

EXTRACTS AND REVIEWS.

EBENE KUGELBILDER

(Ein Linnésches System der Kartenentwürfe)

by

Min-Rat Prof. Dr. HANS MAURER.

(Plane representations of the Sphere — A classification of the Cartographic projections according to the Linné Method).

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Dr. Hans MAURER, who is the author of numerous articles on the subject of cartographic projections, has attempted here a classification by trunks, branches, subdivisions, orders, classes and groups, in which are included 237 kinds of cartographic projections. He bases his classification on 14 distinctive types which he has carefully denominated and defined. The first 8 types are dependent upon the representation of a selected reticle on the sphere, which is formed by the great circles passing through two diametrically opposite points and by the small circles orthogonal to the first (this reticle is not necessarily that which is formed by the meridians and parallels). The other 6 are independent of any reticle.

It was inevitable that the selection of these types and of their relative order of importance should be somewhat arbitrary; this is a reproach which Linné himself could not escape. One may find, for instance, that a rather too preponderant place has been accorded to those projections which transform into circles or straight lines the circles comprising the spherical reticle and also those which only take into consideration the representation of a very notable part of the sphere; the projections of minimum scale error, among others, are not specified.

However that may be, the author has rendered a real service in attempting to bring some order out of the veritable chaos into which the nomenclature of projections has fallen. The study of the works in different languages is rendered difficult by the diversity of terms employed for the same projection, or for projections designated by the same denomination. Dr. MAURER has found the term *zenithal* employed in seven different senses, or even with contradictory meanings, and at times by the same author.

In order to remedy this he has abandoned all terms of Greek and Latin roots in favour of strictly Germanic nomenclature. Unfortunately these new expressions can have only rarely equivalents in other languages, especially in those which have not the facility of forming compound words. To our mind this will considerably hinder the employment of this classification in other countries. It is to be hoped that in Germany, at least, the expressions defined by MAURER will be strictly adhered to in the same sense; otherwise it will only increase the annoying confusion which already exists.

It should be remarked that in a table and in a singular diagram the author has summarized the classification in such a manner that one may readily find the projection which fulfills the desired conditions and, also, one may determine whether or not these desiderata are incompatible.

P. V.
