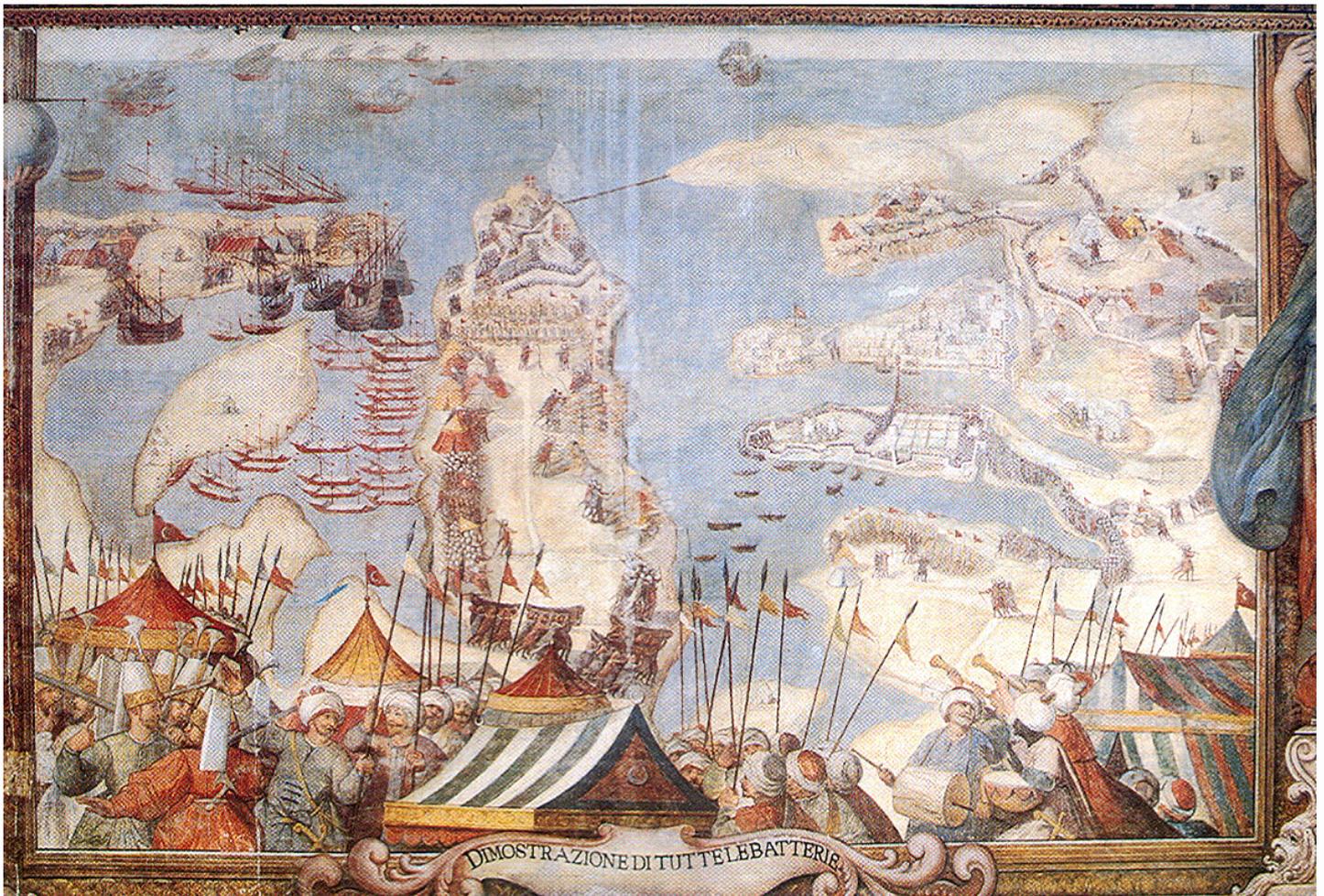


# MAPS IN HISTORY

## Malta's Great Siege, 1565



### In this issue:

- The mystery surrounding the Matteo Perez d'Aleccio map prints of the Great Siege of Malta of 1565
- Report on an international workshop: History of Iberian Cartography
- Reports on our Annual General Meeting and Map Evening
- ... and the usual departments



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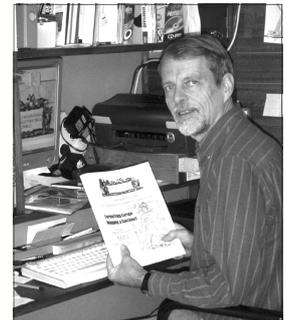
You may recall that, back in 2009, Dr Alberto Ganado gave us a comprehensive overview of the history of the 'Maps of Malta' (with a seven page article in our Newsletters No 33 and 34). In this issue Joseph Schirò, secretary of the Maltese Map Society, focuses on a specific map of Malta — that by Matteo Perez d'Aleccio of the Great Siege of Malta in 1565 — on which he conducted very thorough research. This captivating detective story takes us through the artistic world of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In this issue, the Map Circle opens up to the world of Iberian cartography, thanks to Thomas Horst who has left his home city of Munich (see Newsletter No 46) for Lisbon; he gives us an update on his work there at the Interuniversity Center for the History of Science and Technology, and a report on a recent workshop on cartography.

You will also find news of the most recent activities of the Map Circle: the excursion to Bruges (illustrated on the centre fold), the Annual General Meeting and the Map Evening.

Cartographically yours,

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



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Cover: Detail of one of the frescoes at the Palace of the Grand Masters in Valletta, by Perez D'Aleccio. It attempts to show the main successive events of the Great Siege of 1565 as if they were happening at the same time. This painting inspired the copper plate engraved by Perez D'Aleccio, subject of the article on p. 11.



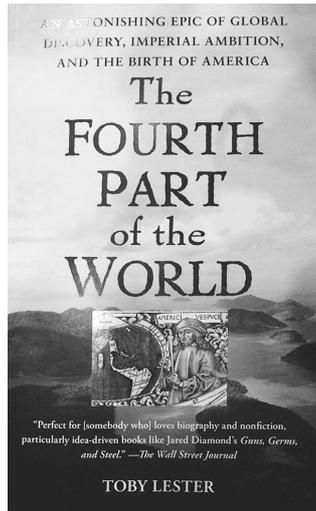
## The Fourth Part of the World. An astonishing epic of global discovery, imperial ambition and the birth of America.

By Toby Lester

Free Press. New York. 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020. 462 pp. including 82 figures in black/white and 11 full colour plates. Also 19 not numbered figures of details of the Waldseemüller map in the heading of each chapter. Hardcover 2009 (paperback 2010). E-book also available. ISBN (hardcover) 978-1-4165-3531-7, (paperback) 978-1-4165-3534-8. Also available in French: 'La Quatrième Partie du Monde'. Ed. JC Lattès; ISBN 978-2-7096-3337-6. The price varies around 25-45 EUR.

First of all I would like to warn readers of this *Looks at Books* that I am not a professional cartographer and that I have not received any formal schooling in geographical history. I have been since my youth just a lover of old maps and their history. So I do not claim to evaluate this book on its historical exactitude. Others have done this before and most with very positive results<sup>1</sup>. But I was so enthusiastic after having read the French version that I bought the English version to read it for a second time in order to review it for *Maps in History* to share my enthusiasm with others.

The author, Toby Lester (°1964), is



an American journalist, scholar and contributing editor to *The Atlantic* (a cultural, literary and political magazine, based in Washington, D.C.). He is a former Peace Corps volunteer and United Nations observer. He lives in the Boston area. The present book is his first, for which he received many awards and it was even named Book of the Year. His second book, *Da Vinci's Ghost* (2012), deals with Leonardo's famous drawing of a man in a circle.

Now to the book. *The Fourth Part of the World* is a rather thick volume but beautifully written and vividly told and never boring. Lester's first aim is to tell the story of the Waldseemüller map of

1. See e.g. : Simon Winchester, author of *The Map that Changed the World* [book about William Smith (1769-1839) English surveyor, who made the first geological maps].

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1507, which is described as *America's birth certificate*. He starts in the preface (xxi-xxiv) with a short review which highlights the history of the map. In a prologue (*Awakening* p. 1-19) he continues to describe the further vicissitudes of the history of Waldseemüller's creation which ended with the acquisition of the famous map by the Library of Congress in 2003 for the highest price ever paid for a map. (Finally the map was handed over by Angela Merkel to the U.S. in 2007).

Then comes the core of the book (p. 23 – 323): *Part One, the Old World* and *Part Two, the New World*. No less than 300 pages are dedicated to the history of mapmaking before the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The following pages (p. 325 – 393) form *Part Three, the Whole World*. The titles of these three parts are a bit confusing, especially because the entire world is more than what they actually cover!

In *Part One, the Old World* (p. 25-109), we meet among many others Claudius Ptolemy, Matthew Paris with his medieval geographical thoughts, Macrobius with the *Commentary on the Dream of Scipio*, Isidore of Seville with the first T-O map, Willem van Ruysbroek in search of the Great Khan, and the descriptions of elaborate Christian *mappae mundi*, and much more. Lester ends this part with the hybrid world of Petrus Vesconte (1321) who brought together features of the *mappae mundi* and the marine charts, and with the ideas of Roger Bacon who stated that in the global scientific search 'seeing is knowing'. I was personally very enthusiastic when I discovered in this part Saint Brendan (6<sup>th</sup> c.) the Irish monk on his seven years' long voyage in a sailing boat, Prester John the legendary priest-king (12<sup>th</sup> c.), Sir John Mandeville (14<sup>th</sup> c.) the mythical world traveller, the Polo (14<sup>th</sup> c.) the Venetian merchants, and many others of whom I always wanted to know how they influenced cartography. And here I found it.

In *Part Two, the New World* (p. 111-323), we find again an elaborate discourse on more geographical history and mapmaking until the period of the discovery of America by Columbus and Vespucci. Lester writes about the influence of the Florentine humanists (who knows, for instance, that Giovanni Boccaccio besides being a poet was also a geographer?) and the journeys of Gil Eanes, a Portuguese navigator who rounded Cape Bojador and the West African coast, Fra Mauro who drew a *mappa mundi* that shows the route around southern Africa to the Far East (which was opened by Bartholomeu Dias who reached the Cape of Good Hope in 1487). In the meantime Lester comes back to Ptolemy and describes the first printed version of his Geography (1477 — with maps). Further on we read about Henricus Martellus' world map (1489-90) and Martin Behaim's globe, constructed on the eve of Columbus' first voyage to the fourth part of the world (1492)

which he believed to be India. Amerigo Vespucci followed him to the New World (1499-1502).

In *Part Three, The Whole World*, (p. 325-398) we see that Lester takes up Waldseemüller from where he stopped at the end of his prologue. He describes now in the finest details the history of the *Cosmography* and the maps, until the final destination of the 1507 map in the Library of Congress in 2007. In this part we get acquainted with the role of Matthias Ringmann, a collaborator in the creation of the Waldseemüller map, Alberto Cantino, a secret agent of the Duke of Ferrara, Sebastian Münster who copied the 1507 map, Amerigo Vespucci himself, and even Nicolaus Copernicus and many other characters and facts worth mentioning in the margin of the Waldseemüller map. Many of these things may also be found in J. W. Hessler's and Ch. van Duzer's book, *Seeing the World anew: the Radical Vision of Martin Waldseemüller's 1507 & 1516 World Maps*<sup>2</sup>. Finally, in an appendix, the author also describes the so-called Stevens-Brown map which bears the name *America* and apparently was considered a lost St. Dié map of Waldseemüller (1506).

These three parts add up to quite a lot of reading; and it really is more than about the vicissitudes of Waldseemüller, Ringman, Vespucci and others. It is a book that surveys mapmaking as a whole and the way people imagined how the world was before Columbus. That this book is called by some reviewers a *study on how America got its name* and in detail about the Waldseemüller map is really an understatement. It is much more. This is the main reason why I think this is a book that should really have its place on the bookshelf of every amateur, map collector or student.

The 82 figures and even the colour plates are not of the best quality. But this does not matter since it is mainly a study (and reading) book and one of the best I have ever had in my hands. A timeline, an alphabetical index of persons (starting with Pierre d'Ailly, and ending with Martin Waldseemüller himself), extensive lists of notes and of the cited works, a detailed index and some suggestions for further reading make this the perfect work. The paperback edition even contains a short *Author Q&A* to enhance your reading enjoyment. Get this book and you'll never regret it.

Pierre Mattelaer

pierre.mattelaer@skynet.be



2. Cf. *Look at Books IV* in the last BIMCC Newsletter No 48 (Jan. 2014), p. 12-13, by Thomas Horst. Toby Lester does not refer to the Hessler's and van Duzer's book which was published in 2012 and was thus unknown to him in 2009. On the other hand, he refers to an earlier publication of Hessler's: *The Naming of America: Martin Waldseemüller's 1507 World Map and the Cosmographiae Introductio* (2008).



## Japoniae Insulae. The mapping of Japan

### A historical introduction and cartobibliography of European Printed Maps of Japan before 1800

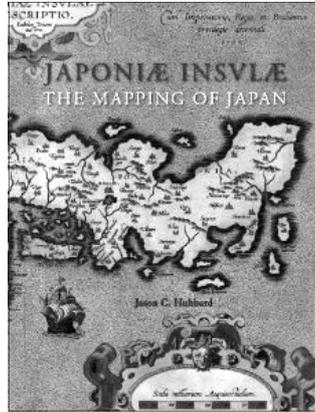
By Jason Hubbard

Houten, HES & De Graaf, Utrecht Studies on the History of Cartography (Explokart) vol. XIV . 2012, 444 pp., Clothbound with full colour dust jacket, 32 x 24 cm, With over 374 full colour illustrations.  
In English with extensive summary in Japanese, price: EUR 185.00 (excl. VAT) ISBN 978-90-6194-351-4

*Japoniae Insulae* systematically categorises and provides an overview of all the European printed maps of Japan published to 1800. The author has undertaken a review of the literature, conducted an exhaustive investigation in major libraries and private collections during his stay in the country between 1977 and 1980. He analysed these findings and then compiled information on 125 maps of Japan. A starting point for his research was Tony Campbell's monograph 'Japan : European printed maps to 1800' (London : Map Collectors' Circle, 1967). The work includes an image, either a digital scan or photograph of each map entry as well as a number of detailed close-up images which help to identify various states.

The main parts are: European mapping of Japan; Indigenous mapmaking; Geographical non modern Western maps of Japan.

The 'European Mapping of Japan' section identifies and classifies all known printed single-sheet maps and charts concentrating on the Japanese islands and first issued in Europe before the year 1800. The author has identified and listed 125 main maps with their subsequent issues and states, bringing the total to over 200 items. The first time Japan was mentioned on a European map was nearly a century before any European had actually visited one of the islands. When, some time before 1459, Fra Mauro, a Benedictine monk, completed his world



map, he included an island based on the account of Marco Polo's voyage of the Far East. Polo's account of Japan was based on hearsay; he never visited the islands. But news on Japan filtered through to Europe through reports of the Mongol Kubilai Khan's late thirteenth century designs on Japan.

Another one hundred years would pass before the first Europeans accidentally discovered Japan but, in the interim, that did not stop a number of cartographers from including it on their maps, imaginary as those depictions were. Over the next

fifty years of the first European contacts with Japan the resulting printed maps in the mid-sixteenth century were strongly influenced by the portolan manuscript charts drawn by navigators who had visited Japan; these frequently included not only empirical data but also information borrowed from Chinese, Korean and Japanese material. Often the information was misunderstood and these derivative European maps can, at times appear bizarre to the modern eye.

The first relatively accurate depiction of the Japanese islands was the map entitled *Japoniae Insulae Descriptio* added by Abraham Ortelius to the 1595 edition of his world atlas *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*.

By the mid-seventeenth century Japan closed its doors to the rest of the world and the European mapping of Japan could only progress again at the end of the eighteenth century, when the country opened up to the West.

The present work deals mainly with European maps but indigenous cartography also played a part.

Jason Hubbard collected his maps during an assignment in Japan between 1977 and 1980. It was Jonathan Potter, the famous London map dealer (and our sponsor!), who was his main source.

The superb illustrations are each explained by a very precise commentary.

The author should be congratulated for having written such a well documented and illustrated book.



Jean Petin

petinjean@pt.lu

His Excellency Mr. Takashi Koezuka, Ambassador of Japan to The Netherlands, receiving the book on 19 September 2012 in The Hague's Louwman museum, in the presence of several members of the Brussels Map Circle. From left to right: S. Hesselink (Director of Hes & De Graaf Publishers), H. Kok (IMCoS Chairman), C. Klein, M. Van Den Broecke, F. Herbert, J. Hubbard (author of the book), P. van der Krogt (Explokart Project leader), P. van Gestel (Explokart Editor in chief).



# La France – Géographie curieuse et insolite [A curious and impertinent geography of France]

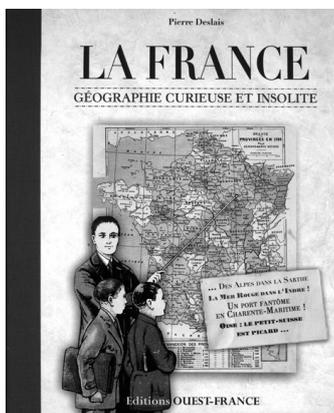
by Pierre Deslais

Rennes: Éditions Ouest France, 2011. 220 pp., over 300 ill., mostly in colour, maps of all 101 French départements, plus numerous loosely inserted posters and maps of France (some folding). Hard cover, 25 x 22 cm. ISBN 978-2-7373-5455-7, EUR 25.00

In 1877, six years after the traumatic defeat France suffered in the Franco-Prussian war, a geography book was published in Paris that would give French school children and grown-ups a new vision of their homeland. It was the compelling story of *Le Tour de la France par deux enfants* (The Tour of France by two children) supposedly written by G. Bruno, a pseudonym for Augustine Fouillée. André (14 years old) and Julien (7), two orphan boys, fled by night from the German-occupied part of Lorraine to walk to Marseilles to join their uncle. They then travelled from region to region until their journey ended near Orléans, having learnt about the human and also the industrial environment, local customs and, above all, the natural beauty of the provinces they passed through. The aim of this textbook was to create a new, positive image of France and to give people back their self-confidence and pride in their country.

If I dwell a little on this subject it is for two reasons. Firstly, this intriguing geography reader was the subject of a fascinating lecture at the last ICHC in Helsinki<sup>1</sup> in which American researcher Catherine Dunlop underlined the importance of geography and cartography in France at that time. We will hear more about it in due course. Secondly, the author of the book presented here has clearly been inspired by the *Tour de la France*, but he has liberally changed the scenario in the sense that the moralizing and patriotic slant has given way to a fresh and sometimes amusing approach to presenting France's lesser known geographical, historical and, of course, culinary aspects. As can be seen in the illustration, the circuit covers much more ground than did the two boys on their travels, touching all 96 continental Départements, plus five Départements overseas.

This amazing book offers a double page for each of these, with a small modern topographical map and an



entertaining description of its geography. But it is the presentation of unusual and at times most surprising natural or historical phenomena that makes this work stand out. Take, for example, the story of the village named Y in the Somme, twinned with – you've guessed it – the town with the longest and quite unpronounceable name, in North Wales<sup>2</sup>. Then read about the centre of France, officially established in Vesdun (Cher) but energetically disputed by neighbouring communes as well. Or consider the other controversy over the geographical position of western Europe's highest mountain, Mont Blanc (Haute-Savoie) which, at the time of its first ascent in 1786, was shown to be on the boundary between France and Italy on Italian maps, whilst French maps placed it just on the other side, making it the highest mountain in Italy.

Some posters and folding maps are loosely inserted in the book, either in slip pockets or held in place by detachable glue drops between the pages. A knowledge-based game with rewards is found at the end of the book, and a 22-piece puzzle of the 22 French regions is fixed on the inside back cover. Considering the hand-crafting involved in making each volume, its price seems most reasonable. The front cover should not mislead you: this publication,

like its companion history book that came out shortly afterwards<sup>3</sup>, is not really meant for children. It will make pleasant reading for any adult in France and may be a revelation for those abroad who have an inkling of French. As such it might quite unintentionally promote the creation, at last, of a French Map Circle – who knows.



(I have traced the approximate Tour de la France by the two boys thus . . . . →)



Wulf Bodenstein  
wulfbo@scarlet.be

1. *The Woman who mapped the French Republic: Augustine Fouillée's cartographic Tour de France*, by Catherine Dunlop, Assistant Professor, Montana State University

2. Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlilllantysiliogogoch

3. *La France – Histoire curieuse et insolite* (A curious and impertinent history of France) by Pierre Deslais and Rodolphe Ferron, ISBN 978-2-7373-5781-7, EUR 27.00



## Méridien, Méridienne - Textes, enjeux, débats et passions autour des méridiens de Paris et de Greenwich (1783–2000)

[Meridians - Texts, debates and passions about the Paris and Greenwich meridians]

by Anita McConnell and Jean Pierre Martin

Cherbourg, Editions Isoète, 2013. ISBN 978-2-35776-059-2. HB, 168, 59 illustrations. EUR 24.00.

This is not a novel of Mr Méridien and Mrs Méridienne having a love affair over a long period. No, the two authors are serious historians joining forces and resources to give a detailed account of the Paris Méridienne and the Greenwich Meridian, which became the prime meridian for astronomic and time calculations. The text is written in French.

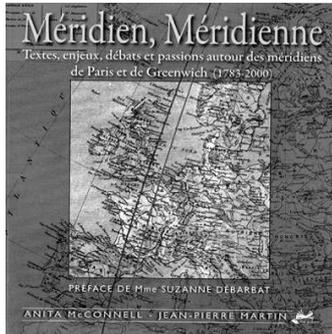
In the Preface Suzanne Débarbat, honorary astronomer at the Paris observatory, sketches the period from Jean-Félix Picard's first meridian to the introduction of the metre as a universal standard.

The book is divided in twelve chapters in chronological order with twelve articles focusing on specific topics: geodetic instruments of the eighteenth century, the map of France by Colonel Berthoud, cartography from Dieppe, the Struve Meridian Arc.

The story starts with the meridian line implant, emanating in 1666 from the new Observatory in Paris, authorised by Louis XIV and overseen by Colbert who had created the Académie des sciences. L'abbé Picard was the first to measure one degree of the Meridian, to try and calculate the size of the earth; he published his results in 1671: *La Mesure de la Terre*.

The Cassini family for four generations have played a major role in French astronomy and especially in the quest for the figure of the earth. The result was the *Carte de France* amended and structured on the basic triangulation from Dunkerque to Barcelona. The Franco-Anglaise rivalry had its ups and downs also in the eighteenth century, and the liaison of the two observatories and the triangulation carried out on both sides of the channel are studied in more detail than in other English or French books on the subject. The 1787 map shows the triangulations on both sides to connect the two observatories.

During the French revolution the *Méridienne* was re-measured by Jean-Baptiste Joseph Delambre and Pierre Méchain, and it was Delambre who published the famous *Base du système métrique décimal*. The authors go into great detail about the process to construct the provisional metre and the final metre in platinum, now preserved in the Breteuil Pavillon. The confusing situation and the many changes in the administration of French cartography was not helpful and by the middle of the 1850s France was no longer the leader in this field. The German scientists Friedrich Georg Wilhelm von Struve, Friedrich



Wilhelm Bessel and Carl Friedrich Gauss developed better standards and the achievements of the Russian Arc, the Great Arc of India and also the Arc of the 30<sup>th</sup> Meridian in South Africa under David Gill were developed without French participation.

Additionally, the discovery of a discrepancy of 1.84 m in the base measurement near Perpignan and the angle error made by Méchain further

damaged France's reputation.

The history of the International Meridian Conference held in Washington in 1884 and its implications for navigation are also dealt with in great detail. The book discusses how agreement was negotiated and arrived at by the diplomats during and after the conference for time to be measured from Greenwich and the metre accepted as the universal measurement.

The chapters on French cartography during the nineteenth century are (for me) of great interest as they describe the situation without the veils of secrecy associated with national pride and military sensitivity. The chapters cover the influence of François Perrier and his corrections to the French Meridian and the extension to the Baleares and North Africa and his intervention in the revision of the Arc in Peru, which brought French geodesy back to the centre of the Association Internationale de Géodésie.

The authors develop a chapter on the Struve Meridian. Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2005 it stretches across ten countries from Hammerfest in North Norway to Staro-Nekrasovka, near Ismail on the Black Sea, a distance of 2 821 833 metres. This arc was extended over the Mediterranean Sea and down the 30<sup>th</sup> Meridian to Buffelsfontein in the Republic of South Africa to develop an overall length of 104°, and waits hopefully to be inscribed on to the World Heritage List before too long.

In 2000 the 'Méridienne verte' project (The Green Meridian) was devised to popularise the history of the meridian. It involved planting trees along the length of the Paris Meridian, and Mr Méridien and Mrs Méridienne enjoyed an enormous picnic on the Green Meridian from Dunkerque to Perpignan.

Jan De Graeve  
jan@degraeve-geo.eu



This review first appeared in the IMCoS Journal, No 136 Spring 2014.



## Shorter bibliographical notes

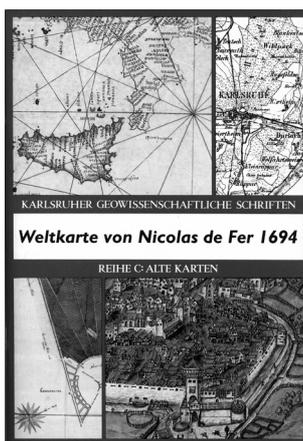
by Wulf Bodenstein

### Die Weltkarte des Nicolas de Fer aus dem Jahr 1694 [The world map by Nicolas de Fer, 1694]

by Heinz Musall

Brochure published by Hochschule Karlsruhe – Technik und Wirtschaft, Fakultät für Informationsmanagement und Medien, Karlsruhe, 2012. Vol. 8 in Series C, Ancient Maps, of the Karlsruher Geowissenschaftliche Schriften. 44 pp., ill. plus folding map reproduction, soft cover, 23.5 x 16.5 cm. ISBN 978-3-89063-607-8, EUR 19.00 To order : Hochschule Karlsruhe – Technik und Wirtschaft, Fakultät für Informationsmanagement und Medien, Moltkestr. 30, D-76133 Karlsruhe.

This four-sheet world map in two hemispheres is entitled *Mappe-Monde, ou Carte Generale de la Terre, divisée en deux Hemispheres suivant la Projection la plus commune* [General map of the earth, divided into two hemispheres according to the most common projection]. It is of interest on account of de Fer's attempt to update the image of the world based on recent scientific observations, and because the highly decorative borders present a telling panorama of the world as then known. The map described here and reproduced in 80% of the original size (folded and inserted in a



rear pocket) is the first and very rare edition, with partial text borders, held in the Badische Landesbibliothek in Karlsruhe. Following introductory chapters on the reformation of cartography around 1700 and on de Fer's publishing firm, Musall analyses the map under the aspects of map projection, scale, map content and decoration. The descriptive border texts, completed from a later edition, are translated from French into German in the Annex. A very useful work for further research.

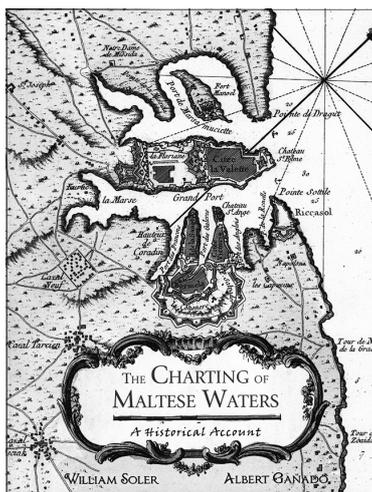
## The Charting of Maltese Waters, A Historical Account

by William Soler and Albert Ganado

San Gwann, Malta: BDL Publishing, 2013 – xx, 140 pp., 65 mostly colour ill., hard cover and dust jacket, 28 x 22 cm. ISBN 978-99957-33-99-5, EUR 40.00 (32.00 for members of the Malta Map Society).  
To order: BDL Publishing, 13, Giorgio Preca Street, San Gwann SGN 3511, Malta

Although placed in the centre of the Mediterranean Sea, Malta was not prominently shown on early nautical charts due to its relatively small size. Historians have not so far shown much interest in researching the large corpus of maritime representation of the Maltese Islands to study the development of navigation to and from Malta. This book is the first attempt at doing so: it recounts the history of the charting of Maltese waters from the late fifteenth to the nineteenth century.

After an introductory review of the antique art of navigation the subject is addressed chronologically in the following seven Chapters. The first charts of Malta drawn in manuscript form are by Buondelmonti (ca. 1470) and Piri Re'is (ca. 1520), and this technique remained in use well into the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, illustrated with ms. charts by eleven other mapmakers. Willem Barents contributed the first printed nautical chart of the region in 1595, to be followed by those of illustrious but also less well-known



chartmakers, such as Dudley, the van Keulens, Goos, Bellin, as well as Levanto, Pimentel, Alagna, among others.

Master Alexander Briarly of HMS *Audacious* is the author of six charts made during the French blockade in 1798 which he dedicated to Lord Nelson, an interesting story told in a chapter on 'The Napoleonic Connection'. The last chapter is devoted mainly to British nautical surveys from 1813 on, and the book closes with two appendices with verbatim quotes from two printed portolans, followed by a bibliography and an index.

This is another well researched contribution to Malta's cartographic history, admirably complementing previous works of reference directed and published by Albert Ganado. Produced to the standard of excellence we have come to expect from works by Ganado, this book will be a valuable addition to the library of all those with an interest in the history of the Mediterranean and its central archipelago, Malta.



# Rund um die Globen – In memoriam Rudolf Schmidt

## [Around the globe - In commemoration of Rudolf Schmidt]

edited by Jan Mokre

Illustrated brochure published by Johanna Rachinger, Director General of the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Vienna.  
36 pp., ill. Contact Generaldirektion der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek, Josefsplatz 1, A-1015 Wien, onb@onb.ac.at

Prof. Rudolf Schmidt, distinguished globe historian and collector, president of the *International Coronelli Society for the Study of Globes* from 1978 to 2000, died in September 2013. A *Festschrift* had been prepared for his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 23 January 2014, but this became a posthumous presentation at a reception in the Palais Mollard in Vienna, home of the Globe Museum. Six articles by Jan Mokre, Johannes Dörflinger, Heide Wohlschläger, Peter Allmayer-Beck, Walter Wiesinger and Friedrich Närr pay homage to Rudolf Schmidt's life as a collector of globes and an industrial manager, and to the role he played in the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek and the *Coronelli Society*.



There are three further articles in English by Elly Dekker (*Thoughts on Blaeu's 34 cm celestial globe of 1603*), Marica Milanese (*Gores of Coronelli's globes in the Rudolf Schmidt collection*), and Peter van der Krogt (*The terrestrial globe of Gemma Frisius [c. 1537]*). Paul Kunitzsch discusses *Der arabische Himmelsglobus in der Sammlung Rudolf Schmidt*, and Wolfram Dolz describes *Das Planetarium von John Handsford, um 1780*.

The text is supplemented by an impressive bibliography of his publications (50 titles) and a listing of 47 exhibitions which he either co-curated or to which he lent globes, instruments and reference books from his collection.

## TERRARVM ORBIS 10

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10

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BARCELONE, GÈNES ET MARSEILLE  
CARTOGRAPHIES ET IMAGES  
(XVI<sup>E</sup>-XIX<sup>E</sup> SIÈCLE)



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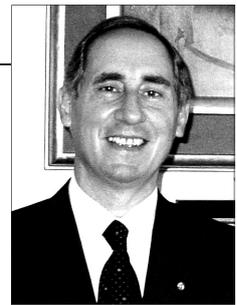
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## The mystery surrounding the Matteo Perez d'Aleccio map prints of the Great Siege of Malta of 1565

By Joseph Schirò  
joseph.schiro@onvol.net

The album of the 1565 Great Siege of Malta prints by Matteo Perez d'Aleccio is very rare and few copies or individual prints ever come on the market. This may possibly be because few copies were printed. In their book on the Siege maps, Ganado and Agius-Vadala quote Lockhead and Barling, and Vincenzo Melillo, (though they immediately state that these authors do not quote their source) saying that Grand Master de Verdalle may have suppressed the album because he was displeased when Perez d'Aleccio had dedicated the album to Cardinal de Medici and not to him<sup>1</sup>. This is hardly likely as Perez d'Aleccio had sought and obtained copyright protection from Pope Gregory XIII on 30 May 1582 for a ten-year period, as indicated in the title page *Cum privilegio / GREG. XIII. PONT. MAX. / Ad Decennium / MDLXXXII*<sup>2</sup>. Besides, Pope Gregory XIII held Verdalle in high regard as he had created him a Cardinal and Verdalle would not have gone against the wishes of the Pope. I tend to agree more with what Ganado had originally said in his 1984

article<sup>3</sup>. Here he mentions that 'Perez d'Aleccio paid homage to the 'Great Verdalle' in the legend accompanying the plan of the new city of Valletta [*Foglio 14*] and apart from including his coat of arms, together with those of De Valette, Del Monte and De La Cassière, on the same plate, he reserved a special place for Verdalle's escutcheon in the elaborate cartouche on the next plate' [*Foglio 15*].<sup>4</sup>

### A rare discovery

One of the copperplates of the prints which Matteo Perez d'Aleccio made of the Great Siege of Malta of 1565 has recently come to light and is now in the author's collection. It is *Foglio Undecimo* of the 15 prints of the 1582 edition (Fig. 1). Although the plate came from Miami, it actually originated in Peru.

After a thorough examination, mainly through the print which had been made from this plate in 2012, and which has also been acquired and is now in Malta, it was established beyond doubt that the plate

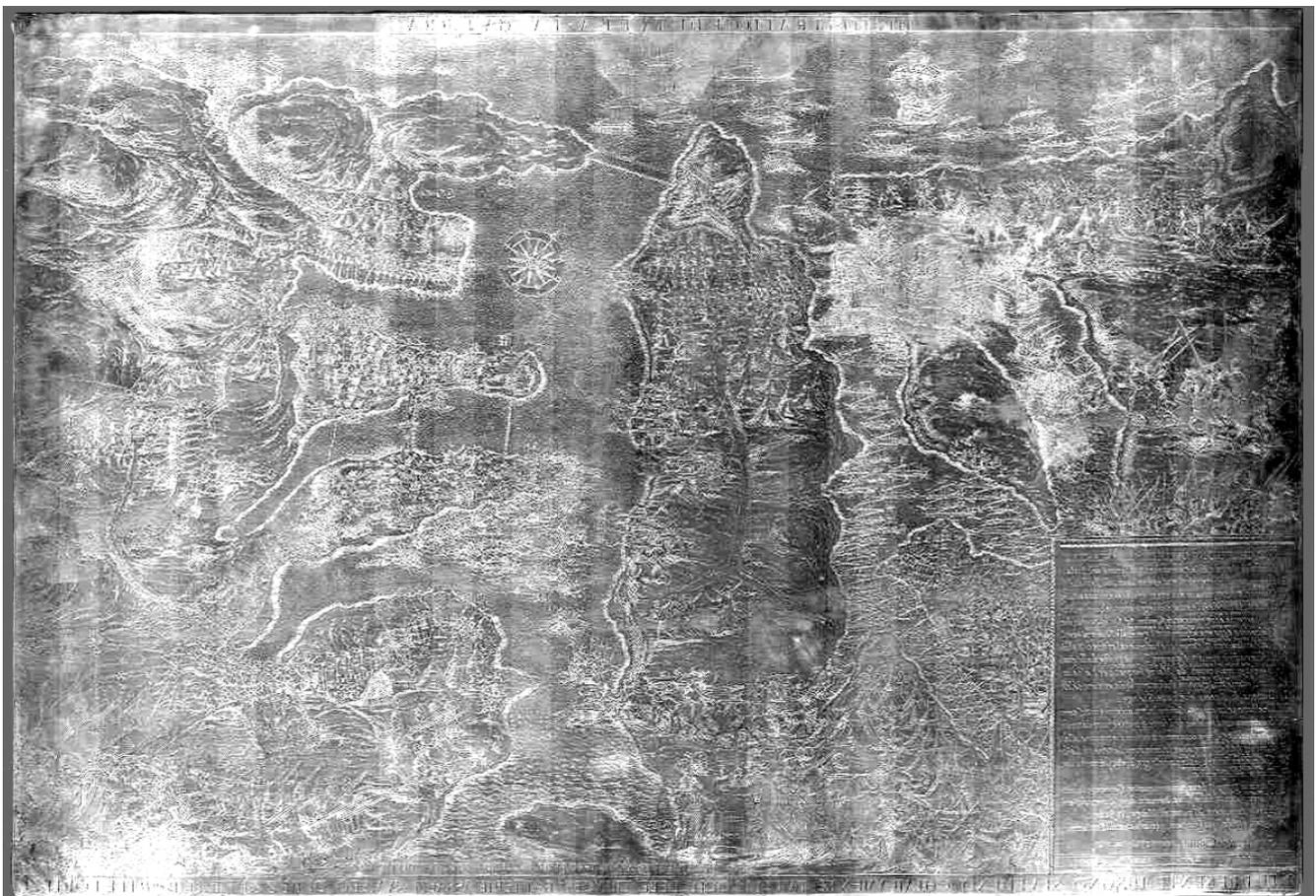


Fig. 1 Copperplate of *Foglio Undecimo*, 314 x 450mm



is authentic<sup>5</sup>. This makes this plate one of the earliest copperplates of a map of Malta known to have survived.

Perez d'Aleccio was the oldest of a group of Italian artists who were active in Peru in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when he embarked on his American adventure at the age of 41<sup>6</sup>. On 6 November 1587 he transferred his money to Lima<sup>7</sup> where he presumably arrived in 1588, and where he remained, got married<sup>8</sup> and died not later than April in 1616. The will of Pedro Pablo Morón, his principal collaborator, dated 28 April 1616<sup>9</sup> implies that Perez d'Aleccio had only recently died. According to Baglione<sup>10</sup>, there was only one clearly defined purpose that had made Perez d'Aleccio travel to Peru. Perez d'Aleccio had told his friends in Seville that he would come back from America only when he could afford to maintain his horses and his servants in Rome<sup>11</sup>. In fact there are various documents of Perez d'Aleccio which refer to his commercial deals in gold and silver mines and so we can safely say that he went to Peru in search of fortune<sup>12</sup>.

Perez d'Aleccio must have taken his siege plates with him when he went to Peru, but he discovered to his dismay that there was no rolling press with which to print them in Lima<sup>13</sup>. In fact the first two engravings printed in Peru appeared in a book entitled *Relacion de Las Exequias de la Reina Margarita*, published in 1613. The frontispiece shows a shield made by a student of Perez d'Aleccio, Fray Francisco Bejarano, dated 1612 and the other is the drawing of a funerary monument. The printer, Pedro de Merchán y Calderón, was most likely the person who brought from Spain the rolling press necessary to print the copper engravings.

It has to be remembered that Perez d'Aleccio was also a publisher as evidenced by his *APPRESSO PEREZ D'ALECCIO* found on the siege plates. In fact Perez d'Aleccio found himself the possessor of several copperplates including his siege plates, which were of no practical use for him for almost 25 years after his arrival in Peru in 1588. While in Peru, he started to make use of these plates by painting in oil on their reverse, a technique he had learned in Italy. The use of copper as a support for paintings became widespread in Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup> century when more of the metal was available. In 1591 the only known documented painting signed by Perez d'Aleccio that

we find in Lima to date, is a painting depicting a *Virgen de la leche* (Nursing Madonna) and was executed on a copperplate (Fig. 2). The work is of special interest because on the reverse is an engraving of the painting *Holy Family under the Oak* by Rafaello, which is now in the Prado Museum in Madrid. At the bottom of the engraving there is an inscription drawn in reversed letters which reads: *Matthaeus P. F. Romae Ano Dni 1583*<sup>14</sup>.



Fig. 2 *La Virgen de la leche*  
oil on copper, 483 x 392mm, Lima, Peru

The copperplate of the *Foglio Undecimo* in question has a painting in oil on the reverse and shows a Madonna which seems to have been started but never completed or else could have been an exercise when Perez d'Aleccio was teaching the technique of oil painting on copper (Fig. 3). Could this be the work of Perez d'Aleccio? It is difficult to say for sure but scientific analysis of the paint has shown that the pigments are of the period .



Fig. 3 Verso of copperplate of *Foglio Undecimo*

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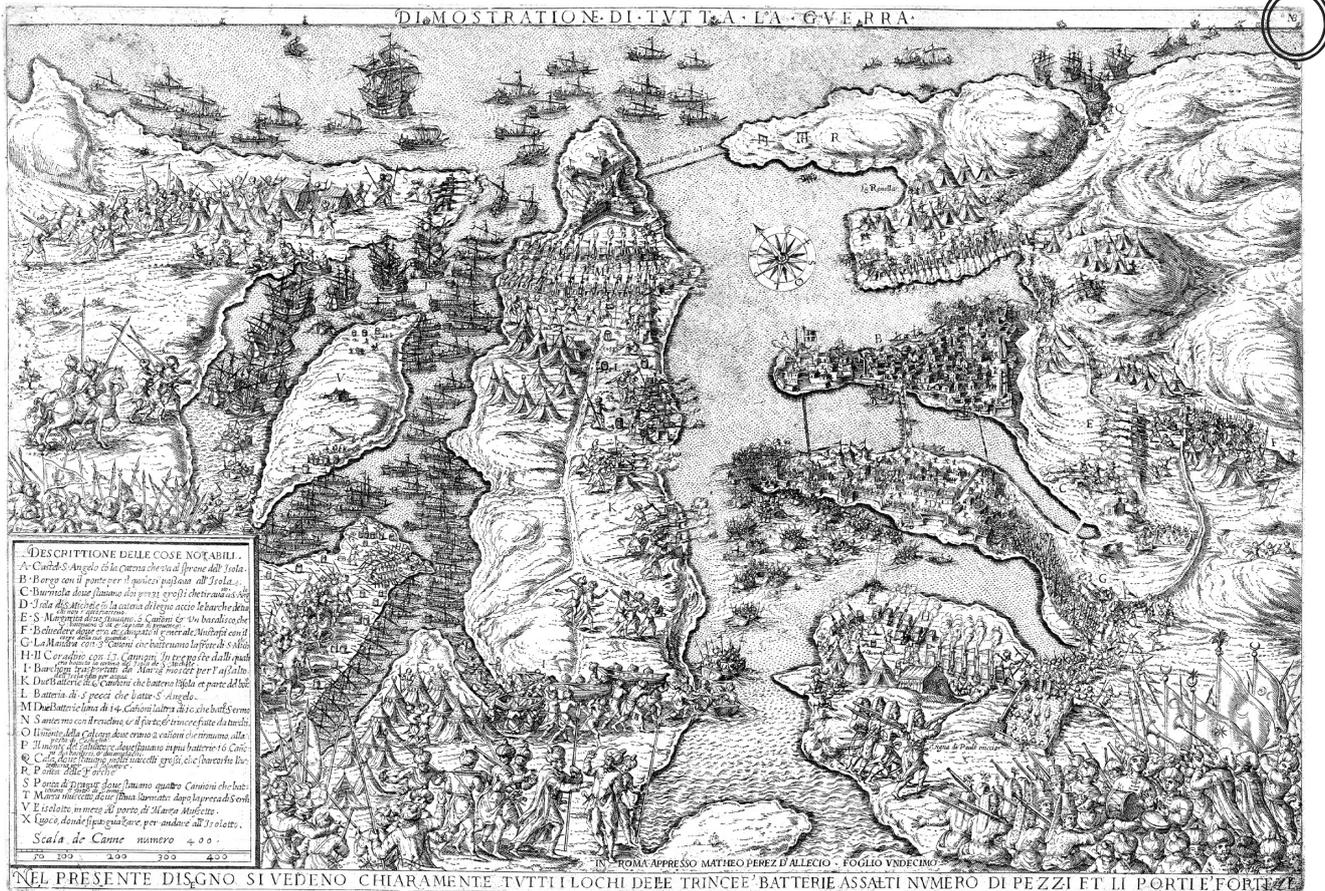


Fig. 4 Print pulled from the copperplate in 2012 by Ediciones Malgon

### Natale Bonifacio

The 2012 print pulled from the plate in Miami is very clear and sharp (Fig. 4). This shows that not many prints were pulled from the original plate. When examining the print, there was one slight difference from the original surviving prints of Perez d'Aleccio which proved to be a great sensational discovery and a mystery at the same time. At the top right corner there is the monogram 'NB'. When discussing the plate and the print with Dr Ganado, he suggested that 'NB' could be Nicolas Beatrizet. This was soon discarded however, because Beatrizet lived from 1475 to 1564, meaning that he was already dead when the plates were etched. Dr Ganado then suggested Natale Bonifacio (1537/1538–23 February 1592) who fitted perfectly datewise.

Natale Bonifacio was born in Šibenik in Dalmatia which in those days was under the domain of the Republic of Venice. He was the son of Girolamo, a native of a noble family from Capua. Very little is known of the early years of his life, but certainly in the 1570s we find him in Venice, where he published some maps. Here within a few years he became very famous. On 5 July 1579, Bonifacio was accepted in the *Congregazione di San Girolamo degli Illirici* (or *degli Schiavoni*), becoming the guardian on 10 April 1580, main auditor in 1582 and chamberlain in 1583. In 1589 he had to return to Šibenik to assist his sick mother, leaving behind in Rome his children and his wife Maddalena Guerrini, who was herself an engraver. He died shortly after his arrival in Šibenik on 23 February 1592<sup>15</sup>.

The calligraphy of the text found on the siege plate was compared with other prints executed by Natale Bonifacio which also had handwriting on them. The calligraphic comparison was made with a print which had an inscription in Italian found in the centre of the plan and elevation of the alternative door and the first floor balustrade of the Palace of St John in the Lateran, Rome. The print is found in the second edition of Domenico Fontana's *Della trasportatione dell'Obelisco Vaticano et delle Fabriche di Nostro Signore Papa Sisto V*, (1<sup>st</sup> edition Rome 1590; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Naples 1604)<sup>16</sup> (Figs 5, 6).

Natale Bonifacio had a particular calligraphy which is easily distinguishable. He liked using flourishes such as we find on the *P* in *Porta* in the door plan and the *D* in *Descrizione* in the siege map. His letter *g* is very distinct. He also had a particular way of joining the *st* or the double *ss* together such as *Questa* in the plan and *Castel* in line A and *grossi* in line Q on the siege plan. Other maps found at the National Library in Valletta which are signed by Bonifacio also show the extraordinary similarities of execution and calligraphy<sup>17</sup>.

### Natale Bonifacio and not Perez d'Aleccio the engraver

It could thus be confirmed beyond doubt that the plates were engraved by Natale Bonifacio. Perez d'Aleccio was the designer as evidenced in the title, written in the third person since it was someone else who engraved the plates: *I VERI RITRATTI...fatti già in diversi quadri di Pittura dal Mag.<sup>co</sup>[agnifico]*

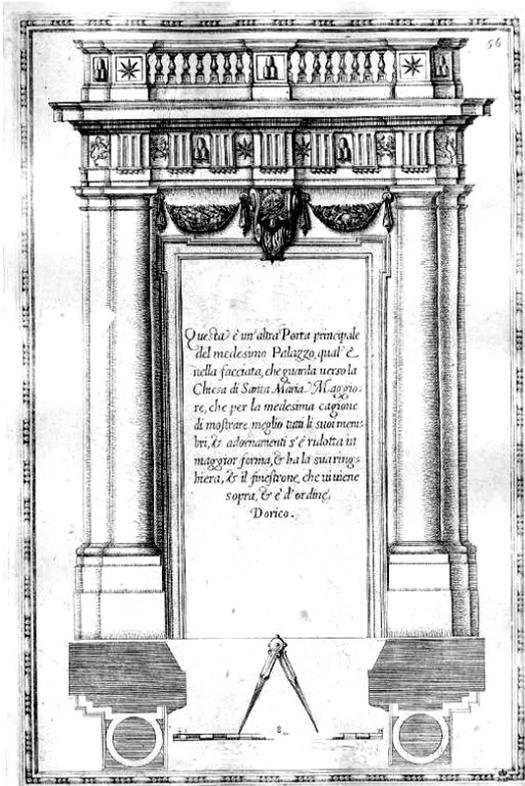


Fig. 5 Print of plan and elevation of alternative door of the Palace of St John in the Lateran, Rome, by Natale Bonifacio

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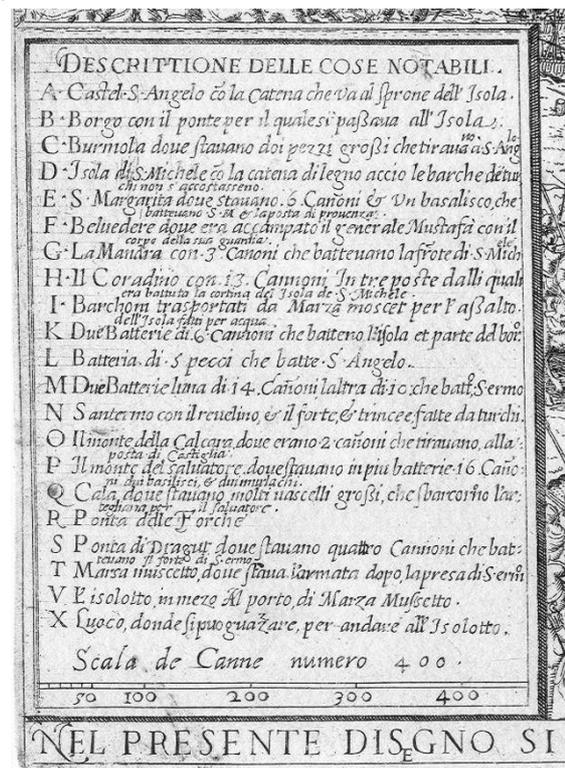


Fig. 6 The key to place-names and events found on *Foglio Undecimo*. The calligraphy can be attributed to Natale Bonifacio

*M.,[aestro] Matteo Perez d'Aleccio nella Grà Sala del Palazzo del Ill.<sup>mo</sup> Gran Maestro in Malta , e ridotti con accurat.<sup>ma</sup> diligenza dal medesimo in questa forma...* On the other hand the first person is used in the dedication on the left of the frontispiece which is signed *humile & affectionatis.<sup>o</sup> Seruitore Matteo Perez di Aleccio*<sup>18</sup>.

In all the original *Foglio Undecimo* prints that were examined, no monogram NB is visible. Is it possible that Natale Bonifacio could have protested with Perez d'Aleccio about the lack of his signature and that it could have been him who suppressed the printing? Would Perez d'Aleccio have consented to Natale Bonifacio engraving his monogram on the plates, but force of circumstance made him leave for Seville, Spain in 1583 and to Lima, Peru shortly afterwards in 1588 without ever finding the opportunity, the time and perhaps even the money to publish what would then have been a second state of the siege plates with the 'NB' monogram?

### **Casa di Mattia il Pittore**

The discovery of the copperplate was also particularly significant because it also shed new light on other matters. One correction is that there was never a second state published after 1661, which theory came from Vincenzo Melillo's article<sup>19</sup> written in 1984. Here he mentions that *Casa di Mattia il Pittore* found on the Valletta map must have been the house of Mattia Preti and not of Matteo Perez d'Aleccio<sup>20</sup> and that the *Casa del Mastro Tomaso* was the house of Tommaso Dingli. Since both Mattia Preti (1613–

1699) and Tommaso Dingli (1591-1666) lived and worked in Malta much later than 1582, he concluded that the prints which he had studied were not of the 1582 edition but must have been reissued between 1661 and 1699. In his article written in 1984, before Melillo's article was published, Ganado had correctly assumed that *Casa di Mattia Pittore* was that of Perez d'Aleccio and he points this out in a footnote of the same article<sup>21</sup>. As for the *Casa de Mastro Tomaso* he also says 'Incidentally, d'Aleccio indicated on the plan both the house of the engineer and architect of the Order and the house of *mastro* Tomaso, who might have been the *capomastro*<sup>22</sup>. But when later in 1994, Ganado and Agius-Vadalà published their book on the siege maps, they did not question Melillo's assertions and they say that 'no copy is known of the 1582 edition of the album. The reprint of the 1660s is to be found in these libraries...'<sup>23</sup> Yet there could never have been an edition in the 1660s as the plates were always in Peru where Perez d'Aleccio had taken them and this discovery proves Melillo wrong and that Ganado was right back then in his 1984 article.

There is also the question of the position of the site indicated as *Casa di Mattia Pittore* on the Valletta map. Bonello quotes documentary sources for the houses Mattia Preti owned in the *Manderacchio* area<sup>24</sup>, but he seems sceptical on the third house on St Christopher Bastion on the opposite side of Valletta. This is probably because of lack of archival evidence. He says that: 'The 'large one' may have been his early house on St Christopher Bastion, but more



likely, was the one he had bought in 1668 in the Mandaraggio area<sup>25</sup>. This copperplate is perhaps the first primary source which excludes beyond doubt that the house could have belonged to Mattia Preti.

In the course of this research an intriguing statement was found written in Witcombe's book *Copyright in the Renaissance* when he describes Perez d'Aleccio's book of the siege prints. He describes them as: 'Individual prints of the frescoed scenes, plus an allegorical frontispiece and a sheet inscribed *Al Lettore* (sixteen sheets in all), were issued by Perez in 1582'<sup>26</sup>. To date all references of the album of the Great Siege maps mention fifteen plates and not sixteen.

Perez d'Aleccio must have lost a lot of money when he stopped the printing of the Siege maps, after having invested so much capital to produce the

plates. Judging from the evidence of the number of Lucini editions of the prints of the Great Siege of Malta copied from Perez d'Aleccio's album, Perez d'Aleccio would have sold a good number of copies which could have rendered him a handsome profit. The first Lucini edition came out in Rome in 1631 followed by two more editions printed in Bologna also in 1631 and like Perez d'Aleccio, Lucini immediately obtained a *privilegio*, but this time he did not leave any doubts as to who engraved the plates as he wrote prominently on the frontispiece *et hora intagliati con accuratissima diligenza da Anton Fran.<sup>co</sup> Lucini Fiorent.<sup>o</sup>* [and now engraved with the utmost diligence and care by Anton Francesco Lucini, Florentine]. Could he have heard something of what had happened to Matteo Perez d'Aleccio?

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#### Footnotes:

1. Ganado and Agius-Vadalà (1994), *A study in depth of 143 maps representing the Great Siege of Malta of 1565*, Malta, PEG Ltd, 1994, pp. 330–331.
2. The document is recorded in ASVat, SB, 52, fol. 396r. –v.; *Motu proprio*, unnumbered, interleaved between fols. 398 and 399.
3. Ganado (1984), 'Matteo Perez d'Aleccio's engravings of the Siege of Malta of 1565' in *Proceedings of History Week 1983*, Malta, The Malta Historical Society, 1984, pp. 125–161.
4. Ganado (1984), p. 130.
5. The print was made by Joaquín González who studied industrial design specializing in graphic design at the University of San Alejandro in La Habana, Cuba. He now runs *Ediciones Malgon* which he founded in 1999 as an independent print workshop which specialises in traditional fine art printing techniques.
6. Petrucci, Alfredo (1971), 'Il Magnifica Matteo. Dall'Appula Alezio al Nuovo Mondo', in *Pernix Apulia*, Bari, 1971, p. 138. Petrucci says in his article that Perez d'Aleccio could have been lured to Peru because he was fascinated by the idea that the discovery of Peru was made by a namesake of his, Perez de la Rúa, who he fancied could have been his ancestor.
7. Stastny, Francisco (1969), 'Perez de Alesio y la pintura del siglo XVI', in *Annales No 22*, Instituto de Arte Americano e Investigaciones Estéticas, Buenos Aires, A. Baiocco y Cia., 1969, p. 11.
8. In Lima Perez d'Aleccio married María Fuentes de la Cadena on 3 January, 1598. Vargas Ugarte, Rubén (1947), 'Pérez de Alesio, Mateo-Pintor' in *Ensayo de un diccionario de artífices coloniales de la América Meridional*, Buenos Aires, 1947, pp. 96–98.
9. Stastny (1969), p. 13.
10. Baglione, Giovanni (1733) *Le vite dei pittori, scultori ed architetti*, Napoli, 1733 (1<sup>st</sup> edition Rome 1642), p. 30.
11. Ballesteros, Jorge Bernales, *Mateo Pérez de Alesio, pintor romano en Sevilla y Lima*, Sevilla, 1973, p. 236.
12. Stastny (1969), p. 12; Baglione (1733), p. 30.
13. The author knows of another Perez d'Aleccio Great Siege copperplate in Peru.
14. Stastny (1969), p. 14; Valenzuela, Fernando (2009), *Painting as a form of communication in colonial central Andes; variations on the form of ornamental art in early world society*, Ph. D. dissertation presented at the University of Lucerne, 2009, p. 249.
15. Almagià, Roberto (1948), *Monumenta Cartografica Vaticana*, Città del Vaticano, 1948, Vol. II, pp. 6–8. (I thank Dr Ganado who kindly lent me the book and other material for consultation).
16. Location of print at the British Museum: *Museum number 1982, U.18 AN77 1937*.
17. The maps are found in Vol. VI of the collection of 6 volumes of *Piante, et Alzate di Città e Fortezze Raccolte in Roma*. Loc. PP 1625–1630 at the National Library in Valletta. Volume 6 has no title page. The maps are *Palermo Città principalissima nella Sicilia*, Rome, 1580 and *Parigi. L'Assedio di Parigi*, Rome 1591. For a full description of this collection, see Ganado, Albert, 'Description of a splendid collection of 950 maps and views of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries at the National Library of Malta' in *Proceedings of History Week 1992*, Malta, Malta Historical Society, 1994, pp. 137–228.
18. Petrucci says that *Il frontespizio, riccamente figurato, è un modello irreprensibile d'impaginazione, di armonia, di eleganza, in cui sfociano contemperandosi le più disparate esperienze architettoniche e grafiche del secolo*. [The title-page, richly figured and with the most diverse architectural experiences and graphics of the century, is a model of impeccable layout, harmony and elegance]. Petrucci, Alfredo (1971), p. 138.
19. Melillo, Vincenzo (1980), *Matteo Perez, da Lecce, incisore in Roma*, Roma, 1980. This is an 8-page pamphlet with no imprint whatsoever except for *Roma 1980* at the foot of page 8.
20. As rightly pointed out to me by Dr Giovanni Bonello, Italians tend to distinguish between Mattia and Matteo and asked why would Perez d'Aleccio, who referred to himself as Matteo, change his name (his identity) when identifying something as intimate as his own home. Possibly the reason of the change of name would have been Natale Bonifacio himself. Bonifacio came from Šibenik and it would have been easy for a Croatian to use the name *Mattia* rather than *Matteo*.
21. Ganado (1984), "During his stay in Malta, d'Aleccio lived in a house at the eastern end of St. Christopher Street, in Valletta, overlooking the Grand Harbour: it is indicated on his plan of Valletta (*FOGLIO DECIMO QUARTO*) as *Casa di Mattia Pittore* f.5, p. 127.
22. Ganado (1984), p. 152.
23. Ganado and Agius-Vadalà (1994), Vol. 1, p. 336.
24. Bonello, Giovanni (1999), 'Mattia Preti: His houses in Malta' in *Art in Malta: Discoveries and Recoveries*, Malta, Patrimonju Publishing Ltd, 1999, pp. 69–72; Denaro Victor (1962), 'Still More Houses in Valletta' in *Melita Historica*, Vol. 3, No. 3, 1962, p. 45; Denaro, Victor (2002), 'Preti's House to Disappear' in *Times* [of Malta], *Half a century ago*, 12 September, 2002, p. 23. The author is grateful to Bernadine Scicluna for these references.
25. Bonello (1999), p. 71.
26. Witcombe (2004), p. 231. Attempts by the author to communicate with Witcombe were unsuccessful until the time of going to print.



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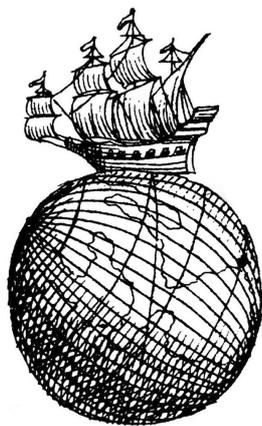
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## Cartographic treasures of Bruges BIMCC excursion - 18 February 2014

Everyone knows the cityscape of Bruges, with its canals, houses and museums. As is to be expected, its archives harbour a rich collection of historical maps. But visiting these was not the purpose of our excursion this time. We were heading for two libraries: the *Cultuurbibliotheek* (cultural library) and the *Biekorf* public library.

In the *Cultuurbibliotheek* librarians Claude Anthierens and Walter De Smaele proudly (and rightly so) showed us around in their brand new and very comfortable library. It is physically part of a school, but outsiders have very easy access to it.

This library has a collection of maps, both manuscript and printed, and also books on cartography. We were shown fine examples of all these: several versions of the Peutinger map (the Janssonius and Ortelius versions), a maritime atlas by Van Keulen, Vander Maelen atlas and maps, the town atlas by Blaeu and much more.

In the *Biekorf*, librarian Ludo Vandamme had prepared a small but exquisite selection of maps to show us. Just two highlights: First, the very rare world map by Hondius, called *Map of the Christian Knight or Typus totius orbis terrarum, in quo & Christiani militis certamen super terram ... graphicè designator*. According to Ludo Vandamme, only three copies are known. It can be seen online<sup>1</sup>.

Second, we saw something that in itself made the trip to Bruges worthwhile: the oldest map of Flanders dated 1452. It is a manuscript map, inserted in an old manuscript chronicle called the *cronache de signiori di fiandra e de loro advenimenti* [Chronicles of the Lords of Flanders and their destiny], written by an anonymous Italian expat in 15<sup>th</sup> century Bruges. It too can be seen online<sup>2</sup>:

In addition, Ptolemy's *Geographia* (Ulm, 1482 edition) was exhibited together with the *Cosmographia Universalis* of Sebastian Münster, edition from 1552, which was once owned by the fa-



mous Ter Duinen abbey (see illustration on the centre fold, overleaf). It was displayed in the library alongside other works that influenced Münster, such as Strabo's *Geographika*, two other dictionaries of Münster in Greek and the *Horolographia*, on sundials.

After a reinvigorating light meal (and a good glass of wine, of course) we went back to the *Biekorf* to listen to the presentation by our member Jan De Graeve on the *Cosmografia Universalis* of Sebastian Münster (the 1552 edition of which we saw in the afternoon at the *Biekorf*). Jan developed his presentation on the links with and influences from Roman authors Strabo, Mela and Solinus to contemporary colleagues like Stöffler, Apianus and Mercator, with slides of the originals. He focused on the Bruges 1552 edition in need for restoration.

We learned a lot through Jan's witty and erudite presentation, which was much appreciated by the numerous Bruges audience, clearly interested in the work, for whose restoration the library is organising a funding campaign (see: <http://www.brugge.be/blaas-de-kosmos-nieuw-leven-in->).

Caroline De Candt  
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1. <https://bibliotheekbrugge.wordpress.com/2010/09/24/de-kaart-van-de-christelijke-ridder/>
2. <http://cabrio.bibliotheek.brugge.be/browse/webgaleries/MS685/index.html> (go to p.422/441).

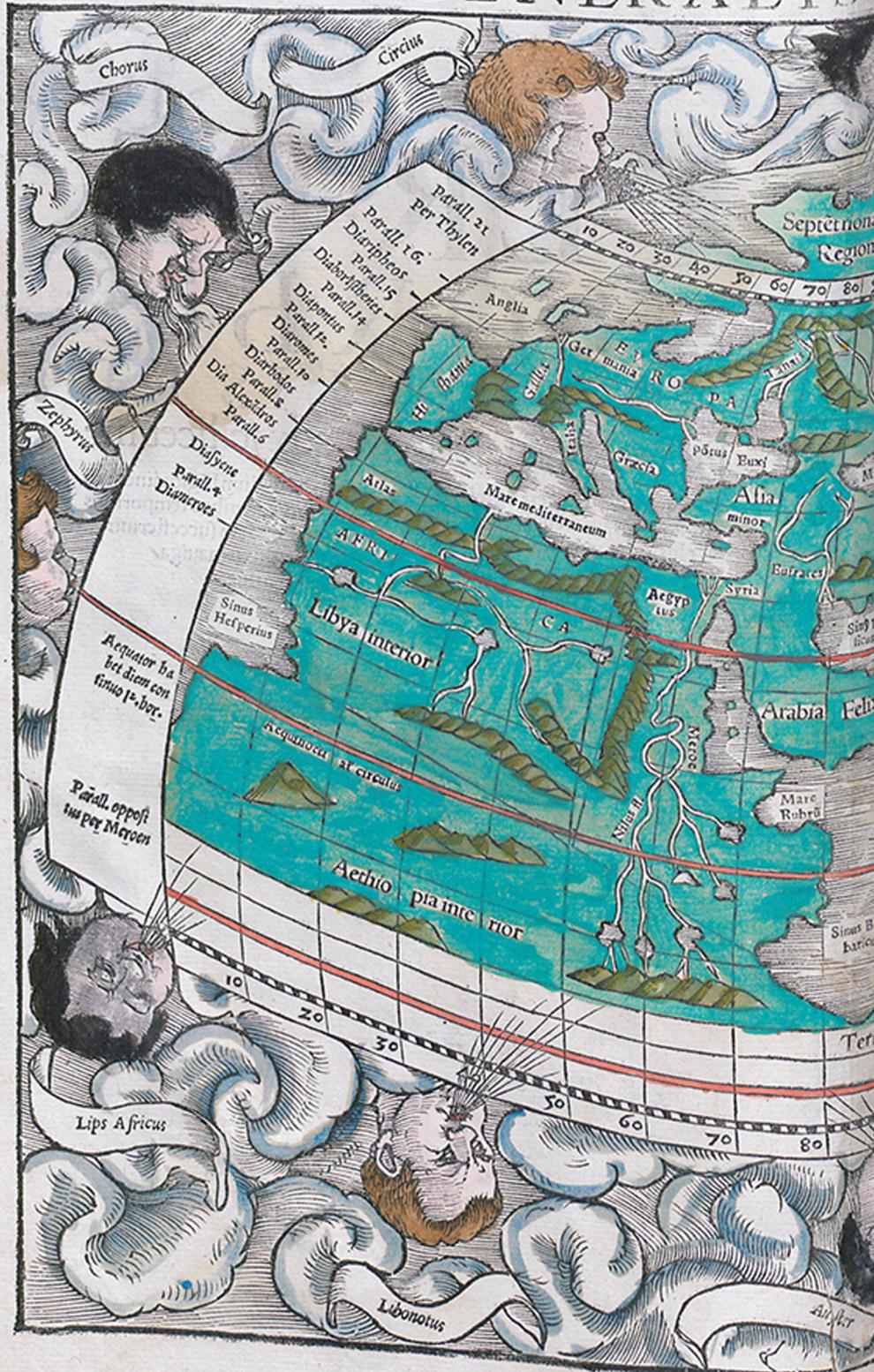
### Tips to help you surf through the online catalogue of the *cultuurbibliotheek*: [www.cultuurbibliotheek.be](http://www.cultuurbibliotheek.be)

a) if you know which author or map you're searching for, this is the best way to get to them: click on *Catalogus*, *bibliotheekcollectie raadplegen*, *eenvoudig zoeken*, *oude drukken* and then, at upper right, choose: *auteur*, *trefwoord*, *titel*....

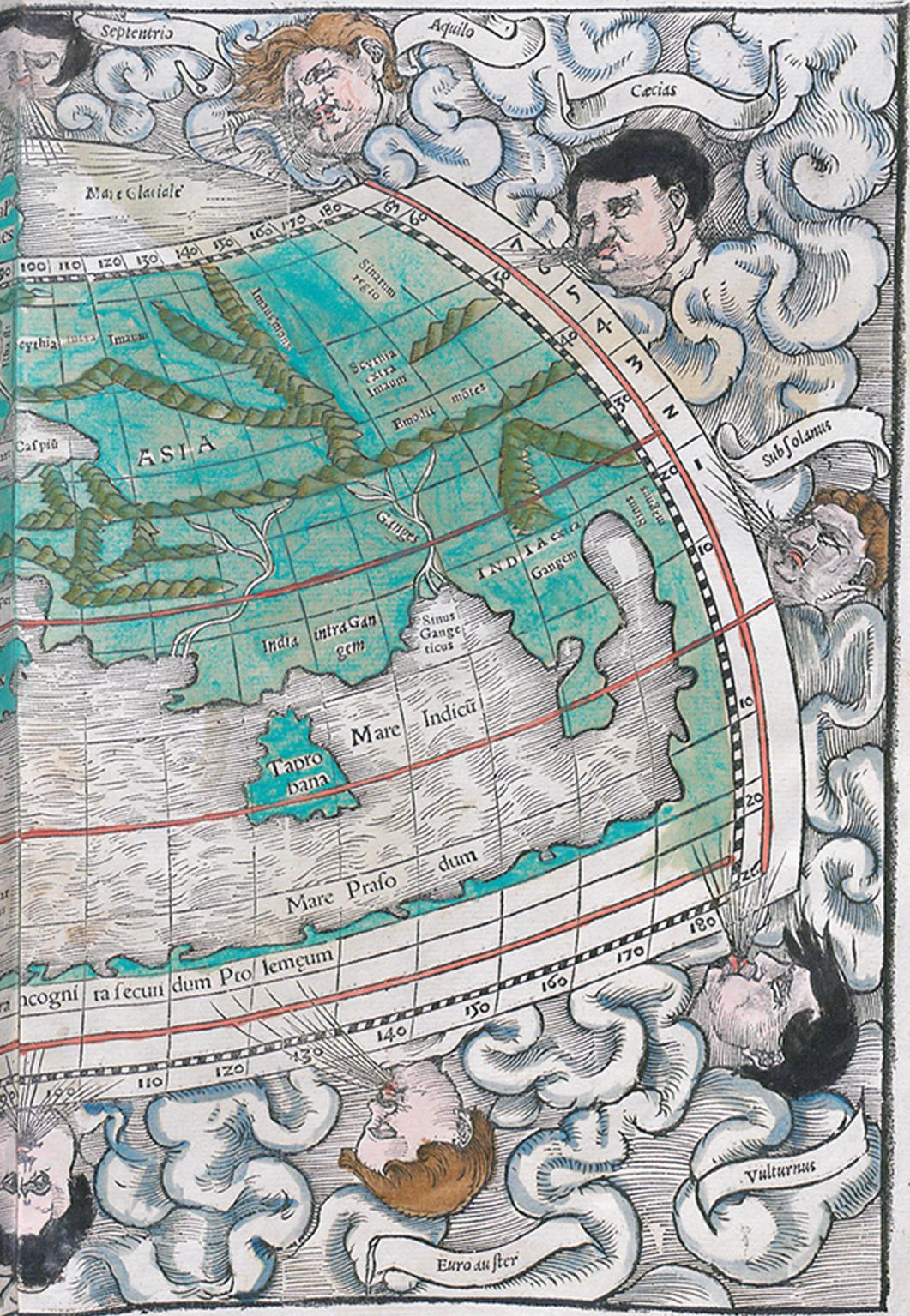
b) if you just want to see what they have, best is to click on *Catalogus*, *catalogus speciale collecties*, *cartografie* and then choose *maritieme kaarten*, *globes etc...*

c) another option that is more thematically organised, is to click on *e-publicaties*, *cartografie*, (and then you have a list with 10 topics).

# ALTERA GENERALIS



# TAB. SECVNDVM PTOL



(1552 edition) in the *Biekorf* Library in Bruges  
Bibliotheek Brugge



## How I got into cartography



Curator of antiquarian maps at the British Library,  
talks to *Maps in History*

tom.harper@bl.uk

### What does cartography mean to you?

Professionally, cartography (maps and the practice of mapping) means a great deal to me, since my job is completely involved with maps. I am curator of antiquarian maps at the British Library, and my job is to manage, develop and promote Britain's national map collection. To do this, I have to immerse myself in the practices, writing and culture of cartography. This isn't such a problem, since I love maps!

On a personal level there is a slight ambiguity. Although I have to keep up with developments in mapping in the press and online, I do not collect maps, or use them extensively for travelling (I'm not very well travelled), though I do incorporate maps and views into the artwork I occasionally produce (see [www.tomharper.co.uk](http://www.tomharper.co.uk)) It is difficult NOT to notice the presence of maps in everyday life, since they are

everywhere in advertising, posters, magazines etc. I guess that because of my job I am more sensitive to the presence of maps.

### What exactly does your job involve?

Research is one aspect of my job, though it is usually the bit of it that I do outside working hours. My private research tends to be rather widely spread, though my core interest is 16<sup>th</sup> century European printed maps. For example, I've written on the early 18<sup>th</sup> century London book trade (*British Library Journal*, 2010) and monumental European display maps (*Magnificent Maps*, 2010), I presented a paper on 19<sup>th</sup> century British school maps (*Maps and Society*, 2011), and my book on maps of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (with Tim Bryars) will be published in 2014.

My role at the British Library is an access point to

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George Cruchley,  
Enlarged map of Europe,  
1851. Maps STE  
(Discussed in the  
'Maps & Society' lecture  
on educational maps  
Tom Harper gave in 2011).



the collections. I'm the main point of contact for enquiries on historical mapping both inside and outside the Library. This means that I need to know something – though it can usually only be a little bit – about the complete breadth of the collections. As is often the case, however, the trick is knowing where to look for the information, not necessarily knowing it all yourself.

Therefore the most important function of my job is knowing what we have in the collection, and being able to access it when required. Other things my job involves: acquisitions, cataloguing, storage management, conservation programme management, security duties, inquiries, commercial activities, outreach and presentations, reading room invigilation, online communication, exhibitions and project management. I occasionally go on courier trips, accompanying collection items that are being loaned to other institutions in Britain and internationally. I will be going to Canberra shortly to bring back material on loan to the National Library of Australia's 'Mapping our World' exhibition in March.

#### **What did you need to study to get this far?**

I guess that my route into curatorship is slightly different to the standard route in that I did not come from an academic or research background. I studied history and art history at the University of Birmingham, UK, studying particularly painting and printmaking in the Low Countries during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

I then went on to work for the London map dealer Jonathan Potter from 2001 to 2007, when I joined the British Library. Working for Jonathan enabled me to learn about printed maps first-hand (you have to know what you are selling!), and to make some important contacts in the world of antiquarian mapping.

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

I think that young people are absolutely interested in maps and mapping. Modern online maps and visualisations are so seamless and visually appealing that young people are immersed in maps without even knowing it.

Some of the British Library's map projects – the 'Georeferencer' and the 'Off the Map' videogame map project (where old maps were made into virtual videogame environments)— demonstrate just how strong this is. Maps are at young people's fingertips, with social networking etc.

In terms of historical maps, there's certainly as much, if not more interest in them as other works on paper from the same period. I wasn't really aware of historical maps until I went to university, but beyond the accessible attractiveness of some older maps, or the obvious humour in 'inaccuracies or mistakes' they aren't very easy objects to understand.

Collecting maps doesn't strike me as a particularly young person thing to do, but there are many reasons for that. But then, one doesn't have to own maps in order to be enthused by them. I think map societies understand that perfectly well.

From our point of view here at the British Library, it is very important that we draw on this enthusiasm and convert it into visits to our Reading Room. The map collection is publicly owned and free to access for anybody who has a valid research need. Why would you need to be a collector when one of the world's greatest collections of maps is available to be studied here at the British Library?

Interview by Nicola Boothby  
nicola.boothby@telenet.be



## How I move forward with cartography...

People travelled more than we think even during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Damião de Gois (1502–1574) from Portugal visited Erasmus in the North, the Portuguese Physician Amato Lusitano (1511–1568) worked mainly in Ferrara, while Italian, French and Germans humanists settled in Portugal. My own career now seems reminiscent of the trajectories of these illustrious scholars. Beginning a new post-doc research project – *Maps, Globes and Texts: Cosmographical knowledge in early Modern Europe* – I have been living in Portugal for a couple of months. Here I am part of the Centro Interuniversitário de História das Ciências e da Tecnologia [The Interuniversity Center for the History of Science and Technology], at the University of Lisbon (CIUHCT-UL, cf. <http://www.ciuhct.com/>).



Thomas Horst  
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## Maps, Globes, Instruments and Books in the Early Modern History of Science at the CIUHCT (Interuniversity Center for the History of Science and Technology) in Lisbon

The CIUHCT is the largest research unit in the field of History of Science and Technology in Portugal and is recognised and funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT). This interdisciplinary centre, founded in 2003, emerged from the fusion of two research groups: one is located in Lisbon (Campo Grande) and associated with the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Lisbon (FCUL); the other is located at the Monte de Caparica campus, on the South bank of the Tagus river. The latter is associated with the Faculty of Sciences and Technology at the 'Universidade Nova' (New University) of Lisbon (FCT/UNL).

The CIUHCT promotes research in the History of Science according to international standards and has already contributed to the development and consolidation of this discipline in Portugal. Its members (more than 40 people and 17 doctorate students) are split into two main research areas ('Instruments and Practices, Visual and Material Cultures' and 'Experts, Institutions and Globalisation'). Topics range from publication of scientific texts, material culture studies and collection-based history of

science to institutional history and scientific biographies, all approached in the spirit of methodological pluralism. Moreover, the relations between the History of Science, the History of Technology and the Philosophy of Science play an important part in studies at graduate and post-graduate level at both Universities, where members of the CIUHCT are leading. The centre has been a strong supporter of various outreach activities (exhibitions and courses/workshops for college students or life-long learning audiences about the circulation of scientific and technological knowledge, particularly through the use of printed, manuscript, oral, and material sources in an interdisciplinary context).

In 2007, the internationally renowned science historian, **Prof. Dr. Henrique Leitão**, managed to establish within the CIUHCT a small, but growing, international group of post-doctoral researchers. This group is especially committed to the study of scientific texts and Visual and Material Cultures in an inter- and multidisciplinary way. The members of this lively group, whose competitive scholarships are mostly

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**Specialist in plans and views of  
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funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), pursue research into old maps, globes, scientific instruments and texts of the early modern period.

**Dr. Samuel Gessner** (originally from Switzerland, PhD in France) has worked at the CIUHCT since 2007 mainly on sixteenth century instruments and the History of Mathematics. The emphasis in his studies is on the use of materially existing historical instruments as primary sources. He is an expert with an international reputation in this field and his contributions have been of the utmost importance for the history of scientific instruments in Portugal. Samuel is planning international workshops for the study of old globes and instruments in the near future.

**Dr. Luana Giurgevich** received her PhD in Italy and is working on historical libraries in Portugal and the circulation of scientific books in the early modern period. She has completed an enormous survey of primary sources related to ancient libraries in Portugal, especially libraries in monasteries, convents and other religious houses and is now examining the circulation of scientific books in Portugal in detail.

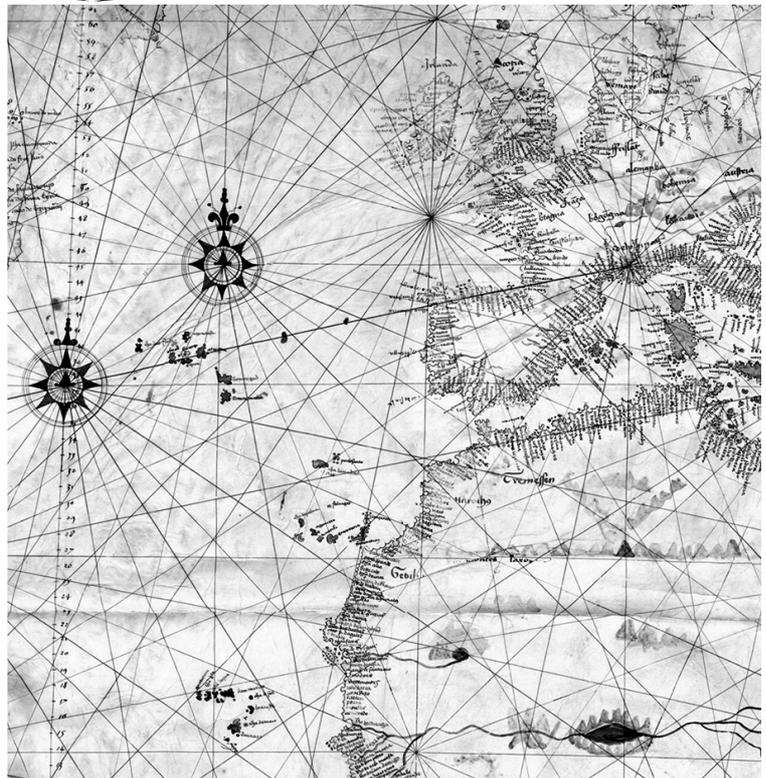
**Dr. Joaquim Alves Gaspar** is a pioneer in the development and application of modern cartometric techniques to the study of ancient nautical charts. This technique, facilitated by digitisation, has become one of the most promising approaches to the history of cartography to have appeared in recent years.

**Dr. Antonio Sánchez** (originally from Spain, PhD in Madrid) is making a comparative study between the Iberian empires as regards cosmographical practices and the forms of cartographic representation arising from overseas expansion. He analyses the impact of the so-called 'Iberian science' in European modernity in the field of the history of science and, more specifically, in the emergence of artisanal knowledge.

**Dr. Thomas Horst** comes from Munich, Germany and joined this exciting group recently. He has started a new project on the scientific connections between Portuguese and German scholars in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries together with Henrique Leitão. His multifaceted research deals inter alia with the *Cosmographical knowledge in early Modern Europe*.

The CIUHCT is an excellent environment for anyone, who is interested in maps, globes, instruments and books. Examples are three doctoral students of Henrique Leitão, who have recently joined the group:

Retired navy commander **José Manuel Malhão Pereira** is writing his doctoral thesis on seventeenth



Anonym portugese portolan, ca 1506 (BnF, Paris)

and eighteenth century Portuguese nautical techniques – a little known subject. He is an expert in nautical instruments and ancient navigational techniques in Portugal.

**Wellington Bernardelli Silva Filho** comes from Maringá, Brazil, and works with seventeenth and eighteenth century descriptions of the natural history of Brazil. For his doctoral research, he intends to study the pharmacopoeias of Friar João de Jesus Maria (1716–1795), administrator of the pharmacy of the Monastery of Santo Tirso, which was published in the late eighteenth century.

**Luis Tirapicos** is working on a (long desired) study of the scientific activities of the Jesuit diplomat and courtier Giovanni Battista Carbone (1729–1790) during the reign of Portuguese King João V. 'the Magnanimous' († 1750).

Furthermore, the highly respected Portuguese map historian **Prof. Dr. João Carlos Garcia** (Faculdade de Letras, University of Porto), who has been member of the CIUHCT since 2013, participates regularly in the group's meetings. He organises the International Workshops on the History of Iberian Cartography together with his colleagues Joaquim Alves Gaspar, Antonio Sanchez and Thomas Horst (see below).

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The CIUHCT organises two important international conferences in September 2014: the 9<sup>th</sup> Science and Technology in the European Periphery (STEP) Meeting (1–3 September 2014, cf. <http://step2014.ciuhct.com/>) and the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference of European Society for the History of Science (ESHS, 4–6 September 2014, cf. <http://eshs2014.ciuhct.com/>).



## **História da Cartografia Ibérica: do Mediterrâneo ao Mundo (History of Iberian Cartography: from the Mediterranean to the World) International Workshop, 27 - 28 March 2014, Lisbon**

The scientific workshops on map history in Portugal had been initiated by the cartographic group of the CIUHCT (since 2010) and brings together all those scholars who are concerned with Iberian Maps (particularly with new methodologies).

Around 50 participants (from all over Portugal, but also from Spain and even Brazil) found their way to Lisbon this year for this 3<sup>rd</sup> International Workshop for the History of Iberian Cartography. The Workshop was opened by Dr. Maria Inês Cordeiro, Director of the National Library — the largest Library of Portugal — where the workshops have been generously hosted since their beginnings. The keynote speaker, Prof. Dr. Francesc Nadal (University of Barcelona), discussed urban cartography and the liberal revolution, drawing on his research on Catalunya (1846–1900).

Altogether nine papers, rigorously selected by a Scientific Committee, were presented. The cartography of the former Portuguese colonies in Angola and Cape Verde was shown in the papers by Sara Ventura da Cruz (Porto University) and by Maria João Soares / Maria Manuel Torrão (both from the Tropical Research Institute in Lisbon). Two further papers (Ana Rita Pereira from the University of Porto and Luís Moreira from the University of Minho) dealt with atlas maps of Portugal of the beginning 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Thematic and Urban Cartography was also part of two interesting papers, by Cristina de Sousa (University of Porto) and Daniela Nunes Pereira (University of Algarve). Next, Antonio Sánchez (of the CIUHCT) highlighted the importance of the 'Padrões' (large stone pillars inscribed with the coat of arms of Portugal that were placed at prominent places by Portuguese explorers during the Age of the Discoveries). He showed that small representations of these can be found on Iberian Maps of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century. Sánchez has recently published a book about the cartographic representation in the Iberian Peninsula during the 16<sup>th</sup> century (the book was launched during the Workshop). His colleagues Thomas Horst and Samuel Gessner (both CIUHCT) showed the preliminary results of their interdisciplinary study of the Portuguese Cartographer Diogo Ribeiro († 1533), seen by some as 'the Mercator of the Iberian Peninsula', who worked as mapmaker for the Spanish kingdom since 1519.



Wellington Bernardelli Silva Filho, Dr. Antonio Sánchez, Dr. Samuel Gessner, Prof. Dr. Francesc Nadal (keynote-Speaker at the Workshop), Prof. Dr. João Carlos Garcia, Dr. Thomas Horst, Dr. Joaquim Alves Gaspar and Commandant José Manuel Malhão Pereira with some replicas of scientific instruments.

These nine lectures were each briefly commented on by different respondents (a system that worked very well!). In addition, two mini-courses were scheduled that introduced the public to some basic notions: the main organiser, J. A. Gaspar showed the close relationship between navigation and nautical maps around 1500 and J. M. Malhão Pereira presented some replicas of navigational instruments and their use in former times – this was surely one of the highlights!

Besides the papers in the lecture hall, the general programme included a visit to a current exhibition at the National Library (about the cosmographer and chief-engineer Luís Serrão Pimentel (1613–1679) and Science in Portugal in the 17<sup>th</sup> century). The workshop coincided with the presentation of three recently rediscovered pencil drawings, produced by the Portuguese military engineer José de Sande Vasconcelos (1730?–1808), which show the City of Vila Real de Santo António (Algarve) in 1774. At a small exhibition of Portuguese-Spanish frontier maps of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (selected by librarian Maria Joaquina Feijão), attendees could enjoy a sample of the comprehensive, unique collection of maps from the National Library.

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1. The complete programme is available under [http://www.bnportugal.pt/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=903%3Aiii-workshop-internacional-historia-da-cartografia-iberica-velhas-cartas-novas-abordagens-2728-mar&catid=164%3A2014&Itemid=929&lang=pt](http://www.bnportugal.pt/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=903%3Aiii-workshop-internacional-historia-da-cartografia-iberica-velhas-cartas-novas-abordagens-2728-mar&catid=164%3A2014&Itemid=929&lang=pt)

2. 'La Espada, la Cruz y el Padrón: soberanía, fe y representación cartográfica en el mundo ibérico bajo la Monarquía Hispánica, 1503–1598', Madrid 2013 (ISBN: 978-84-00-09738-7).

3. Cf. [http://www.bnportugal.pt/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=911%3Aapresentacao-vila-real-de-santo-antonio-em-construcao-manuscrito-inedito-de-sande-vasconcelos-&catid=164%3A2014&Itemid=936&lang=pt](http://www.bnportugal.pt/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=911%3Aapresentacao-vila-real-de-santo-antonio-em-construcao-manuscrito-inedito-de-sande-vasconcelos-&catid=164%3A2014&Itemid=936&lang=pt)



## BIMCC Annual Activity Report, March 2013 – March 2014

1. **The Executive Committee** held four meetings. Among the most important items decided were:

a) cooperation of the Map Circle in the 2015 ICHC conference in Antwerp (our member Joost Depuydt is head of the organising committee)

b) cooperation of the Map Circle in the Piri Reis Conference, June 2013 (our members Alain Servantie and Jan De Graeve were active as organiser and speaker, respectively)

c) cooperation of the Map Circle in the project 'Flanders in old maps' (joint venture with the Royal Library and the Davids Fonds)

### 2. AGM and Map Evening, 23 March 2013

Both events took place in nice premises on rue Royale in Brussels. The AGM reviewed the past activities of the Circle, organisational changes foreseen and its plans for the future (see Newsletter No 46, p. 29).

The Map Evening once more allowed interesting exchanges about a variety of maps (see Newsletter No 46, p. 30).

### 3. Piri Reis and Mercator

Members Alain Servantie and Jan De Graeve participated in the organisation of this event at the 'Bibliothèque Solvay' in Brussels (photo below) which included a small exhibition of reproduction of works from both masters and a series of lectures on 26 June 2013 (see Newsletter No 47, p. 4).



### 4. Excursion:

Vice-President and Editor Jean-Louis Renteux organised a highly successful weekend in his native Valenciennes and the surrounding area. It brought together everything the Circle stands for: a very interesting visit to the city library, hosted by the Librarian, where the collection of the Prince de Croÿ was displayed. This was followed by a concert in the same atmospheric old Jesuit library. In the evening everyone enjoyed a good meal in a historic inn and had plenty of opportunity to socialise. The next day, we were guided through the splendid "Vauban site" Le Quesnoy, with expert comment by a very well



Map Circle group at the gate of the castle of the Counts of Hainaut in Le Quesnoy

informed local gentleman. Before heading home, we had a meal together (see Newsletter No 47, p. 29).

### 4. Conference, 7 December 2013: Mapping India

The Map Circle's Annual Conference took place in the Royal Library in Brussels, in the main auditorium (as in 2007). It adopted the same theme as Europalia, i.e. India.

We had six speakers from various countries, who all drew on their own expertise.

Dr Manosi Lahiri, who came all the way from New Delhi, gave the introduction. As the author of *Mapping India*, she was ideally suited for the job of painting a broad background for the speakers following her.

Lunch was, as usual, an occasion to meet old friends and acquaintances and to enjoy Indian cuisine. See Newsletter No 47, p. 32, for more detail.

### 5. Newsletters and Website

As usual, between events, contact between BIMCC members was maintained permanently through the website ([www.bimcc.org](http://www.bimcc.org)) and the publication of three issues of 'Maps in History' (with, respectively, 44, 40 and 48 pages).



BIMCC President  
Caroline De Candt  
[president@bimcc.org](mailto:president@bimcc.org)



## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Saturday 23 March 2013

On Saturday 15 March eighteen active members gathered for the Map Circle AGM at 80 rue Royale in Brussels.

Caroline De Candt, President, opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and thanking Jean Christophe Staelens for providing the venue. The agenda was adopted, elections and resignations of active members were listed. Having accomplished the necessary formalities, it was time to look back over last year's events with the Activity Report, as always illustrated with a slide show Jean-Louis Renteux had prepared.

But not before the President thanked the members of the Executive Committee for the many responsibilities they take in the yearly activities of the Map Circle. It was an item that was repeated later on in the agenda.

### Activity Reports and Accounts

Although in the wake of a busy 2012 devoted to Mercator, 2013 turned out to be, once again a fruitful map year. The 15<sup>th</sup> Map Evening on 20 March provided a good balance between historical and cartographical approaches, and although map lovers adore the mere fact of seeing maps, Wulf Bodenstein and Francis Herbert emphasised that maps are the door into history. A thought to reflect upon...

Time had come for Jean-Louis Renteux to present a slide show giving an overview of the events of the year (see previous page) and of the contents of the BIMCC Newsletters.

This year the Map Circle once again gained in popularity. Both sponsorship and membership have increased, the latter both in number and in geography, with the Circle now having members in 26 countries.



After Eddy Masschalck took the meeting through the accounts (see photo), the President asked him to summarize his many responsibilities. Members administration and finances, all kinds of email invitations,

conference badges and fee collection... and even the very fact you can read this in this newsletter, is thanks to the preparation and assembly for sending. Eddy Masschalck is not the only person, all members of the executive committee deal with many tasks and so Pierre Parmentier, explained his role as Webmaster. He also presented his plan for a thorough 'renovation' of our website in 2014: to be continued!

### Plans for the future

The AGM presented several proposals for future Map Circle activities. At the suggestion of Jan De Graeve, the idea was put forward to visit private collections, in the same way as is done in book circles. This idea was found promising, but rather difficult to implement, as map collectors are often reluctant to open up their collections because of security reasons. Nevertheless the initiative was welcomed. Map collectors interested in opening their collection are invited to contact the President!

As the week-end excursion to Valenciennes was well received, the AGM considered it a good idea to continue this initiative by organising further trips in the future.

It will be clear that to execute these plans, more 'man- and womanpower' is needed in the EC. The two new members, Karen De Coene and Alain Servantie are more than welcome!

### A.O.B.

Joost Depuydt presented the plans for the ICHC 2015 conference in Antwerp. From 12 till 17 July international scholars will present their research under the theme *Theatre of the World in Four Dimensions*, inspired by the title of Ortelius' 1572 atlas, *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*.

The conference will be combined with several map exhibitions in the MAS, Rockoxhuis, Museum Plantin-Moretus, the University Library Antwerp, Hendrik Conscience Library and Felixarchief. The Map Circle will gladly lend a helping hand with these activities.

For more information see the website: <http://www.ichc2015.be> (and keep reading 'Maps In History!').

Once again, many thanks to everyone for making it a very good meeting!



Karen De Coene  
karendecoene@yahoo.com



## 16<sup>th</sup> Map Evening Saturday 15 March 2014

Right after the AGM (and a convivial break) around 20 map enthusiasts gathered in the same room for the annual Map Evening. It was the start of an animated evening with interesting map presentations.

### Mapping the Fourth Dimension

In September last year, Jean-Louis Renteux had published in the Newsletter a contribution on Louis-Henri Fournet's *Synoptic table of the world's history during the last fifty centuries* (Fontenay-sous-Bois, 1987-2011). The attendees of the Map Evening could take a close look at it (see photo). Interesting is the fact that time as the fourth dimension is explicitly introduced in this chart. The concept of the map is not new, similar 18<sup>th</sup> century maps do exist.

### *Militärgeografische Angaben über England, Generalstab des Heeres, Abteilung für Kriegskarten und Vermessungswesen, 1940/41*

A vivid presentation on the need for British maps by the Germans during the Second World War came from Eddy Masschalck. In order to break the resistance, Germany planned to invade the United Kingdom (*Operation Sea Lion - Unternehmen Seelöwe*, 1940). Therefore, they produced a series of military/geographical assessments. The maps are metric reductions of English survey maps, showing what might be found by those arriving there. Overprints highlight sites which the Germans would have considered targets in any invasion. The full assessment for England and Wales consists of three thick A5 sized folders containing books and maps, plus eleven A4 sized folders, each containing maps and a book of photographs. Eddy showed us the first folder (Mappe A, entitled *Militärgeografische Angaben über England*) dealing with electricity networks, channels, lakes, motorways, density population, geography and railways. A map of London was essential (Mappe B), as were books with coastal photographs to help with selecting invasion beaches (Mappe C). Most maps and books are headed: *Nur für den Dienstgebrauch!* [For official use only]. An invasion of Britain demanded supremacy in the air. So the Luftwaffe started bombing London, but had to deal with big losses due to the short flight range of German planes. As it soon became clear they will never obtain air supremacy, *Operation Sea Lion* was postponed indefinitely on 17 September 1940 and never carried out.

### Maps of the 1594 Pfinzing atlas published in Nuremberg and its facsimile

Hans Kok showed us the Pfinzing-Atlas from the cartographer Paul Pfinzing (1554-1599). In 1594 he published 29 manuscript and four printed maps of Nur-



emberg and its surroundings. The original Pfinzing-atlas belongs to Bavarian State Archives (Staatsarchiv Nürnberg), while Paul Pfinzing Junior (1588-1631) repeated his father's initiative with the publication of *Kleinen Pfinzing-Atlas* (Stadtbibliothek Nürnberg, 1620). The atlas was reduced to 88% and published as a facsimile in 1994. Besides this facsimile, the Map Evening attendees could admire two original sheets. These inspection maps, so-called *Augenscheinkarte*, represent topographical features 'as they look', without any land surveying, they were used for administrative or legal aims.

### The Volga-Don connection

The Caspian Sea formed a very important trading area and was visited, described and surveyed by many explorers, merchants, cartographers and geographers. Even the Dutch shared in the development of Russian cartography before 1800. The Volga-Don Canal which connects the Volga River and the Don River at their closest points (Volgograd), provides nowadays the most direct navigable connection between the Caspian Sea and the Sea of Azov, and thus the world's oceans. It was only completed in 1952. Before, the idea of building a connection between the Don and Volga rivers had been thought of for many times. Peter the Great intended to connect the Volga and the Don Rivers through a system of waterways and sluices. But this was not the only water engineering of the Russian czar.

Hans Kok illustrated another endeavour of the czar with a manuscript map. The *Plan von dem Schleussen und Canal-Wercke bey Wischni Wolotschok in dem Novogrodischen Gouvernement* is a watercolour drawing illustrating how the channel system of Wischni Wolotschok connects the rivers Twerza und Msta, thus creating a way of communication from the Caspian to the Baltic Sea. The construction of the canal commissioned by Peter the Great ended in 1772. As a result, Wyschni Wolotschok became a flourishing town



due to ship building companies and other industries. The map shows the channel system from the Twerza to the Klutsino Lake and from Grodoliublia Lake to Mstino Lake. The channel system of Wyschni Wolotschok is nowadays connected to the Volga.

### Mapping the channel by Gerard Van Gutschoven

The construction of channels got quite some attention on our Map Evening. Joost Depuydt was inspired by a contemporary tracking map for Flemish Brabant (Wandelnetwerk Zuid-Dijleland, Toerisme Vlaams-Brabant, 2011) to show us an interesting piece from the city archives of Antwerp (Felixarchief). The map depicts the new canal between Louvain and Namur, i.e. from the river Dyle to the river Sambre, mapped by the cartographer Gerard Van Gutschoven in 1660 (*Caerte figurative van het concept der nieuwe vaert van Loven naer Namen, Gerard van Gutschoven, 1660*). Gutschoven, a university professor of Louvain, was commissioned by the city of Antwerp to draw up the map. The surveyor Joan Carolus Van Lyere made a reduced copy in 1699.

### Map of the railways in European Russia

Francis Herbert's map gave us a nice view on transport and communication in European Russia in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (*Karta zheleznykh dorog, telegrafov i parakhodnykh soobshcheniy Yevropeyskoy Rossii; izdaniye devyatoye, Polkovnik [=Colonel] Il'yin, 1868*). Railways and telegraph facilities are represented on a coloured lithograph. The cartographer is Colonel Aleksyei Aleksyeevich Il'in (1832-1889). Its first edition from 1863 is in the British Library. Two meridians are represented on the map: that from Saint-Petersburg and that of Ferro.

### Peregrinus' letter on the magnet

In 1269 Peter Peregrinus de Maricourt wrote the first extant treatise describing the properties of magnets. His work is particularly noted for containing the earliest detailed discussion of freely pivoting compass needles, a fundamental component of the dry compass soon to appear in medieval navigation. The treatise was written as a letter, addressed to an otherwise unknown Picard countryman named Sigerus de Foucaucourt, a soldier. Jan De Graeve presented one step of the long history Peregrinus' work has been facing. Silvanus P. Thompson, a professor of physics, translated a 14<sup>th</sup> century copy (formerly: Pal-lips Manuscripts) into English in 1902. From the 240 copies that were printed by Charles Whittingham & Co. (Chiswick Press) and decorated by Bedford Pierce, the Map Circle looked at n° 104.

### Two special maps

Kit Batten brought us a postcard map entitled *A Map of the World as Seen by Him* (Montgomery, Sammlung Lachmund, Pictorial Comedy, J. Hender-



son). Besides, there was the story of a lodging house in Torquay, Hearder's Family Hotel which used cartography for commercial purposes. Apart from information on the many facilities the hotel offered, from wine selling, to post office and funeral undertaking, the trade card (1860-1880) provided the client with a map of the region.

### A chart of shipwrecks in the Channel

There are hundreds of published books on shipwrecks but Paul De Candt showed the Map Evening the manuscript work from Bas van der Velden and Joost Heeren. The Hydrographic Service of the Royal Netherlands Navy keeps records of all shipwrecks in the Channel. These were mapped in 2003 by both cartographers and changed into an artistic representation (*Wrakkenkaart van de monding van de Westerschelde van Zeebrugge tot Neeltje Jans, ca. 1:80 000*).

### Demonstration of a digital application on historical maps

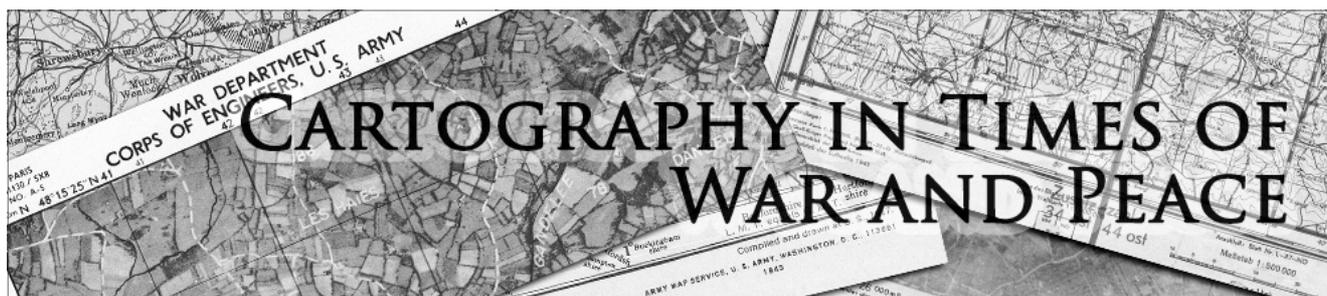
In the evening's last presentation Paul introduced us in *Geopunt*, website of AGIV (the agency for geographical information in Flanders), developed by Aquaterra, where historical datasets of Flanders are freely consultable on the web ([www.geopunt.be/kaart](http://www.geopunt.be/kaart)). Maps of Fricx (*Carte des Pays-Bas, 1712*), Vandermaelen, Ferraris, Popp and aerial photographs have been adjusted to fit a modern geographical reference system, so that they can be used as a map layer.

Last but not least Christoph Klein made a survey of map journals for the future.

After the presentations we moved back to the delicious catering in the adjoining room, where lively discussions were being continued, and everyone agreed that it had been a most enjoyable evening.

Many thanks to all the presenters and to our host, Jean-Christophe!

Karen De Coene  
[karendecoene@yahoo.com](mailto:karendecoene@yahoo.com)



This year the Brussels Map Circle's Annual International Conference will be part of a joint venture with the ICA (International Cartographic Association), the International symposium on 'Cartography in Times of War and Peace' taking place from 2 to 6 December 2014, in Ghent and in Brussels.

## **International symposium 'Cartography in Times of War and Peace' 2 – 6 December 2014**

The symposium is open to all cartographers, geographers, historians, map collectors, academics and lay persons interested in the history of cartography and map production. It will consist of three events, each hosted by one of the contributing partners:

- ICA (International Cartographic Association) Commission on Map Production and Geo-Business: a symposium on the **influence of war on map production techniques**.

When? Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 Dec.

Where? Ghent University Congress Centre 'Het Pand'

- ICA (International Cartographic Association) Commission on the History of Cartography: its 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium will primarily focus on the **effect of war on Military Cartography** in commemoration of the First World War (1914-1918). Contributions on the mapping which was done during other late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century wars such as the Boer War (1899-1902), the Second World War (1936-1945), the Vietnam War (1960-1973), the Falklands War (1982), and the Balkan War of the 1990s will also be welcome.

When? Thursday 4 and Friday (morning) 5 December.

Where? Ghent University Congress Centre 'Het Pand'

Registration will open before the end of April. It will be possible to register for each event individually or for the entire joint symposium/conference through the online registration system. URI: <http://geoweb.ugent.be/histocarto2014/>

During the week there will be several optional social events. Already planned are a dinner and visits to Ghent University's Museum of Science, the Mercator Museum in Sint-Niklaas and the 'In Flanders Fields' Museum in Ypres.

### **International Conference**

#### **'Mapping in times of war – military cartography through the ages up to World War I'**

- As usual, the programme of the Brussels Map Circle's conference will present 4 or 5 speakers. So far, this programme isn't final, since the call for papers for the ICA events is still open and the understanding is that potential speakers may come from that too. The final programme will be published in our September Newsletter.

Topics that already have been decided on are:

- cartography during sieges of cities in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century in the Low Countries and Northern France (Ostend, Cambrai, Vlissingen, Breda...)
- the remains of Vauban's personal maps in Lille
- the work of the French military engineers in the 18<sup>th</sup> century

When? Saturday 6 December 2014

Where? Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels

Admission is free for Map Circle's members, non-members pay 10€ at entrance.  
Lunch is being arranged in the Library's cafeteria, with catering services (Price: about 35€).



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

All our readers are invited to send news items and announcements of cartographic events and exhibitions to [webmaster@bimcc.org](mailto:webmaster@bimcc.org).  
For up-to-date News and Events, see: [www.bimcc.org/bimcc-newsevents.htm](http://www.bimcc.org/bimcc-newsevents.htm)

### News

#### Dr Albert Ganado honoured

Founder of the Malta Map Society (MMS) in 2009 and still its President, Albert Ganado has been involved in studies on Maltese history and cartography for many years. Readers of these columns have seen reviews of several of his books and have been informed of the prestigious distinctions he received. Following this year's annual general meeting of the MMS on 8 March a special party was held to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Sincere congratulations to Dr Albert Ganado, distinguished historian and map personality, and probably the oldest active President of any map society in the world.



Celebrating Albert Ganado's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Photo by Joseph Schirò

#### Prof Liebenberg honoured by the South African Academy of Science and the Arts

*Die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns* has awarded the prestigious Stals Prize to Prof Liebenberg for her research as map historian and her contribution towards the advancement of geography in South Africa. Our readers will recall that Elri is Chairlady of the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography, and co-organiser of the Ghent event in December.

#### Dr Catherine Delano-Smith receives the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's Bartholomew Globe award

Dr Catherine Delano-Smith is a leading geographer and historian of cartography and has done a great deal over the course of more than thirty years to deepen and widen research in the history of cartography, within the UK and across the world, becoming a lynchpin of the cartography community. Dr Delano-Smith was presented with the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's Bartholomew Globe award at an event in Perth Concert Hall on Monday 24 March 2014, by the Society's President, Professor Iain Stewart. Dr Delano-Smith has been one of the foremost activists behind the resurgence of the critical history of cartography, not only in her own works which have been many and influential, but also in her promotion of the International Society for the History of the Map (ISHMap), in her support of a bespoke and well-respected series of lectures at the Warburg and, vitally, in her role as the editor of *Imago Mundi*, the world's leading journal for the history of cartography. She has taken an eclectic approach to researching early maps, covering prehistoric maps, map signs on early printed maps, and the relationship between maps and their users. She is particularly interested in the connection between the map image and social changes in learning and education.

#### A new e-mail discussion list and a directory of researchers for map historians

Two new FREE initiatives to promote communication in the field of Map History.

##### • ISHMap-List – a new listserv for all things about map history.

The International Society for the History of the Map (ISHMap) has launched a new, free and open listserv to promote discussion about any topic in the field of map history. All postings are delivered directly into your email inbox; you can choose whether to receive each posting individually or to receive groups of postings in a single 'digest'. You do not need to be a member of ISHMap to subscribe and comment to the new listserv. You may unsubscribe at any time. To subscribe to 'ISHMap-List', simply point your web browser to <http://ishm.elte.hu/?q=node/21> and provide your email address and name.

Technical support for the listserv is generously provided by the Department of Cartography and Geoinformatics, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary.

##### • Map History Directory – an open source for contact information, current interests, research projects, and publications related to map history.

Imago Mundi Ltd has launched a new, online directory of researchers interested in any aspect of map history. Map historians can provide information about their research and activities, as well as details of how others might contact them.

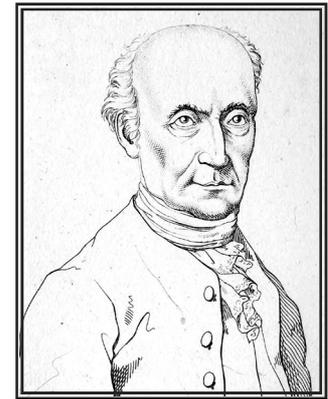
Each entry can be as sparse or as full as individuals wish. To browse or search the directory and to add your own information, simply point your web browser to [www.maphistorydirectory.org/](http://www.maphistorydirectory.org/)

The Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education at the University of Southern Maine has created the Directory on behalf of Imago Mundi Ltd, with generous support from the Osher Library Associates.

Posted by Tony Campbell, Chair, Imago Mundi Ltd  
[tony@tonycampbell.info](mailto:tony@tonycampbell.info) <http://www.maphistory.info>



## Bicentenary of Rizzi Zannoni (1736-1814) Calendar of celebrations

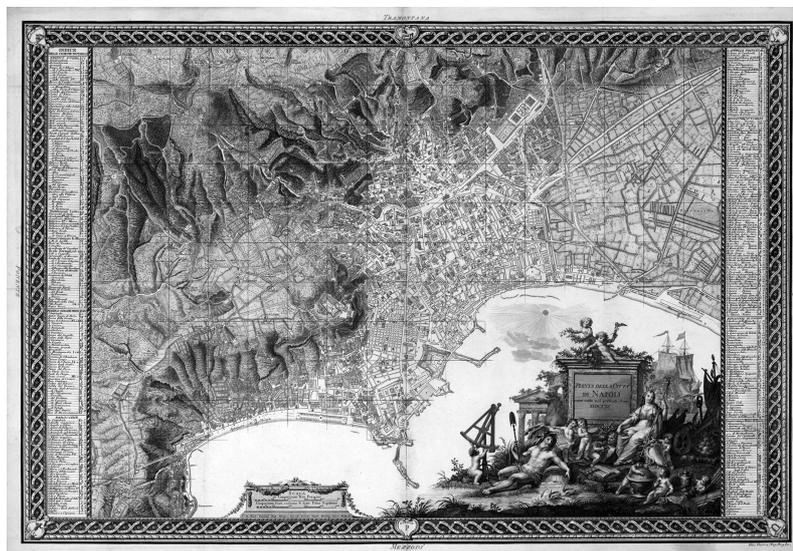


The following events were communicated by Vladimiro Valerio, promoter of the celebrations across Italy to commemorate the death, two hundred years ago, of the great Italian astronomer, geographer and cartographer, Giovanni Antonio Rizzi Zannoni :

- **15 & 16 May, 2014 – Venice**, *Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti*, **International Symposium**, with an **exhibition** of historical documents from the *Biblioteca Marciana* and the *Archivio di Stato di Venezia*
- **18 May 2014 – Naples**, in the context of *Monuments in May*: tracing of the meridian of Castel Sant'Elmo, the prime meridian of the kingdom of Naples, and didactic experiments in the Castel Sant'Elmo by the *Unione Astrofili Napoletani* .
- **20 May 2014 – Naples**, on the date of the death of this famous geographer, opening of the **exhibition** of documents and prints under the title of **Giovanni Antonio Rizzi Zannoni Geografo alla corte dei Re di Napoli (1781-1814)**; the exhibition will be open till the end of August.
- On the occasion of the opening of the exhibition, a special commemorative card will be issued with a special postmark delivered for the bicentenary, on the behalf of *Unione Astrofili Napoletani*. Anyone interested in obtaining this special card may address a request to Vladimiro Valerio (vladimir@iuav.it) or Antonio Coppola (ing.coppola@libero.it) - grouped requests would be preferred.
- **June 2014 – Naples**, opening of an **exhibition** at the *Biblioteca Nazionale di Napoli* of cartographic manuscripts relating to the whole of Italy, and of other manuscripts produced in the Naples workshop directed by Giovanni Antonio Rizzi Zannoni.
- **Summer 2014 – Padua**, **exhibition** at the *Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova* concerning a French Toise of G. A. Rizzi Zannoni preserved there and a **Study Day** on his contribution to the beginning of research at the Astronomical Observatory of Padua
- **19-21 September 2014, Civitella del Lago (Terni)**, cartographic **exhibition** entitled **L'Italia del Cavaliere Rizzi Zannoni (1781-1814)** plus a **Study Day** organised by the *Associazione Culturale "Roberto Almagià"*, in collaboration with the *Associazione Culturale Civitellarte*.
- **27 October-2014 – Florence**, **exhibition** at the *Istituto Geografico Militare* of maps, instruments, engraved copper plates and manuscripts of Giovanni Antonio Rizzi Zannoni
- **5 November 2014 – Rome**, **Study Day** organised by the *Società Geografica Italiana* and *Centro Italiano per gli Studi Storico Geografici*.
- **6 November 2014 – celebrations**; the Osservatorio Astronomico di **Capodimonte** organises an evening of celebrations dedicated to Rizzi Zannoni, with a **conference** and **observation** of the moon and the sky.
- **December 2014–January 2015 – Padua**, documentary and cartographic **exhibition** on the life and work of Giovanni Antonio Rizzi Zannoni, organised by the *Accademia Galileiana di Scienze, Lettere ed Arte*, with contributions by the *Archivio di Stato di Padova*, the *Biblioteca del Seminario Vescovile di Padova*, and the *Biblioteca Ambrosiana*.

To be kept informed about these events please contact the Institutions via their website or the promoter at [vladimir@iuav.it](mailto:vladimir@iuav.it), or visit [www.bimcc.org](http://www.bimcc.org). More information in the September Newsletter.

Naples, 1790





## Events

### The 9<sup>th</sup> International Atlas Days 9 – 11 May 2014

#### Braunschweig and Wolfenbüttel, Germany

This yearly event will again bring together collectors and all those interested in atlases published in German-speaking countries, mainly of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The accent this time is on atlases produced by Westermann (Diercke Atlases) and other firms in Brunswick. On the first two days (Friday and Saturday), the programme foresees visits to publisher Westermann's archives, to the Georg-Eckert Institute for International Schoolbook Research, and to the world-famous Herzog August Library in nearby Wolfenbüttel. On the last day (Sunday) a visit to the Brunswick Institute for Regional History is planned.

As always, presentations on the subject are foreseen, and a book and atlas fair for participants (no dealers admitted) will be held on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, at which atlases, maps, travel literature and geographical handbooks may be exchanged. Although conducted in German, participants from Belgium, the Netherlands and France regularly attend – everybody is most welcome.

Participation fee of EUR 45.00 is to be paid on arrival. Contact Michael Willma, Mittelweg 26, D-38106 Braunschweig, tel. +49-(0)171-198 66 41 or +49-(0)531-30 39 71, e-mail [km.willma@t-online.de](mailto:km.willma@t-online.de).

### Second ISHMap Symposium 13 June 2014

#### Paris

The second symposium of the International Society for the History of the Map (ISHMap), organised in cooperation with the French National Library and the French Committee of Cartography, will be held at the Bibliothèque nationale de France. The theme will be **Mapping Conflicts, Conflicts in Maps**.

The symposium will be held in English and is open to all. Admission is free. To register please visit <http://ishm.elte.hu>.

### Course on *The History of Maps and Mapping* 23–27 June 2014

#### London

Course organised by the London Rare Book School. Course Organisers: Dr Catherine Delano-Smith, Sarah Tyacke CB. Lecturers: Peter Barber, Dr Catherine Delano-Smith, Sarah Tyacke CB, Laurence Worms.

The aim in this course is to draw attention to some of the challenges facing the student of map history, given the longevity and ubiquity of the mapping idea from prehistory to the present and the variety of format, function and context of maps at any one time. Sessions are designed to explore the fundamental principles of map history to provide a framework in which the details of a particular map can be accommodated. Stress is laid on the

relationship between word and image, and the role of maps in books, as a counterbalance to more traditional ways of viewing maps in isolation. The key approach remains, however, the indivisibility of maps as image, artefact and messenger.

Participants may be professionals of all ages or those having an interest in books and maps including, of course, collectors, booksellers et al. Most participants have a first degree but on rare occasions this requirement has been waived at the discretion of the university authorities. The course is limited to 12 students, so early booking is advised. The course fee is GBP 600.00.

Visit <http://www.ies.sas.ac.uk/london-rare-books-school> for the full programme and registration details.



### Cartography between Europe and the Islamic World 1100–1600

8-9 September 2014 -

#### Queen Mary, University of London

The study of the history of cartography in Europe and the Islamic world has proceeded to date on parallel lines. Yet while scholars have tended to specialise in one or the other tradition, relations of exchange and influence between Islamic and European cartography have consistently been asserted. At the same time, institutional and linguistic barriers to comparative study have impeded systematic examination of the connections between Islamic and Western mapmaking.

The Leverhulme Network 'Cartography between Europe and the Islamic World' aims to promote comparative, cross-disciplinary scholarship on

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



Islamic and European cartography by bringing together experts in these two fields for a two-day symposium. Participants are invited to explore moments of contact between traditions (e.g. twelfth-century Spain; the court of Roger II of Sicily; fourteenth- and fifteenth-century Italian cartography; Piri Reis and post-Columban cartography of the early sixteenth century) as well as differences and divergences. Reflections on the methodology of the comparative study of maps are also welcome.

Papers may wish to address some of the following topics, but need not be restricted to them:

the contexts – material, political, spiritual, artistic – of mapmaking in Europe and the Islamic world  
audiences for maps; 'cartographic literacy'  
interactions between European and Islamic mapmaking: exchange, influence, borrowing  
reception of classical texts, e.g. Ptolemy's *Geographia/Jugrafiya*

- nautical mapmaking in the Mediterranean
- cartography in the Ottoman empire (up to c1600)
- comparative histories of cartography

Please send proposals consisting of an abstract of c. 300–500 words for 20-minute papers to Matthew Champion (m.s.champion@qmul.ac.uk) by 21 February 2014. Proposals are encouraged from doctoral students, early-career and established scholars, and travel and accommodation for speakers will be funded.

On behalf of the conference convenors: Alfred Hiatt (a.hiatt@qmul.ac.uk), Jerry Brotton (j.r.brotton@qmul.ac.uk) and Yossi Rapoport (y.rapoport@qmul.ac.uk).

## International symposium 'Cartography in Times of War and Peace'

2 – 6 December 2014

Ghent and Brussels, Belgium

The symposium is a joint venture between the ICA (International Cartographic Association) and the Brussels Map Circle: see details on page 29.



## 26<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the History of Cartography (ICHC)

July 2015

Antwerp, Belgium

To be organised by the city of Antwerp in cooperation with the University of Antwerp, Imago Mundi and the Brussels Map Circle. Main theme: 'Theatre of the World in Four Dimensions'.

Contact: Joost Depuydt, FelixArchief / City Archives Antwerp  
info@ichc2015.be www.ichc2015.be

## Exhibitions

### Alpha, beta, carta

8 March - 11 May 2014

Bussy-Saint-Martin, France

Organisation: Communauté d'Agglomération Marne & Gondoire, Parc culturel de Rentilly  
Venue: Parc culturel de Rentilly, Domaine de Rentilly, 1 Rue de l'Étang, 77600 Bussy-Saint-Martin (Marne-la-Vallée)  
Contact: telephone +33 1 60 35 46 72, e-mail parcculturelrentilly@marneetgondoire.fr  
More details: hours of opening: 12:00 – 17:30, free access.  
URI: <http://tinyurl.com/qcs7tly>



### Été 14 : les derniers jours de l'ancien monde [Summer 14: the last days of the old world]

25 March 2014 - 3 August 2014

Paris, France

Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF)

Site François Mitterrand, Paris

Hours of opening: Tuesday – Saturday 10.00–19.00, Sunday 13.00-19.00, Monday and holidays closed

Access price: EUR 9.00 – EUR 7.00

URI: [http://www.bnf.fr/fr/evenements\\_et\\_culture/anx\\_expositions/f.ete\\_1914](http://www.bnf.fr/fr/evenements_et_culture/anx_expositions/f.ete_1914).

### The earliest Maps of Malta from Ptolemy to the Great Siege of 1565

October 2014 (to be confirmed)

Valetta, Malta

The Earliest Maps of Malta will take the form of an exhibition to coincide with the publication of a hardbound volume on the subject by Dr Albert Ganado.

[www.maltamapsociety.com](http://www.maltamapsociety.com)

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

## AUCTION CALENDAR

### De Eland

Weesperstraat 110,  
NL-1112 AP Diemen  
tel. +31 20 623 03 43  
www.deeland.nl, info@deeland.nl

**15 June, 7 September and  
16 November 2014**

### Henri Godts

Avenue Louise 230/6  
B-1050 Brussels  
tel. +32 (0)2 647 85 48  
fax +32 (0)2 640 73 32  
www.godts.com  
books@godts.com

**17 June, 14 October and  
9 December 2014**

### Peter Kiefer Buch- und Kunstauktionen

Steubenstrasse 36  
D-75172 Pforzheim  
tel. +49 7231 92 320  
fax +49 7231 92 32 16  
www.kiefer.de, info@kiefer.de  
**2 - 3 May 2014**

### Bubb Kuyper

Jansweg 39, NL-2011 KM Haarlem  
tel. +31 23 532 39 86  
fax +31 23 532 38 93  
www.bubbkuyper.com  
info@bubbkuyper.com

**20 - 23 May and  
25 - 28 November 2014**

### Michel Lhomme

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

**31 May 2014**

### Loeb-Larocque

31, rue de Tolbiac, F-75013 Paris  
tel. +33 (0)6 11 80 33 75 or  
tel./fax +33 (0)1 44 24 85 80  
www.loeb-larocque.com  
info@loeb-larocque.com

**7 November 2014**

### 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

### The Romantic Agony

Acqueductstraat 38-40  
B-1060 Brussels  
tel. +32 (0)2 544 10 55  
fax +32 (0)2 544 10 57  
www.romanticagony.com  
auction@romanticagony.com

**16 - 17 May 2014**

### Paulus Swaen Internet Auctions

www.swaen.com  
paulus@swaen.com  
**13 - 20 May, 9 - 16 September  
and 18 - 25 November 2014**

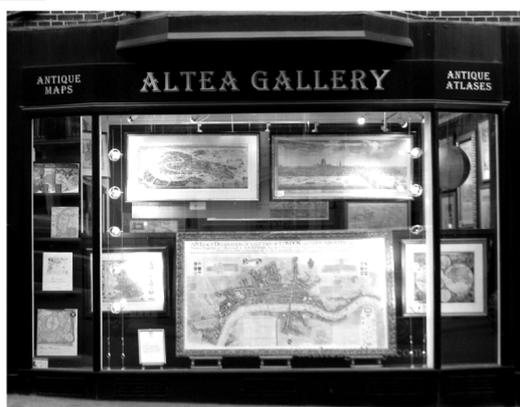
### Marc van de Wiele

Sint-Salvatorskerkhof 7  
B-8000 Brugge  
tel. +32 (0)50 33 63 17  
fax +32 (0)50 34 64 57  
www.marcvandewiele.com  
van.de.wiele@skynet.be

### Venator & Hanstein

Cäcilienstrasse 48,  
D-50667 Köln  
tel. +49 221 257 54 19  
fax +49 221 257 55 26  
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**BRUSSELS MAP CIRCLE  
(BIMCC asbl/vzw)**

<http://www.bimcc.org> - [info@bimcc.org](mailto:info@bimcc.org)

**Aims and functions**

The Circle was created, as the Brussels International Map Collectors' Circle (BIMCC), in 1998 by Wulf Bodenstein.

Now known as the Brussels Map Circle, it is a non-profit making association under Belgian law (asbl/vzw 0464 423 627) .

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 Brussels Map Circle also publishes a Newsletter — *Maps in History* — three times a year and maintains a website.

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**Becoming (and staying) a Member**

Members receive three Newsletters per annum and have free admission to most of the Circle's 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 our bank account:

IBAN: BE52 0682 4754 2209  
BIC: GKCCBEBB

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

**Maps in History  
(BIMCC Newsletter)**

The Brussels Map Circle currently publishes three issues per year. It is distributed, not only to members of the Circle, but also to key institutions (universities, libraries) and to personalities active in the field of the history of cartography, located in eighteen different countries.

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

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

Books for review should be sent to Nicola Boothby (Uwenberg 13, B-1650 Beersel, Belgium, [nicola.boothby@telenet.be](mailto:nicola.boothby@telenet.be)) who will arrange for their review by a member of the Circle.



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