

MAPS IN HISTORY



September 2016
Newsletter No

56

Our Excursion to Rome

**"Cape Bona Esperanca"
Conference Programme
Origin of portolans**



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Cover : The group from the Brussels Map Circle returns to the Academia Belgica, on the edge of the Villa Borghese park (via Omero), after the visit to the map gallery of the Terza Loggia in the Vatican (7 May 2016) (photo : JL Renteux)

Intro

Dear Map Friends,

Our excursion to Rome last May was certainly the most extraordinary we have had in the life of the Brussels Map Circle. For that we must thank our President, Caroline De Candt, and, first and foremost, Wouter Bracke, Director of the Academia Belgica (among many titles). Not only did he make all the practical arrangements to host us at the Academia, but he also organised a programme of visits and lectures, taking advantage of his many contacts in Rome, to allow us to discover the most exceptional cartographical treasures of the city. Of course 'Maps in History' had to report on this major event. In this issue, you will find a rather comprehensive account where I have gathered contributions from various participants to cover the six visits and seven lectures comprising the excursion.

I am also happy to report briefly on the 'First International Workshop on the origin and evolution of portolan charts' which took place in Lisbon in June. This is probably the only chance you will have to read about this event! The Workshop organised by Joaquim Alves Gaspar, Tony Campbell and Evangelos Livieratos was an opportunity to debate several issues dividing experts, in particular one which started in these columns around the thesis of Roel Nicolai. But, after two very full days of presentations and discussions, the subject was far from exhausted and this first Workshop is likely to be followed by more, which will still have a lot to debate!

The main article in this issue takes us to a region we have not yet covered in our magazine: the southern tip of Africa. Roger Stewart (IMCoS representative in South Africa) presents us his analysis of a scarce chart of the Cape area.

Last but not least, you will find the complete programme of our Conference (on 10 December 2016) devoted to Globes and Instruments. Be sure to register early on our website (www.bimcc.org).

Cartographically yours,



Jean-Louis Renteux
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Hautes-Fagnes

Cartographie ancienne. Enseignements des cartes anciennes pour servir l'histoire du haut plateau fagnard et retracer l'évolution de ses paysages

[Hautes Fagnes. What old maps can teach about the plateau and tracing its landscape's evolution]

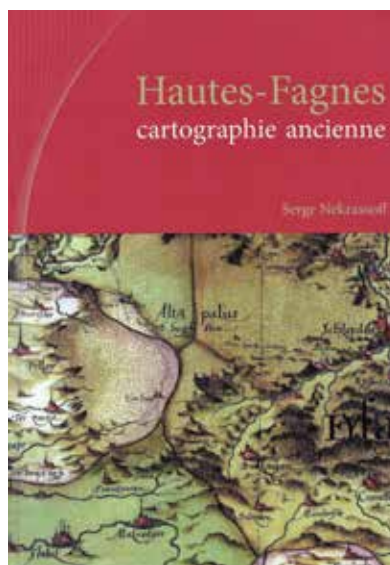
by Serge Nekrassoff

— Waimes, Haute Ardenne asbl, 2014, 103 pp., colour ill., soft cover, 30x21 cm.

— DL D/2014/5229/2. EUR 19.50.

The subtitle of the book is a whole program. In addition to their clear aesthetic design, the historical maps and plans featured here are important sources for reconstituting and understanding the history of the region and tracing the relationship of man with this environment of marshy moorland in Eastern Belgium. The author, historian and contributor to the Scientific Station of the Hautes-Fagnes (ULg), emphasises the need to understand the maps well. Each map has its characteristics and is drawn for a particular purpose; for example, a map from an atlas has a purpose that differs from a military map. In addition, codes and conventions change over time. Finally, it is worth knowing the historical context (political, cultural, economic etc.).

After some general considerations on the interpretation of these documents, the author reminds us that we have lived a long time without maps, to the extent of hardly figuring out a route between a start point and an end point. He then looks at different types of maps where the area of the 'Hautes-Fagnes [High Fens]' (the highland and the surrounding villages and hamlets) is shown or mentioned. The engraved maps (marketed through printing and multiplying therefore in the 16th century) are small-scaled and offer little nuances. They indicate at best an area that is difficult, even dangerous, to access named *Haut marais*, *Hoge veen* or *Alta palus* and usually put at



Book's Cover: Christian Sgrooten, *Descriptio eius terrae, quae est inter Mosam et Rhenum*, in *Atlas Bruxellensis*, 1573 (Royal Library of Belgium)

the borders of the map or even outside its framework, given its appearance of *terra incognita!*

This territory is signaled among others, on maps by Cornelis Danckerts (1635), Aegidius Martini (c. 1635), Frederik De Wit (c. 1660), Guillaume Sanson (1673) and Nicolas Visscher (c. 1680). It can already be found in the *Atlas Bruxellensis* by Christian Sgrooten (1573). This latest work deserves a special place, since it is written and controlled by the Spanish authority, so not to be distributed. There are a few plans and maps of a very limited area and which are very large scale, prepared in the context of disputes or to clarify land use practice regulations. Let us finally



C.A. Simon, *Carte figurative d'un petit canton de la province de Luxembourg aux environs de Sourbrodt sur les hautes fagnes* [Decorated map of a small district of the province of Luxembourg around Sourbrodt on the high fens], 1756 (National Archives of Luxembourg)



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mention the confidential military handwritten maps, like that of Captain Bothereau in 1702, François-Joseph de Ferraris in 1770–1775, Jean-Joseph Tranchot and Friedrich-Carl von Müffling in the early 19th century. They are characterised by concern for detail, amount of information, plotlines of communication ways and are sometimes accompanied by helpful comments to an army in the field.

Serge Nekrassoff also exposes how to represent the *Hautes-Fagnes'* landscape. The plotlines of communication ways are quite specific: given the state of the land, the ways are often temporary and consist of a set of separate tracks, rather than a specific path. The toponyms have multiple variants for different reasons: the cartographer is rarely a native of the place mapped, Walloon and Germanic dialects coexist in the region, the toponym loses its meaning after a change of landscape etc. Borders are many. At the end of the Ancient Regime, five States share the *Hautes-Fagnes*: the Marquisate of Franchimont, the Duchies of Limbourg, Jülich, Luxembourg and the Principality of Savelot-Malmedy! We must not forget vegetation, habitat development, population estimate, economic exploitation, trade (transit area) and small monumental patrimony (milestones, columns, crosses, remarkable trees and other landmarks). All this information, supplemented by other types of evidence, allows us to understand the

evolution of *Hautes-Fagnes'* environments since they have been crossed and exploited by man.

The book contains a hundred colour old maps (16th–19th centuries), all referenced and commented on, some in full page, sometimes side by side to see the changing landscape, paths and toponyms. It ends with an extensive bibliography: manuscript maps and plans, engraved maps, printed sources and works, in addition to the notes at the end of each chapter. Valuable inserts punctuate this work: the peculiarities of the manuscript *Atlas* by Sgrooten and the *Carte de Cabinet* by Ferraris; explanation of triangulation used from the 16th century to draw maps; changes in the representation of relief; the only paved road unearthed to date in the region: *Pavé Charlemagne* or *Via Mansuerisca* dating back perhaps to the Roman era.

This particularly careful, well documented, rewarding and enjoyable to read work is mainly intended for those who are interested in this surprising region. But it will certainly win the attention of historical cartography specialists and old maps lovers. It is indeed a fine example of the contribution of maps to the understanding of an environment.



Corneille Leurs, *Carte figurative d'une partie de chaussée romaine (la via mansuerisca) découverte, en 1768, dans les fagnes de Limbourg, entre Néau (Eupen) et Saurbrod* [Figurative map of part of Roman road (Via mansuerisca) discovered in 1768 in the fens of Limbourg between Néau (Eupen) and Sourbrodt], 1768 (AGR) (Map facing south)

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Mapping the Roads

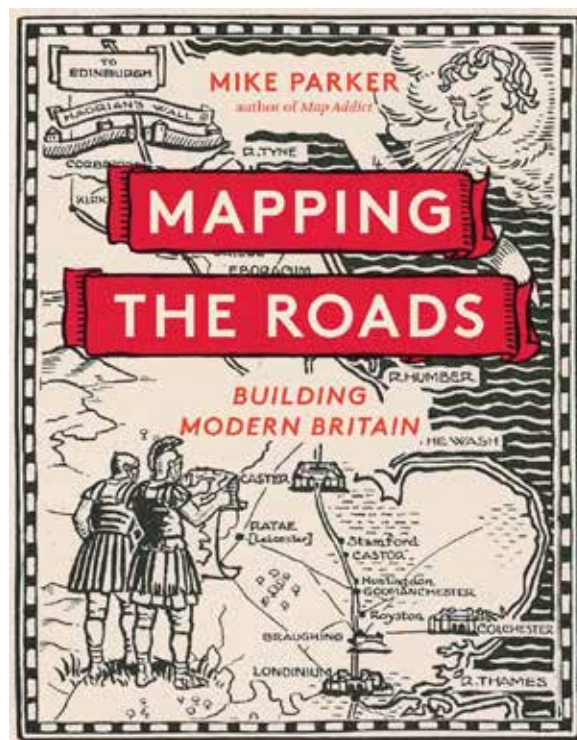
Building Modern Britain

by Mike Parker

— Basingstoke, Hampshire (UK) : AA Publishing, 256 pages, most with illustrations – maps, map details, map covers etc – hard cover, 285 x 225 mm - GBP 25 - ISBN 978-0-7495-7435-2

Mike Parker, presenter of BBC Radio's 'On the Map', has written a number of books, including 'Map Addict'. His 'Mapping the Roads' is less a book on cartography, as one might think from the title, and more a social history on the advent and impact of the automobile. It is a very 'British' book, but weaves into the story the French, Italian and German influences on the car industry in the UK. At the same time it traces the key map makers in Britain, and the development of maps in terms of knowledge, materials, scale, depiction of features, standardisation of colours, contours and symbols, mapmakers and mapmaking companies, and target markets.

The book introduces the topic with Matthew Paris's 13th century map of Britain (Fig. 1) showing the settlement on the road from Dover to Berwick-on-Tweed. These are aligned to give the impression that the road is the straight backbone of the country – 'distortion of reality with a purpose'. We go back to 3000 B.C. when the carved stones of Old Bewick might be topographic maps. Roads were routes for pilgrims, trade, drovers, and of course the military, and those that have stood the test of time are the Roman roads, which, as everyone knows, are drawn on the Peutinger map, which however only shows a very small portion of the UK. One aspect of the Peutinger map continues to



the present day; roads are included at the expense of everything else. Towns and settlements grew up along the roads and especially around the junctions; this in turn increased the 'traffic' on the roads.

The Romans left in the early fifth century and no improvements were made for over a thousand years. Meanwhile Matthew Paris gives Britain its first road strip map – the *Chronica Majora* (13th century) – showing pilgrimage routes from London to Rome and Jerusalem. The Gough map (1360) details 600 towns and cities, plus over 3,000 miles of

roads, shown as red lines, although some red lines are not roads... The geography of Scotland is incomplete and inaccurate. However Scottish cartographer and topographer Timothy Pont's maps were incorporated into the Blaeu Atlas of Scotland (c.1654). We take a step back to look at John Norden's map of London (1593) (Fig. 2), from the 'Speculum Britanniae'. This is a bird's-eye view, which for the first time introduces a numbered index of many streets, churches and prominent buildings, cross-referenced to the map, and is also the first example of an off-map direction indicator, 'the



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Fig. 1. Matthew Paris's 13th century map of Britain

way to Hampstead'. In his 'England: an Intended Guyde for English Travellers' (1625) he introduces the triangular table showing distances between towns. Christopher Saxton and John Speed were also both producing atlases around this time. Later on in the century many maps were made for owners of estates and showed a given area in fine detail.

In September 1675 John Ogilby's 'Britannia' was published, setting the scale of one inch to one mile. This is a compendium of 73 routes in England and Wales, in strip map format, with conventions for direction, country features, different types of building, and so on. But is 'Britannia' hiding something? I did not see the BBC TV series in 2008 which posited

the view that 'Britannia' was a coded blueprint for a French invasion, through the back door of Wales. Whether or not the theory is true, Britannia was an immediate success. A playing card set was also made on the basis of the maps, the number of counties in England and Wales being a convenient 52.

Mapping in Scotland began in earnest with William Roy's military survey of the Scottish Highlands, a response to Jacobite uprisings – aiming to restore the Catholic James II of England and VII of Scotland to the throne. This was the beginning of the Ordnance Survey, the national mapping agency for Great Britain and today one of the world's largest producers of maps.

Fast forward - this review, not the book itself – through the golden age of the stagecoach – the late 18th century, new networks of canals and railways, early 19th century, the new road transport mania in the 1860s, the bicycle, and the first car on Britain's roads in 1895.

Post World War I, André Michelin advised the British government on many matters regarding the roads, and Britain decided to follow the French system of road numbering, where different numbered spokes radiated out from the capital. Michelin had also started to publish maps and guides in France and in 1905 opened an office in London. The



Fig. 2. John Norden's map of London (1593).

company published a 1: 200 000 series – their strong point being detail on the state of the roads.

In the interwar years there were huge road-building programmes. The need for new maps was met by petrol companies, such as Pratt's, motoring organisations and commercial companies. The Automobile Association (AA) teamed up with Bartholomew to produce a motorists' touring map at twelve miles to the inch, and the AA produced itineraries to popular destinations – Brighton, Scarborough and the Lake District, among them. Pratt's maps came back into favour, with romantically

drawn features reminding of the Ogilby and Cary strip maps.

The two World Wars 'advanced aerial photography as a mainstay of map-making', and during the 'Cold War' – post 1947, the Truman doctrine – the Soviets had more detail on their maps of Britain than the British themselves, as 'sensitive sites' had been kept off official maps. In 1958 Britain's first motorway was opened – the Preston bypass in the north-east of England – 26 years behind Germany, and 33 years behind Italy, and the M1 opened in 1959. Mapmakers did not know quite how to react. They had to find a way of emphasising the importance

of these new roads. Blue was the colour adopted for motorways in 1964. With the new roads new maps were needed and competition hotted up. Ordnance Survey and Bartholomew only updated their maps every few years so the AA and the RAC (Royal Automobile Club) handbooks and branded petrol station maps now overtook them in popularity. The motorway also brought back the strip map, marked with service stations, junctions, and interconnecting roads.

From the 1990s on, maps were prime displays of the era's social history. They showed out-of-town shopping centres, warehouses and industry

close to motorways, 'spaghetti junctions', and second or even third attempts at bypasses around towns. In December 2003 the turnpike returned – the M6 toll – without much success –and then came the congestion charge, charging vehicles entering some big cities. There was a wealth of maps to choose from. At one extreme the road-oriented A-Z atlases, at the other Ordnance Survey's efforts more geared to the leisure market. In between were the clean functional atlases from Collins (which Bartholomew had now become) and the AA and RAC. Supermarkets took over from petrol companies as map producers. Ordnance Survey took advantage of the return to the bicycle, and the new mountain-bike cyclists, producing the maps they needed. But 'the most startling addition' was the 'Upside Down map' (Fig. 3), for drivers travelling from the north to the south of the country. Initially thought of as a joke, it sold very well.

With the introduction of the Satellite Navigation device, known in the UK by the ugly – in my view – term 'satnav', we were transported straight back to the strip map, except that now it is you on the road, rather than just the road, that is the centre of everything. However, paper maps still continue to find a market; from 2013 the new addition was the location of speed cameras, which has now become standard practice.

The Open Street Map (OSM) and Google Maps are both expanding and improving all the time. As Mike Parker says, 'We have entered the age of the entirely bespoke map, created for precisely the journey you want to make and containing precisely the levels of information you want to include'.

I very much enjoyed 'Mapping the Roads', even though I was expecting a book on cartography and found one on social history,

and am not a fan of modern paper maps. The author writes in a very entertaining style, and the book is beautifully illustrated, and nicely bound so that it is easy to handle. I find it particularly interesting when cartography comes full circle. History's pilgrims could today make digital choices about the kind of route they would wish to take.

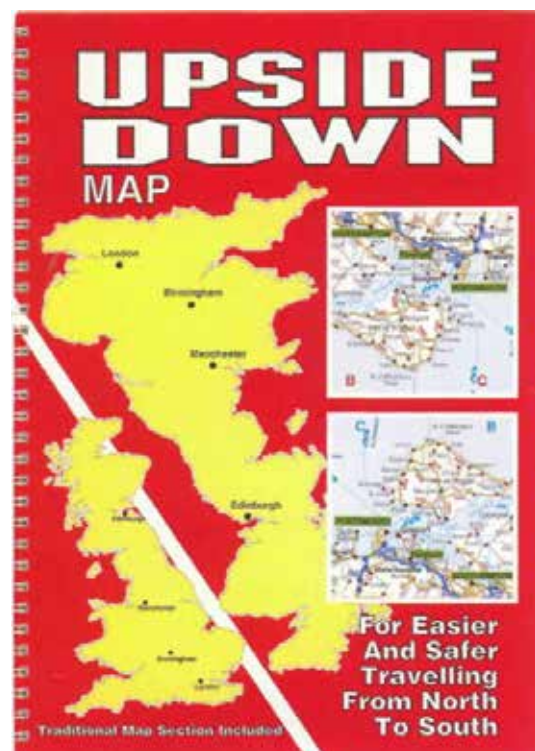


Fig. 3. John and Ashley Simms's Upside Down Map of Great Britain (1997)

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Abraham Ortelius(1527-1598)

Life · Work · Sources and Friends

by Marcel van den Broecke

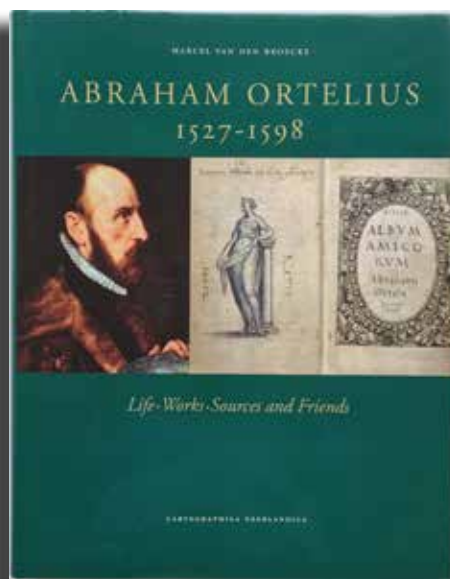
— Cartographica Neerlandica, Bilthoven Netherlands, 2015, 329 pages, 2.3 kg, large folio, ISBN 978-90-9029486-5. EUR 69,50 (incl shipping Europe)

— To order : info@orteliusmaps.com

Visiting the exhibition ‘The cartography or the mirror of the world. Mercator and Ortelius’, in the Museum of Flanders, Cassel (earlier this year – see Maps in History No 55, page 36), we were welcomed by a life-size portrait in oils of both men: Mercator is seated and Ortelius comes to visit him in his workshop. We have rarely seen so many atlases exhibited both of Abraham Ortelius and of Gerard Mercator in parallel, in a comparative exercise of both Flemish cartographers.

The new book from Marcel van den Broecke comes at the right time and concludes on the same theme of friendship between the two men who were so different in character and approach. We see Abraham Ortel Latinising his name, settling in Antwerp where he will live all his life and die in 1598, just four years after Mercator, although 15 years younger. Ortelius lost his father in childhood, and had to raise money for the family by colouring engraved images (including maps); this is how he entered the St Luke painters’ guild in Antwerp. His sisters were to continue as colourists all his life; but he continued his father’s antiquarian business and bought maps, bound them together, choosing similar sizes and prepared the first sets of maps into what we today call an ‘atlas’.

This folio volume is definitely not another coffee table book. It is a book written by a collector, who has



Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598)
Life · Work · Sources and Friends 2016

patiently read the inscriptions on map cartouches and examines, analyses and reports on them. For Rome we find over 120 different names for the eternal city; Ortelius attributes characteristics to people and describes fishing methods in different regions, natural phenomena and religious behaviour and also coins.

The author is also a dealer and businessman: so he calculates the number of printed atlases, by edition, estimating the profit Ortelius made from his trade and reports also on actual prices in auction houses since the late 1970s to very recently. He

gives a representative image of atlases to be found in any country. A total of 1175 from the 9675 printed atlases have survived – at least in public collections, and many in private or still unknown places.

A chapter is devoted to the iconography of Ortelius on paintings, statues but also coins. The author missed the painted joint portrait that was exhibited in Cassel, but I think hardly anyone had seen that work loaned from the reserves of Antwerp’s Royal Museum of Fine Arts. The next chapter is devoted to the coin collection and his numismatic books. Ortelius was a real coin collector but also a bibliophile. He bought many books for reference to describe the countries on the maps he drafted for his engravers; sometimes he bought many copies, so he sold them for a profit. Ortelius was essentially a businessman, looking for profit.

The book studies the engravers working for Ortelius, the author analyses the verso of the maps and reports on them thematically. A difficulty from his readings was the conversion of place-names from the old texts into the actual 16th-century forms. He therefore included the *Synonymia* in the atlases themselves from 1570 onwards; in 1578 it became a separate publication as *Synonymia Geographica*. This book evolved and changed title in 1587 to *Thesaurus Geographicus*, also printed in Antwerp by Plantin, which became a heavy



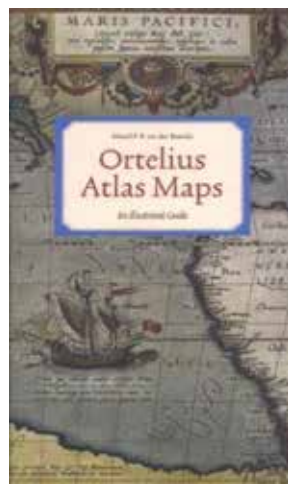
Jan De Graeve
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640-page book by 1596; we find it in Mercator's library. Here Ortelius made a real contribution to geographical sciences.

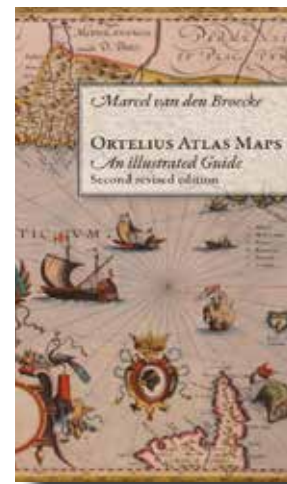
The author attempts to quantify the number of volumes in Ortelius' library, including maps, atlases, reference books, in all sorts of languages (Latin, Dutch, French, German, English, Italian, Greek, etc) as Ortelius was fluent in all of them, mixing sales stock and his personal collection. Anyway, many visitors came to visit Ortelius and his collections. He maintained a vast correspondence with many friends and clients, and a CD accompanies the book dealing with this particular chapter. The last pages are devoted to the Ortelius - Mercator friendship.

Note :

Marcel van den Broecke is also the author of two well known books on the Ortelius Atlas Maps . The first edition of 1996 is out of print , but the second (revised edition) of 2011 is now a standard reference for any Ortelius enthusiast...



Ortelius Atlas Maps
An Illustrated Guide
First edition 1996
(out of print)



Ortelius Atlas Maps
An Illustrated Guide
Second edition 2011
(Hes & de Graaf- now Brill)

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The Pre-Siege Maps of Malta,

Second Century AD – 1564

by Albert Ganado and Joseph Schirò

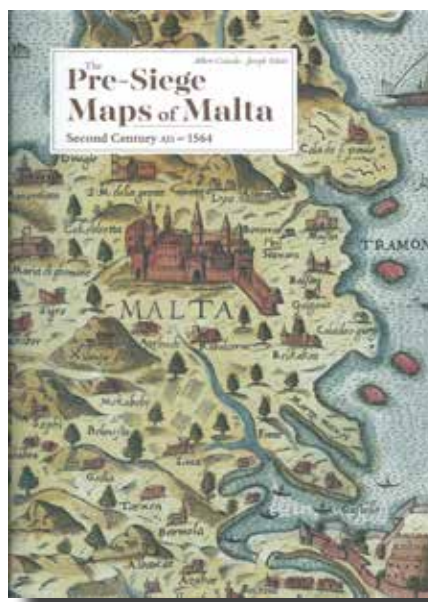
— San Gwann, Malta: BDL Publishing, 2016 – x, 230 pp., 47 col. ill., hard cover with colour dust jacket, 27x 21 cm. ISBN 978-99957-46-88-9, EUR 50.

— To order: BDL Publishing, 13, Giorgio Preca Street, San Gwann SGN 3511, Malta, Tel. +356 2138 0351, www.bdlbooks.com

Malta, in spite of the small size of the archipelago (316 km²), has since earliest times been a focal point in the centre of the Mediterranean for seafarers of all nations. It became a Christian stronghold when the Order of St John, having been evicted from Rhodes, established itself there in 1530. It built up a redoubtable fleet which obviously came into conflict with Ottoman forces, especially since Tripoli had been conceded to the Knights Hospitallers together with Malta. A Turkish squadron joined by the corsair Dragut in 1551 sacked Malta's sister island Gozo and carried its whole population into slavery.

In 1565, Suleyman the Magnificent dispatched a formidable armada to invade Malta and destroy the fleet of the Order. The siege lasted for over three months during which the Maltese heroically resisted and finally forced the assailants into retreat.

Malta's role as a link between Sicily and the North African Barbary States, and then its breakthrough performance against the Ottoman Empire, naturally raised concentrated interest among European cartographers, resulting in the production of a significant number of maps of Malta. It is thanks to Dr Albert Ganado, map collector and historian, founder of the Malta Map Society in 2010 and author and co-author of numerous books on the subject (some of them reviewed in Newsletters No 26, 39, 43 [two publications], 47, 49),



that this vast corpus of cartographic material, tracked down in libraries around the world and thoroughly researched, has been made available to the carto-historical community.

The book presented here is a publication which is complementary to previous works in that it provides a dedicated coverage of the earliest of all Malta maps up to the time of the Great Siege. Knowing the author's *'maîtrise'* of the subject and his unflinching endeavour at presenting maps in their historical context, the adopted theme and time frame occasionally seem a bit too tight. We thus find some maps recorded which

are not, *stricto sensu*, Maps of Malta, as in the case of regional Ptolemaic maps of Europe or Africa by Sebastian Münster (1540) and Lorenz Fries (1541), or Edrisi's manuscript map of Sicily (ca. 1300), each showing Malta among other islands. Likewise, and quite logically, for some maps the authors' carto-bibliographical analysis goes well beyond the time of the Siege. A first and stimulating example is the 1536 small woodcut map *Melita* by Johannes Quintinus, the first known printed map of Malta. It served as a model for copies by Andreas Schott (1600, 1605), Pieter van der Aa (1725, 1729) and Maltese engraver Sebastiano Ittar (ca. 1790). Both these discursive developments merit to be mentioned here.

Each map entry, arranged roughly in chronological order, follows the same pattern: a general introduction to the historical and technical environment of its production, with mapmakers' biographical data as available; a map description, frequently with much topographical detail; location of the map (in depositories in Malta or abroad); bibliographical references; and identification of publications in which this map has already been reproduced. Most of the accompanying map illustrations are on a whole page, perfectly readable and a pleasure to study. In two cases, for the Ptolemaic maps and for those that appeared in Münster's *Cosmographia*, Ganado inserted tables detailing the various editions in which either a general map



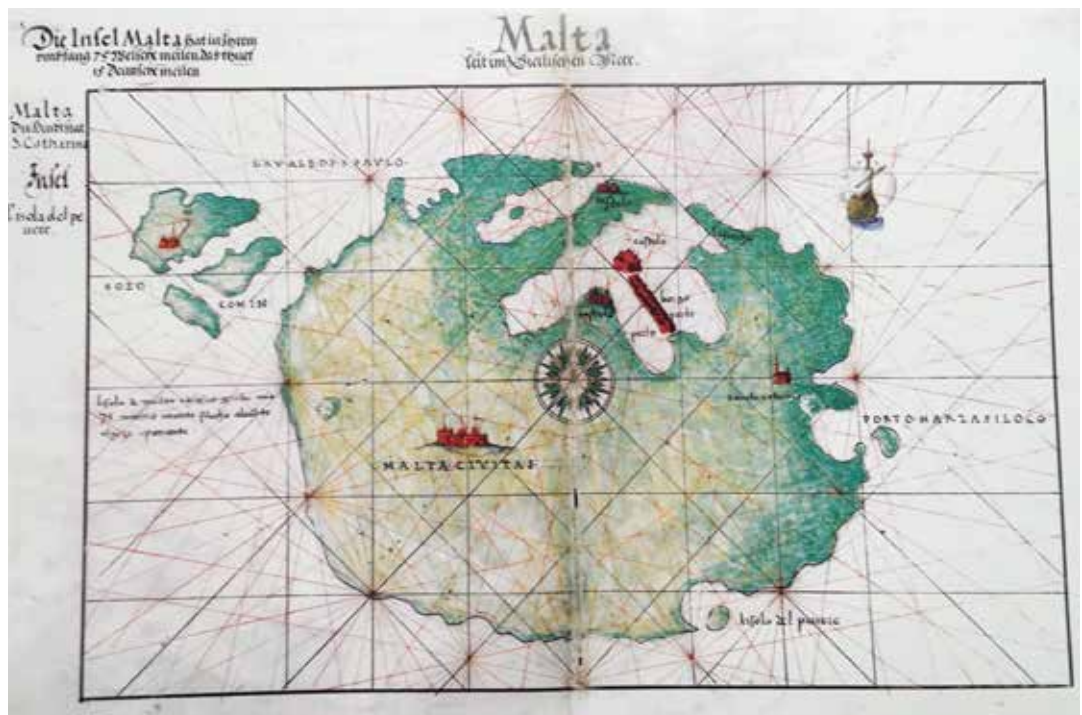
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showing the island or a dedicated map of Malta is to be found. The survey of Ptolemy editions ranges from 1478 to 1564, and the one on the *Cosmographia* from 1544 to 1671. There follows an Appendix which lists libraries worldwide holding different editions of the *Cosmographia*. An extensive Bibliography and an Index complete this book.

Readers familiar with previous publications on the mapping of Malta would expect a certain overlap with map material treated here, and they are right. However, this book is the result of new and more extensive research by the authors. To quote

the example of maps by Battista Agnese (1553 and 1554), Ganado devoted 2.5 pages to the subject in his *The Charting of Maltese Waters* (2013) which here is expanded to nearly ten pages. Another example is Gastaldi's map of 1551 mentioned sporadically in Ganado's map history book *Valletta Città Nuova* (2003), with a dedicated map description of one page. The present entry, together with a second map state (post-1558) has 7.5 pages of text. And a Spanish cosmographer and mapmaker not previously encountered makes his appearance here: Alonzo de Santa Cruz, with a manuscript chart also showing Malta (1560).

The authors are to be congratulated on adding this new study to the growing series of books devoted to the cartography of their island. It was presented at a press conference and reception in Malta on 3 May of this year and was hailed as a landmark publication. All those interested in the early mapping of the Mediterranean will appreciate the well documented and instructive map descriptions and the outstanding quality of the illustrations.



'Malta leit im Sicilischen Meer' 1554 - Location: National Maritime Museum of Greenwich (from atlas)

First International Workshop

On the origin and evolution of portolan charts

6 – 7 June 2016, Lisbon

Navy Museum of Belém, Lisbon– Portugal

by Jean-Louis Renteux

The workshop was appropriately held in the Navy Museum in Belém, the Lisbon district symbolising best the illustrious history of Portuguese seamen and their discoveries. It was organised, under the aegis of the University of Lisbon's Centre for the History of Science and Technology, by Joaquim Alves Gaspar (from Lisbon), Tony Campbell (from London) and Evangelos Livieratos (from Thessaloniki).

As Tony Campbell put it, portolan charts emerged 'almost fully formed in the thirteenth century and exhibited an unprecedented accuracy, when compared with the contemporary cartography' and their origin has been 'among the most challenging unresolved subjects within the History of Cartography'. A lot of research has taken place since Tony published the first comprehensive review of the subject in 1987¹, and even since Ramón Pujades (from Barcelona) fully revisited it in 2007². The workshop's purpose was 'to assess the current state of knowledge and the range of opinion' arising from this recent work. It gathered some 60 participants

1 Campbell, Tony, 'Portolan charts from the Late Thirteenth Century to 1500', in David Woodward & J.B. Harley (eds), *The History of Cartography*, Volume One: *Cartography in Prehistoric, Ancient and Medieval Europe and the Mediterranean*. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press, 1987, pp.371-463; free access online at: www.press.uchicago.edu/books/HOC

2 Pujades, Ramón, *Les Cartes Portolanes. La representació medieval d'una mar solcada*. Barcelona: Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya, 2007



The workshop was hosted by the 'Museu de Marinha' in a huge room (to the right of the photo) of the Jerónimos Monastery, a most prominent example of the Portuguese Late Gothic Manueline style (classified a UNESCO World Heritage Site)

from 15 different countries (including half-a-dozen members of the Brussels Map Circle), involving most of the internationally-recognised specialists on the subject.

This first Workshop is likely to be followed by more, since the subject was far from exhausted after two very full days of presentations and discussions, and as there was no consensus on several issues. In particular, a new controversy is developing from the thesis of Roel Nicolai (from Utrecht) who made an in-depth, geodetically-based analysis of portolan charts' accuracy and use of projection (see *Maps in History* Nos 52 to 54); following a 20 minutes' introduction, Roel concluded that portolan charts could not be based on 'plane charting'; they 'intentionally' used a Mercator type projection; thus, they could not be of medieval origin. Roel's approach was particularly challenged by Joaquim Gaspar and his conclusion left many participants sceptical, especially



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since Roel has no alternative origin to propose... The hypothesis of a Ptolemaic or Islamic origin was clearly ruled out by the first presentations, respectively by Dmitri Schlegov (from Saint-Petersburg) and Stefan Schröder (from Helsinki).

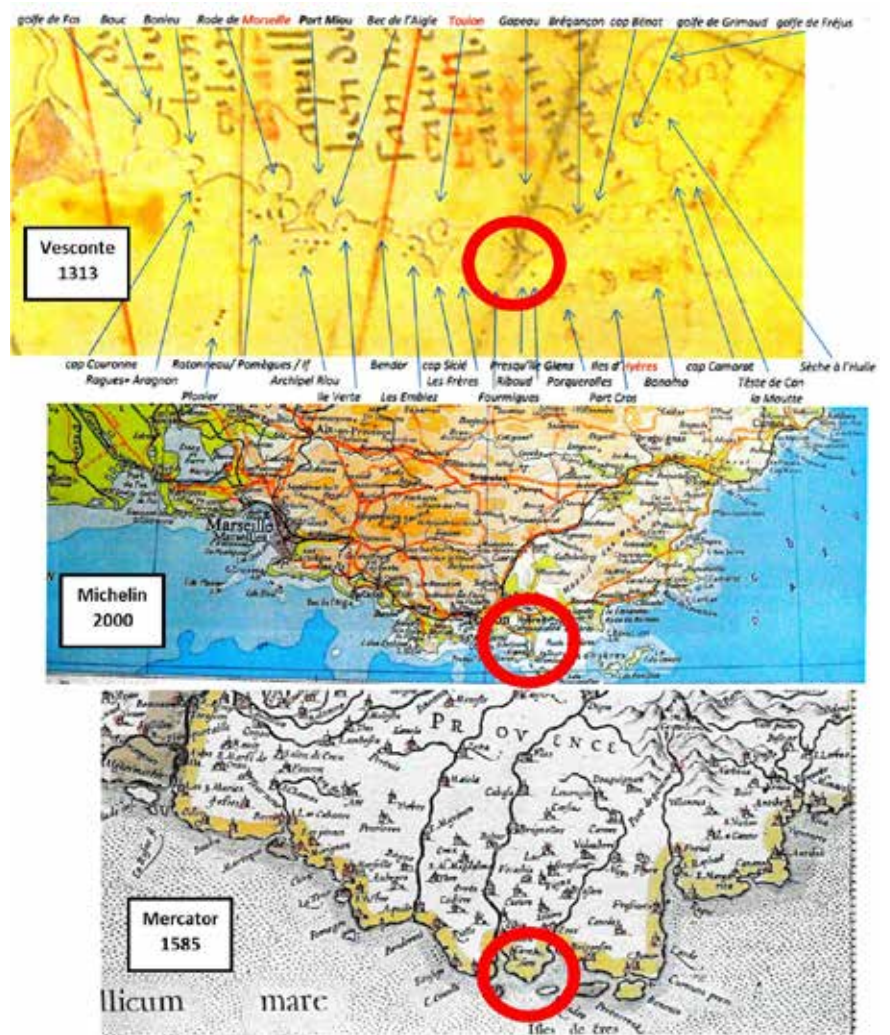
In fact, all other speakers in the Workshop discussed subjects relating portolans to the medieval context: the close connection between charts and navigation during the Middle Ages, medieval navigation techniques, the introduction of the compass, making and using nautical charts before 1500, etc. (abstracts of the twenty presentations can still be found on the workshop website³, together with CVs and references). Nevertheless, the final round table discussion pointed out that the conclusions of Roel Nicolai cannot simply be ignored. Now that his 500-page thesis has been published⁴, more scholars should be able to consider it more closely. Also the dialogue between the 'scientists' and the 'humanists' should be improved, and more historical research should be carried out, as pointed out by Catherine Delano-Smith, into the medieval scientific and technical background...

3 <http://ciuhct.org/events/portmeeting/Index.htm>

4 Nicolai, Roel, *The enigma of the origin of portolan charts – A geodetic analysis of the hypothesis of a medieval origin*. Leiden: Brill, 2016, ISBN 978-90-0428297-1, hardback (xxvi, 544 pp.), EUR 168.00

A good example of what basic historical research can bring to the history of cartography was given by Emmanuelle Vagnon (from Paris): correspondence found in the archives of an Italian merchant prove that portolan charts were made to order and that a wealthy customer could obtain a chart with specific geographical features and better decoration than on a chart ‘only good for sailors’; it also gives details on the chart-making process. Other details on this process were also provided by Kevin Sheehan (from Durham) who experimented with contemporary duplication techniques. It is clear from the accumulated evidence that most of the still extant charts were copied from pre-existing models. Based on a comparison of the evolution over the 13th–16th centuries of the magnetic declination and of the portolan charts’ tilt, Joaquim Gaspar hinted that a prototype chart from the early 13th century could have been at the origin of the other charts... If such a model ever existed, it would have come from Genoa: Ramón Pujades pointed out the common basis of all extant works, and identified the cartographic ateliers of Genoa as the epicentre. Nevertheless, there is still some debate on the chronology of the early extant charts. The ‘Carta Pisana’ was long considered as the most ancient (c. 1280) until, in 2012, Ramón proposed a new chronology (see our Newsletter No 45, p. 5), which was itself challenged recently by Tony Campbell ⁵. Catherine Hofmann (from Paris) presented the

5 <http://www.maphistory.info/ CartePisaneTEXT.html>



The Mediterranean coast between Marseilles and Fréjus represented on the 1313 portolan chart by Vesconte, on a modern map and on a 1585 map by Mercator. Details of the coast (identified by Jacques Mille) are much better depicted on the 14th century chart than on the Mercator map (for example, the **Giens peninsula**); on the other hand the latitudes on the portolan chart are more distorted.

results of scientific investigations undertaken last year to establish the age of its parchment: radiocarbon dating gives a bracket of 1170–1270 which is compatible with the original dating of the chart. More evidence, based on a detailed topographical and toponymical analysis of the southern

coast of France was presented by Jacques Mille (from Marseilles) indicating that the ‘Carta Pisana’, as well as the Cortona chart, could date from the end of the 13th century.

No doubt there will still be a lot to debate in a couple of years!



Participants to the Workshop.

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Seller's 'Draught of Cape Bona Esperanca': deliberate Dutch disinformation?

by Roger Stewart



Roger Stewart
ristew@iafrica.com

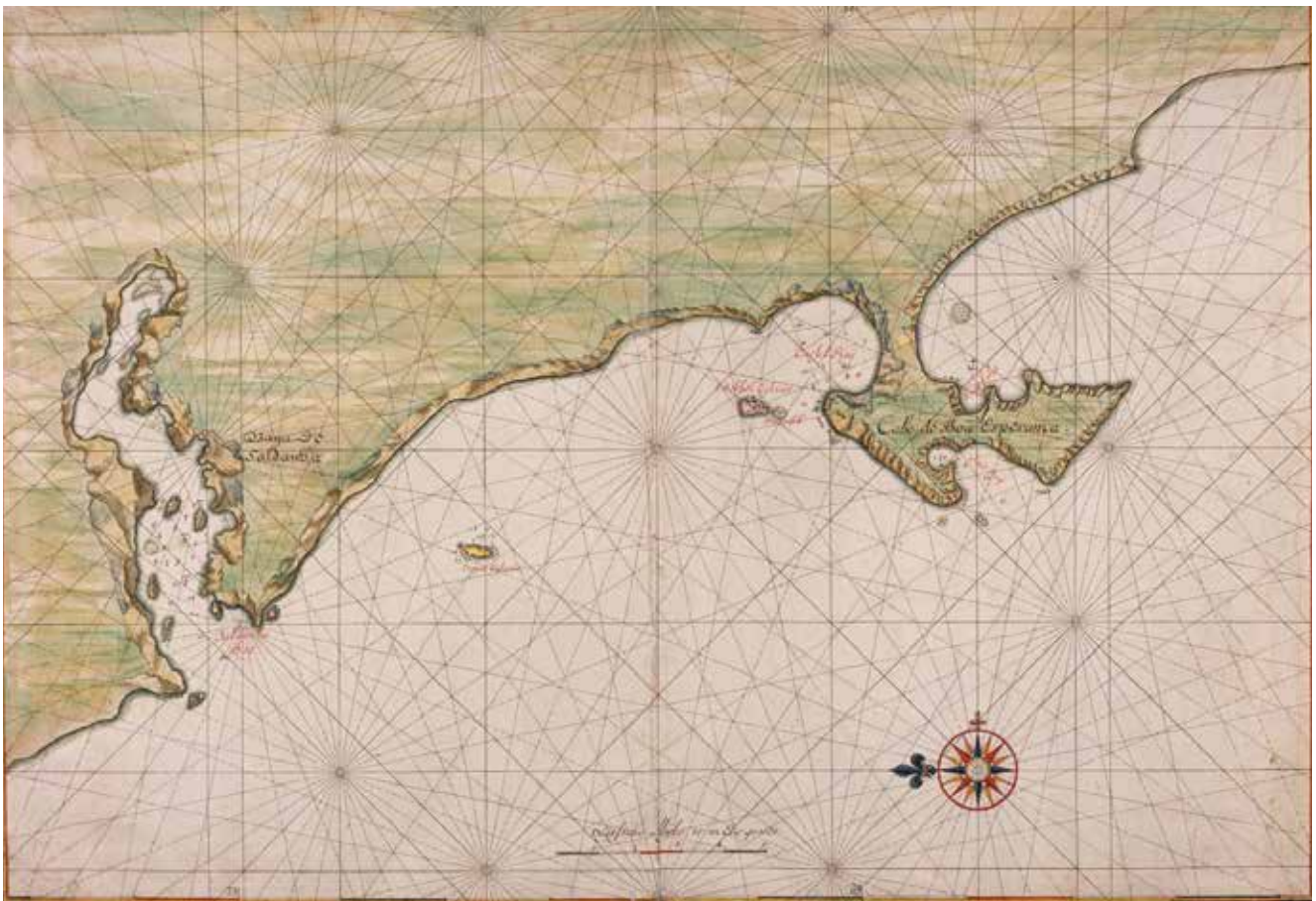


Fig. 1. Johannes Vingboon's chart (69cm x 47.5cm)

In the late fifteenth and the sixteenth centuries the Cape of Good Hope, at the south-western corner of Africa, became an important landmark for the Portuguese sailors to the Far East. With the discovery of a sea route around the Cape the spice trade opened up and soon the Dutch, English, French, and other nations joined the rush to dominate the

market. This development witnessed the establishment of large public companies, aggressive maritime global trade and imperialism,¹ with some companies acting as colonial governments in territories in the East and en route. The Portuguese were the pioneer traders but soon the English and Dutch became dominant,

respectively through the English East India Company (incorporated in 1600) and the United Dutch East India Company, the *Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie*, or VOC, (incorporated in 1602). The Dutch ousted their English and Portuguese rivals in the seventeenth century.

¹ <http://www.economist.com/node/347231>

These 'East India' companies and their hydrographers shaped the development of commercially important published sea charts. Today, these early atlases and individual sea charts are prized possessions of institutions and private collectors. Consider, for example, the cartographic products of the Van Keulen, Blaeu and Janssonius families from the Netherlands; John Seller and Alexander Dalrymple in England; Robert Dudley, from England but publishing in Italy; the French D'Après de Manneville and Jacques Bellin and numerous hydrographers of the *Dépôt des cartes et plans de la Marine*. Some manuscript charts were kept secret, especially by the Dutch, but John Seller managed to acquire some of them as engraved plates for amending; or he produced new plates and sold printed charts and atlases. One of these from *The English Pilot* and *Atlas Maritimus* was *A draught of Cape Bona Esperanca*.

DUTCH SEA CHARTS OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

The VOC settled near the Cape of Good Hope in April 1652 and soon produced manuscript sea charts of the region. In ca.1664, Caspar van Weede produced *Kaart van Saldanhabaai tot de Falsbaai*², and a similar manuscript chart with the same title was produced, engraved and printed by Johannes Vingboons (Fig. 1)³. The market for accurate navigation charts increased dramatically and the Blaeu, Janssonius and Van Keulen families and Johannes Loots produced printed charts and/or atlases.

Vingboons produced maps for the VOC and also worked for Joan Blaeu, from whom John Seller acquired numerous plates. In 1654 Blaeu drew a chart which is very similar to that

2 4.VEL 168 at the Dutch National Archives

3 http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:AMH-5625-NA_Chart_of_Saldanha_Bay,_Table_Bay,_Hout_Bay_and_False_Bay.jpg

of Vingboons's.⁴ François Valentijn had close ties with the VOC and the Vingboons chart corresponds to the one that appeared in Valentijn's *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien*.⁵

THE ENGLISH SEA CHARTS

For about two centuries the English had been dependent upon the sea charts produced abroad; but John Seller, an English instrument maker, saw commercial opportunity in providing his home market with indigenous charts that covered the known world.⁶ He first published *The English Pilot* in 1671, it was not the product of indigenous hydrographers but based almost entirely on charts of Dutch origin. Rodney Shirley sums up the situation: 'Although most of the charts state on them that they are "by John Seller" many were taken from old Dutch plates, provided with English titles and often trimmed down in size. These chart sheets were used both in copies of the English Pilot and also concurrently in editions of Seller's *Coasting Pilot* and his *Atlas Maritimus*'.⁷ Many of the charts were out of date and this may explain, in part, why Seller encountered financial difficulties in his ambitious enterprise. By 1677 Seller was in dire straits. Business rescue was attempted by a consortium comprising fellow cartographers and publishers, among them William Fisher, John Thornton, the leading cartographer, and John Seller himself.

By 1703 the publishers Richard Mount and Thomas Page had already set about acquiring Seller's old plates

4 <http://www.atlasofmutualheritage.nl/en/Chart-Saldanha-Bay-Table-Bay-Hout-Bay-False-Bay.5086>

5 François Valentijn. *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien* Dordrecht and Amsterdam: Johannes van Braam and Gerard onder de Linden, 1724 - 6

6 Rodney Shirley. *The maritime maps and atlases of Seller, Thornton, and Mount & Page*. Available at <http://www.artwis.com/articles/the-maritime-maps-and-atlases-of-seller-thornton-and-mount-page/>

and producing their own editions of the Seller atlases. This initiative may have contributed to the eventual disintegration of the consortium as a result of which the plates were dispersed among members of the consortium and the Mount and Page partnership. Successive members of the Mount and Page families continued to publish charts and atlases until 1794. Today, charts initially produced in England by Seller, and later by members of the consortium and Mount and Page, are sought after by collectors and are scarce.

PUBLICATION HISTORY

By the time Seller produced his first atlas the Dutch had been settled for almost two decades on the shores of Table Bay, near the Cape of Good Hope.⁷ Nevertheless, Seller produced *A Draught of Bona Esperanca* (Fig. 2)⁸, an inaccurate sea chart based on at least one of the two Dutch manuscript charts mentioned above.

A Draught of Bona Esperanca probably was engraved by John Oliver and first was published in 1675 by John Seller in *Atlas Maritimus* and in the third book of *The English Pilot*. The various publishers who took over Seller's business and continued to publish the *Pilot* used either a similar chart drawn by John Thornton (Fig. 3) or the second state of Seller's chart (Fig. 4) for publication in Part V of the *Pilot* and in *Atlas Maritimus*. This series of scarce charts is a landmark in the history of the charting of the Cape of Good Hope.

7 The Cape of Good Hope is about 50km south of Table Bay and is the southernmost point of the Cape Peninsula. However, the region about the Dutch settlement on the southern shore of Table Bay became known by the name of the famous Cape; once formally colonised, the region was known as the Cape Colony.

8 Tooley, R. V. *Collectors' guide to the maps of the African Continent and Southern Africa*. (London: Carta Press, 1969), p. 104

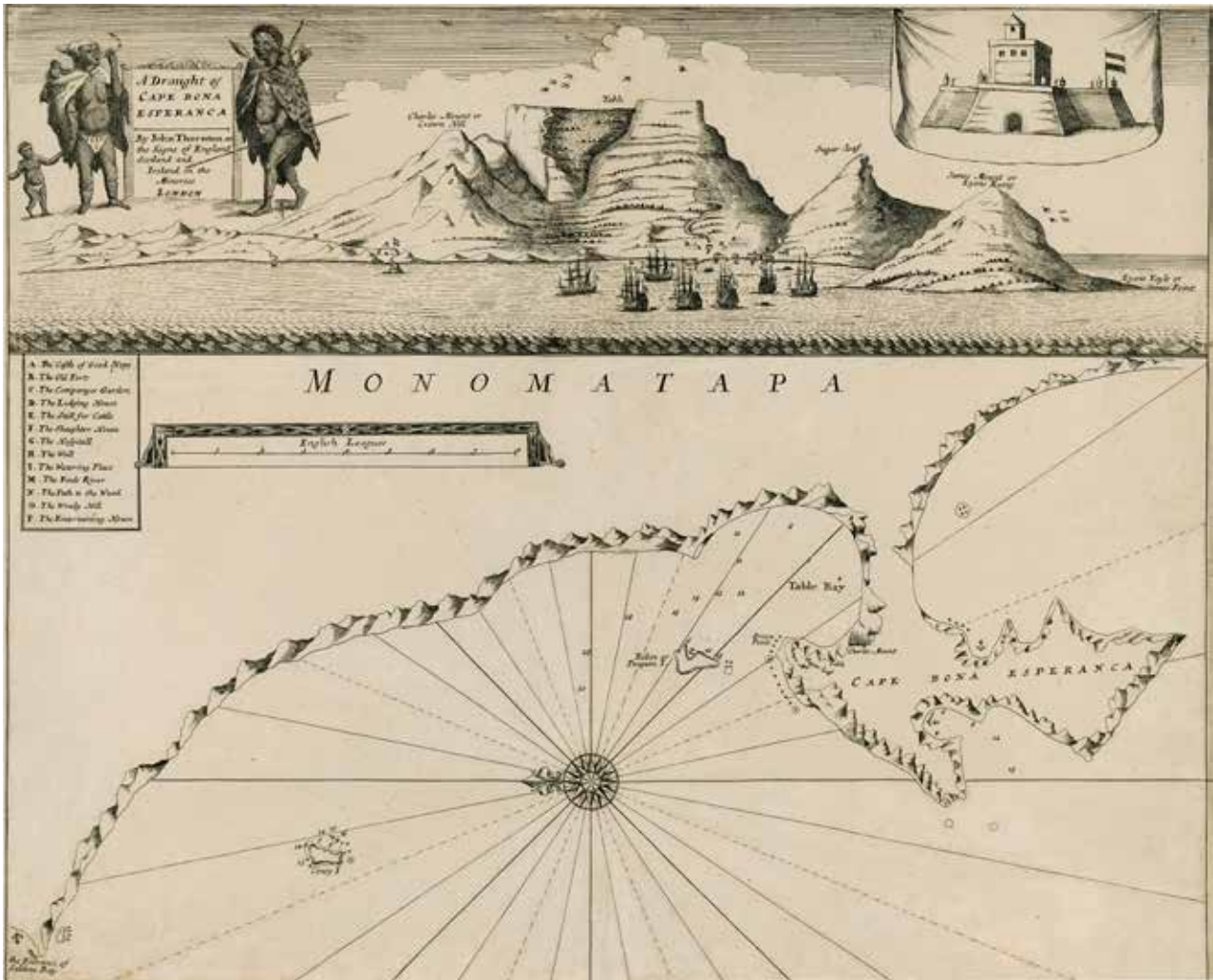


Fig. 3. Thornton chart (1st state) and tabulated key

In 1703, John Thornton, a member of the 'Thames School' of cartographers, redrew Seller's chart on a new plate to produce a similarly sized chart for his edition of Book III of *The English Pilot* (first state of the Thornton chart: Fig. 3)⁹. He omitted the grossly mis-shapen Saldanha Bay (the most prominent change); changed the name of Saldinia Bay to Table Bay; he inserted the toponym Coney Island (now Dassen Island : the coney, i.e

9 Jeffrey C. Stone (rev. & ed.), Norwich's 'Maps of Africa: an illustrated and annotated cartobibliography' 2nd ed. (Norwich VT : Terra Nova Press, 1997; reprint 2005) #219. The Oscar Norwich collection is conserved at the Department of Special Collections in the Library of Stanford University, California; the maps may be viewed at <http://goo.gl/HosPFY>. This chart incorrectly is attributed to Seller: it was a new engraving by John Thornton, after John Seller

- A. The Castle of Good Hope
- B. The Old Fort
- C. The Companies Garden
- D. The Lodging House
- E. The Stall for Cattle
- F. The Slaughter House
- G. The Hospitall
- H. The Wall
- I. The Watering Place
- M. The Foule River
- N. The Path to the Wood
- O. The Windy Hill
- P. The Entertaining House

'rabbit', found on the island is the Cape Hyrax, *Procavia capensis*, known in Dutch and Afrikaans as the Dassie). Thornton made subtle changes to Seller's vignette, added letters A-P next to selected features on it and provided a tabulated key (Fig. 3).

John Thornton died in 1708 and, in 1711, his son, Samuel, published his own edition of *The English Pilot*; deleting his father's name he engraved an abbreviation of his own (Sam^d) on 'A Draught of Cape Bona Esperanca',¹⁰ (the second state of the Thornton chart). In 1734, Bay of Falzo (False Bay) was added by Mount and Page, who also deleted the Thornton imprint (third state of the Thornton chart).

10 Tooley, note 7, p.104 & Pl.78

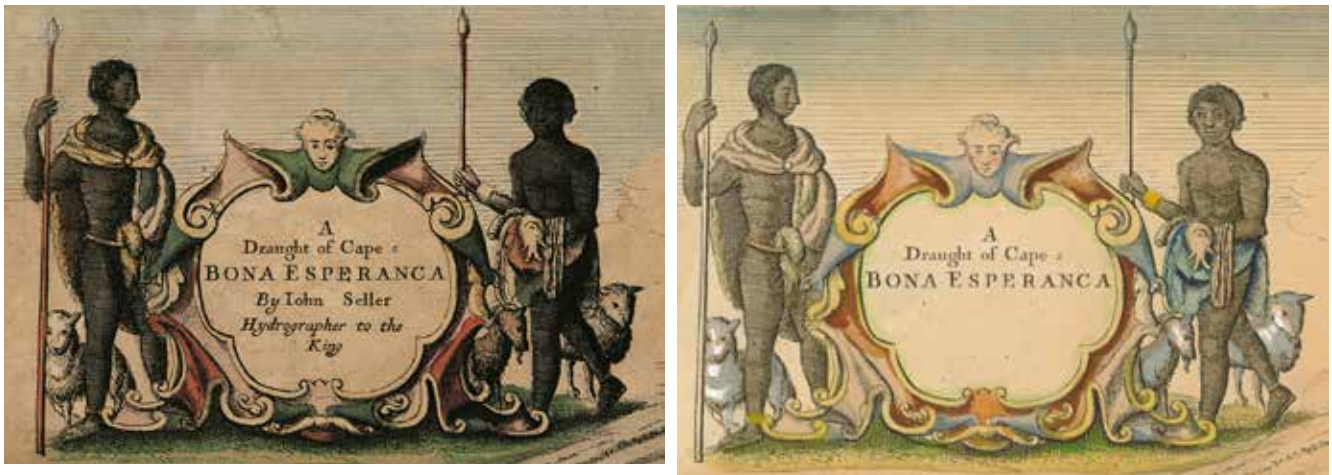


Fig. 4 Cartouche in the 1st (left) 2nd (right) states of the Seller chart

Later, possibly in 1761, William Mount and Thomas Page returned to the original (1675) plate that had been engraved by Oliver; their only change was to delete Seller’s imprint (second state of the Seller plate, by then almost a century old).

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND PARADOX

The distorted shape of the coastline had its origin in Dutch cartographers, but was published by Seller; the shape dominated published maps and charts of the region by Pieter van der Aa, Johannes Van Keulen, Johannes Loots, and Tobias Lotter, François Valentijn and the widow of Claes Visscher¹¹. The coastline in published charts became recognisably accurate, although there are distortions, when Jean-Bapiste d’Après de Manneville, hydrographer for the French East India Company, published his *Plan du Cap de Bonne Esperance et de ses Environs* in 1775 in the 2nd edition of *Neptune Oriental*.

In 1620 Andrew Shillinge and Humphrey Fitzhenry, ships’ captains

in the English East India Company, laid claim to the land by erecting a cairn on the ‘Lyon’s Rump’ (today’s Signal Hill) before Dutch sailors then anchored in Table Bay could make a prior claim. On their return home the captains proudly offered The Cape to King James I of England. The King rejected their kind offer and, consequently, on the sixth of April 1652 the Dutch peacefully, but probably to the dismay and concern of the indigenous inhabitants, settled on the shore of Saldinia Bay (i.e. Table Bay). Seller’s and Thornton’s prospect of the early settlement captures the paradox: the English names of the mountains (e.g. ‘Charles Mount’, ‘James

Mount or Lyon’s Rump’) which the English captains had assigned to them; and a symbol of the Dutch occupation: a Dutch flag atop the fort built in 1652 (Fig. 5). The fort was made of wood and mud and was replaced in 1679 by a stone fort known as The Castle (the oldest extant building in Cape Town).

One of Jan van Riebeeck’s first tasks, as Commander at The Cape, was to construct a fort. The cartographic engraving of the old fort (top right of the sea chart, above James Mount / Lyon’s Rump, was the first published illustration of the fort and it was copied by cartographers such as

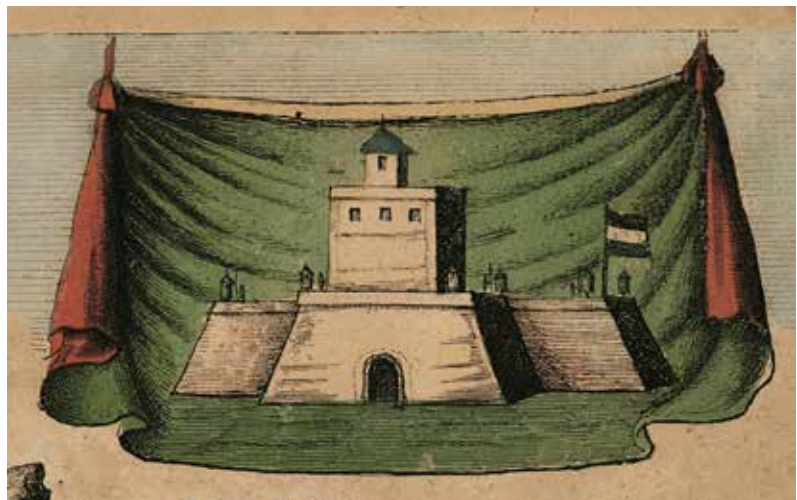


Fig. 5 Old Fort de Goede Hoop first published by Seller 1675 – notice the Dutch flag

¹¹ Roger Stewart. 'Nieuwe en Naauwkeurige Land- en Zee-kaart, van ... Caap de Bonne Esperanc(a): a little known landmark map ...'. IMCoS Journal 136, 2014, pp.13 - 20

Alain Mallet, John Ogilby and Olfert Dapper. The Thornton prospect was modified to show some developments (e.g. buildings and roads) but also has chronological impossibilities and an identification error: in 1679, the fort was demolished and replaced by The Castle, which was at a short distance east. The Castle is misidentified in Thornton's key as *A* (present but not labelled by Seller). Structure *A* (Fig. 3), also with a Dutch flag, was Redout Duijnhoop, Van Riebeeck's second fortification, which was located near the mouth of the Salt River; it was demolished in 1672 after having fallen into disrepair. These anachronisms attest to the early Dutch source of the chart that Seller published and then Thornton copied in turn, without the benefit of having visited the distant settlement; which, today, enhances the historical value of the map for the collector!

The English subsequently changed their mind about the Cape, taking it from the Dutch by force in 1795 (Battle of Muizenberg); relinquishing it in peace in 1802 (Treaty of Amiens) and then in 1806 again taking it by force (Battle of Blauwberg). They subsequently fought two wars against the Boers (Anglo-Boer Wars of 1880 – 1881 and 1899 – 1902) effectively to take control of neighbouring Boer states, which were rich in gold and agriculture, while also retaining the diamond-rich Cape Colony. Peacefully again the British relinquished control of their colony in 1961 to the National Party dominated by citizens of Dutch (also German and French) origin. In 1984, South Africa witnessed the first democratic election open to all its citizens, a process that ended domination by countrymen of colonial origin.

A Draught of Cape Bona Esperanca: the chart is the first to name Green Point, near one of the notorious gallows. There is a more modern historical perspective: Gallows Hill is now the site of the motor vehicle registration and licensing office and the Green

Point meadow is now the site of the controversial Football World Cup stadium erected for the 2010 (and first) FIFA World Cup competition to be held in Africa. Spain won the World Cup by defeating the Dutch in the final, but did not lay claim to The Cape!

Did the VOC (Dutch East India Company) allow Seller to copy its chart in order to deceive the hostile English? Probably not: some of the plates used by Seller for his first edition of *The English Pilot* were prepared by Johannes Janssonius in 1620 for a counterfeit edition of Blaeu's '*Het Licht der Zeevaart*'; they were then acquired ca. 1650 by Jan van Loon for his sea atlas '*Le Nouveau Flambeau de la Mer*'¹²; Seller acquired them in the 1660s. We cannot be sure, but it is likely that he acquired the plates on which he and Oliver based *A Draught of Cape Bona Esperanca* in a legitimate commercial transaction with no nefarious intent on the part of the VOC.

CONCLUSION

Seller's *A Draught of Cape Bona Esperanca* is a scarce, attractive English chart of Dutch origin, with an interesting and important publication history. The distorted shape of the coastline was influential for more than a century. The vignette is an historically important record of the early fortifications of the seventeenth century Dutch settlement. The chart also records the little known cartographic paradox: symbols of the English royal rejection of a colony occupied by the Dutch when the chart was published. These scarce charts are highly sought after by collectors.

Roger Stewart

Roger is from Cape Town, South Africa (ristew@iafrica.com). He is the representative of the International Map Collectors' Society in South Africa, where the IMCoS symposium was held in 2015 (www.2015imcos.com)

MAKING MAPS IN HISTORY

This issue of Maps of History was coordinated and edited by Jean-Louis Renteux. Paul De Candt did the lay-out on the basis of a design by David Raes.

Contents have been checked by the Editorial Committee comprising Nicola Boothby, Lisette Danckaert, Karen De Coene, Francis Herbert and Pierre Parmentier.

¹² see note 6

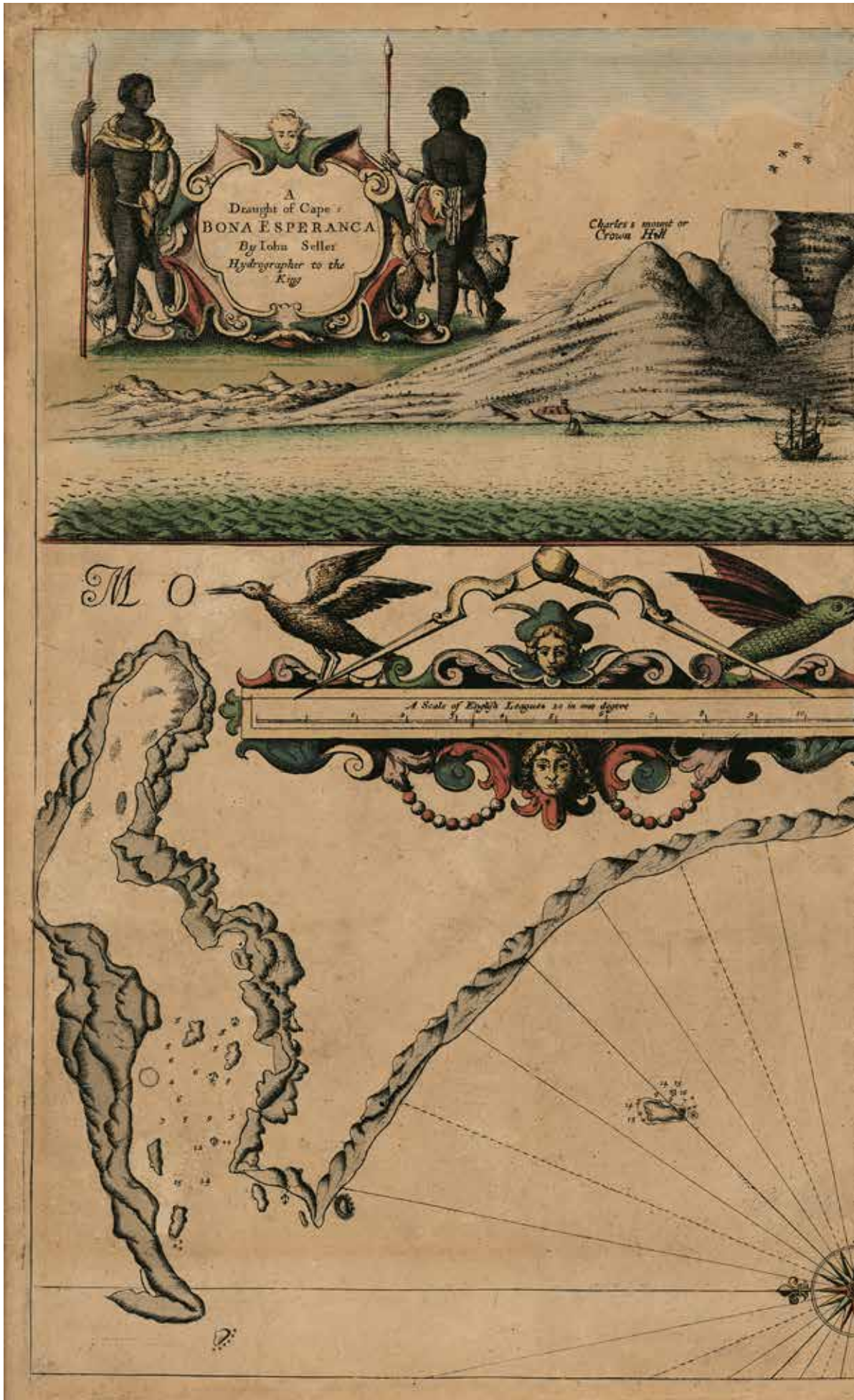




Fig. 2. First state of Seller's chart (53cm x 44cm); image available at <https://digital.lib.sun.ac.za/handle/10019.2/780>

How I Got Into Cartography

Interview with Nick Millea

Map Librarian at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, U.K.



Nick Millea
nick.millea@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

— by Nicola Boothby (nicola.boothby@telenet.be)

BIOGRAPHY

Nick Millea is from Manchester, UK. He has been Map Librarian at the Bodleian Library in Oxford since 1992. Recently he has overseen the move of 1.25 million maps out to a storage facility 30 miles away, prior to a five-year refurbishment of one of the Bodleian buildings – the Weston Library, which re-opened in March 2015 to architectural acclaim. Nick is also well-known as the author of ‘The Gough Map: The Earliest Road Map of Great Britain (Treasures from the Bodleian Library)’, one of the Bodleian’s most treasured items.

What does Cartography mean to you?

I think spatially. I see everything as map-related. I’m bereft if I don’t have a map. [The UK’s famous fell-walker/writer/mapmaker of the Lake District area in the North of England] Alfred Wainwright’s comment from ‘A Pennine journey: a story of a long walk in 1938’, says it all: “Give me a map to look at, and I am content. Give me a map of a country I know, and I am comforted: I live my travels over again; step by step, I recall the journeys I have made; half-forgotten incidents spring vividly to mind, and again I can suffer and rejoice at experiences which are once more made very real.

Old maps are old friends, understood only by the man with whom they have travelled the miles.

Map-lovers are scarce, book-lovers many, yet I think the reward of the lover of maps is far and away the greater. If it is ever my lot to be cast away on a desert island, let it be with an atlas and a one-inch map of the Lake District.”

This really sums up the way I feel about cartography.

What exactly does your day-to-day work involve?

As Map Librarian of the Bodleian Library, my job is anything and everything related to maps! I’m responsible for all the maps here, plus a lot of related activities. The big change recently is that we’ve sent one and a quarter million maps (and seven million books) to our new storage facility in Swindon [about 30 miles south-west of here]. I was in charge of planning the map move, and it took quite a lot of planning! Some maps have been brought back to Oxford, as people do request to see the actual thing here. Very occasionally, if a researcher, for example, wants to see large numbers of maps we do consider sending him or her to Swindon. Our reading room is now smaller but the computers are used a lot more! In addition, we teach people how to produce maps. We have PhD students who need to produce a map to illustrate their research, and we show them how. This last week, for example, we’ve just taken in a series of (commercially available) 1:100,000-scale maps of

Azerbaijan. We’ve also had an email from Argentina enquiring about the projection on a British map of the Falkland Islands, and a request from a professor in Oklahoma who wants to look at the heraldry on Speed and Saxton maps. I’m also responsible for the ‘Imago Mundi bibliography’, which keeps a record of everything published in the history of cartography.

We have a permanent team of five people here, one of whom is a GIS specialist who gives one-to-one sessions to students and also group sessions on ‘digital mapping’. We also have two very active volunteers, both of whom are ex-RAF [Royal Air Force] navigators. One is working on the British Cartographic Society Awards, a task that brought in material from the National Library of Scotland. The BCS awards will soon form a specialised collection. Our other volunteer is helping out at Swindon. At the moment we’re also helping to prepare a new book coming out in September – ‘Treasures from the Map Room: A Journey through the Bodleian Collections’ edited by Debbie Hall.

I find going to conferences and meetings very useful: the British Cartographic Society’s Map Curators’ Group meetings, the ICHC [International Conferences on the History of Cartography], and the European map librarians group (MAGIC). This year I shall be going to the International Cartographic



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Association's 6th International Symposium on the History of Cartography in Dubrovnik, where I will be presenting a paper on hyperspectral imaging, tested on maps from the Bodleian's collections. I also organise The Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA), consisting of one seminar per term and a field trip. As you'll appreciate, I never stop learning.

What did you need to study/where have you needed to gain experience to get this far?

I went to Newcastle University to do a degree in Geography, and then studied Librarianship as a post-graduate at Manchester Polytechnic – there were a lot more map librarians around in those days. Pre this post-graduate year I worked at the Manchester Central Library with the map collection there. For the year studying in Manchester I was lucky enough to have a course tailored to my wish to be a map librarian. I always wanted to work with maps. I graduated in the difficult 1980s and ended up working with the Manpower Services Commission [a UK public body of the Department of Employment Group created in 1973 with a remit to co-ordinate employment and training services]. I was working with a team just outside Manchester on researching historical buildings. The University of Manchester Map Library made a

presentation and I was inspired to work in a map library environment. I then volunteered to work in that map library, and spent a lot of time working with the modern (19th-20th centuries) map collection. I was working at the University of Sussex map library when the Bodleian's Map Librarian retired. I got the job!

Are there careers to be made in cartography?

I'm not the best-qualified person to answer that one. Certainly the number of map librarians in the country is shrinking. And the way forward is digital, so that requires different skills from those needed for our traditional career paths. We have two great cartography champions at the University: Professor Danny Dorling and senior researcher Ben Hennig. They work on spatial data analysis and geo-visualisation, and produce some really thought-provoking maps ... see an example below ...

Would you describe your career path to date as 'straightforward'?

Yes, pretty much..

Where do you see yourself going from here ?

I think it's highly likely that I'll continue along the same path. There have been huge changes since I've

been here, the main ones being the digital revolution and the fact that we are now an electronic legal deposit library (we've been a conventional legal deposit library since 1610). For example, large-scale Ordnance Survey maps now arrive via an annual digital delivery. This year we hope to be able to deliver maps from more publishers digitally. The notion of delivery itself has now changed; Ordnance Survey talks about 'print on demand' compared with 'publishing' maps. .

As a final comment, perhaps you'd like to tell us the 'best thing', in your view, about your cartographical life right now ?

The best thing about my cartographical life right now, is, quite simply, people. In the field of historical cartography everyone is willing to share information and experiences. And here at the Weston Library we now have this glass wall on to the street, instead of the old solid wall. People come in and chat, share information, discover something new, and talk about what's going on.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING/ WILL BE HAPPENING AT THE 'BOD' ?

- A retrospective \$500,000 conversion of the library's Maps and Music card catalogues to digital, completed in 2014.

- The British Historic Towns Atlas project –producing a series of new town maps based on historical maps and material from the Bodleian's topographical, archaeological and photographic collections:

- 2014 Windsor and Eton
- 2015 York – a sellout!
- End 2016 Winchester
- 2017 Oxford

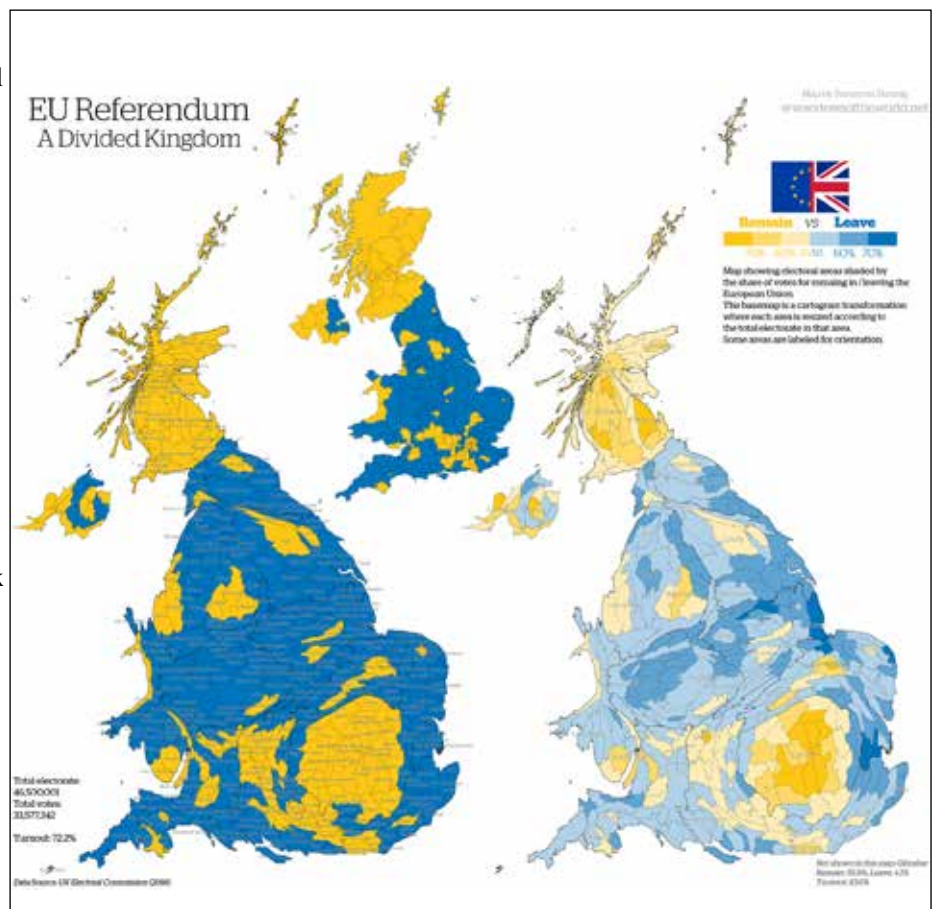
In an interview about the Oxford map Nick said: “In essence, we've added historical information onto a late 19th – century base map to show the city's major medieval and post-medieval buildings, earthworks and defensive structures - including those that have been lost and those that survive today. Maps like this have never been created before.”

- The Sheldon Tapestry map of Worcestershire will be the focus of a conference in 2017; one of four maps commissioned in the 1590's by Ralph Sheldon, it was bequeathed together with that of Oxfordshire to the Bodleian in 1809. A truly European project, it was cleaned recently at the De Wit Royal Manufacturers in Mechelen, Belgium, and hangs in a tailor-made case made in Milan.

- 2019 Exhibition ‘Talking Maps’ – Nick Millea and Jerry Brotton are co-curators .



Sheldon tapestry map of Worcestershire, 1590s, the Bodleian Library, Oxford



EU Referendum: a Divided Kingdom, from the website of Dr Benjamin D. Hennig, senior researcher at the School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford.

Map Circle Excursion to Rome

4-7 May 2016



A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM ...!

by Caroline De Candt

What would you do when you have a Scientific Advisor who is (among other things) Head of the Academia Belgica in Rome and proposes to organise 'some lectures on Lafreri in the Academia, accompanied by some visits to Roman libraries where they have his works and those of many of his contemporaries'?.... Right.

So the Map Circle travelled to Rome, came, saw and... enjoyed!

Getting there....

Travelling to Rome was the first and hardest part: planes were boarded for wrong destinations, hotels were booked that proved non-existent upon arrival, seats were taken in trains that simply didn't move etc. etc. But eventually we all got there! And the Brussels Map Circle stood proud, albeit without its banner: ever tried to get a 90cm long, cylindrical object, with lots of metal on it, on board a plane in the aftermath of some terrorist attacks?

... and getting in!

May 2016. Going to the Vatican. Not a good idea. Forgot about the more than 1.27 billion Roman Catholics. That's more than 17 per cent of the world population. And they all seemed to want to get in there too!!! Then someone told me about the Holy Year. Some centuries ago, a pope knocked down a door in Rome, proclaiming that anyone walking through it would

be forgiven all his sins, even future ones: Eternal Bliss. For me, a couple of negronis usually do the job, but I'm clearly a lost sheep.

To make matters worse, they seem to be early birds there: the visits started well before 8 o'clock in the morning, causing some grinding of teeth, a few red eyes, a couple of discrete yawns, even an occasional desperate attempt to sit down on a chair, clearly not meant for that purpose! But after all: *Le Vatican vaut bien une messe....*

Seeing...

Seeing was a bit simpler. And a lot more rewarding. And that goes for both the collections and the places they are kept in. Library after library, palazzo after palazzo opened their doors to us, leaving us speechless to all this splendour, this gathering of knowledge, science, beauty and art (and frankly, this showing off between the fine gentlemen who owned these places) a couple of centuries ago. You can read all the details further on in this magazine.

... and understanding!

Some things were a little hard to understand though. I stood admiring a huge fresco in the Caprarola palazzo, trying to figure out what it could represent. The English title of the work only mentioned a dry 'Diet of Worms'. My husband helpfully said, in a

knowing voice 'probably Italy's answer to Atkinson and Montignac'. Only then did I catch the look on the face of one of our Italian map friends, standing behind us. She kind of shunned us for the rest of the trip... Still don't know why...

Note from the author: any resemblance to existing places, events, living and/or dead persons is NOT purely coincidental and is explicitly intended.



President Caroline De Candt addressing the symposium

¹ Dear Reader, if you're not so familiar with musicals, just google this title...

IATO ATLASES Symposium

4 – 7 May 2016

Accademia Belgica, Rome

The symposium was organised by Wouter Bracke in his role as Direttore of the Accademia Belgica, the Belgian cultural showcase in Italy, in cooperation with the Brussels Map Circle and its Italian counterpart, Associazione Almagia.

Italian atlases assembled to order (IATO) atlases are often referred to as Lafreri atlases. Antoine Lafreri (1512-1577), the most prolific and successful print publisher in Rome in the second half of the 16th c., offered to his customers to buy a choice of his cartographical production in the form of an atlas. This practice was continued by Lafreri's successors (Forlani, Duchetti, Bertelli, etc) at least until the end of the 16th century.

The symposium comprised lectures on the historical and material context of IATO atlases, as well social events, hosted in the premises of the Accademia, on the edge of the Villa Borghese park. But, most important, there were a series of visits to remarkable libraries in Rome holding IATO atlases and to galleries in the Vatican as well as in Caprarola (60 km north of Rome), featuring fresco maps inspired by Lafreri and others.

WEDNESDAY 4 MAY

Some 30 members of the Brussels Map Circle (and partners) arrived at the Accademia around 18.00, as well as a few Italian map friends. After the welcome addresses, the introduction of the symposium, and a first lecture, they were treated to a nice walking dinner in the hall of the Accademia.

INTRODUCTION

In his welcome address, Wouter Bracke presented the subject of the symposium: IATO atlases in general, the historical and material context in which they came into being and are preserved. And he gave an overview of current and recent research, including his own.

In 1939 Ronald V. Tooley had published (in *Imago Mundi*) a list of 614 maps in Italian atlases of the sixteenth century. Since then this count has almost doubled!



Partial view of the audience of the symposium



Wouter Bracke opens the symposium

Most of the recent studies have been focusing on the question of the origins of the IATO atlases: who started producing them? Who was first – Venice or Rome? Maps have been analysed, imprints counted, watermarks identified in this perspective, to better understand the processes by which IATO atlases were not only assembled but also printed to order.

An important side issue concerns the volume's later history: where was the atlas kept? To whom did it belong before ending up where it still is kept today? This can help us to understand later additions (were maps added to the original atlas? How can we be sure? What does the foliation tell us, the watermark, the binding, etc.?).

These various aspects were further discussed in the various lectures, as well as during the visits to libraries.

Photos : Paul De Candt, Rob Harren, Pierre Parmentier, Nicole Pauwels, Jean-Louis Renteux

MAPS AND MORE - THE UNIVERSE OF ANTONIO LAFRERI'S PRINT PRODUCTION

(Lecture by Birte Rubach from the Institut für Kunstgeschichte und Bildkunst of the Humboldt University in Berlin)

Birte presented the work and the multifaceted production of the Renaissance print publisher Antonio Lafreri, who had left a stock of at least 1000 plates, when he died in 1577 in Rome. Furthermore, she showed that map making was not a special branch, but formed part of the Roman and Venetian printing business of the time and that maps were subjected to the same practices in producing, consuming and collecting. Lafreri is well known to historians of cartography as his name is strongly connected to the famous composite map collections – the so called Lafreri-Atlases – of the 16th century, and to art historians interested in the classical tradition as the presumed creator of the *Speculum Romanae Magnificentiae*, equally famous volumes that comprise large-scale prints of antique and some modern monuments mostly in Rome. The largest part of Lafreri's production, however, consisted of prints of contemporary paintings, religious and mythological subjects, saints or portraits, after best known or less famous artists as well as images conceived intentionally to be printed. The vast variety of subject matter in Lafreri's stock proves his different fields of activity. From the foreword of the reprint of a series of fish by Ippolito Salviano, she deduced and illustrated three important characteristics of Lafreri's career. The first was his flexibility on content, that is his non-specialisation and openness towards any kind of print-making (see above), the second was his mercantile pragmatism (such as cooperation with Salamanca or Scultori, issuing title-pages for subject categories, his index or sales catalogue) and the third was his self-conception as an image-supplier. Lafreri was neither an antiquarian nor a cartographer, but a 'facilitator': he made images available. His pronounced attitude of being 'in servizio degli virtuosi' providing them continuously with graphical material is repeated in the 'premissa' of the index and seems a justified motto to Lafreri's work .



Birte Rubach

THURSDAY 5 MAY

THE ATLASES OF THE COLLEGIO ROMANO AT THE BIBLIOTECA CENTRALE DI ROMA

(report by Nicola Boothby)

The original Central Library was opened in 1876 inside the Jesuit Collegio Romano, and, 100 years later, moved to the current building (which, from the outside, looks rather like a modern tech college!). After looking at three globes – a pair of manuscript globes from the end of the 16th century commissioned by Clavius and a small Coronelli, on a Venetian stand similar to that in the Royal Library in Brussels – we moved to a secure area where we were shown three Lafreri atlases, all of which came originally from the Collegio Romano...



Wouter Bracke presents one of the three IATO atlases belonging to the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma

- The first atlas was in a recent binding, but the old references to the Collegio Romano had been kept. In the 19th century several maps of Rome were taken out of the atlas, as the Library decided to have a separate collection of views of the city. There is a 1571 map of Ortelius which the index describes as being between maps 16 and 17, complete with a price. The same map can be found at the BnF in Paris with the same price. The index at the end was probably drafted by the owner.
- The second was described as a 'Lafreri in progress'. A variety of other kinds of prints had been added – complete with inventory numbers. Once again, the maps of Rome had been taken out for the 'Rome' collection; we were shown examples of these and saw that they have suffered considerably as in the 19th century they were mounted on acidic paper.
- The binding of the third atlas was the oldest – 18th century. The maps are ordered according to the Ptolemaic order and there is a stack number on the title page. It includes the 'Rotta di Hughnoti' which is also part of the Sint Nikolaas Lafreri. (see below – 'Lafreri in Belgium').

VISIT TO THE BIBLIOTECA CASANATENSE

(report by Paul De Candt)

The Casanatense Library is located in the heart of the city, very close to the Pantheon. By entering a small doorway in the Via di Sant' Ignazio, you leave behind the chaos of Rome and take a trip back in time to what feels is the Renaissance. The Library was founded by the Dominicans of the *Monastery of Santa Maria sopra Minerva* in Rome and opened to the general public, following the instructions in the will of Cardinal Girolamo Casanate (1620–1700). The Library was already opened in 1701, only one year after the Cardinal's death. In 1873 the Italian Government took over the Library.



The Salone of the Biblioteca Casanatense

As we entered the main library hall, the white marble statue of Cardinal Casanate flanked by two impressive large spheres (diam. 220 cm) was striking: one is a celestial and the other a terrestrial globe, both hand painted by the cartographer Silvestro Amanzio Moroncelli in 1716. He was a well-respected cartographer and geographer and a highly skilled producer of globes for other libraries (Venice, Fermo, Milano, and so on). This year (2016) a special exhibition takes place to commemorate the tercentenary of Moroncelli's globes.

The Casanatense holds an early IATO atlas with more than 66 maps: they are arranged in the Ptolemaic order of precedence (World, Europe, Africa, Asia and the New World..). There are also some European city plans, some of which have battle scenes. According to a study made by A. Ganado (Malta 1982), this is an early Venetian atlas dated from 1567 and its maps

are attributed to Forlani, Camocio, Bertelli etc. But this atlas also contains a map copied from Abraham Ortelius' of 1570 (*Regni Hispaniae Post Omnium Editiones Locupletissima Descriptio*); the question is then: was this map added later or not?

An impressive variety of other cartographic jewels are displayed in the wooden and glass frames of the Salone (hall) such as a Cassini Atlas (1792–1801) of France, maps from Coronelli (1698) and Moroncelli (1712), portolan charts (1657), etc...

One can also admire the *Cosmographia* of Claudio Ptolemy by Lienhart Holle of 1482. It was the first atlas published north of the Alps and the first with hand-coloured woodcut maps. The exorbitant cost of the production of the atlas led to the bankruptcy of his printing operation. In 1486 Johann Reger reissued the atlas, with reset letter-press, in a second edition in Ulm.

The visit to the Casanatense Library will be remembered as a 'hidden highlight' of cartographic collections in the Eternal City.

VENICE, LITERATI AND MAPS

(Lecture, given in French, by Daria Perocco from the Ca'Foscari University of Venice)

In the first half of the sixteenth century, Venice was a pre-eminent publishing capital known not only for its production of books but also for its production of maps. Giovanni Battista Ramusio worked in this environment. He was interested in geographic culture, excited by the new knowledge unleashed by the great discoveries recently made, but he also keenly felt the need to give an ordered description of the entire world in a single text, written in 'high' vernacular.

He was surrounded by some of the greatest intellectuals of his time who felt a similar drive:



The group browses the 1567 IATO atlas held at the Biblioteca Casanatense



Daria Perocco

Pietro Bembo, Girolamo Fracastoro, Andrea Navagero, the publisher Giunti and Girolamo Gastaldi. The relationships among these remarkable figures are really important.

Finally, the lecture focused on Gastaldi, who came to Venice from Piedmont when he was quite young and remained in the city until his death. He was not only an excellent cartographer—whose skill the Serenissima recognised when it appointed him to produce the maps for the ‘Sala dello scudo’ of the Ducal Palace—but also an excellent writer and an expert on Venetian geography.



Sala dello scudo (Map room) in the Ducal Palace

FRIDAY 6 MAY

VISIT TO THE GALLERIA DELLE CARTE GEOGRAFICHE OF THE VATICAN

(report by Stephan Delodder)

The frescoes in the Vatican Gallery of Maps make up the largest and most impressive grouping of geographical images in Europe and as such were one of the highlights of our visit to Rome. Our group was fortunate to visit the Gallery under the expert guidance of Wouter Bracke, and when a four-year restoration undertaken by a team of more than a dozen experts had been almost completed (only the paintings at the northern end of the Gallery were still being worked on).

Ignazio Danti himself explains the sense of this arrangement with great clarity in a letter dated 24 December 1580 to the Flemish cartographer Abraham Ortelius: ‘having divided the country in two at the Apennines, I placed the half washed by the Ligurian and Tyrrhenian Seas on one side and that bound by the Adriatic and the Alps on the other. I then further divided in into 40 separate parts, according to the various States and Prefectures...’



Wouter Bracke guides the group into the Galleria delle carte geografiche of the Vatican

The cycle begins (even though our group ended there due to the works) with the two panels entitled *Italia Antiqua* (Ancient Italy) and *Italia Nova* (Italy as it was in the second half of the 16th century), which face each other across the Gallery, in such a way as to allow the viewer to walk down Italy from over the Apennines. Geography and history go hand in hand with the map of Malta including a depiction of the Turkish siege of the island, which ended in Christian victory (1565) and that of Corfu representing the famous battle of Lepanto, which also ended in the victory of the Holy League over the fleet of the Ottoman Empire (1571).

This deliberate merging of geography and Christian history reached its climax in the Gallery's vaulted ceiling, whose 51 sections depict exemplary events or miraculous deeds based on Baronius' *Annales Ecclesiastici*, a monumental reply to the Protestant historians. Carefully disposed on the ceiling, so as to align with the maps featuring the city or place where they occurred, these 51 scenes form a sort of picture-atlas of Christian history, whose deeds aimed to sanctify every corner of Italy, justifying it to be called a new Holy Land.

A few decades after the maps' creation, things began to go downhill. Pope Urban VIII's restoration of 1630 omitted some details that had blurred, such as a hamlet or a lake. Urban had a map representing the papal territories reworked so that it was filled with bees, a symbol of the Barberini family, to which he belonged. He also placed bees above the golden-coloured dragon that symbolized the family of Gregory XIII.

THE IATO ATLAS OF THE BIBLIOTECA CORSINIANA AND THE SOURCE OF THE MAP OF NORTH AMERICA BY FORLANI-ZALTIERI (1565/66)

(report by Vladimiro Valerio, IUAV)

Professore Valerio presented to us this atlas at the Library of the National Academy of the Lincei and Corsiniana. This IATO atlas, which comprises an interesting collection of Italian maps produced between the mid-sixteenth century and the first half of the seventeenth, is mentioned in the list published by Tooley in 1939 of Lafrerian atlases but for which he was unable to obtain detailed records.

It is one of the cases in which it is possible to establish a wider range of time in which the collection was formed because some regions are preserved in two or three different prints in a period of 70 years or more. For example the Atlas contains three different editions of the Tuscany map, the first by Antonio Salamanca (to be dated to ca 1550), the second after Bellarmato (with the imprint of Claudio Duchetti dated 1588) and the third is a reprint of Duchetti's map made by Francesco de Pauli in 1646. The same happens for the Kingdom of Naples which has a map from the Lafreri workshop, followed by another with the imprint of Pietro de Nobili, dating to 1580s, to finish with a third print that bears the imprint of Francesco de Pauli dated 1648.

The atlas consists of 96 sheets related to European nations with a large prevalence of maps of the Italian regions, some with double images, all glued on a modern heavy brown paper (late nineteenth century) to make them uniform in size and bound in one volume.

Unfortunately in an unknown period (but after WWII) some original sheets have been removed from the heavy paper support and, lacking a detailed catalogue of each sheet of the Atlas, we are ignorant of the cartographical content of the missing images. The only one certainly known is the world map, as occasionally described by Matteo Fiorini, who was able to see the atlas in 1895: the "Universale Descrizione Di Tutta la Terra Conosciuta Fin Qui" by Paolo Forlani, but in a so far unknown edition of Giovanni Orlandi, printed in Rome in 1602.

We do hope to complete the description of the atlas in a short while and to publish it in the Proceedings of the Accademia dei Lincei.

LAFRERI IN BELGIUM

(Lecture by Karen De Coene from Ghent University)

In the second half of the sixteenth century Gerard Mercator, Abraham Ortelius and Antonio Lafreri started to compile maps into bound volumes. Unlike their being perceived as early 'atlas' makers, they were at the very start of the genre.

What the 'atlas' should become was not yet well defined, hence their different approaches. Ortelius' fear of horror vacui resulted in printed text on the reverse side, while Lafreri was convinced that bundles of prints were more suited for lesser scholars, whereupon Mercator criticises the Italians, who 'merge erroneous and counterfeited maps with authentic and exact ones into a single entity, without order, without respect for the proportions, without judgment'.

All this does not imply that atlas production happened in pure isolation. Quite the contrary, interregional and international contacts evolved out of the printers' and dealers' networks and made the different atlases available on Europe's main cartographical markets. In 1570 Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* had been spotted in Rome. When, two years later, it was being sold in the shop of an important bookseller as Tramezzino, it was doing rather well.

Besides providing knowledge on the origin and distribution of the genre, networks are a clue in our understanding of the composition of individual atlases like the Sint-Niklaas-atlas (Society of Antiquaries of the Land van Waas – KOKW).

Generally speaking, two aspects cannot be emphasised enough: firstly, the Italian atlas was conceived as a single bespoke collection of separate printed maps, not as a book whose contents were the same for each buyer, and secondly, composite atlases were a product of the Italian print market. Whether these atlases received their binding at the time of purchase or rather later, maybe even in the next cen-



Professore Valerio presenting the IATO atlas of the Biblioteca Corsiniana



Karen De Coene talks about the IATO atlas in Sint-Niklaas (Belgium)

turies, may therefore be difficult to determine.

Participants at the Rome conference witnessed how developing cartographical knowledge is an on-going process. An example of the most rare newsprint in the KOKW-atlas, the '*Rotta [route] de Hughnoti*', which – as the title mentions – relates to the Huguenots or French protestants, was equally present in the Biblioteca Centrale and in the collection of one of our members!

THE COMPOSITE ATLASES OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

(Lecture by Francis Herbert, former map curator RGS)

Francis spoke about 'The RGS composite atlases and some separate Lafreri maps' updated on the two RGS atlases and their provenance. To expand his talk beyond bound collections, he distributed a specially-prepared handout 'Some loose maps . . . (Rome imprints only), 1557 to ca 1647 (?) . . . in RGS-IBG Map Collection.'

The RGS's first 'Lafreri' atlas was offered on 29 May 1905 by Alexander Peckover FRGS of Wisbech (Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire) and accepted in June; the RGS President's letter thanked him for the gift and £5 cheque for 'any expenses in binding'. 'Lafreri's Atlas' in *The Geographical Journal*, July 1915, 46(1), 68-9 by the RGS's Librarian, Edward Heawood, acknowledges the valuable article by Dr F.C. Wieder in *Tijdschrift van het Koninklijk Nederlandsch Aardrijkskundig Genootschap* of May 1915, as Wieder includes a 'comparative table of contents of the only four copies, with title, preserved in European libraries, at present known to the writer.' This RGS 'copy' bears a manuscript ownership inscription of 'John Jermy of Bayfield' (Norfolk).

The Wyld 'Lafreri' atlas, accessioned into RGS Map Room on 14 January 1929, was purchased from the famous London bookseller Francis Edwards for £20; it has the engraved title-leaf. This atlas was described, again by Heawood, as 'An undescribed Lafreri atlas and contemporary Venetian collections' (*GJ*, April 1929, 73(4), [359]-69). Heawood understands 'that this volume was formerly in the possession of Mr. James Wyld, the cartographer' (†1836). Research shows that last wills and testaments of both Wyld II (†1887) and Wyld III (†1907) omit any mention of a library. This Lafreri atlas may have descended therefore from Wyld I to Wyld II's daughter (sister to Wyld III). Attention needs to be directed to separate exemplars of 'Lafreri' maps. More prone to damage, even the trimming of edges of any print for binding can often lead to loss of information. Loose prints, especially if unmounted, often enable deciphering of watermark evidence; such exemplars also emphasise the print trade's more regular market.



Francis Herbert giving details of the recent history of the composite atlases of the Royal Geographical Society

SATURDAY 7 MAY

VISIT TO THE TERZA LOGGIA OF THE VATICAN

(report by Caroline De Candt)

The second visit to the Vatican was more special. As the Terza Loggia is part of the private residence of the Pope, it took all the diplomatic skills of Wouter, and the help of the Belgian ambassador to the Vatican, to get permission to



Monsignore Bettencourt, Head of the Vatican protocol service, welcomes the group at the Porta Sant'Ann

visit it. And then a number of constraints were imposed: strictly limited number of participants (unfortunately), limited duration and very early timing (from 7.45 to 9.00), no photos allowed.

The Terza Loggia on the third storey of the Renaissance part of the papal residency is (among other things) decorated with maps of the then known continents, countries, regions and the world. A first set of maps was commissioned by Pope Pius IV (1559 – 1565) and executed by the French artist Etienne Du Pérac. The cartographic content of these mural maps is based on Mercator's map of 1554 of Europe (e.g. Sardinia, Scandinavia, Ireland,...) and on maps published by Lafreri (e.g. Gastaldi's maps of Italy and Forlani's map of Peru) and by Ortelius (e.g. Palestine).

As he had done for the Galleria delle Carte Geografiche, Pope Gregory XIII (1572 – 1585) ordered the Dominican Ignazio Danti to produce a second set. This time the maps were painted by Giovanni Antonio Vanosino.

Eye catcher par excellence is no doubt the enormous world map in two hemispheres. The same set also contains ten maps of Africa, Asia and America (unfortunately, we were not allowed to take pictures, but I don't think it's a sin to refer to the Internet, where you can find some views if you google 'Terza Loggia!'). Thanks to the excellent handout, made by Wouter and his staff, we were able to compare the original printed maps that were the source of the final murals. Also very useful were the copies of old prints and photographs showing the Vatican, on which the parts we were visiting were highlighted. To conclude the visit, we were allowed on a terrace overlooking the Piazza San Pietro offering amazing views on the Holy City.



The group on the terrace overlooking Piazza San Pietro, next to the Terza Loggia

VISIT TO PALAZZO FARNESE IN CAPRAROLA

(report by Andrew Cookson)

After the cartographic fireworks of the morning's visit to the maps in the Terza Loggia, the Saturday afternoon visit to the far less well-known Farnese Palace in Caprarola, around 60 km from Rome, might have been expected to be an anti-climax. But nothing could have been farther from the truth.

The 'Room of the World Map' that we had come to visit is located in the 'Contemplative Wing' of the Renaissance palace built by Cardinal Alessandro Farnese and completed in 1575. Having been appointed cardinal at the age of 14 by his grandfather (!), Pope Paul III, he intended it both as a country house to which he could easily withdraw if things got too hot for him in Rome and, more importantly, as a manifestation of the culture, magnificence and, above all, ambition of its owner.

In this context, it should be remembered that Alessandro had been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Roman Church at the age of 15 (which he remained until his death in 1589), that he was made principal secretary to his grandfather Pope Paul III at 28, and that he also served as Papal Legate at the top level of European diplomacy. So while highly cultivated and a patron of the arts, we can understand why modesty was not one of his failings.



Palazzo Farnese front view

Situated above the village of Caprarola, the Palace was designed by the artist Giacomo da Vignola, and the walls of the rooms are entirely decorated with frescoes by several important painters of the period, largely to the glory of Alessandro and his family.

The stage is set from the moment the visitor enters the vestibule, where two very large, painted wall maps of Malta and Messina show that the master of the house's aspirations went far beyond just Rome and its environs. This impression is definitively confirmed by the room we had

all come to see, the so-called Sala del Mappamondo. While the world map is indeed the centrepiece, this vast room is in fact home to seven very large maps; the other six are the four continents, Italy and the Holy Land. The maps were painted mainly by Giovanni Antonio Vanosino da Varese and were completed in 1574. Clearly of 'Lafrerian' inspiration, with mapping mostly based on Gastaldi, each map is a statement of both the science and the culture of the Palace's owner. The world map itself is surrounded by windheads and allegorical representations of the four continents, and all of the maps are resplendent with coastlines and rivers depicted in gold paint. To further reinforce the impression of greatness that the visitor takes away with him, the windows and doors of the room are surmounted by portraits of the great explorers, from Marco Polo to Magellan, and the whole ceiling is adorned with a magnificent map of the heavens showing the 50 constellations. Finally, while the cartography of the maps is not original, the legacy of the Sala del Mappamondo reaches far beyond the Caprarola Palace itself. It is related that Alessandro entertained Pope Gregory XIII there in 1578 and that the Pope was so impressed with the room that, soon thereafter, he commissioned the Galleria of maps in the Vatican's Terza Loggia.



Wouter Bracke guides the group in the Sala del Mappamondo in Caprarola

THE LAFRERI EXHIBITION IN BERGAMO: WHEN ITALY DREW THE WORLD, CARTOGRAPHIC TREASURES OF THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE ¹

(Lecture by Emilio Moreschi)

Back at the Academia Belgica in Rome, the last lecture of the symposium was given by the Associazione Almagià. The idea behind this extraordinary Cartographic Exhibition was to temporarily recreate a large 'Lafreri-style map atlas' using maps from the collections of the Association's members. The result of this



Emilio Moreschi

undertaking is a set of 74 maps selected to represent the best examples of cartographic masterpieces published in Rome or Venice between 1525 and 1575. This period in time captures the heart of the 'Golden Age of the Cartography during the Italian Renaissance'. These maps, including some wall maps, begin with world maps, continue with maps of the continents (Africa, Asia, Americas, Europe), then with maps of European countries, maps of regions of Italy, and finally, with some bird's-eye views of Italian cities. These maps often represent the only known surviving example or they exist only in a few museums or libraries

in the world. And, in most cases, these maps are only available for study to a few eminent scholars and therefore inaccessible to the general public. The contents of the exhibition have been brought together in a richly illustrated 230 page catalogue.



Catalogue published by the Associazione Almagià

GALA DINNER

The symposium was concluded in style, with a gala dinner hosted by Prof. & Ms Bracke in their residency at the Academia Belgica. This very convivial event offered a final opportunity for rewarding exchanges between participants who had travelled from all over Europe, and even California, to admire some unique cartographic treasures.

¹ This exhibition has been organised by the Cultural Association 'Roberto Almagià' (The Italian Map Collectors' Association) along with the Foundation 'Bergamo nella Storia', the Angelo Mai Public Library and the Municipality of Bergamo. In Bergamo (Italy), at the Palazzo del Podestà - Museo del '500 (Piazza Vecchia / Upper Town), extended until 25 September 2016.



Direttore Wouter Bracke closes the symposium at the gala dinner in the Academia Belgica adorned with rare tapestries of the Brussels school

**International annual conference
Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels
Saturday 10 December 2016**

GLOBES AND INSTRUMENTS



09.30 – 10.00 : Reception of participants

10.00 – 10.15 : Welcome by the president

10.15 – 10.45 : Flemish Scientific Instruments in context

Prof. dr. Koenraad Van Cleempoel, Universiteit Hasselt

Between c. 1525 and c. 1580 the university city of Louvain became Europe's most important centre for instrument making partly due to the research and technical skills of Gemma Frisius (1508-1555) and Gerard Mercator (1512-1594). It is the perfect harmony of aesthetics and science that made the Louvain instruments so sought after in the European market.

10.45 – 11.05 : Coffee break

11.05 – 11.35 : Scientific measuring instruments in the 16th century

Jan De Graeve, Chartered surveyor and valuer of fixed assets, Member of the Map Circle's Executive Committee.

Jan has put together a collection of rare measuring instruments and will introduce some of the 16th century instruments, useful in land surveying and cartography.

11.35 – 12.30 : Visit to the Coronelli globes of the Royal Library

12.30 – 14.15 : Aperitif and lunch, coffee

14.15 – 14.45 : Exploring the Globe - Outside and Inside

Sylvia Sumira, Curator specialising in globes, U.K.

As a curator/restorer, the speaker will tell us about her work, unveiling some interesting discoveries she has made while working on globes from different centuries: the visible surface - the map - on a globe is always fascinating, but occasionally there is an opportunity to look beneath the surface layers and this can reveal unexpected information.

14.45 – 15.15 : The celestial globe of Gerbert of Aurillac (946-1003)

Dr. Elly Dekker, independent scholar, The Netherlands.

At the turn of the tenth century Gerbert of Aurillac invented, as part of his teaching of the liberal arts, a number of astronomical models, one of which was a celestial globe. Through the analysis of this globe, the speaker will picture the evolution of celestial globes and explain the difference between the two traditions: the Greco-Roman one and the Islamic one.

15.15 – 15.25 : Break

15.25 – 16.00 : The terrestrial globe of Vandermaelen

Wulf Bodenstein, Honorary President and founder of the Map Circle, advisor on maps at the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren.

Together with Marguerite Silvestre, Head of the Map Room of the Royal Library of Belgium, Wulf will give a talk on a terrestrial globe of 1846 by Philippe Vandermaelen. This is one of only three examples known and is now preserved in the Map Collection of the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren.

Venue : Royal Library of Belgium Mont des Arts / Kunstberg

Boulevard de l'Empereur 4 / Keizerslaan 4 - 1000 Brussels (near the Central Station)

Access via the main entrance in the Monts des Arts garden. 'Small Auditorium' on level 2.

Admission is free for Map Circle's members, non-members pay EUR 10.00 at the entrance.

Lunch (optional) is being arranged in the Library's cafeteria, with catering services. Price: EUR 35.00

REGISTRATION ON OUR WEBSITE : <http://www.bimcc.org/bimcc-programme.htm>

International news

Congratulations Francis!

Our friend Francis Herbert turned 75 this past 25 July. He participated in the inaugural meeting of the then BIMCC (31.03.1998) when he was still Curator of Maps at the Royal Geographical Society and he has been a regular Speaker and participant in our many events since then, including the recent excursion to Rome last May.

He has engaged himself 100% as a member of the editorial committee of this magazine since last year and is a solid supporter of our Circle. As you know, he is a living carto-bibliographical encyclopedia, a unique species in the map world. And he is relentlessly helping everybody around the world who comes up with an interesting question to fill their knowledge gaps, large and small.



Francis Herbert addressing the BIMCC Conference in 2006

He received the IMCoS Helen Wallis Award in 1995, quoted as 'probably the most helpful map librarian in the world'. By that time he had compiled the *Imago Mundi* bibliography for 20 years – an immense piece of work, if you have ever gone into it.

As a token of appreciation for his 'great merit', it was decided to make Francis a Permanent Member of the Brussels Map Circle.

Cartography at the Royal Palace in Brussels.

It is a tradition in Brussels: the Royal Palace opens its doors to the public, every summer. Visitors have access to certain rooms of the palace, and to exhibitions taking place there for the occasion. This year one of them is about cartography and displays a number of old maps (none are very ancient) and related objects and instruments, illustrating the place and use of

cartography in our world (see www.cartographiae.be which gives the contents, with commentaries, of the cartographic exhibits). Wulf Bodenstein, who is not only the founder of our Circle but also (volunteer) curator of the historical map collection of the Africa Museum in Tervuren, provided the three items from the Africa Museum plus texts. He was duly rewarded by the privilege of a toast in royal company at the preview of the exhibition on National Day (21 July)!



The Belgian 'Congo' by James Thiriar, ca. 1952 (Africa Museum, Tervuren)

More maps of Monaco...

Our readers may remember the publications on Monaco by Rod Lyon, an active member of the Malta Map Society and formerly engaged as expert in ancient maps and engravings by a leading antiquarian dealer in Monte Carlo; after articles in our Newsletter No 37 (May 2010), he had produced a little book presenting the sum of his research over thirty-five years on maps of Monaco (see Newsletter No 48, January 2014).

A new edition of 'Monaco autrefois [Monaco in the past] – old maps, charts and plans of the Principality of Monaco (1640 – 1879)' has just been issued: hardback, 88 pp. fully illustrated in colour, with more maps and expanded texts. Its larger format (A4) makes it an attractive book to view reproductions of all known maps of the principality until 1879.

The book can be ordered (at EUR 50.00) from the author: Rod Lyon, 28 Triq is Sikka, Bahar-ic-Caghaq, Naxxar, Malta GC (28triqsikka@gmail.com).

Events calendar

IMCOS Map Collectors' Evening

14 September 2016
London, U.K.

Bring along your maps to discuss with other members or to have them identified by the knowledgeable chairman, Francis Herbert. He has suggested the dual themes of map postcards (i.e. the map occupying the whole or a constituent part of the image side) or maps for promoting travel and tourism but if this is not your collecting area do feel free to bring a map of your choice.

It is essential (for security), as the Civil Service Club requires a list of attendees' names, that IMCoS' General Secretary be informed in advance (david.dare1@btopenworld.com); Francis Herbert, in order to better organise the Evening, would appreciate an email to indicate what attendees intend to bring (francis443herbert@btinternet.com).

Venue: Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2HJ.

Refreshments (from 6pm) in the Milner-Barry Room and meeting in the Elizabethan Room

The 18th Kartographiehistorisches Colloquium

14-17 September 2016
Vienna, Austria.

Including visits to the Viennese cartographic collections.

Venue: Institut für Geschichte der Universität Wien, Universitätsring 1, A-1010 Wien.

Contact: Petra Svatek (petra.svatek@univie.ac.at) or Markus Heinz (kartographiegeschichte@sbb.spk-berlin.de).

www.kartengeschichte.ch/dach/index.html

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



The 18th Kartographiehistorisches Colloquium

Big is beautiful: managing large maps and large collections

15-16 September 2016
Edinburgh, Scotland.

The Map Curators' Group of the British Cartographic Society has a nice program for its Annual Workshop, this time in Edinburgh, with a series of talks on Thursday, followed by the Map Curators' Group AGM and an optional group meal and on Friday a choice of visits.

Venue: National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EW

Contact: Ann Sutherland (ann.m.sutherland@talk21.com) or Paula Williams (p.williams@nls.uk)

27^e Festival International de Géographie (FIG): 'Un monde qui va plus vite?' [International Festival of Geography: A world that's going faster?]

30 September – 2 October 2016
Saint-Dié-des-Vosges, France

Guest country: Belgium

Venue: Saint-Dié-des-Vosges

www.fig.saint-die-des-vosges.fr

The Dissemination of Cartographic Knowledge: Production – Trade – Consumption – Preservation

13-15/16 October 2016
Dubrovnik, Croatia

This ICA conference deals with cartographic production as well as with map trade and the role of diverse audiences in the creation, circulation, consumption and ultimate preservation of knowledge. Sunday 16 October is an optional day tour.

Venue: AlInter-University Centre Dubrovnik, Don Frana Bulića 4, HR-20000 Dubrovnik.

Contact: Mirela Altić (mirela.altic(at)gmail.com).

www.histacartodubrovnik2016.com

Symposium: À l'échelle du monde. La carte, objet culturel, social et politique, de l'Antiquité à nos jours. [On the scale of the world. Maps: a cultural, social and political object from Antiquity to the present day]

17-18 October 2016
Albi, France



DUBROVNIK
6th International Symposium on
the History of Cartography

Symposium organised around the eighth century world map of Albi. The first day will be devoted to representations of the world in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. The second day will focus on modern and contemporary mapping.

Venue: Centre Universitaire Jean-François Champollion, Place de Verdun, Albi.

Contact: Sandrine Victor (colloquemap-pamundi@lists.univ-jfc.fr).

Spatial representations of the Arabian peninsula

20-22 October 2016
Paris, France

This workshop aims to identify and analyze the different cultural and territorial perceptions of the Arabian Peninsula in the European and Arab societies, the imagination processes around this space and the possible interactions between historical accounts and the redefinition of space from the 16th to the 21st century

Venue: Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

Contact: sarah.Khazindar@univ-paris1.fr and cdc@univ-paris1.fr

Knowledge is Power

2-4 November 2016
Nicosia, Cyprus

The aim of the Conference is to explore the historical dimensions and itineraries of knowledge deposited in books and maps, embarking from the sphere of private initiatives in knowledge codification and advancing to issues that regard its public diffusion for the benefit of the academic community, as well as the broader public.



The Paris Map-Fair

Venue: University of Cyprus, Anastasios G. Leventis B108, 1 Panepistimiou Avenue, 2109 Aglantzia, Nicosia.

sylviaioannoufoundation.org/3rd-international-conference/

The 24th Annual Series Oxford Seminars In Cartography

3 November 2016
Oxford, U.K.

John Peaty (Defence Geographic Centre Joint Forces Intelligence Group) will speak about Mapping and the Falklands Conflict, 1982: how mapping helped British Forces retake the Islands against the odds.

Venue: Weston Library Lecture Theatre, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BG

Join us for refreshments in the Weston Café from 15.45

Time schedule: 16.30 to 18.00

Contact: Nick Millea (nick.millea@bodleyan.ox.ac.uk).

The 15th Paris Map-Fair

5 November 2016
Paris, France

Venue: Hotel Ambassador, 16 Boulevard Haussmann, Paris.

Time schedule: 11.00 - 18.00.

4 November 2016: Pre-Mapfair cocktail reception at 7.30PM - Salle Mogador, Hotel Ambassador.

Additional information from paris@mapfair.com.

'The Cambridge Seminars in the History of Cartography

22 November 2016
Cambridge, U.K.

Speaker: Megan Barford (National Maritime Museum)

Venue: Gardner Room, Emmanuel College, St Andrew's Street, Cambridge.
Time: 5.30 pm.

Contact: Sarah Bendall (sarah.bendall@emma.cam.ac.uk)

'Maps and Society' Lectures THE TWENTY-SIXTH SERIES

'Plotting London's Buildings, c.1450-1720'

24 November 2016
London, U.K.

Dr Dorian Gerhold (Independent Scholar).

Lectures in the history of cartography convened by Catherine Delano-Smith (Institute of Historical Research, University of London), Tony Campbell (formerly Map Library, British Library), Peter Barber (Visiting Fellow, History, King's College, formerly Map Library, British Library) and Alessandro Scafi (Warburg Institute).

Meetings are held at the Warburg Institute, School of Advanced Study, University of London, Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB, at 17.00 on selected Thursdays.

Admission is free and each meeting is followed by refreshments. All are most welcome.

Enquiries: +44 (0)20 8346 5112 (Catherine Delano-Smith) or Tony Campbell < [tony\(at\)tonycampbell.info](mailto:tony(at)tonycampbell.info) > [NB. You need to replace (at) with the @ symbol].

The Brussels Map Circle International Conference

10 December 2016
Brussels, Belgium

Globes and instruments
Programme : see page 36

Venue: Brussels, Royal Library of Belgium, Boulevard de l'Empereur 2, Brussels.

Exhibitions calendar

QUANDO L'ITALIA DISEGNAVA IL MONDO, Tesori Cartografici del Rinascimento Italiano [WHEN ITALY DREW THE WORLD, Cartographic Treasures of the Italian Renaissance]

15 April – 25 September 2016

Bergamo, Italy



Planisfero by Paolo Forlani & Ferrando Bertelli ca 1565

This exhibition has been organised by the Cultural Association 'Roberto Almagià' (The Italian Map Collectors' Association) along with the Foundation 'Bergamo nella Storia', the Angelo Mai Public Library and the Municipality of Bergamo. It temporarily recreates a large 'Lafreri-style map atlas' using 74 maps from the collections of the Association's members, selected to represent the best examples of cartographic masterpieces published in Rome or Venice between 1525 and 1575. The contents of the exhibition have been brought together in a richly illustrated 230 page catalogue.

Venue : Bergamo, Palazzo del Podestà, Sala dei Giuristi - Piazza Vecchia

Tuesday to Friday : 9.30 - 13.00 / 14.30 - 18.00, Saturday and holidays : 9.30 - 19.00

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

Cielo e Terra [Heaven and Earth] : Silvestro Amanzio Moroncelli, i grandi globi del 1716 e la collezione cartografica della Casanatense [The big globes of 1716 and the map collection of the Casanatense library]

28 April – 28 November 2016,

Rome, Italy

The cartographical collection of the Biblioteca Casanatense with its big globes of 1716.

Venue: : Biblioteca Casanatense, Via S. Ignazio 52, Roma.

Time schedule: Mondays-Fridays: 11.30-13.30 and 16.30-18.00.

<http://www.casanatense.it/en/alerts/409-inaugurazione-della-...>



Voor God & Geld, De Gouden Tijd van de Zuidelijke Nederlanden [For God and Gold - The Golden Age of Flanders]

17 June 2016 – 01 January 2017

Ghent, Belgium



An exhibition which brings within everyone's reach the cultural, intellectual – and here above all – mercantile powerhouse that was Flanders in the 16th century ... Seriously deserves a visit, if only (but obviously not only) for the cartographic exhibits: Ptolemy's atlas from 1486, the world map from La Mer des Histoires, Visscher's Leo Belgicus and Leo Hollandicus, a Plancius globe from 1590 and Vrients' panorama of Antwerp from 1610, to name but a few highlights ...

venue : Provinciaal Cultuurcentrum Caermersklooster Vrouwebroersstraat 6 – 9000 Ghent,

tel. +32 (0)9 269 29 10,

www.caermersklooster.be

Opening hours: 10.00 to 18.00 (closed on Mondays)

Entry charges: 10 EUR: Individual visitors

<http://www.voor-god-en-geld.be>

The 20th Century Through Maps

4 November 2016 – 1 March 2017
London, U.K.

The British Library will explore the tumultuous history of the 20th century through maps, drawing on powerful, intriguing and surprising examples from the British Library's world-class cartography collections and beyond.

The exhibition will also uncover the fascinating story of how maps left the hands of the few and became everyday objects for the first time in the 20th



One map shows an imagined nuclear explosion in Edinburgh, with the fallout drawn in a north-westerly direction. Photograph: British Library

'You are here!'

22 July 2016 – 2 April 2017
Edinburgh, Scotland

With the promise to challenge our acceptance of maps, the exhibition questions about how maps are made and how we understand them. Drawn from the National Library's collection of more than two million maps and atlases, the maps in the exhibition demonstrate together the versatility and beauty of maps and the skill of the cartographers who created them.

Venue: National Library of Scotland,
George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EW.

Open daily except on public holidays



Auction calendar

Henri Godts

Avenue Louise 230/6
B-1050 Brussels
tel. +32 (0)2 647 85 48
fax +32 (0)2 640 73 32
www.godts.com
infosite@godts.com

Auction: 13 December 2016

Silent auction: 8-18 September 2016

Peter Kiefer Buch- und Kunstauktionen

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

Not yet confirmed

Bubb Kuyper

Jansweg 39, NL-2011 KM Haarlem
tel. +31 23 532 39 86
www.bubbkuyper.com
info@bubbkuyper.com

22-25 November 2016, 30 May-2 June 2017, 21-24 November 2017

Loeb-Larocque

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

4 November 2016 (to be confirmed)

The Romantic Agony

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

25 - 26 November 2016

Paulus Swaen Internet Auctions

www.swaen.com
paulus@swaen.com

Silent auctions 13-22 September 2016, 11-18 October 2016 and 15-22 November 2016

Marc van de Wiele

Sint-Salvatorskerkhof 7
B-8000 Brugge
tel. +32 (0)50 33 63 17
fax +32 (0)50 34 64 57
www.marcvandewiele.com
van.de.wiele@skynet.be

Not confirmed yet

Venator & Hanstein

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

23 - 24 September 2016

Antiquariaat Sanderus

F. Devroe

Old maps, atlases and prints

Nederkouter 32, 9000 Gent
Tel +32 (0)9 223 35 90
Fax +32 (0)9 223 39 71
sanderus@sanderusmaps.com

www.sanderusmaps.com

Antiquariaat Plantijn

D.R. Duncker

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books.**

Ginnekenmarkt 5, 4835 JC Breda
Tel +31 76 560 44 00
dieter.d@planet.nl

www.plantijnmaps.com

In the forthcoming issues of *Maps in History*, do not miss ...

- Aspects of Ferraris' role through his correspondence
- Villaret Maps of Belgium
- Valentijn's map of the Cape
- Jacques de Surhon , cartographer of the 16th century..
- Maps of the Medici in Florence.
-

**and many reviews of recent books on cartography, reports on map exhibitions
and other cartographic events.**

The Brussels Map Circle

AIMS AND FUNCTIONS

The Circle was created, as the Brussels International Map Collectors' Circle (BIMCC), in 1998 by Wulf Bodenstein.

Now known as the Brussels Map Circle, it is a non-profit making association under Belgian law (asbl/vzw 0464 423 627).

Its aims are to:

1. Provide an informal and convivial forum for all those with a specialist interest in maps, atlases, town views and books with maps, be they collectors, academics, antiquarians, or simply interested in the subject
2. Organise lectures on various aspects of historical cartography, on regions of cartographical interest, on documentation, paper conservation and related subjects
3. Organise visits to exhibitions, and to libraries and institutions holding important map and atlas collections.

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

- A Map Afternoon 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 or exhibition.
- AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on a specific major topic in December.

The Brussels Map Circle also publishes Maps in History formerly known as 'BIMCC Newsletter', three times a year and maintains a website.

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BECOMING (AND STAYING) A MEMBER

Members receive three Newsletters per annum and have free admission to most of the Circle's events. Non-members pay full rates.

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

To become (and stay!) a member, please pay the membership dues EXCLUSIVELY by bank transfer (no cheques please) to our bank account: IBAN: BE52 0682 4754 2209 BIC: GKCCBEBB and notify the Membership Secretary (treasurer@bimcc.org) indicating your name and address.

MAPS IN HISTORY

The Brussels Map Circle currently publishes three issues per year. It is distributed, not only to members of the Circle, but also to key institutions (universities, libraries) and to personalities active in the field of the history of cartography, located in 26 different countries. Please submit calendar items and other contributions to the editor (e-mail: editor@bimcc.org) by the following deadlines:

- 15 March for the May edition.
- 15 July for the September edition.
- 15 Nov. for the January edition.

Items presented for publication are submitted to the approval of the Editorial Committee. Signed articles and reviews reflect solely the opinions of the author.

Books for review should be sent to Nicola Boothby (Uwenberg 13, 1650 Beersel, Belgium, nicola.boothby@telenet.be) who will arrange for their review by a member of the Circle.



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