

Book Reviews

The Mapping of Ohio, by Thomas H. Smith. Kent: Kent State Press, 1977. pp. xiii, 225. Illustrations, maps, appendix, bibliography, index. \$29.00.

The Mapping of Ohio is an excellent example of the type of historical work which can be done using maps as a starting point. Thomas H. Smith has written a fascinating account of the many dimensions of early settlement and growth of Ohio, using maps of exploration, survey, earthworks, forts, internal improvements, and town growth as the connecting feature. The book is organized around a strict set of rules governing the inclusion of specific types of maps. If one approaches this book looking for essays on mapping methods, scales, projections, types of relief representation and related cartographical details, however, he will be disappointed. The content of the map is discussed, but little reference is made to any physical or technological aspects of the individual map.

Smith spins an engrossing narrative of the early settlement and subsequent development of Ohio. The narrative always begins with reference to the mappers and maps of the particular region or site and then often continues into a lengthy discussion of people and events. Many of these discussions, as interesting as they are, wander rather far afield from anything connected with maps or mapping. This is understandable when one considers that Smith is an Ohio historian rather than a scholar of historical cartography. It might have been more precise to entitle the work to reflect the emphasis on history rather than the maps.

There were some notable omissions from the types of maps used for the book. Bird's-eye views, insurance maps, county atlases, and many government maps could have been included, according to the guidelines set in the introduction, but they were not. The 1977 publication date and the lack of citations to articles and happenings after 1970 indicates a great lapse of time between completion of the manuscript and publication. This is unfortunate considering the great strides that have been made in cartographic study in the past decade. Of particular importance to Ohio was the Mid-West Map Cataloging Project which located numerous maps of Ohio during 1975-77. Regardless of a few problems, this very readable book with its clear reproductions is a fine addition to the literature of Ohio and Ohio's maps.

Diana J. Fox
Iowa State Historical Department
Division of State Historical Society
Iowa City, IA

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