



## NEWSLETTER N° 2, September 1998

**D**ear Map Friend,  
There were eight Founding Members who met in Brussels on 5th June 1998 to officially launch the BIMCC, following a very promising informal first gathering of map enthusiasts in March (see Newsletter N° 1, May 1998). Since then the statutes have been published in the "Moniteur Belge" of 20th August, giving our Circle the status of a non-profitmaking association under Belgian law (ASBL). An Executive Committee is now operational and the programme of events it has worked out is detailed further on. Obviously, we invite all of you to become members of the BIMCC and to share with academic specialists, professionals of the trade and the growing

number of collectors, our common interest in old maps, atlases, town views and, more generally, in the history of cartography. Please use the enclosed Membership Application Form; you will note that signing up now will, as a bonus, validate your membership up to the end of 1999. In line with our commitment to serve the multinational and interdisciplinary map scene in Brussels and beyond, we intend to introduce progressively a calendar of national and international events that could be of interest to our Members. In addition, we feel some topical information on Belgian auctions with a map and atlas content might be welcome, it being understood that the BIMCC will strictly maintain its line of independence and neutrality vis-à-vis

*Beste lezer,*

*Wij hebben ons tot doel gesteld om, op de internationale scene van Brussel en daarbuiten, zoveel mogelijk mensen te bereiken met een interesse voor onze activiteiten. Om elk mogelijk conflict betreffende taalgebruik te vermijden, kozen wij Engels als onze werktal. Toch bestaat altijd de mogelijkheid om in het Nederlands te communiceren met de BIMCC. Wij zullen een inspanning leveren om hen die dat wensen te helpen tijdens de verscheidene manifestaties die in het Engels worden gehouden.*

*Cher lecteur,*

*Nous nous sommes fixé comme objectif de toucher, sur la scène internationale de Bruxelles et au-delà, le plus grand nombre de personnes susceptibles d'être intéressées par nos activités. Afin d'éviter toute situation potentiellement conflictuelle concernant la pratique des langues nous avons adopté l'anglais comme langue de travail. Néanmoins il vous est toujours loisible de dialoguer avec le BIMCC en français, et nous nous efforcerons d'aider ceux qui le désirent durant les diverses manifestations se déroulant en anglais.*

*Lieber Leser,*

*Wir haben uns zum Ziel gesetzt, einen möglichst grossen Kreis interessierter Menschen in Brüssel und darüberhinaus anzusprechen. Um dabei jedwede linguistische Problematik zu umgehen ist Englisch als Arbeitssprache gewählt worden. Jedoch können Sie jederzeit mit dem BIMCC Kontakt auch in Deutsch aufnehmen, und wir werden versuchen denen, die dies wünschen, sprachlich behilflich zu sein während der in Englisch abgehaltenen Veranstaltungen.*

representatives of the trade, including those who obtain a special mention as sponsors for the one or other BIMCC event.

## BIMCC PROGRAMME

### Visit to Brugge - 10th October 1998

Preparations are practically complete; a few places are left for this first BIMCC outing to see the Pourbus/Claeissens wall map and other 16th century cartographic documents in the historical City Archives (details were given in the last Newsletter). As a memento: those who have reserved a place meet at 11.00 hours outside the Archives (address: Burg 11a). Dr. André Vanderwalle, Chief Archivist, has kindly agreed to receive and guide our group personally, and Bart Van der Hertten will introduce the book he is editing on the Pourbus wall map. After the visit we'll meet in a near-by Bistro/Café for a glass of wine or beer, lunch arrangements being left to individual participants.

### Ortelius commemoration - 12th and 13th December 1998

Four hundred years ago, in 1598, one of the most profiled and respected personalities of the 16th century died in Antwerp. Abraham Ortelius has found his place in history as the cosmographer who produced the first modern atlas, the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, published in 1570. But he was also a learned man with a wide range of interests beyond cartography. To commemorate the quadricentennial of his death the BIMCC organizes a week-end of lectures and visits to exhibitions in Brussels and Antwerpen.

#### Saturday, 12th December

**Morning Conference: "Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598), Mastermind of the Theatre of the World"**

**Place:** Collège St. Michel, 24, Boulevard St. Michel, 1040 Brussels

**Métro:** Montgomery, exit "Bd. St. Michel II";  
Private car park.

**Schedule:** 09.00 - 09.30 Registration  
09.30 - Welcome address by the BIMCC President  
09.45 - Joost Depuydt, "Mapping Ortelius' humanist activities"

On account of the success of his atlas, scholarly interest in Ortelius has always been focused on his achievements as a mapmaker. In his time, however, he was well known as a collector and self-taught humanist, interested in the study of ancient history through numismatics and historical toponymy.

Ortelius' *Album amicorum* and his correspondence attest to the size and importance of his circle of learned friends. His varied intellectual interests will be illustrated with striking examples from these two main sources.

#### 10.30 - Rodney Shirley, "Cultural Imagery in the title pages of Ortelius and his contemporaries"

Decorative (engraved) titlepages or frontispieces accompany many atlases and geographical works from the 1520s onwards. With one or two exceptions, they have not been studied in detail and only recently have become sought-after collectors' items.

These pages often display the contents of an atlas as part of a complex visual image. Features such as its geographical content, historical or political relevance, or its territorial significance may be presented in symbolical or allegorical terms. Typical images may be those of power and authority, classical legends, technology, learning, and exploration.

This paper will discuss the development and imagery of the decorative titlepages adopted by Ortelius and by his contemporaries. Specific examples will be shown, using colour slides and visual display of original material, to demonstrate some of the symbols or images adopted by map-makers or their publishers.

#### 11.15 - Marcel van den Broecke, "Ortelius as a scientist, collector and merchant"

Ortelius is duly known as the maker of the first modern atlas. His activities as a collector and particularly as a merchant seem to reduce his importance as a scientist, as if these different qualities do not go together. The speaker will try to argue that in fact they strengthen each other, and in the process will reassess earlier estimates of production and survival of his atlases and maps, and identify some Ortelius-areas in need of further research, in spite of all research results that have appeared on his works recently.

12.00 - Presentation of latest publications on Ortelius:

- \* Marcel van den Broecke (ed.): "Abraham Ortelius and the first Atlas; Essays commemorating the Quadricentennial of his Death 1598 - 1998", HES Publishers, 433 pp., in English
- \* Dirk Imhof (co-ed.) - working title: "Abraham Ortelius, Cartographer, Humanist and Art Collector", jointly published by the Plantin-Moretus Museum (Antwerpen) and the Royal Library Albert I (Brussels), ca 200 pp., two separate ed. in Dutch and French

12.30 - Apéritifs offered by the Circle

### Notes on the Speakers

Joost Depuydt studied at Leuven University and at the Warburg Institute (London) where he obtained an M.A. in combined historical studies (Renaissance); he has lectured widely and published numerous articles on Ortelius in academic publications. Now working at the Rare Books Department, Leuven University.

Rodney Shirley studied at Cambridge (M.A.) and Harvard (MBA) before embarking on a business career. For many years he has combined this with being an active collector and historian of old maps. His book "The Mapping of the World 1472 - 1700" is a standard reference work, as are his two books on the early maps of the British Isles. He is a past-President and current Council Member of IMCoS, the International Map Collectors' Society in London.

Marcel van den Broecke taught English and phonetics at Utrecht University where he obtained his Ph.D. He started getting involved in historical cartography in 1981, initially as a collector of old maps. His studies resulted in the publication of numerous articles in *The Map Collector*, *Caert-Thresoor*, and *Mercator's World*. In 1996 he published "Ortelius Atlas Maps, an illustrated Guide" (HES Publishers), which rapidly became a work of reference. He is also a part-time dealer specializing in Ortelius maps.

### General Note

- \*\* Presentations will be in English and are illustrated by slides or viewgraphs.
- \*\* There will be some (limited) time after each presentation for questions from the floor.
- \*\* A number of original documents (title pages, maps) will be on display and may be viewed at the end of the Conference.
- \*\* Handouts in the form of abbreviated summaries of presentations will be available at the end of the Conference.
- \*\* The Circle is pleased to acknowledge sponsorship support for the event from:

*Henri Godts, Brussels*  
*Devroe & Stubbe, Brussels*  
*Galerij der Kempen, B-2300 Turnhout*

### Saturday, 12th December

**Afternoon Visit to the Ortelius Exhibition at the Royal Library Albert I**

**Place:** Bibliothèque Royale Albert I, Boulevard de l'Empereur 4, 1000 Brussels

**Métro:** Gare Centrale (Central Station)

**Schedule:** 15.00 - Meet at the main entrance to the Library - please show your conference badge or inscription receipt  
15.15 - 16.00 - Guided tour of the Ortelius Exhibition by Hossam Elkhadem, Curator of Maps at the Royal Library (in English).

### Sunday, 13th December

**Morning Visit to the Ortelius Exhibition at the Plantin Museum, Antwerpen**

**Place:** Museum Plantin-Moretus, Vrijdagmarkt 22-23, 2000 Antwerpen

**Schedule:** 11.00 - Meet outside the Museum - please show your conference badge or inscription receipt

11.15 - 12.00 - Guided tour of the Ortelius Exhibition by Dirk Imhof, Curator of Rare Books at the Plantin Museum (in English)

12.00 - 12.30 - Visit, at your convenience, of the remainder of the Museum.

13.00 - Get-together of participants in a near-by Bistro/Café for some refreshments.



**Afternoon Visit to the 7th International Mechelen Antique Book Fair** (optional, at your own initiative)

**Place:** Cult. Centrum A. Spinoy, Minderbroedersgang (just opposite the Cathedral), Mechelen (ca. 30 km N. of Brussels)

**Schedule:** arrive from Antwerp at your convenience; note that this is the last afternoon of the Fair which closes at 17.00 hours. A limited number of complimentary tickets are available for those who register early on the 12th for the Conference.

General Note

\*\* The organisation of transport is left to individual participants at this stage; should there be sufficient demand, transport by coach might be envisaged. In any case it is expected that car sharing from Brussels to Antwerpen and return (possibly via Mechelen) could be arranged.

\*\* All inscriptions for the Ortelius event (conference and visits) must be made before 15th November at the latest; each inscription will be acknowledged.

First BIMCC Study Sessions on Conservation, Restoration and Archiving of old Documents, Maps and Atlases - 20th and 21st February, 1999

Saturday, 20th February

**Afternoon Workshop**

**Place:** Collège St Michel, 24 Boulevard St Michel, 1040 Brussels

**Schedule:** 14.00 - 17.00 hours

**Subjects addressed:** + handling of old documents and maps  
+ introduction to conservation material  
+ preparation of passe-partouts  
+ archiving

With the participation of Hans Kok (NL) and other specialists, including representatives of the trade.

Sunday, 21st February

**Morning Visit to the Mercator Museum, B-9100 St. Niklaas**

**Place:** Zamanstraat (entrance Zwijgershoek) Sint-Niklaas

**Schedule:**

10.30 - 12.00 - General introduction by Mr. Van der Gucht President of the

Archeological Circle of the Land of the Waas.

- Presentation of conservation and restoration methods and practical results with examples of maps and atlases of the Museum, by Guy de Witte (Gent)
- Refreshments.

General Note

\*\* The Study Sessions are basically intended for the amateur collector in need of guidance in this field, and as such provide a first introduction to solving some of the basic problems many collectors are facing.

\*\* The visit to the Mercator Museum provides an exceptional opportunity to view some rare specimens before and after restoration, besides which it is a very worthwhile destination for all amateurs of atlases, maps and globes.

\*\* More details and inscription forms will come with Newsletter N° 3.

BIMCC Map Evening

Wednesday, 31st March 1999

**Place:** Collège St Michel, 24 Boulevard St Michel, 1040 Brussels

**Schedule:** 18.00 - 21.00 - This is our traditional get-together on a convivial note (sandwiches, drinks), when map enthusiasts, academics and other professionals present, and comment upon, some historical pieces from their collection, or simply ask questions and exchange views and experiences. An animated evening with surprises!

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**AUCTIONS IN BELGIUM**

Please note:

- all prices are in Belgian Francs, as adjudicated.
- items are arbitrarily selected to show both the range of geographical coverage and of prices achieved.

DEVROE & STUBBE, Brussels, 25th April 1998

= Châtelain, *Nouvelle carte de l'Asie*, ca 1730, 5.000,-

= F. de Wit, *Insula Candia...*, ca 1680, 22.000,-

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= Braun and Hogenberg, bird's eye view of Constantinople, 32.000,-

= Le Clerc, large map (105x83 cm) of Liege and surroundings, 1753, 56.000,-

Next map auction: 11th December, 1998

H. GODTS, Brussels, 6th June 1998

= Blaeu, *Zeelandia Comitatus*, 1662, 7.000,-

= Burrard, *Map of India ...*, 1915 (large wall map 191x217cm!), linen-backed, 8000,-

= Ortelius, *Angliae, Scotiae, et Hiberniae... Descriptio*, (v.d.B. N°16), 12.000,-

= Beaulieu, 28 panoramic views of northern France, 35.000,-

= P. Goos, *De Zee-Atlas ofte water weereelt...*, 1666, exceptional condition, 2.900.000,-

Next auction: January/February, 1999

GALERIJ DER KEMPEN, 2300 Turnhout, 20th June 1998

= Ortelius, Epitome miniature map *Hollandia*, 3.000,-

= Meisner, small town view of Brugge, 17th cent., 1.700,-

= P. Mariette, *Comitatus Flandriae*, ca 1670 (very rare), 9.000,-

= J. Bussemacher, *Brabant*, 16th cent., 10.000,-

= Pomponius Mela, *Cosmographia de situ orbis*, ca 1540, 33.000,-

Next auction: November/December, 1998



## FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

°° 3rd - 6th October 1998 - 17th International IMCoS Symposium, Tokyo, Japan. We'll report on this important event in our next Newsletter.

### Aims of the Brussels International Map Collectors' Circle (BIMCC)

1° Provide an informal and convivial forum for all those with a specialist interest in maps, atlases, town views and books with maps

2° Organize lectures on various aspects of historical cartography, on regions of cartographical interest, on documentation, paper conservation and related subjects

3° Organize visits to exhibitions, and to libraries and institutions holding important map and atlas collections.

°° 4th - 8th November 1998 - Conference to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Vasco da Gama's voyage to India; Lisbon, Portugal, organized by the National Commission for the Commemoration of Portuguese Discoveries.

°° 27th-28th November 1998 - First International Map Fair Breda (NL), organized by the Foundation for Historical Cartography of the Netherlands ("Stichting Historische Cartografie van de Nederlanden"), starting at 15.00 hours on 27th and ending at 18.00 on 28th November. There will be a concurrent exhibition of maps, town views, atlases and globes, and map collectors can have their own maps valuated free of charge on the first afternoon. In the morning of the 27th (10.00 - 13.00 hours) a symposium is scheduled, with the participation of Hr. A. Vis, Dr. H.A.M. Van der Heijden, Dr. P. Van der Krogt, Prof. Dr. L. Aardoom and Prof. Dr. G. Schilder, on various aspects of historical cartography (in Dutch). For more information about this event and the Foundation's objectives please contact Karel Kinds, the Foundation's President, Tel. ++32/(0)14/63.51.54, e-mail: kinds@ping.be

°° 11th-13th December 1998 - 7th "International Antiquairebeurs in Vlaanderen" (antiquarian books, maps, atlases, views) in Mechelen, with some 40 dealers participating. Details from the organizer, Mr De Goij, Tel. ++32/(0)3/238.21.15.

**The next NEWSLETTER is due to be published in early 1999, please submit calendar items, news and other contributions before 15th December.**

BIMCC Executive Committee: Wulf Bodenstein, President; Philippe Swolfs, Vice-President; Véronique Van de Kerckhof, Secretary; Christopher Bodenstein, Treasurer; Officers: John Barrett, Otto Chrispeels, Reiner Kaivers; Scientific Advisor: Hossam Elkhadem.  
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