



NEWSLETTER N° 9 , JAN. 2001

Dear Map Friend,

Here's welcoming *you* to a New Year, and a new *Millennium* into our lives – I am confident that we shall cope adequately, maybe even successfully, with the challenges before us.....

Many map collectors at some time during their 'careers' develop an impulse to learn more about the maps they possess, about their makers, the context in which they were created, the atlases they originally came from. Our Study Session last year (« Understanding Maps ») was the beginning of a cycle we continue this February with « BOOKS ON MAPS », a day of lectures, displays and sale of reference works on cartography – a congenial way towards understanding what maps are all about. The rest of this year's programme falls into what is now a well-established routine : a map-evening in March, a map excursion, maybe two, in autumn. And two more Newsletters, in May and September.

In this issue we review two exhibitions, three books, give you an account of IMCoS' and our own excursions abroad, and of our major event last year, the Conference « From the Low Countries to the High Seas ». Plus all the other regular features.

Just two remarks in closing : make yourself known to our Sponsors and Benefactors when you meet them at antiquarian fairs or when you pay them a visit in their shops, you'll be well received. And : please remember to renew your Membership, all details within – we can't live without. Greetings and best wishes to all of you. WB

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Enclosed with this issue : a flyer on the 17th Int. Antiquarian Book Fair in Brussels

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Pictures at an Exhibition (I)

The Painter and the Surveyor
Imagining Brussels and the former Duchy of Brabant

A map, be it of a country or of a city, has to be nice to look at and easy to read. All the information mentioned on it has to be accurate, the distances have to be correct, the symbols uniform and understandable, the toponyms reliable and legible, and the colours conventional. And above all these characteristics, the map has to afford enjoyment. It is for me always a delight to look at a *Michelin* map 1/200.000 or a city map in the *Green* or *Red Michelin Guides*, or to decipher a *Carte d'Etat major* (Belgium) 1/25.000 on a stroll through the countryside. These examples of maps are indeed combinations of art and science in the purest sense. And so they should be, at the present time, as ever since cartographers drew maps. Already *Claudius Ptolemy*, himself a mathematician and geographer (* A.D. 187), in his *Geographia* made a difference between the chorographer (the designer, the artist) versus the geographer (the mathematician, the astronomer). The geographer measured and computed the world as a whole whereas the chorographer gave the description and drawings of the different individual places. He compared this duality with the drawing of a head (by the geographer) versus the drawings of the ear and the eye (by the chorographer). This metaphor has been illustrated explicitly in *Petrus Apianus*' (astronomer and cartographer, 1492-1552) *Cosmographia*. (Engraving to be seen at the exhibition).

This is the main aspect of the exhibition "The Painter and the Surveyor" held at Brussels. It stresses continuously the complementarity of art (the painter) and cartography (the surveyor). Works of a great value are presented wherein the remarkable sense of observation of both the artist and the geographer is revealed. This indicates that there exists a very intimate tie between the aims of the painter and those of the surveyor. Painters also drew maps, or designed fortifications, or revealed themselves as military engineers. On the other hand, mapmakers were also fine engravers or designers.

The exhibition is confined to the former Duchy of Brabant. It explores the ways and means in which cities and surroundings within this area are represented, the accent being on the artistic, cultural, geographical and historical

significance of these maps and views. Special attention is paid, of course, to Antwerp and even more to Brussels. One hundred and seventy works are exhibited: paintings, drawings, maps, tapestries, sketches, etc., together with an assortment of surveyors' instruments. A fine catalogue of 326 pages accompanies the exhibition. Items of particular interest to me were: an astrolabium with compass (1565), several paintings by *Peeter Snaeyers* (Antwerp 1592-Brussels 1667) with a bird's-eye view of Breda, two splendid paintings by *Jan Baptist Bonnecroy* (Antwerp 1618-Brussels 1665) with panoramic views of Antwerp and Brussels, a bird's-eye view of a monastery in Malines (*Jacob Smeyers* 1657-1732), an exceptional series of 24 drawings of views around Brussels by *Hans Collaert* (16th century), and the collection of fine views of Brabant from the albums of the Italian draughtsman and engraver *Remigio Cantagalinna* (1582-1656). For the map collector the most interesting item was undoubtedly the beautiful city map with a panoramic view of Brussels by *Martin De Taily* (17th century): *Bruxella Nobilissima*



D. Vinckboons (1576 – 1633) « A geographer »
© MRBAB/KMSKB Brussels

Brabantiae Civitas, an° 1640 (146 x 185 cm), which was dedicated to Filips IV. Finally, the engraving entitled *Bruxelles Ville Capitale de Flandres* by *Allain Manesson Mallet* (from *La Géométrie pratique....*, 1702) conveys a synthesis of the exhibition: in the foreground all kind of scientific and logarithmic measurements and surveyors' instruments, in the background an attractive panoramic view of Brussels.

The Painter & the Surveyor, Imagining Brussels and the former Duchy of Brabant (Le peintre et l'Arpenteur – Met Passer en Penseel – Der Maler and das Mass). Exhibition held at the Museum of Ancient Art in the context of *Brussels 2000*, 3 rue de la Régence, 1000 Brussels, from 15th Sept. to 17th Dec. 2000. Catalogue still available in Dutch or French, BEF 1450,- ISBN 2-8046-0404-7.

Pierre Mattelaer

Pictures at an Exhibition (II)

The Art of Drawing the Universe An Exhibition at Mons

An exhibition of a totally different nature to the preceding one was "*Dessiner le monde, de l'aquarelle au pixel*" (Drawing the universe, from watercolour to pixel) that took place at the *Mundaneum*¹ in Mons (Sept. 15 – Dec. 17, 2000). The purpose was (1) to illustrate the many facets of the history of cartography, (2) to display maps and charts of Hainaut and specifically Mons, (3) to transmit and exercise, by means of interactive display stations, the elementary knowledge of cartography. The target group for this last item was, of course, the younger generation².

(1) History of cartography.

A great number of astronomical and surveying instruments of the 16th, 17th and 18th century were on display. Special attention was given to the early methods of standardizing weights and measures (with, among others, a standard metre in its protective box: *le mètre étalon*). At this stand we also saw the corrected map of France (*Carte Corrigée de la France, 1682*) by La Hire and J. Picard, astronomers and mathematicians to the King, who, comparing their measurements with those of Sanson, starting at the intersection of the Parisian meridian and parallel, concluded that the Kingdom of France had become 100 km shorter in its east-west extension. The bitter reply of Louis XIV was that "these honourable academicians by their expensive works have done more to diminish the surface of our

Kingdom than the enemies by wars". Also from this same century we saw (in a short film : *Le ciel, la terre et le roi Soleil*) the celestial and terrestrial globes by Coronelli (1690) which are at the *Bibliothèque Nationale* in Paris. They are 5,50 m. in height (with their stand) and have a diameter of 3,90 m.³ Especially the terrestrial one was highlighted, on which we admired the blue colour of the oceans and the ivory colour of the land. The globe is decorated with magnificent paintings and vignettes. I noted e.g. a hunting party on elephants (in Africa), anthropophagi, a sugar factory and sugar mills and tobacco oasts (all in South-America). California is still an island. A painting of an old man sitting above Scandinavia, symbolizing *Tempus* or *Time*, suggests that with time a passage to the Far East will eventually be found by the North-Eastern route (refer also to the talk by Sjoerd de Meer: *Touching the Arctic Circle*, at the Conference organized by the BIMCC on December 9, 2000).

We follow in the exhibition the history of mapmaking of the French territory, from Sanson and Picard, through the maps by Cassini (1747-1789), to the *Carte d'Etat-Major* (1818-1880) which replaced the Cassini maps, and finally to the *Nouvelle Carte de France* (1887-1980). This sequence always uses as reference the surroundings of Besançon, since the original exhibition was held at the famous *Saline Royale* at Arc-et-Senans (Doubs, arr. Besançon, France).

¹ *Mundaneum*, Musée et Centre d'Archives, 76 rue de Nimy, B-7000 Mons (Tel ++32-2-(0)56/31.53.43)

² The first and third parts of the exhibition are a co-production of the *Institut Claude-Nicolas Ledoux* (Arc et Senans, Doubs, France) and *La Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie* (Paris)

³ These dimensions are to be compared with those of the 1998 huge globe in the hall of the *Mundaneum*; height, with stand: 6 m, diameter: 3.80 m. Decorated (soberly) by J.M. Testud. Made of polyurethane, a non-inflammable resin.

Many displays are devoted to the modern methods of mapmaking (photogrammetry, aerial survey, use of GPS, of computers, of satellites, etc.)

2) This second part of the exhibition at Mons has been added to the original one of the Saline Royale in France to satisfy the local interest. This part is mainly devoted to the province of Hainaut and the city of Mons. Two beautiful atlases (by Mercator and Ortelius) were open at the page with the map of *Hannonia*. City maps by J. Deventer (1555), Guicciardini (1617), Blaeu (1650) and Lerouge (\pm 1750) were also on display. A particular map of Mons of the 18th century, by J. Dassire on mission as a spy for the English Army besieging Mons, very correctly shows the fortifications of the city but fills the centre of the map (between the walls) with an imaginary city, since he had no access to the city itself.

There were also 19 hand-drawn maps of municipalities from around Mons, made in 1849, on a scale of 1/5000 or 1/2500, as prototypes for the first cartographic map of the Kingdom of Belgium. An almost 25 m long map, compiled from the *Cartes d'Etat-Major*

showed a great part of Wallonia from Tournai to Verviers, following the axis of the *Route de Wallonie* (highway E 42). One could admire the nice and neat reproduction of all kinds of geographical symbols on these maps made by the ING of Belgium.

3) The third part was intended for those (students, etc.) who wanted, by using computers and other interactive means, to verify and expand upon what they had seen in the first two parts.

To conclude the exhibition, some attention was also given to the programme *BRIGIT* from the Walloon Ministry, *Département Topographie et Cartographie* which includes (1) *PICC (Projet Informatique de Cartographie Continue)* and (2) *SIG (Système d'Information Géographique)*. By these programmes the entire territory of Wallonia will be covered and inventoried. Data and information may be obtained at: CA-MET, Boulevard du Nord 8, B-5000 Namur.

Pierre Mattelaer

Have map – will travel
Recollections of a visit abroad (I)

BIMCC Excursion to the Bibliothèque Nationale de France
Paris, October 6, 2000

On a sunny autumn day, some fifteen map-lovers, hailing from Belgium and Luxembourg, and joined by IMCoS Chairman Jenny Harvey from London, assembled in the « Cour d'Honneur » of that venerable institution, the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. BIMCC's dynamic president Wulf Bodenstein had managed to arrange for a rare opportunity for our group to be shown some of the treasures held there, to hear about the past as well as the future projects of this prestigious library and to be given a glimpse backstage where maps are stored, including a fascinating demonstration hands-on of restoration techniques for paper documents of various sorts.

Mme. Hélène Richard, Director of the Map Room, told us how the collections had evolved since the building was first erected in 1728. They now include 800.000 map sheets, 10.000 atlases and 30.000 books on cartography, plus 140 globes. Among the first large collections to be deposited with the Bibliothèque

« Royale » was that of King Louis XIV, which was particularly rich. During the Second World War, the Société de Géographie entrusted its important collection to the Bibliothèque Nationale, as they were no longer able to look after it. This included atlases, globes, photographs, remarkable manuscripts recording explorations in far-flung places. And of course, as a National Library, the Bibliothèque Nationale receives all legal deposits.

A particularly impressive collection is that of d'Anville, comprising some 10.000 maps from the 16th to the 18th century, acquired by the well-known geographer. These are housed in a series of beautiful contemporary boxes which, although most decorative, are not ideal from the point of view of conservation.

The Library is currently proceeding with the enormous task of transferring all its catalogues to computer files, and of putting maps and drawings on microfilm.



Mr. A. Roger in his restoration workshop.
(Photo by Jerry Beaulieu.)

We were shown the different techniques used to store the maps, and drawings, about one million of them. A balance has always to be struck between the requirement to access the material, to make it available to students, and the need to preserve rare documents. It was stressed that there is an urgent demand to educate all members of the staff, from top to bottom, in the proper handling of paper.

One of the most fascinating items on the agenda was a visit to the workshop where large-size paper documents are restored. Mr. Roger, the director, showed us various techniques for repairing maps, posters, globes. He delighted his audience by his enthusiasm and dedication to this work. Of course here, too, choices are to be made. How far should restoration go? For instance, should globes have their patina preserved, or should perfect legibility be the aim?

Each of the Curators, Mme. Dumoulin, Mme. Duclos, M. Loiseaux and Mme. Hofmann took of their precious time to show us some of their most interesting items. We were fascinated to see the original note books, some in lovely bindings, of explorers, with their manuscript notes and sketches. I simply cannot do justice to them all.

We were very happy that our hosts at the Bibliothèque accepted our invitation to join us for lunch in a delightful small restaurant which has been a favourite with generations of French artists, including Jean Cocteau. This gave us all an

opportunity to get to know each other better, and to exchange ideas about maps, collectors and professionals.

At the end of the afternoon session of the programme at the Bibliothèque our group was invited to a reception specially laid on by map antiquarians F. Weissert and D. Lebail, Sponsors of our Circle. We were thus able to look at the many rare and valuable maps which were on display on this occasion on their premises. And also to talk «shop» with the owners, with the curators of the Bibliothèque Nationale who had joined us, and of course among the members themselves.

This was a particularly interesting and successful excursion, and we cannot but express our warmest thanks to the staff of the Bibliothèque Nationale, and to our evening hosts.

Eliane Sperling-Levin

Have map – will travel
Recollections of a visit abroad (II)

IMCoS Symposium in Iceland 15th/18th September 2000

IMCoS' 19th International Symposium was held in Reykjavik and was well supported with over 100 attending and 16 countries represented.

From the moment of our arrival and on the 45 km drive from the airport to Reykjavik, we were surprised by the extraordinary landscape with its uneven jumble of volcanic rocks and no trees. Nevertheless someone had managed

to create a golf course even in this inhospitable terrain! Iceland has a large area, the great majority of it being mountains and glaciers and uninhabitable, so that over half of the population of _ million live in Reykjavik. Its people are clearly industrious and advanced and have one of the highest per capita ownership of cars and computers in the world.

We were received at the National Library Building of the University, which was opened in 1944 on 1st December, the day which celebrates Iceland's independence from Denmark, which was achieved in 1918. The Library is excellently equipped and a matter of great pride for the Country, having been financed by a special tax levy on all the population. We were conducted around the national archives, which are housed in the basement, and also treated to a special exhibition of maps of Iceland, which are now the property of the Library but the majority of which were collected over many years by Kjarten Gunnarson, formerly the IMCoS representative in Iceland.

Our principal host was Mark Cohagen, who is now our representative in Iceland. He arrived in Iceland on a research project some 25 years ago but settled there. One of the visits which he arranged was to Akmanes, 45 kilometres north of Reykjavik, where the National Land Survey Department is based and where his own collection of maps of Iceland is displayed.

The Symposium was officially opened by the President of Iceland, a tall blond gentleman, who matched our expectations of a Viking and impressed us with his knowledge. We were treated to some interesting talks and several visits, one of which was to the Culture House, which celebrates Iceland's history and where there was another special exhibition of maps of the country, which appear in travel books. We were welcomed there by Mr Sumalidi, author of « Iceland the Unknown Land ».

A particular highlight was a reception at Hifdi House, once the residence of the British

Consul but now lovingly restored and used by the City Council as their venue for special occasions. This was the house where Ronald Reagan and Gorbachev met and signed the accord, which led eventually to the breakdown of the « iron curtain ». It was an evocative experience to sit around such a historic table in the same chairs as they used !

On the Saturday evening a grand dinner was held at the Radisson Saga Hotel to round off the visit and on the following day we toured the City and visited the open air museum at Arbaer, where restored historic buildings are grouped including a charming little chapel which is still used occasionally for weddings. Our day was completed with a visit to the famous Blue Lagoon. This is one of the many hot springs in Iceland which is used for heating and electricity generation. The surplus water forms a warm lake in which we swam in the open air – cold heads but wonderful warm bodies !

In addition to the Symposium several members took advantage of the visit to experience other activities, such as whale watching. Some intrepid members even hired a car and drove all around the island but Peter and I satisfied ourselves by joining a two-day trip to the South with some others to see some of the many waterfalls, to walk on one of the glaciers and to view the extraordinary landscape, not only the mountains but also the flat volcanic plains which feel like landing on the moon.

In all we had wonderful few days and our thanks go to the organisers and to the Icelanders for their great hospitality.

Caroline Batchelor

LOOKS AT BOOKS (I)

Imre Josef Demhardt, *Die Entschleierung Afrikas : Deutsche Kartenbeiträge von August Petermann bis zum Kolonialkartographischen Institut*

(The Unveiling of Africa : German cartographic contributions from August Petermann to the Colonial Cartographical Institute)

Gotha : Justus Perthes Verlag, 2000. 324 p. with 77 ill., mostly in colour. 16 x 24 cm. ISBN 3-623-00355-7, DM 39,80 - printed on chlorine-free paper.

The « unveiling » of Africa is one of the most fascinating segments of European exploration of the world and has yielded a vast and most varied store of maps over the centuries. This book fills a gap in our knowledge and appreciation of these as it covers the extremely rich output of cartographic material of German institutions from the mid-19th century to the end of the First World War. Gotha, the small Thuringian town with an illustrious name, was

the starting point for what became a major branch of the German publishing business : geographical journals, atlases and maps. The Perthes publishing firm (founded in 1785 by Justus Perthes) produced the famous Stieler's Handatlas in 1817, and many more atlases after that ; when August Petermann joined the firm in 1854, a Geographical Institute was created which became the centre of German geography and cartography. Its most important

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(From the map collection of the Royal Africa Museum, Tervuren.)

publication was the « Petermann's Geographische Mitteilungen » published monthly, as of 1855. Through the good contacts he had established with the leading explorers of his day during his work as cartographer in Great Britain, Petermann obtained, and exclusively published, first-hand accounts of expeditions, notably those into the

interior of Africa, led by Barth, Vogel, Nachtigal, Livingstone, Burton, Speke and many others. Gotha thus became the focal point of African cartography as well, for a certain time at least. Inevitably Germany also got drawn into the race to claim a stake on the African continent. Demhardt describes the consequent shift of

geographical, and in particular African, interests and preoccupations from Gotha to Berlin where the Colonial Cartographical Institute took the lead. The names of the publishers Reimer and of the cartographer Kiepert are associated with this important period during which the mapping of the German Protectorates and future Colonies in Africa made phenomenal progress, covering Togo, Cameroon and what is now Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and Namibia. These two latter regions are particularly enlarged upon with regard to their mapping, Mt Kilimandjaro being given the author's special attention since he had climbed it himself, just over a hundred years after its discovery in 1848 by German missionary Rebmann.

Three Annexes are devoted to: a most interesting 42-page introduction to contemporary (19th century) methods of surveying, a transcript of a manual of 1894 on how to conduct topographical recordings (very amusing !), and a chronological table of events

that influenced the German cartography of Africa of this period.

Those interested in the mapping of Africa, or, more precisely, in the historical evolution of maps of this continent and its parts have at their disposal two essential works of reference: Tooley's *Collectors' Guide to Maps of the African Continent and Southern Africa* (Carta Press, 1969) and Norwich's *Maps of Africa* (2nd ed. revised by J.C. Stone, Terra Nova Press, 1997). Although extremely useful to the collector as guides to see « what maps exist », they largely ignore the 19th century production of German maps of Africa; of 100 maps described from around this period in Norwich's book only one is of German origin. A comprehensive cartobibliography of maps of Africa remains to be written, not only because of this particular shortcoming. But when that happens, Demhardt's work will undoubtedly be one of the stepping stones towards this objective.

Wulf Bodenstern

End-notes :

1. Two recent articles by David Smith (IMCoS Journal N°82) and Rodney Shirley (idem N° 83) cast some additional light on the relationship between British and German cartographers of the (now) last but one century, and on the specific aspects of thematic cartography, pioneered by Heinrich Berghaus, Petermann's tutor in the « Geographische Kunstschule » in Potsdam (1839).
2. A selected list of some 3,600 continental and regional maps of Africa, mainly of the 19th and 20th centuries and produced essentially by British mapmakers, is to be found, in catalogue form, in *Maps and Plans in the Public Record Office*, Vol. 3, 'Africa', edited by P.A. Penfold, Her Majesty's Stationery's Office, London, 1979, ISBN 0 11 440109 8.
3. A very comprehensive bibliography of books on Maps and Atlases of Africa is *Maps and Mapping of Africa: A Resource Guide*, by John McIlwaine, Hans Zell Publishers (Bowker-Saur), East Grinstead (UK), 1997, ISBN 1-873886-76-7 (printed on acid-free paper).

Looks at Books (II)

World Directory of Map Collections, 4th Edition, 2000

Olivier Loiseaux (ed.), *World Directory of Map Collections, 4th Edition* (in English)

München : K.G. Saur, 2000, 550 p., 15.5 x 21.5cm , ISBN 3-598-21818-4, DM 148,- (printed on acid-free paper).

Quite a few of our Members regularly travel abroad on mission and sometimes don't know what to do with their spare time (so I am told), be this state of affairs inflicted by local holidays, strikes, airplane delays or due to other unforeseen circumstances. For these, and indeed for all those who find that we need more inspiration to find new destinations for our Map Excursions in the autumn – here is a Guide for the map enthusiast to beat all others. 714 map collections in 121 countries are listed comprising, in addition to the official address,

the name and coordinates (including e-mail where available) of the librarian in charge, the nature and volume of cartographic documents in store, the opening hours of the institution, conditions of access, and a few other points of information.

I'll give you three examples of places where one would not necessarily expect to find an important collection of maps: The Archives Départementales du Pas-de-Calais in Arras have 9,400 printed maps of which 60% are pre-1850 – that should permit some interesting

finds. Just across the Belgian border to the north the Zeeuws Archief in Middelburg holds 30,600 printed and over 15,000 manuscript maps 50% of which are also from before 1850. And since we have mentioned Africa earlier on, the Harold Strange Library of African Studies in Johannesburg (South Africa), one of 16 institutions listed for that country, stores over 2.000 pre-1850 maps of Africa. By way of further illustration, there are 19 entries for Belgium, 20 for the Netherlands, 40 for France, 68 for Germany and – I got tired of

counting them all – 58 pages for the United States.

Olivier Loiseaux, one of the Curators at the Bibliothèque Nationale who received us for our memorable outing to Paris on 6th October last (see the resumé above) is to be congratulated on this impressive piece of work. So if the book inspires you to do your own reconnaissance of places with maps, please let's have your report, and suggestion for new places to visit.

W.B.

Looks at Books (III)

Mapas antiguos de -- Early maps of MEXICO in oude kaarten

A Portfolio of 12 facsimile maps (1561 – 1865) in colour, published by the Centre for Mexican Studies, UFSIA, University of Antwerp, on the occasion of its 10th anniversary (December 2000). With a commentary in Spanish, English and Dutch by Joost Depuydt. Limited edition of 500 copies printed on Marcate Acquerello Ivory paper ; folder 30.5 x 42 cm.

Available from the Centre for Mexican Studies of UFSIA (University of Antwerp), Prinsstraat 9, B-2000 Antwerp, Tel ++32-(0)3-220.44.42, e-mail ingeborg.jongbloet@ufsia.ac.be, price BEF 1.500,- (Please mention the BIMCC in your contact with the Centre).

The origin of this initially unfamiliar cultural combination Antwerp – Mexico becomes clear, and its *raison d'être* plausible, when you read the introduction by Ingeborg Jongbloet, Romanist and Specialist on Mexico : through a curious set of circumstances the important library of the Mexican Consulate in Antwerp was integrated into the library of the UFSIA College of Antwerp University, and, through the personal engagement of a few enlightened academics, became the starting point for the foundation of the Centre for Mexican Studies. This institution now acts as the focal point for coordinating the work of European libraries and researchers active in this field.

The purpose of the present publication is to provide a representative survey of four centuries of maps of Mexico. The portfolio opens with a map of 1561 by Ruscelli published in a Venice edition of Ptolemy's *Geographia*. This is followed by Ortelius's *Hispaniae Novae ... descriptio* (1579), one of the few maps for which Ortelius used a prime meridian through Toledo in Spain, counting longitudes towards the west ; a faithful « remake » of that map by de Bry (1595) is then presented ; we are shown a map by Wytfliet (1597), from what is considered to be the first atlas of the New World , and progress

through examples of Dutch and French mapmakers to a map from Vandermaelen's *Atlas universel* published in Brussels in 1827. The last map (a rarity) is one of the short-lived Mexican Empire under Maximilian (who was the brother of Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph, and who was married to the Belgian Princess Charlotte), *Carta general del Imperio Mexicano*, published in Mexico in 1865. To underline the national importance of this map, its authors placed the prime meridian – you have guessed it – through the city of Mexico.

Each of the maps is accompanied by a scholarly text of one page (in Spanish, English and Dutch) by Joost Depuydt, providing comments on the map itself, the mapmaker and the historical context. A welcome innovation in a publication of this kind is the inclusion, on each page of comment, of a locator map representing the geographical area covered by the map described. Judging by the bibliography included with the text, which shows that the reference works quoted deal with the Americas in a more global sense, it would seem that we have here a first cartographic portfolio dedicated exclusively to this great country – Mexico.

Wulf Bodenstein

LOOKS AT BOOKS – a corrigendum

In the review of Prof. Günter Schilder's *Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica, Vol. VI* which appeared in the last Newsletter (NL N° 8, p. 10), the impression was given that none of the maps in the facsimile folder were in colour. This, in fact, is not so since three maps (n° 35, Austria – n° 83, Italy – n° 91, Spain) are reproduced in full colour. My apologies. (WB)

“From the Low Countries to the High Seas”
- Dutch maps from the age of discoveries -
Review of the Second BIMCC Conference

Some 45 participants signed in for a voyage “From the Low Countries to the High Seas”, the second biennial international conference the BIMCC organised on the 9th December 2000. Captain for the day was Francis Herbert, Curator of Maps of the Royal Geographical Society of London and former President of the Society for the History of Discoveries, who presided the conference that focused on Dutch maps from the Age of Discoveries, and who introduced each of the 6 speakers.

Who could give a better start than Rodney Shirley, author of “The Mapping of the World”, with a lecture on the “Dutch image of the world in world maps of the Golden Age” ? From the first moment, the audience was fascinated by a series of large wall maps, products of combined cartographical synthesis and artistic presentation dating from the first half of the 17th century, their origin and history.

Mrs. Monique Pelletier, Honorary Director of the Department of Maps of the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris, gave a demonstration of the (lesser known) importance of French cartography during the last quarter of the 16th century, represented mainly by Belleforest, Thevet and Bouguereau, and their relationship with the contemporary map production in the Low Countries, and especially with Ortelius.

The audience definitely got off shore with Sjoerd de Meer's evocation of Willem Barentsz. triple quest for a North-East passage on the way to Asia between 1594 and 1597, and Dr. Uwe Schnall's relation of the circumnavigation of the world by Olivier van Noort in the years that followed (1598 – 1601). Both speakers are curators of maritime museums, the former at Rotterdam, the latter at Bremerhaven.

After lunch, Captain Hans Kok, former airline pilot and commander as well as IMCoS Representative for the Netherlands, introduced the audience to some general aspects of navigation and the use of cartographical material in order to understand the routing around Africa to the Far East by ships of the Dutch East India Company.

Finally, Dr. Peter van der Krogt, map historian at the University of Utrecht and author of carto-bibliographies, presented the publication of Blaeu's Atlas of China (1655) based on original Chinese maps from the 14th and the 16th century, gathered and compiled by the Jesuit missionary Martinus Martini.

Each lecture was illustrated with slides and viewgraphs of remarkable examples of maps from this period, complemented by a display of some original world maps and sea charts from private collections which animated the discussions during the coffee breaks.



Monique Pelletier and Rodney Shirley
(Photo D. Bodenstein.)

Some very large wall maps of the world, in facsimile, permitted the participants to re-trace the exploits of the intrepid voyagers across the vast and awe-inspiring expanse of the oceans.

Henri Godts, BIMCC Public Relations Officer

Rodney Shirley's
TEN KEY POINTS FOR THE MAP COLLECTOR

1. Follow up that initial urge to start a collection or broaden out into a new sector.
 2. Cast your acquisition net widely : pester dealers, poke around stalls at map and print fairs and attend auction sales.
 3. Seek a rationale or theme to give a focus for developing your interests.
 4. Learn about what you have bought or are looking for : ask dealers, read books or magazine articles, visit libraries or other institutions with map collections.
 5. Become aware of the range of prices and appreciate the factors influencing value, but do not be a purist over condition.
 6. Write about your theme or what interests you, and take trouble to get it published, somewhere, somehow.
 7. Share your enthusiasm with other collectors or those who are knowledgeable in allied fields.
 8. As the opportunity arises, upgrade the quality of your collection.
 9. Store your items carefully so that they do not deteriorate.
- These points, I feel, are just as applicable to institutional curators as to private collectors. Except that I would add a tenth for the former :*
10. Actively seek to display as much of your collection publicly as possible.

Rodney Shirley, past president of IMCoS, collector, lecturer and author of a number of works of reference on cartography, has been a speaker at both our Conferences (Ortelius Commemoration 1998, and the recent one on 9th December) ; his standard reference book on world maps, « The Mapping of the World », will be presented at our forthcoming Study Session on 17th February.

We are grateful to Rodney Shirley for his permission to publish the above ten points which also appeared in *The Map Collector* N° 67 (1994) and in *The Portolan* N° 48 (2000).

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- ❑ **8th Annual Miami International Map Fair**, 2nd – 4th February, Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, Florida (USA), Tel ++1-305-375.14.92, e-mail mapfair@historical-museum.org
- ❑ **Museum voor de Geschiedenis van de Wetenschappen** (Museum for the History of Sciences), Gent, 20th November 2000 – 31st July 2001, exhibition organized by Gent University : *150 jaar Landmeetkunde en Cartografie (150 Years of Land Surveys and Cartography)*, Sterrecomplex, Krijgslaan 281 – S30, B-9000 Gent. Every day except week-ends, 10.00-12.30 and 13.00-17.00 Info ++32-(0)9 /264.49.30
- ❑ **Oxford Seminars in Cartography**, 8th February, School of Geography, Mansfield Road, Oxford (UK), *Give me the Map : Surveying Shakespeare and the Cartography of his Contemporaries*, info from tel ++44-1865/27.70.13
- ❑ **Maison de la Beauce, Orgères (France)**, 11th February, 15.30 h, presentation by W. Bodenstein (with slides), *Aperçu de la Beauce à travers des cartes géographiques anciennes*. Maison de la Beauce, F- 28140 Orgères en Beauce, tel ++33-237/99.75.58
- ❑ **IMCoS London Collectors' Meeting**, 14th February, The Farmers' Club, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW 1 ; to register call Caroline Batchelor on ++44-1372/843.425

- **Washington Map Society**, 15th February, 7 pm, Presentation by H. Brodsky *The Holy Land Map of Avraham bar Yaacov, Amsterdam 1695*, Library of Congress, Madison Building, Washington D.C. Info from Tom Sander ++1-703/426.28.80, e-mail sanderva@erols.com
- **3rd BIMCC Study Session**, 17th February – see the Programme on p. 17.
- **Warburg Lectures « Maps and Society »**, 22nd February, 5 pm, presentation by James W. Kelly *Voyage of the 'Trinity' in the Pacific, 1680-82: Buccaneers, Chartmakers and the Keys to a Private Sea*, Warburg Institute, University of London, Woburn Square, London. Info from Tony Campbell tel ++44-20-7412 7525 e-mail tony.campbell@bl.uk
- **Washington Map Society**, 27th February, 7 pm, Field Trip to Waverly Auctions, presentation by Dale Sorenson *The Antique Map Auction Business Today*. Venue: 4931 Cordell Ave., Bethesda, Maryland. Info from Tom Sander ++1-703/426.28.80, e-mail sanderva@erols.com
- **17th International Antiquarian Book Fair, Brussels**, 23rd – 25th March; La Madeleine, 14 Rue Duquesnoy, B-1000 Brussels (large choice of maps and atlases) (SEE ENCLOSED FLYER)
- **BIMCC Map Evening**, 22nd March – see BIMCC Programme on p. 15.
- **IMCoS visit to the John Innys collection at Holkham Hall, Norfolk**, 28th April. Collection of estate maps, atlases, maps and prints. For info and registration contact Valerie Scott, IMCoS Secretariat, PO Box 412, Aylesbury, HP 18 0XE (UK)
- **XIXth International Conference on the History of Cartography**, Madrid, 1st to 6th July 2001, *La cartografía de España e Iberoamérica*, Biblioteca Nacional de España, in collaboration with Imago Mundi; conference conducted in English, French and Spanish, with simultaneous translation between Spanish and English. Info from Biblioteca Nacional de España, Paseo de Recoletos 20, E-28071 Madrid, Fax ++34/915/807.716 e-mail 19.ichc@bne.es

SOME AUCTION RESULTS

- ❖ **Galerij der Kempen, Turnhout, 21st October 2000**
 - G. Querini, map *Corso del Reno*, Venice 1690; BEF 15.000
 - F. de Wit, map *Brabantiae Ducatus*, 1666; BEF 11.000
 - M. Seutter, map *Germaniae Inferioris*, 1728; BEF 7.500
 - Aveline, town view, *Antwerpen*, 18th c.; BEF 16.000
 - L. Guiccardini, *Description de tous les Pays Bas...*, Antwerp, 1567 (complete); BEF 90.000
 - P. van der Aa, map, *Florida*, Leiden, ca 1710; BEF 5.500
- ❖ **Reiss & Sohn, Königstein, 25th-27th October 2000**
 - H. Berghaus, *Physikalischer Atlas*, Gotha, Perthes, 1852; DEM 1.800
 - N. Tassin, atlas *Cartes générales des provinces de France et d'Espagne*, Paris, 1633; DEM 2.600
 - C. Lotter, *Atlas minor*, Augsburg, ca. 1750; DEM 15.000
 - A. Ortelius, map *Hispaniae novae ... descriptio*, 1579; DEM 400
 - R. Walton, *A New, Plaine and Exact Map of Asia*, 1660; DEM 4.200
- ❖ **Paulus Swaen, Internet Auction, 7th November 2000**
 - J. Chr. Weigel, *Atlas Portatilis...*, Nuremberg, ca. 1720; US\$ 1.900
 - L. Brion de la Tour, *Atlas Ecclésiastique...*, Paris, 1766; US\$ 3.906
 - J. Blaeu, *Britannia... Anglo-Saxonum...*, Amsterdam, 1650; US\$ 2.250
 - P. Goos, *Pascaart van de Noord Zee van Texel, tot de Hoofden...*, Amsterdam, 1661; US\$ 1.720
 - Strada, *Bello Belgico* (with lion map), Leiden, 1640; US\$ 585
- ❖ **Drouot Richelieu, Paris, 20th November 2000**
 - J.B. Nolin, wall map *L'Amerique*, Paris, 1740; FF 50.000
 - Hondius, map *Cuba Insula*, Amsterdam 1630; FF 2.200
 - Joan Blaeu, *Novus Atlas Sinensis ...*, Amsterdam, 1655; FF 46.000
 - Desnos, map *Pays Bas Catholiques connus sous le nom de Flandre*, 1766; FF 900
 - J.B. Nolin & J.B. Poirson, 4 wall maps of Africa, Asia, America and Europe, 1800-1802; FF 142.000
- ❖ **Romantic Agony, Brussels, 24th & 25th November 2000**
 - Braun & Hogenberg, 3 panoramic views of Dresden/ Leipzig, Wittenberg, Weimar et al.; BEF 16.000
 - J. de Ferraris, *Carte chorographique des Pays bas autrichiens ...*, 1777; BEF 80.000
 - H.J. van Wees, *Kaart en afstandwijzer van het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden*, Breda, 1830;

BEF 16.000

- Gemma Frisius, cordiform world map, *Charta Cosmographica...*, 1553+ ; BEF 85.000
- C. Malte-Brun, *Géographie universelle...*, 3 vols. text, 2 vols. maps ; 1857 ; BEF 10.000

FORTHCOMING AUCTIONS

- **H. Godts, Brussels, 3rd February** (see details in Sponsors' List)
- **Paulus Swaen Internet auction, 2nd – 13th March, 11th – 22nd May** (see details in Sponsors' List)
- **Romantic Agony, Brussels, 16th & 17th March** (see details in Sponsors' List)
- **Van Gendt Book Auctions, Brandewijnsteeg 2, 1011 GN Amsterdam, 22nd & 23rd March** (Details from Tel ++31-20/623.16.69 ; e-mail info@vangendtbookauctions.nl)
- **Reiss & Sohn, Adelheidstr. 2, D-61462 Königstein, 25th – 28th April** (Details from Tel ++49-6174/92.720 ; e-mail reissSohn@t-online.de)
- **Van Stockum, 15 Prinsegracht , 2512 The Hague, 13th-15th June** (Details from Tel ++31-70/364.98.40 Fax ++31-70/364.33.40)

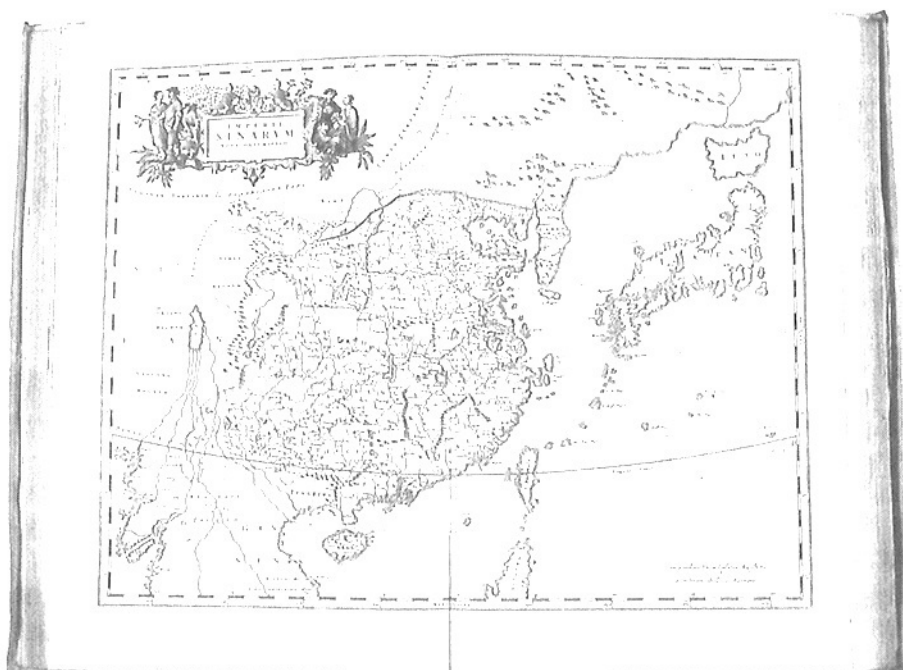
BIMCC NEWS

Breda Map Fair

The BIMCC shared a stand with IMCoS at the 3rd European Map Fair, held in the beautiful Grote Kerk in Breda from 23rd to 25th November 2000. Johan Vanvolsem, Pieter van Puffelen and Wulf Bodenstein received and informed a great many visitors about the Circle's activities, as did Roger Brown and his wife for IMCoS. Organized by the Foundation « Stichting Historische Cartografie van de Nederlanden », the stands of about 25 map dealers allowed visitors to browse through an extensive range of rare old maps and atlases ; one could also admire a remarkable exhibition of maps and documents on the theme of « Charles V and the Lion ».



Joint IMCoS – BIMCC stand at Breda
(Photo P. van der Krogt.)



3rd Annual General Meeting

In accordance with Articles 12 and 14 of the BIMCC Statutes, all Members are hereby invited to the Circle's Annual General Meeting to be held

**On Thursday, 22nd March 2001 at the Collège St. Michel,
24, Bd. St. Michel, 1040 Brussels, at 17.00 hours**

Proposed Agenda :

1. Welcome by the President
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Activity Report 2000
4. Approval of accounts for 2000 and of budget for 2001
5. Renewal of the Executive Committee
6. Nomination of functions of
 - President - Treasurer
 - Vice-President - Editor of the Newsletter
 - Secretary
7. Confirmation of functions
 - Public Relations Officer
 - Technical Support for Conferences
8. Any other business



Candidatures for the above vacant posts must reach the BIMCC by 1st March

Please note that any Member unable to attend may be represented by another Member who may cast a proxy vote on his behalf (one such vote per Member).

No advance registration is required ; all Members present will sign a register.

A certain number of complimentary tickets will be available for the participants, giving free access to the 17th Antiquarian Book Fair at « La Madeleine » in Brussels, starting the next day - see the enclosed Flyer.

Please also remember to renew your Membership subscription for 2001 (BEF 800,-) as soon as possible – a bank transfer form is included for our Belgian Members ; others please pay by direct bank transfer to KBC Bank B-1980 Zemst, N° 436-8067361-27 or Eurochèque – many thanks !!

Note 1 : We will check renewals in time for the AGM on 22nd March ; Members not up-to-date with their dues will not be admitted, and will not receive Newsletter N° 10 in May).

Note 2 : Members who joined after 15th October 2000 have their Membership automatically validated for 2001.

Note 3 : Sponsors are implicitly also Members of the Circle.

BIMCC PROGRAMME FOR 2001

- ◆ Saturday, 17th February, Collège St. Michel, Brussels, at 9.30 : 3rd BIMCC Study Session « BOOKS ON MAPS », an introduction to some of the most important works of reference on the History of Cartography – see full programme and registration form in this issue.
- ◆ Thursday, 22nd March, Collège St. Michel, Brussels, at 17.00 : Annual General Meeting – see invitation on this page.
- ◆ Thursday, 22nd March, Collège St. Michel, Brussels, at 18.30 : Traditional Map Evening, when map collectors, academics, and members of the Trade gather around a glass of wine to chat about maps and discuss selected pieces from their collection. This is an ideal occasion to get to know the Circle, so bring along a friend and/or a map, but remember that we want to keep the number of participants to around 30, so please pass a message with your **booking before 10th March** ; we need to know roughly how many sandwiches and glasses of wine to prepare. You may pay the contribution of BEF 500 at

FERTIS PC
2001-03-17

the door, or cumulate the payment when you renew your membership with a bank transfer.

- ◆ ***Excursion to a Map Collection*** : our autumn excursion will take us to the Maritime Museum in Rotterdam on **Saturday 6th October**, when Sjoerd de Meer, the curator of maps, books and ships' models, and a Speaker at our last Conference, will guide us around his Museum in the morning, and show us the highlights of the Museum's collection of 2,500 printed maps (including an original of Mercator's 1569 world map – on the famous « Mercator projection »), 34 globes and 300 atlases in the afternoon. Full details in the May Newsletter.

A further excursion is envisaged, possibly in November – again, all about this in May.

The BIMCC currently publishes three Newsletters per year, in January, May and September. Please submit calendar items and other contributions by 15th April for the May edition.

Aims and functions 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, be they collectors, academics, antiquarians, or simply interested in the subject

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.

In order to achieve these aims, the Circle organises the following annual events :

- STUDY SESSION in February addressing practical aspects of map collecting, carto-bibliography, preservation techniques
- MAP EVENING in March or April, bringing together all those interested in maps and atlases for an informal chat about an item from their collection – an ideal opportunity to get to know the Circle
- One or two EXCURSIONS TO A MAP COLLECTION, September to November

And every second year, in December :

- INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on a specific subject of the History of Cartography

Annual Membership BEF 800 (EUR 19.83), Students and under-25's BEF 300 (EUR 7.44) ;

Joining fee (once only) : BEF 300 (EUR 7.44)

Members receive three Newsletters per annum and have free admission to most of the above events, except for a small contribution requested for the Map Evening and the Conference (as announced in the Newsletter - non-Members pay full rates).

BIMCC Executive Committee

President : Wulf Bodenstein, 71 Av. des Camélias, B-1150 Brussels; Tel/Fax ++32-(0)2-772.69.09

e-mail bimcc@bigfoot.com

Secretary : Véronique Van de Kerckhof, W. de Croylaan 23, B-3001 Heverlee ; e-mail : vero.vdk@zdnnetmail.com

Vice-President : Philippe Swolfs; Treasurer : Anne-Marie Hermans; Officers : Otto Chrispeels, Lisette Danckaert, Jean-Louis Renteux, Jan Willem van den Brandhof. Scientific Advisor : Hossam Elkhadem.

Public Relations : Henri Godts, Av. Louise 230/6, B-1050 Brussels, Tel ++32-(0)2-647.85.48 Fax ++32-(0)2-640.73.32

Conference Organization : Johan Vanvolsem, Brusselsesteenweg 65 - Bus 1, B-1500 Halle, Tel ++32-(0)2-356.81.07

Bank account : KBC Bank, B-1980 Zemst, N° 436-8067361-27

**Programme of the
3rd BIMCC STUDY SESSION
« BOOKS ON MAPS »**

An introduction to some of the most important works of reference
on the History of Cartography

Saturday 17th February, 2001

Collège St. Michel, 24 Bd. St. Michel, B-1040 Brussels

Morning Session

09.30 – 10.00 : Joost Depuydt, *Belgian reference books (published in Dutch or French)*

10.10 – 10.40 : Marco van Egmond, *Reference books from the Netherlands*

10.40 – 11.00 : coffee break

11.00 – 11.30 : Hélène Richard, *French reference books*

11.40 – 12.10 : Francis Herbert, *Reference books from the UK*

12.30 : Apéritif

Speakers' Lunch

Afternoon Session

14.30 – 18.00 :

➤ **Exhibition of reference books**

➤ **Second-hand book sale**

Please note :

- ◆ All presentations will be in English, but questions from the public in Dutch, French or German are welcome
- ◆ Each Speaker will introduce, and physically present, 8 to 10 standard works published in his country of origin – many if not all of these will be on display in the afternoon for further consultation, and some of these may be on sale.
- ◆ A bibliography will be produced for the event, together with Speakers' profiles, in the form of a hand-out.
- ◆ Admission is free for Members – non-Members pay BEF 500,-. Registration requested by 1st February 2001 – **Please use the registration form on the last page.**
- ◆ If successful, the 4th Study Session in 2002 is intended to cover works of reference from the German-speaking countries (D-A-CH), Italy, the Iberian Peninsula and the Americas.

BOOKS ON MAPS – THE EASY WAY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT MAPS AND ATLASES ARE
ALL ABOUT.

Among the books to be introduced by the speakers there will be the following :

- Gerard Mercator, cosmographe, Le temps et l'espace* – ed. Marcel Watelet, 1994
- Brussel : Vijf eeuwen cartografie* – Lisette Danckaert, 1989
- Vlaanderen in oude kaarten...* - Jozef Bossu, 1982
- Inventaire raisonné des collections cartographiques Vandermaelen...* - Bibliothèque Royale Albert I, 1994 – 1999
- Oude kaarten der Nederlanden, 1548-1794* – H.A.M. van der Heijden, 1998
- Koeman's Atlantes Neerlandici, New ed., Vol. I* - P. van der Krogt, 1997 (in English)
- Globi Neerlandici...* - P. van der Krogt, 1993 (in English)
- Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica, Vols I-VI* – G. Schilder (in Dutch and English)
- Les Atlas français XVIIe – XVIIIe siècles* – Mireille Pastoureau, 1984
- L'Empire des Cartes...* - Chr. Jacob, 1992
- La carte de Cassini ...* - Monique Pelletier, 1990
- Le Langage des Géographes : termes, signes.. des cartes anciennes* – F. de Dainville, 1964
- The Mapping of the World : early printed world maps 1472-1700* - R. Shirley, 1984
- Tooley's Dictionary of Mapmakers Vol. I (rev. Ed.)* – French, Scott et al., 1999
- Antique Maps* – C. Moreland, D. Bannister, 1989
- Shapes of Ireland : maps and their makers 1564-1839* – J. Andrews, 1997

The BIMCC is pleased to acknowledge sponsorship support from :

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PAYMENT : **TOTAL : BEF.....**

- I enclose a Eurochèque payable to the BIMCC in Belgian Francs
- I will transfer the amount to the BIMCC's bank account with the KBC Bank,
 B-1980 Zemst, N° 436-8067361-27, mentioning « Membership »

My particular areas of interest are :.....

Date..... Signature.....

REGISTRATION FORM

3rd BIMCC Study Session « BOOKS ON MAPS »

17. 2. 2001, Collège St. Michel, 24 Bd. St Michel, B-1040 Brussels, 09.30 hours

NAME.....First Name.....

ADDRESS.....

Phone/Fax/e-mail.....

please tick: I am a Member (Admittance free) -- As a non-Member I pay BEF 500,- :

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 B-1980 Zemst, N° 436-8067361-27
- I will pay at the reception desk on 17th February

Date.....Signature.....

PLEASE SUBMIT BEFORE 1st FEBRUARY TO :

**BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL MAP COLLECTORS' CIRCLE
 (BIMCC)
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