



NEWSLETTER N° 6, JANUARY 2000

Dear Map Friend,

Welcome to the Year 2000, and to an undiminished fascination with maps and their history. Let's leave millenium celebrations till the end of this year, and get on with finishing this century in style, if we can.

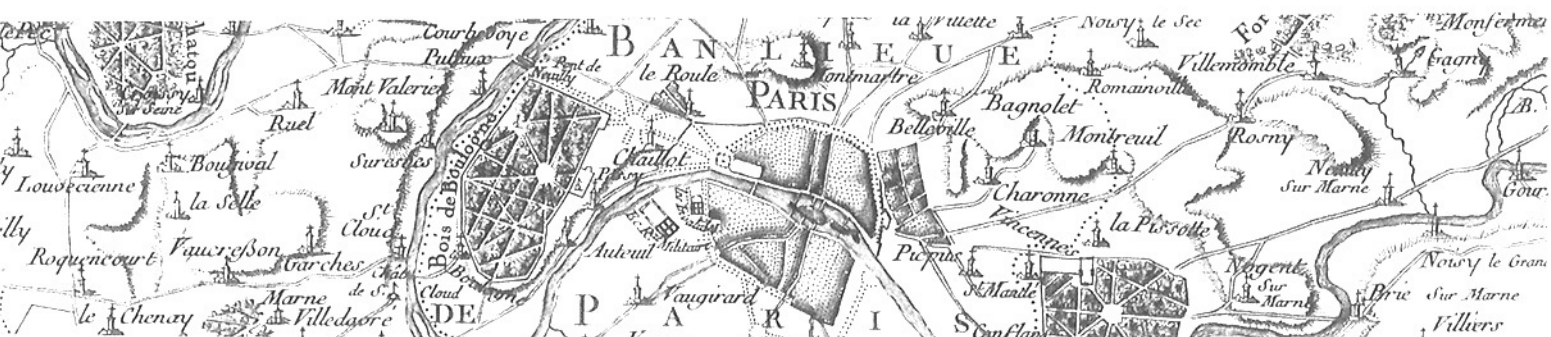
This year's programme, exposed in detail in the present issue, intends to achieve just that. Our three standard events – Study Session in February, Map Chat Evening in March, a visit to a Map Library in October – now have dates which you can reserve in your diaries. To these should be added the date for our biennial Conference in December, please see the programme overview further on.

This Newsletter introduces another place with maps worth visiting, reviews a map

exhibit, an international symposium, a very important reference work on the cartography of the Netherlands, and invites us in an amusing digression to the historical curiosity of the Drei-Länder-Eck in the Heart of Europe which, for a while, assumed a fourth dimension, namely neutrality; this is offered in an article by Kit Batten, well known for his book on maps of the County of Devon.

On the administrative side you will notice a change in the composition of the Executive Committee, and a simplification of our postal address. Please also note the invitation to renew your membership for the year 2000.

Greetings and best wishes to all of you – looking forward to seeing you at one of our coming events. (W.B.)



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Exploring Places with Maps (2)

The Royal Archeological Society « Het Land van Waas » and the Mercator Museum, Sint-Niklaas

The « Koninklijke Oudheidkundige Kring van het Land van Waas (K.O.K.W.) » was founded in 1861 as an Archeological Society. It is one of the oldest Societies in Belgium which exists without interruption since its foundation. The Founders had a two-fold aim in mind: the creation of a museum, and the publication of a periodical, known as the *Annalen van de K.O.K.W.*

This Journal is now published as a yearbook containing studies of regional history and the results of research into the life and work of famous Waasland personalities. The best known among these is, of course, Gerard Mercator who was born as Gerard de Cremer in 1512 in Rupelmonde, not far from Sint-Niklaas.

Dr Jan Van Raemdonck, co-founder of the Society and its first curator, published the first modern biography of G. Mercator in 1869 in Sint-Niklaas. On his initiative the K.O.K.W. since 1862-63 bought atlases, maps and other non-cartographical works by Mercator. A highlight was the acquisition, in 1881, of an original terrestrial globe of 1541 and of a celestial globe of 1551, by Mercator.

In line with, and as a complement to, the dedicated interest in Mercator's cartographic output, the K.O.K.W. began to establish a collection of loose-sheet maps: manuscript cadaster maps, printed maps of the 17th and 18th century, as well as topographical maps published by the « Dépôt de la Guerre », the Military Geographical Institute which has now become the National Geographical Institute (of Belgium). The most important atlas in this collection is a IATO-atlas (Italian Atlas to Order) consisting of 96 maps printed in the 16th century in Venice and Rome. (Some of you may recall the excursion to Sint-Niklaas which the BIMCC organized about a year ago, in the context of the Study Sessions on Paper Conservation; on this occasion the IATO atlas was presented in its magnificently restored form by restorer Guy De Witte. – A full account of this work may be found in the 1994 Yearbook of the K.O.K.W.).

The Society's library also contains a section of « Mercatoriana » and other publications which

are directly or indirectly connected with cartography, for example Koeman's *Atlantes Neerlandici*, and its new edition by Peter van der Krogt. Specialist journals such as *Mercator's World* and *Caert-Thresoor* may also be consulted in the library.

The Library is open every Saturday from 14.00 to 17.00 hours, at the following address: Zamanstraat 49 (1st floor), B-9100 Sint-Niklaas; admission is free.

Visits can also be arranged by appointment, please contact Alfred Van der Gucht, Tel. 03/776.32.80. Correspondence should be addressed to the K.O.K.W., Postbus 144, B-9100 Sint-Niklaas.

The Mercator Museum

Since its foundation the Society exhibited part of its Mercator collection in the Museum of Sint-Niklaas. In 1962 a special building was erected to serve as the Mercator Museum; in the Mercator-year 1994 its surface was more than doubled, and the building was transformed into a real cartographic museum, the only one of its kind in Belgium. It comprises three departments: cartography prior to Mercator, the Mercator collection itself, and the cartography of the post-Mercator era. Later, and by agreement between the city of Sint-Niklaas and the National Geographical Institute, a Section on Belgian modern cartography was added, covering the period from the origins of the « Dépôt de la Guerre » to most recent techniques, such as GPS and GIS systems. High-quality aerial photographs provide a link between geographical reality and the representation on maps.

The Mercator Museum is located in the park behind the Museum of Sint-Niklaas, Zamanstraat 49. Easiest access is via the parking next to the park. Opening hours are: Tuesday to Saturday from 14.00 to 17.00 hours, Sunday from 10.00 to 17.00 (closed on Mondays).

Individual admission is BEF 100; further info. from the Mercator Museum 03/776.07.53.

Alfred Van der Gucht (President of the K.O.K.W.)

Pictures at an Exhibition reviewed

Finland - since 500 Years on the Maps of Europe

An Exhibition of Maps from the 15th century to the present day
(Royal Library, Brussels, 5th November to 4th December, 1999)

Under the auspices of the dynamic Finnish Foreign Ministry this exhibition has apparently been touring Europe for a while (Brugge 1997, Gotha 1998, Brussels (Linguists' Centre) early 1999, to name just the few places I know of) until it arrived in the august Nassau Chapel of the Royal Library.

What is surprising, and somewhat disappointing, is that among the 30 exhibits, mostly from the important map collection of Finnish collector Erkki Fredrikson, there was not a single original map on display – they are all photographs, excepting a few specimens of mass-produced modern maps. Curious also, and rather laborious, the way in which bilingualism was achieved: each map-photograph was shown twice, once on a board with French text, and again, a bit smaller in size and in poorer photographic quality, on an adjacent board with a Dutch text. An « erratum », conspicuously placed on display N° 9 and in the catalogue, retrieves...*the Dutch geographer Gerard Mercator...* as ...*Gerard Mercator, geographer of our regions...* Whilst at it, one might have included

Ortelius here, since it could be argued that, likewise, he is rather more *of our regions* than *Dutch* (exhibit N° 8). But then, is this really so important ?

Obviously the names of many of the great cartographers are there: Ptolemy, Olaus Magnus, Münster, Ortelius, Mercator, Blaeu, Danckerts, Homann, and a few lesser known nordic names, providing a good cross-section of cartographic representations of Finland, a country with a long struggle for national identity.

It so happens that Finland had the presidency of the European Union in 1999; assuming that this was, at least partly, the motivation for mounting this exhibition, one would have expected something more inspiring than a show of facsimiles. It is to be regretted that the Royal Library did not contribute with original maps from its splendid collections.

A 32-page catalogue printed in Finland in 1993 is available in the Royal Library bookshop in Dutch and in French (BEF 100). It contains ten b/w illustrations, but no bibliography. (W.B.)

The 18th IMCoS Symposium, Istanbul (11th –12th October 1999)A brief account by *Caroline Batchelor*

The 18th IMCoS Symposium was held in Istanbul from 10th to 11th October 1999 and was extremely well organised by Mr F. Muhtar Katircioglu and his family.

It opened with a boat trip on The Bosphorus towards the Black Sea. We disembarked at Buyukdere to visit the Sadberk Hanim Museum, where we divided into two groups to view the two collections, the first being of artefacts which traced the history of Turkey from its earliest settlements to relatively recent times and the second being of furniture, clothing, jewellery and books from the Ottoman period until early in this century. The museum was most impressive even though they were unable to mount the proposed

exhibition of maps because of the recent earthquake.

The Symposium itself was held at The Four Seasons Hotel, formerly a prison but now converted into a five-star hotel! The opening was a general introduction to Ottoman cartography given by Professor Oktay Aslanapa and this was followed by a talk on a neolithic wall picture map dating from 6200 BC and discovered in excavations at Catalhoyuk. This was given by Major-General Cevat Ulkelul, a retired military cartographer.

Two other papers were presented in the day. The first was on Ottoman adaptations of early Italian isolaria by Dimitri Loupis who had come from Greece for the Symposium. The second was by Mr Gregory McIntosh on the

famous Piri Reis portolan world map of 1513. His book on the map is shortly to be published. In the afternoon we were privileged to view the original of the Piri Reis map during our tour of Topkapi. This was a special arrangement for IMCoS, since due to the earthquake most of the hanging exhibits had been removed and certain galleries were closed. The authorities had also been shocked by the recent theft from the museum of a handwritten and illuminated copy of The Koran.

On the following day we were treated to a fascinating talk by our host F. Muhtar Katircioglu on the linguistic confusion resulting from the conversion from Ottoman to Western European script in 1924 by Atatürk. He even had difficulty in reading letters from his own father! This was followed by a talk from Professor Thomas Goodrich of the USA on maps of Istanbul featured in the Piri Reis

manuscripts and a second presentation by Major-General Ulekul this time on 19th Century relief maps, many of which are preserved in the Army Museum. The final presentation was given by Janette Condon from Australia on maps of the Gallipoli Campaign in 1915. This was of particular interest to those who had been on the pre-conference visit to Gallipoli.

In the afternoon we visited the Suleymaniye Mosque and then on to the splendid Suleymaniye Library, where a large range of maps, atlases and manuscripts had been displayed for us. After this feast of cartography, in the evening we were taken to the Eresin Hotel for another feast, this time what was described as « A Carto-Gastronomic Workshop » featuring various dishes from the many different regions of Turkey – a fitting end to a most instructive and enjoyable visit.

Moresnet - A Neutral Area by Kit Batten ¹

The Neutral Zone - or *Vierländereck* (literally four-lands-corner) - was a popular motif for postcards from the turn of the nineteenth century until the beginning of the First World War. At the most northerly point stood (and indeed still stand) four stone memorials. Postcards simply depicting the stones were produced but more popular were pictures of the stones and scenes together with a map. One such card (Fig. 1) shows the stones and (probably) police officers or soldiers responsible for the border, from each of the neighbouring countries.

The map at the side is a simplistic representation of the area. Vaals, Aachen, Gimmenich (Gemmenich today) and (New or Prussian) Moresnet are shown with typical times taken to travel to *Vierländereck* from the surrounding towns. The arms of the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany with a Hearty Greeting (in Dutch) from the Neutral Area complete the card. This card was written

and posted from Wernigerode (in Germany) on 29th September 1899 and as with most cards printed before about 1907 there is no space for a message, although the sender of this card has added a greeting on the face of the card. Similar cards, differing only in the central photo, have also been seen. While the histories of the surrounding areas are known to most, the story of Moresnet, the Neutral Zone, is not so widely known.

The defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo brought with it a redefining of (Western) Europe's borders. The Vienna Congress convened (1813) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands was created as a buffer state between Prussia and France. However, neither the Prussians nor the Dutch could agree on the border a few kilometers south-west of Aachen (or Aix-la-Chapelle) in Germany and due South of Vaals (Netherlands). The problem was that a profitable zinc mine was located here and, with zinc being vital for the production of brass

¹ I would like to acknowledge the help of Henk de Klerk for much of the background information on the history of Moresnet and Cees Damon who has a webpage on Moresnet at <http://wwwserv.caiw.nl/~cdamen/home.htm>.



FIG. 1

both countries wanted to have control of it. The actual area involved was only a few hundred hectares around the main populated area of Altenberg, later called La Calamine or Kelmis. So it came about that in central Europe, after 2 years of struggle between the Dutch and the Prussians, Neutral Moresnet was born, a neutral zone between the two countries, and governed by both states. The Prussians founded Moresnet in German territory and in the West the little town of Moresnet came under the Dutch rule. However, in 1830 the Kingdom of the Netherlands split up into the Netherlands and Belgium and Neutral Moresnet now came under joint control of Belgium and Prussia.

Although the Germans invaded Belgium in 1914 they left Moresnet neutral. The Treaty of Versailles (1919) transferred the Moresnet region to Belgium (together with the German districts of Malmedy and Eupen). Although in 1940 the Germans annexed these territories, in 1944 they were returned to Belgium.

The mine was the main reason for establishing the neutral zone and it is fitting to look fleetingly at the development of mining in the area. Flint finds and hill barrows of the bronze age are evidence of early settlements in the area. Evidence of zinc mining during Roman times can be gleaned from Pliny the Elder who reported Cadmia finds in the province Germania. In the Middle Ages the area of Kelmynberg (Kelmis) was controlled by the city of Aachen. In 1439 Duke Philipp took control of the mining which was subsequently

administered by the authorities of Limburg, either themselves or as leaseholders.

Ore extraction was a considerable source of income for the state and when King Philipp IV of Spain was forced to sell off many of his Limburg towns in the 17th century, he expressly retained control of this area: *in het gehucht van Kelmis ende tgene daeraen cleeft ter oirsacke vande importantie van onsen Calmyenberghe aldaer*. The regal township, Kelmis, whose central point was the Rochus chapel, extended over most of the area of present-day Kelmis and Nue Moresnet and remained so until reorganised by the French who brought together Kelmis and Moresnet as *municipalité de Moresnet*. The French controlled the mining operations as government agency (1794-1814), but in 1805 handed the Kelmis concession over to the chemist J.J. Dony of Lüttich consisting at that time of mining area of some 8,500 ha, that stretched as far as Hauset (Fossey), Rabotrath, Lontzen and Welkenraedt.

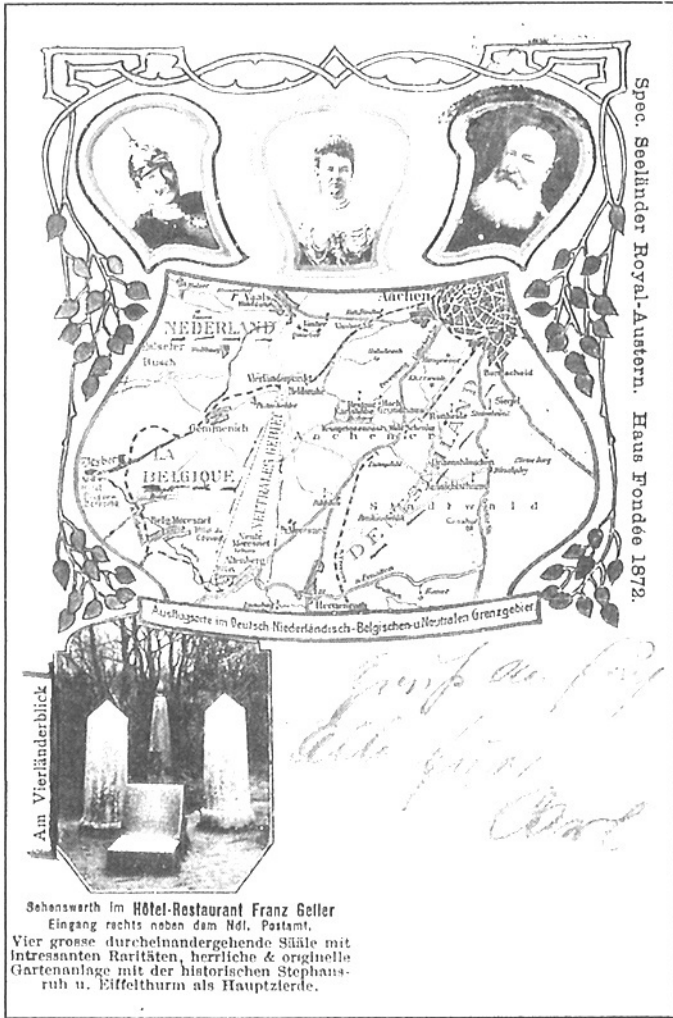
In the 19th century Kelmis experienced something of an industrial boom, especially after the founding of the company "Vieille Montagne" in 1837 which determined the economic, cultural and social life of the town. By 1884 the Kelmis mine had been exhausted and the mining of the north section had left behind an enormous pit called the *Kull* which, after the final closure of zink mining operations in 1950 was slowly but steadily filled with rubbish and building debris. This area has been systematically planted and made

green, providing a large park area to the left of Schutzenstrasse, which is also used for markets and fairs. The observant visitor can still notice every step of the way traces of the mining operations; offices and buildings of Vieille Montagne, hills from digging, the zink-roofed buildings and the postcards of *Vierländereck*. Most of the later cards of this area have

other cards he wears no helmet (and looks years younger!).

Some cards of this type have the greeting *Amikejo*. This was an alternative name for Neutral Moresnet or in Esperanto "Neutra-Moresneto". Dr Molly (of Neutral Moresnet) and the well-known French Esperantoist Dr. Gustav Roy had plans to make an Esperanto state of Neutral Moresnet. After rejecting The Hague in the Netherlands as World Center for Esperantoists, it was decided at the fourth Esperanto Congress in Dresden (March 1908) to found the Center in Neutral Moresnet.

The map and picture of the stones are represented on a further card of the area, this time in colour and with stamps depicted from



another, more detailed, map on them (Fig. 2). The typical postcard has the three monarchs, Kaiser Wilhelm with Queen Wilhelmine (1880-1962) and King Leopold II (reigned 1865-1909) surrounded by an art-nouveau leaf arrangement, above a map covering the area from Vaals and Aachen to Hergenrath with the neutral area central. The card illustrated here is slightly unusual in that the card is vertical, a photo of the memorials is included and it is, in fact, an advertisement for a hotel - Hotel-Restaurant Franz Geller in Vaals (*entrance next to the Dutch post office*). This was posted from Vaals in 1906 and again has no space set aside for a message. Interestingly in this card Kaiser Wilhelm has his harpoon helmet which is the typical picture we have of him: in most



each of the neighbouring countries (Fig. 3). The three stamps depict (left to right): King Albert I of Belgium (reigned from 1909-1934) on a 10 centimes stamp first issued 1912/1913; Germania on a 5 Pfennig stamp; and Queen Wilhelmine (who reigned from 1890) on a 25 cent stamp. Some cards have been seen with the real thing - stamps from all three nations - on the reverse. This particular card was posted

from Vaals in 1914 and was printed by Hubert Grümmer of Aachen. Although this card had a space for a message the writer kept it brief: only three words - and one was his name!

Another Moresnet card, this time with no map, is of interest to philatelists as there is a stamp depicted that never existed. Produced by the publishing company L Mond in Vaals (post-1907 but pre-1912) it depicts a group of villagers and a customs officer. He appears to have apprehended a smuggler at the *Vierländerpunkt*. As well as stamps from Germany, Holland and Belgium there is a 10Pfennig stamp *von Moresnet poste interieure*.

Postcards of the area from the period between the wars were produced, however, these were mainly of buildings, including the mine. Today, there is a museum, the Goehltal Museum, with exhibits explaining the history of this interesting little corner that managed to stay „free“ for fifty years. As such, Neutral Moresnet only existed between 1817 and 1919. In that time the district had its own flag (blue, white and black horizontal stripes), stamps and very nearly had its own language.

This article was first printed in CARTOMANIA (Newsletter of the Association of Map Memorabilia Collectors) Issue 53/54 Spring/summer 1999, and is reprinted with the kind permission of Mr Siegfried Feller. All illustrations from the author's collection.

LOOKS AT BOOKS

H.A.M. van der Heijden, *Oude kaarten der Nederlanden, 1548 – 1794. Historische beschouwing, kaartbeschrijving, afbeelding, commentaar.*

Old maps of the Netherlands 1548 – 1794. An annotated and illustrated cartobibliography. Alphen aan den Rijn, Uitg. Canaletto ; Leuven, Universitaire Pers, 1998, 2 vol., 842 p., ISBN 90 6186 909 9 (Leuven), BEF 6.500

The long title of these two large volumes immediately warns the reader: the cartobibliography is not a mere enumeration of general maps of the Netherlands, seen as a cartographic unit. Presented in a strict chronological order, the 334 maps (not including some 22 smaller ones grouped under 3 numbers) are numbered from 1 (fragments of a woodcut probably going back to 1526) to 319, a map by Mentelle edited in a Parisian atlas of 1798. Some later finds have been inserted as « a » - numbers at their right places, thus accounting for the larger total.

To all the maps, including historical ones, representing the Netherlands as a whole, even after the official partition of 1648, have been added some of a larger area, provided the territory was completely depicted. That the two separate countries were still shown as a unit was due to several reasons; in the first period, the borders were fluctuating according to the hostilities. Later on, war raging in the Southern parts was a constant menace to the integrity of the North, whose interests were thus focused on their neighbours. The author calls attention to the perennity of this unity, the Benelux-countries being generally presented on the same page in present day atlases.

These remarks are made in the copious introduction, where a short history of

cartography of the Netherlands is given. The more correct depiction of the country began under emperor Charles V and was due to the emergence of modern methods of survey used for the mapping of the several provinces. The influence of great cartographers, such as Jacob van Deventer, is emphasized, together with the importance of Italian copies of Northern material, becoming in their turn a new basis for maps in the Netherlands, the main difference being the introduction of degrees in Italy.

The cartobibliography itself starts on page 137. For each map, the heading comprises number, date and author. The description in two languages follows the slightly adapted international rules ISBD(CM), with the title as on the map, author, scale, coordinates, place, date and name of publisher, number of sheets, material, engraver, dimensions (which are not easily pinpointed), cartouches, orientation, decoration, incorporation in books, different states with the alterations to sort them. « States » is used as in the history of art, meaning any change, not only those affecting the cartographical content of the map. Notes, sometimes extensive, and a selection of literature are added. Till 1700, orientation is used to identify 5 types of maps; later on, it is only indicated when not to the North. Cross-references to later maps, copied from

prototypes, enable the user to compare the prints from different copperplates and to follow their evolution.

There is a reproduction of pretty well all the maps, only some 15 lacking, either because no copy has yet been located or they are faithful copies of previous maps, which are referred to. Details have been chosen to enhance a particular feature or to show the different states. And here is a small difficulty with the lay-out, confusion between number of detail and state being sometimes possible, while the use of the same bold type for heading and states is rather unfortunate, the new description not always beginning at the top of a page. Some locations are given, only as a general indication and without full reference. For Belgian readers, it might be a slight disappointment that relatively little use seems to have been made of the collections in the Royal Library. In the list of consulted libraries, it comes as a surprise that in Paris neither the Archives, the Arsenal or the I.G.N. are mentioned, and in Vienna, the Military Archives are lacking. These libraries, so richly endowed with maps of the Southern Netherlands, are perhaps poorer in more general ones?

In such an important work, which obviously demanded long years of difficult research and a tremendous amount of knowledge and patience, it is inevitable that some minor mistakes occur. Most are easily corrected; some are more confusing, as when an illustration of a detail bears, as usually, the same number as the map, but is unfortunately not part of it. For this, the text usually gives an explanation. The reason for putting together the little maps by Buffier because of their similarity is not convincing. Although understandable, it is perhaps a pity that all the maps representing a *Leo Belgicus* are simply cross-referenced to another book written by Dr van der Heijden, *Leo Belgicus, An illustrated and annotated carto-bibliography* (1990); if the dimensions had been given, quick identification would have been possible. But, anyway, every user knows the major reference works and there are alphabetical lists by author and by title at the end of Volume II.

One cannot but congratulate the author for this most important book, indispensable for any collector of maps of the Netherlands.

(L. Danckaert)

BIMCC PROGRAMME OVERVIEW for the Year 2000

- **Understanding Maps**, our second Study Session, will take place on **Saturday, 19th February** – please see the detailed programme on page 14. Unfortunately, the exhibition of reference books on the History of Cartography planned for that same afternoon has had to be postponed since the Librarian who agreed to assist with the interface to the publishing firms has fallen ill – best wishes for a prompt and complete recovery to Mr Martin Oleff of Posada Art Books.
- The **BIMCC Map Evening** has now been arranged for **Friday, 31st March** at the Collège St. Michel, 24 Bd. St. Michel, 1040 Brussels, starting at 18.00 hours. This is the date and place where it all started two years ago, and we look forward to welcoming again a happy crowd of map historians, representatives of the trade and collectors for a chat about a piece from their own collection, or simply a chat, in a convivial and relaxed atmosphere. This is an ideal occasion to get to know the Circle,

so bring along a friend if you wish, but remember that we want to keep the number of participants to around 35, so please pass a message with your **booking before the 20th March**, we need to know roughly how many sandwiches and glasses of wine to prepare. You can pay the BEF 500 at the door or cumulate the payment when you renew your Membership with a bank transfer (see p.11).

- The planned date for the **Excursion to the Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris** and its magnificent map room and restoration department is **Friday 6th October** (confirmation and inscriptions with our May Newsletter N° 7). In the morning session from 10.30 to 12.30 there will be a general presentation of the Map Section, the map and atlas repository, and the very impressive restoration atelier; from 14.30 to 16.30, perfectly in line with our exploration venture in December (see next item), we will follow an exposé of documents (maps, travel manuscripts)