



## NEWSLETTER N° 3, January 1999

Dear Map Friend,

As we move briskly into the New Year, we may look back upon 1998 as having given us a rather promising start for our young Circle. The Map Evening in March, our very first event, solicited a great deal of spontaneous interest and paved the way for the formal establishment of the BIMCC, which was achieved in June. October took us to a well attended tour of the City Archives in Brugge with its remarkable 16<sup>th</sup> century wall-map of the Brugse Vrije by Claeissens after Pieter Pourbus, and in December we paid tribute to Abraham Ortelius with a commemoration that put us firmly on the map, so to speak. Both the conference and the exhibition visits provided a captivating insight into the famous Antwerp cartographer's world 400 years ago; a summary follows below.

Our Membership is approaching 50 now, and the growing number of enquiries seems to confirm that we are on the right track both in respect of the programme offered and the way in which this is conducted. Particularly encouraging is the harmonious blending of disciplines we are achieving, bringing together academics, representatives of the trade and the map enthusiast (collector or not, beginner or accomplished specialist), each branch complementary to the others and visibly happy with the cross-fertilization that results.

Our future programme takes this into account; we aim at maintaining three main events per year: around February a seminar on a practical aspect of map collecting for beginners and confirmed collectors alike, in March/April we have our traditional Map Evening on a convivial note, when participants bring along a piece from their collection to talk about, and this provides an excellent opportunity for prospective members to get to know the Circle; and then in October usually a visit will take us to an exhibition or a collection with a specific map content. Every second year in November/December, a conference will be organized on a topical subject of the history of cartography, combined with an exhibition, and you might make a note of the event planned for the second half of 2000:

« From the Low Countries to the High Seas – Dutch maps from the Age of Discovery » which will also highlight the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Dutch expedition to Japan.

Although for practical reasons we have adopted English as our working language, there is no problem to establish an individual line of communication with readers in Dutch, French or German. Those wishing to join the Circle and/or intend to participate in the one or other event announced will find a registration form attached.

All further information from:

**BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL MAP COLLECTORS' CIRCLE (BIMCC)**

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**SECRETARY: V. Van De Kerckhof, W. de Croylaan 23, B-3001 HEVERLEE**

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**Ortelius Commemoration 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>  
December, 1998 - a brief account**  
*Conference « Abraham Ortelius (1527 –  
1598), Mastermind of the Theatre of the  
World »*  
*(Collège Saint Michel, Brussels)*

In opening the Conference, BIMCC President Wulf Bodenstein welcomed the more than fifty participants of 9 different nationalities who had gathered that Saturday morning to honour one of the most outstanding persons of the 16<sup>th</sup> century: Abraham Ortelius, who was born and died in Antwerp. Whilst his most acclaimed achievement is generally considered to be the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, largely covered in the two exhibitions visited later, the humanist and also business aspects of his life and career deserve more exposure; these together with a closer look at the figurative language prevailing during this time formed the main themes of the Conference and afforded a fascinating excursion into the cultural environment of four centuries ago.

**Joost Depuydt**, of the Rare Books Department, Leuven University, spoke about « Mapping Ortelius' Humanist Activities » and emphasized Ortelius' interest in, and immense knowledge of, classical antiquity, as manifest in the expert preparation of the historical maps in his atlas, the large collection of coins, the extensive correspondence with the leading figures of his time, and the numerous other works attesting to a spirited, methodical intellect. Joost also mentioned Ortelius' last publication (in 1596), a booklet on the customs and traditions of the ancient Germans, the translation of which into Dutch he had recently initiated.

**Rodney Shirley**, best known for his reference work *The Mapping of the World 1472 – 1700*, gave a talk on the « Cultural Imagery in the Title Pages of Ortelius and his Contemporaries ». The title page of

Ortelius' *Theatrum* revealed a number of messages coded in the allegorical figures of the continents and the intriguing bust of Magellania, the personification of the southernmost part of South America; the Parergon title page was shown to reflect the classical learning in this book through the symbol for wisdom, the entwined serpents. Title pages by other authors of atlases of this period (including Saxton, De Jode, Mercator and Hondius) illustrated the large variety of symbology used to convey a notion of the mysterious, sometimes of national pride or aspiration. This under-researched theme certainly merited, Rodney pointed out, a deeper and more systematic appraisal.

**Marcel van den Broecke**, author, collector and map-dealer himself, presented « Ortelius as a Scientist, Collector and Merchant ». In sketching out Ortelius' artistic and scientific accomplishments and his concurrent mercantile activities he set out to resolve the apparent contradiction inherent in a « scientist/merchant » constellation, underlining that the combination of collecting, studying and trading indeed strengthened each of these activities. Marcel also exposed some interesting figures on atlases and maps produced (and remaining) relating to the *Theatrum*: of the ca. 7.500 atlas copies produced, amounting to about 900.000 map copies, some 40%, roughly estimated, have survived, mostly held in libraries, with a relatively smaller part in private hands.

The morning conference ended with a presentation of the latest publications on Ortelius. Among these were:

- Marcel P.R. van den Broecke (ed.), *Abraham Ortelius and the First Atlas: essays commemorating the Quadricentennial of his death 1598-1998* (HES Publishers, December 1998, in English)
- Dirk Imhof (ed.), *Abraham Ortelius, Cartograaf en Humanist* (jointly

published by the Plantin-Moretus Museum, Antwerp, and the Royal Library, Brussels, in Dutch and French)

- Hossam Elkhadem, *Le Theatrum Orbis Terrarum d'Abraham Ortelius : la*

*naissance de l'Atlas*, (published by the Royal Library, Brussels, in French and Dutch)

- Marcel P.R. van den Broecke, *Ortelius Atlas Maps*, (HES Publishers, 1996, in English)

In addition, Rodney Shirley displayed a representative selection of title pages and frontispieces by, inter alia, Waldseemüller, Porcacci, Ortelius, De Jode, Coignet, de Bry, van der Keere, which also attracted a great deal of interest.

#### **Exhibition Visits**

Following a very animated apéritif (sponsored by HES), a Speakers' Lunch had been arranged; two groups of participants then visited the Ortelius exhibition at the Royal Library, Brussels (open until 27<sup>th</sup> March), where Hossam Elkhadem, Curator of Maps and the exhibition organizer, performed a guided tour, commenting the very rich collection of works by Ortelius that were on display, augmented by an interesting selection of contemporary cartographical documents which put Ortelius' Atlas production in the right historical context. He subsequently invited the visitors to a special viewing of rare manuscript maps laid on in the Map Room particularly for the BIMCC.

The next morning participants were received at the Plantin-Moretus Museum in Antwerp by Dirk Imhof, Curator of Rare Books, for a guided tour of the Ortelius

exhibition. Apart from the now familiar Theatrum specimens, a good collection of the Epitome ( the small, oblong version) was on display, as were a number of unique manuscript registers relating to the printing of the Theatrum, and many more rarely seen documents connected with Ortelius.

In the afternoon a number of participants took the opportunity of paying a visit to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Mechelen Antique Book Fair for which the Organizer had kindly provided complimentary passes, thus completing a very interesting and stimulating week-end.

The Commemoration was honoured by the presence of a number of distinguished personalities in the history of cartography, amongst whom were Jenny Harvey (IMCoS Chairman), Mrs. Lisette Danckaert (Honorary Curator of Maps, Royal Library, Brussels), Prof. Frans Depuydt (Leuven University) and Dr. Peter van der Krogt (Utrecht University).

A video-tape of the event has been produced by Jean-Louis Renteux, and this could be made available on request ; please contact the BIMCC Secretary for details.

### News from the International Map Collectors' Society (IMCoS)

#### **17<sup>th</sup> International Symposium, Tokyo, Japan – 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1998**

The Antique Map Society of Japan had organized a three-day programme of lectures and visits for the 120 participants. The papers given included such diverse subjects as *Printed City Plans of the Edo Era*, *A Folding Screen World Map*, *The Cartographic Image of Asia in the Renaissance* (with a slide of a Japanese

postage stamp showing Ortelius' map of Japan!), and *Mt. Fuji as represented on Maps in the Late Edo Period*. Among the visits was a tour of the Edo Tokyo Museum where a private exhibit of antique maps was on view, an excursion to the Science Museum outside Tokyo, and a special display of Japanese maps from a private collection. A two-day post-conference tour took the group to Kyoto

and Kobe where temples, shrines and, of course, maps were to be seen. (Excerpt from the IMCoS Journal)

**Regional Visit to Berlin, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April, 1999**

This is a week-end visit taking in the newly formed Berlin State Library – Prussian Cultural Heritage, now administratively combining the two State Libraries formerly separated by the wall. These two Institutions possess one of the most important map and atlas collections in Germany. There will be ample opportunity for sight-seeing, and those interested should contact Regent Holidays, 15 John Street, Bristol, BS1 2HR, Tel. 44/117/921.17.11, who organize the event on behalf of IMCoS.

**IMCoS Map Fair, London, 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1999**

This is currently the biggest Fair of its kind in Europe, with over 30 exhibitors present at the Commonwealth Conference and Events Centre, Kensington High Street, London W8 (from 11.00 to 17.30 hours).

Some 50.000 maps and plans ranging from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century will be on offer; admission is free.

**18<sup>th</sup> International Symposium, Istanbul, 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1999.**

This year's symposium is held in conjunction with the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Ottoman Empire, the main theme being « Ottoman Cartography ». Optional pre- or post-Symposium tours (4 in all) take the participants to different parts of the Aegean coast, to Cappadocia or Gallipoli.

- Further information about Membership or any of the above events should be requested from the Membership Secretary Samantha Pearce, 7, East Park Street, Chatteris, Camb. PE16 6LA ; Tel ++44/1354/69.20.23, e-mail [samantha.pearce1@demon.co.uk](mailto:samantha.pearce1@demon.co.uk)
- You can also visit the web-site of IMCoS : <http://www.harvey27.demon.co.uk/imcos/>

## International Calendar

**Until 28<sup>th</sup> February 1999:**

**Exhibition « 1000 Years Iceland »,**

comprising an important section with old maps of Iceland ; at the Kultur- und Stadthistorisches Museum Duisburg (Germany) ; info from

Tel. ++49/203/283.26.56 and

<http://www.duisburg.de>

**Until 27<sup>th</sup> March 1999 : Ortelius**

**Exhibition** at the Royal Library in the Nassau Chapel, Brussels ; open from 12.00 to 16.45 every day except Sundays ; info from Tel. ++32/2/519.53.11 ; catalogue available in Dutch and French.

**Cycle of Lectures in the History of Cartography « Maps and Society » :**

At the Warburg Institute, University of London, Woburn Square, London, UK

**25. 2. 1999** : Dr. J. Stone, *Imperialism, Colonialism and Cartography in Africa*

**18. 3. 1999** : Prof. M. Pollak, *Military Strategy and City Plans in the 17<sup>th</sup> century*

**29. 4. 1999** : Ralph Ehrenberg, *Charting Invisible Airways : the Early Development of Aviation Cartography in the U.S.*

**3. 6. 1999** : Prof. L. Cowen Orlin, *Reading Ralph Treswell's maps : Property Disputes in Tudor and Stuart London*

Admission is free ; enquiries to Tony Campbell, British Library Map Library, Tel ++44/171/412.75.25 e-mail

[tony.campbell@bl.uk](mailto:tony.campbell@bl.uk)

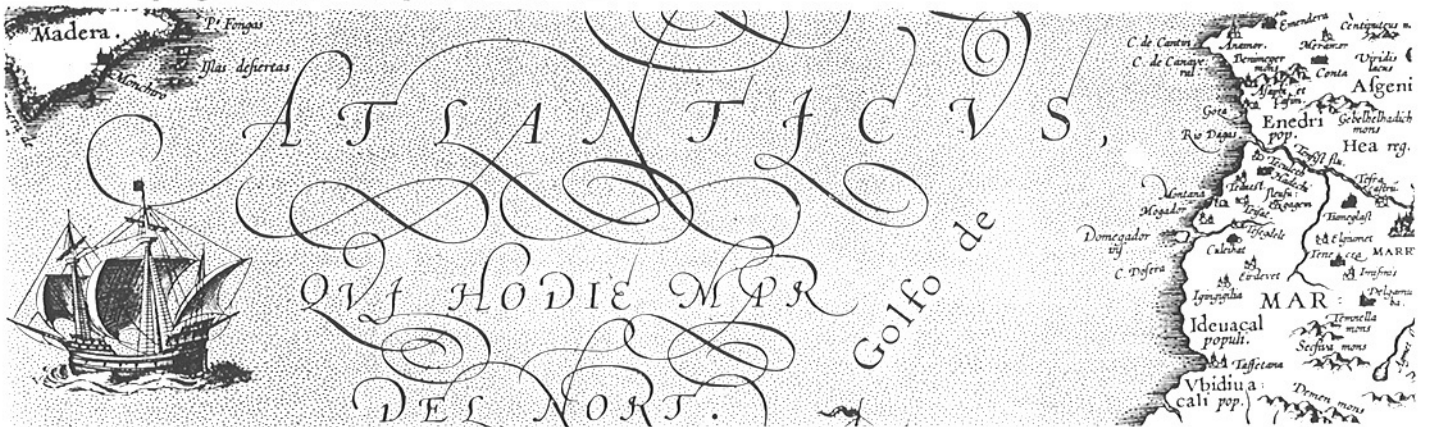
**23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> April 1999 : Library of Virginia Symposium, « Mapping Virginia »**, Richmond, Virginia, U.S. An exhibition on the same theme runs at the Library of Virginia from 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1999 to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2000. Info from Jan. Hathcock, Library of Virginia, tel. ++1/804/692.35.92.

**17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May 1999 : Dutch-German Cartographical Congress, « Regional Europe – Cartography without Frontiers »**, organized jointly by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kartographie (DGfK) and the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Kartografie (NVK), Maastricht (Netherlands) at the MECC Centre. The largest part of the presentations is devoted to topical aspects of modern cartography covering subjects such as *Maps of Europe for the World Wide Web*, *Towards a European Topographical Databank*, *The Realisation of a cross-border Route-Planner*. There are, in addition, two papers on carto-historical subjects: Prof. J. Neumann presents *Maastricht and its Region in old Maps* (in German), and Prof. Frans Depuydt (Leuven) will talk about *Inaccuracy in Maps of Flanders in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century* (in Dutch). A number of excursions on a cartographical, geographical or tourist theme have also been programmed. Enquiries to the

Coordinators : Ir P. Mekenkamp, Universiteit Utrecht, Faculteit Ruimtelijke Wetenschappen – Kartografie, Utrecht (NL), Tel. ++31/30/253.20.47, e-mail [p.mekenkamp@geog.uu.nl](mailto:p.mekenkamp@geog.uu.nl) or Dr W. Herzog, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Geogr. Institut – Kartographie, Bochum (D), Tel. ++49/234/700.36.62, e-mail [herzog@geographie.ruhr-uni-bochum.de](mailto:herzog@geographie.ruhr-uni-bochum.de)

**11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> July 1999 : 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the History of Cartography, « The Cartography of the Mediterranean World »**, Athens, Greece ; organized by the Society for Hellenic Cartography, Imago Mundi and the Hellenic Scientific Cartographic Society. Info from Dr G. Tolias, Tel. ++30/1/724.62.12, e-mail [gtolias@eie.gr](mailto:gtolias@eie.gr)

**November 1999 : 2<sup>nd</sup> European Map Fair, Breda (NL)**, organized by the Foundation for Historical Cartography of the Netherlands (« Stichting Historische Cartographie van de Nederlanden ») - more details in our next Newsletter. In the meantime, further details may be obtained from the Foundation's President, Mr Karel Kinds, Tel ++32/(0)14/63.51.54, e-mail [kinds@ping.be](mailto:kinds@ping.be)



Please note : Our next Newsletter will be published in May 1999 ; news-items, calendar-entries should reach the Secretary by 15<sup>th</sup> April to be included.

## BIMCC PROGRAMME OVERVIEW FOR 1999

### *Study Sessions on the conservation and restoration of old maps and prints, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February, 1999 – Brussels and Sint Niklaas*

#### A. Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February, Collège St. Michel, 24 Bd. St. Michel,

1040 Brussels (15.00 to 18.00)

1. *A brief history of paper and its impossible(?) preservation*, by Pierre Cockshaw, Conservateur en Chef, Royal Library, Brussels
2. *Basic considerations for the beginning collector*, by Hans Kok, IMCoS Representative for the Netherlands
  - General aspects of paper and print
  - What to look out for when buying a map
  - Telling original from fake
  - Colouring – contemporary or recent ?
  - Maps around the house
3. *Introduction to principles of conservation and restoration*, by Ann Marchal, paper restorer, Brussels
  - Demonstration of small repairs : possibilities, limits, dangers
  - Aspects of cleaning and consolidating old paper
  - Question/answer session
4. *Conservation and archiving material*, by La Route du Papier, Brussels
  - A commented exhibition of cartons, paper, equipment and tools available to professionals and amateurs
  - Question/answer session
5. *Hands-on demonstration of the preparation of different models of passe-partouts for the protection/conservation of maps*

#### B. Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> February - Excursion to the Mercator Museum, Heimolenstraat 28, B-9100 Sint Niklaas, (10.00 to 12.00)

1. *General introduction by Mr A. Van der Gucht, Voorzitter van de Koninklijke Oudheidkundige Kring « Land van de Waes »*
2. *Presentation by Mr Guy de Witte (Gent) of the Map and Atlas Restoration programme, with commented examples of « before, during, after » restoration.*

++ All presentations in English, but assistance with Dutch, French, German is possible

++ Events will be closed with the traditional glass of wine, beer, juice..

++ Participation is **free for Members** ; non-Members pay BEF 500,-

++ **Please use the enclosed Registration Form if you wish to come.**

#### ***BIMCC Map Evening***

Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1999

Collège St. Michel, 24 Bd. St.

Michel, 1040 Brussels

(18.00 to 21.00)

This is our traditional get-together on a convivial note (sandwiches, drinks), when map enthusiasts, academics and other professionals present, and comment upon, some historical pieces from their collection, or simply ask questions and exchange views and experiences. The wide range of topics addressed promises, once again, an animated evening with surprises. Everybody is welcome! To cover expenses a small admission fee will be collected at the door.

++ **Please use the enclosed**

**Registration Form if you wish to come.**

## *Excursion to a Map Collection*

Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 1999

Commandeurshuis, Kaserneplein 5,  
2040 Lillo  
(10.00 to 12.00)

The Circle will be admitted to view the exhibition of a private map collection in the former Town Hall of the village of

Lillo near Antwerpen, an old Napoleonic fortification on the banks of the river Schelde. Some 150 maps of the region of Flanders and adjacent areas will be on display in this historical place, offering a representative cross-section of ancient cartography of the Low Countries.

More details in our Newsletter N° 4, May 1999.

## Invitation to the First Annual General Meeting

In accordance with Articles 12 and 14 of the BIMCC Statutes, all Members are hereby invited to the Circle's First Annual General Meeting which will be held

**on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1999 at the Collège  
Saint Michel,  
24, Bd. St. Michel 1040 Brussels  
13.30 to 15.00 Hours**

### **Proposed Agenda**

1. Welcome by the President and presentation of the Members of the Executive Committee
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Activity report for 1998
4. Approval of 1998 accounts
5. Nomination of new Treasurer
6. Presentation of draft budget 1999
7. Any other business

Please note that any Member unable to participate may be represented by another Member who may cast a proxy

vote on his behalf (one such vote per Member).

No advance registration is required; all Members present will sign a register. However those wishing to stay on for the ensuing Study Session on Paper Conservation are kindly requested to fill in the Registration Form for this event, enclosed with this Newsletter.

Brussels, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1999  
Signed : W. Bodenstein, President

### **Insurance**

The Circle has taken out a Third-Party liability insurance with the Insurance Company AXA Belgium, covering Members participating in the Circle's activities for bodily harm, damage to third parties during our events, as well as legal assistance.

#### BIMCC Executive Committee

Wulf Bodenstein, President ; Philippe Swolfs, Vice-President ; Véronique Van de Kerckhof, Secretary ; Chris Bodenstein, Treasurer ; Officers : John Barrett, Otto Chrispeels, Reiner Kaivers, Jean-Louis Renteux. Scientific Advisor : Hossam Elkhadem. Address : 71, Av. des Camélias, B-1150 Brussels, Tel/Fax ++32/2/7726909 e-mail [bimcc@bigfoot.com](mailto:bimcc@bigfoot.com)  
Secretary : Véronique Van de Kerckhof, W. de Croylaan 23, B-3001 Heverlee.  
e-mail [veronique.v.d.kerckhof@fine-arts-museum.be](mailto:veronique.v.d.kerckhof@fine-arts-museum.be) Bank account : Générale de Banque Brussels, N° 210-0161.650-03

## Results of some Auctions in Belgium

Please note : - all prices are in Belgian Francs, as adjudicated

A sample of items was selected to reflect both the range of geographical coverage and of prices obtained.

Librairie des Elephants, Brussels, 14<sup>th</sup> November 1998

- P. van den Keere, *Atlas Germania inferior*, French edition of 1622 with the famous *Leo Belgicus*, 480.000,-

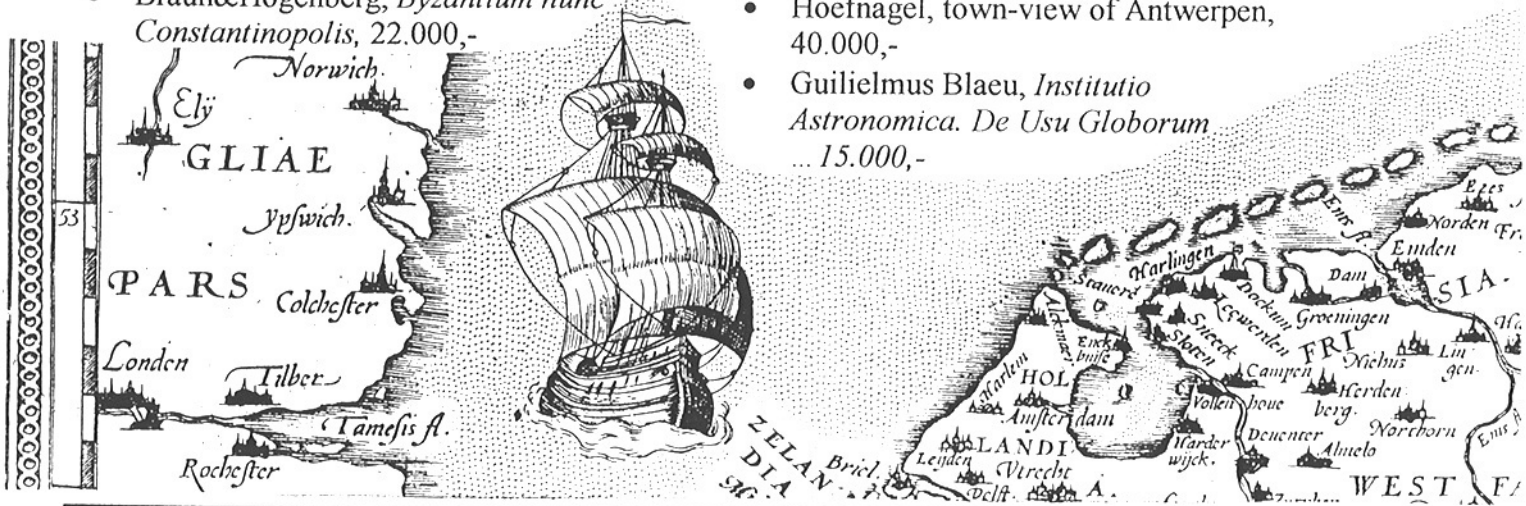
Romantic Agony, Brussels, 12<sup>th</sup> December 1998

- Mercator-Hondius, *Atlas minor*, 200.000,-
- Münster World Map, *Typus Cosmographicus Universalis*, 500.000,-
- Janssonius, *America Septentrionalis*, 75.000,-
- Braun&Hogenberg, *Byzantium nunc Constantinopolis*, 22.000,-

- Pieter v.d. Keere, « *Leo Belgicus* », (1617), 220.000,-
- Ortelius, *Zeelandicarum Insularum... Descriptio*, 20.000,-
- Guicciardini, bird's eye view *Namuricum..*, 4.500,-
- P. v.d. Keere, *Luxemburgensis Ducatus* (1617), 18.000,-

Galerij der Kempen, B-2300 Turnhout, 19<sup>th</sup> December 1998

- Van der Aa, *Asia in Praecipuas Partes Distributa*, 16.000,-
- Weigel, Greece, 5.000,-
- Homann Heirs, *Planiglobi Terrestris Mappa Universalis*, 22.000,-
- Reisch World Map (ca. 1504) (cf. Shirley 23A), 35.000,-
- Mercator-Hondius, *Brabant*, 9.000,-
- Ruscelli, Flanders, (1561), 7.500,-
- Hoefnagel, town-view of Antwerpen, 40.000,-
- Guilielmus Blaeu, *Institutio Astronomica. De Usu Globorum* ... 15.000,-



**Aims of the Brussels International Map Collectors' Circle (BIMCC)**

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

2° Organize conferences and lectures on various aspects of historical cartography, on regions of cartographical interest, on documentation, paper conservation and related subjects

3° Organize visits to exhibitions, and to libraries and institutions holding important map and atlas collections.

The BIMCC is pleased to acknowledge sponsorship support from :

**Henri Godts**

**Av. Louise 230/6, B- 1050 Brussels**

**Tel ++32/(0)2/647.85.48 - Fax ++32/(0)2/640.73.32**

Dealer and Auctioneer of rare books, manuscripts, and maps and atlases

(Next auction : 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1999)

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**Kongoplein 12, B-2300 Turnhout**

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