

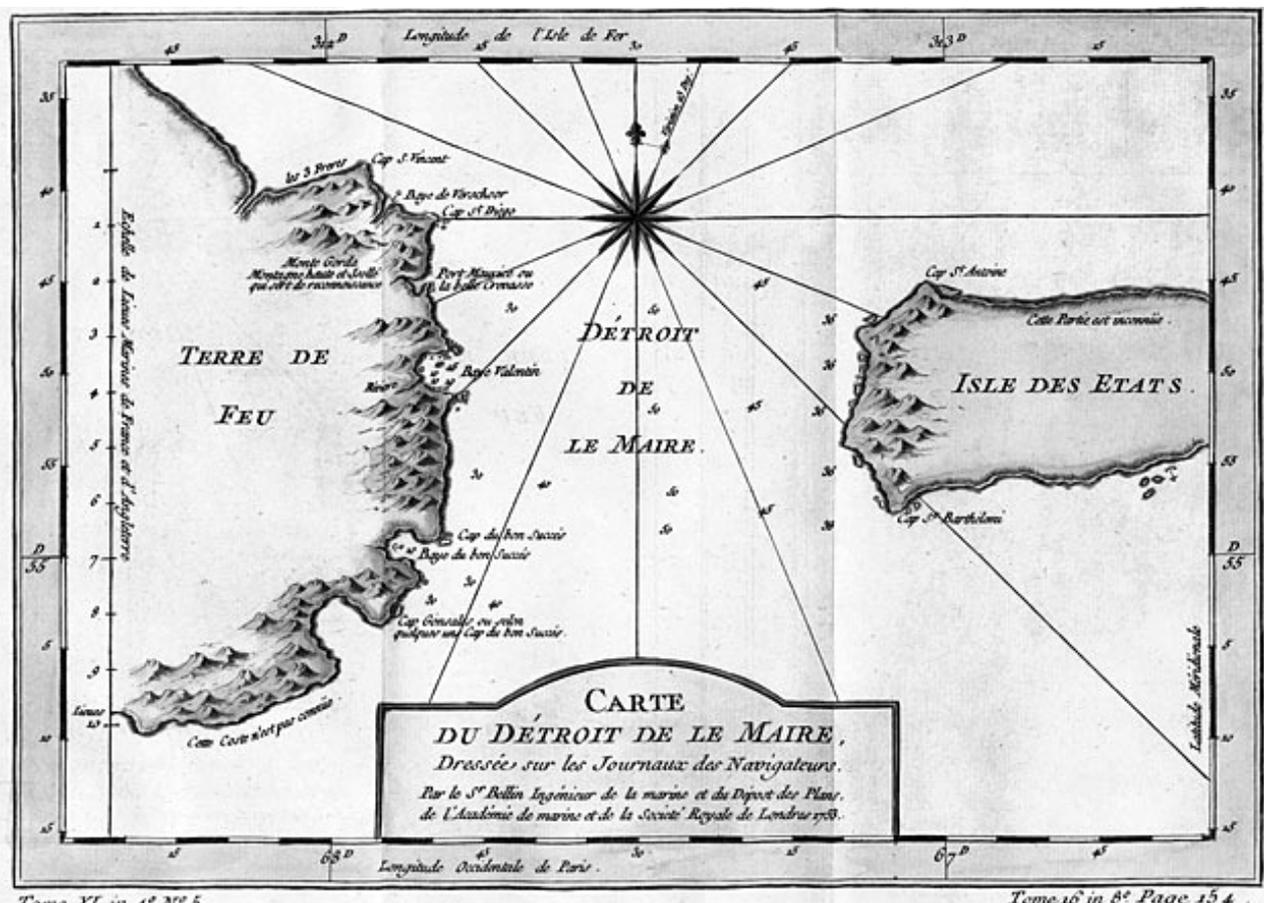


BIMCC
Newsletter No 36
January 2010

Thirteenth year

Web site: www.bimcc.org

**The passage between the
 Atlantic and Pacific Oceans**



Also in this issue:

- Collectable/affordable maps: cadastral Popp maps
- Reports on recent cartographic events
- ... and the usual departments



EDITORIAL

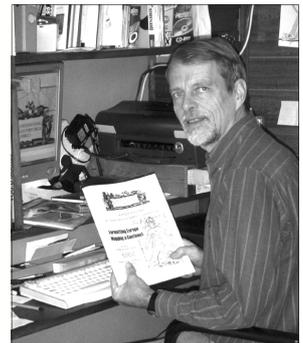
Dear Map Friends,

At the start of this New Year, the BIMCC takes you to the other side of the world. Marcel Van Brussel, who made us discover the history of the Beagle channel in the last Newsletter, now explores further the complex network of passages at the tip of South America.

This is what I like about maps: they make you discover the world! But sometimes, virtual travel is not enough and I like to see what the world actually looks like for myself, and my main project for 2010 is to circumnavigate the globe for a few months. Unfortunately, this will somewhat disturb the schedule of BIMCC Newsletters. This January Newsletter is already a bit late, but the next one will be very late: it will not be published in May, but only after my return, at the end of June...

In the meantime I wish you a very happy cartographic year and hope to meet you at the next Map evening in March.

Jean-Louis Renteux
Editor
editor@bimcc.org



PS: Please make life easier for our **new** treasurer, pay your 2010 membership dues NOW (amount and account unchanged)!

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Cover: Jacques-Nicolas Bellin 1753, *Détroit de Le Maire* (see article page 15)



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The BIMCC is now entering its thirteenth year. We are nearing the age of adolescence. The past was good, what will the future bring us?

During the past year we organised the traditional Map Evening and a well-attended visit of the map collection at the Sinfala Museum in Knokke-Heist, which focuses on the cartography of the Belgian coast.

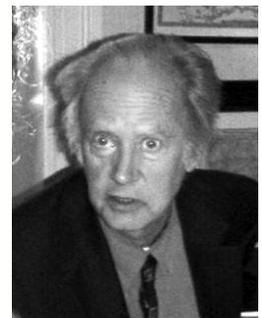
We held our conferences for nine consecutive years at the Collège Saint-Michel, one year at the Surveyors' House and, in 2007, at the Royal Library of Belgium in conjunction with a map exhibition on Europe organised in the context of Europalia. The proceedings of that conference were published last year with the help of our editor in a special issue of *Belgeo* - the Belgian Journal of Geography (2008.3-4).

In 2009 the BIMCC returned to the Royal Library thus strengthening our cartographic cooperation with them. The subject was 'exploratory cartography'. We explored the South Pole and South America and walked from the heavenly bodies to an imaginary Africa.

Last year was unfortunately hit by the financial crisis which inevitably affected all of us, map dealers and map collectors, editors and societies alike.

Cartographic journals are the allies, not only of historians and collectors, but also of the antiquarian world. For we speak about maps which they sell. We should continue working together, in order to bring about a situation in which everybody is a winner. Our task is to write articles and to help collectors. We should also think about the young 'would be' collectors, most of whom cannot afford the magnificent maps that we describe in our journals. The young need to be acquainted with collecting maps and they need an introduction to cheaper maps. Therefore I am proposing to write this year a short series of articles entitled 'collectable-affordable'. Later on, if the interest of the younger generation is awakened, they can step over into the 16th and 17th century splendours of cartography.

Let us, together, fight the adverse effects of the 2008-09 crisis and work for an active and successful 2010.



Eric Leenders
President

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Western Travellers in China – discovering the Middle Kingdom

This exhibition took place in the context of the europalia.china cultural festival (until 10. 01. 2010) in the Bibliotheca Wittockiana, in Brussels.

This assemblage of master pieces from the private collection of Bernard Hanotiau comprised some classical travel accounts such as those of Gonzales de Mendoza (1588), Carvalho (1605), Martino Martini (Antwerp, 1654), Athanasius Kircher (1668), Ferdinand Verbiest (1685), and, of course, Marco Polo (1555). It was an occasion also to see the maps that came with these publications, as well as some subject-related atlases as for example Joan Blaeu's *Novus Atlas Sinensis* (1655) or d'Anville's *Nouvel Atlas de Chine* (1737). The curator of the exhibition, Annie De Coster, has had some of the maps reproduced in large poster size affording a readability which admirably surpasses that of the maps in the show cases. The fascination of the West with China is manifest here from the large variety of documents among which maps had their role to play. The catalogue* is absolutely splendid and a must for anybody seriously interested in China, a country that has fuelled the imagination of Europeans for more than a thousand years.



Wulf Bodenstein
wulfbo@scarlet.be

* *Western Travellers in China - Discovering the Middle Kingdom*, Brussels, Bibliotheca Wittockiana, 2009. 192 pp., 30 x 21 cm, 354 ill., many in colour, paper bound (no ISBN). EUR 30. To order: BW, 23 Rue du Bemelstraat, B-1150 Brussels, Tel +32(0)2 770 53 33, info@wittockiana.org, www.wittockiana.org

Versailles revisited

After many years, I returned to the Palace of Versailles to visit the exhibition 'Louis XIV, l'homme et le roi' (the man and the king) which gathered over three hundred works of art devoted to the grandeur of the Sun King: paintings, sculpture, furniture, tapestries, books, etc. Cartography was clearly not the main topic; one can regret, for example, that none of the magnificent manuscript atlases recording maps of the successive campaigns of Louis XIV were on display. However, there was a series of paintings and tapestries evoking such campaigns – the victorious ones, of course; some of these were of cartographic interest: two large paintings showing a perspective of the siege of Luxembourg (1684), a perspective of the siege of Namur (1694) as background to a portrait of the king, the passage of the Rhine (1679)... But the most impressive, and unusual, cartographic object of

the exhibition was a marble mosaic depicting 'la carte de France' in 1684 made at the Manufacture des Gobelins according to a drawing by C. Couplet (?).

While visiting the Appartements du Dauphin after the exhibition, I also chanced upon another cartographic curiosity among the fine period furniture on permanent display: a dual terrestrial globe dated 1786 and signed by Edme Mentelle. The outer globe shows a normal map with political boundaries, while the inner globe depicts the topographic relief. Mentelle (1730 – 1816) was a teacher of geography and is known for having published an atlas and made a globe for Napoleon; but I have found no details about his curious 1786 globe; maybe one of our readers could satisfy my curiosity?



Jean-Louis Renteux
editor@bimcc.org

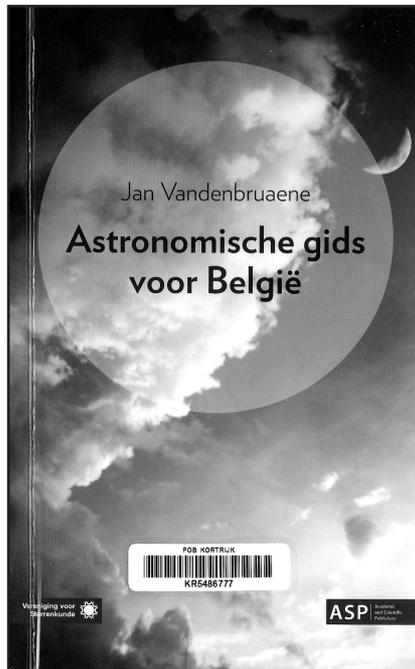


***Astronomische gids voor België* (Astronomic guide for Belgium) by Jan Vandenbrouaene**

Vereniging voor Sterrenkunde (VVS) and Academic Scientific Publishers (ASP), 2009
Pp. 382. 21 cm x 13 cm. Paper-bound. Many illustrations. ISBN 978-90-5487-544-4

This small pocket-sized astronomic guide is probably unique. The aim of the author, Jan Vandenbrouaene, administrator of the *Vereniging voor Sterrenkunde* (Association for Astronomy), is to present an *astrotouristic* guide of all interesting items in Belgium concerning astronomy in the widest sense. This way we learn a lot about the astronomic history of Belgium, we meet astronomers, geographers, scientists, and we find all kinds of monuments, sundials, unknown meridian lines, and many other items and unexpected features.

Look for instance in the index for Simon Stevin (Bruges), Frisius (Louvain), Frimout (Poperinge), Adolphe Quetelet (wherever you find a meridian line), Hondius (Wakken), Plancius (Dranouter and other places), etc. and you will find a very interesting and instructive commentary on these scientists. Look for astronomic clocks (Senzeilles, or Lier), sundials (many places), meridians (idem), etc. and you get the same. And so many other things you would like to know. But it is very amusing to find *Tintin* in different places: in the metro station of Stockel (Brussels) there is a mural painting of a solar eclipse painted according to the album *Le Temple du Soleil*; here you will learn how Hergé studied this natural phenomenon that took place in Peru and Brazil above the Temple of the Sun to prepare his drawing; and



furthermore who knows that there is an album *On a marché sur la lune* translated in the Gaume dialect of Virton, entitled *On è pitroléy su la lune*, printed on the occasion of the inauguration of an astronomic fountain in this most southern city of Belgium? Surprising was to find the name of one of the officers of the BIMCC (Jan De Graeve) who projected and realized a sundial, 6.5 m. large, in Brussels (Avenue Baudouin, 12). This is the largest sundial of the country.

And so we can go on and on. Really amazing and attractive.

The guide is organized by province and by commune.¹ The author gives for each item the geographic coordinates which enable you to find easily the exact location with your GPS.

For the amateur cartographer who wishes to learn more than the regular contents of scientific books about Belgian astronomical and geographical features, this guide is really recommended. We are now only waiting for a French version!



Pierre Mattelaer
pierre.mattelaer@skynet.be

¹ Editor's note: For example, I have learnt that, in 1934, a meteorite fell near my village, La Flamengrie, on the Franco-Belgian border; pieces of the 15 kg 'Hainaut aerolith' are kept in museums in Paris, Brussels, Liège and Vienna!

Elisabeth Hermans Old Maps and Prints

Grand Sablon 8 - 9
Grote Zavel 8 - 9
1000 Brussels

Tel. +32 11 31 17 19
Fax +32 11 31 66 96
Mobile 0475 61 38 53

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La carta de Gabriel de Vallseca de 1439 **by Ramon J. Pujades I Bataller**

Luminartis, Barcelona, 2009, 358 pp., 23 x 33 cm, hard cover, cloth bound with dust jacket, ISBN 978-84-612-3682-4.
Price: EUR129; with facsimile map EUR 958. www.luminartis.net

The first striking element when opening this glamorous book is its amazing structure: the first half of the book is in Catalan (187 pages), the second half is a full translation in both Spanish and English, each some 85 pages. The reason is that the first half holds a section of 30 pages of toponyms as well as all beautiful pictures whereas the Spanish and English texts only contain minimized notes with page references to the illustrations.

However, on closer scrutiny, one makes a worrying discovery: the book does not contain any maps or views of the 1439 *Vallseca Carta*, besides one general view of the *Carta* on double-pages 116-117, found by accident. Further, no close-ups of the map at all. Therefore, it is obvious that the book is only written for academics, professionals and librarians, not for the regular map enthusiast who wants to see, breathe and touch a map. There are, of course, books on maps without pictures, but they are more theoretical analyses of cartography in general, not books on one specific map.

The book has the following sections:

- Medieval maps: from monastery treasures to navigational tools;
- Portolan charts: the first realistic maps of the Western World;
- Immediate precedents: the other Majorcan cartographers of the first half of the 15th century;
- Gabriel de Vallseca: real life and works of a 15th century Majorcan cartographer of Jewish origin; and,
- Toponymy and legends of the 1439 chart.

The 1439 chart is currently the property of the Biblioteca de Catalunya but deposited at the Museu Maritim de Barcelona, however, only for a five year period expiring in 2010. In a short introduction, Francesc Fontbona, director of the Unitat Grafica de la Biblioteca de Catalunya, explains the Odyssey of this unique cartographic masterpiece which provisionally ended this year, after a tug of war.

The study is very comprehensive and opens with an overview of medieval mapping and portolan charts before the *Carta* of 1439. New navigational instruments spearheaded the emergence and spread of portolan charts. It is here that we find many pictures of old maps in the Catalan section. An

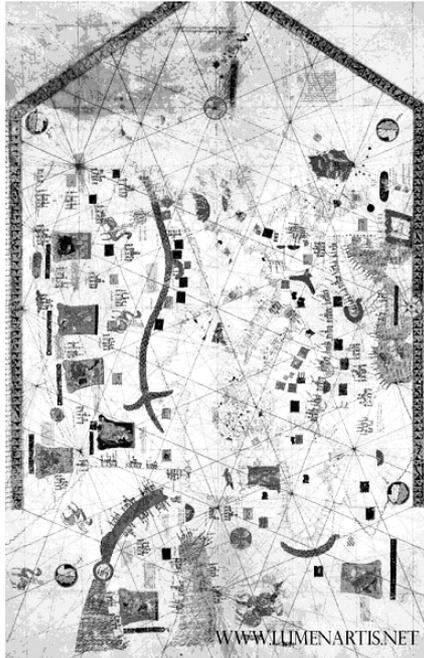
interesting perk, unfortunately in Catalan only, is an A2 size loose-leaf comparative overview of the predecessor maps with Vallseca's 1439 chart. As we Northerners tend to view the history from our perspective it is a lesson in modesty that pre-printing

mapping was dominated by the Mediterranean world, including Arab cartographers such as Al-Idrisi (ca. 1300) or Al-Istakhri. The author interestingly presents the evolution of Mediterranean mapping embedded in the general history of that part of the world. And so we learn about the emergence of the Catalan-Majorcan school where the story becomes more intimate.

So Gabriel de Vallseca is a 15th century Majorcan cartographer of Jewish origin. The author reckons that his atelier may have produced nearly 2.000 charts over 38 years, not like the one described, but utilitarian charts for navigational purposes.

The author compares this chart to two other charts by the same cartographer which have survived the times, the 1447 and the 1449 maps. While the 1439 map extends up to the limits of Scandinavia in the north, Ireland, the Azores and the Canary Islands in the west, the Cape Bodejar to the south and east as far as the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf and Turkmenistan. The other two charts cover only the Mediterranean.

A striking observation is that the 1439 chart is an embellished product: the mapmaker mustered three professional skills and knowledge, i.e., calligraphic, geographic and pictorial. The 1439 chart yields a lot of information on the inland territories which makes it a sort of intermediate product between a true nautical chart and a mappamundi. In line with maps by Majorcan Angelino Dulceti and Joan Soler, the 1439 chart shows rivers and mountain ranges (such as the Alps, Caucasus and Atlas). As portolan maps are by definition maps made to scale, all of them bear at least one graphic scale and wind roses. This map is no exception, having a network of rhumb lines as a background. Neither in form, nor in content are the legends of the 1439 chart original as they specifically refer to the Cresques atelier. Vallseca mentions, *inter alia*, Turkistan and the Three Magi (whence the three Orient Kings departed to worship baby Jesus), Prester John, sovereign of the Indies, the Queen of





Sheba (who went to see King Salomon) and the City of Mecca.

One of the more typical elements of Vallseca's charts are the flags and arms of the lordship to which a specific city belonged. In our regions only Bruges is indicated with a Sable Lion. A bit out of line with the rest of the book is a personal four-page opinion devoted to the Flag of Valencia which apparently is the subject of an intra-Spanish historical discussion. Due to the increasing number of Venetian ships calling on Majorcan harbours (a phenomenon which had begun in 1432), Vallseca added more toponyms coming from the Italian Battista Beccari.

On the anecdotic side, when Frederic Chopin wintered on Majorca in 1839 – 1840, he and George Sand visited the Count of Montenegro, the chart's owner. A servant of the owner put an inkwell on one end of the vellum as a counter weight but the dry parchment recoiled with such force that it tipped the

inkwell over, its entire content spilling onto the precious document. The remnant of the stain can still be seen in the southwest corner of the map.

In conclusion, this is an excellent academic study, but unfortunately, not of direct interest for the non professional map enthusiast, unless one is willing to pay the full price. The book can be bought separately at 129 €, but can be ordered with a high quality facsimile map (size 75 x 112 cm) delivered on special paper in a box at the 'modest' combined price of 958 €. This joint publication is a limited edition of 950 copies.

Stanislas De Peuter
stanislas.depeuter@gmail.com



LOOKS AT BOOKS III

Covens & Mortier – A Map Publishing House in Amsterdam, 1685 – 1866 by Marco van Egmond

Houten (The Netherlands) : HES & De Graaf Publishers, 2009, 600 pp., over 500 ill., mostly in full colour, plus tables and diagrams, and a CD-ROM with Appendices. Clothbound with full-colour dust jacket, 32 x 24 cm, ISBN 978 90 6194 220 7.
To order : HES & De Graaf Publishers BV, P.O. Box 540, 3990 GH Houten, The Netherlands, www.hesdegraaf.com,
info@hesdegraaf.com, Fax +31(0)30 638.00.99, EUR 185.50.

Members of our Circle may recall the very pleasant excursion we made in 2006 to Utrecht where Dr Marco van Egmond, newly appointed Curator of the University Library's map collections, hosted our visit.

This book is based on his Dutch language dissertation, *Covens & Mortier : productie, organisatie en ontwikkeling van een commercieel-kartografisch uitgevershuis in Amsterdam (1685 – 1866)*¹. This led to his obtaining the degree of Doctor in the History of Cartography at the University of Utrecht in 2005. The edition in English presented here has been expanded with updates from recent literature, additional illustrations, a selective carto-bibliography and a CD-ROM with 29 Appendices. It is Volume 8 in the series *Utrecht Studies in the History of Cartography*, prepared under the direction of the Research Programme URU-Explokart of Utrecht University.

When one reviews the range of available carto-bibliographies or monographs on mapmakers and their work, one realizes that, in contrast to cartography up till the end of the 17th century, the

period after 1700 has comparatively fewer publications to its credit. An exception appears to be Dutch cartography which, thanks to historians like de Vries, Donkersloot-de Vrij, van der Heijden, van der Krogt, Werner and others linked to the Explokart project, is relatively better represented than that of other European nations. And there is, fortunately, still Koeman's *Atlantes Neerlandici* to be consulted².

So where does this new publication fit in ? The Dutch title of the dissertation is more explicit regarding the objectives of this work than is apparent from the English version : the accent is on the production, organisation and evolution of the firm of Covens & Mortier, addressing such topics as the composition of its cartographic stock, the production and distribution of this material, and the role played by this publishing house on the national and international commercial scene. The result is a meticulously documented story of the largest Dutch company producing and trading cartographic materials in the 18th and a good part of the 19th century.

¹ This thesis obtained the Menno Hertzberger Incentive Prize 2009

² Cornelis Koeman, *Atlantes Neerlandici : Bibliography of Terrestrial, Maritime and Celestial Atlases and Pilot Books published in the Netherlands up to 1880*, Amsterdam, Theatrum Orbis Terrarum, 1967-1971

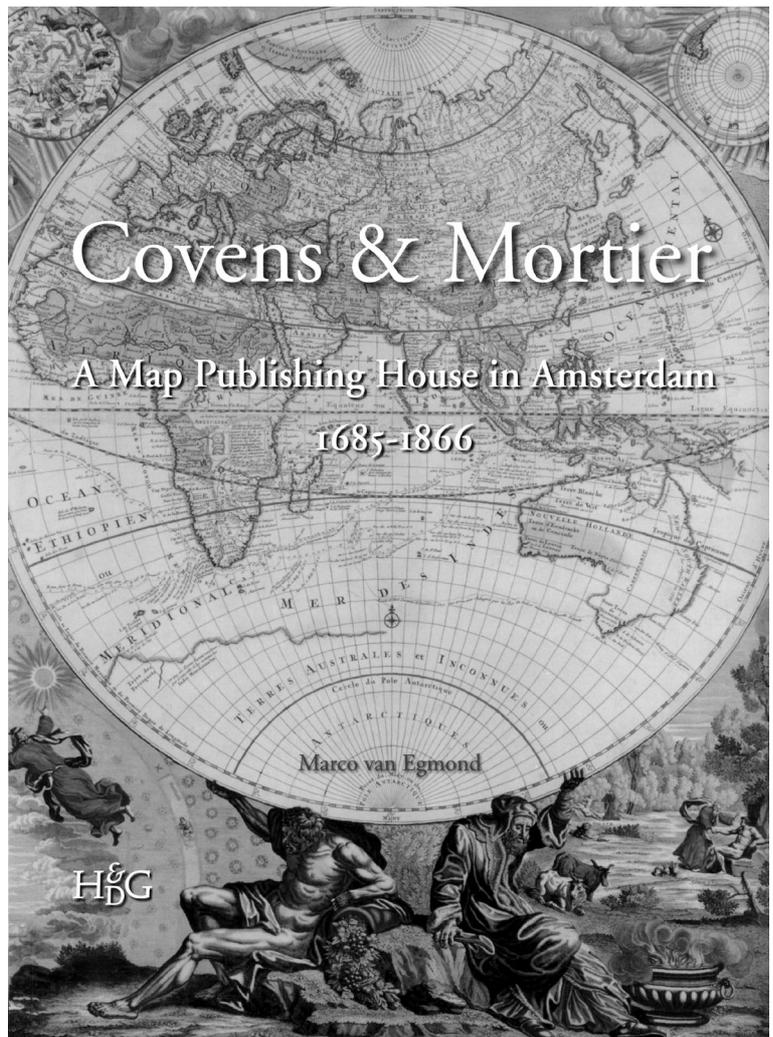


After some considerations in Chapter 1 of conceptual research models to be applied in this study, the author provides an overview of European map production prior to and during the period of Covens & Mortier's activities (Chapter 2), before presenting the various actors in the firm in the next Chapter. A fold-out genealogical table at Appendix A offers useful guidance in following the family history from the founder Pieter Mortier (1661-1711), his son Cornelis who went into partnership with his brother-in-law Johannes Covens in 1721, to the latter's son Cornelis (1764-1825), after whom the firm began to fade away. Very helpful in understanding the complex interplay between the different partners is the Chronology at the end of the book, with welcome links to contemporary map production elsewhere and a listing of historical events of that time.

With Chapter 4 we come to a key issue, a census of atlases, separately published maps, wall maps, globes, other cartographic materials and varia. Thirty-six different atlases grouped according to origin (original products, copies or re-issues) are described in detail, and their life-cycle can be followed in another fold-out table at Appendix B. Loose maps and town plans, wall maps, terrestrial and celestial globes, all have been surveyed and the related copper plates are identified from the beginning to the end of their productive life time. Among the varia we find a briefer mention of books, games and other articles produced by Covens & Mortier. Although not organized according to carto-bibliographical practice but rather as a running commentary on the evolution of products in each group, it is possible to extract rather precise data on all of them. The narrative style affords a readable and most valuable insight into the complex relationship of this material both with regard to source-to-market progression and publication sequence. Frequent reference to inventories of the firm's stock, in particular those previously established by Peter van der Krogt on the basis of advertisements and catalogues³ brings to life the items of those factual listings.

In the next three Chapters we are introduced to the basic production and marketing practices of the firm. Their leading figures possessed a pronounced flair for what the general public wanted at any given time, and they adjusted their cartographic output accordingly. There were basically four ways of preparing a new publication :

- a) reprint from old copper plates acquired from other (mostly Dutch) publishing houses
- b) copy existing maps (notably from Sanson, Jaillot, Delisle)



c) compile a map, a so-called derivative map, from several existing maps

d) produce an entirely new map from own sources.

The combination of these practices permitted a flexible tuning to market demand and ensured commercial success.

From an interesting excursion into map production techniques applied by the firm, including copper plate engraving and updating, printing, colouring and binding, we proceed to learn about sales techniques, pricing policy and Covens & Mortier's position within the national and international trade network. In the last chapter, Chapter 8, the author analyzes early and more recent assessments, often criticism, of the scientific and material quality of their cartographic output. Although this fell short, in some respects, of the performance of such contemporary map publishing houses as the Robert de Vaugondy firm in Paris or the Homann enterprise in Nürnberg, Covens & Mortier did profile themselves with a number of innovations, such as the production of atlases in elephant folio format, the introduction of *Theatres of*

³ Peter van der Krogt, *Advertenties voor kaarten, atlassen, globes e.d. in Amsterdam kranten 1621-1811*, Utrecht : HES Uitgevers, 1985 – Peter van der Krogt, *Stock Catalogues and Atlases by Covens & Mortier*, Utrecht : HES Publishers, 1992 (facsimile)



war, and the creation of a new system of globes. The chapter closes with a useful summary overview of the firm's development, in the form of a time line.

The next 232 pages are devoted to a cartobibliography of 168 maps, arranged in chronological order of publication, from 1693 to 1862. The author notes that, due to the huge number of maps produced by Covens & Mortier, it was impossible to examine them all, and that therefore the list is certainly incomplete. He refers the reader to internet databases such as IKAR and Picarta. It remains unclear how the selection was made as no logical pattern seems to have been followed, except perhaps the sequential mention of such maps in the text. There is a mix of maps in pocket atlases, continental and regional maps, wall maps, and town plans. All are beautifully illustrated – a real feast for the eye - and annotated in accordance with the Dutch adaptation of the international ISBD (CM) format. The maps selected are either original or derivative maps, but the author admits to having had difficulties in determining whether, and to what extent, a map is original. This is not surprising seeing the almost inextricable story of map making here, and if the author can't tell, I'm sure nobody else can.

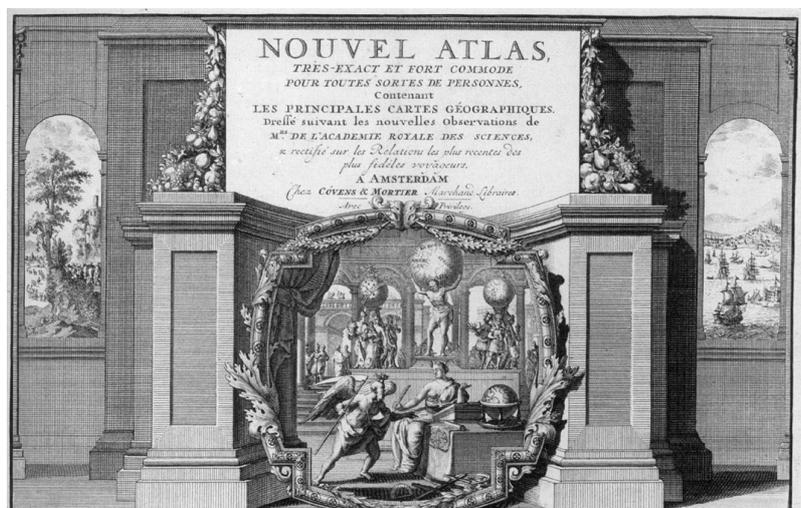
The CD-ROM that comes with the book contains 29 Appendices with estate inventories, catalogues of maps and copper plates, references to Covens & Mortier in contemporary publications, and miscellaneous documents. Only the titles (and one brief text in Appendix 1) are in English, but even those unfamiliar with Dutch will find a mine of cartographic data listed that are self-evident. Serious map collectors will value this facility.

As is almost customary now with Dutch cartographic publications for the international market, this edition is an English translation of the original text in Dutch⁴. Whilst on the whole this is quite acceptable, it is somewhat irritating to see, in a work of this importance, some curious approximations or even errors here and there. To quote just a few examples : on p. 50 it is mentioned that the monopolistic position of Amsterdam began to be 'prijggegeven' after 1650, that is it was progressively abandoned, but did not 'decease', as we read here. On p. 52 '... the Homann firm enjoyed a true florescence...', when, surely, the firm's 'bloeiperiode' was one of florescence. Elsewhere a certain lack of bibliographic terminology is apparent : on p. 104 a Dutch citation that mentions an 'Atlasje ...in gr. 4 to Formaat' describes this as being in 'size 4 Formaat'. On p. 108 the 'vierkantennet' that was superimposed by Pieter Mortier on his maps for referencing purposes and usually coincides with a graticule, that is a network of meridians and parallels, comes out as a curious

'quadratic network'⁵. A French text on p. 122 which states 'On a corrigée Cette Carte ...& ajoutez les Degrez...' is rendered as '... and several Degrees were added...', when in fact the addition of a graticule is meant. Besides, the translation into English of many of the German and French quotations is inaccurate and sometimes incomplete. But the most incomprehensible of all errors is to have transformed (pp. 19 and 33) the original 'universiteit van Leuven' into 'University of Liege'. To quote : 'Commercial cartography in the Low Countries owes its existence above all to the presence of the University of Liege. At that university, which dates back to 1425 ...', the presence of Gemma Frisius, Jacob van Deventer and Gerard Mercator is specifically mentioned, in ignorance of the fact that Liège University was founded only in 1817.

However, these *lacunae* in no way prejudice the overall excellent impression of an outstanding work which, in many respects, breaks new ground. Considering that the firm's archives were entirely lost, the reconstruction of the company profile over nearly 200 years is no mean feat. According to a rough estimate some 75 000 to 100 000 maps can be found in atlases published by Covens & Mortier, and about the same number of loose maps is in existence throughout the world. No wonder that Marco van Egmond has refrained from even attempting to cover such abundance in carto-bibliographical terms. As he says in his Foreword with his habitual modesty, he believes this book provides the foundation for further detailed studies of the immense corpus of the cartographic material by Covens & Mortier. I believe a solid house already stands on these foundations, thanks to this remarkable achievement.

Wulf Bodenstein
wulfbo@scarlet.be



Title page of the *Nouvel Atlas* by Van der Aa, published by C&M ca. 1735

⁴ I take it that the cartobibliography, especially prepared for this edition, was written directly in English by the author. It was reviewed by Francis Herbert – needless to say, I have now problem with this part of the book.

⁵ See Helen Wallis / Arthur Robinson, *Cartographical Innovations*, Map Collector Publications, 1982, 4.072 and 4.141.



La Géographie de Ptolémée en Occident (IV^e – XVI^e Siècle) (Ptolemy's Geography in the West (4th – 16th century))

by Patrick Gautier Dalché

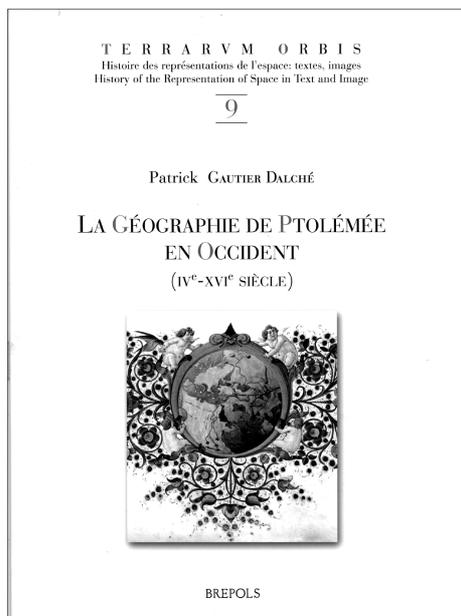
Turnhout (Belgium) : Brepols Publishers, 2009, 443 pp., 31 colour ill., hard cover, 27 x 21 cm. ISBN 978-2-503-53164-9.
To order : Brepols Publishers, Begijnhof 67, B-2300 Turnhout, Tel +32(0)14-44 80 31, Fax +32(0)14-42 89 19,
info@brepols.net, www.brepols.net, EUR 95.00.

The volume presented here is No. 9 in the Series *Terrarum orbis - History of the Representation of Space in Text and Image* that Brepols began publishing in 2001. The author, eminent French historian Patrick Gautier Dalché¹, is also the general editor of this impressive series of scholarly publications².

Claudius Ptolemy (active ca 127 – 180 A.D.) should need no introduction. Every single book on the history of cartography at least summarily describes and discusses the work which, among his other equally important writings, is the most relevant to the field of interest in our circles, the *Geography*. Its original title, Γεωγραφικὴ ὑφήγησις, is usually rendered as 'Guide to drawing a world map'. Many of us have come across, and some even pride themselves in holding in their collection, the one or other Ptolemaic map from a 15th or 16th century edition of this immensely important and influential manual of geography and cartography that has survived from antiquity.

Anticipating the expectations of a keen and curious readership when the subject of Ptolemy is addressed, the author in the Introduction expounds the postulate on which the study is built : 'Maps are cultural objects ; they cannot be understood unless one examines them in their cultural context which must admit historical evidence, especially written documents, to be associated with their interpretation. The negation of this approach is the fundamental failing of a certain history of cartography which, satisfied with its *a priori* and narrow convictions, leads to absurd results' (my translation).

Having thus set the scene, the author analyzes current trends of interpretation and appreciation of Ptolemy's *Geography*. He observes that the subject when treated in readily available literature is frequently rendered in a number of clichés that are persistently repeated, and even specialized works of



reference can be proved to be at fault. Among the commonplace views he quotes the following: the *Geography* had been 'lost', until 'rediscovered' in the late 14th century when it was brought from Constantinople to Italy. Its translation into Latin during the first decade of the 15th century has 'revolutionized' cartography. We are made to believe that before its 'rediscovery' the design of world maps was based on 'mythical', 'non-scientific' or 'theological' concepts, whereas thereafter a 'modern' era began, permitting spatial representation in the form of a network of meridians and parallels.

Not so ! says Gautier Dalché quite emphatically. In six chapters spanning a period of thirteen centuries he sweeps these stereotypes off the table, through a study of intellectual and cultural history based on a most scrupulous analysis of published or unpublished sources, and on the most extensive bibliography possible. He disapproves of the prevalent reference to 'Ptolemaic' projections, since Ptolemy never described any such projection model. And he firmly contests the idea that Ptolemy's work was a model of 'Greek science', as opposed to Roman 'empiricism' or medieval 'symbolism', indicating that no serious attempt has so far been made to verify these assertions by a comprehensive study of the reception of the *Geography* in the West.

Many of us, I would concede – and I certainly include myself – have embraced the widely accepted premises that accompanied our learning phase on cartography. But after reading this study it is clear that the *Geography* we knew – or think we knew – will never be the same again.

Let us briefly review the contents of this book. Following a general presentation, in the first Chapter, of the *Geography*, its substance, originality and its (modern) editions, the next two Chapters cast some light on the evidence of its acceptance and

¹ Prof Gautier Dalché is Director of Research at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (IRHT) and Director of Studies at the Sorbonne (Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes).

² See my reviews of Scott D. Westrem, *The Hereford Map*, Brepols 2001, in BIMCC Newsletter No. 13 (May, 2002), Nathalie Bouloux, *Culture et savoirs géographiques en Italie au XIV^e siècle* (Geographic culture and scholarship in Italy in the 14th century), Brepols 2002, in BIMCC Newsletter No. 20 (September 2004), and Piero Falchetta, *Fra Mauro's World Map*, Brepols 2006, in BIMCC Newsletter No. 31 (May, 2008).



absorption, sometimes transformation, by authors of late antiquity to the Byzantine era (4th to 13th centuries, Ch. II) and in the Latin world of the 7th to 14th centuries (Ch. III). Questions such as : who really read and used the *Geography* ? - did a system of geographical coordinates play a rôle and were maps in evidence at that time ? find their answer here.

Chapters IV to VI examine the circumstances of the arrival of the *Geography* in Florence, its translation into Latin, and its subsequent exposure to critique and confrontation across Europe from the end of the 14th up to the beginning of the 16th century. Here we come across some more familiar names like Fra Mauro, Nicolaus Germanus, Francesco Berlinghieri, Henricus Martellus, and, finally, Martin Waldseemüller. The latter offers us a telling personification of this confrontation by including on his famous map of the world of 1507 (the one that first showed the name 'America') the portraits of Ptolemy and Vespucci (see the illustration).

A list of sources, an impressive bibliography with 731 entries and the usual indices complete the work. The 31 colour plates at the end are of very good quality. Particular attention has been paid to the orthography of multilingual quotations and references, which is irreproachable and a welcome change to what one encounters elsewhere. On the other hand, one might regret the absence of a translation of quotations in Greek, Latin, Spanish, Italian and German interspersed throughout the text and the notes, not necessarily within the grasp of the average reader.

Let me mention on the side that those not familiar with French can get into the subject by reading Gautier Dalché's contribution to Vol. 3 of the *History of Cartography*.³ This covers the subjects treated in

Chapters IV to VI, albeit in much shorter form. The present text has been completely revised and augmented, practically doubling its volume. It seems a pity though that the Appendix to the English text, a listing of editions of the *Geography* from 1475 to 1650, has not been retained here.

This book was conceived as a review of the fate and fortune of Ptolemy's *Geography* in the context of its acceptance, or otherwise, in the western world. Inherently, and this comes as a bit of a surprise, it also is an audit of the intellectual integrity of its commentators, ancient and modern. Relatively few of those quoted by name in this latter group escape the author's sometimes quite outspoken reproof, ranging from sarcasm to the unveiling of deficient research, academic distortion, or sheer blunder. Unusual as this may be, it certainly has a sobering effect and I have no doubt at all that what Gautier Dalché advances here is firmly based on fact. The number of sources painstakingly identified, studied and analyzed is absolutely astounding and lends credibility to his claims – if at all his credibility were to be challenged.

We know from what we have learnt so far what this book is *not* : it is not a work of reference falling into the category of *History of Geography* or of *History of Cartography*. But I hope I have also shown what this book is : a fabulous, most rewarding excursion into a rather little known historical territory from which we return absolved of preconceived ideas, with a better, fairer appreciation of what Ptolemy's *Geography* is all about. If by design destined for the engaged historian, it is a revelation also for the engaged amateur of ancient maps.

Wulf Bodenstein
wulfbo@scarlet.be

³ David Woodward (ed.), *The History of Cartography*, Vol. 3, *Cartography in the European Renaissance*, Part 1, Chicago & London : Chicago University Press, 2007, pp. 285-364.



Portrait of Ptolemy on Waldseemüller's map of the world of 1507 (Plate XXI.2 of the book under review)



The Island of Mallorca on Maps from the 16th and 17th centuries, a comparative Study – now in Catalan and Spanish editions

by W.-F. Bär:

- *La imatge cartogràfica de l'illa de Mallorca (segles XVI i XVII) – un estudi comparatiu*
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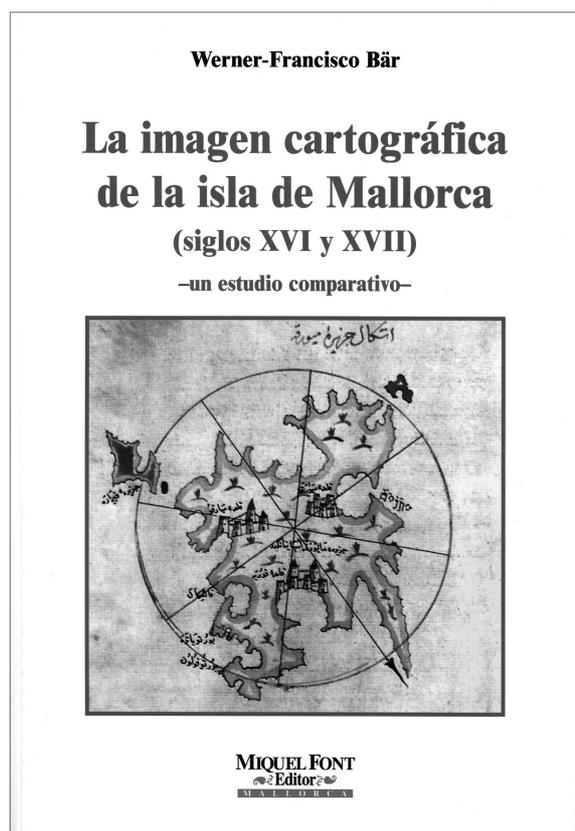
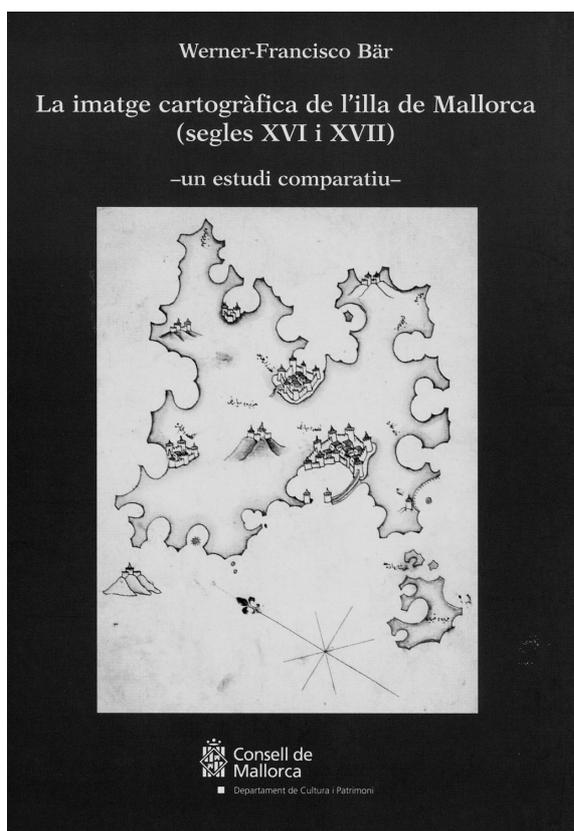
Palma: Aquil-les Editorial, S.L., 2008. 434 pp., 159 b/w and 8 colour plates, 24 x 17 cm, paper, ISBN: 978-84-96069-99-2 (in Catalan), 978-84-7967-155-6 (in Spanish)
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In May 2008, Newsletter No. 31 carried a review of Werner-Francisco Bär's initial, German version of this study of maps of the island where he was born. The purpose was to compare the salient features of a number of manuscript and printed maps of this period with each other and then to confront their cartographic design with topographic reality. To do this the author had devised an overlay in corresponding scale for each island map examined and applied a schema of quadrangles and diagonals from which, *inter alia*, relative accuracies could be derived. Impressed by what I considered a novel approach in cartographic analysis, I concluded the review by saying that it might well serve as a model for other parts of the world.

These new editions, practically identical between themselves, contain a few updates and corrections of the German text. A summary has also been added in both versions. Due to the larger size of the books the illustrations are easier to read, and the quality of the colour plates is much improved over the original German edition.

Bär himself translated his text from German into Castilian, that is standard Spanish, and the *Consell de Mallorca*, the island's Council, looked after its translation into Catalan. This latter edition was launched by the Council's President at an official ceremony in Palma in April last year, underlining the importance the local authorities attached to the event. The Catalan edition is N° 7 in the series *Miscel·lània* edited by the Consell de Mallorca, consisting of monographs on the island's history. The edition in Spanish was published as N° 12 in the series *Colección Alicorn*, dealing mainly with bibliographies of historical subjects. Both series are published by Aquil-les Editorial, S.L.; W.-F. Bär's books are the only works on cartography in these series. Perhaps one day we may see an English translation, which would allow Mallorca to join other islands in the Mediterranean, such as Malta or Cyprus, whose history of cartography is already well documented.

Wulf Bodenstein
 wulfbo@scarlet.be

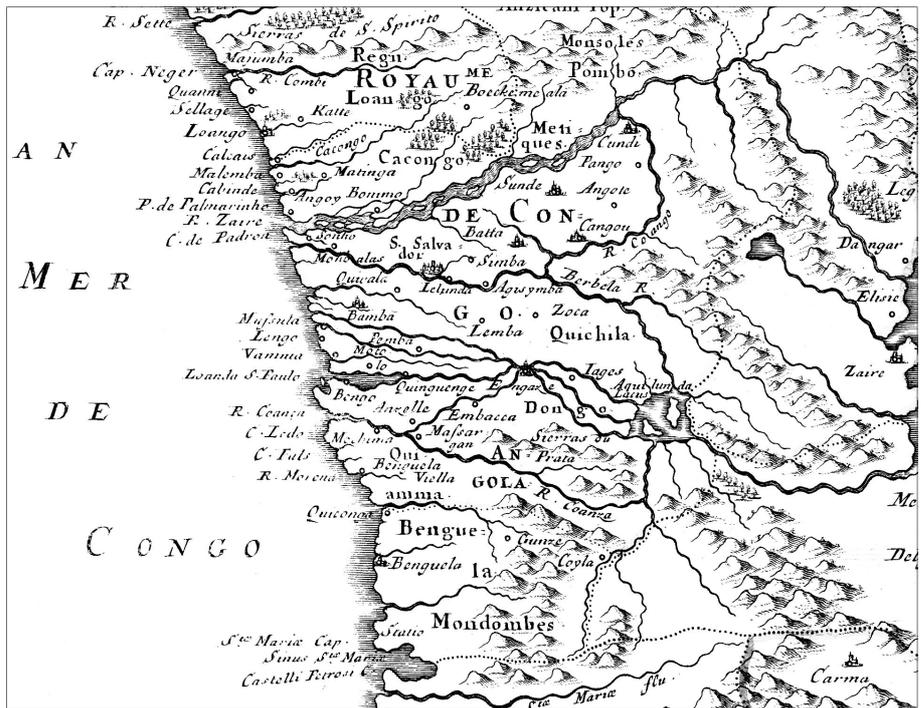




The Congo River revisited

The Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren, about 15 km from Brussels, has an impressive series of exhibitions on its agenda this year: its beautiful park will be the scene for a number of commemorative displays illustrating the history of the Museum the building of which was officially opened one hundred years ago this year. This will begin on 30 April with a visit by King Albert II and last till April 2011. The history of this unique institution has been written by Maarten Couttenier whose book will be presented on that occasion. On 11 June an exhibition will be opened to mark the 50th anniversary of the independence of the former Belgian Congo (30 June 1960), a major event not only for the Museum but also for both countries, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Belgium. This exhibition ends in January next year. A scientific expedition on the River Congo will be launched on 26 April, in cooperation with a number of Belgian and Congolese institutions.

But closest to our geographical interests should be the exhibition *Fleuve Congo* (Congo River) which opens on 27 April and continues to 13 February 2011.¹ Although devoted more to environmental issues in their current diversity than to maps, the subject holds sufficient fascination and offers continual surprise for anyone open to a new exploration. As the second longest river of Africa, the Congo has figured less prominently on early ancient maps than the Nile (4.500 and 6.700 km respectively). However, following the arrival of the Portuguese Diogo Cão at its estuary in 1482, it began to appear on maps as of about 1485 (Pedro Reinell's manuscript chart), initially as a rather insignificant stream starting a few kilometers inland. Progressively, on the basis of locally obtained information, Portuguese traders and missionaries became aware of an important river that was supposed to come down from some mysterious interior lake. Marked as the 'Rio poderoso' (the mighty River) at first, it became the 'Rio de Manicongo' on the anonymous Cantino planisphere of 1502, and was later designated 'Rio de Congo'. The denomination 'Zaire' appeared on Ortelius's map of Africa in his first edition of the *Theatrum orbis terrarum* in 1570, and this survived for a certain time, alongside the 'Congo'. Filippo Pigafet-



Basse Ethiopie - Royaume de Congo (detail), Nicolas Sanson, 1655.

ta's map of the Kingdom of Congo of 1591 which I presented at our last BIMCC Conference (see p. 26) has had a lasting influence on mapmakers well into the 17th century, and Nicolas Sanson's map of 1655 of this region still shows similarities (see the illustration).²

As will be remembered, Guillaume Delisle in 1700, and sometime later (1749) Jean Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville, emptied the interior of the continent of most of the non-verified or non-verifiable topographical detail, and although the former notions of hydrography of the interior persisted for a time, it was the first scientific explorations of the 19th century that were to fill up the map again. Stanley's epochal transcontinental crossing from 1874 to 1877 put the river Congo properly and firmly on the map.

Mathilde Leduc-Grimaldi of the History Section of the Museum, curator of the very rich Stanley Archives of the Museum, has selected a few ancient maps from the 16th to the 19th century to illustrate the progression of topographical knowledge of this part of Central Africa.

Wulf Bodenstein
Wulfbo@scarlet.be

¹ *Fleuve Congo*, 27.04.10 – 13.02.11. Royal Museum for Central Africa, 13 Leuvense Steenweg, B-3080 Tervuren, Terminus Tram 44, tel. +32(0)2 769 52 11, www.africamuseum.be, Tue-Fri 10.00- 17.00 h, Sat and Sun 10.00 –18.00 h.

² See also the well documented article *Zaire : contribution à l'histoire d'un nom* by Philippe Marechal in : *Revue Africa Tervuren*, XIX-1973-2, pp 33-51



HISTORY AND CARTOGRAPHY

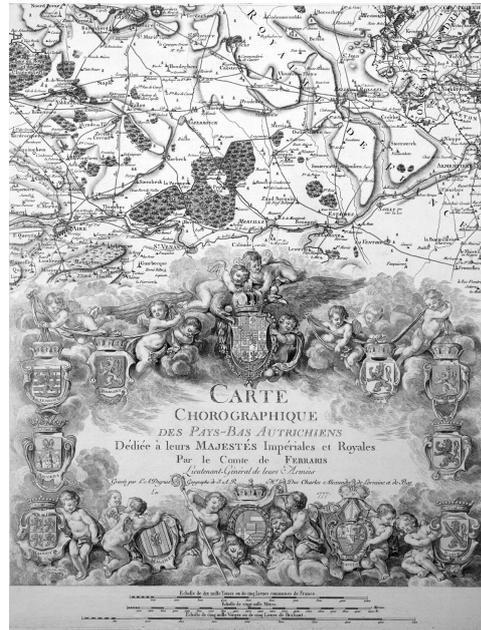
Following the publication in the last BIMCC Newsletter of Wouter Bracke's account of the exhibition at the Royal Library of Belgium about the First Atlas of Belgium by le Comte de Ferraris, we received the following post-script from Rodney Shirley*.

Cartouches of the Ferraris map

My comment is to draw attention to the three very fine decorative cartouches which are an integral part of the printed 25 sheet atlas set, sold as *Carte marchande* in 1777. These are placed in the vacant lower left part of the map, if assembled, and comprise, first, a title section *Carte Chorographique des Pays-Bas Autrichiens* surrounded by putti and regional armorial shields. This title section, at the top, merges into the mapped lands around Aire, St. Venant, Estaires and Armentieres named as part of the Kingdom of France. The engraver is cited as L. A. Dupuis.

The largest decorative section is a grand dedicatory composition, typically made up of four or eight sections and 560x890 cm in total size. In the centre a somewhat corpulent Comte de Ferraris presents a small-size version of his map to the Austrian Roman Emperor Joseph II, titular ruler of Belgium at that time. Five attendants — perhaps gentlemen surveyors or working colleagues of Ferraris — stand just behind him, and a single-crowned eagle holds up large curtained drape. In the background is a large tented encampment and, without over-crowding the design, some nine vignettes of groups of putti in the heavens engaged in military, cartographic, musical, geographical and celestial activities. The artists signing this very fine piece are Eisen (design) and Patas (engraving) — neither well-known names.

The third decorative cartouche is of single-section size and contains three scale bars. Again, the surround relies on playful groups of putti: some in the



heavens, some more prosaically exhibiting their cartographic skills on earth.

Ferraris' map of Belgium is a national tour-de-force, utilising the latest trigonometrical surveying techniques. The decorative cartouches are, in contrast, elegant classical representations harking back to the imagery of an earlier age. The various vignettes of putti demonstrating all their surveying and other skills deserve our admiring attention!

Rodney Shirley *
rodneyws@dsl.pipex.com



The title and the large dedicatory sheet(s) showing Ferraris himself making the presentation to the Emperor Joseph II.

* Rodney Shirley's latest book *Courtiers and Cannibals, Angels and Amazons: the Art of the Decorative Cartographic Title Page* was reviewed by Wulf Bodenstein in BIMCC Newsletter no.34 (May 2009).



The passage between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans — The Dutch and Flemish contributions to the discovery



By Marcel Van Brussel
marcel.van.brussel@telenet.be

The Low Countries have participated and are among the pioneers in the discovery and mapping of the far south of the American Continent. Many toponyms in the Strait of Magellan, Tierra del Fuego and the surrounding archipelago reflect this fact. Explorers, corsairs and privateers of four European maritime countries passed through this region: Spanish, English, Dutch and French. Unfortunately each of them explored, named and renamed locations on their maps.

Magellan, his Strait, the first circumnavigation.

The Portuguese, Ferdinand Magellan (1480-1521), set sail from Spain in 1519 with five ships (Victoria, Santiago, Trinidad, Concepción, San Antonio), circumnavigated South America through a passage that he baptized 'Canal of All Saints', but which later became: 'Strait(s) of Magellan'. He crossed the Pacific Ocean and reached the Philippines, where he was killed during a fight with the natives in Mactán, near Cebu.

It was not until 1522 that the only remaining ship, the Victoria, returned home with El Cano as captain. The initial crew of 270 comprised a mixture of nationalities; five were Flemish. Only 31 men survived the circumnavigation¹. Among the survivors, we will highlight three of them; each had a significant contribution in the voyage: Antonio Pigafetta, chronicler, Sebastian El Cano, captain, and Roldan de Argote, gunner.

Antonio Pigafetta: (also known as Antonio Lombardo 1491-1534), an Italian scholar, was accompanying the papal nuncio in Spain, when he heard of Magellan's planned expedition and elected to embark. During the expedition, he kept an accurate journal with 23 sketches of the complete voyage. This journal is the main source of what we know about the first circumnavigation: Magellan's diary was never found. Pigafetta offered his manuscript to Charles V and to Louise of Savoy in France. Parts were published in Paris between 1525-1536. A complete report was not published until the late 18th century. On one of his sketches we read for the first time *Regione Patagonia* (see fig. 1). According to Pigafetta, Magellan referred to the giant inhabitants, who left huge footprints (Patagón = big paw).

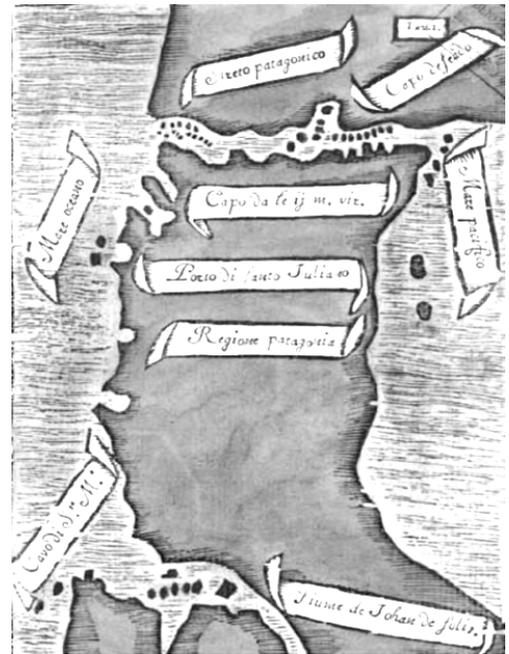


Fig. 1. Pigafetta 1523. *Regione Patagonia* South orientated sketch in 'Isolario style': without graticule and topographical details

¹ Of these 31 survivors only 18 were on the Victoria; 13 were captured by the Portuguese at the Cape Verdes Isles and followed some weeks later, four of them returned home only in 1525/1526!



The Magellan Strait is a V shaped natural waterway between the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans. It is approximately 570 km long and between 2 and 30 km wide.

The geographic scene and weather conditions of the west and east part are very different: in the western section there are steep coasts and deep valleys, with high rainfall; the Atlantic side is rather flat, and dryer.

Punta Arenas, the only town on the Chilean side, counts about 115 000 inhabitants; its economy is characterized by military presence, white gold (sheep), later the gold rush and, now, tourism.

In March 2006, the author of this article spent ten days in a tent camp at Whalesound, in the natural maritime park 'Francisco Coloane' in the middle of the Strait. Looking at billions of stars at night and hearing the blowing sounds of the humpback whales is an unforgettable experience.



Juan Sebastián de El Cano (1487-1526), a Basque captain who sailed with Magellan as navigator on the *Concepción*. Desertion, starvation and a massacre in the Pacific decimated the crew. Finally, it was El Cano who took command of the *Victoria*. He brought the ship back to Sevilla in 1522. Charles V awarded El Cano with a coat of arms with the words *Primus circumdedisti me* (you were the first to circumnavigate me) and an annual pension.

In 1525 El Cano set sail for a second voyage to the Spice Islands, as second in command under Loaisa. Two experienced sailors, survivors of the first circumnavigation, accompanied him; Roldan was one of them. Commander Loaisa died on 4 August in the Pacific, El Cano died one week later.

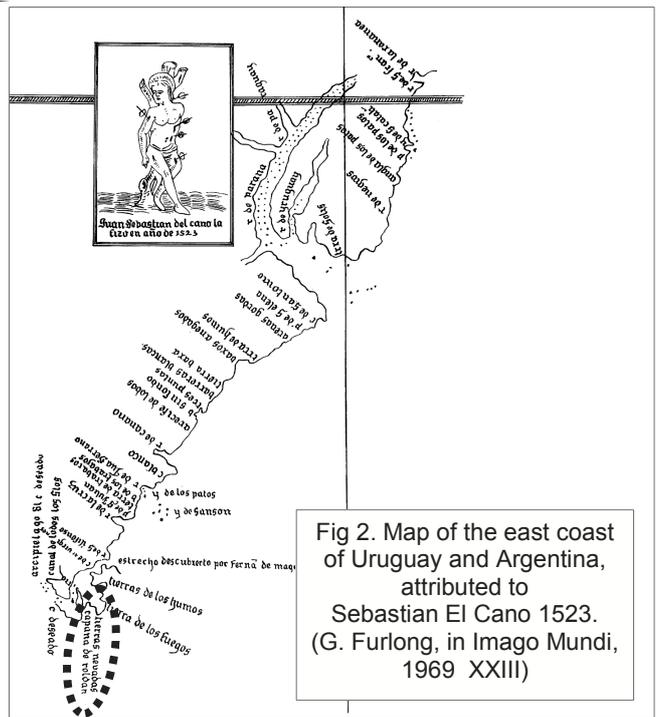
A map, representing the south east coast of South America, is attributed to El Cano; on this map appears for the first time the inscription 'Campana de Roldan' (see fig. 2). This map made in 1523 was used to complete Ribeiro's worldmap of 1527/1529.

Roldan de Argote, a gunner from Bruges, bombardier of the *Concepción*, was one of the survivors from the Magellan expedition. While exploring the Strait, Roldan climbed a hill, from where he observed the straight waterway to the open sea. This spot has since been called 'Campana de Roldan' or 'Roldan's Bell' since. Two Spanish historians mention the action of Roldan: Antonio Herrera (1559-1625) and Martin de Navarrete (See BIMCC Newsletter No 32, p. 22).

Spanish exploration and protection of the Magellan Strait against foreign traffic.

After Magellan and Loaisa, the Spanish kept secret the passage to the Pacific through the famous Magellan strait and continued to explore the area. The most important of them were: Ladrillero (1557-1558), who explored the whole archipelago (his maps were only printed in 1880) and Sarmiento de Gamboa, who attempted to colonise the area².

The sailing instructions and maps of Sarmiento de Gamboa and Ladrillero remained unsurpassed for over 250 years, until the survey of P.P. King and Fitz Roy (1826-1834).



Drake Passage

Later on, the Strait was mostly used by pirates, corsairs and privateers. The most famous privateer was Francis Drake, who made the third world circumnavigation (1577-1580). His aim was to attack the Spanish domains on the Pacific coast. While cruising the strait he was driven south east, where he saw open sea. His chaplain, Francis Fletcher, made a sketch of the southern tip of South America with open sea to the south. This sea was later called 'The Drake Passage'. However there is a controversy with Spanish, Argentinean and Chilean historians who claim that the so-called Drake Passage should be named 'Mar de Hoces' after Francisco de Hoces, commander of the *San Lesmes* who sailed with the Loaisa expedition and was blown far south already in 1526.

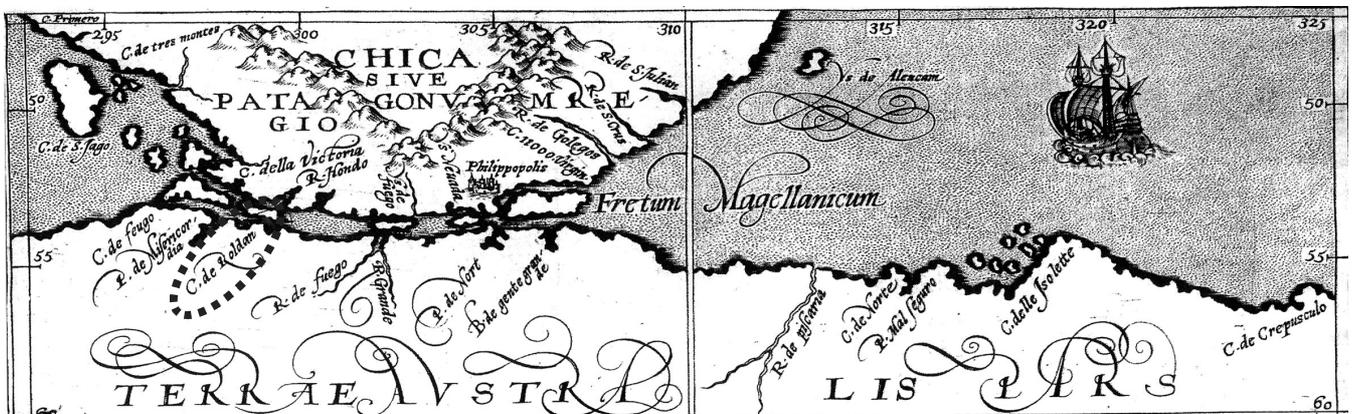


Fig 3. *Chica Sive Patagonica et Australis Terra* in Cornelius Wytfliet's first atlas devoted to the Americas published in 1597 (Detail showing *Campana de Roldan*)

² Attempts were made to colonize the strait between 1579 and 1584 but failed : two settlements *Nombre de Jesús* and *Rey don Felipe* suffered from food shortages. In 1587 Thomas Cavendish (1586-1588, second circumnavigation by an English corsair) found only the ruins of the settlements and renamed the first site 'Port Famine'.

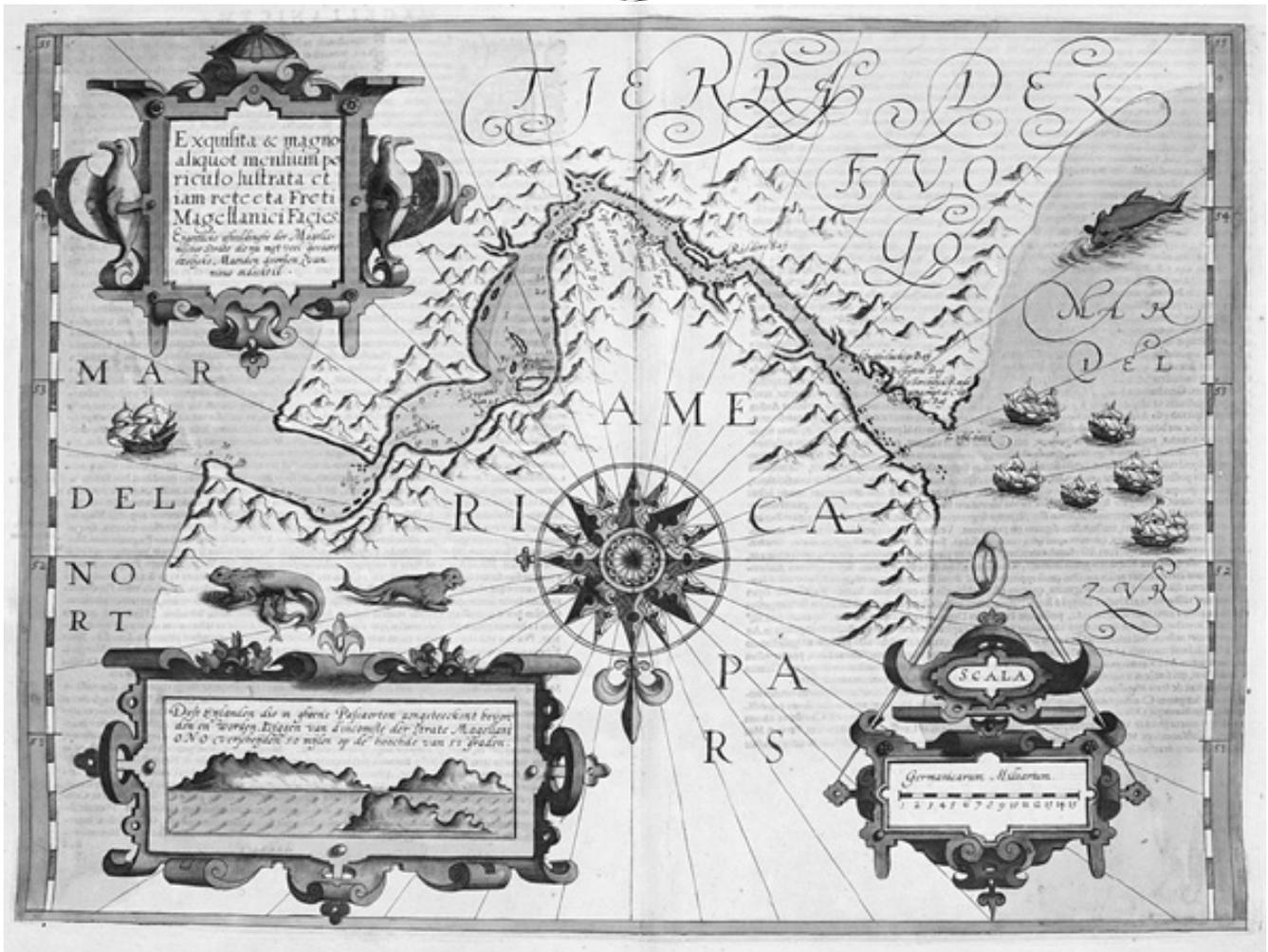


Fig. 4. Hondius 1606 *Tierra del Fuego* (south orientated) information by Outgersz, navigator of de Weert

The Low Countries enter the scene.

During the 16th century, the northern part of the Low Countries knew freedom of religion, while the southern part suffered under Spanish supremacy. Around 1585, with the fall of Antwerp, a lot of Flemish intellectuals, merchants, bankers, scientists, etc., left the south, for the more tolerant north and settled in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Zeeland:

- Petrus Plancius (1552-1622), astronomer, cartographer, and clergyman born as *Peter Plaetevoet* in Dranouter (Flanders), co-founder of the VOC (*Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie* or 'United East Indian Company) in 1602;
- Isaac Le Maire (Tournai, 1558-1624), merchant, left Antwerp for Amsterdam, shareholder of the VOC;
- Petrus Bertius, (1565-1629) Pieter De Bert, from Alveringem, theologian, historian and cartographer,
- Simon Stevin (1548-1620) mathematician,
- Johan van der Veken, merchant...

Some local shipping companies were united in 1602 by Van Oldenbarnevelt, in order to concentrate on their goals: the VOC was founded. The Company set a monopoly on the main sea routes to the spice islands: the route around the Cape (South Africa) and the route via the Strait of Magellan.

In the very beginning of the 17th century, no less than seven fleets left the Netherlands, towards the Pacific Ocean in search for new routes to the East Indies. We follow the most important ones.

1598: Jacques Mahu, Simon de Cordes and Sebald De Weert sail through the Strait of Magellan.

With five ships and 500 crew members they set sail from Rotterdam, in order to find a new trade route to the East Indies. This was a Flemish initiative organized by merchant Simon van der Veken. During the trip, Mahu dies and de Cordes (citizen of Antwerp) took over. The fleet passed the winter in the Cordesbaai, in the Strait (now *Fortescue Bay*), where 115 people died of starvation. During their passage, a knightship of brotherhood was created in the *Riddersbay* (location still on the maps, on Peninsula Ulloa). The fleet disintegrated and one ship *Het Geloof*, under Sebald De Weert (Flemish) turned back in the strait, and on its way home, discovered a group of islands, the *Sebaldinas*, later called the Falklands, or Malvinas.

His navigator, Outgersz, compiled sailing instructions and drew a very beautiful map of the Strait, edited by Hondius and Zacharius Heijns (see fig. 4).



1598 – 1601: Olivier Van Noort, the fourth circumnavigation.

During his passage in the Strait, Van Noort met his compatriots of Rotterdam in the *Oliversbaai*. He left some names in the Strait: *Eerste, tweede, derde Engde*, nowadays first and second narrows. His 'Cabo Holland' still exists. His map *Fretum Magallanicum* was engraved by Batista Doetecum in 1600 (see fig. 5).

Le Maire Strait - Cape Horn

Isaac Le Maire (1558 – 1624) a rich merchant born in Tournai lived in Amsterdam since 1585. He was a shareholder of the VOC, trading with West and East Indies. He came in conflict with the VOC in 1605 and became a rival thereafter.

In 1614 Isaac Le Maire founded the 'Australian Company', with the aim of finding an alternative route around America in order to break the VOC monopoly. Two ships *De Hoorn* and *Eendracht* set sail in 1615 under Jacob Le Maire (Isaac's son) and Willem Cornelisz Schouten.

They passed Cape Virgin, the entrance of the Strait, and saw a gap in the coastline. They sailed through the opening and emerged into the South Sea. Jacob named the new found passage 'Le Maire' Strait, to honour his father Isaac. They named the east side 'Mauritiusland' and the land on the west side 'Statenlandt'. Sailing further west, they passed a cape, the southernmost tip of the Archipelago, which they called 'Kaap Hoorn', Cape Horn (Hoorn, the birthplace of Schouten in Holland). They were the first to sail around South America, also proving that Tierra del Fuego was an island.

When they arrived in Batavia (Jakarta) the Dutch governor, Jan Pietersz Coen, refused to believe they sailed via a new navigable passage and accused them of violation of the VOC monopoly. He arrested the explorers, confiscated the *Eendracht* and shipped them back to the Netherlands with the fleet of Joris Van Spilbergen. Jacob Le Maire died during the voyage. His father, Isaac, needed years to obtain credit for his son's discovery.

The VOC rewrote the history by attributing the new discoveries to Willem Cornelisz Schouten. Le Maire tried to stop Willem Jansz Blaeu from revealing the passage on his maps; in 1618 however, the authorities lifted the ban.

The discovery of Le Maire Strait was a feature of extreme geographical importance: Navigators preferred the passage over the treacherous and time consuming Strait of Magellan (see the cover illustration). The passage shortened the voyage from weeks to days. Cartographers had to change their maps: the size and position of the vast 'Southern Continent', or 'Terra Incognita', also 'Terra Australis', had to be changed and situated more to the south, if it existed.

Joris Van Spilbergen (1568-1620), born in Antwerp, was the first to make contact with the King of Ceylon (1601) during his voyage to India, from where he brought the first load of cinnamon to Europe. He accomplished the 5th circumnavigation in 1614-1617, by order of the VOC, via the Magellan Strait. Le Maire and Schouten sailed with Van Spilbergen back to Holland.

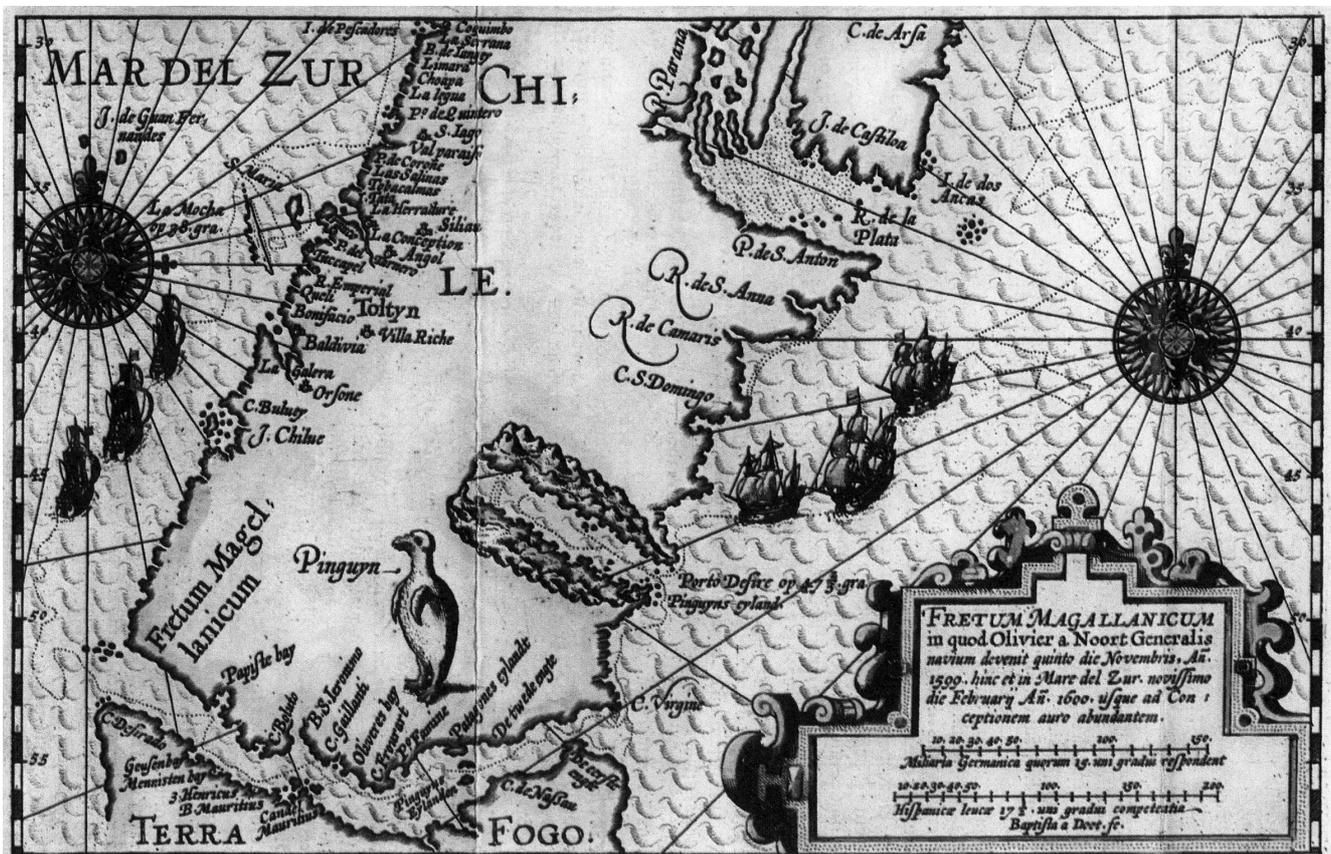


Fig 5. *Fretum Magallanicum* Olivier van Noort, engraved by Baptista Doetecum.



Fig 6. Sanson 1664/67. 'Destroit de Magellan, Terre et Isles Magellaniques.'
Notice the Maurice Land, Statenland and 'Destroit de Browsers'

Henrick Brouwer (1581 – 1643), Dutch explorer, admiral and governor, he was the promoter of the *Brouwer route*. This is the sea route between South Africa and Java following the strong westerly winds in the Roaring Forties (latitude 40°-50° south), the sailing direction could reduce the voyage duration by months.

In 1642 he sailed for the VOC to Chile, in order to establish a base for the gold trade in Valdivia. Passing Le Maire Strait, his fleet sailed around Statenland and proved hereby that this was an island and not part of the big southern continent; a 'Brouwers Passage' east of Statenland later appeared on several maps.

Henrick died at sea in 1643, and was buried in a new settlement, *Brouwershaven*.

Circumnavigation by Jacques L'Hermite (1582 – 1624) and Schapenham.

Jacques L'Hermite is a nickname for Jacques De Clerck, born in Antwerp, merchant, explorer. He made a circumnavigation as commander with the Nassau fleet (1623-1626) whose flagship was the *Amsterdam*. Their goal was to disturb Spanish silver ships from Peru, and to found a Dutch colony in Peru or Chile.

Early 1624, the fleet passed Cape Horn, through the Le Maire channel, explored and charted the *Hermite Islands*. This resulted in names such as *Bahia* and *Lake Windhond*, *Bahia Nassau*, *Bahia Schapenham*, *Terhalten*, *Evout*, *Isla Barnevelt*. (see manuscript charts by Gerard Van Keulen).

Beagle Channel

The last discovered passage was explored by R. Fitzroy and named the 'Beagle Channel' in 1830 (See Newsletter BIMCC No 35, p.14). □

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The purpose of this article, and of a few more to come under the same principal theme, is to get people acquainted with interesting cartographic material that can be collected at an affordable price. On average the subjects treated are valued around more or less 100 euro. While sometimes more, because in some occasions the value is higher as an item may be exceptional significant.

Cadastral Popp maps

We are familiar with the first Atlas of Belgium by Ferraris who produced detailed maps of present-day Belgium between 1771-1777. The Atlas contains 275 maps (90 x 140 cm) on a scale of 1:11500. Recently a magnificent facsimile edition of this work was published with the cooperation of the Royal Library Brussels.

Phillippe Vandermaelen produced, around 1850, 250 topographical maps of Belgium on a scale of 1:20 000. He also began to produce cadastral maps , but only a few of Brabant were edited; his purpose was to produce maps which were affordable for a large public.

Philippe Christian Popp realised his *Atlas Cadastral parcellaire* of Belgium in the same spirit. The maps offer important historical geographical information of the mid 19th century.

He published the cadastral plans of 1800 out of 2566 communities, generally on a scale of 1:5000 (1:2 500 or 1:1 250 for villages and cities). He did not remeasure them but worked with existing cadastral material. The maps are not dated for he produced local situations which would be prone to regular changes. The lithographic maps are essentially monochrome, with occasional frontier colouring and measure ca. 70 x 120 cm. The purpose was to locate precisely the surface of the real estate in order to facilitate the administrative registration and the tax assessment. They are being collected by administrative institutions, universities, industrial archaeologists, genealogists and other private

persons.

P.C. Popp was born in Utrecht in 1805 and died in Bruges in 1879. As his parents were from different countries, he chose the Belgian nationality in 1830 upon independence. He became a cadastral inspector and a newspaper editor. The purpose of making a parcel cadastral atlas was to create a correct system of tax assessment in accordance with the reality of the property. This idea grew after the French revolution which demanded equal rights. Therefore Napoleon ordered to make a register of properties with their owners; this became the parcel cadastre.

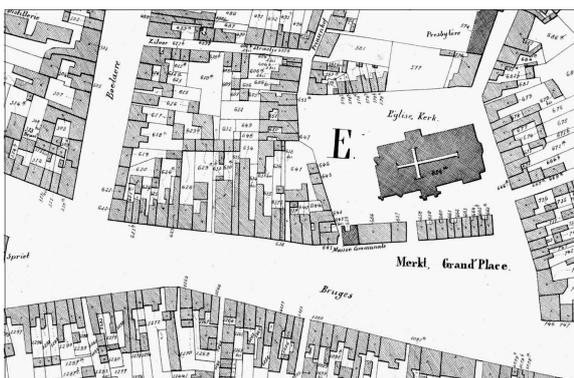
Areas are designed on two to five pages and mention rivers, roads and significant buildings e.g. mills. Each map is accompanied by a book, in-folio the cadastral ledger, containing the numbers of the parcels, the names of the owners, the surface of each parcel cultivated, developed or vacant, and the assessable income. It offers a lot of information on how our land was used, whether it be for building or agrarian use. He started the atlas edition, printed in Bruges, in 1842 and worked on it until he died. At which time the provinces of Brabant, Hainaut and East and West Flanders were measured. The province of Liège was finished by his widow C.C. Bousart.



Eric Leenders
ericleenders@scarlet.be

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Example of a Popp map:
the village of Eecloo
(scale 1:1 250),
with detail of the church
area (inset)



BIMCC Autumn Excursion to the Zwin area: Cartographic Evolution of the Coast

Twenty BIMCC members visited the cartographic collection of the Sincfala Museum in Knokke-Heist, under the guidance of the curator, Fons Theerens. He introduced us (in Dutch) to the history of this region, situated between Flanders and Holland (from west to east) and the North Sea and Bruges (from north to south).

Maps about the Zwin had two aims: first the struggle with the sea, which led to land reclamation (inpoldering): ships should be able to sail to Bruges, and secondly the war on the border lines with the Dutch. As a result we have maps showing land reclamation and military maps with fortifications.

The first map (called the Dampierre map) shows us Zeeland around 1300 with lots of little islands (so before land reclamation) The second map (copy of the original in Bruges) is a painting by Hervy, dates before the Mercator map and shows us that Sluys was the key to the Zwin, Bruges then being a small town. Here we notice that the church towers were important. F. Theerens showed us a map of Flanders (Ortelius atlas) with on the top left an inset based on the Dampierre map. A model of Sluys shows city life in the early 16th c., with on the side the city plan of Sluys from Guicciardini's *Descrittione di tutti I Paesi Bassi*. Next we were shown a copy of the Brugse Vrije from Pourbus (second half of the 16th c.). Due to the religious wars between the Spanish and the Dutch, Bruges didn't achieve its plan to become an international port. Here we already noticed that Cadzand wasn't an island anylonger thanks to land reclamation processes.

Next we saw a copy of the Ferraris map, which shows us land we gained on the sea, as well as the wars and problems on the borderline.

A complete surprise was the story about the Zwin as national park, bought by the great-grandfather of *burgemeester* Lippens, preserving it for all future generations and naming part of it 'het Zoute' (salt) for future urbanization.

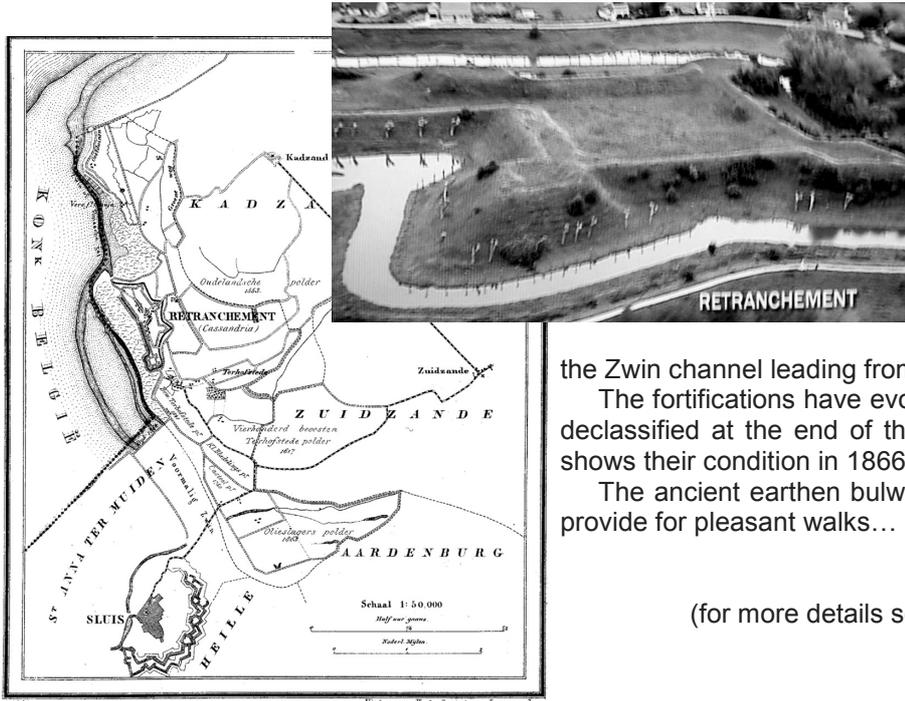
After a healthy lunch, we visited the remains of the fortifications at Retranchement, which taught us that it was never used as such. But the walk was exceptionally refreshing.

Finally Rob Harren, a member of our Executive Committee, invited us for coffee and a visit of his most interesting and worthwhile private collection in Knokke.



Lydia Cordon.
lydiacordon.paf@telenet.be

SINCFALA Museum, Pannenstraat 140, 8300 Knokke-Heist
(tel: +32(0)50-630872) e-mail: sincfala@knokke-heist.be;
www.sincfala.be



Retranchement

This Dutch village on the Belgian border owes its name (meaning entrenchment in French) to a fortified camp built in 1604, during the 80 years war, by Prince Maurice; the purpose was to reinforce the fortification system around Sluis to control the entrance of

the Zwin channel leading from the North Sea to Bruges.

The fortifications have evolved over the years until they were declassified at the end of the 19th century (the plan to the left shows their condition in 1866).

The ancient earthen bulwarks have survived to this day and provide for pleasant walks...

Jean-Louis Rentoux
(for more details see: <http://www.fortified-places.com>)



International BIMCC conference: *Exploring Heaven and Earth*

Saturday 5 December 2009



For the first time since the famed Europolia event of 2007, the BIMCC Annual Conference was hosted by the Royal Library of Belgium. By way of introduction and welcome, Wouter Bracke, Head of the Map Room at the Royal Library and professor of Latin and palaeography at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, brought us a message from the Director General of the Library. In this letter, Prof. Dr. Lefèvre referred to the latest projects the Library has been undertaking in the domain of cartography (e.g. the publication of the Ferraris map of the Austrian Netherlands and the georeferencing of ancient maps, in cooperation with the National Geographic Institute), thus confirming the interest of the institution in the subject matter.

Of course, the BIMCC is very pleased with these initiatives of the Library and our president, Eric Leenders, expressed our thanks and launched the morning session.

Tintin au Pôle Nord

Wouter Bracke, as first speaker of the day, spoke about a man who became a national hero in Belgium and lives in our collective memory as a kind of vague mixture of those other national heroes: Tintin, Mercator



and even Frank De Winne, the Belgian astronaut....

Indeed, Adrien de Gerlache de Gomery (1866-1934), gentleman-explorer, is especially famous because of the first hibernation on Antarctica (1897-1899). Less known are the three Arctic expeditions de Gerlache directed at the request of the Duke of Orléans in 1905, 1907 and 1909 respectively.

In 1941 de Gerlache's daughter Marie-Louise, employee of the Royal Library of Belgium, donated a small collection of about 100 maps from the personal archives of Adrien de Gerlache. Most of them were used by de

Gerlache during his voyages. More than 20 maps are related to the expeditions in the Northern Waters. Some of them show drawings, made by de Gerlache himself, of the various itineraries he followed. Though few references to maps were made in the accounts of the trips, it is clear that the Duke – present himself on the ship, albeit less drawn by a scientific urge to explore than by a desire to hunt – didn't think much of the mainly Russian maps of the area. Those who want to see some maps and pictures of these trips should visit:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/royal_library_belgium

Have a cup of mulled wine at hand!

Indiana Jones and the vanished archives

The next speaker, **Imre Demhardt**, from the University of Texas at Arlington, had chosen an equally extraordinary man for his lecture: Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859), who already in his lifetime was hailed as 'the greatest travelling scientist who ever lived' (Charles Darwin).

Professor Demhardt gave an account of Humboldt's extraordinary life, wide-ranging achievements and of course landmark maps. The Prussian nobleman's perception-changing voyage through Latin America in 1799-1804 and his decades of meticulous analysis of observations constituted nothing less than a benchmark standard for the 'second age of discovery' he inaugurated. His cartographic contributions to a new image of the Americas are not restricted to his own publications, like the *Atlas géographique et physique du Royaume de la Nouvelle-Espagne* (Paris: Schoell, 1811). As important was Humboldt's influence on innovative cartographers such as Heinrich Berghaus and his *Physikalischer Atlas* (2 vols.; Gotha: J. Perthes, 1837-51) which included cartographic interpretations of the great traveller's ground-breaking ideas on vegetation, geography, and meteorology.

This may all sound very serious, but those who were present were treated to a story involving electric



Star Wars

Rob H. van Gent, from Utrecht University, brought us the fascinating story of the discovery of the skies. In his lecture, *Celestial Cartography in the Low Countries*, he presented a summary of the carto-bibliography he is working on and a chronological overview of the large volume of cartographical material depicting the celestial sphere and the heavenly bodies published in the Low Countries between the early 16th century and the middle of the 19th century. This material, much of which is little known, includes celestial maps, celestial globes, lunar maps, eclipse maps, maps depicting comet paths and other celestial phenomena.

We learned that during the chosen period the celestial globes made in the Low Countries were the best available. It all started with Peter Apianus and Gemma Frisius (1533 *Cosmographia*). A major step was made in Denmark by Tycho Brahe who re-measured the stars and produced the first 'star catalogue'. Of course, being situated in such a northern part of the planet made it impossible to see the more southerly constellations. These remained a rather empty spot on the globes and maps until Plancius (1552-1622; famous VOC cartographer) started mapping them. From then on, this void was filled. And sometimes in a truly splendid, artistic way, like Cellarius did.



I should mention here that Rob van Gent wrote the introduction to the re-edition of Cellarius' *Harmonia Macrocosmica* (you can see some images of it on: <http://www.phys.uu.nl/~vgent/cellarius/cellarius.htm>).

eels, Napoleon, guano, Cuban cigars, penguins, Orinoco exploring, a fortune of 8 million euros spent and finally... a fire that destroyed nearly all 820 diaries of von Humboldt's voyages. Definitely must read that biography!

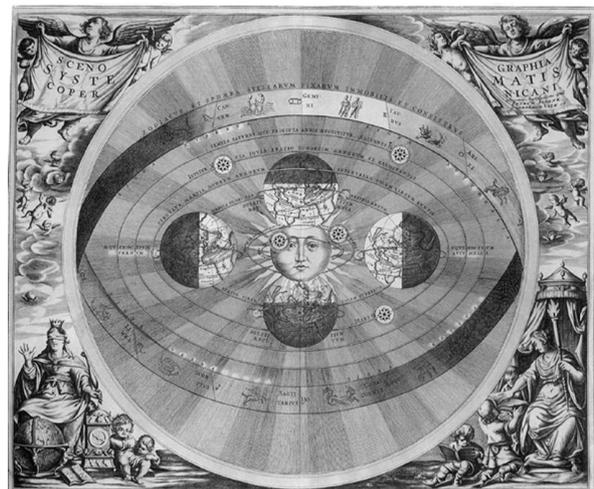
Gulliver's Travels???

Many travelogues – more or less authentic – were published in the second half of the 18th century, especially about Africa. In this regard, maps were often still antiquated, fanciful and criss-crossed with 'terra incognita'. Furthermore, translation, re-translation, reviews and re-editions promoted the misrepresentation of facts regarding Africa. In 1800 Zacharias Taurinius published his travelogue, *Beschreibung einiger See- und Landreisen*; he also published under two aliases, Christian Friedrich Damberger and Joseph Schrödter. These editions came under scrutiny because they were cases of blatant plagiarism.



The last speaker of the morning, **Andreas Christoph**, from Jena University, analyzed these travelogues, illustrated with maps and copperplates, published in German, French and English in the years after 1800. The tissue of lies behind the purportedly distinct travelogues by Taurinius, Damberger and Schrödter was revealed by analysis of critical reviews in domestic and foreign journals.

All that exploring had made us hungry and thirsty, so we eagerly set out to explore the surroundings of the Royal Library, where we found a safe harbour in the roof-top restaurant of the Museum of Musical Instruments. Food and wine were provided and conversation became rather animated. It goes to show that, once again, the BIMCC also wants to promote the convivial aspects of such gatherings, as well as the scientific.





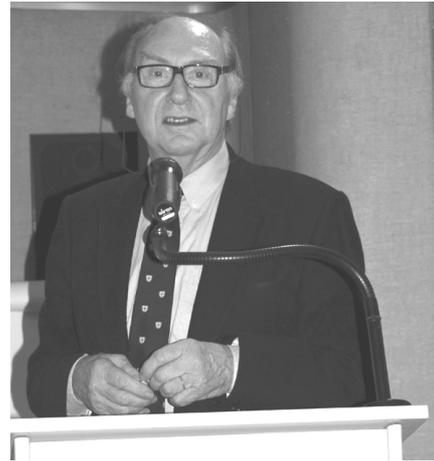
Heart of Darkness

Wulf Bodenstein, our honorary president, who on a voluntary basis looks after the collection of ancient maps in the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren, had of course chosen a subject related to the mapping of the Dark Continent.

In 1578 the Portuguese merchant Duarte Lopes arrived in what is now Angola where he stayed for six years, travelling and trading in certain parts of Angola and the Congo. In 1584, the Congolese King Alvaro I, who had become a Christian, sent him back to Europe with the task of obtaining missionary support from Philip II and Pope Sixtus V, both of whom, however, politely declined.

It was in Rome that Lopes met Filippo Pigafetta, a military officer, geographer and envoy of the Pope. The latter wrote down, in Italian, Lopes' description of his stay in Africa and, in 1591, had it published in Rome under the title *Relatione del Reame di Congo et delle circonvicine Contrade* (A Report on the Kingdom of Congo and the surrounding Countries). This represents a milestone in the history of the exploration of Africa and was translated into Dutch, English, German and Latin in the following seven years.

The two maps that are contained in this book, one of the Congo and another of Africa (minus its western part), have not received much attention so far. Wulf presented the first results of his ongoing research into the origin, design and contents of these maps and the influence they had on the later mapping of Africa. It is clear that both maps raise a lot of questions. For



instance: the great lakes had thus far always been represented in the Ptolemaic way (that is, side by side) but here they are shown correctly in a north-south position! We hope we will soon be able to read more about these issues in an article!

And so ended our exploration of our planet and the universe: in the Royal Library, with a glass of wine in our hand and a head full of dreams of distant shores, yet to be discovered and, most important of all: shown on the map!

Caroline De Candt
caroline.de.candt@skynet.be



South Africa on Pigafetta's map in the first Latin edition, 1598



BIMCC Programme for 2010

- **Saturday 20 March 2010, at 16.00: 12th Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

Venue: Aquaterra N.V., IJzerweglaan 48, 9050 Ghent

All current (paid-up) members are invited to participate. However, according to the Statutes adopted in 2005, only Active Members have a vote. A personal invitation to this AGM with the agenda will be sent out to Active Members by separate mail.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: the venue of our AGM has changed! However welcoming the House of the Belgian Union of Expert-Surveyors was, this year the AGM takes place in Ghent, in the offices of the company Aquaterra. The reason will become clear as you read the announcement below about our Map Evening that, as tradition requires, follows the AGM.

We hope our members will not be put off by this change of venue, as Aquaterra sits at the very exit of the E-40 highway from Brussels, is easily reached by car and provides ample free parking space at the front door; it is also readily accessible by bus (No 9, 27, 41 or 96) from St-Pieters railway station in Ghent.

- **Saturday 20 March 2010, at 17.30: Map Evening**

Venue: Aquaterra N.V., IJzerweglaan 48, 9050 Ghent

This year, we hope of course to welcome newcomers as well as members and non-members, hopefully armed with their latest cartographic trophies. These maps, charts and even books will be scrutinised and commented on as usual, all with the intention of adding information, helping identify, estimating or just simply admiring.

But there will be something special too: have you ever wondered how maps are made today? Moreover: have you ever witnessed the making of maps? The BIMCC thought that its members would be interested in the subject and asked Paul De Candt, Executive Manager of Aquaterra, to unravel this mystery and explain all about mapmaking in the 21st century. And since both Paul and his sister Caroline are members of the BIMCC, the occasion was perfect to let Aquaterra also host the AGM.

Participants may expect a lecture that will by no means be dull. Illustrations and images will help understand (even for those not acquainted with computer technology and 'virtual' jargon) how maps are made and the audience will, during a short visit of the premises, be able to see for itself how it all works in reality.

Maybe you already want to catch a glimpse of the world of mapmaking? Visit www.aquaterra.be !!!

Of course, as usual wine and snacks will be served and those will by no means be virtual!

Participants will be asked to pay EUR 10.00 at the door for expenses.

Please register before 28 February 2010 by sending the enclosed form to Vice-President Caroline De Candt, (Burggravenlaan 341, B-9000 Gent) or by e-mail to caroline.de.candt@skynet.be.

- **October 2010: BIMCC excursion**

Date and programme to be announced in the next Newsletter

- **Saturday 4 December 2010: BIMCC Conference**

Date to be confirmed and programme to be announced in the next Newsletter.

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



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.



150th anniversary of Alexander von Humboldt's death: Texas Map Society (TMS) meetings at Arlington Texas University 1- 4 October 2009

On 1 October 2009 a series of lectures was arranged for PhD students to present the advancement of their research concerning Alexander von Humboldt (1769–1859) and his influence, especially in South and North America.

Jeff Dillmann dealt with exploration of the Caribbean by naturalists, botanists and von Humboldt.

Cameron Strang described the extension to the West over Louisiana by scientific explorers. Although von Humboldt never went to Texas, his influence was visible for the future generation of explorers.

Andres Jimenez-Angel's paper was read out (he couldn't get an entry visa). He explored the transmission of knowledge from von Humboldt to local scientists and his reports to President Jefferson and to the British Society for the diffusion of knowledge.

Jim Seemann developed von Humboldt's exploration of the Orinoco River and the border survey of Brazil which he couldn't enter. Von Humboldt discovered the link between the Orinoco and the Amazon rivers. He was later imitated by many German explorers who studied South America.

His network of correspondence was highlighted. The Dean of the faculty, Gerald Saxon, and Prof. Imre Demhardt commented the presentation of their students.

Friday 2 October, afternoon.

Fifty members of the Texas Map Society turned up for a hands-on exercise of measuring in the field. Half a dozen surveyors, members of TMS presented their nineteenth century original instruments, mainly surveyors' compasses and their (non metric!) chains.

- Jan De Graeve gave an introduction on European surveyors in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and offered two books to the University ATU Library:
- John Love's 1688 *Geodaesia: or, The Art of Surveying and Measuring of Land Made Easie* reprint and
- Leybourn's 1679 *The Compleat Surveyor*.

For two hours the participants became surveyors in the field, reading the instruments, being chainman, etc. and preparing the field notes and sketches. There were no snakes or Indians to perturb the fieldwork!

The delegates of the land-register Messrs O'Hara, Lambert, Harkins and Chiba, then explained how the field notes are examined, how to put the maps and registers in the official books. A live discussion with the audience concerned legal matters and practical mapping problems to solve land title disputes and correct errors.

In the evening, a map-collector couple invited the party to meet in their beautiful house near Dallas to see (part of) their map collection. I was fascinated by a large August Chevalier 1716 map of the world, in excellent condition. Most of the presented maps

concerned Texas and Mexico in the nineteenth century.

A great experience appreciated by all.

3 October

The president of the Texas Map Society, Dianne Garrett Powell, daughter of Jenkins Garrett and Ms Powell, great partners to the special collections of the Arlington Library, introduced Prof. Imre Demhardt, who made a presentation on A. von Humboldt (similar to that given at the BIMCC Conference in Brussels on 5 December 2009).

Jan De Graeve gave a presentation on 'Meridian measurements and the shape of the Earth until Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Struve', who measured the meridian from 1815 to 1860 by triangulation over 2821 km from Hammersfest (Norway) to Ismaël (now Ukraine) – see BIMCC Newsletter No 26. He also presented the first translation of the Struve Book, from French to English in two volumes (approx. 1000 pages) in folio, translated by Jim Smith (UK) and himself.

Prof. Imre Demhardt and Ralph Ehreberg, former archivist and administrator of the National Archives and Library of Congress (Washington), gave the key address about 'A. von Humboldt, Jefferson and the mapping of Louisiana'. A very well documented presentation showing the influence of A. von Humboldt on the later explorers of the 'Wild West', Texas and the Rocky Mountains.

The Prize for History of Cartography was awarded to Pamela Anderson on her description and study of a map of the 'Orcaes Isles' (Orkney Islands), Scotland.

Jan De Graeve thanked the organisers and offered a 'Manuscript Letter by Malte-Brun to Dr Peterson of Gotha', to the curator of the Library, Benn Huseman.

A hands-on session ended the afternoon where participants commented their maps and instruments. A rare 19th manuscript map of a Texas county is to be studied.

A magnificent dinner at Fort Worth Club concluded this great day.

On Sunday morning, 4 October, participants got together for a discussion breakfast at the Hilton Hotel, with a presentation of an auction house, 'Heritage of Dallas'; the director gave us a glimpse of his experiences and answered questions from the audience.

Later, in Fort Worth, a book-fair was attended by many participants; many book-dealers offered Texas, colt – cowboy memorabilia; a San Diego dealer had many rare maps for sale.

A great experience.

Jan De Graeve





Dr Tomasz Niewodniczański (1933 - 2010)

It is with deep sadness and regret that I learnt of the death on 3 January in Bitburg (Germany) after a long illness of my dear friend of over 20 years' standing Dr Tomasz Niewodniczański, or 'Dr Niewo' as he was affectionately known.

A nuclear physicist, brewer and businessman, he was above all a collector who amassed what was probably Europe's largest private collection of maps, atlases and globes, as well as historical documents. He was born in the city of Wilno in pre-war Poland, once the ancient capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, now Vilnius, capital of modern Lithuania. His activity as a collector began in earnest after he moved to Bitburg in 1973 where he lived until his death. There he created around his outstanding collection a de facto scientific research centre for the history of cartography, attracting scholars from across the world, including some of international renown. He is perhaps best remembered for a series of exhibitions spanning more than a decade and interweaving the history and cartography of Central and Eastern Europe (*Imago Germaniae* 1996, *Deutschland und die Eifel in Karten* 1998, *Pommern und Stettin auf damaligen Karten* 1998, *Rhenus Superior et Germania* 2000, *Imago Silesiae* 2002, *Imago Poloniae* 2002, *Imago Lituaniae* 2003, *Portolane und Seekarten* 2003, *Dantiscum Emporium* 2004, *Imago Regio – Luxemburg und die Grossregion* 2007, to name the more important ones). A willing lender to public institutions across Europe, he was an exceptionally generous benefactor of public collections in Poland, in particular the University Library in Szczecin, the Ossolineum in Wrocław and most recently the Royal Castle in Warsaw (see BIMCC Newsletter No. 35). He worked in close cooperation with researchers and academics, including some leading historical cartographers, with whom he produced scholarly articles and publications such as two volumes of the *Cartographica Rarissima* series in 1992 and 1995. With the assistance of the Polish specialists who came to work in his archives, he also published important autograph manuscripts of literary figures such as Adam Mickiewicz, Poland's national poet.

His love of maps and manuscripts aside, he was tireless in his pursuit of Polish-German reconciliation, and this was the underlying purpose of many of his exhibitions.

His final and most challenging venture into which he put much time and effort despite his illness, *Imago Ucrainae*, would have been the first Ukrainian map exhibition of its kind. Designed to place Polish-Ukrainian relations in historical perspective and thus on a better footing, it was carefully prepared but has yet to see the light of day for technical reasons. Indeed he was not motivated by considerations of investment or gain but saw his collection primarily as a political instrument to be used to overcome hostility and misunderstanding between nations. Sadly, though, his foray into the diplomatic sphere in recent years and involvement in negotiations over the fate of the manuscripts from the Prussian State Library held in Poland since the war, the so-called 'Berlinka', was not crowned with success.

The recipient of several distinguished awards from the Polish, German and Lithuanian Governments, his services to cartography were recognised and honoured in 2006 when he received the Helen Wallis Award from IMCoS. Far from being a secretive private collector, he loved publicity, gave frequent interviews to the press and appeared on television. His extensive

holdings were open to all, not just to scholars, for consultation and research, and visitors from across the world invariably received a warm welcome. The BIMCC, for instance, was able to organise a truly memorable excursion to Bitburg in 2005 (see BIMCC Newsletter No. 24).

A man of remarkable stature in both senses, unique amongst collectors, he will be sorely missed by many of us, but his memory will live on. As will his equally unique collection, both in Warsaw, where his Polonica has found a new and fitting home (see BIMCC Newsletter No. 35), and in Bitburg where the atlases, globes and other maps remain under the able

stewardship of his wife Marie-Luise who was the true initiator of his collection. For it was she, all those years ago, who gave her husband his very first map: a plan of Damascus from Braun and Hogenberg's *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*.



Dr Tomasz Niewodniczański with his wife Marie-Luise and the plan of Damascus, during the 2005 visit of the BIMCC (photo J.-L. Renteux)

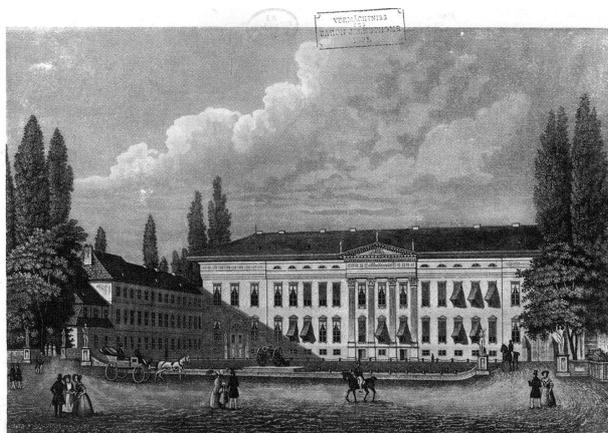
Peter Galezowski



Compiled by Glenn Van den Bosch
fb550506@skynet.be

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

News [for more, up to date news, see www.bimcc.org/bimcc-newsevents.htm]



DAS SCHLOSS BELLEVUE BEI BERLIN
Le Château de Bellevue près de Berlin

150th anniversary of the Map Department of the *Deutsche Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin*

It started with the acquisition of General Wilhelm von Scharnhorst's private collection of 35 000 (!) maps for the Prussian Royal Library, after his death in 1854. This gave rise to the creation of the Royal Cartographic Institute in 1856. The leading German geographer of that time, Carl Ritter, was appointed its curator by King Friedrich Wilhelm IV., and the Institute with its remarkable collection was established at Schloss Bellevue near Berlin. Three years later, the Institute was integrated as a separate map department into what is today the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preussischer Kulturbesitz (Berlin State Library – Prussian Cultural Heritage), the largest universal research library in Germany. Its Map Department now holds more than a million map sheets, 30 000 atlases, and nearly 500 globes.

Schloss Bellevue, the castle built in 1785 for the brother of Frederick the Great, Ferdinand, is now the official residence of German Federal President Köhler. To mark the 150th anniversary of the creation of the Map Department, President Köhler invited the Staatsbibliothek to organize a representative exhibition of maps, views, and globes at his residence. The exhibition *Belle Vue of the World* was opened on 23 November and closed on 20 December 2009. But it will be on display again at the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek from 25 January to 20 February 2010, and also during the 58th Deutsche Kartographentag Convention from 7 to 12 June.

The Head of the Map Department, Wolfgang Crom, and his Deputy, Dr Markus Heinz, have edited a most attractive brochure to accompany that exhibition (27 x 22 cm, 42 pp. with 33 full-colour illustrations, incl. numerous double-page and two fold-out maps ; ISBN 978-388053-157-4).

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preussischer Kulturbesitz,
Map Department (maps up to 1940) : Kartenabteilung III C,
Unter den Linden 8, D-10117 Berlin (Mitte),
Tel 00-49-30-266-43.55.12

Cartographica Helvetica - 20 years

20 years ago the first issue of *Cartographica Helvetica*, the leading German-speaking journal on the history of cartography, was published. The editors and the publisher are delighted to be able to celebrate this jubilee: 40 issues with 188 feature articles written by 134 authors. All in all, 2172 pages on the history of cartography in Switzerland, Europe and the entire world have been published.

In order to make the journal more widely available and to support research, *Cartographica Helvetica* was scanned and converted into searchable full text in the summer of 2009. The digitized journal was published by the Swiss *Electronic Academic Library Service*. However, the two latest issues will only be available with a delay of twelve months. The following main features are worth mentioning: a simple Google-like full-text search, users can refine their search by using different filters, it is also possible to browse the contents of the issues, every page and every article can be downloaded as PDF file, the entire user interface is available in English, German and French.

The service is available for non-commercial teaching and research, as well as for private use free of charge (www.kartengeschichte.ch).

New davidrumsey.com Website Redesign

For the first time since its launch in 1999, the David Rumsey Map Collection Web site (www.davidrumsey.com) has been completely redesigned and updated. With better navigation and structure, users will find it easier to explore the site's many viewers and collection database with over 21 000 maps online. A new Blog has been added to the site, and includes entries for Recent Additions, News, Featured Maps, Related Sites, and Videos. Over 200 historic maps from the collection can be viewed in a new browser-based version of Google Earth, and users can enter the Second Life version of the map collection directly from a dedicated Second Life portal page on the site. And the collection ticker at the bottom of the home page shows the entire online map library in random order over about 10 hours. As always, all maps can be downloaded for free directly from the site at full resolution.

Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* restored and now available online

The city archives and the Athenaeum library of Deventer in the Netherlands rejoice in the return of Abraham Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* after a thorough restoration. Only 9 copies of this atlas edition are known in the world and the archives of Deventer are very proud to possess one of these. It is the latest edition of the 1611 version and consists of 128 maps. This atlas has been in the Deventer



collection for more than two centuries now and originates from the collection of the former university of Harderwijk. Restoration was however needed since the years and a damp environment had caused great damage to the atlas. To commemorate the return of the restored atlas in the collection, a digitalized version has been made available online for the general public.

Malta Map Society

Dr. Albert Ganado, who is well known to our readers, has organised a map exhibition in September /October 2009 at the Exhibitions Hall of the Ministry for Gozo (the northern island of the Malta archipelago). This exhibition included a unique collection of more than ninety very rare miniature maps of Malta and Gozo together with plans of Valletta and the three cities, that were printed between the 17th and 20th centuries and published in various rare books around the world. All the maps measure no more than 10 by 15 cm. The majority of maps on show come from the Albert Ganado Map Collection owned by the National Museum of Fine Arts since July 2008 but includes also other maps and books from the National Collection and private collections.



Gozo Minister Giovanna Debono visits the exhibition with Dr Albert Ganado at the inauguration on 11 September 2009

An exhibition catalogue has been published comprising a description and a reproduction of 90 of the maps exhibited*.

Dr Ganado is now busy forming a Malta Map Society whose first meeting is to take place soon.

* *Miniature maps of Malta* by Albert Ganado, Malta, Midsea Books Ltd, 2009, ISBN 978-99932-7-272-4

Events

Maps and mapmakers in the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939)

5 February 2010

La Jonquera, Girona, Spain

The History of Cartography Study Group (Grup d'Estudis d'Història de la Cartografia - GEHC) is organising a session about *Maps and mapmakers in the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939)*

URI: <http://www.ub.edu/gehc/english/indexEn.html>

URI: <http://www.museuexili.cat/upload/file/ing.pdf>

The International Map Collectors' Society annual Collectors' Evening, London

16 February 2010

Chairman Francis Herbert. Theme will be 'Town or City Plans, in guide books, on hydrographic charts, or stand alone' but members are welcome to bring maps or charts of any kind if they prefer. Maps for identification also welcome.

At the Farmers' Club, 3 Whitehall Court

Visit <http://www.imcos.org/> for more information.

Washington Map Society events

Visit to the Folger Shakespeare Library

18 February 2010

Curator Dr. Blake will provide a personal look at selected maps and atlases from the Folger's collection of early modern European material. Highlights include a hand-coloured 1513 edition of Ptolemy's Geography and a collection of highly-

detailed 18th-century English county maps.

At the Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 East Capitol Street SE, Washington, at 19.00

Member's Map Evening and Annual Business Meeting

25 March 2010

This is a 'show and tell' of the favourite map(s) of our members.

At 19.00 in the Geography and Map Division, B level, Library of Congress, Madison Building, 101 Independence Avenue, Washington.

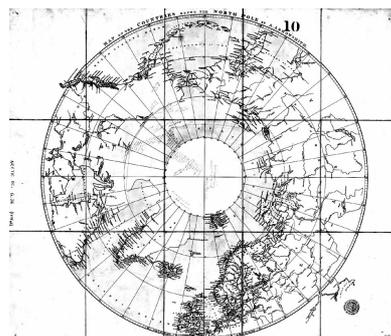
For further information, contact Dennis Gurtz (email: dmg01@comcast.net) or visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~docktor/washmap.htm>.

The Oxford Seminars in Cartography, 17th Annual Series

Hot prospects in the cold: the new international geological map of the Arctic

18 February 2010

By Marc St-Onge (Geological Survey of Canada).



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

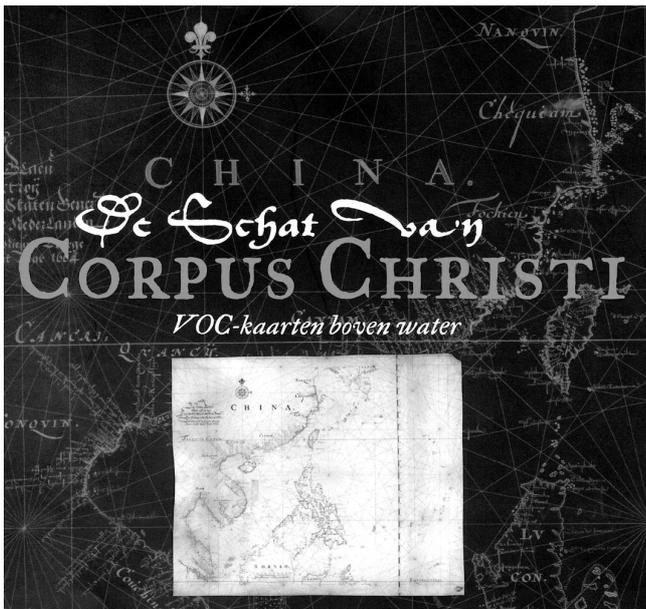


The Corpus Christi Collection: a set of Dutch and English manuscript sea charts of South East Asia and the East Indies from around 1660-1670

13 May 2010

By Sjoerd de Meer (Maritiem Museum, Rotterdam).

From 17.00 to 18.30 at the University of Oxford Centre for the Environment, South Parks Road. For further details contact Nick Millea (email: nick.millea@ouls.ox.ac.uk), Map Librarian, Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BG; Tel: 01865 287119, Fax: 01865 277139. Visit <http://www.ouce.ox.ac.uk/>



Warburg Lectures, London

Practical Men of Science: Operational Surveys in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, and the Emergence of RN Hydrographic Specialisation.

25 February 2010

By Captain Michael Barritt, RN (Vice-President, Hakluyt Society).

Landscape or Blandscape? Exploring Cartographic Style in European Topographic Maps of the 20th Century.

18 March 2010

By Dr Alexander Kent (Department of Geography, University of Southampton).

Cosmography and Cartography: Their Relationship Revisited.

15 April 2010

By Dr Adam Mosley (Department of History and Classics, University of Swansea).

Settling Disputes through Cartography in Fourteenth-Century Palma de Mallorca: The Map of the Siquia Aqueduct

29 April 2010

By Dr Chet Van Duzer (Independent Scholar).

European Cartography Encounters with 'the Other' in Sixteenth-Century

27 May 2010

By Dr Sandra Sáenz-López Perez (Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación, Madrid).

At the 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: info@tonycampbell.info) or visit <http://www.maphistory.info/warburgprog.html>

5th International Workshop on Digital Approaches in Cartographic Heritage

22 - 24 February 2010

Vienna

The ICA Commission on Digital Technologies in Cartographic Heritage and Vienna University of Technology are pleased to invite you to the 5th International Workshop on Digital Approaches in Cartographic Heritage.

URI: <http://cartography.tuwien.ac.at/cartoheritage/>

The Cambridge Seminar in the History of Cartography

Seller, Pepys and the Seventeenth-century London map trade

23 February 2010

By Laurence Worms (Ash Rare Books).

Map of a Nation: The Early Ordnance Survey and the Politics of British Landscape.

4 May 2010

Rachel Hewitt (Queen Mary, University of London).

At 17.30 in the Harrods Room, Emmanuel College, St Andrew's Street, Cambridge, England. For any enquiries, please contact Sarah Bendall at 01223 330476 or email sarah.bendall@emma.cam.ac.uk

<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/maps/camsem0809.html>





**5th International Atlas Conference 2010, Berlin
21-25 April 2010**

Every year experts and collectors meet to exchange information regarding atlases published in German-speaking Europe since 1800. Both the cartographic and the bibliographic aspects of the subject are of equal interest. The conference will consist of two parts. A workshop the first three days, and a weekend conference the last two days. The workshop will give participants a chance to examine the maps and atlases in the collection of the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. During the weekend conference, participants will have an opportunity to share an interest in atlases produced over the past 200 years and to take advantage of a book fair in which they can sell items from their collections or add new items to them.

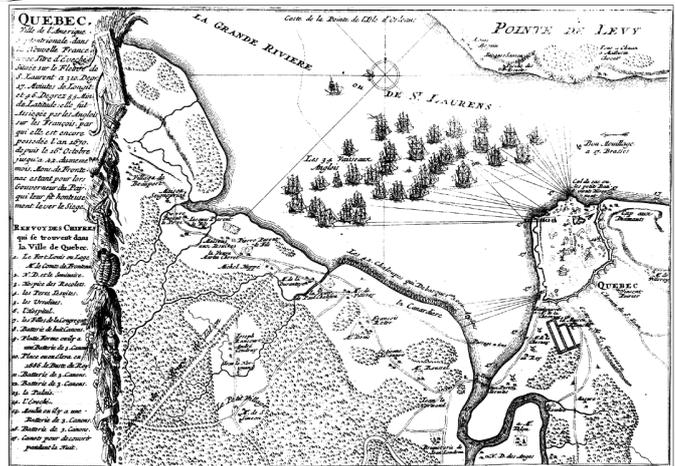
At the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. Additional information from Jürgen Espenhorst, Villigster Str. 32, D-58239 Schwerte; tel: +49-2304/72284, fax: +49-2304/72284 (email: pangaea@cityweb.de). Visit <http://www.pangaea-verlag.de/Veranstaltungen.html> for more information. <http://www.map-fair.com/>

**Kijken naar oude kaarten in de
Cultuurbibliotheek**

**Bruges
22 April 2010**

The Sint-Lodewijkscollege is organizing a conference by Dr. P. van der Krogt (Utrecht University).

Magdalenastraat 30, B-8200 Bruges. www.sint-lodewijkscollege.be/175.
The talk starts at 20.00. Admission EUR 5.00.



**The cartography of chartered companies
Arlington, Texas**

8 - 10 October 2010

Three events - One main theme:

- 7th Biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography (Friday, 8 October 2010);
- Fall Meeting of the Texas Map Society (Saturday, 9 October 2010),
- 3rd International symposium on the History of Cartography (10 -13 October 2010)

Lectures, exhibitions, technical excursion, collector events, social functions.

Venue: 6th Floor, UTA Library, University of Texas at Arlington, USA ; information: www.ichahisticcarto.org, Abstracts should be submitted, by 14 March 2010 to Prof. Dr Imre Josef Demhardt, Professor & Garrett Chair in the History of Cartography, Department of History, University of Texas at Arlington at demhardt@uta.edu

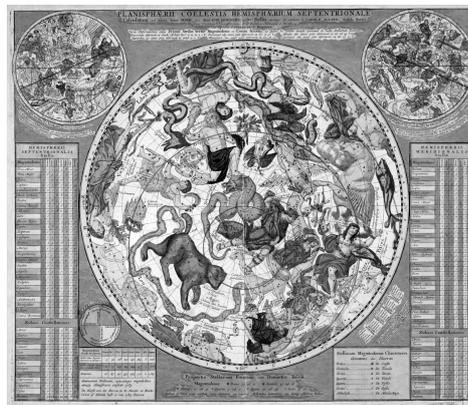
Exhibitions

**Theatre du monde: atlas d'hier, atlas
imaginaires (Theatre of the World, atlases of
yesterday, imaginary atlases)**

**Until 20 February 2010
Paris, France**

Exhibition of maps derived from seven French volumes of Blaeu, Hondius and Janssonius accompanied by the work of the French illustrator Francois Place, who was inspired by the calligraphy and imaginary world of antique maps to create 26 maps of imaginary countries. An unique exhibition that confronts the world of 17th century Dutch mapmaking with the imaginary 'Atlas des géographes d'Orbae' created by a contemporary artist.

At the Bibliothèque du Tourisme et des Voyages, Trocadéro, Rue du Cdt Schloesing, Paris, France. For more information, visit www.bibliotheques.paris.fr



**De Hemel in kaart (Heaven in Maps)
Until 28 February 2010**

Utrecht, The Netherlands

More than 100 celestial maps from the collection of the University Library of Utrecht are on display in this special exhibition, held at the museum and observatory of Sonnenborgh. Famous examples such as Andreas Cellarius atlases but also less famous celestial atlases bring a tribute to the world of the celestial cartographers.

At the Sonnenborgh Museum, Zonnenburg 2, Utrecht, The Netherlands. Email info@sonnenborgh.nl or visit <http://www.sonnenborgh.nl/page=site.home> for more information.

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



INTERNATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS (CONT'D)

Spiegel van de Zuiderzee

(Mirror of the Zuiderzee)

Until 28 March 2010

Enkhuizen, The Netherlands

This exhibition outlines the development of maps of the Zuiderzee in the period from 1580 to 1932. The Zuiderzee was one of the toughest navigable waters in the world. The exhibition of sixty maps and atlases, at the Zuiderzeemuseum, presents charts of the Zuiderzee area from the collection of the museum, many of which are included in the accompanying book *Spiegel van de Zuiderzee* (authors Erik Walsmit, Hans Kloosterboer, Nils Persson, and Rinus Ostermann; ISBN: 978 90 6194 230 6).

At the Zuiderzeemuseum, Open daily from 10.00 - 17.00 hours (except Christmas Day and New Year). Visit <http://www.zuiderzeemuseum.nl/home> for more information.

Picturing Britain: Paul Sandby

7 November 2009 - 7 February 2010

Edinburg, UK

13 March - 13 June 2010

London, UK

Major exhibition of the work of the artist and topographical draughtsman Paul Sandby (1731-1809). Commemorating the bicentenary of his death, this is the first exhibition devoted to this pioneering figure in the development of British landscape painting and topographical drawing. Sandby was appointed chief draughtsman to the Royal Military Survey in 1747. Although he was an artist well-versed in continental traditions, his early employment as a map-maker and topographical draughtsman led him to produce carefully observed and composed views of the native British landscape, including scenes taken in and around London, or on extensive tours through England, Wales and Scotland.

At the National Gallery of Scotland, Princes Street, Edinburgh.

For more information, visit <http://www.nationalgalleries.org/>

The exhibit moves to the Royal Academy of Arts, London: 13 March - 13 June 2010.

A richly illustrated catalogue accompanies the exhibition.

Armateurs et Navigateurs Dieppois (XVI-XIXe) [Ship-owners and Navigators of Dieppe from the 16th to the 19th centuries]

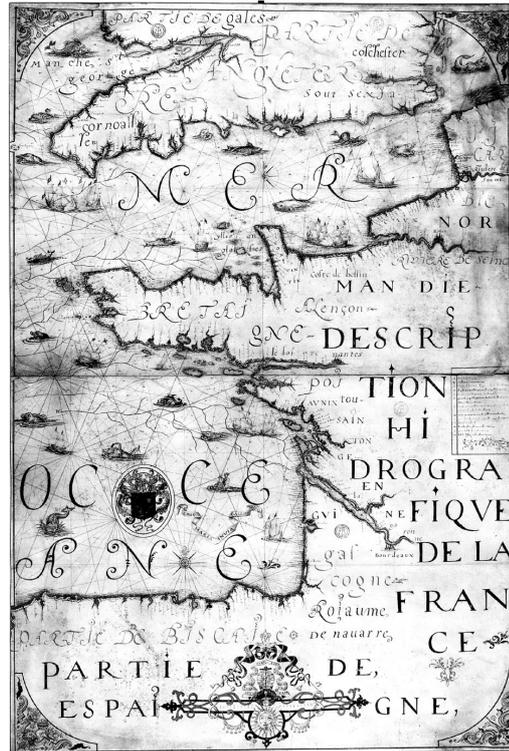
30 May – 4 July 2010

Dieppe, France

Dieppe is famous, in the cartographic world, for its school of chartmakers. Most of the charts produced there as of about 1540 by Nicolas Desliens, Jean Rotz, Pierre Descelliers, Guillaume le Testu, Jean Guérard, (to name only these) are now dispersed around the world, but the Dieppe Municipal Library still possesses some interesting vestiges of its glorious past which will be on display. For example, Jean and Raoul Parmentier's parchment manuscript of 1529

relating their Voyage to the East Indies, Jean Guérard's manuscript *Traité de l'hydrographie* (1630– see below), Ozanne's 1785 atlas of French ports, and the 19th century plans for a huge four-mast battleship of a length of 130 m, carrying 250 cannons, by Guillaume-Abraham Vasse, are among the exhibits.

Médiathèque Jean Renoir, 1 Quai Bérigny, F-76374 Dieppe, Tel 00-33-(0)235-06 62 62, e-mail bm.renoirfancien@mairie-dieppe.fr. Open Tuesday to Saturday, 14.00h to 18.30h.



Magnificent Maps: Power, Propaganda and Art

30 April - 19 September 2010

London, UK

This exhibition will display some of the masterpieces of cartography from the middle ages to the present day, several of which have never been shown before. It will try to recreate the settings for which the maps were originally intended and thereby demonstrate the important role that maps played as works of art and as instruments of propaganda in the broader culture of their times. Visitors will be shown rooms from a palace, the home of a merchant/landowner, a class-room and a secretary of state's office. Nor will the open-air display of maps and globes be ignored. While the emphasis will be on the early modern period in Europe, there will be exhibits from throughout the world, which will extend from medieval times to the modern day including contemporary works by Grayson Perry and Stephen Walters'.

At the British Library, St Pancras, 96 Euston Road, London. Visit <http://www.bl.uk> for more information.



A mysterious rose...

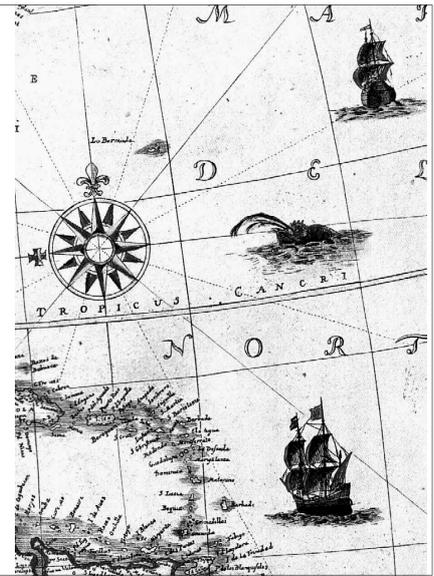
In the last Newsletter, on page 36, I have inserted a compass rose. It was simply intended as a decoration, but Wulf Bodenstern spotted something curious.

Usually the latin cross is on the right hand side of the north-oriented compass rose, thus pointing East, in the direction of the Holy City of Jerusalem. Even on maps showing areas where Jerusalem is not to the East, there is no exception to this convention.

Unfortunately I do not recall the precise origin of the map extract I had copied some time ago; I had only noted 'Hondius 1631'. It shows the West Indies, but it is not the famous *America noviter delineata*.

Could any reader identify that map? And, even better, explain why the compass rose does not follow the usual convention??

Jean-Louis Renteux
editor@bimcc.org



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

- *Evolution of the maps of Brabant*, by Herman Deijnckens and Eric Leenders
- *Contemporary map making*, by Caroline and Paul De Candt
- *The very first maps of the County of Hainault*, by Jean-Louis Renteux
- *Jacques de Surhon, Cartographer of the 16th century - The man and his topographic work*, by Jean-Louis Renteux and Eric Leenders



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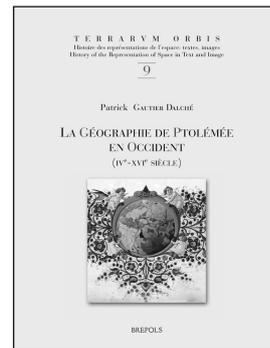
Patrick Gautier Dalché

443 p., 30 colour ills., 210 x 270 mm

ISBN 978-2-503-53164-9

Prix de lancement: € 80 valable jusqu'au 15 octobre 2009

Prix normal: € 90



L'ouvrage, qui remet en question un certain nombre de lieux communs de l'histoire culturelle, est fondé sur l'analyse de première main des sources textuelles et cartographiques de la tradition grecque et latine émanant de milieux intellectuels très divers.

(Prix hors taxe et frais de port.)

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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 making 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.
- AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on a specific major topic every year in December.

Honorary President

Wulf Bodenstein
Avenue des Camélias 71
B-1150 Brussels
telephone/fax: +32 (0)2 772 69 09
e-mail: wulfbo@scarlet.be

BIMCC Executive Committee President

Eric Leenders
Zwanenlaan 16, B-2610 Antwerpen
telephone: +32 (0) 3 440 10 81
e-mail: ericleenders@scarlet.be

Vice-President

Caroline De Candt
Burggravenlaan 341, B-9000 Gent,
telephone: +32(0)9 222 80 14
caroline.de.candt@skynet.be

Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Eric Leenders (ad interim)
See address above

Secretary

Delphine Strauven
Lippenslaan 11, B-1650 Beersel,
telephone: +32(0)479 51 51 24
delphine.strauven@telenet.be

Editor (*Éditeur responsable*)

Jean-Louis Renteux
Rue des Floralies 62
B-1200 Brussels
telephone: + 32 (0)2 770 59 03
e-mail: editor@bimcc.org

Webmaster

Pierre Parmentier
e-mail: webmaster@bimcc.org

Scientific Advisor

Lisette Danckaert

Other Officers

- Lydia Cordon
e-mail: lydiacordon.paf@telenet.be
- Jan De Graeve
- Peter Galezowski
e-mail: galezpe@hotmail.com
- Henri Godts
e-mail: henri.godts@godts.com
- Rob Harren
rob@harrenpublishinggroup.be

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 cheques please) to the BIMCC bank account:

IBAN: BE52 0682 4754 2209

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and notify the Membership 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.



Henri Godts

Avenue Louise 230/6
1050 Brussels

Tel. +32(0)2 647 85 48

Fax +32(0)2 640 73 32

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