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September 2018
Newsletter No

62

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Anniversary Programme



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Intro

Dear Map Friends,

In this issue of Maps in History you get the usual mix of 'Looks at Books', interview, news and articles on history.

Wouter Bracke, who has spent the last few years promoting Belgian culture in Italy, revisits the work of one of his predecessors, Lodovico Guicciardini who, in the 16th century, had promoted the knowledge of the Low Countries with the publication of his *Descrittione di tutti i paesi bassi*. Wouter particularly analyses the evolution of the maps and plans illustrations through the successive editions of the *Descrittione*.

The other core item in this issue is the report of our excursion to Arlon and Luxembourg which took place in May, on the theme: '1839: when Luxembourg was last cut to pieces'. The photos give a clear impression of the success met by this event organised by Pierre Parmentier and Marie-Anne Dage.

Celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the Brussels Map Circle have already begun! Our Mapaf (Map Afternoon) on 24 March opened with a reception offered by the Circle to its members on the top floor of the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR). Speeches over a glass of 'bubbles' evoked the various activities of the past twenty years, with emphasis on the special relationship which has been established with the KBR 'Maps and Plans' department (see the full report on p.27-29 of MiH 61 of May 2018).

It is also important to note the full programme of festivities planned to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Circle on 1 December 2018, at the prestigious Plantin-Moretus Museum in Antwerp. This UNESCO World Heritage Site will be ours for the whole evening. There will be guided tours, a small exhibition of maps and special pieces from their collection, a retrospective of our activities since 1998 and ... good catering. For our Members and their partners! Registration is now open on our website www.bimcc.org. Do not wait!

Cartographically yours,

Cover : Frontispiece (detail) of the 1582 edition of Lodovico Guicciardini's *Descrittione di tutti i paesi bassi* (KBR, RP, VH 25765 C)

Jean-Louis Renteux
Vice-President & Editor
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Aus allen Weltteilen

Ägypten mit Sudan und Libyen

[From around the World – Egypt, the Sudan and Libya]

by Imre Josef Demhardt

- Series Geographische Anthologie des 19. Jahrhunderts
- Berlin ; Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 2017
- 280 pages with colour and black and white illustrations, hard cover, 24 x 16 cm
- ISBN 978-3-662-46273-7, hardcover, 340 pp., 57 ill., including 43 maps (22 in colour). EUR 98.99; also as an e-book ISBN 978-3-662-46274-4, EUR 79.99

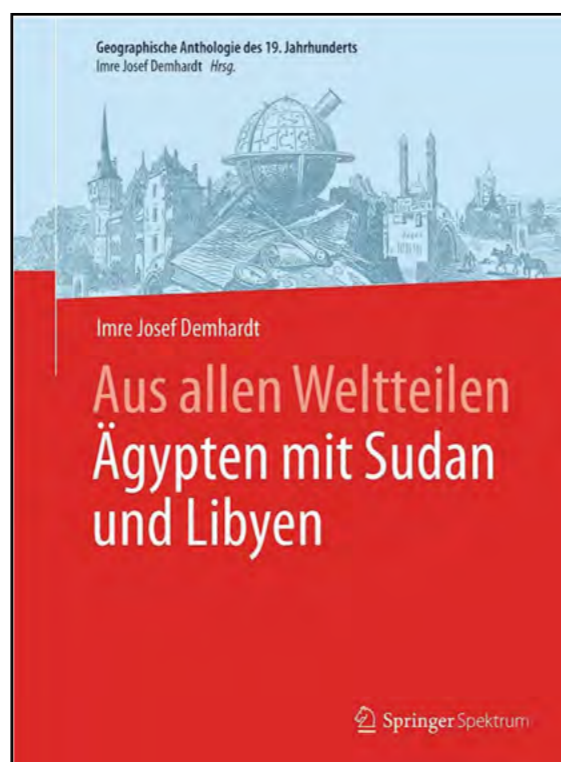
It has taken some time, it would seem, for the nineteenth century to come into focus with map collectors, most of whom are usually, and quite naturally, attracted to the imaginative and artistic representation of our world in the earlier maps of the Renaissance and the seventeenth century. A large corpus of specialised literature and works of reference is available to guide them towards a fuller understanding of these maps and their historical significance, although the survey of many of the more important ones ends in 1700.

Those wishing to probe into the mapping of the eighteenth or later centuries therefore patiently await the publication of forthcoming volumes of the History of Cartography project. Volume 4 (Enlightenment) is expected in 2019, with Vol. 5 (19th century) to follow in 2022. Imre Demhardt is co-editor of the latter, assisting editor Roger Kain together with Carla Lois in this monumental task. Volume 6 (20th century) appeared in 2015, and interested readers have free on-line access to volumes published: <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books.HOC>.

In the meantime, Springer has launched a new series of publications in the form of a 'Geographical anthology of the 19th century'. It started in 2016 with Imre Demhardt's book on

the Arctic, *Die Arktis*. With his second publication in this series the author here offers us, prior to the forthcoming encyclopaedic work on the 19th century, a fascinating introduction to narratives by European travellers and explorers who visited three provinces of the Ottoman Empire: Egypt, the Sudan and Libya. These accounts, illustrated with maps, appeared in 17 geographical journals published in Germany and in Austria. The earliest entry is from 1774, the latest of 1915

The book opens with a chapter on Egypt, to which the most extensive collection of reports and maps of all three provinces is devoted. Following a historical overview of this country's relation with European powers (reminding us of Napoleon's expedition in 1798) and its relative autonomy under Mehmed Ali's reign as of 1805, we visit cosmopolitan Alexandria, the Nile Delta, the majestic Nile itself, and Cairo with the nearby pyramids. In the next four chapters we move to



Map of the old city of Alexandria by Mahmud-Beg, Astronomer of the Vice-King of Egypt (in : Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin, 1872 : 7, Plate V).

the periphery of the central subject: twenty pages are devoted to the creation of the Suez Canal; the elusive Sinai is visited; as also the Red Sea's shores; and the little-known Eastern Desert (between the Nile and the Red Sea) reveals its secrets. A first appraisal of the Libyan desert, with the legendary oasis of Siwa, is followed by a 30-page chapter on the Ottoman-Egyptian Sudan, particularly evocative of the dangers of travel in these unknown parts in those days. With the last chapter we turn to Tripolitania which, together with the Cyrenaica and Fezzan, later became Libya.

Those familiar with the history of exploration of the nineteenth century will be happy to read reports by some of the most distinguished of German explorers, and cartographers such as Heinrich Berghaus, Theodor von Heuglin, Heinrich Kiepert, Gerhard Rohlfs, Georg Schweinfurt. Austrian, French and British travellers have also been called in, their contributions offered in translation as required. About 40% of the entries are anonymous, their texts most likely having been compiled by the editing teams of the journals selected. Apart from authoritative publications such as Petermanns *Geographische Mitteilungen*, the *Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin*, the *Zeitschrift für allgemeine Erdkunde*, or the *Mitteilungen der Österreichischen*

Geographischen Gesellschaft, the author also quotes from lesser known, often short-lived, journals many of which had disappeared from the scene by the beginning of WW I. Having rescued these from oblivion is not the least of Demhardt's achievements here.

Another editorial feature raises this anthology from the level of a bouquet of selected travel reports to a work of historical significance. Demhardt's profound knowledge of archival sources in general, and of Africa in particular, enabled him to link the narratives with historical details that provide cohesion between events and admirably fill remaining information gaps. These commentaries, offset from the rest by text shading, account for about 10 to 15% of the volume of text: proof (if proof were needed) of the author's erudition.

Choosing 19th-century maps as illustrations is a most arduous task. Small scales paired with an abundance of topographical detail tend to make any reproduction difficult to read. This has been successfully countered in many cases by enlarging a map's details. To aid the reader's navigation in this part of Africa, a well-designed and most helpful index map identifying all of the map illustrations is spread over the inside cover and the first fly leaf.

Demhardt convincingly underlines the importance of these periodic travel accounts when he reminds us that their appearance in widely-read journals kept the general public *au fait* with exploratory advances – and dramatic failures – in different parts of the world, prior to monographs being published by their authors. To assemble and edit such reports from the most dispersed and incomplete archival collections was one of the author's objectives. The other was to achieve a selection that strikes a balance between learnedness and entertainment – both objectives brilliantly achieved.

One last remark: Imre Demhardt tells me that the e-book version does not match the reproduction quality of the hard cover edition. Those interested in studying the maps should opt for the hard cover.



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The Island of Malta and the Order of St John

Original by Grigory Kravetsky (1747–1802, St Petersburg), published in St Petersburg in 1800 by the Imperial Academy of Sciences

- This version: Introduction and editing by Joseph Schirò
- Translation from Russian: Elena Yasnetskaya Sultana
- Published by Midsea Books in collaboration with MMS, 2018
- 124 pages, colour and sepia illustrations, hard cover, 24 x 15.5 cm
- ISBN 978-99932-7-640-1, hardback USD 52.80

Kravetsky wrote the book on his trip to Malta in 1785 where he was working as a translator 'on the non-hazardous expedition' of Count Paul Martinovitch Skavronsky (1757–1793), who was then the Russian Ambassador to Naples. The first part describes in detail the history of the island of Malta, its main attractions, and the life and traditions of the locals. The second part deals with the history of the Order of Malta since 1530.

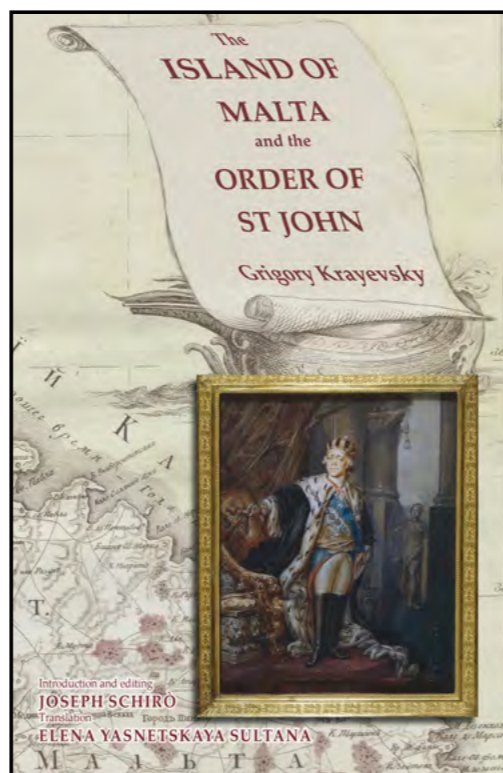
In 1799 the Russian Emperor Paul I became the Grand Master of the Order of the Knights of St John. Kravetsky seized the opportunity to publish his travelogue and history of Malta and the Order, so presented the Emperor with the book's manuscript. The Emperor found the contents very interesting and sponsored its publication and distribution.

The first two-thirds of the book is a 'Description of the Island of Malta'. It is a kind of 18th-century 'Lonely Planet' or 'Rough Guide' which, according to Joseph Schirò's introduction, owes a lot to descriptions published in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in Lyon and Frankfurt. This part ends with a very rare map of the Maltese islands. Entitled (in translation) 'A Map of the Islands of Malta, Gozo and Comino in the year 1800', it is the only known contemporary Russian printed map of the islands. Three variants are known, the one reproduced here was engraved by Johann Christoph van Maÿr, a copper engraver born

in Nuremberg who died in St Petersburg. It is printed on thick green paper and hand-coloured. Other variants are printed on thin white paper, and another on whitish-grey paper. The map is based on a French map published in 1752, which is oriented with the southwest at the top, whereas the Russian map is oriented north. For map-lovers there are other interesting maps and plans here, chosen carefully by Mr Schirò, inter alia: a copper-engraved map of Malta by Giovanni Francesco Camocio (1556); the oldest known separate map of Gozo, undated manuscript now in the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Rome; and an undated 'unique map of Valletta', manuscript, showing the harbour fortifications, by Evangelista Azzi, from Mr Schirò's collection.

The last third of the book gives 'Brief Information about the Order of St John of Jerusalem': history, rules, regulations, and so on. The only map/plan in this part is of Acre from Jean Baudouin's 'Histoire des Chevaliers de L'Ordre de S. Jean de Hierusalem', no date given.

In short, this would be the ideal book for a map-lover exploring Malta! What a shame it was not available, the map especially, for the exhibition on Malta at Bozar, Brussels last year.



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Une Carrière de géographe au siècle des Lumières

[A geographer's career in the Enlightenment century]

Jean-Baptiste d'Anville

Edited by Lucile Haguet, Catherine Hofmann

- Oxford University Studies in the Enlightenment, 2018
- 544 pp. (including a 6 pages English summary), 73 bw ill. and 16 colour plates, soft cover
- ISBN: 978-0-7294-1209-4 and 978-2-7177-2653-4, EUR 89.00 or GBP 87.00

Jean-Baptiste d'Anville (1697–1782) is considered as an 'emblematic' character in the development of French cartography. His production and his own map collection (over 9000 items) constitute the core of the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF)'s cartographic treasures. Although a number of biographies and hagiographies were written in the 18th and 19th centuries, it is only in 2010 that a comprehensive research project on d'Anville was launched, under the aegis of the BnF, to have a fresh look at all historical evidence and to overcome stereotypes. While recently digitised maps from d'Anville's collection and related archive documents were put on-line on BnF's Gallica, Lucile Haguet maintained a blog where the first research results were made available. This allowed researchers from three continents to contribute to the project. In September 2012, the BnF organised an international colloquium with all interested parties to take stock of the research results. This book is the outcome.

The book is edited by the project leaders Lucile Haguet (then researcher at the BnF) and Catherine Hofmann (Head of the BnF Maps and Plans Department), but many researchers contributed chapters on specific subjects.

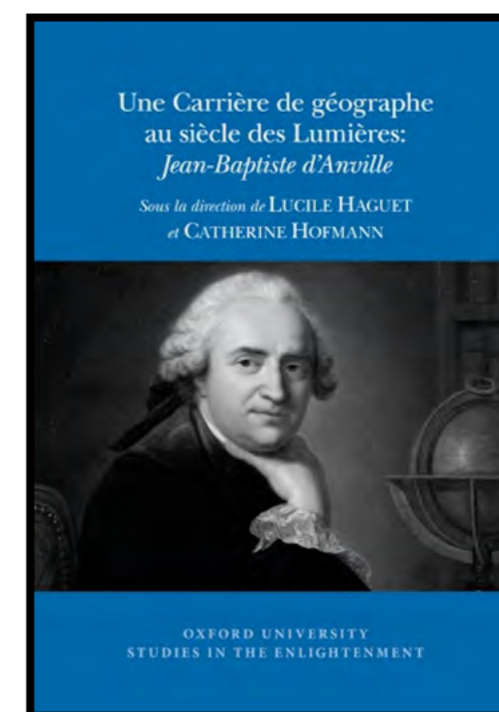
The first part of the book aims at explaining the extraordinary career path of d'Anville: how the son of

a modest Parisian tailor named 'Bourguignon' managed to become, at 22, a geography tutor for the young king of France Louis XV and, later, to pursue an internationally successful career as a cartographer.

In the first chapter, Pascale Mormiche analyses the beginning of d'Anville's brilliant scholarly life – not enough to explain his success -- and uncovers the network of acquaintances, which d'Anville developed systematically and which helped him progress in society. Guillaume Delisle, appointed 'first royal geographer' in 1718, and the duke of Orléans, Louis XV's guardian, were key characters in d'Anville's network.

Júnia Ferreira Furtado then shows how d'Anville further enlarged his networks and diversified orders, in particular, as he worked for the Portuguese crown from 1724 until the 1740s, when he produced cartographic evidence to support the Portuguese claims against Spain in South America.

Mary Sponberg Pedley illustrates d'Anville's business sense by analysing a proposal for producing a set comprised of sixteen two-sheet maps; this is a real 'business plan' detailing the anticipated costs of production (engraving, printing and colouring, although excluding the geographer's time in composition) and





Louis XV, the young king of France, getting geography lessons from d'Anville

the anticipated profit from the sale of such a collection over about eight to ten years. It shows the difficulty for a cartographer, albeit famous, to live from his sole production, without the help of sponsors.

The second part of the book investigates how d'Anville could draw the world without leaving his cabinet! He never left the Paris region, and relied on all possible information sources to make his maps; he cross-checked his sources carefully and, when he found no satisfying information, he left a blank space on the map: a proof of his scientific integrity.

Lucile Haguet first explains that his map library was his main working tool: d'Anville was not content to merely visit the well-stocked Parisian libraries, but he created his own, one of the most important private map collections of his day, by taking advantage of the intricate structure of his social network, by means of exchanges, donations and duplications.

Georges Toliaas then explores the empirical working methods elaborated by d'Anville to reduce all sorts of spatial data to numerical measures and then to check them against ancient itinerary measures, modern local measurements, and recently observed

geodetic calculations (e.g. on his 1743 map of Italy). The syncretic processing of ancient, medieval and modern geographical sources, as elaborated by d'Anville, was described at the time as 'critical and comparative geography', and it allowed successive historical areas to elucidate and clarify each other.

The sources used by d'Anville in two specific cases are then examined in detail.

Jean-Charles Ducène studies how d'Anville took advantage of the oriental sources that became available as a result of a nascent orientalism in France in his desire to better understand regions rarely or never traversed by Europeans. In short, the scholar had descriptive geography, mathematics and travel itineraries at his disposal. The information he gathered, which he critiqued and compared with other sources, can be found not only on his maps of Africa and the Middle East but also and more especially in his memoirs on the historical and geographical questions relating to these African and Asian territories.

Regarding North America, Jean-François Palomino shows that d'Anville's cartographic depiction is based on painstaking geographical

research: he assembled the accounts, logbooks and maps of others, then sorted, compared and, finally, combined them to produce a unique and original piece of work. However, the type and origin of the available sources, the path they took to reach him, as well as the rivalries between colonial powers – all these lent a distinctive colour to the cartography of this vast land, at that time still relatively unknown.

In the third part of the book the reception of d'Anville's work in France and abroad is examined. We learn that the brilliant scientist was also aware of the need to develop and promote his reputation, in France and abroad, in order to expand his 'market'. His maps were translated into English, German and Spanish.

Nicolas Verdier approaches d'Anville's personality through the contemporary press, in particular the journal *Le Mercure*, whose pages allow us to follow the geographer's career in the light of those who read him or who observed his work. In its pages one sees d'Anville's arrival on the public stage, through the gradual establishment of his name and the acquisition of a succession of titles, each emphasised (or de-emphasised) according to the times. He asserts himself as an arbiter of the knowledge and practices of the learned world. Only after his secure appointment as secretary to the duc d'Orléans did d'Anville abandon the role of author for *Le Mercure*, thereafter only making guest appearances in its pages as a reference. Thus a study of d'Anville in *Le Mercure* reveals both the process of fabricating celebrity and the route to obtaining position and status in the second third of the eighteenth century.

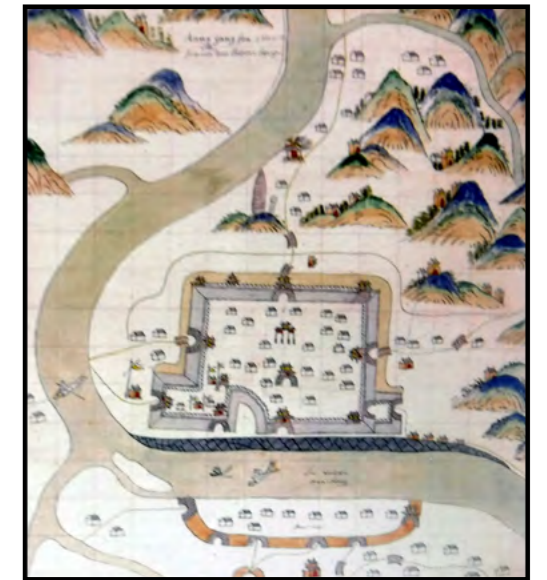
Robert Mankin brings to light the reception of d'Anville's work in England through the figure of one of his greatest admirers, Edward Gibbon, the author of 'The History of the decline and fall of the Roman empire'.

The British scholar could not help but show interest in the works of one of the only scholars who shared the problem of how to spatialise history. D'Anville's maps were sold in England before the publication of 'Decline and fall'. However, it is thanks to Gibbon that the mapmaker enjoyed such fame across the Channel, since Gibbon quoted d'Anville as an authority and a major source of inspiration throughout his main work. Gibbon made d'Anville the ultimate mapmaker. Without the Francophile Gibbon, d'Anville, the 'prince of geographers' according to the historian, would not have had such an aura in England.

Iris Kantor shows how the map 'Amérique méridionale' (1748) by Jean-Baptiste d'Anville was used at two different and defining historical moments. The first occurred after the signing of the Treaty of Madrid between Portugal and Spain in 1750, when the Portuguese diplomats rejected d'Anville's guidelines on the use of indigenous place names. The Portuguese crown established a policy of renaming towns and indigenous villages, using only Portuguese forms to prove and support possession by the Portuguese State; yet, at the same time, this policy retained indigenous toponyms to identify the physical features and landscape. The second instance occurred between 1889 and 1906, long after Brazil had become an independent country (and more than a century after d'Anville's death). At that time, d'Anville's map 'Amérique méridionale' was used again, as an authoritative document, by Brazilian diplomats to locate their borders with British Guiana in the international courts.

The book's fourth part discusses the status of d'Anville as a 'famous man' for over a century after his death.

Lucile Haguet studies d'Anville's large and long-lived reputation in France, from its highest point to its decline, both during his lifetime and after his death: in the 1820s, around forty



As d'Anville never left the Paris region, he relied heavily on external sources to draw his maps. Here we see a Chinese source from his own cabinet library collection.

years after his death, d'Anville was chosen from a thousand applicants to be pictured on a collection of coins dedicated to the 'great men' of France. D'Anville then became a quasi-mythical figure of the positive scientist.

Catherine Hofmann analyses d'Anville relationship with the Royal Library and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and his legacy. From as early as 1750 to 1760, Jean-Baptiste d'Anville expressed the wish to see his collection form the core of an extensive collection of maps within the 'Bibliothèque royale'; he set out the policy and the means of conservation, augmentation and cataloguing of the collection. However this project failed to retain the attention of the library and, in 1780, after eight years of negotiation, d'Anville ceded his 'cabinet géographique' to the crown to be used as a reference collection for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The changes in the collection provoked by this transfer – completing it, making it more accessible and easily exploitable by diplomats – are studied in this contribution, together with the strong intellectual and symbolic aspects of the collection, as witnessed by the forty-year gestation of the 'Catalogue raisonné'.

Nevertheless, in the nineteenth century the Royal Library granted d'Anville pride of place and celebrated him as a 'great man'. Eventually, in 1924, the maps from the Foreign Affairs were transferred to the then National Library, which became the depository of d'Anville's legacy.

In the 20th century d'Anville's fame faded as cartographic methods evolved radically; today he remains a fascinating subject for historical research.

Obviously this book will now be *the* reference on d'Anville. But it is a book by specialists for specialists. It would be nice, if a shorter and simpler version could be derived from it for a wider audience, and, considering d'Anville's reputation worldwide, if it could be translated into English.

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MAP CIRCLE NEWS

Congratulations Jean-Louis on your 75th!

By the end of August 2018, the editor of this magazine was getting very nervous given the approaching deadline for getting *Maps in History* n° 62 to the printer on time. Indeed, he himself was leaving for a trip to Brazil in September and somehow his deputy-editor Paul De Candt, apparently supported by the Circle's President, refused to make haste to finalise the layout.

What our good man didn't know, was that we were planning to publish our appreciative birthday wishes to him, of course without him knowing. Sorry Jean-Louis, for the additional stress we put you through!

What our good man didn't know, is that the plan was to publish these grateful anniversary wishes to him, of course without him knowing so. Sorry Jean-Louis, for the additional stress we put you through!

Jean-Louis Renteux turned 75 on 19 August. He joined the Circle's Executive Committee from the very beginning, participating in the first (informal) meeting on 31 March 1998, and signing up as a founding member of the Circle. He became Member n° 005. (One wonders who 007 might have been.)



Jean-Louis and his wife Jacqueline both very active in the Map Circle's activities...

He became Editor of what was then humbly called the 'Newsletter' as of number 19, in May 2004. He contributed several articles himself and continues to do so. Many of them are on the history of cartography of the Hainaut region, his beloved homeland in France, often specifically studying the history of its borders with Belgium. He has given numerous lectures on this subject, notably at the French National Archives in 2016. Wishing to share his knowledge of this region with the other members, he even arranged a visit to his native Valenciennes and the region around it in 2013.

Jean-Louis himself sketched most of 'The BIMCC Newsletter story' for the 50th issue of the magazine, in September 2014, pointing out the role of his wife Jacqueline, who since the start has been one of the proof-readers. In addition, they have hosted many of our Map Circle Conference speakers.

Of course, Jean-Louis had a life before the Map Circle! He is a graduate of the French Ecole Nationale Supérieure de l'Aéronautique, the University of California and the Université Libre de Bruxelles. He is a certified aeronautical engineer, a Master of Science and a qualified economist. When he helped found the BIMCC, he had been working for Eurocontrol, the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation, since 1969. Just before Jean-Louis retired in 2003, he had been the organisation's first ever Capacity Enhancement Manager with the objective of increasing the capacity of the European air traffic network by integrating the different systems in use in Europe. No doubt this experience has helped him help us to be more efficient!

Working in such 'moving' circles must have given Jean-Louis the great appetite for travelling that has become apparent in recent years. Indeed, Jean-Louis and Jacqueline, the world is round. Keep calm and circle (pun intended!) on!!!! Working in such 'moving' circles must have given Jean-Louis the great appetite for travelling which he has been showing these last years. Indeed, Jean-Louis and Jacqueline, the world is round: keep calm and circle (pun intended!) on!!!!

All of us at the Circle wish you a very Happy 75th Birthday!

Making Maps in History

This issue of *Maps in 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 Wulf Bodenstein, Wouter Bracke, Lisette Danckaert, Francis Herbert and Pierre Parmentier.

Obituary

We were informed that our long-standing member Herman Deijnckens, born 7 December 1936, passed away on August 10. Herman was an active contributor to our magazine: together with our former president Eric Leenders he wrote many articles for it.

The Map Circle presents its sincere condolences to the family.

The maps in the early editions of Guicciardini's *Descrittione di tutti i paesi bassi**

by Wouter Bracke



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Lodovico Guicciardini's *Descrittione di tutti i paesi bassi, altrimenti detti Germania inferiore* [Description of all the low countries, in other words lower Germany] is one of the earliest and definitely most successful descriptions of the Low Countries. During his lifetime the author (1521-1589) published several editions of his periegesis¹ first with Willem Silvius in 1567-1568 and then with Christopher Plantin in 1581-1582 and 1588. Already in 1580 Sebastian Henricpetri in Basel published a German version based on Silvius' edition. Almost 20 years after the author's demise an enlarged and heavily modified edition was published by Cornelis Claesz. in Amsterdam and by Abraham Mair in Calais, in a very different political and cultural context. In this article we will concentrate on the Flemish editions published during the author's lifetime and try to elucidate, through the study of the relationship between the illustrations in the *Descrittione* and its text, the author's role in the ever changing selection of cartographic material to enrich his work.

One of the remarkable features of the *Descrittione* is indeed the growing number of its illustrations, especially of regional maps and city views and

* This article is a reduced version of a conference given at the Royal Dutch Institute in Rome in 2015.

¹ Editor's note: a travelogue in Ancient Greece.



Frontispiece (coloured) of the *Descrittione di tutti i paesi bassi*, published by G. Silvius - Antwerp - 1567 (AbeBooks collection)

plans, from 17 in Silvius' editions to 78 in the Plantin edition of 1588. Their detailed inventory can be found in the *Guicciardini illustratus* published in 2001 which also indicates, where possible, the illustrations' iconographic sources. I will not repeat here the well-known history of the eventual acquisition of Silvius' woodblocks and copper plates by Plantin, of which the latter used only two for his own editions. What is relevant to our quest here is the substitution of the images composing the *Descrittione*'s first cartographic nucleus. Is there a reason

for their substitution? And if so, is it purely technical, the substitution of a majority of woodcuts by engravings, or is there more? Is it a matter of taste, or is there a connection with the text, more precisely is there a relationship between the textual changes in the different editions and the choice of illustrations? What is the author's role in the substitution of images?

Plantin, of course, in the 1580s, disposed of a very important source, namely Braun and Hogenberg's *Civitates orbis terrarum*, published from 1572 onwards, which almost certainly must have influenced his choice of illustrations. But, in the 1560s, Silvius could rely neither on them nor on Ortelius' or Mercator's world atlases. Highlights in cartography in these days were Jacob van Deventer, for his regional maps as well as for his city maps; Christiaan Sgrooten, although his regional maps are dated slightly later; and Anton van den Wyngaerde and his panoramic city views. All were working for the Spanish court, their products remained mostly in manuscript with a minimal dissemination. Of some of van den Wyngaerde's views we know they were in the *officina*² of Plantin who, at the start of his Antwerp business, printed for Silvius.

² Editor's note: printing workshop



Fig. 1. Antwerp in GUICCIARDINI 1567 (Rome, Academia Belgica)

Lodovico Guicciardini mentions the maps in his *Descrittione* for the first time in his letter to the reader in the first Plantin edition (1581). The letter is still dated 1566, year in which it was written in preparation of the first Silvius edition. The author explains he decided not to publish the maps orientated north because he wanted to show as much land as possible. If the reader should want to find the right (north) orientation, he ought to re-orientate his book. The French version of 1582 indicates that buyers can, at their own cost, insert the maps in the right place: *'des cartes geographiques qui sont faictes pour les mettre (qui voudra) chacune en son lieu dedans ce liure'* (f. [7v]). So the maps are printed separately from the text. Which is confirmed by the publisher's letter in the same edition, dated 15 December 1581 and addressing magistrates and inhabitants of all provinces and cities of the Low Countries. Herein Plantin repeats his request, already expressed

towards his friends on the occasion of the preparation of the first edition, to send him maps and plans to be engraved *'pour le plaisir et commodité de ceux qui les desireroient avoir à part ou bien conioinctes avec ledict liure'* [for the pleasure and commodity of those who would like to have them separately or together in the said book]; there follows a list of regions and cities in the book to which the maps and plans refer (ff. [8r-9v]). In his letter to the reader of the third (1588) edition, dated 20 November 1587, Guicciardini informs the reader³ that

3 'Or' bisogna notare come in questa terza impressione, le carte di geografia del paese, et i ritratti delle terre, per non intigrar' tanto l'opera, et non romper' tanto spesso i propositi, come si faceva per la precedente, si mettono tutte insieme alla fine del libro, eccetto la carta generale, che si mette nel principio, perché da lume al tutto, similmente il ritratto d'Anversa, per privilegio speciale, si pone al' luogo suo proprio. La qual' risoluzione sara più commoda al lettore, che le voglia havere, et più commoda per chi non volesse tanto spendere; che le

now all maps are grouped together at the end of the volume except for the general map of the Low Countries and the plan of Antwerp. He continues stating he also updated the authorities' names but did not think opportune to go into details as far as the events, destructions and temporary constructions of the most recent years are concerned. It is clear then that, at least from Plantin onwards, the cartographic lore was considered an important part of the *Descrittione*. And indeed, when in October–November 1580, Plantin announces to Arias Montanus its Italian edition he writes⁴: I have under the press Guicardini's Description of these countries twice as

potra lasciare, senza pregiudicio alcuna della sua lettione [...] (f. [5r]).

4 'Guicardini Descriptionem harum regionum duplo auctiorem Italice habeo sub praelo cui cartae harum omnium regionum et urbes in plano ad vivum expressae suis locis adjungentur omnes in aere excisae. Opus hoc tempore sumptuosissimum' (DENUCÉ 1968, VI, p. 192)."



Fig. 2. Antwerp in GUICCIARDINI 1588 (KBR, RP, VH 25751 C)

large, in Italian, to which maps of all these regions and cities represented in plan to nature will be added in the appropriate places, all engraved in copper. This work is very sumptuous for the time.

Plantin's first Italian edition of 1581 and the French one of 1582 are his first illustrated publications with home-made etchings. In choosing this less time-consuming and thus less expensive technique, rather than drypoint engraving, he follows contemporary practice. Another way of diminishing the production costs was to group all the illustrations together at the end of the book, as is specified in the letter to the reader published in the 1588 edition.

So the publisher Plantin had an important word to say in the book's production. But what about Guicciardini himself?

Illustrations and their collocation in the volume were clearly important to the author: they should make the text more comprehensible. Already in the first edition by Silvius we read with regard to the general description of the Low Countries⁵: '... we will go on to explain the site, and its limits, referring in that part to the drawing made geographically with its degrees given in the beginning of the work: by means of this portrait, not only the shape of these countries, but the shape of the whole Belgica, with its borders and neighbours, can be summarily seen; thus, thanks to this image and to the following words, it will be possible

5 '[...] passeremo avanti a dichiarare il sito, et li suoi termini, riferendone in quella parte al disegno fatto geograficamente co suoi gradi all'entrar' dell'opera: mediante il qual ritratto, non solo la forma di questi paesi, ma la forma ancora di tutta la Belgica con le sue frontiere et vicinanze ristrettamente si vede; talche fra quella figura et le parole seguenti, il nostro proposito et disegno chiaramente si potrà comprendere'

to clearly understand our purpose and design' (1567, p. 4)⁶. Introducing the chapter on the Duchy of Brabant, Guicciardini states the following: "Hor' parleremo di Brabant ponendo prima la sua carta di geographia, con le sue terre et luoghi principali." [We will speak of Brabant by first placing its geographical map, with its lands and main places] (p. 46), to which the 1581 Italian edition adds: "cosi' faremo a tutte queste altre provincie; il' che

6 GUICCIARDINI 1568, p. 5: 'Or laissant à part de parler de sa forme, à laquelle pour son extravagance ne peut estre par parole donnée aucune idoine similitude, nous viendrons à declarer sa situation, termes et confins, nous référans en c'est endroit au dessein géographique, avec ses degrez qu'avons posé à l'entrée de ce présent liure. Moyennant lequel, se void, non seulement la forme de ces Pais Bas, mais aussi de toute la Gaule Belgique, avec ses frontières et pais circonvoisins, ainsi par le dit pourtraict et les déclaration suyante, nostre propos et dessein clairement se pourra comprendre'. In the 1588 edition reference is made to the famous von Aitzing map, p. 5.



Fig. 3. Flanders in GUICCIARDINI 1567 (Rome, Academia Belgica)

oltre alla commodità, darà grande aiuto all'intelligenza del subietto" [so we will do for all these other provinces; which, in addition to the commodity, will give great help to the intelligence of the subject] (p. 65). In the 1582 French edition the author is more cautious inserting 'ainsi qu'esperons de faire', thus alluding to possible difficulties in finding the right iconographic material (p. 78).

In his attitude towards city views and plans, Guicciardini also remains very much attentive to adapting the text to the inserted image. For instance, he introduces his description of Louvain in Brabant with the words "hor' entriamo in Lovano, veduta prima la sua forma in prospettiva" [we enter in Louvain, after having first seen its shape in perspective] (1567, p. 50), and a view of the city follows. When, in the 1581 edition, the view has been replaced by a plan, the introductory phrase has been changed to "hor'entriamo in Lovano, veduta prima la sua forma al naturale" [having first seen its natural

shape] (p. 71); in the 1588 edition, where the plan should be at the volume's end (although in practice this is not always the case) the last part of the sentence has been eliminated (p. 67). For Antwerp, the author remains faithful to the city's plan all through the editions discussed here, although he seems to express a preference for city views on an aesthetic basis. What counts here clearly for him is a plan's information quality: Antwerp in the 1567 edition is a corrected version of Pauwels Van Overbeke's updated copy of Cock's plan of the 1550s (1567, p. 60 and MARTENS 2017).

So, in the first editions of the *Descrittione*, publisher and author worked closely together in the selection of updated cartographic images for the work's successive editions. The iconographic selection necessitated minor adaptations of the text as well, but had it also an impact on the author's detailed topographic and chorographic descriptions? The answer to this question must be

negative, I think, even if sometimes, like in the map of Flanders, one is inclined to see a very close link between text and image. The map of Flanders in the 1567 edition shows in its angles the typical bears which are also represented on the maps by Pieter Van der Beke and Mercator, founders of Flanders' cartographic image in the sixteenth century, and we find them back in the text itself: 'Ha Fiandra le quattro principali bandiere delli Orsi, che sono le insegne delle quattro principali signorie, et famiglie della contea, cio è Pamele, Cisoin, Heine, et Bouelaere' [Flanders has the four main flags of the Bears, which are the insignia of the four main lords, and families of the county, that is Pamele, Cisoin, Heine, and Bouelaere] (p. 218). In the Plantin editions the different maps of the Low Countries mention the bears no longer, although the text has remained unchanged (1581, p. 393 and 1588, p. 315). The author's source for mentioning the bears is not cartographic as one could expect. For in the Italian edition of 1581,



Fig. 4. Flanders in GUICCIARDINI 1582 (KBR, RP, VH 25765 C)

Guicciardini cites as his source Jacques le Marchant (Iacobus Marchantius, + 1609), Flemish lawyer, poet and author of the *De rebus gestis a Flandriae comitibus Elegiarum liber unus* and of the *De rebus Flandriae memorabilibus liber singularis* (Antwerp, Plantin, 1567). The French edition of 1582 replaces the latter's name by that of the humanist Jacob De Meyer (Iacobus Meyerus, 1491-1552), Erasmus' friend and author of the *Rerum flandricarum* tomi X (Antwerp, Vorstermann, 1531). Ortelius' *Theatrum* proceeds in the same way: until 1573 Guicciardini and Marchantius are mentioned together in the description of Flanders on the verso of Mercator's map, to which then is added Meyerus' name. Furthermore, other information in the text, such as Flanders' territorial divisions, are not indicated on the county's maps, which again indicates that the latter did not constitute a source for the author. The same can be said of the city views and plans. In Antwerp's city plan of the 1567 edition the gates Rossa/

di Berga (Rode poort) and Cisterna (Slijkpoort) have erroneously switched places, while the text presents their correct location. The Plantin editions present Joris Hoefnagel's plan with the new castle and ample space is dedicated in the text to this new construction. Both gates are now correctly indicated on the map, but the two newly constructed gates, adequately described in the text, are not represented on the map (1581, p. 96-97 and 1588, p. 89-91). So, if the text has been updated by the author, the cartographic illustration, although updated as well, does not reflect the most recent city innovations.

To conclude, maps were important to the author and to the publishers of the *Descrittione*, and for every single edition the most updated version of a topographical or chorographical map available on the market was looked for, but the images were illustrative and not sources as such.

Bibliography (Works mentioned in abbreviation)
DENUCE 1968 = *Correspondance de Christophe Plantin*, publiée par J. Denucé, VI, Antwerpen, 1916 (reprint, Nendeln, 1968).

Guicciardini illustratus = H. DEYS, M. FRANSEN, V. VAN HEZIK [et al...]
Guicciardini illustratus: de kaarten en prenten in Lodovico Guicciardini's beschrijving van de Nederlanden, 't Goy-Houten 2001.

GUICCIARDINI 1567 = *Descrittione di M. Lodovico Guicciardini patritio fiorentino, di tutti i Paesi Bassi, altrimenti detti Germania inferiore. Con più carte di Geographia del paese, et col ritratto naturale di più terre principali [...]* In Anversa 1567. Apresso Guglielmo Silvio.

GUICCIARDINI 1568 = *Description de tout le País-Bas autrement dict la Germanie inférieure, ou Basse-Allemagne. Par Messire Lodovico Guicciardini Patritio Florentino. Avec*

diverses cartes géographiques dudit païs. Aussi le pourtraict d'aucunes villes principales selon leur vray naturel, pour entendre plus facilement ladicté description [...] En Anvers, Par Guillaume Silvius, imprimeur du Roy, 1568.

GUICCIARDINI 1581 = *Descrittione di M. Lodovico Guicciardini Patrio Florentino ; di tutti i Paesi Bassi, altrimenti detti Germania inferiore [...] In Anversa, Apresso Christofano*

Plantino, Stampatore Regio, 1581.

GUICCIARDINI 1582 = *Description de tous les Pais-Bas, autrement appellés la Germanie inférieure, ou Basse Allemagne ; par messire Louis Guicciardin gentil-homme florentin : Maintenant reveue, et augmentée plus que de la moitié par le mesme Autheur [...] A Anvers, De l'Imprimerie de Christophle Plantin, 1582.*

GUICCIARDINI 1588 = *Descrittione di*

M. Lodovico Guicciardini, gentilhuomo fiorentino, di tutti i Paesi Bassi, altrimenti detti Germania inferiore [...] riveduta di nuovo, et ampliata per tutto la terza volta dal medesimo autore [...] In Anversa, Apresso Christofano Plantino, Stampatore Regio, 1588.

MARTENS 2017 = P. MARTENS, *Hieronymus Cock's View of Antwerp: Its Genesis and Offspring, from Antwerp to Italy, "Simiolus", 39, 2017, 171-196.*

Curriculum vitae of Lodovico Guicciardini (1521-1589)

Lodovico Guicciardini was an Italian merchant, born in Florence on 19 August 1521. He came from a noble family of large landowners who held high positions in the city-state of Florence from the 14th till the 16th century.

His uncle Francesco (1483-1540) was the author of *La historia di Italia*, an important work on the history of Italy from 1492 till 1534 (death of Pope Clement VII). In 1519 Francesco and his brother Girolamo went to Antwerp to establish a branch of the family trading business. At that time Antwerp was the most important commercial metropolis of the North. As business was booming, they requested more family members to join them.

After a first experience in the Guicciardini company and the bankruptcy of his brother Giovan Battista in 1543, Lodovico decided to dedicate himself to writing...

In 1565 he had a first work published on the history of Europe.

More important, in 1567 Lodovico published his first edition of the *Descrittione di tutti i paesi bassi, altrimenti detti Germania inferiore* with the publisher G. Silvius. However this work contained many printing errors. The poor quality was undoubtedly related to the religious troubles in the Low Countries.

In 1567 the Spanish King Philip II ordered the Duke of Alva to stop and defeat the Protestant rebellion. At that time Silvius was even in prison on the suspicion of participation in the religious Iconoclastic Fury and many of his printers fled the city.

From 1567 till 1585 Lodovico must have lived through the many religious conflicts that battered the Low Countries and Antwerp in particular. In 1569 he was arrested on Alva's orders because he criticised the Tenth Penny (a tax form introduced by Alva). He spent sixteen months in prison in Vilvoorde and was only released on the occasion of the (fourth) marriage of Philip II with Anne of Habsburg in 1570.

In 1576 the Spanish Fury (the Sack of Antwerp - a mutiny because of poor payment among the soldiers of the Spanish Army stationed in Antwerp) completely disrupted life in Antwerp killing more than 7.000 people...

In 1585 the rebellious city of Antwerp was reconquered by the Spanish after a 14 month long siege by Alexander Farnese. Many people were forced to leave the city. Especially non-Catholics, merchants, wealthy people and intelligentsia fled Antwerp and went north to the Netherlands.

These circumstances strongly influenced new publications of the *Descrittione*. Still, between 1581 and 1588, Guicciardini was able to publish the *Descrittione* in three different versions with Christopher Plantin in Antwerp (1581-Italian, 1582-French and 1588-Italian). After 1588 no more publications took place.



Lodovico Guicciardini by Francesco Allegrini, from Giuseppe Zocchi, 1763 (Rijksmuseum RP-P-1909-4638)

Although Lodovico must have enjoyed periods of relative financial comfort (he even bought a house in Antwerp in the Markgravenstraat), his life ended in poverty.

Lodovico died in Antwerp on 22 March 1589, the same year Christopher Plantin died. He was buried in the Antwerp cathedral of Our Lady and in 1719 the city council even ordered the renewal of his tombstone.

It would take more than 20 years till 1609 to see a new publication of the *Descrittione* by Corneliz Claesz in Amsterdam. It was based on the French edition from Plantin of 1582. In total between 1567 and 1665 more than 28 editions of the *Descrittione* were produced by more than 15 different publishers/printers in several languages (Italian, French, German, English, Latin and Dutch). There even exists an unpublished Spanish manuscript of 1636 (Madrid - Bib. Nacional).



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Brussels Map Circle's Excursion in Luxembourg

26 and 27 May 2018

1839: when Luxembourg was last cut to pieces

The Treaty of London of 9 April 1839 dealt with a split of Luxembourg. Why and How? These were the main questions for which a group of our members went to Arlon, in the 'Belgian Luxembourg', and to Luxembourg, capital of the Grand Duchy, the last weekend of May.

The first meeting point was at the Archives de l'État of Arlon, settled since 1980 in the Parc des Expositions, next to the source of the river Semois. We were welcomed, with a cup of coffee (and chocolates!), by the archivist and head of the department, Michel Trigalet, accompanied by second archivist Vincent Pirlot, and with two of the 22 'volunteers', who provide help to the Archives on a voluntary basis (in particular, they had helped to set up the display of maps for our visit).

Michel Trigalet, who had graciously prepared a text beforehand for the participants of the excursion, explained that they store archives on 18 km of shelves and are expanding to receive the archives now located in Saint-Hubert. Besides the administrative or private documents to be kept they have a collection of maps, and the oldest one is from 1551. They store now around 24 000 town maps and over 250 000 architectural plans of buildings.

The first cadastre was prepared during the French administration, under Napoléon, to collect properly the land tax. We were shown the 'plan de Tintigny de l'An 13' (1804 [vide infra])



Michel Trigalet (at extreme right) with some members of our Circle admiring the maps from the Arlon State Archives

established on the base of the 'masse de culture' and signed by an arpenteur [surveyor], a new job allocated by public contract. The colours indicate the nature of the properties. Since 1801 the use of the decimal metric system was compulsory. In 1808 the new system of 'cadastre parcellaire' through land measuring was the rule; and in 1810 specific colours were used to separate public from private buildings. The maps were afterwards regularly updated 'à la plume' [with a pen]. For the province of Luxembourg, established after the birth of the Belgian state in 1830, due to the political situation, the cadastre was only ready on 1 January 1845! In this section, we also saw some particularly striking maps of

public works. Concerning the 'split of Luxembourg', as the whole story is in the May issue of Maps in History (No 61), Michel Trigalet just emphasized some important facts linked to the setting up of the maps, among which - of course - the Plans relatifs au Traité de Maastricht of 1843, establishing the



Plan cadastral de Bastogne (Cadastre préfectoral de l'An IX - this is 1801)



Oil-painted map " La Terre et Prévôté de Neufchâteau.." of 1609, from the Prince of Arenberg archives. (Archives de l'État d'Arion)

current border between Belgium and the Grand Duchy, of which we were shown some parts.

Our readers will remember the cover of Maps in History No 60, featuring the manuscript map Carte de Saint Hubert en Ardenne of 1551 by Surhon. Well, we finally got to see the real map, together with some other interesting manuscript ones, as well as fine printed ones from the 16th and 17th centuries (De Jode, Surhon & Ortelius, Surhon & van den Keere, Sanson, etc.).

Finally, we were shown a particularly striking huge oil-painted map on wood of 1609, from the archives of Prince of Arenberg, lord of Neufchâteau.



The Archives Nationales at Luxembourg City - Philippe Nilles et Sanja Simic welcome our president

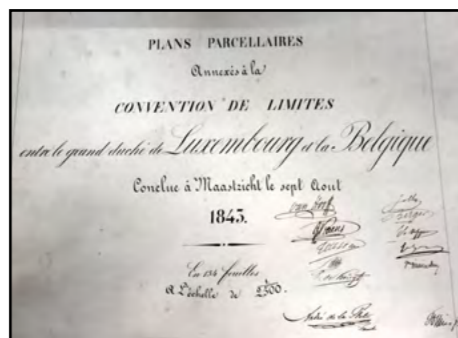
The next step of our journey was the visit to the **Archives nationales de Luxembourg** in Luxembourg City. Philippe Nilles accompanied by Sanja Simic explained that there was no 'archival tradition' until now in the Grand Duchy. Since 10 July 2018, a new law establishes this duty. And the Fonds Belva assumes the role of contracting authority for the construction of a new building for the Archives. As an introduction to our topic we could see the splendid map, painstakingly made for the above-mentioned 1843 Treaty of Maastricht



Philippe Nilles showing the 1843 Treaty of Maastricht

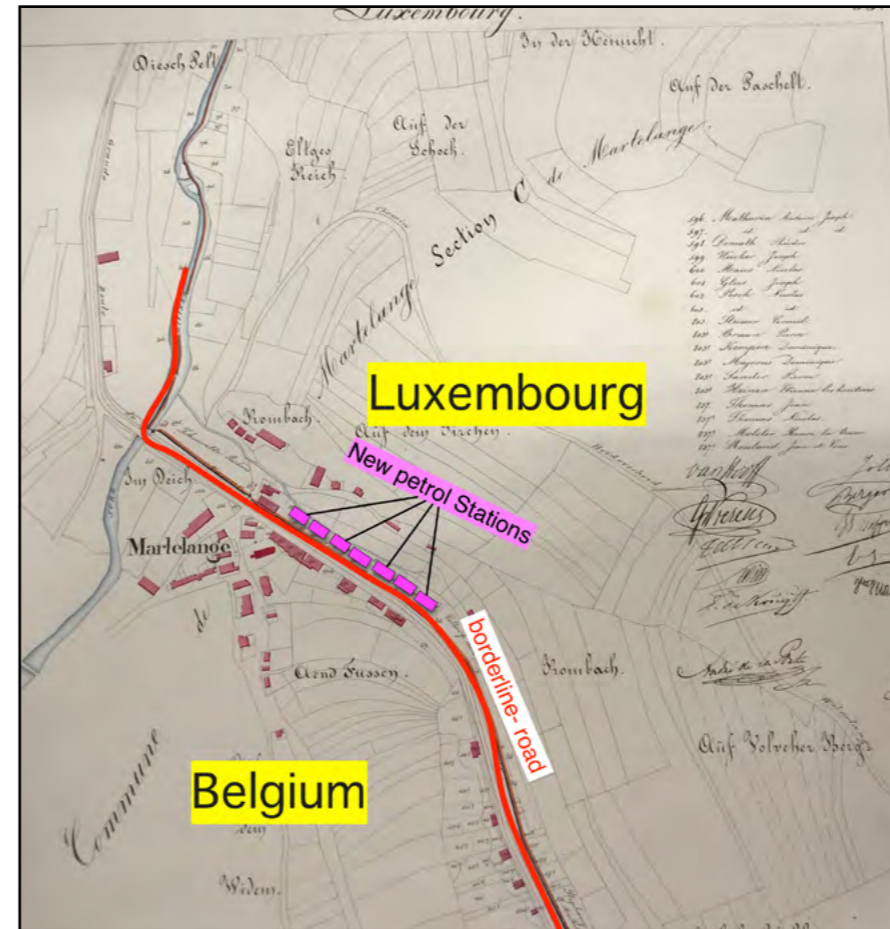
(implementing the 1839 Treaty of London) by the Commission consisting of five high-ranking military from Belgium and The Netherlands each, who had to establish the border between the new state of Belgium and The Netherlands (including the Grand Duchy), marked with a golden line.

In fact the border between the two Luxembourgs was materialized with 287 landmarks in cast iron made in Seraing, and 220 in stone! And it was noticed that there are some differences in the borders depending on the origin of the copy!



Every sector of the territory was attributed to one of the two parties, with the signatures of the military commissioners.

Another curiosity shown: the road going through Martelange, where the Treaty of London stated that the village should go to the Grand Duchy and the Arlon-Bastogne road cutting through its territory should go to Belgium. Impossible, since in 1843 the village sprawled on both sides of the road! But in 1839 the Great Powers in London used the 1776-78 Ferraris map, with the then Arlon-Bastogne road on it. In 1839, however, the 'Ferraris road' had been replaced by another that followed a different route. So the 1843 Commission chose the road as the borderline, adding the east part of the road to the Duchy. Today every Belgian knows this place on the Nationale 4: where a multitude of petrol stations on the east side and everyone passing by fills up the car, since the price of petrol is much cheaper in the Grand Duchy than in Belgium. Talk about the importance of using the correct up-to-date map.



The map N° 63 of Martelange of 1843

At the end of our visit two extraordinary maps dated 1776 were shown, true cartographic treasures witnessing a quarrel between the Duchy of Luxembourg and the Electorate of Trier about the course of the border.

The Archives also offered us (in the person of Sanja Simic) the visit to their special, well-documented exhibition, extended until 18 August 2018 **Halt! Douane**. It was set up to mark the 175th anniversary of the entry of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in the 'Zollverein' [customs union], which was really beneficial for its industrial development, especially the metallurgy. The customs and commercial union between 24 German states, linked in the German Confederation, was active from 1834 until 1918. The aim was to 'create a single internal market and harmonize tax and economic rules', a topical question now!

We could later enjoy a wonderful city tour in the old historical part of Luxembourg, on the UNESCO 'World Heritage' list since 1994, and along the Corniche, under the guidance of an eminent specialist: Jean-Claude Muller, Premier Conseiller de Gouvernement. He explained the evolution of the town and the role of the famous fortress, considered as the 'Gibraltar of the North' which had to be dismantled after the second Treaty of London signed in 1867.

As the weather was exquisite we could end the day with a cheerful dinner-party in open air.



The impressive map showing the borders between the Duchy of Luxembourg and the Electorate of Trier.



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Cocktail reception FREE for Members of the Brussels Map Circle!

On the occasion of the 17th Paris map fair, a cocktail reception will be held on Friday evening 2 November 2018, in Salle Mogador of the Ambassador Hotel, 16 Blvd Haussmann, 75009 Paris. It is open for visitors and participating dealers. This is a great opportunity to meet all of the dealers in a relaxed atmosphere before the fair.

The reception starts at 19.00 and will last for one hour.

Free entry - by reservation only; make sure to make your reservation at www.map-fair.com/cocktail.

The '17th Paris Map, Globe & Scientific Instrument Fair' is co-organised, as usual, by Beatrice Loeb-Larocque (loeb-larocque.com) and Pierre Joppen (swaen.com). This year, they joined forces with 'Le Zoograscope', a Paris dealer specialised in scientific instruments.

The fair will open its doors on Saturday 3 November, at 11.00, at the Hotel Ambassador (free entrance, until 18.00). This year, there will be 37 international exhibitors from 10 countries, including six globe and antique instrument dealers. As usual, the Brussels Map Circle will have a booth.

For more information, visit: www.map-fair.com.

This year, to emphasize its new domain of activity the fair will include a special exhibition on the history of 'Globe Making'. It will show some of the most important early Dutch and French globes and how they were made according to ancient manuals



The Musée Dräi Eechelen in the former Fort Thüngen of the Luxembourg City.

On Sunday morning we met on the plateau du Kirchberg, mostly known as Luxembourg's 'European district'. We had a special tour in English in the **Museum Dräi Eechelen** in the former 'Fort Thüngen', now fully restored. Going from one casemate underground to the other, we received further details about the story of the city and the fortress. The Museum has numerous original documents and maps related to the partition of Luxembourg. Another exceptional map: a huge 'plan en relief' of Luxembourg in 1867, that has been turned into a contemporary sound-and-light show, telling the history of Luxembourg City.



Jean-Baptiste Nothomb who in 1831 and only 26 years old, was sent to London to negotiate the borders of the new Belgian Kingdom.

After a short break in the adjacent MUDAM cafeteria, the last meeting point was in the afternoon at **Musée Gaspar in Arlon**, dedicated to the history and the fine arts of Belgian Luxembourg and to the 'sculpteur animalier' Jean Gaspar. Jean-Claude Muller met us again with a welcome in the name of the Museum. We began the tour in front of the famous 'Retable de Fisenne', then saw various other regional 'objets d'art'.

A special exhibition - Arlon chef-lieu de province, un destin entre les deux Luxembourg- showed us the whole story of Arlon, which became headquarters of the administration after the partition of 1839. Of course, maps about this split were shown as well as a portrait of one of Arlon's famous sons: Jean-Baptiste Nothomb, cartographic hero of the article that had been published in preparation of our excursion (see MiH 60 of May 2018).

The day ended joyfully as Arlon was celebrating its famous Maitrank.



The spectacular bronze plan-relief of Luxembourg of 1867



The participants at the end of the visit to the Musée Gaspar in Arlon, situated in an elegant 19th-century villa. Bravo to our two gentils organisateurs Pierre Parmentier and Marie-Anne Dage, left of the centre, both (!) conveniently wearing pink tops.



Marie-Anne Dage
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December 2018: Celebration of the Brussels Map Circle's 20th anniversary!

Saturday 1 December 2018 at 18.00



The Plantin Moretus Building in the City of Antwerp



Some of the oldest printing presses in the world are the earliest witnesses of the invention of printing.

As already announced, the Circle decided to conclude this celebration year in the Plantin-Moretus Museum in Antwerp (www.museumplantinmoretus.be).

This museum is UNESCO world heritage, as it still is housed in the original residence and workshop of the publishing dynasty. It contains – among many other things – the oldest printing presses in the world and a library with the works of the Officina Plantiniana, that dates back to 1555. Bibles, scientific works and dictionaries were published here, as well as many maps and atlases, Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* arguably being the most famous one.

Also several versions of the *Descrittione* by Lodovico Guicciardini were printed & published by Plantin between 1581 and 1588 (see article p 11)

In this grand decor we offer our members and their partners, who are cordially invited, a private evening on Saturday 1 December 2018.

All for free, of course!



Christophe Plantin was an intellectual with a flair for business. Shortly before 1550 he moved from France to Antwerp. Five years later he started his own printing press.



Jan Moerentorf worked his way up from bookshop assistant to Plantin's right-hand man. He latinised his name as 'Moretus'. After Plantin's death in 1589, he ran the Officina Plantiniana until 1610.

The Brussels Map Circle 20th Anniversary Programme

SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER 2018

HIGHLIGHT OF THE EVENING FOR OUR MEMBERS:

In the beautifully refurbished Reading Room maps, atlases and scientific books of the museum's collection will be on continuous display. There will be expert explanation provided by our own members, each in his/her own field of expertise. Some of the shown pieces are unique, so don't miss this occasion!



The Plantin Moretus Library

To give you already a small glimpse of what you may expect:

- A historical atlas for King Louis XIII, containing *cosmographiae* of G. Mercator, K. Peutinger map, Parergon maps of Ortelius (P. Bertius, *Theatrum geographiae veteris*; 1618)
- The first school atlas (J. Honterus, *Rudimentorum cosmographicorum*; 1556)
- Cl. Ptolemaeus, ed. N. Germanus, *Cosmographia – Geographia* (second coloured Ulm edition; 1486)
- *A Neptune François*, containing also the nine charts engraved by Romain de Hooze and the large Mediterranean map (C. Pene-Cassini and P. Mortier; 1693)
- A map of *Part of Africa* with figures by Th. de Bry and van Linschoten (P. Pigafetta-E. Lopes, *Regnum Congo- Vera description Regni Africani*; 1598)

And much more!

PROGRAMME

- 18:00 – 18:30: arrival of guests
- 18:30 – 20:00: guided tours in English, French and Dutch
- 18:30 – 20:00: Reading Room display of maps & atlases (see above)
- 20:00 – 22:00: reception with finger food
- 18:00 – 22:00: slideshow about the 20 years of activity of the Circle

Venue: Museum Plantin-Moretus, Vrijdagmarkt 22, 2000 Antwerp
E-mail: info@bimcc.org

Suggested parking site: Parking Cammerpoorte, Nationalestraat 38-40, B-2000 Antwerpen

Registration on our website is kindly required before 24 November
(<http://www.bimcc.org/events/an-evening-at-plantin-moretus-the-brussels-map-circle-20th-anniversary>)



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Military topography a century ago

by Jean-Louis Renteux



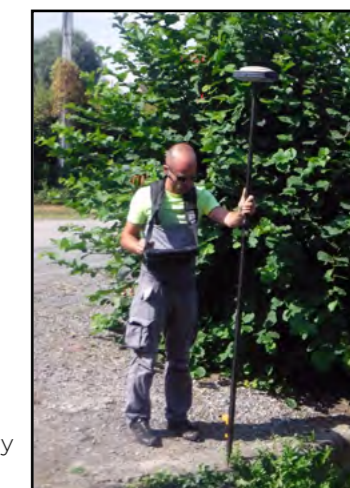
On this photo found by Lisette Danckaert in the papers of her father, then Second-Lieutenant Jean-François Danckaert (arrow), a group of Belgian officers of the First Line regiment are practicing topography ca 1911, in their bright pre-WWI uniforms. They are using a planchette to take aim at various leveling rods, apparently without the help of a telescope; they would draw the angles and positions of the surveyed points on their paper, pretty much in the same way as their predecessors a couple of centuries before.



Surveyor 17th century
with Planchette

Over the last century, however, surveying techniques have evolved considerably, as exemplified by this young man I met recently. He was drawing a plan of my village in northern France for a utility network, on his own. The rod he carries has a GPS antenna which gives him the latitude and longitude of any point he chooses (road sign, pole, house corner, etc) with an accuracy of a few centimeters; these coordinates are entered directly into his graphical tablet and he can then draw lines between those points and produce a very accurate, and georeferenced, plan of the village, sufficiently precise to design a network of cables or pipes through the village.

The work done in a day by this single surveyor would have taken weeks for the group of officers in 1911 ...



Surveyor 21st century
with GPS

Jean-Louis Renteux
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How I Got Into Cartography

Interview with Chet Van Duzer

John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, Providence RI, USA

— by Luis A. Robles-Macias

Brief bio

I studied mathematics, English literature, ancient Greek, and Latin at the University of California at Berkeley. I have published extensively on medieval and Renaissance maps in journals such as *Imago Mundi*, *Terrae Incognitae*, *Word & Image*, and *Viator*. I am the author of *Johann Schöner's Globe of 1515: Transcription and Study*, the first detailed analysis of one of the earliest surviving terrestrial globes that includes the New World; and (with John Hessler) *Seeing the World Anew: The Radical Vision of Martin Waldseemüller's 1507 & 1516 World Maps*. My book *Sea Monsters on Medieval and Renaissance Maps* was published in 2013 by the British Library, and is now available in German and Russian editions, with a Chinese edition in early 2017. My book *The World for a King: Pierre Desceliers' Map of 1550* was published at the end of 2015 by the British Library, and in 2016 Brill published a book I co-authored with Ilya Dines, *Apocalyptic Cartography: Thematic Maps and the End of the World in a Fifteenth-Century Manuscript*. My recent NEH-Mellon project at the Library of Congress was a study of the annotations in a heavily annotated copy of the 1525 edition of Ptolemy's *Geography*¹. Currently I am the David Rumsey Research Fellow at Stanford and the John Carter Brown Library and a board member of the Lazarus

1 See the full story in MiH61 (p. 33)



Chet Van Duzer
chet.van.duzer@gmail.com

Project at the University of Rochester, which brings multispectral imaging to cultural institutions around the world.

How did you get into cartography?

I first became interested in maps during a visit to the Vatican Museums in 1997, well after finishing my university studies. I saw a manuscript of Ptolemy's *Geography* from the mid-fifteenth century on display, a manuscript that had been made in Italy. It was open to the folios immediately following the Ptolemaic world map, and on them a later artist – also Italian – had added a second world map in about 1530. At that time, which was long before the discovery of Antarctica or Australia, many geographers and cartographers believed that there was a continent in the far south, probably to balance the landmasses in the north, and on maps from that period one sometimes sees a continent, basically a large island, near the South Pole. This map on display in the Vatican Museums had a hypothetical southern continent, but in this case, rather than being a large island, it was a huge ring of land around the South Pole. That really inspired my curiosity. Granted that one believed that there had to be land in the far south, how could one conclude that it was in the shape of a huge ring, with open water at the South Pole? So I started investigating, and that study drew me to devote

more and more of my energy to old maps. I like the fact that they have curious features that seem at first glance to defy explanation; usually in fact there is a very good reason for those features, but one must find the explanation through research.

What does cartography mean to you?

For me the history of cartography means a series of very engaging research challenges, and also the opportunity to appreciate how people went about understanding and depicting their world in earlier centuries. I find it particularly interesting when cartographers depict their hypotheses on maps, as these cases reveal more about the cartographers themselves, their ideas and sources, than a more straightforward depiction of a known land.

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

My day-to-day work involves library research, preparing talks, writing, and administrative details associated with these activities. One of my primary interests is determining the sources that cartographers were using, so I spend a lot of time searching for images and texts that cartographers availed themselves of in maps and books created before the particular map I am studying

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

As there are very few university programmes in the history of cartography, and in any case it was after university studies that I came to the field, I have had to teach myself much about the field. I believe that incorporating an art historical perspective into the study of maps is very important, as is experience working with maps as physical objects, whether they are manuscript or print. Discussions with colleagues during various research fellowships have also been important to me.

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

No, my career path has not been straightforward. It took me some years to "find" the history of cartography. Fortunately a number of the subjects I studied earlier proved useful in working in the history of cartography.

Actually your first university degree was in mathematics...

Yes, in fact I originally wanted to become a biophysicist, but at UC Berkeley I got more interested in math courses. Later on, I developed a passion for Renaissance English literature. I don't use math in my current work, in the sense that I don't apply mathematical techniques to the analysis of old maps, but I like the structured method of reasoning that you learn by studying mathematics.

Where do you see yourself going from here?

I maintain a list of the map projects that I want to undertake, and it continues to get longer: for every one item that I cross off the list when I finish it, I have probably added five or more in the meantime. In addition, I organise



Urbano Monte's world map 1587 - David Rumsey Collection Stanford - Tavola 24 King Philip II - detail

projects that involve the multispectral imaging of maps and globes for the Lazarus Project at the University of Rochester, and we have a number of promising ventures in the works.

One large-scale project I have in mind is a comparative study of cartouches in maps and other media, something that would require a multi-year effort and a team of several persons. But I have started work on a book about cartouches on maps, which I will work on at the Newberry Library this summer. On the longer term, I would like to get a permanent position in which I could focus considerable attention on one collection.

What advice would you give to young researchers?

Find a subject you are really passionate about – and if it is a subject with at least one aspect that has some popular appeal, that is advantageous. Finding the right subject is much more important than the specific career path you follow. I have personally enjoyed the flexibility of doing fellowship-based research, although some may consider it too precarious an existence.

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

I'm very excited about my current project studying Urbano Monte's manuscript world map of 1587, recently purchased by David Rumsey for the David Rumsey Map Center at Stanford. The map is a very rich document in terms of both its texts and images, and reveals a lot of its creator's personality.



Luis A. Robles-Macias
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Record sale of a Blaeu atlas in Brussels

by Jean-Louis Renteux



Americae nova tabula - Blaeu

It is not so often that old maps make it to the headlines of the press, but it was the case last June, after a copy of Blaeu's 'Atlas Maior' was sold for a record price.

Brussels was once more the scene for a major event in cartography: at an auction taking place on 26 May: (our sponsor) Arenberg Auctions sold the eleven volumes of the 'Atlas Maior' 1662 edition for a top hammer price of EUR 480 000,00 (close to EUR 600 000 with premium), whereas their catalogue gave an estimate bracket of EUR 250 to 350 000.



The original bindings of the eleven volumes

This work by Joan Blaeu comprises 594 maps, all hand-coloured, accompanied by 3 000 pages of texts, descriptions of continents, regions and countries. It testifies to the emergence of Amsterdam as a large cartographic centre, in the middle of the Dutch golden century. The book was already, in the seventeenth century, an object of great value, if not the most expensive of its time and it has been a big success in publishing. Today, 300 copies of this work would still be recorded (cf. Peter Van der Krogt, Blaeu. Atlas Maior, Cologne, 2005), of which 129 copies are written in Latin; but the Dutch

cartographer also proposed the work in other languages: French, Dutch, German and Spanish.

The version sold last May is an excellent copy of the first Latin edition, very complete with all eleven volumes in their original Dutch vellum bindings, and including all the original title pages and 592 maps (out of 594).

Those of us who cannot afford such an original masterpiece can still enjoy browsing the maps of another copy of Blaeu's 'Atlas Maior' 1662 edition kept at the Royal Library of Belgium which is accessible online in its Latin version and in its Dutch version (<https://www.kbr.be/fr/collections/imprimes-anciens-et-precieux>).

Jean-Louis Renteux
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News from Switzerland

by Wulf Bodenstein

Since 1990 map historians and collectors in mainly German-speaking countries have enjoyed the bi-annual publication *Cartographica Helvetica*, edited by the *Arbeitsgruppe für Kartengeschichte* [the (Swiss) Working Group for the History of Cartography], in cooperation with the *Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Kartografie* [Swiss Cartographic Society]. In Volume n° 50 of 2014 Hans-Uli Feldmann, its Chief Editor, summarized the achievements of 25 years of uninterrupted publication of what became a top-quality journal admired for its journalistic professionalism and its technical printing excellence. At the same time he announced a break in the journal's editorial orientation: from now on the accent would be on cartographic issues relating to Switzerland only.

In this situation it is important to realise that, on occasion, the cartographic interest in a given subject extends well beyond national Swiss concerns. It seems therefore appropriate that we should offer our readers from time to time a brief summary of the principal subjects covered.

Vol. 51, 2015: Das Matterhorn im Kartenbild [The Matterhorn in Maps]

2015 was the International Map Year, and the journal seized the occasion to commemorate the first dramatic ascension of the Matterhorn 150 years ago, in July 1865. A selection of 40 maps from 1545 to the present time illustrate the cartography of this mountain region, at the border between the Swiss Valais and the Italian Valle d'Aosta. Another chapter describes

the utopian mountain railway project to the summit at 4 500 m, launched in 1890 but never realised.

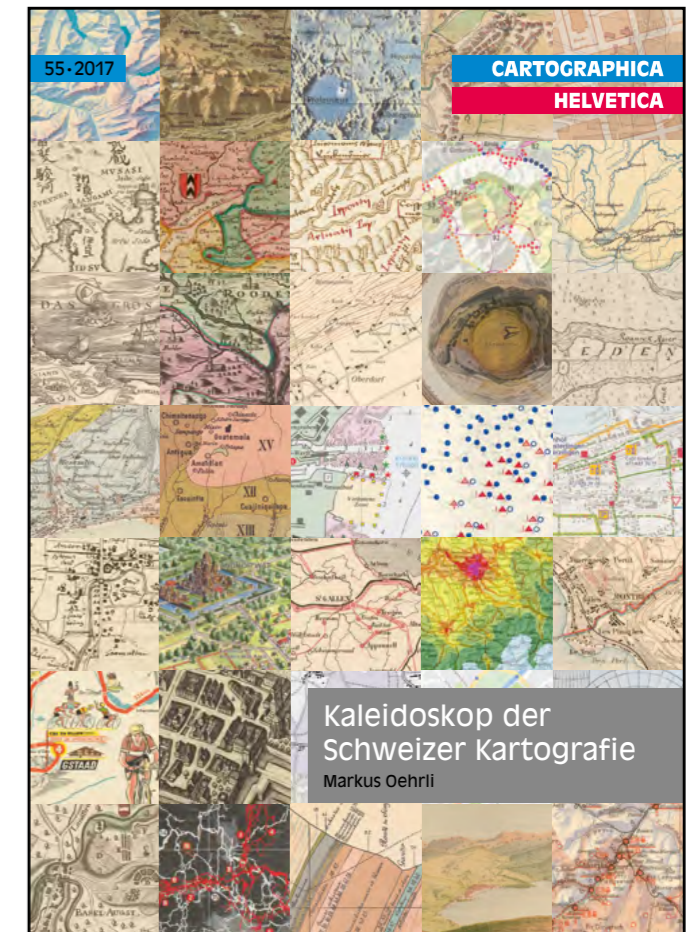
Vol. 52, 2016: Festungskarten – Geheime schweizerische Militärkarten 1888–1952 [Fortification maps – Secret military maps of Switzerland 1888–1952]

Fortification mapping started as early as 1588 with the review of the city walls of Basel. Larger scale defensive concepts only emerged in 1885. Beginning with the fortifications of the southern front of the Gotthard, the project progressively covered other strategic positions, employing up to 150 topographers. Accurate maps, eventually drawn at 1:10 000, helped overcome a particular problem: at

certain locations, cannons had no line of sight towards anticipated targets, requiring indirect firing methods to be developed. The secret cartographic material was declassified only in 2009.

Vol. 53, 2016: Reisekarten der Schweiz – Von den Anfängen bis ins 20. Jahrhundert [Travel maps in Switzerland – From the beginnings to the 20th century]

Switzerland was an important transit country for pilgrims heading for Rome and for international trade between northern Europe and Italy. Two articles are devoted to the famous Peutinger Table and to *Etzlaub's Romweg* [Way to Rome, ca. 1500], before road maps came into use for postal routes, followed by steamship maps



for navigation on the Rhine and on Lake Constance. The publication of proper rail and road maps stimulated travelling into and within this country as of the middle of the 19th century, and a few charming posters are included in the line-up of maps, documenting the country's fantastic potential for tourism.

Vol. 54, 2017: Guillaume-Henri Dufour: Vermessung und Kartierung der Schweiz [Guillaume-Henri Dufour: Surveying and mapping Switzerland]

This Volume is devoted to Guillaume-Henri Dufour (1787-1875), a Swiss army officer and topographer, creator of the *Topographische Karte der Schweiz* in 25 sheets on the scale of 1:100 000. Generally known as the *Dufourkarte*, it is a copper engraved map each sheet of which measures 48 x 70 cm, resulting in a total size of 240 x 350 cm. It took twenty years to complete, from 1845 to 1865.

Following higher education in Paris and Metz, Dufour served in the French army from 1811 to 1817, mainly constructing fortifications on the island of Corfu. On his return to Switzerland he became involved in cadastral work and, in 1832, was appointed Chief of Staff responsible for the organisation of the defences of his country. In addition to his function as an engineer and army officer he was politically active and was one of the co-founders of the Committee that became the Red Cross in 1864.

Volume 54 has also been published in French. A facsimile edition of the Dufourkarte was produced in 1988 by the Bundesamt für Landestopografie and can be ordered via mapsales@swisstopo.ch.

Vol. 55, 2017: Kaleidoskop der Schweizer Kartographie [A kaleidoscope of Swiss cartography]

As a contribution to the 2015 International Map Year, the Swiss Cartographic Society had presented on their blog, between August 2015 and December 2016, some 70 maps and related documents. Fifty-eight of these, dating from the early 16th century to to-day, have now been reedited for this volume with a cartobibliographical commentary. As a concession to a larger readership, attention was paid to the lighter side of cartography. A number of documents reveal humorous, imaginary or even absurd details in their cartographic disposition, the subject being topped by a globe that could be used as a drinking cup.

Vol. 56, 2018: St. Galler Kartenschätze [Cartographic treasures of St. Gall]

The first three articles dealing with the mapping of the Swiss canton of Saint Gall and the upper course of the Rhine are probably of interest mainly to the Swiss readership. However, the remaining two essays should attract the attention of readers abroad and they are therefore briefly summarised here.

Jost Schmid-Lanter has studied the so-called globe of St. Gall (St Galler Globus) and offers a first account of his research. The large globe (diameter 121 cm) is a combined model of a celestial and a terrestrial sphere. In 1712, Zürich troops captured St. Gall, just south of Lake Constance, and transported the precious booty to Zürich where it is now kept in the Swiss National Museum. Claims by St Gall for its return were unsuccessful, but in 2009 Zürich handed over a faithful replica of the original to the previous owner, the monastery library of St. Gall.



Replica of the St. Gall Globe, St. Gall Monastery Library. The original Galler Globus, was captured in 1712 by Zurich troops.

The author's research into the origin of the globe, in respect of location and globemaker, has invalidated some previous findings. He found out that it was made in Schwerin in 1576 by Tilemann Stella. The design concept of this unusual combination can be traced back to Johannes Schöner (1515), was subsequently adopted by Gemma Frisius and Gerhard Mercator. Interestingly, Mercator's portrait figures on the globe but was painted over.

Rudolf Gamper, Florian Mittenhuber, Chet van Duzer and Thomas Horst then expose their research into a series of manuscript maps made by the St. Gall humanist Joachim Vadian (1483/1484-1551). Using Waldseemüller's *Cosmographia* (1513) as a model, Vadian redrew the standard 26 Ptolemaic maps in the trapezoidal Donis projection (introduced by Donnus Nicolaus Germanus around 1460). He further innovated by inserting certain toponyms copied from the *Tabulae modernae* which Waldseemüller had added to the classical series of maps.

In 1510 Vadian became professor at Vienna university and in 1518 published a new edition of *Pomponius Mela's*



Third map of Europe by Joachim Vadian, manuscript, Berne, University Library (MUE Inc. V106 : 3).

Based on the Waldseemüller maps in the *Cosmographica*, Vadian redrew the Ptolemaic maps into the trapezoidal Donis projection and added toponyms from the *Tabulae Modernae*.

Commentaries into some copies of which his manuscript Ptolemaic maps were integrated. Up to now eight exemplars containing the 26 maps are on record in libraries in Switzerland (Berne, St. Gall, Winterthur), Chicago (Newberry Library), Ljubljana (National Library of Slovenia), Paris (Bibliothèque Nationale), and in Vienna (University Library). Also covered are Vadian's biography and a few of his other geographical works.

Although, in respect of its thematic choices, *Cartographica Helvetica* is essentially concerned with Swiss cartography, Hans-Uli Feldmann has managed to keep a door open to the international map scene in two ways. Each volume contains quite extensive summaries in German, English and French, sometimes in Italian also. In addition, a supplement is inserted in loose-leaf form into each volume as a Newsletter, in German. It contains announcements of major events

world-wide (exhibitions, conferences, including our Brussels December event, and auctions), plus book reviews and news about important map personalities and projects.

Apart from the usual annual subscription, single copies of the Journal may be obtained; visit www.kartengeschichte.ch, or contact Hans-Uli Feldmann on info@cartographica-helvetica.ch, or write to Cartographica Helvetica, Untere Längmatt 9, CH-3280 Murten, Switzerland.



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Auction calendar 2018

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(A merging of The Romantic Agony and Henri Godts).

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5 - 6 October 2018.

Events Calendar

The calendar of events and exhibitions will no longer be printed in this magazine but will instead be sent to you with *WhatsMap?* our new electronic notice, with hyperlinks to the detailed information on our website.

If you have not received the first issues of *WhatsMap?*, make sure to send us your e-mail address; and do not hesitate to inform us of events and news you would like to share with other members.

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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 a monthly electronic news bulletin 'WhatsMap?'. It also maintains a website.

Information on events and exhibitions to be placed on the calendar of our website and announced in *WhatsMap?* should be sent to webmaster@bimcc.org

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BECOMING (AND STAYING) A MEMBER

Members receive three issues of our magazine 'Maps in History' per annum and have free admission to most of the Circle's events.

Non-members pay full rates.
Annual membership: EUR 40.00,
Students and Juniors under 25:
EUR 15.00.

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 16 different countries. Please submit articles and 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.



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