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Book Notices

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This reprint of the first edition published by the American Geographical Society in 1925 includes a new introduction by Professor Clarence J. Glacken of the University of California, Berkeley, a short new preface, a brief "Supplementary Bibliographical Note," 1964, and a few minor corrections.

In the words of the author, "This book is an attempt to illustrate and trace the origin of the most characteristic geographical ideas, current in Western Europe at the height of the Middle Ages." In the first three chapters an estimate is given "of the contributions of classical, patristic and Oriental geography to the medieval West." There follows a chapter "on literary and cartographic sources which date from the time of the Crusades," and another "on the place of geography in the Medieval scheme of learning." The body of the book focuses upon the geographical "lore" of the age under consideration. By geographical lore the author means, "what was known, believed and felt about the origins, present condition and distribution of the geographical elements of the earth."

This economically priced edition of a scholarly work ought to attract not only geographers, but professional historians and lay readers who enjoy history. The philosophy of the credulous peoples of early times, even though not acceptable today, can contribute some background to the understanding of the sequence of events which have led to present-day geographical thought.

EUGENE VAN CLEEF