Ordering the Unknown

{ European Maps from 1600-1850
  
an exhibition Fall 2014
}
Ordering the Unknown
The European Mapping Tradition from 1600 to 1860

Fall 2014
History Department, Stokes Hall, South Wing
Reception: Thursday, September 23, 2014, from 4-6pm

(Sponsored by the History Department and the Brown College Libraries)
Ordering the Unknown
The European Mapping Tradition from 1600 to 1860
Familiarizing: Cornelis de Bruyn's Russia

This is a set of images illustrating Cornelis de Bruyn's Russia, a 17th-century Dutch artist known for his depictions of Russian life. The scenes in the images depict various aspects of Russian culture and nature, capturing the essence of the country during that time. The images are part of a larger exhibition on the cultural exchange between Europe and Russia during the 17th century.

The top image shows a Russian woman riding a reindeer-drawn sleigh, a common mode of transportation in the Russian wilderness. This image reflects the rugged terrain and the reliance on reindeer for travel and hunting in the harsh climate.

The middle image illustrates a scene with a man and a woman, possibly engaging in a traditional activity such as hunting or fishing, highlighting the connection between the people and their environment.

The bottom image depicts a group of men engaged in what appears to be a labor-intensive activity, possibly related to agriculture or forestry, emphasizing the collaborative nature of work in Russian society.

These images serve as a visual history, providing a glimpse into the daily life and cultural practices of Russia during the 17th century.
Possessing: Legitimizing New Spain

These images all come from The General History of the West Indies and the South Sea. The maps and engravings present the first historical account of the Spanish conquest of the Americas, as well as the native inhabitants and their cultures. The maps show the territories claimed by Spain and the routes taken by the conquistadors. The engravings depict the daily life and customs of the indigenous peoples, their designs, and their religious practices.

The map and engravings are particularly valuable in understanding the history of the Americas and the impact of Spanish colonization on the native populations. They provide a visual representation of the vast territories claimed by Spain and the diversity of the native cultures encountered by the conquistadors.

Cláudio Machado
Extrapolating: Herman Moll, Enlightenment Geographer

[Map of the Eastern United States]

Extrapolation

Extrapolation through the medium of the map is a powerful tool for envisioning the landscape of the past. The maps of Herman Moll, a cartographer active in the 18th century, provide a rich source for such an exercise. Moll's maps are characterized by their detailed representation of the American colonies and the surrounding regions.

Moll's maps were instrumental in shaping the American imagination of the time. They were not only used as tools for navigation but also as sources of knowledge about the geography and topography of the New World. Moll's maps were often commissioned by prominent figures of the Enlightenment, including statesmen, military leaders, and scholars.

The maps were not merely representations of the physical landscape but also served as propaganda tools for the colonial powers. They were used to demonstrate the vastness and potential of the American colonies, and to justify the expansion of European influence in the New World.

The process of extrapolation through Moll's maps involves carefully analyzing the details and features of his maps, considering the historical context in which they were created, and interpreting their significance. This approach allows us to gain a deeper understanding of the geographical and cultural landscapes of the 18th century, and to appreciate the role of cartography in the shaping of the modern world.
Extrapolating: Uniformity of Heights and Depths in Flacourt's Madagascar

**Carte de Carcanos et Vallée d'Ambové**

Et establise de nos des Madagasses par I. de La Harpe.

**Description**

In 1642 the French East India Company was granted a charter to establish a colony on the southeast coast of Madagascar. After six unsuccessful attempts to establish a settlement, a French colony was established on the island's southeast coast. The colony was established to exploit the island's natural resources, including timber, spices, and precious metals. The colony was later destroyed by a series of attacks by local tribes, and the settlers were forced to retreat to a fortified position on the island's southeast coast.

**Analysis**

Flacourt's map is a detailed portrayal of the island's southeast coast, highlighting the location of the colony and the surrounding coastline. The map also includes symbols and labels indicating the location of important landmarks, such as the fort and the harbor. The map is a valuable source of information for historians and archaeologists, as it provides a detailed view of the island's geography and the settlement's relationship with the natural environment.

**Conclusion**

Flacourt's map is an important example of early cartography in the study of Madagascar. The map's detailed portrayal of the island's southeast coast provides valuable insights into the settlement's history and the island's natural resources. The map is a valuable resource for historians and archaeologists, as it provides a detailed view of the island's geography and the settlement's relationship with the natural environment.
Prof. Sylvia Sellers-Garcia and Ben Shapiro class of '16
Extrapolating: Uniformity of Heights and Depths in Flacourt's Madagascar

Map titled "Carte de Carcanossi, Vallee d'Ambovile, et carte des fils des Madagascar en l'isle de Madagascar" published in 1699 by Mallet.

In 1696, the French East India Company gained a charter to establish a colony in the southeast coast of Madagascar. After much traveled seas, they arrived to establish a permanent trading post in the new French colony of Fort Dauphin. Charles-Marie de la Condamine was appointed as governor of the colony. His original mission was to establish a trading network with the local Malagasy population, but he was also interested in the flora and fauna of the region. He spent six months in the area, collecting and observing the local flora and fauna.

Three rare maps in the Flacourt manuscript of the local Madagascar flora and fauna. The maps show the distribution of the various plant families in the region, including the Proteaceae, Arecaceae, and Palmae families.

"The precise location and details of these sketches demonstrate how Flacourt was able to capture an accurate representation of Madagascar's local flora and fauna. The lack of extrapolation in these sketches contrasted with the maps."
Kathy Clark, class of ’15
Works cited

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