



NEWSLETTER N° 4, MAY 1999

Dear Map Friend,

The Map Evening on 31st March marked the first anniversary of our Circle – one year already! Readers of the Newsletter have been able to follow its progression from the initial coup d'essai to a well-balanced programme of events offering a wide range of topics, from practical aspects of map collecting to probing into the history of cartography. Indeed, as Ortelius himself said in the title page of his 1592 *Parergon*, « *Historiae oculus geographia* » (geography is the eye of history), and the study of old maps provides a fascinating insight into our past.

The map excursion to Brugge last year gave us a good opportunity to bring together some map enthusiasts whose number had grown significantly by the time we commemorated Abraham Ortelius' death 400 years ago, in December. The Study Sessions on paper conservation and restoration in February offered a welcome complement to the historical interest in maps in that it confronted us with a number of practical problems the map collector frequently faces, and at the same time presented advice, and words of caution. A brief report on the activities of this week-

end, and of our second Map Evening, will be found in this Newsletter.

What is new is the inclusion of a brief account of books we came across relating to an aspect of the history of cartography ; the objective here is to inform readers of a work which is available on the market but has not necessarily been widely publicised . Reference books belong to a category of their own , and the field is vast ! In order to help approach this subject outside the constraints of librarian rigour, it is intended to put a small cross-section on display in the context of our Seminar next year. More about this further on.

Many if not most of the public Institutions, Libraries and Museums holding map and atlas collections are accessible to the interested reader and amateur researcher, and almost always their home town has other attractions that merit a visit. We would like to encourage such visits by presenting to you, in forthcoming issues, a brief précis of such map collections.

Our first Annual General Meeting has, as you will see below, brought about a change of Treasurer and consequently of the bank account number – please also note the new e-mail address of our Secretary.

(W.B.)

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