A MAP OF ASIA MINOR AROUND 100 C.E.

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The Ancient World Mapping Center at UNC Chapel Hill (AWMC) presents for inspection and comment a large draft map of Asia Minor. Despite the recent improvement of map resources for the study of classical antiquity, it remains a challenge for scholars who study very extensive regions to gain a cartographic conspectus of them at a serviceable scale, simply because of the sheer extent of the landmass. Asia Minor is a prime example: even in the Barrington Atlas (2000; BA), where each doublespread map extends to 62 cm wide, it is split among eight maps at 1:500,000 and three at 1:1,000,000. The coverage provided by Tabula Imperii Byzantini (to date, six sheets at 1:800,000) is far from complete. Calder and Bean did successfully achieve a rudimentary single-sheet overview, but at 1:2,500,000 and without use of color (1957).

Digital technology and the expertise developed at AWMC now permit an attempt at 1:750,000, with publication envisaged in both print and electronic formats. This more meaningful scale corresponds to the coverage of Greece and Italy in AWMC’s series Wall Maps for the Ancient World (Routledge, 2011). Its seven maps were designed, however, to meet the needs of newcomers to antiquity in the classroom. The Center’s Asia Minor, by contrast, expects a more mature engagement, and purposely confines its focus to a single time-period, around 100 C.E., when the region was stable in the aftermath of Flavian administrative reorganization. The map shows (so far as possible) physical landscape at that date; elevation – distinguished by eight tints – is calculated from Environmental Systems Research Institute data. The map’s naming of both landscape and cultural features matches BA; co-ordinates are derived from Pleiades Project data wherever available. All settlements marked in BA’s three larger (of five) lettering sizes are included, together with a selection of further sites determined with expert help; experts also contribute recommendations for marking new discoveries (including road courses). In addition to the appraisal of detail which it invites, the poster session is an ideal opportunity for AWMC to gain reactions to the projection used, to the extent of the map’s coverage, and to the quality of its presentation. Observers’ reactions gain added importance in the light of AWMC’s intention to attempt further maps of other regions following the same model.

Technical Notes

- Scale: 1:750,000.
- Size: 50 inches by 80 inches (1270 by 2032 mm)
- Projection: Europe Lambert Conformal Conic with Central Meridian at 35° E.
- Ancient physical features, i.e. coastlines, river courses, inland water sources, produced in ArcGIS and based on R.J.A. Talbert (ed.) Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World (Princeton and Oxford 2000).
- Ancient cultural features, i.e. settlements, roads, peoples and places, derived from BA, Pleiades (www.pleiades.stoa.org), and AWMC.

Earlier Maps of Ancient Asia Minor

Map 29 (by C. Müller) in W. Smith and G. Grove (eds.), Atlas of Ancient Geography, Biblical and Classical (Murray, London, 1872-1874). The appearance of this major work coincided with the emergence of scholarly research (including archaeology) as we currently pursue it; it remained the only such classical atlas to be completed until BA.

Asia Minor (1903, by J.G.C. Anderson) in the series edited by G.B. Grundy, Murray’s Handy Classical Maps (London, 1899-1905) based on Müller’s maps in the Smith/Grove atlas. Asia Minor was notable not only for its cultural geography, but also – at Grundy’s insistence – its many (innovatory) elevation tints, the work of John Bartholomew, Edinburgh.

Map VIII: Asia Minor and Cyprus under Trajan (dated 1909) in H. and R. Kiepert, Formae Orbis Antiqui (Reimer, Berlin, 1894-1913, never completed). Asia Minor had long been a special focus of Heinrich Kiepert’s research, which was continued after he died in 1899 by his son Richard: it is no surprise that an exceptionally long text (20 pages) accompanied this map, by far the longest text produced as part of the project.

A Classical Map of Asia Minor published by W.M. Calder and G.E. Bean as a supplement to Anatolian Studies 7 (1957). Anderson’s Handy Map of Asia Minor, uncolored, formed the base for this map. Bean began work on a revised edition, but this was abandoned after his death in 1977.