

RECENT GEOGRAPHICAL WORK IN ESTONIA

BY

MICHAEL HALTENBERGER

TARTU (DORPAT) 1925

C. Mattiesen, Dorpat.

The present writer has recently been appointed Professor of Geography at the University of Tartu (Dorpat). As such, it is his duty to give an account of the work done in his subject at this University and some other places during the first years of Estonian independence. He is pleased to record that a good beginning has been made. The Geography of Estonia has been treated from many points of view, though a great amount of pioneer-work has still to be done, particularly in the creation of a special terminology in the rapidly developing Estonian language, unused so far to the expression of more abstract ideas*). Estonia in general may be said to be a virgin territory both for geographers and geologists. The former Russian government was more interested in such parts of its empire as the Ural and the Caucasus, on account of the great economic importance of their mountain lands. The Baltic region, which is but poorly endowed with minerals, was neglected to such an extent that no up-to-date geological map of Estonia is in existence. It is now the task of the Estonian geographers to investigate their country and trace its individual geographical features. The University of Tartu, having become convinced of the necessity of such work, has instituted scholarships for students in order to assist them in making excursions every summer and exploring various parts of the country. Very beneficial in this respect are the excellent cartographical courses conducted during the last years by Mr. A. Mieler, Assistent at the Geographical Department of the University.

I next come to the enumeration of the publications made in my subject since the declaration of Estonian independence (1918). The number of books, special papers and measurements issued is already considerable and growing steadily. These publications have appeared mostly in Estonian; some, however, are written in English, German, Finnish and Russian. In certain

*) A permanent commission has been formed in the Geographical Department for the purpose of working out of Estonian termini technici.

cases a brief summary in German or English has been added to the Estonian papers.

1. The works treating of GENERAL GEOGRAPHY deal with the following topics: cartometry, astronomy, geomorphology, hydrography, oceanography, climatology, plantgeography, anthropogeography and scenic geography.

Cartometric works are those by J. Rumma and that by A. Tammekann. Rumma¹⁾ made planimetric measurements of the total area of the Republic and also of the area covered by lakes and islands. The total area amounts to 47,548.7 sq. km., that of the lakes (more than 1500 in number) to 2400 sq. km. and that of the islands (over 800) to 4200 sq. km. Tammekann²⁾ ascertained that the coast-line measures 3403.53 km and the landfrontier of Estonia 672.60 km.

Geomorphological questions were discussed by H. Bekker, E. Kant, J. Kais, A. Tammekann, J. Rumma, J. Maide. — Bekker³⁾ and Kant⁴⁾ described the morainic district of Otepää, and discussed its special character. Bekker⁵⁾ made also a study of Püha Lake. Kais⁶⁾ investigated the highest elevation of Estonia, the Munamägi, using barometric measurements to ascertain its height, which he found to be 308.6 metres. This had formerly been given as 324 m by Kupffer⁷⁾ and as 316.6 m by the physical map of Estonia. Tammekann⁸⁾ studied the coast of North-East Estonia, Rumma⁹⁾ the divide of Viljandi, the course of which

1) Eestimaa järvede ja saarte pindala. (The area of the Estonian lakes and islands.) "Loodus" (Nature), Tartu 1924. Statistic Tables.

2) Eesti piirijoone kurvimeetriline mõõtmine. (Curvilinear measurements of the Estonian coast and landfrontier.) "Loodus" 1922. Nr. 4. pp. 246—247.

3) Otepää künkline moreenmaastik. (The morainic hillyland of Odenpäh.) Rahvaülikool, Tallinn (1919).

4) Otepää, loodus ja inimene. (Odenpäh, nature and man.) From the book "Tartumaa". Tartu 1924. On "Tartumaa" cf. footnote 33.

5) Andmed Pühajärve uurimisest. (Notes on some investigations of Holy-Lake.) Published by "Odamees." Tartu 1923.

6) Munamägi ja ta ümbrus. (Munamägi and its surroundings.) "Loodus" 1922. Nr. 3—4. pp. 145—161, 214—216.

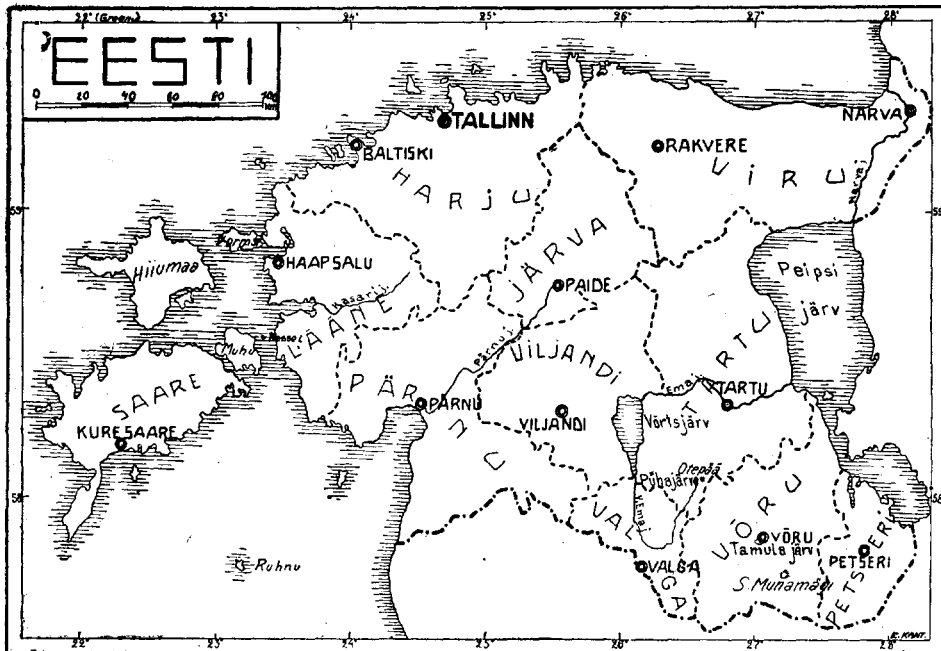
7) Baltische Landeskunde. G. Löffler, Riga 1911.

8) Koilis-Viron Rannikomaa. (The Coastland of North-East Estonia.) "Terra" 1924. Nr. 2/3. pp. 257—268. Helsinki (Helsingfors).

9) Viljandi oru veelahe. (The Divide of Fellin.) "Loodus" 1923. Nr. 1. pp. 31—56.

according to him is 250 m farther east than had hitherto been assumed, and which does not cut across the Lake of Viljandi, as was supposed. Maide¹⁰⁾ devoted his attention to the little island of Kesselaid.

Among **geological** papers there are to be mentioned those of H. Scupin, H. Bekker, H. v. Winkler, C. Gäbert. — Scupin¹¹⁾



searched for petroleum and salt in the Baltic region. Bekker¹²⁾ wrote on the occurrence of Ordovician and Silur, on Devonian

10) Kesselaid. "Loodus" 1923. Nr. 4. pp. 223—230.

11) Zur Petroleumfrage in den Baltischen Ländern. Acta et Commentationes Universitatis Dorpatensis A.VI.11. 1924.

Die Frage des Vorkommens von Steinsalz in Estland. Tartu Ülikooli juures oleva Loodusuurijate Seltsi aruanded. Sitzungsber. d. Naturf.-Ges. bei der Univ. Dorpat. XXIX, (1—4). pp. 1—22. Tartu (Dorpat) 1923.

12) Ülevaade Eesti ordoviitsiumi ja siluuri kohta käivatest uurimistest. (Summary of the investigations of the Estonian Ordovician and Silur.) "Loodus" 1922. Nr. 3—4. pp. 161—165, 217—224.

Mõned uued andmed Kukruse lademe stratigraafiast ja faunast. — Stratigraphical and paleontological supplements on the Kukruse stage of the Ordovician rocks of Eesti (Estonia). — Publications of the Geological Institution. 1924. Nr. 1. Tartu. = Acta et Commentationes Universitatis Dorpatensis A.VI.1. 1924. (In Estonian and English.)

rocks and a short review of the geology of Estonia. Winkler¹³⁾ published a stratigraphy of the country from Archaic to Devon, Gäbert¹⁴⁾ published a paper on oil-shale in Estonia (Kukersit).

In the work of investigation were also included the lakes, rivers and surrounding seas. J. Mey¹⁵⁾ dealt with the Baltic sea and Lake Peipus. L. v. z. Mühlen¹⁶⁾ studied Lake Võrts. J. Kais¹⁷⁾ wrote on Lake Tammula and on the Lakes of the Võru district, A. Wellner¹⁸⁾ on the Naroova River and the types of lakes and moors in Estonia.

Studies of the climate of Estonia are contained in the contributions of the Meteorological Observatory. W. Kurrik¹⁹⁾ also discussed the climatic regions of Estonia. According to him the Republic may be divided into 4 climatic regions: a cool and a temperate continental region of the interior, and a cool and a temperate maritime region of the coast. J. Letzmann²⁰⁾ discussed the trombe, observed at Otepää on May 10th, 1920, the

Devon Irboska ümbruses. — Stratigraafia, fauna ja paleogeograafia. — The Devonian Rocks of the Irboska district (S. E. Estonia) with the description of a new cemented brachiopod. — Publications of the Geological Institution of the University of Tartu. 1924. Nr. 2. (In Estonian and English.)

Lühike ülevaade Eesti geoloogiast. — Eozooline ja paleozooline ladekond. — A short review on the Geology of Estonia. — Published by "Eesti". Tartu 1925.

13) Eestimaa geoloogia: I. Ladelugu. (Geology of Estonia: I. Stratigraphy — Archaicum to Devon.) G. Pihlakas, Tallinn 1922.

14) Über die Ölschiefer in Estland. From "Braunkohle", Nr. 48/49. pp. 597—625. Halle 1921.

15) Baltimere hüdrograafia. (The hydrography of the Baltic Sea.) "Laevandus" (Navigation), 1922. Nr. 4/5, 7/9, 12. 1923. Nr. 1.

Peipsijärv. (Lake Peipus.) "Päevaleht" (A newspaper) Nr. 197—199. Tallinn 1922.

16) Der See Wirzjärw in Livland. From "Arch. für Naturkunde d. Ostbaltikums." XIV. 1. Dorpat 1920.

17) Tammulajärv. (Lake Tammula.) "Võrumaa" (A newspaper) Nr. 52. Võru 1923.

Võrujärved. (The lakes of Werro.) "Loodus" 1923. Nr. 10. pp. 577—593.

18) Naroova jõe uurimise andmed ja veejõu kasutamise kava. (Summary of the investigations of the Narova River.) Published by the State Department for Communication. Tallinn 1923.

19) Eesti kliima valdkonnad. (Climatic regions of Estonia.) "Loodus" 1924. Nr. 9. pp. 472—485.

20) Die Trombe von Odenpäh am 10. Mai 1920. Acta et Comm. Univ. Dorp. A III. Misc. 1922.

Die Höhe der Schneedecke im Ostbaltischen Gebiet. Acta et Comm. Univ. Dorp. A II. 3. 1921.

trombe observed on Lake Peipus on August 3d, 1922, and also gave an account of the thickness of the blanket of snow which covers the Baltic region in winter.

Among the **botanists** we have to mention the names of E. Spohr and P. Thomson. Spohr²¹⁾ wrote on geobotany in general and especially on plantsociology and on botanical investigations in Estonia. Thomson²²⁾ made plantgeographical observations in the late-glacial transgression region of South-Harju district and also on the regional distribution and origin of the Alvartrifts in North-Estonia.

Anthropogeography is dealt with in economic periodicals²³⁾; there are also papers on settlements and ethnographical topics as that by A. Westrén-Doll²⁴⁾ on the North-Estonian settlement and that by H. Sepp²⁵⁾ on the Swedish inhabitants of the coast and islands of Estonia, lastly there is an account of Urban-geography by E. Kant²⁶⁾, who discussed the historic centre of the city of Tartu.

As to **Scenic Geography** we have to mention the paper by J. G. Granö²⁷⁾, the former professor at the University of Tartu, who discussed its problems and gave a system of surface-features similar to that of Passarge.

2. **REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY** is treated partly theoretically, partly in a more popular form. As the interesting work of

21) Geobotaanikast, eriti taimesotsioloogiast ja Eesti geobotaanilise uurimisest. (On geobotany in general and especially on plantsociology and on botanical investigations in Estonia.) "Loodus" 1923. Nr. 1—2. pp. 1—16, 74—90.

22) Taimgeograafilised vaatlused hilis-jääaegse meretransgressiooni alal Lõuna-Harjumaal. (Plantgeographical observations in the late-glacial transgression region of South-Harju district.) "Loodus" 1922. Nr. 3. pp. 134—144.

Zur Frage der regionalen Verbreitung und Entstehung der Gehölzwiesen und Alvartriften in Nordestland. Sitzungsber. d. Naturforscherges. bei d. Univ. Dorpat. XXX. Heft 3/4. pp. 45—53. Tartu (Dorpat) 1924.

23) Die Wirtschaft Estlands. Graphische Ges. "Kiri". Heft 6. Reval 1923. The Esthonian Economic Bulletin. Tallinn 1923.

24) Die nordestnische Siedelung. Sitzungsber. d. Gel. Estn. Ges. Dorpat 1921.

25) Eesti ranna ja saarte rootslased. (The swedish inhabitants of the coast and islands of Estonia.) "Odamees" (A periodical), Nr. 3. Tartu 1923.

26) Tartu linna süda. (The historic centre of the city of Dorpat.) "Loodus" 1924. Nr. 1—2. pp. 1—12, 82—96.

27) Maastikuteaduse ülesanded ja maastiku vormide süsteem. (Problems of Scenic Geography and the system of the landforms.) "Loodus" 1924. Nr. 5. pp. 233—247.

J. G. Granö²⁸⁾ has already been noticed in Petermanns Mitteilungen (1924. Nr. 7/8. p. 183), I shall mention here only Granö's "Eesti"²⁹⁾ and the short notes to Home-Geography of the districts of Estonia in the statistical books, based upon the census of 1922 and written by J. Rumma³⁰⁾. In connection with Home-Geography I have still to mention the paper by Granö³¹⁾ on investigations in Home-Geography in Estonia and the preliminary reports on Tammekann's³²⁾ home-geographical work. There has just appeared a book on Tartumaa³³⁾, edited by Rumma, Granö and Veski.

3. Works of a more METHODOLOGICAL character are chiefly those by Granö³⁴⁾ on Geography as a science and as a University-subject, and by Rumma³⁵⁾ about the teaching of Geography.

4. STATISTICAL WORKS dealing with the movements of population and the economic life of the country are enumerated below under 30.

This review of the recent geographical work done in Estonia during the short time of her independence justifies us in expressing the hope that the science of Geography in Estonia will further make good progress, inasmuch as it possesses already a publication, in which the present paper appeared, vol. A VII.₅ of it containing a paper on the Baltic Question by the present writer³⁶⁾.

28) Eesti maastikulised üksused. (The scenic unities of Estonia.) "Loodus" 1922. Nr. 4. pp. 193—214.

29) Eesti. (Esthonie. Esthonia. Estland.) Parikas, Tallinn 1923.

30) Eesti maakondade geograafilise ülevaade. Riigi Statistika Keskbüroo, Tallinn 1923/24. (Geographical description of the districts of Estonia. So far 8 volumes of the contemplated set of 11 have appeared.)

31) Viron kotisentutkimus. (Home-investigations in Estonia.) Suomen Heimo Nr. 7. Helsinki 1923.

32) Kodu-uurimise tööd 1923 a. suvel. (Home-investigations in Estonia during the summer of 1923.) "Loodus" 1923. Nr. 11. pp. 680—682.

33) Tartumaa. 740 pages with 231 illustrations and 19 maps. Tartu 1925.

34) Maateadus ülikooli õppeainena ja teadusena. (Geography as a science and university study.) Published by "Postimees", Tartu 1920.

35) Maateaduse õppeviis. (Geography as a teaching subject.) Published by "Loodus", Tartu 1920.

36) Gehört das Baltikum zu Ost-, Nord- oder zu Mitteleuropa? Dorpat 1925.
