



**BIMCC  
Newsletter No 34  
May 2009**

**Web site: [www.bimcc.org](http://www.bimcc.org)**



**Symposium  
at the map museum  
in Bucharest**

**Also in this issue:**

- **North-West Canada as seen by Vandermaelen**
- **Maps of Malta (final part)**
- **Reports on recent cartographic events**
- **... and the usual departments**

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## EDITORIAL

Dear Map Friends,

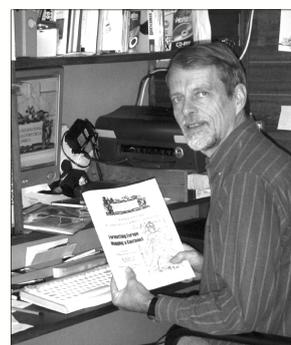
This Spring Newsletter brings us south again with the final part of the article on the maps of Malta by Dr Albert Ganado. But we are also looking in other directions. We head north-west, even to the extreme north, with the vision of Canada by a Belgian cartographer in the mid-nineteenth century. And, finally, we turn to the south-east, i.e. Romania, where the BIMCC Executive Committee was received in style at the National Museum of Maps and Old Books; this was a most interesting experience (a dream movie, according to Caroline De Candt!) and we strongly recommend a visit to that museum to all scholars and map lovers interested in south-east Europe.

Back home, we have the reports of our 2008 activities, of our statutory Annual General Meeting in early March, and of the very agreeable Map Evening that followed; plus a tentative programme of activities for the end of the year.

You will also find four new book reviews and the usual news & events and auction calendars.

Cartographically yours,

Jean-Louis Renteux  
Editor  
editor@bimcc.org



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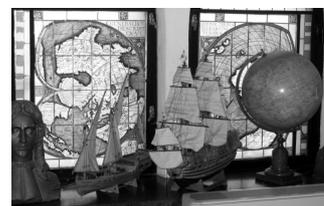
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Cover: The National Museum of Maps and Old Books (Muzeul National al Hartilor si Cartii Vechi) Str. Londra 39, Bucharest





**Seekarten der Nord- und Ostsee  
(Sea charts of the North Sea  
and of the Baltic Sea)  
by Michael Recke**

Companion book to an exhibition held at Oldenburg (Germany), 20 January – 7 March 2009;  
Zetel : Komregis Verlag, 2008. 144 pp., 70 colour and 87 b/w illustrations. 22.5 x 24 cm, softbound.  
ISBN 978-938501-30-6, EUR 24.00.  
To order : Komregis Verlag, Paulstr. 7a, D-26129 Oldenburg, Tel. +49-(0)441-570 01 69, www.komregis.de, www.oldmap.de

The major part of the 21 sea atlases and 66 sea charts described and illustrated here are from the author's own collection, and the accompanying text bears witness to an intimate knowledge of the history of these attractive charts of early navigation in northern waters. In the introduction Recke admits to having made a somewhat subjective selection of such charts from the last quarter of the 16<sup>th</sup> century well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, some fundamental criteria were observed: firstly, to geographically limit the selection to charts covering the region from the English Channel to the Gulf of Bothnia, secondly, to offer a representative choice of different chart makers, and lastly to strike a balance between charts that are pictorially attractive and those that are less so, but important historically or geographically. Understandably, the ones depicting the coasts of North Germany, with the estuaries of the Ems, Weser and Elbe, are given particular attention.

As can be expected, there is a predominance of charts of Dutch origin, and one is not surprised to see those by Lucas Jansz. Waghenaer, Blaeu, Van Loon, Colom, Goos, Doncker, de Wit, Mortier, van Keulen, up to Ottens with a nice plan of St. Petersburg of ca. 1750. Some of the more current British chart makers are also present, among whom Seller, Adair, Sayer, Faden, and Norie, in the company of the French Beautemps-Beaupré, Faure and, of course, the Dépôt de la Marine. Robert Dudley is a prominent 'Italian' representative here.

But for those wishing to become familiar with local maritime charting of these parts, there are some interesting German, Danish, Swedish and even Russian cartographers of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries to be discovered. Some of these, for example Hjorth, Kock, Jacob Schmidt, Schuback, Ström (or Strömcrona), Wohlers have only scant entries in the new Tooley's Dictionary of Mapmakers, whilst a certain Dirk Woortmann does not even figure there at all. Recke here breaks some new ground in presenting charts that are rarely exposed to a larger public.



In spite of its modest size, the attractive oblong format of the book offers good quality reproductions of these maps, many of them in excellent colour. The commentary not only summarizes the essential cartographic details of each chart (source, mapmaker, publisher and editorial history) but also fills us in on the events of the time, positioning the charts in the context of their origin and destination.

As there does not seem to be a rational line of progression for the sequence of charts presented, a listing by title or area would have been helpful. One might also regret the absence of translations of the chart titles of maps of Scandinavian or Russian origin, not necessarily comprehensible to even the more advanced readers of our Newsletter. But for those with a dedicated interest in this subject, this little book is a welcome guide for further exploration and research.

Wulf Bodenstein  
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## Four contributions on the History of Cartography by Christian Sandler (1858 – 1912)



### **Vol. 1: *Johann Baptista Homann (1664-1724) und seine Landkarten***

Johann Baptist Homann (1664-1724) and his maps,  
reprint 2001/2005 from the Journal *Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin*, 1886  
(70 pp., ISBN 978-3-936030-01-3, EUR 14.80 )

### **Vol. 2: *Matthäus Seutter (1678-1757) und seine Landkarten***

Matthäus Seutter (1678-1757) and his maps,  
reprint 2001/2006 from the Journal *Mitteilungen des Vereins für Erdkunde zu Leipzig*, 1894  
(48 pp., ISBN 978-3-936030-03-7, EUR 12.80)

### **Vol. 3: *Die Homannschen Erben (1724-1852) und ihre Landkarten***

The Homann Heirs (1724-1852) and their maps,  
reprint 2001/2006 from the Journal *Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Geographie*, 1890  
(70 pp., ISBN 978-3-936030-04-4, EUR 14.80)

### **Vol. 4: *Die Reformation der Kartographie um 1700***

The Reformation of Cartography around 1700,  
reprint 2003 from the original text published by R. Oldenbourg, Munich, 1905  
(102 pp., ISBN 978-3-936030-30-3, EUR 14.80)

Verlag Rockstuhl, Lange Brüdergasse 12, D-99947 Bad Langensalza (Germany), Tel +49-(0)3603-81 22 47,  
www.literaturversand.de, e-mail literaturversand@web.de

Christian Sandler has left his mark in the history of cartography, but is not considered a great map historian. In the second of the four volumes that represent the sum of Sandler's work editor Harald Rockstuhl sketches the biography of this curious 19<sup>th</sup> century personality. A descendant of a very prosperous Munich family of beer brewers he took to studying geography and related sciences at Munich, Leipzig and Berlin universities, travelled widely in Europe before concentrating on German cartography of the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

In the introduction to the companion book published for the remarkable Homann exhibition in Nuremberg seven years ago<sup>1</sup>, Markus Heinz referred to Sandler's monographs on Homann and Homann Heirs as a valuable first review of these firms' products and their influence on the advances of cartography in their time. Some criticism was raised, however, in respect of the cultural and economic aspects of map production which Sandler failed to develop. Heinz and his colleagues have, of course, filled us in on these points, as much as Michael Ritter, the specialist on Seutter, has updated Sandler's work on this mapmaker in articles that appeared previously<sup>2</sup> and in this companion book.

<sup>1</sup> *Auserlesene und allerneueste Landkarten – der Verlag Homann in Nürnberg 1702-1848* (Selected and up-to-date maps – the Homann publishing firm in Nürnberg 1702-1848), M. Diefenbacher, M. Heinz, R. Bach-Damaskinos (ed.), Stadtarchiv Nürnberg, 2002

<sup>2</sup> *Imago Mundi* Vol. 53 (2001) and *Cartographica Helvetica* 25 (2002)



Nevertheless, there is still a great deal of useful information contained in Sandler's monographs, and the fact that these reprints have gone into a second edition seems to confirm a certain relevance even today. The listings of maps, the analysis of their sources, comparisons with contemporary maps by other map makers, examination of prime meridians and of relative long./lat. errors of locations on related maps still make interesting reading. Even if such data compiled more than one hundred years ago have to be treated with some caution, Sandler's work represents a useful introduction to map production in Nuremberg and Augsburg in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The longest of Sandler's contributions, in Vol. 4, is arguably the most readable to this day. Starting from the *lacunes* of cartographic concepts prior to Delisle, progressively corrected as of the creation of the 'Académie Royale des Sciences' in 1666, Sandler pays tribute to the main actors of the reformation of cartography, the Cassinis, Picard, La Hire, before underlining Delisle's singular achievements. When reading such topical issues as 'cartography and politics' that he develops among many others, one might wish to see a proper discussion taking place of the findings and theories of a historian of a hundred years ago with a message.

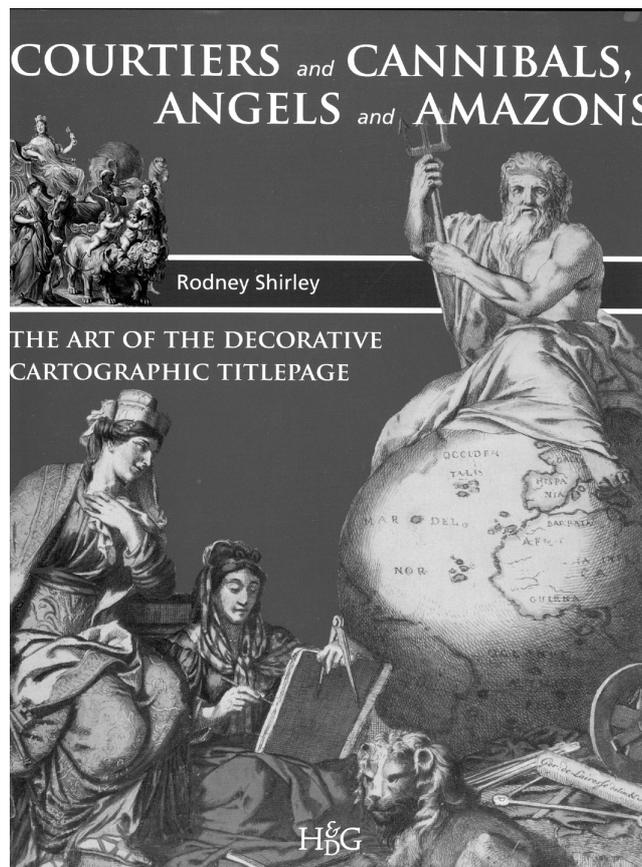
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### LOOKS AT BOOKS III

## Courtiers and Cannibals, Angels and Amazons The art of the decorative cartographic titlepage By Rodney Shirley

Houten : HES & De Graaf Publishers, 2009. 272 pp., 180 ill. of which 115 in full colour, clothbound with colour dust jacket, 29 x 24.5 cm.  
ISBN 978 906194 060 9, EUR 59.50.  
To order : HES & De Graaf Publishers BV, P O Box 540, 3990 GH Houten , The Netherlands, Fax +31-(0)30-638 00 99,  
info@hesdegraaf.com, www.hesdegraaf.com

For many of the collectors among us the prime value of an ancient map – leaving aside its physical condition – resides, it seems to me, in two inherent qualities: its rarity and its artistic appeal. This latter attribute has been the subject of some rather hesitant research up till now, but it constituted the basic motivation for the publication of an abundant, often lavishly produced and generally enthusiastically received corpus of map reproductions and facsimiles with which we are all familiar by now. Although some titlepages of atlases invariably turn up in these, they do not seem to have attracted much attention there, nor in the few publications



devoted to 'maps and art'<sup>1</sup>. On going through my own reference documentation again, I realize that titlepages have not been neglected altogether in the recent past. But they were treated rather as accessories to the all-important map content of atlases<sup>2</sup>.

Those who are receptive to the aesthetic dimension of old maps cannot escape the magic charm and appeal of the decorative titlepages and frontispieces presented in this book. We may have got lost at times in poring over the obscure meaning of the one or other detail in a cartouche on our map — here we are faced with a host of coded patterns of theatrical design, with allegorical complexities

<sup>1</sup> Three works come to mind : Traudl Seifert, *Die Karte als Kunstwerk*, Staatsbibliothek Munich, 1979, with only 3 atlas title pages in b/w. - David Woodward, *Art and Cartography*, Chicago University Press, 1987, with six essays well worth reading. - J.F. Heijbroeck (ed.) et al., *Kunst in kaart*, HES Uitgevers, Utrecht, 1989, which shows 11 titlepages (in b/w) of which only two from atlases.

<sup>2</sup> More than 250 can be found illustrated in the eight volumes of Schilder's *Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica*. Peter van der Krogt's new 3-volume (so far) edition of Koeman's *Atlantes Neerlandici* shows a good sample of some 250 figures too, with, in addition, their measurements and occurrences in atlases for many of these. But all are in b/w, and they are often of small format and in letter press only.



and intriguing enigmatic cues that capture the imagination. It does come as a bit of a shock when one realizes that these illustrations, many of which are true works of art, have escaped our full attention for so long.

By way of initiation, Rodney Shirley takes us step by step through the history and development of the ornamental cartographic titlepage, from the later 15<sup>th</sup> century to the 1870s, and he does this under six main headings : classical mythology, Christian theology, Renaissance art forms, allegories, images and emblems, symbols of power, and science, discovery and exploration. At the issue of this basic and most instructive lesson one is well armed to explore the one hundred title pages and frontispieces and 70 supplementary figures that are then presented in chronological order.

Regarding the choice of titlepages and frontispieces, Shirley tells us that, obviously, a selection had to be made from this vast field of documentation. As a corollary to cartographic subjects, he quite appropriately included examples from publications of associated disciplines such as astronomy, travel and exploration. The majority of cartographic titlepages, however, come from atlases published in the Netherlands, closely followed by those of German and British origin. In some instances the importance and variety of such plates produced in a given mapmaker's firm has led to multiple entries, but no one will quarrel with the author for having included four Merians and seven Blaeus, for example. The remaining items bear witness to an almost unfathomable variety in this field.

We start with an Italian Bible frontispiece of 1471, visit von Breydenbach, Schedel, Strabo and, after Münster's *Cosmographie*, move to the 'real' atlases of Ortelius, Braun and Hogenberg and some of their contemporaries of the later 16<sup>th</sup> century, before embarking on the quite spectacular 17<sup>th</sup> century that provides almost half of all the entries. From the beginnings of the Baroque Shirley takes us to the Age of Enlightenment, and then traces out a gentle

transition from the bold symbolism of Châtelain, Van der Aa, an attractive Santini and the famous Cassini to the delicate modern designs of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with Levasseur, Colton and a more factual Montague Hozier who, at the end of this astonishing compendium, presents a martial title page of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 - 71.

The range of individuals inhabiting these pages obviously goes well beyond the four species of the book's title, although they could be meant to represent the angular extremities of early icon imagery. You will find classical cosmographers from Ptolemy to Münster, astronomers from Copernicus to Halley, most of the reigning figures of those four hundred years, and their acolytes. Portraits of important mapmakers who served them are there to depict the world in allegories of temporal and spiritual power, and these are among the most fascinating of the historical subjects. The personified representation of the four continents seen in the atlases that progressively opened up these parts to the Europeans with their maps is particularly arresting.

A double page is devoted to each entry, with the commentary at left and the titlepage, usually in large format and in colour, on the right. Additional smaller illustrations are occasionally interspersed on either page to illustrate variants of the primary titlepage. The quality of the reproductions is such that even the smaller print is readable, obviating the need for laborious transcriptions. Apart from providing an abbreviated publication history of the works these titlepages illustrate, Shirley decodes the allegoric imagery and mythological allusions in comprehensible terms, avoiding unnecessary verbosity of classical erudition. The result is a well-balanced combination of entertaining text with most attractive illustrations.

Shirley here pays homage to an art form not widely acknowledged as yet. His book is a regal feast for the mind and the eye.

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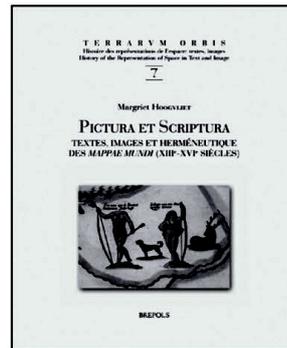
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Margriet Hoogvliet

## Pictura et Scriptura

Textes, images et  
herméneutique  
des *mappae mundi*  
(XIII<sup>e</sup> – XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle)

391 p., 21 b/w ills., 12 colour ills., 210 x 270 mm,  
2007, HB, ISBN 978-2-503-52065-0,

€ 80 (prix hors taxe et frais de port)

Collection: *Terrarum orbis*, vol. 7

Cet ouvrage a pour but de montrer la survivance des idées médiévales dans la cartographie du XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle, sous plusieurs aspects originaux. L'étude procède non seulement à partir du genre médiéval des *mappae mundi*, mais encore des textes de géographie descriptive.

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## Testarossa

### Facsimile reprint of an Instruction Book for Navigation by Battista Testarossa

Facsimile reprint of the original edition from 1557 in the archives of the Royal Geographical Society in London, published by Rediscovery Books Ltd, with a 20 page technical commentary by Richard Pflederer and a foreword by Francis Herbert, January 2007.

45 (double) pages. This edition of Testarossa is in a Paperback format.

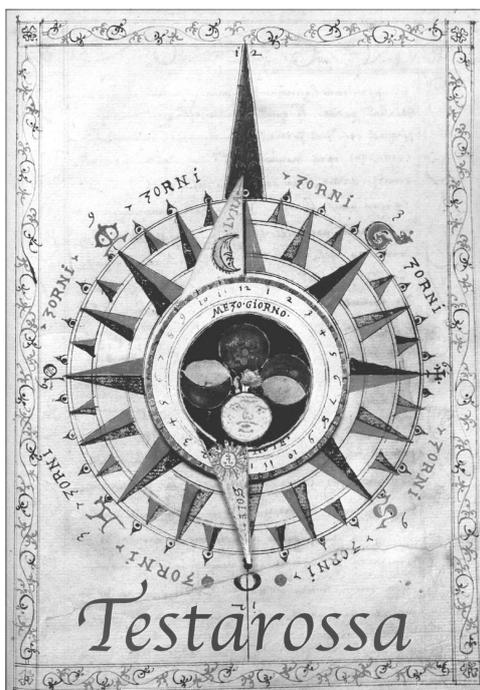
The 10 digit ISBN is 1905748582 and the 13 digit ISBN is 9781905748587.

The soft-cover edition is available at GBP 20.00 (instead of the regular GBP 38.00); a hardcover edition is also available at GBP 58.00.

As one out of four red-headed children in our family, it feels a bit special to review a book written by Testarossa, obviously a Redhead, who lived in the sixteenth century. Reviewing such a book does not seem to make much sense in itself, as it was published a very long time ago, indeed. Francis Herbert explains in his Foreword, how the facsimile-scanned copy came into existence from the original manuscript copy, published in 1557 and held in the archives of the Royal Geographical Society in London since 1904.

When we then see that the current facsimile-issue contains a technical commentary by Richard Pflederer, an American businessman, who lived abroad for a large part of his active life, one starts to wonder what one is getting into. However, when one realises that this gentleman has probably looked at more portolan charts than most academics in the field and has published a number of catalogues in this area (Portolan Charts and Atlases of the Bodleian Library, of the Huntington Library, of the Newberry Library, of the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich to name a few), it becomes intriguing to look closer at the Batista Testarossa re-issue, as published by Rediscovery Books Ltd.

The original book contains a true-north oriented portolan chart of the Mediterranean Sea with a (not usually available) latitude scale; its description by Pflederer is testimony of the many portolan charts seen by him. The atlas is basically an instruction book for navigation and discusses all items to be expected, ranging from the wind rose to the problems of longitude determination and the theoretical solution by measuring lunar eclipses, a method which did not



become practical until much later in the eighteenth century. A glossary of terms defines the meaning of expressions used. The standard tables for the sun's declination, the use of the Polar star for latitude determination, including its corrections, are all there, as is a table with latitudes for selected ports and the distance and courses between them. A perpetual calendar for 4 years (including a leap year) is there for 1557 till 1576 (Pflederer states 1557 till 1596, using the additional 19 years for the inner circle of the 'Rota Perpetua').

The technical commentary (in both English and Italian) is sound and gives a wealth of information for those, with an interest in navigation and unable to read the Italian text of the time. The text on development of

navigation techniques in the period helps to put the atlas into perspective and contributes to our admiration for the sixteenth century author, who was obviously well versed in the matter and has written it down in a beautiful manuscript, each page decorated with an intricate border.

We must be grateful to the Royal Geographical Society and Rediscovery Books Ltd. for managing to make this atlas accessible in the current form. Quality and clarity of the reproduction do both institutions proud and I have no hesitation in recommending it to the interested reader.

Hans Kok  
hanskok@introweb.nl



This Newsletter was edited by Jean-Louis Renteux with the support of the editorial committee comprising Wulf Bodenstern, Lisette Danckaert, Peter Galezowski, Pierre Parmentier and Jacqueline Renteux.



## **SIC ITUR AD ASTRA<sup>1</sup>—Voyage to the Romanian heaven** *A short report of the visit of the BIMCC to the National Museum of Maps and Old Books, Bucharest, Romania, spring 2009*

by Caroline De Candt  
caroline.de.candt@skynet.be



### **Disney Movie**

In the world I live in, you don't get invited by a foreign government to kindly come to its capital for the sole purpose of discussing your favourite topic: ancient maps. You don't get hosted by this government – along with nine equally flabbergasted colleagues from your association – in a truly remarkable building, set in a nice park and in a neighbourhood that boasts an amazing number of beautiful buildings. You don't get welcomed by a former Prime Minister. You don't see a whole museum dedicated to ancient maps. You aren't taken to dinner after dinner, driven around by your own chauffeur, not worried by such trivialities as transport or parking problems. You aren't shown a most interesting castle in the mountains and served dinner at the villa of a former notorious president, where prestigious guests like Khrushchev were once received. You aren't loaded with presents. And you certainly aren't then *thanked* for your presence!

In my world, this only happens in Disney movies.  
So, dear reader, what follows now is the script of:

### **Bucharest, the movie**

*All characters appearing in this work are fictitious. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.  
No animals were harmed in the making of this film.*

### **Scene 1: The Welcome**

We are in Londra Street, in a residential area of town, in a pleasant pre-war villa that today is home to the Romanian National Museum of Maps and Old Books. The building and its contents were given a very accurate and curiosity-raising description in the BIMCC Newsletter No 31<sup>2</sup>, by our member Anton Comanescu. In fact, Anton is the organiser of the whole event and proves to be omnipresent, polyglot and multi-competent. And probably insomniac, I suspect. I don't see how otherwise he could do all the things he talks about, knows about and has read about...

Ten BIMCC members (president Eric Leenders, honorary president Wulf Bodenstein, Newsletter editor Jean-Louis Renteux and his wife Jacqueline, scientific advisor Lisette Danckaert, KBR map curator Wouter Bracke, Lydia Cordon, Jan De Graeve, IMCoS chairman Hans Kok and your scribe) take in the surroundings and the first maps, while sipping coffee.

All of a sudden, some commotion at the entrance:  
Adrian Năstase, former Prime Minister has arrived.



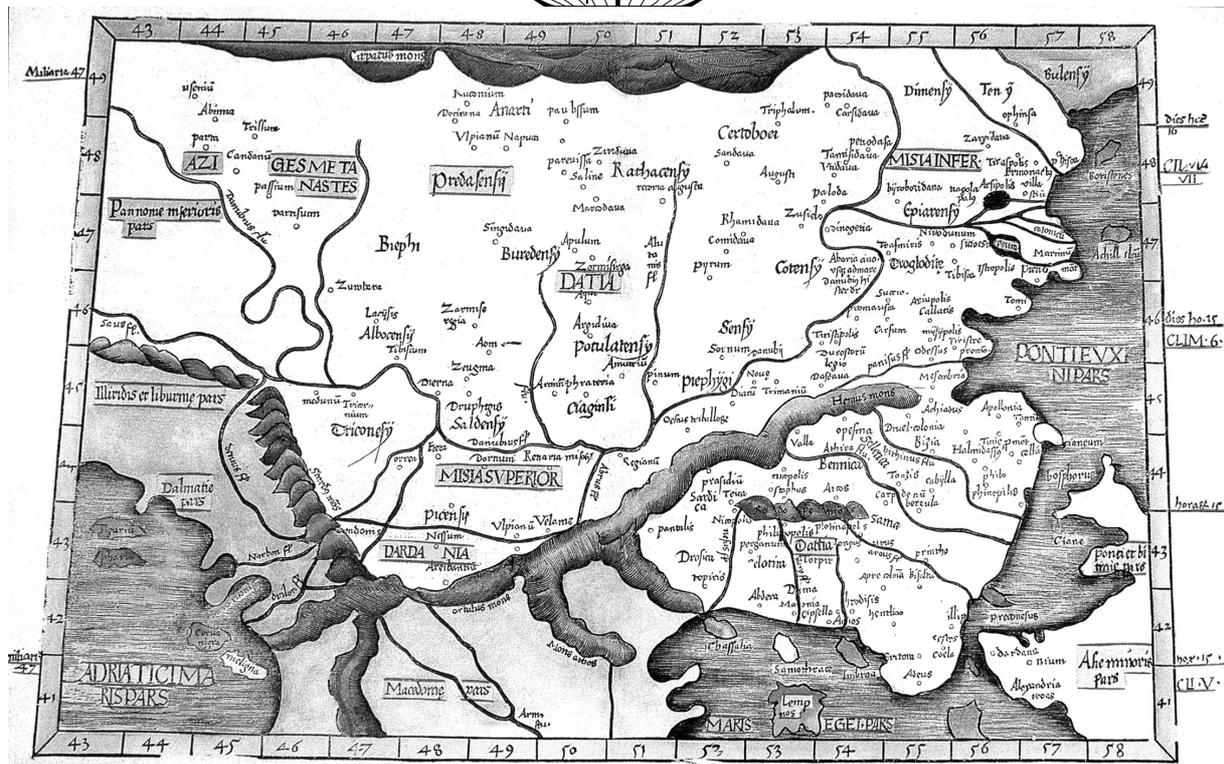
Adrian Năstase receives 'The ancient maps of Brussels' from BIMCC President Eric Leenders.

He is, among many other things, a keen collector of old maps and the founder of the Museum. Adrian Năstase welcomes us to Romania and to 'his' museum, depicting how he acquired and then donated the maps that now form the collection of the museum.

He has collected maps for more than 30 years. As Eastern Europe was a less sought-after region in cartophilic circles, during his whole career, he succeeded in buying maps of Romania and the surrounding re-

<sup>1</sup> In case you're wondering, the museum's motto means: 'This is the way to the stars'

<sup>2</sup> The National Museum of Maps and Old Books (Muzeul National al Hartilor si Cartii Vechi) is located at Str. Londra 39, Bucharest, Romania, Tel. +40-21-230 44 68, Fax +40-21-230 52 84, Email: muzeulhartilor@artelecom.net or info@muzeulnationalalhartilor.com, Open: Wed. – Sun. 10:00 – 18:00; closed Mon. & Tue.  
The web site [www.muzeulnationalalhartilor.com](http://www.muzeulnationalalhartilor.com) offers the possibility to view a nice sample of the museum's collections.



Map of Dacia by Lorenz Fries, Vienna, 1541

gions at reasonable prices. In 1989, after the fall of the former regime, many things of value left the country, but in 2003 Adrian Năstase decided to do just the opposite and to donate his collection to the state. Others followed, among them some banks.

Octavian Ion Penda, an accomplished artist, was put in charge of the museum and provided a nice setting enriched with his sculptures, stained glass windows and engravings.

Of course, the museum faced and still faces many challenges. After all, Romania does not have a cartographic tradition; there have been few Romanian mapmakers. So they had to start from scratch.

At first, the identification of the maps was of course a major problem and still is. Finding sources that could provide information wasn't easy. Old books were consulted to find travel diaries offering some clues etc.

Then there is the question of the structure of the museum: how do you display around one thousand maps? The aim was to show the public the different visions that existed on the territory of Romania, through the centuries. Not an easy task, when you're talking about a country with such a complex history, as we would soon learn, during our visit.

Adrian Năstase hopes that, in the future, schools will increasingly find their way to the museum and that a further upgrading will be possible. The location of the museum however, in a residential area of town is, in his opinion, a disadvantage.

Anyway, Octavian Penda and his staff will have to continue the work that has been started. Already, an Atlas has been published, *Descriptio Romaniae*, with the most important maps of the museum's collection. It is the first of seven volumes to be published.<sup>3</sup>

Finally, Adrian Năstase expresses the wish and hope that we from the BIMCC will be able to lend a helping hand in further cataloguing the maps and developing the museum.

Our president thanks Adrian Năstase for the generous reception of our group and hands over a book we brought and hope he will enjoy.

After this little *cérémonie protocolaire*, Adrian Năstase leaves, recommending us to the good services of Octavian Penda and his staff. These will prove to be prophetic words...

## Scene 2: The Visit

We are shown round the museum by Octavian Penda and his staff. The visit starts downstairs, with the oldest maps. As the more than 800 maps on display are arranged in chronological order, we will end on the third floor of the museum with the most recent ones.

Throughout the museum, one can admire the beautiful stained glass windows and painted ceilings that refer to the museum's content and add an undeniable charm to the place.

In the first room, a large globe welcomes the visitor. It was a gift by French President François Mitterrand, when he was on an official visit to Romania. Apparently, Mitterrand sometimes donated this kind of globes to foreign heads of state. He had them made especially, since 1985, by a little French company, in the way ancient globes were made (the cartouche gives all the details). So there is only a limited number in existence and it is most fitting that one of them finds its place in this particular museum. Octavian Penda, eyes glistening with pleasure, recalls the official

<sup>3</sup> The reader can find a detailed comment on this book by Wulf Bodenstein in our Newsletter No 31



Globe offered by President Mitterrand

reception that was given at the museum and on which occasion the globe was to be displayed. But pre-war villas were not exactly designed to accommodate giant globes whether you try to squeeze them in through the doors or the windows... So an hour before the reception, Romanian ingenuity<sup>4</sup> found the solution by cutting out the central pillar in a window, thus creating a larger opening. In went the globe: a most symbolic event, I think, 'letting the world in' quite literally.

The ground floor starts with the Roman era and *Dacia*, as the Romans called this part of the world. The idea here is to explain how 'Romania' was born and how it got its name. The amount and quality of maps is stunning: woodcuts by Munster and Fries, copper engravings by Ortelius and a series of etchings, depicting the Roman-Dacian wars from Trajan's column: the 'birth certificate of the Romanian people'.

Other topics, like the course of the Danube and the Ottoman Empire follow, all illustrated with truly superb maps.

We climb the stairs, adorned with prints of costumes and coronation parades.

The first floor is mainly dedicated to the three regions that form Romania today: Walachia, Moldavia and Transylvania. All three have a hugely complicated history, at the cross-roads of three empires, changing ruler regularly, as our guides tried to explain. Frankly, it was all a bit too complicated for me to repeat here and by the slightly bewildered looks on the faces of my colleagues I can imagine they pretty much feel the same: 'so you thought *Belgium* had a complicated history?' The maps, again, are splendid. As Transylvania belonged to the Austro-Hungarian empire for a long period, it was more often 'put on the map', since the empire had a bigger tradition of mapmaking. Thus, the first map printed in Romania was a map of Walachia, but a copy of an Austrian one.

Our guides point out some maps of the Black Sea featuring the *Serpilor Island* (the so-called Serpent Island). In February, the International Court of Justice in The Hague decided the surrounding continental platform belonged to Romania, after a law suit with Ukraine. The case was very prominent in the press and public opinion, so the maps which served as evidence were closely studied to observe the subject of all the commotion.

On our further walk through the museum, we see *vedute*, *Théâtres de la guerre* and finally a whole section on Bucharest. It takes us the rest of the morning to explore it all.

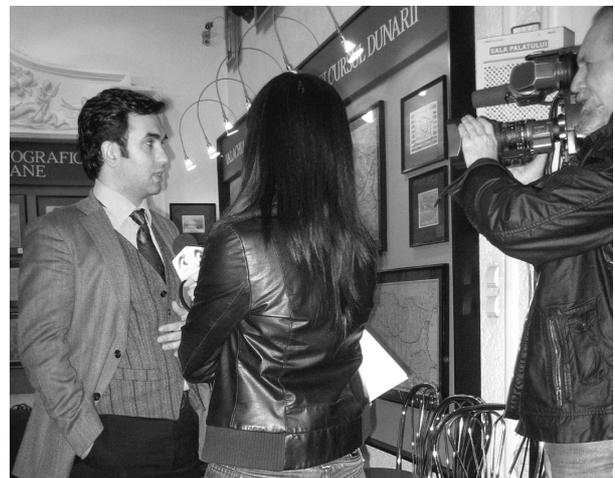
By the look on the face of my colleagues, I can see that they are as impressed as I am.

And it's not over yet. We all get presented with a copy of the 'catalogue' that was mentioned before: the *Descriptio Romaniae*.

Our Romanian hosts already have some cars waiting to take us to a nice restaurant near a lake, where an equally nice meal (with some toasts - and I don't mean the bread!) is waiting for us.

### Scene 3: The symposium

During lunch, some of us innocently asked our Romanian hosts if there were any antiquarian shops in Bucharest. Promptly, our hosts started to discuss the matter and before we head back to the museum, we are indeed taken to a large bookshop in the city centre. There are books on many subjects and in many languages and there is also an antiquarian section with small antique objects and... maps. Of course, we are only too happy to browse and time flies.



Anton Comanescu presents the symposium on TV

Back at the museum, it is time to start the symposium proper. After giving an interview on the Romanian television, Anton coordinates the afternoon and manages to get all the topics treated within a reasonable time, with the help of a very efficient interpreter (see insert).

<sup>4</sup> We would learn on several occasions during our visit that, whenever some practical problem was emerging, our Romanian friends (particularly young Octavian and Roxana) found an 'on the spot' solution, thus producing cars, drivers, food, drinks with an amazing ease...



## ***The many shapes of Europe reflected in early maps***

### **International Symposium on the History of Cartography**

**National Museum of Maps and Old Books**

**Bucharest, 20 March 2009**

### **Summary of presentations**

#### **1. Wulf Bodenstein: *Some aspects of regional French mapping on the example of 'La Beauce'***

La Beauce is a region in France that is not clearly defined by borders. It doesn't form a political, administrative or judicial entity. It used to be the granary of Paris, but as it is flat and without natural borders/defences houses and churches were built as fortified places.

The concept of a 'region' has varied through the centuries and doesn't always cover the same territory either, Wulf showed us.

Although still today the name 'La Beauce' is a common notion, Wulf had a hard time trying to find maps mentioning it. Still, he showed us a number of interesting examples.

One thing was clear from his study: apparently, 'regional' cartography has never been big in France. I wonder if this is just another example of the fact that France has always been well known (some would even say notorious) for its strong centralisation, ever since the dynasty of the Valois kings ascended the throne...

#### **2. Ion Ciortan: *Romanian history reflected in old maps***

Mr. Ciortan started by recalling the important role of the Arabs in the transfer of Antique knowledge to the western world. They had fine cartographers and geographers, whose job it was to map the newly conquered territories. These translated Ptolemy and also invented a lot of nautical instruments.

Two of the most important were the well-known Al Idrissi and the lesser known Abu el Feda. The Romanian Academy possesses one map and one atlas of Arab making, with hand coloured and manuscript maps that show Romanian territory. These documents still are something of an enigma as far as their dating or their source is concerned. Certainly a most interesting subject for further study.

#### **3. Jan De Graeve: *From Lapland to the Black Sea, the measure of the Struve geodetic arc***

The observant reader of our Newsletter will know that in Newsletter No 26 there was an article on this topic. So here I will only give a brief account.

The Struve meridian arc stretches from Norway to the Black Sea (over 2821 km) and thus very nearly reaches Romania. Jan first explained how, through history, on many occasions meridians were measured. It took Friedrich Struve (1793-1864) and his collaborators 45 years to establish a framework of triangles that form a basic network for measuring this meridian, on behalf of Sweden/Norway and Russia. The work was used to research the shape of the earth. In the ten countries it covers, many of its points are still used as national geodetic points.

In July 2005 the meridian was incorporated in the World Heritage List by UNESCO, through the efforts of Jan and some of his colleagues. In the future, they hope to cooperate with eleven African countries to extend this to the 30<sup>th</sup> Meridian of Africa and the connection between both meridians. During the symposium, Jan established contact with Romanian geodetic experts who could help clarify this connection.



Anton Comanescu listening to Jan De Graeve

#### **4. Hans Kok: *Dutch sea charts of the European coast***

The users of Dutch sea charts (or portolans, as they are often called), were numerous. From 1602 until 1798 the VOC, the *Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie*, was the most important user.

These sea charts took different forms in the course of history. They started as 'rutters', being 'reading maps': you literally had to read the description of the coasts you were sailing, to find your way around. Then came the coastal charts that, as the word says, focused on what you could observe along the coastline. These were called 'waggoners', after Waghenaer, their Dutch 'inventor' (1584). True sea charts came later, followed by whole atlases of them.

Sea charts were indispensable when the coast was nowhere in sight. And as the Dutch were sailing everywhere around the globe, they needed charts for all wind directions.

Hans showed us charts that were breathtakingly beautiful and brought the session to an end in the best possible way.



As our schedule was rather full this afternoon, Octavian Penda decided to drop his lecture and instead offer us something different of his own making: a beautiful engraving, clearly inspired by the maps he's in charge of. It is lovely and a clear confirmation of his artistic skill. We are happy to present him and Anton with some books we brought, as a token of our gratitude and friendship.

#### Scene 4: The 'Small' Dinner

By now, we're all rather tired and wanting a short rest. We are taken to our hotel to freshen up for what was announced as 'a small, informal dinner in town.'

Informal it is, in a cute place in town indeed, but it is anything but small. Unless you consider as 'small' about half a kilo of roasted meat per person, with fries and salad, followed by dessert, of course, and washed down with beer and wine. In short: we all eat and drink too much, but nevertheless feel great. Conversation varies from topics such as Romanian wine to Romanian politics and the economy. Noroc<sup>5</sup>!



Lydia Cordon and Caroline De Candt take a close look at maps in Cornu



Carol I, in front of Peles castle in Sinaia.

Charles of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen became the first king of newly independent Romania in 1881. He began the construction of this summer residence in 1883, inspired by German architecture; a passionate collector, he turned this palace into a real museum of arms, furniture and decorative arts in general.

Photos: J.L. Renteux

#### Bucharest, The Sequel

Dear reader, let's just add here that the following day our hosts took us on a wonderful tour in the Prahova valley, some 150 km out of Bucharest. After a visit to the charming 'daughter museum of maps', in the small city of Cornu on the edge of the Carpathians, we were given an insider view of the Disney-like Peles castle, built in Sinaia by Carol I, first king of Romania, we ate (and drank!) even more in the nearby skiing resort of Busteni where we received another of Octavian Penda's lovely engravings and we ended up in the middle of the woods, in Snagov palace, one of Ceausescu's former residences, where we had a splendid dinner at the table where Khrushchev and other 'mapmakers' (but in a completely different sense) were once seated...

Noroc (bis)!



Octavian Penda welcomes Jan De Graeve, Wouter Bracke, Wulf Bodenstein and Hans Kok in Snagov Palace

<sup>5</sup> In case – again – you're wondering: Cheers!



## North-West Canada as seen by Vandermaelen



by Lisette Danckaert

Some of the maps of the North Pole displayed during the 6<sup>th</sup> BIMCC Study Session on 13 December 2008 emphasized the already long-established interest in the finding of the northern passages to East and West, which were of crucial importance for navigation. Exploration brought worthwhile knowledge about the inhospitable countries visited by bold sailors, but many regions were still unapproachable. For instance, if the Atlantic coast of Canada and the eastern part of the country (Quebec, Ontario, even Labrador) were reasonably well known, the north-western part remained terra incognita until well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Factories were established along Hudson Bay for the trade in pelt, and later deeper inland. The information brought by 'coureurs des bois', the name given to hunters and trappers, was often vague and contradictory, even sometimes wilfully wrong to prevent encroachment upon their hunting grounds. Indeed, naval, military and civil explorers penetrated deeper into the country. A number of forts were built on lakes and rivers, often at a junction, as a result of reconnaissance which led to surveys. Gaps were gradually filled but many corrections were necessary before maps could be trusted.



A good example of this evolution is shown by a large world map by Vandermaelen. A *Mappemonde en huit feuilles*, at ca 1/19 000 000, was published by the *Etablissement géographique de Bruxelles* in three different states<sup>1</sup>. As usual, there is no printed date, although a fort, abandoned in 1825, can be pinpointed in North Somerset, *Nouveau Somerset* on the third state, an island that is partly confused with the subsequently discovered Prince of Wales and Victoria Islands. So the map must have been drawn a few years

later, bearing in mind the delay in transmitting information to Europe. To obtain a more reliable date, it is thus necessary to look at the whole map to trace the progress of knowledge consecutive to exploration during the period, in Canada as well as in Australia, together with more well known elements in Europe.

For instance, on the first state the Netherlands and the future Belgium are still united and Poland is free. 1830 thus looks like a good starting point. The second state greatly resembles the first one, is probably from between 1830 and 1836 and can be omitted for the purpose of a quick comparison, all the more so as the eight sheets have been assembled to cover a surface of over two and a half square meters, making perusal rather difficult.

The third and last state, which shows some slight signs of wear in the script, can be dated rather accurately: later than 1841 and probably earlier than the end of 1843, because neither the discoveries by Ross<sup>2</sup> in Antarctica in 1843 nor the contours of Victoria Island, spotted in 1842, feature on it.

The two maps have not yet been properly catalogued; they have an acquisition number: III 3961 to 3968 for the first state, III 8542 for all the sheets of state 3. They are stored amongst other world maps in portfolios labelled respectively V Mappemonde 1830-40 (where the second state is also kept) and V Mappemonde 1850. There is another map on the same scale, also edited by Vandermaelen but much more roughly drawn, which doesn't give enough information.

As north-western Canada is the subject of this short note, only the two upper-left sheets of the chosen states (1 and 3) of the *Mappemonde en huit feuilles* bearing the title *Hémisphère occidental* will be discussed, as map 1 or 2 (their northern part is reproduced in colour on the centrefold). The older one is mounted on linen; the oceans of the later one have been coloured in green. Both have a coloured borderline for the state limits with a tiny mistake for the Pacific coast and islands, where green was used for the Russian possessions instead of blue as for Alaska or *Amérique russe*. The US would buy this territory in 1865, the conventional frontier with Canada established in 1825 remaining unchanged.

The Beaufort Sea with the Amundsen Gulf, unnamed on map 1, are called *Mer Polaire* on map 2, extending to the *Golfe du Couronnement de*

<sup>1</sup> A first paper on this Mappemonde and other maps edited by Vandermaelen was presented at the Eleventh International Conference on the History of Cartography in Ottawa in July 1985 under the title *L'exploration du Canada et les mappemondes belges du XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle*.

<sup>2</sup> Sir James Ross (1800-1862), nephew of Captain Sir John Ross (1777-1856) with whom he explored the North, located the magnetic north pole on Boothia. He also cruised in Antarctica where he discovered the volcano Erebus in 1843.



*Georges IV*. The continental coast differs considerably, being partly straighter and unfinished on map 1, while several named bays are added on the later one (Smith, Harrison, Colville, Beaufort Bays), together with coastal ranges from Alaska to the Mackenzie River. These are called Pelly, Romanzoff, Sedwich, Fitton Mountains but bear other names in the Times Atlas (1989 and 2001-02 editions), where they are situated a little farther away from the sea. *Géorgie occid[enta]le* is printed on the two maps, the word *Esquimaux* in bold letters having been added here on the second one. This ethnological information is repeated several times further to the east on both states and the names of Indian tribes are scattered all over North America.

Further east of the *Terre de Wollaston* there is a major difference between the two maps. An arc of a circle in a dotted line has been replaced by an indented coastline from the Coronation Gulf and the Great Bay to the *Presqu'île Melville* (not to be mixed up with Melville Island!) along which the River Large, the *Monts de la Reine Adélaïde* and *Pointe Bowles* have been discovered. Just west of this Cape Bowles lies the mouth of the *Rivière aux Poissons*, a 530-mile long river recently descended by an explorer coming from the Great Slave Lake. On the opposite side of the straits are the very short, badly defined shoreline of *Terre Victoria*, the *Terre du roi Guillaume* (King William Land) and Boothia Felix, erroneously thought to be the southern part of *Nouveau Somerset*. And yet, on map 2, there is an *Isthme de Boothia* that might be the missing narrow passage between Boothia, a peninsula partly discovered by Sir John Ross<sup>3</sup> in 1829, separated from Somerset Island, the south of which is still unknown on map 2 and gets confused with the much bigger Victoria Island. Several of the discovered lands were named after members of the royal family, others after the discoverers. On Boothia, James Ross located the north magnetic pole on 1 June 1831.

The still little-known *Passe du Prince Régent* on map 1 becomes the *Détroit*, the name engraved further north, an extension of the *Détroit de Barrow*, now Lancaster Sound between Devon and Cumberland (now Baffin) Islands. The coast of several islands, the largest being Devon at about 75° N, is shown, the name *Iles de la Géorgie septentrionale* being added on map 2 above the completed Melville Island, one of the islands discovered by Sir William Parry (1790-1855). Curiously, the *Terre de Banks* which lies between Melville Island and the continent is only shown by a short dotted line, although seen by Parry during his voyages, the approach being hindered by pack ice.

By far the largest island farther east is the *Terre de Cumberland*, now the enormous Baffin Island. The east coast along the *Mer de Baffin* and the *Détroit de Davis* is, of course, simplified when compared with their depiction in the Times Atlas, but is nonetheless quite acceptable for the period. The names differ widely from the present ones, an exception being Macculloch Cape which has survived. The south is not yet known by Vandermaelen; there is nothing between Cumberland Sound and Frobisher Bay, except a correct Resolution Island, and there is no connexion with the western coast, still unknown. Here a mythical Cockburn Island is drawn, near an indication 'Terre vue en 1822' without any land feature. The *Canal de Fox* between Melville Peninsula and capes loose from Cumberland, amongst which a correct Dorchester Cape near the Polar Circle seems to stand, not for the Foxe Channel, but rather for the broader Foxe Basin of the Times Atlas.

Further south, the large Hudson Bay with James Bay known since the 17<sup>th</sup> century is pretty accurately drawn, with numerous names and details. The only difference between the two states by Vandermaelen is the changing of Chesterfield Inlet to *Passe*, in accordance with the wider use of French on map 2. Labrador underwent no changes except the addition of a small river east of the Canispucau.

Not so for the north-western part of the continent. Above the modifications of the northern coastline, the interior also began to be explored. In Alaska some rivers are partly known on map 2: in the south, one east of Cordova, the Alna (Gulkana on the Times Atlas) and an anonymous one flowing into Cook Inlet, the Susitna. In the west, the Kuskokwim is rather long and the lower Yukon makes a timid appearance as Kvichpack. In the centre of Russian America, the settlement of Titlokat is pinpointed; its location (ca 152° W) corresponds better to the present Tanana, on the Yukon, than to Fairbanks.

In the Yukon Territory, the River Deases with two more branches and the Turnagain, now Liard, are tributaries of the Mackenzie, joining it at Fort Simpson. The name Liard was already given to the lower course of these rivers on map 2. Fort Simpson is one of the several forts built on the rivers, such as F. Liard, F. Norman (now Tuli't'a) and two Old Forts, one of which is on the upper course of the Mackenzie flowing from the Great Slave Lake where a Fort Providence was founded.

The short Traffic River is no more than a hairpin but is maybe meant to represent a small part of the Stewart and of the Hess, the White Yukon or any one of the numerous tributaries of the Yukon. Through

<sup>3</sup> Felix Booth (1775-1850), a British manufacturer, was the sponsor of his friend Sir John Ross' second expedition in 1829. The name given to the peninsula was a tribute to his generosity, but Boothia Felix could be understood as a pun, Felix meaning happy or fortunate, which contrasts with the rather inhospitable environment.

Information on the discovery of North Canada and its explorers can be found in the ninth edition (1875-79) of the Encyclopaedia Britannica under the heading Polar regions in vol. XIX and under the names of the voyagers, such as Mackenzie, Franklin, Parry, Ross, etc. and in the Journal of the Royal Geographical Society published in London since 1831.

The map of Canada at 1/250 000 in 918 sheets, Ottawa 1950-72, gives a wealth of detail for the whole country.



# HÉMISPHERE OCCIDENTAL.



The two upper left sheets of state 3 of Vandermaelen's *Mappemonde en huit feuilles* bearing the title *Hémisphère occidental*

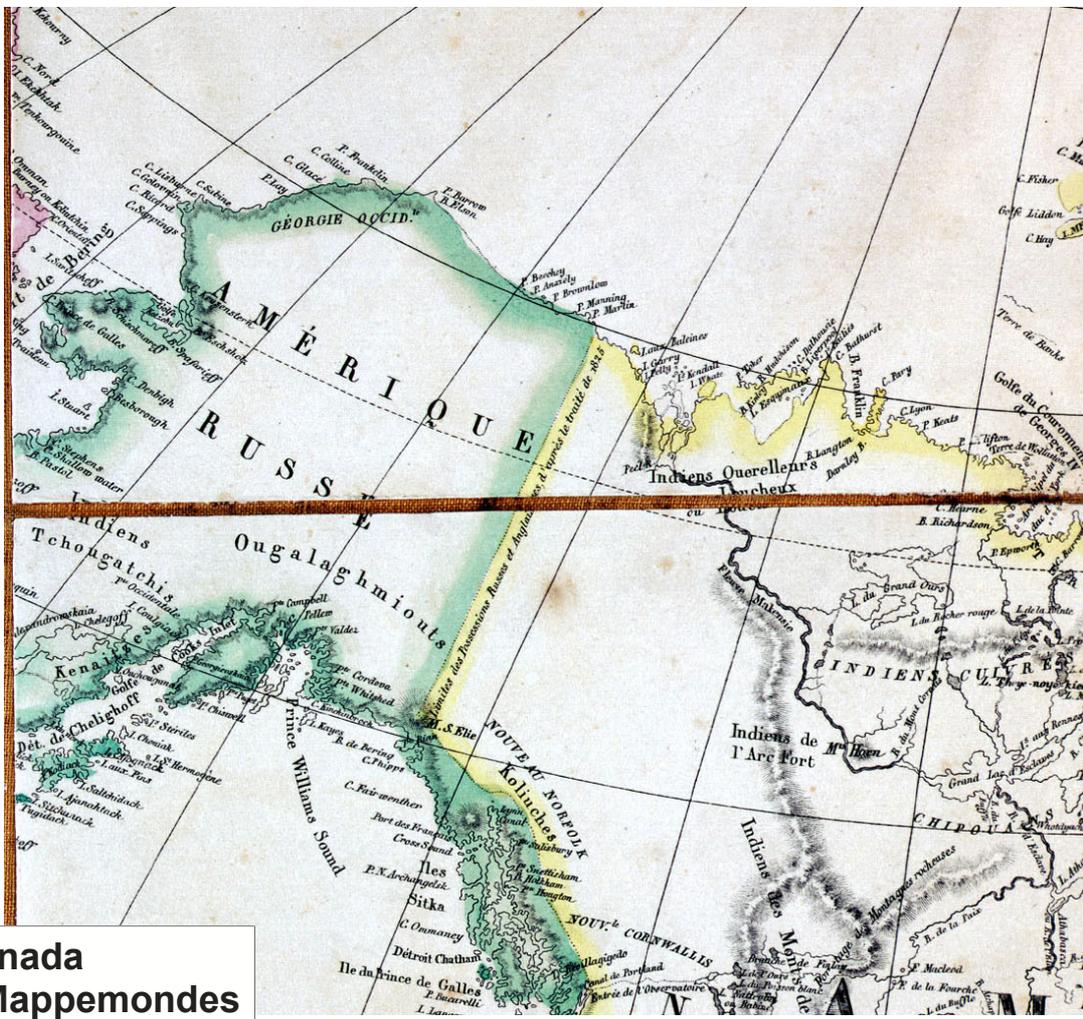
*Nouv[elle] Cornouailles* an unnamed river flows on map 2. On the first state several lakes have not been enhanced to feature water, even such large ones as the *Grand Lac Ours* or the *Grand Lac d'Esclaves* or Lake Athabasca. A large number of the lakes visible on the Times Atlas north of the Great Bear Lake have not been engraved by Vandermaelen, although the general representation of the area east of the Mackenzie is quite acceptable.

In conclusion it must be stated that the *Mappemonde* gives a fair image of regions which were at the time being explored by sea as well as by land. A comparison with a modern atlas shows, of course, inevitable distortions and omissions. Nevertheless, the quick transmission of the new surveys in a little known land, difficult of access through both climate and relief, made it possible to correct the maps during

the 19<sup>th</sup> century, especially in later years. Yukon would experience the gold rush at the end of the century with a feverish occupation lasting for a short time, Dawson becoming the hub but losing its relative importance later on. Jack London, amongst others, wrote about these hectic days in the Klondike and the enormous difficulties confronting the would-be gold-diggers, burdened by their heavy equipment and totally ignorant of the physical conditions.

The east of the extensive North-Western Territories, sparsely populated but economically interesting, has lately been better known under the Inuit name of Nunavut as a tribute to the original inhabitants of these desolate wastes that have been the setting of novels by authors such as James O. Curwood and others bewitched by the Barren and its legends.

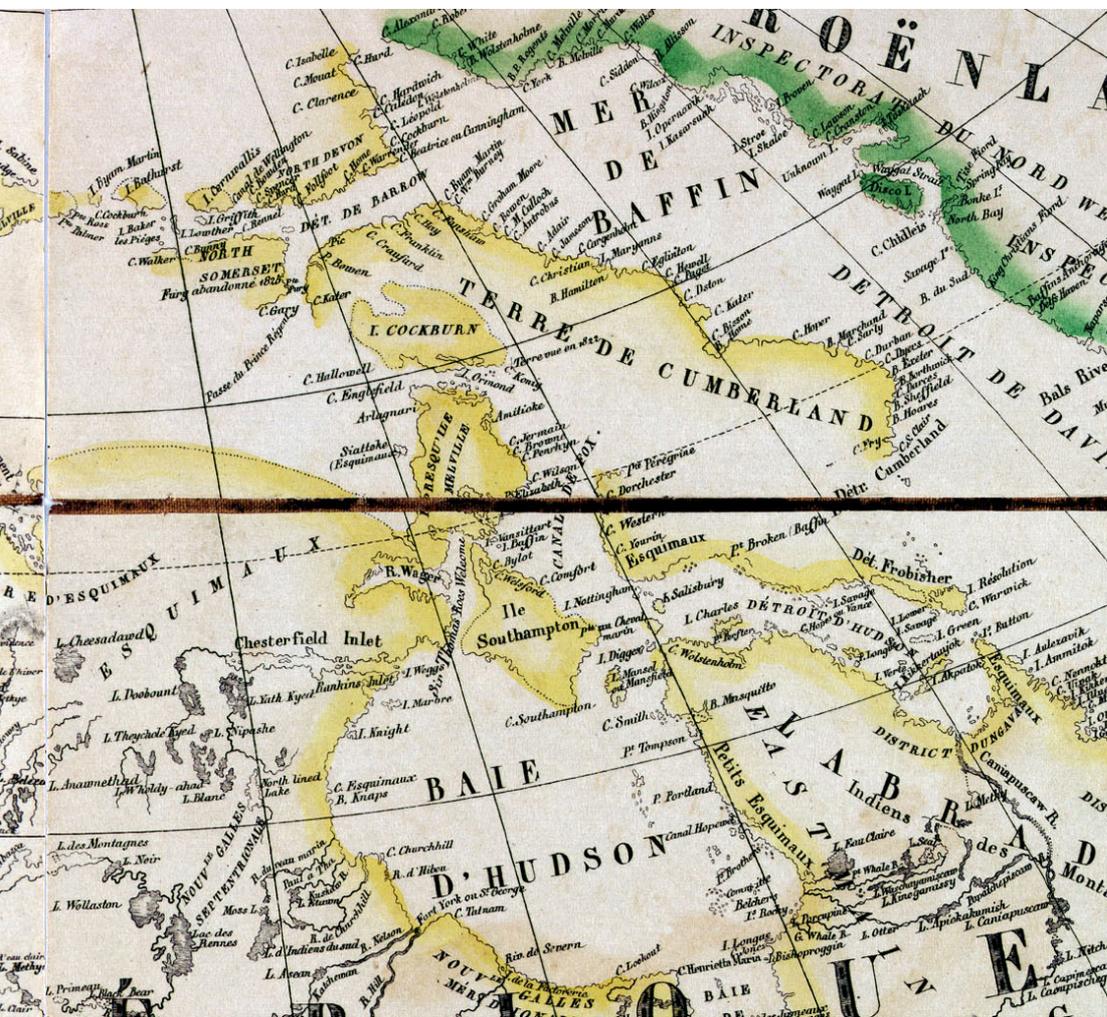
□



**Northern Canada  
on Vandermaelen's Mappemondes**

State 1 (ca. 1830) above  
and state 3 (ca. 1842) below







## Maps of Malta, focal point of the Mediterranean

### Final part

By Albert Ganado  
info@ganadosammut.com



This is the second part of the text of the presentation given by Dr Albert Ganado at the BIMCC *Mare Nostrum* Conference in December 2002; the first part appeared in BIMCC Newsletter No 33.

One of the best Italian painters of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Matteo Perez d'Aleccio, was brought over to Malta in 1576 as the Order's official painter. He decorated the large hall in the Grand Master's Palace with frescos depicting the Great Siege of 1565. When he went back to Rome, he published in 1582 an album of etchings reproducing the Palace frescos, to which he added a plan of the urban development of the new city of Valletta. These two maps by d'Aleccio served as the basis for several maps published in various countries throughout the next two centuries.

His map of the Maltese islands was borrowed by Philippe Thomassin for the Statutes of Grand Master de Verdale (ca. 1586), as well as by Henri Raignauld (1629), Horatius Marinarus (1645), Jean Boisseau (1645), Jan Janssonius (1650), Nicolas Sanson (1656), Joan Blaeu (1663), Pierre du Val (1667), Oliver Dapper (1668), John Ogilby (1670), Robert Morden (1680), Nikolaus Visscher (ca. 1680), Alain Manneson Mallet (1683), Vincenzo Coronelli (1689), Frederick de Wit (ca. 1690), Gilles Robert de Vaugondy (1748), Robert Benning (1750). The Blaeu map includes also the iconographic vignette of d'Aleccio's map. In this context it is interesting to note that Part III of Blaeu's eleven-volume atlas was dedicated to F. Anneto de Clermont de Chates Gessan, who was elected Grand Master of the Order

of St John in February 1660 but reigned only for four months.

Even D'Aleccio's plan of Valletta was used by several cartographers during the next century-and-a-half. It was copied for the Statutes of de Verdale, and utilized by Daniel Specklin for his book *Architectura von Festungen* (1589) taken from a beautiful coloured copy he himself had made in 1584 extant at Karlsruhe. It also served as a model for the plan published in Baudoin's history of the Order (1629), and it was copied by J.F. Breithaupt (1632), Giacomo Lauro (1635), Blaeu (1663), Antoine Aveline (1665), Gabriel Bodenehr (ca. 1740), Thomas Salmon (1757). In 1704 Pierre Mortier reissued Blaeu's plan of 1663 from the same plate, but with a French instead of an Italian title.

Another fundamental plan of the city of Valletta, was drawn on site in 1600 and published two years later in Rome in Giacomo Bosio's monumental history of the Order. It updated d'Aleccio's plan and it was borrowed for a second plan in Baudoin's history of 1629, and also by Lauro (1635), Matthäus Merian (1638), Jan Janssonius (1657), later reprinted by De Wit ca. 1694.

As Malta remained Europe's southernmost bastion against the infidel, the strengthening of its fortifications was an ongoing process. In the early part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Alexander de Vendôme, the Grand Prior of France, improved Fort St Elmo. In the 1630s Pietro Paolo Floriani, the Pope's engineer, fortified the landfront of Valletta. He was followed by Vincenzo Maculano da Firenzuola, a well-known expert in military architecture, and later by Giovanni de Medici, Marchese di Sant'Angelo, on loan from the Grand Duke of Tuscany. On Floriani's proposals the Council of the Order sought the opinion of a Frenchman named Jardin

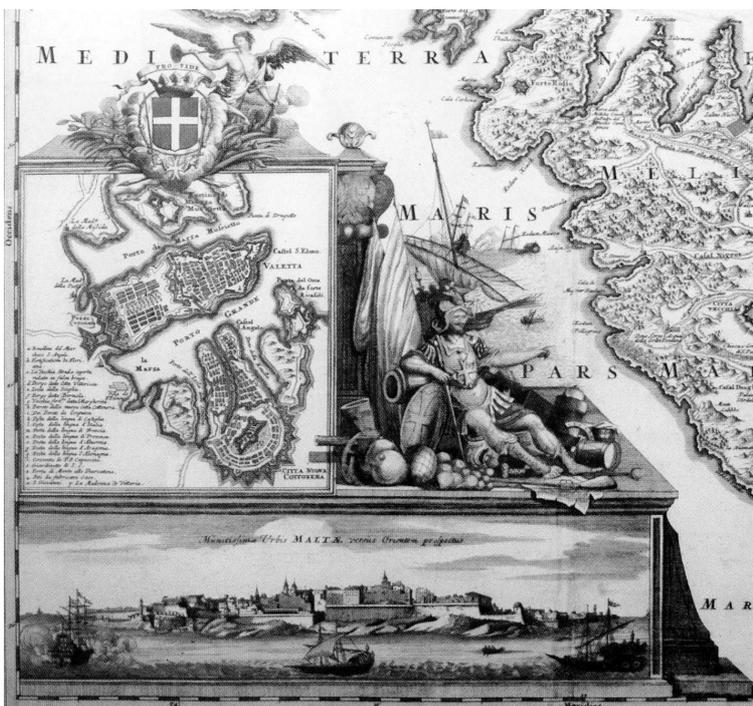


Fig. 5: Detail of  
**Johann Baptist Homann (1664-1724).**  
*INSULARUM MALTAE et GOZAE quae sunt*  
*Equitum S. Iohannis Hierosolimitani*  
*Ordinis Melit, Sedes Principalis,*  
*DELINEATIO GEOGRAPHICA.*  
Nurember, ca. 1720. 482 x 575 mm.

This is the second state of Homann's highly decorative map, with the bottom clouds and at top right all hatched, and the words *Cum Privilegio S. C. M.*, still showing.

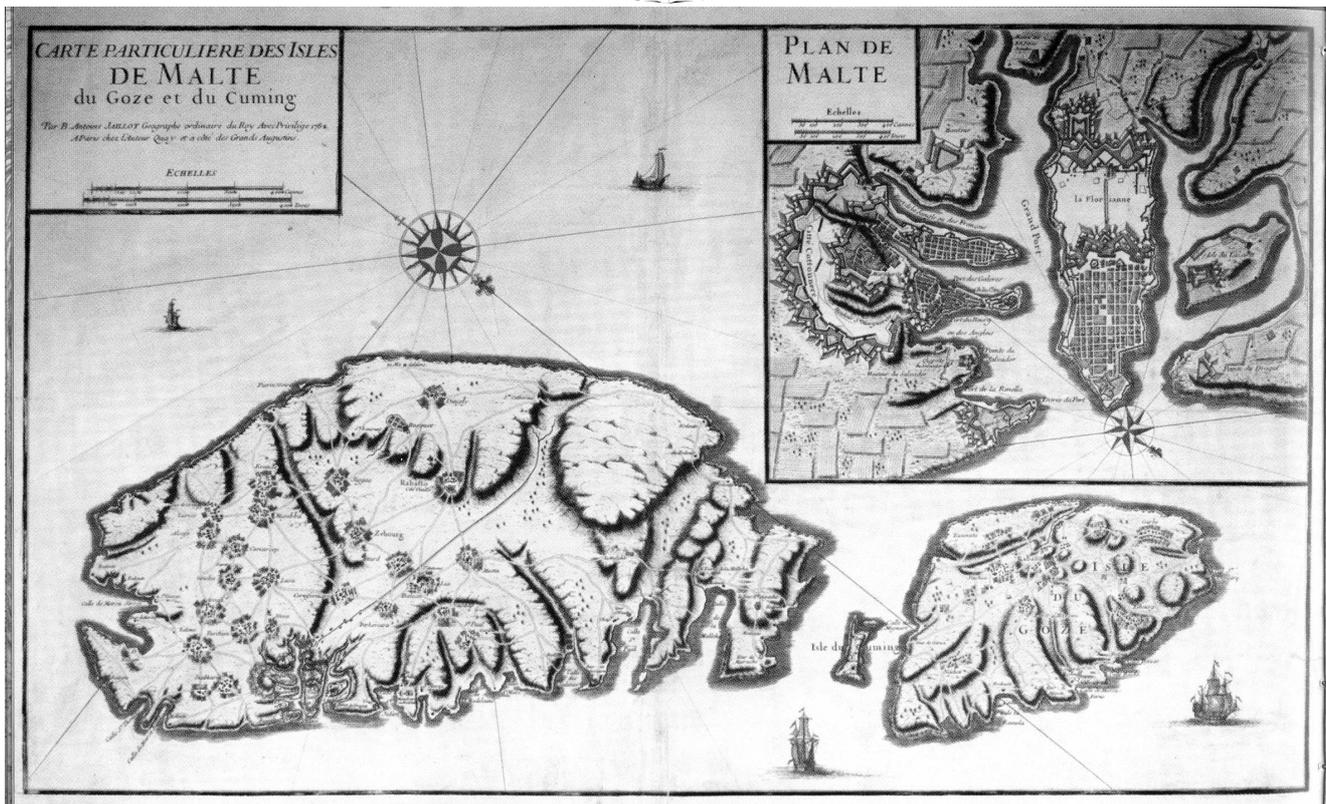


Fig. 6: Antoine B. Jaillot. *CARTE PARTICULIERE DES ISLES DE MALTE du Goze et du Cuming*. A Paris chez l'Auteur Quay et a coté des Grands Augustins. 1781. 430 x 725 mm.

A map of the Maltese islands, with a large view of Valletta and its harbours in an inset (255 x 310 mm). State 1 of this map was published in 1734.

Based on Guillaume de l'Isle's map engraved by C.A. de Bery for Abbé Vertof's history of the Knights.

who submitted plans of his own making in 1637. A French map published by Boisseau in the mid-1640s shows the *Nouvelles fortifications et dehors*; they might very well be Jardin's proposals which have not so far come to light.

Writers on the Floriana fortifications recorded that there was nothing to substantiate the claim of the Marquis of St Angelo that he had designed the four counterguards added on to the bastions of the Valletta front in about 1640. Those writers were unaware of the existence of a key to place-names which are shown on a Parisian map engraved by Boulanger and published by Nicolas Bery in 1645; it pinpoints the *Bastion et Travaux du marquis S. Ange*.

In that year a large-scale Turkish attack was expected and the military experts who rallied to the defence of the island included Blaise François Comte de Pagan, Louis Nicolas de Clerville and Louis Vicomte d'Arpajon. Sieur de Langres, who accompanied them, engraved a map of the fortifications executed in the 1640s entitled: *PLAN de l'Isle de MALTE levée sur les lieux par le sieur de Langres Ingegnieur du Roy soubz les ordres de Monseigneur le Vicomte Darpaion lors general dans MALTE*. State 1 of this map, published by Michel Van Lochom, specifically describes the said counterguards as *Fortification faite par le Marquis S. Ange*.

By 1670 the fortifications of Floriana were practically complete and work was started on fortifications on the other side of the Grand Harbour, named the Cottonera lines, after the Spanish Grand Master

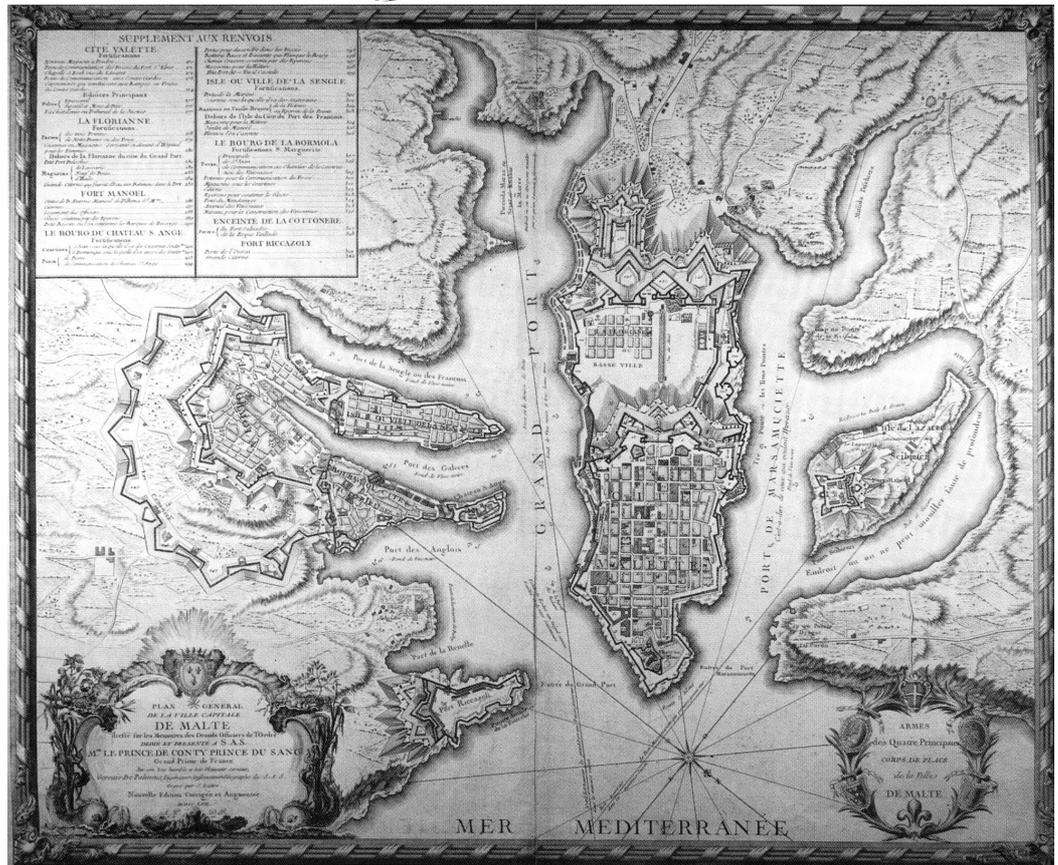
Nicolas Cotoner (1663-1680). Once again we have a succession of maps, starting with the large Roman map by Francesco Collignon, the miniature map in Bonamico's book, the Austrian map by Johann Martin Lerch (1682), Vincenzo Coronelli's map (1686), Francesco Scalettari's map published in Graz in 1688, De Fer's plan of 1694 and Vauban's plan of 1700.

The first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century was characterized by a lull in Mediterranean naval affairs as Spain and Turkey had 'drifted towards a truce in which each side respected the lines of the other's sphere of power'. The field was left open to an increase in the activity of the Barbary corsairs, and Tunis became the main base of the Dutch and English pirates who invaded the Mediterranean. The Order's navy, therefore, had the primary function of patrolling the sea and protecting Christian shipping, although it also indulged in capturing Moslem ships of enemy corsairs rather than merchantmen. This was supplemented by the Maltese corso, licensed to operate under the flag of Malta, which reached its peak in the years 1660-1675.

The decline of the Barbary corso at this particular juncture is generally attributed to the activities of the European naval powers, specifically Holland, England and France. But it would not have been possible without the strong valid support of the Order's navy operating from Malta. Even during the War of Candia which lasted for 24 years, the Knights of Malta helped the



Fig. 7:  
**A. F. Gervais De  
Palmeus (mid-18<sup>th</sup>  
century).**  
**PLAN GENERAL DE  
LA VILLE CAPITALE  
DE MALTE**  
*dressé sur les  
Memoires des  
Grands Officiers de  
l'Ordre.*  
Paris, 1751.  
585 x 882 mm.  
This map of Valletta  
and its harbours is the  
largest ever published,  
and it is extremely  
detailed with 320 place  
names. There are  
several impressions  
of the first state,  
while the second  
state was dated  
1757. State 3 was  
issued by  
Delamarche,  
probably in 1803.



Venetians to resist the Turk. Venice and Turkey were again at war in 1715-18, and in 1716 the Order's navy fought its last battle with the Ottomans.

Thus we find Coronelli in Venice issuing a number of maps of Malta in his various publications in the 1680s, while in Rome Gio. Giacomo De Rossi published his own in 1686. In Paris in 1662 Estienne Vouillemont, *Graveur Ordinaire du Roy pour les Cartes Geographiques Plans de Villes et Autres Tallies Douces*, highlighted with the coats of arms of the Grand Masters of the Order his map entitled *Representation des ISLES de MALTHE, GOZE et COMINO, Remparts de la Chrestienté contre les Turcs*. Coronelli (1689) and Matthias Seutter (ca. 1730) followed suit, displaying the same coats of arms on their maps.

French interest in the fortunes of the Maltese islands gained momentum in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Shortly after the reissue of Blaeu's map by Pierre Mortier, a *Nouvelle Carte de l'Isle de Malte* was issued in 1718 by Henri Michelot *Pilot Real et Hydrographe des Galeres du Roy*, in collaboration with Laurens Bremond *Hydrographe du Roy et de la Ville*. Apparently, it was included in a collection of Mediterranean maps published between 1715 and 1726. Between 1714 and 1720 the Maltese islands and their fortresses were drawn by Philippe-Nicolas Milcent; his manuscript plans of towers are preserved in the print department of the Bibliothèque Nationale.

When a truce was concluded in 1723 between Turkey and the Christian powers, the Knights Hospitallers started acting independently. Thus the local balance of naval power in the whole Central Mediterranean revolved round Malta and its Knights, who succeeded in crippling

the maritime development of North Africa.

In the 1750s Gervais De Palmeus published in Paris a set of three maps, based on information supplied by the Grand Officers of the Order, dedicated to the Grand Prior of France (Fig. 7). The beautiful large-scale map of the islands measures 58.2 x 135 cm, it was accompanied by a large plan of Valletta and its harbours, and by a representation of Fort Chambray in Gozo, founded in 1749 by Jacques-Francois de Chambray, whose successful exploits in the middle sea lasted for over 25 years.

The Maltese hydrographer Antonio Borg served on the galley squadron of the Order for over 53 years, eight of which as First Pilot. The whole Mediterranean was charted by Borg in about 350 maps in four volumes, the first volume of which he dedicated to Grand Master Emanuel de Rohan (1775-1797).

On his way to Egypt in 1798 Napoleon Buonaparte decided to take over the island of Malta. He realized the importance of its strategic position in his line of communications and wanted to deny the British Navy its use as a base for its operations against him. The French occupation which lasted two years was commemorated by three maps:

1. *Carte des Isles de Malte et du Goze conquise par l'Armée Navale de la Republique Française commandée par le General Buonaparte*, drawn by Louis Capitaine, printed in 1798, dedicated to the *Directoire Exécutif*;

2. *Porto e fortezza di Malta* dedicated to the five members of the French Directory by Sebastiano Ittar, *divenuto già libero*, drawn, probably in 1799, now preserved at the Museum of Fine Arts, Valletta (Fig. 8);



3. *PLAN GENERAL DES VILLES, ET FORTS DE MALTE AVEC LES BATTERIES ENNEMIES* (Fig. 9). A highly detailed harbour map designed for Republican France by George Grognet, a Maltese architect, made on September 23, 1799 (*le Premier Vendemiaire l'An Huitieme*).

One would expect the British public as well to be interested in Napoleon's exploits. On 13 August 1798, John Fairburn published in London: *FAIRBURN'S NEW CHART Exhibiting THE ROUTE OF GENERAL BUONAPARTE in the Mediterranean Sea...* To which is annexed *A particular Plan of the ISLAND and HARBOR of MALTA*.

Napoleon invaded Malta in June 1798. After less than three months, the Maltese rose in revolt against the rule of Major-General Vaubois and they besieged the French troops in Valletta and the towns on the other side of the Grand Harbour. The Portuguese fleet started the blockade of the French by sea, joined soon after by the British Navy. The siege lasted for two

whole years. One of the four British ships-of-the-line was *HMS Audacious*, whose Master was Alexander Briarly. Wasting no time, he charted the seas surrounding Malta. The charts were published in London by R.H. Westley on 18 September 1800: charts of the Maltese islands and the harbours of Marsascirocco and St Paul's Bay, together with a map of the harbour and fortifications of Valletta 'taken from the survey of the French Engineers'. Meanwhile, on land, Captain (later Major) James Weir of the Royal Marines was drawing in watercolour maps and views of Malta, now in my collection.

Briarly's charts were followed by an album containing 32 large scale charts entitled *THE HYDROGRAPHY OF SICILY MALTA, AND THE ADJACENT ISLANDS*, surveyed in 1814, 1815, and 1816. They were made by Captain William Henry Smyth under directions from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty and printed in London at the Hydrographical Office of the Admiralty in 1822 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1823).

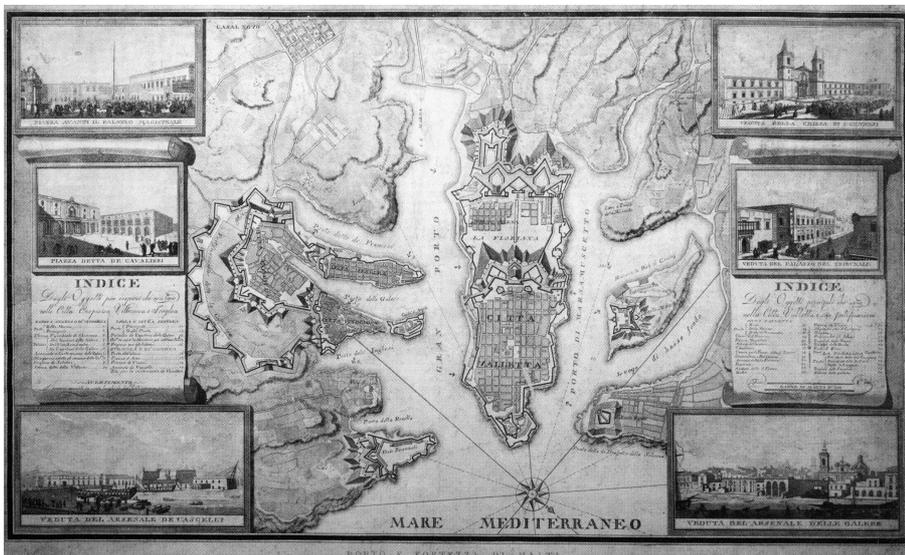


Fig. 8:  
**Sebastiano Ittar (1768-1847).**  
**PORTO E FORTEZZA DI MALTA.**

[Malta], late 18<sup>th</sup> century.  
375 x 467 mm.

A large magnificent plan of Valletta and its harbours with six inset views at the sides, possibly in proof state, unsigned. Another state with Ittar's signature made in 1799 was dedicated to the French Directory, Both states are extremely rare.

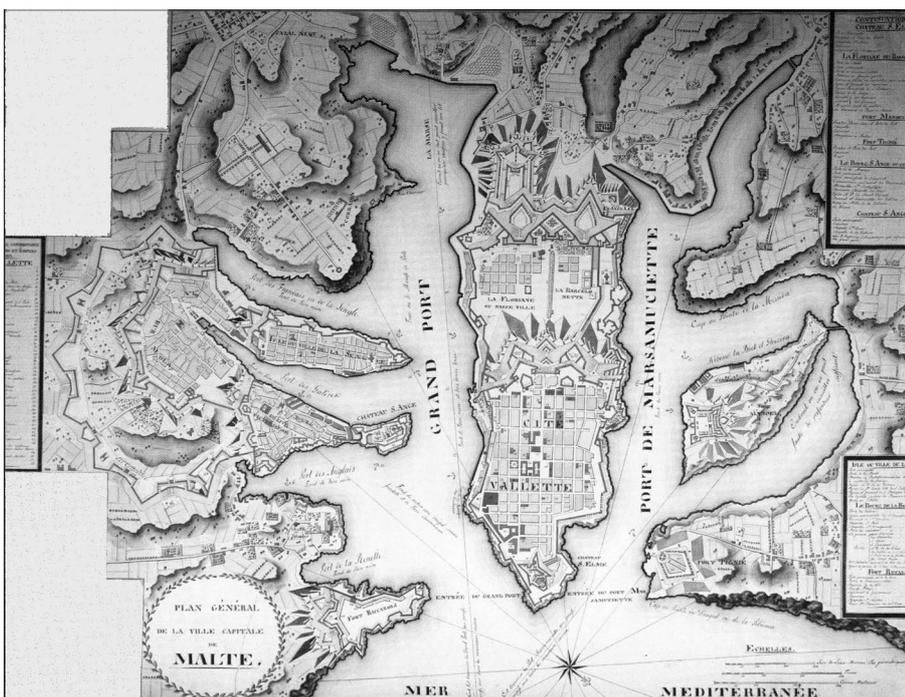


Fig. 9:  
**Giorgio Grognet de Vassé (?)**  
**(1774-1862).**  
**PLAN GENERAL DE LA VILLE CAPITALE DE MALTE.**

502 x 713 mm.  
This coloured manuscript map of Valletta and its harbours was probably made around 1815. It is likely that it was drawn by Grognet, who had made and signed a manuscript spy map of Malta for the French Republic in 1799.



**Fig. 10: A Topographical Map, describing the SOVEREIGN PRINCIPALITY, of the Islands of MALTA AND GOZA, Compiled from SURVEYS made by Order of the Grand Officers [of the Order of St John] by A. F. Gervais. DE PALMEUS.** London. Published by William Faden (1749-1836), 4 June 1799. 525 x 1135 mm. This map is a faithful copy of the de Palmeus map engraved by Jean Lattré, published in Paris in 1752.

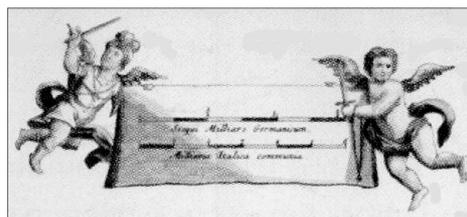
With the introduction of the process of lithography in the nineteenth century, maps were cheaper to make but they became simpler and less decorative. As Malta was on the route of the Grand Tour it was visited by many illustrious travellers, including Sir Walter Scott, Benjamin Disraeli, and Cardinal Newman. Besides, as it was the British naval and military base which dominated the Mediterranean after the fall of Buonaparte, thousands of servicemen passed every year through the island. There had to be a ready supply of maps of the islands which was produced at the lithographic press of the Brocktorff family of artists who had settled in Malta.

In the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Malta became an important centre of Protestant missionary enterprise. A Bible Society was formed in 1817, followed some years later by a Church Missionary Society, Malta was chosen as a Bible depot, a missionary wrote, because of its central position in relation to Africa to the south, Italy to the north and Syria to the east. Thousands of holy books were sent to Sicily and Athens, but also to Barbary, Egypt, Syria, Smyrna and

Constantinople. In 1834 Frederick de Brocktorff produced in Malta a world atlas in Arabic characters which was not for local consumption. Evidently, this atlas was printed for distribution in Moslem countries in connection with the missionary activities carried on there. I have also come across a reference to a Coptic atlas printed in Malta, but I have never seen it.

Between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the mid-18<sup>th</sup> centuries many hundreds of maps of Malta were produced. Franck Cervoni in his *Image de la Corse* listed 120 maps up to 1831; in *Le Carte Geografiche della Sardegna*, Luigi Piloni described 174 maps up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century; the Stylianous examined 228 maps up to 1900 in *The History of the Cartography of Cyprus*. By contrast, the maps of Malta from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century are about four times as numerous as those of Cyprus, an astonishing record which would never have been achieved had Malta not been the focal point of the Mediterranean.

□





## BIMCC Annual activity report 2008

### Annual General Meeting (1 March 2008)

The usual topics were treated and debated: the accounts for 2007 and the budget 2008 were adopted.

Four Active members are elected to the Executive Committee: Rob Harren, Lydia Cordon, Delphine Strauven, Jan De Graeve.

The outgoing President Wulf Bodenstein and his wife Dominique were both thanked graciously by the assembly for ten years of work and devotion to the BIMCC. Wulf is nominated Honorary President for life and 'cum privilegio' to receive for life the right to be present at the Executive Committee meetings at his request.

### BIMCC 10<sup>th</sup> Map Evening

1 March 2008 (see Newsletter No 31)

For the first time, we were hosted in the House of the Surveyors (Union Belge des Géomètres-experts immobiliers/Belgische Unie van landmeters-experten van onroerende goederen). Our new surroundings proved to be comfortable, with all necessary amenities, and more than enough space to show each other the maps we'd brought.

Some 20 maps and books had been brought by our members and were avidly presented, inspected and commented upon. The drink afterwards gave everyone a chance to renew old contacts or get acquainted with a few new faces.

### Excursion to the Bodel Nijenhuis collection of maps and atlases in Leiden

on 24 October 2008. (see Newsletter No 33)

Twelve BIMCC members participated in the event at the Leiden University Library. It hosts amongst other things a famous map collection, the so-called *Bodel Nijenhuis*. Our guide to the collection was Martijn Storms, its curator for the last two years. Martijn introduced us to the history of the library and its collection in particular and showed us some examples of fine documents. We spent the rest of the afternoon browsing through splendid atlases and maps.

### 6<sup>th</sup> BIMCC Study Session

Saturday 13 December 2008

(see Newsletter No 33)

For the second time the House of the Belgian Union of Expert Surveyors, in the centre of Brussels, hosted the BIMCC. Some 50 participants attended the event. Subsequently, they heard the following presentations:

- *Maps of the North Pole* by F. Herbert;
- *North Pole maps in the future* by Hugo Declair;
- *Aspects of compass and wind roses* by Martijn Storms;
- *Latin on maps* by Peter van der Krogt (this lecture was accompanied by practical examples and no doubt, the monograph 'Latin on maps', conceived around Peter's original work, will become a collector's item);
- *Topography in practice: the regional maps by Jacob van Deventer-16<sup>th</sup> century* by Eric Leenders and Jan De Graeve.

As usual, our conference had two convivial moments: the lunch (which was excellent; the restaurant is highly recommended for next time!) and the drink at the end of the day. The atmosphere was – once again – relaxed and friendly.

### Administrative matters

The Executive Committee met five times, dealing with the usual business of budget, Newsletter, preparation of events etc.

As usual, the BIMCC participated with a stand at the International Antiquarian Book Fair in Brussels.

President  
Eric Leenders  
ericleenders@scarlet.be

Vice-President  
Caroline De Candt  
caroline.de.candt@skynet

### Editor's note:

During the year 2008, the BIMCC also published three Newsletters:

- No 30 had 40 pages with a full report on the BIMCC/Europalia Conference and a keynote article on the 1540 map of Flanders
- No 31, 36 pages, with the main article on maps at the Battle of Waterloo
- No 32, 36 pages, had two main articles on the 'Vlassenbroeck mystery' and on De Bouge's map of Europe.

In addition a special edition was issued in April for the tenth anniversary of the BIMCC, with colour pictures of all major BIMCC events since 1998 and a thematic index of the contents of Newsletters No 1 to 30; in December a smaller special edition served as Conference hand-out.

Besides, the BIMCC website has been continuously updated, thus providing a continuity of information during the intervals between successive Newsletters. The [www.bimcc.org](http://www.bimcc.org) site received over 43 000 visits in 2008.



## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Saturday 7 March 2009

This AGM takes place at the House of the Belgian Union of Expert-Surveyors (Rue du Nord/Noordstraat 76 in Brussels), starting at 16.00.

The President Eric Leenders welcomes 16 'Active members' (i.e. with the right to vote) representing the required quorum.

The agenda sent with the invitation is adopted.

The activity report 2008 is read by Vice-President Caroline De Candt and approved. A slide show organized by Jean-Louis Renteux highlights the major events of the past year.

The accounts for 2008 drafted and animated with a slide show by Roland Delrue are adopted

Presentation and draft of the budget 2009 are adopted too. The AGM decides that two external persons will be approached to check the 2009 accounts and sign the reports (rather than ask and pay an accountant).

The programme for 2009 is presented by Eric Leenders:

- A visit will be organized to the museum in Knokke in October.

- A conference is being organised for December; the programme, still 'provisional', will be on 'Exploratory cartography'.

- The 2010 AGM will be organized in Ghent, in the offices of Aquaterra, at the invitation of Caroline and Paul De Candt.

A discharge of the Executive Committee members is approved unanimously. No changes in the executive committee members

No other business was discussed.

BIMCC Sec retary  
Delphine Strauven  
delphine.straumen@telenet.be

## BIMCC Programme for 2009

- **Saturday 17 October 2009,  
BIMCC Autumn Excursion**

This year's excursion will take us to the **Knokke-Heist Museum's** collection of coastal maps of Belgium.

F. Theerens, the curator will introduce us to coastal maps that changed so often during the religious wars of the 16th century. He will demonstrate how the Zwin region changed as a result of polder formation and urbanisation during the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century.

After lunch a visit could be organised to the remaining Retrenchement forts.

Further details will be announced in the next Newsletter.

The visit will be limited to 20 participants, and preference will be given to paid-up BIMCC Members. Non-members may be admitted if places remain available.



- **Saturday 5 December 2009, BIMCC Conference:  
*Exploratory Cartography, from Heaven to Earth***

After an introduction by Caroline and Paul De Candt, we will take you with A.H. van Gent through the celestial map world by Cellarius. The morning might end with an imaginary cartographic exploration. In the afternoon Imre Demhardt (USA.) will enlighten you over the travels of Alexander von Humboldt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Wulf Bodenstein will accompany us through the white spots on the map of black Africa (19<sup>th</sup> century). Asia will not be forgotten.

Programme to be confirmed. Further details will be announced in the next Newsletter.



# 11<sup>th</sup> Map Evening Saturday 7 March 2009

The traditional Map Evening, immediately following the AGM, was also hosted in the House of the Surveyors. Our president had the good idea of asking every participant who brought a map or book to write down the name, title, date etc of the object; this way, mistakes are almost impossible.



- Oya Greindl: Turkish map by Neset Demirtas (1900-1920)

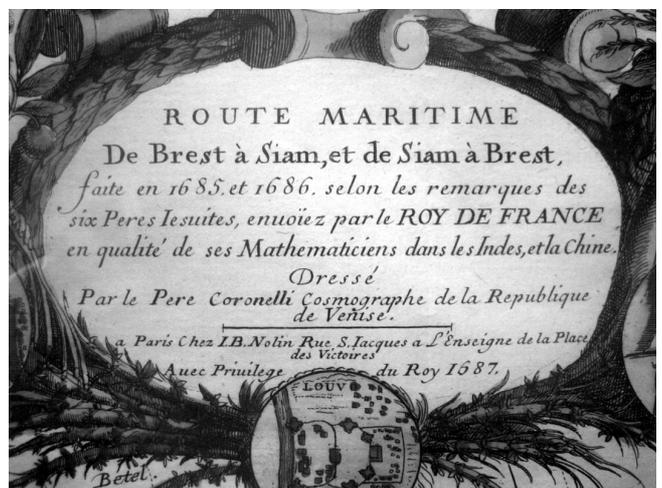
Madam Greindl, a very sweet, shy lady, came to tell her story that was rather impressive!

The paternal grandfather of Ms Greindl was a cartographer in the old Ottoman Empire. His son was sent to France by the Sultan to learn the skills of cartography.

After WW I, with the fall of the Ottoman Empire, all maps were taken from Istanbul to the new capital, Ankara. There, Ms Greindl's father founded the Department of Cartography. In her father's papers, this map was discovered. It could be a lithograph; it is black and white and it shows a part of Central Europe. There is an inset map, showing a part of northern Europe. The alphabet that was used is Arabic, but the language could be Turkish. Wulf promised to do some further research: who knows what the result will be?

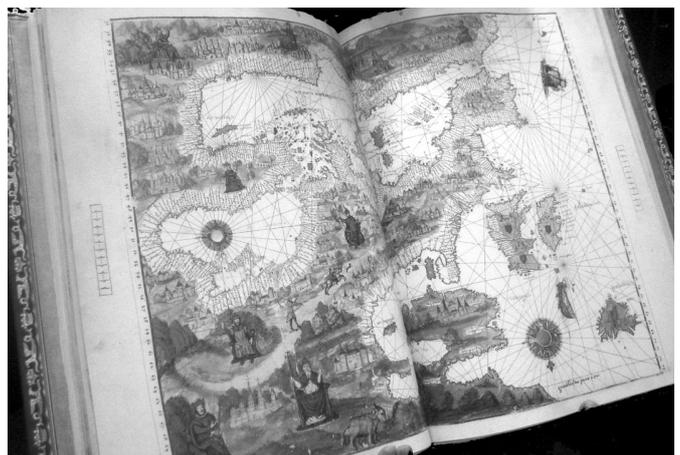
- Hans Kok, as usual, showed some superb maps, all connected with water. They were all identified and dated, so the only thing we had to do was admire them:

- Map from Zeefakkel (showing Den Helder/ Maasdiep), by Van Keulen (ca. 1750).
- 'Brittenburg', by Visscher
- 'Brest à Siam' by Père Tachard, a Jesuit priest who was sent to Siam (1688), published by Coronelli/Nolin
- Haarlemmermeer planning chart by Bolstra (1747)
- globe gore of the South Atlantic by Coronelli (1688)



- Christophe Klein: facsimile of the Atlas Vallard (1547) published by Moleiro.

This atlas is probably based on a Portuguese prototype and its first known owner was *Nicolas Vallard* of Dieppe; hence the name. It is truly a facsimile: every little detail of the original is painstakingly reproduced. It is only the fact that it is not on parchment (imagine!) that compared makes a real difference with the original (at first sight, of course). The latter is in the Huntington Library in San Marino, USA. Those who think that is too far to travel, can buy one of the strictly numbered 987 facsimile copies.





- Peter Galezowski: 'Yucatan/Guatemala' by Ogilby? (1698)

Peter brought this map from a friend; it is a coloured copper engraving, with a nice cartouche. It shows Lake Nicaragua, but with an outlet to the sea that doesn't exist.

In fact, the attribution to Ogilby is unlikely. As Hans Kok pointed out, it could well be by Montanus. Experts do not agree whether Ogilby gave his maps to Montanus or the other way round. The general feeling is that the map is not by Ogilby, when compared to his other map of Central America.

There is no watermark. The Spanish miles on the map do not prove it is Spanish either.



- Wulf Bodenstein: 'Carte de l'Afrique' by Frémin, géographe, Paris (1836)

The map is a steel engraving pasted on linen. It shows the mythical mountains of Kong and of the Moon, but the course of the Niger is correct. Some parts are quite empty or missing altogether and the European commercial settlements are not correct. There are two insets: Mauritius (*Ile de France*) and Ile Bourbon (*La Réunion*). As the maps mention 'dressée d'après les matériaux les plus récents', one wonders what the sources could have been. When one observes the Congo, Central Africa or Lake Chad, one wonders if this wasn't information derived from some unidentified explorers' report...



- Wulf also presented the three books which are the subject of his reviews on pages 4 (M. Recke's Sea Charts), 5 (Sandler's monographs) and 6 (Shirley's Title Pages published by HES & De Graaf).

- Stanislas De Peuter: 'Estotilandia et laboratoris terra' by Wyffliet (1597)

This black/white copper engraving shows Northeast Canada. It comes from an atlas, of which only one copy was ever published and with one sole subject: America. There are some errors on this map: Baffin island is missing, but what is called the Davis Strait is not. Probably the route to Hudson Bay is depicted. The completely imaginary island of *Frieslandt* figures on the map, but then again, many cartographers bought this story by the Italian fantasist Zeno, even the great Mercator!

- Stanislas De Peuter: 'La terra de Hochelaga nella nova Francia' by Ramusio (1556)

This black/white copper engraving shows Montreal. It comes from a book: entitled *Della Navigazione et Viaggi*. The map is possibly the first of an American city. It is based on a voyage by *Cartier*, but the picture of the city was embellished to meet Renaissance standards like symmetry and so on.

- Eric Leenders: 'Beschrijving van de Palen van de Vrijheit van Antwerpen' by Adriaen Van Den Bosche (1582)

The original of this map of Antwerp is in a book entitled '*Rechten en de Costumen*' (laws and customs) in the Plantin-Moretus Museum in Antwerp and was made by a local surveyor, Adriaen Van Den Bosche. Eric thinks the picture inspired Kaerius to make his copper engraving. And it is a well-known fact that Visscher bought copper plates from Kaerius and published them under his own name.

- Paul De Candt: 'Comprehensive Atlas of the Dutch United East India Company, Vol. I-IV (facsimile edition by Asia Maior/Atlas Maior Publishers, published 2006-2008).

These are the first 4 volumes of what is intended to be a 7-volume publication. The aim is to publish the entire VOC (Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie = the Dutch United East India Company) inventory of maps. Each of the seven volumes is dedicated to a different theme. Many authors and institutions cooperate in this publication.

The maps were mostly manuscript, either on paper or on vellum. They were used on ships, but had to be handed back after the voyage to the central depot, since they were classified. Under Napoleon the maps were taken to France and were never returned to The Netherlands in their entirety.

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Compiled by Glenn Van den Bosch  
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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

### News

#### Hans-Uli Feldmann honoured by the Swiss Society of Cartography

We are pleased to announce that Hans-Uli Feldmann, a long time supporter of the BIMCC, has been elected Honorary Member of the Swiss Society of Cartography (SGK) at its annual meeting of 28 March 2009 in Neuchâtel. Hans-Uli Feldmann served for many years on the board of the society, including nine years as president. The laudatory speech was delivered by Martin Rickenbacher, chairman of the society's working group on the history of cartography. Martin also valued Hans-Uli as co-founder (in 1990), chief editor and publisher of *Cartographica Helvetica*. You may remember Hans-Uli as chairman of the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on the History of Cartography 2007 in Berne.



Hans-Uli Feldmann (left) congratulated by SGK president Stefan Arn  
Photo: Thomas Maag.



#### The Blaeu-Van der Hem facsimile Atlas

The Blaeu-Van der Hem Atlas is seen as the most beautiful and remarkable collection of its kind ever composed. The atlas contains over 2 400 maps, prints and drawings, divided into 50 volumes; a visual encyclopedia of knowledge in the seventeenth century in terms of geography, topography, warfare, art and politics. This collection, a masterpiece of 17<sup>th</sup>-century Dutch cartographic and topographic art (due to the fact that ca. 1800 original manuscripts and drawings have been added) is preserved completely intact in the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (ONB) in Vienna.

The Blaeu-Van der Hem Atlas has since 2004 been on the UNESCO list of 'the memory of the world', a list of documents of global, national and regional interests to protect and preserve for the future. The targets include access to this documentary heritage for the largest possible audience.

Over a period of four years, experts worked intensively to prepare a facsimile edition of the eleven volumes of this incredibly beautiful atlas that pertain to Africa, America and Asia, containing nearly 500 maps, charts, views, drawings and texts in manuscript. This facsimile consists of eight folio volumes, bound in original gilt vellum in 17<sup>th</sup> century style, produced in a limited edition of 100 sets.

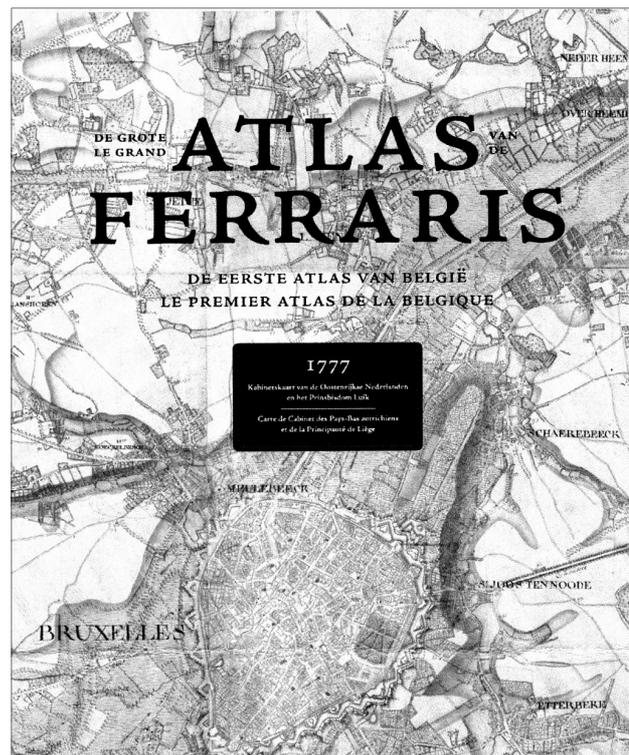
This publication will be presented in the ONB in Vienna in June 2009 .

The website [www.blaeu Vanderhem.com](http://www.blaeu Vanderhem.com) gives you a first impression of the atlas.

#### Le grand atlas de Ferraris published

The territory of what is now Belgium was mapped precisely for the first time by the Comte de Ferraris (1726-1814) at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. His 275 manuscript sheets have been reproduced as the first topographic atlas of Belgium on the occasion of an exhibition devoted to the Ferraris maps (see page 33). This is a cooperative undertaking of the Royal Library of Belgium, of the Belgian National Geographical Institute and of Editions Lannoo and Racine. The atlas comprises 608 pages measuring 40.5x51 cm and weighs 11kg!. The presentation of this publication took place in Brussels on 7 May 2009.

Selling price: EUR 150.00 (129.00 the first two months!).  
Information: [www.racine.be](http://www.racine.be)





## Events

### Washington Map Society events

#### Annual meeting

13 May 2009

with presentation of *Cartographic Myths of North America. Mismappings by Misunderstandings, Misinterpretations, and Misrepresentations; but not by Mistakes* by Dr. Don McGuirk. He will briefly discuss four cartographic myths, two well known (Sea of Verrazanno and California as an Island) and two less well known (Sea of the West, aka *Mer de L'Ouest*, and a mystery cartographic myth).

At 18.30 at Jones Day, 51 Louisiana Avenue NW, Washington, USA. For further information, contact Pete Porazzo (email: [pjpbkp@msn.com](mailto:pjpbkp@msn.com)). For reservations, visit: <http://home.earthlink.net/~washmap/2009WMSdinner.pdf>

#### *Maryland-Virginia boundary issues and the Supreme Court Case: Virginia v. Maryland (US 2003)*, by Edward Papenfuse

24 September 2009

The Stuart represented Virginia and Ed still believes that the Supreme Court was wrong in its verdict! Learn how the Dennis Griffith and Fry-Jefferson and other maps were used in arguments put in this case.

At 19.00 in the Geography and Map Division, B level, Library of Congress, Madison Building, 101 Independence Avenue. For further information, contact Dennis Gurtz (email: [dmg01@comcast.net](mailto:dmg01@comcast.net)).

### Warburg Lectures, London

#### *The greatest map ever published': The American Geographical Society and the Map of Hispanic America at 1:1 Million Scale, 1922-1945*

14 May 2009

by Dr Alastair Pearson (Department of Geography, University of Portsmouth)

At the University of London, Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB, at 17.00.

Enquiries to +44 (0) 20 8346 5112 (Catherine Delano Smith) or Tony Campbell (email: [info@tonycampbell.info](mailto:info@tonycampbell.info)) or visit <http://www.maphistory.info/warburgprog.html>

### International Symposium, Washington:

#### Exploring Waldseemüller's World

14-15 May 2009

Washington DC, USA

The title Exploring Waldseemüller's World has been chosen by the conference organizers to focus attention not only on Waldseemüller's cartographic vision, but also on some of the intellectual and philosophical themes and controversies of the time in which he lived. The conference brings together a cross-disciplinary group of speakers from a variety of fields including history, cartography, the classics, and the history of science to discuss the cultural context of Martin Waldseemüller's 1507 map of the world. Over the two days, many scholars will speak on a wide

range of topics and historical problems from the history of exploration and German humanism to the mathematical and astronomical basis of early 16<sup>th</sup> century cartography.

At the Library of Congress, Madison Building, 101 Independence Avenue. The contributions of all invited speakers will be published together in a hardcover Proceedings following the conference. For more information, contact John Hessler, 202-707-7223 (email: [jhes@loc.gov](mailto:jhes@loc.gov)).

Visit <http://www.loc.gov/index.html>

### The Cambridge Seminar in the History of Cartography 2008-2009:

#### *Beautiful maps and attractive fields': a surveyor's view of ancient Italy*, by Brian Campbell (Queen's University, Belfast)

19 May 2009

Cambridge, UK

At 17.30 in the Harrods Room, Emmanuel College, St Andrew's Street, Cambridge, UK. For any enquiries, please contact Sarah Bendall at 01223 330476

(email: [sarah.bendall@emma.cam.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.bendall@emma.cam.ac.uk)).

Visit <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/maps/camsem0809.html>

### The Oxford Seminars in Cartography

#### *Maps, Modernity and the New Soviet Man: Cartographic Culture in the USSR, 1917-1953*, by Nick Baron (University of Nottingham).

21 May 2009

Oxford, UK

The seminar runs from 17.00 to 18.30 in the Board Room, University of Oxford Centre for the Environment, South Parks Road. For further details, contact Nick Millea, Map Librarian, Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BG; Tel: 01865 287119, Fax: 01865 277139, email: [nick.millea@ouls.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nick.millea@ouls.ox.ac.uk). <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/maps/camsem0809.html>

### International Map Collectors' Society

#### Annual Dinner and General Meeting

4-5 June 2009

London, UK

5 June: The Dinner (at 19.45) will be preceded by the Malcolm Young lecture: Zsolt Török will speak about *Francesco Rosselli and early map printing*. (at 19.00 at the East India Club, 16 James Square).

6 June at 10.00: *Annual General Meeting* at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore.

More information to be found on: <http://www.imcos.org/index.asp>

### The London Map Fair

6-7 June 2009

London, UK

Still the only specialist map fair in the UK and the largest in Europe, with 40 international exhibitors offering maps, charts, town plans, atlases, globes, views and reference books of all periods and to suit all pockets. There will be lectures at 14.30

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



daily in the Ondaatje Theatre. Our guest speaker this year will be Francis Herbert, former Curator of Maps at the Royal Geographical Society, who will speak on *Back to the drawing board: 120 years of map-making in the RGS*. Using original material from the Map Drawing Office and the Society's Collections, Francis will explore the process of map-making from start to finish, showing how original manuscript surveys made in remote corners of the world were transformed by draughtsmen (and women) at the RGS into printed maps. This year there will also be guided tours of the Royal Geographical Society, a rare opportunity for the public to look inside this historic building. At the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore. It will be open on Saturday 6 June from 12.00-19.00 and on Sunday 7 June from 10.00-17.00. Tickets for the map fair can be printed off at the Map Fair web page: <http://www.londonmapfairs.com>

### 23<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on the History of Cartography (ICHC 2009) 12-17 July 2009 Copenhagen, Denmark

Due to the difficulties of navigating the Far North, the early cartography of the region has been characterized by a blurring of the boundaries between fact and fiction, and a strong interplay between textual sources and cartography. These traits will be the subject of **Maps, Myths and Narratives: Cartography of the Far North**.

Two optional pre-conference meetings have been scheduled for Saturday 11 July:

- (1) The biennial meeting of the International Society of Curators of Early Maps (ISCeM).
- (2) A session organised by the International Cartographic Association (ICA).

Two optional post-conference tours have been arranged:

- (1) A day trip to the ruins of Tycho Brahe's observatory at Uranienborg on the Island of Hven on Saturday 18 July
- (2) A three-day tour, from Sunday 19 July to

Tuesday 21 July, with a circuit of the Øresund Region of Northern Zealand in Denmark and Skåne in Southern Sweden.

Pre-registration is available online or from Henrik Dupont (email: [hd@kb.dk](mailto:hd@kb.dk)), Research Librarian, Department of Maps, The Royal Library, Slotsholmen, POB 2149, DK-1016 Copenhagen K. For more information, visit: <http://www.ichc2009.dk/>

### Colloquium on 'Mapping Medieval Chester' 30-31 July 2009 Swansea, UK

This colloquium will launch the digital materials produced by the project and provide a forum for wider discussion of place and identity in the medieval city, as well as concepts of 'mapping' in the Middle Ages and today. The colloquium will feature papers on medieval Chester, but we are also seeking inter-disciplinary contributions relating to the medieval city more generally.

The 'Mapping Medieval Chester' project has brought together scholars working in the disciplines of literary studies, geography, archaeology and history to explore how material and imagined urban landscapes construct and convey a sense of place-identity.

We therefore invite 20-minute paper proposals (abstracts of around 300 words); proposals should be sent to Mark Faulkner ([m.j.faulkner@swan.ac.uk](mailto:m.j.faulkner@swan.ac.uk)) by 23 February 2009. For more information, visit <http://www.medievalchester.ac.uk/index.html>

### 27<sup>th</sup> international symposium of the International Map Collectors' Society: *The Mapping and Exploration of Norway and the North*

6-9 September 2009  
Oslo, Norway

Following the format of several successful IMCoS symposia, an opening reception on Sunday 6 September will be followed by three days of programmes, which will conclude with a gala dinner. Half of each day will be devoted to a formal speaker session, with a social/cultural programme in the other half. The venue for Monday and Wednesday mornings is the National Library, where the talks will focus on earlier exploration and mapping. We are fortunate that an exhibit on 'Travel Routes to the North', with manuscript and printed maps, will be on display at the National Library at this time. On Tuesday, we shall travel to the State Mapping Authority in Hønefoss, about 50 km outside Oslo, where we will learn about the practical aspects of map making. In addition to seeing some of the rare, hand-drawn material that is the basis of the modern mapping of Norway, guides will take us through the Authority's museum of old surveying and cartographic instruments. The afternoon visits





include the Viking Ship Museum, the Kon-Tiki Museum, and the Fram Museum. The last houses the Fram, the ship that was built for Fridtjof Nansen for his journey to the North Pole that sailed from Norway in 1893. Seventeen years later, the same ship headed for Antarctica under the leadership of Roald Amundsen. Our gala dinner will take place on the deck of the Fram! We will also visit the Munch Museum.

The official Symposium hotel is The Grand Hotel. In addition to the Grand Hotel, the Symposium will offer other choices of accommodation. The optional post-Symposium tour takes participants to the north of Norway, where they will have the opportunity to see and experience some of Norway's unique beauty. The group will fly on Thursday 10 September to Tromsø, which lies north of the Arctic Circle. After visiting the University Library and the Polar Museum, guests will board the 'Hurtigruten', a coastal steamer, for a journey to Trondheim. The trip along Norway's beautiful west coast, known for its fjords, has

made the Hurtigrute one of Norway's best known and most popular attractions - to visitors and Norwegians alike! The tour ends with a sightseeing tour of Trondheim on Sunday 13 September, and a return to Oslo.

Additional information from Pål Sagen, P.O.Box 3893, Ullevål Stadion, NO-0805 Oslo, Norway; phone: +47 2233 3650, fax: +47 2233 3651. Email: [contact@imcosnorway2009.com](mailto:contact@imcosnorway2009.com)

### **24<sup>th</sup> International Cartography Conference 15 - 21 November 2009**

#### **Santiago de Chile**

The International Cartographic Association Conference is an opportunity to keep abreast of the latest scientific and technical developments in our profession. It also provides the possibility to meet Chilean colleagues. The conference in Santiago provides the opportunity, for the first time, for the activities of the ICA to be showcased in South America.

See also [www.icc2009.cl](http://www.icc2009.cl).

## **Exhibitions**

### **Return to Manhattan: 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage**

**Until 1 June 2009**

#### **Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

The exhibition features various documents related to the establishment of the Dutch colony of New Netherland and the trading post of New Amsterdam - which later became New York City - at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. One of the highlights of the 'Return to Manhattan' exhibition is undoubtedly the Nationaal Archief's Schaghenbrief letter from 1626. One of the earliest documents to mention the purchase of Manhattan, the island on which New Netherland was established, the Schaghenbrief letter is not only evidence of the agreement concluded between the local population and the Dutch in 1626, but also of the first children born to pioneers in the Dutch colony. The exhibition also includes the oldest map to show Manhattan as an island (1614) and the famous cityscape of New Amsterdam by Johannes Vingboons from circa 1665. In addition to these unique historical documents from the Nationaal Archief, two 17<sup>th</sup>-century prints of an indigenous man and woman by Wenceslaus Hollar will be on display, as well as part of the famous Blaeu Atlas from the collection of the Koninklijk Oudheidkundig Genootschap (Royal Antiquarian Society). Henry Hudson's discovery of Manhattan Island 400 years ago, as an explorer working for the Dutch East India Company (VOC), will be celebrated this year.

At the Rijksmuseum, Jan Luijkenstraat 1, Amsterdam. For more information, visit: <http://www.rijksmuseum.nl/>



### **Dr. Emil Holub - African Explorer (1847 - 1902) 29 May - 5 June 2009**

#### **Brussels, Belgium**

An exhibition about the African adventures of Emil Holub, the famous Czech doctor, traveller, collector, cartographer and ethnographer. Emil Holub, originally from the Pardubice Region of Bohemia, traversed the Dark Continent in the second half of the nineteenth century and was Central Europe's most noteworthy traveller at the time. He drew up the first detailed map of the area around Victoria Falls and kindled interest in Africa among Czechs.

Visitors will be able to view unique authentic African exhibits from the collection of the Emil Holub Museum in Holic, near Pardubice, as well as photographs, maps and other materials from the traveller's expeditions.

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





## AUCTION CALENDAR

### **Bernaerts**

Verlatstraat 16-22,  
B-2000 Antwerpen  
tel +32 (0)3 248 19 21  
www.bernaerts.be  
info@bernaerts.be  
**13 May 2009**

### **Paulus Swaen Internet Auctions**

*(BIMCC Sponsor)*  
www.swaen.com  
paulus@swaen.com  
**13 - 19 May,**  
**16 - 22 Sept., 2-8 Dec. 2009**

### **Antoine Jacobs - Librairie des Eléphants** *(BIMCC Member)*

Place van Meenen 19  
B-1060 Brussels  
tel. +32 (0)2 539 06 01  
fax +32 (0)2 534 44 47  
**16 May, 13 June 2009**

### **Ketterer Kunst**

Messberg 1, D-20095 Hamburg  
tel. +49 40 374 96 10  
fax +49 40/374 96 166  
www.kettererkunst.de  
infohamburg@kettererkunst.de  
**18 - 19 May 2009**

### **Bubb Kuyper**

Jansweg 39, NL-2011 KM Haarlem  
tel. +31 23 532 39 86  
fax +31 23 532 38 93  
www.bubbkuyper.com  
info@bubbkuyper.com  
**26 - 29 May,**  
**24 - 27 November 2009**

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

Prinsegracht 15  
NL-2512 EW 's-Gravenhage  
tel. +31 70 364 98 40/41  
fax +31 70 364 33 40  
www.vanstockums-veilingen.nl  
info@vanstockums-veilingen.nl  
**3 - 5 June, 4 - 6 November 2009**

### **Michel Lhomme**

*(BIMCC Member)*  
Rue des Carmes 9, B-4000 Liège  
tel. +32 (0)4 223 24 63  
fax +32 (0)4 222 24 19  
www.michel-lhomme.com  
librairie@michel-lhomme.com  
**6 June 2009**

### **De Eland**

Weesperstraat 110,  
NL-1112 AP Diemen  
tel. +31 20 623 03 43  
www.deeland.nl, info@deeland.nl  
**7 June, 6 September,**  
**15 November 2009,**  
**31 January 2010**

### **The Romantic Agony**

*(BIMCC Sponsor)*  
Acqueductstraat 38-40  
B-1060 Brussels  
tel. +32 (0)2 544 10 55  
fax +32 (0)2 544 10 57  
www.romanticagony.com  
auction@romanticagony.com  
**12 - 13 June,**  
**20 - 21 November 2009**

### **Henri Godts**

*(BIMCC Sponsor)*  
Avenue Louise 230/6  
B-1050 Brussels  
tel. +32 (0)2 647 85 48  
fax +32 (0)2 640 73 32  
www.godts.com  
books@godts.com  
**16 June 2009**

### **Librairie Alain Ferraton**

Chaussée de Charleroi 162  
B-1060 Brussels  
Tel. +32 (0)2 538 69 17  
Fax +32 (0)2 537 46 05  
www.ferraton.be  
info@ferraton.be  
**19 - 20 June 2009**

### **Peter Kiefer Buch- und Kunstauktionen** *(BIMCC Sponsor)*

Steubenstrasse 36  
D-75172 Pforzheim  
tel. +49 7231 92 320  
fax +49 7231 92 32 16  
www.kiefer.de, info@kiefer.de  
**19 - 20 June 2009**

### **Venator & Hanstein**

*(BIMCC Sponsor)*  
Cäcilienstrasse 48, D-50667 Köln  
tel. +49 221 257 54 19  
fax +49 221 257 55 26  
www.venator-hanstein.de  
info@venator-hanstein.de  
**25 - 26 September 2009**

### **Marc van de Wiele**

*(BIMCC Member)*  
Sint-Salvatorskerkhof 7  
B-8000 Brugge  
tel. +32 (0)50 33 63 17

fax +32 (0)50 34 64 57  
www.marcvandewiele.com  
**26 September 2009**

### **Hondius Book and Print Auctions**

Dorpstraat 31b, NL-7218 AB Almen  
tel. +31 575 43 94 43  
fax +31 575 43 39 73  
www.hondiusauctions.com  
info@hondiusauctions.com  
**29 - 30 September 2009**

### **Galerie Gerda Bassenge**

Erdener Strasse 5a, D-14193 Berlin  
tel. +49 30 893 80 290  
fax +49 30 891 80 25  
www.bassenge.com  
art@bassenge.com  
**14 - 17 October 2009**

### **Reiss & Sohn**

Adelheidstr. 2, D-61462 Königstein  
tel +49 6174 92 720  
fax +49 6174 92 72 49  
www.reiss-sohn.de  
reiss@reiss-sohn.de  
**19 - 24 October 2009**

### **Loeb-Larocque** *(BIMCC Sponsor)*

31, rue de Tolbiac, F-75013 Paris  
tel. +33 (0)6 11 80 33 75 or  
tel./fax +33 (0)1 44 24 85 80  
www.loeb-larocque.com  
info@loeb-larocque.com  
**6 November 2009 (Salle Drouot)**

### **Zisska & Schauer**

Unter Anger 15, D-80331 München  
tel. +49 89 26 38 55  
fax +49 89 26 90 88  
www.zisska.de  
auctions@zisska.de  
**9 - 13 November 2009**

### **Michel Grommen**

*(BIMCC benefactor)*  
Rue du Pont 33 & 38, B-4000 Liège  
tel. +32 (0)4 222 24 48  
fax +32 (0)4 222 24 49  
www.librairiegrommen.be  
librairiegrommen@skynet.be  
**Please inquire**

### **A & E Morel de Westgaver**

Rue Henri Marichal 24,  
B-1050 Brussels.  
tel. + 32-(0)2-640.22.53,  
morel\_de\_westgaver@brutele.be  
**Please inquire**



## BIMCC

### BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL MAP COLLECTORS' CIRCLE

<http://www.bimcc.org>

#### Aims and functions of the BIMCC

The BIMCC is a non-profit making 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.
- AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on a specific major topic every year in December.

#### Honorary President

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

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

Annual membership: EUR 30.00,  
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To become (and stay!) a member, please pay the membership dues EXCLUSIVELY by bank transfer (no cheques please) to the BIMCC bank account: 068-2475422-09  
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and notify the Membership Secretary indicating your name and address.

#### BIMCC Newsletter

The BIMCC currently publishes three Newsletters per year. Please submit calendar items and other contributions to the editor (e-mail: editor@bimcc.org) by the following deadlines:

- 15 Dec. for the January edition.
  - 15 April for the May edition.
  - 15 August for the Sept. edition.
- Signed articles and reviews solely reflect the opinions of the author.

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