

reviews

ATLAS REVIEW

Atlas of Florida

Edward A. Fernald and Elizabeth D. Purdum (eds.), James R. Anderson, Jr., and Peter A. Krafft (cartographers). Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1992. 280 pp, \$39.95 Hardcover (ISBN 0-8130-1131-0). (Order from University Press of Florida, 15 NW Street, Gainesville, FL 32611)

*Reviewed by Ruth Anderson Rowles
Natural Resources and Environmental
Protection Cabinet
Frankfort, KY.*

The editors, cartographers, contributors, and staff are to be commended for this comprehensive atlas of Florida. Although, work began as a revision of the 1981 *Atlas of Florida*, this atlas emerged as a new book rather than a second edition. The Atlas design has been substantially changed and new topics, 1990 data, satellite imagery, color photographs have been added. The end result is a thoroughly modern atlas.

This 9x12 inch (22x30 mm.) atlas has approximately 600 maps printed with four-color process on 280 pages in six sections: *The Natural Environment, History and Culture, Population, Economy, Recreation and Tourism, and Infrastructure and Planning*. Each section is composed of subsections and then further subdivided into topics that are treated on one or two pages. For example, the Natural Environment section has a subsection on hydrology, which is further subdivided into surface water, groundwater, freshwater supply, and water quality. Each topic usually has several maps, text, and occasionally graphs,

diagrams, photographs, or tables. The last section is followed by a description of the origin of selected place names, county and city statistics for 1989-1990, photo credits, sources for the individual maps, and an index.

The objective of the Atlas project was to create a comprehensive reference volume for citizens, potential residents, tourists, students, researchers, policy makers, and planners. Although some of the information is complex, the text is aimed at the non-specialist reader and most of the graphics are self-explanatory. The editors chose to elicit a sense of place, as well as pattern by including photographs. Overall the authors accomplished their objectives and produced an admirable atlas.

The major reason that this 1992 *Atlas of Florida* has a new look is due to a change in the page design from 1981. Both atlases have the same physical dimensions and approximately the same number of pages, yet the elimination of the intensely colored half-inch margins used in 1981 made room to increase the map scale and add more graphics to a page. For example, the four early maps of Florida have all been enlarged significantly in the new atlas while remaining on a two-page spread. A page on social service programs in 1981 included four maps and text; in 1992 one of the four maps is enlarged and there is an additional graph. The practice of having an enlarged choropleth map with county names to reference the other smaller choropleth maps on the page is common in the new atlas. The colors in the 1992 Atlas are subdued compared to 1981. For example, the graphics on the population maps in the 1981 Atlas were tints of magenta and black, surrounded by an intense brown border. In 1992 the three maps and graph are pleasing shades of green and light yellow.

In addition, the legends for the choropleth maps were reworked to offer more information, the text was completely rewritten with a better explanation of the patterns of population change, and new data was added. The typeface was also changed to a pleasing serif style by replacing the earlier, heavy sans serif style. The result is an atlas with more up-to-date information in a pleasing format.

New topics were added in every section. The maps of cigar manufacturing, sponging, and language are particularly well executed. They are integrated into a broader geography than just Florida, showing the Florida and Cuba context of cigar manufacturing, the Mediterranean origins of Florida's sponge culture, and dialect regions of the eastern United States. Other new topics include religion, waste disposal, expansion of agriculture in South Florida, religion, population concentrations along the Gold Coast, retirement communities, and home ownership. Three pages of graphs and text on health care costs and health planning replace energy consumption, fuel conservation, and solar energy. The additional topics make the Atlas more comprehensive, timely, and relevant to Floridians.

Other topics are reworked to focus the reader toward particular themes or concepts. For example, the subsection on climate has more of a process orientation with topics such as the effect of latitude on climate, seasonal weather patterns, the effect of land and water on climate, mixing heights and ventilation, and humidity and temperature. Photographs from weather satellites effectively illustrate the seasonal weather patterns. Pages of monthly temperature maps have been eliminated and the text has been completely rewritten with simple and concise terminology.

The topic of hurricanes was

disappointing (partly because this atlas was published prior to Hurricane Andrew). The map for hurricanes consists of dots along the coastline showing where hurricanes made landfall. Two other maps on hurricane preparedness (one on evacuation time and the other on the flood zone for a 100-year storm surge) appear in the Infrastructure and Planning section of the atlas. Neither section, however, references the other in the text, leaving it to the reader to rely on the index to find all the information on hurricanes. Similarly, the information on storm surges is located in three areas: 'Tides' has a map of the 100-year storm-tide zone for the state (p. 34), 'Hurricanes' has a diagram of a storm surge (p. 57), and 'Hurricane Preparedness' has a storm surge map for the southern part of the state (p. 259). In this case, the topic 'storm surge' is not even indexed.

The *Atlas of Florida* illustrates some of the best use and worst abuse of colored photographs. In an atlas one expects the photographs to illustrate and enrich geographic patterns. The only topic where this is done is 'Ecosystems' where photographs are accompanied by a map showing the extent of an ecosystem, such as salt marshes, and some text summarizing substrate, topography, vegetation, fauna, processes, and human impacts. The photographs for 'Landforms' and 'Cultural Landscapes' have no explicit ties to regions on maps. The photographs for 'Architecture,' 'Drama, Dance, and Music,' and 'Attractions' are linked by points on their respective maps. No maps are included with the color photographs for art museums, public arts programs, and folk arts. In addition, black and white portraits of all the governors of Florida and photographs of the

state capitol seem out of place in the atlas. In general the editors might have been more judicious in their use of photographs.

The atlas maps, however, are clear and concise. Choropleth maps comprise the majority of the statistical maps and are classified with Jenks' Optimal method into five classes. This is a good choice for presenting the information. Rigid adherence to this method, however, hinders the portrayal of a time series on population density, and the maps of recreational facilities and visitor accommodations. The use of varying numbers of classes and unequal intervals makes it difficult to compare the geographic patterns between maps in a time series. If one color had been used on all the maps to consistently represent the state mean for each time period then Jenks' method might work for a time series. Another type of problem arises with the recreation facility and visitor accommodation maps where counties having zero rooms are placed in the same class as those with 2,000 rooms. The flexibility of a modified or alternative method of classification would improve some of these maps.

Florida State University is to be commended for embarking on a second atlas within seven years of completing the first one. It is a major organizational feat to produce such a comprehensive atlas involving two editors, two cartographers, nineteen contributors, and an additional atlas staff of eleven. That it was completed in such a timely fashion, shortly after the 1990 census was tabulated, is to be applauded. This atlas should be in all reference libraries and should be found in offices, homes, schools, and local libraries throughout the state of Florida. At \$39.95 the Atlas is a bargain!

BOOK REVIEW

Monarchs, Ministers, and Maps: The Emergence of Cartography as a Tool of Government in Early Modern Europe

David Buisseret, ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press for the Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography, The Newberry Library, 1992. 189+xii pp, 8 color plates, 75 halftones, maps, ills. \$45.00 hardcover. (ISBN 0-226-07987-2).

*Reviewed by Matthew H. Edney
Department of Geography
Binghamton University*

The Kenneth J. Nebenzahl, Jr., Lectures in the History of Cartography have long been key events in the fields of both cartography and history. This book is the long-awaited publication of the lectures of the eighth series of those lectures (1985) which examined a fundamental yet hitherto neglected episode of European history: the early development of state mapping before about 1700. Such an original excursion cannot hope to be comprehensive in its coverage. Instead, this book presents a series of reflections upon six countries and regions: the Italian states, England, France, the Spanish and Austrian Habsburgs, and Poland.

The logical starting point for this collection, considering their general cartographic precocity, is with the Italian states. John Marino presents the results of his sampling of the state archives, particularly of Naples, and finds a curious anomaly. Despite the many active commercial cartographers of the early sixteenth century, archival maps are encountered sporadically before the 1560s. Venice seems to have been the only state to use maps before 1500. Subsequently, map use in all the Italian