Geographic and cartosemiotic books of Hansgeorg Schlichtmann

Bibliographic Photoatlas

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Table of contents

1. Biographical note 3-5
2. Books (authored, co-authored, edited, co-edited) 6-12
3. About the bibliographic photoatlas 13
4. Book-shelf 14
5. List of publications 15-16
6. Impressum 17
1. Biographical note

Hansgeorg Schlichtmann trained as a geographer. In 1967 he received his degree of Dr. phil. from Eberhard-Karls-Universität in Tübingen. He first worked as a research officer in the Federal Research Institution for Geography and Planning in Bonn, where his duties included the compilation and editing of thematic maps. In 1970 he joined the Department of Geography at the University of Regina in Regina, where he taught as a professor until his retirement in 2005. In 1977 he was a visiting scholar at the University of Adelaide. In geography, Professor Schlichtmann’s areas of professional interest are cultural geography, historical geography, geography of settlements, and cartography. He was co-editor of several books, contributing chapters to all of them.

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1. Biographical note

Through his work in cartography, H. Schlichtmann developed an interest in cartosemiotics, i.e., the semiotics of maps and other cartographic representations – also called cartographic models. This subject area finally became his main field of study. His research stands in the semiotic tradition of continental Europe. Results have, in the first place, been disseminated through articles in journals and collections; many of them are available online. A representative publication is “Cartosemiotics” (2008) at http://www.semioticon.com/seo/C/cartosemiotics.html. In the International Cartographic Association he was chairman of the Working Group on Map Semiotics (1995-1999) and vice-chairman of the Commission on Theoretical Cartography (1999-2007).

He co-edited the former discussion-paper series Kartosemiotik/Картосемиотика (1994-1995) and is currently co-editor of the successor series Diskussionsbeiträge zur Kartosemiotik und zur Theorie der Kartographie. Further, he serves on the editorial board of the journal meta-carto-semiotics – Journal for Theoretical Cartography.
1. Biographical note

The subject matter of cartosemiotics encompasses (1) signs and systems of signs employed in cartographic models, (2) processes of creating and using such sign systems (sign processes), (3) contexts in which signs originate and function (functional contexts), and, finally, (4) some peripheral phenomena (like map legends). Among the cartographic models, it is mostly maps in the traditional sense which have been studied, since they are the most versatile and most widely used kind. The sign systems constitute the core area of cartosemiotics and are its *raison d'être*. H. Schlichtmann sees his chief task in studying the said systems with a view to imposing a consistent and reasonably complete theoretical order on diverse observations, just as linguists do for natural and artificial languages.
This book elucidates delimitation and properties of spatial units in the cultural landscape, each unit being characterized by a mosaic of elementary parts. Although the theoretical background of the study has changed in the meantime, the research method is still applicable.
In the context of the 22nd International Geographical Congress, held in Canada in 1972, four geography departments jointly conducted a field excursion through the southern part of the Prairie Provinces. On this occasion two books were produced. The “Tour Guide”, being the first, is a collection of detailed route descriptions which in part contain original research.
The “Background Papers” are a companion volume of the “Tour guide” mentioned earlier. The book covers a number of topics concerning the three Prairie Provinces. This volume met a keenly felt need, since in 1972 little relevant research about the region was available in print. The “Background Papers” are still in use.
2.4. Cartographic thinking and map semiotics (Co-author with J. Pravda and A. Wolodtschenko, 1994)

This volume, produced for the 17th International Cartographic Conference in Barcelona, brings together three studies on general issues of cartosemiotics as a component of theoretical cartography. J. Pravda addresses the development of theoretical cartography. H. Schlichtmann presents his concept of map symbolism – also called map language – as it had developed by the mid-1990s. A. Wolodtschenko, finally, informs about components of map language and approaches according to which it has been studied.
2.5. Map semiotics around the world
(Editor, 1999)

Major works in cartosemiotics started to appear in the 1960s. By the 1990s, the field had developed so far that the need for taking stock arose. Responding to this need, a Working Group of the International Cartographic Association produced this book. It is an inventory and review of existing research achievements in cartosemiotics (at that time the narrower term “map semiotics” was used). The collection contains detailed literature reports for those language areas in which most of the relevant work had been done, together with an introductory discussion by its editor. Almost all of the studies reported upon had appeared in cartographic (rather than semiotic) publications.
2.6. Saskatchewan: Geographic perspectives
(Co-editor with B.D. Thraves, M.L. Lewry, and J.E. Dale, 2007)

This is the first university-level synthesis covering the geography of Saskatchewan, one of the three Prairie Provinces of Canada. Two general sections – an introduction and a retrospect-and-outlook discussion – and 18 major thematic chapters are complemented by 29 short focus studies which provide details on specific topics. Authors and editors have taken care to give adequate weight to both northern and southern regions – the prairies (grassland) in the south and the forested part in the north –, to both rural and urban environments, and to the aboriginal component of the population.
As H. Schlichtmann had, by and by, developed his ideas of cartosemiotics, it became necessary to summarize the relevant concepts and terms in a dictionary (2011). This publication is the first cartosemiotic dictionary in English (there are lexicographic works in other languages, based on other approaches). The book is an encyclopedic dictionary – or “dictionnaire raisonné” –, that is, it combines definitions of terms with comments on the matters being discussed. The author hopes that it can later be expanded by including other approaches to cartosemiotics.
3. About the bibliographic photoatlas

The bibliographic photoatlas or “Bildatlas” “Geographic and semiotic books of Hansgeorg Schlichtmann” presents books of Dr. Hansgeorg Schlichtmann, Professor Emeritus at the University of Regina.

The photoatlas is part of the project “Iconic Atlassing”, which develops the semiotic information technology and complements traditional textual references (for example, bibliographies). The bibliographic photoatlas is compact (up to 20-25 slides), ubiquitous (usable anytime and anywhere), and presents advanced information products.

The initiator of the photoatlas is A. Wolodtschenko, co-editor of the journal <meta-carto-semiotics>.
4. Book-shelf

Geographic books

Cartosemiotic books
5. List of publications


5. List of publications


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This photoatlas presents books of Hansgeorg Schlichtmann,
Professor Emeritus at the University of Regina, Canada.
It is aimed at geographers, cartographers, and semioticians, in particular
those who are interested in maps and other cartographic models.

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