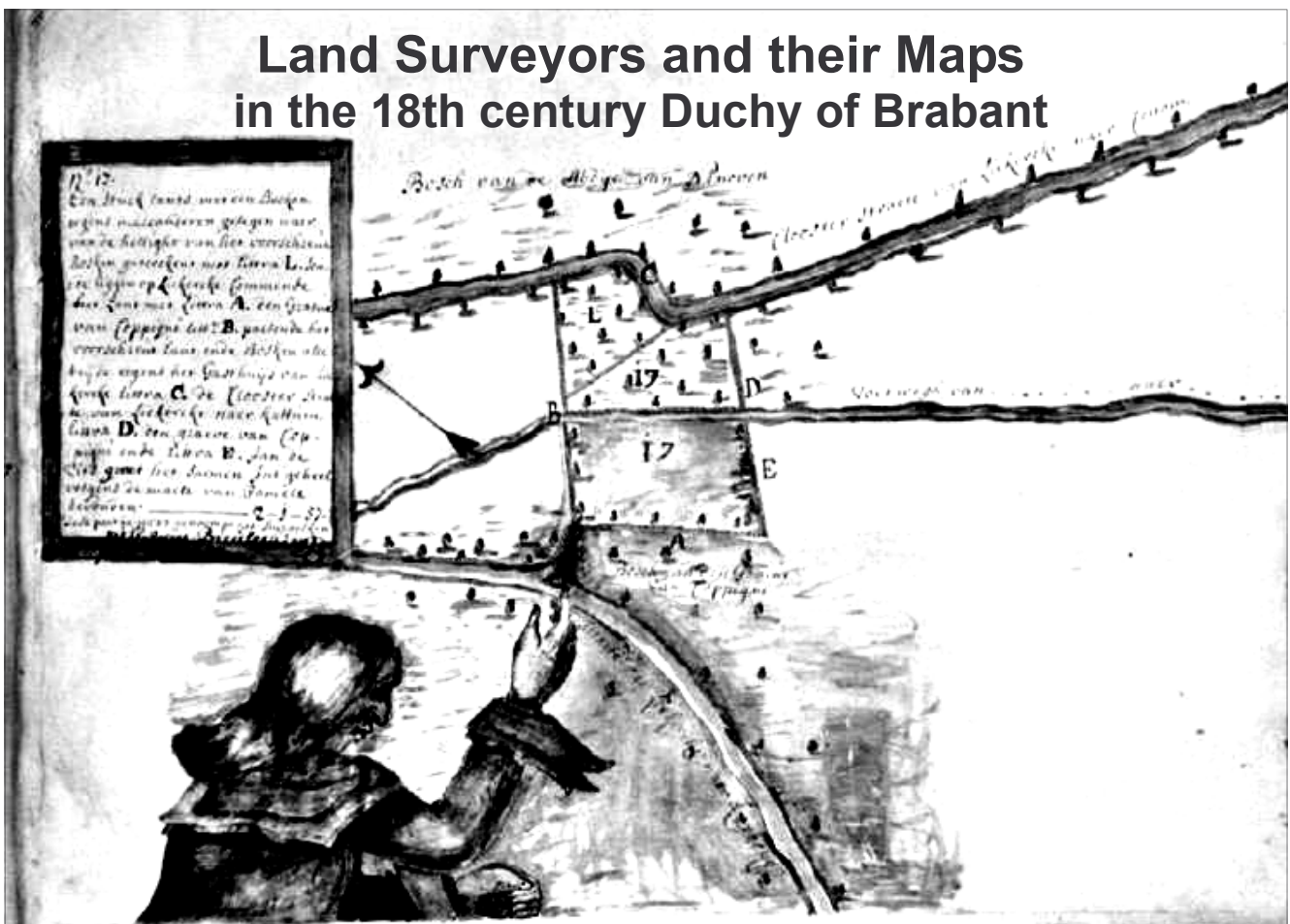




# BIMCC Newsletter No 25 May 2006

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## Also in this issue:

- More biographies of *brilliant but forgotten scientists of the 19th century*
- Numerous book reviews
- BIMCC programme for 2006
- ... and the usual departments

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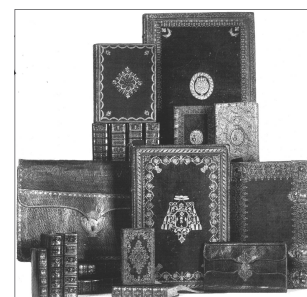
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## EDITORIAL

Dear Map Friends,

Since Jean-Louis Renteux has decided to do a trip around the world to prove that it is indeed round, the editing task has fallen upon me this time. I hope I shall be up to the challenge.

The lead article in this Newsletter, *Land Surveyors and their Maps in the 18th century Duchy of Brabant*, is based on the presentation by Luc Janssens (National States Archives) at the BIMCC Study Session on *Belgian cartography* of last December.

As you will see, our Secretary and Vice-President Eric Leenders has been particularly productive with book reviews and an article — with Lydia Cordon — providing this issue's centrefold.

In the same line, we have the second part of Bernard Jouret's article, *Brilliant but forgotten scientists of the 19th century*.

### Caution

In case you would not have renewed your membership for 2006 yet, be aware that you will no longer receive our Newsletter, unless your payment is received by our Treasurer by end of July 2006. Details on page 35.

As always at this time of the year you will find a complete report of the BIMCC Annual General Assembly and Map Evening as well as the Programme for the rest of the year.

Cartographically yours,



Pierre Parmentier  
Editor, pro-tem

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## LOOK AT BOOKS (I)

# The Commerce of Cartography: Making and Marketing Maps in Eighteenth-Century France and England

by Mary Sponberg Pedley

Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2005. 363 pages, 41 b/w illustrations, 8 colour plates, cloth and dustjacket, 23 cm. USD 40.00 or GBP 28.00. ISBN 0-226-65341-2.

To order: The University of Chicago Press, c/o John Wiley & Sons Ltd., Distribution Centre, 1, Oldlands Way, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO22 9SA, UK.

As on numerous occasions in the past, it was through the columns of *Cartographica Helvetica* (No 32, July 2005) that I discovered this new book, thanks to Hans-Uli Feldmann's expertly composed listing of new publications. Let me say it at the very beginning of this review: it is a first-rate work of reference by an eminent map historian.

Many of us are, of course, familiar with Pedley's previous book on a related subject, namely the Vaugondy family, entitled *Bel et Utile: The work of the Robert de Vaugondy Family of Mapmakers* (Tring, UK, Map Collector Publications, 1992, ISBN 0-906430-12-7). This is one of the rare cartobibliographies available covering an important period of French map making in the eighteenth century, and extremely helpful for anyone who needs to know more about the Vaugondy maps in his collection. It certainly is one of my favourites in the modest library of reference books I possess.

Pedley's new book widens this horizon to encompass the history of map making and marketing not only in eighteenth-century France but also in England, with a few excursions into map production in the United States. The somewhat popularizing headings of the three parts of the book, *Making Maps*, *Selling Maps*, and *Evaluating Maps* reveal the results of many long years of painstaking research, mainly in European archives. The two chapters in Part 1 introduce us first to the acquisition of survey data and their transformation into maps, and then to the cost of map production, with an enlightening résumé of engraving and printing techniques of that period. Part 2 with three chapters expands on the subject of production costs, addresses the intricate question of privileges and copyright, an area of entertaining research for many amateurs, and probes into the multiplication of maps, using those of Rhode Island as an example. Part 3 offers us a final chapter on the

criteria of map quality, accuracy and artistic content that ensured commercial success of a map, or doomed it to failure.

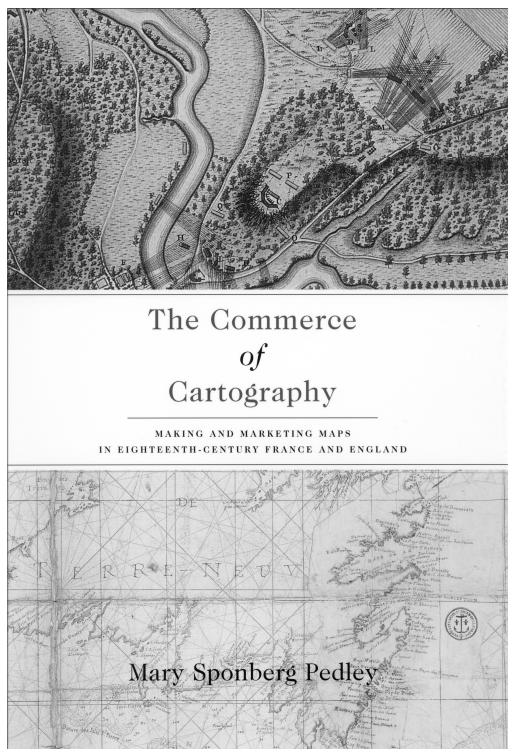
Seven appendices in tabular form present the costs of map production in France, England and North America and list some map and print prices, as well as wages and expenses connected with map production in eighteenth-century France and England. Rarely has this important aspect been developed so comprehensively.

The detail in which this book's subject is presented is absolutely stunning. If your knowledge of mapmakers and their maps of this period based on available reference material has been scant so far, here is a wealth of information from primary and secondary sources to allow you to advance with your

own research. Sixty-nine pages of end notes are an invitation to further explore the lines opened in the body of the text. Particularly helpful I found the references to publications by mapmakers like d'Anville, Bellin, Brion de la Tour, Robert de Vaugondy, Le Rouge, Sanson, Senex, who developed their own ideas about the art of mapmaking. In addition, Pedley has gone through hundreds of letters exchanged between leading cartographic figures in Europe and America, documenting a great deal of tension and controversy in the map publishing world of that time. Plagiarism was rife, and we all have come across counterfeit maps, often produced with daring defiance. Remarkable here is that the quotations from French publications and correspondence, given in an

English translation in the main text, are cited in their original French throughout the end notes, proving a masterly command of a European language other than English.

This is one of the finest books in the domain of history of cartography I have come across in the recent past. Informative, extremely well documented,





accessible to all on account of its cultivated readability, beautifully produced, a source for further research that will keep you busy for quite a while - let me echo the ultimate conclusion in Alice Hudson's

review of this book in *The Portolan*, the Journal of the Washington Map Society (No 64, Winter 2005-2006, p. 46): 'Buy this book !'

Wulf Bodenstein

## LOOKS AT BOOKS (II)

### **Nederlandse zeekaarten uit de Gouden Eeuw (Dutch sea charts of the Golden Century) by Robert Putman**

Abcoude: Uitgeverij Uniepers, February 2005. 144 pages, hardback. ISBN 9068253506. To order: <http://www.nnbh.com>, new from EUR 59.50.

Sea charts have something magical to the map enthusiast: where they illustrate areas that are now familiar to us thanks to modern travel, we instinctively feel the *blood, sweat and tears* of the men who were lucky just to make it and survive. Robert Putman's book (in Dutch) certainly takes one's breath away, by bringing to life the tremendous risks of those who took to the waves only to draw these maps.

After the (obligatory) section on Mercator's projection, which also includes the tale of the conquest of the poles, the story really takes off with Lucas Waghenaer's *Spiegel der Zeevaerdt* which is a unique contribution to mapping history. Moreover, his maps from the end of the sixteenth century breathe a southern warmth and a familiar *ancienneté* of the early portolan charts.

More familiar to us are the North Sea and Baltic, illustrated by maps taken from several major atlases of Dutch cartographers, such as Blaeu, van Keulen, Van Loon and Doncker. Understandably (though unfortunately) the maps in this section focus too much on the coast of the Low Countries. In the next chapter on Asia and Oceania, world history then coincides with Dutch mapmaking.

One of the most interesting parts of the book is the last section on the fascinating sea charts of North America: any Dutch (or Belgian) map enthusiast gazing at the now much sought-after *Pascaerte* by Hendrik and Pieter Goos of *Nieuw Nederland* will

wonder what might have been. Alas, as Putman correctly points out, economic and military logic took over at the end the seventeenth century: the Dutch would never have been able to stand up to the Brits.

As most of the sea charts come from his private collection, the writing of this book is a remarkable achievement. Many, if not most maps have been selected from the Goos family production, a choice that can only be acclaimed both from a stylistic and technical point of view. But this *domestic selection* may also be the book's shortcoming: Mr Putman fails to convince that this is *the* book on seventeenth century Dutch sea cartography. The maps sometime seem to be taken at random, their significance is not always made clear and hence, one feels that the map selection does not carry the book. Moreover, the text now and

then loses itself in the history of the discoveries and narratives of the highlights of the cartographers.

Admittedly, the book is not cheap, but the price/quality ratio is acceptable. More importantly, Mr Putman makes us dream. Finally, the price may be further justified by the fact that the gorgeous pictures of the maps are printed on high-quality paper.

Stanislas De Peuter  
[stanislas.depeuter@gmail.com](mailto:stanislas.depeuter@gmail.com)





## There is nothing wrong with a 'coffee table book'

About beautiful picture books on a specific subject, cartographic or other, people speak lightly. Especially on cartographic books I do not agree with this attitude, for it is a pleasant way to get acquainted with the subject. How does an amateur get acquainted with cartography? In order to master any knowledge on the subject there are few means. Reading about history, viewing maps and relating both is the answer. Most cartographic books are on a highly specialized subject and not helpful for the starting amateur. So-called

'coffee table books' offer a large number of maps superbly printed with enough historical information as to cover a large horizon of intellectual cartographic curiosity. That is why I choose to review three books which are proudly placed on my *coffee table*. By overviewing the whole scope of cartographic knowledge, they are an excellent introduction to any amateur.

Eric Leenders

## Cartografie – De verbeelding van de wereldgeschiedenis

by Jeremy Black

Arnhem and Tiel: Uitgeverij Terra-Lannoo, 2004. 176 pages, 200 colour illustrations (maps). Hardcover, 23 x 30 cm. ISBN 9058971570. EUR 23.75. Original title: *Visions of the world: A history of Maps*. London: Mitchell Beazley. ISBN 1-84000-834-2.

This rather intellectual view of looking at maps is also a beautiful book of pictures. The author teaches history at the University of Exeter and the military academy and wrote several books on maps and history.

This book is based on his course of historical geography. I must recognize my mixed feelings towards this work. The author, without any doubt a historical authority, has underestimated the scope of his work.

Linking the evolution in cartographic knowledge and the cultural visions all over the world is a task for a large group of specialists. On the other hand he succeeds in obliging us to develop a more meaningful way of looking at maps.

A map is not only a map. There is more to it. We see a picture and we should ask ourselves why it was made. What is the context of this imaginary and sometimes artistic creation? This question brings us inevitably to address the geographical and cultural knowledge of other cultures. Was their purpose to design a map the same as ours? Are their maps a picture of a reality or only a cultural message?

To each chapter the author adds a supplement. There he digresses on one specific topic.

The first chapter covers the world as seen by our ancestors. Today we study not only the European maps, but we are interested in the cartographic knowledge of other cultures. How did the Romans, the Chinese, the Muslims and many others see their universe? Was it a geographical way of depicting their world? Especially during the Middle Ages maps had

that dual role. By placing Jerusalem in the centre of a map, they meant first to emphasize the importance of Christendom and the geographical location became therefore less important. For example: *The Mappa Mundi* in Hereford.

The importance of geography in maps gained importance in the Roman road maps — the Peutinger Map — and the world map from Fra Mauro.

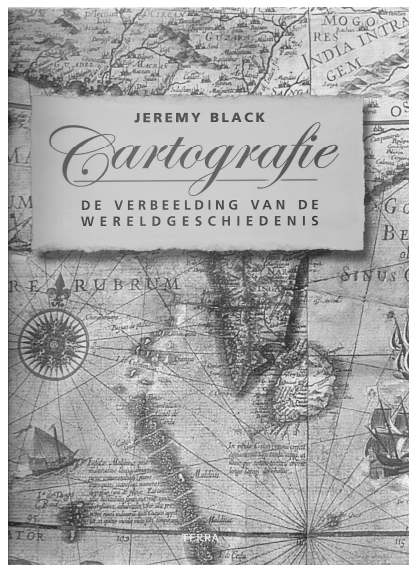
In an other section, Jeremy Black emphasizes the Catalan Atlas. What was the motive of the maker? Fantasy or true geographical knowledge based on travellers' stories?

In the second chapter the author describes how the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus changed people's interest from local to broader cartographic view. The Spanish Kings Charles and Philip needed to know the extent of

their American and European Empire. They ordered maps and kept them — as much as possible — secret for military purpose. This period is characterized by cartographic giants as Gerard Mercator, Abraham Ortelius, Joan Blaeu, Christopher Saxton, John Speed ... and many others.

The Low Countries ruled the world of cartography until the French took over. The author describes the impact of the discovery of new lands — e.g. America and cartography. The problem of surveying maps is also discussed.

The impact of the period of enlightenment is the topic of the third chapter. European cartography benefits from the new land measuring technique and triangulation. This originated at the University of





Louvain in 1536 with Gemma Frisius.

By not referring to Jacobus van Deventer the author misses an important historical point.

New measure instruments were invented. The discoveries of new lands over the different oceans needed better understanding of longitude. This was resolved. New lands — Australia — needed new maps. Maps with precise boundaries of the European nations were of the utmost importance, not only for travel but especially for military purposes.

The emphasis is also laid on geological mistakes and their cartographic results. British cartography in India is the topic of another section.

The next chapter covers commerce and

imperialism. The European need for maps to delineate their colonial enterprises led to the use of colours and scales. An extra is devoted to the zero meridian and another to maps and war.

The modern time with its technological revolutions is the scope of the final chapter. In extra we find a short description about aerial, city and universal maps.

Eric Leenders

## De geschiedenis van de cartografie. De kunst van de kaartenmakers by John Goss

Lisse (Nederland): Zuid Boekproducties, 1994. 376 pages with 356 colour and black/white maps. Hardcover, 27 x 38 cm. ISBN 9062487564. EUR 80.00. Original title: *The Mapmaker's Art: A History of Cartography*. London: Studio Editions, 1993.

This 7 lb superbly edited cartographic book, is *the* coffee table book *par excellence*. John Goss understands the needs of a collector as this book shows high quality reproductions of significant maps completed with general historical notes. He has been a collector since many years, he studied cartography his entire life and on top of that, he was an advisor at Sotheby's. All of the above gives him a *heads up* as to what collectors' needs are for a solid cartographic book.

The book is introduced by Valerie Scott who was editor of *The Map Collector*. The aim of the book is to describe a 500-year history of cartography in every aspect and from all over the world. Goss also tries to relate the making of maps to human intellectual undertakings as the making of instruments and discovery of new lands. One may add that this was a successful try. The 356 mainly coloured illustrations, many of them on two full pages, are superbly printed. He adds also a bibliography of 186 authors, all well known in the world of maps.

This ten-year old book has not lost any historical or cartographic value. To achieve such a grand project was an audacious, however successful undertaking.

In a first chapter the author introduces us to the first map-makers, 2100 BC-AD 1200. Primitive people had their means to show the way or to depict the known world. Their limited scientific knowledge about the contour of the world led to imaginative geographic constructions. A first glimpse of reality was given by Ptolemy's projection and the Roman Peutinger road map.

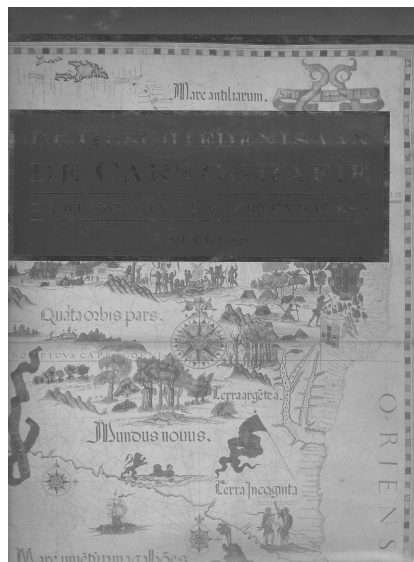
Chapter two on the Middle Ages (700-1500). This period offers us more than 1000 world maps. Although they recognise the earth being round, they still are the reflection of a Christian culture. Their scientific value is low but their decorative and imaginary quality is high: for example the *Mappa Mundi* in Hereford, the English Psalter map, the *Mapa Mondii - Figura Mondii* from Giovanni Leardo and so many others, most superbly coloured.

The need to travel the Mediterranean led to the first charts for seamen, the portolans. They are coloured coastal designs on vellum, characterized by a network of straight lines in the direction of the winds, the loxodromes. The intersection points will lead later on to the compass roses. A short note on the Arabian and Chinese maps ends this chapter.

The period of the explorers (1100-1800) is being treated in chapter three. This is the cartographic glory time for the Portuguese with their exploration around Africa, followed by the discovery of America, by Christopher Columbus. The dispute between Spain and Portugal over what belonged to whom, was settled by the treaty of *Tordesillas* in 1494.

The exploration towards the East Indies would fall in the hands of the Dutch people. They would write history with the VOC (Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie or United Dutch East India Company). They would also discover the north of Australia, soon superseded by the English.

The next chapter enlightens the Golden Age of





cartography, the Low Countries period 1600-1700. For the first time in history one person succeeds in producing a measured map of the seventeen provinces, the northern part of Charles V's kingdom. His name is Jacobus van Deventer. He is a pragmatist who uses a form of triangulation. The rules of which will be written down by Gemma Frisius. It is the century of Gerard Mercator with his new projection and Ortelius with the Atlas concept. This period will be marked by the great families of publishing cartographers with names as Joan Blaeu, Jodocus Hondius, Joannes Janssonius, and many others.

Chapter V depicts the cartographic tradition in the other European countries from 1500 to 1800. This period is characterized by printing and reprinting. The reuse of old plates will allow map corrections but will also lead to anachronism.

From Ptolemy we have only a manuscript without maps. These were ultimately produced during the fifteenth century, mostly in Italy. Many reprints were made, one also by Gerard Mercator. The Italians produced the first *isolari* or island books, treating the Eastern Mediterranean islands. They also got the idea to collect maps in one volume: the *Lafreri Atlas*.

Venice became an important cartographic centre with Michele Tramezini, Giovanni Francesco Camocio, and others, although it must be said that they copied many Dutch maps.

The Low Countries contributed to illustrated history books, especially made by Frans Hogenberg. He was a kind of a war journalist who, with superb engravings, depicted the war events between Spain and the Netherlands.

German cartography would produce names as Johann Baptist Homann; the Merian family edited topographic illustrations as panoramas and city plans. In Great-Britain the tone is brilliantly set by Christopher Saxton, John Norden and John Speed.

Chapter VI explains the reformation of cartography from 1700 to 1850. Astronomy and mathematics have a profound impact on the way maps are made. Triangulation becomes the measuring technique. Working with the Paris meridian, Cassini charts France. As a result Louis XIV saw his country shrink more than any war would cost him.

Joseph-Jean-François de Ferraris connected his topographical survey of Belgium to Cassini triangulation. During the same period England, the Habsburg Empire and the Scandinavian countries

would also be surveyed.

Russia would be charted by the de l'Isle family. Topographical measurements are being accomplished in Switzerland and Germany. The survey of the Netherlands is carried out by Cornelius Kraijenhoff.

Chapter VII depicts the making of maps in the American colonies and India. As a consequence of the surveying work of the Indian peninsula, the highest Himalayan mountain was named Mount Everest.

Chapter VIII covers the city plans. The new printing process in the fifteenth century allowed the editing of city plans. Highpoints are the city ground plans from Jacobus van Deventer, the town books from Joan Blaeu and the *Civitates Orbis Terrarum* from Georg Braun and Frans Hogenberg.

The subject of chapter IX is the sea charts 1500-1800. These are the successors of the portolans or compassmaps. Once again it is the Netherlands who marks this evolution with *Spiegel der Zeevaerdt* by Lucas Janszoon Waghenaer. The VOC will contribute largely to the mapping of the seas. Hendrick Doncker, Pieter Goos and Johannes Van Keulen will create highly valuable atlases. In Florence Sir Robert Dudley produces an important sea atlas named the *Dell'arcano del mare* and France has its *Neptune François*.

Chapter X describes the celestial maps taking the Copernican revolution in an account. We retain names as Peter Apian with his *Astronomicum Caesarum*, Andreas Seller with *Zodiacus Stellatus* and the most remarkable atlas by Andreas Cellarius.

Curiosa is the topic of chapter XI. They are classics as the droll caricature map of Scotland, the *Leo Belgicus* from Michael Aitzinger, the serio-comic war map of Europe and others.

In the last chapter the author tries to accentuate the artistic implication of making and looking at a map. This has been enhanced by the evolution from wood to copperplates and applying colours. Aesthetics remains a subjective judgement. Whether you prefer a coloured or a black and white engraving is completely up to the collector.

A selective bibliography, a list of all the illustrations and an alphabetical register conclude this most agreeable book to lovers of old maps.

Eric Leenders

## De wereld in kaart gebracht. Kaarten en hun geschiedenis

by Nathaniel Harris

Utrecht: Veltman Uitgave, 2003. 302 pages with 700 colour illustrations (mainly maps). Hardcover, 22 x 28 cm, ISBN 9059200845. EUR 25.00. Original title: *Mapping the world, maps and their history*. London: Brown Partworks Ltd., 2002. ISBN 1-57145-576-0. USD 20.00.

This is a peculiar and pleasant book for the amateur and cartographic neophyte as the author leads us in a concise but interesting way through the

history of maps. From the Babylonian world vision to the metropolitan map of New York, the author leaves no subject untouched. How does he contribute to our





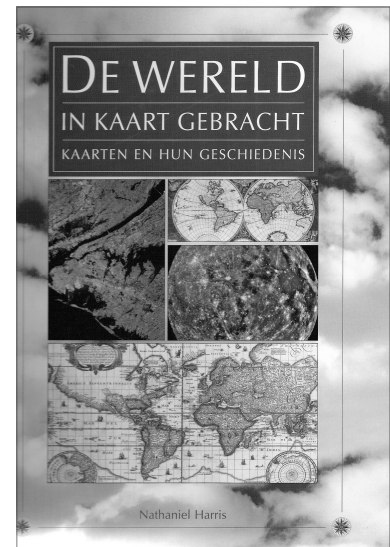
knowledge? At first I liked his way of describing 74 different cartographic topics within four pages each.

The first page shows the map, 22 x 28 cm, the second — which is the most interesting page — shows four to five details of the same map. The third and fourth pages cover the history. This book structure enables the reader to assimilate the content of the book by small steps. Four pages cover one cartographic aspect.

As an amateur you look for a sphere of interest and this book covers almost every aspect of the cartographic world including the Middle Ages, Roman maps, the European highlights, Africa and America and the modern use in oceanography, geology, astronomy, subway and metropolitan maps.

If anybody — your companion for example — asks you what maps are good for, this easy book is the answer. Through this book, that person may finally understand why and what drives a cartographic hobbyist to look at all these coloured pictures.

Eric Leenders



## LOOKS AT BOOKS (IV)

### leper à la carte - De leperse vestingen in kaart gebracht

by Ann Vanrolleghem

leper: Erfgoedcel leper, 2006. 256 pages with colour illustrations. Hardcover, 24,5 x 27 cm. ISBN 9077025022. EUR 20.00 (+ EUR 3.70 postage costs if ordered through the Internet: <http://www.erfgoedcelleper.be>).

The town of Ypres (leper, in Dutch) in Flanders has a sad reputation as Belgium's icon of The Great War. Few know that before being completely annihilated by the bombings, it already had a rich past as one of Flanders' most important towns. It lived through dozens of wars and conflicts that all left their marks on the visual aspect of the town. This book comments on them through the maps that survived in the possession of the city. It consists of nine chapters, all representing a historic period and each with its according maps. But it is much more than that ...

In the twelfth and thirteenth century, Ypres was one of the biggest towns in Europe. It boasted around 40 000 inhabitants, which was about as much as London at that time. The trade of cloth was the main source of income and the suburbs of the town sprawled into the countryside around it. This would change dramatically in the centuries after, when the wool import from England stopped — due to the Hundred Years War — causing the cloth trade to collapse. The plague and the constant rivalry and wars with other Flemish cities did the rest. The suburbs disappeared and the town was confined into the original ramparts, with a moat, a stone wall and round towers. No maps of that period survived (at least in the archives of the city), but a seventeenth century map by Guillaume du Tielt shows the famous siege of 1383, when England and Ghent tried to

capture the town. The book comments on both this (copper) engraving and on an anonymous woodcut that copies it. Also included in this chapter are three nineteenth century lithographs from the *Histoire militaire de la Ville d'Ypres* by J. Vereecke, showing the town at that time, at least in the imagination of the author.

The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries brought the Eighty Years War, a period of great turmoil in the Netherlands and also in Ypres. But it was still a prosperous and important city and it featured in many of the famous Atlases of the time: the *Descrittione di tutti I Paesi Bassi* by Guicciardini, the *Civitates Orbis Terrarum* by Braun & Hogenberg and the *Flandria Illustrata* by Sanderus, to mention only a few.

The maps in the book start from this period. They show various changing aspects of the skyline and general outline of the town. Not only the town is represented, but also the *kasselrij* (the old territorial subdivisions of Flanders, *châtellenie* in French) and the diocese of Ypres.

During the second half of the seventeenth century conflicts between France and Spain — sworn enemies for ages — Ypres was taken by the French several times, from 1648 on. Louis XIV kept it in his possession from 1678 till 1713. And mentioning Louis XIV means mentioning Vauban, of course, who completely rebuilt the ramparts according to the latest



state-of-the-art techniques. Incidentally, they are still there today and form a nice walking trail for both the visitor and the inhabitant, with signposts and explanation in various languages.

Many maps shown in these two chapters (before and after 1678) are of course French (e.g. Sébastien de Pontault and Goubaut), but there are also German, Italian and Dutch maps. Among them in the first of the two chapters: the already mentioned Sanderus, Nicolaas Visscher, Harrewyn, Merian and Coronelli. In the second chapter, when Ypres is really a French town, there are maps by de Fer, Marot, Avelines, Chatillon and many others. Of course there is the *incontournable* Van der Meulen, fortunately for once not showing the likewise ubiquitous Louis XIV-on-the-white-horse-in-the-foreground, but an unconventional *Prise d'Ypres* showing nothing but an endless row of horses and men: the French retinue moving towards the city. There's also his quite decent sketch of Ypres. Frickx, Danckerts and Schenk are equally present with images of fortifications.

After the Treaty of Utrecht, that ended the Spanish War of Succession, Ypres became one of the garrison towns where Dutch troops were posted, to control the military movements of France. This chapter features maps by people like Tirion, de Jeandeau, Striedbeck and the British Basire.

When the French arrive in 1794, maps show how the Austrians had demolished a great deal of the Vauban ramparts, making it quite defenceless. This changed drastically when the Dutch came in 1815: the new kingdom was meant to be a buffer against France, so ramparts and fortifications were restored at high cost. Maps and prints by Champion, Madron & Adam, Pio and others illustrate this period.

After Belgium's independence the ramparts were considered no longer needed and largely dismantled. A colour lithography by Ypres native Engel Van Eeckhout, with views of 20 city buildings, along with the well-known Popp-map and some other prints complete this last chapter.

If all the above mentioned information only remotely appeals to you, don't think this book won't either. On the contrary, it is also possible to read it from a different point of view entirely. Readers who are not interested in Ypres' history but who have a keen interest in cartography and cartographers will also find satisfaction in this publication.

Each chapter of the book holds a particular section

(called the *à la carte* section) that comments on a particular aspect of cartography: the evolution of printing methods, scales on maps, the cartouche, the use of colour, orientation and compass, etc. All this is presented in a compact and well-organized way, in the same attractive style that characterizes this book. It is full of interesting facts and figures: do you know what a *chronogram* is? and how Sanderus and du

Plouich took revenge on towns and places where they were not well received, like Ypres? You will learn this and much more in this book.

Also, each cartographer whose work is on display in this book is briefly situated and commented on. There is a comment on a curiosity like an *optica* print. The author also took the trouble to compare various editions of maps and trace the connections between them.

Finally, perhaps the most pleasant feature of this book is the way in which different disciplines have been brought together (see also the colophon). If a certain fact about a siege is mentioned, you can be sure

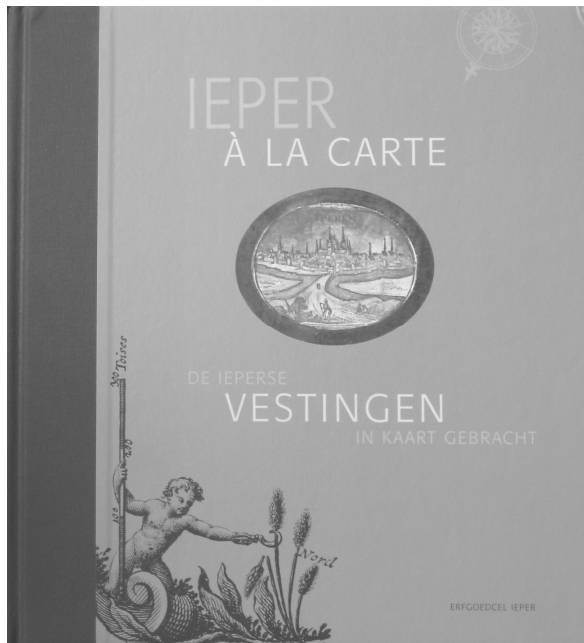
the military logic or technique behind it is explained. If maps are adorned in a particular style, this is pointed out to the reader. And where other authors – sometimes out of ignorance, I fear – do not elaborate on certain aspects, this author shows a refreshing willingness to explain to the reader why the hat in the cartouche is a bishop's one, *how* a woodcut was made and *what* exactly the Latin inscription is saying.

In short, this book will please a diverse audience equally, which is not a minor achievement.

Moreover, in my opinion it would merit a translation to French or English and I regret it only exists in the Dutch version.

The small Stedelijk Museum (this is the city museum, not to be confused with the In Flanders Fields Museum) has some of the maps in the book (those which belong to this museum) on display until 19 November 2006.

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## LOOKS AT BOOKS (V)

# Degrees of Latitude: Mapping Colonial America

by Margaret Beck Pritchard and Henry G. Taliaferro

New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2002. 448 pages, 186 colour illustrations, 97 b/w illustrations. Hardback. In association with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. ISBN 0-8109-3539-2. USD 95.00. To order: GBP 41.91 at <http://www.amazon.co.uk>.

One does not necessarily need to know much about a cartographical topic to thoroughly enjoy a mapping book. This book is a real eye-opener for map enthusiasts with limited knowledge about colonial (a fortiori principally eighteenth century) North American mapping.

Mrs Pritchard and Mr Taliaferro strike a perfect balance between history and mapping. Where some books over-focus on the pictorial effect of maps and other publications tend to rewrite the history, the maps chosen for this book are entirely a function of the history described, which in turn is carefully illustrated by the selected maps. The narrative does not *blow away* the maps, nor are the maps merely *floating around*.

Pritchard who is the curator of the map and print section of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation wrote the more substantial sections of the book and she selected the maps from the Colonial Williamsburg Collection. She makes us explore how the land was *discovered* and settled by Europeans coming from diverse national backgrounds and having personal interests: hunters, fur traders, religious fanatics, religious liberals, investors, adventurers, they all have put their mark on the history of the continent and this breathes through the maps. No wonder this nation wrote a liberal constitution and created a federalized system. No wonder also that the Indians missed this entire process: they only figure as background rowers in canoes or as wild men in cartouches. As we know, winners always write the history, and this is reflected in (the maps of) this book: apart from the Indians, the other European colonizers, to name but the Dutch, the Spanish and the French, have actually been completely silenced.

Gradually the maps show increased animosity, on the one hand amongst the different *British* local entities, and on the other hand between them and the Crown: these pre-war maps probably form the most intriguing section of the book. Maps on the eve of the American Revolution primarily discuss colonial boundaries. A short part on French War maps is seamlessly followed by Revolutionary War maps and

prints, where Pritchard's Cartesian transparency nicely reflects the free spirit of the nation to be. In conformity with the title, the area covered is limited to the north-eastern part of the United States. Other parts of America and post eighteenth century maps are not included and this is where her contribution ends.

The second part of the book is a curiosity — since it is not in line with the main section. Mr Taliaferro devotes this part to the *Custis Atlas of 1698* which was assembled by Philip Lea for John Custis IV (1678-1749) who lived in Williamsburg. This compilation atlas consists of 103 maps of all parts of the world made by Blaeu, Hondius, Janssonius, but also includes maybe lesser known cartographers such as John Thornton, Robert Morden, Richard Daniel, Joseph Moxon and a number of maps by Lea himself. With all respect to the authors of the book, and although I was not familiar with the *Custis Atlas*, it is not clear to me what the relevance of this section is for this publication.

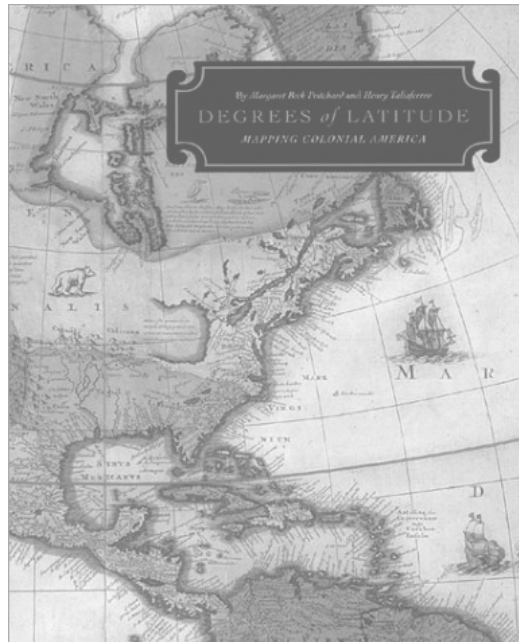
In a final and much shorter section Taliaferro discusses the seventeenth-century map trade and in particular the position of Philip Lea as a successful map-seller in London. Together with the weakening of the Dutch nation as an economic and military power, the map industry slowly shifted to London towards the last quarter of that century.

In conclusion, the book provides a nice illustration of the history and mapping of Colonial America: the sequence of maps is so well chosen and the accompanying narratives so perfectly integrated that it is hard to believe that this work served as a catalogue of an exhibition that took place in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Finally, please note that another spin-off of the exhibition is a small but interesting online exhibition on the same object.

Visit: [http://www.history.org/History/museums/online\\_exhibits.cfm](http://www.history.org/History/museums/online_exhibits.cfm).

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## LOOKS AT BOOKS (VI)

# Early Mapping of the Pacific – The Epic Story of Seafarers, Adventurers, and Cartographers Who Mapped the Earth's Greatest Ocean

by Thomas Suarez

Singapore: Periplus Editions (HK) Ltd, May 2004. 224 pages. Hardback. ISBN 0-7946-0092-1. GBP 22.19. To order: <http://www.amazon.co.uk>.

The title of this book bears no secrets to map enthusiasts who are acquainted with Thomas Suarez's *Early Mapping of Southeast Asia*, which was published in December 1999. Mr Suarez bakes a similar cookie of the same recipe. For readers unfamiliar with the previous work of this author the subtitle explains it all: this book evokes *The Epic Story of Seafarers, Adventurers and Cartographers who mapped the Earth's Greatest Ocean*.

Early Mapping of the Pacific brilliantly treats the story of mapmaking, exploration, missionaries and the beginning of colonization from the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries. It goes without saying that this hugely informative book contains first rate illustrations (mostly in colour) usually provided within eye-sight of the relevant text.

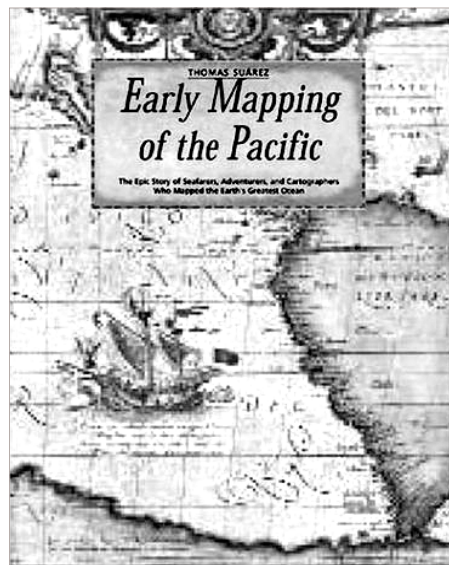
While cartography can be described as being the crossroads of geography and history, this concept is even more valid for cartography of the new worlds. Maps were drawn *when new lands were found*. Suarez describes the Pacific's mapping evolution after Magellan from the first Spanish discoveries of the Solomon and the Marquesas Islands and Drake's circumnavigation. Then early Dutch adventurers such as Le Maire and Tasman are seamlessly followed by the renaissance of the English voyages culminating in a detailed chronology of Cook's travels, all of which beautifully illustrated with vintage maps. The search for the truth of the *Terra Australis* reads like a thriller in which fantasy and reality struggle to survive. Finally, methodical island mapping (Tahiti, Hawaii, Easter Island, Micronesia, to name but a few) is of post-Cook origin and essentially dates from the nineteenth century.

And yet, in the subtitle lies the main downside of this intriguing book: where Suarez offers fascinating story telling, such lavish adventure-tales occasionally undermine the cartographic essence of the book. It would have been preferable if he would have inserted more maps (although admittedly the book contains more than 200 maps, topographical images and prints) and cartographic discussion and less pure history of the discoveries. But still, Suarez has

adequately dealt with the risk of too much *Hineininterpretierung* into the maps.

The approach of the subject matter is (unfortunately) essentially made from the European angle. On page 27 Suarez writes: 'There is no substantive evidence to suggest that Zhen sailed further into the Pacific than the Philippines and Java' when he discussed the Chinese contribution to the age of discoveries and mapping. This may be disputed: according to Gavin Menzies, Zhou Man, one of Zhen He's fleet captains, crossed the Pacific Ocean several times (see his 2002 controversial book *1421, The Year China Discovered the World*). The re-writing of the discovery of the world may have only just begun.

Minor criticism set aside, this book with a select bibliography is most satisfying textually and graphically and is clearly a valuable addition to the library collection of any map enthusiast. It is highly recommended and offers an excellent price/quality. Please Mr Suarez, may your next target be the *Early Mapping of China and Japan*.



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## Those brilliant but forgotten scientists of the 19th century (Second part)

In order to understand the nineteenth century cartography 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 organize the newly-founded state generated a lot of political demands both on national and international level.

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 Adolphe Quetelet (whose biography appeared in BIMCC Newsletter No 24 ).

All of them, directly or indirectly, advanced the status of cartography in Belgium.



### Albert-Florence Prisse (1788–1856)

Albert-Florence Prisse is one of those foreign officers who have made Belgium, like the French officers Desprez, Evian, Belliard, Chapelié, Nerenburger and others. He was trained at the Military Academy of Fontainebleau. In 1817, he was granted the Dutch nationality. Until 1828 he worked in the provinces of Namur and Luxembourg, where he

chairman of the commission in charge of demarcating the borders between Belgium, the Netherlands and the Grand-Duchy. He would even become Minister of War in 1846, head of the Royal Military Household in 1850 and Minister of State in 1854. It is obvious that the personality and technical skills of General Prisse, as well as his total commitment to the establishment of the new state structures, have favoured the development of the *Dépôt de la Guerre* and the production of the country's topographic map.



Fig. 1. Albert-Florence Prisse

participated as a staff officer in the survey of the map of the southern provinces of the Netherlands. In 1830, he offered his services to the Belgian Provisional Government and, because of his topo-geographic skills, he became on January 1831 the first director of the *Dépôt de la Guerre et de Topographie*. But he was often absent, because in the same year he was appointed aide-de-camp of King Leopold I and deputy chief of staff (in 1834 he would be promoted to general). He played a major part in the foundation of the Military Academy. In 1839, he was appointed

### André Jolly (1799–1883)

André Jolly organized the newly-created *Dépôt de la Guerre* (from 1834 to 1842, as director). He was an important and discreet person, a military engineer and a topographer, who had been trained at the Delft



Fig. 2. André Jolly

Academy for Artillery and Engineering. During the riots in August and September 1830, he was very active as a member of the civilian militias. Because of



his military education and his commitment, this orderly and moderate man was put in charge of the defence issues of the new independent state. He became Belgium's first Minister of War and the second director of the *Dépôt de la Guerre*.

In 1835 he initiated the remarkable 1:20 000 colour mapping of the Dyle valley, with the help of eight staff officers including six foreigners. The production of this map required the establishment of a geodetic triangulation network (including the measurement of a base line for the network scaling) and the definition of relief by means of contours. Levelling was based on a geodetic monument (pillar) placed at the confluence of the rivers Dyle and Démer and representing the altitude datum (the reference to the mean sea level at low tide did not yet exist).

#### **Jean-Jacques Chapelié (1792–1864)**

He was a brilliant graduate of the *École polytechnique*. During the defence of Paris in 1814 and during the expedition in Spain, he distinguished himself by his great physical and intellectual qualities that predestined him to staff activities. In 1831, general Desprez — who was on a special mission in Belgium — urged the French government to appoint Chapelié as his assistant.

On his arrival in Brussels, Chapelié was appointed deputy chief of staff (Desprez was then chief of staff).

It is obvious that this remarkable officer, who was convinced of the importance of cartography and topography for the army (as a staff officer he had



Fig. 3. Jean-Jacques Chapelié

been involved in the production of the map of France), has largely contributed to the success of the *Dépôt de la Guerre* projects, because he obliged the staff officer candidates, as well as the candidates for the artillery and the Engineer Corps, to attend lectures on astronomy, geodesy, topography and cartography. Hence, as from 1838 (first year in which students

graduated from the Military Academy), several staff officers were detached to the *Dépôt de la Guerre*.

Commander Deguise, the first historian of the Military Academy, said about Chapelié: 'His brilliant services and his erudition have caught the attention of the Belgian government. Nobody deserved more than he to found the Military Academy, nobody was more able than he to overcome the difficulties of that venture.'

In 1834, lieutenant-colonel Chapelié was appointed commander of the Military Academy, a function he would exercise for thirty years!

#### **Guillaume-Adolphe Nerenburger (1804–1869)**

This French officer, who graduated from Saint-Cyr, received the Belgian nationality in 1846. He participated actively in the 1830 revolution. On 26 October 1830, he was appointed staff captain and attached to the War Commissary. In 1831, he was transferred to the general staff under the famous French general Desprez. He participated in the siege of Antwerp, where he distinguished himself, and he informed the King of the surrender of the town.

From 1834 (foundation of the Military Academy)



Fig. 4. Guillaume-Adolphe Nerenburger

until 1843, G. Nerenburger — who was a disciple of mathematician G. Monge — lectured on descriptive geometry. He was admired by all because he had many talents, especially a talent for graphical drawing.

François Arago, the famous director of the Paris Observatory, who was paying a visit to the Military Academy, expressed his admiration for Nerenburger's teaching.

In 1843, Nerenburger was attached to the *Dépôt de la Guerre* and late in 1845 he was appointed director.

He was promoted to general-major in 1854. He led the *Dépôt de la Guerre* in July 1863. Then he assumed the command of the Military Academy. He was promoted to lieutenant-general in December



1863 and died in tragic circumstances in March 1869.

This brilliant officer was an exceptional scientist. Thanks to his intellectual qualities and his tenacity and perspicacity as organizer, the *Dépôt de la Guerre* got the material and human resources it needed to produce the geodetic network, the 1:40 000 ordnance survey map and the colour 1:20 000 topographic map.

G. Nerenburger was the friend of the Prussian general J.-J. Bayer, a geodesist who lent to the *Dépôt de la Guerre* Bessel's equipment and *toises* (old French measure) for the measurement of the geodetic bases at Lommel and Ostend. Bayer has also founded the International Geodetic Association and declared: 'Belgium is the first country where the developments in geodesy that are due to the great works of Gauss and Bessel have been acknowledged and put into practice.'

We owe this acknowledgement to G. Nerenburger. It is noteworthy that his geodetic activities were also acknowledged by the Royal Academy in 1847. Twice, he would even be appointed director of the Academy, first in 1855, and secondly in 1865.

In the 1870 year-book of the Academy, general J. Liagre, who would become permanent secretary of the Academy, wrote about Nerenburger's academic functions: 'The reports he has presented, the dissertations he has published in our compilations, the academic speeches he has delivered and all his writings are remarkable for their purity, elegance and distinction.'

#### **Germinal-Pierre Dandelin (1794-1847)**

This French graduate of the *École polytechnique* distinguished himself by his exceptional talent for mathematics. With his old friend Quetelet, he was the author of the famous Belgian theorems on conics.

A research work on numerical equations (*Recherches sur la résolution des équations numériques*) caught the attention of the scientists of that time. Joseph Fourier, the famous secretary of the French Royal Academy of Sciences, praised him in one of his writings. Dandelin was a fervent patriot, an officer serving in the Engineer Corps and in charge of fortifications. In 1843, he was promoted to colonel and became a member of the commission in charge of checking the quality of the geodetic triangulation operations that were performed before 1830. That

commission was created on Nerenburger's request and was chaired by A. Quetelet.

In the same period, on 1 December 1845, the Brussels Royal Academy split into two main sections (the science class and the literature class) and a third



Fig. 5. Germinal-Pierre Dandelin

section (the fine arts class). Each class had its own director.

According to the new regulations, the King appointed the Academy's first annual chairman. It was colonel Dandelin. A. Quetelet stated: 'This first appointment was warmly approved, because Dandelin's talents and charming personality had earned universal approbation.'

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#### **To be continued**

Biographies of other, *brilliant but forgotten scientists* will appear in subsequent Newsletters.



## HISTORY OF CARTOGRAPHY (II)

### *Nova Totius Belgii* : Confusion!

The map in centrefold is a typical example of the confused way the map-makers of the seventeenth century and sometimes later on filled the cartouche of their maps with a pseudo-historical title. For indeed Belgium became only in 1830 an independent geographical entity.

What drove these professionals to publish such information. In fact this reflected the political confusion of the time, where the term *Belgica*, *Belgium* and related terms have been used interchangeably during centuries. Because indeed in many maps their titles

book *Commentarii de bello Gallico*. He divides Gaul in three parts: the *Aquitani* live south of the Garonne, the *Belgæ* north of the Marne and the Seine rivers, and the *Galli* in between. Caesar says: 'Of all these, the Belgæ are the bravest [...]'. Most probably this is the way the *Belgium* denomination entered the map-making world, without logic and in chaos.

Another frequent example is the use of the title *Belgium Fœderatum*. Some of these maps refer to the XVII Provinces while others reflect only the existence of the VII Provinces. One should also not pay too much attention to their additional titles as *emendata*, *accurata* or *novissime editum*, etc. The name *Belgium* just makes no sense.

The *Belgium Fœderatum* maps were deduced from the classic XVII Provinces maps and tried to delineate the VII Provinces which became independent after the treaty of Munster in 1648.

Many map-makers (J. Janssonius, N. Visscher, J. Blaeu, T.C. Lotter, etc.) between 1658 and the eighteenth century copied each other and delivered similar *Belgium Fœderatum* maps. There is no correlation between the date 1648 and their maps. In other words, even after the formal division of the XVII Provinces by the treaty of Munster they still went on naming their maps *Belgium Fœderatum*. For example, J. De Ram (1658-1693) made a map with two titles: in one corner *Fœderatum Belgium*

and in the other *Belgicarum XVII Provinciarum*. He lets us also know in both corners: *nova delineatio* or *novissime editum*. It looks serious but means not much.

The bulk of the *Belgium* named maps mention in their title *sive* (or) *Germaniæ Inferioris* and refer geographically to the XVII Provinces. They reach from the north of the actual Netherlands to the south, located somewhere in Northern France, depending on the way the war between Spain and the Low Countries was developing.

One should not rely too much on their historical value, but rather on their decorative display.

The use of the name *Belgium* on maps of early America during the second half of the seventeenth century is to be seen as an expansion of the use of the same name on the maps of the XVII Provinces. The names on these maps are a consequence of the countries which colonized the eastern part of the country. Let us not forget that these maps were the work of the same European cartographers, who copied each other. For many years the *Atlas Maior* (1662) of J. Blaeu contains a map named *Nova Belgica et Anglia Nova*.

In a map of northeast America (1690), N. Visscher mentions the name of *Novum Belgium*.



Fig. 1. *Belgii Veteris Typus*, A. Ortelius, 1636

did not reflect the geographical reality. Using the word *Belgium* in their maps of the XVII Provinces is such an example. Whoever consults the Index of map-titles in the standard work *Old maps of the Netherlands 1548-1794* from H.A.M. van der Heijden is confronted with the confusing way these maps were titled.

*Belgii sive* (or) *Germaniæ Inferioris*, *Belgium Fœderatum*, *Belgium Veteris Typus*, *Belgicarum XVII Provinciarum*, *Belgium il Paese Basso*, *Belgii Universi*, *Nova Totius Belgii*, etc. Let us try to find some logic in these different names.

The *Belgium Veteris* denomination is the easiest to explain. It refers geographically to the XVII Provinces but uses too so-called original Latin names.

The type we most encounter is the A. Ortelius map (1594). This map was imitated during the seventeenth century by many others as P. Kaerius, J. Janssonius, J. A. Colom, P. Verbist, etc.

In fact A. Ortelius did not initiate this type of map. Gilles Boileau de Bouillon uses the name *Gallia Belgica* in 1557 and in 1584 we read in *De Gallia Belgicæ Antiquitatibus* from P. Divaeus *Nova Gallia Belgicæ*. Confusion all round. Both these maps cover only the southern part of the Netherlands and not the XVII Provinces. So, when did the confusion start? Most probably a long time ago with Julius Caesar's





Another one by J. Danckerts in 1683 cites in the cartouche *Novi Belgii* and M. Seutter (1600-1728) offers us a map *Recens edite totius Novi Belgii in Americæ Septentrionale*. The use of European names was most probably an easy way to indicate unknown land on maps that were made by Europeans. Whatever country colonized the area, it got its name on it: for example *Nova Anglia*, *Nova Francia*, etc.

The centrefold map *Nova Totius Belgii [...] Delineatio* by J. Janssonius in 1638, covers a much larger area than all the others. The map dates before the treaty of Munster and is most probably a diplomatic approach by the mapmaker. For indeed the Eighty Years' War (1568-1648) between Spain and the Low Countries took place mainly in the southern part of the country. It was a complicated war, where land was regularly conquered and lost. For the mapmakers the war situation changed so often that they chose to play it safe. Copper engraving was costly.

Maybe they even hoped that the XVII Provinces would reunite.

Confusion without doubt, as well on the battlefield as on the maps. Despite this inconvenience, map-makers of the seventeenth century offered us a magnificent engraved cartographic world.

Lydia Cordon and  
Eric Leenders

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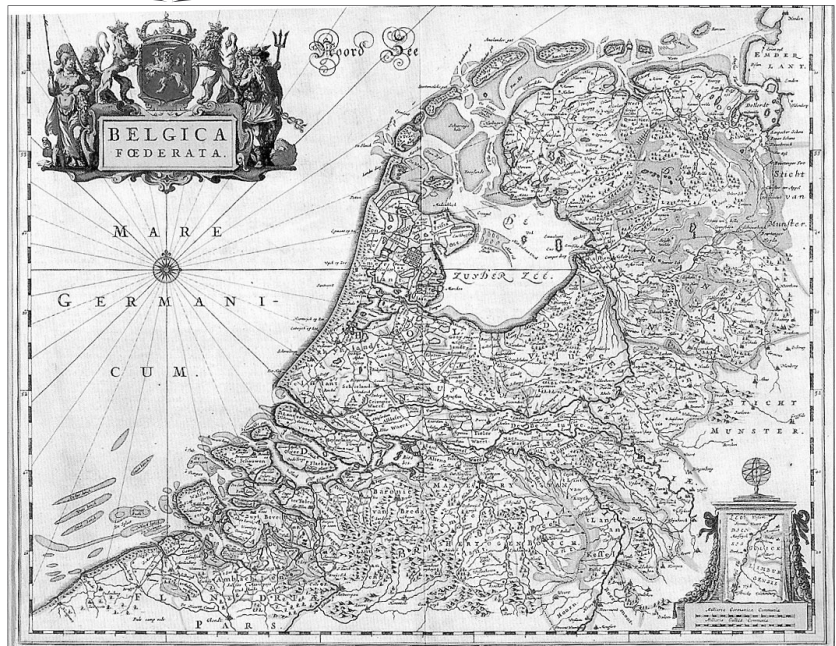


Fig. 2. *Belgica Fœderata*, J. Blaeu, 1662

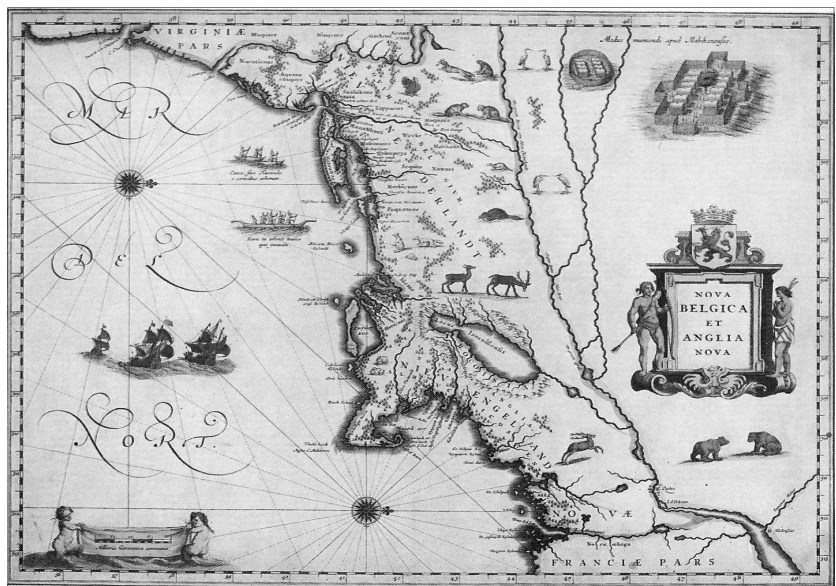


Fig. 3. *Nova Belgica et Anglia Nova*, Atlas Major, J. Blaeu, 1662

### 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, etc.

The Editor



Fig. 4. Nova Totius Belgii [...] Delineatio, J. Janssonius, 1638

N V S G E R M A N I C V S

De Noord Zee





# Land Surveyors and their Maps in the 18th century Duchy of Brabant

Presentation at the BIMCC Study Session on 10 December 2005

### Introduction

In this article I will try to present the professional group of land surveyors and their maps in the eighteenth century Duchy of Brabant. It is part of the results of my research for my (PhD) doctoral thesis, which I will defend in the spring of 2006 at the Catholic University of Leuven. The article consists of three parts. For a better comprehension, I'll explain the composition and the geographical distribution of this professional group. Then I'll present the different types of manuscript maps, their characteristics and a survey of the clients interested in these maps. Finally, I intend to explain my database about the Duchy of Brabant.

### 1. The professional group

#### 1.1. Statute

In order to become a member of the professional group of surveyors in the Duchy of Brabant in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the candidates could make a request to two institutions. Either they made the request to the central institution entitled to admitting the candidate to the profession, most of the time the Secret Council (*Conseil Privé, Geheime Raad*). This admission was valid for all the territories of the Southern Netherlands. Or they made it to the sovereign Council of Brabant, which was only valid within the limits of the Duchy of Brabant and in the Land of Outre-Meuse.

In 1618 already, and again in 1705 the Duchy of Brabant edited two ordinances with a provincial law for the profession. The ordinance of 1705 survived the *ancien régime*. It gave the profession a statute and it detailed the procedure on how to become a surveyor. Within the profession there was a distinction between the ordinary surveyors (*arpenteurs, land-meters*), who could only survey the land, and the surveyors who could measure volumes (*mesureurs d'édifices, edificimeters*), who could also measure the masonry of houses and the volumes of the timber cut.

#### 1.2. Reconstruction of the composition of the professional group of surveyors in the eighteenth century Duchy of Brabant.

In my database I have reconstructed the composition of the professional group of surveyors admitted between 1680-1795. Therefore I followed two criteria. The first criterion was an

admission by the Council of Brabant. All these surveyors were put into the database. Surely, one can suppose that these new surveyors were anxious to work within the Duchy. Secondly, I implemented the criterion *actually worked on the soil of the Duchy* for the surveyors admitted by a central institution.

The results are as follows. Between 1680 and 1795 the Council of Brabant admitted 324 surveyors. Of this group, 22 also requested to be admitted by a central institution. There are only 19 surveyors in my database who were only admitted by the central institutions. It is obvious that surveyors living near the frontiers of the Duchy searched for a general admission by a central institution, in order to have the possibility to be employed on both sides of the frontier.

#### 1.3. Location of the residences of the surveyors

In my research period, I have registered the residence of surveyors in 131 places within the Duchy of Brabant: they resided for a long or a short time in these places, because it is clear that some residences weren't permanent. There were immigrations from outside the Duchy, emigrations to other principalities, or from a village to a city and vice versa. To prove the continuity of newly admitted surveyors' residences in the cities and villages, I have subdivided the research period in five periods: 1680-1704, 1705-29, 1730-54, 1755-79 and 1780-95. In each period the profession spread out to other places in the Duchy: 32 in 1680-1704, 21 in 1705-29, 23 in 1730-54, 38 in 1755-79 and 16 in 1780-95. The continuity of surveyors' residences in each place is the following: 80 places got only in one period a new surveyor on its soil; 26 places in two periods, 13 in three periods, five in four

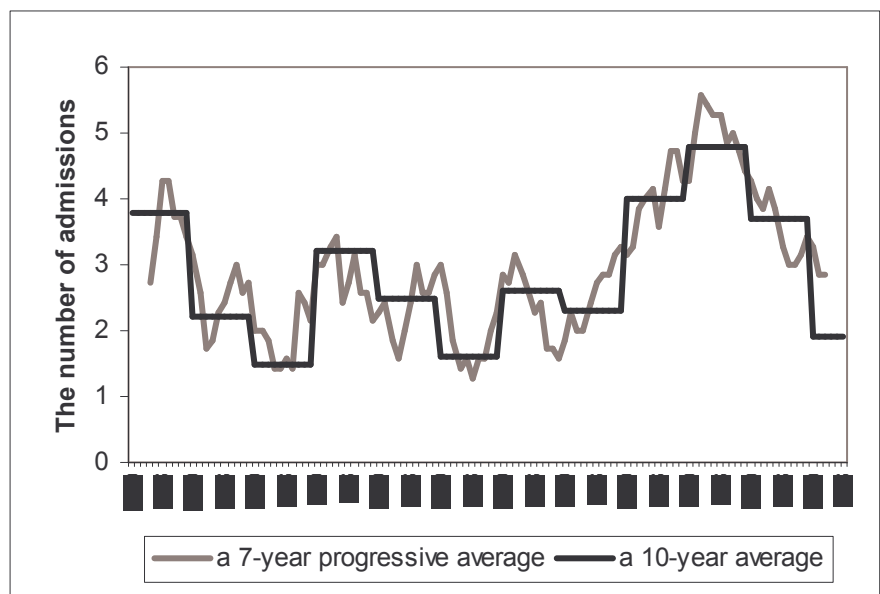


Table 1. Newly admitted surveyors in Brabant (1680-1795)



periods and another five in five periods.

The white zones, in which there weren't any surveyors' residences, were: the region east of Leuven and west, north and east of Tienen; the middle of the region, called the Kempen (east of Antwerp), with great concentrations on its limits ('s-Gravenwezel, Schilde, Turnhout, Tongerlo and Westerlo). There were huge concentrations of surveyors in the south of the Duchy: on the border with the county of Flanders; the cities of Brussels, Mechelen and Leuven; the French speaking part of the Duchy.

After migrations, the number of surveyors with their residence in the cities increased from 131 to 149, all at the expense of the villages. What was the reason for these migrations? First economically, the surveyors looked for a place with opportunities to find important clients, to flee from the competition of a colleague or to profit from the disappearance of a colleague in a region. For this reason, one can imagine why they resided near great abbeys in the countryside (Tongerlo, Grimbergen, Heylisse, Kortenberg, La Ramée), near rich families or noblemen like Merode (Tongerlo/Westerlo), or in the cities. Secondly, the migrations could have been the result of private matters, for example a marriage and the choice to reside in the village of their wife.

#### 1.4. Career length and the number of surveyors in function at the same time

How many surveyors were active in my research period? In order to answer this question we have to relate the data on the number of admissions with the career length of the surveyors. For a large group of surveyors, I was able to roughly reconstruct their career length by comparing their admission date with the last mentioning of their activities. These correspond with the grey columns. However, there is a small group of surveyors of which I haven't found a map or another mentioning of their activities. In order to take this group into consideration, I recalculated my figures by giving them a hypothetical career of

27 years.

This figure shows a slow growing group of surveyors, with a great difference between the black curve and the grey diagrams. The total number of surveyors working at the same time was around 50 between 1719 and 1755 (diagram). From 1756 onwards the number of surveyors working in the Duchy is growing. Between 1756 and 1767 the black curve and the grey columns completely match. The total number of surveyors working at the same time never reached 100 (diagram) and just above it between 1774 and 1789 (curve). After 1785, the group was depleted. I can roughly say that we are talking of a very small professional group.

## 2. Characteristics of the manuscript maps

### 2.1. Origin: painted maps on canvas

The mapmakers at the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the Early Modern Period were familiar with the art of painting. Our museums and archives conserve many painted maps on canvas. One of the most important ones is the map of the region called *Brugse Vrije*, made by Peter Pourbus from Bruges, who himself was a surveyor and at the same time a member of the painters guild of the city. Amongst others I can mention the paintings of the assaults of cities, like Lier in 1595, and the map of the *Forêt de Soignes, Zoniënwoud*, a vast expanse of some 4 000 hectares of forest just south of Brussels, painted in 1661, which is displayed in the hall of the National State Archives in Brussels. All these paintings gave a view of the painted place from an altitude (a hill, a church tower, the vestiges), just the way surveyors were used to doing. The resemblance with the printed maps is very significant: the cartouches around the scale, the legend, the compass and the escutcheon of the king of Spain.

### 2.2. Pictorial cartography

In less prestigious projects too, the surveyors used a pictorial cartography. Indeed, by mapping properties, limits or a road project, they drew objects in the landscape in a pictorial way to present its context. The most important buildings like churches, castles, windmills and water mills, farms and houses were drawn in elevation. This technique has its origins in the most ancient manuscript maps conserved in our national archives. During the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries surveyors were acquiring a typical style of mapping including pictorial elements. Contrary to the military personnel who were already using a universal symbolic language in their maps at the end of the seventeenth century, the surveyors kept on using this

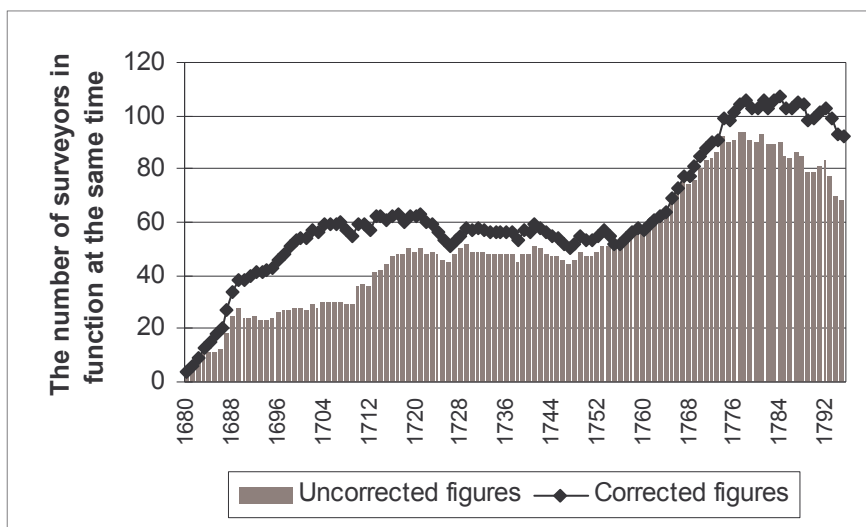


Table 2. Chronological evolution of the number of surveyors in the Duchy of Brabant, in function at the same time (1680-1795), uncorrected and corrected figures (with an average career of 27 years)



pictorial style until the first decades of the nineteenth century.

Beside the pictorial representation of real objects in the landscape, the surveyors used other symbols as well. For example they used colours in representing the different cultivation of the soil: yellow or brown for plough land, green for meadow and grasslands, green with widespread trees for orchards, green with many trees for forests, etc. In some cases the use of these colours changed.



Fig. 1. Boatman on the canal Brussels-Willebroek. Detail on the map of Meise in the atlas of the properties of the priory of Jericho, by Petrus Van Breuseghem, 1724. Brussels, National State Archives, *Manuscript maps, First series*, nr 2016, pl. 50.

Finally the surveyors used decorative elements in the image, following the examples in the production of printed maps: cartouches, beautifully decorated compasses, escutcheons and legends, human and animal figures, cartographic instruments and surveyors at work. It is here that one can identify the maps of the seventeenth and those of the eighteenth century. The surveyors of the seventeenth century were keener to draw figures and situations than their colleagues of the eighteenth century: ships on rivers, horsemen and walkers, farmers with their herd on grassland, hunting scenes, boatmen on canals, murdered travellers and the murderer on the wheel (all used in the atlas from the abbey of Averbode). In the eighteenth century this decoration is still present, but far less. An exception is perhaps Petrus Van Breuseghem, a surveyor living in Brussels, who was engaged to survey the properties of the priory of Jericho. In this atlas he drew for example the grim reaper, angels, surveyors with their instruments, boatmen etc. He even included his self-portrait on the map of Pamel (see the cover of this Newsletter).

The maps of the seventeenth century and those of the eighteenth century also differ in the use of cartouches around texts and the scale. On the printed maps, the baroque-cartouches replaced the renaissance ones in the seventeenth century. The

manuscript maps however, kept on using the renaissance-cartouches. In the eighteenth century this decoration vanished almost completely. On the map of the inundated territory between Diest and Lummen, Joannes-Baptista Joris, a surveyor living in Leuven, used a classicistic cartouche: above the cartouche one can see the escutcheon of Brabant with two putties aside with the ducal crown, the mitre, the noble helmet and the escutcheons of the four principal cities representing the Three Estates of the Duchy (Fig. 2).

### 2.3. A short explanation about mapmaking

Between the assignment and the actual delivering of the maps to the client, there were three possible production steps: (i) the sketch (stayed in the protocol of the surveyor), (ii) the original (stayed in the protocol of the surveyor) and (iii) the instrument (delivered to the clients).

Of course, this was not the case with assignments that could be done within one day, like the drawings above an act of survey. For the Duchy of Brabant the products of the first two are poorly present in the national archives. Contrary to the Dutch Republic and contrary to the professional group of notaries, there has never been any legislation for depositing the surveyors' protocols to the government.

These protocols were themselves very useful. It permitted surveyors to draw from the original another instrument, if necessary with small changes. Unfortunately, there are not any surveyors' protocols available for the eighteenth century Duchy of Brabant. I suppose these protocols did not last until the next generation and then vanished. Sometimes it was even the client who asked to destroy the minutes and other documents regarding the survey, for example the Duke of Arenberg in relation to the maps of the baronies in the Duchy of Aarschot.

In the professional education of the apprentices, mostly done by acting surveyors, there was a mix of theory and practice. The apprentices learned to use the instruments in the field, first the surveying chain, and to draw maps after the survey of the land. In the workshop they learned to use the different types of underground: paper or parchment. In addition to the use of instruments, they learned to draw and paint and to make ink spots disappear. The manuscript of the surveyor Buntinx, living in Hoepertingen, from 1762, contained even some recipes for making colours.

Maps were made upon paper or parchment. In general out of 8 337 maps in my database 1 796 were still made upon parchment: 61.58 %. of these maps upon parchment were used between 1710 and 1739. In this period, abbeys, villages, noblemen, charity institutions ordered an enormous amount of maps of their properties, compiled in atlases. The use of parchment lasted until the beginning of the nineteenth century.

In general, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries we can see an evolution towards a standardized map, in which several elements had a



fixed place: the title, the attestation, the scale, the compass and the legend. In our time, we are used to making classifications of the printed and manuscript maps. In those days, these differences were not evident. An act with a drawing of a few parcels was considered also as a *carte figurative, figuratieve kaart*. These differences occur also in maps in atlases. Some surveyors drew a few parcels on one sheet; others collected many parcels on one sheet. Naturally, there's a great difference in preparation of both products.

#### 2.4. Mapmaking on command: the clients in the eighteenth century Duchy of Brabant

It is obvious that the surveyors were only acting on the command of a client. It is my conviction that at the end of the seventeenth and in the eighteenth century the circumstances were ideal for an increase of the production of manuscript maps. A combination of political and economical decisions influenced in a positive way these circumstances.

First of all, the ordinance of the Council of Brabant of 25 July 1683 ordering the survey of the villages of the Duchy. There was not an immediate follow-up by the villages, but in the next four decades it stimulated a number of villages to order a complete survey and map of their territory.

The ordinance of 18 January 1705 had the same influence in the long run. It regulated the profession and the way to perform the work.

The cultivation of the wasteland in the second part of the eighteenth century didn't cause much mapmaking either. Instead, there were many surveying acts.

To improve the economy of the country, the central, provincial and local authorities, and a few noblemen and rich citizens were anxious to improve the infrastructure of the Duchy of Brabant: there were many initiatives for new roads projects, for new canal projects etc. It weren't these projects themselves, which caused more mapmaking (only ca. 200 maps in my database), but in many cases the change of the cadastral identity of their parcels (partially expropriated, exchange of parcels etc.) obliged large landowners to command a new survey and a map of their properties.

Many large landowners were interested in new manuscript maps of their properties. Some wanted to have a new survey of their parcels to calculate the rent prices, for others the maps functioned as luxury products.

Finally the royal domain itself commanded a series of maps for the management of the timber cut in the *Forêt de Soignes*, to define the limits of the forest and the territory around the city of Brussels in which the hunting was forbidden, the *Franche forêt, Vrije Warande*.

After a study of my database, I come to the conclusion that the greatest amount of manuscript maps was ordered by the large land owners: in the first place the regular clergy (abbeys, monasteries and convents) (47.04 %); further on the noblemen

(10.59 %), the secular clergy (8.19 %) and citizens (5.33 %). Of the public institutions, the villages (12.60 %) were the greatest clients, followed by the charity institutions (9.46 %), the king and the central institutions (2.48 %), the cities (1.39 %), the district water boards (1.13 %), the provincial government (1.33 %) and others (0.41 %).



Fig. 2. Cartouche by Joannes-Baptista Joris on a map ordered by the Estates of the Duchy of Brabant, 10 August 1769. Brussels, National State Archives, *Manuscript maps, First series*, nr 337.

These figures are a demonstration of the fact that manuscript maps were a luxury product. They could only be bought by the upper classes: clergymen, noblemen and rich citizens or by public institutions. This is also demonstrated by the different map products and the cost of it: an atlas with manuscript maps on parchment or on paper, wall maps and other maps strengthened on canvas, ordinary maps and acts with drawings on paper. Ordinary people could only afford the last two, but they were perhaps also satisfied with a survey act.

### 3. The database - Purpose

I have constructed my database in MS Access. It has two different parts related to one another: in the upper part, I have assembled the surveyors and all the biographical elements. In the part below, I have made the map descriptions. My database and the



graphics with the interpretations can continually be extended with new uncovered manuscript maps. The difference with the English example of the dictionary of Susan Bendall is the following. She has collected all the existing drawings in a database. I have only included the work of one professional group. By doing so, it is possible to use the map production for studying this professional group separately.

### What has the future in store?

First, my database has not been completed. Although I have been researching many sources, there are still more manuscript maps hidden in archives or owned by private persons. In the future, I hope to create a point of reference to stimulate these owners to share their unknown maps with the outside scientific world, if necessary guaranteeing their anonymity.

Secondly, I want to attach to my initial database a database with the photos of the manuscript maps. It will give the researcher the possibility to see immediately the map in which he's interested.

Thirdly, together with Wouter Bracke (Royal Library Albert I Brussels) and others, I intend to create a similar database for the other principalities of the Southern Netherlands and also to extend the research period, from the sixteenth to the end of the eighteenth century.

Many thanks to Harald Deceulaer and Heidi Vermeersch for their remarks concerning the English text.

Luc Janssens, National State Archives Belgium  
 luc.janssens@arch.be

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VAN ERMEN E., *Het kaartboek van Averbode 1650-1680* (*Cartografische en iconografische bronnen voor de geschiedenis van het landschap in België*), Brussel, 1997.

VAN ERMEN E., *De wandkaarten van het hertogdom Aarschot 1759-1775 opgesteld in opdracht van de hertog van Arenberg* (*Cartografische bronnen voor de geschiedenis van het Vlaamse landschap*), Brussel, 1998.

JANSSENS L., *Picturale cartografie of een cartografie met picturale elementen*, in *Met passer en penseel. Brussel en het oude*

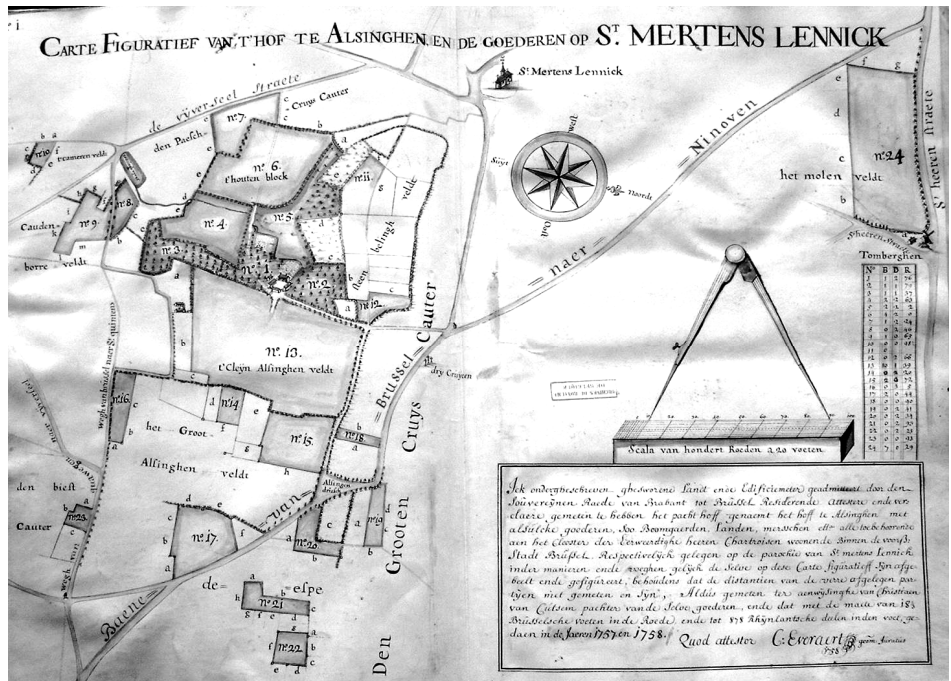


Fig. 3. Map of the farmhouse Alsinghen and other properties in Sint-Martens-Lennik in the atlas of the properties of the Carthusian monks of Brussels. Made by Carolus Everaert, surveyor living in Brussels, 1758. BRUSSELS, National State Archives, *Manuscript maps, First series*, nr. 2014, fol. 1.

*herzogdom Brabant in beeld, Tentoonstellingscatalogus Koninklijke Musea voor Schone Kunsten van België 15 september - 17 december 2000, Brussels, 2000, p. 28-37.*



Fig. 4. The drawing of a windmill. Detail on the map of properties in Wolverthem in the atlas of the church properties of the parish of Molenbeek-Saint-Jean and Sainte-Catherine (Brussels). Made by Carolus Everaert, surveyor living in Brussels, 13th of September 1771. BRUSSELS (ANDERLECHT), State Archives, *Church archives of Brabant*, n° 25317, fol. 14.





## BIMCC Programme for 2006

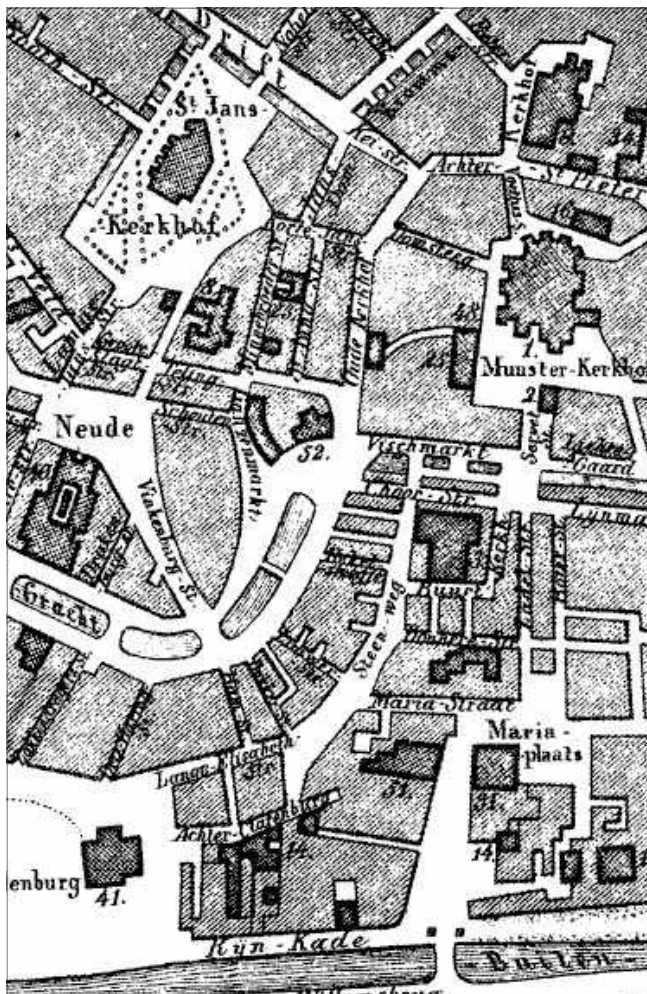
BIMCC Autumn Excursion:  
*New Date and Destination!*

### Friday 13 October 2006, 14.30 Excursion to the Map Room of the University Library in Utrecht

Due to circumstances outside our competence the visit to Leiden originally planned for 20 October has had to be cancelled.

Instead, this year's excursion will take us on Friday 13 October to the Map Room of the University Library in Utrecht, Heidelberglaan 3, 3584 CS Utrecht.

Dr Marco van Egmond, the newly appointed Map Curator, will guide us through a display of selected maps from their important collection, and this will be followed by a presentation of the Explokaart Research Programme by Paula van Gestel, the programme coordinator. The visit will be limited to 20 participants. The conducted tour will be in English.

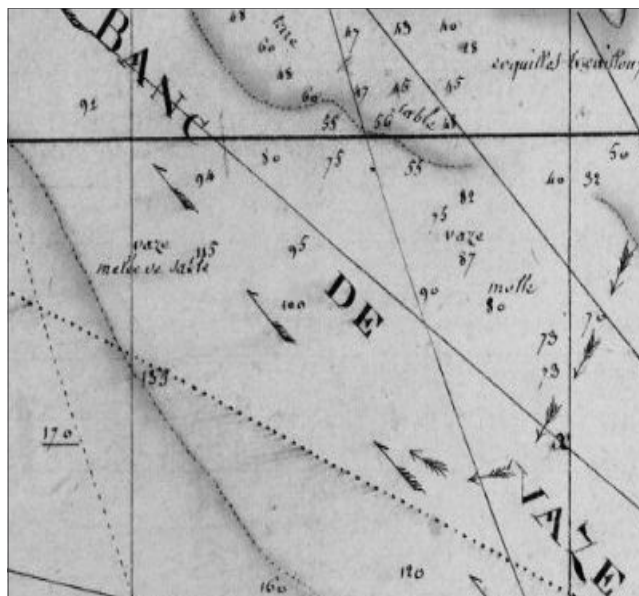


### Saturday 9 December 2006 5th International BIMCC Conference *Charting the Seas - Seven centuries of maritime cartography*

The following Speakers have agreed to present a paper:

- Prof. Corradino Astengo, University of Genova: *Portolan charts and 'the art of navigation' - Fourteenth to sixteenth century*
- Monique Pelletier, Paris: *Cosmography and sea charts in the early sixteenth century: Martin Waldseemüller's case*
- Prof Günter Schilder, University of Utrecht: *Early Dutch maritime cartography (1532-1630)*
- Dr Dirk de Vries, Oostburg (The Netherlands): *The manuscript charts by the Van Keulen firm: a special mapcorpus*
- Dr Andrew Cook, India Office Records, British Library, London: *British maritime charting of the East Indies and the creation of the Admiralty Hydrographic Office*
- Dr Jacqueline Carpine-Lancre, Vice-President of the Oceanographic Commission, Monaco: *Sea Charts - the third dimension: from the beginnings to the birth of modern bathymetric charts.*

The Conference Chairman will be Hans Kok. As usual, the event will take place at the Collège Saint Michel, Boulevard Saint Michel 24, 1040 Brussels. Full details and registration forms will be in our September Newsletter.





## BIMCC Annual Activity Report 2005

### Seventh annual general meeting and map evening 16 April 2005

This first annual general meeting under the new statutes was attended by nine active members and many other members. All different items of the agenda were agreed unanimously.

Twenty persons were present at the map evening. The discussion of several maps was reported in the Newsletter of May 2005.

### BIMCC hosting on 20 May 2005

Wulf Bodenstein and Eric Leenders hosted the *Freundeskreis für Cartographica in der Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz* during their visit at the Plantin Museum in Antwerp.

### Visit to Dr Tomasz Niewodniczanski Bitburg, 1 October 2005

Eighteen members visited one of the best known private map collections of Europe. The collection is not only about Poland (3 000 maps) but also about many other countries. Dr Tomasz Niewodniczanski assembled also a magnificent lot of wall maps and atlases. This visit was reported in the Newsletter of January 2006.

### 6th BIMCC Study Session Belgian cartography - 16th to 19th centuries 10 December 2005

More than 50 persons were present at our celebration for 175 years Belgium. Through his own

library Jan De Graeve illustrated the library of Gerardus Mercator. Joost Depuydt analyzed the dedications on Ortelius' *Parergon*.

Wouter Bracke focused on the Brussels map house of the Fricx family and Luc Janssens gave us an exposé on land surveyors and their maps in the eighteenth century Duchy of Brabant.

After a convivial lunch Bernard Jouret presented us some less known Belgian nineteenth century military and civil surveyors. Lisette Danckaert showed us the Vandermaelen's cartographic view of the world and of Brussels.

### Administrative matters

The Executive Committee met four times and our Editor succeeded once more in publishing three newsletters. BIMCC had a stand at the 4th Paris Map Fair and the Antiquarian Bookfair in Brussels.

### Conclusion

A year is gone and BIMCC is doing well. The organization is running smoothly, the finances are satisfactory.

The year 2006 is already in full swing.

Eric Leenders, Secretary

## BIMCC 8th Annual General Meeting 22 April 2006

Our chairman Wulf Bodenstein welcomed 22 members of which 14 are active members. He reminded all those present of the legal role of an active member, namely the right to vote.

The Agenda and the annual report 2005 were approved.

Some changes in the Executive Committee were announced. Henri Godts retires as Vice-President and is replaced by Dr Eric Leenders, who temporarily cumulates this nomination with the secretarial function.

Pierre Mattelaer, our Treasurer, presented the financial report 2005. The receipt exceeded the expenditures, resulting in an increase of the assets of the BIMCC. He also presented the budget for 2006. The President reaffirmed the purpose of a reserve fund, which should be equivalent to the amount of one year's membership fees, in order to cover any eventuality of unexpected expenditure.

The BIMCC has had a successful financial year,

and the accounts were approved unanimously.

The programme for 2006 was outlined.

On 13 October a visit (20 members maximum) to the map room of the Utrecht University Library is being





organized.

In December a conference will be held on *Charting the seas - Seven centuries of maritime cartography*.

Eric Leenders proposed to start an interactive website programme on the use and translation of the latin language on maps. This will be further discussed by the Executive Committee. He also thinks we should try to inform our members on how geographical knowledge was gathered and reassembled on maps.

Three new active members were accepted: Caroline De Candt, Stanislas De Peuter and Gerard van Loon.

Two members have been accepted as members of the Executive Committee, namely Caroline De Candt and Alexandre Smit.

Dominique Bodenstien who hosted the BIMCC events on the catering side during practically all the activities for a period of eight years wished to retire. All present thanked her for her charming social role and expressed their appreciation and gratitude.

Eric Leenders  
Vice-President and Secretary



**Special greetings and all good wishes for our Treasurer Pierre Mattelaer, on the occasion of his 75th Birthday, on 9 May 2006. Pierre joined our Circle in 1999 and assumed the important function of Treasurer in 2001. Apart from his interest in old maps, he is a well-known specialist on wind and water mills, on which subject he has published extensively. Happy birthday to you, Pierre!**

## BIMCC 8th Map Evening

22 April 2006

Following the 8th Annual General Meeting, the successful Map Evening started with a number of sea charts — the central theme of BIMCC's forthcoming Conference of 9 December 2006. Sam Humes kicked off with a Mortier map of the Pacific Ocean, undated but estimated to be of around 1703, with California 'futuristically' drawn as an island. Hans Kok had brought four maps. His second was a Van Keulen of



the Sunda Straits (i.e. the strait between Java and Sumatra) from the sixth part of the *Zeefakkel*. What a rich fantasy those seventeenth century Dutch

seafarers had! We would never be able to come up with the following toponyms: *dwars in de weg*, *Brabants' hoedje* and *behouden passage* (the last one being a special passage in case of southeast monsoon), all elegantly written on the chart. His third map was a beautifully coloured Waghenauer of Cornwall of 1584. More straits with Stanislas De Peuter who brought a chart of the Gibraltar Straits by Van Keulen (1728) with small red arrows indicating the currents: water entering into the Mediterranean uses the deeper middle section of the Strait, where water leaving the same sea flows next to the two coast lines. Further, he wondered whether anybody was familiar with the Battle of Trafalgar (1805) and, more specifically, with a possible military role of a sandbank just off the named Cape during the naval hostilities. After having explained the difference between a title page and a frontispiece — the former having title text only, the latter being decorated with allegoric representations — Carrie van Loon displayed the frontispiece of Blaeu's *Het Licht der Zeevaart* of 1608 of which Sotheby's had mentioned the existence of only eight copies. However, Carrie said that no report exists of Blaeu's frontispiece with his particular text on verso, so maybe his copy could be *hors série*.

So much for the sea charts. What followed was a sequence of maps without any internal relation or logical order. Jean Petin presented an interesting, smaller world map (1671) by the lesser known Moxon



family (represented by Josef and James) which was purportedly produced for and sold to bible makers. Notwithstanding a traditional layout with Europe-Africa



in the middle part of the map and the American continent on the left, island California was curiously printed on the right (i.e. Asian) side of the map. Jan De Graeve remarked that Moxon was also famous for producing road maps (note by

the reporter: Moxon produced miniature card deck maps as well). The prize for 'deal of the evening' went to Alex Smit who had bought a map of the Netherlands (1726) by Herman Moll for fifteen euro, admittedly, after fierce 'italian' negotiations. The next chart was a Brussels war map edited by George De Backer demonstrating the sufferings of the city from the French-English battle of 1695 as pointed out by Lydia Cordon. The map proudly lists the numerous battalions which took part on both sides. Then, Wulf



Bodenstein focused on a recently acquired 1735 Africa map by Inslin — no surprise so far —, but the left margin of the map had 29 shields of arms, many of

whom (e.g. Poland, Dantzig) bear no connection with Africa whatsoever. More homework for our President! We understood from Wulf that this map was essentially based on one by the de L'Isle sons dated 1722, but instead of the latter which had made a *tabula rasa* of the unknown interior of the continent, Inslin re-introduced some mythical fantasies concerning the flow and origin of the Nile river. Christophe Klein entertained us with and passed

around his recently acquired copy of the *Atlas en relief*, a curious nineteenth-century work containing 28 maps of which 25 in relief. Pierre Parmentier went on a sports tour and he discussed maps produced by orienteering clubs for the organization of competitions. His maps were produced by the 'Fédération française de course d'orientation' on various scales, from 1:7 500 to 1:15 000.

And then there were books. Caroline De Candt walked us through *leper à la Carte - leperse vestingen in kaart gebracht* (see page 9 for her book review), a multidisciplinary work which can be read on two levels. Of course, the story of Ypres is told



through its maps, but each chapter provides in an à la carte section a particular aspect of cartography, such as, cartouches, printing techniques, use of colours, etc. Ypres's Department of Tourism organizes an exhibition on the same topic in its Municipal Museum until 19 November 2006. Next in line, Jan De Graeve

showed us the first tome of a 60 % reduced edition of Prince Youssef Kamal's *Monumenta Cartographica Africæ et Ægypti*, 1926-51, six tomes in 16 volumes (not available on the market). This first tome covers pre-Ptolemaic maps.



Remaining in the same exotic atmosphere, where was Indiana Jones when Jan bought a small Jewel of the Nile stone, soon to be identified as the oldest map on earth? Thereafter, Lisette Danckaert presented Rear Admiral G. S. Ritchie's short autobiography *No Day Too Long: An Hydrographer's Tale* on his professional life — he was a career British naval officer and a hydrographic surveyor — and on his personal life. For burned-out map enthusiasts Wulf Bodenstein highly recommended *Le vacillement du monde*, a paperback written by Alain Nadaud on the life and works of Louis Legrand who produced an eighteenth century globe which we can now admire in the Municipal Library of

References of the books

*leper à la Carte - leperse vestingen in kaart gebracht*. By Ann Vanrolleghem. Ieper: Erfgoedcel Ieper, 2006. 256 pages. ISBN 9077025022. EUR 20.00. In Dutch only.

*No Day Too Long: An Hydrographer's Tale*. By Rear Admiral G. S. Ritchie. Durham: The Pentland Press, 1992. 250 + 16 pages, 35 b/w illustrations. ISBN 1-87279-563-3.

*Le vacillement du monde*. By Alain Nadaud. Arles: Actes Sud, 2006. 128 pages. 10 × 19 cm. ISBN 2-7427-5845-3. EUR 13.90.



Dijon.

Last but not least and almost forgotten, Eric Leenders, the BIMCC's freshly appointed Vice-President, illustrated with vigour the political character of maps when explaining two war maps (one by Matthäus Merian, father or son?) of the XVII Provinces: one with wars most of them waged by Louis XIV in the southern parts, and a second one with sea battles along the Flanders' coast.

This swinging map evening finished with more than one excellent glass of wine and tasty sandwiches graciously catered for by Dominique Bodenstein. Many thanks from all of us present!

Stanislas De Peuter



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

### News

#### Vienna Museum of Globes

After three years of refurbishment, the Museum of Globes has been reopened in the completely restored Palais Mollard in December 2005, a historical baroque building in the Herrengasse No 9. More than 400 globes and globe-artefacts are on display in eight exhibition rooms, including terrestrial, celestial, lunar, planetary and other globes. Interactive computer terminals invite the visitor to browse through documentation on the history of globe production, the accent being on globes dating from before 1850. One part of the exhibition area is reserved for the display of globes from private collections which are on permanent loan to the Museum. A particularly attractive feature is the digital facsimile of one of the most famous globes in the collection, the terrestrial globe of 1541 by Gerard Mercator. This virtual globe can be displayed on a screen by full rotation and zooming in on selected areas. It is the only Museum of its kind in the world, and has the second largest holding of globes. All explanations are in German and English.

Monday to Wednesday, Friday and Saturday: 10.00 - 14.00; Thursday 15.00 - 19.00. Tel +43 1/543 10 710. E-mail: [globen@onb.ac.at](mailto:globen@onb.ac.at). URI: <http://www.onb.ac.at/sammlungen/globen>. Visit also the Web site of the Vienna-based Coronelli Gesellschaft: <http://www.coronelli.org>, the only Society for the History of the Science of Globes.

Our thanks to Prof. Ingrid Kretschmer whose article in *Cartographica Helvetica* (33·2006) provided these details.

#### Reopening of the Gutenberg Museum

Gutenberg — a name linked forever with the introduction of printing with movable type which, the famous Bible apart —, left its mark on cartographic publications also. After a period of financial difficulties, this Museum is open to the public again in Freiburg in Switzerland, in a restored building of 1527, offering an exhibition area of over 1 000 m<sup>2</sup>. Multi-media presentations complement the live demonstrations of printing techniques and book binding.

Liebfrauplatz 16, 1702 Freiburg. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday: 11.00 - 18.00; Thursday: 11.00 - 20.00; Sunday: 10.00 - 17.00. Info from telephone +41 26 347 38 28.

E-mail: [info@gutenbergmuseum.ch](mailto:info@gutenbergmuseum.ch).

URI: <http://www.gutenbergmuseum.ch>

#### A new prime meridian for Europe?

On Saturday 1 April 2006, the *European Development and Forward-Thinking Team* (Euro-Daft), an independent body of consultants to the European Commission, presented its Spring bouquet of proposals for new global directives at a press conference held at the Hotel *Le Méridien* in the centre of Brussels. One of the ideas put forward is likely to cause a stir in cartographical circles. As the Manager of the Team, Dr Gonnar Täksemikki, pointed out, it was high time to pay tribute to the capital rôle Brussels had played in the past in Europe, and, indeed, continued to play, by documenting its leading position in geographical terms also. He proposed that in future all maps produced by the EU should have as prime meridian that of Brussels, instead of Greenwich. An interdisciplinary working group had been set up to decide on the exact value of latitude East of Greenwich to be adopted as 0° 0' 0". It was not clear at this moment whether the official Brussels meridian of 04° 21' 12" E was the one that passed through the Mayor's office in the Brussels Town Hall, the Royal Palace, or was perhaps that represented by the brass strip embedded in the tiled floor of the Saints-Michel and Gudule Cathedral. In case of doubt or conflict, Dr Täksemikki proposed to have the new meridian simply run through his office near the Berlaymont building.

The directive, if adopted, would be applicable in time for the celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty of Rome in 2007.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS AND EVENTS (CONT'D)

### Events

#### **Maps and history, by Jeremy Black (University of Exeter)**

##### **The Oxford Seminars in Cartography**

**18 May 2006**

**Oxford, UK**

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. URI: <http://www.ouce.ox.ac.uk/>

#### **Picturing France in the Fifteenth Century: a New (Old) Map**

**25 May 2006**

**London**

Warburg Lectures on Cartography

By Dr Camille Serchuk (Department of Art History, Southern Connecticut State University, USA)

At University of London, Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB, at 17:00. URI: <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))

#### **Visit to the Royal Geographical Society**

**9 June 2006**

**London**

Further details available from IMCoS Membership Secretary: Irina Kendix [memsec.imcos@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:memsec.imcos@tiscali.co.uk) or The IMCoS Administrative Office: [financialsecretariat@imcos.org](mailto:financialsecretariat@imcos.org)

#### **London Map Fair**

**9-10 June 2006**

**London**

The Conference Centre (Lower Ground Floor), Olympia 2, Hammersmith Road, Kensington, London W14 8UX, UK. URI: <http://www.londonmapfairs.com>  
E-mail: [info@londonmapfairs.com](mailto:info@londonmapfairs.com)

#### **TOSCA Field Trip to**

##### **Oxfordshire Record Office**

**15 June 2006, Oxford, UK**

Temple Cowley, 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/>

#### **The L'Enfant Plan: Idea to Landscape**

**21 September 2006**

**Washington, USA**

Mr Don Hawkins, architect and expert in eighteenth century geography of Washington, D.C. will present The L'Enfant Plan: Idea to Landscape. The thesis of this illustrated lecture is that the Federal City of Washington was designed by Pierre L'Enfant, not adapted from earlier city and garden designs by others.

Should anyone of you happen to be in the USA during this event, do not hesitate to contact our

Member Tom Sander who will be glad to guide you.

At 19.00. Reading Room, Geography and Map Division, B level, Library of Congress, Madison Building, 101 Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. For additional information concerning any of these events, contact William Stanley, tel. +1 301 953 7523.

URI: <http://home.earthlink.net/~docktor/wms-meet.htm>

#### **International Symposium - International Cartographic Association (ICA)**

**21-23 August 2006**

**Utrecht, The Netherlands**

The ICA Working Group on the History of Colonial Cartography in the nineteenth and early twentieth 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-eighteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries.

URI: <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).

#### **25th 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. E-mail: [borncafe@terra.com.gt](mailto:borncafe@terra.com.gt) or P.O. Box 1376, Guatemala City. More details in forthcoming Newsletters.

#### **22nd 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, 3084 Wabern. Fax +41 31 963 24 59.  
E-mail: [ok@ichc2007.ch](mailto:ok@ichc2007.ch), URI: <http://www.ichc2007.ch>

Note: the events are listed in chronological order (in case of a series of events, according to the first event in the series).



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS AND EVENTS (CONT'D)

### Exhibitions

#### **The legacy of the Netherlands, Indefinite exhibition**

##### **The Hague, The Netherlands**

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: 17.00 - 20.00, Sunday: 12.00 - 17.00. Telephone information 070 3140911 or 070 3315400.  
URI: <http://www.deverdiepingvannederland.nl/adres.html>

#### **West Meets East: Images of China and Japan, 1570 to 1920**

##### **10 February 2006 - 26 May 2006 Dunedin, New Zealand**

This exhibition presents a selected number of written and photographic accounts by European travellers to China and Japan. Notable items include John Ogilby's 1670 translation of *Atlas Japonensis* by Arnoldus Montanus, the earliest major work written on Japan, a coloured facsimile of Ortelius's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (1570), which contains one of the earliest maps of China and Japan, Thomas Allom's multi-volumed illustrated work on China, John Barrow's *China*, the first book with aquatints of that country, Jesuit-based works such as Trigault's letters (1639) and Kircher's important *China Monumentis* (1667), and John Thomson's superb photographic volumes (1873).

At the de Beer Galley, Special Collections, University of Otago Library, 65 Albany Street. 8.30 - 17.00. Monday to Friday. For further enquiries, contact Dr Donald Kerr. (e-mail: [donald.kerr@library.otago.ac.nz](mailto:donald.kerr@library.otago.ac.nz)) on tel. (03) 479 8330.  
URI: <http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/>

#### **First Sight: the Dutch Mapping of Australia 1606-1697**

##### **6 March 2006 - 4 June 2006 Sydney, Australia**

2006 is the four hundredth anniversary of the first documented sighting of Australia by Europeans. In March 1606, the Dutchman, Willem Janszoon, sailed down the west coast of Cape York as far as Cape Keerweer (turnabout) which he named. This was the first in a succession of Dutch voyages in the seventeenth century which would result in the charting of almost two thirds of the Australian coastline. These include the voyages of Dirk Hartog, 1616; Jan Carstenszoon, 1623; François Thijssen, 1627; Abel Tasman, 1642-44; and Willem de Vlamingh, 1696-97. Further charting of those coasts would not occur until James Cook charted the east coast in 1770.

At the State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney.  
URI: <http://www.atmitchell.com/journeys/history/exploration/>

#### **Europas Weltbild in alten Karten - Globalisierung im Zeitalter der Entdeckungen (Europe's vision of the world - Globalization in the age of discoveries)**

**19 February 2006 to 4 June 2006**

##### **Wolfenbüttel, Niedersachsen, Germany**

Exhibition of about 70 manuscripts, portolan charts, atlases and printed charts illustrating the age of the great explorers from Columbus to Captain Cook. A catalogue in German is available in the exhibition, EUR 30.00.

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

Admission: EUR 3.00. Information from tel. +49 5331 808214.  
URI: <http://www.hab.de/kalender/ausstellungen/index.htm>. For any questions please contact Christian Heitzmann, e-mail: [heitzmann@hab.de](mailto:heitzmann@hab.de)

#### **Kartographie der Tropen (Cartography of the Tropical World)**

**20 May 2006 - 27 August 2006**

##### **Berlin**

More than ten Institutions and Museums in Berlin contributed to mount this unique exhibition devoted to the spatial representation of the world between the Tropic of Cancer (23.5° N) and the Tropic of Capricorn (23.5° S), both as a cosmological vision of extra-European peoples and of their European counterpart, from antiquity to modern times. The confrontation of indigenous methods of measuring and representing the world known to them with the first cartographic records of European discoveries of tropical lands is a most captivating exercise. To illustrate this, portolans, early navigation instruments and charts of European explorers and colonialists will be on display next to 'maps' used by peoples of the Pacific and the Americas. (We hope to be able to report on this Expo in due course).

Ethnologisches Museum, Museen-Dahlem-Kunst und Kulturen der Welt, Lansstrasse 8, 14195 Berlin. Tuesday to Friday, 10.00-18.00, Saturday and Sunday 11.00-18.00. Admission EUR 6.00. A companion book in German (112 pages, 85 illustrations mostly in colour, will be available, ISBN 3-88609-531-2. Info from +49 30/83 01 438 231,  
URI: <http://www.smb.spk-berlin.de>.  
E-mail: [em@smb.spk-berlin.de](mailto:em@smb.spk-berlin.de)

#### **Maps of the White Mountains**

**25 April 2006 - August 2006**

##### **Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA**

31 maps, starting with the 1677 Foster map of New England and ending with Brad Washburn's 1988 map of the Presidential Range.

Open 9.00 - 17.00. Weekdays (closed weekends and university holidays). Gallery outside the Harvard Map Collection on the ground floor of Pusey Library at Harvard University.  
Tel. +1 617 495 2417. URI: <http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/hmc>

Note: the exhibitions are listed in chronological order, according to closing dates.

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E-mail: [sanderus@sanderusmaps.com](mailto:sanderus@sanderusmaps.com)

*(Continued from page 31)*

**100 treasures of  
the Royal Library of Belgium  
until 30 September 2006  
Brussels, Belgium**

Exhibition with cartographical objects such as Jacob van Deventer's City Atlas (sixteenth 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. Tel. +32 (0) 251 953 11, e-mail: [info175br.be](mailto:info175br.be)

**Corpus Christi collection  
17 November 2006 - 28 May 2007  
Rotterdam, The Netherlands**

The Maritime Museum acquired the 'Corpus Christi collection' also known as 'the School of Geography collection'. This collection consists of 20 Dutch VOC sea charts (13 on vellum) and 10 English sea charts, all dating from the seventeenth century. It is an amazing collection with for instance eight charts of Joan Blaeu and also some charts made by mapmakers in Batavia.

At the Maritime Museum, Leuvehaven 1, Rotterdam.  
URI: <http://www.maritiemmuseum.nl/>

**Paulus Swaen  
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Zwanenlaan 16  
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fax +49 89 26 90 88  
www.zisska.de  
auctions@zisska.de  
**16 - 21 October 2006**

### **Peter Kiefer Buch- und Kunstauktionen**

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75172 Pforzheim  
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fax +49 7231 92 32 16  
www.kiefer.de, info@kiefer.de  
**29 - 30 September 2006**

### **Paulus Swaen Internet Auctions (BIMCC Sponsor)**

tel. +33 (0)6 14 74 11 65  
or tel./fax +33 (0)1 44 24 85 80  
www.swaen.com  
paulus@swaen.com  
**16 - 26 September,  
18 - 28 November 2006**

### **Antoine Jacobs - Librairie des Eléphants**

(BIMCC Member)  
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1060 Brussels  
tel. +32 (0)2 539 06 01  
fax +32 (0)2 534 44 47  
**20 May, 17 June 2006**

### **Ketterer Kunst**

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tel. +49 40 374 96 10  
fax +49 40/374 96 166  
www.kettererkunst.de  
infohamburg@kettererkunst.de  
**22 - 23 May 2006**

### **Holger Christoph**

(BIMCC Sponsor)  
Kaiserstrasse 1a, 53115 Bonn  
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fax +49 (0)228 261 88 19  
www.antiquariat-christoph.com  
auktion@antiquariat-christoph.com  
**27 May 2006**

### **Bubb Kuyper**

Jansweg 39, 2011 KM Haarlem  
The Netherlands  
tel. +31 23 532 39 86  
fax +31 23 532 38 93  
www.bubbkuyper.com  
info@bubbkuyper.com  
**30 May - 2 June, 21-24 Nov. 2006**

### **Van Stockum's Veilingen**

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2512 EW 's-Gravenhage  
The Netherlands  
tel. +31 70 364 98 40/41  
fax +31 70 364 33 40  
www.vanstockums-veilingen.nl  
vanstockumsveilingen@planet.nl  
**7 - 9 June, 8 - 10 November 2006**

### **Librairie Alain Ferraton**

Chaussée de Charleroi 162  
1060 Brussels  
Tel. +32 (0)2 538 69 17  
Fax +32 (0)2 537 46 05  
www.ferraton.be  
alain.ferraton@skynet.be  
**10 June 2006**

### **Henri Godts**

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Avenue Louise 230/6  
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tel. +32 (0)2 647 85 48  
fax +32 (0)2 640 73 32  
www.godts.com  
books@godts.com  
**13 June, 10 October, 5 December  
2006**

### **The Romantic Agony**

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1060 Brussels  
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**16 - 17 June, 24 - 25 November  
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info@venator-hanstein.de  
**22 - 23 September 2006**

### **Marc van de Wiele**

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www.marcvandewiele.com  
**7 October 2006**

### **Sotheby's**

34-35 New Bond Street  
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catherine.slowther@sothebys.com  
or roger.griffith@sotheby's.com  
Sale of Lord Wardington's Library  
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**12 October 2006**

### **Galerie Gerda Bassenge**

Erdener Strasse 5a, 14193 Berlin  
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art@bassenge.com  
**11 - 14 October 2006**

### **Reiss & Sohn**

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tel +49 6174 92 720  
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reiss@reiss-sohn.de  
**23 - 28 October 2006**

### **Bernaerts Auctions**

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## BIMCC

### BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL MAP COLLECTORS' CIRCLE

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#### 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. Organize lectures on various aspects of historical cartography, on regions of cartographical interest, on documentation, paper conservation and related subjects
3. Organize visits to exhibitions, and to libraries and institutions holding important map and atlas collections.

In order to achieve these aims, the Circle organizes 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

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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 15th of the previous month for the next edition.

Signed articles and reviews solely reflect the opinions of the author.

**To be informed or reminded about BIMCC events send your e-mail address to [info@bimcc.org](mailto:info@bimcc.org)**

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