



## NEWSLETTER N° 7, MAY 2000

Dear Map Friend,

In this issue our series *Exploring Places with Maps* takes a short-cut to the Netherlands: we present a guide to some 250 Institutions which hold topographical maps, atlases and globes – a real challenge for the map enthusiast and researcher since it is known that hidden treasures still come to light today, occasionally.

From a flying visit to Brazil one of our Members brings back his impressions of two map exhibitions, mingled with tropical souvenirs of the Carnival in Rio. Closer to home we look back on the two events we staged earlier this year, the Study Session *Understanding Maps*, and our traditional map evening. As promised, and for the benefit of the growing number of cybernauts, there is a good range of sites that you can surf to, established with the help of our map friends in Washington.

Apart from the usual diary and auction items you will notice two late entries. One invites you to Utrecht in the international

events column; the other is in our BIMCC programme: thanks to the efforts of our Member in the Grand Duchy, a special guided tour of an exhibition of globes has been foreseen on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September in Luxembourg. This exhibition was last on display at Christie's in London, in 1994; a rendez-vous not to be missed.

Our excursion to the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris (6th October) promises to be a highlight in this year's schedule – see details and inscription requirements below. We will be travelling abroad again in December, *From the Low Countries to the High Seas*, guided by eminent Map Historians – the Caravelle will be ready for boarding on 9<sup>th</sup> December (or is it a Galleon?).

In any case, here's wishing you a happy summer season – see you then.

(W.B.)

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*Exploring Places with Maps (3)*

A Guide to the public Map Collections in the Netherlands :  
 « Almanak Verzamelingen Topografisch Beeldmateriaal »

The Royal Library in Den Haag and Paul van den Brink are to be congratulated on having achieved a monumental piece of research into « what's where » regarding cartographic material in the public Institutions in the Netherlands. Over 250 of these are listed in alphabetical order, the result of a survey that spread over many years. The entries are, for the most part, contained on one page, each new entry starting at the top of a page, which facilitates the search process. The available data are subdivided into 5 basic categories :

- Name and address of the Institution, with the name of the responsible archivist or curator, Tel/Fax numbers and opening days and hours (e-mail addresses or web-sites, now more current than when the book was published [in 1995] are not mentioned).
- Access by public transport, an extremely useful column especially for the foreign visitor who finds bus and tram numbers starting at the local railway station, and the names of the stop where to get off. Time will tell to what extent this information can remain valid over longer periods. But then there is a general number mentioned in the introduction which you can call if in doubt.
- Description of the collection, sub-divided into four groups, detailing the type of document held in the collection (printed/manuscript map, atlas, globe, photograph, other prints or types of documents), the number of such documents held in the collection, the period of origin, and the subject of the document. This is in most cases preceded by a brief introduction to the history of the Institution and its collection.
- Infrastructure and facilities : this covers the type of index/catalogue system employed, including data bases where available, the number of seats in the reading room, and other aids available (e.g. photocopier).
- Reference literature which includes mention of often neglected catalogues of exhibitions.

At the end of the nearly 300 pages of this guide there follows a 26-page overview of available literature broken down into categories such as (map) collection management, restoration, cataloguing, bibliographies, biographical works (four very interesting pages !), and items related to different types of information support (printed, audio-visual etc).

A list of useful complementary addresses and an alphabetical index complete the work.

It is perhaps not surprising to find that Amsterdam, with 27 Institutions, tops the list as regards the number of entries, followed by Den Haag (16) and Utrecht (11). An interesting exercise might be to do the sums of, let's say, atlases and loose-sheet maps recorded, although the result could only be approximate since there are many « +/- nnn » entries. As was to be expected, there are a few entries which remain more deficient in accuracy, echoing a certain number of « unknowns » emanating from the surveyed sources themselves. Still, the catalogue provides a revealing insight into the collections and, perhaps, hidden treasures which are held in some of the less familiar places. Of course, a fair proportion of the cartographical material is of recent origin and risks being by-passed by the amateur of old maps like, for example, the entry concerning the Library of Letters (Utrecht) or the Women's Documentation Centre (Nijmegen) which do not seem to deal with the kind of topography we would expect in this book.

As you will have guessed from the title, this Almanac is entirely in Dutch, and was certainly meant to serve the Dutch specialist community in the first place. Nevertheless, it is a unique document and can become quite accessible even to the uninitiated thanks to its logical and schematic construction. One would indeed wish to have such a systematic survey available for other countries also – one could think of a few. (W.B.)

*Almanak Verzamelingen Topografisch Beeldmateriaal – Een overzicht van kaartenverzamelingen en topografisch-historische atlassen in Nederland*, compiled by Paul van den Brink ; Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Den Haag, 1995, ISBN 90-6259-122-1.

## Pictures at an Exhibition – a very special review

### Carnival and maps – a flying visit to Brazil

Just 500 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1500, the famous Portuguese explorer Pedro Alvarez Cabral “discovered” Brazil when he landed in Porto Seguro. The country will be celebrating this year its 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary (although Brazil only won her independence from the Portuguese metropolis in 1822). Anyway, that was a good occasion, we thought my wife and myself, to visit Rio (the old capital) and learn more about the incredible adventure of the discovery. We also wanted to visit some interesting exhibitions, amongst them two cartographic ones : “O mapas do descobrimento” (The maps of the discovery) and “O Brasil e os Holandeses” (Brazil and the Dutch).

This was the cultural objective of our holidays, I swear. It may be difficult to believe as, “just by coincidence”, we happened to be in Rio during the Carnival week, with friends ready to share caipirinha and samba with us, and who (again by coincidence, believe me) had booked our seats for the main Carnival parade. The “Carnival of the millennium” and the “500<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration” remained with us the whole week. This explosive combination also appeared in this year’s samba winner song when saying that “Cabral discovered Brazil two months after the Carnival” (which, by the way, may indicate how Brazilians rank both events). But carnival is another story ...

Back to our maps, I have to say that the two exhibitions exceeded our expectations. “O mapas do descobrimento” was organised by the “Banco do Brasil” (the state bank), in their fabulous Cultural house strategically located in the core of Rio’s old town, and included maps that are usually not available to the public. The exhibition proposed a historic journey of cartography, from the Middle Ages to the XVIIIth century.

We start in a barely illuminated and mysterious room, symbolising Europe’s dark ages, where we can discover excellent copies and facsimiles of famous Medieval maps (Map of Psalms, Medieval reproduction of the Ptolemaic map, the Catalan Atlas). We then move to the discovery age with XVIth century South-American maps from the Itamaraty map collection (Rio de Janeiro) : the early “Planisferio” by Cantino (1502), “Mundus

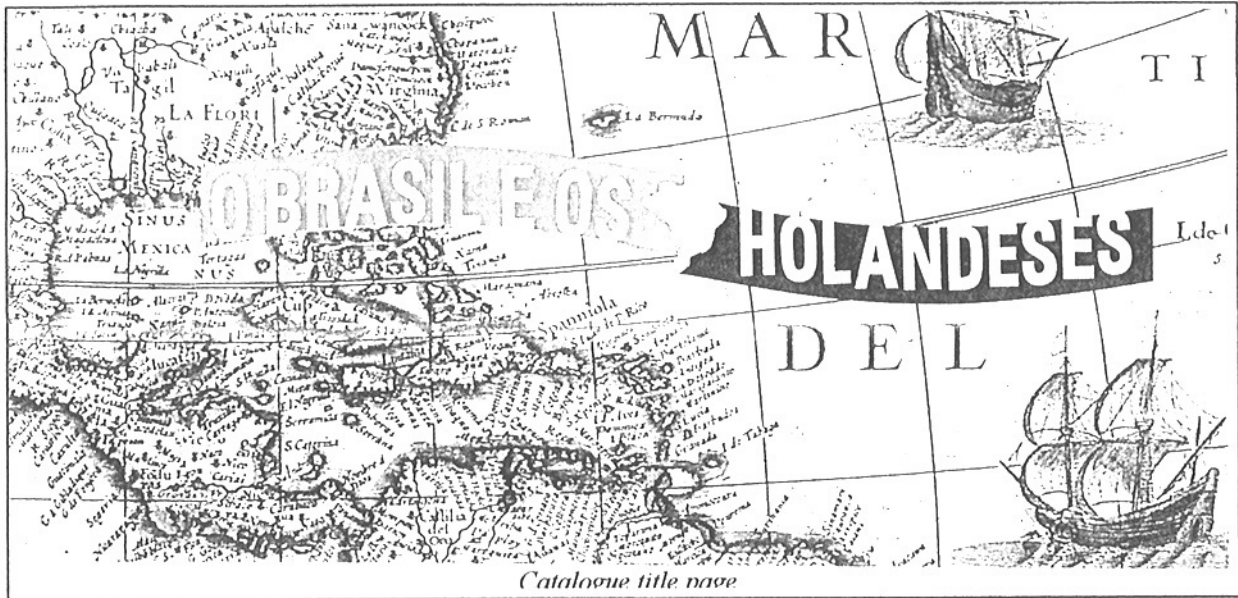
Novus” by Homem, “Carta Atlántica” by Lázaro, and the nicely illuminated “Parte Americana do Planisferio feito em Arques” by Pierre Descelliers (1546), with beautiful representations of the natives and a very “creative” (to say the least) inland.

We can then admire the core of the exhibition, the 36 painted maps of the “Atlas Manuscrito” by Albernaz (1631), depicting with extreme detail the Portuguese colonies in South America. This is a coastal journey from Rio de la Plata up to the Amazons (the interior was not yet known at that time). It is the first time that the public can see all 36 maps together. Finally, some XVIIIth century maps of forts and fortresses signal the Portuguese concern about other European powers, contesting their sovereignty over this rich land.

This makes a nice transition to our second exhibition : “O Brasil e os Holandeses”. Located in the National Museum of Rio, and sponsored by large Dutch multinationals working in Brazil (KLM, Philips, ABN AMRO, Océ ...), it illustrates the Dutch presence in Brazil (mainly Salvador de Bahia and Pernambuco) during the first half of the XVIIth century. This was an attempt by the Low Countries to by-pass the closure of Portuguese and Spanish ports (and products) to their ships.

Although the Dutch were definitively forced to leave in 1654, their short “Brazilian experience” was very profitable for the cultural development of the region. When the new Dutch Governor, the young Colonel Count Johannes Mauritius of Nassau-Siegen (better known just as Count of Nassau), arrived in 1637, he brought a whole cultural mission of naturalists, astronomers, poets, doctors, painters, humanists, architects ... and of course cartographers. Count Nassau may have thought that the Low Countries were going to stay forever, and he asked all the cultural mission to heavily invest their time.

The results, on the cartographic side, are spectacular and we could see some of these at the exhibition. Produced by the leading Dutch cartographic know-how, they are the best maps of the north Brazilian coast of the first half of the XVIIth century. We could see a detailed map of Recife and its surroundings, by Cornelis Bastianszoon Golijath (1644), Maps of A. Vaz (or Vaazij) island, of Mauritiopolis City or of the



Friburg Palace that appeared in the famous book of Gaspar Barleus "Rerum per Octenium in Brasilia" in 1647 etc

The culmination of the Dutch work is the monumental "General Atlas of the Dutch Brazil", elaborated between 1652 and 1670 by Johannes Vingboons, based on maps from the first half of the XVIIth century. The only two known copies of the Atlas are in the Vatican and in Pernambuco. We could see at the exhibition some maps from the Atlas, like the one of Pernambuco city (1637).

But the most spectacular map in the exhibition was the "Brasilia Qua Parte Paret Belgis" (Map of the Brazilian territory under Dutch ruling – although some may like to translate it literally by "under Belgian ruling"). This is an enormous (135 x 180 cm) map beautifully

illuminated, depicting all Dutch possessions in Brazil. The map appeared in the 1660s, as the result of assembling earlier maps of George Marcgrave. In order to fill the vast unknown inland continent, it includes attractive illustrations from Frans Post, with indigenous animals, plants and fruits, or the daily work of black slaves in the fields. The map at the exhibition came from a private collection.

All in all our stay in Rio (with a short stopover in Iguassu falls) was very fruitful. We loved the city and her people, and we can definitely recommend the carnival. A tip : if you visit Rio, try to visit the Itamaraty map collection, ... but never miss Copacabana beach.

(Sergio Balibrea)

## Second BIMCC STUDY SESSION : « UNDERSTANDING MAPS »

This event took place, as planned, on 19<sup>th</sup> February at the Collège St. Michel, although, as Wulf Bodenstern explained in his address of welcome, the afternoon session devoted to cartographic reference books has had to be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. The theme for the Session, he pointed out, had come to him well before having discovered a book with that same title, and he paid tribute to Alan Hodgkiss's very readably work which will certainly figure prominently among the

reference books to come on display in the future. **Jan De Graeve** started the Session with an exposé on « Map projections on ancient maps – from the field work of surveyors to the finished map ». The complexity of the land surveyor's task trying to transpose a three-dimensional geographical form onto a two-dimensional map representation on a sheet of paper was illustrated with a number of slides which documented the gradual progress of this science from first trials by Gemma Phrysius in the 16<sup>th</sup> century to present-day technology. In the process we learnt



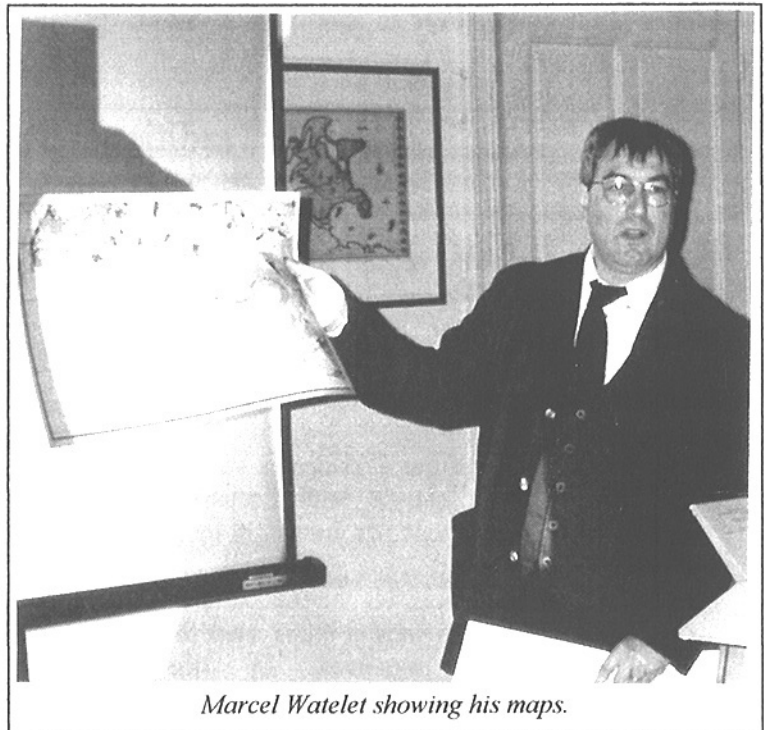
about Snellius's triangulation experiments in 1617 when frozen canals in the region of Alkmaar – Bergen op Zoom were used to provide a stable and perfectly flat base-line. In a literally more global context the question of the « Figure of the Earth » - flat ? oblong ? spherical ? was addressed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the French Académie des Sciences which sent two expeditions to the North and to the Equator to elucidate this point.

Instead of laborious mathematical formulae, Jan De Graeve offered us a welcome « hands-on » approach to the subject by presenting a number of original documents for consultation, among which the Latin edition of Apianus/Gemma Frisius' *Cosmographia Libellus describendorum ratione* (1567), La Condamine's *Journal du voyage fait par Ordre du Roy ... La Mesure des premiers degrés du Méridien* (1751), some documents by Cassini and a few satellite images of parts of our planet earth.

**Frans Depuydt** then spoke about « The metric accuracy of old maps, with special reference to the maps of Flanders by Mercator and Ortelius ». He pointed out that this issue had been somewhat neglected in the past, although map collectors have always been intrigued by apparent « inaccuracies » on their maps. The reason for this belated scientific interest is that historians, until quite recently, were more concerned with the correctness of maps regarding their content than their metric aspects. An additional factor was the complexity of establishing a valid accuracy analysis. Such methods now exist and have been validated in numerous accuracy analyses. These find their application even on maps which have no grid of longitude and latitude, no scale, and which even have no North indication. A process called the « iterative method » was first used by P. Mekenkamp in 1986 which permitted relative inaccuracies to be expressed graphically by means of proportionally sized circles.

A variant of this method has since been developed by the Speaker and his team in which the radius of the deformation circle corresponds to the absolute deviation from the historically surveyed point in relation to its actual implantation. This so-called 'iterative

Procustes method' was applied to the Flanders maps by Mercator and Ortelius, and a number of slides illustrated the findings in some detail. Interestingly, and this was a surprise to many of us, the accuracy of the geographical data in these maps was relatively good, although the analysis of corresponding parameters of regions further afar, which is yet to be done, will probably reveal a wider departure from geographic reality, quite understandably acceptable from the Flemish map-maker's point of view.



*Marcel Watelet showing his maps.*

**Marcel Watelet** offered us a closer look at maps of northern France and Belgium in the period following Waterloo, in his lecture entitled « Conventional signs on early 19<sup>th</sup> century maps ». After the battle of Waterloo (18<sup>th</sup> June, 1815), the Duke of Wellington was mandated by the European Heads of State to guarantee the restoration of the French monarchy by occupying the North and the East of France, and of an important part of the South of the Netherlands. As the new frontier between France and the Netherlands was being traced in accordance with the treaties of Paris and Vienna, the occupied territories on either side were divided into different zones of occupation: Wellington allocated one to each of the large army corps. In each of the sectors thus defined, maps were drawn up furtively by topographical officers and cartographers of the allied forces. Slides, viewgraphs and some large-scale

reproductions of maps of this period illustrated the diversity of the graphic representations produced by the different military units, permitting a most interesting comparison of the various conventions used by the British, Russian, Prussian, Austrian, Dutch and French cartographers. Although these practically worked side-by-side, they preserved their « national » cartographical conventions, except for the surveys jointly undertaken by the Dutch and French units which admitted interesting compromises and adjustments.

The question-and-answers session was continued informally over an apéritif, and this

was followed by a most animated Speakers' Lunch with invited guests which, since the afternoon event had been cancelled, assumed « Burgundian » proportions, as one participant remarked.

As usual on the occasion of a BIMCC Seminar, a video recording has been made of the proceedings (not the Lunch !) by Jean-Louis Renteux ; this can be borrowed on request from the Secretary.

(W.B.)

## Another Traditional Map Evening 31<sup>st</sup> March 2000

The very evening of the second anniversary of the BIMCC, and with a certain sense for what might become a tradition, a little more than 20 members found themselves around one of the large tables in our (club-) room of the College Saint-Michel.

Under the guidance of our President a variety of documents were shown and discussed, moving from some particular items of local and national interest onto more global ones.

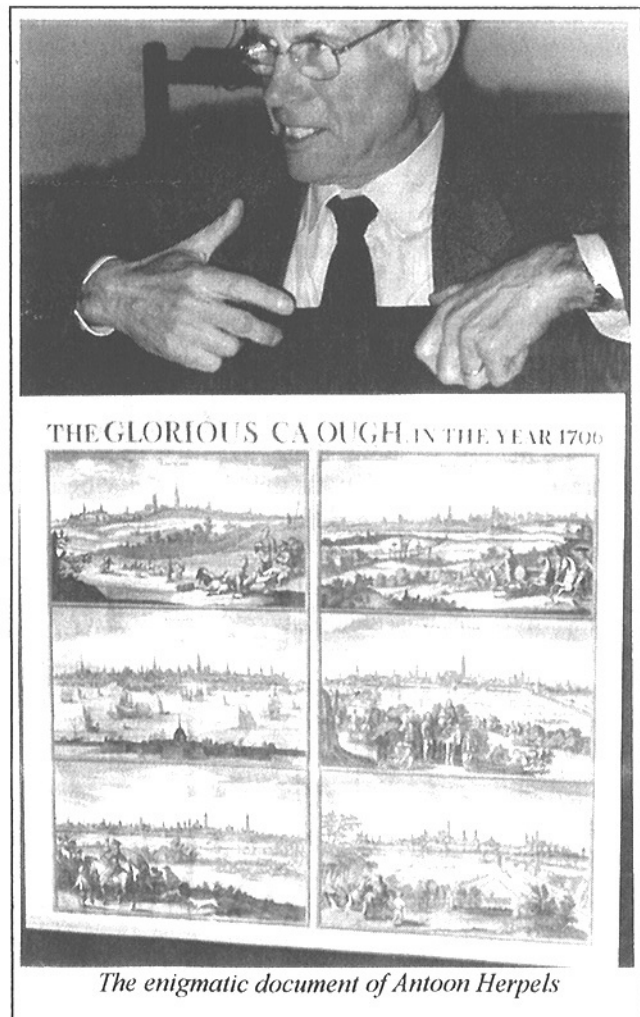
First of all **Pierre Parmentier** introduced us to a very particular kind of actual maps used for scouting-expeditions organised by the International Orienteering Federation as a synergy of sports and geography.

**Matthieu Franssen** brought us back to the historical cartography with his presentation of 3 copies of a very rare map (mid-16<sup>th</sup> Century) of the old Duchy of Brabant thus far attributed to Forlani but which might be of the hand of Nicolay and could already have been ordered around 1557 by the Count of Savoy.

Vice-President **Philippe Swolfs** showed a view of the former castle Logenhagen at Steendorp (Waasland) as figured by Sanderus, and from which the contours can still be seen on aerial photographs. The second item Philippe brought along, a large and beautiful map by Harrewyn of the archdiocese of Mechelen, dated 1725 and reproducing the region from Gent to Louvain, was stated to be the map that can be found in the "Chorographia Sacra Brabantiae".

A very intriguing story about an unusual print of 6 townviews (Louvain, Antwerp, Brussels, Bruges, Mechelen and Gent) crowned by a

fragmentary title ("The Glorious Ca/ough in the



Year 1706") was presented by **Antoon Herpels** and **Joost Depuydt**. Printed on one sheet (c. 60 x 70 cm) bearing the imprint of David Mortier

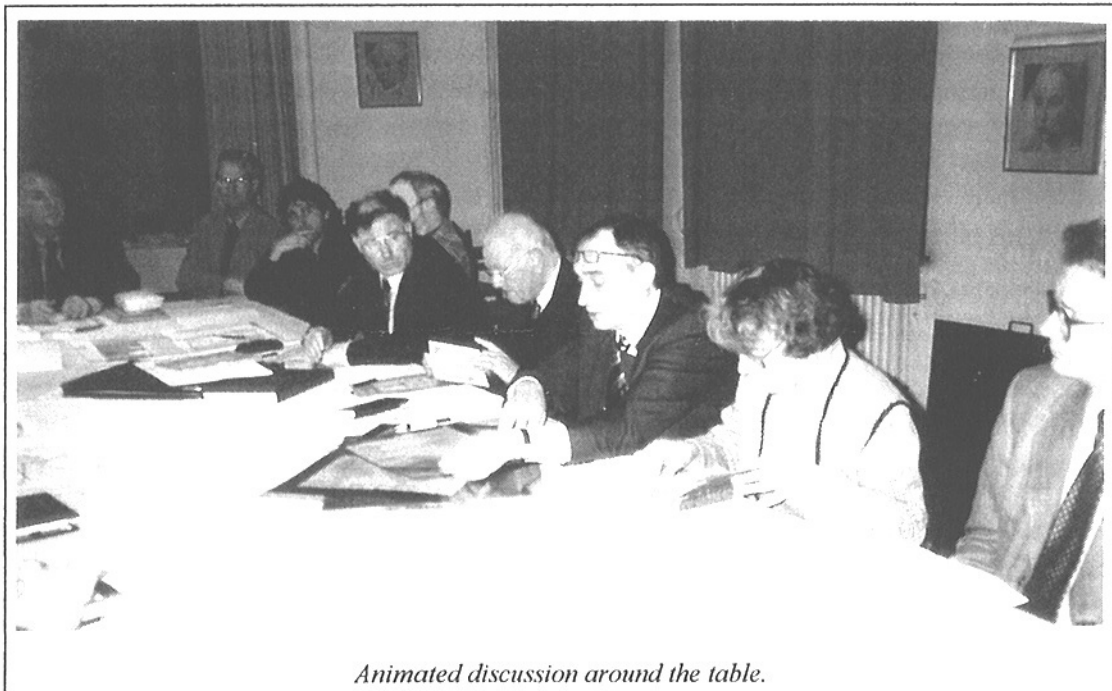
and heightened in a beautiful colouring, it must have escaped from the printer's office. In fact, Joost identified it as a print intended to be cut up and mounted, together with two other views, around a plan of the battle of Ramillies. The views are inspired by those of Visscher who placed similar ones also as borders around his large wall maps of Brabant and Flanders. Further investigation brought to light that the title should be read as "The Glorious Campaign of the Duke of Marlborough in the Year 1706". A complete copy of this plan is kept in the British Library.

Next was **Kees Oomen** who presented us first of all an interesting new project, in which also Mr Franssen and Mr Van der Heyden are involved, aiming to establish a systematic

on display at an exhibition in Duisburg, Mercator's second home, in May (see news item on p. 8).

From the Seventeen Provinces we went on eastwards, and by kind invitation of **Bärbel Kirstetter** we followed the courses of the Rhine and the Po thanks to 2 large maps by the Homann Heirs (mid-18<sup>th</sup> century) before reaching Slovenia in Central Europe as shown by **Patrik Kolar** on an impressive and very decorative map of his native country by the London geographer William Berry (1688).

From then on our horizons were widened first by **Fay Huidekoper** who entertained the Circle in a very vivid way on the exploration and the mapping of the Arabic peninsula during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, followed by **Wulf Bodenstein** who



*Animated discussion around the table.*

inventory of all historical maps of the Duchy of Brabant printed on one sheet. As an extra Kees showed an atlas covering a large part of the Netherlands, but without a title page. Thanks to **Otto Chrispeels**, who by coincidence had brought along another copy of the same work but this one with a title page, the first could be identified as G. d'Heulland's *Carte nouvelle des duchés de Hollande et de Brabant*, dated 1747.

**Wulf Bodenstein** ended the local cartographical tour with his presentation of a wall map of Flanders by Nicolas Visscher (1656) that has been cut up into a number of leaves which were then bound together as a book. This curious map compendium will be

commemorated the 400<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of Nicolas Sanson by showing his map of the African continent with special interest for the dark and unknown interior and more specifically the hypothetical origins and courses of the Nile as seen in the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The global cartographical point of view finally was represented by **Patrick De Prée** and **Henri Godts**, the first showing 3 small atlases of French origin (18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century), the latter with 3 examples of copper engraved and printed gores to constitute relatively small-format terrestrial and celestial globes (England, mid 19<sup>th</sup> century).

To terminate the session closer to home, **Johan Vanvolsem** asked if anyone could be of help to

identify a little map of The Southern Netherlands by Nicolas de Fer and the title page of "Plans et profiles ..." by Beaulieu. The ensuing discussion produced valuable clues, once more underlining the merits of a gathering such as our Map Evening.

Hungry and thirsty after this virtual world tour, all members went on discussing these and

other matters over sandwiches and a glass of wine till closing time. Many thanks to our foreign members for their presence, and not least to the catering hands. See you next time?

(Henri Godts)

## INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- **Events organized by the International Map Collectors' Society, London (IMCoS) :**
  - Reception courtesy Jonathan Potter, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 18.30, 125 New Bond Street, London
  - Visit to the British Library Map Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 96 Euston Road, London
  - 20<sup>th</sup> International Map Fair, The Commonwealth Centre, Kensington High Street, London, Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 11.00 – 17.30 (IMCoS Members admitted at 10.30).
  - 19<sup>th</sup> International Symposium Reykjavik, 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> September
  - *Info from Secretary Harry Pearce, Tel 00/44/181-769.50.41, Fax 00/44/181-677.54.17*  
*Web Site <http://www.harvey27.demon.co.uk/imcos/>*
- On Iceland from the local organizer Emilia Sigmarsdottir, National and University Library of Iceland, Arngrimgötu 3, IS-107 Reykjavik, Fax ++354/563.56.15, e-mail [emilias@bok.hi.is](mailto:emilias@bok.hi.is)
- **Kultur- und Stadthistorisches Museum Duisburg**, 9<sup>th</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> August, *From Flanders to the Lower Rhine – Commerce and Culture overcome boundaries* (also contains maps, town views and plans, including the oldest map of Flanders – 1452 – and the Flanders map compendium shown during the map evening, see the account above). Johannes-Korputius-Platz 1, D-47049 Duisburg, open Tue. to Thur. and Sat. 10 – 17h., Fri. 10 – 14h., Sun. 10 – 18h. Info from Tel ++49/203/283.26.56 or Fax ++49/203/283.43.30.
- **Banque de Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg**, 11<sup>th</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> September, « *Il était une fois la Terre et l'Espace – les Globes à travers quatre siècles d'histoire* » (*Planet earth and space – Globes of four centuries*), an exhibition of globes from the collection of Prof Rudolf Schmidt, President of the Internationale Coronelli-Gesellschaft (Vienna); 41 Av. J.F. Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg, open Mon. to Fri. 9 – 18h, Sat. 9.30 – 17h., admission free. Info from Tel ++352/49/924.39.71, guided tour Tel ++352/49/924.45.06. *See also the BIMCC Programme for a Special Guided Tour.*
- **Gruuthusemuseum Brugge**, 30<sup>th</sup> May to 20<sup>th</sup> November, *Windows onto Bruges – Five centuries of living culture (1400-1900)* (also contains maps and views of Bruges and its environs). Dijver 17, B-8000 Brugge, open every day, 9.30 – 17h, admission BEF 200. Info from Tel ++32/(0)50/44.87.11 Fax ++32/(0)50/44.87.78, or [www.brugge.be/VOB](http://www.brugge.be/VOB)
- **Museo de Las Casas Reales, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**, 14<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June, Antique Map Exhibition *The Island of Hispaniola in the Cartography of the New World*. Info from J. Gonzalez, FairWinds Antique Maps, Tel ++1/212/414.10.58, Fax ++1/212/414.08.76 e-mail [fairmaps@aol.com](mailto:fairmaps@aol.com)
- **Utrecht University**, 16<sup>th</sup> June, Study Day on *Art and Cartography* organized by the Netherlands Association for Cartography, Working Group for the History of Cartography, Heidelberglaan 2, 3508 TC Utrecht (NL). The programme includes, inter alia, presentations (in Dutch) on the Van Deutecum family, the Atlas Blaeu-Van der Hem, Andreas Cellarius, Maps of the County of Holland; Prof. Dr. Günter Schilder will talk about The Development of Decorative Borders on Maps in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. This is also the subject of his recent publication in the series *Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica*, Vol. VI of which will be presented on this occasion. The Session starts at 09.30 in the « Rode Zaal van het Transitorium 1 », accessible from the Heidelberglaan 2 Complex. Inscriptions are obligatory, please contact Prof G. Schilder, Tel ++31/30/253.20.51 Fax ++31/30/254.06.04, e-mail [g.schilder@geog.uu.nl](mailto:g.schilder@geog.uu.nl). Admission is DFL 40 which includes lunch. NL participants please transfer the sum to postgiro 4878973, others may pay at the door.



- **Plantin-Moretus Museum, Antwerp**, 22<sup>nd</sup> June to 24<sup>th</sup> September, *Orbis Terrarum – Ways of Worldmaking, Cartography and Contemporary Art*. Vrijdagmarkt 22, B-2000 Antwerpen, open Tue. to Sun. 10 – 17h., admission BEF 200. Info from Tel ++32/(0)3/224.85.00 Fax ++32/(0)3/224.85.01, or [www.antwerpenopen.be](http://www.antwerpenopen.be). This exhibition is organized in the context of the *Charles V 1500-2000* celebrations, under the patronage of H.M. King Albert II.
- **10. Kartographiehistorisches Colloquium, Bonn**, 14.-16. September; Info from Frau Dr G. Recker, Seminar für Historische Geographie der Universität Bonn, Konviktstr. 11, D-53113 Bonn, and Prof. Dr. K. Fehn, same address, Fax ++49/228/73.76.50, e-mail [hist.geo@uni-bonn.de](mailto:hist.geo@uni-bonn.de) and web-site [www.stub.unibe.ch/dach/colloquium/call.html](http://www.stub.unibe.ch/dach/colloquium/call.html)

## WEB SITES

Here is an extract from the very comprehensive list published by The Portolan, the Journal of the Washington Map Society, whose Editor Thomas F. Sander has been very helpful to get the Circle and its activities also known to WMS Members through his columns - many thanks, Tom. Thanks also to John Docktor who keeps the calendar items up-to-date.

- ◆ **Washington Map Society** : <http://users.supernet.com/pages/jdocktor/washmap.htm>
- ◆ **The Portolan – Journal of the Washington Map Society** : <http://users.supernet.com/pages/jdocktor/portolan.htm>
- ◆ **Cartography Calendars** :
  - Worldwide events : <http://users.supernet.com/pages/jdocktor/index.htm>
  - Worldwide exhibitions : <http://users.supernet.com/pages/jdocktor/exhibit.htm>
- ◆ **Imago Mundi, The International Journal for the History of Cartography** : <http://www.ihrinfo.ac.uk/maps/imago.html>
- ◆ **British Library Map Library** : <http://www.bl.uk/> (click *collections*, then *maps*)
- ◆ **Royal Geographical Society** : <http://www.rgs.org>
- ◆ **IMCoS, The International Map Collectors' Society** : <http://www.harvey27.demon.co.uk/imcos/>
- ◆ **Oddens – An encyclopedia of references about cartography** : <http://oddens.geog.uu.nl>
- ◆ **MAPHIST – e-mail discussion Group on the History of Cartography** : <http://www.maphist.nl>
- ◆ **Caert-Thresoor, the Dutch Cartographic Journal** : <http://www.maphist.nl/ct/english.html>
- ◆ **Mercator's World Magazine** : <http://www.mercatormag.com/>

## SOME AUCTION RESULTS

- ❖ **Henri Godts, Brussels, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2000**
  - A. Ortelius, *Nomenclator Ptolemaicus ; Omnia locorum vocabula quae in tota Ptolemaei Geographia occurrunt...*, Antwerp 1579, BEF 12.000
  - Ph. Clüver, *Introductionis in universam geographiam tam veterem quam novam libri VI. ... Accessit P. Bertii Breviarum Orbis Terrarum*, Amsterdam 1661 (38 double-page maps), BEF 30.000
  - V. Coronelli, *A sequence of 15 geographical maps covering the ancient Low Countries, the Principality of Liège and the course of the Rhine*, Venice 1690, BEF 100.000
  - Count J.J.F. Ferraris, *Carte chorographique des Pays-Bas autrichiens dédiée à leurs Majestés Impériales et Royales ... gravée par Dupuis ... en 1777*, a wall-map of 25 sheets bound together with 4 drawings by Janssens, Brussels 1777, BEF 130.000
  - Braun & Hogenberg, *Mechelen*, bird's eye view from Vol. III of *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*, ca. 1600, BEF 12.000
- ❖ **Romantic Agony, Brussels, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2000**
  - F. de Wit, *Antverpia*, 2-sheet town plan, 17<sup>th</sup> c., BEF 30.000

- A. Sanderus/ Blaeu, *Episcopatus Gandvensis – Joannes et Cornelius Blaeu excudebant*, original 43 x 52.4 cm copperplate which was probably used for the second edition of Sanderus' *Flandria Illustrata* (The Hague, 1732), BEF 330.000
- L.C. Desnos, *Nouveau Plan de Paris divisé en ses vingt Quartiers, Faubourgs et Environs*, with decorative borders, 4 sheets (117 x 88.5 cm), Paris 1768, BEF 22.000
- N. Visscher, 41 (of 42) town views which formed the left and right-hand borders of the wall-maps of Flanders, Brabant and Zeeland, ed. by Z. Roman, Middelburg 1662, bound together with the title cartouche of the Brabant wall-map, BEF 270.000
- D. Funck, *Der grosse Helvetische Bund ; oder gründliche Fürstellung der löblichen Eydgenossenschaft ...*, Nürnberg 1690 (12 maps and views), bound with D. Funck, *Ausführlich und sehr bequemes Register der neuesten Land-Karten uber gantz Helvetiam....* (rare stock list of maps of Switzerland), BEF 20.000
- ❖ **De Griffel, B-6890 Redu, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2000**
- J. Janssonius, *Carte du Pais de Retellois faicte par Jean Jubrien Chalonnais*, Amsterdam 1624, BEF 6.000
- Th. E. Van Goor, *Beschryving der Stadt en Lande van Breda...* , by Jacobus vanden Kieboom, 's Gravenhage 1744 (14 folding maps and views etc), BEF 35.000
- L. Guicciardini, *Belgium universum. Omnium Inferioris Germaniae Regionum accurata Descriptio, ...*, Amstelodami apud Ioannes Iansonium 1646, complete with 99 maps and plans, BEF 120.000
- A. Ortelius, *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, Antverpiae apud Ioannem Vrintium 1603 (Latin ed.), complete, BEF 2.100.000
- ❖ **Michel Lhomme, Liège, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2000**
- M. Seutter, *Atlas novus Sive Tabulae Geographicae Totius Orbis Faciem, Partes, Imperia, Regna et Provincias exhibentes, ...* Augsburg, ca 1735, binding with 29 maps including world map and four continents, BEF 220.000
- ❖ **Reiss & Sohn, D-61462 Königstein, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> May 2000**
- W. Barentsz, *Description de la Mer Mediterranee*, 3<sup>rd</sup> French ed. 1608, DEM 65.000
- J.N. Bellin, *Le Petit Atlas maritime. Recueil de cartes et plans des quatre parties du monde*, 5 vol., 1764 (582 maps), DEM 55.000
- J. Flamsteed, *Atlas céleste*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Paris 1776 (30 maps), DEM 4.000
- M. Seutter, *Atlas minor*, ca 1750 (67 maps), DEM 8.000
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- A. Ortelius, world and 4 continents , ca 1575, DEM 28.000
- J. Janssonius, *Novissima et accuratissima Brabantiae Ducatus tabula*, DEM 500

## FORTHCOMING AUCTIONS

- **Romantic Agony, Brussels, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June** (see details in Sponsor list)
- **Galerij der Kempen, Turnhout, 24<sup>th</sup> June** at 14.00 ( see details in Sponsor list)
- **Reiss & Sohn, D-61462 Königstein, 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> October** (Tel ++49/6174/10.17)

## BIMCC MATTERS

### Second Annual General Meeting (19<sup>th</sup> February, 2000)

In accordance with its Belgian Statutes as a non-profit Association (ASBL/VZW) this year's AGM was held on 19<sup>th</sup> February at the Collège St. Michel, Brussels. President Wulf Bodenstein opened the proceedings and, after adoption of the Agenda (published in Newsletter N° 6), invited the Meeting to

endorse the composition of the Executive Committee comprising two new Members, Lisette Danckaert and Jan Willem van den Brandhof, who replace outgoing Members Reiner Kaivers and John Barrett. This was approved, and a vote of thanks was passed for the former Members of the Committee.

The President then introduced the 1999 Activity Report (see below), which was adopted.

Treasurer Anne-Marie Hermans presented last year's accounts which had been certified by Member Bärbel Kirstetter. This showed a positive balance of BEF 21.397, representing a comfortable step towards establishing an operational reserve equivalent to one year's membership subscriptions. Anne-Marie then introduced the draft 2000 budget. Taking into account the expected income from membership contributions and sponsorship support, and off-setting this against anticipated expenses for communications, publications (Newsletters,

conference hand-outs, flyers), insurance, room rentals and miscellaneous expenditure, the estimated balance is + BEF 17.000. The Meeting unanimously approved last year's accounts and the draft budget.

In closing the meeting Wulf Bodenstein expressed his warm thanks to the Members of the Executive Committee, the supporters of the Circle, and in particular to the Sponsors and Benefactors whose benevolent assistance was vital for the Circle's continued well-being.

## Annual BIMCC Activity Report 1999

### First BIMCC Study Session on paper conservation and restoration (20-2-1999)

The first part of this event took place on 20<sup>th</sup> February at the Collège St. Michel, when Hossam Elkhadem presented *A brief history of paper and its (impossible?) preservation*, followed by an exposé on *Basic considerations for the beginning collector* by Hans Kok. Hands-on demonstrations were then given by restorer Ann Marchal, supported by an exhibit of conservation material by La Route du Papier. For the second part the BIMCC was received on 21<sup>st</sup> February in the Mercator Museum in Sint-Niklaas, where Restorer Guy de Witte showed the result of a major restoration task on a IATO atlas of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

### Map Evening (31-3-1999)

This animated and harmonious gathering represented the first anniversary of our Circle. A number of very interesting maps and views were shown and discussed, and the traditional convivial scene provided, apart from food for thought, a glass of wine and some snacks.

### Excursion to a Map Collection ( 3-10-1999)

The charming Kommandeurshuis in Lillo near Antwerp was the destination of this outing. Our Member Wim Goossens received a group of nearly 30 persons in style, introducing them to his very rich collection of maps of Flanders which were displayed in different rooms of this impressive mansion. The landlord's generous hospitality was appreciated by all and made this a most memorable event.

### International Connections

The good contacts with the International Map Collectors' Society (IMCoS) in London, and

with the Washington Map Society were maintained and intensified, and an excellent line of cooperation was established with the editors of the leading periodicals on the History of Cartography, that is the *IMCoS Journal* and the *Washington Portolan*, and of course with *Imago Mundi*, *Caert-Thresoor*, *Cartographica Helvetica* and *Mercator's World*, who all regularly report on the BIMCC events. Contacts with the French-speaking world are facilitated in particular through the columns of the *Bulletin du Comité français de Cartographie(CFC)* for which we are grateful. The Circle's references have been included in the latest edition of *Who's Who in the History of Cartography* (D9), and a web-site managed from Washington (<http://users.supernet.com/pages/jdocktor/>) shows the current BIMCC programme of events (N.B.: a dedicated BIMCC web-site is in preparation).

### Administrative Matters

The Executive Committee underwent some personal changes; it held four meetings in the reporting period.

Three Newsletters and a Hand-out (Study Session 1) were published

The support of 6 Sponsors<sup>1</sup> and 2 Benefactors<sup>2</sup> was gratefully acknowledged.

Membership rose from 43 to 87.

### Conclusion

An excellent year for our Circle; finances are sound, and there is encouraging support for the continuation of the BIMCC policy offering an interesting, ambitious programme.

Brussels, 19th February 2000  
W. Bodenstein, President

<sup>1</sup> H. Godts, Galerij der Kempen, La Route du Papier, D.Duncker, B.Hoepelman, E. Hermans

<sup>2</sup> Cartographica Neerlandica, A. Vanden Eynde

## BIMCC PROGRAMME

➤ Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September, at 11.00h :  
**Special Guided visit for the BIMCC of the Globe Exhibition at the Banque de Luxembourg** (address see International Events column); admission is free. It is possible to combine this with a guided tour of the City of Luxembourg, in which case a small fee is to be paid on site. Those interested please contact our Member Jan Willem van den Brandhof on Tel/Fax ++/352/32.87.86.

➤ Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October, at 10.15h : **Excursion to the Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris.** We meet in the « Cour d'Honneur » (courtyard) at N° 58 Rue de Richelieu, Paris 2<sup>e</sup>, Métro Bourse, Palais-Royal ou Richelieu-Drouot, Bus 39, 48, 67, 74, 85.

❖ 10.30 to 12.30 : General Introduction

- Visit of the Map Room (Mme H. Richard, Director)
- Visit of the map and atlas repository (Mme M.-F. Dumoulin)
- Visit of the restoration department for maps, atlases, globes (Mr A. Roger)

❖ 12.30 to 14.30 : Lunch in a near-by restaurant (at your own expense)

❖ 14.30 to 16.30 : Presentations

- The collections of the Geographical Society of Paris (Mme F. Duclos)
- The exploration of Africa : documents of the Geographical Society (Mr O. Loiseaux)
- The first maps of the exploration of Nouvelle France (Canada/Louisiana) (Mme C. Hofmann).

(N.B. : Summary translation into English will be provided ad-hoc, as and when required).

❖ 18.00 : Reception by our Sponsor Friedrich Weissert & Partner of the inscribed participants on the premises of his antiquarian book- and map shop, 5, rue Lagrange, Paris 5<sup>e</sup> (see also Sponsor list).

### IMPORTANT NOTICE :

The number of places being limited to 15, admission to this excursion is for paid-up BIMCC Members only, on a first-come-first-served basis. Please use the enclosed registration form. Inscriptions retained will receive a written acknowledgement. There is no charge to Members for this event. There are excellent and fast train connections between Brussels and Paris (the *Thalys* takes no more than 1h25 !) permitting a day-return trip for those not wishing to stay on for the week-end.

➤ Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December, at 10.00h :  
**Conference From the Low Countries to the High Seas -**

*Dutch Maps from the Age of Discoveries*, at the Collège St. Michel, 24, Boulevard Saint Michel, B-1040 Brussels. Speakers will include Hans Kok, IMCoS Representative for the Netherlands, Dr Peter van der Krogt, Utrecht University, Rodney Shirley, eminent map historian and author of *The Mapping of the World*, and Monique Pelletier who recently retired from her post of Map Curator at the Bibliothèque nationale de France. Francis Herbert, Curator of Maps at the Royal Geographical Society in London, has accepted to be the Conference Chairman. Invited speakers include Dr Uwe Schnall, German Maritime Museum in Bremerhaven, and his colleague Sjoert de Meer, Curator of Maps at the Maritime Museum 'Prins Hendrik' in Rotterdam.

The six presentations (four in the morning session, two in the afternoon) will cover subjects as *Dutch World Maps of the 17<sup>th</sup> century*, *The voyage around Africa to the Far East*, *The Atlas of China by Blaeu*, *The transfer of cartographic knowledge between France and the Low Countries*, *The circumnavigation of the world by Olivier Van Noort*, and another historical maritime topic. A small exhibit of original maps will accompany the Conference and illustrate the subjects addressed. Complete programme and inscription forms in the next Newsletter, in September.

OCCIDENTS.



QVJ HODIE MPR  
DES NORJ.



*The BIMCC is pleased to acknowledge sponsorship support from :*

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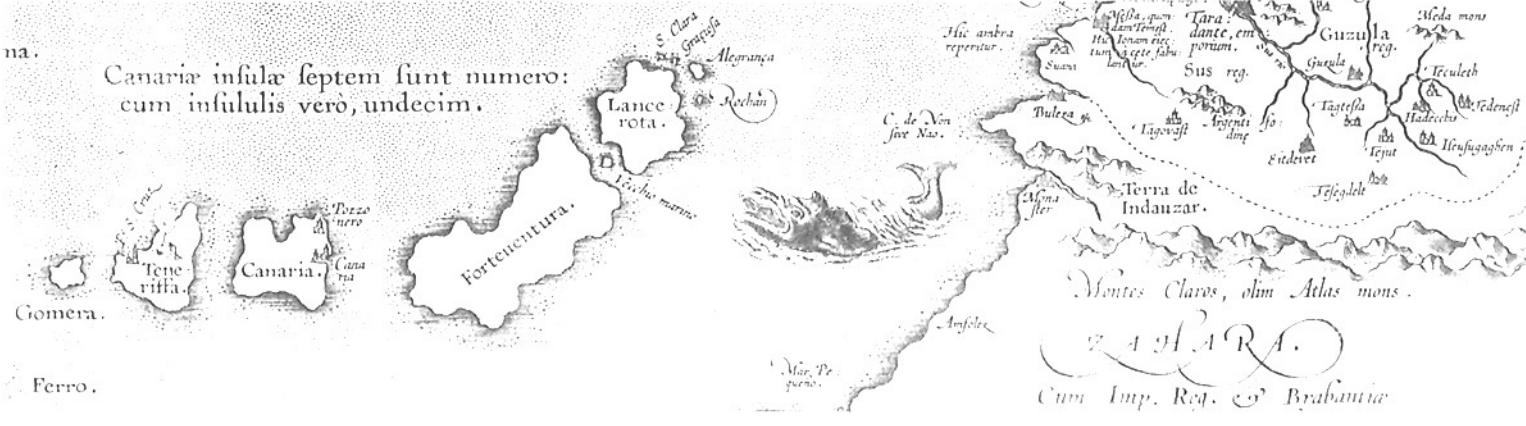
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The BIMCC currently publishes three Newsletters per year, in January, May and September. Please submit calendar items and other contributions by 15<sup>th</sup> August for the September edition.

#### 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 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.

#### BIMCC Executive Committee

President : Wulf Bodenstein, 71 Av. des Camélias, B-1150 Brussels; Tel ++32-(0)2-772.69.09

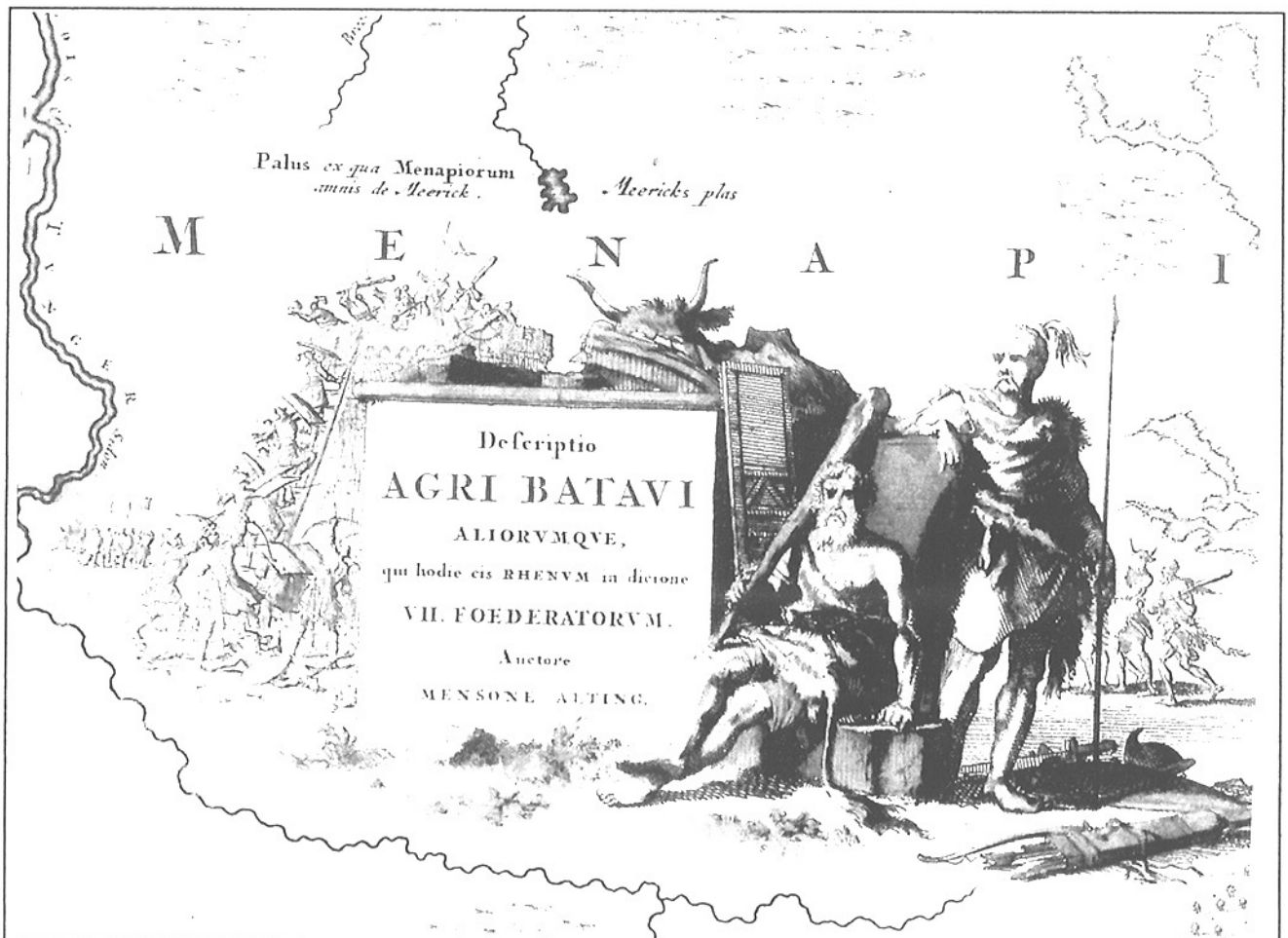
e-mail [bimcc@bigfoot.com](mailto:bimcc@bigfoot.com)

Secretary : Véronique Van de Kerckhof, W. de Croylaan 23, B-3001 Heverlee; e-mail : [vero.vdk@zdnetmail.com](mailto:vero.vdk@zdnetmail.com)

Vice-President : Philippe Swolfs; Treasurer : Anne-Marie Hermans; Officers : Otto Chrispeels, Lisette Danckaert, Jean-Louis Renteux, Jan Willem van den Brandhof. Scientific Advisor : Hossam Elkhadem.

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FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2000

(Details in Newsletter N° 7)

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