



Annual International Conference

Early maps of Indonesia

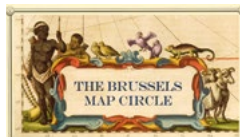


Saturday 9 December 2017

Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels

Conference Handout

Editorial



Dear Map friends

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

At this conference, you will hear speakers who will paint a broad overview of the mapping of Indonesia from the 16th century on: the European nations involved and their motifs, the most important mapmakers and the most iconic maps. The speakers greatly reflect these nations: Portuguese, Dutch and British (but Indonesia-based).

We follow a chronological line, starting with the Portuguese explorers and their maps, with attention paid to some contemporary, non-Portuguese mapmakers.

We then continue with the other European explorers and mapmakers who mapped the region. Given the importance of the Dutch both for the history of Indonesia and for that of mapmaking, two Dutch speakers will highlight this. They will start by sketching the general picture of the presence of Dutch mapmakers in Batavia, where the VOC (Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie – the Dutch United East India Company) had its headquarters and then continue on a more pointed and controversial issue: that of the (supposed?) secrecy of the VOC maps.



Caroline De Candt
President



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Cover : Batavia, 1681, by F de Wit (Coll. HEK)

Saturday 9 December 2017

Early maps of Indonesia

Programme & Timing

- 09:45 - 10:00 Welcome by the president**
- 10:00 - 10:15 Short overview of Indonesian history (1580-1950).**
Putting early cartography into perspective
– Hans D. Kok, Chairman IMCoS (London, UK)
- 10:15 - 11:00 It is not our intention to go farther on from here.**
The Portuguese voyages to the Spice Islands and the first European maps and sketches of Southeast Asia, 1512-c.1550
– Francisco Roque de Oliveira, Centre for Geographical Studies, IGOT-Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal
- 11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break**
- 11:30 - 12:15 How the search for the Spice Islands unrolled the map of the World.**
– David Parry, Soil Scientist, Environmental Development Consultant and Curator, Indonesia
- 12:15 - 14:00 Lunch**
- 14:00 - 14:45 Local exploration highlights in the days of the Dutch United East India Company (VOC)**
– Hans D. Kok, Chairman IMCoS (London, UK)
- 14:45 - 15:30 Confidential or commercial? The conflicting interests within the Blaeu and Van Keulen mapmaker families.**
– Martijn Storms, Curator of maps and atlases, Leiden University Library, The Netherlands
- 15:30 - 16:15 Some Dutch and British military manuscript surveys and maps of Java and Sumatra, chiefly 1810 to 1814, in Netherlands and UK collections.**
– Francis Herbert, retired Curator of Maps, Royal Geographical Society-IBG, London, UK

Short overview of Indonesian history (1580–1950).


PUTTING EARLY CARTOGRAPHY INTO PERSPECTIVE

Abstract

As the maps and charts being discussed in the BIMCC conference, will cover an extended period of time and consequently represent an appreciable part of the common Indonesian/Dutch history in that period, it was felt that a short overview of that history might be desirable for two reasons. One, being the fact that participants of the conference may be unfamiliar with that history altogether and secondly, that a better understanding of that history might be required to put the historic cartography presented during the conference, into its proper perspective.

The VOC-related cartography is in essence a need-to-know cartography for commercial aims and during the post-1815 history, cartography was required for the normal needs of administrating a large and very diversified country. The history under discussion comes to a logical end when the Republic of Indonesia is called into existence as an independent country in 1945/1949


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Hans D. KOK



Hans D. Kok (1940) completed his secondary education in the Netherlands and thereafter attended the Dutch Government Civil Aviation Flying Training School. Upon completion, he joined KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines, flying and navigating the last series of four-engined propeller planes in intercontinental operation in his initial career. He served in various managerial functions at home and abroad and re-tired from active flying in 1996 as a captain on Boeing 747-400s.

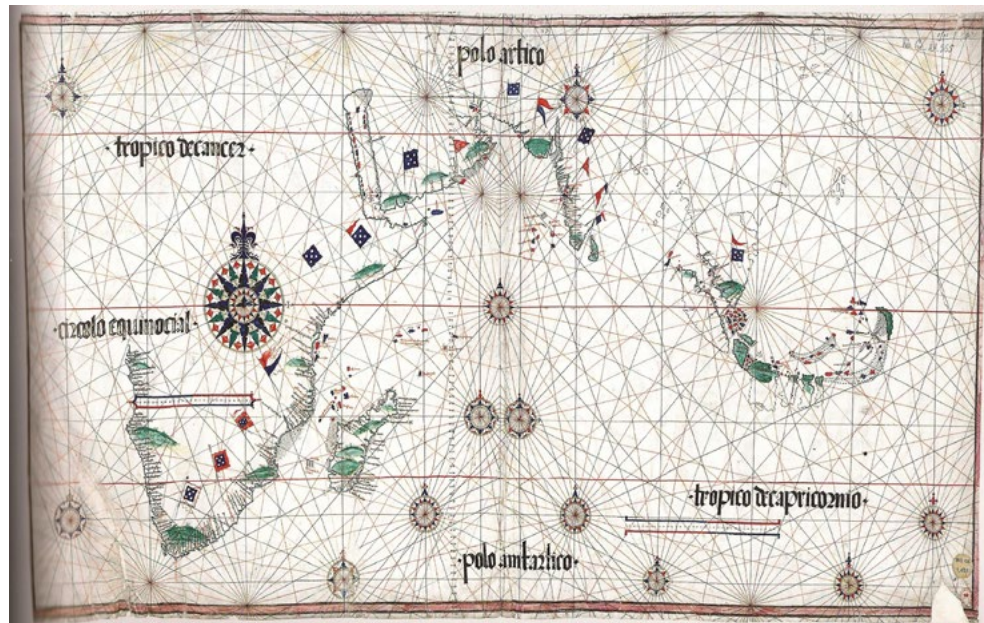
His interest in navigation and maps stems from his early days of navigating across oceans and polar areas, practicing the old techniques, using sextants and other specific navigational instruments.

His map collection comprises maps and charts from 1560 till 1800, focusing on the sea routes from Amsterdam to Jakarta, formerly Batavia, in the Dutch East Indies. He attended a series of lectures on historical cartography by Professor Schilder at Utrecht University.

Hans is currently on the Board of Editors of Caert-Thresoor in Holland and is Chairman of IMCoS, the International Map Collectors' Society in London. He is a member of the BIMCC/BMC and a frequent and active contributor to BIMCC/BMC events. He also co-authored 'Sailing for the East', on manuscript charts on vellum, used and produced by the Dutch East India Company.



Map Indiae Orientalis Insularumque Adiacentium Typus. Ortelius A., 1598. (Coll. HEK)



Pedro Reinel (?), Map of the Indian Ocean, [Lisbon], [c. 1517].
 Facsimile by Otto Progel ca. 1843, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris.
 The original belonged to the Wehrkreisbücherei, Munich; disappeared in 1945.

IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO GO FARTHER ON FROM HERE.

The Portuguese voyages to the Spice Islands and the first European maps and sketches of Southeast Asia 1512–c.1550

Abstract

Our purpose is to present an overview of the Portuguese cartography of the Indonesian archipelago between the maps and sketches drawn by Francisco Rodrigues in the aftermath of the first Portuguese expedition to the Moluccas in 1511–12 and the 1554 world map by Lopo Homem.

We will cross some references regarding coeval Spanish and French cartography, identifying the political and historical contexts of elaboration of each of these series of maps.

Francisco Roque de Oliveira

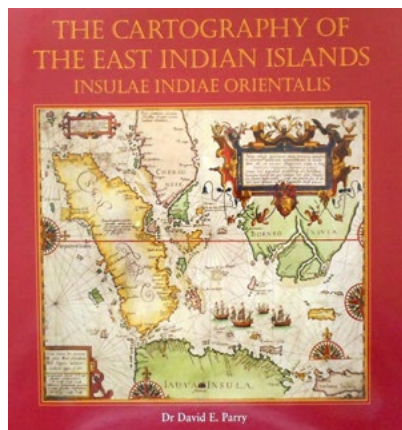
Francisco holds PhD in Human Geography, from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (2003). At present, he is Assistant Professor at the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning – Universidade de Lisboa, researcher at the Centre of Geographical Studies (CEG) – Universidade de Lisboa, researcher-collaborator at the Portuguese Centre for Global History (CHAM) at FSCH/Universidade Nova de Lisboa and Corresponding Member of the Portuguese Maritime Academy. His most recent publications are about History of Geography and Cartography, Portuguese colonial urbanism and European geographical literature on late Ming and early Qing China. He has co-edited (with Héctor Mendoza Vargas) *Mapas de la mitad del mundo: La cartografía y la construcción territorial de los espacios americanos: siglos XVI al XIX* (Universidade de Lisboa & UNAM, Mexico, 2010), and edited *Leitores de mapas: dois séculos de história da cartografia em Portugal* (Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal / CEG / CHAM, 2012), *Cartógrafos para toda a Terra. Produção e circulação do saber cartográfico ibero-americano: agentes e contextos* (Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal / CEG / CHAM, 2015) and *Percepções europeias da China dos séculos XVI a XVIII: ideias e imagens na origem da moderna Sinologia* (CEG / Palácio Nacional de Mafra, 2017).



How the search for the Spice Islands unrolled the map of the World.

Abstract

Providing a general overview of his book *The cartography of the East Indian Islands - Insulae Indiae Orientalis*, the author will describe how the search for the Spice Islands, the Holy Grail of the majority of the great Renaissance voyages of exploration, unrolled the map of the World.



He will address an important gap in the narrative, namely the medieval concept of the Far East prior to the period of Portuguese exploration and mapping c. 1415 – 1510 – Hereford mappa mundi, Marco polo's travels, the Crusades, Fra Mauro's mappa mundi and the Ptolemaic-derived maps. From there, and with a brief reference to all the Portuguese material covered by Dr. Oliveriera in the previous presentation, he will move onto the non-Portuguese and non-Dutch cartographers of the late 16th and the 17th and 18th centuries; the Italian, German, French and British, of whom the latter two challenged the Dutch mapping supremacy and became the premier cartographers of the 19th century.

David Perry

Dr. David E. Parry, a graduate of Sussex, Oxford and Aston Universities in the UK, is a soil scientist and remote sensing expert who developed an interest in collecting antique maps as a teenager. This interest became a passion as his professional career took him to exotic countries in Africa, Asia, India, the Middle East and Indonesia, referred to as the East Indian Islands or Dutch East Indies prior to independence. Recognizing the pivotal role that the 15th and 16th century search for the Spice Islands by the great Renaissance European explorers had on world geography and politics, he decided to write a book on the history of the cartography of the East Indian Islands that was published in 2005. David is still a practicing soil scientist currently engaged in soil survey and irrigation master planning in Nepal, and working on several development projects in Indonesia. He lives in Jakarta with his wife Sonja and their numerous cats and dogs.



Local exploration highlights in the days of the Dutch United East India Company (VOC)

Abstract

Local and regional cartography was required to ensure adequate and profitable performance of the Dutch East India Company (1601-1798) as a whole. Early on, the aims of the cartography commissioned, were safety of its shipping – mainly sea charts-, the defence of its factories and stockpiled wares – mainly fortification maps and town plans – and mapping, ordered in the hope of finding more potentially profitable regions where additional products would be available or needed (search for the Unknown Southland) and lastly, those trips, scheduled for enlarging the VOC area of political control, either directly or in order to keep competing nations out.

The VOC Hydrographic Department in Batavia/Djakarta was important on these counts and was in operation for the full 200 years of the VOC's existence, employing a sizable number of cartographers and the presentation will take a closer look at the expeditions, organised to serve intra-insular traffic and those serving the exploration of Australia and Japan. Some of these were instigated by the Council of Indië in Batavia, others came about by direct orders from the Gentlemen XVII in Holland. Purely local surveys, like in VOC ports, are outside of the presentation's scope. Although the title suggests that only VOC cartography, will be discussed, some remarks on post-1815 surveying and mapping in the colonial period will be made. Local and regional surveying then shifts away from hydrography to topography and geography, filling in the empty spaces in the interior of the Indonesian islands. A huge effort was made for this purpose, exceeding by far the surveying volume at home for the Netherlands proper, due to the large dimensions of the Indonesian Archipelago.



'Insulae Javae pars Occidentalis', by Gerard van Keulen 1735 (coll. HEK)



'India quae Orientalis dicitur et Insulae adiacentes', H. Hondius 1639 (Coll. HEK)

Confidential or commercial?

The conflicting interests within the Blaeu and Van Keulen mapmaker families

Abstract

The Dutch East-India Company (VOC) produced its own maps. In the course of its almost two centuries long existence (1602-1799), the VOC appointed official mapmakers to lead its map chamber in the East-India House in Amsterdam. For two periods, the office of VOC mapmaker was in the hands of two well-known map publishing families: the Blaeus (1633-1705) and the Van Keulens (1743-1799). The instructions for Willem Jansz Blaeu as official VOC mapmaker read that he was sworn not to reveal information about VOC activities to persons outside the company, not to publish any VOC material without permission and to observe secrecy about his work. The stipulations for Gerard Hulst van Keulen, the last official VOC mapmaker, still includes the instructions not to disclose any information about his activities to outsiders. Although the VOC mapmakers had to swear secrecy, it is open to question to what extent VOC cartography was considered confidential. How did the Blaeu and Van Keulen families reconcile the role of official VOC mapmakers with their activities as commercial publishers? Was there a conflict of interest between their commercial activities and their commitment to the VOC? Kees Zandvliet argued that scholars have given too much weight to the few instructions and resolutions known in relation to the confidentiality of maps. Nevertheless, relatively little analysis has been done on the printed cartographic output of VOC territories. How many maps based on 'secret' VOC charts were effectively published in print, especially by the mapmaker-publishers wearing two hats? In my opinion, the commercial map printing practice of the Blaeus was limited by the restrictions imposed by the VOC. However, the office of VOC mapmaker was very lucrative and apparently outweighed the publicity restrictions. Contemporary Amsterdam publishers not bound to the VOC were less constrained in printing maps of VOC territories. The VOC policy only changed after English and French sea atlases of Asian waters were published in the first half of the eighteenth century. At that point there was no navigational information left to keep secret any longer, and Johannes II van Keulen was allowed to publish his sixth part of 'De Groote Lichtende Zee-Fakkel', devoted to Asian waters, in 1753.

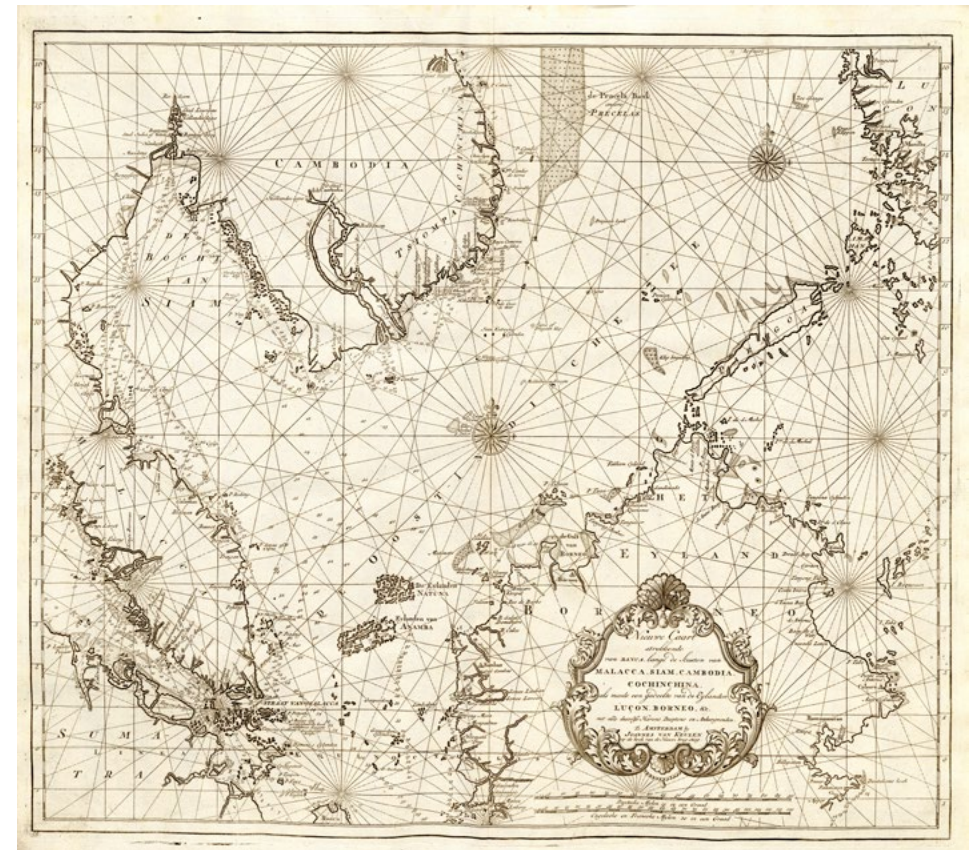
Martijn Storms

Martijn Storms MA (Arnhem, Netherlands, 1978) studied human geography and planning at Utrecht University where he specialised in GIS and cartography.

He is curator of maps and atlases at Leiden University Libraries and has written about the conflicting interests within the Blaeu and Van Keulen families in the recently published book *Voyage of Discovery* on the Asian collections of Leiden University Libraries.



Besides, he is project coordinator at Brill publishers for Peter van der Krogt's *Koeman's Atlantes Neerlandici* and member of the editing board of *Caert-Thresoor*, the Dutch journal for the history of cartography.



Johannes II van Keulen, Chart of the South China Sea in the *Zee-Fakkel*, 1753.

Some Dutch and British military manuscript surveys and maps of Java and Sumatra, chiefly 1810 to 1814, in Netherlands and UK collections.

Abstract

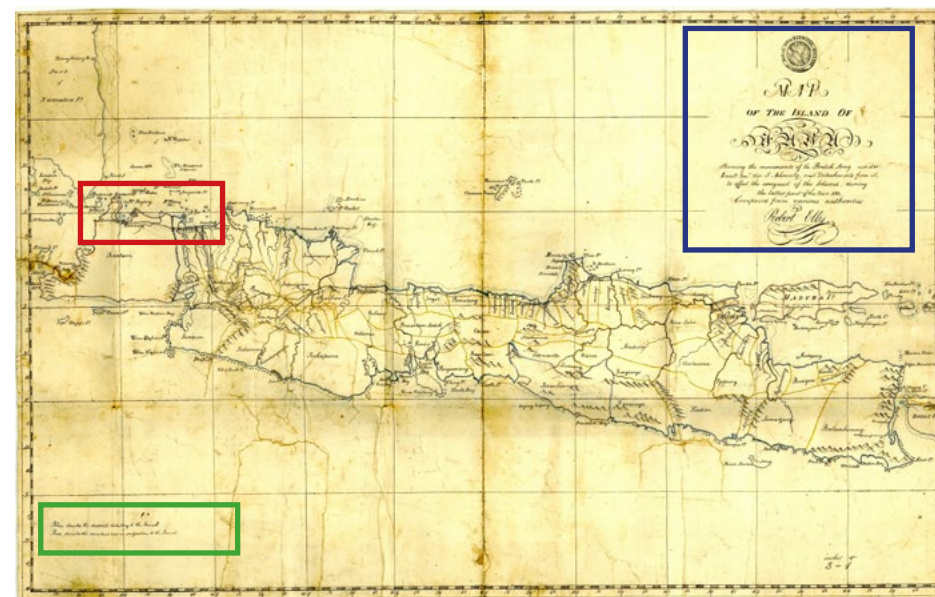
During the British 'interregnum' of the former VOC possessions – specifically Java and Sumatra – to ensure non-capture by the French during the latter period of the Napoleonic Wars, an armada from British India was dispatched to Java.

Manuscript copies of late 18th-century Dutch maps were made. With Dutch help, too, the British military forces re-surveyed, reviewed or completed mapping in several areas and features – the 'High Military Road' from Batavia [Jakarta], for example, with an accompanying itinerary.

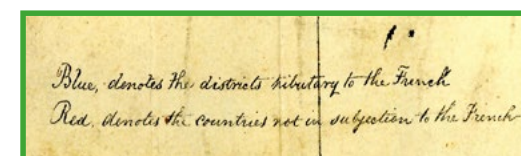
This work was carried out for both the British military governor (Lord Minto) and the civilian lieutenant-governor (T.S. Raffles); the responsible Deputy Quarter-Master General, under Lt-Gen. Sir S. Auchmuty, was Major W. Thorn.

Francis Herbert

Francis used to be Curator of Maps, Royal Geographical Society-IBG, London, UK. After retiring in 2006, he has continued being very active in the field of the history of cartography: as a very active member of the BIMCC/BMC since its foundation; as President of the USA-based Society for the History of Discoveries; as consultant for the British Library's 'Vulnerable Items Project'; as Council Member of The Hakluyt Society (London); as an active (publishing) member of the International Cartographic Association's History of Cartography Commission, etc.



Map of the Island of Java by Robert Ellis - 1811



The 'High Military Road' from Batavia

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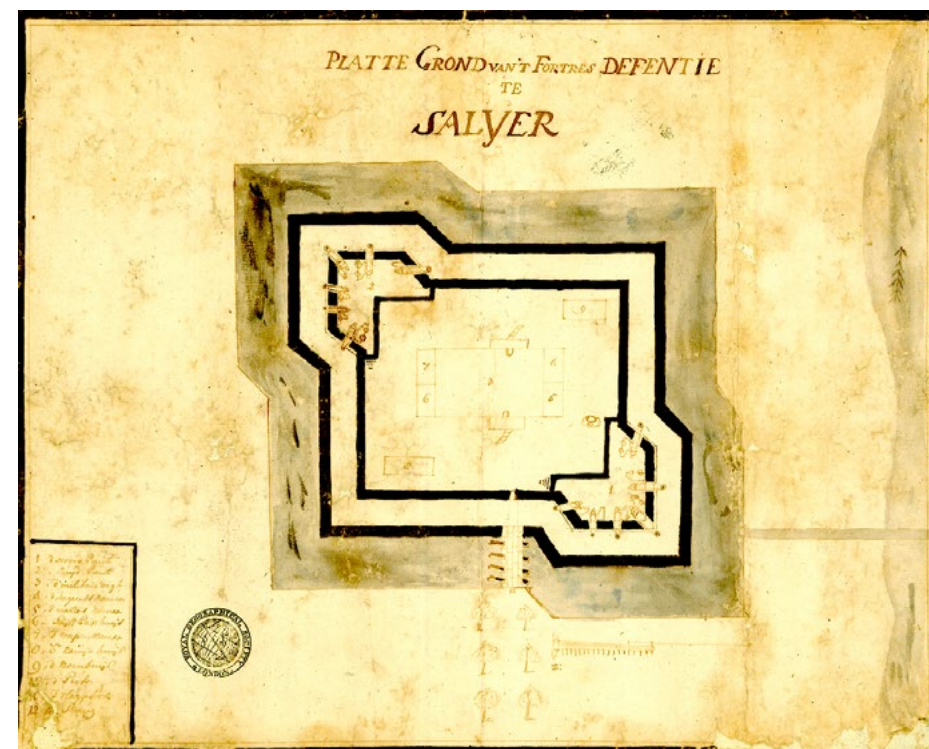
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The Brussels Map Circle

AIMS AND FUNCTIONS

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

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

Its aims are to:

1. Provide an informal and convivial
forum for all those with a spe-
cialist 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 as-
pects of historical cartography, on
regions of cartographical interest,
on documentation, paper conser-
vation and related subjects
3. Organise visits to exhibitions,
and to libraries and institutions
holding important map and atlas
collections.

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

- A Map Afternoon in March or
April, bringing together all those
interested in maps and atlases for
an informal chat about an item
from their collection – an ideal
opportunity to get to know the
Circle.
- An EXCURSION to a map collec-
tion or exhibition.
- AN INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE on a specific major
topic in December.

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

OFFICIAL ADDRESS

c/o Henri Godts
Avenue Louise 230/6
B-1050 Brussels

www.bimcc.org
info@bimcc.org

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Wulf Bodenstein
Avenue des Camélias 71
1150 Bruxelles
telephone: +32 (0) 2 772 69 09
e-mail: wulfbo@scarlet.be

Eric Leenders
Zwanenlaan 16
2610 Antwerpen
telephone: +32 (0) 3 440 10 81
e-mail: eric.leenders3@telenet.be

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT

Caroline De Candt
Burggravenlaan 341
9000 Gent
telephone: +32(0)9 222 80 14
e-mail: president@bimcc.org

VICE-PRESIDENT AND EDITOR (ÉDITEUR RESPONSABLE)

Jean-Louis Renteux
Rue des Floralies 62
1200 Brussels
telephone: + 32 (0)2 770 59 03
e-mail: editor@bimcc.org

Co-Editor: Paul De Candt
telephone: + 32 (0)475 899 224
e-mail: pdc@aquaterra.be

TREASURER

Eddy Masschalck
Ridder van Ranstlei 77
2640 Mortsel
telephone: +32(0)474934761
e-mail: treasurer@bimcc.org

SECRETARY

Karen De Coene
e-mail: secretary@bimcc.org

WEBMASTER

Pierre Parmentier
e-mail: webmaster@bimcc.org

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR

Wouter Bracke
e-mail: wouter.bracke@kbr.be

OTHER OFFICERS

- Lisette Danckaert
- Jan De Graeve
jan@degraeve-geo.eu
- Henri Godts
henri.godts@godts.com
- Jean-Christophe Staelens
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(e-mail: editor@bimcc.org) by the
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- 15 July for the September edition.
- 15 Nov. for the January edition.

Items presented for publication are
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Editorial Committee.

Signed articles and reviews reflect
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