

Atlante Geografico Universale

'Virtual Voyages' is a fascinating account of the European discovery of the elusive 'great south land' told through the literature of 'imaginary voyages'. Written at the height of the era of European maritime exploration, these bizarre and captivating tales, with their wildly imaginative visions of antipodean inversion and strangeness, reveal a hidden history of attitudes to colonization. By exposing the relationship between myth and reality in the antipodes, this book casts new light on the power of fiction to influence history. In the post-colonial studies field, books about travel writing and empire have tended to focus on the high period of nineteenth-century imperialism and on the colonial settings of Africa and India. This book offers a fresh perspective by focussing on the eighteenth century, and referring to the geographical region of Australia and the Pacific, which has had far less attention. The book also breaks new ground by being the first to approach the genre of the imaginary voyage from a post-colonial perspective. In addition to the new insights into European colonialism that it offers, the book illustrates many broader themes in eighteenth-century history and thought. These include connections between the rise of science and modern imperialism, the development of narrative history and fiction and the influence of romanticism, the evolution of the early novel in Britain and France, and the role of mythology in the development of national identity.

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This book analyzes and discusses the sovereignty of the Nansha Islands, combining legal and historical perspectives, traditional international law theories, and empirical studies based on an extensive body of historical maps from around the globe to do so. Ultimately, the book argues that China has sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and the surrounding waters, either on the basis of historical claims or modern realities. In recent years, the Nansha disputes have attracted considerable attention. Far from being resolved, they have instead become even more heated. The only reasonable way to solve the problem, as argued here, is on the basis of relevant history and legislation. Addressing this highly topical issue, the book also provides an English-speaking audience with access to essential content on the sovereignty, history, and legislation concerning the Nansha Islands.

Amb els mapes, a més de ciència, es fa política. El 1939 els catalans algueresos, i altres pobles d'Itàlia, foren eliminats d'un mapa etnogràfic de tot Europa elaborat a Milà pel Touring Club Italiano. Les minories en qüestió hi havien figurat des de 1927, però finalment els mussolinians van imposar sobre aquella obra els postulats feixistes més extrems. Aquest llibre, bastit sobre mapes «de pobles i llengües» dels segles XIX i XX, es deté en la confluència de les disciplines cartogràfica, etnològica i lingüística, les conviccions ideològiques i l'exercici del poder polític. L'obra, que ha estat mereixedora del Premi Joan Coromines 2013 d'investigació filològica, històrica o cultural, patrocinat per la Societat Coral «El Micalet», reflexiona sobre les visions exògenes d'unes identitats socioterritorials que continuen concitant estudis i pulsions.

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Advances in modern science and technology have made present-day terrestrial and celestial globes scientifically obsolete and aesthetically banal. From the Renaissance to the mid-nineteenth century, however, they were indispensable tools for the study of geography and astronomy. Beginning with an overview of early globes, the authors examine how the modern era in globe making, which began in Flemish and Dutch shops in the early seventeenth century, show how globe making spread throughout Europe, and explain how what were both decorative and scientific objects became symbols of power, universal knowledge, intellectual status, and personal vanity. Beginning with the collection's earliest globe, dated 1533, the authors introduce us to the life and works of some of the greatest Dutch, French, English, German, Italian, and Swedish globe makers. The 120 colour illustrations allow the reader to savour these rare and unusual works and include numerous detailed reproductions of both terrestrial and celestial map images. Sphæræ Mundi charts developments and changes over three centuries of globe making, considering the globes as indicators of scientific advance and geographical exploration as well as artifacts and providing a unique opportunity to become familiar with these complex and beautiful objects.

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Until the publication of the first edition of 'Star Maps,' books were either general histories of astronomy using examples of antiquarian celestial maps as illustrations, or catalogs of celestial atlases that failed to trace the flow of sky map development over time. The second edition focuses on the development of contemporary views of the heavens and advances in map-making. It captures the beauty and awe of the heavens through images from antiquarian celestial prints and star atlases. This book uniquely combines a number of features: 1) the history of celestial cartography is traced from ancient to modern times; 2) this development is integrated with contemporary cosmological systems; 3) the artistry of sky maps is shown using beautiful color images

