

MAPS IN HISTORY



JANUARY 2016
Newsletter No

54

Mapping the Ottoman Empire

Maps and diplomacy
Portolan controversy (continued)



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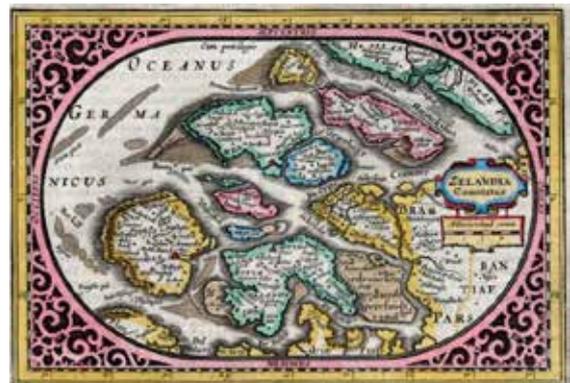
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Intro

Dear Map Friends,

You already noticed: the magazine which you have in your hands is different!

Indeed, we begin the new year with a deeply rejuvenated *Maps in History*. David Raes, who is a professional graphic designer running his own business (www.mindseye.be), offered his benevolent support in response to my cry for help in issue No 50 (September 2014). Together with Paul De Candt, who did the lay-out for issues No 52 and 53, we have constituted a team and developed a new editorial approach; our President, Caroline De Candt, and our webmaster, Pierre Parmentier, also took an active part in the rejuvenation process. In addition, we now have a full colour magazine, since our President managed to find a print shop which can do it for an affordable price.

We do hope that you like the resulting new lay-out and looks of our publication ... and that you appreciate the progress made since Wulf Bodenstein and I assembled *Newsletter* No 19 by hand in the local photo-copy shop!

The Ottoman Empire is again on the cover, to highlight the success of our yearly Conference in December (see the full report on page XX). Other topics in this issue are related to the close links between maps and diplomacy. Prof. Toshiyuki Shimazu first tells us the story of a copy of the famous atlas of Europe made in Belgium by Philippe Vandermaelen which ended up in Japan as a diplomatic gift in the 1840s (p. YY). Then Caroline De Candt reports on the yearly conference of the Comité français de cartographie devoted to the cartography of treaties, where different aspects of the role of maps in diplomatic relations were presented, as well as their evolution from the 15th to the 20th centuries (p. ZZ). I contributed to this most interesting conference with a presentation on the history of the northern boundary of France, which I turned into an article for this issue of *Maps in History* (p. WW). Last but not least, the controversy on the origin of portolan charts continues, as Roel Nicolai responds, quite strongly, to the criticisms of Joaquim Gaspar and Tony Campbell on his thesis in our last issue (p. VV); this promises interesting debates at the workshop scheduled on this subject (in June, in Lisbon).

Wishing you a happy cartographic year,

Jean-Louis Renteux
Vice-President & Editor
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The world's masterpieces explored and explained

by Jerry Brotton

— London, Dorling Kindersley 2014, 256 pages, most with illustrations – maps, map details, portraits of mapmakers – hard cover, 310 x 260 mm, GBP 20, ISBN 978-1-4654-2463-1

If you ever thought you would be content with merely glancing at a map, this book will force a change of mind. Jerry Brotton gives his readers a different take on 'A History Of The World In Twelve Maps'; the twelve have now become over sixty, and we are invited to look at them in great detail.

The book begins with a preface and introduction. It is then divided into six sections: Classical Maps – 1500 BCE – 1300 CE, Discovery and Travel – 1300 – 1570, New Directions and Beliefs – 1570 – 1750, Thematic Maps – 1750 – 1900, and Modern Mapping – 1900 to the present. In each section the writer takes the maps he deems to be the most significant for the period and theme, and for each allots two or four pages of very visual analysis and explanation. In time the reader is led from the Bedolina Petroglyph (c. 1500 BCE, Italy) to the Google Earth digital map (2014, global), in theme from 'The Map of the Tracks of Yu' to the map of the World Ocean Floor, and we are forced to look at and appreciate content, materials, production context, among many other aspects.

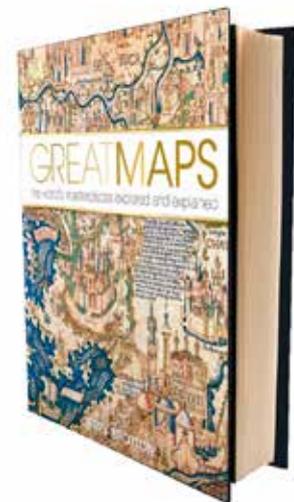
Brotton's trump card is that he has found a format that can be applied to all the maps he wishes to show us. This format provides a pedagogical and entertaining introduction to some maps we might not know, or might not know very well. At the same time his approach to those maps we feel far more acquainted with does not jar; indeed his is perhaps a very useful lesson in how to introduce our favourite maps

to others. I also found it fascinating to see the way Brotton's technique serves equally for the most up-to-date maps.

As an example of the format we will take the New Map of France by César-François Cassini de Thury, from the New Directions and Beliefs section. The map is allotted four pages (some only get two). The first two pages show the title and details – date, production technique, size, and where it now resides – of the map, plus the map itself. In addition, Brotton gives us the size of the map, comparing it in this case to a person's hand (where he presents a large map this would be a person's height). We have some text introducing the map and a box with a

The book is a visual delight, and every page teaches the reader how to look at the maps.

portrait of Cassini and a short biography. The following two pages gives us a Visual Tour. Brotton chooses six parts of the map, numbering them on a reduced version of the actual map so that we can see where they fit in, and blows each section up to a size where the reader/viewer can comfortably appreciate the content. He writes a paragraph explaining each of these sections. In addition, on the same page we find a box entitled 'On Technique' (Other maps have 'In Context', where this is more appropriate) with an



explanation and drawing of triangulation, the technique used by Cassini to make the map.

An interesting map in the Discovery and Travel section is the Aztec Map of Tenochtitlan, 1642, ink on paper, author unknown, which resides in the Bodleian Library, in Oxford, UK. The largest city in the pre-Columbian Americas, it was where Mexico City lies today. It is about two hands high and one and a half wide. The introduction describes the map – see illustration – with its blue border, signifying the lake on which the city is built, and the blue cross signifying the city's canals. The cross divides the city into its four main districts, and the city's founding fathers sit within the areas between the canals. At the centre is the eagle perched on a cactus, and the blue border contains hieroglyphs which each represent a year, starting with the foundation of the city in 1325. At the bottom of the map is a separate section, pulled out as part of the Visual



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Tour, showing the Aztecs defeating rival cities; the map as a whole is therefore considered to be a celebration of the founding of the Aztec Empire. In addition to the introduction, we have the Visual Tour, showing a detail and explanation of the eagle, cactus and the Aztec god Huitzilopochtli's symbol, the same for Tenoch, Aztec leader and one of the city's founders, and a detail and explanation of the bottom section, as already described. There is also an 'In Context' box, explaining how the Mesoamerican tradition of mapmaking is characterised by the use of hieroglyphs to depict events and places. The box also has a picture of Aztec warriors consulting a map from the Codex Florentine, c. 1570.

The book is a visual delight, and every page teaches the reader how to look at the maps. We are forced to look actively at them and their details, and I for one am highly motivated to put 'seeing the real thing' on my list. Occasionally information is missing: for example on the Aztec map I would have liked some explanation about the name and role of the 'Cosmographe du Roy' written at the top of the map, but perhaps Brotton has done this intentionally....

Perhaps this qualifies it as a serious 'coffee table' book. There is only one small aspect I personally do not like – the quotes, or rather the way they are formatted. They are in general from mapmakers themselves, e.g. Mercator, or historians, e.g. Joseph E. Schwartzberg commenting on the

Jain view of the universe, or, in the case of Simon Winchester, a travel writer who has also written about maps. The quotes are interesting, but clutter up the page, intruding on the flow of information. I feel it would be better to incorporate them into the explanatory text.

To quote the back flap: 'Maps reveal more than just geography: they are a window into the culture, beliefs and history of the great civilisations of the world'. Jerry Brotton has done a great job in introducing us to some Great Maps which have opened this window.



Aztec Map of Tenochtitlan, 1642

Collecting Old Maps

by F.J. Manasek

— Revised and Expanded Edition by: Marti Griggs and Curt Griggs
Clarkdale (Arizona): Old Maps Press, 2015, 352 pages – 408 illustrations – maps and details of maps, and graphics – hard cover, 285 x 245 mm about USD 250 - ISBN 978-0-692-25936-8

The first edition of the book was published seventeen years ago, and from the near ecstatic reviews of this edition, I gather many people have been waiting for this one for quite some time. As a relative newcomer to the sport of maps, I had not seen the first edition, and so come to Manasek and Griggs with fresh eyes.

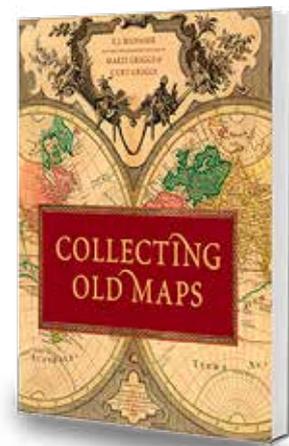
This would be a most enjoyable tome merely to leaf through. You could also put it on a shelf – having memorised the chapter headings – and pick it up just for reference. Your third, much more fun, choice is to read it carefully. You need to make the choice fairly quickly, however, for the pedagogy begins on the first pages, together with sumptuous illustrations and most useful graphics.

The first half of the book is a bit like reading a non-fiction detective novel. After the introductory chapter ‘Why Collect Maps?’, aimed it seems at not-yet collectors, the authors launch into six chapters about maps and the map market, followed by advice on ‘Building a Map Collection’, which quite neatly refers back to the first chapter and rounds off the first half of the book. Chapters 2 to 7 are headed: the Anatomy of a Map, Kinds of Maps, the Art of Mapmaking, Forgeries and Other Copies, Condition and Conservation, and the Market Speaks. The authors tell their story in a very enthusiastic way, setting it neatly in a historical context, and the pages are lavishly illustrated with some

real ‘close-ups’ so that the reader can absorb the information quite easily. The text assumes intelligence rather than cartographical knowledge in the reader; explanations of technical cartographic vocabulary are given in a very straightforward manner. The progression of the chapters is very important. By the time we get to the ‘Forgeries and Other Copies’, we actually have some of knowledge in our toolkit to appreciate the examples given. The Cartographic Miscellany examples at the end of each chapter, show the reader something which is not quite a map, but seems to belong in the same genre.

I certainly believe that the authors have achieved their goal: ‘to facilitate your journey into the world of antique maps’.

The second half of the book starts with a foldout timeline, which both summarises the previous chapters – as regards paper technology, printing process, etc – and acts as an introduction to the ‘Map Gallery – a Historical Survey’ which gives well-illustrated examples of maps by century, from the 15th to the 20th centuries. The maps chosen are explained in some detail, together with comments on their value, availability, and so on – always with the collector in mind. They also



give rise to new vocabulary – the ‘carte à figures’ maps, for example, together with, in this case, a carte à figures map with no ‘figures’!

The last part of the book is given over to the annexes, which are all most useful for reference. Appendix A is a ‘reference library’, of journals, magazines, trade publications and books, as well as online collections and sites, where the authors are careful to say that this is a selection and there are doubtless more – this would be the first section to ‘date’ in future years. Appendix B is a glossary of terms, C is a history of paper-making and D lists resources for map collectors, i.e. websites – where the Brussels Map Circle is listed – map societies and map fairs. Appendix E is a guide to framing and storage, and F an overview of symbolism and allegory.

I am not a collector, and therefore perhaps should not even be reviewing



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Cartographic Miscellany: William Pitt and Napoleon Bonaparte discuss CARVING UP THE WORLD

the book. However, I found it highly informative, hugely readable and one that has clearly helped me up a notch with my cartographic knowledge. It is also a book I will go back to again and again, as it provides a very useful framework for appreciating any map. I certainly believe that the authors have achieved their goal: 'to facilitate your journey into the world

of antique maps, to give insight into the reasons why things are as they are, and to bring sensible order to the vast amount of information available to collectors', in a most enthusiastic, user-friendly way.

How old are portolan charts really?

Response of Roël Nicolai to Joaquim Gaspar and Tony Campbell



Roël Nicolai

The reviews of Joaquim Gaspar and Tony Campbell (in *Maps in History* No 53) do require a reply, but I shall limit myself to the main points of their critique. Both Gaspar and Campbell have received a full copy of my dissertation and both respond to the entire thesis and not just to the article in this newsletter, in which I could only describe a few aspects of my extensive analysis.

Gaspar claims two main facts support a medieval origin. The first is the existence of the 'Liber de existencia rivieriarum ...', which indeed refers to a nautical chart and it is the oldest document known to do so. It also states that information in the document stems from observation by the author, but, tantalising as this is, that statement on its own provides an insufficient basis for a conclusion that medieval pilots supplied the observation data for the construction of portolan charts. It might equally refer to the descriptive information about ports and the hydrographic detail found on portolan charts. Quantitative analysis of the Liber is therefore highly desirable and I volunteer to participate in such an analysis.

Gaspar's second 'fact' is that the rotation angle of the chart image, about 9 degrees, appears to agree with the average value of magnetic declination. That may be true or not, but to conclude from that fact alone that the whole of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea must then have been surveyed with the magnetic compass, is,

again, premature. My own suggestion is that the orientation of the partial chart of the Western Mediterranean may have been oriented with the help of an early compass, perhaps of the type described by Petrus Peregrinus in 1269, and the rest of the partial charts were fitted together using overlaps of common sections of coastline. This is another explanation of the rotation angle of the charts, and this way of constructing a mosaic chart also explains the strange regional scale variations and orientation variations on a portolan chart, for which no good explanation has been provided until now and which Gaspar does not mention.

Gaspar deviates from good scientific practice in a few places. On three occasions he ignores historical evidence, stating that such evidence does not prove that his hypothetical original story is incorrect. These are firstly his postulated existence of a long development path involving 'working charts', secondly the change of terminology from 'needle' to 'bussola' in notarial documents in 1349 (which is supported by evidence from contemporary literature) and thirdly the computation of the arithmetic mean as a means of improving the accuracy of a distance or direction. To propose something that is not directly supported by historical evidence is not incorrect in itself, but its plausibility will at least have to be demonstrated, otherwise one risks writing one's own private version of history. I accept that the occurrence of the term 'bussola' in 1349 must not be

interpreted to say that the mariner's compass was not used before that date. Several decades of assumed prior usage can be justified, but that brings us only to the beginning of the 14th century, not the beginning of the 13th or even earlier! To assume that the compass as a single unit was used extensively for 150 years while in contemporary literature

Evidently only one conclusion can be correct, so an evaluation of the correctness of each method used is required.

only the so-called floating compass is described makes a very unlikely story. Pointing to the charts themselves as evidence for the early availability of the compass as a single unit is an unacceptable way of conducting scientific inquiry. This constitutes circular reasoning: the charts cannot be both question and answer.

The main bone of contention between Gaspar and myself concerns the question whether the Mercator(-like) projection is automatically generated by the plane charting technique. Gaspar concluded 'yes' and I concluded 'no'. Evidently only one conclusion can be correct, so an evaluation of the correctness of each method used is required. Initially Gaspar and I follow the same approach: generate a framework of rhumb-line distances and magnetic



Fig. 1 Geodetic framework of distances and azimuths between coastal points in the Western Mediterranean. Similar frameworks were defined for the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Calculation or plotting of the positions of the coastal points yields a 'synthetic' chart that can be compared to a portolan chart.

weight factor of 0.8 reflects therefore partly his omission of accounting for the different units of measure.

azimuths between points along the coastline of the Mediterranean, calculate the positions of these points by plane charting and compare the result with a portolan chart. This exercise takes us firmly into the domain of geodesy, my own field of expertise. Geodesy has been defined as the 'science of the measurement and mapping of the earth's surface'. The only available technique to map a significant portion of the earth's surface is to begin by establishing a geometric framework. This is the quintessence of geodesy; it is why geodesy developed as an applied, mathematics-based science in the 18th century. In those days geodesy, together with astronomy, formed the vanguard of science. A rich geodetic tradition exists on the subject of the measurement, analysis and computation of a geometric framework of distances and directions measured on the earth's surface. Gaspar provides no indication that he is aware of this tradition, speaking, as he does, of 'novel analytical tools and numerical modelling techniques' which he introduced. There is no point in my trying to sweeten the pill, so I will start by stating clearly that Gaspar applied this technique incorrectly and his conclusions are therefore invalid. He jumps into least squares estimation, apparently without understanding exactly what the method does and how he should test objectively whether the result is consistent

with the (apparent or real) map projection of portolan charts.

His approach has the following flaws:

1. Gaspar does not take into account the established sailing routes. He opts for a framework of 55 regularly spaced nodes with latitudes from 30°N to 50°N and longitudes from 10°W to 40°E, with 5° intervals, i.e. covering most of central and southern Europe. Such a framework is not representative for the Mediterranean. Its symmetry will ensure that the end result will also be highly symmetrical, the only disturbing factor being the spatial variation of magnetic declination.
2. Gaspar used a relative weight factor for distances and azimuths (0=distances only; 1=azimuths only), but is clearly unaware that in least squares adjustment with different quantities (distances and azimuths) the relative weighting should be achieved by using the inverse of the covariance matrix of the observations in the calculation. One unit of distance contributes differently to the position calculation than one unit of azimuth and use of covariance matrix makes azimuths and distances computationally compatible quantities. Gaspar's optimum
3. This optimum factor was achieved by minimising the mismatches in the calculation. There are two disturbing factors in his geometric framework, which cause the simulated observations to fit exactly: the effect of the neglected earth curvature and the spatial variation in magnetic declination. Gaspar optimises these mismatches by compensating them with just enough contributions by the computed distances. The flaw is that he concludes from the optimum found that this is how the medieval cartographer must have done it: giving a four times higher weight to azimuths than to distances.
4. The final question is: 'does the simulated result look sufficiently like a portolan chart?'. Gaspar applies a subjective criterion to the comparison of his simulation and the actual portolan charts. He processes both by the cartometric analysis software package MapAnalyst, which generates a distortion grid (his Fig. 1). What Gaspar appears to be unaware of is that the method MapAnalyst uses to compute these grids has significant smoothing and extrapolation properties. Gaspar presents no quantitative, objective criteria to show what the differences between his network calculation

and the original portolan charts are and whether these differences can be explained by the accuracy of the portolan charts or not. His final result consists of two small 1:70 million scale pictures with smoothed distortion grids from which the reader is invited to say: 'yes, I think these look sufficiently identical'.

I shall not repeat a description of my own method here: suffice it to say that I did take into account the actual routes sailed, as well as proper weighting of the observations and it is well documented in my thesis. I furthermore applied objective statistical criteria to the results of the calculation in order to arrive at the conclusion.

Gaspar scolds my 'extraordinary claim' that knowledge of averaging as a way of accuracy improvement was not available in the Middle Ages. However, this is not my claim; it is a research-based conclusion that historians of science have drawn. His counter claim that Portuguese navigators used this technique routinely from the beginning of the 16th century begs a challenge to supply proof. I doubt that such evidence exists, but Gaspar can make a real impact on the history of science by proving his claim. Even if it were true, there would still be a gap of more than two-and-a-half centuries to bridge! Gaspar is scornful of the outcome of the mathematical model I formulated to estimate the accuracy of medieval navigation. One-third of the distance sailed is clearly unrealistic in his view, but what is his view based on? On reverse engineering of the portolan charts, i.e. the same argument as he used for the mariner's compass? I am happy to discuss this navigation model, but the discussion needs to have a bit more substance than the rhetoric Gaspar uses.

Gaspar proposes that the calculation of averages of single observations was unnecessary and replaces it by an assumed 'graphical optimisation

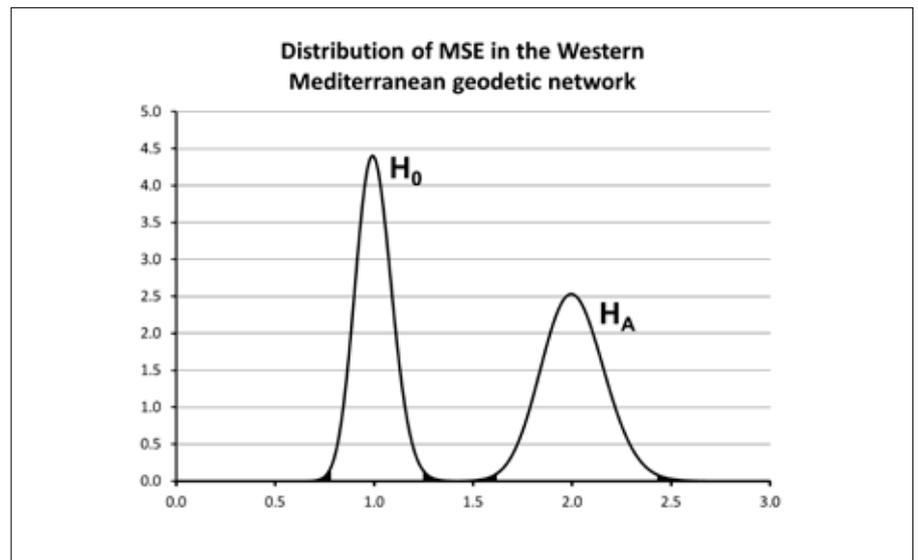


Fig. 2 Result of the statistical testing of the Western Mediterranean 'synthetic chart' against a real portolan chart. The curve on the left is the error distribution of the Mean Square Error of the actual Western Mediterranean sub-chart of a typical portolan chart. The curve on the right-hand side is the error distribution of the MSE of the synthetic chart. No overlap means their shapes are different to a statistically meaningful degree.

process in which the relative positions of places were gradually adjusted over time using superabundant information'. He thus replaces the calculation of the average of a series of single observations by the much more complicated method of deriving the average position of every coastal point, in other words this is averaging in a two-dimensional sense. Such an advanced treatment of observation data is simply not realistic for such an early period. Gaspar's proposed method flies

Gaspar describes my study as a 'cartometric analysis', but that is an oversimplification.

in the face of everything that is known about early (or pre-)scientific thought in the Middle Ages. This is an aspect of the historical context that is not given any attention in research into the origin of portolan charts. Gaspar tries to solve the problem by transposing a modern-looking mentally conceived process back to a medieval setting, assuming the same analytical focus on problem solving existed then

as now. Moreover, Gaspar's method is an exclusively mental process. No experimental verification has ever indicated that such a process would be feasible at all. I suggest to discuss such possible experimental verification at the proposed workshop in Lisbon, June 2016.

It would take too much space to respond to every detail of Gaspar's critique and I do not wish to reply in detail to unspecific reproaches such as 'preconceived ideas' and the 'minimising or distortion of other studies'. Yes, I do point out methodological shortcomings in other studies, but that does not involve 'minimisation and distortion'. Gaspar describes my study as a 'cartometric analysis', but that is an oversimplification. The cartometric analysis is important, but it covers only one of 12 chapters. The main objective of my analysis was to test the hypothesis of a medieval origin in a scientific manner and to analyse the problem of the origin in a geodetic context. I include many aspects of the historical context in my study that others, including Gaspar himself, have not mentioned, such as an analysis of the meteorological

and oceanographic aspects of the Mediterranean, the sailing properties of medieval ships and notably relevant aspects of the history of science. I devote an entire chapter to explaining and justifying the mathematical analysis methods I used in my study. Gaspar's condescending closing remark that 'mathematical methods are not magical boxes from which historical truth can be read' is therefore inappropriate and rather gratuitous.

I have fewer comments to make on Campbell's more constructive critique. Campbell states that he does not understand mathematics well and therefore would have to accept my results on trust only. I appreciate the honesty and agree that complex mathematics are a barrier to the sharing of such results. However, when I sent my thesis to Campbell, I expressed awareness of this and asked him to contact me for clarification if anything in the thesis was unclear to him. He has not come back with a single request, but the offer still stands. The methods I have used can certainly be explained in easier terms. Returning to Campbell's understandable trepidation in accepting my results, I wonder whether he feels the same reservation regarding

the results of numerical studies that claim to confirm a medieval origin (e.g. Gaspar's). There is no place for mathematical methods in the study of medieval *mappae mundi*, but for portolan charts, with their demonstrated quantitative properties, quantitative analysis is, I believe, a mandatory research component.

Campbell states that I have taken inadequate account of portolani (or portolans) in my thesis. I think that is an unfair comment: I devote one 78-page long chapter to a very extensive analysis of the *Compasso de Navegare*, the oldest surviving complete portolan of the Mediterranean and Black Sea, which is more than any other author has done. A different matter is whether Campbell likes the outcome. Of course I might have included an analysis of the *Liber de existencia*, but one has to draw a line somewhere.

I have been sceptical from the start about a medieval origin, because it requires assumptions to be made that conflict with geodetic reality, such as assumptions that earth curvature can be ignored in 'small' areas such as the Mediterranean and that the map projection is accidental. This ignores the development of geodesy as the science

that deals (mathematically) with these aspects. Being sceptical is not the same thing as being 'prejudiced'. I might equally accuse Gaspar and Campbell of being prejudiced in favour of a medieval origin, but that does not help the discussion in the slightest. Suffice it to say that, if the origin of portolan charts were such a clear-cut case as the picture painted notably by Gaspar, it would not have been such a controversial subject for the past 160 years.

In my opinion the geodetic aspects of mapmaking and the history of science are two important elements that, until now, have been underexposed in portolan chart research. I might add that more attention should be paid to hypothesis testing. Having said that, I am keen to seek ways to bridge the gap between the traditional map historical view and the quantitative geodetic view at the forthcoming workshop in Lisbon.

The description of my work on portolan charts in this newsletter was necessarily brief. My work is described in more detail in a long essay, published in the September 2015 issue of 'Isis', the journal of the History of Science Society and my revised thesis will appear as a book with Brill, Leiden, in March 2016.

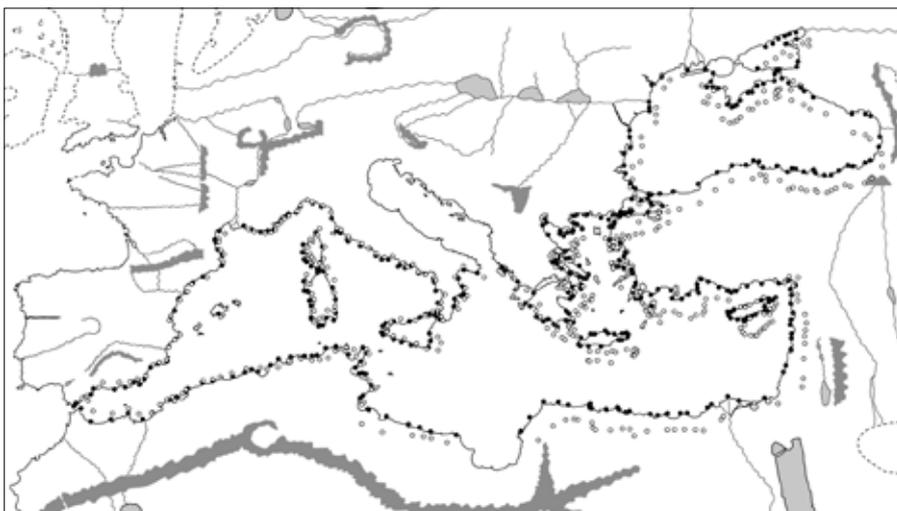


Fig. 3 Composite of the three geodetic frameworks (open circles) when superimposed on the Angelino Dulcert 1339 chart. Each plane-charted geodetic network was corrected for rotation and scale differences with the relevant part of the Dulcert chart, so that the diagram only shows shape differences between chart and plane-charted network.

The Modern Atlas as Diplomatic Gift

Philippe Vandermaelen's *Atlas de l'Europe* and Dutch-Japanese Relations in the Mid-Nineteenth Century

— By Toshiyuki Shimazu

All through the ages, maps have appeared often as the latest achievement of the scientific, technological, and artistic progress of the day. As such, official maps, among others, have from time to time functioned as a symbol of the civilizational supremacy of the political regime producing them. The atlas was no exception. As a bound collection of maps, the atlas could acquire a more prestigious status than individual map sheets themselves in terms of its function and meaning in international and diplomatic relations. Since its first publication in the late sixteenth century, the atlas had occasionally been used as diplomatic gift in order to mediate between empires, kingdoms, and other political entities¹.

This short article deals with the so far unexplored role of a large atlas depicting Europe in a diplomatic negotiation between the Netherlands and Japan in the mid-nineteenth century. It is well known that Tokugawa Japan exercised a strict national isolation policy in the early modern times (from 1639 to 1854), except for diplomatic communication with Korea and the Ryukyus (later referred to in Japanese as *tsushin no kuni* [countries for communication]) and for commercial exchange with China and

the Netherlands (*tsusho no kuni* [countries for commerce]). In 1844, William II (1792–1849), King of the Netherlands, sent a mission to Japan in order to suggest the relative advantages of adopting a more wide-ranging foreign policy for the Tokugawa shogunate. The mission brought the king's official letter to the shogun, and appended to

'His true passion was geography, which he regarded as a universal science embracing all human knowledge'

the letter were many diplomatic gifts, which were selected from, according to the letter's description, 'products of industry, arts, and sciences flourishing under our protection in the Netherlands'². These diplomatic objects were landed at Nagasaki and were later carried to Edo, where the shogun and his senior councillors inspected them. While the king's persuasion itself failed, it worked as a prelude to Japan's fundamental shift in foreign policy. It was in 1854 that the Tokugawa regime was forced to conclude the Japan-U.S. Treaty of Peace and Amity.

In terms of the cross-cultural history of maps and cartography, the

2 Jacobus Anne van der Chijs, *Neêrlands streven tot openstelling van Japan voor den wereldhandel*. Amsterdam: Frederik Muller, 1867, pp. 51–52.

interesting fact is that at least one atlas and a map were included in these diplomatic gifts. This is evidenced by a Dutch archival document held at the National Archives of the Netherlands in The Hague³. The former is 'Atlas van alle Rijken van Europa. 1 deel groot folio [Atlas of all realms of Europe. 1 volume large folio]', and the latter is 'Algemeene Kaart van Nederlandsch Oost Indie [General Map of the Dutch East Indies]'. The latter map, which itself now I cannot find anywhere in Japan, may probably correspond to *Algemeene Kaart van Nederlandsch Oostindië*, an eight-sheet map set published in 1842 by the Dutch Ministry of Colonies.

Now then, what about the atlas? What was the exact title of that atlas? And does it still exist today? Based on my own bibliographical research, these two questions could be answered here. One of my research findings is that the above-mentioned 'Atlas van alle Rijken van Europa' is, in fact, most probably Philippe Vandermaelen's *Atlas de l'Europe* [Atlas of Europe], which was published in the form of a bound atlas in 1833. In present-day Japan, one copy of *Atlas de l'Europe* is held in the *Aoi Bunko* collection at the Shizuoka Prefectural

3 'No.5. Lijst van goederen naar Japan ingescheept aan boord van Z. M. fregat Palembang gekommandeerd door den Kapitein ter Zee H. H. Coops', Nationaal Archief, Den Haag, Nederlandse Factorij in Japan, nummer toegang 1.04.21, inventarisnummer 1710.

1 Peter Barber, 'Procure as many as you can and send them over': cartographic espionage and cartographic gifts in international relations 1460–1760', in Robyn Adams and Rosanna Cox (eds), *Diplomacy and early modern culture*. Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011, p. 17.



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Central Library (shelfmark AF215). *Aoi Bunko* is a rich collection of old foreign and domestic books once kept at the various schools and institutions managed by the Tokugawa regime. The *Atlas* concerned comprises 162 maps on the scale of 1:600 000 and three index pages (two maps, which would be numbered respectively 102 and 130, are omitted). It is a large atlas whose dimensions are 63.6 cm x 82.2 cm. On the lower right of the title page is printed the following very small note: 'Gravé sur pierre Fs. Charles 1833' (Fig. 1). On the centre of verso of front cover are handwritten five large *kanji* characters literally meaning 'map of Europe' (Fig. 2).

Philippe Vandermaelen (1795–1869) was a famed geographer who was born and died in Brussels. In 1830, the year of the Belgian Revolution, he established there a private institute named *Établissement Géographique de Bruxelles* [Geographical Establishment of Brussels]. His institute published a variety of maps, atlases, globes, and gazetteers. It is quite meaningful that Vandermaelen characterised his own institute by using the adjective *géographique*. As Wouter Bracke and Marguerite Silvestre put it, 'his true passion was geography, which he regarded as a universal science embracing all human knowledge'⁴. His *Atlas de l'Europe* might be reckoned among the

4 Wouter Bracke and Marguerite Silvestre, 'The Vandermaelen collections in the Royal Library of Belgium', *Caert-Thresoor*, 34, 2015, p. 102.



Fig. 1 *Atlas de l'Europe* held at the Shizuoka Prefectural Central Library (inner title page)

excellent achievements of geography in those times. Its publication as separate map sheets dates back to at the latest 1829⁵, when Brussels was still under the Dutch control. Therefore, it is not mistaken to think that the *Atlas de l'Europe* was counted among 'products of industry, arts, and sciences flourishing under our protection in the Netherlands', as the letter from William II describes.

In any case, it is not surprising that the House of Orange-Nassau possessed Vandermaelen's *Atlas de l'Europe*. Vandermaelen had maintained a satisfactory relationship with the Dutch royal family through the

5 Marguerite Silvestre, 'L'Atlas de l'Europe de Philippe Vandermaelen: une genèse à préciser', *In Monte Artium*, 5, 2012, p. 110.

activities of mapmaking and publishing. Before the Belgian Revolution, Vandermaelen completed the publication of *Atlas Universel* [Universal Atlas] in 1827 under the reign of William I (1772–1843), the then King of the Netherlands, and this grand world atlas was itself dedicated to this Dutch king⁶. Prince William of Orange, the future William II, had shown far more sympathy with the Belgians than his father had done⁷. He had frequently resided in Brussels before the Belgian

6 Cornelis Koeman, *Atlantes neerlandici: bibliography of terrestrial, maritime and celestial atlases and pilot books, published in the Netherlands up to 1880. Volume III Merula - Zeegers*. Amsterdam: Theatrum Orbis Terrarum, 1969, p. 142.

7 Demetrius C. Boulger, *The history of Belgium. Part II 1815-1865: Waterloo to the death of Leopold I*. London: Published by the author, 1909, p.38.

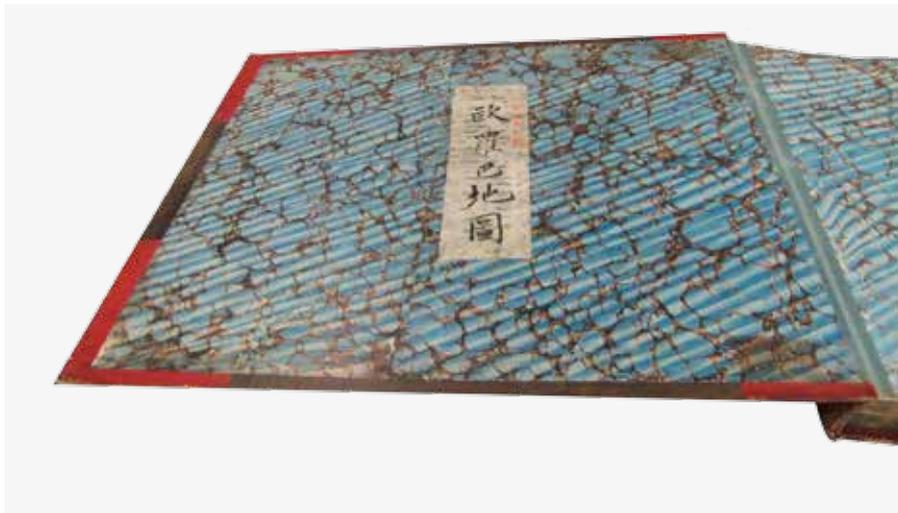


Fig. 2 *Atlas de l'Europe* held at the Shizuoka Prefectural Central Library (verso of front cover)

Revolution⁸. After Belgian independence, his residence in Brussels was refurbished into the present-day *Palais des Académies* [Academy Palace]. The maps comprising *Atlas de l'Europe* were distributed in advance in the form of separate sheets, some of which were in fact dedicated to this future Dutch king⁹. And the most important fact is that he was among the subscribers to *Atlas de l'Europe*. Indeed, he subscribed to not one but

three copies¹⁰!

It is also interesting that famous Japanologist Philipp Franz von Siebold was entrusted with the preparation of the letter from William II¹¹. At the University of Würzburg, Siebold had specialized in medicine, and in addition to this, he had also studied pure natural sciences, geography, and ethnology. Since 1831, he had acted as an adviser in Japan affairs for the Dutch

Ministry of Colonies¹². Siebold probably recognized the intellectual impact of a modern European atlas on the shogun and his senior councillors. It was easy for him to imagine that *Atlas de l'Europe* would work as a symbol of Western civilization and modernity.

The atlas could be a tool for travel. In addition to this, the atlas itself did travel across the globe as a tool for various objectives. This short article touched upon only a part of this magnificent story.

8 Paul F. State, *Historical dictionary of Brussels*. Second edition. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015, p. 139.

9 Marguerite Silvestre, op. cit., pp. 111-112, Cornelis Koeman, op. cit., p. 145.

10 Philippe Vandermaelen, *Atlas de l'Europe, à l'échelle de 1:600,000 (projection modifiée de Flamsteed): prospectus*. Bruxelles: Établissement Géographique, p. 11.

11 Jacobus Anne van der Chijs, op. cit., p. 21.

12 Hans Körner, *Die Würzburger Siebold: Eine Gelehrtenfamilie des 18. und 19. Jahrhunderts*. Neustadt an der Aisch: Verlag Degener, 1967, S. 357, 407.

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La cartographie des traités (XV^e – XX^e siècles)

19-20 November 2015 – Archives diplomatiques de La Courneuve (near Paris)

— By Caroline De Candt

Whether you want to build a house, buy land or settle a dispute with your neighbour about the border between his and your parcel, you simply refer to official maps, made by the authorities and today often available online. You don't look for a legal text, describing the land concerned, as this text doesn't even exist: the map *is* the law. That is, in the 21st century.

From the Middle Ages up to the 20th century, when countries needed to define their borders, mostly after some war and in the context of a peace treaty, they made an agreement, the treaty proper, but were faced with the obvious problem: how on earth do you *describe* a frontier? Maps help, of course, but not in the 15th century when – certainly on the small scale needed to define a complete state border – they simply didn't exist. What did exist sometimes were some local surveyor's (often painters) large scale drawing of small parts of it, ordered by landowners, whose lands happened to contain a 'border'. In a rare case, presented at the conference, the state even ordered such 'maps' to try to trace the border in a region in the East of France. Slowly, over the centuries, all this evolved.

The above mentioned colloquium elaborated on this evolution, referring, in particular, to the treaties of 1815 (Congress of Vienna) and those at the end of World War I, redrawing the internal European borders and beyond. It was organised by the *Comité*

français de cartographie (CFC) – it was their 15th annual edition – and by the French diplomatic archives which offered the venue.

In chronological order several aspects of the role of maps were examined: from the dealing in cartography dealing with the physical features of the terrain in order to define the borders, with the ways to use the territory and the will of the people (or the ignoring of, I would say), to the use of maps in the peace treaties after World War I. Several speakers, in presentations of varying standards, elaborated on different peace treaties in which the French state was involved. The absence of clear landscape features, as well as mountainous areas posed difficulties to define the borders and the borders-to-be. Examples of peace treaties (other than the 15th century one already mentioned above) where these difficulties arose were those of the Cateau-Cambrésis (1559) and the Pyrenees (1659), highlighted in detail by several speakers.

Jean-Louis Renteux, our vice-president and editor of *Maps in History*, gave a very fine, well documented overview of how the northern French border was defined during the 18th century, focusing on a little village, La Flamengrie, curiously surrounded by the border (see his article below). It was an example of all the difficulties mapmakers, negotiators and last but not least inhabitants met, while trying to define clear borders.

Under Napoleon a lot happened trying to define the Italian-French border which moved, temporarily, to the Apennine region. Turning to the Balkans, with the treaty of Berlin (1878), maps were more or less 'made to order' with the aim of supporting different ethnographic points of view. And not to forget: the maritime borders need to be defined too: since 1942 the UN has tried to regulate the agreements and conflicts between states here, obviously based on maps.

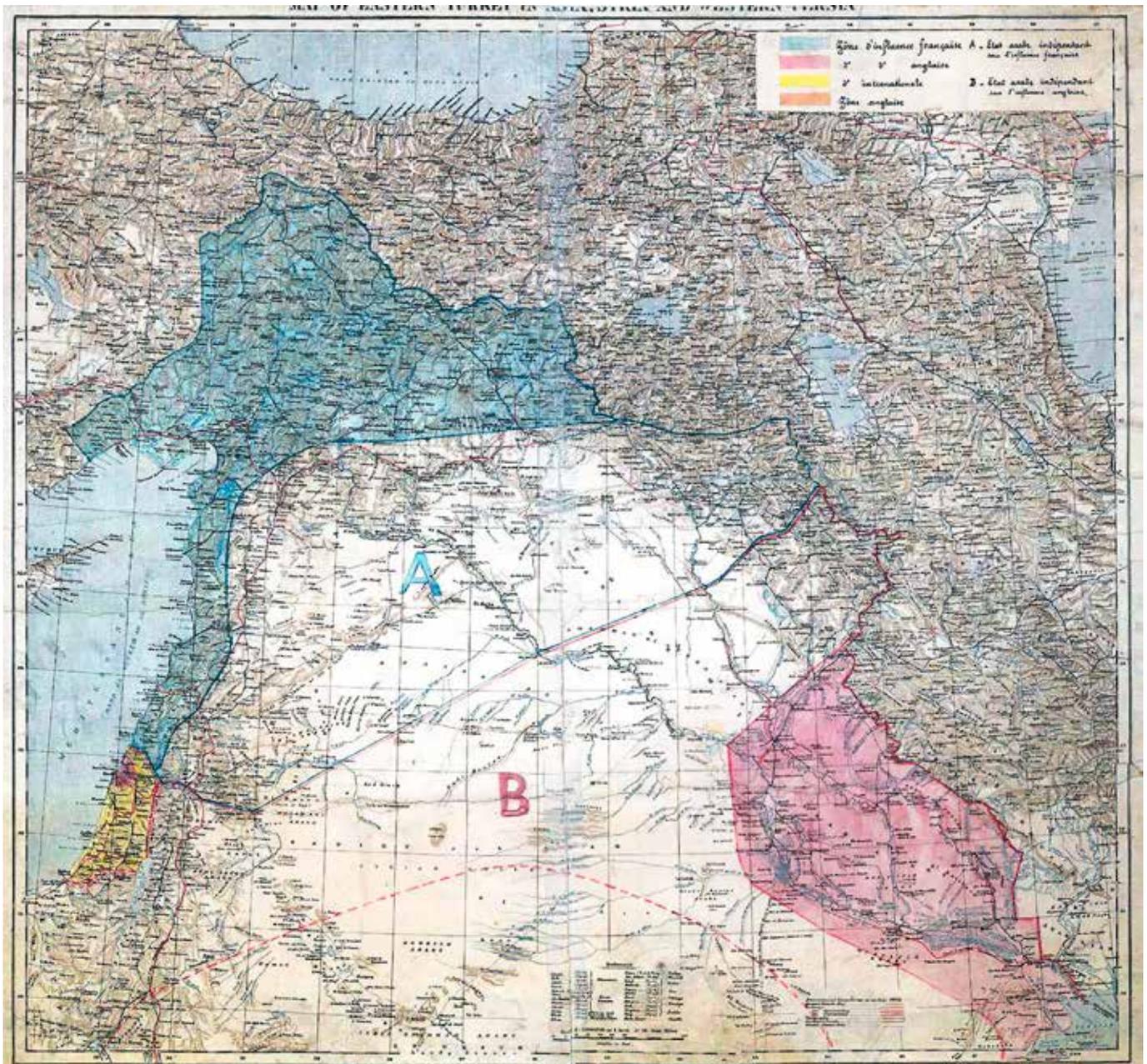
With the two last speakers we entered the arena of the Middle East after World War I. Right after the dramatic events in Paris – the very city of the colloquium – there was more than ordinary interest for the account of the cutting up of that part of the world after World War I. This was based on the maps used by negotiators Sykes and Picot, depicting future zones of influence between the British and the French. According to many, this is the source of all conflicts today.... Maps, although the object of our interest, study and pleasure, can be ominous.

The colloquium also gave us the opportunity to discover the up-to-date premises of the Diplomatic archives, and to view a few original treaties, enriched with nice seals, and maps attached to them.

Proceedings of the colloquium will be published in the quarterly publication of the CFC *Cartes et Géomatique* No 228 (June 2016) and will be accessible on



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Map attached to the secret Sykes-Picot agreement (1916) to partition the Arab part of the Ottoman empire, even before it was defeated, with handwritten marks outlining potential British and French zones, either 'directly administered' or 'zones of influence' (Archives diplomatiques de La Courneuve)

The cartography of treaties

The rectification of the northern border of France in 1779, in the field, in La Flamengrie¹

— By Jean-Louis Renteux

FORMATION OF FRANCE'S NORTHERN BORDER

The border of northern France is not a natural border. From the coast of the North Sea and its lowlands, to the foothills of the Ardennes, there is no summit to mark territory limits. This boundary is the result of the wars that took place in the region over the centuries. After six successive wars and as many peace treaties in half a century, the conquests of Louis XIV in the Spanish Netherlands are confirmed by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713: France takes away Artois and half of the counties of Flanders and Hainaut. This treaty establishes the northern border of France, almost as we know it today.

Until the 18th century, peace treaties define boundaries based on a hierarchy of information². The signatories, at government level, list the cities and strongholds which are changing hands. The possession of a city or a stronghold automatically entails the possession of related territories: 'their bailiwicks, chastellenies, governance, provostships and territories, domains, lordships, affiliations,

1 This is a summary, in English, of the article to be published as part of the proceedings of the colloquium 'La cartographie des traités' in *Cartes et Géomatique* (June 2016), giving details of sources and references.

2 This concept was presented at the colloquium by Léonard Dauphan: *Entre la liste et le terrain, quelle place pour la carte dans les négociations de paix à la fin du Moyen Âge ?*



Fig. 1 Manuscript map of French Hainaut by Charles Havez (Institut Géographique National, Cartothèque, 158E)

outbuildings and annexes, of whatever names they may be called, with all men, vassals, subjects, cities, towns, villages, hamlets, forests, rivers, flatlands, salines and any other things that depend [Article 12 of the Treaty of Nijmegen, 1678]. But the detailed list of the smaller towns and villages depending on a city is only precisely known by the authorities of that city. And the detailed list of the fields, meadows, woods, etc depending on a village is only precisely known in that village. Drawing an accurate map of the border, can thus only be done in the field; it is not possible from Versailles or Brussels. It is therefore rare that maps are involved in treaty negotiations. And when a map is drawn, the border is not always very accurate ...

In fact, cartographers mostly produce maps for commercial purposes, without bothering to follow recent developments (the maps are engraved on copper and

updates are expensive); for example :

- In 1672, Frederik De Wit publishes a map of the southern Netherlands corresponding to the situation of 1648 and ignoring radical changes arising from the border treaties in 1659 and 1668.
- In 1689, Jaillot publishes a map corresponding to the situation in 1668 and ignoring the Treaty of Nijmegen (1678).
- In 1755, the Chevalier de Beauvain produces an atlas of the 1690s campaigns of Louis XIV with a map of the Netherlands corresponding to the treaty of Ryswick (1697).
- In 1757, Covens & Mortier publish a map corresponding to the situation in 1704 and ignoring the treaties of 1713 and 1748.

From the 1720s, the French administration establishes detailed maps of the conquered country. The engineer-geographer Claude Masse (1650–1737), after spending 40 years mapping



Jean-Louis Renteux inspecting a map of the modified border at the Archives Nationales”

the Atlantic coast, is tasked to map the border from the North Sea to the Moselle. From 1724-1737, with his two sons and other military engineers, he draws 32 ‘squares’ showing in detail (scale 1 / 28 800) both sides of the border in Flanders and Hainaut and establishes many memoirs along with drawings of remarkable monuments. From 1724 to 1725, he surveys the border near Valenciennes and Condé in ‘Square A’. But it is not until 1731 that the Masse family maps the border further east, towards Saint-Ghislain, Mons and Maubeuge. Meanwhile, from 1720 to 1725, Charles Havez, one of the first engineers of Ponts et Chaussées [Roads and Bridges administration] in the French Hainaut, draws the first detailed maps of the area. These maps show not only roads but also the tangled limits and the land disputed between France and Austria (Fig. 1).

CONFERENCES ABOUT LIMITS

Detailed maps produced by the Masse family and by Havez highlight the inaccuracy and irregularities of the new limits, which are defined by the juxtaposition of conquered cities and their dependencies.

Aware of this problem, diplomats foresee that enclaves would be exchanged (already in Article 14 of the Treaty of Nijmegen in 1678). The various treaties are thus followed by ‘Conferences about limits’ aimed at clarifying the respective territorial extension of sovereignty and at contradictorily

defining the dependencies of cities and fortified places: a difficult task as the opposite parties submit, in more or less good faith, arguments drawn from the feudal law, common law, Roman law, and as diplomats are often unwilling to make reciprocal concessions. It is not until the 1760s that the need for an accurate, linear demarcation is eventually recognised. The treaties of 1769 and 1779 made between the courts of Versailles and Brussels, truly create the precise, undisputed border, ‘until the last earth rod’, which seems to us the only conceivable one nowadays. ‘I have rode these borders, writes the Austrian commissioner Müllendorf in Brussels, and I distinctly noticed that the limits are set so that fraudsters and smugglers could not desire

anything more favorable; in some places the roads are mid-parties and smugglers are in a position to insult the guards of one and the other rule, in a state of impunity.’

Following the conference of 1769, an agreement is signed to clarify and regulate the border; besides the removal of several specifically named enclaves – especially that of Mortagne (between Tournai and Saint-Amand in Hainaut) – it provides that other enclaves would be suppressed by locally agreed exchange. But the steps taken by the Intendant of French Hainaut to rectify the border only result in an inventory of enclaves and disputed lands (Fig. 2).

The French government would like

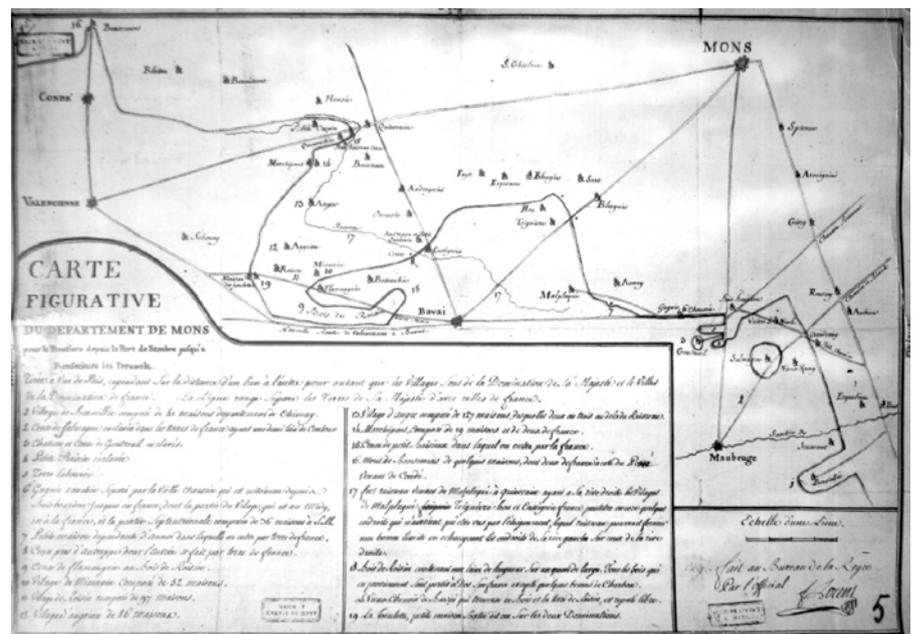


Fig. 2 Diagram of the anomalies of the border (about 1770)

to take as the limit the course of the Hogueau river, from Quiévrain, southeast of Condé, to Malplaquet, north of Bavay, which would make a highly effective defence front for French Hainaut and would simultaneously permit to build a strategic road Bavay–Condé. This plan would also radically remove any problem of enclaves and territories entanglement. Unfortunately, it would result in very extensive land swaps and those lands that Austria would cede are among the

... a particularly extravagant border area!

richest and most fertile villages of the provostship of Mons, while those that France would abandon in return have the most arid soil of the provostship of Bavay. On the other hand, those villages near Bavay have the only stone quarries within reach of the cities of Valenciennes, Condé and Bouchain; therefore, French cities do not see this exchange more favourably than the Austrian Hainaut states. These considerations thus reduced the scope of the discussion to only two items: regularise the border between Quiévrain and Marchipont and, secondly, clear the road from Bavay to Valenciennes in its crossing of La Flamengrie and the wood of Roisin.

MODIFICATION OF THE BORDER IN LA FLAMENGRIE

The village of La Flamengrie had become part of France, together with the provostship of Bavay, at the Treaty of Nijmegen (1678), while the nearby village of Roisin remained with the Spaniards (later replaced by Austrians) with the provostship of Mons. The border around La Flamengrie is not only crooked, but it is also vague: land disputes reported in 1720 are not resolved for a long time, as evidenced by legal procedures that began in 1757. Several 'lands in discussion with Roisin' around La Flamengrie are also mentioned on a map drawn in 1720–25 by C. Havez. But the biggest problem for France is that the large wood of Roisin belonging to the lords of Roisin attached to the Austrian Hainaut despite being located on the other side of La Flamengrie which is French; also, the wood of 'Perchois' belongs to Austria but is completely surrounded by French land (see Fig. 3). Consequently, the old path (a Roman road!) going from Bavay to Valenciennes crosses a particularly extravagant border area: coming from the French territory, it is adjacent to the Austrian wood 'Perchois' on a short distance (to the right), then, a little further, it is adjacent to the Austrian wood of Roisin on a short distance (to the left), then it is entirely in French territory

through the village of La Flamengrie, then it crosses Austrian territory south of the village of Roisin, before entering again into France!

To circumnavigate the problem a new road is built (following Charles Havez' plans) further south, to join Bavay to Valenciennes fully on French territory; but the new road is still adjacent to the same wood of Roisin on more than a mile. Thus enclosed between two French roads, the wood of Roisin is obviously the receptacle of all smugglers who infest this border and an asylum of all the criminals who want to escape the course of justice. Therefore the adjacent roads are pretty unsafe (the Intendant of French Hainaut himself is attacked by robbers!). This is especially bad for a military communication link of the importance of the Valenciennes–Bavay–Maubeuge road.

During the conferences about limits, France therefore tries its best to gain control of the wood of Roisin.

However the agreement signed in 1769 to regularise the border does not rule on the case of La Flamengrie. It is only within the framework of negotiations for a new agreement, in 1779, that these problems are fixed. At the 1779 conference, France, represented by Count Adhemar, claims the villages of Roisin and Meaurain with the woods of Roisin and Perchois. But the states of Hainaut attach great importance to the conservation not only of the two villages, but also of those woods which are the only ones in a wide area that can meet the needs of the neighbouring Austrian communities.

Eventually, with the convention signed on 18 November 1779, France only obtains the southern half of the wood of Roisin (an area estimated at 70 'bonniers' – about 85 ha), taken along a straight line drawn parallel to the new road to Valenciennes. In exchange, France would abandon as many 'bonniers' of land taken on the territory of the neighbouring



Fig. 3 Map of the Trudaine Atlas of French roads (1745) showing the wood of Roisin and adjacent roads.

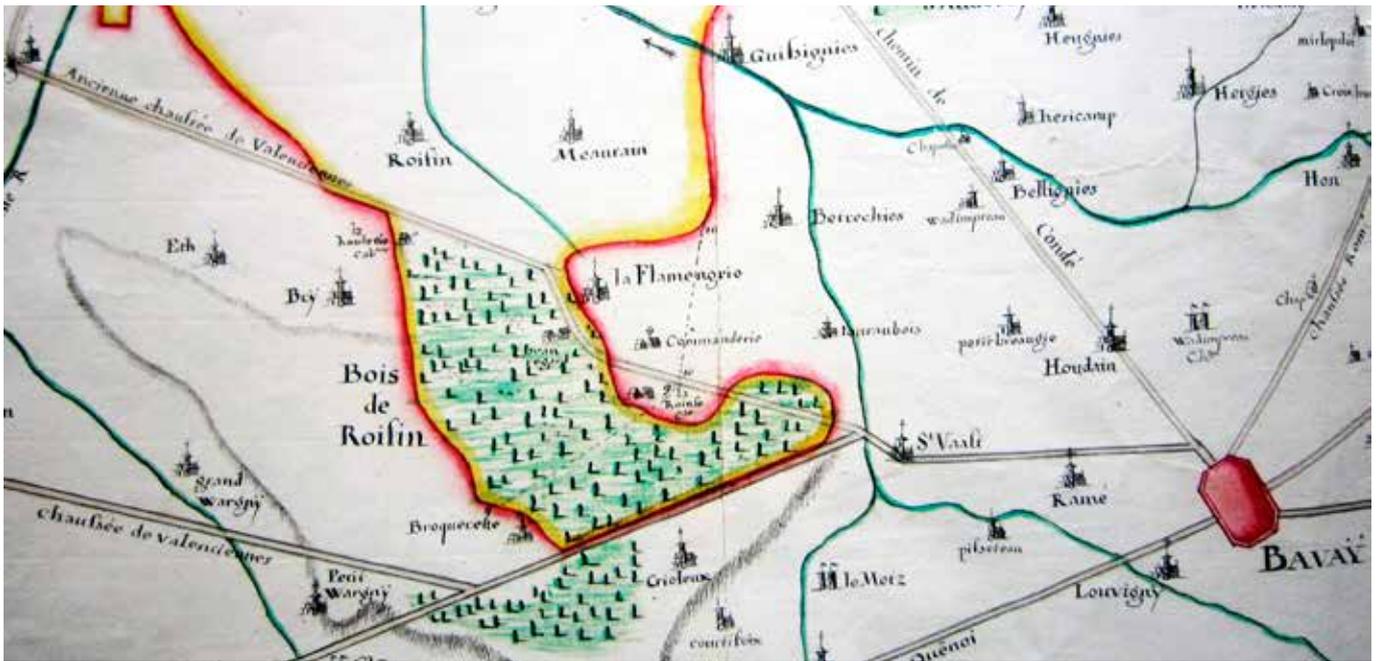


Fig. 4 Map for implementing the exchange of territories in La Flamengrie (1779) - (French National Archives, Cartes et Plans, N / III / Nord/ 36 / 6)

village of La Flamengrie. The first solution envisaged was to cede to Austria the land west of another straight line that would have greatly simplified the border; but the map established for that exchange (Fig. 4) mentions that 'in the part of La Flamengrie that France offers to exchange against the wood of Roisin, there is the Church and most of the houses of the village.'

That exchange will not happen and, instead, only non-built and uninhabited pieces of land, taken all around the village, are yielded to Austria. To do this, the woods and lands in question are surveyed, measured and mapped, from 3 June 1780, by Thomas Joseph Merlin, 'architect and controller of the Empress' domains and Pierre Dominique Dutemple, French 'sworn land surveyor'.

In the process, it appears that all the woods and land ceded by Austria (including the wood of Perchois) actually represent an area of 81.5 'bonniers' (approximately 100 ha) and that there is not enough land to take around La Flamengrie, although half its cultivated land is taken away! The five bonniers of land missing from La

Flamengrie are taken from the nearby village of Bettrechies, which receives in return the wood of Perchois. Only one house is involved in the exchange: the 'Wooden plate' tavern on the edge of the wood of Roisin, on the new Valenciennes-Bavay road; its inhabitant, named Jacques Danzin, becomes a French subject and must take an oath to Louis XVI. Whereas, the Lord of Roisin keeps 'all property rights, lordship and jurisdiction' over his woods.

To formalise the exchange of territories, the two surveyors sign their 'topographic map' (Fig. 5) in Mons on 30 August 1780; it is approved by the representatives of France and Austria, in Valenciennes on 29 September 1780 (different versions of this map are stored in different Archives in France and in Belgium).

Finally, to materialise the new limit, that will impose a number of constraints on the residents, boundary-stones are placed in 1781 along the modified border, with one stone at each change of direction of the border; as this track is particularly tortuous, it takes no less than 65 stones! These boundary-stones differ from simpler

boundary markers found elsewhere on the border: they bear a carved two-headed eagle with the inscription 'Autriche' [Austria], on one side, and, on the other side, three fleur-de-lys and the inscription 'France'; on top is a serial number from 1 to 65.

Thus the initial goal of France to ensure the safety of the Valenciennes-Bavay road is almost reached. But the border in this small area continues to present an extremely tortuous aspect, very far from the new concepts.

Today, the Franco-Belgian border still follows the limit set by the Treaty of Nijmegen (1678), as corrected by the conventions of the late eighteenth century, and you can still see some fifty boundary-stones placed in La Flamengrie in 1781.



Fig. 6 Examples of boundary-stones in La Flamengrie



How I Got Into Cartography

Interview with Joost Depuydt (joost.depuydt@stad.antwerpen.be)



— by Nicola Boothby (nicola.boothby@telenet.be)

Joost Depuydt is Curator of Special Collections at the FelixArchief, the Antwerp City archives. He is responsible for all matters relating to care, conservation, access, exhibitions, cataloguing and research relating to the special collections which include the library (books), the topographic-historical atlases (maps, plans, drawings, prints), the photographic collection, film and sound archives and objects (among them seals and medals). In July 2015 he led the organisation of the 26th International Conference on the History of Cartography (IHC) in Antwerp.

What does Cartography mean to you?

I think I was pre-destined for cartography. Both my parents were geographers, but I'm the only sibling who's interested in maps. In fact I'm the only non-scientist. My father [Frans Depuydt, the first and only professor of cartography at the University of Leuven, now retired] occasionally used to take us out on field trips; we were his assistants, checking measurements, and so on. Since he retired, he and I have more in common. Towards the end of his career he got more interested in the history of cartography. He was particularly interested in the accuracy of early maps and sometimes asked me for help. Their accuracy depended mainly on how they were drafted, and the sources used, especially in the 16th century.

What exactly does your day-to-day work involve?

On a day-to-day basis my job covers the preservation, description and digitisation of the collections. As regards our preservation activity, I manage small teams of both professional colleagues and volunteers. We archive our material according to international standards (ISAD-G – General International Standard Archival Description). I also deal with external partners such as restoration professionals and the companies we use to digitise our collections. I have also raised funds for special restoration projects.

We've now digitised 50 % of the topographic-historical atlas, which comprises more than 13 000 items. Of all the digital items in the FelixArchief, these iconographical items attract most attention from the general public. I have also curated a number of exhibitions, and was responsible for the IHC conference in July last year.

What did you need to study/where have you needed to gain experience to get this far?

I studied history and thought that would lead to the world of journalism. But then I decided I was more interested in the Early Modern Period, the 16th to 18th centuries. I wanted to do a Ph.D, but had to wait for an assessment of my dissertation, so in the meantime I opted to go to London to

the Warburg Institute. There I met Helen Wallis, former Curator of Maps at the British Library. She encouraged me to look at the correspondence of Abraham Ortelius. I finally decided to write my MA dissertation about the correspondence between Ortelius and the famous humanist scholar Justus Lipsius. I wanted to show that if you want to study maps, it's important to look further than the maps themselves and study the context and network in which the mapmaker operated. I never got the chance to start a Ph.D, but kept on looking for letters from the correspondence of Ortelius. The result of this research will be published in an article in *Imago Mundi* early in 2016.

I was hired to prepare the 1994 cartographic exhibition in Leuven, but I left before the end of the project. After working for a while for FilmNet Television – and discovering that this wasn't what I wanted to do – I went to work in the University Libraries in Leuven and Antwerp. During that period, I was also engaged by the police as a map expert, on a case of stolen maps from several Belgian libraries. From the database of about 750 stolen maps only one has been found and returned to its original library collection.

In 2007 I actually went for a different job – at the Erfgoedbibliotheek Hendrik Conscience in Antwerp – but I then got a call from Inge Schoups, City Archivist at the FelixArchief, who offered me a post there.



Map of the city of Antwerp (c. 1600) rediscovered and restored in 2010. © Antwerp, FelixArchief/City Archive, 12 # 11667-11670

Are there careers to be made in cartography?

I think there are various career paths people can take, although it's a small world: for the history of cartography I see three options: there's academia, there's the 'curator' path – in libraries and archives, and then there's the commercial world, as a map dealer. But the world of modern cartography obviously offers various other options in cartography-related businesses (GIS, GPS or even the gaming industry).

Would you describe your career path to date as 'straightforward'?

I don't think my career path has been particularly straightforward, but I've been lucky enough to find myself in situations where I'm constantly acquiring skills which I can put to good use.

Where do you see yourself going from here?

There's still a lot of interesting stuff to do here at the FelixArchief. I have the luxury of moving from 16th century maps to 20th plans and back again. My job is also very diverse, and is not solely about maps. However, perhaps if there were an opportunity sometime in the future, it would also be good to go abroad.

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

The ICHC conference went very well, and our planning and organisation seemed much appreciated. It was hard work but good fun too. Some of the papers accepted by the committee were from relatively new faces on the cartographic scene, and it was a pleasure to give them a platform.

At work, managing the restoration of the Antwerp city map that in 2010 I had rediscovered in pieces in a drawer at the Archives, and getting funding for its restoration, was very satisfying.

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Mapping the Ottoman Empire

Brussels Map Circle International Conference

— By Karen De Coene

On Saturday 12 December 2015 the Map Circle held its annual conference in the Royal Sky Room, recently installed on the sixth floor of the Royal Library in Brussels. The mapping of the Ottoman Empire, once encompassing the continents of Europe, Asia and Africa, was now being studied within a few square metres, with a magnificent view over the city. A play with scale and a cartographic gaze on the world: what more does a map lover need?

As in former years, the conference aligned with the Europalia cultural festival, this year dedicated to Turkey. The Yunus Emre Institute-Brussels (Yunus Emre Enstitüsü) kindly assisted the Map Circle to obtain two Turkish speakers.

The first was Professor Mehmet Kalpaklı, chair of both the Department of History and the Department of Turkish Literature at Bilkent University in Ankara. Prof. Kalpaklı provided the audience with a general introduction to the history of Ottoman cartography. Briefly one could say that, roughly from 1450 until the early sixteenth century, naval campaigns in the Mediterranean, the Black Sea, the Red Sea, and the Indian Ocean all led to the development of Ottoman geographical knowledge. Ottoman maps did not arise spontaneously, but followed from the combined action – or integration – of the Islamic geographical tradition with European cartographical innovations. Mehmed II (1451-1481) in particular took a decisive

step when commissioning a translation of Ptolemy's *Geographia*. Thereafter nautical charts, world maps, military maps, continental maps, city views and atlases contributed to the development of Ottoman cartography. The last picture we got from our first speaker was a simple but beautiful drawing of sixteenth-century trading routes with stops for water. Though Prof. Kalpaklı revealed many treasures hidden in the rich Ottoman archives, he emphasised how many parts of the puzzle are still missing.

After this general introduction our second Turkish speaker, professor of art history Günsel Renda, presently teaching at Koç University in Istanbul, focused on the sixteenth century. At that moment Ottoman expansionist policy generated a need

Admiral Piri

Ahmed Muhiddin Piri or Piri ibn Haji Mehmed (1465/70–1553), the famous Ottoman admiral, geographer and cartographer, is better known as Piri Reis (in Turkish: Pîrî Reis). This gives the (wrong) impression that his first ('given') name was Piri and that his family name was Reis. Years ago I investigated, and discovered that Turkish re'is is a naval title; thereafter, in the 'Imago Mundi Bibliography', he was entered in the alphabetical index as: PIRI, re'is. No-one (e.g. from Turkey or in Turkish/Ottoman Studies) ever queried or corrected this.

Yours pedantically,

'Francis Mister'

[normally: Mr Francis Herbert]





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for extensive geographical documentation. So, again, various maps and sea charts were produced as well as atlases and siege plans. While mapping the world, the Ottomans combined topographical data with historical information. Nobody ever doubts the history residing in maps. But what interests Prof. Renda especially, is how cartographical illustrations developed into topographical paintings. Throughout the Mediterranean maps and pictures merge into one another. Among the many examples that can be given, Prof. Renda presented pictures of Constantinople by Western cartographers, such as Christoforo Buondelmonti and Hartmann Schedel, or those in Braun and Hogenberg's *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*. Conversely, various copies of the *Kitab-ı Bahriye* of Piri reis contain maps of Venice ('a city for fishermen'), Cairo and Antalya (as an unimportant port in comparison to Alanya). As time passed, the illustrations of Constantinople, Venice and Cairo became increasingly detailed in later copies of Piri's work.

Jan Parmentier, a specialist in maritime and overseas history and a curator at MAS Antwerp, has always been a welcome guest to the Brussels Map Circle. Wary of downgrading a Turkish legend such as Piri re'is, Jan calls him both privateer and scientist. In fact the activities of the Ottoman cartographer were the same in both careers, yet more legally sound in the second. It should be no surprise that his first world map of 1513 provoked a lot of



Speakers Vagnon, Renda, Couto, Kalpaklı and Débarre

speculation and controversy: not least because of the earliest non-Western cartographical representation of the newly discovered continent, America. The cartographer himself claimed to get his information from 34 maps, 20 of them *mappae mundi*, an Arabic map of India, 4 new Portuguese maps of India and Southeast Asia and Columbus' map of the New World. However, Jan Parmentier presented another story to the audience. The main centres of geographical information were Venice and Lisbon. In 1508 Ptolemy's *Geographia* was published in Rome with a world map of Joannes Ruysch. The work was distributed throughout Europe and was probably known also to Piri re'is. Given the alliance with the French king François I, an Ottoman delegation came to Paris, where they learned about the 'Dauphin Atlas' and the mapmakers of Dieppe. Finally, Juan de

la Cosa, who accompanied Columbus on three expeditions, combined the results of Spanish, Portuguese, English and French discoveries of the New World in his own world map. All these aspects indicate how

Piri re'is was a brilliant collector of cartographic data that he then assembled into new maps.

As cartography is by nature an art of compiling, what Jan Parmentier described in the case of Piri remained an important topic for the day, namely the sources of Ottoman cartography.

This was also true for the first speaker after lunch, Dejanirah Couto, Professor of Early Modern Portuguese and overseas history at the *École Pratique des Hautes Études* (EPHE, Sorbonne, Paris) who continued the



Map of Alep by Matrakçı Nasuh (1537), *Beyan-ı Menazil-i Sefer-i Irakayn*, Istanbul University Library, T 5964, 105b-106a

theme of Piri re's sources. She focused in particular on the Iberian sources of the *Kitab-i Bahriye*. Prof. Couto is convinced that accurate information about the Portuguese discoveries circulated in Ottoman maritime circles because of Antonio Pigafetta. After participating in the expedition of Ferdinand Magellan, Pigafetta entered Süleyman's service in 1522 as a cosmographer and mapmaker. This could explain the presence of several maps in the Topkapı Museum in Istanbul, such as the Hazine 1825 map by Jorge Reinel. Reinel had participated in the maps drafted in Seville for the 1519 voyage of his countryman Magellan. Strangely enough, this coincides with the first reference to the Portuguese discoveries in the second version of the *Kitab-i Bahriye* in 1526. However, Prof. Couto emphasises that Pigafetta was not the only party responsible for Piri

's geographical knowledge, but that Portuguese renegades, privateers and traders contributed too. A considerable contribution came from the *Libro del Infante D. Pedro de Portugal*, attributed to Gómez de Santistéban, a companion of Prince Pedro (Peter, Duke of Coimbra, 1392-1449) on a supposed trip to the Holy Land. Though its historical value was minimised in the past by deeming it imaginary, the work, first printed in 1520 in Seville, renders valuable assets with regard to travel.

Given that she is a medievalist and a Renaissance specialist, it was a surprise to hear Emmanuelle Vagnon present 18th-century maps with a view to a future exhibition in Istanbul. Currently a researcher at the (French) National Centre of Scientific Research (CNRS) she contributed, with Catherine Hofmann,

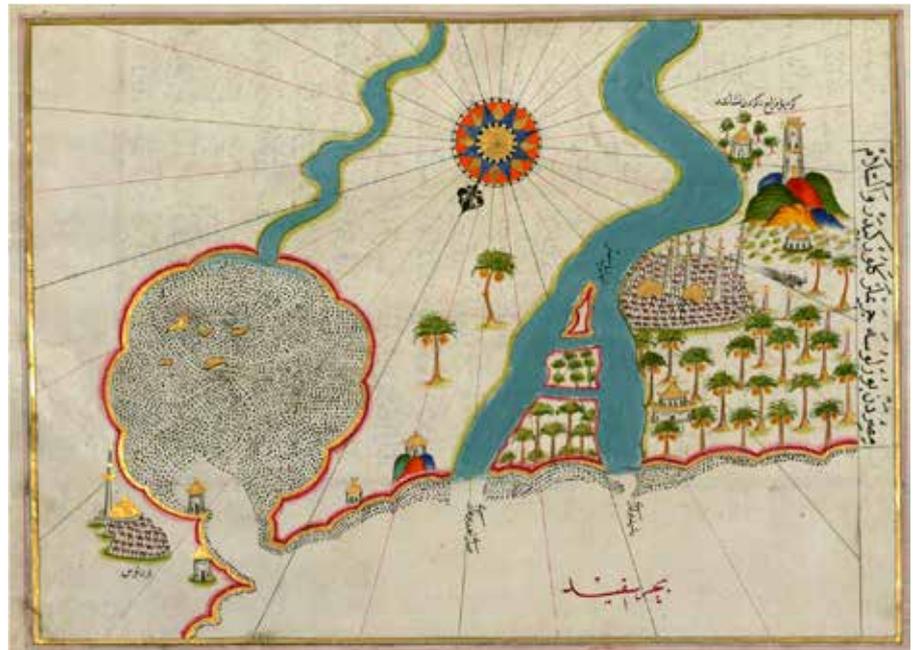
to the magnificent exhibition 'L'Âge d'or des cartes marines' [The golden age of maritime charts] (Paris, BNF, 2012). So it should not surprise readers that she wonders what kind of sources were used for 18th-century cartography. Calling attention to Count Choiseul-Gouffier (1752-1817) and his *Voyage pittoresque de la Grèce*, a guide published as a result of his youthful travels in Greece, Dr Vagnon reported on the major cartographic work he sponsored as French Ambassador at the Ottoman Court: the 'Carte de l'Hellespont depuis les Cap Sestos et Abydos jusqu'aux fanaux de Gallipoly et du Cherdak' [Map of the Hellespont from the Sestos and Abydos capes until the Gallipoly and Cherdak beacons], printed in 1786. The map ornamented with landscape and antiquities and labeled with Ancient Greek labels demonstrates Choiseul-Gouffier's idea

to reconstruct the ancient landscape from the way it looked in the 18th century. Strangely enough, this humanist concern does not interfere with the diplomatic and military reasons behind the mapmaking. The team of French naval officers and engineers, including Laurent Truguet (1752–1839), Achille Tondeu (1762–1789), François Frérot d'Abancourt (1756–1801), and Louis-François Cassas, even made it possible to reconcile the interest in Ancient Greece with land surveying based upon modern mathematics. To illustrate how Choiseul-Gouffier's map fits into the humanist tradition, Emmanuelle Vagnon referred to the pursuit of the site of Troy as one of the international debates during that time.



Carte de l'Hellespont depuis les Cap Sestos et Abydos jusqu'aux fanaux de Gallipoly et du Cherdak [Map of the Hellespont, 1786] /

The last speaker of the day, Ségolène Débarre, graduated from the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, where she is now associate professor, in the history of German cartography in the Ottoman Empire. At the conference she presented her core research when dealing with Heinrich Kiepert (1835–1895). As the Romantics viewed genius superior to skill, the prestige of this German cartographer tends to be understood only as the result of his own 'genius'. However, in addition to Kiepert, there were many map-makers specialising in the Ottoman Empire. Both Catherine Delano-Smith and Matthew Edney have published in *Imago Mundi* on how cartographic contributions could result from different professional engagements. Dr Débarre added to their analysis the transnational network of cartographic know-how on Ottoman mapmaking. Maps brought Orientalist scholars, businessmen, and army officers together. Kiepert thus acquired his interest in historical geography of the Classical world in his student days at the University of Berlin, where he worked with Carl Ritter (1779–1859). Thanks to Ritter, Kiepert became the cartographer of the official military missions to the Ottoman Empire under Helmut von Moltke (1800–1891). In 1884 Kiepert wrote how '[Ottoman



PiriRe'is Piri Re'is ???? /

cartography] is not only dependent (and does not only rely on European models), but [Ottoman maps are] already largely obsolete and moreover concern only a small area of the Imperial territory'. Therefore it should be no surprise that Kiepert's maps were still being used during the Balkan Wars (1912/3).

To summarise the day in a few lines, one could say that Ottoman map-makers mostly compiled the available

cartographical information from maps and other sources distributed all over the Mediterranean. With a more eccentric lifestyle than the later 18th- and 19th-century mapmakers Piri re'is took a prominent role in the stories of our conference. But so did Choiseul-Gouffier and Heinrich Kiepert who both managed to combine their interest in maps with cartographical networking.

Brussels Map Circle Programme for 2016

18th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

*Saturday 12 March 2016
Brussels, Belgium*

According to the Statutes adopted in 2005, only Active Members have a vote.

All members are encouraged to become Active Members by applying to the President at least three weeks before the meeting: president@bimcc.org.

A personal invitation to this AGM with the agenda and the option of proxy vote will be sent out to Active Members by separate mail at least two weeks before the meeting.

Venue Boardroom (Raadzaal /Salle du Conseil, 4th floor) of the Royal Library of Belgium - Meeting Centre, Mont des Arts / Kunstberg - Avenue de l'Empereur 2 /Keizerslaan 2 - 1000 Brussels.

Time schedule: 11.00 - 12.15

Map Afternoon

Saturday 12 March 2016, from 12.30 to 16.30

You are expected at 12.30 for a convivial drink and sandwich lunch. For the Map Afternoon proper, we kindly invite you to bring a map, an atlas, a globe, a cartographic instrument or an interesting book on cartography and to present it and talk about it during the Map Afternoon. We are equally interested into antique maps as into ordinary or contemporary maps as there is always something interesting, even in the simplest maps or cartographic items.

This is also an opportunity for newcomers to get to know the Circle: non-members are welcome. If you would like to know more about a cartographic item you will bring along, the members of the Circle will be pleased to study it carefully and share their

cartographic knowledge with you.

We kindly draw your attention that registration for the Map Afternoon on our website www.bimcc.org is requested.

Venue Boardroom (Raadzaal /Salle du Conseil, 4th floor) of the Royal Library of Belgium - Meeting Centre, Mont des Arts / Kunstberg - Avenue de l'Empereur 2 /Keizerslaan 2 - 1000 Brussels.

A catering fee of EUR 10.00 (members) - EUR 15.00 (non-members) is to be prepaid on our bank account only: IBAN BE52 0682 4754 2209 - BIC: GKCCBEBB.

Excursion to the Academia Belgica in Rome

From Wednesday 4 till Sunday 8 May 2016

Our Scientific Advisor, Wouter Bracke (Head of the Map Section of the Royal Library of Belgium) and currently also Head of the Academia in Rome, invites the Brussels Map Circle for a workshop on Lafreri (in the broad sense), in cooperation with our sister organisation in Italy, the Associazione Italiana Collezionisti di Cartografia Antica, 'Roberto Almagià' (<http://www.associazionemagià.it>). The programme (still to be finalised) consists of lectures in the morning and visits in the afternoon, to various map collections

in the 'città eterna'.

The Circle kindly draws your attention to the fact that no bookings for transport or accommodations etc. will be made through our services. Moreover, this is a 'members only' event. So, if you're interested in this special event, just send an email to president@bimcc.org, expressing your interest. You will be kept posted.

Venue Academia Belgica, Via Omero 8, 00197 Roma (www.academibelgica.it/).

International Conference, 'Instruments and globes'

Saturday 10 December 2016, 9.30

Venue Royal Library of Belgium - Meeting Centre, Mont des Arts / Kunstberg - Avenue de l'Empereur 2 / Keizerslaan 2 - 1000 Brussels.

We kindly draw your attention to the fact that registration for the Conference is requested on our website www.bimcc.org.

Admission is free for BIMCC members, non-members pay EUR 10.00 at the entrance. Lunch is being arranged in the Library's cafeteria, with catering services. Price: EUR 35.00.



Academia Belgica, Rome



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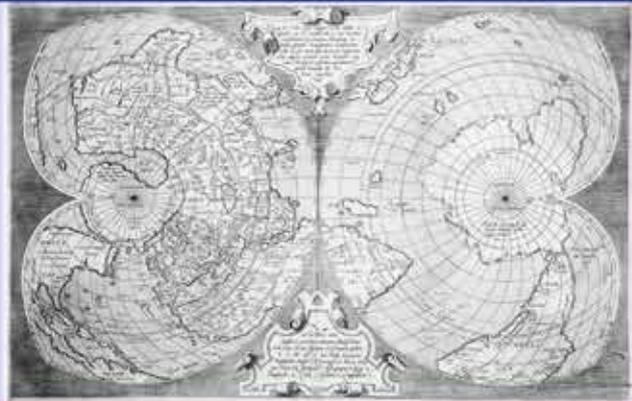
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Catalog available

13th International Symposium for the Study of Globes

Dresden, 24–26 September, 2015

— By Wulf Bodenstern, with thanks for assistance from W. Dolz

In his opening address Peter Allmeyer-Beck, President of the International Coronelli Society, expressed the Society's pleasure at being back again in the beautiful city of Dresden, the previous event dating back to 1965. He introduced Mr Hartwig Fischer, Director General of the Dresden State Art Collections who welcomed 52 participants to the Residenzschloss, venue for this Symposium and famous for its unique historical Green Vault, the Armoury, Gallery of Electors, and other departments.

Peter Plassmeyer, Director of the Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon, the former Royal Cabinet of Mathematical and Physical Instruments founded in 1728, discussed new techniques of 3D scans and animations that permit analysis and comparison of the functionalities of complex scientific instruments without the need to disassemble them. Wolfram Dolz, senior curator of this same Cabinet of Instruments and vice president of the Coronelli Society, presented the important globe collection held in this collection, a welcome introduction to the visit which was to follow that same evening.

Andreas Christoph related the interesting history of the firm of Paul R ath, founded in Leipzig in 1917, which became one of Germany's most important globe makers of the 20th century. Preparations for its centenary are currently under way. The production

of relief globes in the 19th century was the subject of Markus Heinz who had analysed the unexplored family archives of Karl Wilhelm Kummer to reconstruct the history of one of the leading figures in this special branch. Meret B achler and J urgen Hamel took us further back to the 18th century with Johann Adam Riediger's glass globes. Their distinctive feature was that the gores were inserted into a glass sphere and were then glued onto its inner surface, an enormously delicate exercise. Examples are preserved in the Burgerbibliothek in Bern and in the Landesmuseum W urtemberg in Stuttgart.

Franco Casali related the interesting story of the reconstruction of a Coronelli terrestrial globe of 1688, destroyed in Faenza during WW II, with the use of computer tomography and copies of the original gores. Starting with the so-called Paris gilt globe of ca 1528, Robert King retraced the representation of the island of Java, initially inspired by Magellan's circumnavigation, on later maps by, among others, Ortelius, Mercator, de Jode, resulting in rather surprising mis-identifications.

The day ended with a fascinating tour of the Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon in the separate Museum called the Zwinger. Wolfram Dolz was our guide and showed us the master pieces on display, among which, highlight of the important globe section, an Arab celestial globe of 1279, a number

of magnificent astronomical clocks, telescopes and other instruments, with mechanical calculators of 1650 and 1790, the latter in full working order.

Elly Deckker opened the proceedings of the second day with an animated talk on the representation of the Hercules constellation on celestial globes, followed by Malgorzata Taborska who showed the amazing transmutations of the constellation of Cancer into a crab, lobster or crayfish with different makers of celestial globes. Samuel Gessner reported on his research into Christoph Schissler's celestial globe of 1575, now in Portugal, and Jost Schmid-Lanter presented his findings on the role a recently discovered painting played as a kind of prospectus for the sale of the so-called

Globes, sensual objects of desire...

St. Gallen globe, offering new insights into the manufacture and dating of that globe of the late 16th century.

From the world of an artist which Nives Widauer took us to, describing globes, to the surprise of many, as sensual objects of desire, Thomas Horst brought us back to historical reality with his lecture on Nicolaus Cusanus, ecclesiastic and cosmographer of the 15th century. His two-volume *Dialogus de ludo Globi* is here analyzed for the first time in the context of the study of



Wulf Bodenstein
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globes. Hans Hooijmaijers then presented his findings on the planetarium made in Amsterdam for educational purposes by Hartog van Laun (died 1815), whilst Michael Korey cast some light on how planetary automata constructed in the 16th century for Landgrave Wilhelm IV of Hessen and his brother-in-law, Elector August of Saxony, induced political claims on their part with respect to astronomical observations at the Kassel court.

A refreshing talk was given by Thomas Kaercher, a new collector of globes, who has developed, from the physical characteristics of the three items so far acquired (small, medium, large), a kind of methodology of globe collecting. The digitisation in 2D or 3D of the globes held in the Faculty of Science at the Charles University in Prague was the subject presented by Markéta Hyndráková. Markus Wacker and Claudia Bergmann closed the lectures of the second day with their report on the modern media concept developed for the Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon. Digital processing of items from the Museum's collection (globes, clocks, instruments) and of cartographic principles (projections, determination of longitude) has been used to create films with a graphic design that is easy to understand for any kind of visitor. A promising technique for wider application.

Jan Mokre, Director of the Map Collection and the Globe Museum of the National Library of Austria and



Coronelli Dresden group photo

General Secretary of the Coronelli Society, presented each participant with a souvenir postage stamp of 3 Austrian Schillings that had marked the 5th International Symposium of the Society in Vienna, in 1977. He indicated that the Symposium Proceedings are to be published in 2016 in the Society's Journal No 63/64 of *Der Globusfreund* and its English edition *Globe Studies* (visit www.coronelli.org).

Peter Allmayer-Beck closed this part of the Symposium with words of thanks for the speakers, expressed his appreciation for the excellent organisation and invited participants to a dinner in the old town.

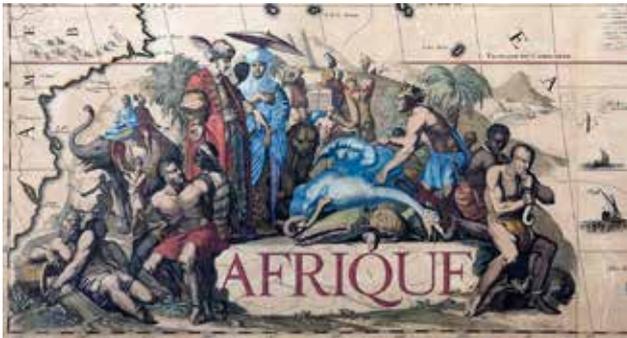
On Saturday, an excursion to Leipzig was on the programme. Heinz Peter

Brogiato, Head of the Central Library of the Institut für Länderkunde (Institute of Geography), gave an overview of the holdings of this Library (ca. 50 000 maps, archives of more than 190 geographers and explorers, 120 000 historical photographs) and presented some unusual pieces. Among these was a town plan of Bogota of 1859 by the Italian geographer Agostino Codazzi. Wolfram Dolz gave some explanations about the 13 globes in their collection, including an 80 cm terrestrial globe by Heinrich Kiepert of 1892. The tour of the city closed with a visit to the St. Thomas Church where Johann Sebastian Bach was cantor from 1723 to his death in 1753 and where he is buried. This was followed by a most agreeable social evening in the historical *Auerbachs Keller*.

The 33rd IMCoS International Symposium in Cape Town

By Ljiljana Ortolja-Baird

This was the Society's first visit to Africa. It took place in Cape Town at the Taj Hotel from 19 to 21 October 2015, overlooked by Cape Town's iconic landmark Table Mountain and opposite the Company Gardens, established by the Dutch East India Company in 1652 to provide fresh victuals for the stream of ships making their way around the Cape of Good Hope and onto the Spice Islands.



Jan Covens & Pieter Mortier, principal cartouche of four-sheet wallmap of Africa, ca. 1725 (HO:1981.1.155, collections RMCA, Tervuren).

The theme of the symposium looked broadly at travel to and through Africa. Papers ranged from an introduction to the first maps made of the Cape when they revealed little beyond coastal information; the 'discovery' of François le Vaillant's map for Louis XVI; the map made by Carel David Wentzel of the first VOC-sponsored expedition of the eastern area of the Cape led by August Frederik Beutler; missionary maps and Livingstone's mapping of south central Africa; the role of cadastral maps in the standardising of land claims; the mapping of the southern skies by Abbé Nicolas Louis de LaCaille and his significance in the history of cartography; the discovery, mapping and management of the dripstone caverns known as Cango Caves; and the anxious bid of the British for maps of southern Africa in their conflict with the Boers.

Pages of the speakers' slide show presentation can be found on the symposium website www.2015imcos.com and a selection of articles based on the presentations will appear in future issues of the IMCoS Journal.

One of the ten symposium speakers was Brussels Map Circle's very own Wulf Bodenstein; others such as Elri Liebenberg and Hans Kok will also be familiar names to readers. Wulf, a voluntary assistant at the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren spoke on the museum's extensive collection of maps, generally on the

African continent and more specifically the holdings on Central Africa.



Participants in the IMCoS symposium

Among the maps he presented were Ptolemaic visions of Africa of the early 16th century, followed by the first 'modern' maps of the continent by Ortelius, Thevet, Mercator and his successors. A highlight was the reedition of Blaeu's 1608 wallmap of Africa by Pieter Verbiest (Antwerp, 1644), the only such copy known. The progressive elimination of imaginary features, still abundantly present in the decorative maps of the 17th and 18th centuries by Visscher, de Wit, Allard, and Covens & Mortier, for example, culminates in d'Anville's wallmap of 1749, before scientific exploration of the 19th century could fill the white gaps again. This process was accelerated in the context of the Berlin Conference (1884/85), and Wulf showed some telling maps of the Congo by Belgian and other explorers.

Perthesforum inaugurated in Gotha (Germany)

By Wulf Bodenstein

The geographical establishment of Justus Perthes in Gotha began its operations in 1856 from premises in the Friedrichsallee. On account of the Institute's growing success with its atlas, map and journal production (*Petermanns Geographische Mitteilungen*) the facilities were progressively extended to cover over 10 000 m² in the early 20th century. After a varied history of ownership, complicated by expropriation under the DDR regime, the city of Gotha bought the building complex from Stephan Perthes in 2009. Financial support amounting to EUR 18.2 million was made available for renovation by the European Regional Development Fund, the Federal Republic, the Free State of Thuringia and the City of Gotha.

The main building which is at No 5 in the same street, today renamed Justus-Perthes-Strasse, became the Perthesforum. It was officially opened on 6 November 2015, housing the Thuringian State Archives and acting as a depository for part of the Schloss Friedenstern

Foundation with its workshops. But, more importantly for our readers, it now contains the map component of the Perthes Collection of the Forschungsbibliothek. Books and archives, however, are for the moment still kept in Schloss Friedenstein, as are the holdings of other departments of the Forschungsbibliothek, including the collection of oriental manuscripts mentioned in the Notice following.



The new Perthes Forum building

Visits of collections by appointment only: sammlung-perthes.fb@uni-erfurt.de, postal address as before: Forschungsbibliothek Gotha, Schloss Friedenstein, D-99867 Gotha, contact Dr Petra Weigel, Tel + 49-(0)361-737 55 30.

Arabic Geography in the Forschungsbibliothek Gotha now registered in the UNESCO Memory of the World (MOW) Programme

By Wulf Bodenstein

The Forschungsbibliothek in Gotha is probably best known to our readers for the extremely rich and important Archives of the Justus Perthes Geographical Institute which the Free State of Thuringia saved from international dispersal when it succeeded in acquiring them from private hands in 2002.

On 9 October 2015, two documents from its other, equally important collections were added to the MOW Register. One is a first print of 1520 of Martin Luther's *Von der Freyheyt eynisz Christen menschen*. The other, of more relevance to our *Maps in History* readers, is a copy datable to 1173 AD of an Arabic manuscript geographical description, with maps, of the late tenth century.

The Persian scholar al-Istakhri (died ca. 951) composed a Book of Climate Zones, a *Kitāb al-Aqālim*, better known in a revised version under the designation *Kitāb al-Masalik wa-'l-mamalik*, Book of Routes and Empires. It describes the world of Islam in the tenth century and

its social, economical, cultural and political conditions, with 21 maps. Among these are a world map and maps of the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean and the Caspian Sea, plus 17 maps of regions of Morocco, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, some Persian provinces, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Transoxiana (Central Asia).

The document in question is most likely the oldest surviving example, with maps, of the numerous copies that were made of this work. The south-oriented map illustrated here (sheet 40a of the Geography) shows the central and south-western part of today's Iran, with Shiraz in the centre (yellow, within double red circle). The red and yellow dots to its left possibly represent caravanstaging posts, spaced at intervals of a day's march or about 20 km.



Kitāb al-Aqālim, copy of 1173 AD, Forschungsbibliothek Gotha, Ms. orient. A 1521, fol. 40a

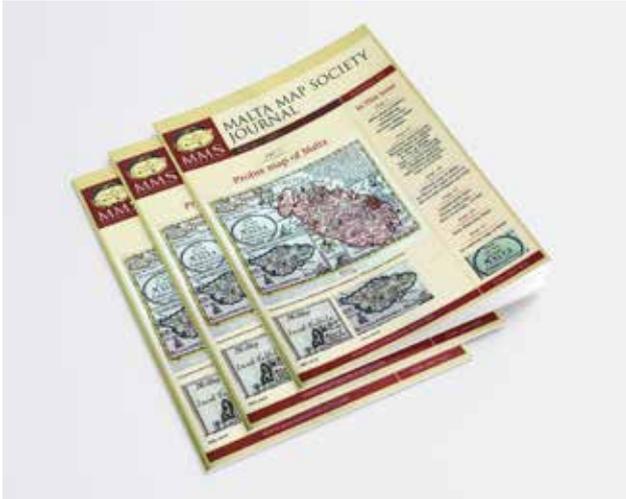
This manuscript was bought in Cairo in 1807 by the German explorer Ulrich Jasper Seetzen who presented it to his noble patrons, the Dukes of Saxony-Gotha-Altenburg. It was later integrated into the holdings of the Forschungsbibliothek Gotha. Its collection of oriental manuscripts (over 3 000 volumes) is the third largest of its kind in Germany.

Further reading: Gerald R. Tibbetts: 'The Balkhi School of Geographers', in: J.B.Harley/David Woodward (ed.), *The History of Cartography*, Vol. 2, Book 1: *Cartography in the Traditional Islamic and South Asian Societies*, Chicago 1992, pp. 108-136 (available on-line). (Based on information obtained, with thanks, from Dr Mareike Beez, Forschungsbibliothek Gotha)

Malta Map Society launches its Journal

By Wulf Bodenstein

In *Maps in History*, No 52 (May, 2015), we gave a brief account of a special edition of the Newsletter which the Malta Map Society published in January, 2015. This was to mark the fifth anniversary of this very active map society. With 76 pages it was also the most voluminous of all 9 issues, and the last of the Newsletters to appear.



Malta MMS Journal cover

But, rest assured, the disappearance of this publication in its modest A-5 format heralded the arrival of the *Malta Map Society Journal*, the first edition of which (Volume 1 – Issue 1) has just come out. As Editor Joseph Schirò explains in the Editorial, members of the MMS were unanimous in considering that the quality and number of the articles published made the newsletter more of a journal than a newsletter. It was also felt that a larger format (i.e. A-4) would facilitate better reading of the maps and other illustrations which accompany the articles.

Looking at this new publication of 44 pages, produced on strong paper and in colour throughout, one cannot agree more. The first article is by Michael Ritter who curated the splendid Exhibition of Lotter maps in Augsburg (reviewed in *Maps in History* No 50, September 2014). He presents Malta maps published in Augsburg, with 22 colour illustrations, as an update of the catalogue *German Malta Maps* produced by the MMS in 2011. MMS President Albert Ganado contributes two articles, one on late 18th century French fortification plans of Valletta, and another on the so far unknown Maltese cartographer Antonio Crespi's *Pianta della città et delle isole di Malta*. Joseph Schirò offers an analysis of a French spy map of about the same period, and Rod Lyon adds an article on *Early Malta Bus Maps* (early 20th century). Joseph Schirò closes this volume with a cartographic curiosity, a tombstone map in St. John's Cathedral (Valletta) with an epitaph bearing

the message 'Venit hora eius. Veniet et tua' (His hour came – yours will come, too). So – long life to the MMS and all lovers of old maps.

ICA Commission on the History of Cartography – New Management

The 27th International Cartographic Conference and 16th General Assembly of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 23– 28 August 2015.

The General Assembly elected Dr Imre Josef Demhardt as the new Chair of the Commission on the History of Cartography, succeeding Elri Liebenberg (Chair 2007–2015). He will be supported by Dr Mirela Slukan Altic (as Vice-Chair) and by Soetkin Vervust (as Secretary / Web Content Manager).

The Brussels Map Circle wishes this new management team every success, pledging that it will pursue the fruitful cooperation exemplified last year with the organisation of the Joint Symposium 'Mapping in Times of War' in Ghent.

In Memoriam Thomas D. Goodrich (1927 – 2015)



Dr. Thomas D. Goodrich, born 1927, died on 5 November 2015. He was a foremost academic expert on the history of the Ottoman period, particularly on its maps; and was a pioneer of that field in the United States.

After studying at the University of California (BA in history, 1952; MA in social studies, 1953) he went to Turkey and taught maths for a few years. He then returned to the US to study at Columbia University, where he obtained a Middle East certificate and a PhD in history (1968). His thesis was expanded and published as *The Ottoman Turks and the New World: A Study of Tarih-i Hind-i Garbi and Sixteenth Century Ottoman America*. (Wiesbaden: Otto Harassowitz, 1990), which became a recognised reference work in that field.

Tom was Professor of history at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania for many years (1967–94), doing research and publishing on Ottoman knowledge of America and Europe and also Ottoman maps. In retirement he continued studying and publishing on that topic. In 2012, he was honoured by the publication of a Festschrift,

followed by having two volumes of the Journal of Ottoman Studies dedicated to him.

He was also an active contributor to the Washington Map Society and IMCoS.

Paris Map Fair participation by the Brussels Map Circle

By Alex Smit (alex.smit@orange.fr)

As in previous years the BRUSSELS MAP CIRCLE participated with a stand at the Paris Map & Travel Book Fair held in the Ambassador Hotel on Saturday 5 November 2015. Pierre Dumolin and Alex Smit were present at the Fair to represent our Circle, distribute our Newsletters to interested visitors and explain our activities with the objective to enroll new members (see picture).



As usual the Fair had a very international participation with exhibitors from six European countries and the USA and Canada, but five less than last year. This caused the organiser, Librairie Loeb-Larocque, to reduce the fair from three to two exhibition rooms. The number of visitors seemed about the same as last year, with many important buyers being present. Thanks to newspaper publicity by the organiser, it was good to see quite a number of first time visitors, not yet familiar with cartography.

In general the exhibitors expressed concern about the well-known ageing population of the collectors and the lack of younger persons to enter the field as buyers. This trend is continuing since many years now and is resulting in a much more difficult and more competitive business for the dealers with a well noticeable pressure on prices. As in past years there was a very active business between exhibitors, notably with the Americans. In general the exhibitors' feedback regarding their sales results with collectors was rather disappointing, with a few exceptions to the contrary. This was mainly driven by lower pricing. Some exhibitors had reduced their offering appreciably, considering that the Fair mainly served to establish contacts. The Fair continues to be a very interesting venue for collectors, but the declining trend of the Fair is a concern for the organiser and exhibitors as well.

As usual there were very interesting maps, atlases and books on display. For example our sponsor Sanderus displayed several Leo Belgicus maps (from Van den Keere/Kaerius and Visscher) and a very rare and an interesting mappemonde, dated around 1690, by the Dutch engraver and cartographer Gerard Valck, printed in the Wakkere Grond in Amsterdam and not listed by Shirley.

Maastricht Antiquarian Book & Print Fair 2016

11, 12 & 13 March
(During TEFAF)

**The St. Jan Church
Vrijthof Maastricht**

Opening hours
Friday 14:00 - 19:00 hrs
Saturday 10:00 - 18:00 hrs
Sunday 10:00 - 17:00 hrs

Information
www.mabp.eu
info@mabp.eu



mabp
gifs editions

Events calendar

'MAPS AND SOCIETY' LECTURES SERIES, LONDON

Lectures in the history of cartography convened by Catherine Delano-Smith (Institute of Historical Research, University of London), Tony Campbell (formerly Map Library, British Library), and Alessandro Scafi (Warburg Institute).

Construction and Reconstruction: Investigating How Portolan Maps Were Produced by Reproducing a Fifteenth-Century Chart of the Mediterranean

4 February 2016

Lecture by Dr Kevin Sheehan (Librarian and independent scholar, Durham University).

Cartography in the Sands: Mapping Oman at 1:100 000 and Fixing the Position of the Kuria Muria Islands in 1984

25 February 2016

Lecture by Major Tony Keeley (Royal School of Military Survey, Thatcham, Berkshire)

Mental Maps of the World in Great Britain and France, 1870-1914

10 March 2016

Lecture by Dr Isabelle Avila (Lecturer, University of Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée, France)

Cultural Landscape in Early Modern Jewish and Christian Maps of the Holy Land

14 April 2016

Lecture by Dr Pnina Arad (Research Fellow, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel)

Cartography and Captivity during the Napoleonic Conflicts, 1803-1815

28 April 2016

Lecture by Dr Elodie Duché (Alan Pearsall Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute of Historical Research, University of London)

Paid to do a Hobby: A Map Dealer's Reflections on the Last Forty-five Years

12 May 2016

Lecture by Jonathan Potter (Jonathan Potter Ltd)

Venue: Warburg Institute, School of Advanced Study, University of London, Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB
 Contact: Catherine Delano-Smith
 Telephone: +44 20 8346 5112
 E-mail: tony@tonycampbell.info
 Time schedule: 17.00
 Entry fee: Admission is free and each meeting is followed by refreshments.
www.maphistory.info/warburgprog.html

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY CONFERENCES, UK

Plans of London buildings drawn c. 1450-1720

23 February 2016

Alexander Ogg (1811-65): surveyor, farmer and gold prospector, Aberdeenshire and New Zealand

3 May 2016

Conference by Dr Douglas Lockhart (Formerly University of Keele)

Venue: Gardner Room, Emmanuel College, St Andrew's Street, Cambridge, England CB2 3AP
 Contact: Sarah Bendall
 Telephone: +44 (0) 1223 330476
 E-mail: sarah.bendall@emma.cam.ac.uk
 Time schedule: 17.30
[www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/cartog\[...\]](http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/cartog[...])

MILANO MAP FAIR

27 February 2016

Ancient maps and city views

Venue: Hotel Michelangelo, Milano
 From 11.00 to 18.00
info@milanomapfair.it
www.milanomapfair.it

THE OXFORD SEMINARS IN CARTOGRAPHY

Marco Polo and maps: the question of evidence

3 March 2016

Conference by Benjamin Olshin, University of the Arts, Philadelphia

Venue: Weston Library Lecture Theatre, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BC

Oxford and cosmopolitan science in Greenland, 1920-1940

12 May 2016

Conference by Richard Powell, School of Geography, Oxford

Venue: School of Geography and the Environment, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3QY
 Time schedule: 16.30 - 18.00
 Contact: Nick Millea, Map Librarian, Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BC
 Telephone: +44 1865 287119
 E-mail: nick.millea@bodleian.ox.ac.uk
www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/maps

MAASTRICHT ANTIQUARIAN BOOK AND PRINT FAIR

11 - 13 March 2016

Venue: The St-Jan Church, Vrijthof, Maastricht
 Opening Hours: Friday 14.00 - 19.00, Saturday 10.00 - 18.00, Sunday 10.00 - 17.00
 Info: www.mabp.eu, info@mabp.eu

11. INTERNATIONALE ATLAS-TAGE 2016 [11TH INTERNATIONAL ATLAS DAYS]

1 April 2016 – 3 April 2016
Schwerte, Deutschland

Venue: Haus Villigst, Iserlohner Str. 25,
58239 Schwerte
Contact: Jürgen Espenhorst

6° SIMPOSIO IBEROAMERICANO DE HISTORIA DE LA CARTOGRAFÍA (6SIAHC)

19 April 2016 – 21 April 2016
Santiago de Chile, Chile



View of Santiago de Chile. Brambila,
Fernando (1764 - 1834)

Org. Universidad de Chile | Pontificia
Universidad Católica de Chile

Venue Universidades de Chile y Católica
de Chile
Contact: Alejandra Vega (coordinadora
Comité Organizador Local), Centro de
Estudios Culturales Latinoamericanos
Facultad de Filosofía y Humanidades
Universidad de Chile Av. Ignacio Carrera
Pinto 1025, 2° piso Ñuñoa, Santiago
Telephone: +56 29787139
E-mail: 6siahc@gmail.com

3RD ISHMAP SYMPOSIUM ENCOUNTERS AND TRANSLATIONS: MAPPING AND WRITING THE WATERS OF THE WORLD

3 June 2016 – 4 June 2016
Lisbon, Portugal

Org. ISHMap in collaboration with the
Centro Interuniversitario das Ciências
e da Tecnologia (CIUHCT), University
of Lisbon, and the Biblioteca Nacional
de Portugal (BNP)



Atlas nautique Med (JF Roussin, 1660)

The Third ISHMap symposium will
be held on Friday, 3rd and Saturday,
4th June 2016 at the Auditório BNP,
National Library of Portugal, Lisbon.

Local organizer: Thomas Horst (Trustee
of ISHMap and Postdoc at the CIUHCT).
Representatives of the local partners:
Antonio Sanchez Martinez (CIUHCT),
João Carlos García (University of Porto
and CIUHCT) and Maria Joaquina
Esteves Feijão (Curator of the Maps at
the National Library of Portugal).

The Scientific committee responsible
for the content of the programme is
Thomas Horst (Chair), Antti Jakobson
(ISHMap trustee, Finland), Júnia
Ferreira Furtado (ISHMap trustee,
Brazil), Mary Sponberg Pedley (ISHMap
member, USA), Petra Svatek (ISHMap
trustee, Austria) and Emmanuelle
Vagnon (ISHMap trustee, France).

Venue: Auditório BNP, National Library of
Portugal, Lisbon
ciuhct.org/pt/activity/ishmap-symposium-lisbon-2016

ON THE ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF PORTOLAN CHARTS. FIRST INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

6 June 2016 – 7 June 2016
Lisbon, Portugal

Org. Interuniversity Centre for the
History of Science and Technology,
University of Lisbon (CIUHCT) and the
National Library of Portugal (BNP)

Venue Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal,
Campo Grande 83, 1749-081 Lisboa
Entry fee: The event will be free of charges.
ciuhct.org/events/portmeeting

THE DISSEMINATION OF CARTOGRAPHIC KNOWLEDGE: PRODUCTION – TRADE – CONSUMPTION – PRESERVATION

13 October 2016 – 14 October 2016
Dubrovnik, Croatia

Org. The ICA Commission on the
History of Cartography together
with the ICA Commission on Map
Production and Geoinformation
Management, the ICA Commission on
Use, User, and Usability Issues, and the
Institute of Social Sciences 'Ivo Pilar'

Venue Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik
www.histacartodubrovnik2016.com

Exhibitions calendar

Handwritten in stone : how William Smith and his maps changed geology

9 October 2015 – 31 January 2016
Oxford, U.K.



Org. Museum of Natural History

There are also accompanying events:

Tuesday 13 October, 18.00 – 19.00.

Lecture: 'The map that changed the World' by Simon Winchester

Tuesday 3 November, 18.00 – 19.00.

Lecture: 'Mapping the Himalaya – the legacy of William Smith' by Mike Searle

Saturday 21 November, 10.00 – 17.00.

Day school: 'How to read geological maps'. GBP 65.00. Book at www.bit.ly/mhnevents

Venue: Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PW
Contact: Nick Millea
Telephone: +44 1865 272950
E-mail: nick.millea@bodleian.ox.ac.uk
Time schedule: 10.00 – 17.00
Entry fee: Admission Free
www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/maps

Au Milieu du monde : Namur – Cartes et plans, 16^e – 21^e siècle [Namur in the Middle of the World: Plans and maps, 16th–21st century]

Until 31 January 2016
Namur, Belgium

Org. Archaeological society Namur

The exhibition reveals how Namur occupies a position of prime importance since the 16th century at the heart of political and strategic issues, at the crossroads, as tourist capital and, now, as regional capital.

To know a specific location, discover the whole Earth, move, measure distances, have various data reinterpret the world ... the uses of a map are numerous and

vary according to the objective and context of creation. Whether ancient or contemporary, a map can thus be geopolitical, philosophical, military, touristic or artistic. To understand this particular media, the exhibition has different modules from the history of cartography to its use in contemporary art, through measurement instruments and 'below the maps'.

Venue: TreM.a, Hotel Gaiffier d'Hestroy, Rue de Fer 24, 5000 Namur.
Time schedule: Tuesday to Sunday 10.00 – 18.00. Monday closed.
www.lasan.be/flash/expositions/58-expo-au-milieu-du-monde

Op zoek naar Van Santen & de kleuren van de Gouden Eeuw [Looking for Van Santen & the colors of the Golden Century]

Until 31 January 2016
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Org. University of Amsterdam (UvA)

Venue: Old Turfmarkt 129, 1012 GC Amsterdam
[bijzonderecollecties.uva.nl/nieuws-agenda/tentoonstell\[...\]](http://bijzonderecollecties.uva.nl/nieuws-agenda/tentoonstell[...])

De Atlassen [The Atlases]

Until 2 April 2016
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Org. Het Scheepvaartmuseum



Atlas Ortelius 1597-Het-Scheepvaartmuseum

Venue: Kattenburgerplein 1, 1018 KK Amsterdam
[www.hetscheepvaartmuseum.nl/ontdek/tentoonstellingen\[...\]](http://www.hetscheepvaartmuseum.nl/ontdek/tentoonstellingen[...])

Made in Algeria – Généalogie d'un territoire [Genealogy of a territory]

19 January – 2 May 2016
Marseille, France



This is the first major exhibition ever devoted to the representation of a territory and its manufacturing: that of Algeria. For this event, rare maps from the Defence History Service will be exhibited for the first time.

They show how the map invention accompanied the conquest of Algeria and its description. Major works, in particular those from the Palace of Versailles illustrating the conquest of Algeria, will finally be presented again to the public. Contemporary designs, some made of unpublished iconographic material, will be inaugurated.

Zahia Rahmani, head of Art and Globalization', INHA

Jean-Yves Sarazin, Directeur du Département des cartes et plans, BnF

Venue: MuCEM, 7 Promenade Robert Laffont, 13002 Marseille
mia.hypotheses.org/140

Quando l'Italia designava il mondo [When Italy was drawing the world]

19 February – 22 May 2016
Bergamo, Italy

Cartographic treasures of the Renaissance presented by Associazione Almagià.

Venue: Palazzo del Podesta, Piazza vecchia, Bergamo
www.associazioneamagia.it

Auction calendar

De Eland

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

31 January, 10 April, 19 June 2016

Bubb Kuyper

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

24/27 May, 22/25 November 2016

Paulus Swaen Internet Auctions

www.swaen.com
paulus@swaen.com

*16/23 February, 15/22 March,
12/19 April, 17/24 May 2016*

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

*22 March, 21 June,
18 October, 13 December 2016*

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

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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

5 March 2016

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

19/20 February 2016

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

22/23 April 2016

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

18/19 March 2016

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

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David Raes

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david@mindseye.be

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F. Devroe

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Fax +32 (0)9 223 39 71
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www.sanderusmaps.com

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dieter.d@planet.nl

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The Brussels Map Circle

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 special 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 Afternoon 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 Maps in History formerly known as 'BIMCC Newsletter', three times a year and maintains a website.

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www.bimcc.org
info@bimcc.org

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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) indicating your name and address.

MAPS IN HISTORY

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 26 different countries.

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

- 15 March for the May edition.
- 15 July for the September 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) who will arrange for their review by a member of the Circle.



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