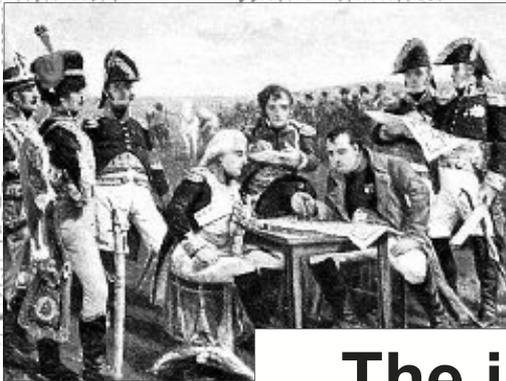


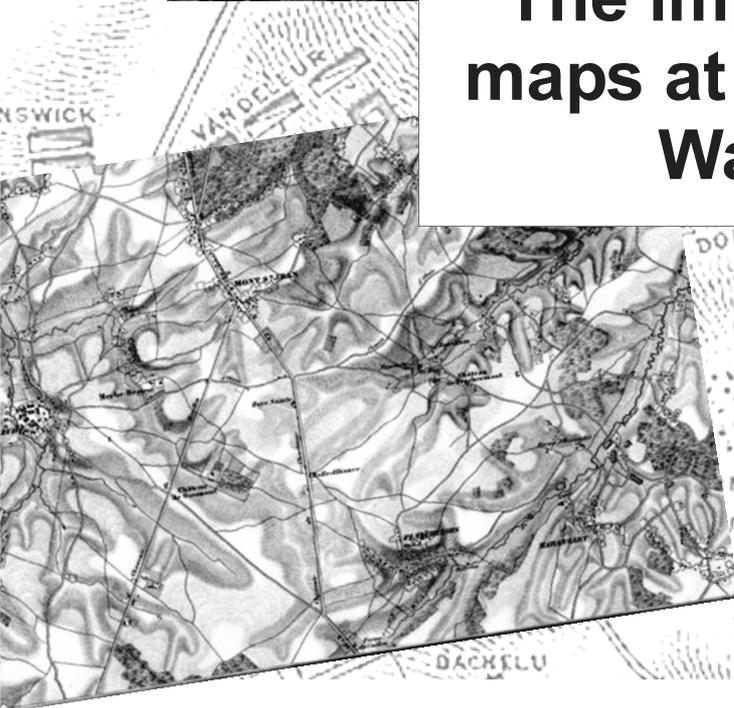


**BIMCC  
Newsletter No 31  
May 2008**

**Web site: [www.bimcc.org](http://www.bimcc.org)**



**The importance of  
maps at the Battle of  
Waterloo**



**Also in this issue:**

- **The new BIMCC Executive Committee**
- **Reports on the Annual General Meeting and Map Evening**
- **Numerous book reviews**
- **... and the usual departments**

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Dear Map Friends,

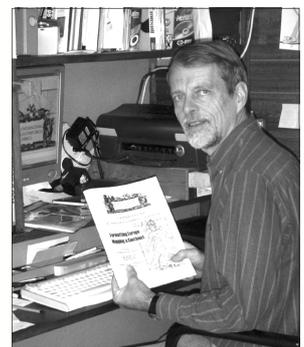
On the occasion of the tenth anniversary, we are happy to offer you, separately, a special commemorative edition of the Newsletter. This anniversary also marks a transition for the BIMCC. As announced in the previous Newsletter, Wulf Bodenstein has stepped down from his President's position; at the Annual General Meeting, on 1 March 2008, he was duly honoured for his achievements during his ten years at the helm of the BIMCC (see page 21 for a full report). Fortunately, our now Honorary President has not yet abandoned cartography: you can judge, from his five thorough book reviews in this issue, that Wulf remains a very 'Active BIMCC member'!

Immediately after the AGM, the new Executive Committee has appointed Vice-President Eric Leenders as the new BIMCC President; you can read his personal message on page 22, as well as the activity programme drawn up by the new team on pages 26-27.

Besides all this BIMCC news, the main item in this Newsletter is an interesting article, by our young and active member Glenn Van den Bosch, focusing, for once not on the making of maps, but on their usage; Glenn shows to us how map quality — or the lack of it — can change the destiny of the world; the map of the battle features as the 'Map of the Season', in colour for the first time!

Cartographically yours,

Jean-Louis Renteux  
Editor  
editor@bimcc.org



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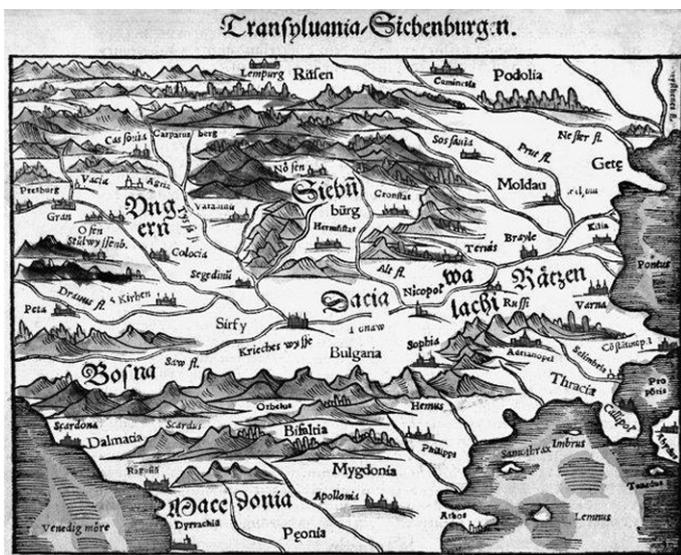
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## A rewarding discovery – The Museum of Maps in Bucharest

Wandering through the agitated and sometimes chaotic city of Bucharest, one can remark, between the plethora of big flashy ads, some discreet and elegant old style panels inviting the tourist or the local connoisseur to visit the 'Museum of Maps and Old Books'. Curious yet skeptical as you should be in a capital where even the elite would know more about Gucci and Rolex than about Ortelius or Mercator, you will be astonished when stepping into a museum of antique maps that is unofficially ranked as the fourth in the world by the size and value of its collections.



Transylvania by S. Münster (1545)

The director of the museum, Octavian Ion Penda, a well known Romanian artist with a strong passion for old maps, will help you indulge in a fascinating universe where everything seems to drag you in the golden times of the great cartographers. The stained glass of the gothic windows lets the light illuminate the cartographic and heraldic symbols that find wonderful matching with the similarly painted ceiling. The pre-war building has four floors where the maps are arranged in a chronological crescendo as you go upstairs, following in each room a geographical display by world zones. In the first room at the ground floor you are likely to admire the most impressive collection

of the very rare Ptolemy maps that you have probably ever seen (some of my favorites are selling these days above 7000 euros). Another attractive and inspired display includes several identical Ortelius maps but coloured in different periods, which allow you to learn a lot both about colouring techniques and the evolution of colours in time. Apart from the great names – Ptolemy, Mercator, Ortelius, Blaeu, Hondius, Janssonius, Coronelli, Gastaldi, Schedel, De Wit, Visscher, Braun & Hogenberg, Bertius and many others, you can also discover some masterpieces of less famous but very interesting mapmakers like Jan Elwe, Antonio Zatta, F.G. de Bawr, Georg Hoefnagius, Gabriel Bodenehr et al.

More than 800 maps are on display and some 400 others are waiting in the archive to find their place in the spaces under construction (respecting the chronological principle, the last floor will probably host at some point the latest multimedia tools for discovering the world history through digitalized maps). Most of the maps were donated by the former prime-minister, Adrian Nastase, arguably the most important map collector in Romania. The rest came from the gifts received by the former president Iliescu and from the collections of some important commercial banks. Under the auspices of the Museum the first volume was published of an atlas with the most important maps in the museum's collections referring to Central and Eastern Europe plus the Balkans. The atlas, *Descriptio Romaniae*, coordinated by Mr Penda, is the first of this kind published in post-communist Romania, thus offering a completely new perspective on the historical background of an area that has been for centuries at the cross-roads of three empires: Ottoman, Habsburg and Russian (see 'Look at Books' below).

Both the interested historian and the map collector will surely discover in this museum an unprecedented historical fresco of the region extending from the Roman Empire to the Second World War.

Anton Comanescu  
antoncomanescu@yahoo.com

**National Museum of Maps & Old Books** (Muzeul National al Hartilor si Cartii Vechi)

The Museum is located at Str. Londra 39, Bucharest, Romania, Tel. +40-21-230 44 68, Fax +40-21-230 52 84,

Open: Wed. – Sun. 10:00 – 18:00; Closed Mon. & Tue.

Email: muzeulhartilor@artelecom.net or info@muzeulnationalhartilor.com,

The web site [www.muzeulnationalhartilor.com](http://www.muzeulnationalhartilor.com) offers the possibility to view a nice sample of the museum's collections.



## LOOKS AT BOOKS (I)

### ***Descriptio Romaniae* – Vol. I**

**By Octavian Ion Penda, Ion Ciortan and Măriuca Radu**

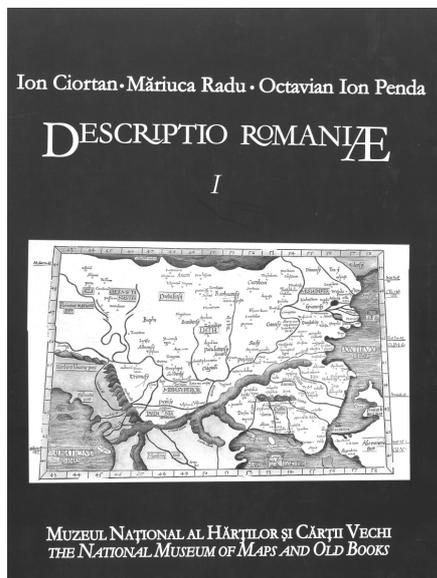
Bucharest : The National Museum of Maps and Old Books, 2004, 223 pp. of bi-lingual Romanian-English text. 109 colour and 29 b/w illustrations. Hard cover with full colour dust jacket, 38 x 29 cm (no ISBN).

This short review is designed to introduce the book our Member Anton Comanescu referred to in his article on the preceding page. It is the first of seven volumes to be published under the title of *Descriptio Romaniae* emphasizing the value of the patrimony of the National Museum of Maps and Old Books. Inaugurated on 4 April 2003, on which occasion the Romanian Post Office issued a first-day cover with a cartographic theme, the Museum's collections are largely made up of donations by former Romanian Prime Minister, Prof. Dr. Adrian Năstase, an active collector of maps for over 30 years and the founder of the Museum.

The mere fact that such a Museum should exist deserves a special mention. I know of no other Institution of such dedicated vocation elsewhere. As the Prime Minister mentions in the foreword, the Museum has a cultural and historical mission in a country that has suffered greatly from the effects of war and has found a new identity in the recent past.

In the preface, the General Director of the Museum, Octavian Ion Penda, develops the main lines of the mapping of his country in the wider context of the history of cartography, with a number of most attractive illustrations of medieval maps, from other map collections.

We then turn to a representative selection of maps from the Museum's own holdings grouped into what are called Historical Maps, Maps of the Course of the



Danube, of the Black Sea, and of the Romanian Countries (i.e. regions). From early Ptolemaic maps, such as one by Lorenz Fries (1525), to a lithograph map of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the classical range of European cartographers is present in an almost chronological arrangement.

Sixty-two of the sixty-nine maps are reproduced in full colour. This section is followed by fifteen panoramic views of Bucharest and other places in the Region. In some cases the images suffer from being somewhat blurred, but the accompanying commentaries are to the point and offer a great amount of historical fact about political events and changes in this region.

As the Director General, Octavian Ion Penda, is also a renowned Romanian artist, one may admire a number of beautiful stained glass windows depicting ancient world maps that he designed.

When one realizes that the vast majority of the sixty-nine maps of the collection presented here depict political entities such as Hungary, Moldavia, Transylvania, the Turkish Empire, and Walachia, and that only nine carry the denomination 'Romania' in their title, one better understands the mission statement made in the foreword. This splendid, high-quality publication documents in an eloquent way the country's desire to give Romania her place in the world.

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wulfbo@scarlet.be

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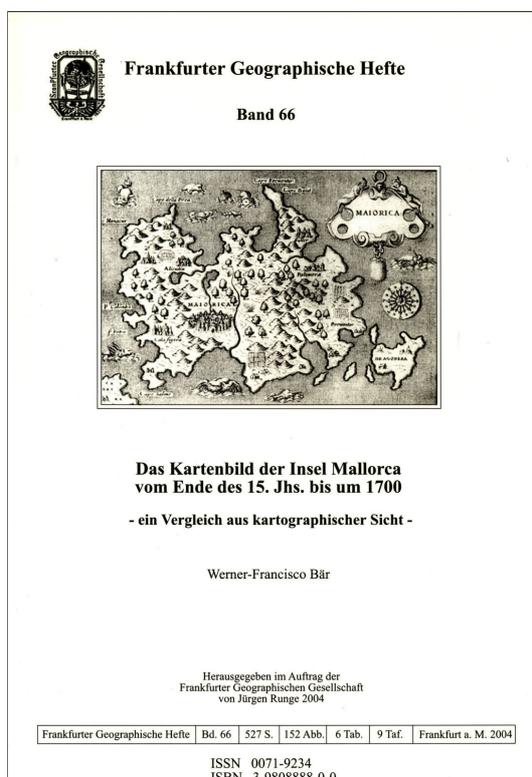


## Das Kartenbild der Insel Mallorca vom Ende des 15. Jhs. bis um 1700 – ein Vergleich aus kartographischer Sicht (The Island of Mallorca on Maps from the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century to about 1700 – a cartographical comparison) By Werner-Francisco Bär

Frankfurter Geographische Hefte, Vol. 66. Frankfurt: Frankfurter Geographische Gesellschaft, 2004. 527 pp. with 144 b/w and 8 colour ill., 21 x 15 cm, soft cover, ISBN 3-9808888-0-0, EUR 14.00  
To order: Frankfurter Geographische Gesellschaft, J.W. Goethe-Universität, Postfach 11 19 32, D-60054 Frankfurt am Main.  
Fax +49-69-79 82 83 82. e-mail r.kalus@em.uni-frankfurt.de

The purpose of this study is to present a number of manuscript and printed maps of the island from the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century to around 1700 and to compare their cartographic design and salient topographical features both among themselves and with present-day geographical facts.

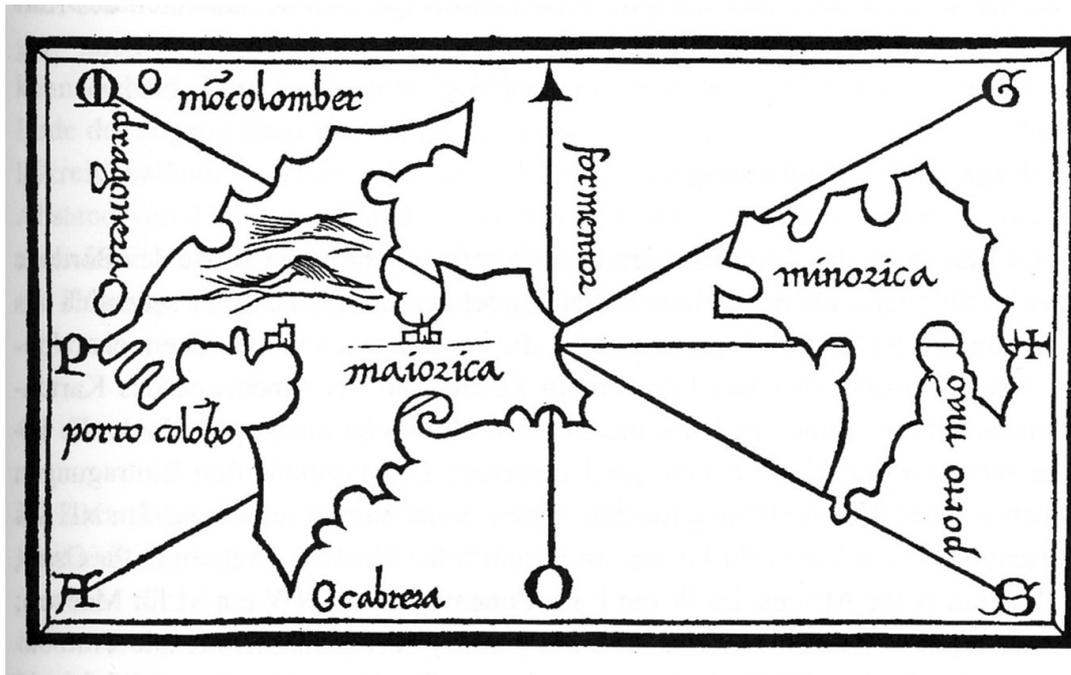
The starting period of around 1490 was chosen because it was with the manuscript maps by Henricus Martellus Germanus that Mallorca appeared on a larger scale for the first time. The maps that are analyzed subsequently are first the earliest printed charts of Mallorca in Benedetto Bordone's *Libro ...de tutte l'Isule del mondo...* (1528), followed by four manuscript copies of maps by Pīrī Re'īs dating from 1553 to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Another manuscript chart is next, created by Alonso de Santa Cruz in around 1560, and we return to printed maps with one from the cosmography of Johannes Honterus (1561), and five from so-called Lafreri atlases, including two by Lafreri himself, the other three being by Duchetti, Bertelli and Camocio (ca. 1560-1570). Almost contemporary are the next two entries by Thomaso Porcacchi (1576) and Francesco Ferretti (1580) which are succeeded by two slightly smaller maps by Ioannes Metellus (1601) and Gerard de Jode (1602). Some 30 maps by Petrus Bertius and his followers are then considered (1598-1618). Two distinct works by local cartographer Vicente Mut (1650 and 1683) lead up to the last entry, Vincenzo Coronelli's map of Mallorca of 1698.



Within the thirteen groups mentioned these more than 50 maps are examined according to a number of distinct criteria among which the correctness of position and orientation, scale, shape of the island (that is outline of the coasts), fluvial system, representation of terrain, vegetation, of settlements, and of the sea. The base-line for the comparison of these findings is a map image of Mallorca that the author has developed on the scale of 1:1 000 000. Two diagrams are derived from this map: one linking the extreme northern, eastern, southern and western points of the island to form a quadrangle, with azimuth angles and vectorial distances representing the real world, and the other with diagonals connecting the extremities of the quadrangle to

provide a further measure of accuracy. The same exercise was then applied to the ancient maps selected: a quadrangle and the diagonals were traced using the shape of the island on the old map, the map image having been adjusted to the same scale so as to be directly comparable. Thus the criteria of correctness of position and orientation, scale, and shape of the island (coastal outline) could be addressed, as shown in the illustrations, here presenting the example of the map by Benedetto Bordone (1528).

As was to be expected, these comparisons clearly show a steady advance in geographical accuracy with time and this is particularly notable in the Bertius maps and even more so in the maps by Mut, but then



Isolario of B. Bordone, 1534

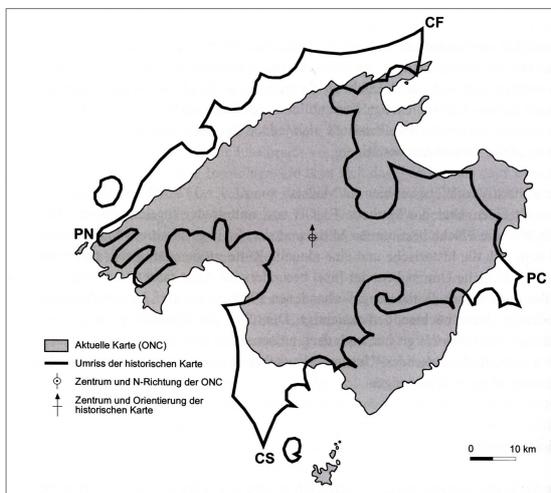
Coronelli seems to regress to an earlier level of uncertainty. Scattered within the text, and in a more concentrated fashion in four tables at the end of the book, we find a pictorial summary of island shapes which is quite telling. Regrettably, no attempt seems to be made to explain these divergences.

Among the other criteria of analysis are perhaps those on settlements and the representation of the sea which yield the most interesting results. The illustrations of the diverse pictograms reveal the similarities as well as disparities between the models employed by different mapmakers, rarely seen side-by-side. Besides, sea monsters and sailing craft of all shapes and sizes provide a welcome distraction in this somewhat sober study. Eight quite attractive colour reproductions are shared between three of the mapmakers, Martellus, Piri Re'is and A. de Santa

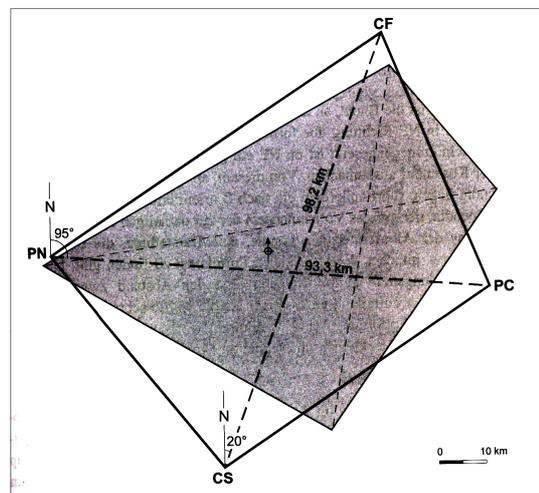
Cruz, but a few more would certainly have helped to enliven the illustrative component of this work, without compromising its academic commitment.

This scholarly work clearly stands out among other map-books on islands we have seen. For once an indigenous islander has resisted the coffee-table book temptation and delivered a cartographic investigation that could be a model for other parts of the world.

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wulfbo@scarlet.be



Overlay of Bordone's map on real shape of Mallorca



Overlay of resulting quadrangles and diagonals



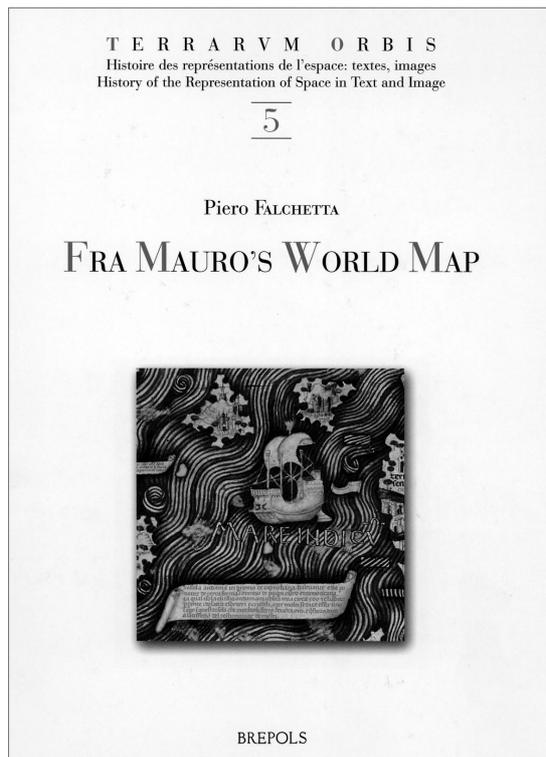
## ***Fra Mauro's World Map*** ***With a Commentary and Translation of the Inscriptions*** **By Piero Falchetta**

Turnhout: Brepols Publishers, 2006, 820 pp. plus CD-ROM, 27 x 21 cm, 12 b/w and 12 colour ills., hard cover. With a folded loosely inserted 38 x 38 cm facsimile of the world map. ISBN 2-503-51726-9, EUR 125.00, USD 169.00.

To order: Brepols Publishers, Begijnhof 67, B-2300 Turnhout, Belgium, tel +32 (0)14 44 80 20, fax +32 (0)14 42 82 19, info@brepols.net www.brepols.net

In the U.S.: The David Brown Book Company, P.O.Box 511, Oakville CT 06779 (USA), david.brown.bk.co@snet.net, www.oxbowbooks.com

This publication is Volume 5 in the Series *Terrarum Orbis* on 'The History of the Representations of Space in Text and Image' which Brepols began in 2001 with another, earlier mappamundi, the Hereford Map<sup>1</sup>. This latter world map (ca 1300 A.D.), much as its almost-contemporary, the Ebstorf planisphere (ca 1240 A.D.), has received wide attention and both were the subject of extensive studies. In contrast, the first important work on Fra Mauro's world map goes back to 1806<sup>2</sup>, and it appears that since then no in-depth scientific analysis of this map has been undertaken, although the masterpiece of Renaissance cartography has been quoted extensively in current reference literature. Even the impressive facsimile edition of 1956 presented by renowned carto-historian Roberto Almagià (produced in 700 numbered copies, with forty-eight 1:1 colour reproductions and a transcription of the nearly three thousand inscriptions)<sup>3</sup> was only meant to stimulate further research. As we shall see later, it admirably serves this purpose in the present study. If we have had to wait so long for this to materialize, this is largely due, Falchetta explains in the Introduction (Chapter I), to the scarcity of information that has been available until now about Fra Mauro's life and his work.



Let me recall here that the circular planisphere (Ø ca 193 cm vertically and 196 cm horizontally) is the central part of a board-mounted ensemble painted on several joined pieces of vellum, embellished with gold leaf. The sides of the board measure about 223 cm. The map is south-oriented<sup>4</sup>. Created in the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century in the San Michele monastery on the Venetian island of Murano by the Camaldolese monk Fra Mauro, it miraculously escaped spoliation or worse, destruction resulting from the ruinous suppression of monastic institutions by Napoleonic authorities. Since 1811 the map is preserved in the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana in Venice where Dr Piero Falchetta is Head of the Department of ancient maps.

In Chapter II Falchetta examines the sources, evidence and models of the map. These fall into three categories: the cartographical documents, written texts, and oral accounts. In analysing explicit and implicit sources, the cultural environment is identified within which the information originated, even though the links in the chain of transmission largely remain a mystery. The analysis of the first map source, the so-called Borgia Map<sup>5</sup>, offers a detailed comparison of all legends on these two maps, transcribed in their original Italian. Falchetta concludes that the first probably served as a 'draft' for the second. An English

1- Scott D. Westrem, *The Hereford Map. A Transcription and Translation of the Legends with Commentary*, Brepols Publishers, 2001. See my review in BIMCC Newsletter No 13, May 2002, p. 11-12.

2- Zurla, Placido, *Il Mappamondo di Fra Mauro camaldolese descritto e illustrata...*, Venice, 1806

3- Gasparrini Leporace, Tullia, *Il Mappamondo di Fra Mauro*, Venice : Istituto Poligrafico Dello Stato, 1956. Republished in 2001.

4- These basic physical data I have not found in the book. I have taken them from the most interesting article by Angelo Cattaneo, Speaker at our recent Conference on 'Formatting Europe...': *Fra Mauro 'Cosmographus Incomparabilis' and his Mappamundi: Documents, Sources, and Protocols for Mapping*, published in the proceedings of the International Workshop on 'The Making of European Cartography', Florence 13-15 December 2001 (Florence : Leo S. Olschki, 2003, p. 19-48). See review in Newsletter No 22

5- also called *Carta Borgiana*, or *Borgiano V*, a copy on three joined sheets of vellum of a now lost world map, held in the Vatican Library. Not to be confused with the circular *Borgia Map* engraved on metal, early 15<sup>th</sup> century.



translation of these legends is to be found in Appendix A. Regarding Ptolemy, Fra Mauro chose to go beyond the Alexandrine's geographical and cartographical notions, relying on more 'modern' regional maps that were accessible to him, including Portuguese, to compose the major part of his image of the world.

A parenthesis must be opened here: the discussion of these sources provides the author with the opportunity to make two most important assertions: first, that there is evidence that the map was certainly drawn up before 1450, and probably before 1448 (and not 1459 as generally stated), and secondly – in a footnote (!) on p. 58 – that, contrary to 'totally fanciful accounts of the genesis of the world map' offered until quite recently by 'widely respected and quoted scholars', the mappamundi examined here is the original world map, and not a copy of the (now lost) map made for King Alfonso V of Portugal.

The next four Chapters discuss Fra Mauro's rendering of the Eastern Ocean (III), Asia and Russia (IV), Africa (V), and Northern Europe and the

Islands of the Atlantic (VI). For each region and sub-region a detailed correlation is achieved between map data and sources previously quoted. This gives rise to the discussion of recurring geographical enigmas such as the one around Sri Lanka (Taprobana/Seilan), Java, Indus/Ganges (with an interesting sideview on Mercator's map of Asia), the circumnavigability of Africa, Prester John, the sources of the Nile, Thule and many others. In the Cosmological Notes (Chapter VII) Falchetta analyses the legends and diagrams that fill the four corners of the square within which the circular world map is set. These relate to Fra Mauro's perception of cosmological ideas of his time: the geocentric universe, the four elements, the inhabitable earth, and the Earthly Paradise.

The latter is the subject of the study by Susy Marcon that follows: *Leonardo Bellini and Fra Mauro's World Map: the Earthly Paradise*, demonstrating that it was the famous Jacopo Bellini's nephew Leonardo to whom this painting can be attributed<sup>6</sup>.

6- See also the article *God in His World : The Earthly Paradise in Fra Mauro's Mappamundi Illuminated by Leonardo Bellini* by Angelo Cattaneo, Speaker at our recent Conference on 'Formatting Europe...', in *Imago Mundi* Vol. 55, 2003, p. 97-102.



The next 564 pages constitute the main body of the book, with 2 921 map legends transcribed, translated and commented. To these should be added the 129 legends of the cosmological parts in the four corners outside the map – a truly monumental achievement. The presentation layout basically follows that already adopted for the study of the Hereford Map mentioned above: the left-hand page contains the serial number of the inscription, the commentary on that inscription and, particular to this work, additionally the coordinates in the 1956 facsimile edition. The right-hand page gives the same serial number, the original inscription, its translation and the geographical position of the place in question. Appendices B and C contain respectively an alphabetical index to key words (place names, legends) and to rivers shown on the Fra Mauro map, facilitating easy cross-reference to the serial numbers in the main catalogue of legends.

The CD-ROM that comes with the book is a great help in comprehending the significance of the map. Created by a team headed by Caterina Balletti at the Centro Interdisciplinare di Rilievo, Cartografia ed Elaborazione of Venice's IUAV University, it is attractively user-friendly and reveals in stunning detail the immense beauty and wealth of geographical and descriptive information that we had already come across in its more abstract, bibliographical form in the transcription and commentary part. All of these data can be retrieved with a few clicks in dedicated windows.

Here again each entry has its reference to coordinates in the 1956 facsimile. Since in the introduction to the CD-ROM on p. 821 mention is made of the 'scanning of the 48 photographic reproductions into which the world map had been divided' during its preparation phase, one is led to believe that the 48 original photographs of the 1956 facsimile (or of its re-edition in 2001) have been used to create the image we have before us now.

So on reflection it would seem that the transcriptions of the 1956 facsimile, item by item, together with the referencing system and the colour reproductions, did serve as the material basis for this study. Whilst technically entirely acceptable, if this were really the case one would have expected some open credit to be given to this remarkable work of fifty years ago<sup>7</sup>.

As an encyclopaedia of Renaissance geographical knowledge and cosmological thought Fra Mauro's planisphere, in spite of its direct appeal to the observer's intelligence, requires interpretation to become entirely comprehensible. The in-depth analysis Falchetta has made of every facet of Fra Mauro's world map offers more than a carto-historical study of a single map: it reveals the true dimensions in terms of geographical and human science of the last important manuscript mappamundi produced before the all-dominant era of Ptolemaic revival in print.

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7- Sufficiently intrigued by the somewhat cryptic cross-reference to the coordinates of the quoted facsimile edition, I made a comparison of map items displayed on the screen with the same items on the colour reproduction sheets of the facsimile, and the meaning of this referencing – not explained in the book – then became clear. Example : entry 103, 'Hamara' (nowadays Amhara in Ethiopia), has the reference '10, M 29'. When applying a transparent plastic overlay that comes with the facsimile (and which is calibrated in letter/figure coordinates) to reproduction sheet n° 10, one does indeed find 'Hamara' at position M 29. I am indebted to BIMCC Member Christophe Klein whose facsimile I was allowed to consult.

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## LOOKS AT BOOKS (IV)

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### ***Het Zeekaartenboek – Vroege zeekaarten uit de collectie van het Maritiem Museum Rotterdam, by Sjoerd de Meer (ed.)*** **(The Book of Sea Charts – Early Sea Charts from the collection of the Rotterdam Maritime Museum)**

Stichting Maritiem Museum Rotterdam, Walburg Press, Zutphen (NL), s.d. [2007]. 128 pp., 111 colour and 5 b/w illustrations. 28 x 22 cm, paper bound, ISBN 978.90.5730.475.0. EUR 19.50. To order: Uitgeverij Walburg Pers, 7200 BD Zutphen, The Netherlands, [www.walburgpers.nl](http://www.walburgpers.nl)

The editor who put together this attractive publication is by now well-known to our Members. Sjoerd de Meer, curator in charge of the map collection of the Rotterdam Maritime Museum, had not only played host to two BIMCC excursions, in 2001 and in 2007, but was a regular participant in our conferences, also as a Speaker (*From the Low Countries to the High Seas*, Dec. 2000).

In 2006 something quite remarkable happened: the Maritime Museum managed to buy a collection of 30 sea charts of the Indian Ocean and the Far East from Corpus Christi College in Oxford. Twenty of these are so-called VOC (Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie, the Dutch East India Company) maps, of which eight were made by Joan Blaeu, the other 12 being anonymous, all produced between 1647 and ca 1670. The remaining ten are of English origin. These



unique and top-secret charts were mostly drawn on vellum or paper, only two having been printed on paper. They had been bequeathed to the College in 1714 by Thomas Turner, the College's president, as related by Julian Reid in one of the chapters of this book. Nobody seems to know at the present time how Turner obtained them. When they came up for sale a number of Foundations and Trust Funds in the Netherlands were mobilized and raised the 2.4 million euros needed – a fine example of the care and concern for a national cultural heritage.

The Corpus Christi Collection was on display at an exhibition in 2007 (see BIMCC Newsletter No 28 with a report of our excursion there, and visit [www.maritiemmuseum.nl](http://www.maritiemmuseum.nl) where you can zoom into each of these maps). It was also the subject of a facsimile edition published by the Walburg Press in 2007.

The acquisition of this new collection provided the stimulus for the publication of this book. Sjoerd de Meer himself wrote six of the fourteen chapters. He begins with a global view of 'The World of the Sea Chart', from portolans to mariners' guides and sea atlases, ending with the Van Keulens in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. After a brief description of Mercator's world map *ad usum navigantium* of 1569 of which the Maritime Museum has one of only three extant copies, he offers us an overview of the map and chartmaking business of the VOC where we encounter all the important mapmakers' names of the period and are told about map production in Batavia and ship-borne map-practices. De Meer devotes chapters to two particular mapmakers: one to Joan Blaeu, son of Willem Jansz. Blaeu, the founder of the famous Blaeu publishing firm, here analyzing (and reproducing) five of the eight VOC charts by Joan, and a shorter one to Isaak de Graaf (1668-1743), who followed Joan Blaeu as the official VOC map supplier and preceded the Van Keulens. Five charts by de Graaf are preserved at the Maritime Museum. De Meer's last contribution is on the mapping of the 'Indian North', that is the region from North Java to Japan, and includes an analysis of the three other charts by Joan Blaeu from the Collection.

More about the VOC comes from Om Prakash whose chapter gives an insight into the commercial activities of the VOC on the Indian sub-continent, relating to the silk trade in particular. The town of Jambi in Sumatra shown on a bird's eye view is the subject of Els M. Jacobs' contribution, whilst Sarah Tyacke examines the Dutch origins of the English charts in the Collection.

Returning to other holdings in the Maritime Museum, we are introduced by Diederick Wildeman, curator at the Dutch Maritime Museum, Amsterdam, to two unique wall maps of the world by Willem and Joan Blaeu (1619 and 1645). Martine Gosselink describes the Vingboons collection of eleven manuscript maps depicting the regions of interest to the West India Company (WIC), that is West Africa and America.

The work of two other VOC cartographers is then brought to light. Kees Zandvliet presents a little known chart maker who was active in Batavia in the 1660's, Jan Hendricksz. Tim, originally from Gdansk (Danzig). Dirk de Vries provides a concise introduction to the manuscript charts by the Van Keulen firm of which the Maritime Museum in Rotterdam has 32 in its collection.

Among the illustrations we find twenty-two of the 30 newly acquired charts reproduced, together with a number of remarkable other maps not subject of a dedicated article.

A glossary of terms used in marine cartography, a literature list for further reading, an index, a brief English summary and a presentation of the authors round off this compendium on sea charts.

According to the bibliography, the last publication relating to the Museum's map collections goes back eleven years, so the addition of the Corpus Christi Collection entirely justified an update. This also provided a welcome opportunity to cast some light on, and arouse

interest in, other important parts of the Museum's map holdings. It would be difficult of course with texts rarely exceeding three to four pages (not counting the illustrations) to contribute anything entirely new on subjects largely treated elsewhere. For example, Günter Schilder has devoted a whole volume of his *Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica* (Vol. III) to the two wall maps of the world by the Blaeu's (1619 and 1645), and Mercator's world map on the famous 'Mercator projection' has been the subject of many studies. But collectively the articles in this superbly illustrated book underline the important position held by the Rotterdam Maritime Museum in the Netherlands, which has become one of the most important depositories of VOC charts.

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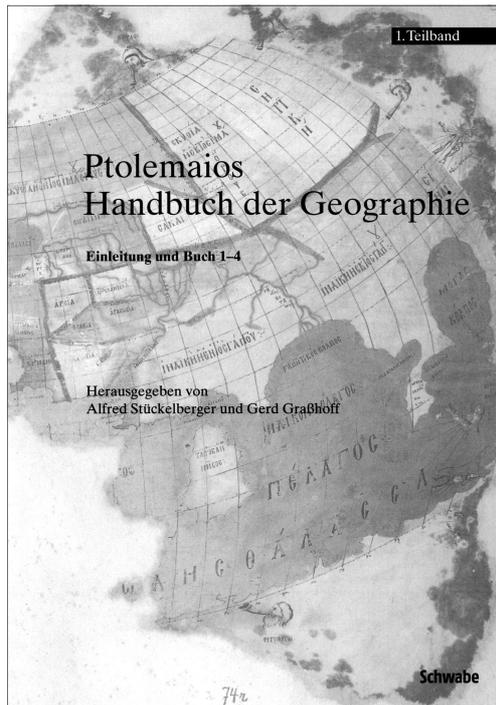
## Ptolemaios – Handbuch der Geographie (*Ptolemy's Handbook of Geography*) By Alfred Stückelberger, Gerd Grasshof (ed.)

Transcription of original Greek text (Books 1 – 8) with German translation,  
Basel: Schwabe Verlag, 2006. Two vols.: Vol. 1, Books 1-4, Vol. 2, Books 5-8. 1020 pp. plus CD-ROM, 24 ill., 29 maps in colour, hard cover, 25 x 17 cm. ISBN 978-3-7965-2148-5, EUR 170.00, SFR 250.00.  
To order: Schwabe AG, Verlagsauslieferung, Farnburgerstrasse 8, CH-4132 Muttenz, Switzerland,  
tel +41-61-467 85 75, fax +41-61-467 85 76, auslieferung@schwabe.ch, www.schwabe.ch

Considering the vital rôle Ptolemy's work played in the history of science and cartography it is somewhat surprising to learn that the most recent complete edition of the *Geography* was published by C.F.A. Nobbe in 1845. The only complete English translation is the one by Edward Luther Stevenson, published in 1932. This work is now criticized as having been based on doubtful sources and is said to be marred by numerous mistakes. At this stage, one might be tempted to tap the 'global wisdom' available on the internet: indeed, a Google search under *Ptolemy's Geography* produces no fewer than 73 pages with hundreds of entries relating to the subject. However, firmly suspicious of unverifiable material I rapidly return to the real world, and the book before us.

Not much is really known about the life of Ptolemy, or Klaudios Ptolemaios by his full name. He was born about 100 A.D. and spent most of his life in Alexandria, then the scientific centre of the Hellenistic world, until his death around 170 A.D. His main work is the *Syntaxis mathematica*, later to become known under the Arabic title of *Almagest*, which contains a catalogue of over 1000 fixed stars and a first correct description of the apparent planetary motions. He also wrote an astrological treatise known as the *Tetrabiblos*.

His *Geographike hyphegesis* or 'Handbook of Geography' is of interest to us today chiefly on account of three main topics: a synthesis and critique of the work of his predecessors, in particular of Marinus of Tyre, an extensive topography of Europe, Africa, and Asia with a list of some 8 000 locations defined by latitude and longitude, and an introduction to the principles of map-making. It will be remembered that Ptolemy chose as prime meridian for his



coordinate system of latitude and longitude the meridian crossing the most westerly known point, that is the Fortunate (or Canary) Islands. He also adopted a map orientation with north at the top. Both of these features had a long-lasting influence on map making in the western world. Many of us have certainly come across so-called Ptolemaic maps published in re-editions often called *Cosmographia*, the first of which, with maps, appeared in Bologna in 1477. But that is another story.

Previous attempts at re-editing the complete *Geography* were mostly unsuccessful. The current project really got under way when the editorial team succeeded in obtaining authorization to examine and photograph a ca. 1300 A.D. manuscript copy of the *Geography* that came to light in 1927 in the

Topkapi Sarayi Museum in Istanbul, the Codex Seragliensis GI 57, a hitherto unknown and never fully studied document now catalogued as the K manuscript. Collating this with some of the other 50 medieval Greek manuscripts of the *Geography* surviving elsewhere permitted the team to establish a reconstituted consolidated Greek text of the entire work, and to produce a coherent German translation.

From the beginning, the project was aimed at making this outstanding classical work available both to specialists and to a wider audience. The texts were produced side-by-side, on opposite pages, with Greek on the left-hand side and German on the opposite page. The former has footnotes in Latin (!) that refer to variants of text in other manuscripts, whilst the latter offers comments, references and interpretations in footnotes in German.

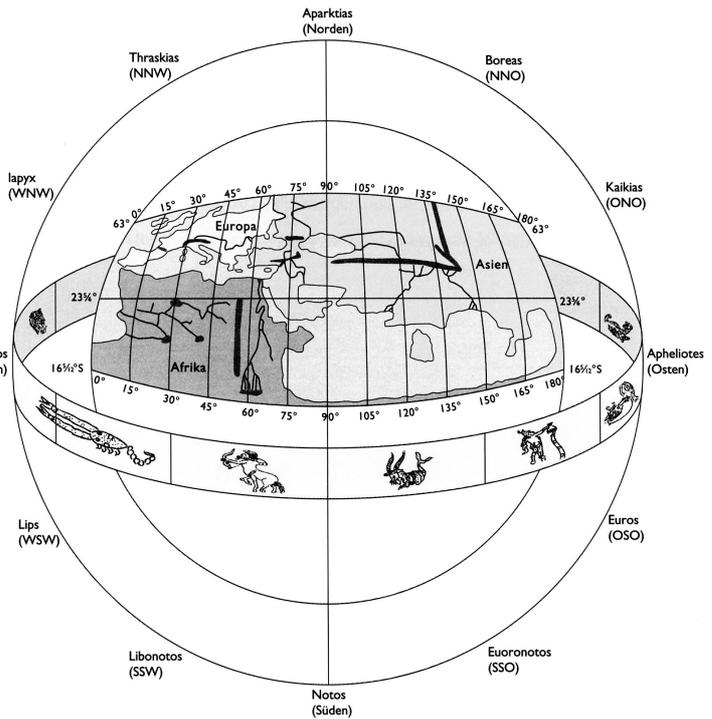
The eight Books that make up the *Geography* can be grouped into three parts:

- Book 1: theory and fundamental considerations, including projections



- Books 2.1 – 7.4: catalogue of about 8 000 localities of the *oikoumene*, the known world, with their coordinates, sequentially arranged according to the description of the 26 regional maps contained in book 8
- Books 7.5 – 8.28: guidance for the construction of maps (including a map of the world), with summary commentaries on the 10 maps of Europe, 4 of Africa, and 12 of Asia

All toponyms obviously had to be transcribed in the Roman alphabet, and where their geographical identity could be established, their modern names are also given. From Chapter 5 of Book 7 onwards Ptolemy provides us with guidelines on map construction and projection, and then describes the geographical contents of each of the 26 regional maps. These data, combined with those of the catalogue of localities, formed the basis for the reconstruction of Ptolemy's regional maps, and of that of the world in three different projections. The 29 'synthetic' maps inserted here are extremely helpful in visualizing the world as Ptolemy saw it. The area colouring of the regions was inspired by the coloured manuscript maps contained in the *Codex Seragliensis*. We are told that a full facsimile edition of this codex is being considered.

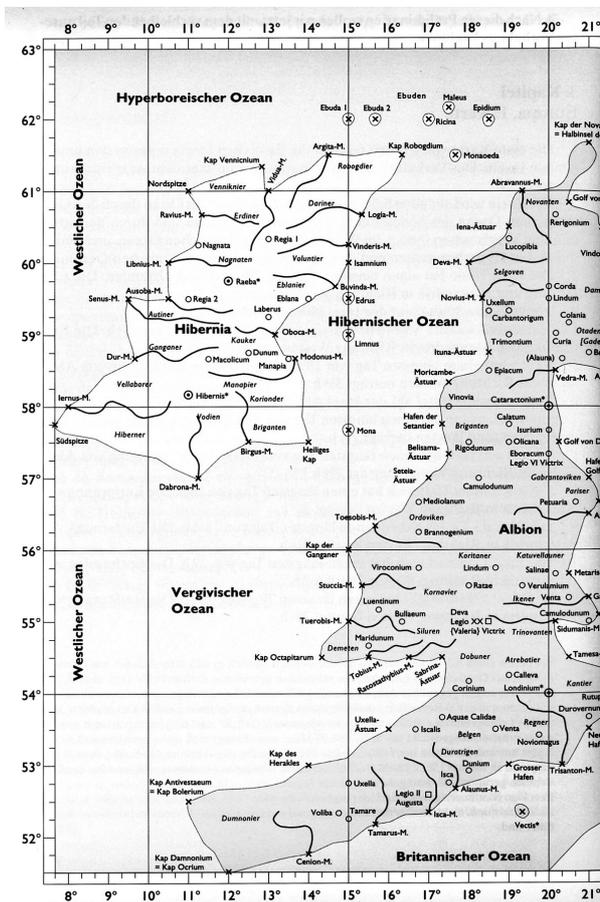


World map on Ptolemy's 3<sup>rd</sup> projection (armillary sphere)

Three indexes of localities, persons and subjects complete the book. The enclosed CD-ROM contains all 29 maps as well as lists of all toponyms with their coordinates, and these can be sorted according to region and type of geographical feature.

I admit to not being able to check and comment on the Greek transcription nor its translation into German. But the scholarly yet most readable manner of exposing, interpreting, annotating the basic text is remarkable. The underlying objective of presenting highly complex matter in a user-friendly way, following Ptolemy's own postulate, has been successfully achieved. A third commentary volume is apparently being compiled, and when available this should definitely ensure success of this three-volume publication not only with the scientific world but also with a large, not necessarily specialised readership.

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Reconstruction of Ptolemy's First map of Europe, Hiberna, Albion (Ireland, Britain)



## Timor: 1250 - 2005 – 750 ans de cartographie et de voyages (750 years of cartography and travels) By Frédéric Durand

Editions Arkuiris/ IRASEC (Institut de Recherche sur l'Asie du Sud-Est Contemporaine)-Toulouse-France, 2006. 520 pages – colour jacket. More than 231 figures and 62 photographs in black and white, 8 colour ill.; 23 x 18 cm. ISBN: 2-9520184-4-8. EUR 35.00

This extensive work about a tiny island at the crossroads of Asia and the Pacific is rather an encyclopaedic book covering all aspects of the island. Cartography is understandably part of it.

This book is an excellent work for the traveller or anybody who would like to live there.

The author is a specialist on the cultural and cartographic aspect of Timor. He participated in research and has written several works on the same subject. This study of maps over a period of 700 years evolved towards an overall study regarding culture and society as well. Therefore it is considered as encyclopaedic. Unfortunately financial and technical reasons forced the author to redesign and simplify the numerous maps, but this does not diminish the value of his information.

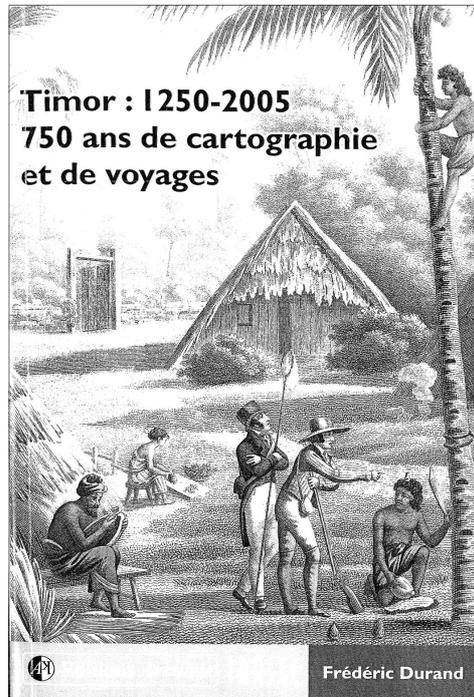
What does Timor mean to our present readers? The Magellan tour around the world, the spice route, political upheaval, geopolitical role of Australia ... and many other facts.

The seven hundred years are covered in 29 chapters. The author has tried to follow a chronological description – starting with the mythology of and the contact with the surrounding island population.

We should be aware that the Spanish discovery of the island in the 16<sup>th</sup> century does not mean the beginning of its history. It has had a lot of contacts from all over Asia, mainly from Indonesia and the Chinese coast. Pigafetta described the visit of the island in 1522 by Magellan's crew in the Philippines. Magellan himself never reached Timor, he died shortly before, in the Philippines.

During the 16<sup>th</sup> century the maps of Timor were designed by a multitude of cartographers; to name a few: Ribeiro, Gastaldi, Mercator, Sgroeten, J. H. Van Linschoten and P. Plancius. These cartographers' interest is the result of Timor being part of the economically important spice islands.

Whoever is interested in the history of the VOC (Dutch East India Company), cannot escape Timor, for the island was an object of rivalry between Portugal and the Netherlands. We know who won and



logically cartography fell into the hands of the Netherlands with Gerritz, Blaeu and many others. The English' interest in that region encouraged W. Dampier to produce more precise maps of Timor.

The author describes the spice war which was going on between the different European Nations. He also relates the voyages of Bougainville, J. Cook and La Pérouse and describes how captain Bligh, after the mutiny on the Bounty in 1789, sailed 6700 km towards the nearest civilized island: Timor. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the French organised scientific explorations of the island and offered the world an encyclopaedic knowledge about Timor. The naturalists Wallace and Forbes were influenced in

their work by their observations on the island.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century is also the period of colonisation by the white men. The Netherlands and Portugal each took a piece of the cake. Timor enters the 20<sup>th</sup> century, to be visited by many and well known sailors, from Slocum to Gerbault. New cartographic material is developed for reasons of war. Timor is treated as a punch ball by modern nations and still shows us today, repeated political upheavals and the after effects of having fallen prey to so many and so often.

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## The importance of maps at the Battle of Waterloo

Every one of us has certainly noticed the lion mound (Butte du Lion) near the highway from Brussels in the direction of Charleroi. Some of us maybe also know that this monument was built on the spot where the prince of Orange, the future Willem II, fell wounded at the battle of Waterloo (or the battle of Mont-Saint-Jean as the French call it). Few people however know that maps dramatically influenced the outcome of this battle...

On 26 February 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte secretly slipped away from the island of Elba where he was placed by the English after his abdication following the defeat at the battle of Leipzig. This was the start of what has become known as the Hundred Days of Napoleon, a hundred days that would end at the Battle of Waterloo on 18 June 1815. Since more and more French soldiers deserted from the armies of the new French king Louis XVIII to fight again for their former emperor, the rest of Europe quickly reacted to resume hostilities against France. Great-Britain, the Netherlands (North and South), Austria, Russia and Prussia started to mobilize their armies since they were determined never to let Napoleon I rule again. Since Bonaparte knew that it would be very difficult to defeat all the combined armies of this Seventh Coalition, he decided to let his *Armée du Nord* march towards Belgium in order to defeat the Anglo-Allied army of the Duke of Wellington and the Prussian forces of field marshal Blücher separately (the Russians and Austrians were at that time not yet mobilized).

To deploy their troops in the southern part of Belgium, the three commanders had different maps at their disposal. Wellington's officers were in possession of a manuscript map of the region where the battle was to be fought. Drawn under the command of lieutenant-colonel Carmichael Smyth by British military engineers, it was based on reconnaissances made in 1814 and 1815. Three copies of this map were used: one by Carmichael Smyth on which Wellington gave his instructions, one by the Prince of Orange and one by quartermaster-general De Lancey, whose copy was found on his body and is now kept in the British Library<sup>1</sup>.

On the other side, Napoleon used the *Ferraris-Capitaine* maps<sup>2</sup>. Between 1771 and 1778, Count Joseph de Ferraris (1726-1814), a general and commander of the artillery in the Austrian Netherlands, had been commissioned by the empress Maria Theresa of Austria and emperor Joseph II to draw a detailed *Carte de Cabinet* (Kabinetskaart) of the Austrian Netherlands. The maps were made on a

scale of 1:11 250 and formed a collection of 275 manuscript and hand coloured maps, 0.90 by 1.40 m each.

These were accompanied by twelve volumes of handwritten commentaries relating to topics of economic and military interest (rivers, bridges, forests, possibilities for military camps,...). Three original sets of these manuscript maps remain: one is in the Kriegsarchiv in Vienna, one is in the Rijksarchief in The Hague and the third one remains in the Royal Library of Belgium in Brussels. The map collection held in Brussels contains the maps destined for Prince Charles Alexander of Lorraine, the Governor of the Austrian Netherlands, and were transferred to Belgium by Austria in 1922 as part of the World War I reparations.

In 1777 and 1778, Ferraris issued a reduced version of the cabinet maps for commercial sale (*'carte marchande'*), printed in 25 maps with a scale of 1:86 400. In 1794, Louis Capitaine, an engineer working for the still young French Republic, issued a new engraving of Ferraris's work. The division of the map over the various sheets was rearranged in such a way that it formed a unity with the already existing map of France by Cassini in order to portray the southern Netherlands as an integral part of France.

Capitaine made only some minor revisions, so by the time Napoleon used this map, it was already outdated for more than 25 years and contained several small errors. Moreover, its scale of 1:86 400 was hardly that of an ordnance map. Considering the fact that Napoleon was well aware of the dangers of poor maps when planning a campaign, this is a surprising fact. The message sent by Napoleon to general Clarke on an earlier war campaign in 1809 (the war campaign against Prussia and Russia) leaves no doubt on this issue: *'I order that the map of Germany, which has been made at the depot de la Guerre, be sent back. It is so bad that I cannot use it. I would rather have the first map captured in a library. This mixture of good and bad portions is fatal – worse than if all the parts were bad – for it serves only to jeopardise important operations. I know of nothing more dangerous..'* Nevertheless, outdated maps with too little detail were used in the Waterloo campaign, a fact that may have played an important part in the outcome of the battle...



1- C. Lemoine-Isabeau, 'La cartographie du territoire belge de 1780 à 1830 entre Ferraris et le Dépôt de la Guerre de Belgique', 1997, pp. 105-109

2- A copy of the printed Ferraris map used by Napoleon can be seen at Le Caillou, the headquarters of Napoleon at the night before the battle of Waterloo and now a museum dedicated to Napoleon (3 kilometers south of the battlefield in the direction of Charleroi).

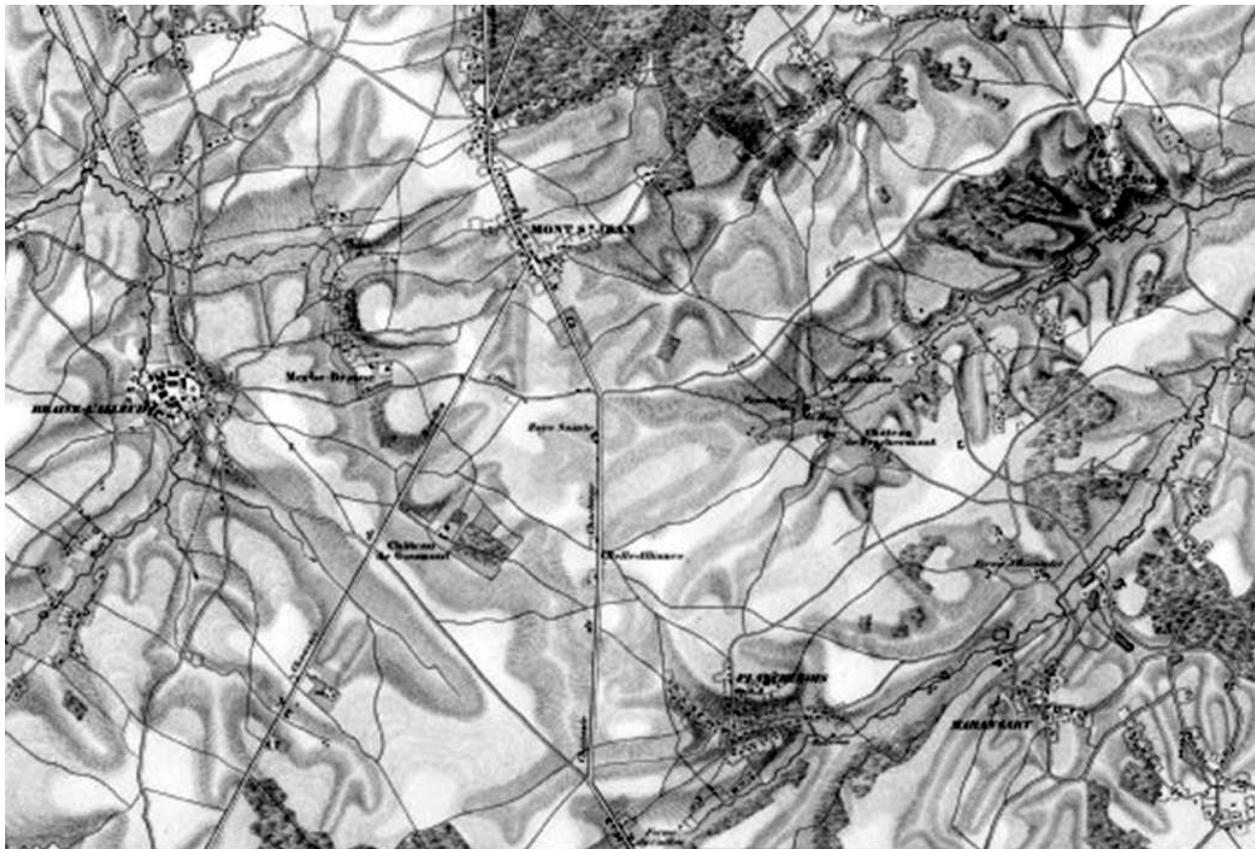


To defeat the two allied armies separately, Napoleon divided his army into three parts: a reserve under the direct command of the emperor comprising the legendary Imperial Guard, a left wing under the command of general Ney to fight the Anglo-Allied army at Quatre-Bras, and a right wing under the command of general Grouchy to fight the Prussians at Ligny (near Charleroi). General Grouchy was very successful and he managed to push back the Prussian forces at Ligny on 16 June. General Ney however hesitated to take the cross-roads of Quatre-Bras because he thought that Wellington was hiding his troops behind the reverse slopes. These tactics were introduced by Wellington during the Peninsular War (the war fought by the English and insurgent troops in Spain and Portugal against the French occupation) and had become well known by the French generals. Wellington however had no troops in hiding but due to the hesitation of general Ney, he did have the time to reinforce his army at Quatre-Bras. Moreover, the first corps of general d'Erlon was ordered to march from Quatre-Bras towards the battle of Ligny to help Grouchy, but due to a cartographical error this army never arrived at the right spot: d'Erlon had been given orders to march to Wagnelée (to outflank the Prussian army) but he marched his men to Wagnée (Wangeny), which is 5 miles further to the south. Napoleon saw this error and sent the corps of d'Erlon back to general Ney at Quatre-Bras. Unfortunately they arrived there too late, so they couldn't help at the battle of Quatre-Bras either. If the

French army staff had not made this cartographical error, the Anglo-Allied forces may have been defeated on their first encounter with the French army, leading to an easy victory for the emperor once more. The cause of this error however remains a mystery: were the orders illegible because of the bad handwriting of Napoleon? Was Wagnelee incorrectly written on the map or was the Count d'Erlon not so good at map reading?

Because of the defeat of the Prussians at Ligny, the Duke of Wellington was forced to retreat his troops more to the north. If he did not do so, his army could be outflanked by the army of Grouchy since the French had taken Ligny by then and could march upon Quatre-Bras along the road that connects Quatre-Bras with Sombreffe (north of Ligny). In the meantime, the heavily beaten Prussians fell back to the north, to Wavre although their lines of communication extended towards Namur. Some historians say the Prussians took this rather surprising decision because Wavre was the only name they could read on their map by the light of their candles when fleeing from the army of general Grouchy at Ligny...

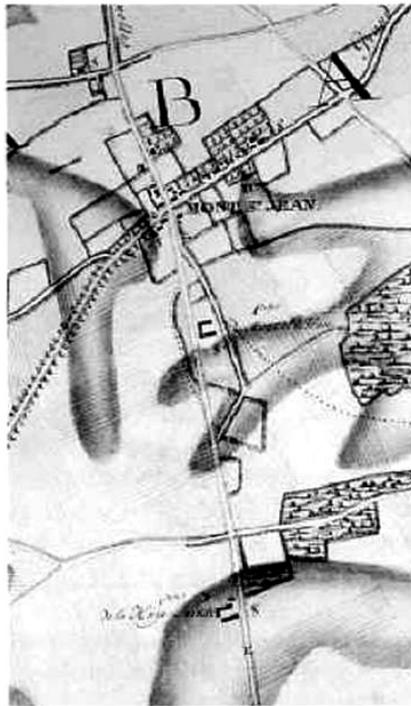
Wellington however properly escaped from the army of the pursuing general Ney and retreated towards Mont-Saint-Jean, a little village to the south of Waterloo, next to the forest of Soignes. He positioned his Anglo-Allied army (comprising British, Scottish, German, Dutch and Belgian troops) along a low ridge so the rear slopes offered a defensive advantage (men were protected from cannon fire). Two farms



The 'Waterloo' battlefield in the *Atlas de l'histoire du Consulat et de l'Empire*. (Thiers A.M. 1874)



right in front of his line up, the farm of Hougoumont (now Château de Goumont) and the farmstead of La Haye Sainte functioned as breakwaters to shatter the powerful French attacks<sup>3</sup>. The hamlets Papelotte, La Haye and F(r)ischermont on the east side of the ridge were also provided with troops to do the same thing. A notorious error on the Ferraris-Capitaine map caused some confusion in the French army: the road leading to Wellington's centre was drawn at the east side of the farm Mont-Saint-Jean, while in reality it is on the west side. The same road passes on the east side of the farm called La Haye Sainte, as was correctly drawn on the map. Some historians believe that because of this error, Napoleon and his generals mixed up the two farms at the beginning of the battle.



Details of the battlefield on the manuscript and the printed Ferraris maps

Napoléon ordered general Grouchy to pursue the Prussians after the battle at Ligny, however general Grouchy let his army march in the direction of Namur instead of towards Wavre because he thought field marshal Blücher would retreat according to their lines of communication. Even when Grouchy heard the first cannon fire on the battlefield of Waterloo on 18 June, he chose to continue in the direction of Namur instead of turning towards Wavre. By doing so he never managed to catch the Prussians and he never arrived at the battle grounds of Mont-Saint-Jean to reinforce Napoleon's army. Another cartographical error that appeared decisive for Napoleon's fate...

At the beginning of the actual battle of Waterloo, Napoleon was unsuccessful in shattering the ranks of the Anglo-Allied forces with his artillery (the Grand Battery) because Wellington had placed (nearly) all his men behind the ridge (which cannot be seen nowadays on the battlefield because it was pretty much destroyed in creating the lion mound). The emperor probably did not bother to take a close look at the topographical aspects of the battle grounds because he was certain that by the end of the day he would be victorious. Napoleon was not the only one who proved too confident that day, his newly formed military staff was also not free from blame. His newly appointed general Ney for example, launched a massive cavalry attack against the Anglo-Allied ranks. The effect of it was much loss, however, because the cavalymen had to cross the crest and could not develop a proper charge against the Anglo-Allied infantrymen, who formed squares to defend themselves against the cavalry attacks.

Since general Grouchy was heading in the wrong direction, field marshal Blücher was able to lead his Prussian armies to the aid of Wellington. So late in the afternoon, the first Prussian corps arrived from the east, which forced Napoleon to form a second front to protect himself against the Prussian troops that were coming out of the bushes of the Forest of Paris in the east. This Prussian army fought vigorously and even pushed the French Imperial Guard out of the village of Plancenoit (a small village strategically located near the centre of the French army). The fighting for the village of Plancenoit at the heart of Napoleon's army, made it impossible to send more troops to general Ney who was fighting the Anglo-Allied forces near Mont-Saint-Jean now and had taken the farmhouse of La Haye Sainte. A failed attack of the Imperial Guard on the Anglo-Allied ranks and the appearance of fresh Prussian troops became too much for Napoleon's army. The morale of the French army was broken and it fled. Napoleon had to be evacuated from the battlefield and managed to flee to Paris: the days of Napoleon glory were over.

However, if cartography had not been in favour of the Coalition of European forces in 1815, history might have been different...



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Double page overleaf:  
The 'Battle of Waterloo'  
on a School Atlas of English History  
by Samuel Rawson Gardiner (1914)

3 – The farms of Hougoumont and La Haye Sainte and the village of Plancenoit have changed little since 1815, as they have become part of the Belgian national heritage.



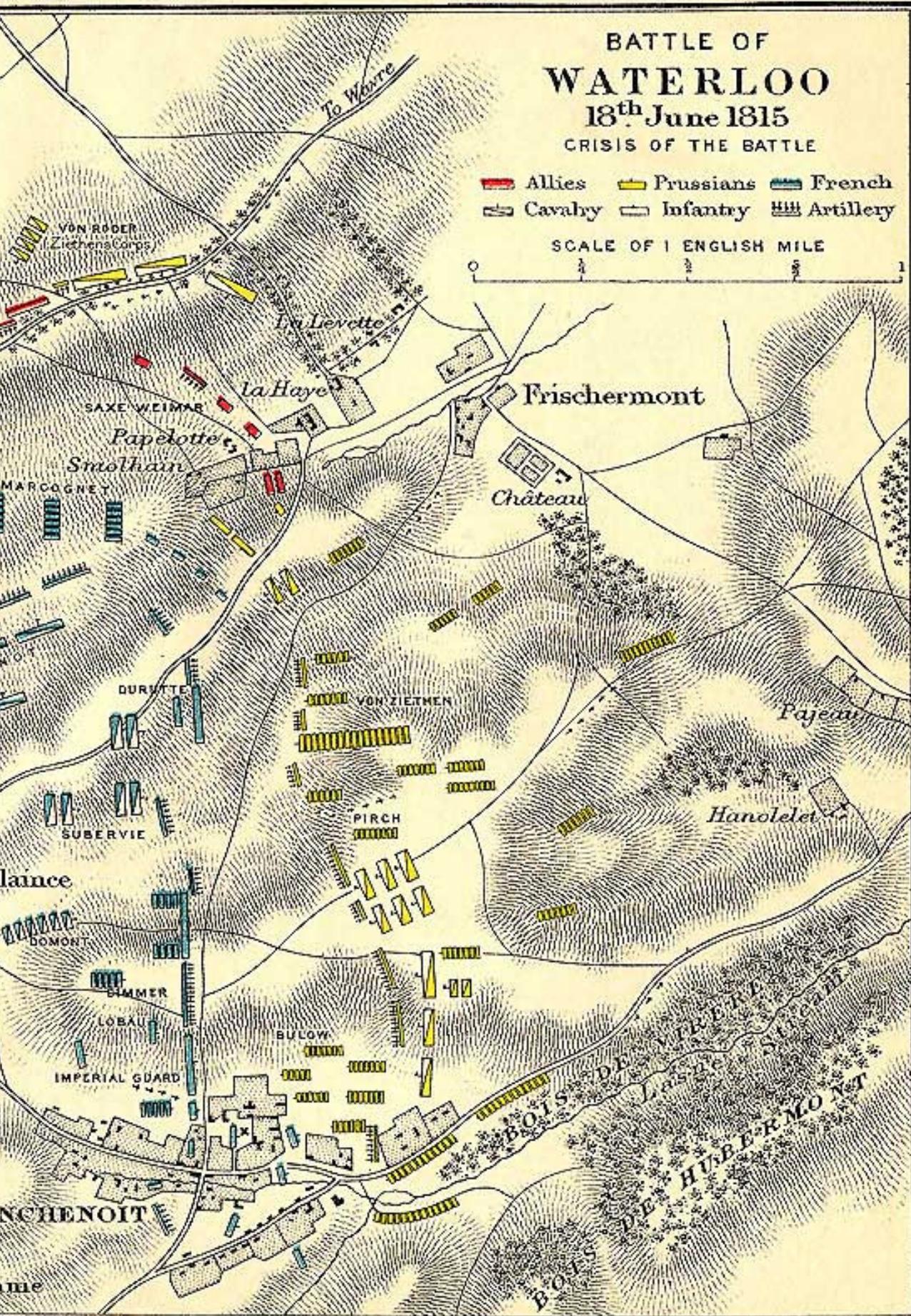
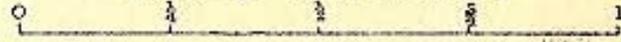
# BATTLE OF WATERLOO

18<sup>th</sup> June 1815

CRISIS OF THE BATTLE

- Allies
- Prussians
- French
- Cavalry
- Infantry
- Artillery

SCALE OF 1 ENGLISH MILE



F.S. Weller, F.R.G.S.



## Annual Activity Report 2007

On 3 March 2007, Sjoerd de Meer, conservator at the Maritime Museum Rotterdam, guided 20 members around a special VOC (Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie) exhibition, named 'the Corpus Christi sea charts'. For lovers of maps in watercolours, a visit was organized the same day at the Johannes Vingboons exhibition 'Land in sight' who worked for J. Blaeu and was inspired by Jan van Linschoten.

On 28 April 2007, the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting took place in the basement of the Collège St.-Michel. Thanks to the technical geniuses – Pierre Parmentier, Jean-Louis Renteux, Henri Godts – we survived the imprisonment. The meeting was attended by the majority of our Active Members. Two of our Executive Committee members retired, namely Pierre Mattelaer – the treasurer – and Johan Vanvolsem, who with his charming wife, was the keeper of our visual means during our conferences. After a well-deserved round of applause, a new treasurer – Roland Delrue – entered the scene and familiarised us with the 'top association' software; this programme will give him the opportunity to obtain and update all information on our members.

Caroline De Candt, the reporter on duty at the map evening brought us – with the help of Hercule Poirot – some intriguing map stories. She entitled her novels, just to name a few: a non-island in the sun, the funny, the honest and the beautiful, small is awful. Fortunately she also provided us with two for the road, with the help of the barman on duty, your Vice-President.

On 28 September 2007, the BIMCC visited the Belgian National Geographic Institute, the former 'dépôt de la guerre et de la topographie'. Several of their staff introduced us to geodesy, converting aerial photos and the new atlas 'Belgium on maps'. Our member, H. Lardinois, closed the day by showing us some map peculiarities of the first order.

The Executive Committee met six times. The BIMCC participated in the Antiquarian Bookfair of Brussels in September, and in the 6<sup>th</sup> Paris Map Fair, with a stand. The web-site administered by web-master Pierre Parmentier has gained international recognition.

As a result of significant efforts by the editor Jean-Louis Renteux, three Newsletters have been published. Each contained a record number of 40 pages with informative and cartographic articles. On a regular and much appreciated basis Glenn Van den Bosch screened the internet in order to assemble news on international events.

The 6<sup>th</sup> international conference 'Formatting Europe - Mapping a Continent' has to be considered not only as a major event for 2007, but as the crown of 10 years of cartographic conferences. Adopted by Europalia in the context of celebrations with the current 27 EU Member States to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, the conference was organized to coincide, on 16 November 2007, with the official opening of an exhibition of maps of Europe staged under the same title at the Royal Library of Belgium. Our members Lisette Danckaert and Caroline De Candt took a very active part in its preparation. Under the presidency of Prof. Gunther Schilder, eight Speakers from as many European countries gave top-level talks on European cartography to an audience of about 80 persons. This took place in the prestigious Auditorium Lippens which the Royal Library made available for us, and was followed by a most agreeable cocktail for the *vernissage* of the exhibition. Our editor produced an impressive conference hand-out in colour! Organized by Wulf Bodenstern with the help of some dedicated members and with the financial support of our Sponsors, this conference may be considered a highlight of the departing President's 10 years of effort to promote knowledge of historical cartography.

Eric Leenders  
Vice-President  
& Secretary

Wulf Bodenstern  
President

### BIMCC's Map of the Season

BIMCC Members are invited to contribute and send to the editor proposals to present, on the central page of this Newsletter, a map which they particularly like and which they would like to share with other Members; it may be a map which has an interesting history or a curious anecdote attached to it, it may be the centre piece of your collection, it may be a map which you would like to bring to the attention of the cartographic community, etc.

The Editor



## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Saturday 1 March 2008

This AGM took place in a new venue, the House of the Belgian Union of Expert-Surveyors (Rue du Nord/Noordstraat 76 in Brussels).

The President W. Bodenstein welcomes 17 members of whom 15 are 'Active members' (i.e. with the right to vote) representing the required quorum.

The agenda sent with the invitation was adopted.

The activity report 2007 was transmitted to all present and read by C. De Candt. A slide show organized by JL Renteux highlighted the major events of the past year.

The accounts for 2007 drafted by R. Delrue were adopted.

The 2008 budget was also adopted.

The programme for 2008 was presented by E. Leenders:

- The BIMCC will organize a cartographic exhibition during the summer at the Mercator Museum in Sint-Niklaas. The Active members will be invited to the official opening on Friday 27 June at 20.00 hours.
- A visit will be organized to Leiden University.

- A conference is being organised for December; it will be practical and prospective.

The new Executive Committee will lay emphasis on cartographic research and publications. The Newsletter will engage in a trial with colour.

A discharge of the Executive Committee Members was approved unanimously.

Three new Active members were elected: R. Harren, D. Strauven, F. Benavides.

Changes in the Executive Committee:

- Two of the administrators did not renew their candidacy : S. Humes (who returned to the US) and W. Bodenstein

- Four Active members were elected to the EC: R. Harren, L. Cordon, D. Strauven, J. De Graeve. They will join the remaining EC members.

A proposal to publish the biography of the members of the EC in the Newsletter was approved.

No other business was discussed.

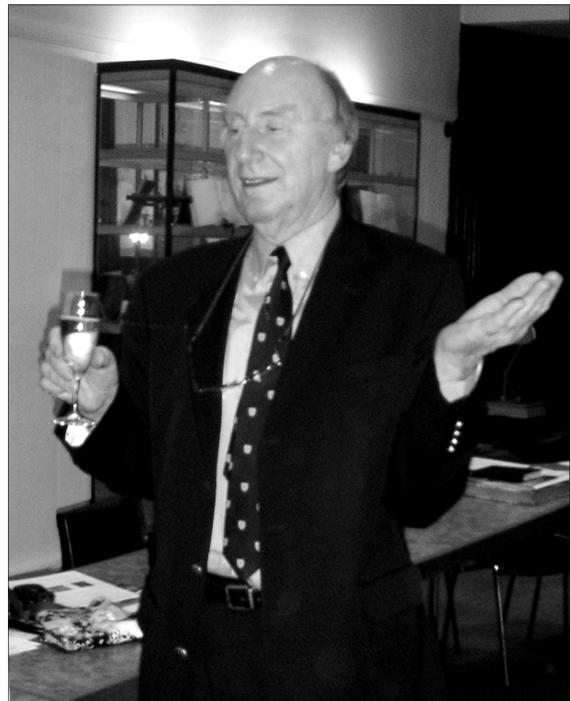
Eric Leenders  
Vice-President

## Thank you, Mr President

At the end of the AGM, there was a special moment. Indeed, our 'founding father', Wulf Bodenstein had decided to retire from the chair of President. Many of us had tried to convince him to continue, but to no avail: after ten years of hard work and devotion, Wulf stepped down. As we all know, Wulf couldn't have achieved what he did without the help of his wife Dominique. So it was only fitting that she was included in the little *cérémonie protocolaire* Eric and some other members had thought up.

From now on, Wulf may call himself Honorary President for life, so the proper way to address him could be *Président Fondateur*, I think. With the title came, of course, the befitting *regalia*: Wulf got an engraved medal, showing the commemoration of the event on one side and a TO-map of the world on the other. I sincerely do hope the engraver did not think we are some kind of weird sect that believes the world actually looks like that... Further, Wulf was presented with an advance copy of a special Newsletter celebrating the 'Ten years of the BIMCC'. As a member for life, he will receive our Newsletter from now on for free. He also got the bound volume of the first 29 issues of it.

And referring to bookbinding: Dominique, herself an accomplished artist in that realm, received some books on the subject as a token of our gratitude for the countless hours she undoubtedly spent on preparing catering, practical details of conferences and so on.



Wulf Bodenstein concludes 10 years  
of BIMCCC Presidency in style

A warm and hearty applause concluded the ceremony upon which our former president and his lady graciously offered a glass of champagne to those present.

CDC



## New Executive Committee

After the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 1 March 2008, the newly elected members of the Executive Committee (EC), also present at the AGM, decided, in order to have no gap between the past and future Executive Committees, to elect the new bureau. This provisional election was confirmed, in agreement with the statutes, at the next EC meeting on Saturday 12 April.

Eric Leenders  
President

List of the new Committee  
(see page 35 for contact details):

President:	E. Leenders
Vice-President:	C. De Candt
Secretary:	D. Strauven
Members Secretary & Treasurer:	R. Delrue
Scientific Advisor:	L. Danckaert
Editor:	J.L. Renteux
Webmaster:	P. Parmentier
Other Officers:	L. Cordon, J. De Graeve, H. Godts, R. Harren, A. Smit

## A word from the *new* President

Dear Members,

Ten years ago Wulf Bodenstein founded the Brussels International Map Collectors' Circle (BIMCC) which he presided until now. He decided to retire, as a result you have a new President.

Since I am of the same age as Wulf, I was reluctant to accept this task, which the Executive Committee bestowed on me. Therefore I will make it my duty to prepare someone much younger to take over the reins within a reasonable period.

It sounds normal to me that you should ask yourself who is the new President, what is his connection with cartography, what are his plans...

I am a surgeon, or rather I was a surgeon. What is the connection with cartography at first sight? There is none; although it has always puzzled me why so many physicians are map collectors or study maps. My interest started at a young age at a time when maps meant treasures and pirates. At the age of 19, as a member of a youth group, we often got lost in the forest around the city of Leuven. So I drew a map of this forest. As a result we still got lost and no, I will not show you that map. Like several members of the Executive Committee, I followed the course of historical cartography by Prof. G. Schilder in Utrecht. I always considered old maps as abstract paintings with a historical meaning. They are not only beautiful coloured objects, they also speak. In other words, I love them.

The BIMCC will stay on the course that was set by our first President. The activities organised in the past, will continue. Our website was hit 163 099 times in 2007, our Newsletter is much appreciated, and both will expand their informative activities. We, the members, have to contribute to this effort. I ask you to lend us your cartographic knowledge. I encourage you to write articles, for which you will get all the help you might need. Do not hesitate to contact us.

For the long term, I have a dream. I would like the Newsletter to become a journal, which will depend on pure cartographic content and our map collectors' circle to become a map society. In the words of William de Zwijger "*point n'est besoin d'espérer pour entreprendre, ni de réussir pour persévérer*", I extend my greetings to you all.

Eric Leenders  
President





## 10<sup>th</sup> Map Evening

1 March 2008

### The effect of the glasses

Some new faces showed up this year, at our annual map evening. Let's hope we'll see more of them during our further activities this year!

For the first time, we were hosted in the House of the Surveyors, thanks to the good offices of Jan De Graeve who is a pillar of both the BIMCC and the Belgian Union of Expert-Surveyors. Our new surroundings proved to be comfortable, with all necessary amenities, and there was more than enough space to show each other the maps we'd brought along.

After the closing of the Annual General Meeting, our parting president, Wulf Bodenstein, and his wife Dominique had found it fitting to offer 'a' glass of champagne. I am still trying to find out how 'a' glass can miraculously become 'several' glasses, in my case anyway. Life was quite wonderful all of a sudden, I thought. It wasn't until our new president reminded me of my formidable responsibility to write the report that I - for the first time in my life - experienced that 'bubbles' actually rhymes with 'troubles'... Certainly when I couldn't find my glasses anywhere, I mean the glasses you use to look through, of course, not the other ones, of which I most certainly hadn't lost a single one!

The first map enthusiast to open the session was a newcomer. Jean-Christophe Staelens called himself 'an amateur sailor'. It was therefore quite normal he had brought a sea chart. It showed the Denmark-Sweden part of Europe, more specifically the Sound and Belt Sea area. It was a coloured copper engraving, but it wasn't clear if this colouring was indeed original or more recent. The chart was anonymous, but probably from around 1740. It was rather large, and folded in a peculiar way. On the reverse the name of the dealers was marked: Mount & Page, an 18<sup>th</sup> century company. Nevertheless, Francis Herbert and Lisette Danckert cast their keen eyes on it and concluded that the original copperplate no doubt must have been Dutch. Lisette remarked that the cartouche had been erased and re-engraved. How on earth she managed to see this, I find a mystery: to me it looked perfect...but then that could have been the effect of the glasses...



Besides giving difficult Latin names to maps, this Niebuhr led the first Danish scientific expedition to 'Arabia Felix', taking him and his crew to Istanbul, Cairo, the Red Sea and Yemen. It took them several years: from 1761 to 1767, and a lot of hardship: although dressed as Arabs and trying to imitate Arab ways, they mostly met with suspicion. Only one member of the team survived. The map Fay brought along was first published in Denmark in 1772. Niebuhr also published the first accurate map of the Red Sea in 1712: *Mare Rubrum*. Yemen featured on it and it would take 200 years before a new and better map of that country was made.

Francis Herbert, who needs no introduction, brought along a twentieth century map. Come to think of it: it might have been two maps, but then again, that could have been the effect of the glasses. *Europe et*



A. Smit, F. Herbert, F. Huidecoper-Cope,  
G. Van den Bosch

J.-C. Staelens with sea chart ...

...that fascinates J. De Graeve,  
F. Herbert, J.-L. Renteux, G. Lambert,  
L. Danckaert and R. Delrue





*les Balkans*, as this map was entitled, showed a great resemblance to number 72 of the *Formatting Europe* exhibition in the Royal Library. It showed what, in 1941, was the geo-political situation in Europe: Germany encloses occupied Polish territory, Austria and the Czech territory (not Slovakia). Francis hadn't only bought the map, but also the kind of envelope it was wrapped in. He explained it is always a good idea to ask the dealer for the map and its wrapper, to help to date and identify it. He also brought up the idea of making lists of the catalogues map dealers and – makers once had, in collections like those of the Royal Library for instance. This could also be a great help in identifying maps.

Alex Smit produced an 18<sup>th</sup> century map *Cercle de Westphalie*, the circle of course being one of the ten *Kreise* the Holy Roman Empire was divided into. It also showed the Duchy of Luxemburg, when it still was a lot larger than it is today. Any further reference as to the maker etc was missing, as he claimed to have bought it from a lady 'who didn't have a clue'...Unfortunately, neither did anyone present, so this map remained a little mystery...

But Alex did also bring a map entitled and dated *Asiater Archipel & Neu Holland 1847*. The map still showed *Van Diemen's Land*, the later Tasmania, named after Anthony van Diemen, governor-general of the Dutch East Indies. It was under his command that Abel Tasman discovered this island in 1642. Careful scrutiny of the content of the map revealed it should be dated rather around 1830. It was published by a German Institute with the impossible name *Schweinfürter Geographischen Graviranstalt des Bibliographischen Instituts zu Hildburghausen – A'dam/Paris/Philadelphia*. I did my best to copy it right, desperately trying to read the small print and bitterly complaining about 'missing my glasses', to which my neighbour dryly remarked: 'yes, that I can see... I saw you at the bar'.

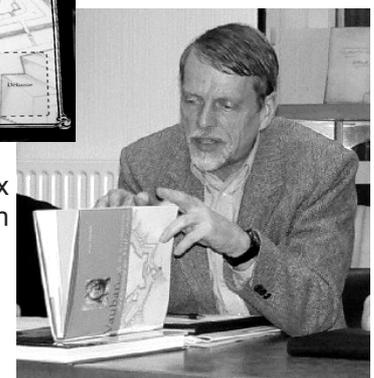
I was still trying to grasp the meaning of this remark, when already another map was being presented by Gérard Lambert, another newcomer. It showed Alsace, with Mulhouse being labelled as *terre de Suisse*, so before its annexation by France in 1798. It didn't have a cartouche and all further information was missing. As Mulhouse was the birthplace of Johann Heinrich Lambert (1728-1777), there was some speculation whether this map couldn't have been made by him, but the experts among us concluded that the projection used on the map was not that invented by Lambert. The general opinion was it was an early Cassini map (1741-1818) and that probably Monique Pelletier's work, with the dates of the mapping of the regions of France, would be helpful to try to identify or date it.

Next, Jean-Louis Renteux showed three interesting publications. First, *La fortification du Quesnoy*, a book in which Jean-Louis cooperated. Being one of the publications linked to the Vauban year 2007, it shows a series of plans and maps of Le Quesnoy that have never been published before, as well as other information concerning this famous and well preserved Vauban fortification. '*Fort Vauban*', a kind of goose game, edited by the Région du Nord, about the Vauban fortifications, seems to continue this long line of geographical 'games' that became so popular in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, to help 'young people and women' to understand the political-geographical situation in Europe. Adrian Seville, an expert on the matter (the only one by sheer coincidence, because no one else ever studied the subject, as he himself always says), would be delighted. Jean-Louis, himself an expert on 16<sup>th</sup> century maps of Hainault, also

presented a book by Claire Lemoine-Isabeau, *Images de Mons en Hainaut*, which is the catalogue of an exhibition on that subject, held in 2006.



J.-L. Renteux and Vauban



Mr Van der Esch presented two interesting maps: the *Carte réduite des costes de Flandre et de Hollande*, dated MDCCLXIII (or 1763), made by Jacques-Nicolas Bellin (1703-1772), whose task it was to compile all charts of the known seas for the *Dépôt de la Marine* and who is also the author of a *Petit Atlas Maritime*, with very detailed plans and maps of coastal cities and harbours.

The *Carte des entrées de l'Escaut et de la Meuse* on the other hand, didn't have an author's name or date, only that it was made for the *Dépôt de la Marine*. Louis XIV and Colbert ordered these maps and they were published by Pierre Mortier. The copy Mr Van der Esch was showing us was a later print. There was general admiration for the fine quality of these maps.

By now, I had reached the zenith of bubble-heaven. So when Jan De Graeve came up with three doubtless very interesting books, I had some trouble following the explanations about techniques of measuring and triangulation...What I did capture is that the first book dates from 1801 and has a title at



least resembling *Dreiecke des ersten und zweiten Rangs in der Provinz Rheinhessen...* I do hope this title makes any sense, because my notes get quite unreadable at this point, doubtlessly the effect of the glasses... Furthermore, I did take (scribble) note of the fact that it is a manuscript book, holding all the information (tables, three engravings and one map with triangulations) on the baseline measurement of Bavaria by Rigobert Bonne (done some 15 km east of Munich). The second book fortunately had a French title: *Le précis historique des opérations géodésiques et astronomiques faites en Hollande*. It dates from 1827 and formed the basis for the triangulation of Belgium and the Netherlands. It was written by Baron Krayenhoff (1758-1840), some kind of *uomo universale*: he was a physician, physicist, painter and — as a military officer — responsible for the Dutch fortifications. His life's work would be the triangulation of The Netherlands. The third book was the *Arc du Méridien de 25° 20' entre le Danube et la Mer Glaciale* from 1857, about the measurements of Friedrich Georg Struve (1793-1864) for the arc of meridian from Hammerfest (Norway) to Ismail on the Black sea (see BIMCC Newsletter No 26). Jan had brought along the second volume, concerning the *Golfe de Finlande et la Mer Glaciale* (the book was written in ancient French, but funds are apparently lacking to have it translated). All three books testify to the painstakingly hard work a lot of dedicated scientists had to do on the field before you or I could ever use our GPS so as not to get lost on that same field...

Sam Humes showed us an attractive and colourful map of *Britain as it was divided in the tyme of the English-Saxons especially during their heptarchy* by the famous English map-maker John Speed (1552-1629). Heptarchy refers to what were thought to be 7 kingdoms in central, east and south Great Britain, which eventually merged to become the kingdom of England. It was generally believed that these seven kingdoms existed from 500 A.D. to 850 A.D., but today historians don't consider it an adequate label anymore, for various reasons. Anyhow, Sam's map showed the invasions of England by Angles, Saxons and Jutes. All around the map, a border with cartouches tells the history of the christianisation of England.



Eric Leenders and Jan De Graeve have continued the work they started on a Deventer map, namely proving that Deventer indicated his measuring points on his maps by the sign ☉. This time, they wanted to prove that Jacques de Surhon — who surveyed the south of the Netherlands in the years 1548-57, by order of Charles V — also used this same sign to indicate his measuring points. To this end, they compared his maps of Hainault and Luxembourg with a Cassini map of the same area. They found that in this way Deventer is correct up to 4 degrees and Surhon up to 5. So Surhon must have used the same method and technique as Deventer. If this is the complete story, for the life of me, I couldn't tell you: bubble-oblivion got the better of me...

Jean-Louis Renteux showed an original edition of the same map of the province Hainault engraved by Frans Hogenberg for Ortelius in 1572. However, Hainault being the southern border province between the Low Countries (at that time Spanish) and France (the hereditary enemy of Spain), the information about this frontier region was considered 'classified' by the Spanish rulers, so the copperplate had to be destroyed. Ortelius had wanted to publish it in his *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* in 1570 and 1572, but he could only do it in 1579. So this map only exists as a proof copy and Jean-Louis owns one of the few on the market! Those who want to know more about it have to read Peter H. Meurer, *The suppressed 1572 first edition of Jacques de Surhon's map of Hainault, Caert-Thresoor* 13 (1994) 3, pp. 81-86.

Finally, Wulf Bodenstein drew our attention to Volume VIII of the *Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica* that had just been published. This time, Prof. Schilder has chosen Hondius and Van den Keere as subjects and it is, once again, a real gem of a book!

After all this food for thought, food and drinks for the stomach were available. Eric and Martine had done a great job at preparing all this, so I am afraid I have to confess your scribbler (along with many others!) once again suffered the effect of the glasses...

Caroline De Candt  
(writing with glasses)  
caroline.de.candt@skynet.be



Sam Humes and Britain



## Exhibition at the Mercator Museum in Sint-Niklaas: The 17 Provinces on old maps

**“Belgica Florens Belgica distructa”  
F. Hogenberg 1587**

Two members of the BIMCC Executive Committee have been invited by the curator of the Mercator Museum to organise a map exhibition. They decided to accept as representatives of the BIMCC.

A 20-metres long wall has been put at their disposal. A project was designed and accepted with enthusiasm: the assembling of the 17 Provinces of the Low Countries unified under Charles V, followed by the undoing of this unity during the 80 years' war under Philip II. Maps will come from various museums and private collections in Flanders.

The first half of the wall will contain general coloured maps in order to explain the Burgundian origin of the 17 Provinces. The unification will be symbolised by seventeen coloured maps, one for each Province. They also symbolise the fact that Charles V was formally not their King, but Duke, Count etc... over these different regions.

A large beautifully engraved map will demonstrate the voyage made by Philip II in 1547, on invitation by his father, the Emperor Charles V who wanted his son to get acquainted with his heritage. This map will also



mark the transition towards the break up of the 17 Provinces – namely the 80 years' war from 1568 and ending in 1648 with the Peace of Munster. This war will be illustrated by numerous engravings made by Hogenberg, Van Berckenrode, Von Aitzing and others. Their sometimes horrible scenes are an expression of the chaos so typical for the south of the Netherlands during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. As a result north and south each went their own way as the Netherlands and later on as Belgium.

Lydia Cordon

Eric Leenders

From Saturday 28 June to Sunday 14 September 2008  
Mercator Museum  
Zamanstraat 49, Sint-Niklaas  
Exhibition entrance through the museum garden.  
Open: Thursday, Friday, Saturday: 14-17 h., Sunday 10-17 h  
Entrance: EUR 2.5 (reduced: EUR 1.5)

### Elisabeth Hermans Old Maps and Prints

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www.orteliusmaps.com



## BIMCC Programme for 2008

- **Friday 17 October 2008 at 13.00 h, BIMCC Autumn Excursion  
Leiden University Library 'Bodel Nyenhuis Map Collection'**

Two years ago Stanislas De Peuter, an active BIMCC member, had organized a visit to the 'Bodel Nijenhuis Map Collection'. Unfortunately due to internal changes at the library this visit had to be cancelled.

Bodel Nijenhuis (1797-1872) was a pioneer in cartography. He worked in the book business and collected books and maps. He left his collection to the University of Leiden.

Meanwhile the *Bodel Nijenhuis Collection* has a new curator, Martijn Storms. He is willing to prepare a special map exhibition during the afternoon. He will guide us through the collection, rich with van Keulen manuscript maps, sea charts, VOC maps, colonial maps a.o. He will also show us the library.

The visit will, as usual, be free of charge and is limited up to 20 participants, with preference for paid-up BIMCC members. The visit is conducted in English. The registrations will be dealt with on a first-come – first-served basis.

Registrations can be sent by email to [info@bimcc.org](mailto:info@bimcc.org).

More precise information, such as the address, a roadmap to get to the University and the registration form will be found in the September Newsletter.

- **Saturday 13 December 2008, BIMCC Study Session**

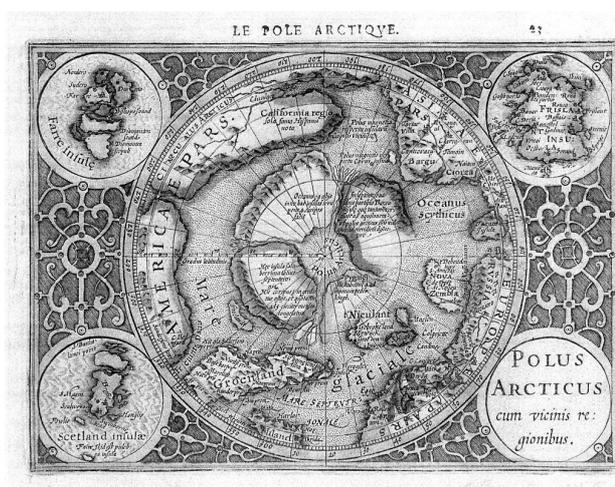
Provisional Programme:

The morning:

- Peter van der Krogt (Prof. Utrecht University): *Latin and cartography*  
This will be a practise session and not a grammatical course. He will translate and comment on short Latin cartouche texts. He has published a superb article on the use of Latin on maps (available in Dutch and English).
- Martijn Storms (Curator *Bodel Nijenhuis Collection* Leiden): *The evolution of the compass-windrose from the beginning to the beautiful designs in use during the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century.*  
He will comment on their use and significance.
- Eric Leenders & Jan De Graeve: *Topography in practice*  
How did your town get on the right spot on the 16<sup>th</sup> century maps? How accurate was this?  
The process of triangulation and the results, obtained in that period, will be demonstrated on the regional wall maps of J. van Deventer.

The afternoon: 'On the North Pole'

- Francis Herbert (Former Curator of Maps at the Royal Geographical Society):  
He will show us the cartographic evolution of the maps of the North Pole with emphasis on the passage trials to the west and the east.
- H. Decler (Prof. Geography, Vrij Universiteit Brussels):  
*Prospective cartography of the North Pole.*  
Climate changes characterised by ice melting will not only change the face of the earth but will lead to redesigning our maps.  
The opening to the west in the near future is highly probable. Will the opening to the east also follow? Pictures by satellites will enhance the conference.



Details will be announced in the September Newsletter.

People participate at their own risk in any BIMCC activity and thereby waive any possible liability of the BIMCC, its directors and officers.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

Compiled by Glenn Van den Bosch  
fb550506@skynet.be

### News

#### Record sale of Blaeu globes at Christie's auction in Amsterdam

Two Blaeu globes from the collection of the prince of Liechtenstein were sold in April at Christie's for a record price of EUR 793 850. This is the highest price ever for a work of art sold at an auction in the Netherlands (paintings not included). The globes of Willem Janszoon Blaeu (1571-1638) were estimated at around EUR 200 000-300 000.



#### 'Belgium creates a 'pole of excellence' for its cartographic heritage

On 14 March 2008, four major institutions in Belgium have announced their will to cooperate in order to give better and full access to their vast cartographic resources: the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren, the State Archives, the Royal Library of Belgium and the National Geographic Institute. The cooperation agreement, which is open to further Belgian institutions, aims firstly at developing a digitalised map library accessible online. This will entail the development of common catalogues and inventories, the creation of a specific web site and the actual digitalisation of their cartographic collections.

### Events

#### Espaces médiévaux - Encyclopédisme et image du monde au Moyen Âge - Séminaire 2008

Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

14 May 2008

- L'usage de la carte marine au XIV<sup>e</sup> siècle : l'astrologue Paolo Dagomari dall'Abaco by Patrick Gautier Dalché, Paris, CNRS

- Les principes de la géographie selon les Frères de la Pureté (Ikhwan al Safa', X<sup>e</sup> siècle) by Godefroid de Callatay (Université catholique de Louvain)

- Une géographie des manuscrits alchimiques by Sébastien Moureau (Université catholique de Louvain)

From 10.00 to 12.30, room b140 (Salle de Musique), Collège Erasme. In French.

Université catholique de Louvain, Faculté de Philosophie et Lettres, Place Blaise Pascal 1, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve

Contacts: Godefroid de Callatay, e-mail: godefroid.decallatay@uclouvain.be or Baudouin Van den Abeele, e-mail: baudouin.vandenabeele@uclouvain.be.

URI: <http://cyclopes.fitr.ucl.ac.be>

#### International Conference 'Richard Hakluyt (c. 1552 - 1616): life, times, legacy'

London, UK

15 - 17 May 2008

This interdisciplinary conference will address the significance of the work of Richard Hakluyt, the prolific collector and editor of first-hand discovery and adventure narratives, and author of 'The Principal Navigations' (1589), expanded as 'The Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques and Discoveries of the English Nation', three volumes (1598-1600).

At the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London. Additional information from Research Administrator (research@nmm.ac.uk). URI: <http://www.nmm.ac.uk/>

#### Oxford Seminars in Cartography

##### *From A-uo to Zyryan: mapping the world's languages.*

22 May 2008

By Giles Darke (Cartographic Consultant)

From 17.00 to 18.30 at the University of Oxford Centre for the Environment, South Parks Road, Oxford.

Additional information from Nick Millea, Map Librarian, Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford, UK; Tel: 01865 287119, Fax: 01865 277139. Email: [nick.millea@ouls.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nick.millea@ouls.ox.ac.uk)  
<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/guides/maps/herefrme.htm#tosca>

Note: the events are listed in chronological order (in case of a series of events, according to the first event in the series).



## Warburg Lectures, London

### 'Castles in the Air? Sixteenth-Century Fortification Plans in The National Archives'

**29 May 2008**

By Rose Mitchell (The National Archives, London)  
At University of London, Warburg Institute, Woburn Square,  
London WC1H 0AB, at 17.00. Enquiries to +44 (0) 20 8346  
5112 (Catherine Delano Smith) or Tony Campbell (email:  
t.campbell@ockendon.clara.co.uk) or visit [http://](http://www.maphistory.info/warburgprog.html)

## The Antiquarian Book Fair

**5 - 7 June 2008**

**London, UK**

The ABA Antiquarian Book Fair at Olympia is one of the most prestigious and exciting events of its kind and is one of the major highlights of the London season. Over 150 of the world's leading dealers are brought together under one roof to sell a huge variety of material ranging in price from just a few pounds to hundreds of thousands.

Olympia, Hammersmith Road, London, UK  
Thurs: 16.00 to 21.00, Fri: 11.00 to 19.00, Sat 11.00 to 18.00.  
<http://www.olympiabookfair.com/>

## International Map Collector's June Weekend

**6-7 June 2008**

**London, UK**

***The Gough Map: Britain's oldest road map or a statement of empire.***

Malcolm Young Lecture by Nick Millea, Map Librarian at the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

This will be followed by the annual dinner and presentation of the IMCoS-Helen Wallis Award.

At the East India Club, 16 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LH. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 7 June at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW1 2AR at 10.00. Registration forms were included with the Spring issue of the IMCoS Journal.

<http://www.imcos.org/>

## 26th London International Antique Map Fair

**7-8 June 2008**

The London Map Fair provides a forum for collectors, curators & dealers from all over the world to buy and sell antique atlases, maps, sea charts, town plans, globes, topographical views, panoramas & prints.

Saturday 7 June, 12.00 - 19.00

Sunday 8 June, 10.00 - 17.00

Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, (next to Royal Albert Hall and Victoria and Albert Museum), London, UK  
<http://www.londonmapfairs.com/fair.htm>

## International Conference on the History of Fieldwork, Cartography and Scientific Exploration,

**13 - 15 August 2008**

**Copenhagen, Denmark**

Organized by the Danish Network for the History and Sociology of Scientific Fieldwork and Expeditions, and the Danish Research School in

Philosophy, History of Ideas and History of Science. This conference aims to bring together leading historians from a number of disciplines to explore different ways of knowing the field as they have been conducted within a range of technological and scientific practices.

At Carlsberg Academy, Gamle Carlsberg Vej 15, Valby, Denmark

<http://carlsbergfondet.dk/>

<http://www.fieldstudies.dk/107581>

## Symposium on the History of Cartography: Shifting boundaries - cartography in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Portsmouth University, United Kingdom, 10 - 12 September 2008.**

Organized by The International Cartographic Association Commission on the History of Cartography. The meeting will be open to all cartographers, geographers, historians, map collectors, academics and lay persons interested in the history of cartography in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Commission welcomes paper and poster submissions investigating the impact of new technologies, colonial cartography, military cartography, and marine cartography

Languages: English and French. There will be no translation facilities for French papers at the Symposium.

The Symposium will take place in the Richmond Building, University of Portsmouth, St James's Street, Portsmouth, UK  
[http://icahistcarto.org/index.php?](http://icahistcarto.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26&Itemid=36)

[option=com\\_content&task=view&id=26&Itemid=36](http://icahistcarto.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26&Itemid=36)

## Interdisciplinary Conference: Mapping Eastern Europe

**25-27 September 2008**

**Berne, Switzerland**

The second conference of the Forum Ostmittel- und Südosteuropa (FOSE) is aimed especially at new scholars and at experts on Eastern European history, but also at scholars from all disciplines that deal with Eastern Europe and its cartographic representation through the ages.

Papers will be presented in German, English or French.

Additional information from Forum Ostmittel- und Südosteuropa (FOSE), c/o Schweizerische Osteuropabibliothek, Hallerstrasse 6, CH-3000 Bern 9.

[http://www.oewiss.ch/fose/index.php?](http://www.oewiss.ch/fose/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26&Itemid=27)

[option=com\\_content&task=view&id=26&Itemid=27](http://www.oewiss.ch/fose/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26&Itemid=27)

## 7<sup>th</sup> Paris Map Fair,

**Saturday, 8 November 2008**

Maps, atlases, globes, travel books from all parts of the world. More details in the next Newsletter.

The BIMCC will again have a Stand

At Hotel Ambassador, 16 Boulevard Haussman, Paris 11.00-18.00

Friday evening: cocktail reception and dinner (reservation required)

For information contact: [info@loeb-larocque.com](mailto:info@loeb-larocque.com),

Tel/Fax +33 (0)1 44 24 85 80



## Exhibitions

### Mapping the Imagination

Until 1 June 2008

London, UK

Historic and contemporary works showing imaginative use of the codified language of maps, or exploring ideas about mapping

In the Victoria and Albert Museum, Julie and Robert Breckman Prints and Drawings Gallery, Room 90 and Paintings, Room 88a. Cromwell Road. +44 (0)20 7942 2000

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/>

### Maps: Finding Our Place in the World

Baltimore, USA

16 March 2008 – 8 June 2008

This exhibition displays some of the rarest and most historically valuable maps from many periods, in many media, from across the globe. Included will be maps of historic importance and may include the Plan of Nippur from approximately 1500 b.c., a papyrus itinerary map from a.d.100, the Ptolemy world map in a Greek manuscript from the 13<sup>th</sup> century a.d., the 1492 Behaim globe (the oldest terrestrial globe in existence), and Mercator's original projection from 1569. Also included will be modern maps that changed the world, such as those made during Lewis and Clark's expedition and the chart used by Lindbergh on his historic transcontinental flight, as well as maps created using contemporary techniques. Also included will be maps from non-European cultures-including Native Americans and those of Africa, China, Australia, and the Marshall Islands-and recreations of maps that cannot be transported.

Walters Art Museum, 600 North Charles Street, Baltimore, USA. URI: <http://www.thewalters.org/>

### Three generations Adan — Surveyors of West-Brabant in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Until 15 June 2008

Bergen op Zoom and Roosendaal, The Netherlands

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries three following generations of the Adan surveyor family were active in the western part of the province of Noord-Brabant, the Netherlands. The cartographic production of these surveyors gives a good indication of the development of Dutch cartography at the time. 'Three generations Adan' is a double exhibition of the cartographic material of the Adan family on the occasion of the publishing of a book on the subject by Martijn Storms.

At the Markiezenhof in Bergen op Zoom and Museum Tongerlohuys in Roosendaal.

<http://www.markiezenhof.nl/> <http://www.tongerlohuys.nl/>



### The XVII Provinces in old maps: the story of a turbulent separation.

28 June- 14 September 2008

Sint-Niklaas, Belgium

The separation of the Northern and Southern Netherlands in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century was not easy: it took many years of war against the occupying Spanish empire. The story of this Eighty Years' War is illustrated in this exhibition through more than 40 unique maps of the era.

With the cooperation of the BIMCC (see article on page 28).

At the Mercatormuseum, Zamanstraat 49, Sint-Niklaas,

Belgium. Tel. +32 (0)3 760 37 50 Fax +32 (0)3 760 37 60.

e-mail: [stedelijke.musea@sint-niklaas.be](mailto:stedelijke.musea@sint-niklaas.be) [www.sint-niklaas.be](http://www.sint-niklaas.be)

### The Atlas Maior of Blaeu

16 June - 23 november 2008

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Seven different Atlas Maior's from the collection are on display, as well as several individual Blaeu maps. Work of other map makers of the Blaeu era such as Janssonius and Frederick de Wit is also represented. The exhibition further shows printed travel diaries to India and the journal of the unfortunate discoverer Willem Barentz.

Special collection of the University of Amsterdam, Oude Turfmarkt 129, 1023 GC Amsterdam, Tel. 020-5257300. Free entrance.

[http://bc.uba.uva.nl/bc\\_tentoonstellingen/info.cfm](http://bc.uba.uva.nl/bc_tentoonstellingen/info.cfm)

Note: the exhibitions are listed in chronological order, according to closing dates.



**'On the Map' American Maps from 1500 to 1800 from the Seymour I. Schwartz Collection  
Charlottesville, USA**

**28 January 2008 - January 2009**

The exhibition brings together a selection of rare, significant maps that chronicle the Age of Exploration, European empire-building, the French and Indian War, and the American Revolution.

At the main gallery at the Mary and David Harrison Institute for American History, Literature, and Culture, and the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia.

URI: <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/harrison/>

URI: <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/small>

**Exploring the Early Americas:**

**The Jay I. Kislak Collection**

**Washington, USA**

**Ongoing Exhibition**

Exploring the Early Americas features selections from the more than 3 000 rare maps, documents, paintings, prints, and artifacts that make up the Jay I. Kislak Collection at the Library of Congress.

This ongoing exhibition has three major themes: Pre-Contact America; Explorations and Encounters; and Aftermath of the Encounter. Like the Jay I. Kislak Collection itself, the exhibition provides glimpses into the complex and fascinating past of the Americas. It provides insight into indigenous cultures, the drama of the encounters between Native American and European explorers and settlers, and the pivotal changes caused by the meeting of the American and European worlds. The last theme explores the profound growth of knowledge, particularly in natural history and geography, resulting from the encounters. This section includes two extraordinary maps by Martin Waldseemüller created in 1507 and 1516, which depict a world enlarged by the presence of the Western Hemisphere.

Throughout the exhibition, interactive presentations enable visitors to learn directly from the artifacts, books, documents, paintings, and maps.

Northwest Gallery, Second Floor, Thomas Jefferson Building.

Monday - Saturday, 10.00 h to 17.00 h.

URI: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/earlyamericas>

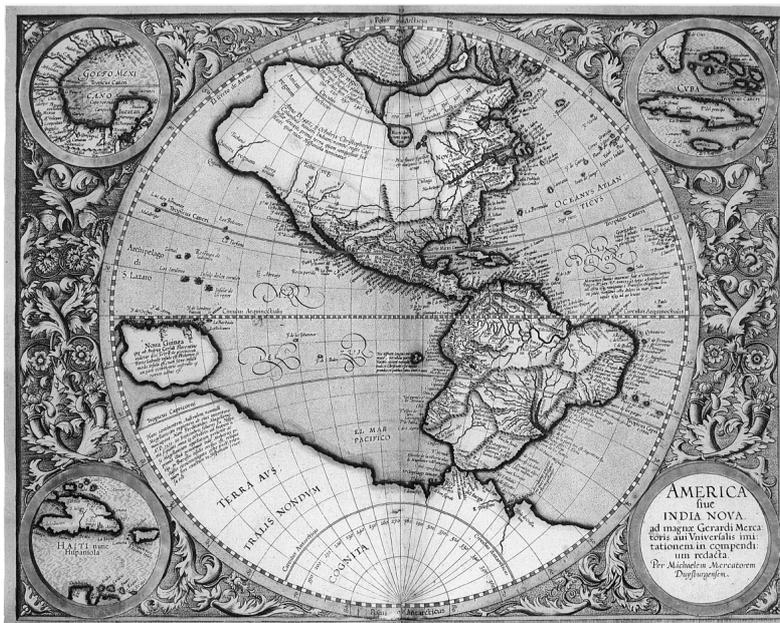
**Mapping the Past: A Selection of Antique Cartography from the Newton Collection**

**Savannah, USA**

**Ongoing Exhibition**

Highlights include 1597 maps from the earliest atlas of the Americas, 1776 military maps, and other 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century maps, many of them hand coloured. Cartographers include Wytfliet, Hondius, Monath, Lotter, d'Anville, Faden, Lodge, Cary, and Wyld.

1st Floor Map Galleries. Newton Center for British-American



Studies, 227 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (2 doors north of the Savannah Visitors Center). Open to the public free of charge Mon.-Fri. 10:00-17:00; Sun. 13:00-17:00. For further information or to arrange group tours, Maureen Burke ([smburke@sysconn.com](mailto:smburke@sysconn.com)). <http://www.scad.edu/museum/>

**The globes of Louis XIV, the King Sun**

**Paris**

**Ongoing Exhibition**

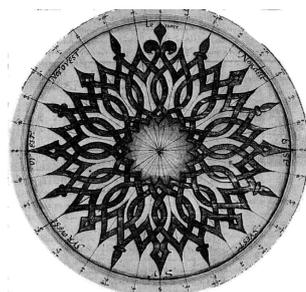
Two magnificent globes, celestial and terrestrial, made for the King of France by Venetian cosmographer Vincenzo Coronelli, at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, are part of a permanent cartographic exhibition at the Bibiothèque nationale de France (BnF).

East hall of the François Mitterand BnF site, Paris

Metro: François Mitterand. Free access

Tuesday-Saturday: 10.00 - 19.00, Sunday: 13.00 - 19.00

Information: [www.bnf.fr](http://www.bnf.fr)



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75172 Pforzheim, Germany  
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Fax +49 7231 / 9232-16

E-mail: [p.kiefer@kiefer.de](mailto:p.kiefer@kiefer.de)  
URI: <http://www.kiefer.de/index.asp>



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Unter Anger 15, D-80331 München  
tel. +49 89 26 38 55  
fax +49 89 26 90 88  
www.zisska.de  
auctions@zisska.de  
**5 - 10 May 2008**

### Paulus Swaen Internet Auctions (BIMCC Sponsor)

tel. +33 (0)6 14 74 11 65  
or tel./fax +33 (0)1 44 24 85 80  
www.swaen.com  
paulus@swaen.com  
**12 - 22 May, 13 - 23 September,  
15 - 25 November 2008**

### Peter Kiefer Buch- und Kunstauktionen (BIMCC Sponsor)

Steubenstrasse 36  
D-75172 Pforzheim  
tel. +49 7231 92 320  
fax +49 7231 92 32 16  
www.kiefer.de, info@kiefer.de  
**16 - 17 May 2008**

### Antoine Jacobs - Librairie des Eléphants

(BIMCC Member)  
Place van Meenen 19  
B-1060 Brussels  
tel. +32 (0)2 539 06 01  
fax +32 (0)2 534 44 47  
**17 May 2008**

### Ketterer Kunst

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tel. +49 40 374 96 10  
fax +49 40/374 96 166  
www.kettererkunst.de  
infohamburg@kettererkunst.de  
**19 - 20 May 2008**

### Bubb Kuyper

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fax +31 23 532 38 93  
www.bubbkuyper.com  
info@bubbkuyper.com  
**20 - 23 May, 25 - 28 Nov. 2008**

### Michel Grommen

Rue du Pont 33, B-4000 Liège  
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fax +32 (0)4 222 24 49  
www.librairiegrommen.be  
librairiegrommen@skynet.be  
**23 - 24 May 2008**

### Hondius Book and Print Auctions

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fax +31 575 43 39 73  
www.hondiusauctions.com  
info@hondiusauctions.com  
**27 - 28 May 2008**

### Michel Lhomme

(BIMCC Member)  
Rue des Carmes 9, B-4000 Liège  
tel. +32 (0)4 223 24 63  
fax +32 (0)4 222 24 19  
www.michel-lhomme.com  
librairie@michel-lhomme.com  
**31 May 2008**

### Van Stockum's Veilingen

Prinsegracht 15  
NL-2512 EW 's-Gravenhage  
tel. +31 70 364 98 40/41  
fax +31 70 364 33 40  
www.vanstockums-veilingen.nl  
vanstockumsveilingen@planet.nl  
**4 - 6 June, 5 - 7 November 2008**



### Librairie Alain Ferraton (BIMCC Sponsor)

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B-1060 Brussels  
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Fax +32 (0)2 537 46 05  
www.ferraton.be  
alain.ferraton@skynet.be  
**13 - 14 June 2008**

### The Romantic Agony

(BIMCC Sponsor)  
Acqueductstraat 38-40  
B-1060 Brussels  
tel. +32 (0)2 544 10 55  
fax +32 (0)2 544 10 57  
www.romanticagony.com  
auction@romanticagony.com  
**13 - 14 June,  
21 - 22 November 2008**

### Henri Godts

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tel. +32 (0)2 647 85 48  
fax +32 (0)2 640 73 32  
www.godts.com  
books@godts.com  
**17 June, 7 October,  
9 December 2008**

### A & E Morel de Westgaver

Rue Henri Marichal 24,  
B-1050 Brussels.  
tel. + 32-(0)2-640.22.53,  
morel\_de\_westgaver@brutele.be  
**6 September, 4 October 2008**

### Venator & Hanstein (BIMCC Sponsor)

Cäcilienstrasse 48, D-50667 Köln  
tel. +49 221 257 54 19  
fax +49 221 257 55 26  
www.venator-hanstein.de  
info@venator-hanstein.de  
**26 - 27 September 2008**

### Galerie Gerda Bassenge

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fax +49 30 891 80 25  
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art@bassenge.com  
**15 - 18 October 2008**

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www.reiss-sohn.de  
reiss@reiss-sohn.de  
**Week 20 - 25 October 2008**

### Loeb-Larocque (BIMCC Sponsor)

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**7 November 2008 (Salle Drouot)**

### Marc van de Wiele

(BIMCC Member)  
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B-8000 Brugge  
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www.marcvandewiele.com  
**Please enquire**



## Do not miss the next Newsletters!

In the coming BIMCC Newsletters, you will find, in particular:

- 'Book review of *Die manuskriptatlaten Christian Sgroote*'
- 'Book review of Günter Schilder's *Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica, Vol. VIII - Jodocus Hondius and Petrus Kaerius* (Canaletto, 2007).
- Article: *A map puzzle with Europe revised*, by Wulf Bodenstein
- Article: *Baarle-Nassau-Hertog, A cartographic puzzle*, by Eric Leenders, Caroline De Candt
- Article: *Antwerp a forgotten Marquizate*, by Eric Leenders
- Article: *The Vlassenbroeck mystery - A Mercator tracer on maps of Flanders*, by Eric Leenders
- Article: *Jacques de Surhon, Cartographer of the 16<sup>th</sup> century - The man and his topographic work* by Jean-Louis Renteux, Eric Leenders



This Newsletter was edited by Jean-Louis Renteux with the support of the editorial committee comprising Wulf Bodenstein, Lisette Danckaert, Peter Galezowski, Pierre Parmentier and Jacqueline Renteux.



Margriet Hoogvliet

## Pictura et Scriptura

Textes, images et  
herméneutique  
des *mappae mundi*  
(XIII<sup>e</sup> – XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle)

391 p., 21 b/w ills., 12 colour ills., 210 x 270 mm,  
2007, HB, ISBN 978-2-503-52065-0,  
€ 80 (prix hors taxe et frais de port)  
Collection: *Terrarum orbis*, vol. 7

Cet ouvrage a pour but de montrer la survivance des idées médiévales dans la cartographie du XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle, sous plusieurs aspects originaux. L'étude procède non seulement à partir du genre médiéval des *mappae mundi*, mais encore des textes de géographie descriptive.

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## BIMCC

### BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL MAP COLLECTORS' CIRCLE

<http://www.bimcc.org>

#### **Aims and functions of the BIMCC**

The BIMCC is a non-profit association under Belgian law (asbl/vzw 0464 423 627) aiming to:

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 organizes the following annual events:

- A 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.
- An EXCURSION to a Map Collection, between September and November.
- A STUDY SESSION or an INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on a specific major topic every year in December.

#### **Honorary President**

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e-mail: wulfbo@scarlet.be

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e-mail: alex.smit@ppchemicals.com

#### **Becoming (and staying) a BIMCC Member**

Members receive three Newsletters per annum and have free admission to most of the BIMCC events — non-Members pay full rates.

Annual membership: EUR 30.00,  
Students and Juniors  
under 25: EUR 12.00

To become (and stay!) a Member, please pay the membership dues EXCLUSIVELY by bank transfer (no check please) to the BIMCC bank account: 068-2475422-09 Dexia – B-1332 Genval.  
IBAN: BE52 0682 4754 2209  
BIC: GKCCBEBB  
and notify the Members Secretary indicating your name and address.

#### **BIMCC Newsletter**

The BIMCC currently publishes three Newsletters per year. Please submit calendar items and other contributions to the editor (e-mail: editor@bimcc.org) by the following deadlines:

- 15 Dec. for the January edition.
  - 15 April for the May edition.
  - 15 August for the Sept. edition.
- Signed articles and reviews solely reflect the opinions of the author.

**For advertising in the BIMCC Newsletter  
(and on our Web site [www.bimcc.org](http://www.bimcc.org)),  
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