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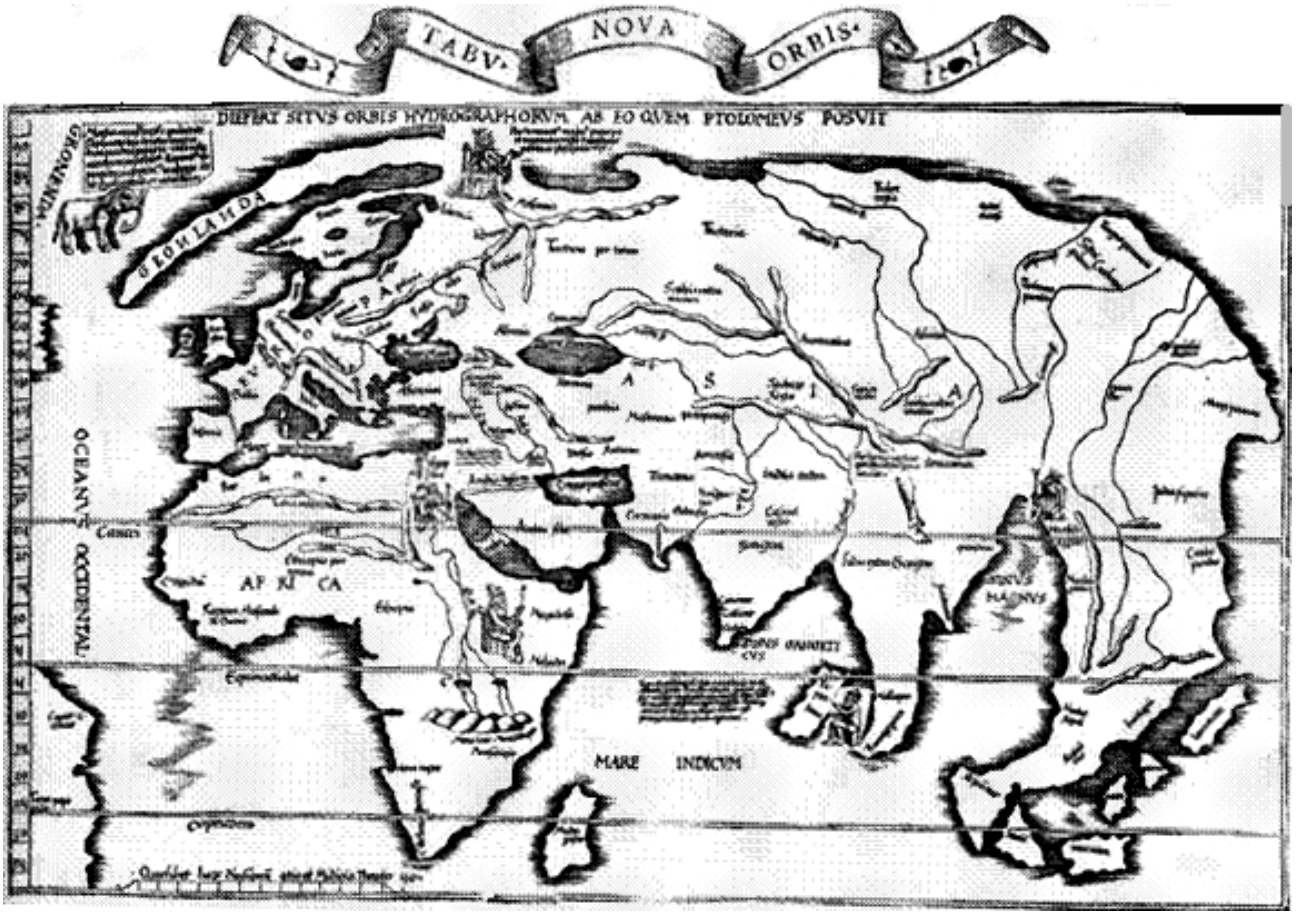
Maps on the legend of Prester John





Also in this issue:

- ***Formatting Europe - Mapping a continent,*** **the programme of the BIMCC/KBR/*europalia.europa* event**
- ***Shifting boundaries in Central Europe***
- **Numerous book reviews**
- **… and the usual departments**

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EDITORIAL

Dear Map Friends,

With this Newsletter, the BIMCC returns to Africa. On 12 September 2007, the Ethiopians will celebrate the start of THEIR year 2000, according to the Julian calendar still in use with them. To mark the occasion, our active member Glenn Van den Bosch tells us the story of Prester John, whose mythical kingdom appeared on so many maps showing Ethiopia.

Another, shorter article brings us back to Europe, telling us about a cartographic vision of one of the darker periods of our recent history. Our numerous book reviews (10 books in total!) include two packages by Stanislas De Peuter who presents two recent map books on the old continent and a series of books on city plans, 'as a warm-up exercise' in view of our big event in November: the conference and exhibition on 'Formatting Europe' which the BIMCC is jointly organizing with the Royal Library in Brussels, in the 'Europalia' framework. Do not miss this opportunity to listen to eminent map specialists from seven European countries: register now for this event and subscribe to receive the Proceedings of the conference which will also include additional original articles on Europe by nine other specialists and will be published by the Royal Belgian Geographical Society (see page 28 for details).

Cartographically yours,



Jean-Louis Renteux
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Cover: **Laurent Fries' Word map of 1522 with Prester John's empire situated in Africa.**

PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

A Prince of the Renaissance: Peter-Ernst of Mansfeld (1517-1604)

Musée national d'histoire et d'art (MNHA), Luxembourg, 27 March – 11 May 2007.
Info: MNHA tel: + 352 47 93 30 - 1; e-mail: musee @ mnha.etat.lu



With 'A Prince of the Renaissance: Peter-Ernst of Mansfeld (1517-1604)', the Musée national d'histoire et d'art (MNHA) came perfectly within the set of themes of 'Luxembourg and greater region, European Capital of Culture 2007'. Who was more cosmopolitan than this German prince, governor of Luxembourg during 59 years, leading figure in the reconquest of Belgium, Guardian of the French Crown and patron of the Court of Spain?

This was the first time an exhibition traced the eventful life of this Knight of the Golden Fleece, presented the spectacular results of the excavations in progress in his castle and its gardens, and showed a selection of artworks collected by the Art lover he was. This event gained by special loans coming, notably, from the Museo del Prado of Madrid, the Palacio of San Lorenzo de l'Escorial, the Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien as well as the Royal Museums of Fine Arts and of Art and History of Brussels. Besides portraits and allegories from Anthonis Mor, Vincent Sellaer and Alfonso Sânchez Coello, the visitor discovered battle scenes, sculptures, drawings, maps and engraving, book bindings and antiques. Furthermore, the miniatures of the famous *Album of Brussels*, normally kept in Warsaw, were put on display for the first time in the former Low Countries. Also a fabulous specimen of the *Leo Belgicus* from Petrus Kaerius's *Germania inferior id est XVII provinciarum* (1622) normally kept in the Biblioteca Nacional in Madrid.



Initiated by the MNHA, the exhibition echoed researches within the frame-work of an international collaboration with the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, the Fundaciôn Carlos de Amberes of Madrid and the Weserrenaissance-Museum Schloss Brake of Lemgo. A catalogue was published for the occasion.

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Maps, prints, views
of all parts of the world

Specialist in plans and views of Brussels

The G.D. Cassini Museum in Perinaldo (Italy)

For map collectors, the name of Cassini is, first of all, associated with the first 'scientific' map developed for France in the 18th century. So it comes as a bit of a surprise to discover a Cassini museum when visiting a medieval village on a sightseeing tour of the Ligurean Alps.

Giovanni Domenico Cassini, the founder of the Cassini 'dynasty', was born (in 1625) in Perinaldo, an eagle-nest village not far from San Remo.

Perinaldo boasts, not only stunning views on the *Riviera di Ponente,* but also the natal house of G.D. Cassini, a small observatory named after him and a small but interesting museum which reveals everything about his career, his discoveries and the work of his successors.





G.D.Cassini studied with the Jesuits in Genova and made prowesses in maths and astronomy. As professor of astronomy in the University of Bologna, his most famous work was the realization (1655) of a great meridian line in the Basilica San Petronio (still the largest in the world: 67.7 m — see photo); the high precision of the observations and measurements he could make allowed him to confirm Kepler's laws about the mechanics of the solar system, to publish accurate tables of the sun motion and to give more accurate values for the length of the solar year and the obliquity of the ecliptic.



Among many other observations of comets and planets, G.D. Cassini studied the motion of Jupiter's satellites and published ephemeris (1668) so accurate that they allowed calculating differences of longitude with respect to Bologna's meridian. The importance of this for accurate map making was realized by Abbé Jean Picard who was then working on a new *Carte de France.* G. D.Cassini was invited to France, where Louis XIV welcomed him personally, in Italian, in Versailles. G.D. Cassini was entrusted with the setting up of the new Paris observatory where he pursued his research; in particular he produced a detailed map of the moon which he presented to the *Académie des Sciences.*

His direct contribution to cartography started with the measurement of one degree of meridian near Paris, in collaboration with Picard, and was pursued over many years, with the survey of the Paris meridian down to the Mediterranean coast; it also comprised the calculation of geographic coordinates of numerous cities in Italy.

After G.D. Cassini's death (Paris, 1712, aged 87), his cartographic and astronomical work was pursued by his son, Jacques Cassini II (1677-1756) who continued topographical surveys in France, by his grandson, César François Cassini III de Thury (1714-1784) who made a key contribution to the drawing of the big Carte de France, and by his great-grandson, Jean Dominique Cassini IV (1747-1845) who actually completed the publication of the *Carte de Cassini.*

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The G.D. Cassini museum is housed in the Perinaldo Town Hall and is open every morning (except Sundays), free of charge; a booklet of the museum is available.
For information about astronomical observations and guided tours (except Sundays) contact :

- the town council: +39 01 84 67 20 01, anagrafe@perinaldo.org.
- tourism office: +39 01 84 67 20 95, iat@perinaldo.org
- observatory: astroperinaldo@libero.it

Europe, Europa, Euroopaa, Európa

In view of the 2007 conference and exhibition on Europe which the BIMCC is jointly organizing with the Royal Library in Brussels (see page 28), this article discusses two recent map books on the old continent as a warm-up exercise.

The assertion that Europe is a concept, is unquestionable. But what kind of a concept is it? (Pál Teleki 1879 – 1941). Dr. Katalin Plihál invites some prominent people to share their thoughts on the essence of this 'Europeanness' such as a more traditional one: *Europe is Greek in thought and its art, Roman in its law and Judeaeo-Christian in its religion* (Ernest Renan 1823 – 1892), to which some people might arguably want to add a Celtic-Germanic-Slavic contribution as well. Another idea touches on family history: *Europe derives its force from the richness of its autonomous cultures and languages. The only genuine obstacle is that a political formation must be found that would hold this diversity together in such a way that its rich hues of colour could still be preserved* (Otto von Habsburg 1912 -). If only Otto's ancestors had lived by his wisdom! Unfortunately, the quantity and variety of maps provide evidence that Europeans have been fighting more amongst themselves than they were seeking a common and united platform over the last 500 years. This final quote going right to the heart: *No European can be a complete exile in any part of Europe* (Edmund Burke 1730 – 1797). What *a* fantastic one-liner.

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Maps of Europe 1520 - 2001
By Katalin Plihál and József Hapák

Helikon, Budapest, 2005, 230 pp., richly illustrated, 39 x 29 cm, hard cover cloth bound with dust jacket, ISBN 963 208 844 1.
Three separate language versions: English (reviewed here), German and Hungarian. To order: EUR 37.32 (German edition).
http://www.wellpress.hu/shop/product_info.php?products_id=724&osCsid=c7a6c1533c6c1df7f275f26b1767ce13



Willem Janszoon Blaeu: map of Europe of 1617, with national costumes of the peoples of Europe (the 'Belgi' in the middle left)

Katalin Plihál, curator of the Map Collection of the National Széchenyi Library, and József Hapák have produced a superb document where 138 maps play with history. The result is eye candy for all 'mapaholics'. Starting with the form, Hapák's unparalleled dedication takes care of the book down to its finest details; not only his superb and fantasy-rich photography, but the entire lay-out is of the highest possible quality and variety: displayed are many close-ups, pictures of separate maps and maps in their atlas, allegoric prints, maps printed as background for other maps, piles of atlases: all very catchy!

Plihál's introduction is a delight to read, but impossible to summarize, so I limit myself to a few conceptual brainteasers and follow-ups. The Greeks already referred to Europe as a geographical concept. Herodotus wrote: *the whole earth is made up of three divisions, Europe, Asia and Libya*. For centuries this one mega continent surrounded by water was the generally accepted vision of the world. Even Alexander von Humboldt considered Europe as a separate continent, but only as the large western peninsula of Eurasia. Indeed as the other landmasses have natural boundaries, the physical frontier, if any, between Europe and Asia is less clear. Hence the search for a political border with which we are still struggling: can Russia ever join the EU? Why is Israel accepted as a member of so many European federations? As the political climate constantly changed, so did the borders of Europe. The set-up of the book is classical as the maps are grouped per century. The top cartographers and publishing houses are covered, but one can easily focus on lesser known mapmakers

of the 18th and 19th centuries (representing approximately 50 percent of the book).

Now let's go mapping: '1520' is the starting point of the book since it was in that year that Martin Waldseemüller published the first independent map of Europe. Walseemüller's map is framed with arms of European states, provinces and towns: a refreshing approach for the 'Europe of the Regions'. It is striking that the early maps have a (for us) unusual south orientation (Waldseemüller 1520; Münster 1544; Froschauer 1552). In that era Christianity is never far away, for example as an allegoric Virgin Mary by Bünting and Münster. But from the 17th century onwards a more laïc approach is given to the allegory 'Europe'. Lesser known cartographers are given prominent coverage, including August Frederick Wilhelm Crome (1753 – 1833), purportedly the first to produce a map displaying the natural and economic resources of Europe (1782). Heinrich Carl Wilhelm von Berghaus presents climatological and nature maps showing temperature lines, plant habitats, pluviometry maps and of course a chart with ethnographic lines of division. More healthy nationalism with Viennese Franz Werner evoking the 1848 revolutions with marching armies on the European map with only a few peaceful exceptions: Finnish fish and Laps sleigh. Wilhelm Hamm shows a map of Europe's viticulture anno 1871.

The 20th century focuses on the Great War: a series of anonymous humoristic/sarcastic views such as 'Europäische Treibjagd' or 'Europa Simpati-politice', both of 1914. Or a German map of 1914 showing the frontlines and sea blockades. Clearly, as the book closes in 2001, history does not stop: centrifugal forces under the banner '*Ein Völk, Ein Reich'* are more than ever active on the old continent, considering developments in Macedonia, Kosovo, or even Belgium, Spain or Italy. History will tell: maybe we have to pass through a purification process of regionalism to grow further into one unified Continent.

The reader is also occasionally faced with virtual reality: Johann Marias Friedrich Schmidt's Europe of 1819 connects the Danube with the Tisza, which was never realized and presents Galicia as part of Hungary whereas it was an autonomous province of the Austrian Empire. Or the famous Matthäus Merian (1593 – 1650) who still depicts the island of 'Frislant', somewhere between Groenlandiae Pars and Islandia. The book discreetly focuses on middle Europe and illuminates the richness of central European cartographers. But this is not a deficiency, as 'we' often tend to believe that Europe was shaped by a triangular interplay by Germany, France and England. This beautifully illustrated book is further enriched with a few perks: discretely hidden flap-out pages (which form magnificent maps) give snapshots of historical events in Hungary and in Europe in selected years: 1635, 1705, 1743, 1790, 1795; a list of 138 maps, prepared by Lásló Pászti; and unexpectedly but very welcome, a two page list of 69 major Peace Treaties determining territorial changes in Europe from the 16th to the 20th century are added: frightening!

SDP

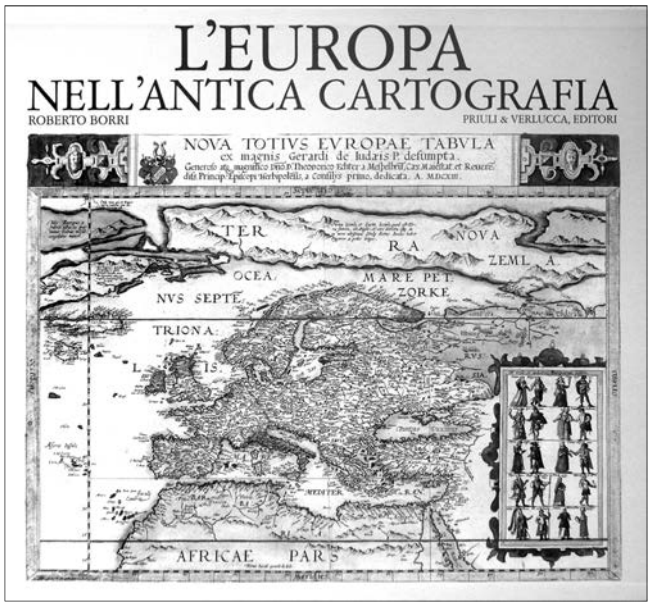
L'Europa Nell'Antica Cartografia

By Roberto Borri

Priuli & Verlucca, Ivrea, 2001, hard cover cloth bound with dust jacket, slip-case, 180 pp. with more than 200 b/w and col. ill., 35 x 32 cm, ISBN 88-8068-182-6. In Italian. To order: price EUR 103.00 http://www.priulieverlucca.it/Libri/3/127/Libro3-127.asp

With the publication of several interesting cartographic studies[1] in recent years Priuli e Verlucca have positioned themselves as prime players on the Italian market. Unfortunately, their books are in Italian only, but each publication demonstrates the publishers' search for excellence. This work has been built up in chronological order and provides the image of Europe through the ages. In line with this classic structure, Roberto Borri, map enthusiast and collector of antique maps, also pays attention to the cartographers and their principal works. Maps are as much as possible placed within eye-sight of the relevant comments.

As the work walks through history, it is striking to see how many medieval presentations have been



Gerard de Jode: *Nova Totivs Evropae Tabvla* 1593

[1] Including: Coste del Mondo nella cartografia Europea 1500 – 1900, Coste del Mediterraneo nella cartografia Europea 1500 – 1900, L'Italia nell' antica cartografia 1477 – 1799 and Le Grandi Alpi nella cartografia 1482 – 1885.

produced. There was no generally accepted geographic orientation and many maps have south on top, although the later T-O maps place Europe on the left bottom, Africa on the right bottom, Jerusalem in the center and Asia at the top. Another feature is that the concept of a separate map of Europe is a relatively recent one. In the Middle Ages, the notion of a separate map of the continent 'Europe' did not exist, so it is depicted as a part of the world maps. Besides some early maritime exceptions which focus on the Mediterranean, most presentations of Europe are part of mappamundi in T-O form, such as the maps by Guido da Pisa (1119), Ranulf Higden (14th century), Pietro Vesconti (1320), Andrea Bianco (1436) or, Giovanni Leardo (1442). And the older the presentation, the less outspoken the T-O element becomes: maps by Āl-Istakri (934), Macrobio Teodosio (11th century) and Conches (12th century) look more like 'zones in O'.

Concurrent with the development of the European nation-building process and the booming printing business, separate maps on Europe (whether in atlases or not) became *en vogue* from the late 15th century onwards. In certain 16th and 17th century maps the relative prominence of countries and places is literally illustrated by the presence (or absence) in the frame of the map of costumed people or cities from that area (cfr. de Jode, Hondius, Blaeu, Cluver, Visscher). And where are the borders? In the west the Azores and Canary Islands are more often left out of the maps, and many 17th and 18th century maps lay the east border of Europe at the rivers Dvina, Volga and Don, which is far west of the presently topographic Ural border and which excludes the entire Caucasus. The final maps (by Giovanni Antonio Rizzi-Zannoni, Robert Janvier and Thomas Kitchen) are of the late 18th century. Logically, since our ancestors were going to become liberated brothers, all united in peace, history had to come to an end: year 1 was to start.

Borri's book is completed with an extensive bibliography and a recapitulative list of maps discussed and, finally, he also gives credit to the sources of the maps from which it appears that the European libraries, archives, convents, cathedrals, museums and other public institutions are stuffed with interesting cartographic materials. To name a few of the lesser gods: Bibliotheca Civica (Verona), Bibliotheca Estense (Modena), Gonville & Caius College (Cambridge), Stiftsbibliothek Sankt Gallen, etc.

Both books (bearing in mind their large size and quality paper with colour prints) are complementary: where Plihál focuses on Europe from 1520 onwards, the pre mid-16th century maps cover half of Borri's book. Plihál would rather please the 'grand public', while Borri's study, full of biographic references, is more aimed at the carto-bibliographiles. An excellent starting point for any research project on this topic!

SDP

Do not miss the next Newsletters!

In the coming BIMCC Newsletters, you will find, in particular:

- *The Map of Flanders by Gerard Mercator and Jacob van Deventer,* by Eric Leenders
- *'The Importance of maps at the battle of Waterloo'*, a small cartographical 'intermezzo' by Glenn Van Den Bosch
- Book review: *Fra Mauro's Map of the World, by* Piero Falchetta. This masterpiece of western European cartography has not been the subject of a modern study since an Italian publication in 1806. The present book aims at an analysis and an in-depth study of this unique world map, offering an understanding within its contemporary cultural framework.
- Book review of Facsimile edition of a Portolan Atlas of 1546 by Battista Agnese, a splendid reproduction of this famous atlas held in the Russian National Library, Saint Petersburg.

"Monday, this must be Prague"

… or so may be the waking words of worn-out businessmen conquering their world. Cities are fascinating: as centres of human knowledge they have become the focus of civilization and now increasingly energize the world, the economy, cultural and social life.

City maps may sometimes be regarded as a side player, a mere curiosity like title pages, frontispieces and portraits (of cartographers). But upon closer inspection, a detailed city map can be as fascinating as the city itself.

In this article, four reference books on city maps are reviewed, each approaching the subject matter differently. Peter Whitfield presents the global picture as he describes the history of a few world cities in general. Paul Cohen and Robert Augustyn focus on the Big Apple and tell us its (cartographic) history in detail. Thereafter follows a Tudor beauty offered by Jeffrey John Speed – all in the family. And to finish, a short visit of Milano.

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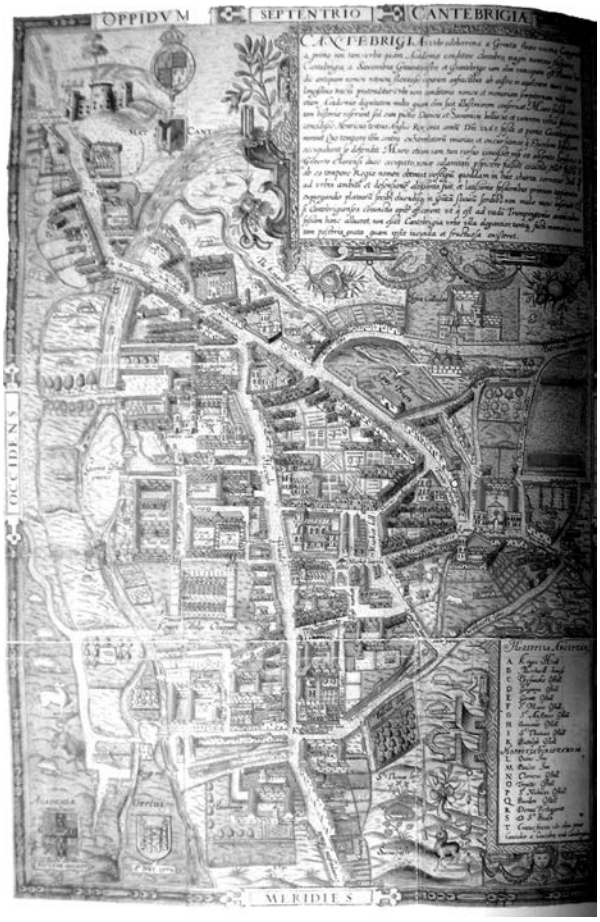
Cities of the World: a history in maps
By Peter Whitfield

The British Library, London, 2005, 208 pp., 32 x 24 cm, hard cover cloth bound with dust jacket, ISBN 0 7123 4868 9
To order new: GBP 25.00 (without shipping) at www.jpmaps.co.uk

Map enthusiasts beware: the much promising title does not exactly match the contents of the book of this renowned author[1]. A more accurate and fairer title would have been: 'city histories in words illustrated by maps and prints', as the book is more about city-history than about cartography. The maps and prints[2], most of which come from the collection of the British Library, do not themselves carry the story.

In his 16-page introduction 'the city in history' Mr. Whitfield describes the evolution of the concept 'city': sociological developments that led people thousands of years ago to start living in concentrated areas. The changing functions and resulting urban planning and design over the centuries are well illustrated by examples. So far, so good.

Then starts the specific section covering 64 locations on the globe. The title 'Cities of the World' is merely meant to grab one's attention: it is non-committal and leaves the author with absolute discretion about the selection of the cities, which, of course, is always a bit subjective. Understandably, it is not easy to provide a balanced picture of the world's cities, but unfortunately, some of the choices may seem a bit random. What are the greater contributions to humanity of St Andrews[3], Durham, Liverpool, Luxembourg[4], or Savannah. Moreover, some more respectful places have been omitted: no Milan, Xian, Prague, Budapest, Calicut, Bombay or Calcutta, and no Samarkand, Nüremberg, München or Gibraltar. Sevilla is the only Spanish representative (no Toledo, Madrid, Barcelona or tri-cultural Cordoba).



Cambridge in 1574 by Richard Lyne

More systematically, as one of the fundamental evolutionary triggers in human society is religion, one would have expected cartographic impressions of the centres of all the world religions, but Islam, Buddhism (with the exception of Lhassa) and Hinduism are not represented at all. As another key factor of

1 Mr. Whitfield has, *inter alia*, written *The Image of the World* (1994), *The Mapping of the Heavens* (1996) and *New Found Lands* (1998).
2 Approximately half of the illustrations are prints
3 Respectively 10 and 9 out of 64 cities are located in the United Kingdom and the United States.
4 Besides Amsterdam, Luxembourg is the only representative of the Benelux: no Antwerp, Bruges, Brussels, or Rotterdam.

development is education[5], why focus only on Cambridge and Oxford? No maps of Bologna, Strasbourg, or any other university city of medieval Europe, or even of the more exotic centres of learning like Baghdad.

Some cultures are clearly underrepresented: the only representative of Japanese culture is Nagasaki (no Kyoto, Osaka or Edo-Tokyo) with a rather one-sided description: starting with the 1945 bomb, the narrative entirely focuses on the Western influence (such as the Jesuits and Deshima). China and India are only represented by their current capitals, Beijing and Delhi (besides Goa, which is, for its own specific reason, not really a representative of the Indian culture).

The cartographic value which this book claims to have is not convincing. However, had this book been represented as a layman's history of certain cities of the world, illustrated by maps and prints, it would clearly be suitable. So let's look at it from this perspective. Most often each city is attributed two pages -- one for the map or print and one for the text. Only three cities are given the privilege of six pages: London, Paris and Rome.

In general the narrative seems to thrive on the map selection, some of which is purely anecdotal: 'Mantua' as illustration of Italian renaissance, 'Palmanova' for military engineering of the same period, 'Helsingor' allowing the author to set the scene for Shakespeare's Hamlet, or 'Calais' for the hundred-year war. In 'Isfahan' we meet the Safavid dynasty and 'Salt Lake City' tells its 19th century religious colonization. 'Santo Domingo' is raided by Sir Francis Drake's *Blitz Krieg,* while 'Berlin' epitomizes Germany's tragedy over the last one hundred years. The reader can lose himself in the salt production in provincial 'Salzburg', he can follow the convict anchoring at Botany Bay in 'Sydney', or just enjoy Elector-type life-style in classical 'Karlsruhe'. Through these flashes the reader gets a global historical impression, but none of the cities and their maps will stick.

The final maps are devoted to the 'dream city': 'Azilia', designed by Sir Robert Montgomery in 1717 in square shape and Tomasso Campanella's 'City of the Sun' with concentric rings, both of which, of course, were never built. Why are man's projections of the ideal architectural dimensions dominated by order and symmetry?

One can clearly appreciate this entertaining book to assist one's selection of next year's city trip, but as a cartographic document, this work rather falls short.

Manhattan in Maps (1527 – 1995)

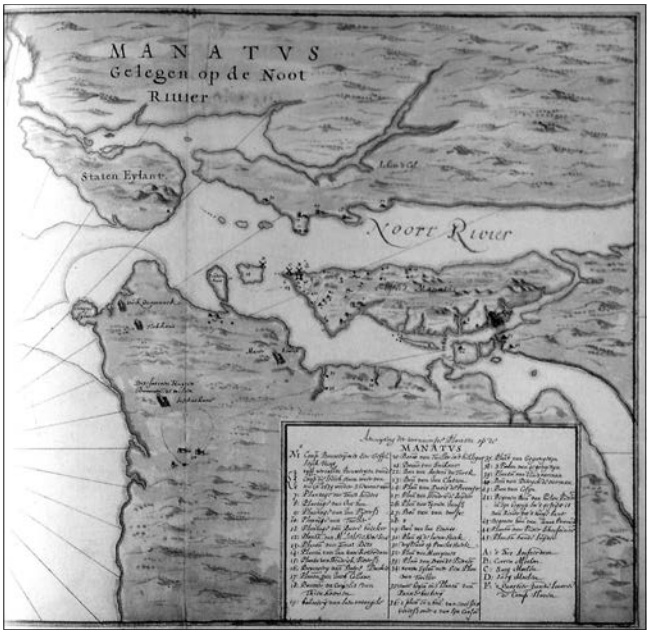
By Robert T. Augustyn and Paul E. Cohen

Rizzoli, New York, 1997, 164 pp., 27,5 x 24 cm, hard cover cloth bound with dust jacket, ISBN 0-8478-2052-I
To order new: at www.amazon.co.uk from GBP 14.49.

Another and – in my opinion preferable - approach was the one taken by Robert T. Augustyn and Paul E. Cohen, both settled as antique and rare book dealers in New York City. It is common knowledge that the more precise a subject, the more intellectually challenging and rewarding.

Manhattan in Maps allows us to take a journey through the layers of time and concrete via maps. Skipping more general charts by Gastaldi (1556) and Velasco (1610), the first local maps of the bay area in its primordial state are from Block (1614), Minuit (c. 1630) and De Laet (c. 1625 – 1630), all names deeply involved with the Dutch settlement[6]. European fantasy, wishful thinking or fiction is never far away: Gérard or François Jollian's '1672' map of '*Nowel Amsterdam*' (at that moment already in British possession for eight years) looks more like Braun-Hogenberg's Lissabon than anything else. In order to enhance its credibility, the engravers have inserted a map of '*La nouvelle Hollande'* on the left top.

One of the first planning measures by the new masters was to dump the typical Dutch canals (the main canal, now Broad Street, and its offshoot, now



Manatus gelegen op de Noot Rivier c. 1665 - 1670, like a Rosetta stone for the study of the history of early Manhattan

Beaver Street). In one of the first maps of the city under British rule by John Miller (1695) and by James Lyne (1730) the open canals are already gone as the city expands and marches northwards. The quality of this study also lies in its cross-referencing of the texts: e.g. the Synagogue absent on the Miller Plan of 1695 was depicted on the subsequent Lyne-Bradford map of 1730 as its was built in 1729.

5 The history of cartography is omitted
6 An absolute thriller on the history of the founding of New York is Russell Sortho's non-fiction *The Island at the Centre of the World*, Black Swan, London, 2004, ISBN 0 552 99982 2.

As the French shadow was still hanging over the city until their final defeat in 1763, Jean-Baptiste-Louis Franquelin creates a French military cartographic illusion: *Nouvelle-Yorc* as a colonial fortress anno 1693. Control over the City and the Hudson river by the French would actually have resulted in a strangulation of the British North-East. It never happened.

An interesting snapshot is that on 15 September 1776: a city with merely 3 000 inhabitants captured or liberated by the British forces. No more tea parties will be organized. As tensions with the Crown grew, the importance of nautical charting of the bay area became a vital part of pre-war preparations, thanks to bay and harbour maps by Mark Tiddeman (in 'The English Pilot', London, 1730) and especially by Joseph F.W. DesBarres[7] (in *The Atlantic Neptune*, London, 1776).

At the end of the hostilities with the Empire, mapping becomes more functional and we benefit from these geographically fertile times: plans for the future reveal the city's sky-high ambitions. The six foot-square Mangin-Goerck of 1803, re-engraved by Bridges in 1807, stunned the local authorities for its fanciful projection. In 1807 a special commission was appointed by the state legislature *to lay out streets, roads, public squares of such extent and direction as to them shall seem most conductive to public good*. As it turned out, the many Commissioners Plans that followed, and in which John Randell Jr., a young surveyor played a major role, are all basically tributary to the modern grid laid out in Mangin-Goerck concept.

Later in the century, maps reveal the organizational structure of the city: within the context of this thinking one can admire a firemen's guide of 1834 that divides the city in sectors, or the Croton water pipes plan circa 1842 that explains water distribution. In the middle of the century a new type of real-estate map was created: the insurance survey map where colour codes indicate facets of construction (and risks). William Perris devised double folio maps in 1853 on a scale of one inch to fifty feet, which allowed for sections to be glued on the mapsheets to bring them up to date, e.g. after destruction by fire.

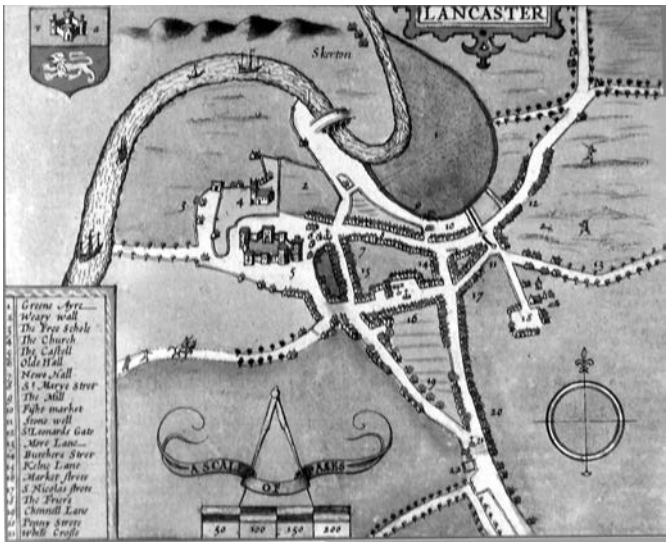
Then comes Central Park: apparently envious of London's centrally located public parks, plans were made to create a grandiose place of rest. As the city grew so did the necessity to 'convert this cheerless waste into a scene of rural beauty' (Egbert L. Viele). Viele, a member of one of New York's oldest Dutch families, made the drainage plan for Central Park in 1855.

As the 20th century opens, so does the prospect of a greater metropolis. Underground connections underline this rapid growth: the first subway service (from the now-abandoned station under City Hall Park over Grand Central Station to 145th Street) started on 27 October 1904, and shortly afterwards the Bronx and Brooklyn were connected, in 1905 and 1908 respectively. Maps of the network then and now shows the further development of the city in the 20th century. More recently, a 1973 Midtown Vice Map (from the Office of the Mayor) indicates the proliferation of 'reckless women' (nothing, however, on reckless men). As the 20th century approached its end, mapping was replaced more and more by aviation and satellite images.

As old maps tend to make people dream, this is a highly recommended cartographic publication, well documented and intelligently narrated by its authors who seamlessly combine the skills of imagination and interpretation. It is a necessary complement to anyone's library on America's mapping history.

Tudor Townscapes
By Jeffery John Speed

Map Collector Publications, London, 2000, 172 pp., oblong 27,5 x 24 cm, ISBN 0 906430 22 4 (hard cover cloth bound with dust jacket); ISBN paperback 0 906430 23 2.
To order new (paperback version): GBP 30 (www.jpmaps.co.uk)



In the unlikely event that the author's surname does not ring a bell, the subtitles says it all: *The Town Plans from John Speed's Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine 1610.* The author (herein referred to as J.J. Speed), who is a collector and part-time dealer of Elizabethan/Tudor maps, remarks that he is a direct descendant of the eponymous mapmaker (herein referred to as Speed) through twelve generations.

Speed's county atlas of the United Kingdom and Ireland is a goldmine of fine treasures; embellishment

7 DesBarres (1721-1824) has an interesting personal history: Swiss born army officer, military engineer, surveyor, colonizer and colonial administrator, he joined the Royal American Regiment. With England and France having declared war on one another (*The Seven Years War*, 1756-63), Lieutenant DesBarres was sent off to the North American theatre. After the war he split his time between London and Halifax, with wives and children (16 in total) in both places. In 1774 he published *The Atlantic Neptune*, one of the first great marine atlases to be published in England. It contained over 250 charts and views of the North American and Canadian coasts. Its charts were intensely detailed and contained both hydrographical and topographical details.

comes not only from the townscapes, but the maps also include county arms, shields of the 'honourable families' of the hundreds[8] and of the colleges of the two illustrious universities, Roman coins and, here and there, a battle scene. J.J. Speed's publication focuses on the corner inserts of towns in the county maps of Speed's atlas. As the city maps are beauties in their own right, so has this book become an absolute *délicatesse.*

Speed's original introduction and his description of the counties of the eighth and final edition (1676) have been preserved with some minor changes and clarifications. In addition, J.J. Speed provides comments in order to place the town map within the framework of the county map. The town maps, printed larger than the originals, have been taken from a splendidly coloured 1616 (Latin) edition of the atlas now held by Trinity College, Cambridge. All the 72 town maps are reproduced and, like the counties in the *Theatre,* they are grouped separately as per their geographical location: England (50 town maps), Wales (17), Scotland (1), Ireland (4)) and then arranged in alphabetical order. Many county maps have two townscapes (e.g. Gloucestershire with Bristol and Gloucester, Kent with Canterbury and Rochester, or Staffordshire with Stafford and Lichfield). Like the county maps of which they form an integral part, the city inserts are gorgeously decorated with vignettes and arms of the town.



Unfortunately, Speed's town views lack uniformity: their sizes differ[9], obviously due to space constraints on the county maps, and almost half of them have 'scales of pases', which are not uniform throughout the *Theatre*. Some townscapes, such as the ones for Salisbury or York, are remarkably detailed and most have landmark descriptions (with the sole exception of London, Westminster and Durham). Not all townscapes are from Speed's hand: the author refers, *inter alia*, to Cambridge (based on John Hamond's survey of 1592), Leicester (source not mentioned), London & Westminster (copied from Braun - Hogenberg), Newcastle (attributed to William Mathew), Norwich (a copy of the 1588 map by William Smith, which in turn was based on William Cuningham's map of 1559) and Rochester (probably a copy of a late 16th century map). Most but not all of the engravings of the 1616 edition were undertaken by Jodocus Hondius in Amsterdam. J.J. Speed singles out as exceptions Norwich and Oxford (with an unusual south at the top orientation).

As its title suggests, the book is limited to the city views and J.J. Speed did not review other views, such as castle prints (*e.g.* the castles of Nonsuch and Richmont in Surrey), which we come across in the *Theatre.* However, some towns or their mapping were so basic that their view is essentially limited to one principal building (castle, church or covenant). Not surprisingly, in view of the smaller population, the few examples of such basic 'towne' cartography are Welsh (e.g. Harlech, Llandaff, Radnor and St Davids). Both Speeds remark that the map of Reading does not appear on the correct map (Berkshire) but on Buckinghamshire: according to J.J. Speed this is so because a panoramic view of Windsor Castle dominates the Berkshire map. Analogously, Southampton is missing on the Hampshire county map, but appears on the map of the Isle of Wight.

Let's go back some four hundred years and visit Tudorland:

- Carlisle: with prominent fortifications at the time of constant threat from the Scots;
- Chester: the Roman coins depicted on the city map probably belonged to Speed's own collection (according to J.J. Speed);
- Dublin: based on its size and buildings, clearly one of the more important settlements on the British Isles in Tudor days;
- Edinburgh: as the Union of the Crowns only took place in 1603, Speed initially did not intend to include maps of Scotland in his *Theatre.* After unification, Speed copied Mercator's 1595 general map of Scotland without townscapes and he inserted an Elizabethan view of Edinburgh in his magnificent map of *The Kingdome of Great Britaine and Ireland* balancing a view of London. This explains why Scotland is only represented with one town view in Speed's atlas;
- Hull: as important a port then as now, with artistic vignettes of mills and horses in the countryside out of scale;
- Lancaster: seemingly an unimportant village, a tremendous contrast with the splendid royal portraits of the houses Lancaster and York on the county map;
- Worcester: with the traditional heraldic French key letters to assist the amateur colorists, e.g. 'g' for *gules* or *gueules'(red), 's'* for *sable* (black), or *'v'* for *verte* (green);

Times are a-changing as a number of presently important cities such as Birmingham, Glasgow, Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool or Sheffield did not

8 'Hundreds' are subdivisions of counties.

9 To give an example, the sizes of the townscapes of Canterbury and Rochester on the Kent county map are respectively 17 x 10.5 cm and 10.5 x 9 cm.

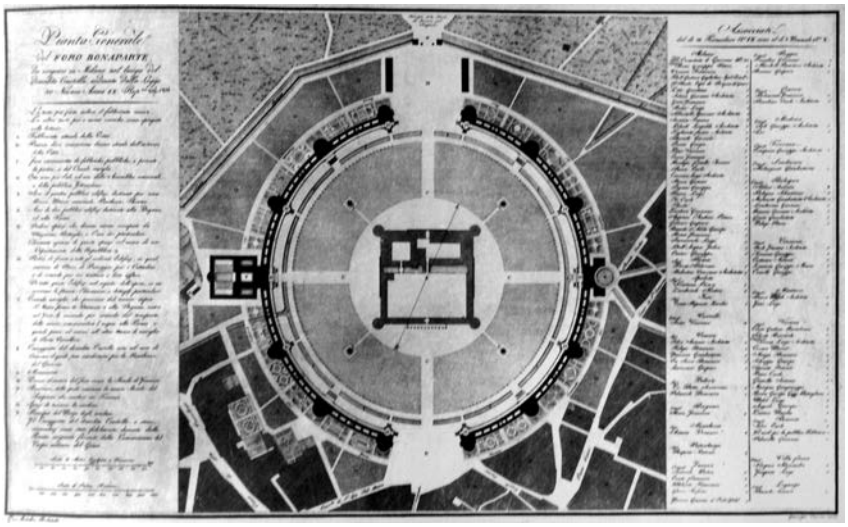
warrant mapping in Tudor times. Conversely, a number of towns which Speed honored with an individual view may be unfamiliar to many: Kendal (Westmorland), Oakham (Rutlandshire), not to mention most places in Wales.

One drawback is that J.J. Speed's notes to each townscape are a bit thin and disappointing. It is unfortunate that he did not elaborate on his comments from both Tudor and current day perspectives. Nevertheless, all in all, this book is a must-have for the England loving map enthusiast. It makes a fine complement to Nigel Nicholson's *The Counties of Britain: a Tudor atlas by John Speed* (1988) on Tudor mapping and, more in particular, on the fabulous world of John Speed.

Milano: Antiche Piante

Anonymous.

Meravigli – Libreria Milanese, 2004, 53 pp., oblong 30 x 22,5 cm, paperback, ISBN 88-7955-163-9
To order new: at www.unilibro.it at EUR 25.00



Foro Bonaparte (or the Castello Sforzesco) anno IV

This publication in Italian is on a much more modest scale than the previous three works: after a short introduction of six pages, 50 maps are displayed without any measures, all in monochrome brown colour and having no explanation. At first sight, there does not appear to be anything to write about. However, one can absorb interesting information as all attention is automatically focused on the minor changes of each map. What can we learn from this Italian do-it-yourself puzzle?

The first map is attributed to Galvano Fiamma (14th century), in which the city appears in concentric circles and where most attention goes to the city gates. More interesting is Pietro del Massajo's Mediolanus of 1456, now part of the *Codice Urbinate 277* kept at the Bibliotheca Vaticana. This map also shows and names the major buildings and rivers which pass the city walls. Particularly fascinating is the rough city sketch with illegible letters or numbers by Leonardo da Vinci and now part of the *Codice Atlantico*[10]*.* Leonardo stayed in Milan from 1482 to 1499.

Dominating the famous shell shaped city throughout the ages – and hence the maps of the book - is the stunning *Castello Sforzesco,* one of the most magnificent city fortresses/castles in Europe. A square castle was already drawn on del Massajo's map, but it is not possible to precisely date the origins of the castle from the maps produced in the book. The castle was actually named after Francesco Sforza, who transformed it into a ducal residence in 1450, but its origins go back to the second half of the 14th century, at the time of Galeazzo II Visconti. As the Viscontis lost local power to the Sforzas, so passed the castle into the hands of the new *Duce* as a classic application of *the winner takes all* principle. Leonardo was a consulting engineer at the Court of Ludovico Sforza, during which time he designed war materials and worked on improving the *Navigli* (the city waterways).

It is not hard to image that this city – the gateway to the rest of the Italian peninsula - was under constant threat from powers *ultra alpi.* The castle and the city grew and grew. There is only one city in the mid-16th century with a similar set of fortifications in the Braun-Hogenberg's *Civitates* … indeed, S.P.Q.A.[11]. In Napoleonic times the *Castello* had to make place for an army castle; its demolition was ordered by a law of 30 Nevoso Anno IV (i.e. 20 January 1801). Plans show general drawings of the castle and of the enormous *Piazza d'Armi,* just north of the *Castello* as a sort of General's ultimate dream playground. Even when Bonaparte was taking a rest at St. Helena, the Italians preserved the military concept of this grandiose field of Mars; only in 1910 do the maps show a *nuovo parco* in a slightly different form.

A second intriguing square building more in the northeast just outside the city walls covers Milan's maps for centuries. Could this be a Sforza 'leisure' residence? No, it's a lazaretto, still there on a *Pianta della Cittá* of 1880, but in 1884 it disappears. At the end of 19th century the mapping logically focuses on the effect of contemporary techniques such as electricity. As the final map is dated 1910 we will not be able to enjoy the city mapping based on its 20th century town planning and architecture.

Only recommended for the die-hards.

SDP

10 This map is part of the *Codex Atlanticus*, the largest collection of da Vinci's manuscripts held by the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana with 1750 drawings on 1119 pages. Note also that Leonardo drew a few regional maps, *inter alia*, on the Valley of the Arno and on the Province of Arezzo.

11 Symbol used by Ortelius in the Belgica map to refer to his origins.

LOOKS AT BOOKS (III)

Entlang der Weichsel und der Memel : Historische Landkarten und Stadtansichten von Ost- und Westpreussen, Polen und dem Baltikum – Z biegiem Wisły i Niemna : Historyczne mapy i widoki miast Prus Wschodnich i Zachodnich, Polski oraz krajów bałtyjskich

(Along the Vistula and Memel rivers : historical maps and town views of Eastern and Western Prussia, of Poland and the Baltic States)

Edited in 2007 by the Kulturzentrum Ostpreussen (the Cultural Centre for Eastern Prussia) in Ellingen, Bavaria, as a companion book for the exhibition on the above theme. Bi-lingual German-Polish, 60 pp., 45 maps and 10 town views reproduced in colour, with carto-bibliographical commentary on each by Dr E. Jäger. 30 x 21 cm, soft cover. No ISBN.
The exhibition will be on tour in various cities in Germany and Poland : 20 October to 9 December 2007 at the Regional Museum for Western Prussia in Münster-Wolbeck (Westphalia), April-June 2008 Malbork (formerly Marienburg), August – October 2008 Elblag (formerly Elbing). Visit www.kulturzentrum-ostpreussen.de

In these difficult days when Europe is struggling for its identity and its unity, it is instructive to turn our attention to what this tormented continent looked like in past centuries. Our forthcoming conference and exhibition on *Formatting Europe – Mapping a Continent* will undoubtedly provide some of the answers. In this exhibition of early maps of Eastern Central Europe we are focussing on a region which, like no other, has suffered the tremendous political upheavals that lastingly marked the history of Poland, Germany, and the Baltic States. Map historian Dr Eckhardt Jäger in his introduction reminds us that, with the christianization of what later became Eastern and Western Prussia by the German Order of Knights (*Deutschritterorden*) these regions became firmly linked with the western world. But Poland, with Lithuania, took over the lead, extending her influence from the Baltic to the Black Sea. As always, a price had to be paid for success, and Poland was repeatedly divided up among neighbouring powers, until this country, and adjacent Lithuania, emerged as separate states at the end of WW I.



In the main part of the book, Jäger provides a short historical and carto-bibliographical description for each of the 55 maps and views selected which, starting with Münster (1550) and ending with Spruner (1871), illustrate the history of this region in an eloquent way. The selection of maps was certainly inspired to some extent by his previous seminal work on Maps of Prussia[1] . Most of the mapmakers of renown are present, but we also get to know the work of some of the lesser-known ones, such as Heinrich Zell, Caspar Henneberger, Olaus Johannes Svart, Tomasz Makowski, Johann-Friedrich Betgen, Johann-Friedrich Endersch, Friedrich Leopold von Schroetter. Many of their surveys and map drafts were used by the great cartographers of their time.

That maps have an educational rôle to play is, of course, not new. Thomasz Niewodniczański, recently assisted by Kazimierz Kozica, has admirably demonstrated this in various exhibitions[2] with documents from his vast map collection, a revelation of what maps can tell us about our own, rarely peaceful history in these afflicted territories.

It is to be hoped that this exhibition, being shown in several German and then also Polish cities, will contribute towards achieving a better understanding, and, indeed, acceptance, of our common history, of our common Europe.

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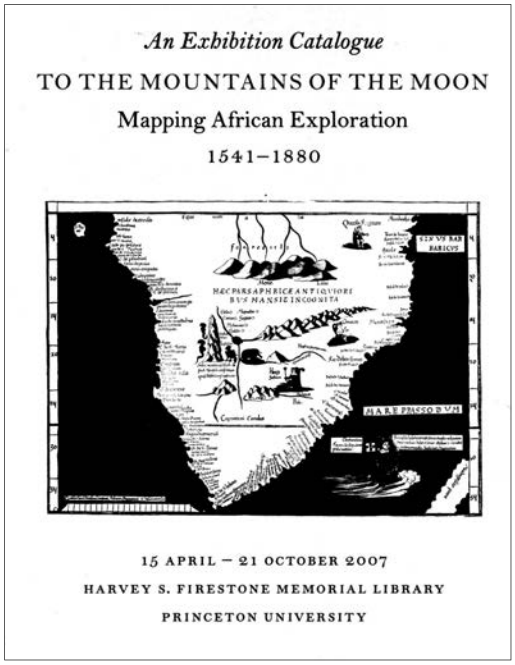
1 Jäger, Eckhardt, Prussia-Karten 1542-1810, Konrad Verlag, D-7912 Weissenhorn, 1982, ISBN 3 87 437 197 2

2 *Imago Poloniae* : Berlin – Warsaw – Kraków – Wroclaw – Darmstadt, between April 2002 and July 2004, see Newsletter No 19, p. 11. *Dantiscum Emporium Totius Europae Celeberrimum,* Gdansk, October 2004-January 2005, Bremen 2005

LOOKS AT BOOKS (IV)

To the Mountains of the Moon : Mapping African Exploration 1541 – 1880



Exhibition catalogue by John Delaney, Princeton University Library, Princeton, New Jersey (USA), 2007.
84 pp., 9 b/w and 47 colour illustrations, incl. 38 maps. Fold-out time-line. 28 x 21 cm, soft cover, no ISBN. To order contact John Delaney at delaney@princeton.edu , or telephone +1-609-258-6156. Price USD 20.00.
Historic map exhibition at the Harvey S. Firestone Memorial Library, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey (USA), 15 April till 21 October 2007, Monday to Friday 09.00-17.00, Saturday and Sunday 12.00 to 17.00. Admission free.

This very attractively edited catalogue reveals the scope of a most ambitious exhibition on a subject which, as far as I recall, has not been addressed anywhere since a long time. In the span of some 440 years the 'Dark Continent' was opened up by Europeans, was 'civilized', split up, exploited, and is still far from being at par with the rest of the world.

Following an introduction by James McDougall, we find five sections offering a geographical approach to the subject : the Continent - Northern Africa - Sources of the Nile - Central, East, and West Africa - Southern Africa. The first has the lion's share of maps, with 13 examples ranging from Münster (1554) via Ortelius, Blaeu, Hase, Tallis, to Andriveau-Goujon (1880). North Africa covers a comparable span of time with five maps. Apart from five more recent maps, the 'Sources of the Nile' section is devoted to Richard Burton, with extensive texts on this explorer, on the enigmatic Mountains of the Moon and Prester John. Likewise, the following section concentrates on one man : Stanley, prominently featuring his large map of Equatorial Africa in two sheets, in addition to four others, from Delisle to Fullarton. Finally, in the Southern Africa section, we find the oldest map on display : Lorenz Fries's reduced version (1541) of Waldseemüllers 1513 map of South Africa. Five more maps from 1561 (Ruscelli) to ca 1860 (Kiepert) complete the cartographic range (one map having been added, without commentary : Ramusio, 1556). Once again, one explorer is a central figure : David Livingstone, who has four pages to himself.

At the end, the author offers some reflections on the Brussels (1876) and Berlin (1884-85) conferences, decisive events for the future of Africa. There follows a list of sources consulted, many of which are explorers' and travellers' narratives also in the exhibition. A fold-out time-line of exploration of Africa completes this book.

The carto-bibliographical texts are very well written and to the point. The insertion in the body of the text of a few side-line comments provides a welcome diversity, e.g. on Ptolemy, al-Idrisi, Joseph Conrad, the Mountains of Kong, on Zanzibar, Monomotapa and two outstanding African caravan leaders who accompanied European explorers. The illustrations are of excellent quality throughout. Obviously, detail tends to get lost when reducing wall maps to the size of the book, or when reproducing 19th century maps with great topographical density, such as those by Brué or Stieler. But on the whole good readability is achieved.

With a map display limited to 35 maps (according to the catalogue) – presumably due to confined exhibition space – it is clear that one might regret the absence of some of the more important map makers, such as Gastaldi, Forlani, Mercator, Hondius, Janssonius, Sanson, d'Anville. But the Curator was probably right in concentrating on the 19th century, with nearly half of the maps from this period, since it is in this century that the most important discoveries were made. However, one narrative, with maps, should at least have been mentioned : Pigafetta's 1591 *Relatione del Reame di Congo.*

Seeing the great care that was taken in producing this catalogue, it is a little bit surprising to come across a curious oversight here and there. Surely, *Calechut* mentioned on Münster's map of the continent is not Calcutta but Calicut, on the Malabar coast (western shores of the Indian sub-continent). And if one reads the Latin text just beneath the word *Zanzibar* in South-West Africa on Ortelius's map of the continent it becomes clear that this was not a 'mistake', as implied by Tooley (1969) and maintained even in Norwich's second edition (1997), but a simple statement by Ortelius to the effect that *this part of southern Africa which was unknown to the ancients is called Zanzibar by the Persian and Arab authors.* I also noticed that Moll's map of the continent (1710) does not only show one single prime meridian, through London, but also the 'classical' one, through Ferro Island.

Finally, I have seen many different explanations of the origin of the name *Africa* in ancient atlases, travel accounts, geographical encyclopedias. None seem to correspond with what has been gleaned from Wikipedia. Whatever the credibility of the one or other source, it would have been interesting, in the context of this exhibition, to analyse the text on the verso of some maps such as the one by Blaeu (1644) in this particular respect.

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LOOKS AT BOOKS (V)

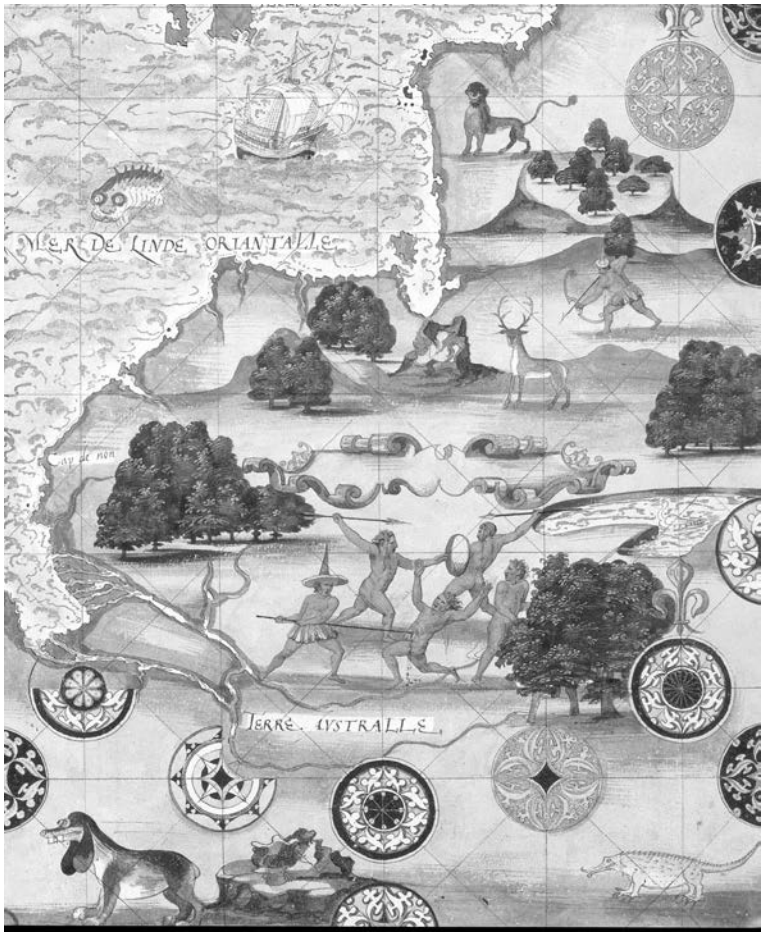
Was Australia Charted Before 1606?: The Jave la Grande *Inscriptions*

By William A. R. Richardson

National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600, 2006. vi + 132 pp. 9 colour plates and 35 b/w or tinted illustrations. Paper binding, 25 x 22 cm. See website http://www.nla.gov.uk for ordering details, prices and mailing rates. ISBN 0 642 27642 0 (paperback).

There has long been an unresolved puzzle over the early exploration and charting of the continent of Australia. The Dutch have always claimed priority with the appearance of the ship *Duyfken* off the north-west coast in 1606 *. But maps of the previous century, notably surviving manuscript charts from the Dieppe school of cartographers, seem to show a large peninsula or wedge of land extending northwards almost from Antarctica to just south of Java. Many of the charts depict groups of natives and their lifestyle, as well as offering a host of place names on both the east and west coasts of *Jave la Grande.*

The Dieppe charts, which are extant as both atlases and single world maps mostly from the 1540s-1570s, are acknowledged to be based on Portuguese sources, based on their known navigation in south-east Asian waters from 1511 onwards. Not unreasonably this has led to prior Portuguese claims of discovery, but claims on behalf of French, Spanish, Italian and – more recently – Chinese maritime explorers have also been lodged. Bill Richardson's well-argued and extensively illustrated booklet succinctly tackles each of these propositions mainly through a detailed analysis of the actual place names on the maps, and their deduced origin.



Terre Australe in *Cosmographie générale*
by Guillaume Le Testu, 1555 (Dieppe school)

The field is complicated by early fictional representations of a southern continent going back many decades, or even centuries, before the 1540s. The great 1569 world map of Gerard Mercator appears to show a sub-Javan continent, but the inscriptions *Beach, Lucach* and *Maletur* can be traced back to the doubtful writings of Marco Polo two-and-a-half centuries earlier. The *Jave la Grande* inscriptions are much more extensive and have been interpreted as actual toponyms of Australia as discovered from the 16th century onwards. Richardson discusses the theories of several serious proponents from 1859 onwards: R. H. Major (head of the British Museum's map collection); George Collingridge (in an 1885 work published in Australia), A. F. Calvert (1893); and – an influential work – Kenneth McIntyre's *The Secret Discovery of Australia* (1977). More recently Roger Hervé of the Bibliothèque Nationale and Helen Wallis of the British Museum/British Library have taken different views to those of Richardson.

The essence of Richardson's argument is contained in chapters 12,13 and 14, dealing in detail with the recorded names on the east and west coasts of known *Jave la Grande* charts. The evidence strongly points to the coasts – or rather the names inscribed on them – being inverted reflections of places in present-day Vietnam and Cambodia. How this arose is more difficult to comprehend without the (missing) evidence of actual early Portuguese sketch charts which Richardson concludes must have been

* Editor's note: see, for example, the report on the 400th anniversary exhibition in Sydney: 'First sight, the Dutch mapping of Australia, 1606-1697' (Newsletter No 26)

without scale, probably without orientation and, in the case of Vietnam, with no indication of latitude.

At the 1991 IMCoS Conference in Australia, Helen Wallis and Bill Richardson took opposite sides of the debate, and their courteous exchanges were recorded in *Unfolding Australia* (Journal of the Australian Map Circle, no. 37, 1992). I very much wish that Helen Wallis was still alive to enjoy reading this latest study—the culmination of over 15 previous articles from 1983 on the fictitious Portuguese discovery of Australia and allied topics.

The illustrations and colour plates are well chosen, and even include Guillaume Brouscon's strange world map of 1543 (colour plate 6) showing a shape very much like 18th century Australia protruding from the west coast of South America; also as fig. 6 the odd map of the eastern part of the world by Heinrich Bünting (1581) showing a very speculative part of western Australia.

If, as seems likely, there are follow-on editions of *Was Australia Charted before 1606?* I would prefer the illustrations to be numbered in sequence; not black & white or tinted ones as 'Figures' and others, coloured, as 'Plates'. I would also hope that a correction can be made in Appendix 'A' which lists known Dieppe school maps, where it is stated that the Desliens world map of 1541 [1561] was destroyed [in World War II]. This is not so, as when IMCoS visited Dresden in 1999, a splendid display of maps was laid out for us at the Saxon State Library (Sächische Landesbibliothek) including a fine large coloured manuscript world chart by Desliens dated 1541. This prominently shows *Jave la Grande.* I myself was so surprised that I wrote to the Curator afterwards to double-check that it wasn't the 1903 facsimile on show. No, he replied, it was the genuine original which had been carefully protected away from Dresden during the War. The ms date (1541) is on the map but the '4' had been tampered with and perhaps was originally a '6'. No-one is quite sure.

I can whole-heartedly commend Richardson's book which is an absorbing read. The author's views may yet be challenged and (as I have said above) actual evidence of early Portuguese charts of the area is still lacking. He himself writes at the end of his chapter 15 (Conclusions): 'Readers will doubtless make up their own minds whether my interpretations, logically linked to the coastal outlines, have or have not been proved. But at least their evidence has been weighed in the balance.'

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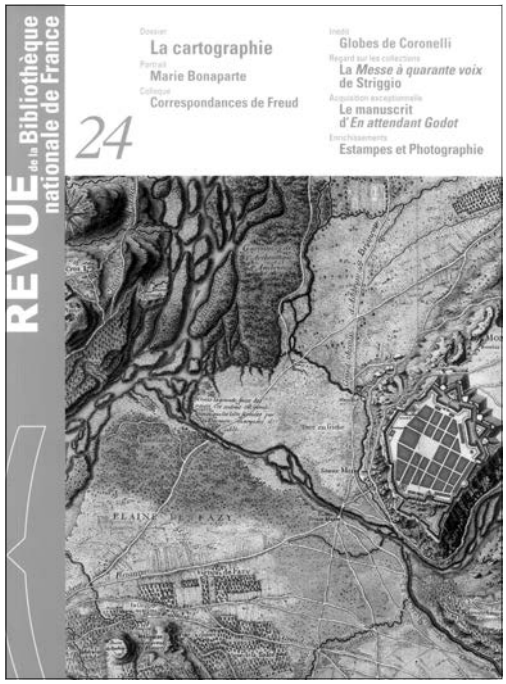
LOOKS AT BOOKS (VI)

La Cartographie (Cartography)

Revue de la Bibliothèque nationale de France – N° 24, novembre 2006 (The Journal of the French National Library – No 24, November, 2006)

96 pp., 9 colour illustrations of maps and 33 b/w ill. of which 18 maps; soft cover, 27 x 20 cm. ISBN 2-7177-2353-6, EUR 19.00.
To order: Bibliothèque nationale de France, Service commercial, 58, Rue de Richelieu, F-75084 Paris Cedex 02,
Tel +33-(0)1-53 79 81 75, Fax +33-(0)1-53 79 81 72, e-mail commercial@bnf.fr ; http://editions.bnf.fr/



Every year since 1999 the French National Library publishes three editions of its *Revue de la Bibliothèque nationale de France.* Each is devoted to a specific subject relating to items in their collections. Among the ones presented so far are features on book binding, history of sciences, voyages, to name just those that are closest to the interests of map collectors. In the third edition of 2006, No 24, we now have nine articles on cartography, plus four topical contributions not related to our subject.

The series opens with an analysis of the intriguing representation of the Byzantine town of Vicina at the mouth of the Danube, near the shores of the Black Sea. Once an important trading place, it continued to be shown on portolans long after it disappeared from the surface of the earth.

Next is a study of a Bible map by Tileman Stella of the Exodus (*Itinera Israelitarum)* of which the first edition was published in Wittenberg in 1557, the second edition being published in 1559 by Bernard Van den Putte at Antwerp. These are wallmaps (ca. 89 x 135 cm), made up of nine woodcut sheets, with decorative borders.

There follows a presentation of a pair of 17th century Napolitan cabinets featuring maps and town views of mainly European places. These are engraved on ivory panels that decorate the face of the drawers – quite spectacular, but the illustrations are limited, unfortunately, to Paris only. From cartographic reflections on an alpine Franco-Italian border region we move to manuscript maps showing the movements of Swedish and Russian vessels engaged in the historical naval battle at Vyborg, near St. Petersburg, in 1790. Quite interesting the attempts at portraying the movements of the vessels during this 12 days' battle.

Gilles Palsky, Speaker at our forthcoming conference on *Formatting Europe – Mapping a Continent,* presents Garnier's *Atlas sphéroïdal et universel de géographie,* published in Paris in 1862. This atlas has become famous for its maps on an orthographic projection, showing different parts of the world as if we were looking at a globe.

Hélène Richard, Director of the BnF's Map Department, presents a world map that was prepared to indicate the various regions across the globe where the passage of the shadow of Venus across the solar disc could be observed on 8 December 1874. This event was of particular importance to astronomers since it permitted the correction of the measurement of the distance sun-earth that was last made at the previous passage, 105 years earlier. The article also provides an interesting insight into the manufacture of this map, both from the point of view of its origins and the 'modern' techniques employed to produce the ultimate version.

After a quite fascinating essay on what information technology can do – and has already done – to our classical concepts of maps and cartography, we come to the ninth and last of the articles on cartography. Whilst researching the different episodes of the life of the giant 'Coronelli Globes' offered by Cardinal d'Estrées to Louis XIV in 1683, until they finally found a new home in the Bibliothèque nationale's François Mitterand site (see also BIMCC Newsletter No 28, p. 10), Catherine Hofmann discovered a most surprising document. Around the middle of the 18th century a certain Passement proposed to the then war minister, Count d'Argenson, to update the two celestial and terrestrial globes, and to provide them with a rotation mechanism, in spite of their size and weight. Although the project was not realized, Passement later proved, on a smaller scale, his engineering talents when he put into synchronized rotation a pair of 48 cm globes by Didier Robert de Vaugondy. The terrestrial globe took exactly 24 hours to complete a rotation, whilst the celestial one took 23 hours 56 minutes and 4 seconds for a full turn, corresponding to the sidereal day. The owners will have found to their relief that they needed winding up only once a week.

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Maps on the legend of Prester John

Many of us have come across or maybe have treasure maps in their collection on which the legendary kingdom of Prester John is mentioned. Usually these maps depict the whole of Africa or more specifically Central and East-Africa. The legends on these maps often indicate that this empire is situated in Abyssinia (now the area of Ethiopia). Sometimes however the kingdom of Prester John is not located in Africa but in Asia, which is a puzzling fact to most map collectors. And although many of us are familiar with the 'Prester John maps', few people actually know the legend behind the empire of Prester John or why the map of this empire was included in atlases of the most famous mapmakers of their time.



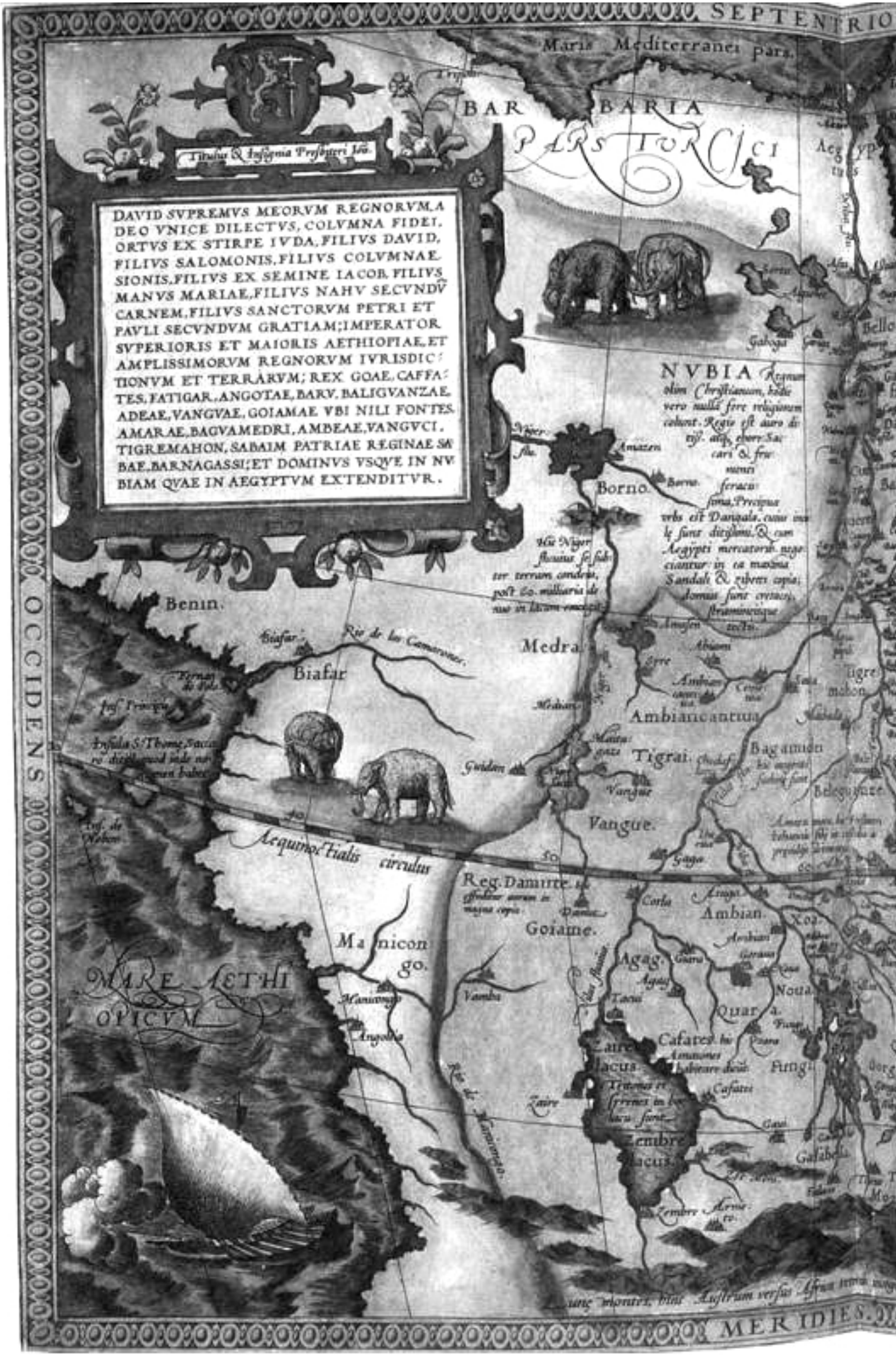
The beginning of the legend

In the 1130s, under the leadership of Imad ad-din Zengi, Turkish power became a serious threat to the Crusader kingdoms in the Holy Land. This caused these kingdoms to seek aid from Western Europe. Around 1145, the German chronicler and bishop, Otto von Freisingen reports in his *Chronicon* a story about a certain Hugh, bishop of Jabala (in Syria nowadays) who paid a visit to the palace of Pope Eugene III in Viterbo in 1144. This bishop of Jabala was an emissary seeking Western aid against the Saracens in the name of Prince Raymond of Antioch. According to von Freisingen, Hugh told the Pope that Prester (a corrupted form of the word Presbyter or Priest) John, *a* Nestorian Christian who served in the dual position of priest and king, had regained the city of Ecbatana from the brother monarchs of Media and Persia in a great battle 'not many years ago'. After this battle, Prester John allegedly set out for Jerusalem to rescue the Holy Land, but the swollen waters of the Tigris compelled him to return to his own country. His fabulous wealth was demonstrated by his emerald sceptre; his holiness by his descent from the Three Magi. Prester John was said to be a generous ruler and a virtuous man, ruling over a realm full of riches and strange creatures, in which the Patriarch of Saint Thomas resided. His kingdom contained such wonders as the Gates of Alexander and the Fountain of Youth, and it even bordered the Earthly Paradise. Among his treasures was a mirror through which every province could be seen.

Otto von Freisingen's story appears to be a muddled version of real events. In 1141, soldiers of the Khanate of Kara-Khitan defeated the Seljuk Turks near Samarkand. The Seljuks ruled over Persia at the time and were the most powerful force in the Muslim world. The defeat at Samarkand damaged their strength substantially, and encouraged the Crusaders. The Kara-Khitan were not Christians, however, and there is no reason to suppose that their leader was ever called Prester John. However, several vassals of the Kara-Khitan practiced Nestorian Christianity, and this may have helped form the basis of the Prester John Legend.

In 1165, a (forged) letter allegedly from Prester John was delivered to Emanuel I, the Byzantine Emperor. Emanuel I (or Manuel I Comnemus) forwarded the letter to Emperor Frederic Barbarossa of the Holy Roman Empire. The forgery was quite convincing since the forger had obviously read Otto von Freisingen's report. There were over one-hundred different versions of the letter published over the following few centuries. Throughout time, the editions of the letter kept getting better and more interesting. They told of strange cultures that surrounded the kingdom and a 'salamander' that lived in fire, which actually turned out to be the mineral substance asbestos. The letter could have been proven a forgery from the first edition of the letter, which copied exactly the description of the palace of Saint Thomas, the Apostle. Most often, the letter was addressed to Emanuel I, the Byzantine Emperor, though other editions were also often addressed to the Pope or the King of France.

The letters always told that Prester John ruled a huge Christian kingdom in the East, comprising the '*three Indias'*. He ruled a peaceful kingdom, where *'honey flows in our land and milk everywhere abounds.* Prester John also 'wrote' that he was besieged by infidels and barbarians and he needed the help of Christian European armies. The letter caused a sensation and not only were copies circulated widely, but excerpts were even put to music.


SEPTENTRIO
Maris Mediterranei pars.
BARBARIA
PARS TURCICI
Titulus & Insignia Presbiteri Ioan.
DAVID SVPREMVS MEORVM REGNORVM, A DEO VNICE DILECTVS, COLVMNA FIDEI, ORTVS EX STIRPE IVDA, FILIVS DAVID, FILIVS SALOMONIS, FILIVS COLVMNAE SIONIS, FILIVS EX SEMINE IACOB, FILIVS MANVS MARIAE, FILIVS NAHV SECVNDV CARNEM, FILIVS SANCTORVM PETRI ET PAVLI SECVNDVM GRATIAM; IMPERATOR SVPERIORIS ET MAIORIS AETHIOPIAE, ET AMPLISSIMORVM REGNORVM IVRISDICTIONVM ET TERRARVM; REX GOAE, CAFFATES, FATIGAR, ANGOTAE, BARV, BALIGVANZAE, ADEAE, VANGVAE, GOIAMAE VBI NILI FONTES, AMARAE, BAGVAMEDRI, AMBEAE, VANGVCI, TIGREMAHON, SABAIM PATRIAE REGINAE SABAE, BARNAGASSI; ET DOMINVS VSQVE IN NVBIAM QVAE IN AEGYPTVM EXTENDITVR.
NVBIA
Borno.
Benin.
Biafar
Medra
Ambiancantiua
Tigrai.
Vangue.
Aequinoctialis circulus
Reg. Damute
Goiame.
Ambian.
Manicongo.
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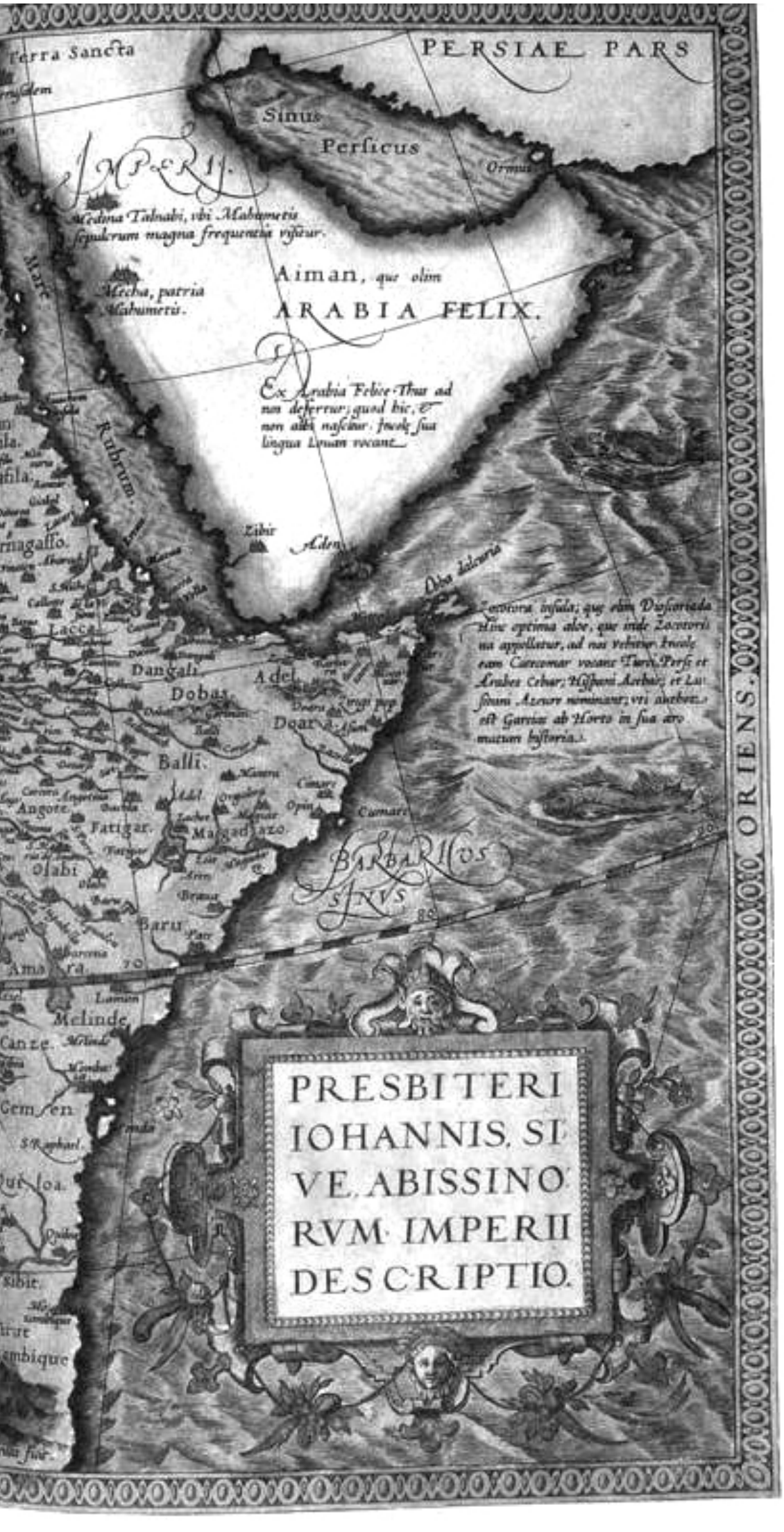
Agag.
Quara.
Cafates
Zembre lacus.
Fungi
Gafabella
OCCIDENS
MERIDIES.

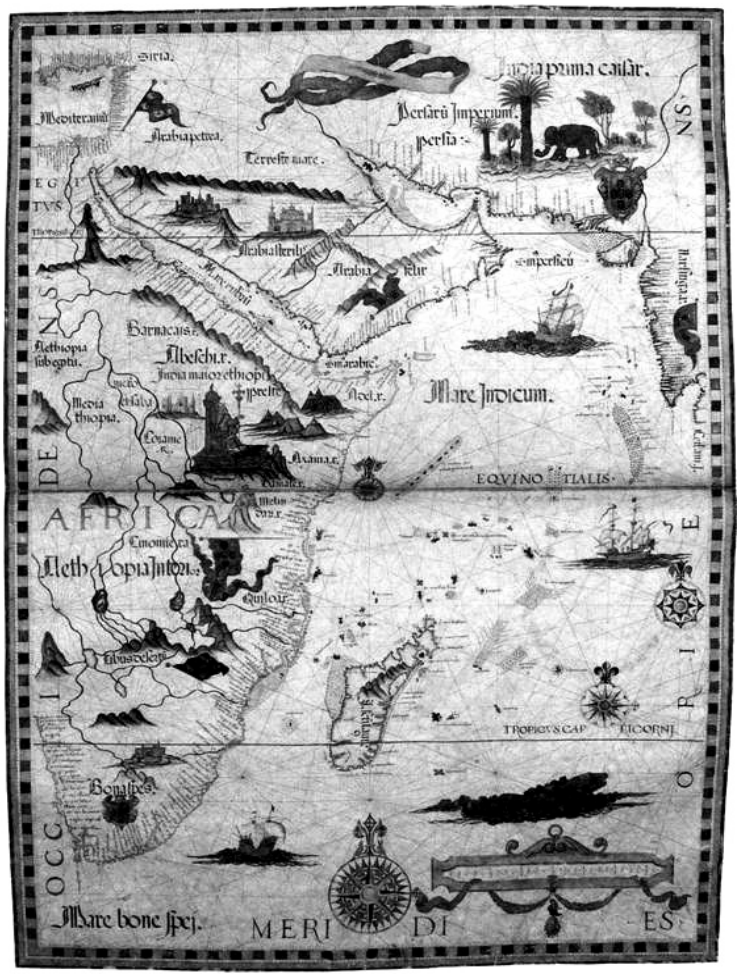


Presbiteri Johannis sive Abissinorum Imperii Descriptio
by A. Ortelius
(1573)



The only official response to the letter was from Pope Alexander III who, in 1177, sent out a Papal emissary, his physician Magister Philippos, with a letter for Prester John; but nothing was ever heard of what became of him.

Years later, in the mid-thirteenth century when Asia was opened again to Europeans by the ascendancy of the Tartars, the great search began to find this Prester John. In 1245 Pope Innocent IV sent missionaries to the Mongol Kahn at Karakorum in Mongolia to find the legendary Christian empire of Prester John. In 1248, a monk by the name of Giovani Capini mentioned in his writings 'a king of Greater India who had defeated the Mongols by filling up copper soldiers on horseback with explosives and sending these through the ranks of the Mongolian army.' These tidings encouraged many 13-14th century European travellers such as Marco Polo or the Franciscan friar Odoric of Pordenone to search fruitlessly for the great king.



Diogo Homem portolan map of Africa and the East (1558)

Although Prester John was never found in Asia, this search can be considered as crucial to opening up Asia and especially important for re-establishing ties with China.



A kingdom on the move from Asia to Africa

Despite that failed reconnaissance, countless explorations had the goal of reaching and rescuing Prester John's kingdom. By the fourteenth century, exploration had proved that Prester John's kingdom did not lie in Asia, so subsequent letters wrote that the besieged kingdom was located in Abyssinia (present-day Ethiopia).

This was spurred by the fact that there was an actual Christian kingdom there, the Nestorian kingdom of Abyssinia or Ethiopia. Mysterious Abyssinian pilgrims sometimes visited the Holy Land, though their kingdom was rumoured to be bordered by inaccessible mountains. What better place to put the Kingdom of Prester John? Eastern Africa was sometimes confused with the 'Indies' and so it was soon generally accepted that this great Christian King was to be found in the East. The Portuguese prince Henry the Navigator sent several expeditions throughout the fifteenth century to make contact with this kingdom and the reports which came back further confirmed the belief that finally Prester John had been found. Because of these reports, the legend moved to a new continent, and it was in Africa that Prester John's Kingdom was thought to lie when the earliest printed maps made their appearance. The legend lived on as cartographers continued to include the kingdom of Prester John on maps through the seventeenth century.

Maps on the empire of Prester John

The first maps on which the legendary kingdom is mentioned or depicted are said to be published around 1339, but few of these maps have survived. Of course these earlier examples are not maps made by copperplate printing but woodcut maps or even portolans. The world map of 1489 by the German cartographer Henricus Martellus uniquely locates the realm of Prester John in China with the inscription *Hic dnatur Presbiter Johanes imperator totius Indie.* This

BIMCC's Map of the Season

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

The Editor



Abissinorum sive pretiosi Ioannis Imperium, Atlas Minor, Mercator – Janssonius (1630)

inscription refers to the many letters in which Prester John is always mentioned as the *emperor of the three India's.* This vague geographical description allowed the legendary kingdom to move freely around the globe for many years to come. One of the first maps depicting Prester John on his throne still known to us (albeit in only one copy in the Library of Congress), is Martin Waldseemüller's *Carta Marina* dating from 1516. Waldseemüller seemed to be a cautious man because according to a text on this map, it is not clear if the kingdom is located in Africa or India. Maybe a bit more accessible to map collectors, is Laurent Fries' world map of 1522, based on Waldseemuller's earlier work (illustration on the cover of this Newsletter). This map is one of the first woodblock examples where Prester John is without doubt depicted on his throne in East-Africa. Sebastian Munster's *Geographia* of 1540 also contains a map where in the East of the African continent another reference to the empire can be read: *Hamarich Sedes Prete Iohan* (The city of Hamarich was considered as the capital of the kingdom). On all these maps, the two arms of the Nile that originate from the Mountains of the Moon flow through his kingdom (the correct situation of the three major lakes in that area: lake Tanganyika, lake Victoria and lake Malawi-Njasa was only further explored in the 19th century). The geography of the lakes and these Mountains of the Moon was even more slavishly copied by mapmakers than the legend of the Prester John empire, despite the corrections made by Filippo Pigafetta in 1591. It was only until the rise of the French map makers such as Guillaume Delisle and Jean Baptiste Bourguignon D'Anville in the early and mid 18th century, that the inner parts of Africa were left blank instead of depicting these legendary mountains and lakes as done before (the German map makers Johann Homann and Matthias Seutter even continued to follow Ptolemaeus' idea of the lakes and mountains in their earliest atlases).

Since the Portuguese were very keen to make contact with Prester John during the 15-16th century, the kingdom of Prester John also appears in the nautical atlas that the Portugese cartographer Diogo Homem (active c. 1530-1576) presented to Queen Mary of England in 1558 (illustration on previous page). On the map in portolan style depicting the Indian Ocean, Prester John is seated on a golden throne and holds a sceptre topped by a large cross. The coastlines were very well known and this portolan quite logically shows a lot of coast towns that were so important to the Portuguese merchants. In contrast with this are the vast empty areas of the African mainland.

The astronomer and mathematician Gemma Frisius (1508-1555) has also been said to have produced a map of the Prester John empire around 1522 but little is known about this particular map. The legendary 18-sheet world map of his disciple, Gerard

Mercator (1512-1594) however clearly locates the legend of Prester John in Asia, more specifically in Siberia. In this region, a text in Latin reads *Naiam ex qua Presbiter Joannes prodijt (*The water from which Prester John appeared).

One of the most encountered examples is possibly Abraham Ortelius' map of 1573: *Presbiteri Johannis sive Abissinorum Imperii Descriptio* (illustration on the centrefold of this Newsletter). Ortelius designed this map himself, using geographical information from Jacopo Gastaldi's 1564 eight-sheet wall map of Africa, and introduced texts in it from unknown sources. Ortelius does not show Prester John on his throne but speaks of the *mountains of Amara where the sons of Prester John are held in captivity.* In the large cartouche on the left, Ortelius provides the reader with a list of Prester John's official titles. For example, it can be read that Prester John is a descendant from the great King David. Jan Huyghen Van Linschoten (1563-1610) who visited the east coast of Africa many times, tells in his history of travels, the *Itinerario,* that Prester John resided most often in the city of Beimlechi in East-Africa. More or less the same text about Prester John's sons can even be read on one of the maps of Van Linschoten's *Itinerario: Amara mons hic Aethiopie imperatoris filii et nepotes in custodia a praesidiis detinentur.*

The map of Ortelius became a kind of golden standard to depict the empire of Prester John because many mapmakers used the map of Ortelius as a reference for their own atlases. The map of Abyssinia for example from the *Atlas minor* of Mercator-Hondius (illustration on previous page) clearly represents the same area and copies many of the geographical errors (flow of the Nile, Mountains of the Moon, the wrong course of the river Niger,…). The map of Abyssinia in the Atlas minor however introduces a notion of the Congo River basin, which is absent on Ortelius' map of Abyssinia. Ortelius corrected this in 1595 with his production of the Fez and Marocco map for which he used an anachronical inset of the Congo based on Pigafetta's publication in 1591.



Today many maps can still be found on which the legendary kingdom is represented (although unfortunately without the graphical representation of Prester John on his throne). This large number of maps depicting Prester John's empire still on the market is probably due to the fact that until late in the 17th century, map makers still included the kingdom of Prester John (or the Abyssinia region) in their atlases, despite the fact that no expedition was able to find the empire. Though some scholars think that the basis for Prester John came from the great empire of Genghis Khan, others conclude it was merely a fantasy. Either way, Prester John profoundly affected the geographical knowledge of Europe by stimulating interest in foreign lands and sparking expeditions outside of Europe.

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Further reading

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- W. Bodenstein, *Ortelius' Maps of Africa*, p. 185-208 in: Van den Broecke, van der Krogt and Meurer (eds), *Abraham Ortelius and the First Atlas*, HES Publishers, 1998.
- R. Silverberg*, The Realm of Prester John*, London: Phoenix Press, 2001.
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Shifting boundaries in Central Europe

A map discovery dating from summer 1944 shows Stalin's original plans

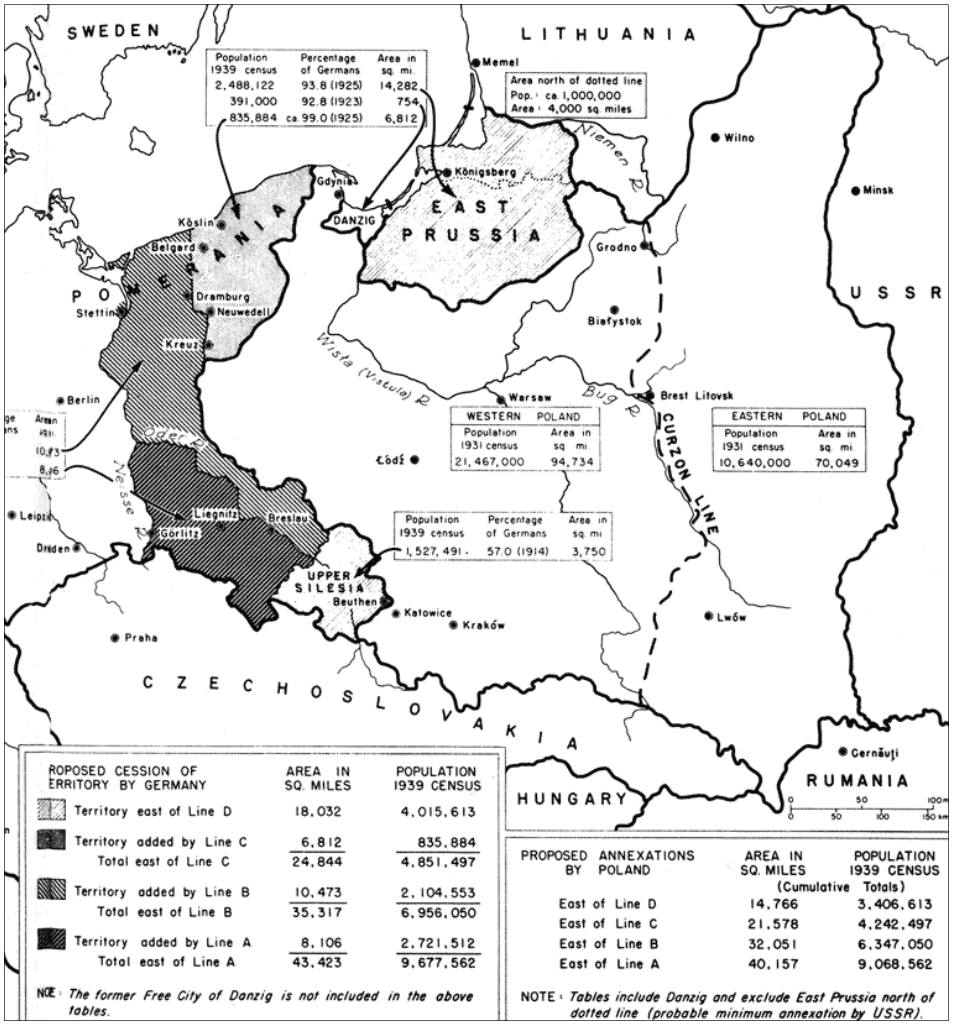
A map dating from summer 1944, discovered in the Russian state archives in Moscow recently documents Stalin's role in the process of determining the post-war boundaries in eastern Central Europe and the resulting expatriations. The course of the boundary between Germany and Poland as drawn by the dictator in person shows considerable deviations from the boundary as it stands today. According to Stalin's plans at the time, the whole Lower Silesia would have remained in German hands, and Breslau (Wroclaw) would have become a divided city. In summer 1944 Stalin was still thinking in terms of a boundary running along the Oder and Glatzer Neisse rivers. But by the end of that year he had decided in favour of the Lausitzer Neisse, more than 200 km further west, with the result that once the 'Third Reich' had been overcome, the whole of Silesia would fall to Poland.

The Hitler-Stalin pact of 23 August 1939 had ensured the benevolent neutrality of the Soviet Union during Hitler's attack on Poland. Moreover, the 'secret supplementary protocol' provided for a division of their spheres of interest: Poland was to be divided along the rivers Pisa, Narew, Weichsel (Vistula) and San. In the event of 'territorial reorganization', Estonia, Latvia, Finland and Bessarabia would fall to the Soviet Union. Following Hitler's victory over Poland, the German-Soviet boundary and friendship treaty of 28 September 1939 moved the demarcation line from the Vistula to the Bug, and also added Lithuania to the Soviet sphere of influence.

The situation changed with Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union on 12 June 1941, which led to the formation of the anti-Hitler coalition. When US President Roosevelt and British Prime Churchill met Stalin in Teheran in late 1943, all were in principle agreed on a westward shift in the Polish border, a division of Germany and extensive 'resettlement' schemes, so that Stalin could retain its spoils of 1939/40. The dictator suggested the Oder as the boundary between Germany and Poland. It was not until the Yalta Conference at the beginning of February 1945 that Stalin demanded the western Lausitzer Neisse, which the Western powers vehemently rejected. Stalin nevertheless prevailed at the Potsdam Conference in the summer. From now on, in the opinion of Polish historian Bogdan Musial, 'every post-war government of Poland, even if it were freely elected, non-Communist and sovereign, was, in view of the German demands for revision, dependent on the USSR as long as the Soviet Union guaranteed the western boundary of Poland'.

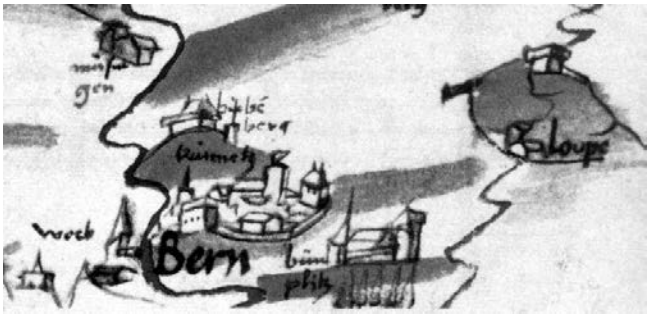
This subject would certainly merit further research.

Oswald Dreyer-Eimbeke



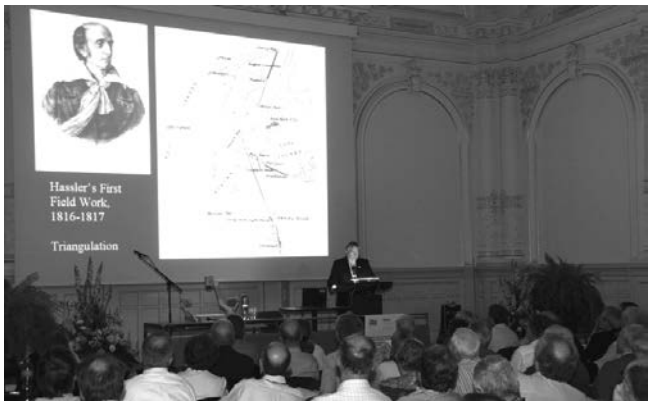
See also Mr. Dreyer-Eimbeke's article *Stalin marks the spot* on Stalin's signing of a map that divided Poland, in: Mercator's World Vol. 3 No 4 (July/August 1998).

International Conference on the History of Cartography
8 to 13 July 2007, Berne



The 22nd International Conference on the History of Cartography was held from 8 to 13 July 2007 in Berne, Switzerland. Two hundred sixty-six participants from thirty nine countries attended the numerous lectures. A full programme went over the several chosen themes: mapping relief, maps and tourism, language and maps, time as the cartographic fourth dimension and, to be complete, any other aspect of the history of cartography.

The 19 sessions were crammed with papers, up to 14 a day, beginning adequately on Sunday 8 with Mapping Switzerland and a whole session devoted to Ferdinand Rudolf Hassler, the geodesist, metrologist and mathematician involved in the national survey of Switzerland, first a student of J.G.Tralles, then measurer of the Swiss baseline, but afterwards in command of the Coast Survey of the U.S. and introducing standard measures in this country. In the evening, the first exhibition was on this pioneer in the Federal Office of Metrology (METAS) in Wabern. It is to be noted that two of his descendants attended the conference and presented a family tree at the poster session on Tuesday 10 in the morning.



Session on F. R. Hassler

As always, in this poster session, current research work of young (and older!) participants was on display, covering every possible field in the history of cartography.

Before this, on Monday, Colonial and School cartography, Digital map analysis and Military mapping were followed, the next day, by sessions on Cartographic sources and Cartobibliography.

On 11 July, Toponymy, Cartography and politics, Early modern cartography (with a change of the chosen subject by one of the scholars), Asian and islamic mapping were followed on Thursday 12 by Medieval mapping, a second session on Cartographic sources, Relief mapping and Swiss cartography. On the last day, Tourist mapping, a second Cartography and Politics, and finally Time in cartography (this one chaired by W . Bodenstein) .

Several exhibitions were organized, on Hassler as said above, the very beautiful treasures of the Burghers' Library of Berne and of the University



Exhibition in the University Library

Library, the Swiss Alpine Museum with its grand relief models, the building of which was explained and the extremely interesting display in the State Archives, visible every day at lunch time.

Moreover, visits were organized twice from 8 to 10 to the State Archives and to Swisstopo (the Federal Office of Topography in Wabern). The farewell dinner took place near the top of the Niesen, a 2362 m high mountain in the south-east of Berne. A day trip to Basel on Saturday 14 gave the participants the opportunity to admire maps in pristine conditions and to visit the Museum for paper, writing and printing.

The optional three-days post-conference tour included some more visits to collections and exhibitions, amongst which those at the Saint-Gall monastery.

Several members of the BIMCC attended the meetings, some of them for the first time, which shows the growing success of this international conference.

Next meeting in Copenhagen in July 2009.

Lisette Danckaert

BIMCC Programme for the Autumn 2007

Friday 21 September 2007, 13.00 — 16.30
BIMCC Autumn Excursion

Visit to the Belgian National Geographic Institute
'Nationaal Geografisch Instituut (NGI) – Institut Géographique National (IGN)'

Shortly after the independence of Belgium in 1831 the *Dépôt de la guerre et de la topographie* was charged to make a survey of the country. The depot became in 1878 the *Institut Cartographique Militaire* or *Militair Cartografisch Instituut*. In 1947 the name changed in *Institut Géographique Militaire / Militair Geografisch Instituut* and became finally in 1976 the NGI-IGN, under the control of the Ministry of Defence.

The survey of Belgium started with a triangulation scaled at 1:20 000 in 1850, with indications of the relief. A new triangulation was carried out in 1928. A topographical map 1:25 000 was realized between 1949 and 1970, followed by 1:50 000 and 1:10 000. Air photos were used in 1991 to produce a third basic survey at different scales. All these surveys led to the digital topographical maps. The 1:50 000 was used as a touristic map book published in 2005 by Lannoo.

The Institute possesses also a collection of old maps of Belgium and part of the cartographic work by Eugène-Henry Frickx as well as by the Count J. de Ferraris.

The Institute is located in the historical building of a former abbey (Abbaye de la Cambre – Abdij ter Kameren 13, Brussels).



Abbaye de la Cambre

The BIMCC visit will focus on the current map production work of the IGN/NGI.

Programme highlights:

- Briefing on geodesy (projections used for Belgian maps, planimetry, altimetry, gravimetry, satellite based positioning systems)
- Analytical and digital restitution (converting aerial photos into metrical documents)
- Cartographical drawing up of maps at different scales
- Selected ancient maps produced since the creation of the IGN / NGI (1831)
- Current products line; presentation of the new atlas 'Belgium on maps'

The visit will be limited to 30 participants, and by the time of publication of this Newsletter, registrations will be closed (the registration form was enclosed in Newsletter No 28, in May).

To enquire about last-minute availability, contact the BIMCC Secretary: Eric Leenders, Zwanenlaan 16, 2610 Antwerpen, phone +32 (0) 3 440 10 81, e-mail: info@bimcc.org

To be informed or reminded about BIMCC events send your e-mail address to info@bimcc.org

europalia.europa

Every two years, since 1969, Europalia International organizes a major international multidisciplinary arts festival in Belgium to celebrate one country's cultural heritage. The last event in 2005 received over one million visitors.

In 2007, *Europalia.europa* will be the major arts festival marking the fiftieth jubilee year of the European Union. From 3 October 2007 until 3 February 2008, Europalia will play host to 27 guest countries and will present the culture of Europe and its 27 Member States in one spectacular cultural festival!

The Europalia programme covers all cultural domains: arts, music, dance, theatre, cinema, literature…

The leading exhibition *The grand atelier* will explore *pathways of arts in Europe* and present more than 250 works from over 100 European collections: paintings, engravings, sculpture, jewellery, manuscripts, etc.

History — and cartography — will also have their share. The exhibition *Encompassing the Globe - Portugal and the World in the 16th and 17th Centuries* will take visitors on a journey in the wake of the great voyages of discovery by means of maps, navigational instruments, manuscripts, and early printed books (see page 35 for details).

The Royal Library of Belgium and the BIMCC have also launched a joint cartographic programme consisting of an Exhibition and a Conference on the theme of

Formatting Europe – Mapping a Continent

which is part of the official Europalia programme (see www.europalia.eu).



Friday 16 November 2007, 18.30 (following the Conference)

KBR.be

Official opening of the Exhibition of Maps

Formatting Europe – Mapping a Continent

followed by a reception in the Houyoux Hall, Royal Library.

European cartographers have depicted Europe throughout the centuries in several ways : allegorically, physically, politically … Voluntarily or not, they sometimes took liberties with the reality. But this also was changing during the periods, specially relating to state borders. The exhibition will show maps from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. The maps vary in aspect, aim and scale and have only one common feature: their subject. Grouped chronologically, they show the fascinating evolution of the continent and of its cartography. The exhibition will last until 8 February 2008, and a catalogue (in Dutch or French) will be available.

Further information from the Curator of the Exhibition, Wouter Bracke, Head of the Map Department at the Royal Library (tel +32(0)2-519.57.43, wouter.bracke@kbr.be).

Friday 16 November 2007, 09.30 – 18.00 at the Royal Library of Belgium
(Auditorium Lippens, Mont des Arts, B-1000 Brussels) :

6th International BIMCC Conference:
Formatting Europe – Mapping a Continent

Conference Programme

Günter Schilder (Utrecht): Conference Chairman

- Angelo Cattaneo (Florence):
  Europe in late Medieval and early Renaissance World Maps : Provincializing Europe
- Leena Miekkavaara (Helsinki):
  Unknown Europe : the mapping of the Northern Countries by Olaus Magnus
- Krystyna Szykula (Wroclaw):
  Anthony Jenkinson's unique wall map of Russia (1562) and its influence on European cartography
- Peter van der Krogt (Utrecht):
  European towns in Braun & Hogenberg's town atlas
- Markus Heinz (Berlin):
  Europe as seen by the Homann publishing firm in Nürnberg in the 18th century
- Roderick Barron (Sevenoaks, UK):
  Bringing the map to life: European satirical maps, 1845 – 1945
- Gilles Palsky (Paris):
  Connections and exchange in European cartography : the example of 19th century statistical maps
- Bernard Jouret (Brussels):
  The space perception of the relief of Europe by contour lines : the remarkable work of J.-C. Houzeau, 1857

The **Proceedings** of the Conference will be published by the Royal Geographical Society of Belgium, as a special edition of BELGEO, in October 2008. They will include additional original articles:
- Ingrid Baumgärtner:
  Europa in der Kartographie des Mittelalters
- Jean-Charles Ducene:
  La représentation de l'Europe par les cartographes arabes
- Philippe Forêt:
  Emerging China's view of Europe : a survey of the maps of Europe published by the Crown Colony of Hong Kong in the 20th century
- Peter Meurer:
  Europa Regina: 16th century maps of Europe in the form of a Queen
- Monique Pelletier:
  L'Europe des géographes aux XVIe et XVIIe siècles : cartes, textes et images
- Darius Przybytek, as yet undetermined
- Adrian Seville:
  The geographical Jeux de l'Oie *of Europe*
- Rodney Shirley:
  The allegorical figure of Europe in atlas title pages
- Henk van der Heijden:
  Kaarten van Europa vóór Ortelius

For **registration**, return the enclosed registration form — or e-mail the same information — to our Treasurer Roland Delrue (treasurer@bimcc.org) before 15 October ; not only does early registration offer admittance at a reduced rate (EUR 10.00 instead of 15.00 at the door), but it also allows you to reserve your place at the traditional Speakers' Lunch, and to subscribe to the proceedings of the Conference (at a cost of EUR 25.00, instead of 30.00 when they are published next year).

Further information from Wulf Bodenstein, tel +32(0)2 772 69 09, wulfbo@scarlet.be

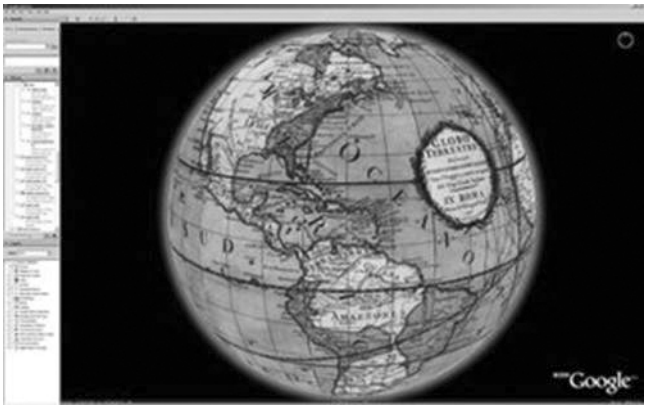
News

Google Earth goes Classic

On the Internet, 'Google Earth version 4 beta' now offers the opportunity to overlay the satellite images of Google Earth with sixteen 17-18th century antique maps from the David Rumsey Collection. This feature offers an unique opportunity to compare the cartographical knowledge of these times with reality. Several maps can be selected: a world map, maps of the different continents and also city plans of Paris, London and Tokyo.

Google Earth version 4 beta can be downloaded for free (updating of version 3 is also free) and the antique map feature can be activated in the Edit menu. Click in this menu on 'find' and open in the 'Layers' section the map 'Rumsey Historical maps'. Choose an historical map from the list and go to the corresponding area on the globe. The slide bar can be used to adjust the degree of overlay.

Website Google Earth: http://earth.google.com/

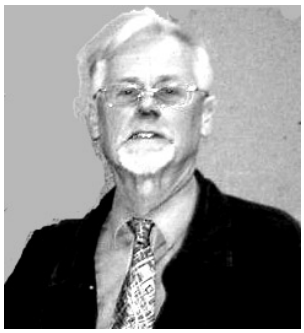


News from across the Channel

Although Francis Herbert officially retired from the Royal Geographical Society in July last year, after 35 years in the RGS Map Room, thirteen of which as Map Curator, he is still as busy as ever.

He was one of the earliest overseas supporters of our Circle, having participated in the inaugural meeting of the BIMCC in 1998, and has since been a Speaker and Conference Chairman at numerous BIMCC events. To quote from a recent message from him : *It has always been a pleasure to me that – thanks to Eurostar – I have been able to maintain an active membership of BIMCC from its inception and to meet some colleagues and friends more often than other conferences normally allow. And for Belgium to provide me with the fortuitous 'inspiration' to research a Belgian immigré to Britain [Joseph Kips] as a contribution to Lisette Danckaert's 'Festschrift' last year – thus providing another connection with the RGS*.

It appears that the RGS are now reducing their engagement towards history of cartography which seems a great pity. When Francis wrote about a new reading room at the RGS in Newsletter No 19 (May 2004), there were up to 5 Map Room staff busy in servicing the collection and improving access to the impressive collection of cartographic materials from the 15th century to the present. Now there is only one person trying to do the job.



Francis Herbert

Francis, in the meantime, has been engaged by the British Library as a consultant to review security measures in the Map Room where thefts have occurred, as in so many libraries elsewhere.

Peter Barber winner of the IMCoS - Helen Wallis Award for 2007

Tony Campbell, from whom Peter Barber took over in 2001 as the Head of Map Collections at the British Library, pronounced the *laudatio* at this year's annual IMCoS dinner in London, on 8 June. In his usual entertaining style he kept the audience guessing for a while, until the mention of well-known cartographic publications and references to exhibitions mounted by Peter Barber at the British Library gave the game away. Some of our readers may have seen the 2001 exhibit *Lie of the Land : the Secret Life of Maps*, or the more recent *London : a Life in Maps* which ended this March, having attracted 130 000 visitors. Tony summed up the laureate's achievements as follows : *If writings about old maps are divided between those that are essential (i.e. they take the subject forward) and those that are mere restatements (however elegant), most of Peter's work is in the 'essential' ca-*



Outgoing IMCoS President Roger Baskes presents the 2007 Helen Wallis Award to Dr Peter Barber, Head of the British Library Map Library, during the annual IMCoS dinner, 8 June 2007.

tegory. The award is made for *'cartographic contribution of great merit and wide interest to map collectors worldwide*'. Congratulations !

New IMCoS President: Sarah Tyacke

After five years in office, Roger Baskes (Chicago, Ill., USA) has resigned from his post as President of the London-based *International Map Collectors' Society.* At the annual general meeting held in London on 9 June 2007 map historian Sarah Tyacke was elected as the Society's new President.

Until recently, Sarah was the Keeper of Public Records and Historical Manuscripts Commissioner for the UK Government, and Chief Executive of the National Archives of England and Wales from 1992-2005. In that position she was responsible for the establishment of the online digital services of the National Archives and the merging of these Archives with the Public Record Office in 2003. Her list of publications is very impressive, concentrating mainly on English map-making and overseas charting (see also www.sarahtyacke.com).



New IMCoS President Sarah Tyacke with her predecessor, Roger Baskes

Bonne route, and best wishes to Sarah in her new function.

Events

The *Rocky Mountain Antique Map Fair*
14-15 September 2007 – Denver, USA

The Map Fair has an international appeal with a local flavour. The Fair is one of the largest assemblages of rare maps ever gathered together in the Western United States. Maps dating from the 1500s to today. The Map Fair is co-hosted by the prestigious Denver Public Library, located in downtown Denver, and also home to an outstanding collection of Western maps.

At the Denver Public Library, 13th & Broadway. Open Friday 17:00 - 20:00 and Saturday 9:00 - 16:00
http://lamar.colostate.edu/~mcole/map_fair_7.html



23rd International Antiquarian Book Fair of Brussels, 14-16 September 2007

During three days specialists from Belgium and abroad present and offer for sale a large choice of antiquarian books, illuminated books, collectors, antiquarian cards, unique editions and maps.

The BIMCC will again have a stand!

Friday 14 September 2007: from 16:00 to 21:00.
Saturday 15 September 2007: from 11:00 to 19:00.
Sunday 16 September 2007: from 11:00 to 17:00.
Venue: Centre for Fine Arts: rue Ravenstein 23, 1000 Brussels, Belgium. Visit http://www.bibliofair.com
Please also see the enclosed flyer.

Washington Map Society events

Surveyors Rendezvous '07
13-15 September 2007

This 3-day event will feature the surveying and mapping career of George Washington. Saturday afternoon, will be hands-on demonstrations of 18th Century surveying and mapping equipment, authentic colonial surveyors encampments, the Revolutionary War 'Geographer' Unit (military mappers for Washington's Continental Army), and a retracement, with period equipment and garb, of George Washington's very first land survey when he was aged 16 in the 1740s. The event concludes Saturday evening, with a banquet and tour at Stratford Hall, for which advance payment will be required.

Event takes place at Pope's Creek in Westmoreland County, Virginia.The program is still under development. For the annual dinner, you can find a copy of the invitation/RSVP slip at http://home.earthlink.net/~docktor/Registration%20form%202007.pdf
For further information, contact: Chas Langelan
email: clangelan@amtengineering.com or HowardLange@verizon.net

Charles A. Lindbergh and His Flying Maps
27 September 2007

In an illustrated lecture, Mr. Ehrenberg will trace Lindbergh's use of maps within the broader context of the development of aerial charting and navigation. Eighty years ago this year Charles Augustus Lindbergh Jr. electrified the world with his dramatic non-stop solo flight from New York to Paris. During an illustrious aviation career Lindbergh collected hundreds of maps, many of which he used for flight planning and aerial

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

navigation.
For further information, contact: Chas Langelan email: clangelan@amtengineering.com.

Recent Advances in Washington's GIS Mapping by Barney Krucoff

18 October 2007

The city of Washington makes over 200 GIS layers freely and publicly available and operates an innovative set of Web services that support many public and government applications. The presentation will describe the policy foundations of the program, present the major datasets, demonstrate applications, and answer questions.

Visit to The Washington Post's News Art Department

27 October 2007

During the tour we will see how cartographers, assisted by graphic artists and page designers, use a variety of computer applications to turn assignments into finished maps, often with no more than an hour of lead time, start to finish. The cartographers have to be ready to depict anything from a neighbourhood to the world; to focus on streets, statistics, politics or the physical world; and to turn out a product from two inches to two pages wide. The Post staff will take us through their workflow and demonstrate computer applications.

The Spectacle of Maps in Antebellum America by Dr. Martin Brückner.

15 November 2007

His presentation examines the cultural significance of wall maps in the United States between 1776 and 1860. His survey of how wall maps were represented in the visual and literary arts shows how wall maps were popular props in early American performance culture and actively shaped public rituals and domestic ideology

Hi Ho Silver!! No Way!!! Mineral Wealth, Land Speculation, and the Development of Texas by Patrick O'Neill.

13 December 2007

His detailed analysis of the rich cartographic history of Texas reveals that the Spanish originally settled the region largely on the hope of finding silver. The dream of mineral wealth continued with the Mexican and Republic of Texas governments, affecting the location of the United States border as well as the building of the first transcontinental railroad.

International Map Collectors' Society events

Visit to the *Dallas Pratt Collection of Historical Maps* in the American Museum in Britain, Claverton Manor, Bath, UK.

22 September 2007

Meet at 10.00 in the café. Anne Armitage, Editor and Librarian at the Museum, will talk at 10.30 followed by lunch and visit to rest of the museum.
Register with IMCoS Secretariat (email: financialsecretariat@imcos.org), Rogues Roost, Poundsgate, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 7PS, UK; fax +44 (0) 1364 631 042. Visit http://imcos.org for more information.

11th Symposium of the International Coronelli Society for the Study of Globes

28-30 September 2007 – Venice, Italy

In addition to the usual paper presentations, there will be visits to Coronelli's grave at the church Santa Maria Gloriosa di Frari, the Museo Correr and Biblioteca Marciana.
Additional information from Ms. Heide Wohlschläger at vincenzo@coronelli.org, Dominikanerbastei 21/28, A-1010 Vienna, Austria; fax +43-1-5320824. For a detailed program visit http://www.coronelli.org/syp/symposien_e.html.

New York Map Society Events

Neil Good on the controversy surrounding *The Norse Discovery of America*

13 October 2007

John Hessler on *Deforming History: A Phenomenological and Computational Study of the 1507 and 1516 World Maps of Martin Waldseemüller.*

3 November 2007

At 14:30 at the New York Public Library, Fifth Avenue & 42nd Street, in Classroom B, in the South Court's Celeste Bartos Education Center. John Hessler, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, New York, USA. Additional information from Sy Amkraut, president (email: NYMapSociety@webtv.net) Visit http://www.nymapsociety.org/INDEX.HTM



Les premières cartes du Comté de Hainaut (The first maps of the County of Hainaut)

14 October 2007

In a short illustrated lecture, Jean-Louis Renteux (BIMCC Editor) will present a comparative analysis of the two first printed maps of the County of Hainaut, the 1572 map by Jacques de Surhon and the map published in 1567 by Lodovico Guicciardini.
Congrès des Sociétés Savantes du Nord de la France on the theme *L'image dans la région du Nord*, 9.30 - 17.30, Auditorium St-Nicolas, rue Ferrand, F-59300 Valenciennes
Information: M. Desplats +33 327 30 01 80

The 27th Amsterdam Antiquarian Book, Map & Print Fair

25-27 October 2007

At the Passenger Terminal Amsterdam (PTA), right behind Amsterdam's Central Railway Station, on the wharf of 'Het IJ'. For more information visit http://www.amsterdambookfair.com

Warburg Lectures, London

Dr Keith Lilley. Mapping the Realm: New Perspectives on the Gough Map of Great Britain (c.1280 - c.1360).

1 November 2007

Dr Margaret Small. Complementing the Text: The Maps of G. B. Ramusio's Navigazioni e Viaggi (1554-1559).

29 November 2007

At University of London, Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1H OAB, at 17.00. Enquiries to +44 (0) 20 8346 5112 (Catherine Delano Smith) or Tony Campbell (email: t.campbell@ockendon.clara.co.uk) or visit http://www.maphistory.info/warburgprog.html



Symposium New World Cartographies: Mapping America, 1500-1776

2-3 November 2007 – Bath, UK

This symposium, which will be held in conjunction with an exhibition of maps of early America at the Museum, will focus on cartographic representations of America before the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Issues to be considered may include: the significance of imaginative projections of America; the uses of science to map the new continent; interrelations between various conceptions of territory, colony, nation and continent in the New World; Native American representations of space and place; the iconographic idea of America; changing ideas about America between the Renaissance and the Enlightenment eras; associations between maps and politics.

At the American Museum in Britain, Claverton Manor, Bath, UK. Visit http://www.americanmuseum.org/default.cfm/loadindex.213

48th Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Discoveries — Lectures

2-10 November 2007

The SHD's 48th Annual Meeting will be linked to the *Festival of Maps, Chicago.* That Festival will include the Sixteenth Kenneth Nebenzahl, Jr. Lectures in the History of Cartography. This year's series examines recent trends in the study of the mapmaking by the ancient cultures ringing the ancient Mediterranean Sea. It will include seven papers on topics ranging from urban to cosmological mapping.

The 2007 SHD meeting begins with a dinner on the night of Sunday 11 November , and will conclude at mid-day on Tuesday 13 November.

All lectures will be held at Ruggles Hall, The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., Chicago IL 60610, USA. Visit http://www.newberry.org/smith/nebenzahl/neb16.html for an extensive program of the lectures or http://www.sochistdisc.org/annual_meetings/annual_2007/annual_meeting_2007.htm for more information on the annual meeting of the society. For a list of exhibitions participating in the Festival, visit: http://www.sochistdisc.org/annual_meetings/annual_2007/annual_meeting_2007_festival_of_maps.htm

6th Paris Map Fair

10 November 2007

This year the fair will be enlarged with a fine selection of travel books from all parts of the world. With participants from France, UK, Spain, Italy, USA, Belgium and the Netherlands.

The BIMCC will again have a stand!

The fair is a one-day event with an cocktail reception and dinner on Friday night, 9 November (Reservation for the dinner is required).

At Hotel Ambassador, 16, Bd Haussmann from 11:00-18:00 http://www.map-fair.com/Paris2.html

Please also see the enclosed flyer.

Formatting Europe - Mapping a Continent

Brussels, Belgium

16 November 2007

BIMCC international conference organized, in the framework of the Europalia festival, at the Royal Library of Belgium; Belgian and other European specialists will highlight different aspects of European cartography and present the results of their recent historical research.

(See article on page 28).

Belgium Royal Library (KBR), Auditorium Lippens

URI: http://www.europalia.be/



10th European Map and Book Fair, Breda (NL)
23-24 November 2007

There will also be a exhibition of *Brabant maps and prints.*

Please also see the enclosed flyer.

The fair will be held Friday 14.00-20.00 and Saturday 11.00-17.00 hrs in the 'Grote Kerk', the medieval church in the old city centre. For more information visit http://www.histocart.nl/

International Atlas Days 2008 in Gotha

Jürgen Espenhorst, author of the reference book on 19th century German atlases and their derivatives (*Petermann's Planet* published in 2003 – see review in Newsletter No 18), is organizing another convention for collectors, this time in Gotha, the home town of the Justus Perthes publishing firm. Participants will have an opportunity to exchange collectors' experiences, and to sell/acquire atlases from their collections and related reference material. Due to the success of previous events, the convention will this time include dedicated workshops and be organized in cooperation with the Research Library Gotha.

30 April – 2 May 2008 : Workshops ; 3 – 4 May 2008 : Atlas Days.

For programme details and registration contact Jürgen Espenhorst, Villigster Str. 32, D-58239 Schwerte, Tel +49-(0) 2304-722.84, e-mail pangaea@cityweb.de

Exhibitions

Vauban entre Sambre et Meuse, 1707-2007
Itinerant exhibition :
8-23 September 2007: Dinant
24 September-7 October 2007: Charleville

Sébastien Le Prestre, lord of Vauban, played a key role in the 18th century military campaign of Louis XIV. As military engineer in charge of fortifications, he has transformed a number of strategic cities on the borders of France, particularly on both sides of the current Franco-Belgian limits.

Nine Belgian and French cities have joined efforts to organize a series of events to mark the 300th anniversary of his death. These comprise an exhibition which shows how Vauban planned and transformed these cities into formidable strongholds – for his time, and even until the end of the 19th century; the exhibits include many maps and plans.

More details about the other events on www.vauban2007.eu.



Lille by François Harrewyn, 1709

La ville forte dans tous ses états
Lille
Until 7 October 2007

Another tribute to Vauban, with over 500 exhibits comprising plans-reliefs, engravings, maps, archives..

Hospice Comtesse, 32 rue de la monnaie, F-59000 Lille, Tél. +333 28 36 84 00 - www.cg59.fr

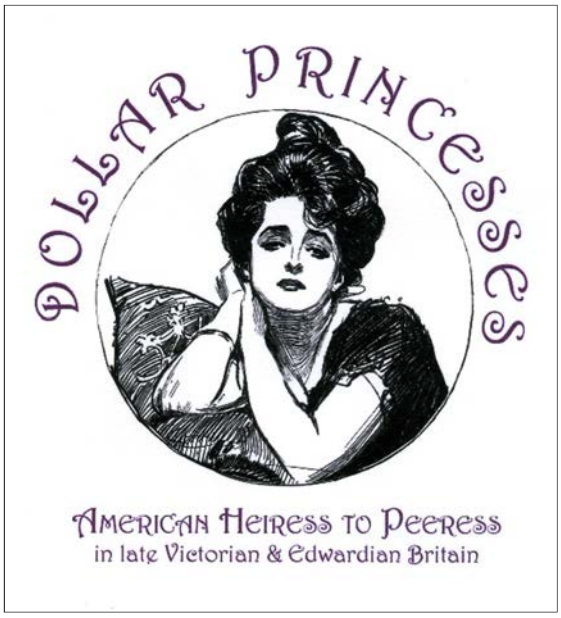
To the Mountains of the Moon: Mapping African Exploration 1541-1880,
Princeton, USA
Until 21 October 2007

The evolution of the map of Africa is presented in an exhibition of historic maps and European explorers' narratives. It will feature some of the most historically significant maps of Africa by major cartographers such as Sebastian Münster, Abraham Ortelius, Willem Janszoon Blaeu and Vincenzo Coronelli. The show will have a particular focus on the journeys of missionary David Livingstone, adventurer Sir Richard Francis Burton and journalist Henry Morton Stanley. Exhibition cases also will cover the expeditions of two dozen of the other most noted European explorers in Africa, including Sir Samuel White Baker, Heinrich Barth, James Bruce, René Caillié, Mungo Park and John Hanning Speke.

See a review of the catalogue on page 15.

First Floor, Harvey S. Firestone Library, Princeton University, One Washington Road, Princeton, NJ. The gallery is open from 9:00 - 17:00 Monday through Friday, and from 12:00 - 17:00 Saturday and Sunday. An illustrated exhibition catalogue featuring a foldout timeline of European exploration in Africa may be purchased for $20. For more information on the library exhibition, contact John Delaney (delaney@princeton.edu) or visit http://www.princeton.edu/~rbsc/exhibitions/main.html.

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



Atlantic Crossings

Bath, UK

Until 28 October 2007

Dollar Princesses (American heiresses who married into the British aristocracy in the late 19th century) crossed the Atlantic as brides - Pocahontas, daughter of chief Powhatan, did the same almost 400 years ago. Her story is told along with the histories of explorers, adventurers and would-be settlers who travelled in the opposite direction: Norsemen, Columbus, Cabot, and the colonists of Roanoke and Jamestown, Virginia, which in 2007 will be celebrating the 400th anniversary of its founding. The exhibition will feature sixteenth-century maps and prints - some rare, some beautiful - from the museum's Dallas Pratt collection.

At Claverton Manor, Bath, UK.
Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday 12:00 – 17:00 Last entry into the museum 16:00. Open on Mondays only for Bank Holidays or Mondays in August. Visit http://www.americanmuseum.org/default.cfm/loadindex.213

Karten und Atlanten Handschriften und Drucke vom 8. bis zum 18. Jahrhundert [Manuscripts and Prints from the 8th to 18th.C.]

St. Gallen, Switzerland

Until 11 November 2007

In honour of the 22nd International Conference on the History of Cartography meeting in Berne, the Stiftsbibliothek St. Gallen, Klosterhof 6 D, will have an exhibition of maps and atlases.

For more information visit http://www.stiftsbibliothek.ch/index.asp

Out of This World: The Golden Age of the Celestial Atlas,

Kansas City, Missouri, USA

Until 30 November 2007

Forty-three star atlases and maps covering the period from 1482 to 1851, as well as 15 recent acquisitions. They capture the sweeping grandeur of the heavens and are among the most beautiful scientific books ever made. They were works of science, first and foremost, but these atlases nevertheless have a universal appeal.

At Linda Hall Library, Kansas City,
visit http://www.lindahall.org/events_exhib/index.shtml

europalia.europa

Brussels, Belgium

Encompassing the Globe - Portugal and the World in the 16th and 17th Centuries

26 October 2007 - 3 February 2008

Maps, navigational instruments, manuscripts, and early printed books take the visitor on a journey in the wake of the great voyages of discovery

Centre for Fine Arts, 10 rue Royale, B-1000 Brussels
Mon > Sun 10:00>18:00, Thu > 21:00, closed: 25.12.07 - 01.01.08
info - reservation - ticket: www.bozar.be T+32(0)2 507 82 00



Formatting Europe - Mapping a Continent

16 November 2007 - 8 February 2008

The exhibition shows maps from the Middle Ages till the 20th century. The maps vary in aspect, aim and scale and have only one common feature: their subject. Grouped chronologically, they show the fascinating evolution of the continent and of its cartography (see article page 26).

Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique, Salle Houyoux URI: http://www.europalia.be/

Building mountains: The art of relief models. Following the traces of Xaver Imfeld,

Berne, Switzerland

Until 10 February 2008

The exhibition recounts the adventures of surveying the Alps and their representation, suitable for adults and children. Using original maps, panoramas, relief models and letters, a part of the exhibition focuses on the life and work of Xaver Imfeld (1853-1909), Switzerland's most renown maker of panoramas, builder of relief models, cartographer and engineer of his time. He produced more than 20 sheets of the Siegfried Atlas, drew more than 40 Alpine panoramas and constructed 13 relief models of the Alps.

At the Swiss Alpine Museum, Helvetiaplatz 4, Berne.
Visit also : http://www.alpinesmuseum.ch/index.php?article_id=83&clang=0

Festival of Maps exhibitions, Chicago, USA
November 2007 - February 2008
The Festival will include many institutions in Chicago which have agreed to exhibit map treasures in their collections. It will include a major exhibition of over 100 of the world's most significant maps, in an exhibit simply called *MAPS* and on display at the renowned Field Museum; these maps are being assembled from public and private collections worldwide.

The Mapping of an Institution,
November 2007, Brookfield Zoo

Under Study: Maps and Photographs of Chicago's Near West Side,
1 November 2007 - 28 February 2008, University of Illinois

Maps for All Seasons: the Encyclopaedia Britannica Collection across Four Centuries, from the Island of California to the 9/11 Flight Paths,
1 November 2007 - 31 January 2008, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

Rare African Maps, 1561-1915,
1 November 2007 - 14 December 2007, Northwestern University Library

Maps of Poland,
2 - 25 November 2007, Polish Museum of America

Maps: Finding Our Place in the World
2 November 2007 - 27 January 2008, Field Museum

Maps from the Rare Book Collection of the Lenhardt Library,
2 November 2007 - 27 January 2008, Chicago Botanic Garden

European Cartographers and the Ottoman World 1500-1750: Maps from the Collection of O.J. Sopranos,
2 November 2007 - 2 March 2008, The Oriental Institute, University of Chicago

Mapping the Self,
3 November 2007 - 3 February 2008, Museum of Contemporary Art

Ptolemy's Geography in the Renaissance
3 November 2007 - 16 February 2008, Newberry Library
The Newberry Library is mounting an exhibition featuring the Newberry's stellar collection of early printed editions of the great 2nd-century geographical manual by Claudius Ptolemy.

Charting a People's Empire: Chicago and the Cartographic Conquest of the American West
3 November 2007 - 16 February 2008, Newberry Library

Geologic Maps: Understanding the Complicated World beneath Our Feet
5 November - 5 December 2007, Daley Centre

Our Universe through Maps
***9* November 2007 - 27 January 2008, Adler Planetarium**

National Geographic MAPS: Tools for Adventure!
16 November 2007 - 6 January 2008, Museum of Science and Industry

The Virtual Tourist in Renaissance Rome: Printing and Collecting the *Speculum Romanae Magnificentae*,
14 September 2007 - 11 February 2008, The University of Chicago Library Special Collections

Chicago in Maps,
23 September 2007 - 6 January 2008, Chicago History Museum's
For detailed information on these exhibitions, please visit http://www.sochistdisc.org/annual_meetings/annual_2007/annual_meeting_2007_festival_of_maps.htm



Mapping the Past: A Selection of Antique Cartography from the Newton Collection
Indefinite, Savannah, USA
No dates, but on-line display!
Highlights include 1597 maps from the earliest atlas of the Americas, 1776 military maps, and other 18th- and 19th-century maps, many of them hand coloured. Cartographers include Wytfliet, Hondius, Monath, Lotter, d'Anville, Faden, Lodge, Cary, and Wyld.
Ist Floor Map Galleries. Newton Center for British-American Studies, 227 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (2 doors north of the Savannah Visitors Center). Open to the public free of charge Mon.-Fri. 10:00-17:00; Sun. 13:00-17:00. For further information or to arrange group tours, Maureen Burke (smburke@sysconn.com). http://www.scad.edu/museum/

AUCTION CALENDAR

Venator & Hanstein
(new BIMCC Sponsor)
Cäcilienstrasse 48, D-50667 Köln
tel. +49 221 257 54 19
fax +49 221 257 55 26
www.venator-hanstein.de
info@venator-hanstein.de
14 - 15 September 2007

Antoine Jacobs - Librairie des Eléphants
(BIMCC Member)
Place van Meenen 19
B-1060 Brussels
tel. +32 (0)2 539 06 01
fax +32 (0)2 534 44 47
15 September, 13 October, 10 November, 8 December 2007

Librairie Alain Ferraton
(BIMCC Sponsor)
Chaussée de Charleroi 162
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BIMCC

BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL MAP COLLECTORS' CIRCLE

http://www.bimcc.org

Aims and functions of the BIMCC

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

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

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

- A MAP EVENING in March or April, bringing together all those interested in maps and atlases for an informal chat about an item from their collection – an ideal opportunity to get to know the Circle.
- An EXCURSION to a Map Collection, between September and November.
- A STUDY SESSION or an INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on a specific major topic every year in December.

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