

A member of and contributor to the American Geographical Society from 1920 to 1956, historian **John Kirtland Wright** (1891-1969) researched a broad range of geographical disciplines throughout his academic career. Largely focusing on the overlap of history and geography, as well as the inherent subjectivity in geographic research and information, Wright strongly believed in the sharing of knowledge and making that knowledge freely available. As a result, his works contained thoughtful categorization and organization of material (Lowenthal 1969).

Geographic Subjectivity

While at one point the discipline of geography ignored the influence of subjectivity in human and physical patterns, J.K. Wright brought to the forefront the significance of the mind and the imagination in affecting scientific research. Specifically, he stressed the duality of both the mind's reality and of mental, often transcendental, images. Included in this arena of study were his interests in geographical cosmogony and cosmography, which pertained to the theological realm of the divine, "God's invisible creation," and the emotional bonds between people and places, which he then compared to the physical realm of land surface, climate, and [[cartography]] (Wright 1928).

Historical Geography

Wright was highly interested in the history of geography and the importance of accurate geographic archival records. He discovered and documented the influences of various religious perspectives on geography, with a very keen interest in Gothic and medieval representations that signified both divine and earthly geographic beauty (Wright 1965). In addition, he wrote prolifically on the Greek and Roman geographic influences, largely pertaining to Giovanni Leardo's thirteenth-century map of the world (Wright 1928).

Bibliography

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