

projection but in fact on the projection used for the local State Plane Coordinate System (either Lambert's conformal conic or a transverse Mercator) (p. 173).

The numerous figures are carefully executed. The majority are simple base maps showing continental outlines and graticule at 15° intervals. How Snyder managed to persuade the editors to run a transverse cylindrical equal-area to within two millimeters of the page edges (Figure 2.15, p. 88) mystifies this reviewer, but Snyder deserves praise for providing such a great collection of projection examples. This collection of illustrated projections makes a fine supplement to the other outstanding collection of projections, *An Album of Map Projections*, by Snyder and Voxland (1989).

References to five hundred endnotes are sprinkled liberally throughout the text. Most of the notes are full citations to the supporting references, but several include additional explanatory information, such as a discussion of the disadvantages of patenting or copyrighting a projection (note 96 in chapter 3) or additional information on the "Peters" projection (notes 29-33 in chapter 4). This reader would have preferred a mix of endnotes (for references) and bottom-of-the-page footnotes (for explanatory information).

The pleasant typeface, frequent illustrations, and careful attention to formatting all make for a pleasant read. Overall, this book constitutes a superb addition to the literature on map projections. Snyder has secured his reputation as the foremost authority on the history and use of map projections, to the extent that one wonders what more could possibly be written. This book belongs in every college and university library, and in the personal libraries of all scholars interested

in map projections or the history of cartography.

### References

Snyder, J. and Voxland, P. 1989. *An Album of Map Projections*. U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1453, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. □

### BOOK REVIEW

#### *Things Maps Don't Tell Us: An Adventure Into Map Interpretation*

Armin K. Lobeck. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press, 1993. 159 pp, \$17.95 paper (ISBN 0-226-48877-2).

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This edition of *Things Maps Don't Tell Us* is a reprint of a book originally published in 1956, with the addition of a forward by Dr. Mark Monmonier. The book is an excellent example of older, high quality, publications that have not been widely available to recent generations of geographers and cartographers. Although the book is almost forty years old, it still is a valuable source of information to current students of natural landscapes.

The title, *Things Maps Don't Tell Us*, is misleading. The author has used many examples of maps, from simple to complex, to show how much maps really can tell us about the world. In his original introduction to the book, Lobeck claimed that many facts on maps remain hidden to map readers, but that careful map interpretation can uncover a wealth of information.

He makes a distinction between map reading (gathering simple geographic facts from a map, such as distances and location) and map interpretation (drawing inferences and conclusions from a map).

A series of 72 case studies comprises the core of the book. Lobeck studied landform features in 71 of these examples and focuses on a cultural landscape (the layout of Paris) in only the last example. Each case study uses a two page layout to ask and answer questions about a place. Although a few examples require more than two pages, Lobeck was able to pack a lot of information about the landscape into two well organized pages. The left-hand page of each example has a simple map showing geographic details of the place under consideration. The text calls attention to specific details of the mapped landscape, setting up a problem that can be solved by careful map reading and interpretation. The right-hand page provides an explanation of the landscape in the form of additional maps and printed comments. For example, the second case study from the book examines coastline projections and protuberances along the Gulf of Mexico. The left-hand page contains a map of the coast in the southern United States and text that draws the reader's attention to bulges and indentations along the coast. The right-hand page has a map highlighting the large rivers that flow into the Gulf of Mexico. The text material discusses the creation of deltas at the mouths of each of the rivers that cause the conspicuous bulges along the coastline.

Although the case studies focus on physical geography, Lobeck managed to work in ideas about human settlement, economic activity, and even the science of cartography. For example, the first case study describes distorted coastlines on a map created in 1589. Lobeck discussed the

difficulties of accurately measuring longitude prior to the development of precise chronometers, and explained how the problems determining location produced distance distortions on maps. This is a very nice case study, presented in a simple, yet effective manner, that would fit nicely into classroom discussions of global location, navigation, exploration, and mapping at many levels of schooling.

Lobeck selected locations for the case studies from all around the world. However, certain regions receive much more extensive coverage than others and a Western bias certainly exists. The United States and Europe are the sites of the majority of the examples: 47 examples come from the U.S. and 24 from Europe (many of the case studies use more than one site). Parts of the world with relatively little coverage are Latin America (8 examples), Asia (also 8), and Africa (5 examples). Lobeck does mention additional places in the text material, but this book certainly is not a good foundation for a global studies course.

The book provides 24 examples of coastline features, 12 cases of island features, 23 cases of river features, 12 cases of lake features, and the single case of a city layout. Lobeck is able to demonstrate a wide variety of landscape features, processes, and theories in the 72 case studies, including: glaciation, faults, coastal plains, spits, barrier islands, estuaries, fiords, alluvial fans, water gaps, sinkholes, tarns, and finger lakes. Lobeck also includes general comments about rivers in an introduction to the case studies of river features and in the conclusions he discusses some additional landscape features not covered in the book.

The age of the book is noticeable through some of the descriptions, particularly the material based on the work of William

Morris Davis. As Monmonier points out in his forward, modern geographers have rejected some of the ideas and concepts accepted by Lobeck. However, the dynamic nature of the earth's landscapes generally comes across very clearly in Lobeck's writing, even though modern concepts of continental drift, weathering, and other processes were not fully developed or widely accepted at the time. A few other minor details also date the book, including the mention of roads that are seldom used nowadays and references to travel by train (a relatively rare occurrence at the present time).

The maps do look old-fashioned to modern eyes accustomed to high quality color printing and detailed computer images. They are black-and-white, using line patterns, stippling, hachures, and shaded relief. Some of the lettering appears to have been done by hand and Leroy lettering is common. Although the maps have an old-fashioned look they are not outdated.

The written explanations provided are vital to understand some of the maps, but most of the maps stand well on their own. Lobeck kept the maps simple, using a reasonable level of generalization and avoiding unnecessary details. The symbolization, lettering, and general design convey the map messages to the readers and the design of most of the maps works well. A few of the maps are confusing, especially when they combine surface detail with three-dimensional representations of underlying geologic structure. For example, in case study ten (a study of Keweenaw Point in Michigan's upper peninsula), Lobeck's attempt to show a geologic cross-section on top of a vertical view of the region is difficult to decipher.

This is a book that would be a valuable resource for many college or high school level basic physical

geography or geomorphology classes, especially if it was combined with topographic maps of the places in the case studies. The maps and descriptions have great potential for helping students learn about basic physical processes and landform development, as well as developing some map interpretation skills. The course instructor would need to add information about modern concepts and theories to Lobeck's discussion to assure that students get the entire story about places and processes.

Students in map reading and map interpretation courses also could benefit from Lobeck's book. The ability to look beyond map symbols, answer questions about a place, and to evaluate and explain what is happening in a place is an objective of many map interpretation classes. This book can serve as a model for students learning to interpret physical landscapes. Students in more advanced cartographic design courses might use selected examples to study useful ways of showing physical forms on maps. The map forms used in the book might serve as a source of inspiration for a neophyte cartographer looking for some good ideas about how to depict the physical landscape.

Overall, the book is a treasure trove of tidbits describing how the world around us came about. Lobeck wrote in an interesting, and often amusing manner about the physical settings where humans find themselves and it is too bad he did not do more of the same for the cultural landscape. The book is a good investment for anyone interested in physical geography, geology, cartography, or just the world around them. *Things Maps Don't Tell Us* actually communicates a great deal about the things maps can tell us if we care to look carefully underneath the printed symbols. □