

The book would be of great interest to cartographers and GI Scientists, as well as students of geography and political science. It provides a wonderful, opulent resource for studying the impacts of maps and mapping.

The only criticism is that, except for the *NG* map “Australia – Land of Living Fossils” (albeit from a North American publisher), all maps and image examples provided are from North America. This may limit its applicability in an Australasian context, but nevertheless, this is an excellent and thoughtful publication.

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E. Amarante & R. Daehnhardt, G. Collingridge, & R.H. Major. *Segredos da descoberta da Austrália pelos portugueses.*

Zéfiro - Edições e Actividades Culturais, Sintra (Port.), 2009. ISBN 9789896770082. Paperback. 112p. €12.50 at www.zefiro.pt

This is the latest book claiming that the Portuguese discovered Australia. Belief in the validity of the claim appears to be contagious, despite the lack of any reliable evidence to support it. What supposed evidence there is derives almost exclusively from the French mid-sixteenth century Dieppe maps. Following upon Alexander Dalrymple’s hint of the possibility in 1786, Richard H. Major, in the mid-1800s, speculatively followed up the suggestion. In the 1890s two whole books tried to establish the validity of the claim: those of A.F. Calvert (1893), and George Collingridge (1895); the latter did so again in 1906. After a long pause, they were followed by Kenneth McIntyre (1977, rev. & abr. ed. 1982, Port. transl. 1989), Roger Hervé (1982, Eng. transl. 1983), and Lawrence FitzGerald (1984). In 2007 Peter Trickett’s *Beyond Capricorn* appeared, and a Portuguese translation of it, *Para além de Capricórnio*, was published in Lisbon in 2008. In November 2009, seeking to capitalise on the blanket publicity accompanying Trickett’s book, this new book was rushed out, promising ‘New revelations proving the presence of Portuguese navigators in Australia 200 years before the English crown’. It is stated to contain ‘a coloured reproduction of an unpublished sixteenth-century map of Australia’. It has no bibliography or index, and consists of only four chapters.

The first chapter is a reprint, with modernized spelling, of a Portuguese 1863 translation of Richard Major’s *The Discovery of Australia by the Portuguese in 1601...*, published in *Archaeologia* XXXVIII (1861).

The second chapter is a Portuguese translation of chapters VI, VII and VIII of George Collingridge’s *The First Discovery of Australia and New Guinea* (1906), preceded by information derived from the preface to his *The Discovery of Australia* (1895). Neither of these chapters has any comment added to point out their speculative and erroneous nature.

The third chapter, by Rainer Daehnhardt, is entitled ‘Assumed Theft of Portuguese Secrets’. Of its 36 pages, seven list the captains of Portuguese ships sailing to Asia between 1522 and 1557, while nine are map reproductions. The ‘unpublished, sixteenth-century map of Australia’ turns out to be a fold-out, coloured version of Jan Huyghen van Linschoten’s famous map of South-East Asia included in the 1598 English translation of his *Itinerario*. The standard of scholarship evinced in this chapter may be judged by the fact that the author declares the land named *BEACH prouincia aurifera* [BEACH gold-producing province] on Linschoten’s map to be part of Australia. He

further believes that *BEACH* is an English translation of Portuguese *PRAIA*, which is itself a miscopying of *PRATA* (silver), nicely tying up with 'gold'. He even suggests that it was possibly Sir Francis Drake who translated *PRAIA* that he had seen on a Portuguese map on his circumnavigation (1577-1580), since the earliest map the author had found with *BEACH* on it was a portolan chart by the Majorcan cartographer Joan Martines of 1587, subsequent to Drake's voyage! The author evidently knew nothing of Mercator's introduction of *BEACH*, his adaptation of Marco Polo's *locach*, on his fictitious Marco Polo-inspired southern continent on his globe gores of 1541. Recourse to *Wikipedia* alone would have enlightened him on that subject. He produces no more 'secret' evidence.

For the fourth chapter, entitled 'A Summary of the Principal Theories that Proclaim the Discovery of Australia by the Portuguese', the author, Dulce Leal Abalada, *did* resort to *Wikipedia*; the chapter is compiled almost entirely from articles in it. She mentions the books of Roger Hervé and Lawrence FitzGerald, and the theories of Carl von Brandenstein and Gavin Menzies, but deals mostly with those of Kenneth McIntyre and Peter Trickett. She does mention William Richardson's *Was Australia charted before 1606? The Jave la Grande inscriptions* (2006; repr. 2008) which denies the validity of all the so-called evidence cited by the Portuguese discovery proponents, but she offers no opinion regarding the validity of any of the above works, nor does she reveal any new 'secrets' regarding the claimed Portuguese discovery of Australia.

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M. Edmond. *Zone of the Marvellous: In Search of the Antipodes.*

Auckland University Press, Auckland, 2009. ISBN 9781869404475. Paperback. 264p. NZ\$35.00

Zone of the Marvellous is an erudite, informative, and intriguing book. It comprises an introduction and eight chapters or essays. There are comprehensive endnotes for the introduction and chapters. *Zone of the Marvellous* is not a book about maps and mapping, and it has no illustrations of maps. The absence of maps does not detract from its aims and achievements, which is to use well-chosen words to introduce and illuminate real and imaginary places that have sprung from the observations and imaginations of explorers, scientists, writers, artists, and map-makers, whether active or of the stay-at-home type. However, there is a drawback to the absence of maps: if the reader wants to know where the places mentioned in the text are or were thought to be, he will need to consult historical and contemporary atlases.

Zone of the Marvellous is subtitled *In Search of the Antipodes* and it takes the reader on an excursion through time and space as it considers the long history of thought about the Antipodes. But this multi-layered book is a treasure trove of information and knowledge. It is admirably expansive with respect to the range and reach of individuals, peoples, events, topics, ideas, and stories of the places that are introduced and discussed, and of the connections made between them. Many of the places that are discussed and put in context are utopias or heterotopias. 'Heterotopia', signifying 'another place' that is unknown, is a term borrowed from Michel Foucault. Starting in the distant past with the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, *Zone of the Marvellous* shows how places were imagined before they were actually encountered. Most of the places, real and imagined, are in lands distant from Europe and the Middle East. Particular attention is given to the Great South Land as a place, and a realm or realms of places. Initially, the explorers, scientists, writers, artists and map-makers are located in or travel from Europe and the Middle East, but from the late

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