

Klaus Geus, Martin Thiering (Eds.)

Features of Common Sense Geography

Implicit knowledge structures in
ancient geographical texts



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in ancient geographical texts

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Klaus Geus and Martin Thiering

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Preface and Acknowledgements

The chapters in this volume combine fundamental questions of common sense geography with case studies of ancient geographical texts. Our aim for future research is to apply the concept of mental models on common sense geography. The idea is to bridge synchronic cognitive linguistic and cognitive psychological approaches with ancient texts from a diachronic perspective. The usefulness of this interdisciplinary approach is evident in the various case studies presented here. Future research will have to sharpen and unify the different approaches proposed here. The mental modelling of common sense geography is a fruitful theoretical approach to gain deeper insights in universal and cultural-specific mnemonic representational systems.

We are immensely grateful to many friends and colleagues who have graciously offered assistance, criticism and advice. First and foremost we thank Elton Barker (Open University) for proof reading and his invaluable comments on earlier drafts; Irina Tupikova who once raised the question of 'Common Sense Astronomy' and thus inaugurated our study on common sense geography; the Berlin excellence cluster TO-POI which supported our research to a large extent; the student research assistants Daniela kleine Burhoff, May-Sarah Zeßin and Carsten Hoffmann and the student apprentice Amanda Castelló (València) at the Arbeitsbereich "Historische Geographie des antiken Mittelmeerraumes"; Horst Illmer (Würzburg) and Rainer Streng (Mering) who took care of many (and important) details; and last but not least Wolfgang Crom for hosting us at the Staatsbibliothek Berlin (Kartenabteilung) many times and feeding us with cookies while listening patiently to all our quibbles.

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