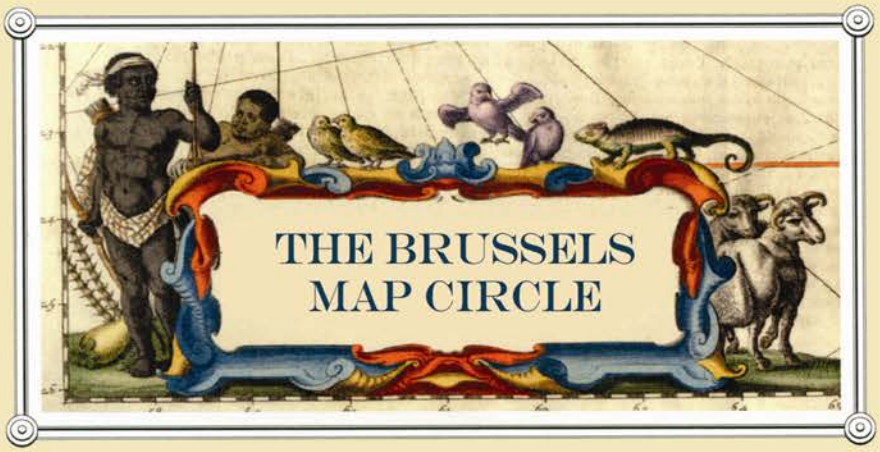

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MAPS IN HISTORY
POTOSI

Also in this issue:

- Mapping of the Boer wars
- Early maps of *La Beauce,* 'granary of France'
- Mitad del Mundo
- … and the usual departments

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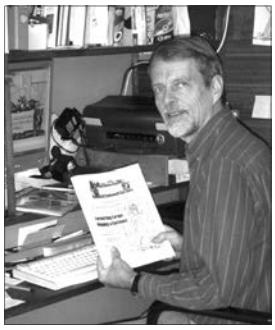
Dear Map Friends,

The Mercator Year is, finally, over: we concluded it beautifully with our very successful yearly Conference at the Royal Library of Belgium (see the report, pages 26-27). Another even more significant event marked the end of the cartographic year: the superb exhibition of portolans organised at the National Library in Paris, together with the associated colloquium which some of our members attended (see the report, pp. 4-6)

The new year is now beginning for 'Maps in History' with a reinforced commitment to live up to its title: we have four articles devoted to history and cartography. In particular, we have the privilege of a contribution by a world renowned authority: Elri Liebenberg gives us a summary of her presentation at the University of Ghent, last April, on maps from a critical period in the history of her country, the Boer Wars (pp. 12-16). Another privilege, is to have an article of substance by Wulf Bodenstein, for the first time in the very Newsletter he created 15 years ago (and to which he has contributed dozens of book reviews and other items); now, Wulf shares with us a major study he has devoted to his adopted home country, *la Beauce* (pp. 18-24). Finally, I have made two more modest contributions inspired by a recent trip to South America; one is about Potosi, the highest city in the world (now in Bolivia), which once was also the wealthiest one (pp. 8-9); the other is on the 18th century geodesic mission to the Equator and on the tracks it left in what is now Ecuador (pp. 10-11).

The next event on the activity programme of the Brussels Map Circle is the Annual General Meeting combined with the Map Evening (see page 25). Don't forget to register in due course on our web site (www.bimcc.org).



Wishing you a very happy cartographic year,

Jean-Louis Renteux
Vice-President & Editor
editor@bimcc.org

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Cover: The 'Cero Potochi' peak dominates the South-American continent on a 1618 portolan by Domingo Sanchez, one of the many treasures of the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) presented in the current exhibition of maritime cartography (see next article)

L'âge d'or des cartes marines [The Golden Age of Marine Charts] (Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, until 27 January 2013)

The French National Library (BnF) is holding this very important and fascinating exhibition — with the subtitle 'When Europeans discovered the rest of the world' — at its François - Mitterrand site in Paris. It has been conceived and organised jointly by Hélène Richard, Catherine Hofmann and Emmanuelle Vagnon, under the supervision of Jean-Yves Sarazin Director of the Maps & Plans department at the BnF.

The BnF possesses the largest collection of portolans in the world, with about five hundred charts. Of these, a very interesting selection is shown at the exhibition, in total about two hundred items with a wide variety of: charts, globes, astronomical instruments, art and ethnographic objects, stuffed animals, drawings, prints, paintings and manuscripts. Among these were a number of absolute rarities, which are known by name or from reproductions in books, and could at last be seen from close up; for example: the famous 'Carta Pisana', supposedly the oldest known portolan chart, the so-called Columbus map, an ancient facsimile of the Behaim globe, the 'green globe'… and Mercator's 1569 world map, right at the end.

In addition to the items from the BnF library, many items on show were given on special loan by other French and European museums e.g. the Medici Atlas from the Laurenziana, and a stunning Fra Mauro facsimile from the British Library.

All these treasures are extremely well presented thanks to a clever exhibition design, with good wall-poster explanations, clear and correct notices, and a very efficient lighting system

The exhibition comprises four main rooms each focused on a particular theme, gently leading the general public along a didactic thread through history - a marvellous 'string of pearls'.

The introductory room explains 'what is a portolan chart?'

These portolan charts, the name of which is derived from the Italian term 'portolano' or 'nautical instructions', show the succession of harbours along the coasts of the different countries. Most of these are manuscript charts. Thanks to a graphic system of rhumb lines, which corresponds to bearings as measured relative to the north, the navigators could find their way by writing down on the chart the distance they covered.

Many of the portolans which were actually used at sea for navigation have been lost, but the BnF has many which never left the ship owners' offices and are very lavishly decorated and enriched with gold on the parchment sheet.

The theme of the second room is: 'Ocean ways and sharing the world'. It reflects the main issues facing the navigators in their quests around the world, such as the sailing conditions and the use of their charts to discover Africa, Asia, the Americas and the Pacific, not forgetting the rivalry of the major maritime powers. The portolan charts contain all the technical innovations and scientific objects of that time and represent the quest to discover faraway and unknown lands. These maps often are very spectacular with impressive polychrome art work.

The third room focuses on the Indian Ocean. It demonstrates the important role of the exchanges between different civilisations and the transmission of geographical knowledge from the Mediterranean Sea leading to the development of better cartographical representation of the Indian Ocean — which is the subject of the MeDIan research programme supported by the BnF.

The fourth room is devoted to the 'iconography of the new worlds' showing how hitherto unknown landscapes, people, customs, artifacts, fauna and flora were represented .

It is in this room that the most spectacular treasures of the BnF are shown: the 'Catalan Atlas' (ca 1375), the 'Nautical Planisphere' by Nicolo de Caveiro (ca 1505), the 'Atlas Miller' by Lopo Homem (ca 1519), le Testu's 'Cosmographie Universelle' (1556) and the Map of the Pacific by Hessel Gerritsz (1622).

This excellent exhibition is a great success and allows many people to get familiar with this very important age for the development of cartography in world history and also to link the major feats in the discovery of new lands and people to the tremendous leap ahead in mapmaking activity. As the French say, the exhibition certainly 'vaut le voyage' [merits the trip] to Paris. Those of you who have not yet visited it, may still do so until 27 January.

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L'âge d'or des cartes marines [The Golden Age of Marine Charts] BnF, Paris, 3-4 December 2012

Around 100 academics and portolan enthusiasts, among them several members of the Brussels Map Circle (and/or of IMCoS), gathered in Paris at the beginning of December for a two-day conference held to accompany the ongoing exhibition at the BnF. Seventeen distinguished academics, most of whom had contributed to the companion book of the exhibition, made presentations on various aspects of the Golden Age of Marine Charts. The speakers came from nine different countries and gave their papers in French or English, with simultaneous translation into the other language. They will be published by the BnF in June 2013.

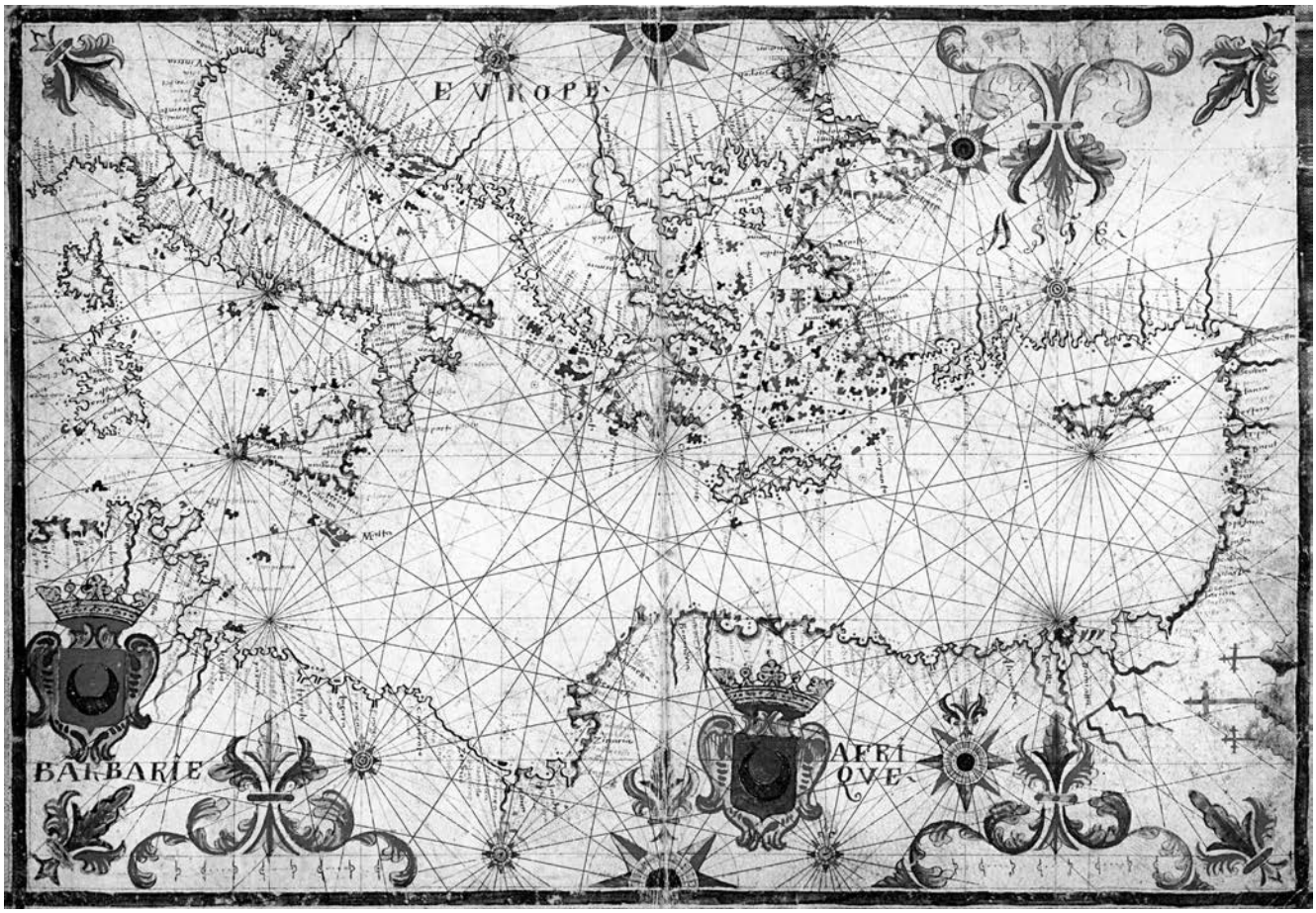
The first day was entitled '**From techniques to culture: nautical charts of the 13th to 18th centuries**'. The morning – '*Nautical charts and European navigation'* — began with a paper by Ramon Pujades i Bataller: 'Is the Pisana chart really a primitive portolan chart made in the 13th century?' The exhibition presents it as one of the most ancient extant portolans, but the speaker demonstrated, through sophisticated arguments based mainly on the toponymic aspect of the charts, that the Carta Pisana, as well as Cortona and Lucca charts, date from the 14th century.

Philipp Billion, who followed, brought us down to earth with a description of how charts were made in workshops, very often following strict guidelines on symbols/icons, to ensure a degree of consistency and efficiency.

Professor Corradino Astengo ended the first session with a well-illustrated talk on the Maggiolo family of cartographers who held the monopoly in Genoa for the whole of the 16th century and half the 17th century, at a time when Genoa was a major maritime power.

'Using charts at sea' gave us Tony Campbell, speaking on 'Why the artificial shapes for the smaller islands, on the portolan charts 1300 - 1600, help to clarify their navigational use', and Joaquim Alves Gaspar talking about 'From the portolan chart to the latitude chart - the silent revolution of the 16th century' and giving insight on the practical navigation methods of the time.

Post lunch, the topic moved to '*Marine charts at the crossroads of geographical knowledge'* with two papers – the first on 'the universal cosmology of Guillaume Le Testu' (from Frank Lestringant). Le Testu, apart from being one of the foremost cartographers of his time, was also a successful privateer during the



Eastern Mediterranean, by François Olive's workshop ca 1660
Huge reproductions of this portolan adorn the walls, ceiling and floor of the exhibition entrance

early years of the French Wars of Religion who, together with Sir Francis Drake, attacked a Spanish mule train escorting gold and silver to the Atlantic coast of Panama.

Marica Milanesi's paper followed, questioning the trustworthiness of 16th century portolans and pointing out some strange features on certain portolans.

To conclude the day, *'The circulation of portolans between West and East'* gave the audience a breath of fresh air with papers on 'Al-Umari's description of the Arab portolan of the Mediterranean' (14th century), by Jean-Charles Ducène, 'The travels of the Hazine chart now at the Topkapi Palace' (Déjanirah Couto), and 'The sources of Piri Reis' world map' (Svat Soucek).

Members of the BIMCC with organisers of the colloquium

Day 2 had a different flavour. Entitled **'Cartography and Navigation in the Indian Ocean'**, the first session covered *'Greek geography and the Indian Ocean',* Papers by Francesco Prontera – 'Earth as seen from the sea, description and representation', Anca Dan's 'Ptolemy and the Indian Ocean', and Pierre Schneider's paper on 'Bab-el-Mandeb', also known as the Mandab strait in English (the strait connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden), all showed the importance of antique sources in the development of the region's cartography.

At the first afternoon session –'*Voyages of Discovery, putting the charts to the test',* Christine Gadrat-Ouerfelli, talked about 'The representation of the Indian Ocean at the end of the Middle Ages - Marco Polo and Ptolemy' and how these were two major sources for geographers who were interested in the region.

She was followed by Angelo Cattaneo, who spoke on 'Agnese and Vaz Dourado, re-creating and drawing the imago mundi through marine cartography in Venice, Goa and Lisbon'; he described how a comparison between the atlases by Agnese (Venice) and Vaz Dourado (Goa and Lisbon) makes it possible to see Goa as a new 'ville monde, a place of convergence, accumulation, and cultural and scientific reformulation on a world scale.'

The final session of the conference '*Portuguese and Dutch on the Indian Ocean routes'* started with 'A reassessment of Manuel Godinho de Erédia's cartographic production', by Rui Loureiro. Of mixed European/Asian parentage, but schooled at the Jesuit colleges of Malacca and Goa, Erédia's background gave him a unique view of the world, and he also produced many drawings of fortresses, town plans, and maps and charts of Asian regions.

Our member (and IMCoS chair) Hans Kok brought the conference to a close with 'Organising hydrography and cartography for the VOC – the first one hundred years'. He talked entertainingly about the charts available during the first hundred years of the VOC (the Dutch East India Company), how different types of charts were used in different circumstances, and how the VOC set up a counterpart chartmaking organisation in Batavia – now Djakarta, Indonesia. Thousands of charts were required to sustain the VOC shipping operations, and some of them are owned by the BnF and can be seen in the exhibition.

The two days were most enjoyable, as well as being intellectually challenging, and gave the audience an excellent insight into the impressive amount of research that is currently going on into just one area of cartography.

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The exhibition is accompanied by the publication of a series of related books (all in Paris, 2012):

- 'L'âge d'or des Cartes marines', by Catherine Hofmann, Hélène Richard and Emmanuelle Vagnon, co-published by BnF and Seuil (serving as companion to the exhibition, comprising 15 original, specialised articles)
- 'Nouveaux mondes'/'New worlds', by Jean-Yves Sarazin, co-published by BnF and 'Bibliothèque de l'image' both in a French and an English version (a book addressing the general public and focussing on the five most spectacular masterpieces of the exhibition
- Cartes et images des Nouveaux mondes [Maps and pictures of the New Worlds], by Jean-Yves Sarazin, co-published by BnF and 'Gallimard-Découvertes' (a pocket size version including folded reproduction of the main maps)
- Artistes de la carte, de la Renaissance au XXIe siècle' [Artists of the map, from Renaissance to the 21st c.], directed by Catherine Hofmann, published by 'Autrement' (a book about mapmakers and map making)
- 'La *Cosmographie Universelle'*de Guillaume Le Testu (1585)', a facsimile presented by Frank Lestringuant and co-published by the French 'Ministère de la Défense' (which holds the original), 'les éditions Arthaud' and 'Carnets des Tropiques' .

Gérard Mercator. La bibliothèque mathématique d'un génie. [The mathematical library of a genius]

by Jan De Graeve

Brussels, 2012, 202 p., ill. Le Livre et l'estampe, Revue semestrielle de la Société royale des bibliophiles et iconophiles de Belgique, LVIII, n° 177. To order, contact : Société royale des bibliophiles et iconophiles de Belgique, c/o KBR 4 bd de l'Empereur, B-1000 Brussels

In Newsletter No 44, our member Jan De Graeve has presented the scientific library of Mercator. The article amounts to an excellent summary of his book *The mathematical library of a genius* and leaves the unfortunate reviewer with little to write about! Except marvelling at the perseverance and the passion with which, since 1994, the author has tracked the books, which were so incompletely described in the auction catalogue of 1604.

After an introduction in French and English, the 160 items are listed, also bilingually with references. The lay-out is neat, the type very clear. Regrettable is the frequent omission of hyphens for in-f°, in-4°, a drawback in THE journal meant for bibliophiles. The title of the books is in bold and italic, the name of the authors in bold. Some minor differences occur in the first names, as for Piccolomini and Ortelius, who suddenly becomes Jacob (in number 39). The spelling can change, as for 'Waltzeemüller' for 'Waldseemüller', 'Müller von Königsberg' against 'Muller' and the different forms of Henric Petri. Minor mistakes but regrettable in a bibliography. And here one omission must be pinpointed: while the references are given, quite rationally, in short for each item, the whole title is given under the name of the author in the bibliography at the end, but not for Bockstaele's reference work on Adrianus Romanus (although both were noted mathematicians!).

Just before the bibliography, lists of the author or translator of the indexed books of Mercator's library, of publishers or printers per city, a chronological list of books and one of illustrators add to the usefulness of this work that required a tremendous research, especially for dating editions before Mercator's death, which may have been part of his library. An example is given for Gemma Frisius' Arithmetica, but a question arises here: in the auction catalogue, it would seem that the editor was one Bonte in Antwerp. Granted, two editions by him are known to Jan De Graeve, but it is not quite clear why he is giving other editions by various printers in other cities. Or was it done to stress the many difficulties arising during the research? Unnecessary, because the perusal of the Catalogue makes it obvious that presenting such a book is no mean feat and required the utmost care, patience, knowledge, perspicacity and a real 'nose' to identify and locate in libraries and private collections books obscurely or inadequately listed in this auction catalogue;

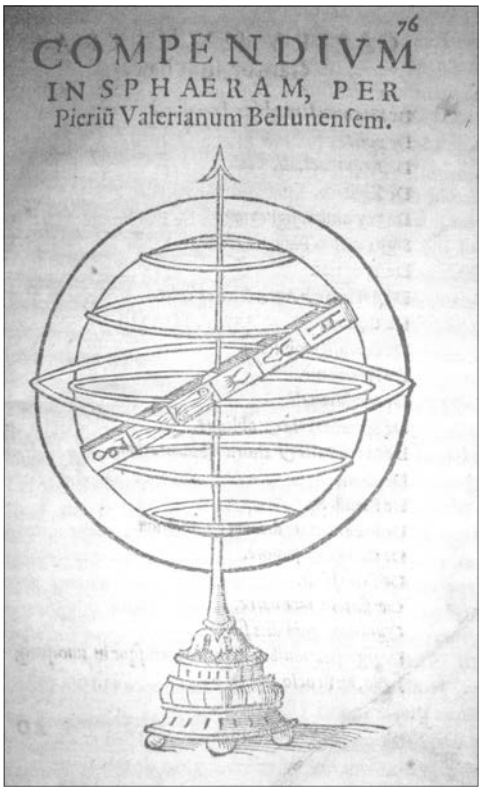

Illustration from *Sphaera Sacrobosci Pierij Valeriani*, Paris, 1555

Jan De Graeve hopes that his book will prompt young researchers to look for the items which were really part of Mercator's library. Two of them have already been located. If any goad can be applied to reach this aim it is certainly this publication which covers about one fifth of this remarkable library. The challenge is open.

Lisette Danckaert

This issue of 'Maps in History' was edited by Jean-Louis Renteux with the support of the Editorial Committee comprising Wulf Bodenstein, Nicola Boothby, Lisette Danckaert, Peter Galezowski, Pierre Parmentier and Jacqueline Renteux.

Potosi

by Jean-Louis Renteux
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In Spanish, 'Potosi' is equivalent to 'Eldorado'. But Potosi is not a myth. It was a real, amazing source of wealth! The city of Potosi was created in the early 1540s in Upper Peru (now Bolivia) at an altitude of some 4070 metres, making it the highest city in the world[1]. It was made an 'imperial city' by Charles V in 1555 – the only one in the Americas.

It all started, as the story goes, when a native Quechua shepherd discovered (or re-discovered) silver ore on the ground, simply by lighting a camp fire, and when he told the story to a Spanish conquistador, the Spaniards rapidly took possession, in the name of the King of Spain, of the mountain later called *Cerro Rico* [Rich Peak] which proved to contain the largest silver mine in the world. The silver rush attracted many fortune-seekers, adventurers, traders, etc. to the city of Potosi which was established at the foot of the mountain. In 1611 there were 3 000 Spaniards, 40 000 non-Spanish Europeans (French, German, Italian, Portuguese, English, among others) and 35 000 Creoles (American-born, many of mixed-race parentage) in Potosi[2]. They put to work in the mines some 76 000 Amerindians (themselves representing numerous different ethnic and cultural backgrounds) with a system of forced labour (called *mita),* and 6 000 Africans (nearly all held as slaves by white Potosinos) who were brought in when too many natives succumbed to the harsh working conditions and to mercury poisoning.

The huge quantities of silver extracted from the Cerro Rico (estimated at 45 000 tonnes by Alexander von Humboldt) were transformed into coins and ingots

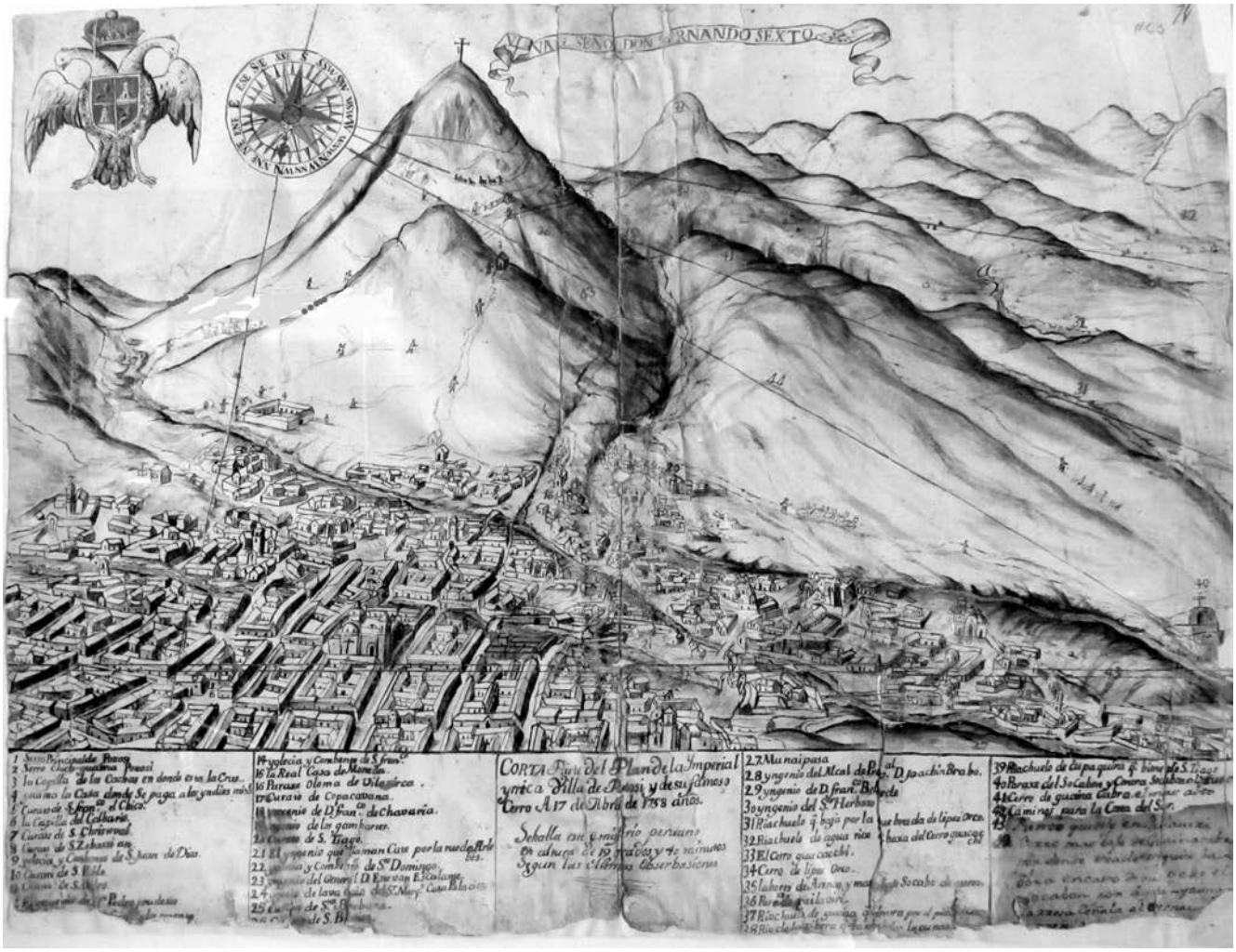

Fig. 1 -- Perspective view of Potosi and the *Cerro Rico, manuscript dated 1758 (Casa de la Moneda* in Potosi).

[1] Lhasa in Tibet is 'only' at 3600 m; La Paz, the capital of Bolivia, spreads from 3000 to 4000 m, but its historical centre is only at 3600 m.
[2] Estimates quoted by John Demos, professor of history at Yale University (www.common-place.org).

by the *Casa de la Moneda* (mint) established in Potosi – a huge industrial complex by 16th century standards – and were shipped to Spain, via Panama and Havana. It is said that there would have been enough silver to build a bridge from Potosi to Spain across the Atlantic, but that another bridge could have been built with the bones of all the Amerindians and African slaves who lost their lives in the mine pits… Historians have shown that the flow of silver from Potosi was essential for the constitution of European capitalism and its subsequent economic predominance.[3]

By 1611, Potosi boasted a population of 160 000, more than any city in the New World, more than most cities in Europe, more than Madrid and even more than Seville - the administrative and mercantile hub of the Spanish empire.

However the most famous of the early town atlases, *Civitates orbis terrarum* published by Braun and Hogenberg between 1572 and 1617, did not contain a view of Potosi; the only cities of the New World depicted were Mexico and Cuzco, the political capitals of New Spain and of the Viceroyalty of Peru.

A quick search on Internet has not allowed me to identify a view of Potosi of that period, only views dating from the 18th century, when silver production had already significantly declined and the population dropped dramatically. One of them is a painting of 1758 by Gaspar Miguel Berrio exhibited in the Charcas Museum in Sucre; it shows the Cerro Rico in the background and the mining town, its 27 churches and artificial lakes feeding mills.

Fig. 2 -- Painting of the Virgin Mary under the protection of the Holy Trinity and worshipped by the Pope and the King of Spain Charles V; the cape of Mary represents the Cerro Rico mountain behind Potosi, in honour of the *Pacha Mama* [Mother Earth] - *(Casa de la Moneda* in Potosi).

A manuscript exhibited in the museum installed in the *Casa de la Moneda* in Potosi presents a similar perspective view, also dated 1758 (see Fig. 1). A legend identifies the various locations on the view: the Cerro Rico and the neighbouring peaks, various mills, the main buildings (in particular the *Casa de la Moneda)* and many churches.

In the *pinacoteca* of the same museum, a painting[4] offers a curious representation of this site. At first sight, it is a picture of the Virgin Mary under the protection of the Holy Trinity and worshipped by the Pope and the King of Spain Charles V (see Fig. 2). But the cape of Mary has the triangular shape of a mountain: this common design was frequently used by native artists to honour, at the same time, the Mother of God – as instructed by the church – and the *Pacha Mama* [Mother Earth], the traditional deity whose cult has remained very much alive to this day, in the rural Andes in general, and in Potosi in particular. In this painting, the mountain depicted on the cape is the Cerro Rico and many lively details are shown: trees, huts, wild animals, paths, people praying, and also two special scenes – at the bottom a native offers silver to the Inca, and on top a shepherd is lighting the fire which led to the discovery of the silver mine…

Today the silver is gone, mostly. But the mine is still active with thousands of miners extracting tin, and a mix of lead, antimony, copper and silver in smaller quantities; they work in very primitive conditions and with a very low profitability. Potosi itself is a large industrial city of some 150 000 inhabitants. Its very attractive colonial inner city, listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage site, is a reminder of the glorious period when it brought prosperity to Europe.

Detail of a 1614 map by Kaerius

[3] Fernand Braudel, 'Civilisation matérielle, économie et capitalisme. XVe – XVIIIe siècle', 1979.

[4] That very painting was exhibited in 1992 in Antwerp, in the framework of the exhibition: 'America Bride of the Sun. 500 Years, Latin America and the Low Countries'.

La mitad del mundo [The middle of the world]

by Jean-Louis Renteux
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Fig. 1 – Monument to the French geodesic mission in front of the Quito observatory

Next to the astronomic observatory in the Alameda Park in central Quito (Ecuador), a small monument recalls the geodesic expedition sent by the French Academy of Sciences to measure an arc of meridian on the equator in 1735. The busts surrounding the monument represent the main members of the expedition: the astronomer Louis Godin, nominally in charge, the chemist and geographer Charles Marie La Condamine, the leading scientist and naturalist Joseph de Jussieu, the physicist Pierre Bouquet and two officers sent by the King of Spain to accompany the French expedition through his territories, Jorge Juan y Santacilia and Antonio de Ulloa.

Quito, which was then in the viceroyalty of Peru, was chosen for its proximity to the equator line, so that the first three degrees of the meridian could be measured. Establishing a triangulation over more than 300 km through the Andes Mountains, with volcano summits exceeding 5000 m, proved to be a strenuous exercise; communications were bad, the weather difficult and the population un-cooperative. Altogether it took eight years to complete the task. The complex terrain also complicated the triangulation calculations: corrections had to be made to the measurements made in the field at various altitudes, in order to obtain values corresponding to the sea level.

The French geodesic mission had a real impact at the time. In combination with a similar expedition which took place in Lapland, and in spite of the inaccuracy of the relative measurements made (which required later measurement campaigns to improve the results) it proved that Newton's theory about the shape of the earth was right: it is a flattened rather than an elongated spheroïd[1]. The mission also contributed indirectly, through a better knowledge of the size of the earth, to the foundation of the metric system at the end of the 18th century. It also produced cartographic results of more local interest, such as a plan of Quito (by Jean Louis de Morainville, 1741) and

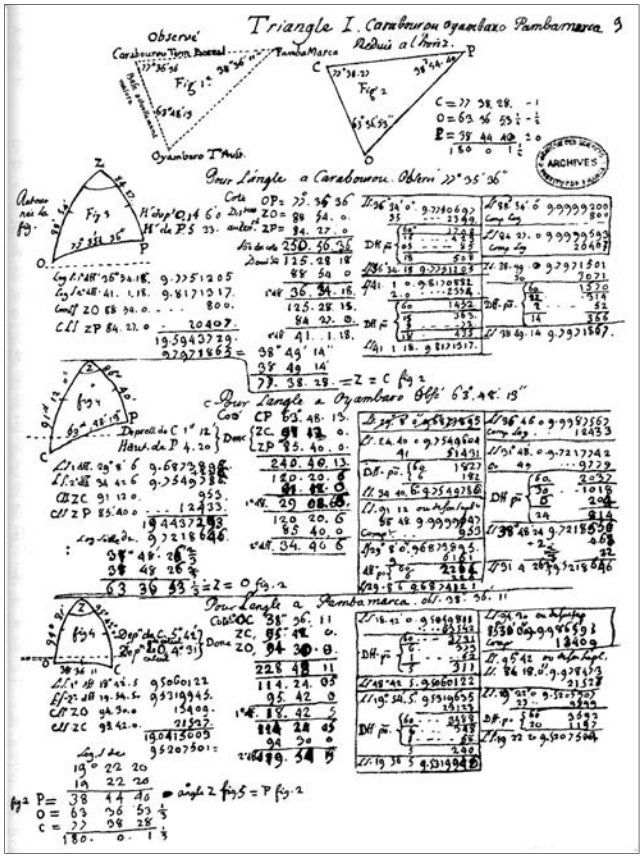

Fig.3 – Extract of La Condamine's notes showing the calculations concerning the Carabourou-Oyambaro-Pambamarca triangle; at top left are the actual measurements (including the measured base Carabourou-Oyambaro), at top right the corrected values and, below, some of the calculations.

[1] Voltaire qualified this accomplishment, and years of effort, with two verses:

Vous avez confirmé en ces lieux pleins d'ennui
Ce que Newton connut sans sortir de chez lui !
[You confirmed in those boring places,
what Newton knew without leaving home !]

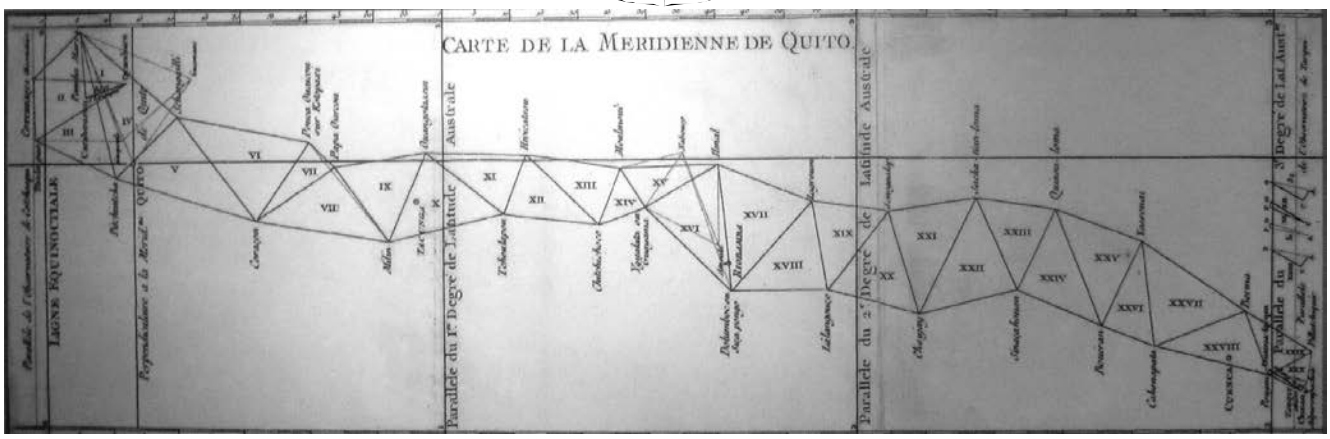

Fig. 2 – Map of the Quito meridian and supporting triangulation

a map of the province of Quito (d'Anville after La Condamine, 1751).

Besides, the Spanish members of the expedition took the opportunity to highlight a number of social and economic aspects of what was to become Ecuador and thus triggered some reforms.

Later on, when Latin America was freed from Spanish rule, the region of Quito was first part of a Greater Colombia, until it separated in 1830. The new independent State could have been called the Republic of Quito, but people in Guayaquil objected. It was named Ecuador, in light of the international attention it had received because of the French geodesic mission on the Equator.

But where is the Equator actually located? The 'Mitad del Mundo' monument was erected in the 1980s in the middle of a tourist attraction city, on the spot where La Condamine started his meridian measurement, some 20 km north of Quito. Next to it, a small museum, sponsored by France, tells the story of La Condamine's mission (in three languages) and provides good illustrations. The monument consists of 30m high rectangular stone block, topped by a terrestrial globe, with a horizontal axis, whose equator line is aligned with a line painted on the ground (where tourists have their photographs taken). The coordinates inscribed at the base of the block show a latitude of 0° 0' 0"; but this does not agree with GPS readings which show that the monument is actually 7" (or 240 m) south of the equator! Another private museum, the Intiñan Solar Museum, is billed as located on the actual equator; there tourists are shown pseudo-scientific experiments allegedly proving the presence of the equator. But GPS readings show that it is still a few seconds too far south. Maybe the next monument will actually be on the Equator: a model of a 'mega-proyecto' is exhibited in the Mitad del Mundo Museum, consisting of a 800 m tower topped with a needle reaching 1500 m!

Strangely enough, on the nearby Catequilla hill which is precisely on the equinox line (confirmed by GPS), a pre-Inca archeological site has been found, comprising a semicircular wall made of rocks and material from the site (approximate diameter of 70 m with a height of 1.8 m). This site which benefits from a remarkable viewpoint over both the Western and Eastern Cordilleras, can be considered as a kind of astronomical observatory… It has been established that the Incas, and their predecessors, observed solstices and equinoxes by means of constructions featuring column alignments; they also knew that, on the equator and on the equinox day, these columns cast no shadow. 'The Sun could not find any more pleasant seat, since there he could sit upright instead of leaning sideward anywhere else'[2]. Maybe this ancient culture did better than La Condamine – without the use of GPS – in its precise location of the equator…

Fig. 4 – The author and his wife posing as tourists in front of the 'Mitad del Mundo' monument

[2] Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, 'Commentarios reales de los Incas', Lisbon, 1609

Maps of the Anglo-Boer war, 1899-1902

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Introduction

The Cape of Good Hope was a Dutch possession from 1652 until 1805 when it became a British colony. By the beginning of the 19th century, the dry interior of the Cape Colony was thinly populated with Dutch-speaking frontier livestock farmers, many of whom wanted to be free from British rule. In 1835 these frontiersmen, known as Farmers or 'Boers', left the Cape Colony in an organised northwards migratory movement, known as the 'Great Trek'. Settling in the interior of the country, they formed the Republics of the Transvaal and Orange Free State which gained their constitutional independence from Britain in 1852 and 1854 respectively.

The political independence of the Boer Republics was short lived. Britain's imperialistic drive, fired by the discovery of diamonds at Kimberley (1869-70), as well as the Republics' continuous quarrels with Black tribes on their borders, soon led to clashes with the British Crown. When the world's richest goldfields were discovered on the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg) in 1886, Britain used the presence of thousands of cosmopolitan town-dwelling fortune-hunters who had descended on the Transvaal, to try and overthrow the local government. On 12 October 1899 the two Boer Republics declared war against the British Empire, and thus began the Anglo-Boer War which would have a lasting impact on the country and last for almost three years.

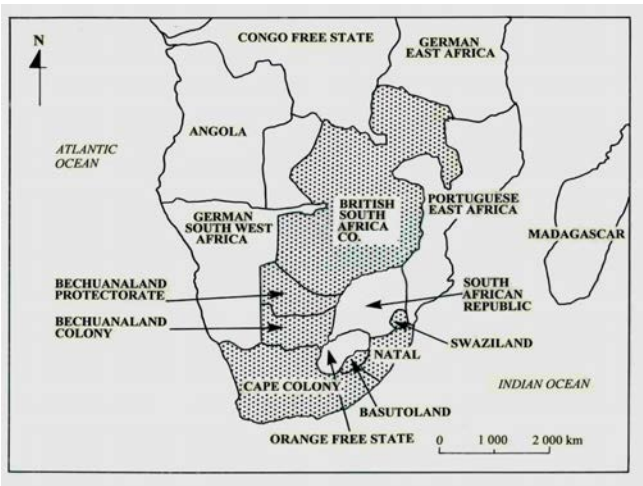

Fig. 1 British Africa at the advent of the Boer War, 1899

Dearth of accurate maps

With the advent of hostilities, the South African Republic (Transvaal) and the Orange Free State were without large-scale maps. Although the Republics each had a Surveyor-General, these officers dealt solely with cadastral matters. The general feeling in the two Republics was that the Boers, who were intimately acquainted with the terrain, had little use for maps for strategic purposes. The British forces, on the other hand, were badly in need of maps as they found themselves in the unfortunate situation that they had to wage campaigns in a relatively unknown and virtually unmapped area five times the size of the United Kingdom and almost twice the size of France.

By the end of the 19th century, Britain regarded maps as a necessity in war, and its national mapping organisation, the Ordnance Survey, was also in charge of the Intelligence Division of the War Office. This Division, which was headed by a Director of Military Intelligence (DMI), was responsible for the 'collation, preparation, and distribution of information concerning the resources and topography of all parts of the Empire except the United Kingdom and India[2]. Military surveyors who served in the British army belonged to the corps of Royal Engineers and all maps of overseas areas were published under the serial number *IDWO,* designating the Intelligence Division, War Office. A unique *IDWO* number was allocated to each map in the order in which it was issued[3].

The opening months of the Boer War were characterised by a series of crushing defeats of the British Army[4] which plunged London into gloom and subjected the Intelligence Division of the War Office to severe criticism. That this criticism was not unfounded, was revealed in 1902 when the DMI, Sir John Ardagh, appeared before the Royal Commission and declared that although the Intelligence Division had performed its functions well, it was hopelessly understaffed and insufficiently funded[5] and that this resulted in Britain having little topographical intelligence on, and almost no maps of, South Africa at its disposal. Although without large-scale maps, the Boers on the other hand were

[1] Emeritus Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of South Africa, PRETORIA, 0003

[2] Fergusson, Thomas G. *British Military Intelligence: 1870-1914, the development of a modern intelligence organization. London: Arms and Armour Press, 1984, p. 110.*

[3] Jewitt, A. Crispin. 1992. *Maps for Empire. The first 2 000 War Office maps 1881-1905.* London: British Library, 1992, p. xi. After February 1904 all new maps bore the serial number TSGS (Topographical Section, General Staff). In April 1907 the Topographical Section was renamed Geographical Section, after which all maps of foreign areas were designated GSGS (Geographical Section, General Staff). Maps printed and issued in South Africa by the Field Intelligence Department during the War, were designated FID.

[4] During December 1899 Britain suffered crushing defeats at Stormberg (10 December), Magersfontein (10-11 December), and Colenso (15 December).

[5] Fergusson, *op. cit.*, pp. 110-112.

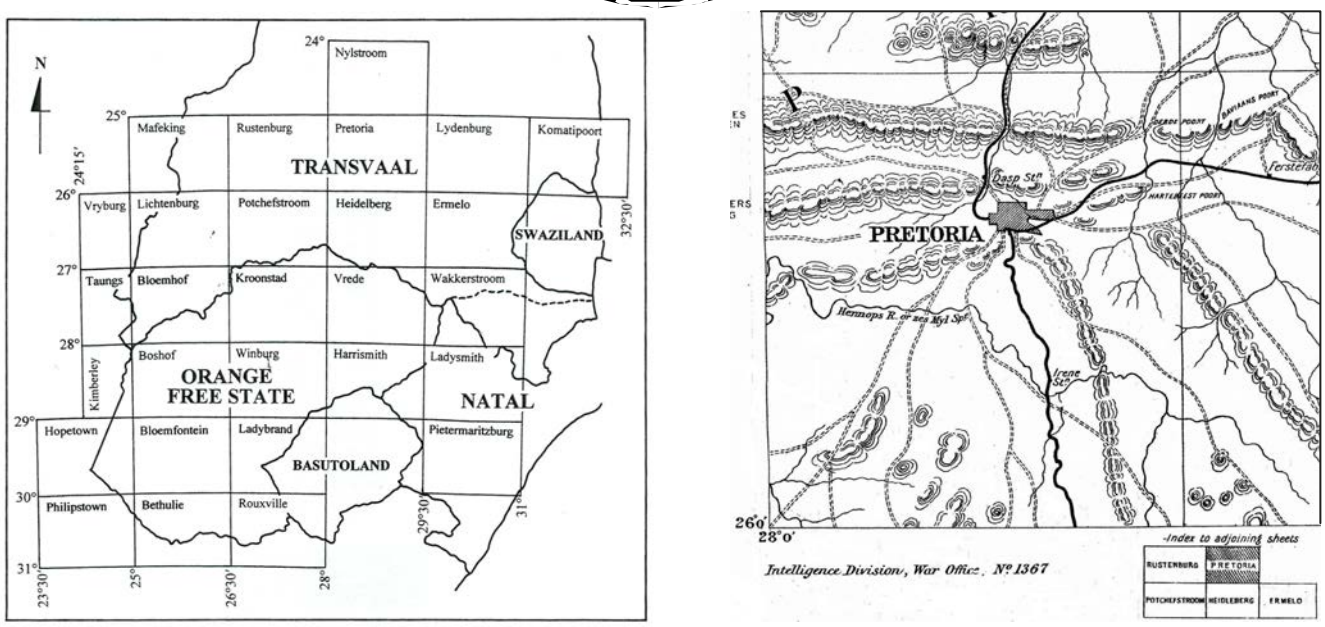

Fig. 2 Index map and an extract from *I.D.W.O. 1367, the only map series available to the British forces* when the War commenced.

extremely active in collecting military intelligence[6] and were well informed regarding the capabilities of the British forces.

Mapping prior to the war

Before the war, the best Britain could do was to collect as much topographical information on the Transvaal and Orange Free State as possible and make it available in map form. Two map series were produced, namely *IDWO 1223 Military sketch of the Biggarsberg and of Communications in Natal* (1:63 360 or 1 inch per mile), and *IDWO 1367, Transvaal and the Orange Free State, 1899-1900* (scale 1:250 000 or 1 inch per 3.94 miles).

Northern Natal was a strategically important area and in 1896 Major SCN Grant completed a sketchy survey of this area. The resulting map series which was printed by the Ordnance Survey was of little use for military purposes as the hills and valleys were sketched in by means of form lines instead of contour lines. Another deficiency was that areas for which there was little or no information available, were simply left blank.

IDWO 1367, also printed by the Ordnance Survey, was issued in 1899-1900 and were the only maps available of the war area when the British Army started its advance on Pretoria from Cape Town in January 1900. The map sheets were compiled from existing maps, as well as from information contained in reports, reconnaissance sketches by officers who had been sent to South Africa earlier on, plans supplied by local surveyors, and the oral accounts of travelers and transport riders. The maps were not accurate and it is questionable whether they were ever used for strategic purposes. Recalling the high quality paper they were printed on, Charles Close, who later became Director-General of the Ordnance Survey, remarked: 'I heard of one officer who wrapped them round himself on a cold night; that was the only use to which they were ever put[7]..

Mapping during the war

At the outbreak of the War Britain immediately took steps to remedy the shortage of suitable campaigning maps by sending survey and mapping sections to South Africa. In July 1899, half a mapping section, consisting of Captain HM Jackson, R.E., and two non-commissioned officers, were sent to Natal. In October 1899, the other half was dispatched to Cape Town, consisting of Major SCN Grant, R.E., one non-commissioned officer, and one sapper. These detachments were primarily intended for the rapid reproduction of maps and sketches in the field, but they were also provided with the means of making rough surveys and reconnaissances[8].

Two survey sections were dispatched to South Africa during the war, and provision was made for three mapping sections. No 1 Survey Section was initially under the command of Captain Charles Close, R.E. who later on became Director-General of the Ordnance Survey. When Close contracted enteric fever, Captain HM Jackson, R.E. took over the command and accompanied Lord Roberts' main force to Pretoria. Jackson was later promoted to Major and did valuable work in the Transvaal as Head of Topography of the FID (Field Intelligence Department). After the cessation of hostilities in 1902, he became Surveyor-General of the Transvaal

[6] *Ibid*., p. 112. Prior to the War, the budget of the Transvaal Intelligence Department was £90 000 per year compared to the extremely small annual budget of £11 000 of the British Intelligence Division.

[7] *Close, C.F.* A fifty years retrospect. *Empire Survey Review*, January 1933, p. 5.

[8] Watson, Colonel Sir Charles M. *History of the Corps of Royal Engineers*, III. Chatham: Institution of Royal Engineers, reprinted 1954, pp. 191-192.

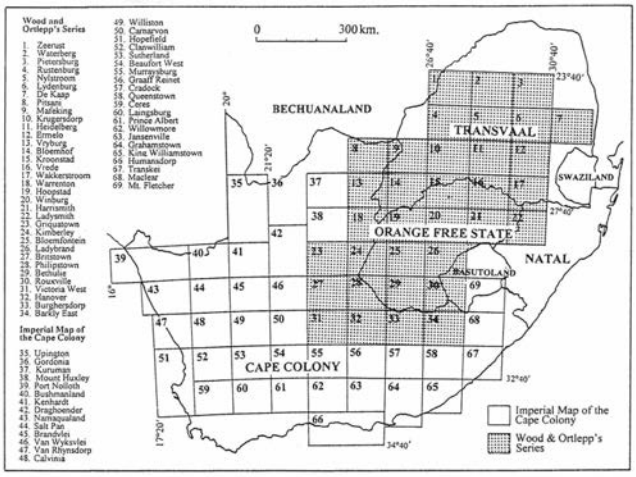

Fig. 3 Index map of the *Imperial Map Series* (1 : 250 000). The numbers are arbitrary.

Colony. No 1 Survey Section had one mapping section attached to it which was based in Pretoria and which was responsible for maps of the northern theatre of war. In May 1900 No 2 Survey Section under the command of Captain PH du P Casgrain, R.E., embarked for South Africa. This section was first employed in making maps of the Kimberley neighbourhood, but was later, together with a mapping section, based in Cape Town where it compiled valuable maps of the Cape Colony. A third mapping section which was mainly involved in compiling maps of the Orange Free State, was based in Bloemfontein under the supervision of Major AHF Duncan, R.N[9].

Compilation maps

Once the war was underway and the Orange Free State and the Transvaal occupied by British forces, it was the Offices of the Surveyors General which yielded the most information for cartographic purposes. Similar to their counterparts in the Cape Colony and Natal, the Surveyors General of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal had built up a considerable body of cadastral information since their inception in 1866 and 1876 respectively. The title diagrams filed with them by land surveyors were joined together by the staff of the British survey and mapping sections into makeshift maps, fitted together like the pieces of a jig-saw puzzle. This information was subsequently supplemented by sketches and traverses from various sources, as well as by information provided by boundary, mining and railway surveys. The result was a compilation map which was never a source of much professional pride and which certainly met with much criticism in survey and cartographic circles. However, given the serious shortage of maps, they were considered better than nothing at all and decades were to elapse before they would be replaced.

The compilation maps were as accurate as the source material used for their compilation, and in many cases the farm surveys, as well as the prepared title diagrams, were grossly inaccurate. The land registration system which was adhered to by the Boer Republics, required that new land grants should be issued only on the production of a diagram framed by a sworn land surveyor appointed by the government. However, surveyors were scarce and poorly trained and, owing to the absence of a trigonometric base, there was no standard against which the accuracy of the farm surveys could be tested. The result was that many surveys were inaccurate and overlapped and that the title diagrams were not true reflections of the topography of the area concerned.

Four map series were compiled from farm surveys during the war, namely the *Imperial Map of South Africa* (scale 1:250 000 or 1 inch per 3.94 mile); the *Major Jackson's Transvaal and Natal Series* (1:148 752 or 2.34 miles per inch); the *Transvaal and Orange River Colony Degree Sheet Series (*scale 1:148 752 or 2.34 miles per inch); and the Briton or Boer Map (scale 20 miles per inch).

Of these four series, the *Imperial Maps* were the most important for military purposes as they were on a larger scale than IDWO 1367, showed more information, were in colour, and were the first map series ever to cover almost the entire country[10]. The fact that they depicted farm names and farm boundaries made them of inestimable value to the British forces. Although their crude and sketchy representation of hydrological and relief features made them unsuitable for military purposes many

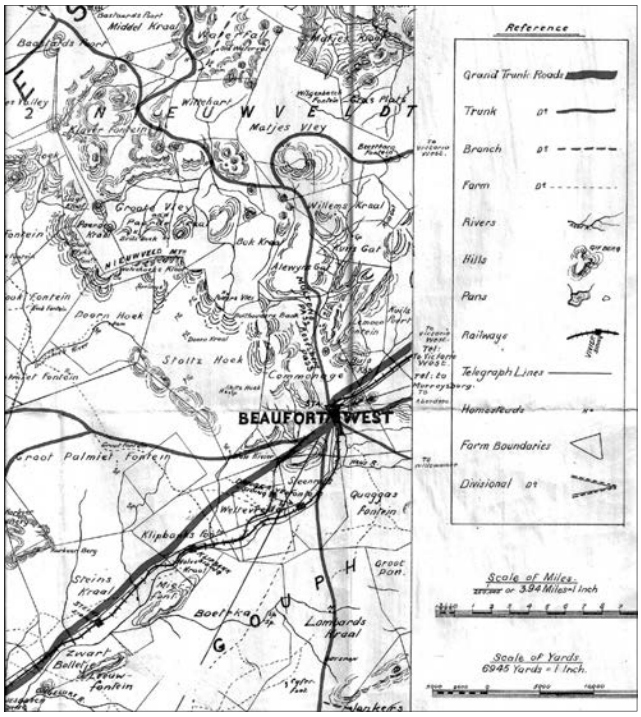

Fig. 4 Extract from the Beaufort-West sheet of the *Imperial Map Series.*

[9] Jackson, Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel H.M. and Casgrain, Captain P.H..du P. *Reports on Survey and Mapping Sections in South Africa*. London: Ministry of Defense, Whitehall Library, S.A. 490/A to J, p. 103.

[10] Board, C. The Imperial Map Cape Colony: towards a cartobibliography. *Wiener Schriften zur Geographie und Kartographie* 16, 2004, pp.1-7.

[11] Close, C.F. A fifty years retrospect. *Empire Survey Review,* January 1933, p. 5.

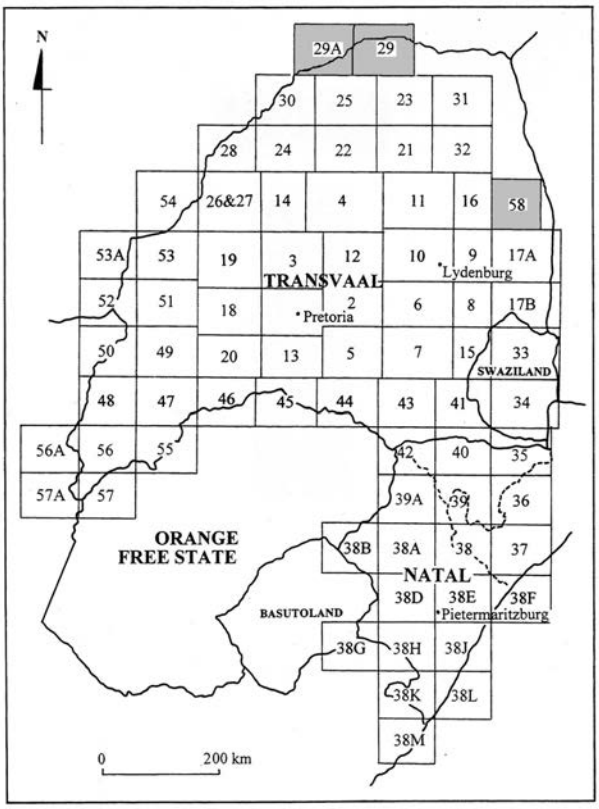

Fig. 5 Index map and extract from a sheet of the *Major Jackson's Series* (1 : 146 752), 1900-1902. The shaded areas on the index map are maps not issued.

British troops fought the larger part of the war with only these maps to rely on. Many years later, Charles Close said of them: 'If they were used with a knowledge of their weak points, their inadequacy and distortions, and their unreliable hill-features, they were certainly better than nothing at all[11].

The *Major Jackson's Transvaal and Natal* Series was initiated by Major H M Jackson, head of the Topographical Section of the FID soon after Pretoria was occupied in June1900. Also known as the 'First Transvaal Series', this series covered the whole of the Transvaal (except the extreme north-eastern portion), Natal, Zululand, Swaziland, and part of the former Bechuanaland. The maps were printed in monochrome on linen-backed paper and were, like the Imperial Maps, folded to pocket size for easy use on horseback. As they were compiled in a hurry for urgent military use, they are of a poor standard and it is uncertain whether they were of much use for military purposes. The physical topography was merely sketched in, no altitudes were given, and areas which had not been surveyed, were left blank. According to Jackson, these maps were based on a mere 'patch-work' of farm diagrams and included much information that was of dubious value – if not positively misleading[12].

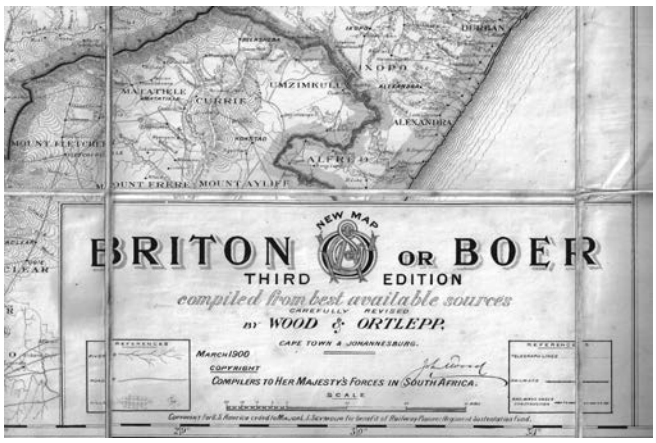

Fig. 6 Extract from a sheet of the *Briton or Boer series* (scale 1 : 125 720).

The *Degree Sheet Series* was compiled on the same scale as the Major Jackson's Series but was cartographically of a better quality. Its compilation was more accurately and scientifically executed, and the maps had a cleaner and less cluttered look. Farm boundaries, district boundaries and roads and railway lines appear on the map, with form lines indicating the relief of the country in brown. Rivers and streams are depicted in blue, whereas farm names and the numbers of the original title deeds allocated, appear in black. The compilation of sheets pertaining to the Orange Free State was commenced in October 1900, whereas the work on the Transvaal sheets was commenced in January 1901. By the end of the war, 10 of the total of 37 sheets of the Transvaal were completed.

The *Boer and Briton* maps were reductions of the *Imperial Maps* and were commercially published. The series consisted of five sheets, were printed in colour and contained enlarged insets of important strategic areas such as Pretoria, Mafeking, Kimberley, Ladysmith, Dundee, etc. The *Boer and Briton* maps show neither farm boundaries nor relief features, but were valuable because of the numerous place names they depict.

Survey Maps

No 1 Survey Section under the command of Captain Charles Close landed in Cape Town in January 1900 and was immediately dispatched to the north-western Cape Colony to survey and map the area bordering on the Cape-Kimberley railway line. When Close later joined Lord Roberts' main force in its march to the North, No 2 Survey Section under the command of Captain PH du P Casgrain completed

[12] Jackson, H.M. The employment of survey sections in war. *Royal Engineers' Journal*, III, Jan.-Jun. 1906, p. 276.

this project. The six sheets which were published by the FID as a result of this survey, are known as *Close and Casgrain's Half-Inch Series* (scale 1:126 720). When No 2 Survey Section was recalled back to Cape Town, half of the section (four men) engaged in some plane-table mapping of the districts of Cape Town and Malmesbury from June 1901 to June 1902. As a result, a map series of six sheets known as *Casgrain's One-Inch Cape Series* (scale 1:63 360) was issued.

In South Africa, the War Office survey and mapping sections worked in close collaboration with the Offices of the local Surveyors-General. The Surveyor-General of the Cape Colony rendered valuable assistance to No 2 Survey Section of the FID and in Natal, the first half-a-survey-section, sent out in 1896 under the command of Major SCN Grant, R.E., was attached to the Office of the Surveyor-General in Pietermaritzburg. However, it was the Offices of the Surveyors-General of the two Boer Republics which became the clearing houses for British mapping during the war. After the occupation of Bloemfontein and Pretoria, these Offices were not only used by the mapping sections to prepare and revise compilation maps, but also as depots from where Royal Engineers would venture out to execute topographical surveys of strategic places.

The Royal Engineers and sappers who staffed the survey and mapping sections were professional surveyors and topographers who produced some beautifully executed maps of strategic places in South Africa. These maps were lithographed and printed in Britain, mainly as loose sheets, and many were only published after the war. They were compiled in the best tradition of British mapping and bear either the serial number TSGS or GSGS

Mapping after the war

After the cessation of hostilities, Britain realised that if it wanted to retain its political supremacy in Southern Africa, it would have to make provision for the systematic mapping of the region. As head of the Geographical Section, General Staff, Sir Charles Close, used his influence to persuade the War Office to send teams of Royal Engineers to South Africa to undertake the topographical mapping of the Orange River Colony, southern Transvaal and the Northwestern Cape Colony. These surveys were conducted in the period 1905-1911 and the map series which emanated from these were *GSGS 2230 Topographical series of the Orange River Colony* (scale 1:125 000*); GSGS 1764 Reconnaissance series of the Cape Colony and Basutoland* (scale 1:250 000), and *GSGS 2618 Topographical Survey of the Transvaal* (scale 1:125 000).

The most important of these series was *GSGS 2230.* This plane-table survey, which was conducted on horseback, was referred to by Sir Charles Close as 'about the most satisfactory survey I am acquainted with[13]. Unfortunately political factors such as the unification of South Africa in 1910 and the First World War (1914-1918) retarded the production of the maps which, in 1922, was taken over by the government of the Union of South Africa. The result was that the full map series was not available before 1929.

The *GSGS 1764* series was based on a reconnaissance survey of the north-western Cape Colony and Basutoland from 1903 until 1911, and *GSGS 2618* on a topographical survey of the southern Transvaal during 1910-1911. *GSGS 1764* was published on a scale of 1:250 000 and the maps were, quite obviously, military maps. The political rivalry between England and Germany at the time, and the possibility of a German invasion of the Cape Colony from German South-West Africa (Namibia), probably weighed strongly in Britain's decision to map this area. *GSGS 2618* covered the Witwatersrand which was economically the most important area of the Transvaal and was, as far as its style was concerned, identical to *GSGS 2230.*

Fig. 7 Maps produced during and after the War were published in booklet form and folded in such a way that they could be easily unfolded when on horseback.

Conclusion

Cartographically speaking, Britain was ill prepared for the Boer War and by 1899 the available maps were 'with perhaps one exception, very incomplete and unreliable'[14]. The reasons for this were twofold. In the first instance, the Imperial Government had always regarded the surveying and mapping of its self-governing colonies as a domestic matter to be catered for by the colonial governments themselves. The colonies were expected to finance their surveys out of current revenue and to produce their own maps. The fact that many survey departments were ill-provisioned and understaffed, was not taken into account[15]. The second reason was that in the years prior to the War, the British Intelligence Service was poorly structured, understaffed and insufficiently funded. In later years Charles Close commented as follows on this situation: '….it is rather a severe commentary on our methods in those days, or rather on the methods imposed on us by financial authority, that we should have had to fight in an unmapped South Africa[13].

[13] Close, C.F. A fifty years retrospect. *Empire Survey Review* 2(8), April 1933, p. 71.
[14] Bluebook Cd 1789, Royal Commission on the War in South Africa. *Report of His Majesty's Commissioners appointed to inquire into the military preparations and other matters connected with the War in South Africa,* HMSO, London, 1903, paragraph 261.
[15] Amery, L.S. (ed.). *The Times' History of the War in South Africa, 1899-1902*, vol. VI. Sampson Low: Marston & Co, 1909, p. 350.

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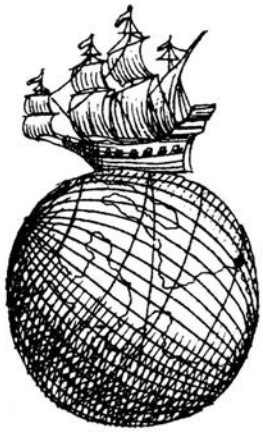

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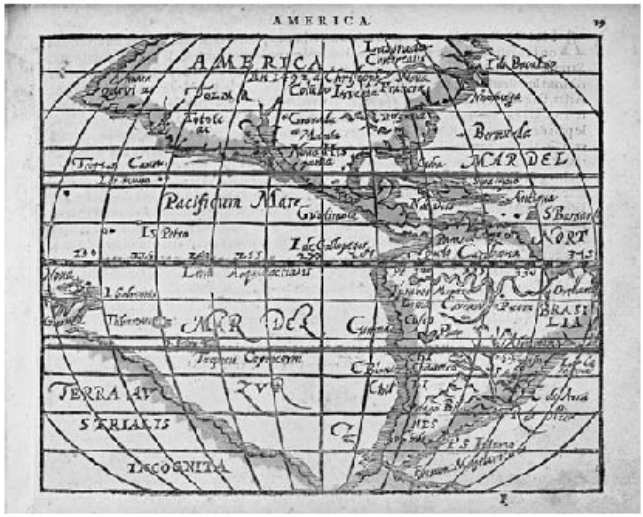

Zacharias Heyns. Le miroir du monde, ou,
epitome du theatre d'Abraham Ortelius. Amsterdam 1598

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Early maps of *La Beauce,* granary of France

by Wulf Bodenstein
wulfbo@scarlet.be

The Beauce – profile of a natural region

Belsia, triste solum, cui desunt bis tria tantum, fontes, prata, nemus, lapides, arbusta, racemus [Beauce, a desolate land which of a dozen bounties--springs, pastures, shady groves, hills, woods and grapes -- lacks just six].

Thus wrote Venantius Fortunatus, a Latin poet of the 6th century AD[1], drawing a rather gloomy picture of the Beauce, the vast plain beginning just 50 km to the south-west of Paris. Home to the Celtic people of the Carnutes, it was the administrative and religious centre of ancient Gaul. Its main town was Autricum (Chartres), today the capital of the Department Eure-et-Loir which contains the major part of the Beauce. But this extensive plateau of limestone, formerly called 'the granary of France'[2] on account of its predominantly cereal production, also covers part of the adjacent departments of Essonne, Loiret, Loir-et-Cher and Yvelines. Fig. 1 shows the conventional limits of the Beauce accepted today.

Its appearance has not changed much since the times of Fortunatus, apart from the emergence of a few clusters of wind turbines here and there. Endless cornfields undulating in the wind evoke memories of the sea, under an immense sky that offers spectacular sunsets before unveiling its starry canopy at night. Did Charles Peguy not call it 'l'océan des blés'[3] [ocean of wheat]? This almost limitless open field of about 700 000 hectares is still largely ignored by tourism, with the exception of Chartres with its magnificent cathedral and a few other places, all on the Beauce's periphery (Blois, Châteaudun, Dreux, Orléans, Vendôme). However, things are beginning to change. A number of local associations and historical societies have begun to open up the hidden treasures of the Beauce, from prehistoric sites to little known monuments such as village churches, fortified farms and (private) châteaux. Even the early cartography of the region has been addressed in recent publications by the archeological societies of Châteaudun and Chartres[4]. It is from the latter that I developed the present article.

Arguments over the name *Beauce* – doubts about its confines

In discussing the origins of the Beauce, historians have had arguments, sometimes pronounced controversies, over two topics in particular: the etymology of the name Beauce, and its frontiers. Regarding the first, some affirm that *Belsa*, later *Belsia*, is of Celtic origin, meaning 'flat and open country'. Others believe that *Beauce* derives from Boeotia, the region of rich plains in central Greece. There is also the amusing story of François Rabelais' giant Gargantua who, riding his no less gigantic mare across our country on the way to Paris, crossed a dense wood, somewhere to the north of Orléans. Assaulted by hornets his mare defended itself so vigorously with its tail that the whole wood was cut down - trees and hornets disappeared. Upon seeing this Gargantua proclaimed 'Je trouve beau ce', and since then this country is called Beauce[5].

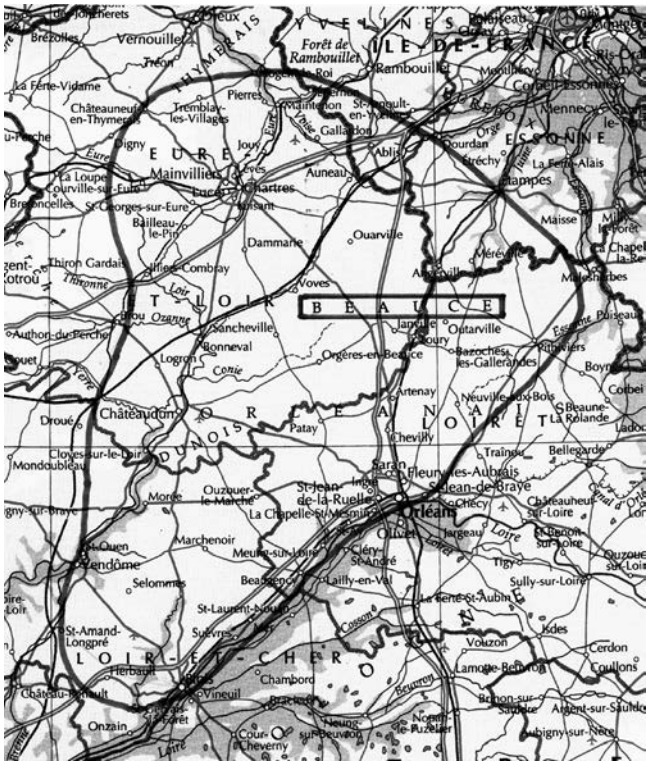


Fig. 1 – Conventional limits of the Beauce

Many variations of the name can be found on early maps. Francesco Berlinghieri who was the first to publish 'modern' maps in his edition of Ptolemy's Geography (Florence, 1482), shows *La Beals* in the

[1] Quoted by Michel Aubouin, *Une Histoire de Beauce*, p. 7, Chambray-lès-Tours : CLD, 1995

[2] This may conceivably refer to the *Île de France*, often identified as *France* on ancient maps, rather than to *France* as a whole. The Beauce is also called the "granary of Paris".

[3] French poet Charles Peguy (1873-1914), *Présentation de la Beauce à Notre-Dame de Chartres* (1913).

[4] See F. Herbert's report on my presentation in Chartres, in Newsletter No 39, and my papers on

a) 'Le Dunois. Contribution à l'étude cartographique d'un ancien pays de France. Cartes imprimées du XVIe au XVIIe siècle' in : B. Robreau (ed.), *Histoire du Pays Dunois,* Tome 2*, De l'an mil au déclin de l'Ancien Régime*, pp. 305-323. Châteaudun : Société Dunoise d'Archéologie, Histoire, Sciences et Arts, 2009.

b) 'Premier recueil de cartes géographiques anciennes de la Beauce (1594-1790)', in : J. Clément (ed.), Mémoire XXXVI-1 2012, Supplément au Bulletin 114-2012-4 de la Société Archéologique d'Eure-et-Loir, pp. 3-48. Chartres : SAEL, 2012.

vicinity of Orléans on his new map of France. Ortelius on his map of that country (Theatrum Orbis Terrarum, Antwerp, 1570) uses the designation *La beaulse*, copied from French mapmaker Jolivet (1560) (fig. 2). Bertius (1616) writes *Belsia*, as does Blaeu (1634), but the name appearing on the earliest map devoted to the Beauce that I have found so far, *Bellosiana* (Metellus, 1594), should animate further discussion about the origin of that name. Some mapmakers visibly had difficulties in copying this unusual word into their maps, like Hermann Moll who marked it as *Beruce* on his small map of France (ca. 1730), or the unidentified cartographer who mentioned *Boze* on a miniature map of France in a late 17th century Spanish edition (Fig. 3).

Fig. 3 – Spanish edition of map of France, late 17th c.

The boundaries of the Beauce are a different matter. The problem here is that, contrary to other well-defined regions of France, the Beauce has never had a formal administrative status, neither as a royal government or generality nor even as a princely appanage (duchy, county, or barony). Where designated as an ecclesiastical entity (*doyenné*, deanery) on maps by Sanson and Jaillot, this only relates to parts of the Beauce that belonged to the dioceses of Chartres and Orléans. It is, therefore, more appropriately defined today as a 'natural region' determined by the geological formation of its subsoil that characterises the country between the Seine and the Loire rivers. Mapmakers of the 17th and 18th centuries have depicted the limits of the Beauce in a number of different, often incoherent ways, adding to the mysteries that surround the making of many of the ancient maps we are trying to understand.

Whilst some isolated French provinces, such as Normandy, Berry, Bourbonnais, and Le Mans' diocese had been mapped in the 16th century[6], a real breakthrough in French regional mapping came with the publication of *Le Théatre Françoys* by Maurice Bouguereau (Tours, 1594), dedicated to King Henry IV. In addition to France as a whole, the atlas contains maps of 16 provinces, many of which were copied from Ortelius and Mercator, but *La Beauce* is not among them.

Fig. 2 – Jean Jolivet, *Nouvelle description des Gaules*, 1578 edition (detail)

[5] François Rabelais, *La vie très horrificque du grand Gargantua, Père de Pantagruel*, Lyon : P. de Tours, s.d. (post-1548), chapitre XVI.

[6] See Monique Pelletier, *De Ptolémée à la Guillotière (XVe-XVIe siècle)*, reviewed by J.-L. Renteux in BIMCC Newsletter N° 38, September 2010

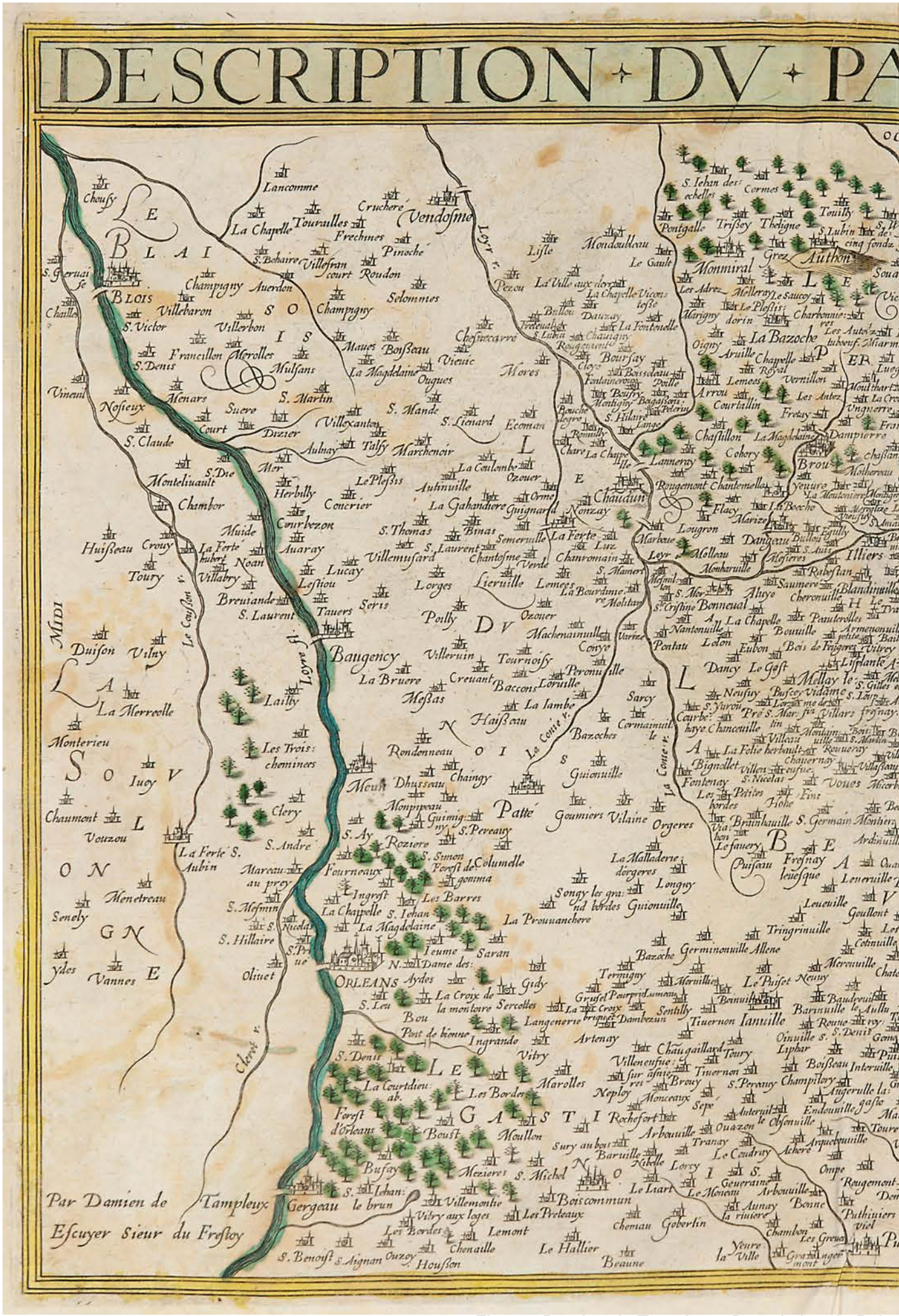
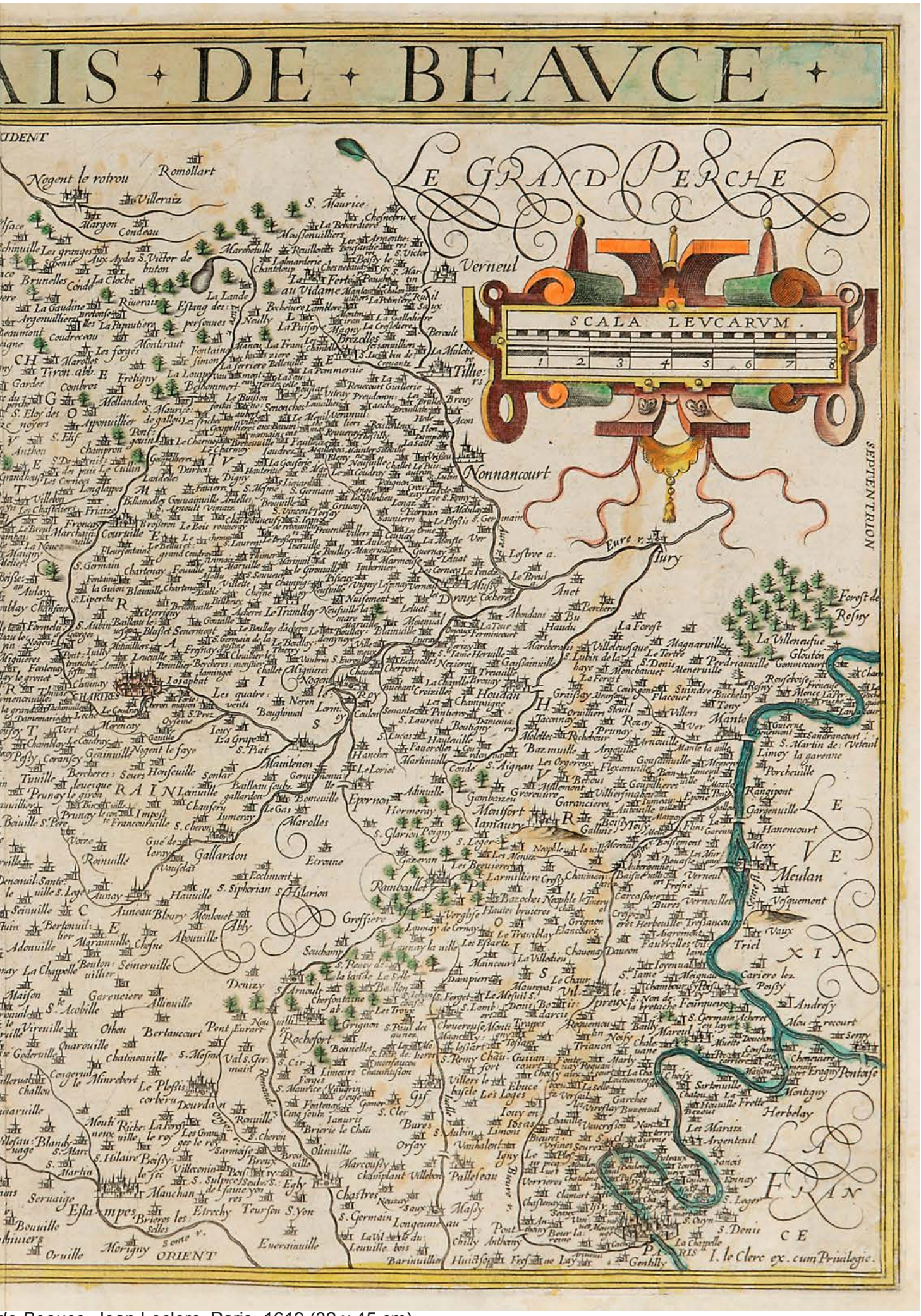


Fig. 4 – Damien de Templeux, *Description du Pais d*



de Beauce, Jean Leclerc, Paris, 1619 (32 x 45 cm)

Map configuration

Jean IV Leclerc (1560–ca.1621), member of a Paris family of librarians and publishers, obtained the copper plates of Bouguereau's atlas and reprinted those maps for a new edition which he published in 1619 as *Le Théâtre géographique du Royaume de France*. He included 23 new maps among which the *Description du Pais de Beauce* (Fig. 4, centrefold) is the main subject of this article.

At first sight this is not a very appealing map. It lacks the attributes which, in the eyes of a collector, make a map attractive: ornamental cartouches for the map title or a dedication, lavish colouring of these and of topographical details, boundaries, or other decorative elements. Here a strapwork cartouche for the scale seems to be the only concession to artistic enhancement, the colouring being at a very subdued level. The map is, however, of fundamental importance for the history of cartography of this region, in two respects: it is the first 'real' map of the Beauce, and it served several French and Dutch mapmakers as a model – as will be shown shortly.

The title is contained in a bar that stretches over the whole width of the map, offering, as it does on 21 other new regional maps of the 37 maps in this atlas[7], the necessary space for a relatively long designation, as in our case the *Description du Pais de Beauce*. The given scale of common French leagues (*scala leucarum* 8 = 8.4 cm) corresponds to ca. 1:420 000. The mapmaker signs as 'Damien de Tampleux Escuyer Sieur de Frestoy' in the lower left-hand corner, and the publisher as 'I. le Clerc ex[cudit] cum Privilegio' in the opposite bottom corner. The copper plate engraving measures 32 x 45 cm. The map has no graticulated border, that is it does not show latitudes nor longitudes.

The observant reader will of course have spotted the unusual orientation of the map to the west, with north (Septentrion) at right. Why this departure from the traditional north alignment? My assumption is that the author of the map wanted to show both Paris and the Loire with its royal residences on the same plan, a composition which, given the imposed folio size of the map, would have necessitated a much smaller scale if a north-up layout had been adopted. In this way the granary of France, unconstrained by limits, could be shown blending with surrounding regions, such as the *Perche* in the west, the *Thymerais* and the *Hurepoix* in the north, and the *Gâtinais* in the east, the Loire being the southern demarcation. Note that the County of Châteaudun (*Dunois*) and that of Blois (*Blaisois*) north of the Loire form part of the Beauce.

Chartres is situated almost in the centre of the map. Like Paris it is represented as an oblique imaginary town view, more elaborate than that of any other locality. Note that the vignettes for villages and small towns are individually engraved. We are here in the *Pays Chartrain*, ancient Cité des Carnutes. One may just distinguish the spaced-out letters in a circle south of the city. At that time there were still no roads shown, no chateaux (as Maintenon, for example) nor abbeys or hostels. The only man-made constructions, indicated as a kind of navigational assistance, are bridges across the main rivers.

Little is known about the author of the map, Damien de Templeux (the spelling of the name on the map with an 'a' in place of an 'e' must be an error of the engraver). He signed five other maps of Leclerc's *Théâtre géographique* (1619): *Île de France, Valois, Beauvaisis, Brie,* and *Champagne*. Lucien Gallois mentions a source according to which Damien de Templeux contributed descriptive texts on French provinces to an (unidentified) atlas by Blaeu[8], but this seems difficult to reconcile with the year of his death (1620), mentioned by Mireille Pastoureau[9]. On the other hand, there is every reason to believe that de Templeux had access to locally performed surveys of noble landlords' estates in the region, but unfortunately we have no evidence of this.

The *Théâtre géographique* went into seven editions until 1632, containing the same map of the Beauce.

Cartographic significance of the map

I have found only two maps predating de Templeux's map of 1619, designated as 'Maps of the Beauce'. These are the two previously mentioned maps by Metellus (*Bellosiana*, 1594) and by Bertius (*Belsia*, 1616). However, in spite of their small dimensions (14x10 and 21x14 cm respectively), their geographical coverage is much larger than the currently accepted extent of the Beauce, and their topography is based on ancient models (Jolivet, Ortelius, Mercator). We should therefore consider them as variants of early maps of the *Orléanais*.

One may call the *Description du Pais de Beauce* the first 'real' map of the Beauce because it depicts it topographically quite close to reality, in a larger territorial frame. Admittedly, the geographical canvas is somewhat defective in the sense that its scale is not consistent over the area covered. For example, in the south, the distance between Orléans and Blois on the river Loire is 75 km on the map (55 km in reality), whereas in the north the distance between Paris and Verneuil (*Verneul* on our map) is 105 km, close to the real 100 km. However, the map's hydrographic system is surprisingly complete and reasonably accurate, at least in respect of the river basins of the Eure and the Loir, the first a tributary of the Seine, the

[7] François de Dainville, *L'évolution de l'atlas de France sous Louis XIII, Theâtre géographique du Royaume de France des Le Clerc, 1619-1632*, p. 14, in : Actes du 87e congrès national des sociétés savantes, Poitiers, 1962 ; Paris : Imprimerie nationale 1973

[8] Abbé Carlier, *Histoire du Duché de Valois*, Paris : 1764, vol. III, p. 92, quoted by Lucien Gallois, *Régions naturelles et noms de pays –*

[9] *Etude sur la région parisienne*, Paris : Armand Colin, 1908, p. 292

Mireille Pastoureau, *Les Atlas Français XVIe-XVIIe siècles*, Paris: Bibliothèque nationale de France, 1984, p. 295

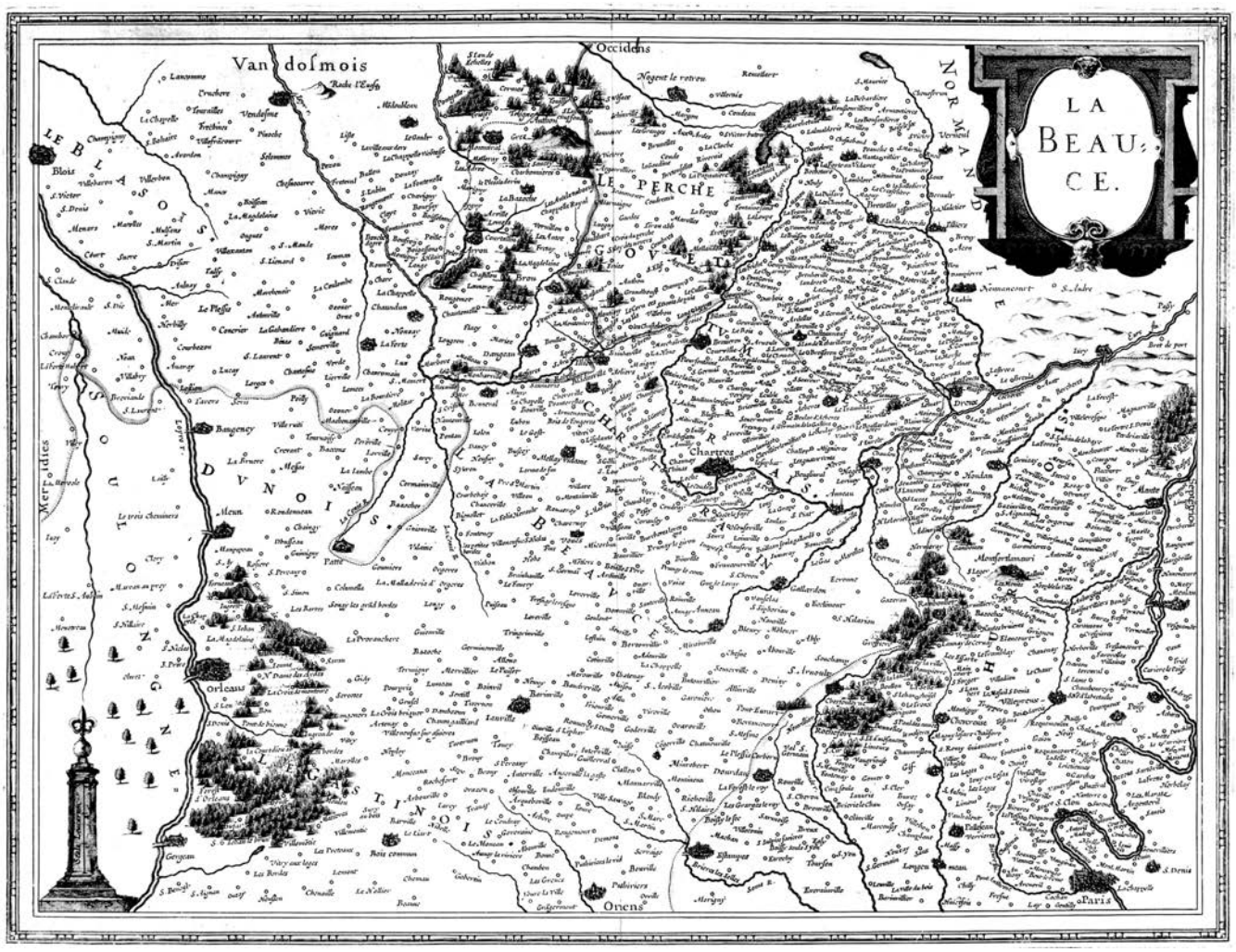


Fig. 6 – Henricus Hondius, *La Beauce*, Amsterdam, 1631

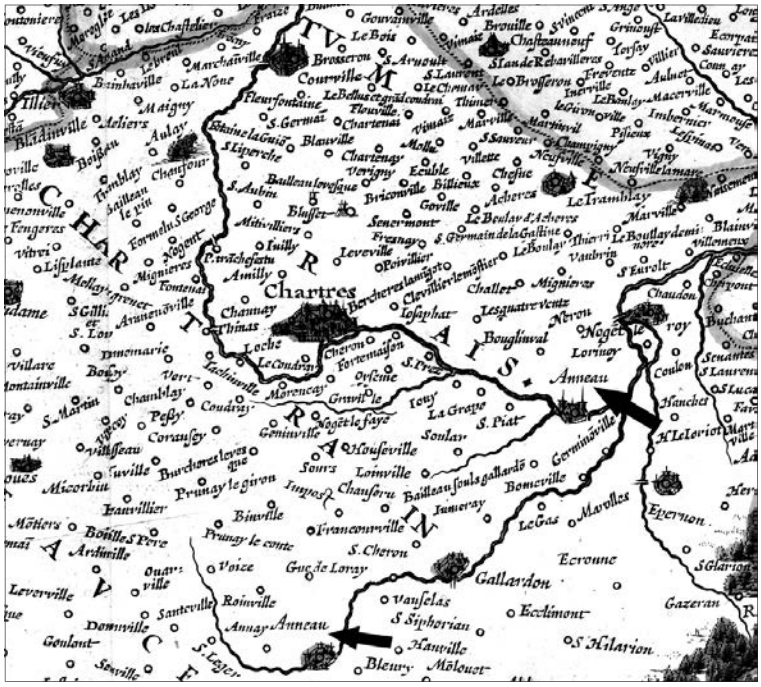


Fig. 7 – Le Pays *Chartrain*,
detail of Henricus Hondius's *La Beauce*

second joining the Sarthe to the north of Angers. There is no room here to examine in detail the geographical accuracy of places but, again, the map breaks new ground with a dense toponymy not encountered before.

The other facet of this map's significance is its role as a model for later maps of the Beauce. It was copied on a slightly larger scale (ca. 1:360 000) by Henricus Hondius who published it in 1631 in his *Atlantis Maioris Appendix* (Fig. 6), with a parallel publication by his brother-in-law Johannes Janssonius (*Theatrum Universae Galliae*)[10]. Apart from a few alterations, such as the omission of the river Loiret (Cleret) south of Orléans, the topography has been followed closely. On the other hand, the typography has become much clearer, villages now being marked by a punch and their names being engraved in smaller font. Curiously, the boundaries drawn here for the Beauce do not cover its entirety as it was known then and now. Besides, as frequently happened, some errors did slip in during the copying process by the engraver. For example, Maintenon to the north of Chartres became Anneau, and to the east what was Auneau became Anneau also (see details at Fig. 7). This map by Hondius

[10] Peter van der Krogt, *Koeman's Atlantes Neerlandici*, New Edition, Houten: HES Publishers, 1997, Vol. 1, 1:203, 1:211

Fig. 8 – Willem Jansz. Blaeu, *Belsia vulgo La Beausse*, Amsterdam 1634 (detail)

served, in turn, as a model for later versions by French mapmakers Tassin (1633) and Berey (1653). Willem Jansz. Blaeu in 1634 published an arguably closer copy of the original map, with a magnificent allegorical cartouche (Fig. 8), but it was Nicolas Sanson who finally broke this lineage in 1652 with a new original French map of the Beauce, north-orientated and at the significantly larger scale of ca. 1:260 000. Maps of the region, often combining the representation of neighbouring provinces, continued to be produced during the 17th and 18th centuries, until they faded away to make room, as of 1790, for another type of map, that of the newly created 83 French departments[11].

Postscriptum on a curious facsimile

Modern reprints of ancient regional French maps are quite rare. I was surprised, therefore, to discover a few months ago in a French book store a facsimile of Damien de Templeux's map of the Beauce. Sold in an elegantly designed tube labelled 'La Beauce 1615' (sic) it turned out to be a recent reproduction in black and white on a piece of crackling imitation vellum! Surprised at this incongruity I discovered a reprint in a format slightly larger than the original, with a windrose of doubtful origin added in the lower left-hand corner of the map (Fig. 9). The accompanying publicity blurb lightheartedly confuses Bouguereau's with Leclerc's atlas, claiming the originality of vellum for maps of that time. A further 86 such reproductions, mainly from Leclerc's *Théâtre géographique*, are on offer[12]. Amusing as it may be for some, it is to be regretted that ancient maps should be brought on the market in such a deformed appearance.

(Photo credits: Figure 2: facsimile Archives Nationales de France ; Figures 3 to 9 : private collection)

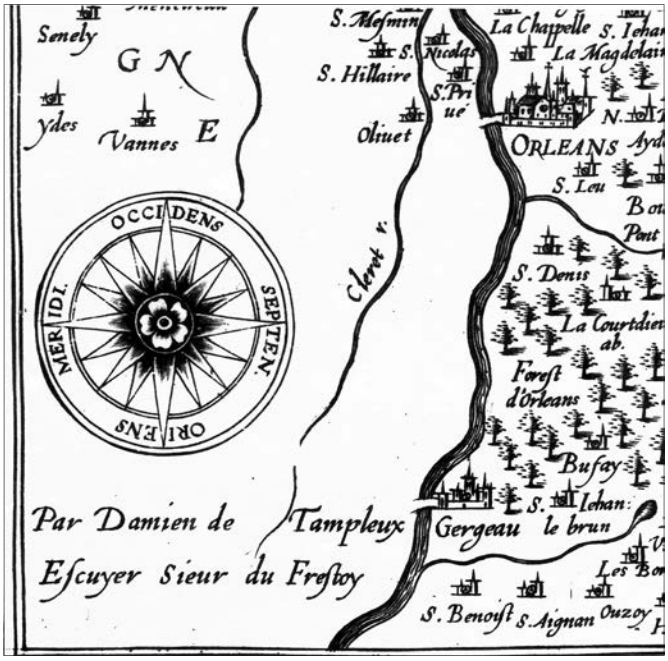


Fig. 9 – Facsimile of de Templeux's *Description du Pais de Beauce* (detail)

[11] More about these maps and their documentary background in my article mentioned in Note 4b. The publisher intends producing an amended and slightly larger edition (*à l'italienne*) early in 2013 – visit www.sael28.fr or contact Société Archéologique d'Eure-et-Loir, 1 Rue Jehan Pocquet, F-28000 Chartres - France

[12] visit www.antica-editions.com

BIMCC Programme for 2013

- Saturday 23 March 2013, at 16.00: 15th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Venue: boardroom of Arcadis, Rue Royale 80, B-1000 Brussels

Accessible by train (Central station) and metro (Central station and Park)

According to the Statutes adopted in 2005, only Active Members have a vote.

All members are encouraged to become Active Members by applying to the President at least three weeks before the meeting: president@bimcc.org.

A personal invitation to this AGM with the agenda and a possibility of proxy vote will be sent out to Active Members by separate mail at least two weeks before the meeting.

- **Saturday 23 March 2013, at 17.30: Map Evening**

Venue: boardroom of Arcadis, Rue Royale 80, B-1000 Brussels

Accessible by train (Central station) and metro (Central station and Park)

This traditional BIMCC event offers you the opportunity to meet informally with other map enthusiasts; it brings together all those interested in maps for a chat about their own favourite pieces, and usually some quite surprising elements come up. We invite you to bring a piece from your map collection to comment or talk about.

This is also an occasion for newcomers to get to know the Circle: non-members are welcome. Wine and snacks will be served.

Admission: EUR 10.00 to be paid at the reception desk.

Please register before 8 March 2013 on our website: www.bimcc.org

- Saturday 19 October 2013, at 14.00 (to be confirmed):

Excursion to the map collection of prince Emmanuel de Croÿ (1718-1784) in Valenciennes

Venue: Bibliothèque Municipale de Valenciennes, 2 rue Ferrand – F-59300 Valenciennes.

Valenciennes' library is housed in a nice18th century building which belonged to a Jesuit college created during the Spanish period. Among other treasures, this library owns the collections of Emmanuel de Croÿ who was a prince of the Holy Empire, but also led a military career in France where he received the grade of marshal. A learnt gentleman interested in science and in all the new discoveries of the 18th century, he collected books and maps; these were seized in his chateaus near Valenciennes during the Revolution (http://bookline-03.valenciennes.fr/bib/accueil/ducdecroy.asp).

The visit will be guided, in French, by Marie-Pierre Dion, Director of the Library, who researched the life of E. de Croÿ; ad-hoc translation into English will be provided to those members requiring assistance.

More details will be provided in the May Newsletter.

- Saturday 7 December 2013:

BIMCC Conference, 'Mapping India'

europalia

Venue: Royal Library of Belgium,

Keizerslaan 2 Boulevard de l'Empereur, Brussels, (near the Central Station), in the 'Small Auditorium' on level 2.

Admission is free for BIMCC members, non-members pay 10€ at entrance.

Lunch is being arranged in the Library's cafeteria, with catering services. Price: about 35€.

Once more the BIMCC Conference will take place in the framework of the multicultural festival Europalia, which is devoted, this year, to India.

Several international speakers have so far agreed to give a general overview and introduction to the theme and to give presentations about:

- indigenous maps of India,
- the mapping of India under British rule and
- the short-lived 18th century Oostendse Compagnie.

More topics and speakers will be added in the course of the year: keep an eye on our Newsletter and website!

Brussels Map Circle International Conference

'Mercator and Hondius'

Saturday 8 December 2012

Around 50 BIMCC members, friends and enthusiasts gathered at the Royal Library in Brussels for the annual conference, this year on Mercator and Hondius. Caroline De Candt, President, opened the event welcoming the speakers and participants, and taking us through the day's timetable. As she mentioned, this really was the end of the 'Mercator year', it being the 500th anniversary of his birth, but 2012 was also the 400th anniversary of Hondius' death, and the Circle wished to honour both of them. The Map Circle was delighted to have speakers from Austria, Poland, and the Netherlands, and attendees from outside as well as inside Belgium.

Old Globes in Austria; a comprehensive overview with special attention to the globes of Mercator and Hondius

The morning began with a talk from Jan Mokre, from the Austrian National Library in Vienna. Austria is rather special in that there are many globes to be found there, in state institutions, in private collections, and in monasteries. There are seven Gerard Mercator globes and seven Jodocus Hondius the Elder globes in Austrian collections. In 1952 the International Coronelli Society (of which Jan is the current Secretary-General) was founded in Vienna – this was a precursor to the Austrian National Library's Globe Museum itself. The Museum collection has grown from 77 globes at the start to 680 today. A unique item on permanent loan from the collection of Rudolf Schmidt is the oldest globe extant in Austria; it is the terrestrial globe of Gemma Frisius (about 1536). Some of the Mercator globes held in monasteries cannot be traced. For example, a pair of globes at the Dominican monastery in Vienna, last seen in 1921, has vanished. However, the Admont Abbey ('Stift Admont') that houses the largest monastic library in the world has a pair of Mercator globes.

NB: Jan Mokre's presentation will soon be visible on www.bimcc.org

President C. DeCandt with speaker, K. Kozica

Gerard Mercator's map of Europe (1554), formerly kept in Wroclaw (Breslau)

Kazimierz Kozica from Poland followed. The 1554 and 1572 editions of Mercator's wall map are among the rarest works of the cartographer. About 200 copies were made of the first edition, and they have all disappeared without trace. In 1889 Alfons Heyer, the librarian of the city of Wroclaw, found a copy of the 1572 edition, together with two other Mercator maps, in the city library. Nothing has been heard of these maps since 1945 when the Red Army laid siege to 'Breslau Fortress', just before the end of WWII. To this day there is no sign of the 1554 Mercator map of Europe, though theories of what happened to it abound.

Map Man: Nicholas Crane

After a convivial and copious buffet lunch, the first surprise. Nicholas Crane, well-known to BBC viewers for 'Map Man', 'Coast' and 'Town', and the author of 'Mercator: The Man Who Mapped the Planet'. He described how he had gone about researching the book – a field trip to the Low Countries, making contact with the sources and experts on the subject, absorbing the context of 16th Europe: the reformation, early Lutheran bibles with woodcut illustrations, Erasmus' letters and the writings of John Dee, and his primary sources: the Bonnington meetings where map dealers gathered to exchange information, plus having Mercator's letters translated from Latin. Nick's motivation for writing the book? 'I really believe in this man', he said. Mercator was a man who was on a quest for knowledge, who searched for harmony, and who lived in a world where teachers were highly respected and held

the highest positions. Jan de Graeve had presented him with the copy of *Le livre et l'estampe* containing Jan's article on Mercator's library.

The 'Atlas of the World': Gerard Mercator's map of the world (1589)

Sjoerd de Meer from the Maritime Museum, Rotterdam, continued. The world map was published in Duisburg, and there remain three copies: one at the Universitätsbibliothek in Basel, another at the Bibliothèque nationale in Paris. The third, in the form of an Atlas, the Atlas of the world, was probably compiled by Mercator himself, and is in the Maritime Museum. The museum acquired it at an auction in 1932 – no other buyer seemed interested in it at the time. Sjoerd gave the audience some interesting insights into the map:

Despite all the research done into Mercator and his maps, Sjoerd feels that more research is still needed, for example, on the colour and composition of the map.

Did you know that Mercator's world map…
- was used by Martin Frobisher on his voyages seeking North-West passage
- was designed for learned men, travellers and sailors (but it was not practical to use on board ship)
- took many of its decorative features from books; the toadfish from Pierre Belon, for example, or mermaids from Diego Gutierrez' map
- has some mistakes! One being where Mercator shows the Ganges flowing into Canton
- has texts in Latin, but wind directions in Dutch
- has the same watermarks as his map of Europe

'Sea Hawk' with Errol Flynn

Caroline's second scoop of the day was described in the programme as an Interludium – and it was indeed great fun. We watched an extract from the 1940 film 'Sea Hawk' with Errol Flynn as the captain of the 'Albatros' preparing to follow Elizabeth I's orders and getting organised with the sea-charts he needed at Hondius' London workshop, and the Spanish following close on his heels trying desperately to extract the information they needed from the chartmaker, i.e. where exactly were the English sailing to.

Bravo Caroline!

Jodocus Hondius (1563 – 1612)

Peter van der Krogt had the task of flying the Hondius flag, and did so in a most amusing manner. After introducing his subject he referred to 'you know who' only as Mr M, and blacked him/his name out on several visuals. He started by debunking some of the aspects of the film – Hondius would have been 24 at the time the adventure was set, but is portrayed as a balding 50-60 year old. The map on the wall of his workshop is by Nicholas de Fer (1696-1698), which makes it over a 100 years too late for the 1587 setting. Peter outlined Hondius' life starting as an engraver in London, where he had gone after the capture of Ghent by the Duke of Parma, and where he seems to have been very successful. His principal London work was the engraving of the copperplates for the pair of globes made by Emery Molyneux, six of which are said to still be existence, of which three are still in England: a pair owned by Middle Temple – one of the four Inns of Court in London, and a terrestrial globe at Petworth House. In 1593 Hondius moved to Amsterdam, to join many scholars from the southern Low Countries, as well as publishers and engravers who had also moved there. Two people he met there who would become important for his work were Peter Plancius and Cornelis Claesz. The acquisition in 1604 (with Claesz) of the copperplates of Mercator's Atlas was the turning point in his business. In 1605 Hondius and Claesz published a new edition of Ptolemy's *Geographia* and the following year a completely revised edition of Mercator's Atlas. Thus Hondius evolved from an engraver working on commission to a publisher of atlases and globes. When he died in 1612, the business was continued mainly by his son-in-law Johannes Janssonius.

So what should we celebrate next year? The 450th (1653 – 2013) anniversary of the birth of Hondius!

The day ended with thanks to the speakers and the audience, and a most convivial drink at the Novotel bar nearby. We can already look forward to next year's conference. It will be aligned, as is traditional, with the theme of **Europalia –** a major Belgian cultural event which takes place every two years. The theme is **Mapping India.**

Nicola Boothby
nicola.boothby@telenet.be

Jean-Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville, leading cartographer of the Age of Enlightenment

Symposium at the Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, 21-22 Sept. 2012

Few cartographers of the 18th century have marked the cartographic scene in France as did Jean-Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville (1697-1782). Although his method of work is not considered innovative, he developed traditional mapping concepts to a perfection that distinguish his cartographic output from that of his predecessors. His profound study of classical sources, of ancient distance measurements, his critical review of maps made so far, led him to drafting notes, often in the form of a 'Mémoire', that accompany his maps as an explanation, also justification, of choices made. Blank spaces, so evident on his four-sheet map of Africa (1749), are a visible part of his perception of how to deal with the unknown.

Opening the Symposium, Lucile Haguet, leader of the d'Anville research project, and Catherine Hofmann of the Map Department at the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), outlined the history of the creation, and then of the integration into the BnF, of the vast collection of maps and notes, in printed or manuscript form, which d'Anville had established. The cartographic library alone comprises about 8 700 items. The cartographer himself had formulated the idea of creating a map collection for Louis XV's library, combining his own collection with that of the king. While many of d'Anville's text manuscripts were dispersed by his heirs, the corpus of maps and printed material is practically intact, an incredibly rich source which is being opened up progressively now.

The afternoon session was devoted to the transmission and reception of d'Anville's *oeuvre.* Pascale Mormiche painted a vivid picture of his early engagements at the royal court as a tutor, to become *géographe du roi* aged only twenty-two. Mary Pedley presented d'Anville's *Mémoire sur un projet de géographie,* a kind of business plan proposing a collection of sixteen maps with accompanying memoires to explain their construction and contents. The accompanying somewhat unrealistic cost/benefit analysis is particularly revealing. Discussions of cartographic issues at that time, including d'Anville's projects and their critiques, were published in the *Mercure de France*, and these were reviewed in their historical context by Nicolas Verdier. Robert Mankin's exposé on British historian Edward Gibbon, whose work was inspired by d'Anville's historical research, closed the first day's proceedings.

The second day addressed the sources d'Anville used and the knowledge transfer between his contemporaries. Georges Tolias focused on d'Anville's profound study of ancient geography which became a 'positive' science, overcoming the inherited separation of ancient and modern geographical concepts. Jean-Charles Ducène's captivating presentation revealed d'Anville's oriental sources which he used to complete his maps of Africa and Asia, up to the frontier with China. German explorer Carsten Niebuhr's expedition to Arabia (1761-1767) allowed Michel-Pierre Detalle to probe into the potential use of resulting maps by d'Anville. Moving to North America, Jean-François Palomino discussed two maps by d'Anville of 1746 and 1755 and the corresponding *Mémoire* describing his sources and working methods. Philippe Forêt then took us to China. Focusing on the maps d'Anville made for Jean-Baptiste du Halde's *Description géographique, historique, etc. de l'Empire de la Chine et de la Tartarie,* he concluded that knowledge transfer between China and Europe was less unidirectional than hitherto believed. Junia Ferreira Furtado exposed the close collaboration between d'Anville and Portuguese ambassador Dom Luis da Cunha, resulting in significant cartographic updates of parts of Africa and of South America, the latter in particular serving to consolidate the Portuguese positions in negotiations with Spain. Iris Kantor in analysing the nomenclature on d'Anville's map of *l'Amérique méridionale* highlighted his sometimes contested efforts at integrating local language conventions into the toponymy of this part of the world.

It was announced that the proceedings of this Symposium would be published in early 2013. Meanwhile, the interested reader may wish to visit a blog especially created to animate discussions around the d'Anville research project, so if you are conversant with French, do visit http://danville.hypotheses.org/ .

Wulf Bodenstein
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How I Got Into Cartography

Mario Cams, a PhD student researching into 'early 18th century cartographic exchanges between Europe and the Qing Empire' at the University of Leuven, talks to the BIMCC.

What does Cartography mean to you?

As a youngster I was fascinated by maps. I used to spend a lot of time drawing maps from memory, and they were pretty accurate! Maps are a way of understanding the world around us, the relationship we have with 'the other'. At that time it was everyday maps I was interested in: maps we used in geography classes at school, maps you could buy in shops. When I was 19 I backpacked through Asia for a year. I went overland and traced my route very carefully on all the maps I used. It was then that I discovered that the lines drawn on maps are not real boundaries between people at all; they simply serve a political end.

What exactly does your research involve?

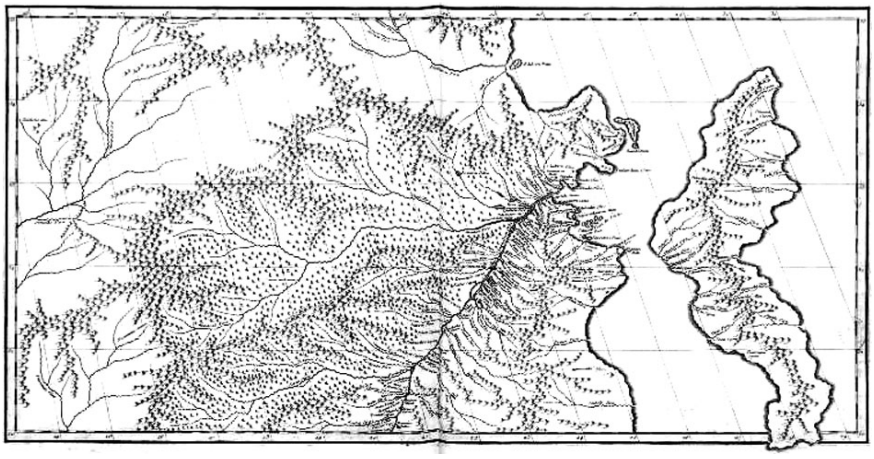
My current research project is on 'the early 18th century cartographic exchange between Europe and the Qing empire'. My research involves looking into what exactly was happening in China during the geographical surveys of 1708-1717. There's a good deal of literature already available on the subject, but much of it tends to talk about the 'Jesuits who mapped China'. The more documents I study, the more it becomes clear to me that this doesn't entirely do justice to what actually happened back then. It's certainly true that many of the instruments and a lot of the methodology used for the land surveys were brought over by the Jesuits. In return, the Jesuits received protection from the emperor for their religious mission. But the mapping of China was a huge project undertaken and organised by the Qing state and under the personal patronage of the emperor himself. Teams of Manchu, Chinese and Jesuits travelled to every city in the Chinese provinces and many of the remote Qing territories beyond; they sometimes had to spend up to a year in one province, always on the move, and travelled with retinues of servants. They certainly made an impact everywhere they went.

Because they were part of the teams of mapmakers, the Jesuits were able to secretly send some of the Chinese maps back to France with transliterations of place names. These maps were eventually handed to Jean-Baptiste Bouguignon d'Anville for him to adapt them to a more 'European' style of map. D'Anville produced two kinds of maps: detailed and general. He made direct and faithful adaptations of the detailed maps, but for the general maps it was more a matter of compilation from various sources. For example, he used geographical information sent to him by Joseph-Nicolas Delisle (brother of Guillaume) who was then head of the School of Astronomy in Saint-Petersburg. In fact, for cartography at the time, we clearly see a triangular network of contacts building up between Beijing, Paris and Saint-Petersburg, because Muscovy also entertained frequent contacts with the Qing empire through its expansion in Siberia.

My goal is to explore the history behind all of these maps. What happened in the field during the land surveys? How did the Manchu, the Chinese and the Jesuits cooperate? What were the networks of people involved, within China, within Europe, between China and Europe?

What did you need to study to get this far?

When I was backpacking through Asia, I entered China from Nepal. I found that China was the only country where it was really difficult to manage without the languages I had. On my return here I decided I wanted to go back, so I had to find a way to meet the language challenge. I decided to study Sinology, and as part of the Bachelor's programme went to Chongqing for two years. I wrote my Master's thesis on historical ethnography and cartography related to south-west China. As part of my studies I have so far learnt the mainstream Chinese script, and I speak Mandarin and the Sichuan dialect of south-west China. My PhD is bringing my two passions together, as I am researching the cultural history of cartography as well as the exchanges between Europe and China. In January I'm going to Harvard for a semester to study Manchu. Many of the documents



Chinese Tartary by Jean-Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville

relating to maps and map-making in the 17th and early 18th century were written in Manchu, as the rulers of the Qing empire were themselves Manchu. Much of the Chinese bureaucracy did not speak/read Manchu, so the language was often used for confidential, sensitive, strategic documents. Learning Manchu will enable me to go deeper into researching that period of cartography.

I'm a sinologist, not a trained cartographer, but as my research progresses I will also need to learn more about the technical side of cartography.

In your experience, are there a lot of young people interested in cartography?

I don't think there's any really conscious interest in cartography, but it touches everyone everywhere these days. It's so integrated into our daily lives that we just don't notice it. Google Maps are an example. They're just part of our daily lives. But if we're talking about historical cartography; no, I don't think that's of interest to many young people.

Of course, maps will always be of great interest to historians: their political implications, the production context, etc.

Will you stay in the 'cartographic world' when you finish your thesis? Are there careers to be made in cartography?

My funding from the Flanders Research Foundation goes up to 2015, by which time I must have completed my dissertation. There are definitely careers to be made in my chosen subject, but there aren't many people who choose it as a career. I'm very lucky to be studying here in Leuven; my advisor Professor Nicolas Standaert is a world authority in the field of Sino-European cultural exchanges in the 17th and 18th centuries. I would very much like to stay in the world of research and academia, but everything will depend on the quality of my dissertation.

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

The greatest thing about my work is that it's a constant journey of discovery. I'm always finding out new and surprising details to help me with my research, and seeing connections that I hadn't seen before.

Interview by Nicola Boothby

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All our readers are invited to send news items and announcements of cartographic events and exhibitions to webmaster@bimcc.org.
For up-to-date News and Events, see: www.bimcc.org/bimcc-newsevents.htm

News

30th International Map Collectors Society Symposium-Vienna 2012.

The theme of this 30th symposium, last September, was the commemoration of Mercator's 500th birthday.
The organising committee under the leadership of Dr. Stefaan Missine, with Hans Kok as chairman of the E.C.(both also BIMCC members) put together a high level programme. I would like to emphasise the almost perfect organisation led by the masterbrain Stefaan Missine.
About 120 IMCoS members, 15 of whom are also BIMCC members, attended the conferences and the afternoon visits.
Let's give a brief overview of the daily activities.
The first afternoon was a mix of welcomes by the big chiefs, alternating with music from J. Strauss and W.A. Mozart.
The talks covered mainly the Habsburg Empire during the 16th century.
W. Bracke introduced C. Sgrooten as a Royal source for Mercator. During the afternoon the members visited the Woldan Collection of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the Hyperglobe (a scientific surprise) at the Department of Geography of the University of Vienna and the Wien Museum.
Each day also offered us, between visits, a well deserved rest at some nice tea/coffee/cake place.
The first evening ended with a brilliant reception at the Residence of the Ambassador of Belgium.
The second day was marked by conferences concerning G. Mercator by, among others, T. Horst, P. van der Krogt, J. De Graeve and P. Barber. Afterwards we visited the world's largest Globe Museum, a map exhibition at the Austrian National Library as well as the State Archives. We spent the evening at '10er marie', the oldest wine tavern of Vienna, welcomed by a Mayor's speech.
The third day P. Seed, A. Kanas, E. Leenders and others highlighted G. Mercator's extraordinary achievements. After two beautiful sunny days, the last afternoon guided us in the rain towards the Schallaburg Castle and the glorious Monastery of Melk on the Danube. It is a place where some of us would love to stay and rest while our mind would float through the fabulous book collection of their magnificent library.
Thank you IMCoS, thank you Hans, thank you Stefaan for a most splendid symposium.

Eric Leenders

Participants in the IMCoS symposium

Mercator anniversary (continued)

- On the occasion of the 500th birthday of Gerard Mercator, the Royal Mint of Belgium issues 2000 gold coins (weight: 15.55 g, diameter: 29 mm) with a nominal value of 100 euro, which are sold at 770 euros. (www.royalmint.be/).

- Thomas Horst, author of the magnificent book on Mercator, *Le monde en cartes* (reviewed in BIMCC Newsletter No 43) and Speaker at the colloquium in Sint Niklaas, received a prize from 'la Société Géographique de Paris', on 24 November 2012.
- The Primus Publishing House has published another reprint of the first German version of the Mercator-Hondius-Atlas of 1633 (preserved in the Berlin State Library), with a short introduction by Thomas Horst (ISBN 978-3-8262-3025-7), cf. http://www.reprint-verlag-leipzig.de/

Centuries-old World Map discovered

A centuries-old world map has come to light during a valuation for old books in the Dutch town of Bronkhorst on 29 November 2012. The hand-painted map dating from 1594 was tucked away in a torn Bible. The map was drawn by the Flemish cartographer Plancius, and is probably worth around EUR 3 000 since it shows hardly any signs of damage.
(source: http://www.gim-international.com/, 03 December 2012)

Changes at the Royal Library of Belgium

If you have not been to the Royal Library recently, be prepared for a shock on your next visit to the Maps & Plans department. Since the merger of the Maps & Plans Section with that of the Prints a few months ago, the old map room has been transformed into a children's play centre for use by the Education Service. Maps may now be viewed in the reading room which used to be devoted to Prints alone. This room, located in the prestigious 18th century palace of Charles de Lorraine, is quite pleasant and it now offers the possibility for map lovers to consult as well reference works on printers and engravers, and this, every day of the week (Monday to Friday, 9.00-13.00 and 14.00-17.00).

The unfortunate fact is that the maps are still in the same storage rooms at the other end of the building, five floors below; this gives the staff plenty of opportunity for exercise! Visitors are also expected to be fit: from the main floor of the Library where they have to register (and where lockers and toilets are located), they have to walk out of the building through the main entrance (and face the weather!), climb a number of steps up the Mont des Arts and turn right into the 'Rue du Musée'; the gate at no 1 bears no sign of 'Cartes & Plans', but just ring the bell and you will be let in. The new set-up implies a higher level of formality to get access to maps; as they are only delivered on Wednesdays and Thursdays, it is advisable to carefully prepare one's visits, and to reserve documents in advance (gerard.bouvin@kbr.be). Fortunately the staff there is always very helpful, especially if you mention that you are from the BIMCC!

Wouter Bracke gets new functions

Wouter is a familiar figure for BIMCC members. Initially, Head of the Maps & Plans section at the Royal Library in Brussels, he is now managing a much larger section where Maps & Plans have been merged with Prints and Chalcography. In addition, since last October he has been nominated as 'direttore' of the Academia Belgica in Rome; this prestigious Belgian institution aims at encouraging scientific and cultural relations with Italy, by fostering research and artistic creation.

Congratulations Wouter!

Scientists 'undiscover' Pacific island

Most explorers dream of discovering uncharted territory, but a team of Australian scientists have done the exact opposite. They have found an island that doesn't exist. The discovery took place on board the RV Southern Surveyor, Australia's Marine National Facility research vessel, during a 25-day research trip in the eastern Coral Sea. The island, named Sandy Island on Google Earth, is shown on marine charts and world maps and allegedly sits between Australia and New Caledonia in the south Pacific. But when the Southern Surveyor sailed past where the island should be, they found nothing but blue ocean. 'We became suspicious when the navigation charts used by the ship showed a depth of 1400 metres in an area where our scientific maps and Google Earth showed the existence of a large island,' Dr Maria Seton, a geologist from the University of Sydney, said. 'Somehow this error has propagated through to the world coastline database from which a lot of maps are made.' The missing island has regularly appeared in scientific publications since at least 2000. 'Even on board the ship, the weather maps had showed an island in this location,' Dr Seton said.

(source: http://www.smh.com.au/technology/technology-news, 22 November 2012).

News from the Malta Map Society

On 8 October 2012, Dr. Nick Kanas, Professor Emeritus University of California,San Francisco, gave a well attended talk on 'Celestial Mapping from Ancient to Modern Times' to the Malta Map Society (MMS), at the St. James Cavalier, Valletta. Dr. Kanas skillfully guided the audience through the development of stellar mapping from its early beginnings in Sumeria in 3000BC to the 2nd century AD Farnese Atlas on a marble statue in Naples (the earliest surviving European representation of the stars) to the birth of printed sky maps by Albrecht Dürer in 1515 and the advent of the telescope in 1609. At each stage, the evolution of celestial mapping was clearly illustrated, together with the thinking behind it. Maps from the important celestial atlases were illustrated with some beautiful examples, the frontispieces of these atlases were shown and their symbolism explained in detail.

The MMS 'Brocktorff Mapmakers' exhibition was officially opened on 30 November 2012, by H.E. President Emeritus of Malta, Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, at the Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta. The exhibition ran until 6 January 2013.

Dr. Bonnici was introduced by Dr. Albert Ganado, President of the MMS, who said that the exhibition had proved to be a voyage of discovery, revealing the amazing extent of the Brocktorff family's cartographical, artistic and lithographic work. Through careful research it had been possible to establish the place and date of birth of the founder of this mapmaking dynasty: Baron Charles Frederick Von Brocktorff (born in Kiel, Germany on 11 June1781 – died in Valletta on 16 May 1850) It had been possible to date some of the picture maps thanks to a gibbet of pirates about whose demise a lot of facts were known. The prodigious output of the Brocktorffs became apparent and dating the items was sometimes problematic. As usual variants of maps were discovered and even

Nicola Boothby and Jean-Louis Renteux explain the BIMCC to a visitor of the Paris Map Fair

atlases in the Ethiopian, Arabic and Turkish languages. An unusual map (by Luigi Brocktorff) displayed showed Graham Island, a large volcanic island that suddenly appeared in 1831 between Malta and Sicily. Several nations laid claim to it and placed their flags there, but before the matter could be settled the island disappeared beneath the sea leaving only a shoal.

BIMCC at the Paris Map Fair

Since its creation in 1998, the BIMCC has been present, with a stand, at the Paris Map Fair organised every year, in November, at the Ambassador hotel in Paris.
In 2012, the delegation of the Brussels Map Circle was larger than usual with five members manning the stand, next to IMCoS.
As a result three new sponsors and four new members have been recruited, and contacts and relations with other sponsors have been consolidated.

Events

The Military Survey of Scotland (1747-1755): a family affair?

31 January 2013
Oxford, UK

By Rachel Hewitt (Wolfson College, Oxford). The Oxford Seminars in Cartography.
University of Oxford Centre for the Environment, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3QY
From 17.00 to 18.30. - Language: English
Contact: Nick Millea,Map Librarian, Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BG Tel: +44 (0)1865 287119.
E-mail: nick.millea@bodleian.ox.ac.uk
URI: http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/guides/maps/

Miami International Map Fair

2 - 3 February 2013
Miami, U.S.A.

The 2013 Fair commemorates the 500th anniversary of Juan Ponce de León's arrival on Florida's east coast. The annual Miami Map Fair showcases antique maps, rare books, panoramas and atlases from around the world. Visitors can peruse and purchase antique maps from the many map dealers present. They can also learn about maps through a series of lectures by experts in the field and enjoy special events held throughout the weekend.
Contact: Amanda Israel, telephone 001-305-375-1614, e-mail mapfair@historymiami.org
Miami-Dade Cultural Center, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33130, U.S.A.
Daily Admission: HistoryMiami Members: USD 5.00; non-Members: USD 15.00. Tickets may be purchased at the door.
URI: http://www.historymiami.org/visit/miami-international-map-fair/

Maps and Society lectures series, London

Lectures in the history of cartography convened by Catherine Delano-Smith (Institute of Historical Research), Tony Campbell (formerly Map Library, British Library), and Alessandro Scafi (Warburg Institute):

Maps and Native North America

7 February 2013
Lecture by Jonathan King (Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge).

Harry H. Johnston and the Mapping of Africa, 1880–1915
28 February 2013
Lecture by Amy Prior (Institute of Geography, University of Edinburgh).

'One Damned Thing after Another': Mapping Britain's 19th-Century Wars
14 March 2013
Lecture by A. Crispin Jewitt (Cartographic and Topographic Materials, British Library).

Later Roman Cartography: A Non-Ptolemaic Approach
25 April 2013
Lecture by Dr Jesse Simon (University College, Oxford).

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

Early Sino-Korean Atlases in an Enduring East Asian Cartographical Enterprise
16 May 2013
Lecture by Dr Vera Dorofeeva-Lichtmann (Chargée de recherche, CNRS-EHESS, Paris).

Venue: Warburg Institute, School of Advanced Study, University of London, Woburn Square, London WC1H OAB
Language: English
Contact: telephone +44 20 8346 5112, e-mail info@tonycampbell.info
At 17.00 h. Admission is free and the meeting is followed by refreshments. All are most welcome.
URI: http://www.maphistory.info/warburgprog.html

The Oxford Seminars in Cartography.

TOSCA Field Trip - 'Mapping the Spheres': a visit to Oriel College Library and Archives

21 February 2013

'Everything is related to everything else, but near things are more related than distant things' : a cartographic genealogy of globalism.
2 May 2013
By Jerry Brotton (Queen Mary, University of London).The Oxford Seminars in Cartography

Oriel College Library and Archives. University of Oxford, Centre for the Environment, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3QY
From 17.00 to 18.30. - Space limited on the field trip
Contact: Nick Millea, Map Librarian, Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BG. Tel: +44 (0)1865 287119.
E-mail: Nick Millea
URI: http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/guides/maps/

Maastricht Antiquarian Book & Print Fair 2013
15 - 17 March 2013
Maastricht, The Netherlands
Open Friday 15: 14.00 – 20.00; Saturday 16: 10.00 - 18.00; Sunday 17: 10.00 - 17.00
info@mabp.eu - www.mabp.eu

25th International Conference on the History of Cartography (ICHC)
July 2013
Helsinki, Finland
The presentations will address the history of cartography--i.e., the study of maps, their making, and their use in the past--from any disciplinary perspective, such as art history, history of science, geography, literary studies, cultural history, etc. This Conference is organised under the heading 'The Four Elements'. Inspiration was derived from the antique symbolism found in many old maps. The four elements in classical antiquity were believed to reflect the building blocks from which the universe was constructed. As the main theme, Earth, Air, Fire and Water symbolize the essential elements in the history of cartography and the importance of cartography in the representation of nature and our understanding of the world.
A post-conference tour is organised to a location of interest as to the themes of the conference. This time it will be directed at one of the station points of the Struve Geodetic Arc in the unique landscape of Middle Finland.
Exhibitions are organised in connection with the conference.
URI: http://ichc2013.fi/

26th International Conference on the History of Cartography (ICHC)
July 2015
Antwerp, Belgium

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Exhibitions

L'âge d'or des cartes marines : quand l'Europe découvrait le monde [The golden age of maritime charts: when Europe was discovering the world]

23 October 2012 - 27 January 2013
Paris

Over 200 major pieces will be presented, including 80 portolans, as well as globes, astronomical instruments, art objects, prints, manuscripts,etc. The exhibition will bring insight on the ways in which Europeans, not only discovered and conquered, but also studied and represented territories and people betwen the 14th and the 18th centuries.

Venue: BnF - Site François-Mitterrand, Quai François-Mauriac, Paris XIIIe, Grande Galerie
Opening: Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00–19.00, Sunday 13.00-19.00, closed on Mondays and Holidays. Access : EUR 7.00, reduced rate : EUR 5.00. Reservations via FNAC, www.fnac.com/ telephone +33 892 684 694 (EUR 0.34/min)
URI: http://cartogallica.hypotheses.org/744

Envisioning the World: The First Printed Maps, 1472-1700

4 October 2012 - 27 January 2013
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

This collection of the earliest printed maps of the world reveals the rapidly unfolding understanding of geography and our place in the universe from the early Renaissance through the scientific Age of Enlightenment. The 30 rare and stunning maps, drawn from the extensive Wendt collection, also portray the first attempts to come to grips with the shape, size, and nature of the Earth and our solar system.

Royal BC Museum, 675 Belleville Street, Victoria
Opening hours: 10.00 - 17.00.
104-page catalogue available for purchase from the Royal Museum Shop.
URI: http://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/envisioning_the_world/default.aspx

Steady as she goes - Sailing by Mercator's map

Until 8 September 2013
Rotterdam

Discover everything about navigation at sea – both with and without Mercator's map – with your family at this exhibition. Historical maps and shipmodels will help you, but you will also be working with globes, binoculars, compasses, the stars and modern navigation equipment such as satellites and GPS. The only remaining copy of Mercator's world map in atlas format and his recently restored globe can also be admired at the exhibition.

Maritiem Museum Rotterdam, Leuvehaven 1, Rotterdam
Tel. +31 10 402 92 42, e-mail j.freijser@maritiemmuseum.nl
URI: http://www.maritiemmuseum.nl

The Widening View of the World – Treasures from the Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld map collection and Life and work of A. E. Nordenskiöld

25 April to 27 October 2013
Helsinki

The exhibition takes place in the framework of ICHC 2013 at the National Museum of Finland. The collection of explorer A. E. Nordenskiöld is one of the most extensive collections of early maps in the world. Nordenskiöld made ten expeditions to the Arctic Ocean, Spitsbergen and Greenland, and he was the first who sailed the Northeast passage between 1878 and 1879 with one ship. He collected and studied early maps and became a pioneer in the study of historical cartography. Through the maps the exhibition vividly depicts the development of European geographical knowledge starting from the classical era and shows how the Age of Discovery increased people's knowledge of the world. Nordenskiöld was born in Finland where he also studied and began his scholarly career before gaining international fame as an explorer. The exhibition also depicts the many turns in his life and career.

The exhibition has been organised in collaboration between The National Library of Finland, The National Museum of Finland, The John Nurminen Foundation and The Museum of Technology.
A publication will be prepared in connection with the exhibition.
The National Museum is open: Tue-Sun 11.00 - 18.00. Mondays closed
http://www.nba.fi/en/nationalmuseum

Charting the Land of Flowers: 50 Years of Florida Maps

28 September 2013 - 15 February 2014
Tampa, Florida, USA

The exhibition tells the story of exploration, settlement and growth of Florida and the significant role it played in US history. The publication of the catalogue and opening of the exhibition will coincide with the 500th anniversary of Ponce de Leon's arrival in, and the naming of, Florida in 1513. In addition to the 150 maps, dating from the 1500s to the present, included in the primary exhibition and its catalogue; there will be a 'secondary' exhibition of 75 or more other (and generally more casual or more contemporary) maps in another area within the History Center.

Tampa Bay History Center, 801 Old Water Street.
Hours: open daily 10.00 - 17.00. Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.
Contact: Tampa Bay History Center, 801 Old Water Street, Tampa, Florida, 33602

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

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(XVIE-XIXE SIÈCLE)

363 p., 40 ill. n/b, 19 ill. couleur,
210 x 270 mm, 2012, cartonné,
ISBN 978-2-503-54492-2, € 180
(prix hors TVA et frais de port)

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

- *Topographical study of Deventer maps*, by Eric Leenders and Jan De Graeve
- *Sea monsters on maps*, by Chet Van Duzer
- *Dr. Livingstone, I Presume?*, by James Newman
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BRUSSELS MAP CIRCLE
(BIMCC asbl/vzw)
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Aims and functions
The BIMCC was created, as the Brussels International Map Collectors' Circle, in 1998 by Wulf Bodenstein. It is a non-profit making association under Belgian law (asbl/vzw 0464 423 627) now known as the Brussels Map Circle.
Its aims are to:

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

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

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

The BIMCC also publishes a Newsletter three times a year and maintains a website.

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

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Maps in History
(BIMCC Newsletter)
The BIMCC currently publishes three issues per year.
It is distributed, not only to members of the Circle, but also to key institutions (Universities, Libraries) and personnalities active in the field of the history of cartography, located in eighteen different countries.

Please submit calendar items and other contributions to the editor (e-mail: editor@bimcc.org) by the following deadlines:

- 15 **Nov.** for the January edition.
- 15 **March** for the May edition.
- 15 **July** for the Sept. edition.

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

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