

Deffontaines, Pierre. *Contribution à la géographie pastorale de l'Amérique latine*. Curso de Altos Estudos Geograficos 3, Centro de Pesquisas de Geografia do Brasil, Universidade do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, 1964, 132 p., 13 figures, 2 maps, bibliography.

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L'un des chapitres les plus neufs et les plus utiles est celui que l'auteur consacre aux mesures de densité et de répartition (p. 28-44). Notons, en particulier, la définition et l'examen critique des divers modes de calcul de la densité (densité brute, densités « physiologiques », densité économique). Une très utile bibliographie d'une vingtaine de titres termine ce chapitre.

Tout au long de l'ouvrage se rencontrent de nombreux graphiques, tableaux et cartes qui illustrent fort bien la matière et s'intègrent parfaitement à l'analyse que poursuit l'auteur. Chacun des chapitres se termine par une bibliographie très au point, sélective bien sûr, mais où figurent, en général, tous les titres importants et les plus significatifs. Notons enfin qu'un commode index facilite la consultation du livre.

Ce premier manuel du professeur Clarke nous fait espérer la publication prochaine du second volume consacré à la géographie régionale de la population.

Fernand GRENIER

GÉOGRAPHIE DE L'AGRICULTURE

DEFFONTAINES, Pierre. **Contribution à la géographie pastorale de l'Amérique latine.**

Curso de Altos Estudos Geograficos 3, Centro de Pesquisas de Geografia do Brasil, Universidade do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, 1964, 132 p., 13 figures, 2 maps, bibliography.

Geographers concerned with agricultural geography or with Latin America should be delighted to learn of the publication of this booklet by Pierre Deffontaines on the geography of pastoral livestock raising in Latin America.

About the Author and the Series

Although the author needs no introduction in French Canada, Brasil, and Western Europe, a word about him might be in order for readers in other countries. Pierre Deffontaines is a French geographer who lived for many years in Brasil where he was professor of geography at the universities of São Paulo and of the Federal District. He has published many articles on Latin America and a book on Brasil,¹ and many of his numerous publications in human geography touch upon pastoral geography. To a certain extent the present publication represents a synthesis of a number of his articles on agriculture in Latin America. More recently Deffontaines has been Director of the *Institut français de Barcelone*, in Spain, and he is now teaching geography at the *Collège littéraire universitaire de Perpignan*, in France. He has been visiting professor of geography at *Université Laval* on repeated occasions.

Contribution à la géographie pastorale de l'Amérique latine is the third in the series *Curso de Altos Estudos Geograficos* (Course in Advanced Geographical Studies) published by the *Centro de Pesquisas de Geografia do Brasil* (Center of Geographical Research of Brasil) at the University of Brasil, Rio de Janeiro. Contributors to the series are distinguished geographers who attended the XVIIIth International Geographical Congress in Rio de Janeiro in 1956, and the project has received financial support from the Rockefeller Foundation. In addition to the present No. 3 by Deffontaines, numbers 1 and 2, by Pierre Birot and André Cailleux, respectively, have already appeared.^{2,3} Further numbers by Pierre Monbeig, Erwin Raisz, Orlando Ribeiro, and Carl Troll are planned. Interested persons will find further details in the Portuguese preface of the present volume by Hilgard O'Reilly Sternberg, Director of the *Centro* at the time of publication.

About the Maps and Illustrations

This booklet is illustrated with thirteen original sketches by Deffontaines, one of the rare geographers of our time who can sketch a scene almost as rapidly as we less talented can

¹ DEFFONTAINES, Pierre, *El Brasil ; la Tierra y el Hombre*, Barcelona, 1944.

² BIROT, Pierre, *Le cycle d'érosion sous les différents climats*, 1960.

³ CAILLEUX, André, *Application à la géographie des méthodes d'étude des sables et des galets*, 1961.

photograph it. Several of these illustrations are the kind of panoramic landscape drawings which have become the trademark of Deffontaines' publications.

One of the most important contributions of Deffontaines' essay is the two maps of livestock raising, a double page map of South America (pp. 88-89) and a smaller map of Central America (p. 74). Cartographically these maps leave something to be desired in that the individual hachured areas are not encircled by boundaries; but the maps are fairly readable despite the poor cartographic quality and the mass of information shown.

The South America map, while retaining the overall pattern of Derwent S. Whittlesey's map⁴ in so far as livestock raising is concerned, includes much additional information which either is new or was not taken into consideration on the Whittlesey map, now 30 years old. Deffontaines' map shows the kind of animals raised (beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, goats, lamas, and alpacas). For sheep and cattle it further distinguishes between extensive and intensive livestock raising. Seasonally flooded grazing lands are also indicated. Principal livestock markets and slaughter and refrigeration centers are shown by point symbols; and by means of various line symbols the map also indicates transhumant migrations, routes of overland animal movements, animal transport by boat, and even transport of meat by airplane!

The concentrations of goats in certain dry corners of the continent (*Nordeste*, peninsular Venezuela, and northwestern Peru) and the distribution of seasonally flooded pastures are fascinating. To the surprise of the reviewer, the lama and alpaca are not shown throughout the Andes but only in the *Altiplano* and bordering mountain areas. The importance of cattle transport by inland waterways was also a surprise.

About the Contents

This little volume on the geography of husbandry in Spanish and Portuguese America is divided into four parts:

- I. *L'introduction du bétail* ;
- II. *Les routes et foires à bétail* ;
- III. *Sédentarité ou nomadisme de la vie pastorale* ;
- IV. *Appropriation du bétail et délimitation du domaine d'élevage*.

Chapter I, on the introduction of livestock, is devoted to the introduction of animals into the Americas by the Spanish and the Portuguese, how the conditions found there favored husbandry, and the manner in which the different European species of animals were dissiminated about Latin America during early exploratory and colonial penetrations.

The second chapter, on routes of animal movements and on livestock markets, is a skillfully organized section in which the author first sets the scene by showing the separation of producing and consuming areas (livestock raised mainly in the interior, population concentrated on the coasts). Next he examines the obstacles to livestock transport (mountains, forests, rivers). Then he shows the influence of livestock transport routes on later settlement. And finally Deffontaines examines the market centers (*foires*) — the « go betweens » between producers and consuming areas. The material in this chapter and its portrayal on the maps already discussed embody much original research by the author.

Chapter III, on sedentary and nomadic husbandry, is the most voluminous section of the booklets. Despite the fact that « The majority of the areas of livestock raising of South America ... permits the animals to graze on the same pastures throughout the year » (p. 63), most of this chapter is curiously enough devoted to migratory rather than sedentary husbandry. The question of whether or not genuine transhumance exists in South America is posed and a number of transhumant movements examined. Considerable space is then devoted to migratory husbandry related to seasonally flooded areas, but these migrations are not called « transhumance. » The author then turns to the system of *invernadas* involving the movements of livestock from grazing to fattening areas. Geographers in North America, where movements

⁴ WHITTLESEY, Derwent S., *Major Agricultural Regions of the Earth*, *Annals Assoc. Amer. Geogs.*, 26 : 199-240, 1936.

from range to feedlots are so well developed and highly organized, will no doubt find it bizarre for such movements to be treated in the same chapter with transhumance, etc., but it must be remembered that the author's chapter heading refers to migratory husbandry and is not restricted to migratory grazing. Furthermore, it should be noted that in South America the fattening of livestock is generally effectuated on high quality pastures, *berbages de finissage* (p. 98) rather than by grain or root feeding as in Anglo-America and Western Europe. A large part of this chapter is occupied by studies of selected small areas illustrating the principal themes mentioned above.

The illustrious title and side headings of the final chapter, *Appropriation du bétail et délimitation du domaine d'élevage*, will mislead any reader thinking in terms of the modern situation in North America and having only an amateur knowledge of French. When the author mentions *appropriation du bétail* (amateur translation: cattle rustling), *chasse au cuir* (leather hunting), *chasse à la viande* (meat hunting), and *le marquage* (branding), the North American vaguely familiar with the Western Range and overinfluenced by cowboy films will immediately think of cattle rustling, horse thieves, the poaching of animals for their hides or meat, and the alteration of brands. On the contrary, the real theme of the chapter is the evolution from semi-wild herds roaming open range to the modern system of privately owned and branded animals, of grazing rights, and of fenced pastures — a transformation which, it appears, has taken place much later in Latin America than in Anglo-America. A reasonable translation of the chapter title might be: « Acquisition and Tenure of Livestock and Rangeland, and Fencing of the Range. »

Some Things the Booklet does not Contain

In the *Conclusion* the author defends himself, as if motivated by a presentiment, against the reviewer's principal criticism of the volume: it maintains the tradition among French geographers to separate livestock raising (*élevage*) from crop production (*cultures*). Treating livestock raising separately may work rather well for types of agriculture involving virtually no crops, such as livestock ranching and some types of dairying, but it fails completely to bring out the essential character of the farm unit or the agricultural region in areas where animals and crops are integrated, as in the Corn Belt and much of Western Europe. Deffontaines reminds us in the conclusion, which the critical reader would do well to read first, that in fact husbandry and cropping are markedly separated in Latin America — a condition resulting mainly from the « Méditerranéanisation » of the continent by its Iberian conquerors. While accepting this defense, the reviewer can excuse his good friend Deffontaines for neglecting the overall character of agricultural regions containing both grazing and cropping only because of the limitation indicated by the book's title, which clearly states that the volume concerns only pastoral husbandry and not agriculture in the full sense of the word.

This concession, however, does not prevent the present writer from pointing out that Deffontaines has not really treated the fundamental *unit* of livestock raising, which is not a system of grazing or movements of animals but rather the farm, or ranch, or whatever it is called in Spanish and Portuguese. The author's regarding as a single system the range-to-*invernada* movements — in which the husbandman who grazes the animals and the husbandman who finishes them is not necessarily the same party — is a vivid example of this failure to recognize the ranch or farm as the basic unit of pastoral life.

In general, the agricultural geographer will find this volume more historical and anthropogeographical than economic and ecological. Note that this observation is not a criticism of the book. The aspects of agriculture treated by Deffontaines are precisely the greatest weaknesses of American-style studies patterned after Wellington D. Jones, Harold H. McCarty, and the U. S. D. A. *Generalized Types of Farming in the United States*. The French approach and the American approach to the geography of agriculture complement each other admirably — at least in the opinion of the reviewer, who has bothered to explore both points of view more or less fully and objectively.

Finally, the reader receives the impression that this booklet brings us up to, but not really into, the modern period. It is more an historical document than an analysis of the present

scene. There is very little, for example, on the exportation of Latin American meat to the North Atlantic — extremely important in the pastoral economy of the main South American meat-producing countries.

Conclusion

The preceding remarks should not be interpreted as a denunciation of the volume. They are intended not to criticize the author or his work but to indicate what the book does and does not offer to the agricultural geographer and Latin American specialist. The work is admittedly an incomplete geography of pastoral husbandry in Latin America, but it does not pretend to be a comprehensive one. Remember that the title is *Contribution à la géographie pastorale*, etc., and not *La géographie pastorale*, etc. When Deffontaines' essay is viewed in this optic, the reviewer does not hesitate to affirm that it merits a prominent place among the major contributions to the agricultural geography of Latin America.

John M. CROWLEY

UNE GÉOGRAPHIE DE LA NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE : COMPTE RENDU ET COMMENTAIRES SUR LES MÉTHODES DE LA GÉOGRAPHIE RÉGIONALE ¹

CUMBERLAND, Kenneth B., et FOX, James W. **New Zealand : A Regional View.** 2^e édition. Christchurch, Whitcombe & Tombs, Ltd., 1963. 317 pp., cartes, illus., appendices, bibliographie, index.

La première édition de ce livre, sans doute le manuel le plus largement utilisé sur la géographie de la Nouvelle-Zélande, est parue en 1958. Au cours des cinq années qui se sont déroulées depuis, la Nouvelle-Zélande a subi des changements importants. En plus de mettre à jour les données statistiques, le présent volume donne des renseignements sur le développement du Dominion de Nouvelle-Zélande depuis la première édition. Plusieurs sections ont été révisées et d'autres sections ajoutées, et le nombre de pages a été porté de 280 à 317.

Le plan de cette édition est le même que celui de l'édition précédente. Il y a onze chapitres correspondant aux onze régions que les auteurs reconnaissent en Nouvelle-Zélande. De plus, il y a un chapitre sur les centres métropolitains et un sur la Nouvelle-Zélande toute entière. Le premier chapitre du livre traite de l'esprit et des méthodes de la géographie régionale et il faut dire que c'est un des meilleurs exposés que nous connaissions sur ce sujet. Les géographes qui sont sceptiques ou ignorants du concept de la région et de la délimitation précise des régions pourraient profiter beaucoup de la lecture de ce chapitre. Le livre comporte à la fin des tableaux statistiques et une bibliographie, organisés selon les régions délimitées dans le volume.

Les cartes ont été toutes redessinées. Grâce à l'élimination des cadres et au remaniement des légendes, on a considérablement augmenté l'échelle des cartes sans qu'elles occupent beaucoup plus d'espace. De plus, on a accordé une carte d'une page complète à chacune des régions métropolitaines alors que dans l'ancienne édition les quatre cartes étaient coincées sur une seule page. Malheureusement on a combiné les cartes de deux régions dans certains cas, par exemple celles du Plateau Volcanique et de l'Eastland. Une partie de la série de cartes paraît dans le chapitre sur le Plateau Volcanique pendant que l'autre partie se situe dans celui traitant de l'Eastland, qui nécessite des sauts d'un chapitre à l'autre pour trouver la carte voulue en lisant le texte. Cette recherche est rendue d'autant plus difficile que dans l'index des figures on ne donne pas les numéros des pages. Les auteurs ont commis une erreur presque catastrophique en éliminant les cartes de *place names* qui paraissaient dans l'ancienne édition. Comment savoir où se trouvent les nombreux villages, petites villes, rivières, etc., cités dans le texte? Très peu d'étudiants et de géographes hors de la Nouvelle-Zélande auront un atlas qui permettrait de localiser,

¹ Cette note est en quelque sorte à une note dans le numéro précédent de cette même revue : CROWLEY, John M., *Geographies of Two States : Review and Commentary on the Methods of Regional Geography*, dans *Cahiers de géographie de Québec*, n° 19, octobre 1965-mars 1966, pp. 154-159.