersection, for every junction . . . CartaNova has put an end to the ordinary and unrealistic art of mapping. CartaNova maintains that today's traveller has the right to highest possible precision and unlimited reliability." All this for only \$2.95 retail. As with luxury automobiles and coffee makers, it seems you have to look to European engineering if you want quality.

LIMITED EDITION FACSIMILES OFFERED

The Netherlands Chamber of Commerce in the United States and The Mercurius Group-Wormerveer have collaborated to make available a limited edition set of Artisan's Proofs reproduced directly from the original manuscripts charted by such early cartographers of the New World as Gerard Mercator, Antonio Sancho, Abraham Ortelius and Willem Blaeu.

The collection of 24 individual maps and charts are divided into two portfolios, which are bound by hand in leather and linen covers, for both the East and West Coasts of North America.

Limited to 500 sets and distributed exclusively by the Chamber, this collection contains some reproductions so rare that no others exist, save the original manuscript. The collection is printed on handmade, acid-free paper — 'Hollands luxe koperdrukk.' All proofs are numbered and the printing plates were destroyed after production was completed. The collection is priced at \$1500 for both portfolios, \$950 for one.

For further information, contact: Peter Jutte, Membership Director, The Netherlands Chamber of Commerce, One Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020.

LONDON TOPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

For more than 100 years the London Topographical Society (LTS) reprints maps, plans and panoramas of London for its members and the general public. The Society has a membership of about 750. The LTS does not organize lectures or outings, nor does it campaign to save historic buildings or sites. It exists mainly to publish maps and panoramas. In addition to reprints, the LTS also publishes *The London Topogra-*

phical Record, a volume of essays on aspects of London's history which comes out every few years—the next is due in 1990. For more information on LTS, contact: Trevor Ford, Membership Secretary, 151 Mount View Road, London N4 4JT. *History Today* (9/89)

cartographic events

EVENTS CALENDAR

1990

Spring 1990: **First European Conference on Geographical Information Systems**, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Contact: Mieke Elekan, Geoplan, Weteringschans 12, 1017 SG Amsterdam, The Netherlands; 31-20-241433/247599.

March 5-8: **GIS for the 90's**, Ottawa, Canada. Contact: Canadian Institute of Surveying and Mapping, PO Box 5378, Station F, Ottawa, Canada, K2C 3J1; (613) 820-2291.

March 13-16: **GIS '90**, Vancouver, B.C. Contact: Hugh Legg; Reid, Collins and Associates, 15th Floor, 401 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5A1; (604) 664-5922.

March 18-23: **ACSM/ASPRS Annual Convention**, Denver, CO. Contact: ACSM; (703) 241-2446.

March 19-22: **National Computer Graphics Association '90**, 11th Annual Conference and Exhibition dedicated to computer graphics applications, Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, CA. To register, call 1-800-225-NCGA.

March 21-24: **Western Association of Map Libraries**, Tucson, Arizona. Contact: Jack Mount, Map