

MAPS IN HISTORY



Also in this issue:

- Mercator 1569 coloured world wall map reassembly
- The scientific Library of Gerard Mercator
- Mercator's function
- ... and the usual departments



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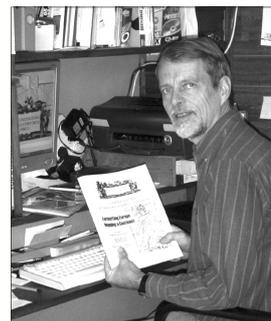
Dear Map Friends,

This issue of 'Maps in History' is, again, placed under the sign of the Mercator Year. We have reports on events organised in the context of that anniversary: the exceptional exhibition of Sgrooten's manuscript atlas (a source for Mercator) in Brussels, the International conference in Sint-Niklaas, the exhibition of Mercator's library (and the BIMCC visit there), as well as reviews of new, related books. In addition we also have some original articles: a presentation of the undertaking by our sponsor, Aquaterra, to reassemble the puzzle of a coloured version of Mercator's 1569 world map; an article by BIMCC Member Jan De Graeve on his research on Mercator's books (which he exhibited in Sint-Niklaas) and an attempt by myself to explain some aspects of the mathematics underlying Mercator's projection.

Finally, you will find the programme of the conference organised by the Brussels Map Circle on Mercator and Hondius, which will more or less close this Mercator year. Don't forget to register in due course on our web site (www.bimcc.org).

Cartographically yours,

Jean-Louis Renteux
Vice-President & Editor
editor@bimcc.org



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Cover: Friesland - Map 27 of the 1573 manuscript *Atlas Bruxellensis* by Christian Sgrooten (KBR, ref: Ms. 21.596D 51-52) : *Effluxus Amasi fluminis in oceanum Germanicum, respiciens ab oriente comitatum Embden [sem], ab occidente vero inclyta[m] terram Groeningensem*



Mapping Cyprus: Crusaders, Traders and Explorers (Brussels, 22 June until 23 September 2012)

In spite of its title, this is not (just) an exhibition of maps. Organised in Brussels' prestigious Bozar centre to mark the Cypriot presidency of the Council of the European Union, it recounts the island's eventful history by presenting some 140 works of arts, including fifty icons – the most traditional and specific artistic expression of the island – as well as paintings by European masters – such as Titian and Tintoretto, medieval manuscripts, engravings, early photographs, and even 15th century music...

There are also forty maps from the collection of Dr Andrew Nicolaidis in Nicosia. Many of these maps depict the position of Cyprus as an outpost of Europe in the Middle East, at the crossroads of the major commercial and political exchanges between East and West, which made it a target for competing civilisations which successively occupied it (crusaders led by Richard the Lionheart, the Venetians, the Ottomans and the British). In particular, several versions of the Ptolemaic *Asiae Tabula IV* are presented (from 1462, 1478, 1482, 1513, 1540 and 1578).

Maps of the island proper range from the map by Bartolomeo dalli Sonetti of 1485 (at the end of the independent kingdom created by the Lusignan family, from Poitou in France), to the 1882 'Trigonometrical

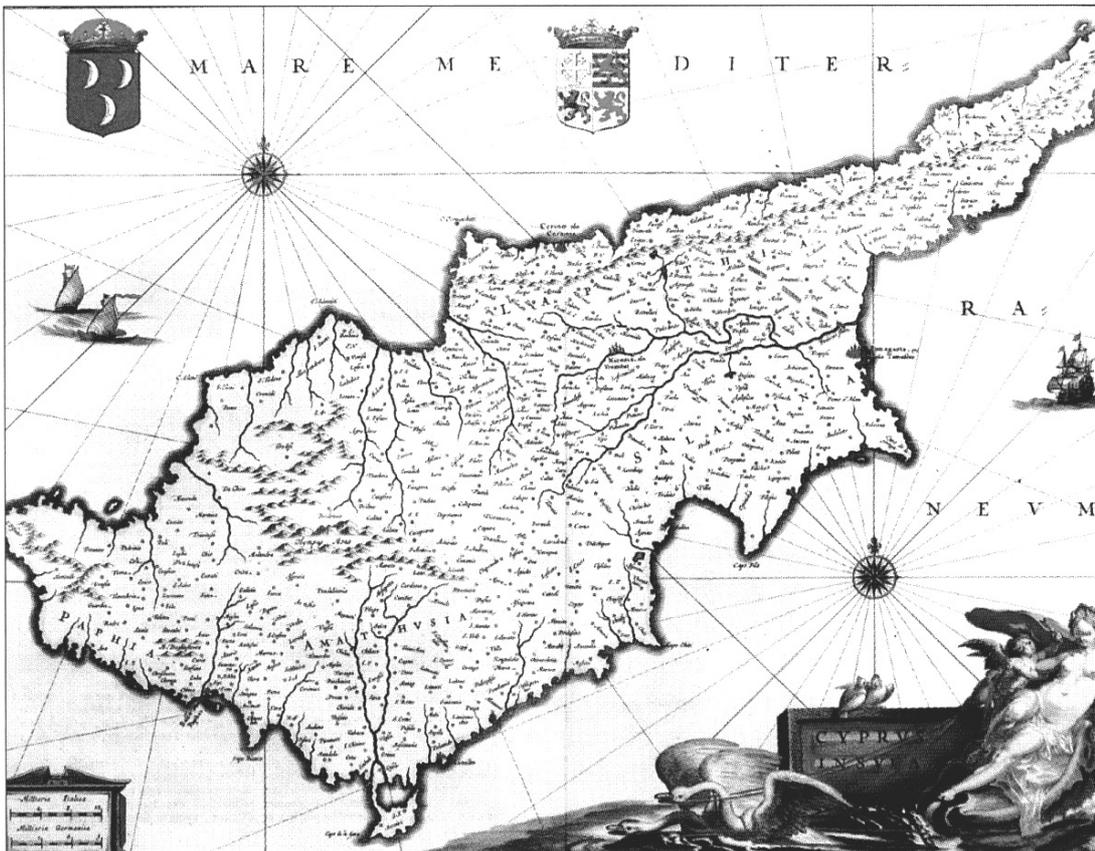
survey of the island of Cyprus' made under British rule, including maps by Münster, Ortelius, Blaeu, Janssonius, Mortier, Coronelli, etc.

There is a plan of the 1570 siege of Nicosia by the Ottomans, who subsequently ruled the island for three centuries after the Venetian interlude, and several maps of the Turkish empire comprising Cyprus, but none of them from Turkish origin; they are all by Western cartographers: Ortelius (1570), Speed (1626), Sanson (1654), Janssonius (1658), Blaeu (1663) and Rossi (1679). In fact, the underlying aims of this exhibition seems to be to emphasize the links of Cyprus with Western Europe and to ignore its three centuries of Ottoman history: just one room is devoted to that period, and the exhibits are mostly icons produced during that time (as the Greek Orthodox Church was recognised by the Turks).

Overall the exhibition achieves its objective of reflecting the exceptional cultural interchange, which radiated throughout Europe at the time and saw the interpenetration of Byzantine, Western, and Venetian art in Cyprus.

Jean-Louis Renteux
j.renteux@scarlet.be

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Catalogue: Hardcover, 272 pages, Trilingual version (EN/NL/FR), BOZAR BOOKS & Silvana Editoriale, EUR 35.00



Cyprus Insula
from Blaeu's
Atlas Major,
1663



Cartografía de las Americas (National Museum, Quito, Ecuador, May 2012)

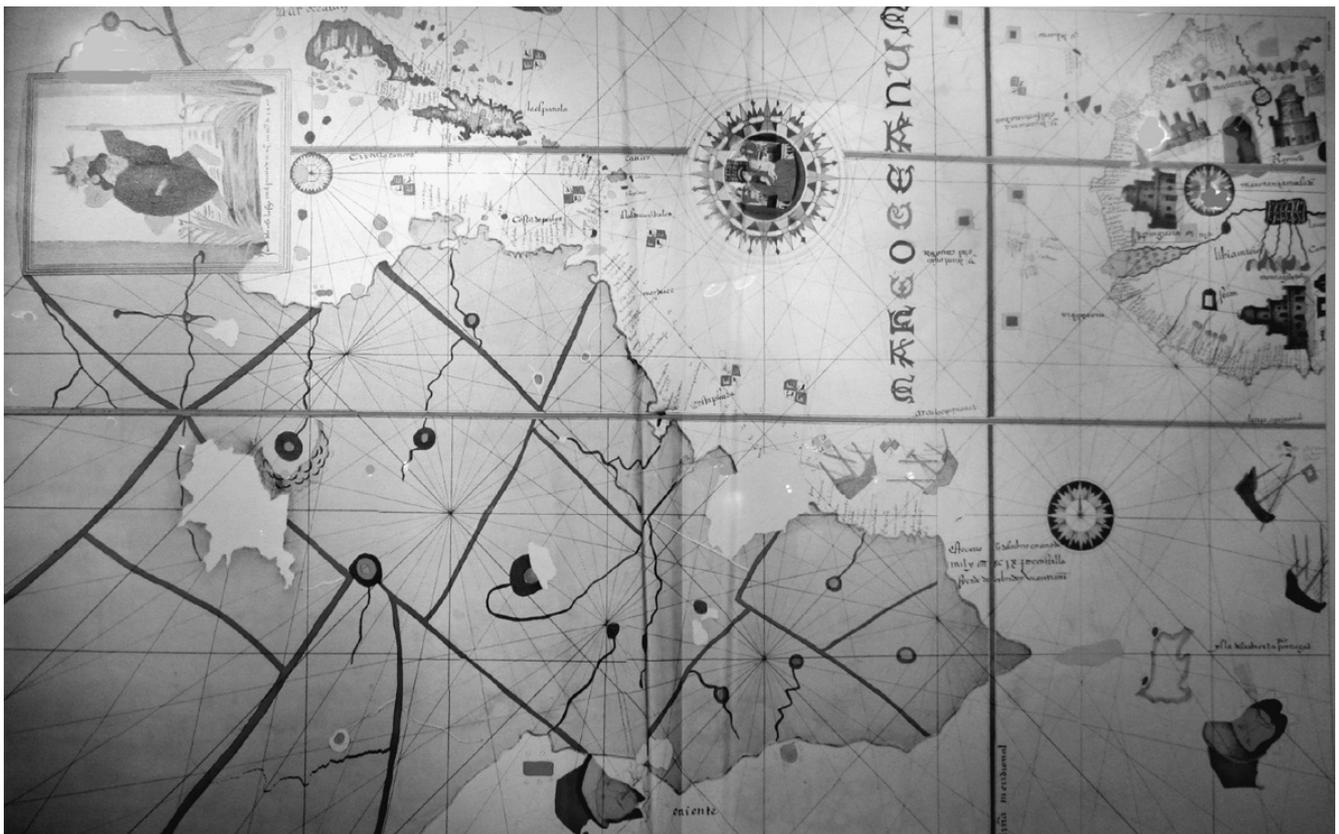


This exhibition presented an overview of maps of the Americas, from the 16th to the 18th centuries. Organised by the University San Francisco of Quito, it consisted mostly of reproductions of printed maps in the collection of the University. These were organised in different sections. The part devoted to 'America terra incognita' opened with a large reproduction of the Waldseemüller's 1507 world map with the first mention of 'America' (now in the Library of Congress in Washington) and was centred on an original Ptolemaic atlas of 1513. It also included a not so familiar facsimile of a map taken from a manuscript atlas (now in Madrid) referring to Juan de la Cosa (see illustration). The room on 'the new world in Dutch cartography' presented reproductions of many familiar maps by Mercator, Kaerius, etc, as well as two original atlases by Ortelius (1612) and Hondius

(1647). Finally the section on 'Illustration cartography' presented reproductions of 18th century maps which were used to support discussions on territorial claims and to show the itineraries of various explorers and the result of their voyages.

This was an interesting synthesis of the evolution of cartography in this part of the world, with clear explanations (in Spanish) and good illustrations, but the scarcity of original documents was a bit of a disappointment, as well as the very limited presence of Hispanic cartography.

Jean-Louis Renteux
j.renteux@scarlet.be



Portolan from an atlas of 'frontières entre le Brésil et la Guyane française' [frontier between Brazil and French Guyana]. This is apparently a partial, undated, copy of the Central American part of the 1500 *mappamundi* on which Juan de la Cosa, a companion of Columbus, showed the American continent for the first time. This is identifiable from the top left cartouche showing a picture of Saint Christopher with the mention 'Juan de la Cosa la pizo en el Puerto de Santa Maria en año 1400' [J. de la Cosa painted it in Puerto de Santa Maria in the year 1400 (sic)].



Een koninklijke bron voor Mercator/ Une Source Royale pour Mercator [A Royal Source for Mercator] (Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels, April-July 2012)

The exhibition has taken the opportunity of the 500th anniversary of Mercator's birth, to compare some of the maps from his Atlas(es), particularly the 1595 Atlas, with those from Christian Sgrooten's manuscript *Atlas Bruxellensis* which was acquired by the library in 1859, and restored in 2007. This atlas was commissioned around 1568 by Philip II of Spain who gave Sgrooten, his official cartographer, the task of mapping the Holy Roman Empire. We know that in 1573 the Duke of Alba took the atlas to Spain, but it only reappeared in the 19th century, was identified finally as that of Sgrooten in 1894. The atlas, containing 37 maps, was given the name of *Atlas Bruxellensis* to distinguish it from a second manuscript atlas, containing 38 maps, made by Sgrooten for Philip II, started after 1573 and completed in 1595, called the *Atlas Madritensis* and now in the National Library of Spain in Madrid. A facsimile of the maps of both atlases was published in 2007 by Canaletto, with a comprehensive analysis by Peter Meurer (see Looks at Books in BIMCC Newsletter No 32).

The introduction to the exhibition explains the history of Sgrooten's atlas and the restoration processes it has been subjected to. The nineteenth century restoration was not a success, we are told, as then the maps were lined with acid paper which had made them brittle and had caused cracking. Ink had corroded some of the maps and the colours had changed. In the 2007 restoration the maps were taken out of their binding and put into non-acidic portfolios.

The leather cover, now very damaged, but originally very nicely tooled, is displayed as an item in its own right.

The next section, on 'Cartography and Compilation' is very vividly executed. The example taken is that of Mercator's map of Brabant, from his 1595 Atlas. On the wall we see how Jacob van Deventer's regional map (1536) of Brabant, Christian Sgrooten's wall map (1560s) of the Lower Rhine, Christian Sgrooten's manuscript map (1573) of the Lower Rhine, and Mercator's own map of Flanders (1565) - the 'reduced' version published by Gerard de Jode - all served as sources.

There follows a comparison and contrast between the two mapmakers - where they were born and lived, their output, their main customer(s), etc. Christian Sgrooten's manuscript atlas had one main customer, Philip II of Spain, and as far as we know there was only one other version - the '*Atlas Madritensis*' - whereas Mercator's printed atlas was designed for the mass market of the time, and went into several editions, as is well known. Mercator writes in the introduction to his *tabulae geographicae* that he owed a lot to Sgrooten, as he had visited many of the regions and had mapped them in greater and more precise detail than other cartographers. It seems that the two men must have known each other quite well, Sgrooten being only thirteen years younger than Mercator. They lived not far from each other when Mercator was in Duisburg, as Sgrooten lived most of his life in Kalkar, not far away.



Lower Rhine river
By Sgrooten (left)
and
by Mercator (right)



The area of Mézières in the Ardennes by Surhon (left) and by Mercator (right)

We now move into the prestigious setting of the 14th century Nassau chapel for the exhibition itself. There are thirteen maps, from the *Atlas Bruxellensis*, 1573, mounted on the walls of the chapel. Below each Sgrooten map, are maps and atlases of Mercator which use Sgrooten as their source, and also other maps which served as source material to, or drew as source material from, the Sgrooten maps. A couple of examples should illustrate how this has been done.

Geldria

On the wall we see Sgrooten's 1573 map of Geldria – *Ducatus Geldriae et Cliviae*. Below, in the case, are displayed Sgrooten's and Galle's map of Geldriae, Cliviae, from Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, 1612, and Mercator's *Geldria et Transylvania*, from the 1585 Atlas. Sgrooten was Mercator's only source for his map. Sgrooten had surveyed and mapped the region; there are eight maps in the *Atlas Bruxellensis* which show all or parts of Geldria. In addition, Mercator also used Sgrooten's wall map of the Lower Rhine region. Looking at the maps displayed we also see that Mercator made a mistake which he did not copy from Sgrooten! He traced a boundary between Geldria and Utrecht along the - wrong - river. Sgrooten had got it right.

Trier & Luxembourg

On the wall we see Sgrooten's 1573 map: *Archiepiscopatus Treverensis* from the *Atlas Bruxellensis*, 1573. Below, in the case, are displayed Mercator's *Trier & Lutzenburg* from the 1585 Atlas, and Galle's and de Surhon's *Lutzenburgensis ducatus veriss(imo) descript(io)* from Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* 1641. For the Luxembourg part of his map, Mercator did not use Sgrooten, but de Surhon, as source material. Sgrooten himself had not used de Surhon, as he had mapped the area himself. For the Trier region both Sgrooten and Mercator used survey information from Mercator's son, Arnold. This is a nice

example of collaboration between the two families.

Also in the exhibition we are treated to Sgrooten's circular map of *Germania*, the circular form bearing witness to the *Germania* map of Tilemann Stella (1525-1589). Sgrooten's map, a general map of Germany, was the first in the *Atlas Bruxellensis*, also known as Atlas of the German Empire. We also have Sgrooten's *Kymatilogion* – an instrument for calculating the hour of the tides for a given day for the 93 places displayed, from Ireland to the Jade Bay on the north German coast.

An interesting, 'behind the scenes' piece, is demonstrated by F. Huys' *Sixteen boats of all sorts*, (after Pieter Breughel) which was one of the prints used by Sgrooten for his 'cutting and pasting' onto his own maps. (He drew some of the ships on his maps and cut and pasted others.) Those he pasted on were later coloured with the rest of the map.

Lastly, a splendid display of several editions of Mercator Atlases and Atlas Minors.

To complete the exhibition, the visitor was then invited to see four cases of Mercator masterpieces, in the Librarium - a permanent exhibition with changing content, celebrating the history of the book and the written word. There are atlases, maps, portraits, and a letter to Andreas Masius. Seeing the 'hand' of the great man really brings him alive.

An excellent exhibition, a privilege to see and to discover the beautiful manuscript maps of Sgrooten, which have remained too long in the shadows.

Nicola Boothby
nicola.boothby@telenet.be





Een koninklijke bron voor Mercator/Une Source Royale pour Mercator [A Royal Source for Mercator]:

the atlas of Christian Sgrooten (ms. 21.596)

by Wouter Bracke and Matthias Debroux

Original catalogue in Dutch translated into French by Marguerite Silvestre

Exhibition catalogue, 53 pp ISBN 978-2-87093-171-4, EUR 10.00

The catalogue is designed to draw the reader into the world of 16th century mapmaking of the Low Countries. It can be used before or after visiting the exhibition itself, or by itself. I had the privilege of reading it between visits – a luxury available to those of us who live in Brussels, or at least in Belgium – as the maps themselves are stunning on first impression, but grow considerably in interest having delved into the catalogue. The catalogue is beautifully produced and illustrated, a very pleasant item in itself. It was written in Dutch and translated into French (this write-up is based on the French translation), in layman’s language, and with interesting examples. The inside covers give a historical overview from 1500 – 1648, taken directly from the exhibition, tracing milestones in the works of Jacob van Deventer, Gerard Mercator, Abraham Ortelius, and Christian Sgrooten.

The catalogue begins with an explanation of the context of the exhibition. In 1994, the Royal Library celebrated the 400th anniversary of the death of Mercator with an exhibition called *Mercator. Des navigateurs aux astronautes* [Mercator: From navigators to astronauts]. For the 500th anniversary of his birth, the library therefore wanted to take a different angle. Christian Sgrooten’s manuscript *Atlas*

Bruxellensis was an important source for Mercator’s Atlas. This was therefore a wonderful opportunity to show both sets of maps to full advantage. We are told that Peter Meurer’s research on the relationship between the *Atlas Bruxellensis* and Mercator’s atlas (see Looks at Books in BIMCC Newsletter No 32) was the basis for the exhibition.

There next follows a section on ‘Cartography and Compilation’. It serves as an introduction to the actual comparison between the two sets of maps in the exhibition. We are told that the sourcing was certainly not in one direction only. Although we generally think of Sgrooten being a major source for Mercator’s maps, Sgrooten used Mercator’s map of Flanders and his son Arnold’s map of Trier and its environs as sources for his maps. Later he would also use Mercator’s maps for his *Atlas Madritensis*. In some cases both men used the same source (Deventer’s maps, for example) for their maps, so if we see the same details on each map, we shouldn’t automatically assume that one copied from the other.

The catalogue goes on to define its area of study – the extent to which Sgrooten’s cartographic work was used by Mercator for his maps of the Low Countries. It examines eight maps in this context, out of thirteen

Detail of north Friesland by Sgrooten (left) and by Mercator (right)





presented in the exhibition, and in parallel also takes other maps into account:

- 1 Brabantia, Gulick and Cleve
- 2 Hollandia comitatus
- 3 Zeelandt comitatus
- 4 Geldria ducatus
- 5 Lutzenburg ducatus, and Trevirensis provincia
- 6 Frisia occidentalis
- 7 Westfaliae prima tabula
- 8 Westfaliae secunda tabula.

Comparisons for all the maps start with the hydrography of the area, which, together with the overall view of the land mass, constitutes the starting point for any mapmaker. It then looks at the towns on the waterways, the wooded areas, the mountainous areas, toponyms and any other details. Finally, colouring may also be compared, but this is not an essential aspect, especially for printed maps.

For the purposes of this 'Looks at Books', we will take one example of the comparison and leave the reader to enjoy reading the catalogue itself for the others.

Taking the example of map 6, *Frisia occidentalis*, Mercator's map is based entirely on Sgrooten maps: the west part is based on Sgrooten's map of Holland, while for the eastern part Mercator uses Sgrooten's map of Friesland. Sgrooten himself based his map on that of Deventer. The first difference we see between Sgrooten and Deventer's maps is in the indication of the sea, Sgrooten drawing sandbanks which are

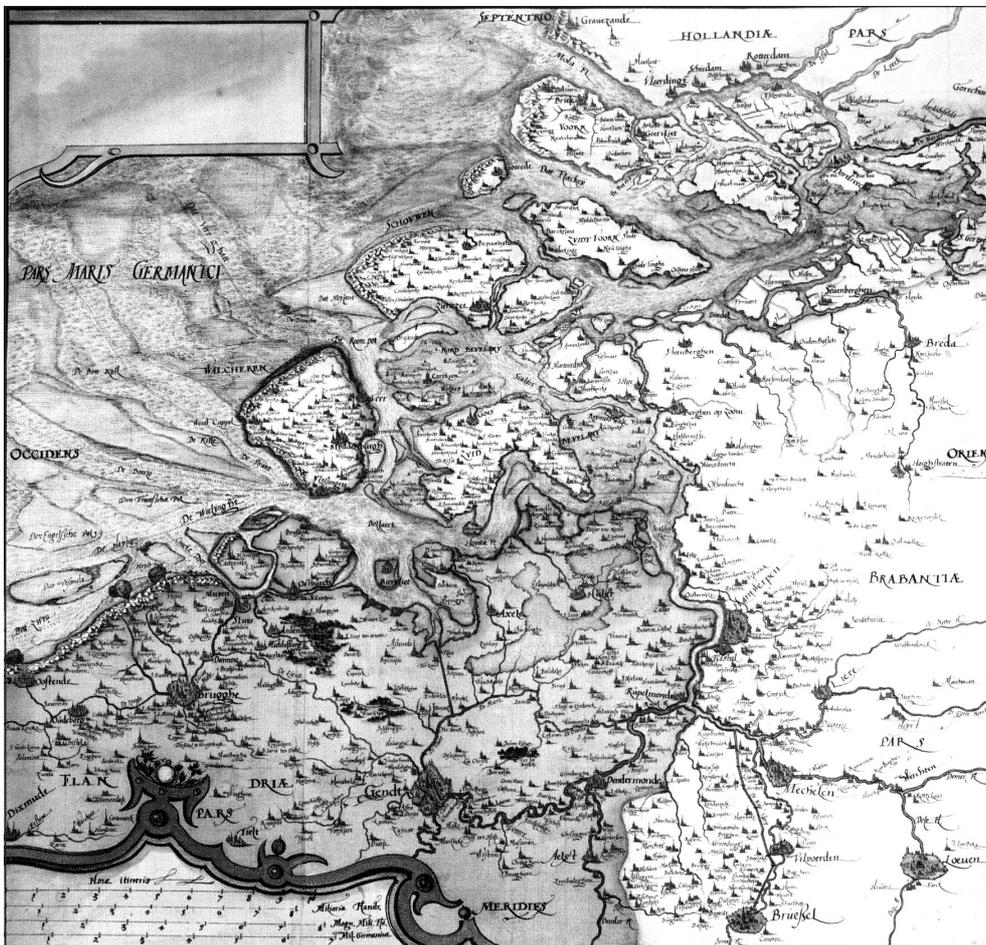
much bigger and naming each channel and indicating its depth in fathoms. It's no wonder that Mercator chose to use the Sgrooten map.

In the north of Friesland, the resemblance of the islands and sandbanks - Schellink and Ameland, for example - between the two maps is stunning, and the inscriptions on the maps in the sea identical: *Dat Wadt*, *Groeninger Diep*, etc. In the area of Groningen, both Sgrooten and Mercator show waterways which do not exist. Sgrooten's error was copied by Mercator, and later by other mapmakers. These errors are not found on Deventer's map, however.

Continuing the comparison, Mercator does not reproduce the waterway drawn by Sgrooten to the west of Groningen, but adds a different one, near a lake that is not drawn by Sgrooten nor by Deventer. At one end of the watercourse, Nortsaltsburg was the only entry point into Groningen from the sea, and thus was a strategic point. On this map Mercator does not indicate the island of Ness, but he does so on his map of Emden and Oldenburg, giving it the name *Nesterlandt*.

Finally, the reader is treated to a bibliography of over 40 books and papers which were consulted when putting together the exhibition and catalogue. Overall, as already mentioned, the catalogue is a very worthy item in itself, and certainly helps to further the exhibition visitor's knowledge of 16th century mapmaking in the Low Countries.

Nicola Boothby
nicola.boothby@telenet.be



Sgrooten map 8:
Zeeland



Johann Schöner's Globe of 1515 Transcription and Study by Chet Van Duzer

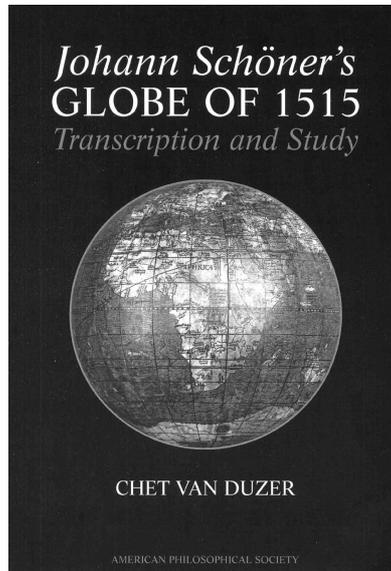
Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2010 (Transactions of the American Philosophical Society 100/5), 218 pp. including index and 40 illustrations (all b/w), soft cover, 27 x 15 cm.

ISBN 9781606180051, US\$ 35.00.

To order: American Philosophical Society c/o Diane Publishing, PO Box 617, Darby, PA 19023-0617, USA, fulfillment@amphilsoc.org – www.amphilsoc.org/publications

The cartographer, mathematician and astronomer Johannes Schöner, born in 1477 in Karlstadt am Main (Lower Franconia, Germany), was one of the first professional globe makers. In 1515 he manufactured globes on which twelve coloured woodcut gores were pasted. Two of these coloured globes, one kept in the Historical Museum in Frankfurt am Main (HMF X 14610), the other in the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek in Weimar (Nr. E I 125) have been preserved. Moreover, the fragments of a set of the printed gores can be found in a Codex (known as the Schöner Sammelband), which was discovered by Joseph Fischer SJ in Wolfegg Castle in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, in 1901; they had been used in its binding. The Schöner Sammelband (acquired for the most part by the collector Jay I. Kislak and now in the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.) also contained the famous twelve-sheet world map of Martin Waldseemüller (printed in 1507, the first map to assign the name 'America' to the New World), which provides one of the basic cartographic sources for Schöner.

His terrestrial globe was manufactured in Bamberg in 1515 as an annexe to his *Luculentissima quaedam terrae totius descriptio: cum multis utilissimis Cosmographiae iniciis [...]* ['A Most Luminous Description of the Whole Earth, Together with Many Very Useful Elements of Cosmography. A New and Truer Description of Europe than Any of the Preceding Ones. The Oldest Names of Rivers, Mountains, Cities and of Most Nations, have been Compared with the Recent Ones; the Reader will Also Find Many Other Things New and Useful to help'; printed in the same year in Nuremberg]. From this treatise, which lists over 1900 place names with their

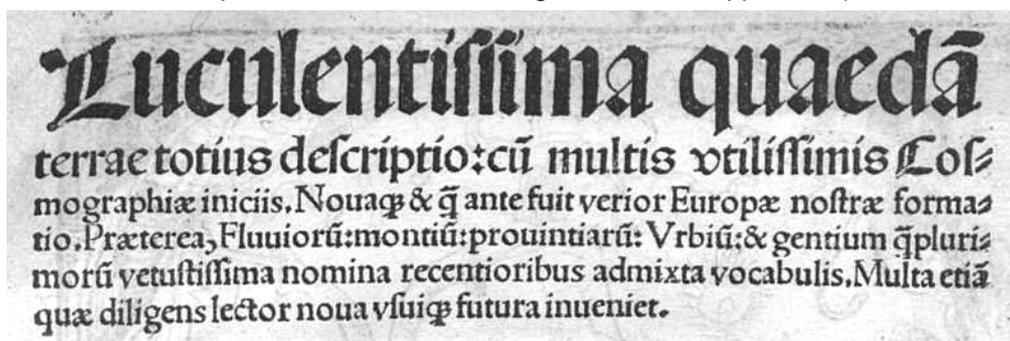


geographical coordinates, the independent scholar and author of numerous articles on the history of cartography, Chet Van Duzer, gives a short transcription and English translation of four selected sections (Schöner's description of North and South America, the Antarctic Ring Continent and his description of an anonymous voyage from Lisbon to India c. 1508-1513) in the Appendix (pp. 104-111) of his book.

The detailed study starts with a small introduction (p. 1-8), which at the same time acts as summary. Van Duzer emphasizes that there are significant geographical differences between the two globes in Frankfurt and Weimar. These discrepancies can be explained by

the fact that the surface of the Weimar globe was heavily restored, so that the toponyms in some cases are badly faded. Particularly the shape of the Persian Gulf, of the Caspian Sea and the illustration of the ships on the two globes seem to be different, which the author argues is because 'these areas were completely redrawn during the aggressive restoration' (p. 4), so that the Weimar Globe seems to be 'the work of a later hand', whereas the Frankfurt globe is 'essentially identical' (p. 5) with the fragment Globe gores preserved in the Library of Congress.

Moreover, Van Duzer shows that Schöner has used a section entitled *De piscibus* (about fishes) in an anonymous illustrated encyclopaedia (*Hortus sanitatis*) of plants, animals, reptiles, birds, fishes and stones, which was first published in 1491 in Mainz, as source for the iconography of several of the sea monsters on his globe. Another new perception is that the anonymous voyage from Western Africa around the Cape of the Good Hope to Madagascar and Eastern Africa from Lisbon to India (depicted on the globe, cf. also Appendix 4) seems to be the journey of





the Portuguese navigator Diogo Lopes de Sequeira (1466-1530). So, 'Schöner's globe is an important and heretofore unrecognized piece of documentation' of this voyage (p. 5).

The main part of the book (pp. 9-103, which is ordered by regions) deals with an examination of Schöner's textual, cartographic and graphical sources, but there is nothing written about the globes' mounting or horizontal ring. In a very detailed analysis (with a total of 351 endnotes on pp. 112-154) Van Duzer gives the first transcription, translation and study of more than 500 toponyms and legends on Schöner's globe, illustrated with 40 pictures. He also discusses the similarities and differences in contrast to contemporary maps and globes like the manuscript *Globe vert* or 'Green Globe' (preserved in the Bibliothèque nationale de France, Rés. Ge A 335), which shows the name 'America' four times on the new land mass and which was for a long time attributed to Schöner's authorship, but in fact neither Schöner nor Waldseemüller seem to have made this globe. Van Duzer also explains that Schöner did not just incorporate known geographic facts that he found in Waldseemüller's world map, but that he also added other knowledge he had established himself, as shown mainly by representation of the South Polar mainland on his globe, which he calls '*Brasiliae Regio*' (Appendix 3), as well as by his strong interest in the Three Wise Men or Magi, who are not even mentioned by Waldseemüller.

The book contains 40 images of Schöner's printed terrestrial globes of 1515 and other contemporary maps and illustrations, but unfortunately the references to these illustrations in the text are sometimes wrong. Moreover, the quality of the pictures, which are only in black and white (and not coloured as in the original mounted globes), makes it difficult to see some details. Van Duzer's study ends with a mostly complete index (pp.196-217). Even if it seems to be very specialized for ordinary people and map collectors, it is an essential reference work for anybody who is investigating late fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century cartography, because it sheds a completely new light on the globography of this time. The comparison of old globes especially is still a desideratum. So we hope that the author of this interesting study, who was Member of the Founding Group of our new International Society for the History of the Map (ISHM, cf. <http://ishm.elte.hu/>), will continue his meticulous research, which will have an impact on other globe enthusiasts in making more transcriptions of old globes. Van Duzer's basic study therefore constitutes a good masterclass.

Thomas Horst
thomashorst@gmx.net



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Cartes & Géomatique. Cartographier l'Afrique [Mapping Africa] (Revue du Comité Français de Cartographie No 210 / Décembre 2011)

Comité Français de Cartographie, Paris, 2011. 198 pp., b/w and colour illustrations, 29,7 x 21 cm.
ISSN 1634-3522, EUR 13.00 plus postage. To order: Siège Social, 73, avenue de Paris, F-94165 Saint-Mandé.
Fax: +33-1-43 74 70 93, E-Mail: lecfc@lecfc.fr, www.lecfc.fr

This special edition of the *Revue du Comité français de Cartographie* comprises all papers presented by experts with a historical, geographical or cartographic background, during the Colloquium 'Cartographier l'Afrique – Construction, transmission et circulation des savoirs géographiques du Moyen Âge au XIX^e siècle' [Mapping Africa-Construction, transmission and circulation of geographical knowledge from the Middle Ages until the 19th century] (held on 2-3 December 2010 in Paris).

After an elaborate introduction by **Robin Seignobos** and **Vincent Hiribarren** thirteen papers follow in chronological order, including a short summary in English, or a résumé in French where the paper was presented and published in English:

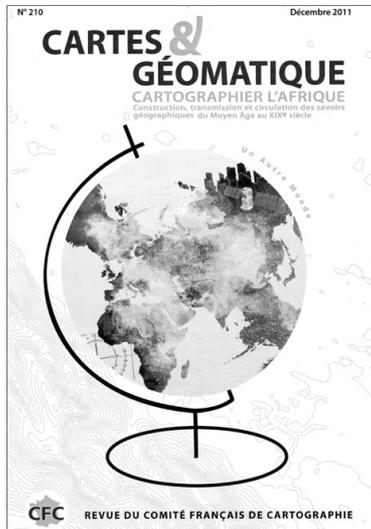
Jean-Charles Ducène: *L'Afrique dans les mappemondes circulaires arabes médiévales* [Africa in medieval Arabic circular *mappamundi*]. At the beginning of Islamic cartography, Ptolemy's influence determined the shape of Africa. It took the Arab geographers quite a long time to improve these proportions in their circular maps towards a more realistic representation of the continent.

Anna Caiozzo and **Annie Vernay-Nouri:** *L'Afrique entre cartographes et cosmographes* [Africa between cartographers and cosmographers]. This essay presents some major geographic and cartographic sources relating to Africa through some important Islamic manuscripts kept in the Bibliothèque nationale de France. It focuses on Idrisi's Geography, Ibn Hawqal's works and Piri Reis' Book of Navigation.

Emmanuelle Tixier du Mesnil: *Le livre et la carte* [The book and the map]. In the Middle Ages, maps were mostly additions to geography books. In order to present how the book/map coupling developed, the works of two major Arab geographers Bakri and Idrisi are compared and analysed.

Emmanuelle Vagnon: *Les rivages africains de l'Océan Indien* [African coasts of the Indian Ocean]. In Western Europe, between the fourteenth and the sixteenth century, the cartography of Eastern Africa was the result of a synthesis between contradictory though legitimate sources. This paper reveals the impact of the Latin translation of Ptolemy's Geography and the Portuguese discoveries of the Indian Ocean.

Robin Seignobos: *La Nubie entre Nil et Niger* [Nubia between Nile and Niger]. Most sixteenth-century maps of Nubia displayed the region in a marginal position. As they were looking for a better conception of African hydrography, cartographers



revised their knowledge. The Nubian example offers the occasion for exploring the sources and methods used by mapmakers to depict the inner parts of Africa whose outline was already well known.

Lucile Haguët: *La carte a-t-elle horreur du vide?* [Is the map afraid of empty spaces?]. Maps of Egypt are used as an example to show the use of 'blanks' in early maps. This leads to question not only the significance of 'blanks' in maps, but also the importance of 'full spaces', which were not only used to fill the void.

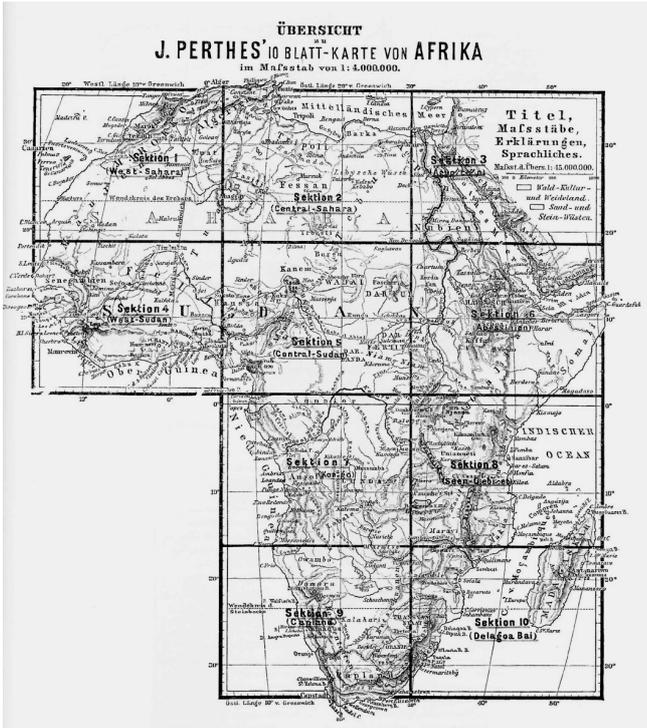
Christian Germanaz: *Cartographier Bourbon aux XVII^e-XIX^e siècles* [Mapping the Bourbon island in the

17-19th centuries]. This essay examines the cartographical history of the Island of Bourbon (now La Réunion) by the study of three predominant maps representing various stages of the shape of the island. Each of the documents permits the analysis of the practical problems and conceptual questions related to the mapping of an area that was physically still difficult to reach.

Wulf Bodenstein: *La carte de l'Afrique en dix feuilles de Hermann Habenicht*, publiée à Gotha en 1885 [The 1885 map of Africa by H. Habenicht]. This special wall map of Africa in ten sheets on a scale of 1:4 000 000 was published by Justus Perthes' Geographical Institute in 1885 to mark the centenary of the Perthes establishment (see illustration p. 13). In 1887 and 1891/92 a second and a third edition with revised maps and complimentary text were published. Wulf Bodenstein is the first to have studied it so far and he comments on some of the map's salient features.

Olivier Loiseaux: *Jules Hansen (1849-1931): dessinateur-géographe*. Jules Hansen was one of the main French cartographers who participated in the revival of the geographical sciences at the end of the 19th century. He was a central figure in the transmission chain of information and the construction of geographical knowledge about Africa.

Wendy N'guia Kahma: *Cartographie missionnaire et savoirs vernaculaires au Lesotho, au XIX^e siècle* [Missionary cartography and vernacular know-how in Lesotho in the 19th c.]. Three young French Protestant missionaries settled in Lesotho to convert people who were not yet living under European domination. They also explored this little kingdom and mapped the region by using the geographical knowledge of its local population.



ignoring the presence of white Boer settlers.

Benoit Beucher: *Le pays des Mossi en carte* [The Mossi country on maps]. The mapping of the Mossi Country (present-day Burkina Faso) in the late nineteenth century has never given rise to any specific study. This paper shows that the development was a collaborative work between the European explorers and conquerors and the local Africans.

Alexandra Loumpet-Galitzine: *La cartographie du roi Njoya (royaume bamoun, ouest Cameroun)* [King Njoya's cartography (Bamun kingdom, west Cameroon)]. Around 1912, during the German colonial period, Njoya – 17th King of the Bamun in west Cameroon – ordered a map of his kingdom and its fortified capital Fumban to be made. The maps, completed in 1920, were annotated in Bamun, a writing invented just a few years before the Europeans arrived.

Each presentation is supplemented by several, mostly coloured illustrations. Their quality varies enormously: from exemplary and excellent to completely unusable. A pity that quite a few of the illustrations do not live up to the standard of the very interesting text of this Colloquium's documentation.



Hans-Uli Feldmann
hans-uli.feldmann@bluewin.ch

Norman Etherington: *Robert Moffat, Jr. and his 'Map of South Eastern Africa, 1845–51'*. After the British annexation of the territory called the Orange River Sovereignty, the new colony needed maps. Robert Moffat compiled a map by emphasizing the interests of African chiefs, while almost completely

Paul Bremmers Antiquariaat
Antique Maps and Prints

Brusselsestraat 91
Maastricht

Tel: +31 43 3253762
www.paulbremmers.com
info@paulbremmers.com

ANTIQUARIAAT PLANTIJN
D.R. Duncker

Ginnekenmarkt 5
4835 JC Breda
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***Gerardi Mercatoris Atlas sive Cosmographicae
Meditationes de Fabrica Mundi et Fabricati Figura. Editio
secunda, sumptibus Cornelij Nicolai & Iudoci Hondij,
Amsterodami 1607***

(Facsimile of the Mercator-Hondius Atlas of 1607)

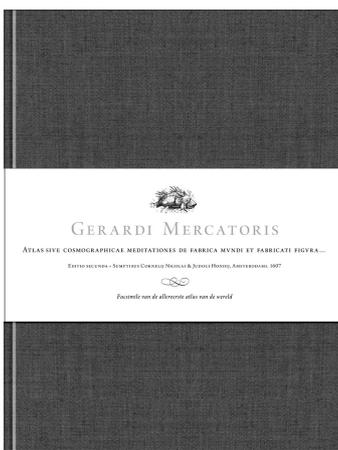
350 p., 149 map plates in full colour. Hard cover 48 x 32 cm With explanatory commentary in Dutch by Greet Poiffiet.
Ed.: Davidsfonds, Leuven, 2012 – Linen cover, ISBN 978-90-5826-862-4. Price: EUR 140.00. (Also available in leather binding.)



This year of the fifth centenary of Gerard Mercator's birth is marked by a profusion of all sorts of events and new publications. Among them several facsimiles of maps and atlases (see: Maps in History BIMCC Newsletter No 42, January 2012: '2012: Mercator's year!' by Wulf Bodenstien). Recently we saw the publication of a facsimile of the complete Mercator-Hondius Atlas of 1607 by the Mercatormuseum of Sint-Niklaas (Belgium). It is edited by Davidsfonds (Louvain). This is a foundation created in the 19th century to promote the Flemish cultural interests, especially the literature, by editing books, organising cultural events and more. Davidsfonds and the Mercator museum of Sint-Niklaas, which owns one of the most interesting Mercator archives with among others this Mercator-Hondius Atlas, decided that the year 2012 was a good occasion to join hands to edit a facsimile printing of this atlas. It is a first experience of the editor; but the result is quite satisfying.

This heavy book (6,2 kg, 47,5 x 32 cm) shows all maps of the Atlas, 149 in total, in full colour and in real size of the original atlas: 45 x 29 cm (or of regular map size 45 x 58 cm). This allows anyone wanting to own (facsimile) maps, study or just look at them, to have at one's disposal a very important collection of maps from the entire opus of Mercator. To the best of my knowledge there is no other facsimile Mercator-Hondius Atlas in full size. In the Sint-Niklaas copy of the atlas four maps were added later on: *Nativus Sueciae...typus* by Jodocus Hondius jr (1613) (p. 62-63), *Silesiae Ducatus...* with a city plan of Breslau, by Petrus Kaerius (1621) (p. 218-219), *Nova Poloniae Delinatio*, by Jodocus Hondius with exuberant decorative elements in the margins (p. 220-221) and *Nova Virginia Tabvla...* also by Jodocus Hondius jr. (1619) (p. 308-309). One map of the original atlas is missing (China). The regular second edition normally contains 146 maps.

Let us first have a look at the Atlas of 1607 itself. The original on which this Atlas is based was edited in 1595 by Gerard's son Rumold Mercator who died in



1599. Jodocus Hondius and Cornelis Claesz bought the copperplates from Rumold's heirs in 1604 and published the first 'Mercator-Hondius Atlas' in 1606 and a second edition of 1607. The language on the maps is Latin excepted on the very last map *..Freti Magellanici...* (by Jodocus Hondius) (p. 316) which is in Dutch; noteworthy also is that this map is very exceptionally oriented to the south. In this edition, and also in later editions, the map sequence has been modified compared with the previous Mercator Atlases. There are six parts: part I: the map of the world (Rumold Mercator, 1597), the continents (two of Europe), the arctic region, Great Britain, North and Eastern Europe, Spain and Portugal; part II: France (Gallia) and Switzerland; part III: the Low Lands (10 maps); part IV: Germany and Central Europe¹; part V: Italy, the Balkan countries and Greece; finally part VI: new maps (by Hondius and his atelier) with global and partial maps of the continents Africa, Asia and America.² The G. Mercator maps that were not yet published in the earlier atlases are now well included ; and Rumold had asked his nephews, the brothers Gerard Mercator jr and Michael, to complete the earlier editions of the atlas by engraving the rest of the planned maps that G. Mercator himself did not execute due to his death in 1594.

Some maps of the Sint-Niklaas atlas are damaged, a.o. the (probably frequently used) maps of *Belgii inferioris descriptio* (p. 142) and of *Hollandt comitatus...*(p. 150) but fortunately without affecting readability. The Latin text on the verso of the maps is not reproduced, but you can find one single sample of it on the opposite page of the map of the north of France with Boulogne (*Bolonia Guines Comitatus*) (p. 114) (see also at the end of this book review for the correct website where all maps and Latin texts can be found).

Let us have a closer look at some features of the new maps which have been added since the Mercator Atlas of 1595. We find (in part I) two Europe maps: besides the 1595 Europe map of Rumold Mercator

¹ In part IV you find also the map of the Diocese of Liège (p. 176): *Leodiensis Dioecesis Typus* (oriented to the east , by Bapt. Doetecum) (mark the engravers mistake – frequently seen – in Dioecesis)

² In the previous atlases the sequence was: Part I (1585): France, the Low Lands; Germany and Central Europe; part II (1589): Italy and Greece; part III (1595): a world map (Rumoldus Mercator) and the continents, Great Britain, the Scandinavian countries and Eastern Europe (Neither Spain nor Portugal).



there is a new one by Jodocus Hondius: *Nova Europæ Descriptio* (p. 14). Some changes were made in the north; the northern *Terra polaris* becomes now the *Mare congelatum*. But the phantom island Frisland(t) is still present, even with names of cities and villages. One of the four medallions of the map of the Arctic Pole, *Septentrionalium Terrarum...*(p. 22) is still revealing the island³. In part II (Gallia) three maps are new: *Totius Lemovici et...* (Limousin) (p. 104) with an inset city plan of Limoges, by Petrus Kaerius; a map of the Provence: *Provinciae regionis Galliae...*(p. 108), by Bapt. Doetecum; and finally *l'Isle de France Parisiensis...* (p. 112-113) by a certain Guilloterius Biturix⁴. In Part III (the Low Lands) one map is added: *...Novam & accuratissimam descriptionem...* by Petrus Kaerius (p. 146). This map is oriented to the north-east (very unusual) and shows some details about the siege of Ostend, 1601-1604. And so we could go on with the three remaining parts of the Atlas but this would take us too far. An oddity I found (however also to be seen in the previous Atlases) is the effigy of the *Zolotaia baba idolum*, a Russian name of the fertility goddess worshipped by the Finno-Ugric people (north of Russia, between the river Ob and the Ural)⁵ (part I, *Russia cum confinijis.*, p. 77).

The second part of the book is shorter (p. 321 - 348). It consists of necessary and interesting explanatory commentaries by Greet Polfliet, advisor to the Municipal Museums of Sint-Niklaas. Successively she describes the world of Mercator, his life and work, the technique of mapmaking in the 16th century, the consecutive Mercator atlases completed by Hondius with the first Mercator-Hondius Atlas of 1606, and finally she describes this second edition of 1607 itself. These short chapters are followed by the table of contents of the maps in the Atlas; in this table the exact name of all the maps is preceded by the page number and followed by the name(s) of the author(s) or engraver and some interesting comments and peculiarities.

Finally G. Polfliet gives a history of this Atlas of Sint-Niklaas; she relates how it was found in the attic of the municipal library of Ostend and how it was acquired by the Mercator Museum of Sint-Niklaas in 1969. She also gives the history of the Sint-Niklaas Mercator Museum; she starts to tell about the great interest that a certain medical doctor Van Raemdonck had at the end of the 19th century for this great Flemish mapmaker born in the neighbouring Rupelmonde, and how he stimulated the historical society of his home town to acquire maps, globes, and atlases of Mercator; and we follow G. Polfliet when she relates all the subsequent vicissitudes until



Detail of the map of Flanders, p. 144, to give an example of the constant loss of particularities in the centre fold. E.g. you see *Castert muelen* [mill] (right in the middle of the picture), but not the image of its mound.

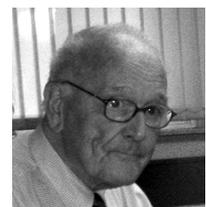
the Mercator museum was established.

Needless to say, this is a unique and exquisite book that all map collectors should possess. Nearly all known Mercator maps are assembled in this book, together with all remaining maps of the world engraved by his successors and other mapmakers. The sharp printing of these full-size maps, the care that has been taken for rendering the right colours, the excellent commentary by G. Polfliet, the nice layout are all reasons to convince a hesitating acquirer. But unfortunately the book is thread-bound in gatherings of four sheets; only the upper one of the four is really a single sheet with one entire map; the other pages contain always two halves of a map carefully joined in the centre. This means that most centrefolds cannot reveal very well the centre part of the map⁶. This is not better than other books that are not facsimile editions such as the book by Horst on Gerard Mercator⁷ (also four sheets per gathering). The atlas book lacks a bibliography: at least J. Keuning's 'History of an Atlas: Mercator – Hondius' (*Imago Mundi* Vol. 4, 1947, p. 37-62) should have been mentioned together with several recent studies about the atlases of Mercator by P. van der Krogt and others. I heard there is a French version in the making which is good news for such a precious book.

All maps, including their Latin introductory texts, may be consulted on the complete digital version of the atlas on:

www.davidsfonds.be/mercatoratlas.

Pierre Mattelaer
pierre.mattelaer@skynet.be



3 Other phantom islands are also present: among them the small islands of Brazil and Flandria (Vlaenderen) p. 12 and 14.

4. French engraver François de la Guillotière (+ Paris, 1594). Curiously the engraver drew the enclosed domains of the castles of *Madrid* (west of Paris) and *Vincennes* (east). In addition he drew two windmills in the neighbourhood of the *Etang de Montmorency* (now *Lac d'Enghien?*). I could not find a reason for these particularities.

5 She is represented here sitting on a throne with a child in one hand and a torch (or an other child?) in the other. She is easily identifiable on the map because accentuated with brown colour.

6 For example, I looked for the *Castert muelen* on the map of Flanders (see my article in Newsletter No 42: 'Windmills on Mercator maps'), as illustrated above. It is a pity that the maps were not produced on hinges.

7 Thomas Horst. 'Die Welt als Buch. Gerhard Mercator und der erste Welt ATLAS' (also a Dutch and French edition), Mercatorfonds Brussels, 2011), see review in Newsletter No 43.



Zuid-West Vlaanderen in oorlog 1566-1713. Forten en veldversterkingen tussen Leie en Schelde [South-West Flanders in war 1566-1713. Forts and field-fortifications between Lys and Scheldt]

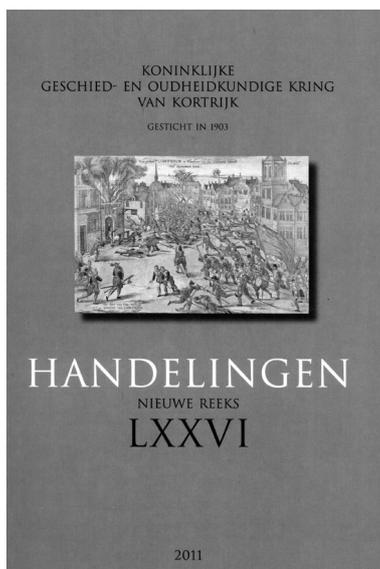
Edited by Ph. Despriet

Kortrijk, 2011, 326 pp, ill. Archeologie Zuid-West Vlaanderen v.z.w. Archeologische en historische monografieën, 78. - Koninklijke Geschied- en Archeologische Kring van Kortrijk. Handelingen Nieuwe reeks LXXVI

This issue of the periodical published by the Historical and Archeological Society of Kortrijk (Courtrai) consists of 18 papers by eight different authors. One of these is our member and former treasurer Pierre Mattelaer. But most texts are by Ph.Despriet who has thoroughly studied the defensive lines erected by the troops of Louis XIV in south-west Flanders. Using already existing studies and with much personal exertion, he draws up an inventory of 67 (or 68?) documents useful for his cartographical purposes, kept in Belgian and foreign institutions. Many more sources are certainly to be found, connected with the fluctuating borderline between France and the Spanish Netherlands.

The first annexations of Spanish territory, already under Louis XIII, resulted in an inextricable mixing up of possessions, regularly contested by the opponents. Year after year wars raged, completely ruining the country. Cities changed hands according to treaties. To protect their newly gained territory and defend their own country (the so-called Pré-carré), the French built defensive lines and fortified cities, such as Menen (Menin) and Tournai. The principal lines were the Espierreslines or Spierelines between Lys and Scheldt, several times slightly moved and rebuilt, and the Clareline, between the Scheldt and Kortrijk, but meant to reach Dunkerque.

Fragments of old maps illustrate the texts, comparisons are made with modern ones and aerial



photos situate the remnants of redoubts and the tracé of short portions of the lines in the fields. Examples of the working method are demonstrated in P. Herbert's paper, in which he pinpoints the situation of Fort Te Clare in Sint-Denijs (between Kortrijk and Tournai) on maps and in the field.

P. Mattelaer studied 40 windmills along the Spierelines and Clarelines, some of which still exist to-day. At Rekkem stood the Castermills, already on the Mercator map, as discussed by the author in our Newsletter No 42, pp.12-14. Windmills, always on a height, were of utmost importance for orientation, military observation and even communication, through different positions of the sails. Some reproductions of mills on maps are incorporated in the paper.

At first sight, this book is of greater interest for military history than for cartography. Nevertheless, the numerous maps, manuscripts sometimes showing allotments, or printed ones (Fricx, Beaurain...) are much more than mere illustration. They are the core of the research. The methodology and the information where to find the documents in archives, libraries, bibliographies and the field work are of paramount interest for anyone trying to reconstruct local geographical features.



Lisette Danckaert

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Rob Camp
 Beursstraat 46
 3832 Ulbeek-Wellen
 www.lex-antiqua.be

Tel. +32(0)11 596338
 Gsm +32(0)498 772505
 Fax+32(0)11 596338
 rob.camp@lex-antiqua.be



Het lezen van oude kaarten [The reading of ancient maps] Course on the history of cartography at the University of Ghent October 2011- May 2012

Our readers will remember the articles in previous Newsletters about this subject: the University of Ghent (along with the Brussels Map Circle) organised this course during the academic year 2011/12, at the rate of one Saturday per month.

Looking back on it, it may be labelled as 'successful' (on average some 45 participants), 'comprehensive' (it covered the history of cartography from the beginnings to the 21st century), 'highly informative' (each lecture was given by a specialist in that domain), 'well documented' (each participant received nicely presented course material for each session) and finally... 'good fun' (over lunch and during breaks every one seemed to socialise quite a lot, always an aim of our Circle).

We hope to (help) repeat this kind of initiative in the future and would like to know, dear Reader, if you would be interested to take such course, in English, in the Brussels Region. Your potential enthusiasm would incite us to endeavour still more. Please send me your reactions, remarks or questions on this subject!

BIMCC President
Caroline De Candt
president@bimcc.org



A few of the participants at the session in Antwerp (21/4/2012).

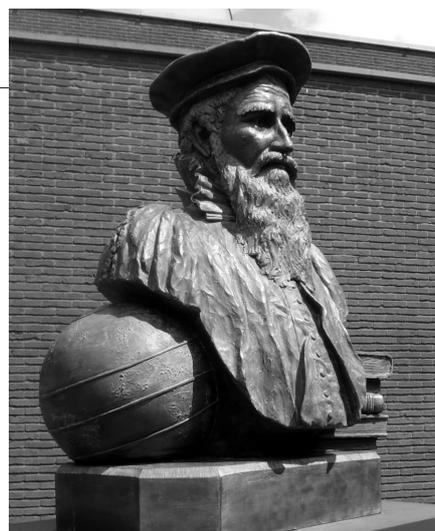
Besides Circle members Jean-Carl Huyghebaert, Nicola Boothby, Maurits De Ridder, Caroline De Candt, Jean Christophe Staelens, Paul De Candt and Pierre Dumolin, you will recognise Hans Kok, IMCoS chairman and speaker that day, and Elri Liebenberg, chair of the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography, on a visit in Belgium.



This issue of 'Maps in History' was edited by Jean-Louis Renteux with the support of the Editorial Committee comprising Wulf Bodenstein, Nicola Boothby, Lisette Danckaert, Peter Galezowski, Pierre Parmentier and Jacqueline Renteux.



**Mercator revisited:
cartography in the age of discovery
International Conference, 25-28 April 2012
Sint-Niklaas, Belgium**



The inhabitants of Sint-Niklaas are probably still wondering about those strange people that were staying in the local hotels and visiting their restaurants, wearing neckties with maps on them, blouses adorned with weird sea monsters, wind roses and cabalistic signs and finally umbrellas displaying metro maps. How on earth did they get there? Probably using a good map, would be my answer...Some 67 members of this strange sect occupied themselves (and a considerable part of the local pubs) during three days in the city's cartography museum, listening with great attention to some speakers who – again! – showed pictures of maps, wind roses and cabalistic signs. It even took a fire siren to make them stop occasionally, to eat something, during which effort they even continued to talk very animatedly about - surely, this must be a mental disease? - maps, wind roses, cabalistic signs...

You of course, esteemed reader, have guessed: there was a conference going on, organised by Ghent University and the Heritage Cell Waasland. Among the speakers quite a few well-established names in the field of the history of cartography, along with some young scholars, who presented the result of their research with a refreshing enthusiasm. Indeed, it has inspired the reporters of your favourite magazine, this Newsletter, to start a series on what inspired these young talents to choose the field of the history of cartography.

It is impossible to analyse all the presentations here and I'm afraid the proceedings of the conference aren't available any longer. But, fortunately, some presentations are otherwise available (see footnotes in this article).

Let me just briefly cite a few of the lectures that I was particularly interested in, with apologies to speakers I don't mention.

Mercator for dummies....

Of course, as President of the Brussels Map Circle, I was very proud to listen to our members Stanislas De Peuter, commenting on the work of Cornelis Van Wytfliet, and Eric Leenders on Mercator's map of Flanders (or really Van Deventer's map, I should say, since Eric supplied some very convincing proof for this — see BIMCC Newsletter No 30).

Keynote speaker Thomas Horst, who couldn't be absent from this conference in view of the publication of his excellent book on Mercator at the same time (see the review in BIMCC Newsletter No 43), gave a very comprehensive and clear presentation on Mercator's globes and their place and function in early modern cartography.

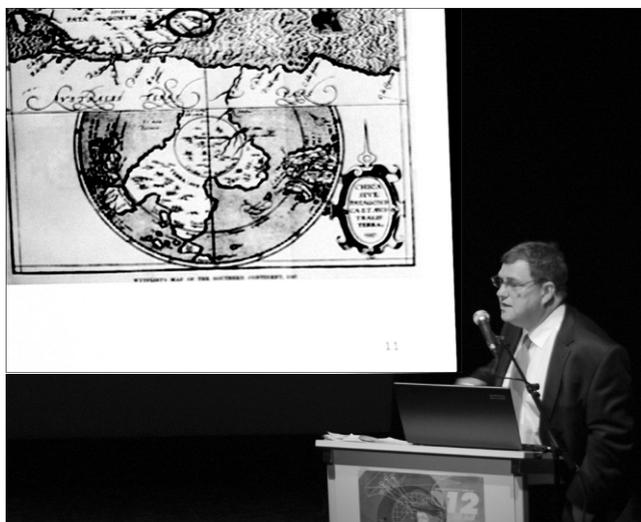
Neither could Sjoerd de Meer be absent, since the Maritime Museum Rotterdam claims possession of the sole version of the world map by Mercator in the shape of an atlas.

André Vanden Eynde

Rue de Stassart 59
B-1050 Brussels
Tel. +32 (0)2 514 40 47

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Stanislas De Peuter's presentation



Hugo Declair's presentation on Mercator's magnetic work really should have borne the title: 'Earth magnetism for dummies'. It was so clear and well explained that even a total ignoramus like me could understand everything. Almost.

A very unexpected but fascinating presentation was that by Inge Panneels who, as an artist, works with maps. I never suspected there could be so many surprising and original possibilities in that domain, starting with a map...

A. Meskens did a good job in emphasizing the importance of the Antwerp mathematician Michiel Coignet (1549-1623). This was most eloquently proven by showing the image of a battered Coignet book, found in the remains of the wooden lodge on Nova Zembla, where Willem Barentz spent the winter of 1596-97...

Proving that even demigods such as Mercator could make mistakes, J. Everaert pointed out one of his errors, namely the placing of the imaginary island 'Vlaenderen' on his maps, with a curious story about the origin of the myth.

Mercator: more than meets the eye...?

Jerry Brotton unfortunately couldn't attend the conference, but his keynote speech was delivered anyway and is now published¹. Brotton places Mercator's 1569 world map in the broader context of his time, stating that we 'misunderstand the map if we see it as a purely geographical object... Rather, we should see it as a response to the conflicted theological landscape of the Reformation... and as...part of a wider cosmographical project' (of Mercator). In the same line as Ruth Watson in her presentation about the double cordiform world map of 1538, Brotton also defines the earlier (1538) Mercator world map with its cordiform projection as 'a clear statement of religious dissent'.



Animated discussions over coffee breaks



A. Meskens's presentation

Mercator's projection: the chicken or the egg?

The famous Mercator projection and the many ways in which scholars have seen and see its genesis shed a different – and even slightly irreverent? - light on The Great Man.

Mark Monmonier, whose keynote speech² will be published later, focused on the mathematical aspects of the projection. He stated it was clear Mercator set out to make a conformal map, but it is far from clear how he laid out his grid.

Two Portuguese gentlemen, J. Alves Gaspar and Henrique Leitao also tackled the question. The first gave a cartometric analysis of Mercator's 1569 world map (well above my mathematical capacities, but some very well-informed people have told me it was very impressive and it sure sounded like it to me!). Interested readers should look at it on line³. The latter gave a more accessible presentation about the pre-history of the Mercator projection and the key role of the concept of rhumb-lines, for the first time studied by the Portuguese mathematician Pedro Nuñez, whose book was in Mercator's library.

These two speakers stated that the projection used on the Mercator 1569 map is really the end result of an empirical method to place parallels using the said rhumb- lines.

Or, to quote Alves: 'his (Mercator's) genius did not consist in developing a formal theory leading to a new map projection, but in assuming that a solution existed and in using effectively the knowledge and the information at his disposal to find it'.



BIMCC President
Caroline De Candt
president@bimcc.org

¹ The Cartographic Journal, Vol. 49, No 2, pp. 101-106.

² The Mercator Projection and its impact, adoption, controversy and survival from the 16th century to the present day.

³ http://lisboa.academia.edu/JoaquimGaspar/Papers/1591866/Squaring_the_circle_how_Mercator_did_it_in_1569_ppt_



1....18 : page numbers in the Atlas

Mercator 1569 coloured wo



Atlas of the World ("Atlas van de Wereld") in color © Stichting Maritiem Museum Rotterdam & World map of G. Mercator from 1569 (b&w) © Öffentlichen Bibliothek der Universität Basel
Colored world map recreation by Aquaterra nv (Belgium)

World wall map 'reassembled'



Mercator 1569 coloured world wall map reassembly

By Stijn Tallir
st@aquaterra.be

Introduction

Inspired by the 500th anniversary of the birth of Mercator and on the occasion of the international conference in Sint-Niklaas, 'Mercator Revisited – Cartography in the Age of Discovery', Aquaterra wanted to digitally recreate the coloured version of the Mercator World Map of 1569 based on the 'Atlas of the World' owned by the Maritime Museum Rotterdam.

Mercator is assumed to have dissected and reassembled at least three copies of his original wall map to create this atlas filled with coherent units (e.g. Continents). It should therefore be possible to digitally recreate a coloured wall map from the pieces used in the atlas with an image of one of the three still existing wall maps as reference.

For the purpose of clarity, in this article, the atlas sheets will be referred to as 'pages' and the original wall map sheets as 'sheets'.

The Rotterdam atlas

Coincidentally the Walburg Pers published a facsimile of this 'Atlas of the World' of Mercator in 2011 in Dutch (in October 2012 they will also publish an English version of this facsimile). The pages with images are reproduced in this facsimile in full colour and in actual size. For the purpose of this exercise the pages from the facsimile were scanned so we didn't need to scan the original atlas.

In the facsimile the division of the atlas is extensively described and explained. Most importantly, whereas the original wall map was printed in 18 separate central sheets (or 24 sheets in total, with the marginal sheets), the atlas is made up out of 18 pages containing maps and texts derived from at least three wall maps. These pages have been made from cut-out pieces and ordered by subject (continents, oceans or groups of legends). This means that for a great part of the maps in the atlas an overlap with other pages was needed to be able to cover the different geographic entities. Only the last page (18 - Southern part of the Pacific Ocean) doesn't seem to fit this logic.

The reference wall map

When we look at the atlas as a puzzle there are some things to take into consideration. Generally a puzzle is created from a single image so the pieces can be put back together based on the images on the pieces and their shape. However the pieces used in the Rotterdam atlas weren't cut from the one and same wall map, they were assembled to form a completely different end product. This resulted in holes, overlaps, different distortions due to aging, ... So a reference image was indispensable. But which

of the other three known wall maps could be used as background?

The Paris map¹ is in poor condition and it only consists of the central 18 sheets so it doesn't have the borders and additional cartography on the left and right side of the map. The Breslau map² was lost during WWII but was already in such a bad condition in 1891 that a facsimile was made.

The Basel map³ however is considered the cleanest of the three extant wall maps so this would be the best reference image. It is made up of three separate rows each consisting of eight sheets (counting the left and right border as two sheets) rather than a single assembled map. On the 1992 reproduction by Wilhelm Kruecken on a reduced scale there was significant spacing between the three strips. To solve this a scan at 400 dpi of the reproduction was made and the three strips were cut out of the image and reassembled to form a more suitable reference map.

Identifying the pieces in the atlas

The pieces were identified by visually comparing referenced pages to the underlying reference map. For each page, control points were sought on the reference map to create a referenced page. In the ideal case that a page would have been composed out of just one piece there would be an overall visual correspondence between the referenced page and the reference map with just one set of control points.

Any visible significant difference or outline on the image of the atlas page was then used to identify distinct pieces. For every piece a unique set of control points was created until an acceptable correspondence was reached between the entire set of imagery contained in the atlas and the reference map.

Because evidently in the facsimile all tangible differences in the pages were lost and several outlines follow coloured edges, there will most likely be additional pieces to be found in the atlas. This would need a visual inspection of the original atlas in Rotterdam. Although it would have been easier to identify the pieces based on the original atlas rather than on the scanned images of a facsimile, for our purposes this was more than sufficient. It was never a goal to identify all the different pieces in the atlas but to create a coloured and assembled image of the wall map.

Reassembling the wall map

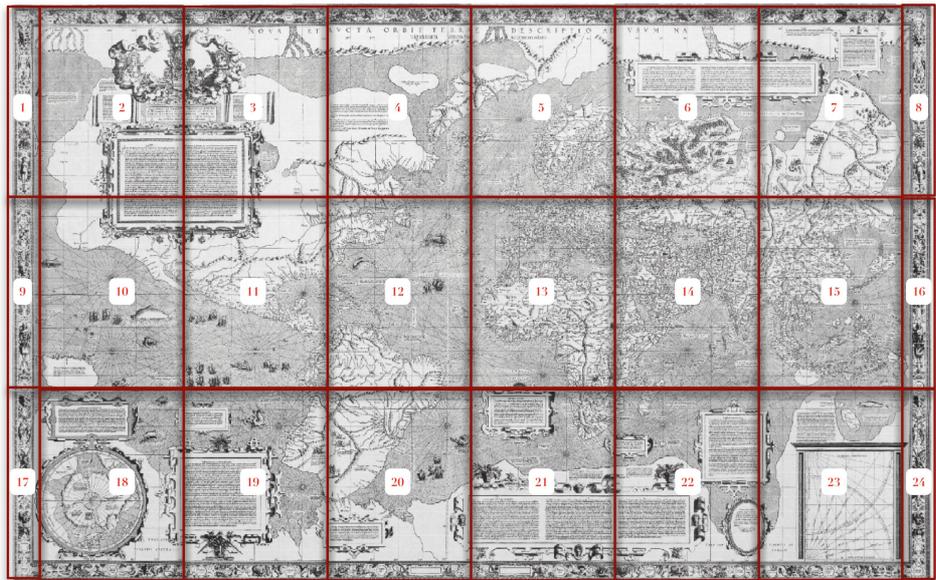
The identified pieces were then cut out of the referenced pages so it would be possible to combine these into an assembled wall map (reproduced on the centrefold in this Newsletter, with an indication of the Atlas pages used).

Although the pages were referenced on a single reference image the inherent geometrical differences

¹ Kept in the Bibliothèque Nationale - France

² Kept in the City Library of Wrocław/Breslau- Poland

³ Kept in the Universitätsbibliothek Basel-Switzerland



Basel Map - Map sheet division © Öffentlichen Bibliothek der Universität Basel

between the images on two scans of two different historical documents are too irregular to resolve. This would result in an assembled image with notable discrepancies between adjacent or overlapping pieces.

Every referenced piece adjacent to or overlapping with another referenced piece was therefore given a new set of control points with regard to its 'neighbours'. This way a more visually pleasing end result could be created.

In a final stage the order in which the pieces would have to be combined was determined. Because of the overlaps and colouring differences a master image was created with the least obtrusive transitions between the pieces. Nevertheless it might be interesting to create a second image which shows exactly the opposite.

Some general observations

Depending on whether you take into account the map area of the 18 central sheets or that of all 24 sheets, between 8 and 9 % of the original wall map coverage (all borders excluded) is lost in the atlas. The most significant losses are approximately 3 cm of the entire northern edge except for the title, the area around the cartouche with the map of the North Pole, the map area to the left and right of the dedication to Mercator's patron, the area around cartouches in the lower right corner of the wall map and a piece of cartography between pages 4 and 12.

A total of thirty five distinct pieces were identified based on a primarily visual analysis. Further detailed analysis (taking into account paper composition, aging, colouring, tangible cutlines, ...) would probably result in a greater number. Even so, at the moment of writing this article no solution has been found to create the atlas (with the known pieces and overlapping areas) from three original wall maps. It seems that sheets from a minimum of four wall maps was needed to create the atlas.

Though the pages were created according to geographic entities, still between 30 % and 35 % of the cutlines correspond with the edges of an original wall map sheet. Most of the pages are made up out of the central 18 sheets. Only pages 16 and 17 require the additional left and right bordering sheets.

Oddly enough, there are colouring differences

between adjacent/overlapping pages in the atlas. This might indicate that several differently coloured wall maps were used or that the colouring was done independently after the assembly of the pages.

Conclusion

Even though it was known in advance, from the documentation in the facsimile, that it wasn't possible to recreate a complete wall map, the end result was more than visually satisfying. Interestingly enough, in reassembling the coloured Mercator 1569 World Map based on the 'Atlas of the World' owned by the Maritiem Museum Rotterdam, we've indirectly learned some interesting things about the atlas and about the person who assumingly created it, namely Mercator.

By sequentially analyzing the overlaps between the pages it became clear that to create the atlas one would need access to sheets of a minimum of four wall maps. The sheets even had to be from different states because a state with the allegory but without the poems must have existed and several cartouches appear with and without text in the atlas.

The colour differences on the islands on pages 13, 16 and 18 suggest that at least three differently coloured versions were needed. Considering the cost of such things, this seems unthinkable. Hence, the (inconsistent) colouring must have taken place at the moment of assembling or (much) later. Further proof of this is page 9 of the atlas.

Selective imagery from 20 (out of 24) different sheets was used: pages 16 and 17 contain pieces from the lower left and right border sheets. This means that the creator didn't mind not using four sheets and even sacrificing up to 9 % of his original map coverage in the atlas.

Whatever the motivation was behind the atlas (gift, prototype, creative use of leftovers, portable navigational tool, ...), it remains an intriguing historical document.

Note: Due to limited space in this Newsletter, a full description of the atlas reassembly could not be presented here. However the full article, including a page by page analysis of the atlas, can be found on our website: www.bimcc.org



The scientific Library of Gerard Mercator

By Jan De Graeve
Jan@degraeve-geo.eu

In 1994 the Koninklijke Oudheidkundige Kring van het Land van Waes or KOKLW [Royal Historical Circle of the Waes Region], the city of Sint-Niklaas and the Mercator BVBA [society] organised an exhibition to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Mercator's death.

On this occasion a catalogue entitled *Mercator en zijn Boeken* [Mercator and his books] was published with the support of UNESCO. The curator Theo Penneman wrote in the introduction: 'These are not books which belonged to Gerard Mercator; as far as is known until now, no book has been found belonging to his library, and no printed work has been found with his property mark.'

This exhibition triggered my research into describing the books of Mercator's library, locating them in private or public libraries, especially those with Mercator's hand-written annotations. I thought it would be particularly interesting to find and study those copies, which could teach us a lot more about the great man's intellectual process and his inventions.

When I started my research only one book had been identified and located in Glasgow University with Mercator's annotations. Professor Owen Gingerich of Harvard University had found it: it was the Copernicus *De Revolutionibus libri VI* first edition of 1543.

The 1604 auction

In 1604, Gerard Mercator's library of some 1000 books was sold at a public auction organised in Leyden (Netherlands). In 1994, the Mercator fonds and Paribas published a facsimile edition of a transcription of the only surviving catalogue of the 1604 auction. This catalogue had belonged to the *Bibliothek des Börzenvereins der Deutschen Buchhändler* [Library of the Union of German Booksellers], Leipzig in 1885, and it was lost in the last war. Early in 1891 the catalogue had been on loan to Ghent University where it had been copied for Dr Jan Van Raemdonck, animator of the KOKLW and a man who devoted his later life to the study of Gerard Mercator. This transcript was found by Alfred

Van der Gucht, then President of KOKLW, in a file (*Theologia*) in Jan van Raemdonck's papers and served for the facsimile.

The items in the auction represented the total collection of books of the Mercator family, ten years after the death of both Mercator and his son Barthelemy. Calling this the *Gerard Mercator library* was designed to raise the commercial prestige of the auction and boost the financial results. Unfortunately the prices asked are unknown and have not survived. The large library contained about 1000 titles in 800 volumes, often bound together by the binder. There were religious books (half of them Catholic), historical works, scientific books and others.

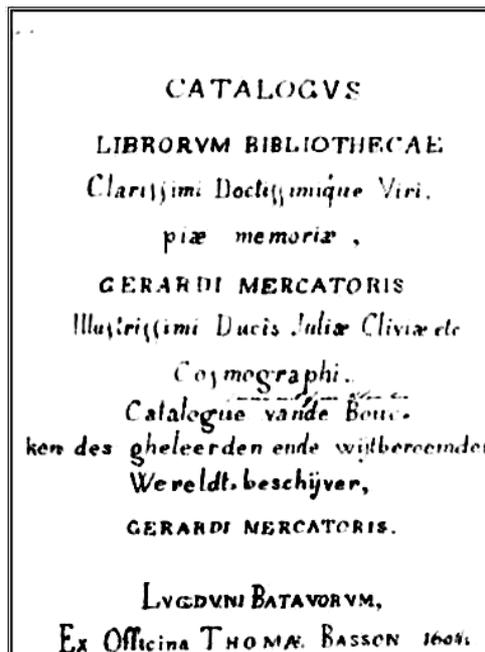
The research

My research was limited to the mathematical books in the broadest sense: they deal with arithmetic, geometry, trigonometry, surveying, architecture, fortification, astronomy, astrology, time measurement, calendar calculation, scientific instruments, cartography and applications. There are books on chemistry, optics, there are encyclopaedia and books on many of the subjects listed above. All together there are 202 books in 160 volumes.

Only 105 out of 202 show a date. Printer and publisher names are not mentioned. Nevertheless I could identify most of the books. However attributing some of the books with 100 % confidence to Mercator's library is just not possible, as too many elements are lacking. For instance I have found most of the 66 known editions of the *Arithmetica* of Gemma Frisius, published before Gerard Mercator died. Hence the difficulty of attributing one, rather than another publication.

Contrary to most bibliographers I had no access to the books themselves, which are rare and often not accessible in Belgian libraries.

With my work I aim to give an appropriate tool to researchers and colleagues to find and relocate the books of Mercator's library in public and private libraries. It would be a great success if some of the annotated books by Mercator could be identified and studied. Not only would the interest of



Transcription of the 1604 auction catalogue



bibliophiles be served, but Mercator's intellectual evolution could also be studied and the books which could have given him the inspiration for his main works identified.

Early in May 2012, I ended my research and wrote a 202 page book published by *Le Livre et l'Estampe*, the journal of the Belgian Bibliophiles.

Analysis of the Mercator library

The part I examined, dealing only with the scientific books, covers about one fifth of the Mercator library. They are catalogued under 'Mathematical books' – but I also added some from the *Libri Politores* – and in the History and Medicine sections, which I added at the end. To subdivide them, and classify them could be unwise as many books deal with multiple subjects. There are 47 books on astronomy, 39 on mathematics, 6 on arithmetic, 9 on geometry. Only one deals with spherical trigonometry, 2 are on algebra, 13 concern scientific instruments, 12 are about calendars, 10 on navigation, 38 on geography or cosmology, 3 on surveying, about 10 on astrology, a single one on architecture, 2 on alchemy, 4 on squaring the circle, 4 others are encyclopaedias and many deal with multiple disciplines.

It is surprising to find so many original editions – 139 – this is about two thirds. Mercator must have been up to date with new publications, or books about to be printed. He had of course an ongoing relation with the Plantin workshop, not only through selling his maps and globes but also for buying the paper he needed for his maps. He had an agent in Antwerp, Louys de Dieu, who bought many books for him. Gerard also bought many books from the Frankfurt book fair. By reading the Plantin archives I wondered why Mercator sometimes bought more than one copy. He must have sold or exchanged them. Some books are present in different editions.

In the catalogue there are books by his teacher Gemma Frisius: *Principiis astronomiae et cosmographiae* and the *De locorum describendorum ratione*; also his *Arithmetica* and the *Astrolabium Catholicum* of 1566. This book describes the method for transforming polar coordinates into equatorial ones and for converting the map coordinates on the globe and vice versa, a system of particular interest to Mercator.

On the other hand Mercator's book on geometry which he studied in Louvain is missing. I think it was the Vögelin edition of (probably) 1529, which very much influenced him, as we read in Ghim's biography of Mercator.

Mercator bought very important scientific books. In astronomy he possessed Copernicus' *De Revolutionibus libri VI* in the first edition from 1543. From the catalogue we know that the copy was annotated by Mercator himself. In the library we also find the *Narratio prima* by Rheticus in the first edition from 1540, which is much rarer, but easier to read and understand, and in which the heliocentric theory is clearly explained.

He had the Alphonsine tables of 1545 but also the Elisabeth tables, by Gauricus, in a Venice edition, which are much rarer.

In the library there are 11 books on Ptolemaeus. The Optics of Vitello, classic works by Archimedes, Aristoteles and Pliny are present, sometimes in more than one edition.

The theory of the loxodrome by Pedro Nuñez from 1566 is in the library and another manuscript by the same Nuñez is also present together with the printed version, which could have inspired Mercator to develop the projection he applied to his world map *Ad Usum Navigantium* of 1569.

He also bought the Georg Reisch *Margarita Philosophica* in the 1512 edition with the appendices. He had the *Summa Arithmetica* by Paccioli, but not the *Divina Proportione*.

Agricola's important books on mineralogy and mine exploitation are present, and there are books on gnomonics, and numerology as well. He must have been a wealthy man to own such a remarkable library.

Did he read his books? From the transcript of the catalogue we find that some books have been annotated by Mercator. The Copernicus copy in Glasgow University confirms this. His biographer Ghim mentions that Mercator was always working or reading whenever he met him. We also see that he applied the theories he read about. For instance in the Flanders map of 1540, he applied the triangulation and intersection technology to visualise the correct areas that had been measured from elevated towers, most probably by Jacob van Deventer, using Gemma Frisius' method as described in the *De Locorum describendorum ratione*, first published in 1533.

Curiously there are no maps by Mercator in the said auction, nor are there any of his atlases. We know that his copperplates were sold by his grandson Gerard Mercator II on 18 March 1604 and that they were acquired by Cornelis Claesz, who published them, in the Mercator-Hondius atlas.

Conclusion:

In 2012 we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the birth of Gerard Mercator. I hope this study can contribute to recreating, one day, Mercator's scientific library. In 1994 no book was known to have belonged to Gerard Mercator. To-day I can inform you that two of them have been located and identified.

I am happy that the scientific books, identical or similar to the copies from the Gerard Mercator library, could be presented in the Sint-Niklaas Mercator Museum, a very appropriate location, and I hope they may be exhibited later this year in a suitable location and be made available in another part of this small world.





Brussels Map Circle excursion to Sint-Niklaas

Around 30 enthusiastic Map Circle members descended on Sint-Niklaas on 2 June 2012 for our annual excursion, this year to the 'Mercator Digitaal' exhibition and to Jan De Graeve's Mercator's Library collection, both at STeM, the Sint-Niklaastown museum. The afternoon began with a presentation by historian Harry van Royen, Project Manager at the museum, entitled 'A Stroll through Mercator's world', and gave an excellent overview both of Mercator's world itself, and also the way that

since Mercator's time it has been commemorated - in stamps, encyclopedias, statues and... beer! (See the presentation on www.bimcc.org) It was a most interesting introduction to the exhibition itself which combined a variety of techniques to show us both Mercator's work and his life, with his original earth and celestial globes.

We were then taken by Jan De Graeve to see the 'Gerardi Mercatoris Bibliothecae' exhibition, integrated in the STeM museum and based on his collection of books from Mercator's library. It was truly fascinating to see the reference books of the great man. Jan described his books, saying that some were brothers and sisters, meaning that they had the same title, author, printer, date and form as those of Gerard Mercator's library, while some were cousins, when one of the specifications was different from Mercator's - a very vivid way of describing the relationship of his own books to Mercator's (see also Jan De Graeve's article on his library).

All in all an excellent afternoon. Many thanks to Harry and Jan for their time and infectious enthusiasm.

Nicola Boothby
nicola.boothby@telenet.be



Jan De Graeve presenting his Mercator library

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Mercator's function : $Y = \text{Log}_n (\tan(X/2 + 45^\circ))$

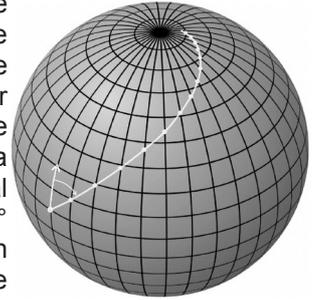
By Jean-Louis Renteux
j.renteux@scarlet.be

This formula is used, on maps based on the Mercator projection (i.e. with increasing latitudes), to calculate the position Y^1 of the parallel corresponding to latitude X . Although it bears Mercator's name, this function was clearly not invented by him: the logarithm function was only introduced by Neper around 1610.

And Mercator never claimed to have made any mathematical developments to establish his so-called projection; in fact, he never revealed how he had developed his famous 1569 world map 'ad usum navigantium emendata' [corrected for the use of navigators]. Using such a map for navigation is indeed quite simple: if you want to plot the course of your ship when following a constant heading on the compass, you just draw a straight line on the map. With any other projection, plotting this line, called loxodrome or rhumb line, would be much more complex.

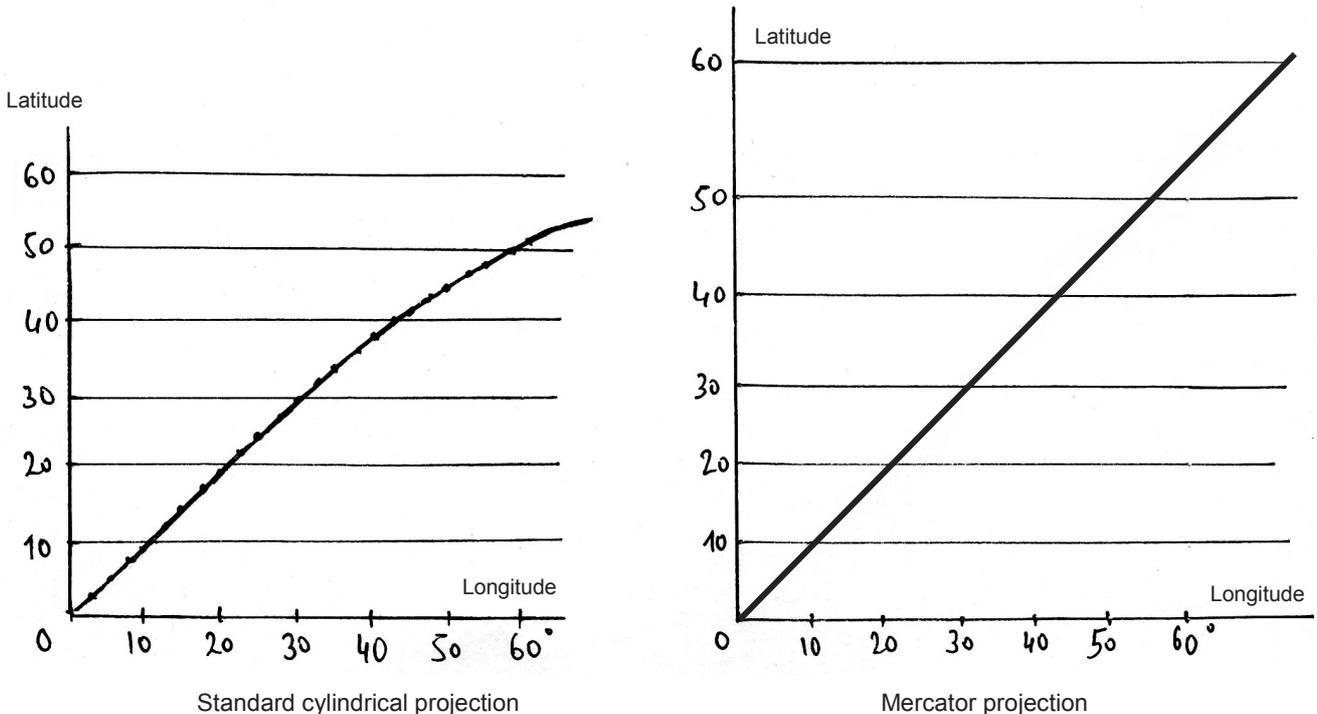
Consider, for example, a cylindrical projection where parallels and meridians form a regular grid of straight lines evenly spaced at 5° . Each $5^\circ \times 5^\circ$ square on the grid represents, in fact a spherical trapezium on the global sphere, with a height of 5° , a lower base of

$5^\circ \times \cos X$, at latitude X , and an upper base of $5^\circ \times \cos(X+5^\circ)$. Near the equator, each square on the projection grid is very similar to the corresponding trapezium on the sphere. Starting from a point on the equator with a north-east heading, i.e. 45° from the north, the loxodrome practically follows the diagonal of the first square on the grid. But at higher latitudes, say 60° , a square on the grid represents a much narrower spherical trapezium, and the 45° loxodrome does not reach the top of the square (see illustration).



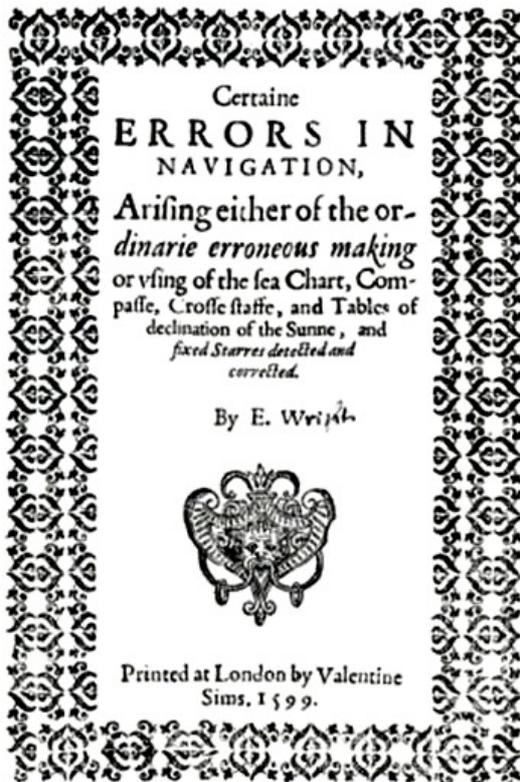
The idea of the Mercator projection² is to increase the height of each box in the grid so that the 45° loxodrome follows the diagonal: at latitude X , the height of the box is multiplied by a factor equal to $1 / \cos X$.

Example of a 45° loxodrome on a standard cylindrical projection and on a Mercator projection



¹ Y being expressed in radians and X in degrees

² The Mercator projection with increasing latitudes is probably inspired by the treatises of the loxodrome by Pedro Nuñez published in 1566, according to Jan De Graeve.



Edward Wright's book cover

This reasoning was attributed to Mercator by Edward Wright in 'Certaine errors in navigation', a book published in 1599 in London³, which gave a formula for the position Y of the parallel corresponding to latitude X on the Mercator projection: $Y = 5^\circ(1 + 1/\cos 5^\circ + 1/\cos 10^\circ + \dots + 1/\cos X)$.

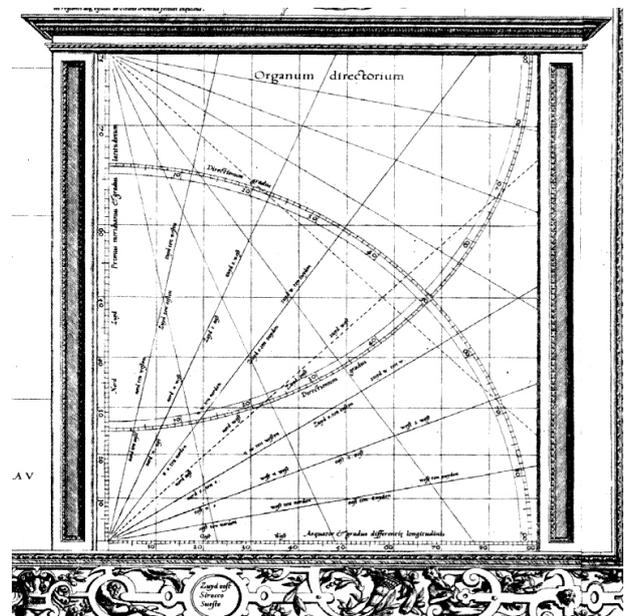
In fact a better degree of accuracy would be achieved by using a grid with 1°x1° squares, or even better 1'x1' squares and by summing up the inverse of cosX for each square. With the mathematical notions of integral calculus introduced by Newton and Leibnitz at the end of the seventeenth century, the above process would converge to the integral function: $Y = \int_0^X (dt/\cos t) = \text{Log}_n(\tan(X/2 + 45^\circ))$, appropriately named according to Mercator.

The reciprocal function, known as Gudermanian, allows calculating the latitude X from a position Y read on a Mercator map: $X = 2 \tan^{-1}(e^{Y/2}) - 90^\circ$.

Since E. Wright's publication in 1599, many diverging theories have been proposed to explain Mercator's approach to his projection⁴. Some of the latest theories were presented at the recent conference in Sint-Niklaas (see the report above), showing that Mercator simply developed his projection by applying previously published 'tables of rhumbs' — a trivial process. Mercator's genius was therefore not

mathematical. But it was nevertheless a stroke of genius to present the information in a user-friendly graphical form, namely: a map. This map has been a tremendous success, in spite of its inconveniences.

The advantage of Mercator's projection — the simple drawing of rhumb lines — is counterbalanced by some inconvenience due to the increasing distortion at high latitudes: at 60°N, 1° of latitude measures twice as much as 1° on the equator (since $\cos 60^\circ = 1/2$). As a consequence the navigator is not able to measure distances simply on the map. To deal with this problem, Mercator provided him with a tool, the abacus in the lower right corner of his 1569 world map, entitled 'Organum Directorium'; a text in a cartouche of the map explained how to use it in order to evaluate the rhumb line distance in terms of the latitude difference and the azimuth.



'Organum Directorium';

This abacus, in the lower right corner of the 1569 world map, was provided in order to evaluate the distance along a rhumb line in terms of the latitude difference and of the azimuth.

Another inconvenience is the huge distortion of the continents at high latitudes on the Mercator projection (e.g. Iceland or Greenland) which make the maps impractical at latitudes beyond 60° or 70°. Nevertheless, many maps still use Mercator's projection today — 500 years later — even when their purpose is not navigation ...

Reference: Jean Lefort 'L'aventure cartographique', Paris, 2005

³ Jan De Graeve knows three editions: 1599, 1610 and the most complete in 1657, to which is added the *Haven finding art* by Simon Stevin of Bruges.

⁴ For example, Jan De Graeve published 'How did Gerard Cremer or Gerard Mercator design his grid with increasing latitudes, called the Mercator projection?' in the IMCoS Journal No 59, 1994.



How I Got Into Cartography

Soetkin Vervust, Ph.D. student doing research into Ferraris' *Carte de Cabinet* at Ghent University, talks to the BIMCC.

What does Cartography mean to you?

When I was growing up, cartography meant 'maps'. But since it's become my field of study, it means a lot more than just the end products. I have been introduced to the whole production process behind maps, learning about surveying techniques and instruments, map projections, cartographic symbols and their explanation, the materials used in making and reproducing the maps, etc. For me, cartography also has a real historical aspect, as maps are representations of their own time and their appearance is closely linked with scientific advances, earth exploration, and political developments. Maps really are a window onto the past, and it can be a nice plus if that window happens to be a beautiful work of art, as maps often are.

What exactly does your research involve?

My research focuses on the *Carte de Cabinet*, a large-scale manuscript map of the Austrian Netherlands created by Count de Ferraris and his artillery corps at the end of the 18th century (1770-1777). The map is considered a milestone in Belgian cartographic history because it represents the first detailed (1:11 520) and complete mapping of the Belgian territory. Its importance also stems from its production date at the end of the Ancien Régime, just before the look of the region and its administrative structure changed drastically because of the onset of the Industrial Revolution and the arrival of French rule.

The first part of my research involves studying the geometric accuracy of Ferraris' map, to find an explanation for its distortions. I'm specifically looking into a possible link with a triangulation Cassini de Thury carried out in Flanders from 1746 to 1748, as he was working alongside the French army at the end of the War of the Austrian Succession. We know that Cassini communicated his geodetic data to Ferraris some 25 years later, but to what extent Ferraris



Liège on the manuscript Ferraris map

actually incorporated this data in his map has not yet been thoroughly examined. I also find the personal relationship between these two characters quite fascinating so I hope to find out more about this as well. The second part of my research project involves a more technical approach. I want to develop a methodology for extracting some of the map's data and incorporating it into a GIS, starting with the map's information on borders. This ranges from borders with neighbouring states and borders between counties and duchies to parish borders that aren't actually visible on the map but are represented indirectly by parish numbers next to buildings. Once you have digitised this border information, it becomes possible to relate all kinds of statistical data from the Ancien Régime to these spatial entities, opening up all new kinds of possibilities for analysis. But that's still in the future.

What did you need to study to get this far?

I started by studying archaeology here at Ghent University, because I've always been interested in history, but I really wanted to work with tangible remains of the past and not just study written accounts. After my Master's, I went on to do another Master's in geography. I was then very fortunate to obtain a position as a scientific collaborator at the department to work with colleagues Karen De Coene and Thérèse Ongena on the development of a new map key for the *Carte de Cabinet*. Then last October [2011], the FWO - Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek - Vlaanderen (the Flemish Fund for Scientific Research) awarded me a personal scholarship, enabling me to work on my own thesis for four years.

In your experience, are there a lot of young people interested in cartography?

I believe quite a number of young researchers (be it in geography, history, archaeology, landscape studies, nature conservation, etc.) are using old maps as part of their studies. Historical cartography is not a subject in its own right, at least here in Belgium, so people come to it from different angles. Digital techniques applied to maps are drawing in more young people and creating interest and awareness. When we talk about 'historical cartography' we tend to think of the older generation, that's true; it's really applications of cartography and the different aspects of cartography that are more attractive to younger people.

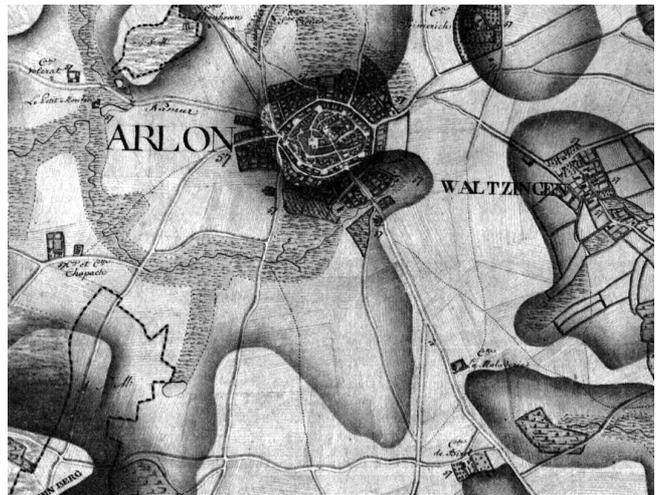


Will you stay in the “cartographic world” when you finish your thesis? Are there careers to be made in cartography?

Frankly, I don't know. Since I'll be working on my research until October 2015, looking for a job isn't a priority right now. I would say that at the moment relatively few people are making careers in historical cartography. If I really wanted to pursue working with historical maps, I believe a job at university or some other kind of research facility, such as a library or an archive, or maybe an auction house would offer me the best chance of doing so. I could also choose to go back to archaeology, as nowadays both private firms as well as government institutions are working in this field, thus increasing the number of jobs.

As a final comment, perhaps you'd like to tell us the 'best thing', in your view, about your cartographical life right now?

I love the freedom that comes with working in academia. You're able to determine your own course in research and get to travel the world, meeting a lot of interesting people along the way, who, in my case, often share a similar passion for historical maps. Although the work I do now can't be called archaeology, I'm still researching a historical subject, which I love, and it involves handling tangible remains of the past. It's great to know that some 240 years ago, someone was actually walking around in the field



Arlon on the manuscript Ferraris map

with the map sheets I'm looking at today, and slowly but surely drawing the map. I believe my work offers me a wonderful combination of my interests in archaeology and geography, so I'm really pleased with how everything has worked out for me and hope to continue working with maps for many years to come.

Interview by Nicola Boothby



Henri Godts

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BIMCC Programme for 2012

Brussels Map Circle Conference 'Mercator and Hondius' Saturday 8 December 2012

2012 is not only the 500th anniversary of Mercator's birth, it is also the 400th anniversary of Jodocus Hondius' death.

The Brussels Map Circle wishes to pay tribute to both of them.



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

- 9.30 – 10.15** reception of participants with coffee
10.15 – 10.30 welcome by Caroline De Candt, President
10.30 – 11.15 Jan Mokre, Head of Map Department and Globe Museum, Austrian National Library
- Old Globes in Austria. A comprehensive overview with special attention to the globes of Mercator and Hondius.*
- 11.15 – 11.30** short break
- 11.30 – 12.00** Kazimierz Kozica, Curator of the cartographic collection of the Warsaw Royal Castle Library
Gerard Mercator's map of Europe (1554) formerly kept in Wroclaw (Breslau).
- 12.00 – 14.00** aperitif and lunch, with coffee
- 14.00 – 14.45** Sjoerd de Meer, Map curator Maritiem Museum Rotterdam.
The 'Atlas of the World': Gerard Mercator's map of the world (1569)
- 14.45 – 15.00** interlude
15.00 – 15.45 Peter van der Krogt, Researcher, Teacher and head of the URU-Explokart research program for the History of Cartography at Utrecht University .
Jodocus Hondius versus Gerard Mercator
- 15.45 – 16.30** questions and discussions
16.30 end of the conference

Venue: Royal Library of Belgium,
Keizerslaan/Boulevard de l'Empereur 4, Brussels (near the Central Station), 'Small Auditorium' on level 2.
Admission is free for our members, non-members pay EUR 10.00 at entrance.
Lunch is being arranged in the Library's cafeteria, with catering services. Price: about EUR 30 (optional).

Please register before 30 November 2012 on our website: www.bimcc.org.

People participate at their own risk in any BIMCC activity and thereby waive any possible liability of the BIMCC or Committee members



INTERNATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

All our readers are invited to send news items and announcements of cartographic events and exhibitions to webmaster@bimcc.org.

For up-to-date News and Events, see: www.bimcc.org/bimcc-newsevents.htm

News

International Society for the History of the Map (ISHM): First Symposium and Annual General Meeting

Both events took place on Saturday 30 June 2012 in Budapest at the Department of Cartography and Geoinformatics, Eötvös Loránd University and were organised by the Chairman Professor Zsolt Török. The first ISHM Symposium was an open meeting and was well attended by ISHM members and also by some ICA members. The papers in the session, chaired by Catherine Delano Smith, editor of *Imago Mundi*, concentrated on new developments in researching and interpreting the history of the map.

The issues in constructing volume 5 of the *History of Cartography* were considered by the editor Roger Kain, and he drew attention to the need to avoid the national histories of cartography, which normally predominated, when considering the approach to the nineteenth century which encompassed all parts of the world. The development of the volume was at a critical stage and invitations to contributors would go out in due course. Matthew Edney then demonstrated the necessity of thinking about the processes of maps and mapping and illustrated this with some case studies showing the ways by which English governmental surveying reached the reading public through private commercial map publishers in the eighteenth century. He illustrated this with, amongst others, the publications of Thomas Jeffreys and the surveying of James Cook. Last Leif Isaksen revealed what an analytical digital approach to Ptolemy's texts could reveal in terms of the construction of the geographical information, and much later of course the maps, through the distribution and density of place-names, latitudes and longitudes etc. This was a fascinating talk and may yet help to give clues as to Ptolemy's own sources.

The first AGM of the ISHM was held in the afternoon and 20 members were present. The Chairman Zsolt Török, Secretary Sarah Tyacke and Treasurer Sonali Sirwardena were re-elected. Six new trustees were also elected Catherine Delano Smith, Joost Depuydt, Matthew Edney, Thomas Horst, Leif Isaksen, and Gilles Palsky. The members discussed the development

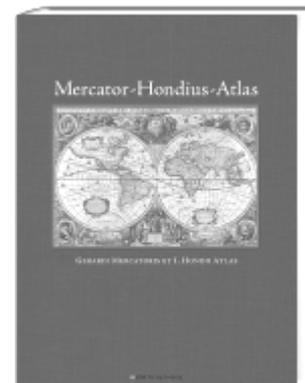


Participants at the first ISHM AGM in Budapest 30 June 2012 in the Eötvös Loránd University in the office of the Department of Cartography and Geoinformatics: from left to right Leif Isaksen (UK), Catherine Delano Smith, Editor *Imago Mundi* (UK), Zsolt Török (Hungary), Sarah Tyacke (UK), Joost Depuydt (Belgium), Matthew Edney (USA), Gilles Palsky (France). Two trustees were unable to be present: Sonali Sirwardena (UK) and Thomas Horst (Germany).

of the Society, its website and ISHM's participation in the forthcoming International Conference of the History of Cartography in Helsinki, July 2013.

See <http://ishm.elte.hu>.

Report by Sarah Tyacke for ISHM.



Mercator-Hondius Atlas of 1633 reprinted

The Primus Publishing House has published another reprint of the first German version of the Mercator-Hondius Atlas of 1633 (preserved in the Berlin State Library). Thomas Horst has written a short introduction to this book. About 360 pages, 165 double sided maps; format: 24,0 x 32,0 cm; price: EUR 100 (ISBN 978-3-8262-3025-7), cf. http://www.reprint-verlag-leipzig.de/Index.php?page=shop.product_details&flypage=flypage_css.tpl&product_id=668&category_id=7&option=com_virtuemart&Itemid=2



Events

Jean-Baptiste d'Anville, un cabinet savant à l'époque des Lumières [a scholar at work in the Age of Enlightenment]

21 and 22 September 2012

Paris

This colloquium will gather researchers involved in the project to promote the knowledge of French geographer Jean-Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville (1697– 1782).

Language: French - Venue: BnF, rue de Richelieu, Paris
URI: <http://danville.hypotheses.org/>

16. Kartographiehistorisches Colloquium [16th Colloquium on the History of Cartography]

27 – 29 September 2012

Marbach am Neckar, Germany

Kommission 'Geschichte der Kartographie' der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Kartographie (History of Cartography Commission of the German Society of Cartography) and D-A-CH Arbeitsgruppe (Working Group of German, Austrian and Swiss Historians of Cartography)

Excursions are planned around the three-day colloquium to visit places with significant map collections, such as the Tobias-Mayer-Museum and the State Archives in Ludwigsburg.

Language: German

To register, and for any further information, contact Dr Markus Heinz, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – PK, Kartenabteilung, Potsdamer Str. 33, D-10785 Berlin
E-mail kartographiegeschichte@sbb.spk-berlin.de, telephone 00 49 30 266 43 55 00

Participation EUR 90.00 which includes the proceedings published later.

URI: <http://www.kartengeschichte.ch/dach/coll-2012.pdf>

1st International Conference on the Greek World in Travel Accounts and Maps - Cyprus on the crossroads of travelers and map-makers from the 15th to the 20th century

18 - 20 October 2012

Athens, Greece

The aim of the conference is to highlight the treasure trove of historical documents devoted to Cyprus, and to study their origins and transformations.

Organiser: Sylvia Ioannou Foundation in collaboration with the University of the Aegean and the department of History and Archeology of the University of Cyprus.

Language: English

Contact: Conference Secretariat, ERA Ltd, telephone +30 210 3634944, e-mail info@era.gr

Venue: Museum of Cycladic Art, Main Building, 4 Neophytou Douka street.

URI: <http://www.era.gr>

Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem 11 October 2012

Washington D.C., U.S.A.

In her book, Dr. Delaney indicates that one of the main reasons Columbus wanted to find a new route to the Indies was that he hoped to find gold, with which to help finance a Crusade to recover Jerusalem from the Muslims. Columbus felt he had a pivotal role in this world-changing event. In her presentation, Dr. Delaney will show a number of maps that illustrate the ways in which Columbus's geographical and cosmological-religious ideas were intertwined

Organiser: The Washington Map Society

Language: English

Time: 19.00 Venue: Geography and Map Division, B level, Library of Congress, Madison Building, 101 Independence Avenue, Washington D.C. For additional information contact Ted Callaway, tel: +1 202-879-5418

URI: <http://home.earthlink.net/~docktor/wms-meet.htm>

Maps and Society lectures series, London

The 21st series of lectures in the history of cartography convened by Catherine Delano-Smith (Institute of Historical Research), Tony Campbell (formerly Map Library, British Library), and Alessandro Scafi (Warburg Institute):

'Portolan Charts (1300–1600): How Newly Revealed Details Deepen Our Understanding of Their Purpose'

8 November 2012

Presentation by Tony Campbell (formerly Map Librarian, British Library).

'Authorship and Readership in the Production of British School Atlases (1870–1930)'

29 November 2012

Presentation by Julie McDougall (Institute of Geography, University of Edinburgh).

'Terrestrial Mapping in a Time of Maritime Expansion: Portuguese Cartographies of Persia and Armenia in the 16th–17th Centuries'

17 January 2013

Presentation by Dr Zoltan Biedermann (Birkbeck College, University of London).

Organiser and venue: The Warburg Institute, University of London, Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB

Telephone +44 (0) 20 8346 5112 (Dr Delano-Smith)

Admission is free and each meeting is followed by refreshments. All are most welcome.

URI: <http://maphistory.info/warburgprog.html>

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



Events (continued)

11th Paris Map-Fair [11^e Salon de la carte géographique ancienne et du livre de voyage] Saturday 10 November 2012

Paris

The Brussels Map Circle will again have a stand!
Organiser: Librairie Loeb-Larocque
Venue: Hotel Ambassador, 16, Boulevard Haussmann, Paris
Contact: Telephone +33 6 11 80 33 75
Opening hours 11.00 - 18.00
URI: <http://www.map-fair.com/>

A Bird's Eye View: London in Maps 1500-1700 15 November 2012

Washington D.C., U.S.A.

In 1500, London was a late medieval city of 50 000. By 1700, it had a population of 500 000 and was the largest city in Europe. Among the many factors that caused that change were the dissolution of the monasteries and other religious houses, in the 1530s and 1540s, by Henry VIII; massive outbreaks of disease, including the Great Plague of 1665; and the Great Fire of 1666. Dr. Lynch will discuss these events, along with many others, as they were reflected in maps in the collections of the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Organisation: The Washington Map Society
Language: English
Time: 19.00.

Venue: Geography and Map Division, B level, Library of Congress, Madison Building, 101 Independence Avenue, Washington D.C.

For additional information contact Ted Callaway, telephone: +1 202-879-5418

URI: <http://home.earthlink.net/~docktor/wms-meet.htm>

London Mapping Festival 2011 – 2012 June 2011 to December 2012

London

The LMF sets out to promote greater awareness and understanding of how maps and digital geographic data are being created and used within the capital, including: surveying, remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems and GPS. The festival draws together a whole range of existing events... Examples of activities, some of which are free to attend, include: workshops for schools, outdoor events such as geocaching and picnics, public lectures, professional conferences and mass participation activities.

URI: <http://www.londonmappingfestival.org/wordpress/>

Journées d'étude [Study sessions] 3 and 4 December 2012

Paris

3 December 2012: **Marine mapping** (with the Comité français de cartographie (CFC) and the International Society for the History of the Map (ISHM))

4 December 2012: **About the Indian Ocean**, with the research programme Median

An exhibition on Portolans will be held at the same period.

Organiser: Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) / Institut

national d'histoire de l'art (Inha)

Venue: Auditorium Colbert, 2, rue Vivienne, F-75002 Paris

Language: French

BIMCC International Conference

Mercator and Hondius

8 December 2012

Brussels

See the draft programme on page 31.

Venue: Royal Library of Belgium in Brussels

Information and registration: www.bimcc.org - president@bimcc.org



Miami International Map Fair

2 - 3 February 2013

Miami, U.S.A.

The 2013 Fair commemorates the 500th anniversary of Juan Ponce de León's arrival on Florida's east coast. The annual Miami Map Fair showcases antique maps, rare books, panoramas and atlases from around the world. Visitors can peruse and purchase antique maps from the many map dealers present. They can also learn about maps through a series of lectures by experts in the field and enjoy special events held throughout the weekend. Proceeds from Map Fair go toward maintaining and improving HistoryMiami exhibitions, educational programming and community outreach.

Contact: Amanda Israel, telephone 001-305-375-1614, e-mail mapfair@historymiami.org

Miami-Dade Cultural Center, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33130, U.S.A.

Daily Admission: HistoryMiami Members: USD 5.00; non-Members: USD 15.00. Tickets may be purchased at the door. 'Admission includes entrance to the international dealer's marketplace, access to expert opinions on your own map(s) and the opportunity to win door prizes.'

URI: <http://www.historymiami.org/visit/miami-international-map-fair/>

25th International Conference on the History of Cartography (ICHC)

July 2013

Helsinki, Finland

The presentations will address the history of cartography--i.e., the study of maps, their making, and their use in the past--from any disciplinary perspective, such as art history, history of science, geography, literary studies, cultural history, etc. One of the exhibitions organized in the connection of the conference will be The Widening View of the World --Treasures from the Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld map collection and Life and work of A. E. Nordenskiöld at the National Museum of Finland.

URI: <http://ichc2013.fi/>

26th International Conference on the History of Cartography (ICHC)

July 2015

Antwerp, Belgium



Exhibitions

Mapping Cyprus: Crusaders, Traders and Explorers

Until Sunday 23 September 2012

Brussels

Organised to mark the Cypriot presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2012, this exhibition recounts the island's eventful history. A crossroads for the major commercial and political exchanges between West and East, Cyprus was long coveted by competing civilisations and was occupied by a succession of them. The exhibition opens with the period of Frankish (i.e. Western) domination inaugurated by Richard the Lionheart in 1191. Richard sold Cyprus to Guy de Lusignan, who founded an independent kingdom that lasted for nearly three centuries (1192-1489). Venice was the next owner, before the island was seized by the Ottomans in 1571. They, in turn, ceded it in 1878 to the British, who recognised its independence in 1960. The exhibition reflects this exceptional cultural interchange, which radiated throughout Europe and saw the interpenetration of Byzantine, Western, and Venetian art. It includes some fifty icons, geographical maps, and paintings belonging to the last queen of Cyprus, Caterina Cornaro, and to the Venetian period.

See also the report on page 4 of this Newsletter.

Venue: Centre for Fine Arts (BOZAR), Rue Ravenstein 23, 1000 Bruxelles – Info: +32 2 507 82 00 - <http://www.bozar.be>
Tuesday to Sunday 10:00 - 18:00, Thursday: 10:00 - 21:00

Cyprus Insula: Maps of Cyprus from the Low Countries

Until 30 September 2012

The Hague, The Netherlands

The exhibition is also organised on the occasion of the Cyprus Presidency of the EU Council. In this small exhibition in the 19th century book room of Museum Meermanno you can see the most important maps of Cyprus from Dutch and Flemish atlases and travel accounts and some of the rare Venetian examples on which these maps were based. This exhibition shows the history of the mapping of Cyprus, as well as the history of Dutch map production, especially the history of atlas publishing in the Southern and Northern Netherlands. Beside the famous atlases of Ortelius, Hondius and Blaeu, some rare works are exposed like a small woodcut atlas of Zacharias Heyns, the first atlas published in Holland in 1598. The Low Countries played an important role in the mapping of the island of Cyprus, because Antwerp and later Amsterdam were the main centres of map and atlas production in the 16th and 17th century. The exhibition is compiled with pieces from the Special Collections of Leiden University,

completed with some works of the Museum Meermanno's own collection and composed by guest curator Martijn Storms, curator of maps and atlases at Leiden University Libraries, and speaker at the 2011 BIMCC conference.

Organiser: UBL (University Libraries of Leiden), Museum Meermanno and the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus
Venue: Museum Meermanno, Prinsessegracht 30, 2514 AP Den Haag, The Netherlands – Telephone: +31(0)70 34 62 700.
Opening hours: Monday: closed, Tuesday – Sunday 12:00 - 17:00, Closed on official holidays - Adult entry fee EUR 8.00.
URI: <http://www.meermanno.nl>

Kartenausstellung [Map exhibition] Hellwig 28 September – 11 November 2012

St. Wendel, Germany

A set of maps and plans from the Fritz Hellwig collection. Fritz Hellwig was a member of the Bundestag and a top international official. The collection covers the Lotharingian space (Lorraine, Alsace, Rhineland, Palatinate). You can see the Lorraine and the Saar, which were part of the Kingdom of France (enclave of Saarlouis, Provost Wallerfangen) and of the French Empire (departments of Moselle and Sarre), from 1513 to 1919.

Organiser/Venue: Stadtmuseum St. Wendel/Stiftung Dr. Walter Bruch, Mia-Münster-Haus, In der Mott, D-66606 St. Wendel
Contact: Tel. +49(0)6851 809 183, e-mail info@museum-wnd.de
Opening hours: Tu-Fr 10-13 and 14-16.30, Th. 10-13 and 14-18, Sa 14-16.30, Su 14-18, Mo closed
URI: <http://www.museum-wnd.de/>

Gerhard Mercator und der blaue Planet [Mercator and the blue planet]

5 March – 2 December 2012

Duisburg, Germany

The exhibition features globes and a selection of maps and atlases by Gerhard Mercator.

Organiser/Address: Kultur- und Stadthistorisches Museum, Johannes-Corputius-Platz 1, D-47051 Duisburg

Opening hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 10.00 – 17.00, Friday: 10.00 – 14.00, Sunday: 10.00 – 18.00, closed on Wednesday. - Contact: telephone +49 203 283 2640, e-mail ksm@stadt-duisburg.de
URI: <http://www.stadtmuseum-duisburg.de/index.html>



L'âge d'or des cartes marines : quand l'Europe découvrait le monde [The golden age of maritime charts: when Europe was discovering the world]

23 October 2012 - 27 January 2013

Paris

Over 200 major pieces will be presented, including 80 portolans, as well as globes, astronomical instruments, art objects, prints, manuscripts, etc. The exhibition will bring insight on the ways in which Europeans, not only discovered and



Exhibitions (continued)

conquered, but also studied and represented territories and people between the 14th and the 18th centuries.

Venue: BnF - Site François-Mitterrand, Quai François-Mauriac, Paris XIII^e, Grande Galerie

Opening: Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00–19.00, Sunday 13.00–19.00, closed on Mondays and Holidays. Access : EUR 7.00, reduced rate : EUR 5.00. Réservations via FNAC, www.fnac.com/ telephone +33 892 684 694 (EUR 0.34/mn) URI: <http://cartogallica.hypotheses.org/744>

Steady as she goes - Sailing by Mercator's map

Until 8 September 2013
Rotterdam

Discover everything about navigation at sea – both with and without Mercator's map – with your family at this exhibition.

Historical maps and shipmodels will help you, but you will also be working with globes, binoculars, compasses, the stars and modern navigation equipment such as satellites and GPS. The only remaining copy of Mercator's world map in atlas format and his recently restored globe can also be admired at the exhibition.

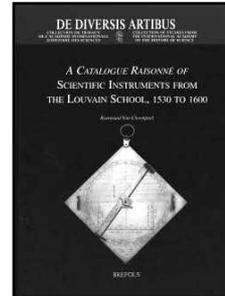
Maritiem Museum Rotterdam, Leuvehaven 1, Rotterdam
Tel. +31 10 402 92 42, e-mail j.freijser@maritiemmuseum.nl
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This object-based study concentrates on scientific instruments made in Louvain between c. 1530 and c. 1600, a period in which the university fell from the peak of its importance into a state of decline.

Review: "As David King writes in his preface, 'The field desperately needs competent catalogues of instruments' (p. ix) - and here we find a worthy example." (H. Highton in *British Journal for the History of Science*, Vol. 38/2, June 2005, p. 225-226)

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AUCTION CALENDAR

This calendar is limited to those antiquarians and map dealers who support the BIMCC.
For details please contact: president@bimcc.org

De Eland

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www.deeland.nl, info@deeland.nl

6 - 9 Sept. and 15 - 18 Nov. 2012

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16 October 2012

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fax +31 23 532 38 93
www.bubbkuyper.com
info@bubbkuyper.com

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info@loeb-larocque.com

9 november 2012

A & E Morel de Westgaver

Rue Henri Marichal 24,
B-1050 Brussels.
tel. + 32-(0)2-640.22.53,
www.moreldewestgaver.auction.fr
morel_de_westgaver@brutele.be

15 September 2012

The Romantic Agony

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www.romanticagony.com
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16 - 17 November 2012

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**18 - 25 September and
18 - 26 November 2012**

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van.de.wiele@skynet.be

5 - 6 October 2012

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www.venator-hanstein.de
info@venator-hanstein.de

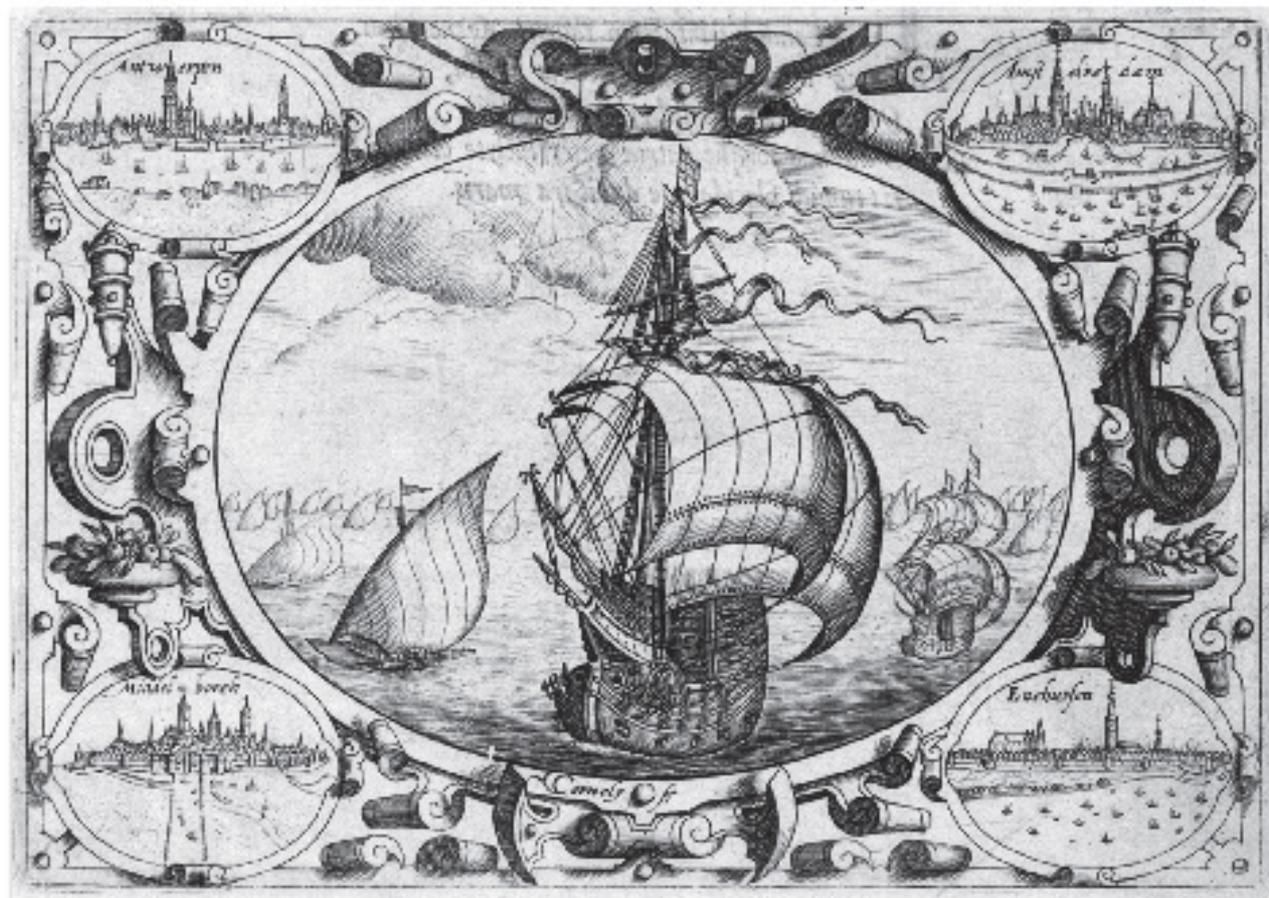
21 - 22 September 2012

In the forthcoming issues of 'Maps in History' do not miss ...

- *Mapping of the Boer Wars*, by Elri Liebenberg
- *Mechelen*, by E. Leenders and M. Denkens
- *Maps of Beauce*, by Wulf Bodenstein
- *La mitad del mundo [The middle of the world]*, by Jean-Louis Renteux
- *Potosi*, 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
- *Hajj - Journey to the heart of Islam* (exhibition at the British Museum), by Peter Galezowski
- And many reviews of recent books on cartography....

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BRUSSELS MAP CIRCLE
(BIMCC asbl/vzw)
<http://www.bimcc.org>

Aims and functions

The BIMCC was created, as the Brussels International Map Collectors' Circle, in 1998 by Wulf Bodenstein. It is a non-profit making association under Belgian law (asbl/vzw 0464 423 627) now known as the Brussels Map Circle.

Its aims are 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. Organise lectures on various aspects of historical cartography, on regions of cartographical interest, on documentation, paper conservation and related subjects
3. Organise visits to exhibitions, and to libraries and institutions holding important map and atlas collections.

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

- 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 or exhibition.
- AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on a specific major topic in December.

The BIMCC also publishes a Newsletter three times a year and maintains a web site.

Official address

Avenue Louise 230/6,
B-1050 Brussels

Honorary Presidents

Wulf Bodenstein
e-mail: wulfbo@scarlet.be

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

Executive Committee President

Caroline De Candt
Burggravenlaan 341, B-9000 Gent
telephone: +32(0)9 222 80 14
e-mail: president@bimcc.org

Vice-President & 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

Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Eddy Masschalck
Ridder van Ranstlei 77,
B-2640 Mortsel
telephone: +32(0)474934761
e-mail: treasurer@bimcc.org

Webmaster

Pierre Parmentier
e-mail: webmaster@bimcc.org

Scientific Adviser

Lisette Danckaert

Other Officers

- Nicola Boothby
e-mail: info@bimcc.org
- Lydia Cordon
e-mail: lydiacordon.paf@telenet.be
- Jan De Graeve
e-mail: jan@degraeve-geo.eu
- Peter Galezowski
e-mail: galezpe@hotmail.com
- Henri Godts
e-mail: henri.godts@godts.com
- Jean-Christophe Staelens
jcs@staelens.biz

Becoming (and staying) a 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

BIC: GKCCBEBB

and notify the Membership Secretary (treasurer@bimcc.org) indicating your name and address.

Maps in History (BIMCC Newsletter)

The BIMCC currently publishes three issues per year.

Please submit calendar items and other contributions to the editor (e-mail: editor@bimcc.org) by the following deadlines:

- 15 Nov. for the January edition.
- 15 March for the May edition.
- 15 July for the Sept. edition.

Items presented for publication are submitted to the approval of the Editorial Committee.

Signed articles and reviews reflect solely the opinions of the author.

SEPTENTRIO.

Cape S. Adriae



CYPRI
INSVLAE
NOVA DE
SCRIPT.
1573.

LEMNOS INSVLAE
descriptio ex Petri Bellonii
libro de Anabasi, hoc in loco
longum parergon addidimus.

Septentrio Europa
OCCIDENS
ORIENTS
MERCIDIES
En Munda Notitia in
terris quae vocantur
Lemnos et
Thrace...

Milliaria Italia.

MERCIDIES.

Iouan. & Dabovian. f.

Cura Philippi