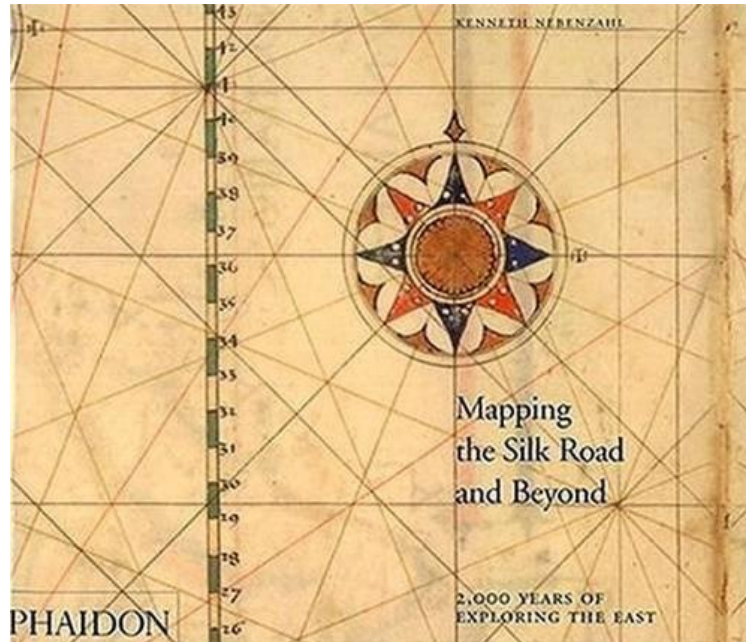


Mapping the Silk Road and Beyond

Kenneth Nebenzahl

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#2304387 in Books Phaidon Press 2004-11-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 11.75 x 1.00 x 10.131, 2.78
#File Name: 0714844098176 pages | File size: 52.Mb

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Today the world is focusing unprecedented attention on Asia and the Middle East - rediscovering a cultural, political, and geographical landscape that has fascinated and frustrated Westerners since the time of Alexander the Great. Mapping the Silk Road and Beyond traces the history of the European age of exploration and its lasting effects on these regions through an extensive series of beautifully rendered and imaginative maps drawn by explorers, merchants, and colonial administrators of the time. The book focuses on both maritime exploration and overland discovery via the ancient Silk Road: a network of trading posts that encompassed China, Tibet, Pakistan, India, Kurdistan, Iraq, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and dozens of other places known in ancient times by fabled names, including Abyssinia, Malacca, Macassar, Siam, and Cathay. The maps provide detailed visual keys to the fascinating history of Asia and the Middle

East: altogether they illuminate a cast of historical figures ranging from great leaders (the Queen of Sheba, Mohammed the prophet, King Charles V) to legendary explorers (Marco Polo, Columbus, Magellan, Sir Francis Drake, Capt. James Cook) and influential cartographers. Mapping the Silk Road and Beyond depicts over eighty maps organized in clear chronology - from Alexander the Great's map of the world, first created in 323 BC and reproduced in a sixteenth-century atlas, to maps from the nineteenth century by French and Dutch explorers that detail the growing interaction between Europeans and Eastern cultures. These maps represent the finest examples in existence in museums, libraries, and archives around the world, chosen because they depict the most important milestones in the mapping of Asia.

From Booklist
Reproducing the images of 80 historical maps, this collection is something to behold for cartography connoisseurs. Chronologically, its selections span a millennium, from diagrams in illuminated manuscripts, to fanciful early modern maps of Prester John's mythical Christian kingdom, to the charts resulting from James Cook's voyages. Spatially, they depict the trade routes connecting Europe to the Orient, and descriptively--well, that's where Nebenzahl arrives with his expertise. To the untutored eye, premodern maps are colorful but confusingly busy. For each map, Nebenzahl describes its features; its degree of geographical speculation and accuracy; and its contexts of trade, exploration, or conquest. The era of exploration inspired the majority of the maps, including, most rarely, diagrams resulting from the voyages of Chinese admiral Zheng He in the early 1400s. As pleasing as Nebenzahl's book will be to map enthusiasts, the caveat to the acquiring library is that Silk Road fans will find their topic, the title notwithstanding, a faint presence in the work. Gilbert Taylor
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"Maps of mesmerising beauty... A fine new book."-Stephen Bayley, Independent on Sunday
"Beautifully printed... The high-quality reproductions of a superb selection from worldwide collections speak for themselves... An informative, intriguing and beautiful book."-Dr Susan Whitfield, Royal Academy Journal
"It's been a big year for the Silk Road, with the British Library's majestic exhibition ably and plentifully supported by book publishers right across the board... But no matter how good these books have been, it's fair to say that none of them have pulled out the stops quite so effectively as... Mapping the Silk Road and Beyond - a truly fascinating account... A balanced and authoritative - as well as visually stunning - cartographical anthology. The pleasure of seeing such a distinguished collection of maps brought together in in one volume is greatly enhanced by the production values of the book itself. Apart from the fact it's beautifully printed on stout matt paper with absolutely no show-through, the printer seems to have got the colours spot-on, which is a laudable achievement[...]."-Geographical
"Nebenzahl's achievement... is to make accessible and arresting an esoteric field."-World of Interiors
"Even specialists of maps of Asia and the way there will find something new... A welcome addition to the cartography of Asia, particularly for the choice of illustrations and their superb reproduction."-IMCoS (Journal of the International Map Collector's Society)
"Beautiful... Nebenzahl's commentary on the maps, which presuppose no expert knowledge of cartography, [...] is clear and helpful."-The Art Newspaper
"A collection of maps, spanning 2,000 years offer a unique insight into the discovery of Asia and its trade routes."-British Airways Magazine
About the Author
Kenneth Nebenzahl is an internationally recognized authority on antiquarian cartography and one of the most prominent dealers and appraisers in the US in rare books, manuscripts, and maps. He served as Consultant on the History of Cartography to Rand McNally from 1966-98, is a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society, and serves on the boards of the Newberry Library and the University of Chicago. Nebenzahl is the author of several books, including Maps of the Holy Lands and The Atlas of Columbus and the Great Discoveries.