Review
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Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 148, No. 3 (Nov., 1982), pp. 383-385
Published by: geographicalj
Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/633177
Accessed: 25-06-2016 21:28 UTC

and Minghi (1969) provided a fund of relevant and stimulating material. Readers who are familiar with these still-valuable publications may find this collection a costly disappointment. Sixteen papers presented to the Anglo-American seminar at the 1980 conference of the Institute of British Geographers constitute the body of the book and six additional contributions have been included. Editors Alan D. Burnett and Peter J. Taylor claim that the book '. . . should be of value to those undertaking research into the political aspects of human geography and spatial aspects of political studies at all levels of the academic hierarchy'. This may, or may not be so, though the far too general tendency for contributors to use language which is pretentious and jargon-laden, masking points and conclusions which, on translation, so often prove to be banal, is likely to deter undergraduates and uncommitted readers alike. Non-specialists sampling many of the contributions in the expectation that they might find stimulating and authoritative insights into the workings and conflicts of the modern world are likely to encounter confusion, boredom and disappointment in equal measures. The cases for publishing a number of the essays are weak, although consolation is to be found in others such as the applied approach to frontier studies by J. W. House; R. Paddison's essay on identifying the local political community in Glasgow; and the study of conflict in Namibia by J. A. Brohman and D. B. Knight. In the broader context of the book, the inclusion of diagrams and/or maps in these three essays is somewhat unusual.

The substantive contents of the book are organized under the headings 'Orientations', 'Agendas' and 'Applications'. The apparent vagueness of the categories might have been eased had the editors chosen to provide more comprehensive introductions to each section. Their choice of title is 'intended to imply that we should finally halt the search for a separate "political geography" and turn our energies instead towards contributing our particular perspectives to research on politics'. Several notable political geographers of an older school advanced a case for a more political geography but one feels that, if 'political geography' can survive this New Wave, it will indeed have proved a tough old bird.

Whatever its failings may have been, the political geography of Mackinder, Hartshorne and Cohen had something interesting to say about the problems of the world and its nations. Such is the nature of progress that now we are advised to consider the problems of rat control in Newark (New Jersey) and we also learn that, 'If one agrees with the denial of the thinking/acting subject and displaces the concrete historical, then one will see dialectical theorizing as a form of idealism and the structural as a form of idealism and the structural as a preferable trans-historical and "scientific" position'.

RICHARD MUIR

SPATIAL PROCESSES: Models and applications. By A. D. CLIFF and J. K. ORD. London: Pion, 1981. x, 266 p. *Sketch-maps, tab., diagr., bibliogr., ind.* 22.5 cm. £12.50. ISBN 0 85086 081 4

In 1973, Cliff and Ord published *Spatial Autocorrelation,* a monograph which drew together their previously scattered papers on the topic and which established itself as something of a classic work of quantitative geography. Despite its importance, however, knowledge and use of the book diffused surprisingly slowly (particularly in North America and mainland Europe where it was not uncommon to find geographers, not to mention statisticians, first encountering the book as late as 1977). The reasons for this slow diffusion lie partly in the restricted distribution network of its publishers at that time, partly in the greater sensitivity of British quantitative geographers as a group to the spatial autocorrelation problem and the econometric time-series tradition when compared with their North American and European counterparts, and partly in the swing away from a spatial science orientation in human geography. Whatever the reasons, however, by the time many geographers and statisticians first encountered the book it was somewhat dated in approach. Work in the field, by the authors, by a group of British quantitative geographers which included Bennett, Haining, Hepple and Martin, and by a group of British statisticians which included Besag, Diggle, Mollison

and Ripley, had shifted its emphasis away from a concern with the development of measures and tests of the degree of spatial autocorrelation exhibited in geographical data sets, and towards the development of models of geographical processes which explicitly incorporated spatial or spatial-temporal dependence into their structure. This, in turn, led to the development of models which incorporated parameters which vary through time and/or over space and with a deeper concern with appropriate identification and estimation procedures. Although part of this work was summarized in the late 1970s by Cliff in his progress reports in *Progress in Human Geography* and in the second edition of Haggett's *Locational Analysis in Human Geography,* and by Bennett in *Spatial Time Series,* there was clearly scope for a second edition of Cliff and Ord's original monograph which would draw together the developments of the mid to late 1970s (particularly those relating to spatial rather than spatial-temporal models) and which would integrate these developments with the earlier hypothesis-testing orientation which had dominated the 1973 monograph. *Spatial Processes* is the result.

The new book, as its changed title suggests, is much more than the usual second edition. It is significantly longer, and material from the first edition comprises only one-third of its contents. There are now a number of completely new chapters which discuss the estimation of models of spatial processes, the determination of the spatial scales at which processes are operating, the use of spatial correlograms, model identification, the use of simultaneous and conditional autoregressive and moving average models, the effect of autocorrelation upon tests of hypotheses, and the analysis of spatial point patterns. In addition, the material from the original monograph has been heavily revised. Above all, the book is now much more readable. The 1973 monograph was, in many places, far too terse, particularly the introductory chapters which plunged straight into complex measures of autocorrelation, tests of significance under free and non-free sampling, and distribution theory from page 3 onwards, with no concessions to the general reader. The new first chapter retains the same title but is otherwise completely transformed. It is now a much more gentle introduction, enriched by interesting empirical examples and excellent diagrams. Throughout the rest of the book similar, though perhaps not as radical, changes have been made, and the empirical examples and diagrams which have been added will be much appreciated by a majority of the book's readers. As always with this publisher, the standard of the setting and presentation of the mathematical material is a joy to see.

Overall, there can be no doubt that *Spatial Processes* represents a most valuable and welcome updating of an important work of quantitative geography, and that it will find a wide and appreciative audience. Equally, however, there can be little doubt that in the eight years since its predecessor was published, the problem it discusses has assumed a much less central position within geographical thought as the critique of positivism has gained support, and the competing claims of humanism, phenomenology, structuralism, Marxism, etc. have been argued out in the pages of the geographical journals. The original monograph was published at the end of the period of dominance of the spatial science perspective in human geography, and spatial autocorrelation was seen by some commentators as an issue of fundamental importance, central to debate in human geography. Since that time, attitudes in human geography have changed dramatically, and the spatial process modelling which the book reports has increasingly been viewed as a specialized sub-area removed from the mainstream of debate. As such, the work has been ignored by the majority of human geographers, or criticized by others as being symptomatic of the retreat of quantitative geographers from the difficulties of the philosophical debate about positivism into the stratosphere of higher mathematics. It is inevitable that similar criticisms will be directed at *Spatial Processes,* and in this respect the book will be a victim of the exaggerated importance attached to the spatial autocorrelation problem in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and of the wider unfulfilled promise of the spatial science perspective.

Although these wider criticisms will inevitably be made, and the sentiments which underlie such criticisms are understandable, they must not be allowed to blind us to an assessment of the contents of the book on its own terms. In this respect, the book chronicles a period of continuous methodological advance and work by quantitative

geographers of a standard high enough to stand favourable comparison with similar work in statistics, econometrics and biometrics. At the end of this period, it certainly cannot be denied that some of these developments, such as the space-time autoregressive integrated moving average or Markov field models, have resulted in only small gains in our understanding of spatial processes. Nevertheless, it has surely been necessary to evaluate these approaches and models in an adequate manner, and it must be borne in mind that the total percentage of geographical research effort which has gone into such work is trivial. The question which now arises is whether the advances in methodology and the gains in our understanding of spatial processes are sufficient to support this research field in the future? Is this second edition to be the gravestone of this avenue of research in geography, or can we look forward to a third edition in which there is evidence of integration of this spatial modelling tradition with other developments in quantitative geography, and of more convincing examples of the utility of such models in informing policy decisions and/or addressing non-trivial questions of social distribution? NEIL WRIGLEY

SHORTER NOTICES

ROUND THE WORLD ON A WHEEL by John Foster Fraser (Chatto and Windus, 1982, 325 p., £7.95) was first published in 1899, a sixth edition coming out in 1916. This is an abridged edition, presumably from the 1916 text as it contains a reference to 'Flanders mud'. An introduction giving the background to the adventure and indicating the extent of the cuts would have been welcome, but even without editorial matter we have here a travel book well worth reading. A note on the jacket states that the author was 'a professional journalist whose brilliant travel articles and books were famous at the end of the last century and for more than two decades of this one'. *Round the world* (though taking the reader further afield) has endearing affinities with those classics of a past age, Jerome K. Jerome's *Three men in a boat* and his lesser known *Three men on the Bummel.* Fraser and his friends, S. Edward Lunn and F. H. Lowe, spent just over two years travelling 19 237 miles through seventeen countries and across three continents. Surprisingly for the date, they did not think much of India but they loved Burma and Japan; in China, they simply suffered from the weather and the hostility of the people; in America, they adopted the usual lofty attitude of the English to their trans-Atlantic cousins. In those days it was possible, to quote Fraser, for 'a simple Britisher with a big stick' to go round the world with impunity, and while deploring this superior and imperialistic attitude, it is as well to remember that a big stick is surely preferable to a nuclear missile. D.M.

Harold King, the editor of SOUTH POLE ODYSSEY: Selections from the Antarctic Diaries of Edward Wilson (Blandford Press, 1982, £3.95), is the Librarian of the Scott Polar Research Institute and he has achieved considerable success in presenting as one odyssey the diaries of Edward Wilson written on his three most important polar journeys: The Southern Journey, 1902–03; The Worst Journey in the World, mid-winter 1911; and The Sledge Journey to the South Pole, 1911–12. These were all recorded and illustrated in full in the two volumes *Diary of the Discovery Expedition to the Antarctic Regions 1901–04,* and the *Diary of the Terra Nova Expedition to the Antarctic, 1910–12*, published by the Blandford Press in 1966 and 1972. To attempt an adequate abridged edition of these two volumes was an impossible task and it was decided to concentrate on three journeys only. This has been justified, especially when the diaries are read whilst bearing in mind the comments made in the editor's excellent introduction and biographical notes. The latter should be referred to frequently to remind one of the unique character of the diarist, for the diaries themselves are frequently restrained and factual, especially those written on the second expedition when Wilson was no longer experiencing polar thrills and vistas for the first time.

No diary of Wilson's would be complete without some of his sketches and paintings