MAPS and CIVILIZATION

Revisited

Norman J. W. Thrower

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In memory of Alfred W. Newman

Secretary, Sir Francis Drake Commission State of California, 1975-1980
Founder of the California Map Society, 1980
Al's dictum was, "I became a lawyer to help others."

With special thanks

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Selected maps from Maps and Civilization reproduced here courtesy of the University of Chicago Press.

Cover: Decorative compass rose from Samuel Eliot Morison's, Admiral of the Ocean Sea, Little Brown, 1942; Rhumb line pattern adapted from the Carta Reducida del Oceano Asiático, O Mar Del Sur: Madrid, 1771, by Miguel Costansó.

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Dedicated to my wife of 50 years,

Elizabeth (Betty) McPherson Martin (died 1997),

who made my career in the United States in cartography,

and otherwise, both possible and pleasurable.
From “Extended Uses of the Method of Orthogonal Mapping of Traces of Parallel Inclined Planes with a Surface, Especially Terrain,” drawn by Norman J. W. Thrower. TOP: Central portion of the general relief map of Camp Hale, Colorado. BELOW: An enlarged section of the map with other surface type information added; both maps are planimetrically correct. From The International Yearbook of Cartography, volume III, 1963, Bertelsmann Verlag, Gütersloh, Germany (unpaginated).
As NORMAN THROWER notes in his opening sentence, as a professor and scholar he earned his living teaching and writing about maps and especially their history, but he "once made them." In fact, his background in making maps from his early days in the Survey of India and in the Directorate of Overseas Surveys, and as a graduate student creating maps for others, has strongly influenced his scholarly work. This has been generally in the history of cartography, and especially in his well-known book Maps and Civilization.

Maps and Civilization is unusual in that it traces cartography from the beginnings of mapmaking to the computer age, and looks not only at the intertwining of cartography and civilization, but also at the art, science, and technology of the field. It is Norman's wide knowledge of all aspects of mapping that allows him to accomplish this.

Unlike many historians of cartography, Norman is familiar with the problems cartographers face when making maps. Not only has he been a practicing cartographer, but he has also written on, and taught, the "modern" aspects of the field, such as remote sensing, animated cartography, and terrain representation. His background in art and art history gives him a keen sense of design and knowledge of aesthetics. That and his Ph.D. minor in the history of science uniquely qualify him for writing on the history of cartography, which he feels is at the intersection of the history of science and the history of art.

The present work is a blending of autobiography and the author's appraisal and summary of some of his best-known studies. A highlight of this piece is a selected bibliography of Norman's published works, those that are referenced in Maps and Civilization. It is only part of his entire oeuvre of over 200 items, but gives a taste of his wide-ranging interests and demonstrates why he is considered one of the foremost historians of cartography.

JUDITH A. TYNER
Figure 7. Chart of Western Europe from *The Mariner’s Mirrour* (London: 1588), a translation of *Spieghel der Zeevaerdt* by Lucas Janszoon Wagheenaer (1584), edited by Sir Anthony Ashley.