



**BIMCC**  
**Newsletter No 24**  
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**Focus on**  
***Belgian Cartography***  
***16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries***

**Report on the December 2005  
Study Session**

**Brilliant, but forgotten scientists  
of the 19<sup>th</sup> century**

**Maps by Fricx**

**Also in this issue**

- **Visit to Dr. Niewodniczanski in Bitburg**
- **BIMCC programme for 2006**
- **... and the usual departments**



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Maps, prints, views of all parts of the  
world



Dear Map Friends,

This first Newsletter of 2006 continues with the theme of the main BIMCC event of 2005, which marked the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Belgium: our Study session on *Belgian cartography*. Several of the distinguished speakers derived an article from their presentation:

- *Maps by Fricx*, by W. Bracke (Head of the Map room at the Royal Library in Brussels) is complemented by an illustration on the central page of this Newsletter
- *Brilliant but forgotten scientists of the 19<sup>th</sup> century* by B. Jouret (Director at the National Geographic Institute); the first part, in this Newsletter, is focussed on A. Quetelet; it will be followed by more biographies in subsequent issues
- The next Newsletter will also contain an article by Luc Janssens (National State Archives Belgium) on *Land Surveyors and their Maps in the 18<sup>th</sup> century Duchy of Brabant*.

Besides a complete and lively report on that session, you will find in this Newsletter a series of articles which review exhibitions and books devoted to various aspects of Belgian (or Dutch) cartography, as well as news of letters to Ortelius acquired by the Plantin Museum. Also worth pointing out is the report of the BIMCC visit to the extraordinary map collection of Dr. Niewodniczanski in Bitburg

At the beginning of this cartographic new year, I must, not only present all my good wishes, but also remind you that it is time to renew your BIMCC membership; please pay your dues (EUR 30.00 now) to our treasurer. Please also note the date of the next General Assembly and Map Evening (22 April 2006). Maybe it is time for you to come forward and join us to help the BIMCC to progress further; please send your candidature as 'Active Member'!

Cartographically yours,

Jean-Louis Renteux,  
Editor



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## PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION (I)

### ***Catoen & Compagnie* (Cotton and Company)<sup>1</sup> Textile Trade and Cartography**

This rather small exhibition about the European textile trade with India and on the pertaining cartography from 1500 till 1800, was organised from 7 – 30 November 2005 by the Study Group New History of the Ghent University. This group is one of the working partners of the international project *EurIndia*, with other participants from France, Italy and India (see [www.eurindia.org](http://www.eurindia.org)). Research is done on the history of the rich and rather badly known economic relations between Europe and Asia, especially India, with focus on the cartography and the textile trade. This trade was of particular importance on the Coromandel coast (south-east of India, chief town Madras, now Chennai). Beautiful cloths, which were mostly prepared in the inland villages along the coast, were exported to Europe and other parts of India.

We see interesting cargo lists of all these different cloths and also catalogues with selections of very colourful samples of all sort of Indian cottons. But of course the maps are our main point of interest.

A map of India and Coromandel from the *Nieuwe Hand-Atlas* (Amsterdam, 1764) by Isaac Tirion (1705-1765) guides us throughout these countries. A small atlas (Amsterdam, 1665) by Philippus Clüver or Cluverius from Danzig (1580-1623) reveals a Ptolemaic representation of the Indian subcontinent, to compare with a map *The Indian Subcontinent* of an other atlas *Atlas en Abrégé* (1692), by Jacques Peeters. Of course the beautifully coloured map *India quae orientalis dicitur, et insulae adiacentes* by Joh. Blaeu (1596-1673) from his *Atlas Toonneel des Aertrijcx ofte Nieuwe Atlas* (Amsterdam, 1650) was an eye-catcher.

Most interesting was a map by Eugène Fricx with title *Partie du Gange où sont les établissements du commerce des Nations de l'Europe dans les Indes orientales* (the River Ganges with the establishments of the European Trading Companies), with the *Loge Flamande*, a location of the Ostend Company near Banquibazar. This map is drawn from the observations of Sr. Jacque A. Cobbé, sent to India on behalf of the company. He was killed at the *Loge Flamande* in 1729. This same map was also exposed recently at another exhibition, in Rumbeke/Roeselare (see next article).

Of course there were many more maps and drawings in the show-cases. But one of the pearls of the University Library is probably the world globe of 1620, by the Flemish cartographer J.F. Van Langren of an Antwerp lineage of cartographers. On this globe is drawn for the very first time the *Strait of Le Maire* discovered (near the Cape Horn) by the Dutch navigators Schouten and Le Maire in 1617, a century after Magellan discovered *his* Strait (500 km further north) on his tour around the world in 1519. The Cape Horn is named after Schoutens' birth place, Hoorn on the *Zuider-Zee* in Holland.

Exhibitions like these are important because they draw attention to particular parts of the history and the related cartography. Here we learned quite a lot about the Dutch V.O.C., the English East India Company, the Danish and French companies and we know now exactly the locations of the short-lived Ostend Company (1722-1734) with colonies at *Cabelon*, now Covelong, south of Madras in Coromandel, and Banquibazar, north of Calcutta, along the river Ganges.

Pierre Mattelaer

## PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION (II)

### ***From the Azores to New Zealand* The 14 Belgian colonies**

This exhibition took place in the scenic medieval castle of Rumbeke near Roeselare (West-Flanders). Unfortunately it lasted only one single day for the general public (27 November 2005). However it was an excellent, interesting and very well arranged and documented exhibition. The theme was *the Belgian colonies*. It seems that Belgium had colonies on all six continents, start-

ing with a first one in 1451, when Jácome of Bruges set foot on the island of Terceira on the Azores. The animator of the exhibition and also the author of the beautiful accompanying book with the same title, is Patrick Maselis. He is an amateur cartographer, but in the first place he is a philatelist with particular interest in the history of the post. In that field he is specialised in all



aspects of the former Belgian colonies. Colony is to be understood either as a small Belgian (Flemish or Walloon) settlement or as a territory under Belgian (Flemish, Walloon) or royal sovereign rights.

The fourteen colonies according to P. Maselis are: in the first place the eight colonies where Belgians (Flemish, Walloon) owned sovereign rights: the Ostend Company in Cabelon and Banquibazar (India), a short-lived territory in New Zealand, Rio Nunes in Guinea, the Congo, Lado-Maridi (Soudan/Uganda), Antarctica, Rwanda-Burundi and Tientsin (China); and six which were only trading posts or small concentrations of Belgian population: the Azores, the Canary Islands, Nova Belgica (New York), Santo Tomás in Guatemala, Santa Catarina in Brazil and Villaguay in Argentina.

From these 14 'colonies' were on display: an historical review (with maps and posters), old documents such as letters and old books, and at last philatelic curiosities.

My main interest went of course to the maps and the historical documents; but the rest was also worth seeing.

We saw an allegoric world map of a Flemish cartographer (1590) whereby the world was seen on a heart shaped projection within the foolish head of a jester. A map I liked very much was *Nouvelle carte...de l'Amérique centrale et des Antilles...*

by N. Dally (1840), drawn under the auspices of King Leopold I, on which one can see the Belgian possession in Guatemala (*district de Santo Tomas*). This map is probably also cherished by P. Maselis since it is the introductory map of his book and is printed on double page. Among the many other maps a particular one was very remarkable and was also displayed at the exhibition in Ghent (see previous article): *Partie du Gange où sont les Etablissements du Commerce des Nations de l'Europe dans les Indes orientales*, edited by Eugène Fricx (1726), showing the location of Banquibazar and the *Loge flamande* where the governor of the company resided. A share of the Ostend Company was even on display.

The map of J. Janssonius *Nova Belgica et nova Anglia (1644)* introduced us to the stand of the Belgian colony of New York, recalling the fact that Walloons settled here on the Hudson bank in 1624. The term *Belgica* refers of course not to nowadays Belgium but to the entire Netherlands

(cf *Leo Belgicus*). And so we go on, travelling around the world, from continent to continent.

The core of the exhibition was of course the Congo part. Maps of Congo by Blaeu (1662), and especially by Hondius (1605) illustrated the first history of the former colony. In his book P. Maselis shows the oldest map known of Congo, from 1591, by Filippo Pigafetta (1533-1603), an Italian cartographer who drew maps of Africa. A *Map of the independent State of Congo* by A. J. Wauters (1887) is to be compared with the map by the same cartographer *Croquis de l'Afrique centrale* which was the map of the season of the BIMCC Newsletter No 21 (January 2005). Documents relating to Stanley, Livingstone and other explorers were abundant and of the utmost interest.

Of course the Antarctic expedition (1897-1899) of Baron de Gerlache could not be missing in this exhibition.

There were also some bizarre curiosities. Who knows that the Belgian Baron de Thierry crowned himself as the king of New Zealand? Who knows that the territory of Lado, an enclave between Congo and Sudan, was for 13 years (1897-1910) one hundred percent a Belgian colony? Later after the death of King Leopold II it was ceded to England, and divided up between Sudan and Uganda.

And as an epilogue on all these beautiful documents P.

Maselis reminded us that the Belgians (or rather King Leopold II himself) owned for a short time a concession in the China port of Tientsin (1902-1929). The effigy of the king adorns even a Chinese stamp that is on display (unique of its kind!).

We believe it was one of the most attractive exhibitions which we attended in the last months. We hope firmly that the author will re-organise it in the near future in an accessible location so that more of us will be able to enjoy this instructive event, that could be considered as a late summit of the festivities and manifestations around 175-25 year Belgium.

Pierre Mattelaer

Book: PATRICK MASELIS. *From the Azores tot New Zeeland* (in Flemish *Van de Azoren tot de Zuidpool*). 420 pages. Fully illustrated in colour. Roularta Books, 2005. Translated from Dutch to English (ISBN 90-54-66-874-1), French, Spanish and Portuguese. EUR 43.00. Can be ordered by e-mail: [info@maselis.be](mailto:info@maselis.be)





## PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION (III)

### ***In goede banen?* (On the right way?) The provincial road atlases in Belgium**

On 10 April 1841 the West-Vlaanderen Province issued an order with instructions on how to improve the management and the usability of the vicinal (usually pedestrian) unpaved roads ('*buurtwegen*' or in French '*chemins vicinaux*'). These were among others church roads (*kerkwegen*) used by the parishioners to walk to church, market roads (*marktwegen*) and mill roads (*molenwegen*) leading through the meadows and fields to the nearest markets and windmills. In order to achieve these nice aims each commune of the province of West-Flanders had to map its own vicinal roads. The maps of each commune, drawn usually on a scale of 1:2 500 (or 1:10 000 for the general maps) were assembled in one or more large atlases (74.5 x 55.5 cm). In total 241 atlases were made, all of them in two copies, manuscript of course. All these atlases were recently restored because of their great historical and cultural value. This was the first time they were on display; at least it was announced as such in the papers. Was it worth the trip to that far corner of Belgium<sup>1</sup>?

Only four atlases, opened on a particular page, were on display behind glass in a showcase. Only one sheet of another (military) map (1:160 000) with all the ways of communication of the province (road, train, river, etc.) of 1875 was to be seen.

So, for a map collector or a map historian it was rather a disappointing harvest.

But, on the other hand, for the local historian, for the ecologist, or for a surveyor it was somehow worth it. Pictures and paintings of sandy and rural roads, instruments of surveying, all sort of documents pertaining the management of roads, etc. were all of some interest and value. Everything was neatly displayed. A nice catalogue including many historical notes on the atlases was on sale for EUR 8.00.

But except for the four pages of the atlases on display we saw nothing about the restoration of these valuable atlases, nothing about the map-makers themselves, nor any other local maps to compare with. The Province plans to travel with this exhibition to some other places. We hope that they will realise that it should not be announced as an exhibition of the *Atlassen van de buurtwegen* like it was done in the papers; or else they will have to eliminate the present shortcomings to attract the map historians.

Pierre Mattelaer

<sup>1</sup> *De Scarbillie*, De Panne (West-Flanders), from 29 October to 4 December 2005.  
Org.: Archiefdienst, Provincie West-Vlaanderen

## LOOKS AT BOOKS (I)

### **Geschiedenis van Brabant van het hertogdom tot heden. Histoire du Brabant, du duché à nos jours. (History of Brabant, from the duchy to present) by Prof. R. Van Uytven and others**

Leuven, *Waanders Uitg. Davidsfonds*, 2004, 720 pp. with 500 col. and black/white illustrations. Hardcover 20 x 28 cm. Price EUR 51.00 - ISBN 90-8526-101-5

This book, on the history of the Duchy of Brabant, will be the reference work on the subject for years to come. About 27 authors contributed to this standard work, which is published in French and Dutch.

The project to write this work started nine years ago and was realised with help of several Foundations and the Provinces of Antwerp, French and Flemish Brabant, North Brabant, Brussels and the French community of Belgium. EUR 200 000 were allocated to realise this project.

This book is not about cartography but about chronological history and is without any doubt an invaluable source for any person interested in maps of Brabant.

The authors needed several years to realise this monumental historical book. *Tantae modis erat* (that's how heavy it was). Let's not forget that the – once – Duchy of Brabant has been divided over the years in several Provinces: Antwerp, Flemish and French Brabant and Brussels Region in Belgium and Noord Brabant in the Netherlands.

This work is divided in two parts. The first one is devoted to the history of the Duchy from the origin until the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Brabant originates out of the existing *pagus* in Lower-Lorraine. A *pagus* was a geographical unit where the inhabitants shared a feeling of identity.

The *pagus* territory underwent an administrative division around 1003 in several earldoms and



markgraviates. One countship was called Brabant. The title of Duchy came to Brabant through *Godefrey of Bouillon*.

The first part covers that historical period of the territory that formed an economical and cultural centre of Burgundy and the Habsburg part of the Netherlands. Under imperial rule and a centralised authority, it remained a powerful geographical entity.

Part Two is devoted to the historical events that led to the division of the Duchy. Brabant started revolting against the central authority. A war about religion and authority devastated the country and ruined economically the city of Antwerp.

The Duchy lived on through Spanish and – later on – through Austrian rule. As a result of war originated the *Generaliteitslanden* and after the peace of Munster (1648), *Staats-Brabant*

came into being.

In Part Three the authors analyse the institutional division of the Duchy from 1795 to 1996. The French revolution and the French occupation of the Austrian part of the Netherlands started the definitive process of Brabant division.

In 1795 Brabant became divided in two departments. The French invasion and their later retreat would lead to a definitive division of the old Duchy: a Brabant province in the Netherlands and two provinces in Belgium (Antwerp and Brabant).

The creation of a federal state in Belgium led to a further division of the Belgian Province of Brabant.

The Duchy of Brabant is no more a geographical entity, but whether this will remain true on a cultural base, only future history will tell us.

Eric Leenders

## LOOKS AT BOOKS (II)

### ***Atlas Maior of 1665,* abridged facsimile of Joan Blaeu's atlas by Taschen-Verlag**

Introduction and texts by Peter van der Krogt; direction and production by Benedikt Taschen  
Taschen, Köln, 2005, 591 pages (first edition), XXL, hardback, more than 7 kg  
ISBN 3-8228-3125-5: edition with texts in English, German and French  
ISBN 3-8228-4680-5: edition with texts in English, Dutch and French  
ISBN 3-8228-4155-2: edition with texts in Italian, Spanish and Portuguese  
To order (first edition): [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk), new from EUR 114.00 (incl. transport and VAT)

Blaeu's masterpiece, the product of competition between several (mostly Dutch) publishing houses, which brought the best out in them, is *the greatest and finest atlas ever published* (dixit Peter van der Krogt).

This being said, Dr. van der Krogt has produced yet another *tour de force*: the reproduction of the 11-volume 1665 *Atlas Maior* of Johannes Blaeu which contains 594 maps in large format, but is still a 'handy' compilation.

Blaeu has found his worthy successor in this true piece of art. Van der Krogt, preserving the order of the original volumes, has re-invented the baroque spirit of the original and makes us revive Blaeu's dream world. Was Blaeu Catholic or Protestant? In a joint effort with the Nationalbibliothek Wien, which lent a gold-heightened copy, a page-turning thriller has been produced. Together, they have brought the *Atlas Maior* back to life. The fabulous result is a must-have *chef-d'oeuvre* in its



own right.

In a 60-page introduction van der Krogt gives a brief summary of the development of the Atlas and of the then used printing techniques, and he produces household details of its production. Did you know that the total print run of the *Atlas Maior* in its four editions

was only 1 550 exemplars (Latin: 650, French: 400, Dutch: 300 and Spanish: 200)?

The rest of the book is pure burgundy abundance: stunning images, clear and crafty impressions, larger than life close-ups. In this superb reprint Blaeu's 17<sup>th</sup> century voice speaks to us again, as van der Krogt lets the master do most of the talking:

On Brussels (page 204), as commentary to the *Secunda pars Brabantiae cuius urbs primaria Bruxellae*, Blaeu utters: *the entire space between the two walls is filled with townhouses of the great and a few houses of private individuals, along with*



gardens, meadows, orchards and, in places, fields, all of which make the city a very pleasant spot. Who wouldn't want to live in such a place, but does this hand still fit the 21<sup>st</sup> century glove?

But some things haven't changed; there are still certainties in life. On 'Wilfibusgerau' (page 365), Blaeu writes: *in all towns in this country there are towncriers employed to announce the hours of the night, despite the fact that this information is available from the chiming of clocks.*

There is no end to this monumental work, its exquisite maps and magnificent illustrations in which Mr. van der Krogt adds his own notes or speaks through the mouth of other eminent personalities, such as Jules Verne, Alexander von Humboldt, Marco Polo, Mark Twain, Jean-Jacques Rousseau and many others.

On the map of Aethiopiae Inferior (page 481), van der Krogt quotes Bishop Desmond Tutu: *When the missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They said 'Let us pray' .We closed our eyes. When we opened them we had the Bible and they had the land.*

Thomas Mann romanticizes old Venice (map of Territorio Padovana, page 398): *This was Venice, the flattering and suspect beauty – this city, half fairy tale and half tourist trap, in whose insalubrious air the arts once rankly and voluptuously blos-*

*somed, where composers have been inspired to lulling tones of somniferous eroticism.*

Next to each other the maps of Corsica and Elba (pages 382 and 383) with Napoleon Bonaparte's respective one liners: *He who fears being conquered is sure of defeat* and *One must change one's tactics every ten years if one wishes to maintain one's superiority.* I looked in vain for a map of Saint Helena.

If I have to give a minor point of criticism on the downside: in its three editions, all the narratives are provided in three languages. As this hobby/passion of ours has an obvious international dimension and most map enthusiasts (i.e. the commercial target group) read several languages, it is regrettable, yet understandable, that the publisher chose for this type of presentation. Messrs. Blaeu and van der Krogt could easily have filled up the extra space with interesting, witty, or scientifically-justified information about then and now.

The price (from € 110) is not cheap, but it is an absolute bargain for the quantity and quality offered: not bad since Blaeu's *Atlas Maior* was the most expensive book of its days...

**This is a feast for the map enthusiast ... and for his eyes.**

Stanislas De Peuter

**Presentation of Joan Blaeu's *Atlas Maior* of 1665 abridged facsimile  
by Peter van der Krogt  
on 22 November 2005 at Het Hof at Dordrecht, The Netherlands**

To accompany the publication of the facsimile edition of Joan Blaeu's *Atlas Maior* by Peter van der Krogt, professor of GeoSciences at the University of Utrecht and BIMCC member, the eminent Blaeu expert was invited to give a lecture for an audience of map enthusiasts. As an introduction, Peter van der Krogt surprised the audience by demonstrating how accurate the 17<sup>th</sup> century maps already were when compared with 21<sup>st</sup> century satellite images. He also pointed out that old maps should not be confused with historical maps. Old maps are maps that are collected or studied because of a special interest, while historical maps are thematic maps on an historical subject. How old a map must be to earn the predicate *old* cannot be easily defined (e.g. also 20<sup>th</sup> century maps can be *old* maps). The typical ingredients of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century maps, the colourful cartouches and the different scales because of the lack of standardized measurement units (except maybe the universal *Germania miles*) were illustrated with fine examples from the history of cartography. After the obligatory stop at Ptolemaios's *Geographia* and its influence on Renaissance map makers, Peter van der Krogt quickly came to the issue of the first atlas. Abraham Ortelius's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (1570) and Lucas Waghenaer's *Spiegel der Zeevaerdt* (1585) can be considered as the first atlases as we know them, but the first atlas that carried the name Atlas was of course Gerard and Rumold Mercator's *Atlas* of 1595. The origin of the competition of the Blaeu family against the Hondius-Janssonius map makers was nicely illustrated by the chronology of events that took place after Janssonius copied Willem Janszoon's maritime atlas *Het Licht der Zeevaerdt*. Willem Janszoon started to use the name Blaeu and was fortunate to acquire several copperplates from Jodocus Hondius which led to the publication of his first atlas on the continents: the *Atlantis Appendix*. Joan Blaeu and Janssonius continued the race by systematically enlarging their atlases, a race that eventually led to the publication of the *Atlas Maior*. After a short break, Peter van der Krogt highlighted some of the maps of the Taschen facsimile edition of the 1665 *Atlas Maior*. Especially the comparisons with the 3D satellite images obtained from Google Earth (a program to view satellite images of the world can be downloaded free of charge from: <http://earth.google.com>) illustrated once again the beauty and scientific merits of the Blaeu maps.

Glenn Van den Bosch





## LOOKS AT BOOKS (III)

### **Cartes de l'Île de Ré** **Cartes géographiques anciennes de l'Île de Ré, Poitou, Aunis & Saintonge** (Ancient maps of the island Ré and Provinces Poitou, Aunis and Saintonge) by **Alain Gaudillat**

Plomelin (France): Editions Palantines, 2004. pp 152, 95 colour illustrations including 80 maps. Hard cover, dustjacket and slipcase, 22.5 x 28 cm. ISBN 2-911434-35-8. EUR 55.00

To order : Editions Palantines, 49 hent Penc'hoad Bras, F-29700 Plomelin, info@editionspalantine.com



Here is a book by a map collector who, on his retirement, decided to share with others his passion for old maps, and in particular for maps of the island of Ré (where he has his summer residence) and of adjacent mainland counties. As he says in the foreword, his sole objective is to arouse the reader's interest, thus contributing actively to the preservation of ancient documents which are records of our history. Conscious of the inherent limitations of such a task he adds on a cautionary note that his work is neither exhaustive nor scientific, disclaiming responsibility for errors copied from documentation in his possession.

For the benefit of our non-French readers let me add a geographical detail the author takes for granted: where is this island? *L'île de Ré*, at roughly 46° 12' N, 01° 20' W, is one of the islands

off the French Atlantic coast, opposite the town of La Rochelle, about half-way between the tip of Brittany and Biarritz.

It soon becomes clear that Gaudillat intends to do more than merely present an assemblage of maps, mostly from his own collection: we are given a whole course on the history of mapping in Europe and France and are presented with his own reflections on such topics as classification of maps, decorative elements, dedications, scales, different types of printing techniques, colouring, paper conservation, items of curiosity.

As to the illustrations, these are of excellent quality throughout. Most maps are shown in their entirety on a full page, seven are even double page. However, about one third are enlarged details of the original map which affords good read-



ability, but this should perhaps have been mentioned in the description. The random sequence of (unnumbered) maps is a bit puzzling as it does not seem to follow a predetermined pattern, such as an arrangement in chronological order, by groups of mapmakers or geographical area (maps of the island only, maps of adjacent coastal parts). However, in some cases where a subject text is on the left-hand page, a map relevant to the subject is shown opposite.

The map descriptions are clear and concise on the whole and offer the opportunity to include, here and there, historical details about the island. One might have expected a summary of regional history at the beginning of the book, and thus could be surprised to find only on p. 115 that the island was known as *Ratis* in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, and called *Lisle du Roy* by Bertius (1605). Certain transcriptions of the map titles contain some minor but irritating errors, and there is also a problem with translation from Dutch, for example on p. 38 where '... *en een gedeelte van Bretagne...*' becomes '... *depuis la Bretagne...*', and on p. 61 *Duijtsche mijlen* (German miles) on Blaeu's map are rendered as Dutch miles (*milles hollandais*).

It seems a shame that such an attractive book with so many beautiful maps should also suffer from some avoidable editing blunders. On p. 17,

for example, there is clearly some text missing between lines 8 and 9, and at the bottom of p. 23 the text ends in mid-sentence without being continued elsewhere. On p. 44 the text on 'Dedications' refers to a map which is not the one on the opposite page as indicated but is on p. 63.

Four Annexes complete the book: one is a correspondence list of ancient and modern toponyms of places on the island, another gives the metric equivalent of old distance measures (not checked), then there is a bibliography with 12 entries on the history of *Île de Ré*, followed by 18 entries on the history of cartography, including a work on ancient maps of the Bretagne by the author's brother Claude. The last Annex contains an astonishing list of 28 map dealers in and around Paris, and six dealers on the island, from whom the maps in the author's collection had been acquired.

One would wish to see more of such initiatives from map enthusiasts focusing on outstanding localities that deserve a historical map survey. Hopefully, this publication might encourage other map collectors to come forward with similar projects. Although critical in part, the comments offered here are meant to be a constructive impulse in that direction.

Wulf Bodenstein

## Successful Study Session on Belgian cartography



Belgium's celebration of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding formed the background for the Sixth annual BIMCC Study Session on *Belgian Cartography - 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries* held on 10 December 2005 at the Collège Saint-Michel. Some 50 map

enthusiasts and specialists from several countries attended a morning session dedicated to early Belgian cartographers and an afternoon session reserved for their *post-independence* successors.

After a word of welcome by BIMCC President Wulf Bodenstein, **Jan De Graeve** took off with a presentation of *The surveyor Gerard Mercator, his library and instruments (1512-1594)*, a little-known aspect of this great humanist. Mr De Graeve, a chartered surveyor and lecturer at several universities, reconstructed the book collection of Mercator on the basis of an auction catalogue dated 1604 of the Mercator sale in Leiden and concluded that Mercator must have possessed over 1 000 books, an exceptional figure in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

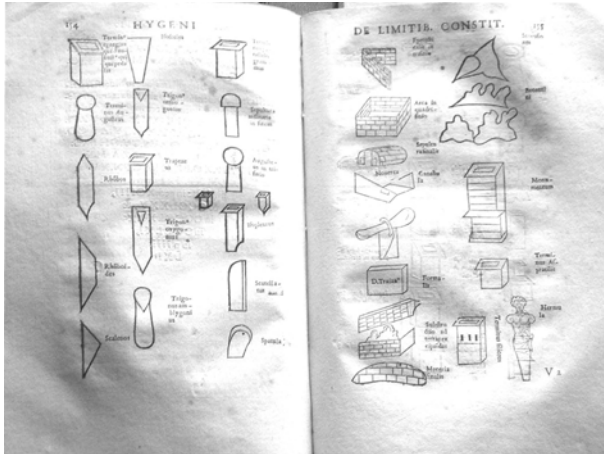
Mr De Graeve's point was to prove that Mercator had a great knowledge of geometry. To the extent that looking into one's library is a gauge of that



J. De Graeve (center) preparing to address the audience at the BIMCC Study Session



person's knowledge, Mercator must have had a thorough understanding of geometry. Mr De Graeve illustrated his presentation with a slide show based on the title pages taken from copies from his own library, including works by Gardenus, Peletarius' *Geometrica* of 1557, classics such as Strabo, etc. Mr De Graeve also informed the audience that Galland's *De Agrorum conditionibus Varium auctores* of 1554 is a "milestone" treatise for surveyors containing drawings of border stones and markers for all types of land.



Examples of border stones

Finally, Mr De Graeve concluded his presentation with a short overview of Mercator's scientific instruments, some of which are now kept by the Museum of the History of Science in Oxford. Even more interesting, Mr De Graeve mentioned that, while there are three known astroglobes attributed to Mercator – currently kept in Brno, Firenze and Augsburg –, he is convinced that he has found a fourth one that he will unveil in the not too distant future. À suivre...

**Joost Depuydt**, head of the Public Service of the Central Library of the *Katholieke Universiteit Leuven* (KUL), looked with fresh eyes to the familiar figure of Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) and opened up a spectacular side of this 16<sup>th</sup> century protagonist: *Dedications on Ortelius' Parergon maps*. By 1584, the publication year of his first 'historical' map, he most likely did not have to scheme for money and protection. It should thus come as no surprise that, for these maps, which were Ortelius' private playground, his 18 dedications were made not to 16<sup>th</sup> century political protectors or financial sponsors, but rather to a wide circle of his wining and dining friends with whom he often maintained intense correspondence. It also demonstrates how truly international he had become. Mr Depuydt distinguished three groups of dedications: his Antwerp friends, his international friends and politicians closely related to the Brussels Court. Speaking about this first historical map

*Belgii veteris typus*, Ortelius jokingly dedicated it to "SPQA". Did the 'A' stand for Antwerp or ... perhaps Amsterdam?

Most dedications showed a clear relationship between the geographical scope of the map and the person to whom it was dedicated: for example, the map of *Italia Gallica* to Francesco Soranza, from the noble family of Venice, ambassador in Spain; the second edition of the *Geographia sacra* to bishop Willem van Bergen; or, the *Hispaniae veteris typus* map to Benito Arias Montano, librarian of El Escorial.

Fortunately, not all mysteries are solved and Mr Depuydt suggested more homework was needed: was the dedication on the *Pannoniae et Illyrica veteris tabula* map to Ludovicus Haller von Hallerstein or to Fredericus Haller von Hallerstein? Just who is this person and what is his relationship, if any, to this particular map. And can we really be certain that there is no connection between the *Britannicum insularum vetus* map and its dedication to Georgius ab Austria, chancellor of the Leuven University? We thank Mr Depuydt for his handy paper survey and we can only hope that he



J. Depuydt showing *Theatrum* title page

will come back soon (at least) One More Time.

Third in line was **Wouter Bracke**, acting Head of the Map Room of the Royal Library of Belgium. Mr Bracke focused on the Brussels map house of the Fricx family and, as he discussed more in particular, *Maps by Eugène Henri Fricx (1644-1730)*, its most prominent member<sup>1</sup>. Fricx started working on his *chef-d'oeuvre*, his *Carte des Pays-Bas et des frontières de France*, as early as 1704 for a first publication in 1712. War was once more a catalyst to mapmaking, and we must understand this work against the background of the Spanish Succession War which saw France and Bavaria opposing England, Austria, Portugal, Savoy and Holland and fighting over the succession to the

<sup>1</sup> See article by W. Bracke below



Spanish throne following the death of its King Charles II in 1700. The *Carte des Pays-Bas et des frontières de France* consists of two major parts: the first part of 24 maps essentially contains topographical maps, the second part has 47 maps of cities (mainly inspired by Gaspar Baillieu), sieges and battles, for which Fricx's sources were mainly French military manuscripts and military engineers of ... the allied forces. Clearly, people do make money off of wars and some are even eating from both sides. As an example, given his wider British, Dutch and German readership, Fricx dedicated his map of Oudenaarde to Eugène of Savoy who defeated the French there in 1708. Elsewhere, Fricx used different copper plates for each opposing side to please all of his clientele.

Interestingly, the dates remained unchanged for many updates of the maps: could this be a question of artificially postponing the cut-off date of the privilege granted to the cartographer? Or did Fricx in the earlier days of this work not intend to publish an entire atlas? Finally, we understand that the maps of Fricx have been copied by Pierre Mortier, Covens-Mortier and Jean Crepy, to name but a few. We thank Mr Bracke for his eye-opening presentation which he supported with a spectacular slide show: from now on we will consider Eugène-Henri Fricx as one of the jewels of the Belgian post-16<sup>th</sup> century cartographers.

The morning session was closed by **Luc Janssens's** exposé on *Land Surveyors and their Maps in the 18<sup>th</sup> century Duchy of Brabant*<sup>2</sup>. Mr Janssens first analyzed the professional group of land surveyors who worked in the 18<sup>th</sup> century Brabant (i.e. excluding the Dutch province of *Noord-Brabant*). Between 1680 and 1795 a total of 343 surveyors worked and lived in Brabant, mostly in the cities of Brussels, Mechelen and Leuven. Mr

Janssens showed on a graph that, for most of the reference time, no more than 50 surveyors were active at any given moment. The proportion of surveyors to the population represented 1:9 385 in 1755 and it increased to 1:5 813 in 1784.

Mr Janssens then dedicated his presentation to the manuscript maps of these surveyors. In contrast to the more uniform military maps, the manuscript maps do not speak one and the same universal language: pictorial elements and decorative images and cartouches are very individual. Political and economic factors triggered the increased demand for manuscript maps. According to the speaker, a first positive factor was probably the Ordinance of 1705 that regulates the profession; in our days professional regulations usually aim at or lead to access restriction! Moreover, local authorities and large landowners (including abbeys) showed an interest in having a more faithful definition of their land. Finally, changes in cadastral numbers were another incentive for manuscript maps.

Mr Janssens will defend his doctoral thesis on *Land Surveyors in the Duchy of Brabant (1680 – 1795)* in 2006 at the KUL and we wish him the best of luck.

During the *apéritif* offered by the BIMCC and the *Speakers' Lunch* more informal exchanges took place between the audience and the speakers.

After the break, **Bernard Jouret**, a professor at the *Université Libre de Bruxelles* and assistant Director at the National Geographic Institute, took off with a presentation of *Some lesser-known Belgian 19<sup>th</sup> century military and civil surveyors*<sup>3</sup>. In order to build the nation, accurate large-scale plans were needed, and at the time none were available. Multi-disciplinary objectives such as industrial, geological and economic goals necessitated a cartographical action plan. Not surprisingly, the newly established country found its first surveyors in military circles: clearly, the intelligentsia and scientists were too busy worrying about the sheer survival of their newborn country.

Three seemingly connected institutes took a primary role in this process: *l'École militaire*, *le Dépôt de la Guerre* and *l'Académie royale*. Mr Jouret described the contribution of many eminent individuals, most of whom excelled in several disciplines: they included military men of the high-



Surveyor's map of property in St Gilles (18<sup>th</sup> century)

<sup>2</sup> An article by L. Janssens will appear in the next Newsletter

<sup>3</sup> See article by B. Jouret below



est rank, prominent academics, scientists, practical researchers and fieldworkers. Adolphe Quetelet was their front man and key player in the entire surveying process, but most surveyors have unfortunately been relegated to obscurity, including Albert-Florence Prisse, André Jolly, Jean-Jacques Chapelié and Guillaume-Adolphe Nerenburger. As the post-1830 political pendulum was swinging in one direction, it comes as no surprise that many prominent surveyors had a French background.

We understand that Mr Jouret will publish his work on *Ces savants brillants et oubliés du 19<sup>e</sup> siècle* in 2006.

The icing on the cake was **Lisette Danckaert**. Ms Danckaert, who needs no introduction, gave an excellent and unanimously appreciated slide show on *Vandermaelen's cartographical view of the world and of Brussels*. She highlighted the role of the *Etablissement géographique de Bruxelles*, the most famous map printing and editing house in 19<sup>th</sup> century Belgium run by Philippe (1795-1869) and Jean-François Vandermaelen. Supported by the fortune of their parents, the brothers built a spacious geographical institute in 1829, in which they also installed a map-drawing section, a library and a museum.

As for world cartography, we remember the *Atlas universel* with 400 sheets on a uniform scale of ca. 1:1 600 000 and which, when it appeared in 1827, was far ahead of its time. Ms. Danckaert showed us a map of the Erebus volcano on Antarctica of 1843, discovered only two years before.

The Vandermaelens' excellence is shown in their series of 1:20 000 maps on Belgium in 250 sheets. These detailed maps allow for individual identification of windmills and buildings, show differences in relief, and discern coalmine concessions. Out of the enormous production of Vandermaelen can be noted: the geological maps of André Dumont, maps on the Belgian provinces, railway maps (with perspective views) and cadastral maps.

Also highly successful were the 1:5 000 maps of Brussels, which were published between 1837 and 1848. As maps have often been used or abused for other (political) purposes, Ms. Danckaert mentioned the proposals of Walrand using the 1:5 000 maps to rebuild the city from a *tabula rasa* on the basis of a spider grid. Approximately one hundred years later an architect had

similar plans for Berlin. So far, none have been realized.

Unfortunately, in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the preponderant role of the *Etablissement Vandermaelen* was undermined by the emergence and development of official cartography in this country. We understand that an inventory of the



Detail of 1844 map of Brussels by Vandermaelen showing planned transformation of *Quartier Léopold*

Vandermaelen production kept in the Royal Library is under preparation.

Finally, we would like to thank Ms Bodenstern who has, once more, organized the wonderful catering during the breaks, Mr Hans Kok who displayed some of his maps in a mini-exhibition at the catering room, and last but not least, our many members who displayed books they had published at the same mini-exhibition.

Stanislas De Peuter



## Maps by Fricx

Eugène-Henri Fricx is the founding father of an important printers' dynasty in 18<sup>th</sup> century Brussels. He was born in the centre of Brussels (Saint-Géry) in 1644 as the son of Henri Fricx, a merchant, neither a printer nor a bookseller. Henri Fricx married into a family of printers when he took Barbe Mommaert as his wife. She was the sister of Jan II Mommaert, who was himself printer and even *Imprimeur du roi*. According to his editions Eugène-Henri was active as a printer and bookseller from 1670 to 1730, year of his death. His bookshop was first located *derrière l'Hôtel de Ville*, location of the former printing and editing house of the Mommaert family which Fricx took over from his uncle. Later on Fricx moved his presses *rue de la Madeleine*, address we find back on most of his maps. Two of his sons became printers. Guillaume founded his own printer's business in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, but died at an early age in 1712. Eugène-Henri's second son to become a printer, George, worked with his father before taking over the business at his father's death. In the meantime George had taken care of Guillaume's son's education as a printer. Guillaume's son was also called George, which explains some of the existing confusion between both Georges and even the addition of a third George found in biographical and bibliographical studies. Eugène-Henri Fricx became *Imprimeur de Sa Majesté* on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 1689, a privilege he obtained from the Spanish private council for 20 years, and of which he would ask a renewal in 1726 only. Eventually Fricx got the privilege for life against exemption of the government's debts up to an amount of more than 7000 florins for delivered work.

Although active as a printer since 1670, it is only in 1703 that Fricx starts to print and sell his first maps. His *Théâtre de la Guerre des Pays-Bas* is engraved by Jacob Harrewyn, from Amsterdam, who settled in Brussels around 1693-1696. Jacob Harrewyn (and his brother) would become Fricx's exclusive engraver when it came to printing maps. In 1704 Fricx publishes on the government's order a series of engravings of the young Spanish King Philip V's Italian campaign of 1701-1702 (Fig. 1).

The printing was based on drawings made in Madrid by the architect Felipe Pallotta, then attached to the royal cavalry. The engravings themselves are by Jan Baptist Berterham, with the help of Lamberecht Causé. The engravings are clearly made for political reasons as an instrument of propaganda in what is traditionally called the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1714). It is precisely this war that would give Fricx the opportunity to present himself as a mapseller and even,

occasionally, as a mapmaker.

How interesting Fricx's first cartographic products may be, at least from an aesthetical point of view, his reputation was made above all by his so-called *Carte des Pays-Bas*. This map is in fact a collection of maps of different character as is made explicit by the title *Cartes des Pays Bas et des frontières de France, avec un recueil des plans des villes, sièges et batailles données entre les hauts alliés et la France*. The title can be read on the title page of what is considered to be Fricx's first edition of the collection. This edition came out in 1712, when 23 of the 24 topographical maps representing the Southern Netherlands were ready. The 24<sup>th</sup> map was published in 1727 only. Fricx would continuously add maps and change geographical information on the existing ones, which is only partly reflected in the changing table of content published on the titlepage, the date of which nevertheless never changed (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2: Table of content (KBR, CP, VH 25847 D)

Why Fricx did not change the date is difficult to say. The reason could be an editorial one: Fricx's 1706 privilege for printing maps of the region expired in 1712.



It appears that at the very start Fricx did not have the intention to publish an atlas at all, but that he came to it much later, perhaps even only at the end of the war of the Spanish Succession, or more precisely after the battle of Denain in 1712.

The atlas' content is very heterogeneous with the War of the Spanish Succession as its only unifying element. In fact, from a cartographical point of view the atlas is composed of two rather different parts, the first part containing topographical maps, the second city maps and maps of sieges and battles. The topographical part representing the Southern Netherlands has been thoroughly studied by Claire Lemoine-Isabeau in her work on *Les militaires et la cartographie des Pays-Bas méridionaux et de la Principauté de Liège à la fin du XVII<sup>e</sup> et au XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle* (Brussels, 1984). To these 24 maps, three – in later editions four - more topographical maps can be added. They are mentioned right after the first group of topographical maps. As already said before, Fricx continuously updated his topographical maps. Claire Lemoine-Isabeau distinguished up to six states (if one includes Fricx's son's re-edition in the 1740's), but it seems that in some cases there must have been more than six (e.g. the map of Lier of which we could identify a seventh state) (Fig. 3).

The second part of the atlas contains 47 maps of battlefields and fortifications, dated from 1706 to 1712. Some of them are printed the year the battles have taken place and can be considered as a kind of military report. It seems that, except for Brussels, his home town (cfr. L. Danckaert, *Bruxelles. Cinq siècles de cartographie*, Tielt-Knokke, 1989, p. 64-67), Fricx did not change the information on his city-maps.

What about the atlas' sources ? Once again one has to split up the atlas in two parts. The sources of its first part, the topographical maps, must be military manuscript maps of French origin, particularly those made by Pennier or Naudin in the 1690's, according to Claire Lemoine-Isabeau's convincing demonstration (*A l'origine de la carte des Pays-Bas d'Eugène-Henry Fricx, les levés des ingénieurs militaires de Louis XIV*, in *Actes du colloque du 16 mars 1991 sur le tricentenaire du siège de Mons par Louis XIV [15 mars - 6 avril 1691]*, *Annales du cercle archéologique de Mons* 75 [1992], p. 89-102). But, it seems that for the atlas' second part one does not have to look for manuscript sources only. Indeed, Fricx's source to most of his citymaps is clearly the French

engineer and editor Gaspard Baillieu (or de Baillieu) of which we know but his cartographic production (Fig. 4).

For his battles and sieges of cities, on the contrary, Fricx could rely on maps drawn by military engineers or officers, most of whom worked for the Allied forces (Austria, Holland, etc.). Indeed, the texts and legends on the maps representing battles and sieges are written from an Austrian, Dutch or English point of view, the French being clearly defined as the enemy. So Fricx made these maps for a Dutch, English and German public, not a French one. Some of the maps, those of Lille for instance, were even dedicated to one of their generals, Eugène de Savoye, who in 1708 had defeated the French at Audenaerde and had them withdraw from the Belgian territory.

Both parts constitute thus quite a particular atlas. As Catherine Hofmann indirectly pointed out talking about Nicolas de Fer's *Les Frontières de France et des Pais Bas*, copied on Fricx's map, we can consider its first part an early example of a typical 18<sup>th</sup> century atlas, denominated *Théâtre de la guerre (L'édition des « atlas militaires » en France aux XVII<sup>e</sup> et XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècles: une activité sous étroite surveillance ?*, in *Atlas militaires manuscrits européens (XVI<sup>e</sup>-XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècles). Forme, contenu, contexte de réalisation et vocations*, Musée des Plans-Reliefs, 2003, p. 172). The second part is then again rather typical of a second genre which would become quite common in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, plans and journals of military campaigns.



Fig. 3: Map of Lier (KBR, CP, VH 28547 D)

Fig. 1. (*Map of the season*, central page): Philip V's travel from Milan to Cremona (KBR, CP, II 63204 D)

# VIAGE DEL REY CATHOLICO N. S. PHELIPPE V. DE MILAN





AN A CREMONA CUYO DE STRITO COMPRENDE ESTE MAPA.





So we have here an interesting, quite uncommon map production, made by a bookseller who at a rather late stage of his career decided to print maps, first separately, then as an atlas, which go

back to quite different sources, manuscript as well as printed, French and Dutch or German. The cartographical production is also interesting from a technical point of view, showing the printer at work, correcting and adding cartographical information, repairing plates, making or having made reprints. It also gives an interesting insight into the printing business, illustrating the complicated relations between printers themselves, beyond political and geographical borders. Which leads us to the question of Fricx's motivation. Why did Fricx decide somewhere around 1712 to start printing this kind of atlas? If we look at Fricx's printing business in general, we see a real business man at work, printing and selling highly successful works, little formats, not great literature. He was eager to keep the royal privilege regarding printing of government's official papers in the family business and was prepared to pay extremely well for it. This privilege nevertheless did not restrain him from printing maps made for a Dutch and German public, as censorship and absence of privilege did not restrain him from publishing certain prohibited works (most of which written by Jansenists) or at least from playing the mediator between authors or foreign (esp. Dutch) bookprinters. In this he was certainly not alone - Brussels was an important centre for counterfeiting - and printing was definitely a risky business at the time. With his maps Fricx probably was just exploring a new market for his printing business, but at the same time, perhaps unconsciously, contributed to the innovation of an existing product.

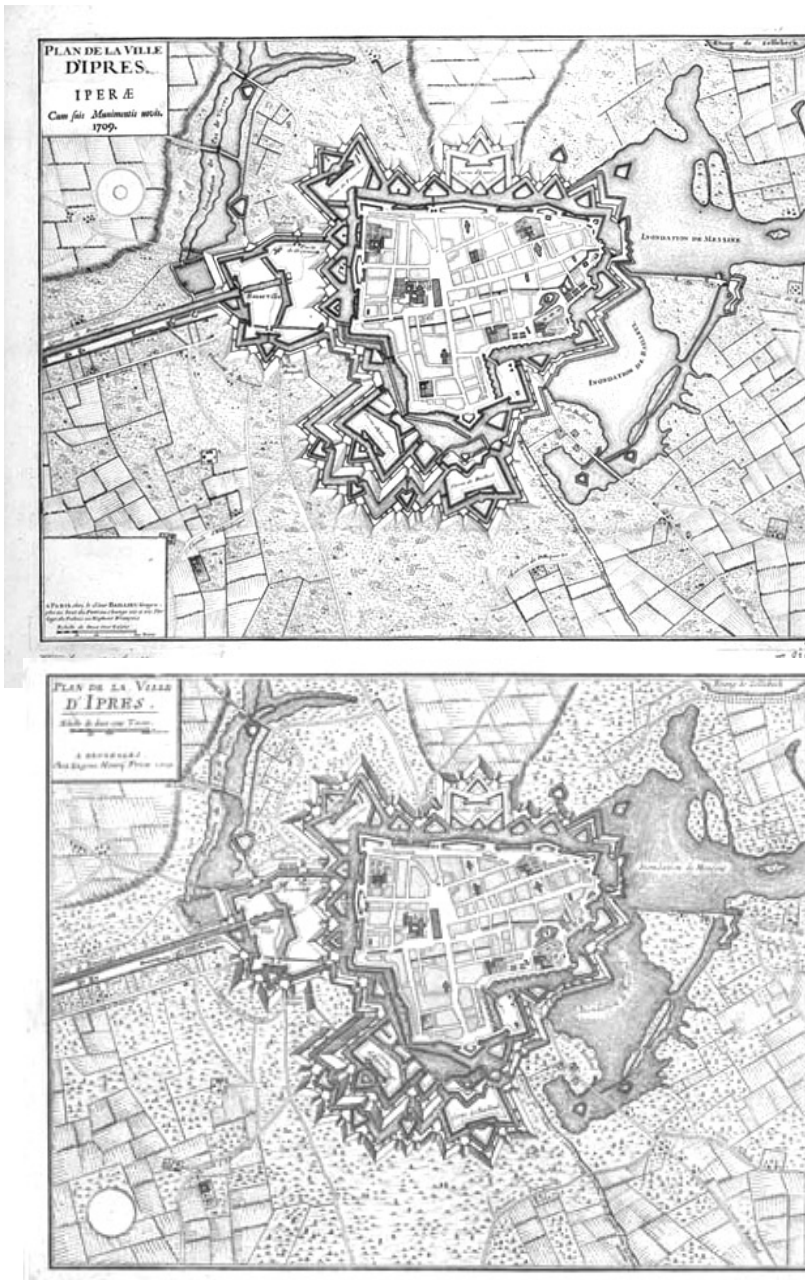


Fig. 4 Ypres by Gaspard Baillieu and by Eugène-Henri Fricx  
(KBR, CP, XXXI Ypres – 1709 - III 8389 and III 567)

Wouter Bracke

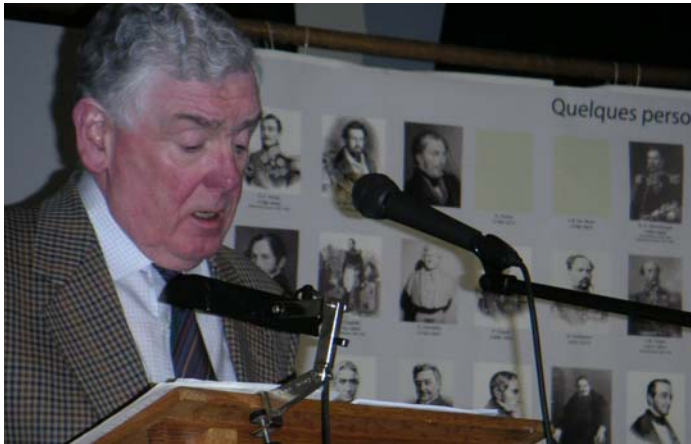
### BIMCC's Map of the Season

BIMCC Members are invited to contribute and send to the editor proposals to present, on the central page of this Newsletter, a map which they particularly like and which they would like to share with other Members; it may be a map which has an interesting history or a curious anecdote attached to it, it may be the centre piece of your collection, it may be a map which you would like to bring to the attention of the cartographic community...

JLR



## Those brilliant but forgotten scientists of the 19<sup>th</sup> century



B. Jouret with the portraits of some lesser known surveyors

### Historical context

In order to understand the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the achievements of its eminent scientists (both civilians and military men), we must refer to the foundation of Belgium as an independent state in 1830. At that time, the need to organise the newly-founded state generated a lot of political demands both on national and international level.

So, the activities of the *Dépôt de la Guerre* (War Depot), that was created in January 1831, resulted from the political will and need to promote a topo-geographic representation of the new national territory (i.e. an ordnance survey map) that would meet the needs of the military, but also of industrialists, economists, geologists, etc.

There was for instance the need for an accurate definition of the borders with the Netherlands and the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg. A lot of geodetic, topographic and mapping operations had to be planned and carried out. Moreover, competent people were needed to direct the operations and sufficient financial means were necessary to carry out those operations.

So, the decision to produce field documents in colour at the scale of 1:20 000 for the production of the 1:40 000 ordnance survey map was a difficult and courageous strategic choice, because of the new mathematical and technical aspects that had to be considered. Therefore, they needed an action plan that integrated various synergies (for instance, with the Military Academy) and that could supply, within a relatively short time, a large number of competent officers for the implementation of the project!

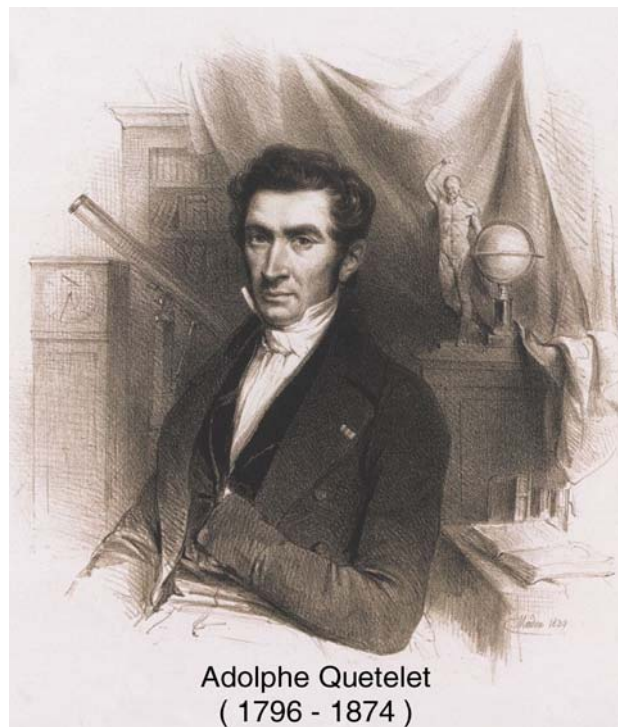
The accomplishment of those multidisciplinary objectives required from the involved persons much intelligence, ambition and courage. We will

describe here the work of a few scientists who were exceptional beings because they devoted themselves to public service, science and also to some humanist (or even utopian) ideals. They belonged both to the civilian society and to the military world and most of them were members of the Royal Academy. Most of them are forgotten now, except a few of them such as A. Quetelet.

**Adolphe Quetelet** was a remarkable scientist, mathematician, astronomer and statistician with a worldwide fame.

From 1845 until his death, he was permanent secretary of the Academy of Sciences, Literature and Fine Arts of Belgium.

He urged King William I to create a scientific centre dedicated to physics, astronomy, meteorology and geomagnetism. Hence, in 1826, the Brussels Observatory was created by royal decree (it was then located in the upper part of the *boulevard du Botanique*). Quetelet became its first director (later on, Liagre and Houzeau would assist him).



Adolphe Quetelet  
( 1796 - 1874 )

He participated in the first geodetic operations in Belgium and achieved the longitudinal link of the Brussels Observatory with Paris, Greenwich and Potsdam. From January 1836 onwards, he lectured astronomy and geodesy at the Military Academy.



Like many scientists of his time, Adolphe Quetelet was also remarkable for his numerous moral statements and qualities. His humanism, combined with a profound love for science, generated a socio-cultural atmosphere of the utopian type that was frequent at that time. In most of his statements, Quetelet showed his optimism, as you can see in the following statement:

*One of the main effects of civilisation - and hence one of the main effects of science - is the progressive reduction of some negative aspects of mankind. (...) Physical defects, ugliness disappear more and more: the frequency and severity of diseases decrease thanks to the development of medical sciences. On the other hand, the moral qualities of human beings improve steadily, so that*

*the effects and consequences of political upheavals and wars (those plagues of humanity) will gradually decrease.*

One thing is sure: Because of his multiple scientific commitments, his energy, his human qualities (especially his skill to communicate with the actors of his time), his professional contacts with the Military Academy, the *Dépôt de la Guerre* and the Academy, Adolphe Quetelet was a key figure in the development of sciences in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Bernard Jouret

**To be continued:**  
biographies of other, *brilliant but forgotten* scientists will appear in subsequent Newsletters.

## Visit to Dr. Tomasz Niewodniczanski in Bitburg, Germany



Ms and Dr Niewodniczański  
with view of Damascus

On Saturday 1 October 2005 a group of 18 members of the BIMCC (including some new members) braved the very rainy and sometimes foggy weather on a trip by car to Bitburg, in Germany near the border of Luxemburg, to meet with Dr Tomasz Niewodniczański in his private residence for an incredibly interesting visit, which every participant will remember very fondly.

Without any doubt Dr Niewo, as I will permit myself to call him from now on, possesses one of the most astonishing and outstanding private cartographic and manuscripts collections in the world, which has been put together with real passion over a period of close to forty years.

Very kindly he received our group, together with his Polish carto-historian Dr Kazimierz Kozica, to talk about his collection, and to present to us a great number of rare and indeed many unique maps and atlas items not found elsewhere in the world.

Our host spoke with great enthusiasm about his collections, spicing his talk with a lot of anecdotes and showing an impressive encyclopaedic memory about the different items. He really has a tremendous knowledge about cartography, which has become his life, in particular after his retirement in 1999.

He was Polish-born in the town Wilno (now Vilnius – capital city of Lithuania) and studied nuclear physics at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow and did his Ph.D degree at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule in Zürich. After having worked in Germany and Poland, he moved with his German wife and sons to Bitburg where he became finance director of a large brewery owned by the family of his wife. With much humour his wife talked about what she called her *big mistake* in the life of their couple, but which she realized a few years later only. In 1966 by pure coincidence she offered her husband a very beautiful coloured view of Damascus, with no other thoughts than that it looked like a nice print. This was a 1575 Braun and Hogenberg town view titled *DAMASCVS, vrbs nobilissima ad Libanum montem, Totius Sýriae Metropolis*, taken from the 2<sup>nd</sup> vol. *Civitates Orbis Terrarum* published for the first time in 1575 (Latin edition) in Cologne. Since then he fell in passionate love with ancient maps and views.

In the beginning, financial limitation prevented an extension beyond the single map, but in later years this changed and Dr Niewo developed an



outstanding collection, mostly looking for the very best that was available at auctions, from private collectors, dealers and shops. In his map collection there are three parts: a very large collection of about 3 000 maps of Poland, about 300 maps of Luxemburg and many maps of other countries and regions, including some remarkable wall maps.



We were able to admire for example the exceptional colouring, heightened in gold, with a coloured sea, by Dirk Janszoon van Santen on a 1665 map of Northern Germany by Frederick de Wit. Several other versions of the same maps were shown in a normal lower cost version and could be compared with the work of this master colourist. Also on display was a rare set of seven different states of a 1672 map of Poland by Guillaume Sanson, with very captivating cartouches. There was an interesting 1626 map of Poland by John Speed (with two other versions: 1662 and 1676), as well as a sea chart of Europe by Willem Barentsz. published in 1631 by Joannes Janssonius, printed from one copper plate on four sheets glued together before the printing. We also saw two extremely rare 1588 portolan charts: one made in Messina (Sicily) by Jacobus Russus for Philip II of Spain, at a time when the latter wanted to conquer England with his Armada, and the other one made in Gdansk by Thomas La(ng)ton. This latter portolan probably is the most valuable item in the entire collection. Also a 1491 Nicolaus Cusanus map (the third state ca. 1530) is very rare.

Dr Niewo has assembled many beautiful and rare atlases, which are complete and in pristine condition, among which the *Speculum Orbis Terrarum* of 1578 by Gerard de Jode, the *Atlas Maior* of 1662-1672 by Joanes Blaeu, with a particularly beautiful map of Belgica Foederata of 1667 in clear and crisp colours, Gerard Mercator's *Atlas Sive Cosmographicae Meditationes* of 1595 and Hartmann Schedel's *Chronicle of Nuremberg* of 1493, coloured in 1533 with a rare signature (only initials) by the colourist. Also a remarkable series of complete Ptolomaeus atlases (Rome 1508, Venice 1511, Strasbourg 1513 and 1525). An amazing array of cartographic works of a rare condition and beauty, which we could consult freely.

Hans Kok came well equipped with a magnifying glass and a white glove, showing his respect for the rare items we were viewing. A real professional attitude, but what else to expect from the newly appointed chairman of IMCoS.

One of the most beautiful atlases was commissioned by Cardinal Schoenborn in 1718 from the famous cartographer Hieronymus Joseph de La Feuille, starting with a most attractive title page. This atlas also includes a rare feature – a section of sea charts by Frederick de Wit. Much gold has been used to heighten the colouring.

There are so many great works in Dr Niewo's collection that it is just impossible to name them all.



Former map curators Claire Lemoine-Isabeau and Lisette Danckaert examining a French maps atlas.

Dr Kozica is an expert on maps of Silesia and Poland and he is very much occupied with the preparation of maps of Dr Niewo's collection for exhibitions. A very large exhibition with ca. 400 items about the history of Gdansk, the Baltic and Poland has been showing in the town hall of Gdansk for eight months before being shown at other locations. The catalogues are also prepared in Dr Kozica's offices, which altogether represents a tremendous amount of work (see the review of Exhibition Catalogues in BIMCC Newsletter No 19,



May 2004). About two years of effort was also devoted to the preparation of a first-ever exhibition of the history of cartography of the Ukraine. As this country did not exist as a separate state but was at the beginning a part of Poland, then of the Russian empire and the USSR, this was an unusual challenge. Some political issues still need to be solved before the exhibition can take place in Kiev.

Another part of Dr Niewo's collection consists of many rare manuscripts, such as letters signed by Bonaparte and Chopin, deeds by Empress Catharine II of Russia and a very interesting and amusing manuscript dated 1592, by Emperor Rudolph II of Habsburg, raising three Africans to nobility, who received the names of Bernard, Ludwig and Peter. The collection also includes many beautifully executed modern models of old sailing ships, a collection of six old globes (by W.J. Blaeu, J.G. Doppelmayr, a pair of globes by Kirkwood & Son, J.G. Klinger and C. Adami/H. Kiepert by D. Reimer), and an amazing library of about 1 300 books, with handwritten dedications by famous people, ranging from the Pope to Margaret Thatcher, Mussolini, Gorbachov and to

... the leaders of the Third Reich.

Altogether an incredibly rich and fascinating collection compiled by a brilliant and very eclectic collector. This was certainly one of the most outstanding and memorable excursions ever organized by our Circle. In his usual very elegant way our President Wulf Bodenstein, in offering a token of our appreciation, thanked Dr Niewo on behalf of the group very warmly for his great hospitality and the unique chance to see his wonderful collection.

This visit was followed by an excellent and very pleasant lunch in the Eifelbräu Restaurant in Bitburg, which gave our group, in the presence of Dr Kozica, the possibility to continue to exchange views with much animation about this very rewarding day, rendered even more pleasant by a clear blue sky on the way back to Belgium and the Netherlands.

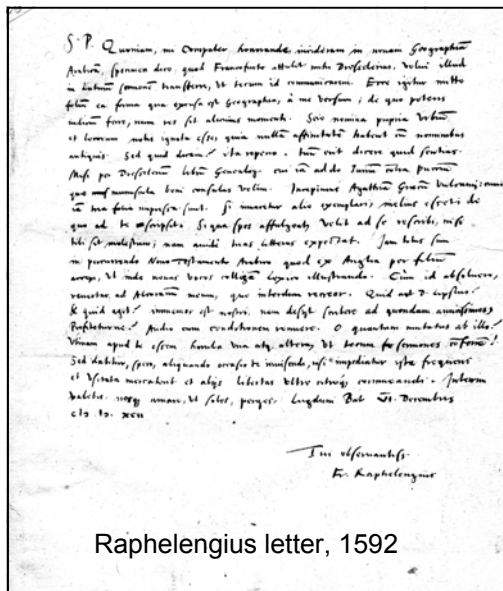
Many thanks to Wulf for having organized this excellent day and to his wife, who from under a much needed umbrella, directed us very efficiently from the main road to the house of Dr Niewo.

Alex Smit

## Seven letters to Abraham Ortelius acquired by the Plantin-Moretus Museum in 2004

In 2004 the Plantin-Moretus Museum was able to buy a number of letters written by Franciscus Raphelengius I and his son to the Antwerp cartographer Abraham Ortelius. These letters were originally part of a large collection of letters to and from Ortelius and his nephew Jacob Cools. After Ortelius's death in 1598, Cools had taken them with him to London. As of 1628, following Cools's death, the letters came into the possession of the Dutch Church in London of which Cools was a member. Much later, to cover the costs of repairing their buildings after World War II, the Dutch Church sold the collection. Coming as a whole in the possession of Otto Fisher of Detroit, the letters were sold again in 1968 after his death and were dispersed among several institutions, such as the Royal Library in The Hague and the University Library of Austin, Texas. Fortunately, a reliable transcription of all the letters was published by J.H. Hessels in 1887

*(Abrahami Ortelii (geographi Antverpiensis) et virorum eruditorum ad eundem et ad Jacobum Colium Ortelianum (Abrahami Ortelii sororis filium) epistulae, Cambridge, 1887).*



The seven letters that the Plantin-Moretus acquired last year were written between 1591 and 1594. The first letter is dated 18 January 1591 (Hessels no. 190). Franciscus Raphelengius I thanked Ortelius for promptly sending a copy of his *Theatrum*, which he had asked for via Lipsius. In the other letters, Raphelengius wrote about the progress of his study of Arabic and his work on the translation of the Koran, a copy of which he had received from Ortelius. Lipsius's sudden departure from Leiden is mentioned on several occasions. Although Raphelengius could understand Lipsius's motives, according to these letters he was very disappointed that Lipsius had not told him anything and had not written since. It was not until 1594 that Raphelengius received even a brief note from Lipsius. These six letters from Franciscus Raphelengius I constitute all of



his letters that were in the collection of Jacob Cools.

The seventh letter that was bought was written by Franciscus I's son, Franciscus Raphelengius II, and is dated 5 March 1593 (Hessels no. 230). In this letter Franciscus II asked Ortelius if he could have Ortelius's maps of Gaul and Spain made on a smaller scale by Peeter vander Borcht for a new edition of the *Commentarii* by Julius Caesar and if he could take over parts of Ortelius's *Thesaurus geographicus*. In that case he promised to cite Ortelius as his source. In his letter, Franciscus II also referred to Lipsius's departure from Leiden, but in contrast with his father, Franciscus II had much less understanding for Lipsius's behaviour.

The Plantin-Moretus Museum is by far the best institution to house these letters. In the first place, they were written by Franciscus Raphelengius I and II, members of Plantin's family. Moreover, the Museum already has three letters written by Ortelius to Raphelengius in its collection. These letters, dating from the years 1593-1595, were not part of the Cools collection and were bought in 1879 in Paris. The recently acquired letters complement these, as they are Ortelius's replies to Raphelengius's letters.

Dirk Imhof  
Conservator Books and Archives,  
Plantin-Moretus Museum, Antwerp



## BIMCC programme for 2006

- **Saturday 22 April**, at 16:30 : **8<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting** followed at 17:30 by the **Map Evening**, at the Collège Saint Michel, 24, Bd. Saint Michel, 1040 Brussels

All current (paid-up) members are invited to participate. However, according to the new Statutes adopted a year ago, only Active Members have a vote. In order to reinforce our Team, we invite those of our ordinary members interested in taking an active role in the life of the BIMCC to manifest themselves to the Secretary Eric Leenders. The AGM would be very pleased to welcome new supporters in this Group, currently comprising 19 members, of whom 9 serve on the Executive Committee.

A personal invitation to this AGM with the agenda will be sent out by the Secretary by separate mail. As always, this will be followed by...

- **Saturday 22 April**, at 17:30: **Map Evening**, at the Collège Saint Michel, 24, Bd. Saint Michel, 1040 Brussels

Our traditional **Map Evening**, brings together all those interested in maps – members as well as non-members – for an informal chat about a piece from their collection, and usually some quite surprising pieces come up. This is also an occasion for newcomers to get to know the Circle.

Wine and snacks will be served; participants are asked to pay EUR 10 at the door for expenses. **Please submit the enclosed registration form before 16 April** to Secretary Eric Leenders.

- **October** (date to be confirmed): **Excursion to the Rijksuniversiteit Leiden**
- **December** (date to be confirmed):  
**5<sup>th</sup> International BIMCC Conference: *Charting the Seas***

More details in forthcoming Newsletters and on our web-site [www.bimcc.org](http://www.bimcc.org)



## International news and events

Compiled by Glenn Van den Bosch and Wulf Bodenstern  
(For updates until the next Newsletter, visit: [www.bimcc.org](http://www.bimcc.org) and inform [webmaster@bimcc.org](mailto:webmaster@bimcc.org))

### NEWS

#### **Mathematical Geography and Cartography in Islam – English version now published**

In 2000, the Institute for the History of Arabic-Islamic Science at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt published a monumental work by Prof. Fuat Sezgin, Director of the Institute, entitled *Mathematical Geography and Cartography in Islam and their Continuation in the Occident*. The three volumes were published as Vol. X, XI, and XII in the series *Geschichte des Arabischen Schrifttums* (History of Arabic Literature). Of these, only the third volume (Vol. XII), the Atlas, was available in a bi-lingual German-English edition at that time, the other two being in German. Just recently the first part, Vol. X, has been published in English. Entitled *Historical Presentation (Part I)*, it covers the following subjects:

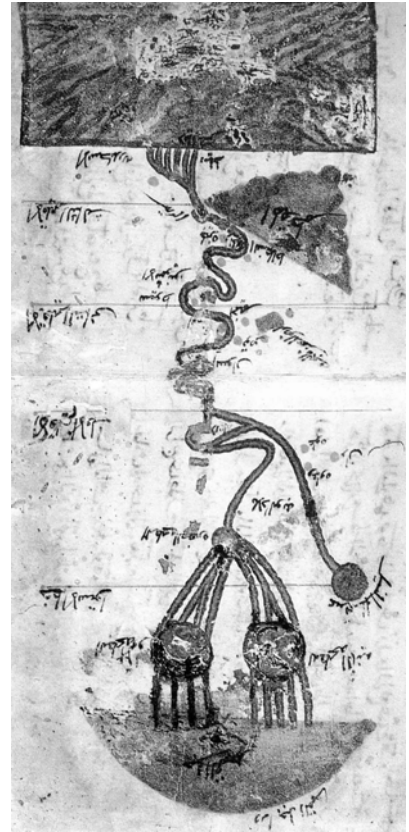
- The origins of Mathematical Geography
- Mathematical Geography in the Transition from the Greeks to the Arabs
- The Beginnings of Mathematical Geography in the Islamic World
- The post-Ma'mūnian Development of Processes for Determining Geographical Locations...
- The subsequent Development of Geographical Coordinate Tables in the Centre and the East of the Islamic World
- The Continuation of Arab Geography in the Occident
- Tables of Coordinates produced in Europe in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries on the Basis of Arab Models
- Ptolemy's Geography in Europe
- Arab Influence on the Emergence of a New Type of Map in Europe
- The Mapping of Asia
- The Mapping of the Indian Ocean

For map collectors and historians interested in the early history of cartography this opens a whole new world...

Large octavo, 634 pp., ill., tables, ISBN 3-8298-0060-6, EUR 75.00. To order : Institut für Geschichte der Arabisch-Islamischen Wissenschaften, Westendstrasse 89, D-60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Tel +49 69 756 00 90, Fax +49 69 756 00 912, [igaiw@rz.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:igaiw@rz.uni-frankfurt.de).

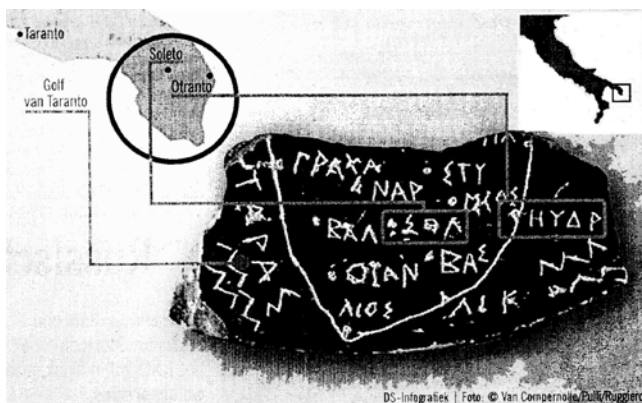
The second part (Vol XI), entitled *Historical Presentation (Part II)*, is in preparation. Large octavo, 716 pp. with full index. ISBN 3-8298-0061-4, ca. EUR 75.00.

The third part, the Atlas (Vol XII), with 447 maps in large folio, is available for EUR 100.00, ISBN 3-8298-0062-2.



Al-Ma'mūn, map of the Nile  
(1037 AD)

#### **Oldest map of the Western World discovered?**



At the end of August 2003, archeologists of Montpellier (France) conducted excavations under the leadership of Belgian archeologist Thierry Van Compernelle in Soletto, southern Italy. They discovered a fragment of a vase (3 x 6 cm) with Greek inscriptions on a map pattern that depicts the Heel of the Italian Peninsula. *Taras* on the left is identified as the Gulf of Taranto, *Soletto* is marked in the centre in abbreviated form (Sol). In all, 13 toponyms are engraved, among which the still existing locations Otranto, Ugento, and Leuca, today's Santa Maria di Leuca. Specialists date this fragment





back to 410–350 B.C. Although the genuineness of this artefact is still under scrutiny by experts, especially with regard to traces of modern tools that might have been employed to make the engravings, the nomenclature of the inscriptions has been authenticated by specialists at the University of Tübingen. If Professor van Compernelle has been waiting so long with announcing his discovery, it is because he wanted to have some basic tests done first. A colloquium in Montpellier in March 2005 has apparently confirmed that there was no reason to believe the fragment map was a fake.

A fascinating find that might oblige historians to rewrite one part of the history of cartography.

(Source : De Standaard and other news reports, November 2005).

## EVENTS\*

### Warburg Lectures on Cartography, London, UK

- 19 January: **Medieval and Modern: the Hereford Mappa Mundi (c.1290) on Display** by Dr Alessandro Scafi, Professor Dan Terkla and Dominic Harbour.
- 16 February: **Cartographic Intelligence and the French Navy in the Caribbean, c.1679-1711** by emeritus Professor Bruce Lenman.
- 9 March: **Coaxing the Buyer: Financing and Marketing Broadsheet Maps in 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Britain** by Ashley Baynton Williams.
- 6 April: **Mapping Mount Athos: Renaissance and Enlightenment Visions** by Veronica Della Dora.
- 4 May 2006: **Inscribing the City: Visual Itineraries in Nineteenth-Century Guidebooks to Rome**, by Anne Bush (University of Hawaii at Manoa / University of Oxford)
- 25 May 2006: **Picturing France in the Fifteenth Century: a New (Old) Map**, by Dr Camille Serchuk (Department of Art History, Southern Connecticut State University, U.S.A)

At University of London, Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB, at 17:00. <http://www2.sas.ac.uk/warburg>. Enquiries to +44 (0) 20 8346 5112 (Catherine Delano Smith) or Tony Campbell. (e-mail: [t.campbell@ockendon.clara.co.uk](mailto:t.campbell@ockendon.clara.co.uk))

### Utrecht Course in the History of Cartography , February to March 2006

Held from February to March 2006 every Wednesday between 14.00 and 17.00 at Utrecht University, this course comprises a theoretical and a practical part. After a general introduction to the history of cartography, the subject of 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century commercial cartography is addressed, followed by institutional cartography in the Netherlands (16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries), and thematic maps in school atlases. The practical part consists of the preparation of a paper (not obligatory) with which participants show that they have learnt to use and interpret old cartographic documents in a responsible way.

Lecturers Dr Peter van der Krogt and Dr Paul van den Brink illustrate their lectures (in Dutch) with slides, local map displays and visits to other map collections.

The exact starting date can be seen later on <http://cartography.geo.uu.nl/histkart.html>. The cost for the course is EUR 200.00 Further details and registration with Dr Peter van der Krogt, Faculteit Geowetenschappen – Kartografie, Universiteit Utrecht, Postbus 80115, NL-3508 TC Utrecht. Fax +31(0)30 254 06 04 , e-mail [p.vanderkrogt@geo.uu.nl](mailto:p.vanderkrogt@geo.uu.nl) .

### Miami International Map Fair, Miami USA, 3-5 February 2006

Dealers from around the world exhibit and sell antique maps. Visitors are invited to bring in maps of their own for expert opinions and attend educational programs. Speakers include Thomas Suarez: *Pacific Isles: The Curious Case of the Islands Solomon*, Dr. Matthew Edney: *The History of Cartography: A New Era, a New Vista*, and James A. Flatness: *Resources Available to the Map Collector*.

At the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, Florida 33130.

For information and registration materials, contact Marcia Kanner, Map Fair Coordinator, at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida using the above address or by telephone at +1(305) 375 1492; facsimile: +1(305) 375 1609.

E-mail: [mapfair@historical-museum.org](mailto:mapfair@historical-museum.org). Visit: <http://www.historical-museum.org/>

### Washington Map Society Meetings

- 16 February: **How the Gold Rush put Colorado on the Map** by Wesley A. Brown
- 16 March: **Mapping Persia** by Dr. Cyrus Ala'i.

At 19:00 in the Geography and Map Division, B level, Library of Congress, Madison Building, 101 Independence Avenue. For additional information contact William Stanley at +1 (301) 953 7523 or email [maps@erols.com](mailto:maps@erols.com).

### The Oxford Seminars in Cartography, Oxford, UK

- 23 February: **Science of the flat earth: sources of the maps in the Christian topography of Cosmas Indicopleustes** by Maja Kominko

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\* listed in chronological order (in case of a series of events, according to the first event in the series)



- 18 May 2006: **Maps and history**, by Jeremy Black (University of Exeter)

At 17:00 in the University of Oxford Centre for the Environment, South Parks Road.

Additional information from Nick Millea (e-mail: [nam@bodley.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nam@bodley.ox.ac.uk)), Map Librarian, Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BG; tel:+44(0)1865 287119, fax: +44(0)1865 277139. <http://www.ouce.ox.ac.uk/>

### **The Cambridge History of Cartography Seminars, Cambridge, UK**

- 27 February: **History, salvation and spirituality: The mappa mundi in Hugh of Saint-Victor's Treatises on Noah's Ark** by professor Grover Zinn.

- 13 March: **Mapping the English forests: Needwood 1598-1834** by Dr Sarah Bendall.

At 17:30 in the Graduate Seminar room of 4a Trumpington St. (a change of venue from last year, just over the road).

Additional information from Tom de Wesselow (e-mail: [tpcd2@cam.ac.uk](mailto:tpcd2@cam.ac.uk))

### **Conference on Early American Cartographies, Chicago, USA, 2-4 March 2006**

Following topics are planned: Native American mapping; cartographic fantasies and maps in literature from the Americas; cartography's relations to imperial conflicts and colonialism in the Americas; the portrayal of rural and urban spaces; Midwestern and Great Plains geographic space and the Jeffersonian grid; the map trade and map consumption in the Americas; maps used in land speculation, etc.

Additional information from Center for Renaissance Studies, The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., Chicago, IL 60610-7324; phone +1(312)255 3514. E-mail: [renaissance@newberry.org](mailto:renaissance@newberry.org)

### **Antiquarian Book and Map Fair, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 4-6 March 2006**

Additional information from Leen Helmink, Regentesselaan 20, NL-3818 HJ Amersfoort, Netherlands;

Tel: +31 33 462 7623, Fax: +31 33 465 9296, Mobile: +31 624 861 365. E-mail: [helmink@helmink.com](mailto:helmink@helmink.com)

### **London Antique Map Fair, London, UK, 9 April 2006**

From 10:30 – 17:00. At The Rembrandt, 11 Thurloe Place - Opposite the Victoria & Albert Museum in South Kensington and between the Knightsbridge and South Kensington Tube stations.

### **The Roles of Old Maps: History, Art, Cartography and the Building of Nations, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, 21, 28 April and 5, 12 May 2006**

Introductory course in the history of cartography by Joel Kovarsky.

The segments will be on Friday mornings at 9:30. One of the segments will be held at the Albert & Shirley Small Special Collections Library of the University of Virginia. All details will eventually be posted on the JILL website, where registrations details will be available. Course registration will be limited to 25 participants. Visit <http://www.jilluva.org/>

### **Military maps and mapping of 18<sup>th</sup> century Scotland, Perth, Scotland, 22 April 2006**

The National Library of Scotland is planning another seminar for the Scottish Maps Forum to be held at the A K Bell Library. Talks will include the historical context of the Jacobite period, fortifications, military roads, and William Roy's military survey of Scotland.

Additional information from Diana Webster, Map Collections Manager, National Library of Scotland, 33 Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SL, Scotland, UK; Tel +44(0)131 623 3972, Fax +44(0)131 623 3971. E-mail: [maps@nls.uk](mailto:maps@nls.uk) or visit <http://www.nls.uk/>.

### **Petermann's Atlas Party - Internationales Treffen der Atlantenfreunde und -sammler für Atlanten ab 1800 (International Meeting of amateurs and collectors of atlases published as of 1800), 1 May 2006, Hagen in Westfalen, Germany**

Event convened by Jürgen Espenhorst, author of Petermann's Planet, the reference book on Handatlases (see review in BIMCC Newsletter No 18).

All those interested in geographical and historical atlases that originated in German-speaking countries in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries are cordially invited. Participants may exchange atlases or offer them for sale. Other subjects addressed include: identification of atlases and atlas maps, restoration, with demonstration of restoration materials, exhibition of atlases, progress reports on forthcoming publications. Registration forms may be obtained from Jürgen Espenhorst, Villigster Str. 32, D-58239 Schwerte, or from [pangaea@cityweb.de](mailto:pangaea@cityweb.de). Those registered will receive details of exact location and programme. Note that registration is required before 15 March 2006.

### **TOSCA Field Trip to Oxfordshire Record Office, Temple Cowley, 15 June 2006, Oxford**

Space limited!

Info: Nick Millea, Map Librarian, Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BG, Tel. +44 (0)1865 287119, fax +44 (0)1865 277139, E-mail: [nam@bodley.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nam@bodley.ox.ac.uk), URI: <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/guides/maps/>

Corrigendum: The correct diameter of Coronelli Globes, discussed in Newsletter No 23 (p. 23), is 107 cm for the terrestrial globe, and 106 cm for the celestial one.



**International Cartographic Association (ICA) organizes  
International Symposium at Utrecht University, 21 – 23 August 2006**

The ICA Working Group on the History of Colonial Cartography in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, together with the Faculty of Geosciences at Utrecht University are organizing an International Symposium on the History of Colonial Cartography on the theme of *Old Worlds – New Worlds : History of Colonial Cartography from 1750 to 1950*. This is open to all cartographers, geographers, historians, map collectors, academics and other persons interested in the history of overseas cartography from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

For further details see [www.histcolcarto.org](http://www.histcolcarto.org) or contact Prof Dr Elri Liebenberg (Chair : ICA Working Group), [elri@worldonline.co.za](mailto:elri@worldonline.co.za) or Dr Imre Josef Demhardt (Co-Chair : ICA Working Group), [demhardt@t-online.de](mailto:demhardt@t-online.de). A call for papers has just been launched, and abstracts should be submitted by 1 April 2006.

**25<sup>th</sup> International IMCoS Symposium, 5-7 February 2007, Guatemala**

The International Map Collectors' Society (IMCoS) has decided to shift the date of the 2006 Symposium to the following Spring, on account of a more clement meteorological situation expected to prevail that time of the year. The Symposium will be followed by optional tours of the country from 8 to 11 February.

The organizers are Jens and Erica Bornholt, who can be contacted on [borncafe@terra.com.gt](mailto:borncafe@terra.com.gt) or P.O.Box 1376, Guatemala City. More details in forthcoming Newsletters.

**22<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on the History of Cartography, 8-13 July 2007, Bern, Switzerland**

Organized by the working group on the history of cartography of the Swiss Society of Cartography and Imago Mundi Ltd., with support from the Federal Office of Topography (swisstopo) and the Institute of Cartography of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich.

Conference themes: mapping relief, maps and tourism, languages and maps, time as the cartographic fourth dimension.

Kaserne Bern, Papiermülhestrasse 13, Berne, ICHC2007, c/o swisstopo, P.O. Box, CH-3084 Wabern  
Fax +41 31 963 24 59, e-mail [ok@ichc2007.ch](mailto:ok@ichc2007.ch), URI <http://www.ichc2007.ch>

**EXHIBITIONS\***

**The legacy of the Netherlands, The Hague, The Netherlands, indefinite exhibition.**

A thousand years of Dutch history based on treasures from the National Library of the Netherlands and the National Archives.

At Prins Willem Alexanderhof. Open Monday till Saturday: 9.00 - 17.00, Tuesday evenings from 17.00 - 20.00, Sunday: 12.00 - 17.00. Telephone information 070-3140911/070-3315400. Visit <http://www.deverdiepingvannederland.nl/adres.html>

**Trésors d'archives, cartes et plans des XVII<sup>e</sup> et XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècles (Treasures of the Archives: maps of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries), until 19 February 2006 – Versailles, France**

A selection of cartographical documents from the departemental archives of Yvelines.

Orangerie du Domaine de Madame Élisabeth, 26, rue Champ Lagarde - 78000 Versailles.

Open : everyday except on Monday 13:00 -18:00. Free entrance. Tel : +33(0)1 30 83 14 67 and +33(0)1 39 07 71 83.

**L'âge d'or des sciences arabes (The Golden Age of Arabian Science), until 19 March 2006 - Paris**

A display of astrolabs, charts and maps, medical and botanical treatises, gives the opportunity to discover the contribution of Arabs to scientific progress in such fields as astronomy, algebra, pharmacy and medicine, among others.

W.B. adds: although cartographic documents are not the main subject here, the remarkable selection of manuscript maps, globes and astronomical instruments from early medieval times to the 18<sup>th</sup> century is presented in the context of a wider appreciation of Arab sciences. The very broad range of exhibits conveys captivating images of an astonishingly refined and erudite world, still somewhat remote from our general knowledge.



\* listed in chronological order, according to closing dates



For those who might not be able to see this Exhibition, the accompanying book (same title, 325 pp., Actes Sud, 2005, ISBN 2-7427-5672-8) is available in Brussels (e.g. Fnac) for EUR 59.00, same price as in Paris. An excellent documentation, beautifully illustrated in full colour.

Institut du Monde Arabe, 1, rue des Fossés-Saint-Bernard, Place Mohammed-V.  
<http://www.imarabe.org/temp/expo/sciences-arabes.html>

### **Mapping California as an Island, until 31 March 2006 - Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA**

This exhibit features a selection of French, Dutch, German, and English maps and atlases including the first depiction of this cartographic anomaly appearing in 1622.

The exhibition is on view from 9:00 - 17:00 weekdays (closed weekends and university holidays) in the gallery outside the Harvard Map Collection on the ground floor of Pusey Library at Harvard University. For information: +1(617) 495 2417.

Visit <http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/hmc>

### **Treasured Maps: Celebrating The Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, until 9 April 2006 - New York, USA**

*Treasured Maps* travels from the 'macro' universe of stars and constellations to the very "micro" world of a single block in lower Manhattan, the World Trade Center site. Beginning with lovely evocative constellation charts, and moving to world maps, we travel from the heavens to our earthly home. We move then from the 'old worlds' of Asia and Africa toward Europe and then to North America, ending up here at home in New York City. We move from maps with the very least detail, to maps of extraordinary depth of detail, outlining the very buildings and streets so familiar to us in memory and experience.

At the Edna Barnes Salomon Room (Third Floor), Humanities and Social Sciences Library, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, USA. <http://www.nypl.org/research/calendar/exhib/hssl/hsslexhibdesc.cfm?id=384>

### **Europas Weltbild in alten Karten - Globalisierung im Zeitalter der Entdeckungen 19 February 2006 - 14 June 2006, Wolfenbüttel (Niedersachsen, Germany)**

Exhibition of about 70 manuscripts, portulan charts, atlases and printed charts illustrating the age of the great explorers from Columbus to Captain Cook. A catalogue will be available in the exhibition.

Herzog August Bibliothek, Lessingplatz 1, Wolfenbüttel. Tuesday to Sunday, 11.00 - 17.00. Admission EUR 3.00.

Information from tel. +49 5331 808214 or <http://www.hab.de/kalender/ausstellungen/index.htm>

For any questions please contact Christian Heitzmann, e-mail [heitzmann@hab.de](mailto:heitzmann@hab.de).

### **100 treasures of the Royal Library of Belgium, until 30 Sept. 2006, Brussels, Belgium**

Exhibition with cartographical objects such as Jacob Deventer's City Atlas (16<sup>th</sup> century) and the atlas made for King Philip II of Spain by Christian Sgrooten.

At the Nassau chapel, Royal Library, Kunstberg/Mont des Arts, Brussels. Free entrance. Info: +32(0)2519 53 11, e-mail: [info175br.be](mailto:info175br.be).

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## Auction calendar

**Antoine Jacobs – Librairie des Eléphants (BIMCC Member)**, 19 Place van Meenen, B-1060 Brussels. Info from Tel +32-(0)2/539.06.01, Fax +32-(0)2/534.44.47: **14 January, 18 February, 18 March, 22 April, 20 May, 17 June 2006**

**Bernaerts Auctions**, Verlatstraat 16-22, B-2000 Antwerp, Tel +32-(0)3-248.19.21, www.bernaerts.be, info@bernaerts.be : **21 February 2006**

**Michel Lhomme**, Rue des Carmes 9, B-4000 Liège. Info from Tel +32-(0)4/223.24.63, Fax +32-(0)4/222.24.19, www.michel-lhomme.com , e-mail librairie@michel-lhomme.com : **March 2006**

**Paulus Swaen Internet Auctions (BIMCC Sponsor)**. Info from Tel +33-(0)6-14.74.11.65, or Tel/ Fax +33-(0)1/44.24.85.80, www.swaen.com , e-mail paulus@swaen.com : **4 – 15 March, 13 – 23 May, 16 – 26 September, 18 – 28 November 2006**

**Marc van de Wiele (BIMCC Member)**, Sint-Salvatorskerkhof 7, B-8000 Brugge . Info from Tel +32-(0)50/33.63.17, Fax + 32-(0)50/34.64.57, www.marcvandewiele.com : **11 March 2006**

**The Romantic Agony (BIMCC Sponsor)**, Acquaductstraat 38-40, B-1060 Brussels. Info from Tel +32-(0)2/544.10.55 , Fax +32-(0)2/544.10.57, www.romanticagony.com , e-mail auction@romanticagony.com: **17/18 March 2006**

**Venator & Hanstein**, Cäcilienstrasse 48, D-50667 Köln. Info from Tel +49-221/257.54.19, Fax +49-221/257.55.26, www.venator-hanstein.de , e-mail info@venator-hanstein.de : **24/25 March 2006**

**Henri Godts (BIMCC Sponsor)**, Av. Louise 230/6, B-1050 Brussels. Info from Tel +32-(0)2/647.85.48, Fax +32-(0)2/640.73.32, www.godts.com, e-mail books@godts.com: **25 April, 13 June, 10 October, 5 December 2006**

**Reiss & Sohn**, Adelheidstr. 2, D-61462 Königstein. Info from Tel +49-6174/92.720, Fax +49-6174/92.72.49, www.reiss-sohn.de , e-mail reiss@reiss-sohn.de : **25 - 28 April 2006**

**Michel Grommen**, Rue du Pont, 33, B-4000 Liège. Info from Tel +32-(0)4/222.24.48, Fax +32-(0)4/222.24.49, www.librairiegrommen.be, e-mail librairiegrommen@skynet.be : **May 2006**

**Zisska & Kistner**, Unter Anger 15, D-80331 München. Info from Tel +49-89/26.38.55, Fax +49-89/26.90.88, www.zisska.de , e-mail auctions@zisska.de : **2 – 5 May, 16 – 20 October 2006**

**Ketterer Kunst**, Messberg 1, D-20095 Hamburg. Info from Tel +49-40/374.96.10, Fax +49-40/374.96.166, www.kettererkunst.de , e-mail : infohamburg@kettererkunst.de: **22/23 May 2006**

**Holger Christoph (BIMCC Sponsor)**, Kaiserstrasse 1a, D-53115 Bonn. Info from Tel+49-(0)228/261.82.80, Fax +49-(0)228/261.88.19, www.antiquariat-christoph.com, e-mail auktion@antiquariat-christoph.com : **27 May 2006**

**Bubb Kuyper**, Jansweg 39, NL 2011 KM Haarlem, The Netherlands. Info from Tel +31-23/532.39.86, Fax +31-23/532.38.93, www.bubbkuyper.com , e-mail info@bubbkuyper.com: **30 May – 2 June, 21 – 24 November 2006**

**Van Stockum's Veilingen**, Prinsegracht 15, 2512 EW 's-Gravenhage, The Netherlands. Info from Tel +31-70/364.98.40/41, Fax +31-70/364.33.40, www.vanstockums-veilingen.nl , e-mail vanstockumsveilingen@planet.nl: **7 - 9 June, 8 - 10 November 2006**

**Sotheby's**, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA. Info from +44-20-7293 5291, catharine.slowther@sothebys.com, or roger.griffith@sotheby's.com. Sale of Lord Wardington's Library Part II (maps, atlases, globes) : **12 October 2006**

**Loeb-Larocque (BIMCC Sponsor)**, 31, Rue de Tolbiac, F-75013 Paris. Info from Tel +33-(0)6-11.80.33.75, or Tel/Fax +33-(0)1/44.24.85.80, www.loeb-larocque.com , e-mail info@loeb-larocque.com : **10 November 2006** (Salle Drouot)



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## BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL MAP COLLECTORS' CIRCLE (BIMCC)

www.bimcc.org

Secretary: Eric Leenders, Zwanenlaan 16, B-2610 Antwerpen,  
Telephone: +32(0) 3 440 10 81, e-mail: info@bimcc.org

### *Aims and functions of the BIMCC*

The BIMCC is a non-profit association under Belgian law (asbl/vzw 0464 423 627) aiming to:

- 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 Organise lectures on various aspects of historical cartography, on regions of cartographical interest, on documentation, paper conservation and related subjects
- 3 Organise 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 :

- A 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.
- An EXCURSION to a Map Collection, between September and November.
- A STUDY SESSION or an INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on a specific major topic every year in December.

### *BIMCC Executive Committee*

**President:** Wulf Bodenstein, Av. des Camélias 71, B-1150 Brussels

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### *Becoming (and staying) a BIMCC Member*

Members receive three Newsletters per annum and have free admission to most of the BIMCC events — non-Members pay full rates.

**Annual membership:** EUR 30.00, **Students and Juniors under 25:** EUR 12.00

To become (and stay!) a Member, please pay the membership dues EXCLUSIVELY by bank transfer (no check please) to:

Bank account: 460-0507271-01, Account address: BIMCC, B-8500 Kortrijk

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and notify the Secretary indicating your name and address.

### *BIMCC Newsletter*

The BIMCC currently publishes three Newsletters per year, in January, May and September. Please submit calendar items and other contributions to the Editor by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month for the next edition:

**Jean-Louis Renteux, rue des Floralies 62, B-1200 Brussels,**

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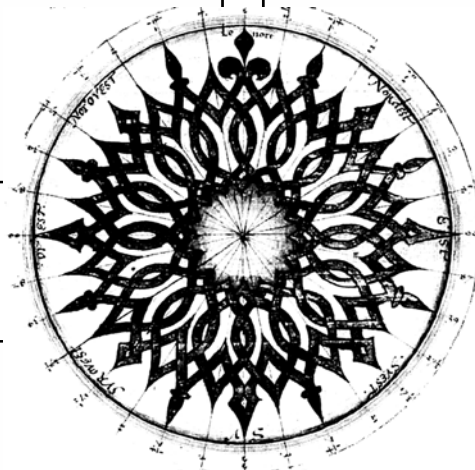
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