

under review, the degrees available for conservators at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, are not mentioned.

This bibliography fulfils the objectives of its compilers and is complete within itself as a guide to purchasing books, pamphlets, periodicals for a conservationist in any institution.

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The Nature of Maps: Essays toward Understanding Maps and Mapping.

ARTHUR H. ROBINSON and BARBARA BARTZ PETCHENIK. Chicago, Ill.: University of Chicago Press, c1976. ix, 138 p. illus. ISBN 0 226 72281 3 \$8.95.

Each discipline has a basic theory or philosophy, whether formally systematized or still at the subconscious level. Separate disciplines sometimes overlap in the course of their activities and it is therefore important that related disciplines recognize and respect one another's theories and purposes. An archivist in particular must not only recognize the differences between archival theory and the theories of librarianship and history, but must also have some understanding of the theories relating to the records for which he is responsible.

The authors of *The Nature of Maps* feel that there is a need for a general theory of cartography to provide a basic structure for the field of mapping, to give relevance and location to research done in pursuit of the first goal, and to make clear areas that need further investigation. Their purpose in writing this book is to provide "a kind of introduction to a theory of cartography." They want to begin to make explicit what has been implicit: "Mapping is based on systems of assumptions, on logic, on human needs, and on human cognitive characteristics, very little of which has been recognized or discussed in cartography."

In the first chapter, "On Maps and Mapping," the authors point out that "scholars in other fields tend to use maps as *the* fundamental analogy," and go on to define various terms. In chapters two to six ("The Map as a Communication System," "Mapping, Language, and Meaning," "Seeing and Mapping," "The Conception of Space," and "Structure in Maps and Mapping"), the differences between language and mapping systems are analyzed, and some similarities between maps and photographs are suggested.

The authors begin with a philosophical discussion, but soon turn to psychology, or "psychocartographics," quoting widely from studies by psychologists. Although it is easy to become lost among all the unfamiliar names and terminology, there is much food for thought, and a fresh way at looking at our various ways of communicating with one another.

One rather curious point in a book devoted to understanding the nature of maps and mapping is that only thirteen of 138 pages contain illustrations, all small diagrams. Of these, only one (Figure 3.4) is a map, and it is merely an outline of Czechoslovakia used to demonstrate the positioning of map marks.

This book should be of interest to map archivists interested in more than the daily routine of their job, and the chapter on structure, in particular, should have an appeal to archivists and librarians outside map collections.

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