



# NEWSLETTER N° 8, SEPT. 2000

Dear Map Friend,

In this issue we review three of the exhibitions announced in the last Newsletter – these, we feel, and their catalogues (where available), merit a résumé just as much as the books on maps we’ve found of interest, three of which are presented here. Lighthearted glimpses of the past take a more serious turn in a brief commemoration of Nicolas Sanson d’Abbeville, born 400 years ago, and not forgotten. A special mention goes to IMCoS, born only 20 years ago. Please note that our excursion to the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris (6<sup>th</sup> October) is booked out. On the other hand, registration for the 9<sup>th</sup> December Conference *From the Low Countries to the High Seas* is open – full details below. You might also wish to reserve already now (tempus fugit !) the date of the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2001 - that’s when we’ll have a Study Session with special hands-on « Looks at Books », so to speak : some of the most interesting reference works on cartography will be presented by carto-historians from Belgium, The Netherlands, France and the UK, and a small exhibition of books will be arranged concurrently. Plenty of opportunities to get to know the Circle and learn about maps and their makers – the easy way.

(WB)

**CONTENTS**

**Pictures at an Exhibition**  
 I – From Flanders to the lower Rhine..... 2  
 II – A most remarkable exhibition of Globes... 4  
 III – Orbis Terrarum – Ways of worldmaking . 5

**Glimpses of the Past**  
 I – Commemorating Charles V..... 5  
 II – The Paris Meridian revisited..... 6  
 Nicolas Sanson d’Abbeville (1600 – 1667)..... 7

**Looks at Books**  
 I – *Naamvorming... van Halle*..... 9  
 II – *Monumenta Sibiriae*..... 9  
 III – *Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica Vol. VI*..... 10

International Events..... 12  
 Auction review..... 12  
 BIMCC Programme..... 13  
 Congratulations, IMCoS ! ..... 13  
 Sponsors’ page..... 14  
 Membership and Conference Registration..... 18

*Enclosed with this issue : a flyer on the 9<sup>th</sup> International Antiquarian Book Fair Mechelen*

**BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL MAP COLLECTORS’ CIRCLE**  
**(BIMCC)**  
 P. O. BOX 1359, B – 1000 BRUSSELS 1  
 Tel/Fax ++32- (0)2-772. 69. 09 e-mail : [bimcc@bigfoot.com](mailto:bimcc@bigfoot.com)

From Flanders to the Lower Rhine

**Introduction**

From Flanders to the Lower Rhine was the title of an exhibition held from 10 May to 6 August at the culture - and town historical museum (Kultur- und Stadthistorisches Museum) of the town of Duisburg (Germany). The major aim of the exhibition was to recall the interdependence of the lower Rhine area with the neighbouring Low Countries or what are to-day mostly The Netherlands and Belgium.

The uppermost north-western corner of the German federal state of Northrhine-Westphalia represents the lower Rhine area. The area of Kleve, Duisburg and Wesel was for centuries an active partner in the trade with the Low Countries for cloth and textiles while exporting wines and other goods.



Duisburg lay at the crossroads of major West-East and North-South thorough-fares. An important trade route for instance from Bruges, the centre of Flemish commerce, to the lower Rhine area and further on to Cologne took traders via Ghent, Mechelen (Malines), Diest and Maastricht to Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle) and Cologne or from Bruges to Antwerp and then on via s'Hertogenbosch and Ravenstein to the Kleve and Duisburg areas.

It goes without saying that the major contestant in terms of traffic density in those days was the river Rhine; Cologne was within easy reach by seafaring sailing ships.

This method of transport was possible because of the width of the Rhine and its slower flow rate in comparison to to-day's.

**The exhibits – views, plans and maps**

While Duisburg may be best known for one of its prominent citizens, Gerhard Mercator, another cartographer of international standing moved to Duisburg in around 1562: Johannes Corputius. A descendant of a wealthy family from Leuven (Louvain), Corputius stayed in Duisburg between 1562 and 1566 at the house of Mercator who taught him mathematics and very probably also trained him in the art of practical cartography. It is during this period that most likely Corputius drew the town plan of Duisburg, a bird's eye view remarkable for its detail and accuracy. He may have drawn from other learned men of the Southern Low Countries who may have had knowledge of the earlier plans of Bruges, Ghent and Antwerp.

The prospect of the town of Kleve, seen from the East, is also of interest. The engraver is to date unknown; it was however engraved on copper in 1653 after a view by Henrik Feltman and printed at Jacob van Biesen's in the same year. The prospect is composed of 4 individual views pasted together measuring 2m by 0,6m. It represents an authentic impression of what the Kleve Residence looked like after the death of the last Duke.

Several Braun and Hogenberg bird's eye views could not have been omitted from being displayed, notably: the views of Kleve, Duisburg, Emmerich and Gennep, on one sheet, of 1572; the view of Kalkar, to-day of atomic plant fame, of around 1570, coloured; the views of Wesel, from the Civitates Orbis Terrarum, Vol. 4, of 1588 and the panorama of Wesel of ca. 1570 from the Civitates Orbis Terrarum, Vol. 1, with unfortunately part of the sheet missing.

One of the Gerhard Mercator atlases was displayed, showing the map of FLAN | DRIA COM | MIT. The matriculation of Mercator from the Leuven university dated 29/8/1530 was on view; following this, it appears Mercator studied mathematics with Gemma Frisius.

The Theatrum Orbis Terrarum of Ortelius was present too, opened at the page of FLANDRIA, in the oval, by G. Mercator, a beautiful map and work of art indeed.

A wall map of Flanders in the form of a pocket atlas proved to be of particular interest. It would have gone almost unnoticed, considering it measures only 20 by 13 by 4 cm, had it not been for the most detailed and expertly written 20 page article by Wulf Bodenstein, contained in the book

accompanying the exhibition.<sup>1</sup> The author of the map, done in 1656, is given as Nicolas Visscher I. Some 200 years ago a hitherto unknown customer ordered the twelve sheets of this wall map of to-day's Belgium to be pasted together, and to have this cut into pieces of adequate size to be bound into the pocket size atlas now on display.

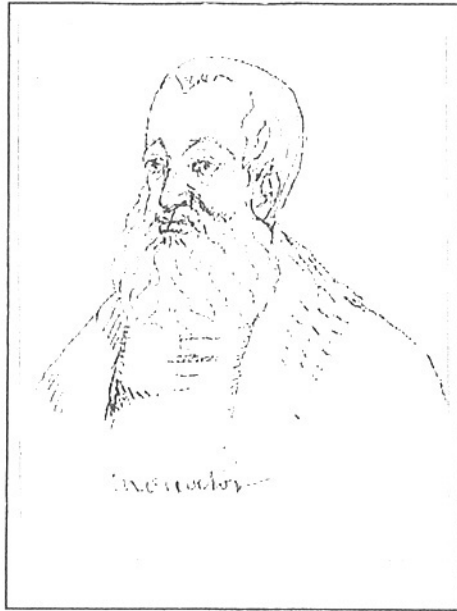
Many scholars may not realise that the oldest maps of Flanders are not the ones by Pieter van der Beke, 1538, or by G. Mercator, 1540; the oldest map stems from the Italian Chronicles of 1452 of the Openbare Bibliotheek in Bruges and is described by Jozef Bossu in the book accompanying the exhibition.<sup>2</sup> This anonymous manuscript map clearly demonstrates the importance allocated at the time by the Italian trade to Flanders.

There were many more documents and manuscripts of interest, and several large oil paintings of Antwerp and Ghent. Not all of the documents and copper engravings can be mentioned here. Instead, the author should like to finish reporting about a small, quaint and somehow loveable sketch of Gerhard Mercator. It is drawn in just a few lines, probably in ink, like quickly thrown on a piece of paper, perhaps 8 or 10 cm high and not more than 5 or 6 cm wide, and took the sketcher possibly not more than 5 minutes to finish. It shows the elderly Mercator, fullbearded, drawn on a blank page of the *Cordiale de quatuor novissimis*, Cologne, Petrus in altis de Olpe 1477, kept in the Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique. According to the explanatory text given, this little picture is largely unknown.

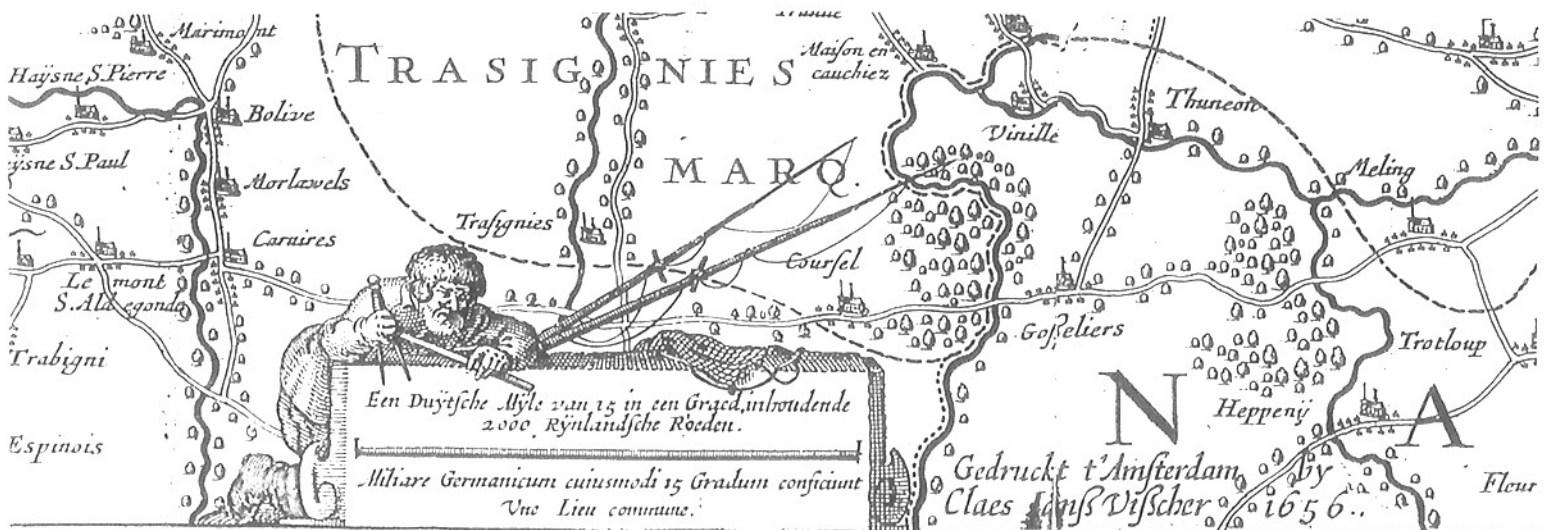
**Conclusion**

The exhibition was well worth a visit. Although there were hardly any visitors the day we were there, the subsequent press-release attested to the wide-spread interest from a large audience which attended to contemplate the pieces on display and to realise how interesting the past can be surrounded by a wealth of history in an area which just a few years ago was part of the busiest coal and steel industries

Rolph Langlais



(Sketch of G. Mercator, Duisburg Press Release)



(Imprint of Visscher's wall-map of Flanders)

<sup>1</sup> Article in English, in *Von Flandern zum Niederrhein*, H. Frosien-Leinz, W. Pöhling, G. Tromnau et al. (Ed.), Kultur- und Stadthistorisches Museum Duisburg, 2000, pp 67 – 86 ; ISBN 3-89279-560-6

<sup>2</sup> Idem, pp 35 - 40

## Pictures at an Exhibition (II)

## A most remarkable exhibition of Globes

Collecting globes is far more unusual than collecting maps. Globes are rather expensive and are difficult to store, especially the larger and thus the nicest ones. Much easier is to collect the *gores* (Fr. *fuseaux*, Germ. *Globusstreifen*). Gores are segments of the world's surface (usually 12 or 18) printed on thin paper which are cut out, moistened to make them pliable, and later on glued to the surface of a sphere. This becomes a globe. Colouring follows after the gores have been glued onto the sphere. There are terrestrial globes, which are the most common, and celestial ones with the stellar constellations and other astronomical data. The latter are made in the same way as the terrestrial globes, except that the gores in some cases may be glued inside the concavity of a globe, as though we were looking at the celestial vault from the earth. Both kind of globes were sometimes brought together in a pair so that one globe fits in the other, the first one being the terrestrial, the second one the celestial globe.

The oldest known terrestrial globe<sup>3</sup> dates from 1492, the year America was discovered by Christopher Columbus, and was made by Martin Behaim (Böheim or de Bohemia, 1459-1507), cosmographer from Nuremberg but working for the Portuguese. It shows the Atlantic Ocean abundant of islands<sup>4</sup>, but by no means an American continent. Behaim indeed used, as everyone else before him, the erroneous calculations of Ptolemy. It was the Alsatian Martin Waldseemüller (1470-±1520) who in 1507 drew the first gores for a terrestrial globe with a rudimentary representation of the new continent<sup>5</sup>. From then on globes were made by almost every mapmaker: Gemma Frisius (1508-1555), Jodocus Hondius (1563-1612), Willem Blaeu (1571-1638), etc. From 1650 on we meet the early serial productions. Very famous are the globes of the Franciscan monk of Venice, Vincenzo Coronelli (1650-1718) for Italy and Charles-François Delamarche (1740-1817) for France, and the school of mapmakers of Nuremberg for Germany. The family Wilson (end 18th and 19th century) of Albany, N.Y., had a very good reputation in the U.S. and throughout the world for their fine craftwork. And nowadays you

can buy a globe as a matter of course in any stationery store.

Many of these interesting items and much more can be viewed at the exhibition "Il était une fois la terre et l'espace – Les globes à travers quatre siècles d'histoire" "Es waren einmal Erde und Raum – Globen aus vier Jahrhunderten", held in Luxembourg-City at the Banque de Luxembourg (41, avenue J.F. Kennedy, Kirchberg), from May 11th to September 30th 2000. These items are for the greater part belonging to the collections of Mr. Rudolf Schmidt and Mrs Heide Wohlschläger, members of the "Internationale Coronelli-Gesellschaft" (Globe and old Instrument Collectors' Association). In total one hundred ninety-two items are exposed. Most of them are, of course, terrestrial or celestial globes, but also many fine maps and printed gores are on display, as well as lunar globes (including a Russian lunar globe, of 1961, showing 290° of the lunar surface, the surface then known from the photographs of the space capsule *Lunik 3* which showed for the first time in history parts of the invisible surface of the moon). Furthermore one sees armillary spheres, pocket globes, and many other curiosa. Attention is also devoted to the so-called educative globes and armillaries used at school.

Fascinating is a twin disposition of two globes standing next to each other; the oldest globe is a copy of the Waldseemüller globe of 1507 (see above), the latter is about a century younger and shows both Americas and the Australian continent (the *Terra Australis incognita*). Both globes turn around their axes at the same speed and show simultaneously the same part of the terrestrial globe so that one can compare the concepts of the world with one century of difference. Also interesting is a globe of 1700 made by Gerard Valck (1652-1726), on which California is represented as an island. Marvellous are the globes of Willem Blaeu (1571-1638) and the many drawings of gores of Vincenzo Coronelli. A terrestrial globe with Chinese engravings, probably made under supervision of the Flemish Jesuit Ferdinand Verbiest (Pittem 1623-Peking 1688), and an islamic celestial globe with stellar constellations of the XIIIth century (only to be seen at the Banque de Luxembourg, Avenue Royale branch), are certainly very rare and valuable pieces.

For those who like globes and prints of gores together with other curiosa of the globemaker's art this exhibition is certainly a must. An interesting illustrated brochure in French and German is available free of charge.

Pierre Mattelaer

<sup>3</sup> The first known celestial sphere dates from 150 BC and is known as the Atlas Farnese of Naples (a copy is at the exhibition).

<sup>4</sup> From 1486 Behaim stayed at the Flemish trading-post Fayal on the Azores

<sup>5</sup> Waldseemüller was the first to name on his world map and globe of 1507 the American continent *America* after Amerigo Vespucci

## Pictures at an Exhibition (III)

### Orbis Terrarum – ways of worldmaking

During the summer (and until 24 September 2000) the Museum Plantin-Moretus at Antwerp hosted a marvellous exhibition. The location of the historical *Officina Plantiniana* could not have been better chosen for this confrontation of old atlases and modern art. Most editions of Ortelius's *Theatrum orbis terrarum* were printed there. In rooms 18 and 19, titled as the 'Worldlibrary', the atlas of Ortelius is surrounded by other famous atlases by Mercator, Hondius, Blaeu, Cellarius, Vandermaelen among others. But the main focus of the exhibition is modern art. The visitor strolls through the unpredictable views of the world portrayed by 37 modern artists. It creates a path along different worlds, in which time, space, scale and gravity are getting shift.

Chris Burden's *Scale Model of the Solar System* welcomes the visitor at the entrance with the *Sun*, a sphere of 33 cm in diameter. The rest of the planets are spread around the exhibition, and even into town, on the same scale. It gives an interesting impression of the dimensions of our solar system. Jan Fabre created an enormous glittering *Globe* with a human spine in the axis. Does the world really rotate around humanity? Frédéric Hage was able to create a panoramic view of 360° of a room, by drawing what he was seeing on the inside of his *Sphère Visuelle*, a plexi globe. The video projection of Christoph Rütimann's

camera, mounted on a roller coaster in the garden of the museum, is not suitable for visitors who have just enjoyed a lavish spread.

One of the most amazing artworks to me was the *Map* by Mona Hatoum. She used hundreds of glass marbles to create a world map of 4.8 by 8.6 m on a wooden floor. Hundreds of little 'globes' created a flat map, a projection, of our world. Fortunately, my respect for the ingenuity of the artist repressed my impulse to jump into this world.

It is impossible to give an overview of all artworks, let alone to discuss the impression they left. As Pierre Bismuth shows in his *Synonymes*, every word can be shown as a world of its own in a kind of 'literary cartography' in which all meanings are mapped. Bismuth used the word 'spread' to make his point, I spread the word to pay tribute to this exquisite exhibition.

*Orbis Terrarum – ways of worldmaking* (22.06 – 24.09.2000)

Museum Plantin-Moretus and surrounding area - Vrijdagmarkt 22, 2000 Antwerpen

Open Tuesday-Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - [www.dma.be/cultuur/museum\\_plantinmoretus/expo\\_eng.html](http://www.dma.be/cultuur/museum_plantinmoretus/expo_eng.html)

Joost Depuydt

### Glimpses of the past (I) : Commemorating Charles V (1500-1558)

Readers who receive our Newsletter by mail, at least those living outside Belgium, may have remarked the strikingly large and beautiful postage stamp that adorns their envelope this time. Issued as a 34 BEF (0.84 EUR) stamp in April 2000 by the Belgian postal authorities, in connection with the festivities to mark Charles's birth in Gent 500 years ago, it represents the Emperor in an equestrian pose portrayed by Le Titien, in front of a 16<sup>th</sup> century world map symbolizing the extent and importance of his empire, the largest and most powerful political entity of his time.

For the benefit of those closer to our point of origin whose envelopes carry smaller value stamps, we reproduce here a black and white copy, with the permission of the Belgian Post Office, in reduced size (the original measuring 8.9 x 12.5 cm overall).



©BELGIUM POST (75% of original size)

There is, however, a slight incongruity in this collage, as you may have noticed : Charles V was already 12 years dead when the world map serving as a backdrop was first published by Abraham Ortelius in his *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, in 1570. Of course, this map of the world is of symbolic nature in this context. One might even be tempted to interpret its presence here as a belated homage to its author, considering that Belgium did not publish a commemorative stamp in the year we celebrated the quadricentennial of Ortelius's death, in 1998.

To be complete on this issue, the Spanish postal authorities concurrently issued the same stamp, with a different imprint of course, value 150 Pesetas.

So here it is : a remarkable stamp, with a remarkable map.

*Philatelists may address themselves to the « Direction Timbre-poste & Philatelie », Centre Monnaie, B-1000 Brussels, e-mail [philately@philately.post.be](mailto:philately@philately.post.be).*

(WB)

## Glimpses of the past (II) : the Paris Meridian revisited

Trust the French to celebrate the year 2000 in style ! On 14<sup>th</sup> July, their national holiday, they organized an « incredible picnic » along the 1.000 km of the meridian of Paris, from Dunkirk to the Spanish border. A 600 km long red-and-white checkered table cloth, typical of the French bistrot, was especially woven for the occasion, to be spread along the historical imaginary line across 337 Communes in 20 Départements. Paris alone was to display a 20 km stretch. So as to later mark the meridian in the terrain, some 10.000 trees had previously been planted along it, last November.

In order to put an end to on-going disputes about a prime meridian, Louis XIII issued a decree in 1634 fixing it at the westernmost point of the Canary Islands, and the island of Ferro became the adopted landmark. This convention, however, did not survive for long since beginning national surveys favoured a national reference. In 1667, the year Nicolas Sanson died (see article in this Newsletter), Colbert, the eminent statesman, created the Paris Observatory in a north-south orientation which was to become the starting base for the first triangulation carried out in France, and this alignment became the Paris meridian. In 1668 Picard began his survey towards the north, followed by Cassini I towards the south until 1718 ; a repeat exercise from 1739 to 1744 provided the basis for the famous Cassini map of France in 181 sheets reproductions of which, incidentally, can still be obtained in original size from the IGN in Paris<sup>6</sup>.

Interesting to note that in 1740 it was decided to place 96 obelisks along this meridian throughout the French countryside – only three are known to still exist to-day. But attentive visitors to Paris may come across one of the 135 bronze medallions (12 cm in diameter) which were

placed along the meridian in 1995, embedded in pavements, greens and other public spaces of the French capital.

Since the adoption, in 1884, of the Greenwich meridian as the universal prime meridian, Paris has lost a bit of its global prestige, being no more than « 2°20'14" East of Greenwich ». Fortunately, another historical phenomenon could be invoked to add impetus to the celebrations : just over 200 years ago, in 1790, Talleyrand proposed to the national assembly the introduction of a unified system of weights and measures in order to put an end to the anarchy which reigned in the country in this respect. The Académie des Sciences, charged with a study to determine a unique inalterable measure derived from Nature, proposed that this be the ten millionth part of a quarter of a terrestrial meridian, that is of the arc from pole to equator, and that this unit be calculated on the basis of a renewed measurement of the Paris meridian. Between 1792 and 1798 Delambre and Méchain undertook a new triangulation campaign ; in 1799 the prototype of a standard measure was presented to the assembly which adopted the law introducing the metric system the same year, on the « 19 frimaire an VIII ». The metre was born. The Convention of 1875 raised the metric unit to a world standard, adopted to-day by 130 nations, except Liberia and Bangladesh (for which reasons we don't know).

Among the 14<sup>th</sup> of July festivities one, organized in the geographical centre of France, stood out : the village of Vesdun had programmed, with the help of the IGN and the AFT (Association Française de Topographie), a re-enactment of an historical triangulation exercise on top of the nearby « Peu de Vesdun » (alt. 367m) where an oaken pyramidal signal, modelled on the original of two centuries ago, provided the scene for a costumed party demonstrating the measurements with authentic instruments of the time.

<sup>6</sup> Institut Géographique National, 107, rue de la Boétie, F-75008 Paris, Tel. 33/1/43.98.80.00

Whilst on the whole, I think, the weather was a great disappointment that day along most of the meridian, I can tell you that on top of our mountain it was nothing less than appalling : 10°, heavy rain in strong winds, visibility < 2km. Fortunately some modern geodetic equipment was also on display since line-of-sight contact with other prominent points like the cathedral of Bourges, could not be established. Vive le GPS !

In any case, we felt we had contributed, my wife and myself, in our modest ways to honouring this historical event, and we've come more than a few metres closer to understanding how it all worked. (Historical data provided by the Journal XYZ of the *Association Française de Topographie*, through the good cooperation with its President, André Bailly).

(WB)

## Nicolas Sanson d'Abbeville

1600 – 1667

Four hundred years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1600, one of the world's great map makers, the first cartographer to have created a French world atlas, was born in the small town of Abbeville in the North of France.



(Bibliothèque Municipale d'Abbeville)

The quadricentennial of his birth seems to have aroused little, if any, interest ; neither his home town nor other relevant institutions in France or elsewhere (as far as could be ascertained) are marking this event. A notable exception is the Haack calendar of old maps for the current year which has a timely entry in its December page.

It is true that most commemorations are linked to celebrities' deaths rather than their birth. But as I shan't be around when that happens for Sanson, I thought a short note from our Circle was in order,

in honour of a cartographer whose maps accompanied my earliest steps as a collector, and probably of a few others, too.

Nicolas Sanson inherited a penchant for geography from his father, an important civic personality of Abbeville. Still at college, he drew a map of ancient Gaul which, after an unsuccessful spell as a haberdasher, he took to Paris as his visiting card, determined to make a career as a geographer. He managed to get this map engraved and printed ; Richelieu remarked it and introduced Sanson to Louis XIII who, having received some lessons in geography from the young cartographer, bestowed upon him the title of « ingénieur-géographe », later upgraded to « Géographe ordinaire du Roy ». At a time when French map makers generally limited their production to copying Dutch maps, this high-level encouragement was certainly meant to promote original French map production.

His first commercial engagement came in 1632 through the association with Melchior Tavernier who published some 20 of Sanson's maps until he abandoned his business in 1644. The two most famous maps from this period are the one of the stage-coach network of France (1632), and that of the rivers of France (1641). In parallel, Sanson developed a didactical approach to geography which earned him renown and success : he added geographical tables to his maps which give a hierarchical overview of essential map contents in the form of cascades, from general to specific items of nomenclature ; this useful aid to memorizing geographical data such as names of countries, provinces, towns, rivers, mountains, became very popular and was largely copied by others, among them his nephew Pierre Duval (1618 – 1683).

Firmly established in Paris now, Sanson continued to obtain orders for new maps of France, frequently of an administrative nature, from the highest personalities of his time : Richelieu, Mazarin, Fouquet, Colbert .

In cooperation with the editor Pierre Mariette he prepared and published his growing output of maps, of France and Europe first, and, as of 1650, of other parts of the world. A prototype of his world atlas was edited in 1652; the edition of 1658 is the first with a proper title page: *Cartes générales de toutes les parties du monde* (General maps of all parts of the world). The 113 maps it contains were well received, not least because they documented new political realities achieved under the reign of Louis XIV. Further editions contained an increasing number of maps, many produced by his son Guillaume. In spite of heavy competition by Joan Blaeu whose French edition of the *Atlas Maior* came on the market in 1663, Sanson's atlas found a large clientele, and the latest editions sold until well into the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Very popular with collectors are the four in-4° atlases of the four continents; they contain, with one exception, between 12 and 18 maps and a text which makes delightful reading. The first of these (Europe, 1648), was made by Nicolas II (1626 – 1648), his eldest son who was killed in a shooting skirmish in Paris, shortly after having been appointed « Géographe du Roy » in his turn. His father Nicolas I is the author of the other three volumes, Asia (1652), Africa (1656), and the Americas (1657). All of these were also published in Dutch and German.

On the death of his father, Guillaume continued the by now well established business but progressively detached himself from Mariette as editor. Alexis-Hubert Jaillot became his new partner, and together they produced another world atlas, the *Atlas Nouveau* in 1681, although Sanson's name does not appear on the title page. This was a large-size luxury edition containing 48 maps, their number being progressively increased in further French and Dutch editions.

When Nicolas I Sanson died in 1667 he had published no fewer than 348 maps. Called « the founder of the French school of Geography » (Tooley's Dictionary of Mapmakers, 1979), he

had laid the foundations for a family business the products of which inspired many map makers elsewhere: Merian in Germany, Blome, Berry, Moll in England, Rossi in Italy, and, above all, Mortier, Valck and Schenk in the Netherlands who went as far as attributing maps to Sanson he never made – such was the renommée of the name Sanson.

In contrast to maps contemporarily produced outside France, especially in Holland, Nicolas Sanson's maps contain very few decorative elements such as sailing ships or monsters in the high seas. This sobriety, also manifest in the didactic tables, paired with a certain degree of negligence regarding geographical precision, as some critics remarked, may account for the earlier Sanson maps having been treated with a certain disdain. Still, they are valuable witnesses of an important period of French map making, and some, like the one reproduced below, convey a certain charm of their own.

Notes :

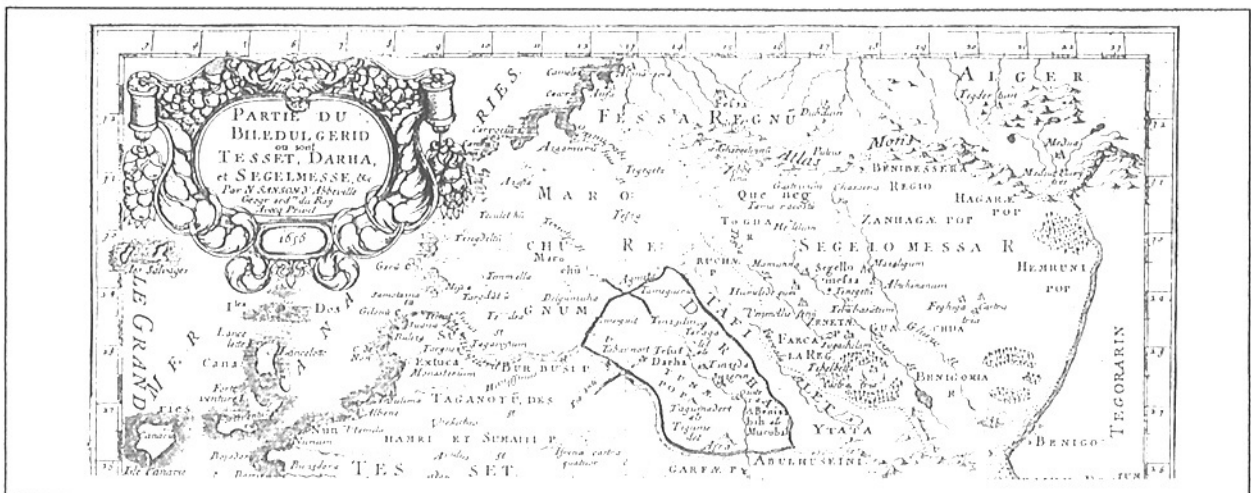
The above text is largely inspired by two articles whose authors kindly permitted me to use them :

- Catherine Hofmann (BnF Paris), *Les Sanson – Dynastie de géographes et éditeurs de cartes géographiques* (article to be published in « Dictionnaire encyclopédique du Livre » by Electre) ;
- Prisca Hazebrouck (Abbeville), *Nicolas Sanson d'Abbeville, Géographe du Roi*, in : Bulletin de la Société d'Emulation d'Abbeville, 1993 (transmitted by Marie-Noé Hue).

Further reading :

- Mireille Pastoureau, *Les Atlas français, XVIe – XVIIe siècles*, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, 1984
- Mireille Pastoureau, *Nicolas Sanson d'Abbeville – Atlas du Monde 1665*, Sand & Conti, Paris, 1988
- Jennifer Turnham, *Mapping the New World: Nicolas Sanson's Amérique Septentrionale and French Cartography in the Seventeenth Century*, in : The Portolan N° 45, Fall 1999 (Washington Map Society).

Wulf Bodenstern



(From the Atlas of Africa, private collection)





situation in respect of one of the remotest parts of the world : Siberia.

The German Foundation « Frankesche Stiftung zu Halle » in 1996 staged an exhibition in the Thuringian town of Halle of documents, many cartographical, illustrating the Second Kamtchatkan Expedition (1733-1743). The occasion was the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of German naturalist and medical doctor Georg Wilhelm Steller (1709-1743) who had joined this expedition in 1737 and was the first European explorer to have entered Alaskan territory, by way of Siberia, on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1741. An illustrated account of this expedition was to be published in 1770 by the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences under the title *Monumenta Siberiae*, containing engravings made from the many sketches, town views and manuscript maps the explorers brought back with them, but the project did not come to fruition. The fact that the 1996 exhibition brought together some very rare proof copies of the copper plates initially prepared, and many unpublished original drawings and maps, encouraged the Editors of the Portfolio to use the same title again. The selection of the 24 colour reproductions is extensively commented upon in the accompanying 67 pp. bi-lingual (German/English) leaflet. This is fascinating to read, and of an intensity at par with the most engaging episodes of African or American exploration. A succinct review of the Russian « Conquest of the East » makes us familiar with such places as Tobolsk, founded in 1587, the capital of Siberia and long-time base for further eastward expansion ; we learn about the establishment of further staging posts such as Tomsk (founded 1604), Krasnoyarsk (1627), Yakutsk (1632), and Okhotsk (1647) on the shores of the northern Pacific. In only 60 years Siberia had been opened up from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, over a distance of some 7.000 km. Lake Baykal was discovered in 1643, and the town of Irkutsk, founded nearby in 1652, played a major role in the trade with China. Tsar Peter I, the Great, wanted to intensify this trade and needed proof that a maritime connection across the Arctic Ocean into the Pacific was feasible.

In 1724 he charged the Danish explorer Vitus Bering with the task of determining whether there was such a navigable passage between Asia and North America or not. The first Kamtchatkan Expedition (1725-1730) attempted to find out, but failed. The Second Kamtchatkan Expedition, also called the Great Northern Expedition (1733-1743), was again led by Bering, and was much more successful. About 3000 specialists were enrolled (army officers, scientists, interpreters, painters, shipbuilders ...), among whom the German Steller to whose memory the exhibition was dedicated. His Alaskan land-fall apart, he is on record as having provided a detailed description of a sea-cow (*hydromalis gigas*) he observed in what was later called the Bering Strait. Unfortunately, this curious animal became extinct already in 1768 ; his report, therefore, is the only scientific reference that has survived, apart from a rough drawing which figures on one of the maps (Folio 19). This map, incidentally, also contains the first historical illustration of an Aleut, identified as an « American in a boat made of seal skin ».

The indescribable hardships endured by the participants of this expedition are not, of course, evident from the documents presented. But what does come across is an astonishing attachment to detail, both in the Merian-type town views of such places as Tobolsk and Irkutsk, and of the dispersed fortifications, river settlements, shore lines and natural resources sites found on the way east which were apt to encourage later exploitation on a larger scale. The expedition leader Bering died in 1741, on the return from his last attempt to explore Alaska, when his ship *St. Peter* was ship-wrecked on a desert island later named after him.

The Editors Justus Perthes, known to many of our readers as publishers of ancient-map calendars, are to be commended on the initiative they took to make accessible to the general public a series of rare cartographic documents which should stimulate interest from our Western European readers in the map treasures held in Russian institutions, covering parts of a world still quite remote from the attention of our map specialists.

Wulf Bodenstein

### LOOKS AT BOOKS (III)

Günter Schilder (with K. Stopp), *Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica, Vol. VI : Dutch folio-sized single sheet maps with decorative borders, 1604-60*, Alphen aan den Rijn, Uitgeverij Canaletto, 2000. Part 1, Text and Cartobibliography, 452 pp. ; Part 2, 95 facsimiles in

map folder ; together NLG 395,-ISBN 90 6469 749 3.

On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2000, the Working Group for the History of Cartography of the Netherlands Cartographic Association organized a Study Day at Utrecht University under the heading *Cartography and Art*.

After a number of captivating presentations, dealing i.a. with the Van Deutecum family, the Blaeu-Van der Hem atlas and Andreas Cellarius's work, Prof. Dr G. Schilder presented his latest work, Volume VI in the sequence of *Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica*. As the title implies, this series of reference works constitutes an illustrated carto-bibliography of the most significant products of Dutch mapmakers of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Each volume is composed of two parts :

- A richly illustrated text part which, in fact, provides much more than a scientific analysis of map material around a chosen subject since it offers an understanding of the historical context in which the maps were produced – and used – and puts their conception in perspective with regard to geographical antecedents and artistic trends.
- A facsimile part containing the 1:1 loose-leaf reproductions of the single and, in some cases, multi-sheet maps discussed, the latter permitting the reconstitution, with patience and a little glue, of some remarkable wall maps, the largest published so far measuring 128 x 176 cm when assembled (Vol. V).

It would take us too far to attempt a coherent résumé of the previous 5 volumes in these few lines. We may therefore refer the interested reader to the comprehensive reviews of Vols. I – IV which appeared in *Imago Mundi* 46 (1994), and of Vol. V in *Imago Mundi* 50 (1998), both by David Woodward. In addition, our third Study Session next February will provide an opportunity to become familiarized with all 6 volumes in the context of the presentations on « Books on Maps » (see our programme further on).

Volume VI entirely corresponds, in formal respects, to the preceding volumes :

- The text is bi-lingual (Dutch-English) throughout, except that in this volume there is a dedicated carto-bibliography devoted to 107 maps, and an Appendix on foreign imitations covering 24 maps, which both are in English only

- Different states of the subject maps, as well as their precursors and other documents relating to them are amply illustrated (black & white)
- For each map described, including those representing different states, relevant literature is quoted, and locations where maps are held are given
- An extensive bibliography is included at the end
- The presentation of the facsimiles in a separate folder facilitates side-by-side reading and viewing.

Volume VI is the biggest, and also the heaviest one so far. For the text part this is still within manageable proportions, it being slightly smaller in size (40 x 28 cm) than the famous *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* facsimiles. But for the facsimile part (41 x 52 cm) one may have to envisage a special book-case, in respect of both size and flat storage since these folders are not so well suited to be piled up one on top of the other. Considering that this volume focuses on single sheet maps with decorative borders, and that it is these maps which are the most sought-after by the majority of collectors on account of their highly ornamental character, one might be tempted to regret the lack of some colour reproductions, although this would probably have been at the expense of completeness of black-and-white coverage, and would have added nothing to the scientific content.

But such minor aspects cannot lessen the respectful admiration of the map enthusiast, and the genuine appreciation of the professional ; to quote Woodward : « It is difficult to imagine how historians of cartography could effectively organize their material, or interpret it to others, without these vital foundation stones ... Any reference library that has the smallest interest in the history of early maps – or the history of art, science, or technology – should subscribe to this series ».

(WB)



(Extract from Map 11, Vol VI, *Africae nova descriptio*, Blaeu 1621 – original in private collection)

## INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- ❑ **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)
- ❑ **Stedelijk Museum Oudenburg** (near Ostend), 8<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> October, *Met Zicht op Zee* (With a View of the Sea), includes maps and views of coastal areas of the North Sea. Marktstraat 25, B-8460 Oudenburg, daily from 2 to 6 p.m. Info from Tel ++32/(0)59/26.60.27.
- ❑ **Museum of Ancient Art, Brussels**, 15<sup>th</sup> September to 17<sup>th</sup> December, *The Painter and the Surveyor – Imagining Brussels and the Former Duchy of Brabant*, 3 Rue de la Régence, B-1000 Brussels, every day except Monday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission BEF 250. Info from Tel ++32/(0)2/508.32.11, e-mail [info@fine-arts-museum.be](mailto:info@fine-arts-museum.be)
- ❑ **49. Deutscher Kartographentag und Intergeo, Berlin, 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October**; Info from Intergeo, Köpenickerstr. 325, D-12555 Berlin, Fax ++49/30/65.76.29.07, e-mail [intergeo.reg@t-online.de](mailto:intergeo.reg@t-online.de)
- ❑ **3<sup>rd</sup> European Map Fair, Breda (NL)**, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. (24<sup>th</sup>), and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (25<sup>th</sup>). Concurrently there will be an exhibition of maps on Charles V and the Leo Belgicus; Grote Kerk, Breda. Info from Mr Pieter van Hooff, Tel ++31/497/51.44.74, e-mail [p\\_van\\_hooff@wxs.nl](mailto:p_van_hooff@wxs.nl) (**Please note** that the BIMCC will share an information stand with IMCoS at this Fair).
- ❑ **9<sup>th</sup> International Antiquarian Book Fair, Mechelen**, 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December; Cult. Centrum A. Spinoy, B-2800 Mechelen; *for details see the enclosed Flyer – 20 free admission tickets available at the registration desk for our 9<sup>th</sup> December Conference, see BIMCC programme.*
- ❑ **Washington Map Society Presentation: Survey and Resurvey of the Fairfax Line**, 26<sup>th</sup> October, at 7 p.m., Library of Congress, Madison Building, Washington, D.C. Info from Tom Sander Tel ++1/703/426.28.80, e-mail [sanderva@erols.com](mailto:sanderva@erols.com)
- ❑ **Washington Map Society Presentation: Conservation and the Individual Map Collector**, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2001, at 7 p.m., Library of Congress, Madison Building, Washington, D.C. Info: see preceding item.
- ❑ **Miami International Map Fair**, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> February 2001; Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, Florida 33130, USA. Info from Tel ++1/305/375.14.92, e-mail [mapfair@historical-museum.org](mailto:mapfair@historical-museum.org).
- ❑ **XIX<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the History of Cartography**, Madrid, 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2001, *La cartografía de España e Iberoamerica*, Biblioteca Nacional de España, in collaboration with Imago Mundi; conference conducted in English, French and Spanish, with simultaneous translation between Spanish and English. Info from Biblioteca Nacional de España, Paseo de Recoletos 20, E-28071 Madrid, Fax ++34/915/807.716 e-mail [19.ichc@bne.es](mailto:19.ichc@bne.es)

## SOME AUCTION RESULTS

- ❖ **Romantic Agony, Brussels, 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> June 2000**
  - Desnos, *Atlas methodique et élémentaire...* Paris, 1794, BEF 38.000
  - Braun & Hogenberg, *Bruxella*, 17<sup>th</sup> c., BEF 12.000
  - N. Visscher, *Flandriae Comitatus Pars Occidentalis*, late 17<sup>th</sup> c., BEF 5.000
  - J-B Homann, *Ducatus Brabantiae Nova Tabula*, early 18<sup>th</sup> c., BEF 4.000
  - James Beeverell, *Les délices de la Grand' Bretagne & de l'Irlande ...* Leiden, ed. by Pierre van der Aa, 1707, BEF 19.000



*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*

Info from : [henri.godts@unicall.be](mailto:henri.godts@unicall.be) ; Catalogues can be seen on [www.godts.com](http://www.godts.com)

**D.R. Duncker**

Meÿsberg 12, 4861 BP Chaam (NL)

Tel ++31/16/149.20.08 e-mail [dieter.duncker@wxs.nl](mailto:dieter.duncker@wxs.nl)

*Old maps, prints, atlases and illustrated books*

**La Route du Papier**

Av. des Mimosas 83, B-1150 Brussels

Tel ++32/(0)2/733.53.57 – Fax ++32/(0)2/735.59.20 e-mail [lrdp@infonie.be](mailto:lrdp@infonie.be)

*Supplier of equipment and materials for the conservation and restoration of books, maps, prints, photographs, etc.*

**Galerij der Kempen**

Kongoplein 12, B-2300 Turnhout

Tel /Fax ++32/(0)14/41.78.58

Two auctions per year of old books, maps, atlases and works of art .

NEXT AUCTION : 21<sup>st</sup> October 2000 – Catalogue available on request

**Antiquariaat Ben Hoepelman**

*Old maps, atlases and travel books*

Domaine de Ferrieres

F-84220 MURS

Tel ++33/490.72.07.06 Fax ++33/490.06.97

**IRIS ANTIQUE GLOBES / RESTORATION STUDIO**

**Paul Peters B.V.**

Weverweg 9, NL – 6961 Eerbeek

Tel ++31/313-65.44.66 Fax ++31/313-65.58.82 [www.paulpeters.demon.nl](http://www.paulpeters.demon.nl)

Large stock of historically important globes, armillary spheres, planetaria, maps

Restoration of paper, leather, vellum, charters

NL9

**D. Lebail – F. Weissert**  
**5, rue Lagrange, F-75005 Paris**  
**Tel ++33/1/43.29.72.59 – Fax ++33/1/40.46.85.57**  
*Large stock of old maps and prints*  
*Old and modern books*

**The Romantic Agony Book Auctions**  
**Aquaductstraat 38-40, B-1060 Brussels**  
**Tel ++32/(0)2/544.10.55 Fax ++32/(0)2/544.10.57 [romanticagony@pophost.eunet.be](mailto:romanticagony@pophost.eunet.be)**  
 Old and modern rare books, prints, autographs, manuscripts, maps and atlases  
 NEXT AUCTION : 24 & 25 November 2000

**Lydia Cordon**  
**Prints and Frames**  
**Bosmanslei 6, B – 2018 Antwerpen**  
**Tel ++32/(0)3/237.92.39 Fax ++32/(0)3/237.12.69**  
 MAPS AND TOWN VIEWS 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURIES

Special thanks to our Benefactors :

**Elisabeth Hermans**  
 Old Maps and Prints  
 Grand Sablon 8-9 Grote Zavel, B 1000 Brussels  
 Tel++32/(0)11/31.17.19 Fax++32/(0)11/31.66.96  
 GSM 075.613.853  
 Open Saturday 11 – 18 Sunday 11 - 13

**Cartographica Neerlandica**  
**(The Ortelius Specialist)**  
 Soestdijkseweg 101, 3721 AA Bilthoven (NL)  
 Tel ++31/30/220.23.96 -- [cart.neer@tip.nl](mailto:cart.neer@tip.nl)  
<http://www.tip.nl/users/cart.neer>  
<http://www.ortelius-antiquemaps.com>

**André Vanden Eynde**  
 59, rue de Stassart, B-1050 Brussels  
 Tel ++32/(0)2/514.40.47  
 Maps, prints, views of all parts of the world  
*Specialist for plans and views of*  
*Brussels*

### BIMCC Executive Committee

President : Wulf Bodenstein, 71 Av. des Camélias, B-1150 Brussels; Tel/Fax ++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@zdnmail.com](mailto:vero.vdk@zdnmail.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.  
 Public Relations : Henri Godts, Av. Louise 230/6, B-1050 Brussels, Tel ++32-(0)2-647.85.48 Fax ++32-(0)2-640.73.32  
 Conference Organization : Johan Vanvolsem, Brusselsesteenweg 65 - Bus 1, B-1500 Halle, Tel ++32-(0)2-356.81.07  
 Bank account : KBC Bank, B-1980 Zemst, N° 436-8067361-27

**« From the Low Countries to the High Seas »**

**Dutch Maps from the Age of Discoveries**

Conference organized by the BIMCC  
9<sup>th</sup> December 2000, Collège St. Michel, 24, Bld. Saint Michel, B-1040 Brussels  
Métro Montgomery – Private Parking available

**PROGRAMME**

**Morning Session**

- 10.00 - 10.10 Welcome by the President ; introductory remarks by Francis Herbert,  
the Conference Chairman
- 10.10 - 10.40 Rodney Shirley, *The Dutch image of the world in world maps  
of the Golden Age of cartography*
- 10.45 – 11.15 Monique Pelletier, *From Ortelius's Theatrum Orbis Terrarum (1570) to  
Bouguereau's Theatre françois (1594)*
- 11.20 – 11.50 Sjoerd de Meer, *Touching the Arctic Circle – Willem Barentsz.'s quest for  
a Northeast passage*
- 11.55 – 12.25 Uwe Schnall, *The circumnavigation of the world by Olivier van Noort*
- 12.30 Apéritif
- 13.00 – 14.45 Speakers' Lunch (on invitation)

**Afternoon Session**

- 15.00 – 15.30 Hans Kok, *The voyage around Africa to the Far East*
- 15.35 - 16.05 Peter van der Krogt, *The Blaeu-Martini Atlas of China (1655)*
- 16.15 Conference closes.

All presentations are in English, illustrated with slides and viewgraphs.

The programme foresees about 5 min. of questions/answers after each presentation.

Concurrently with the Conference there will be a small exhibition of maps and sea-charts illustrating the theme of the Conference.

A Conference hand-out will be available to all participants.

**Admission for Members : BEF 200,- – Non-Members pay BEF 500,-**

**Registration is required before 15<sup>th</sup> November – Please use the form on the last page**



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> December for the January edition.

*Aims and functions 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, be they collectors, academics, antiquarians, or simply interested in the subject
- 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.

In order to achieve these aims, the Circle organises the following annual events :

- STUDY SESSION in February addressing practical aspects of map collecting, carto-bibliography, preservation techniques
- MAP EVENING in March or April, bringing together all those interested in maps and atlases for an informal chat about an item from their collection – an ideal opportunity to get to know the Circle
- One or two EXCURSIONS TO A MAP COLLECTION, September to November

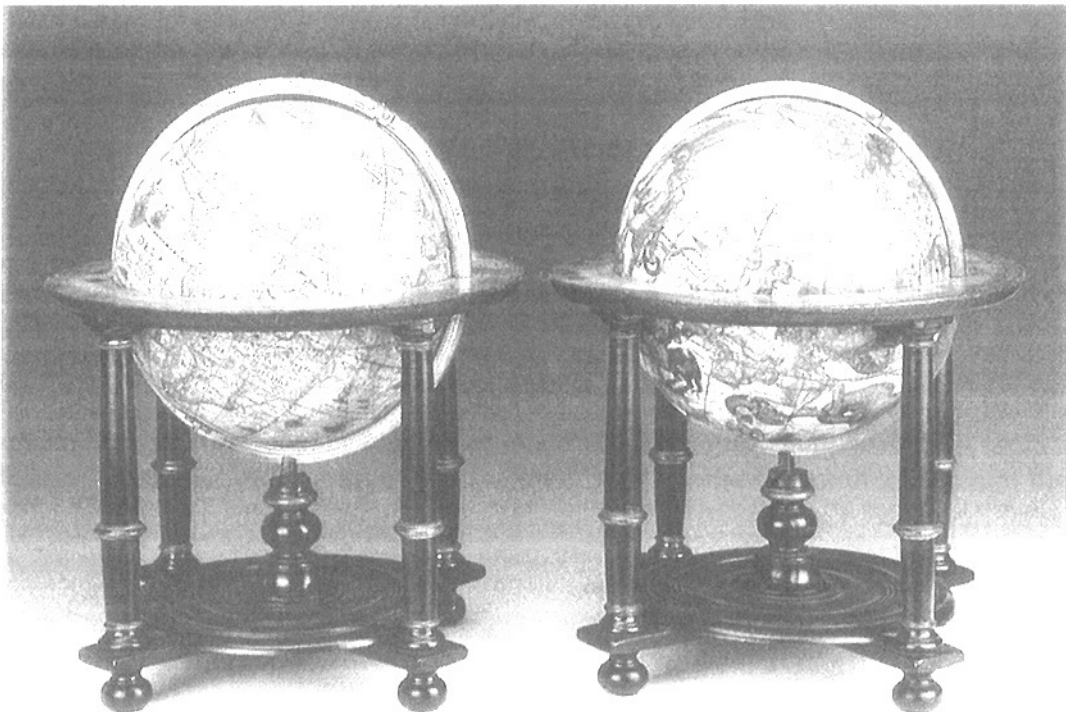
And every second year, in December :

- INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on a specific subject of the History of Cartography

Annual Membership BEF 800 (EUR 19.83), Students and under-25's BEF 300 (EUR 7.44) ;

Joining fee (once only) : BEF 300 (EUR 7.44)

Members receive three Newsletters per annum and have free admission to most of the above events, except for a small contribution requested for the Map Evening and the Conference (as announced in the Newsletter - non-Members pay full rates).



(Pair of Globes by Blaeu, dated 1602, from the Catalogue of the Exhibition at the Banque de Luxembourg - see p. 4)

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

NAME...P.....First Name.....

ADDRESS.....

Telephone.....Fax.....

e-mail :.....

#### SUBSCRIPTION :

- Joining Fee (payable once only) ..... BEF 300,- (EUR 7.44)
- Annual Membership.....BEF 800,- (EUR 19.83)
- Students and Junior Members under 25 ..... no joining fee
- Students'/Junior's annual membership..... BEF 300,- (EUR 7.44)

**PAYMENT :** **TOTAL : BEF.....**

- I enclose a Eurochèque payable to the BIMCC in Belgian Francs
- I will transfer the amount to the BIMCC's bank account with the KBC Bank,  
B-1980 Zemst, N° 436-8067361-27, mentioning « Membership »

*My particular areas of interest are :*.....

Date..... Signature.....

\*\*\*\*\*

### REGISTRATION FORM

*Conference « From the Low Countries to the High Seas »*

9. 12. 2000, Collège St. Michel, 24 Bd. St Michel, B-1040 Brussels, 10.00 hours

NAME.....First Name.....

ADDRESS.....

Phone/Fax/e-mail.....

My payment will be (please tick):  BEF 200,- (Member)     BEF 500,- (non-Member)

I enclose a Eurochèque payable to the BIMCC in Belgian Francs (with card N° on verso)

I will transfer the amount to the BIMCC bank account with the KBC Bank,  
B-1980 Zemst, N° 436-8067361-27

I will pay at the reception desk on 9<sup>th</sup> December

Date.....18 novembre 2000.....Signature.....

***PLEASE SUBMIT BEFORE 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER TO :***

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

**P. O. BOX 1359, B - 1000 BRUSSELS 1**

**Tel/Fax ++32- (0)2-772. 69. 09 e-mail : [bimcc@bigfoot.com](mailto:bimcc@bigfoot.com)**