

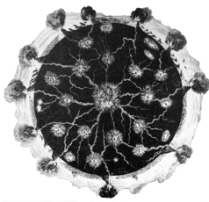
A COMPLEMENTARY NOTE TO WELWITSCH'S MAP OF TRAVELLERS IN AFRICA

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ABSTRACT

This note complements the article “Depicting the Invisible: Welwitsch’s Map of Travellers in Africa,” published earlier in *Earth Sciences History* (Albuquerque and Figueirôa 2018). The note contributes additional information concerning previously unknown names on the map that did not appear in the list of explorers in that earlier publication. The names of ten additional explorers have been deciphered from the map and added to the list from the earlier paper, thanks to the assistance of colleagues. Of the 94 entries originally noted on the map, 88 have now been identified. There is strong correspondence between that list of explorers and the contents of Friedrich Welwitsch’s personal library.

Keywords: Africa, botany, Friedrich Welwitsch, *Iter Angolense*, manuscript map.
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1. INTRODUCTION

This note intends to complement the article “Depicting the Invisible: Welwitsch’s Map of Travellers in Africa,” published earlier in *Earth Sciences History* (Albuquerque and Figueirôa 2018). In that paper, there were a number of entries on the map that did not make it onto the list of identified explorers (compare figure 1 and table 1 of Albuquerque and Figueirôa 2018). It is the aim of this note to contribute information about the names missing from the list. Thanks to the assistance of colleagues,¹ it was possible to identify ten additional explorers whose unknown names appeared on the map but were missing from table 1 in Albuquerque and Figueirôa (2018). At present, we have been able to name 88 out of the 94 total explorers, an increase of ten identifications since the earlier publication. The more precise identifications have enabled us to examine Friedrich Welwitsch’s personal library from a fresh perspective (Albuquerque, Figueirôa & Felismino 2020). The re-evaluated map, and improved list, therefore provide “a key to Welwitsch’s personal library” as suggested in Albuquerque and Figueirôa (2018, p. 126).

2. NEWLY IDENTIFIED EXPLORERS

The addition of ten newly identified travelers to the previous list, which initially contained 78 identified explorers, did not change the general distribution of explorers categorized by

¹ Estrela Figueiredo and Felix Driver.

nationality (see figure 7 and table 2 of Albuquerque and Figueirôa 2018). British subjects continue to be the majority, followed by German and French explorers. The only new nationality to appear in the updated list was Irish (see Table 1 of this paper).

In order to identify the unknown names on the map, additional sources were consulted (Candido 2019; Chisholm 1911; Douville 1832; Figueiredo *et al.* 2020; Gunn *et al.* 1981; International Plant Name Index (IPNI) 2021; JSTOR Plant Science 2021; Plants of the World Online 2021; and S2A3 Biographical Database of Southern African Science 2021) as well as online herbaria (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew 2021; Museum National d' Histoire Naturelle Paris 2021; Natural History Museum London 2021). From this work, it was possible to identify that 'Mr. Duville' was, in fact, Jean-Baptiste Douville, a French traveler. Nevertheless, according to the letters of B. António Alves, he just pretended to be a naturalist on a scientific expedition (Candido & Jones 2019; Douville 1832; Albuquerque and Figueirôa 2018, p.123). Apparently, Douville's narratives were based on several "unpublished Portuguese manuscripts to which he had access" (Chisholm 1911).

Table 1. List of explorers' names present on Welwitch's manuscript map who were recently identified. See figure 6 of Albuquerque and Figueirôa (2018) for locality grid positions.

Complete name	Date of Birth/ Death	Name on the map	Origin	Male/ Female	Localities	Period in Africa
Bolle, Carl August	(1821–1909)	Bole	German	M	A1	1852–1856
Curror, Andrew Beveridge	(1811–1844)	Curror	British	M	C7	1839–1842
Douville, Jean-Baptiste	(1794–1837)	Duville	French	M	C7	1828–1830
Gueinzus, Wilhelm	(1813–1874)	Gueinzus	German	M	F8G9	1839–1874
Hewetson, Wallace	(1806–1877)	Hewitson	Irish	M	D10E10	1837–1877
Jardin, Désiré Édélestan Stanislas Aimé	(1822–1896)	Jardin	French	M	C6	1845–1847
Palisot de Beauvois, Ambroise Marie François	(1752–1820)	Palisot	French	M	A5B5	1786–??
Roscher, Albrecht	(1836–1860)	Dr Alb. Rocher	German	M	F5F6	1858–1860
Smeathmann, Henry	(1742–1786)	Smeathmann	British	M	A5	1771–1775
Thonning, Peter	(1775–1848)	Thonning	Danish	M	A4	1799–1803

3. EARLY MAPS OF AFRICAN EXPLORATION

It is also important to mention that a few similar maps were found during our investigation and these additional maps disclosed other analytical perspectives and interpretations. One additional map is the 'Map of African Literature' by William Winwood Reade (1838–1876), published in 1873 (Figure 1) and studied by Felix Driver (2013, p. 4). This map was printed rather than handwritten and it shows the colonization of allegedly 'blank' spaces by use of the names of explorers/writers. As Driver explains:

Here is a powerful metaphor for understanding how Europeans understood the making of African geography through the accretion of an authoritative, textual archive: the bio-bibliography as map. (Driver 2013, pp. 4–5).

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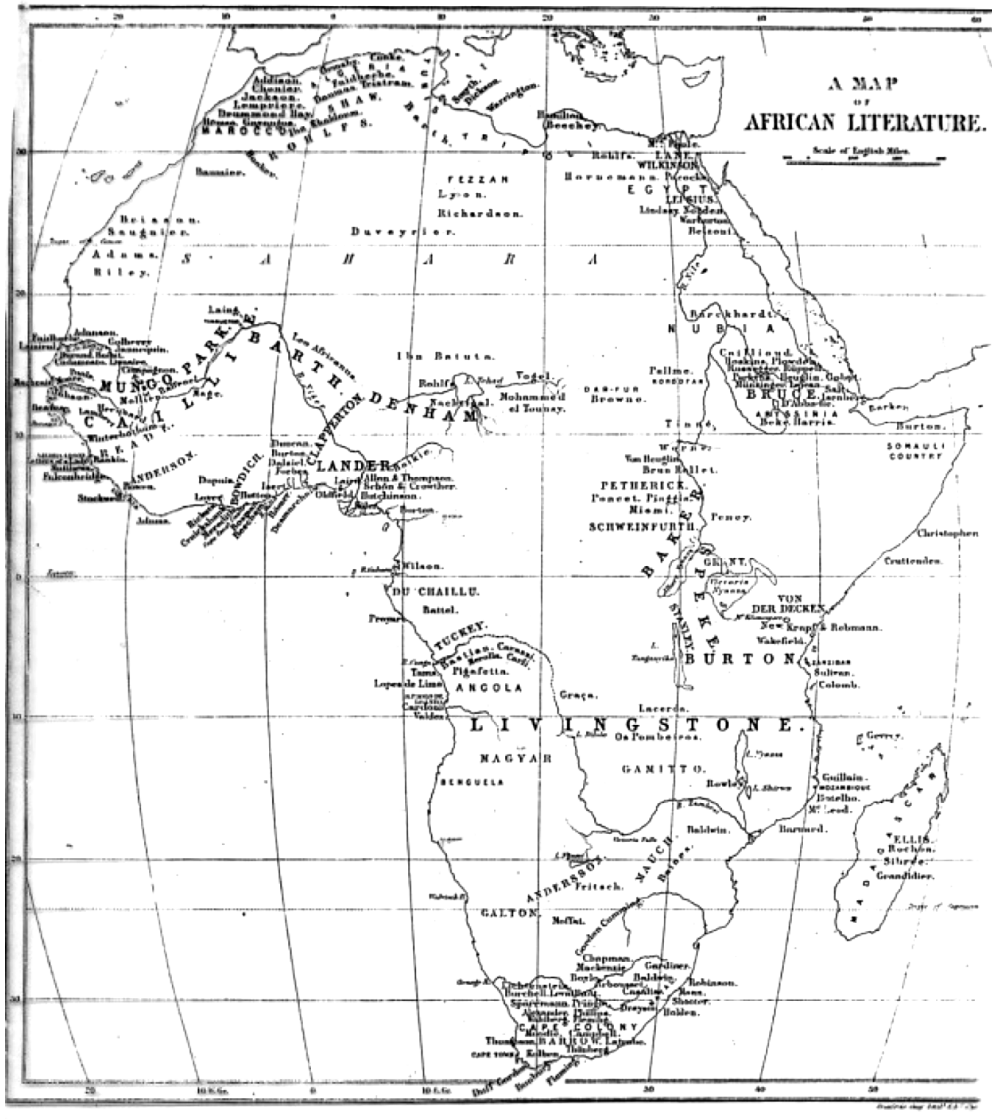


Figure 1. "Map of African Literature" by Winwood Reade. Source: *The African Sketch-Book* (1873).

Reade tended to prioritize writers, and Welwitsch's map included a much more comprehensive range of travelers. When comparing Figure 1 of this paper with Welwitsch's map, it is possible to verify overlapping names, such as Michel Adanson (1727–1806), Mungo Park (1771–1806), Bain Hugh Clapperton (1788–1827), Heinrich Barth (1821–1865), James Chapman (1831–1872), Dixon Denham (1786–1828), among others.

Another map worth noting is the 'African Necrology' by Henri Duveyrier (1840–1892), a French geographer and explorer known for exploring the Sahara. This map was intended to demonstrate the 'martyrdom' of European travelers in Africa by showing where they died, their nationality, and their occupation (Figure 2). When comparing the map of Duveyrier with the map of Welwitsch, the matching names are: Alexandrine Petronella Francina Tinné (1835–1869), William Balfour Baikie (1824–1864), Bain Hugh Clapperton (1788–1827), Mungo Park (1771–1806), Karl Ludwig Philipp Zeyher (1799–1858), Albrecht Roscher (1836–1860), and Julius Rudolph Theodor Vogel (1812–1841). Clapperton and Park, both Scottish as was Reade,



Figure 2. Map of “Afrique Nécrologique” by Henri Duveyrier. Source: gallica.bnf.fr / Bibliothèque nationale de France <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b53061453b>

are found on all three maps, which probably attests to the relevance of their contribution to the European knowledge of a portion of Western Africa.

Welwitsch’s map, which lists both authors of ‘African literature’ as well as the explorers’ places of death, seems to be a fusion of those maps (Figures 1 and 2). That point raises some issues, the first one being that, despite the overlapping of several names, Welwitsch could hardly have relied on the maps of Reade or Duveyrier, given that he died in 1872—before the publication of either of those maps. One possibility is that he was in contact with either or both Reade and Duveyrier, but this still needs confirmation, and we have no evidence to support this hypothesis. The second possibility is that such kinds of representation were not unusual at that time. Here, it is opportune to add that, as put by Bas van Fraassen,

[. . .] use enters the concept of ‘map’ from the beginning. A map is not only an object used to represent features of a terrain, it is an object for the use of the industrial designer, the navigator, and most of all the traveller, to plan and direct action. [. . .] in addition, *representations have their uses*. They are typically produced for a certain use, with a certain purpose or goal. (Fraassen 2008, p. 76; emphasis in the original).

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That said, a promising route of inquiry opens, that is, to dig into contemporary map collections to investigate similar modes of visual representation, and thereby unveil their explicit and implicit uses and purposes.

CONCLUSIONS

The re-evaluated map, and the improved list with ten newly identified travellers, did not change the general distribution of explorers categorized by nationality, in which British subjects remain the majority. Both, the map and the list, confirm and highlight that the African continent was at the center of imperial expansion.

In the case of the three maps mentioned here (Welwitsch's map reproduced in Albuquerque and Figueirôa (2018), and Figures 1 and 2 herein), it seems already clear: these maps are metaphors for European imperialist domination, whether through the knowledge of natural history (Welwitsch), writing/literature (Reade), or death/sacrifice (Duveyrier), and these maps were all produced for the sake of 'Civilization'.

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