PROJECT MUSE®

Announcement: The AJP Best Article Prize For 2018

William M. Breichner

American Journal of Philology, Volume 140, Number 3 (Whole Number 559), Fall 2019, p. v (Article)

Published by Johns Hopkins University Press

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/ajp.2019.0036>

➔ *For additional information about this article*

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/737292>

THE *AJP* BEST ARTICLE PRIZE FOR 2018
HAS BEEN PRESENTED BY
THE *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILOLOGY* TO

CHRISTOPHER B. KREBS
STANFORD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

for his contribution to scholarship in “The World’s Measure: Caesar’s Geographies of *Gallia* and *Britannia* in Their Contexts and as Evidence of His World Map,” *AJP* 139.1 (Spring 2018): 93-122.

Krebs situates the geographical descriptions of the *BG* within the techniques of Roman surveying and Greek geographical writing to reveal two largely different intentions: the first to organize a territory in such a way as to ready it for Roman control, the second as a contribution to a map of the *oikoumene*.

Krebs contrasts Caesar’s description of Gaul with that of his *Britannia*. The *Gallia*, he argues, is indebted to a variety of geographical traditions created for the purpose of ordering inhabited space. Important sources include the work of Roman surveyors, with which Caesar himself was familiar as curator of the *Via Appia*, and that of the *agrimensores*, whose work on laying out roads and in partitioning new territories focused on the *finis* of an area and the people who lived within. The result is an approach to *Gallia* from an imperial perspective that structures the area as an object of Roman military and administrative control.

The description of *Britannia*, by contrast, is abstract, rather than descriptive, and can be seen as representing the kind of ethno-geographical writing that traced its origins back to Herodotus. Caesar is familiar with the topoi of these discussions and how they are related to Britain in particular. Krebs connects the level of detail contained in the *Britannia* to Caesar’s intellectual interest in the comprehensive measurement of the *oikoumene* as attested by the so-called *Cosmographia Iulii Caesaris*. However, in the end, knowledge always has a political dimension. Caesar’s Britain, so constructed, can stand as a counterweight to Pompey’s military success. In addition, the scientific geography of Britain constitutes both a practical template and an intellectual justification for eventual Roman control.

Judges for Johns Hopkins University Press

Charles Platter (chair) Anthony Corbeil Alex Purves

The Thirty-first Annual Best Article Prize of \$1,000 will be awarded for the best article to appear in the Journal in 2019. The Press would like to thank the members of the committee for their time and effort.

William M. Breichner
Journals Publisher
Johns Hopkins University Press