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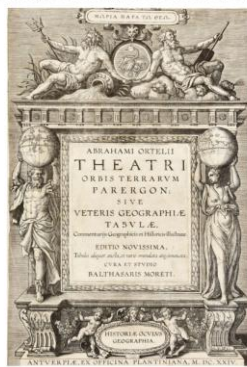
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# *Models of the Cosmos*

## *On Globes and Their Making*

### **Conference programme**

- 9:15 Welcome address
- 9:30 New Findings on Two KBR Cimelia: The Sanuto and the Mercator Gores
- By Wouter Bracke
- 10:00 Who Made the Murad III Globes and Armillary Sphere in 1579?  
Toward a New Attribution
- By Koenraad Van Cleempoel
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 Globes by Merzbach and Falk-Fabian and the Institut national  
de géographie (Brussels, 1875-1898): a Success Story?
- By Colin Dupont
- 11:30 Around the World in 200 Globes, Stories of the Twentieth  
Century
- By Willem Jan Neutelings
- 12:00 The Hunt Lenox Globe and its Replicas – New Scientific  
Results and an Accidental Find
- By Thomas Horst and Martina Pippal
- 12:30 End

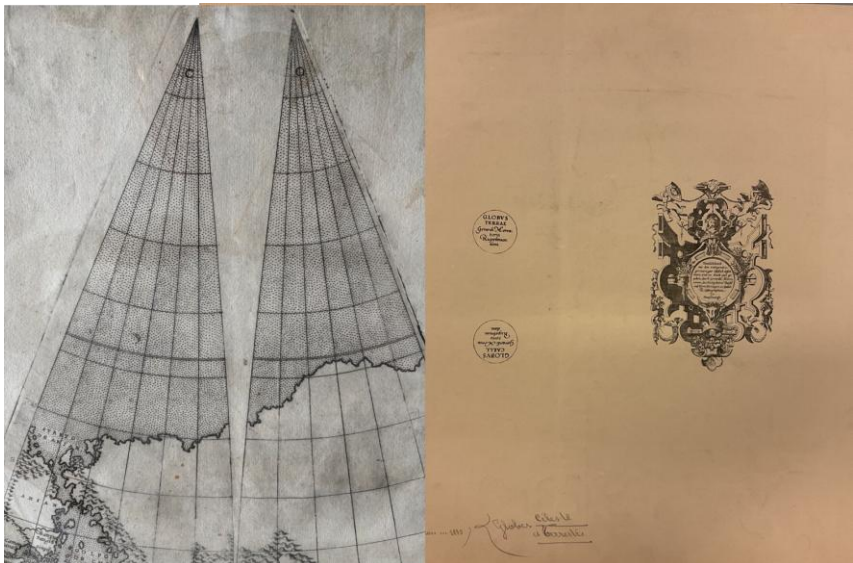


**Wouter Bracke** is head of Cartographic collections in the Royal Library of Belgium and Professor at the Université libre de Bruxelles where he teaches post-classical Latin and Latin and Greek palaeography. He is also chair of Imago Mundi.

# New Findings on Two KBR Cimelia: The Sanuto and the Mercator Gores

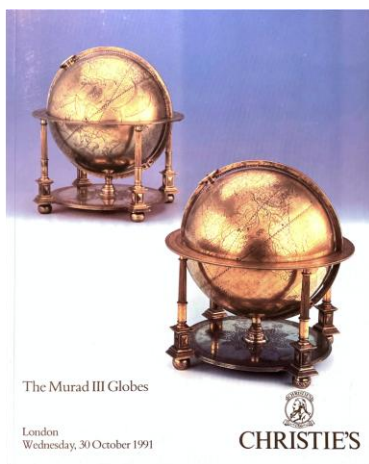
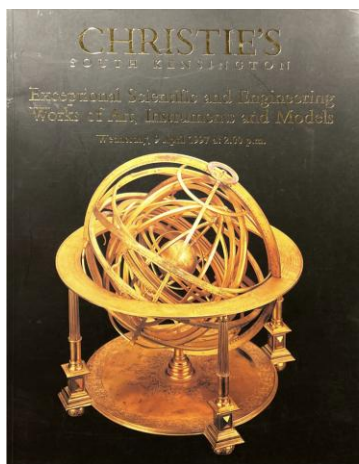
In the 1960s twelve sheets of half gores for a terrestrial globe came on the market. Their production was linked to Livio and Giulio Sanuto, two Venetian mapmakers of the second half of the 16th century. Since their facsimile by David Woodward in 1987, one more set of Sanuto gores and two mounted copies have been identified. This presentation introduces a fifth (partial) copy, hitherto unknown, that is kept in the Map room of the Royal Library of Belgium and discusses its uniqueness in regard to the other testimonies.

Its acquisition by the Library in the 19th century, it will be argued, is connected with that of the Mercator gores by the same institution. The study of their joint history in the 19th century opens a new chapter in the production and diffusion of the Mercator globes.





**Koenraad Van Cleempoel** has a strong interest in Renaissance and Late Medieval scientific instruments as carriers of both scientific and cultural knowledge. He catalogued the astrolabes of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich [Oxford University Press], and has published on the Louvain School [Brepols]. He is currently studying a newly discovered 1551 manuscript by Mercator.



# Who Made the Murad III Globes and Armillary Sphere in 1579?

## Toward a New Attribution

In 1991 and 1997, Christie's auctioned, respectively, a pair of globes and an armillary sphere dated 1579, each bearing the *tughra* of Murad III, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1574 to 1595. Although no maker's signature survives, the globes and sphere share stylistic engravings, a common date, and imperial iconography, strongly suggesting they were created as a set.

The most widely accepted attribution—based on detailed descriptions in Christie's catalogues—is to the European workshop of Gerardus Mercator in Duisburg, possibly commissioned for or diplomatically gifted to Sultan Murad III in 1579.

This presentation introduces new research that reconsiders this attribution and proposes alternative possibilities for authorship, based on comparative analysis with the work of a contemporary cartographer. It also seeks to reposition Gerardus Mercator as a master artisan, whose brass scientific instruments, made between 1541 and 1551, continued to exert influence on other instrument makers well into the late 16th century.





**Colin Dupont** is assistant-curator of the Maps and Plans Department at the Royal Library of Belgium, and doctor in history of the KULeuven. He is the webmaster of the Brussels Map Circle, national representative for Imago Mundi and member of ModerNum. His research focuses on the history of cartography in 16th and 19th century Belgium.





# **Globes by Merzbach and Falk-Fabian and the Institut national de géographie (Brussels, 1875-1898): a Success Story?**

During the 19th century, globes became mass-produced consumer goods. In Belgium, the market was dominated by Philippe Vandermaelen and his *Établissement géographique de Bruxelles*, which offered globes of all sizes. The decline and eventual closure of the company in 1878 opened a gap in the market. The two publishers Henry Merzbach and Theodore Falk-Fabian soon became key players in the business. From the very beginning of their involvement in cartography, globes played a central role: their first publication in the field, in 1875, was a facsimile of the Mercator gores that had just been acquired by the Royal Library of Belgium.

Globes remained central to the cartographic and geographical work of Merzbach and Falk-Fabian. The commercial success of such artifacts was one of the arguments put forward by the two publishers when seeking support for the establishment of a new *Institut national de Géographie* in 1882. Globes of all sizes and in various languages featured in the Institute's sales catalogues, which even listed a workshop dedicated to their construction. In addition to their commercial value, globes were appreciated for their educational purpose. Both publishers saw them as interactive tools for teaching geography. The Institute became one of the leading actors in Belgium, producing dozens of globes.

Unfortunately, very few copies of the globes produced by Merzbach and Falk-Fabian found their way to public collections. Through in-depth study of archival material, sales catalogues and advertisements, this presentation reconstructs the history of their production and provides insight into the wide variety offered by the publishing house. It will examine how this activity fits into the company's overall objectives and how it contributed to its success. Finally, it will situate the company's role within the Belgian globe market during the last quarter of the 19th century.



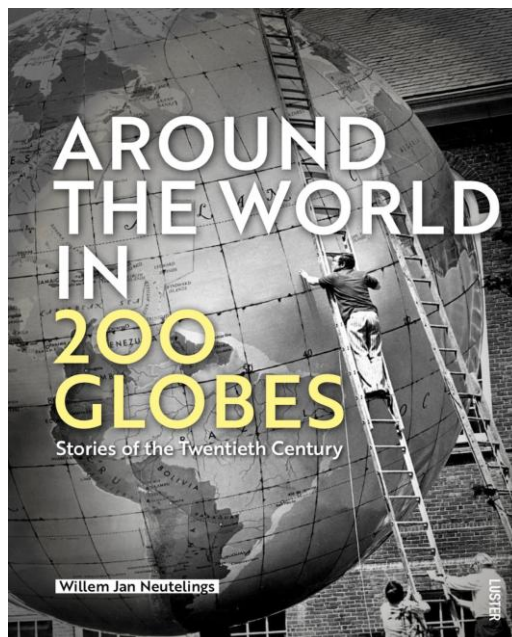
**Willem Jan Neutelings** studied architecture at Delft University of Technology. He worked at the Office for Metropolitan Architecture in Rotterdam and founded Neutelings Riedijk Architects there in 1987. The architectural firm is internationally active, with a focus on the design of large-scale public and cultural buildings. Some well-known achievements are the Museum Aan de Stroom in Antwerp, the Gare Maritime in Brussels, the Institute of Sound and Vision in Hilversum and the Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden.

Willem Jan Neutelings has lectured at numerous architecture institutes around the world and was a guest teacher at the Berlage Institute in Rotterdam and the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University. Since 2020, he has ended his activities as an architect and lives in Brussels.

He recently published *Around the World in 200 Globes, Stories of the Twentieth Century*. He has now donated his extensive collection of two hundred and fifty twentieth-century globes to the MAP/Mercatormuseum in Sint-Niklaas.

# Around the World in 200 Globes, Stories of the Twentieth Century

The subject of this lecture is the story of the turbulent 20th century, told on the basis of a number of striking globes from Neutelings' collection. In a period of socio-political unrest, style breaks, technological revolutions, and world wars, the globe makers were forced to constantly transform their creations. The globes tell the story of that zeitgeist, from art nouveau to modernism, from plastics to smartphones, from the space race to scientific innovations. The intriguing spheres document the historical events, the colorful personalities and the social transformations in the 20th century, as a mirror of our society.





**Thomas Horst** works as a map librarian in the Departement of Maps and Images at the Bavarian State Library in Munich. From 2013 to 2023, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Lisbon investigating cosmographical knowledge visualized as portrayed on globes and also transcultural relations in the early modern period. He is a co-initiator of the academic network PORT-AL-HIST, a contributing special editor for the *Isis Current Bibliography*, a book review editor for the journal *Imago Mundi*, and a member of the Extended Board of the International Coronelli Society for the study of Globes.

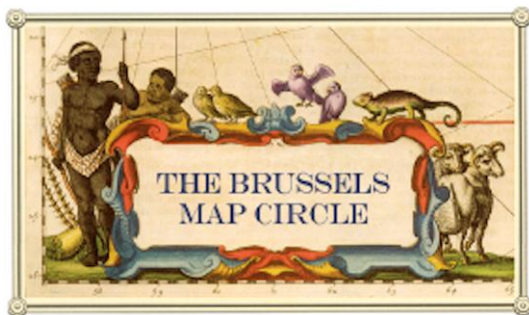
**Martina Pippal** lives and works as an art historian and artist in Vienna (Austria). She studied art history, archeology, history and theology at the University of Vienna, received her postdoctoral qualification (Habilitation) in 1991, and was a professor at the Institute for Art History of the University of Vienna until 2022, where she still supervises final theses (MA, PhD). Her scientific focus is inter alia on early and high medieval art as well as on Austrian modernism. Broad knowledge in the field of technology as well as interest in the development of the natural sciences enables her to solve transdisciplinary problems, including in globe studies

# The Hunt Lenox Globe and its Replicas – New Scientific Results and an Accidental Find

New maps and globes appearing on the art market pose particular challenges for researchers: cartographers and historians will primarily use the geographical knowledge gradually acquired through conquests and research expeditions as a starting point for the object's dating and localizing. But, when the question of the work's authenticity (original?, forgery?, replica?, etc.) arises, transdisciplinary cooperation with representatives of art history and the natural sciences is mandatory. Top priorities in this regard are openness to all outcomes and the interaction of all collaborators as equals. – When several objects that match down to the smallest detail are under discussion, some answers are expectable. Others only reveal themselves after complicated detours. The presentation will illustrate how fascinating the researchers' work on their path to a conclusive result can be. There, the focus will be set on new scientific results achieved by a research team in Munich and an unexpected discovery.



# Join the Circle!



The Brussels Map Circle is a non-profit making association under Belgian law. Its aims are to:

1. Provide an informal and convivial forum for all those with an interest in maps, atlases, town views and books with maps.
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.

The Circle organises the following annual events:

- A MAP AFTERNOON bringing together all those interested in maps and atlases for an informal chat about an item from their collection.
- An EXCURSION to a map collection or exhibition.
- An INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on a specific major topic.

Members receive two issues of our magazine *Maps in History* per annum and a monthly electronic news bulletin *WhatsMap?* Members also have free admission to most of the Circle's events.

Annual Membership: EUR 50.00. Students and under 25: EUR 15.00.

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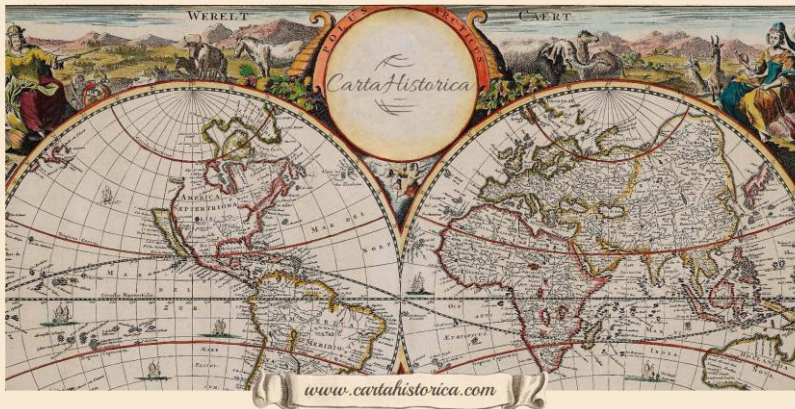
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