The Medici in cartography

Valentijn's map of The Cape

Early maps of Indonesia - Conference programme

Last 'Events Calendar'
Intro

Dear Map Friends,

Here is the May issue of 'Maps in History' you have been waiting for! Sorry for the delay. But we are all volunteers on the editorial team, working on our spare time and, as retirees, we have less and less of it!

This issue is focussed on the cartographic treasures of Florence at the time of the Medici: our long time member Alex Smit shares with us his passion for that extraordinary city. We also have another article by Roger Stewart on a rare map of The Cape. Among our usual features, you will find the calendars of ‘events’ and ‘exhibitions’... for the last time: from now on you will receive instead an electronic notice – which we call ‘WhatsMap’ – pointing out our next activities and noteworthy agenda items, with hyperlinks to the detailed information on our website; we think that this way – better adapted to this time and age – will be more efficient and more reactive. If you have not received the first issues of WhaMap, make sure to send us your e-mail address; and do not hesitate to inform us of events and news you would like to share with other members.

In the next issue of this magazine, you will get the full report of our recent activities: the Annual General Meeting and Map Afternoon (on 22 April) and our excursion to The Hague (6 May), to visit the fascinating exhibition on the archives of the VOC (Dutch United East-India Company). Our next major activity this year will be our International Conference devoted to Indonesia, in the framework of the Europalia cultural festival; the tentative programme of lectures given in this issue will be finalised in September; but book the date already now: 9 December 2017.

Cartographically yours.

Jean-Louis Renteux
Vice-President & Editor
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The Room of Geographical Maps in the Palazzo Vecchio (Firenze).
In its centre the more than 2m diameter globe completed by Egnazio Danti in 1771.
‘Enlarging the world’

Chambéry, France, 14 September 2016 – 15 February 2017

The major discoveries of new and, until then, unknown territories in the world which really started in the 17th century, continue to receive much attention with excellent exhibitions in different countries. In France, with the main focus on Paris, it is relatively little known that the town of Chambéry in the Savoie region possesses in its municipal library a very vast and excellent collection of atlases and maps. Recently its Médiathèque Jean-Jacques Rousseau organised a very interesting and excellently presented exhibition under the theme Enlarging the World – Geographic Maps and Travel Books [Agrandir le Monde – Cartes Géographiques & Livres de Voyage XVe – XVIIIe Siècle]. Simultaneously at the Bibliothèques municipales de Chambéry, CAR MON A 7, this collection of several thousand maps, atlases and travel books is organised in three parts:

• Old maps and atlases of the world
• Maps of Africa of the 19th century
• Maps and city plans of Chambéry

This collection of maps, atlases and travel books is classified and digitized recently. The exhibition is showing a selection of these maps for the very first time. Our honorary president Wulf Bodenstein was consulted regarding the display of maps of Africa.

Several very important maps and atlases are on display, such as from Ramusio (with one of the first maps of south-east Asia), Münster, Mercator, Ortelius, Blaeu and Janssoniuss. And, for example, a map of the Dutch cartographer Cornelius Nicolai showing the three expeditions of Willem Barents in the Arctic Ocean in his effort to find a Northeast passage to Asia (see picture). Also the first maps of North America and New Amsterdam [today: New York] from Janssonius and Visscher.

The exhibition and the catalogue, prepared under the direction of Emilie Tufféry, Geographer, consisting that none of them had a specific previous knowledge of cartography. Scientific advice was provided by Prof. Christian Grataloup, Geohistorian of the University Paris VII Denis-Diderot and also Prof. Jean-Louis Tissier, of the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and Christophe Ramond, Geographer. Around this exhibition a very extensive and impressive programme with over 100 activities was organised in Chambéry, with among others frequent guided tours, lectures, workshops and films, with specific activities for children. Over 3000 children visited the exhibition with their school classes for a total of about 15 000 visitors. A great success.

The exhibition was initially held from 14 September 2016 until 14 January 2017 but, due to its success, it was prolonged for an extra month.

More detailed information on this exhibition, related activities and the Library’s maps and atlases can be consulted on the following web sites:

• Exhibition : www.voyageursdesavoie-bmchambery.fr
• Library : http://bibliothque-numerique.chambery.fr
• Full program: www.chambery.fr/bibliotheques

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Alex Smit
Vincenzo Coronelli - Cosmographer (1650 – 1718)

by Marica Milanesi

Volume 13 in the Series Terrarum Orbis under the direction of Patrick Gautier Dalché and Nathalie Bouloux.


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Mention the name of Coronelli, and one immediately thinks of globes. In 1692, his long-standing mental association inspired some collectors of globes in Vienna to found a circle of specialists which became the International Coronelli Society for the Study of Globes, the only scientific Society exclusively devoted to globes. A major event that brought Coronelli into the limelight more recently was the installation of the restored giant globes of King Louis XIV on the François Mitterrand site of the Bibliothèque nationale in Paris in 2006 (see my note in BIMCC Newsletter No 28, May 2007, p. 10).

But there is obviously more to this Venetian celebrity than globemaking, as the title of Marica Milanesi’s book suggests. The author began studying the subject almost twenty years ago within the wider aim of gaining a deeper knowledge of geographical culture at the end of the seventeenth century. The sum of this work, partly as the title of Marica Milanesi’s book suggests. The author began studying the subject almost twenty years ago within the wider aim of gaining a deeper knowledge of geographical culture at the end of the seventeenth century. The sum of this work, partly

The second Part of the book unfolds the fascinating story of the making of the ‘Globes for a King’. With a description of the diverse roles played by carpenters, mathematicians, artists, historians and other scientists, Milanesi exposes the scope of an enterprise of unheard-of proportions. An example of its iconographic splendour is the detail of the terrestrial globe shown on the book cover: a pedestal supporting the king’s bust displays a magnificent dedication to the Auguste de Louis le Grand, with the personifications of History, Astronomy and Geography at its left.

Whereas the earth globe reflected ‘state-of-the-art’ acquaintance with the world of the end of the 17th century, its celestial counterpart had a mission to perform. In the dedication cartouche to the king, Cardinal d’Estrees states that all the Stars of the Firmament and the Planets have been placed in the same position in which they were at the birth of this glorious Monarch. To top this off, a horoscope for his date of birth, 9 September 1688, was also painted in the southern hemisphere. The author’s attention to intimate details of this historical phase in the history of globes is of particular appeal.

Upon his return to Venice, Coronelli built reduced copies of the giant globes, and this became a flourishing enterprise of unheard-of proportions. In 1691 the first part of his Atlante di Stati disappeared. To intimate details of this historical phase in the history of globes is of particular appeal.

Theatrum Orbis Terrarum, Fourth Series, Vol. V (1696). Marica Milanesi respectfully amends, in some places, the foreword by the celebrated map historian Helen Wallis.

Eight Chapters in Part III cover Coronelli’s other activities in Venice. Around 1684, together with a group of brothers from the Frari (the Laboratorio dei Frari), he produced maps of the war against the Turks. In 1686 Jean-Baptiste Nolin was contracted in Paris to engrave and later sell Coronelli’s maps, a fruitful relationship that lasted until 1692. In 1691 the first part of his Atlante Veneto was put on sale, later earning him the title of Cosmographer of the Republic of Venice. A second part, an island book (Isolario), was added in 1697. Marica Milanesi here admirably succeeds in unravelling the complicated history of Coronelli’s role as a designer of maps, compiler of atlases, books on geography and of an Epitome cosmografica which he developed from a handbook on the use of globes to a cosmography textbook.

In Part IV Milanesi evokes the stage on which Coronelli operated, between curiosity and science, and analyses his mode of operation. For a certain time, the creation of the Accademia Cosmografica degli Argonauti in the 1660’s gave him a scholarly status. Contrary, however, to the image he presented of himself to his contemporaries, he was not a mathematician, nor an astronomer or topographer. In his work he persistently chose to ignore the contemporary debates over longitude or the measurements of the earth, and Milanesi describes him as appearing to be more of a craftsman than a true savant. He had a pronounced gift though for making a name for himself in academic, ecclesiastical and political circles.

Finally, Part V contains nine Annexes with examples of correspondence and catalogues of printed works and maps. Collectors will particularly appreciate the listings of maps by Coronelli and those engraved by Nolin (annexes 3 to 9). A list of fifty cited works by Coronelli, a bibliography, two indexes and forty-four colour plates complete this work.

Beautifully edited, documented and illustrated, Marica Milanesi’s biography represents a turning point in our appreciation of Vincenzo Coronelli’s life and work, hitherto based on some preconceived ideas about his more spectacular achievements. This colourful Venetian personality comes to life, with all his successes and failures, in the inspired portrayal of the social and intellectual environment that prevailed in Europe in his time.

Engaged by Cardinal d’Estrees, French ambassador in Rome, he moved to Paris in 1681 to organise the manufacture of the famous giant painted globes (3.85 m in diameter) which d’Estrees offered Louis XIV for his Versailles palace, then under construction. Back in Venice in 1685, Coronelli turned to producing printed globes, maps, and atlases, all of which are addressed in the next four parts of the book. Apart from the enormous output of cartographic material he became involved in public works that included river and lake hydrantics. However, he fell into disgrace of ecclesiastical institutions and of the Republic of Venice on account of some doubt about the quality of his work, embarrassing financial debts and alleged disobedience. He suddenly died in 1718, still trying to re-establish his position through new projects for globes and publications.
**Mapping Antarctica**

A five hundred year record of discovery

By Robert Clancy, John Manning and Henk Brolsma

Dordrecht: Springer Praxis, 2014, 323 pp., 130 colour & 33 b/w photos, illustrations and maps, hard cover.


Like 99.95% of the world population I have not been on Antarctica, the 6th and last continent on this planet Earth to be discovered and explored. This new 323-page, fully illustrated, book fills the gap in knowledge of a European, curious by nature and interested in discoveries and cartography on this cold subject.

No, there are no polar bears in Antarctica, but there are seals and whales: that is the general knowledge of most of my compatriots, when discussing the South Pole region. The book helps us in the history of the southern continent, or ‘Terra Australis Incognita’, as it was called on some of the earliest maps.

After an introduction, each of the ten subject chapters is chronologically developed. Experiences from North Pole expeditions helped to prepare the adventure in the southern seas and to find and settle near the South Pole. Looking for profit and claiming land for their country have been the motivations of most of my compatriots, when looking for land after France lost territories in the 18th century. Otto Nordenskiöld sailed the South Pole far beyond the pack ice, the International Geographical Congress of 1895 in London focused interest on Antarctica. France concentrated on the Pacific Ocean and its southern regions. Captain Dumont d’Urville wanted to conquer land after France lost territories in North America and he was looking also for the south magnetic Pole. The USA was looking for seals. Over a couple of years the seal population was severely slaughtered and 120 000 skins came from the South Shetland Islands. Sir James Ross mentioned whales during his voyages and after slaughtering the big mammals, the English introduced regulations on sealing and, from 1818, on whaling which became the convention on banning sealing in the Falklands.

The first chapter describes the research for the North East and South Pole regions by English and Dutch merchants looking for a shorter and safer route to the spice countries, building up experience in navigation and survival techniques; it is illustrated with the Ortelius world map of 1570, the Gerard Mercator map of the North Pole and eight other circumpolar maps by, e.g., Nordsensköld, Amundsen and Peary to show their routes.

The second chapter focuses on the incentives of English and Dutch Protestants looking for a northern passage, whilst Catholic Spain and Portugal circumnavigated Africa and South America, to concentrate on seals and – later – extensive exploitation of whales, joined by Christin Christensen of Norway, first near Spitsbergen (part of today’s Svalbard) and later near Antarctica.

A historic overview of maps from Claudius Ptolemy to Captain James Cook illustrates the research for land in the southern seas: ‘Terra Australis Incognita’ was to counterbalance the northern continents. Abel Tasman circumnavigated Australia reducing dramatically the presumed southern landmass that was depicted on maps for nearly 300 years. Cook had set the scene for Antarctic exploration by reporting colonies of seals along the Scotia Arc. Illustrations show the evolution in mapmaking from a ‘T-G’ map, the 1482 Ptolemy world map, the 1513 Nova, et integra universi orbis descriptio by Fine, the 1595 Mercator world map showing Terra Australis, the Maris Pacifici by Ortelius (1595), and maps of Delfse and the Orpho terrarum Niva of N. Visscher, lacking a south polar landmass.

Since Captain Cook circumnavigated the South Pole far beyond the pack ice, the International Geographical Congress of 1895 in London focused interest on Antarctica. France concentrated on the Pacific Ocean and its southern regions. Captain Dumont d’Urville wanted to conquer land after France lost territories in North America and he was looking also for the south magnetic Pole. The USA was looking for seals. Over a couple of years the seal population was severely slaughtered and 120 000 skins came from the South Shetland Islands. Sir James Ross mentioned whales during his voyages and after slaughtering the big mammals, the English introduced regulations on sealing and, from 1818, on whaling which became the convention on banning sealing in the Falklands.

Wilks gathered a great quantity of surveying data to be published in eighteen volumes and elf atlases of plates. In this period they all had to adapt to sail at 70 south. Scientists concentrated on geomagnetism and found the magnetic pole at 76°S and 117°E. W. Thompson expanded oceanic surveying and Sir John Murray edited 50 volumes in 1891, supporting the idea of an Antarctic continent. Charles Enderby, a founder member of the Royal Geographical Society in 1830, was less fortunate as a businessman but he was a catalyst for international research in Antarctica. Borchgrevink claimed to be the first to have set foot on the Antarctic continent. The RGS sponsored many expeditions and reported on these in its publications. Around the end of the 19th century winter bases were set up and interior exploration could start. Fourteen maps illustrate the approach of the continent during this period.

A chapter is devoted to the heroic age of exploration. Baron Adrien de Gerlache de Gomery sailed through the strait that received his name in 1897/8 and got stuck in the ice; Roald Amundsen and Frederick Cook were some of his companions. They were the first to spend a full winter in Antarctica and it took a great effort to free the ship. During their winter on the ice shelf they performed scientific experiments but suffered from scurvy. Some of the crew went insane, one wanted to walk back to Belgium.

The British concentrated on the Ross Sea in the beginning of the 20th century. Otto Nordensköld sailed with the Antarctica to Snow Hill Island; their ship sunk and they were rescued by an Argentine boat. In the ship ‘Gauss’ a German expedition led by Erich Dreydaski ventured onto land and climbed the volcano he named Gaussberg.

The race to get to the South Pole had started. Shackleton and three companions approached to within 110 miles, after a journey of 6060 miles, mapping the mountains and the Beardmore Glacier. Amundsen with four companions and four dog sledges departed on 29 October 1911, arrived at the South Pole on 15 December, and planted the Norwegian flag; the best known is probably Scott’s journey from the Weddell Sea. This chapter is illustrated with 21 maps describing the expeditions and the routes reaching the South Pole.

In Chapter 6 Antarctica is discovered from the air. Hubert Wilkins and Ben Eielson used aircraft, before attempts over the North Pole, and discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here. Richard Byrd dominated Antarctic exploration from 1928-1950 through well-organised expeditions and, discovered mountain chains; this is well illustrated here.
and west bases. BANZARE (British, Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expeditions) organised two international expeditions in the 1930s and confirmed the interest of these countries in Antarctic scientific research. Another eight maps illustrate these discoveries and mapping.

Chapter 7 describes the historic territorial claims by the United Kingdom, USA and USSR (since 1991: Russia) are explained with another 20 maps to illustrate their activities and mapping.

From 1992 to 2010 sees mapping use ground control points to improve the quality of photo-photogrammetry with the introduction of tellurometers, Doppler and sonar technology and GPS. These techniques enabled precisions and indirect measures, unheard of before. Amongst many surveyors, our colleague Alan Fredric Doppler and sonar technology and GPS. These techniques enabled

The ninth chapter focuses on international scientific contributions in different sciences and many treaties: Antarctic Treaty, ATCM, COMNAP, CEP, CCAMLR, ACAP: all acronyms for treaties to avoid exploitation of the wilderness and to promote better environmental awareness of the global community. Signing the Madrid protocol (1992) ensures a better protection and study of the Antarctic environment. The detailed maps also focus on altitudes and the Vinson Massif at 4897 m.

The tenth and final chapter deals with the evolution of knowledge of Antarctica through atlases, with another 23 illustrations of Terra Australis Incognita.

Conclusion: A historic and accurate study of the last continent to be discovered, through original maps and atlases, very well documented by the triumvirate authorship.

For a next edition I could suggest adding a separate larger map of Antarctica on a larger scale, like the one the National Geographic Society published, so the reader could follow the texts and place names not to be found on too small illustrations. The quality of the printed maps does not equal the ‘coffee table book’, and many half pages are left blank by the publisher.

This book has taught me a lot about the southern continent, its discoveries and explorations.

Las islas del fin del mundo. Representación de las Afortunadas en los mapas del Occidente medieval.

by Kevin R. Wittmann


The islands of the end of the world. Depiction of the Fortunate Isles on the maps of the medieval West

The Fortunate Isles, also called the Islands of the Blessed and often described with paradisiacal attributes, were in classic Antiquity a remote archipelago located at the west end of the known world, in what we now call the Atlantic Ocean. How these semi-legendary territories were depicted on medieval maps is the subject of a recently published monograph by Kevin R. Wittmann.

The author is currently completing a PhD at La Laguna University, in the Canary Islands, one of the archipelagos that has traditionally been identified with the Fortunate Isles. Wittmann wrote this book because he realized there was a gap in historians’ knowledge of how the Fortunates were drawn on maps in the Middle Ages, particularly before the 14th century.

The book is not only a carto-bibliography however. Wittmann is particularly interested in the history of mentalities, so he analyzed each cartographic depiction and compared it with a large corpus of textual sources in order to gain insights about the perceptions and intentions of the people who drew those semi-legendary territories on medieval maps. After discussing quite in depth the concept of island in the Middle Ages, the book observes that three types of graphic representation of the Fortunate Isles can be distinguished in mappaemundi. One tradition depicts this territory as a single landmass in the western ocean. Another group of works represents the Fortunates as six islands, with names that often go back to Roman author Pliny the Elder. Finally, several later mappaemundi - some of them very well known like the Hereford map - associate the Fortunate Isles with another legendary island, St Brandan’s.

Furthermore, a more empirical representation of the Atlantic archipelagos emerges with portolan charts, from the 14th century on. The number, position and shape of the Canary islands is shown quite accurately in portolan charts but they do not fully replace traditional depictions of the Fortunate Isles, which survive until the end of the Middle Ages in a quite remarkable overlap of different cartographic traditions, sometimes in one and the same map. In my opinion, Wittmann succeeds in his stated goal, bringing to attention medieval maps that have often been overlooked in the study of Atlantic archipelagos and gaining new insights from the combination of textual and graphic traditions. He reveals how different mindsets - myth, literature, encyclopaedism or empiricism - influenced different styles of representation. The book is also a significant contribution to the history of the names of each Canary Island. One aspect I missed in the study, however, is the discussion of maps included in manuscripts of Ptolemy’s Geography. Are there variations in the ways that they represent the Fortunate Isles and did they influence other medieval cartographic traditions?

Those questions are not addressed in Wittmann’s book and may need to wait for some future publication. Another minor point for improvement is that, while the book includes numerous illustrations, it could still have benefited from a digital companion – in CD or online – showing high-resolution images of all 34 cited maps.

Overall, this is a solidly scholarly book that should be read by those interested in medieval cartography or the history of Atlantic archipelagos, and also by those who wish to learn more about the evolution of these depictions of the Fortunate Isles, which survive until the end of the Middle Ages in a quite remarkable overlap of different cartographic traditions, sometimes in one and the same map. In my opinion, Wittmann succeeds in his stated goal, bringing to attention medieval maps that have often been overlooked in the study of Atlantic archipelagos and gaining new insights from the combination of textual and graphic traditions. He reveals how different mindsets - myth, literature, encyclopaedism or empiricism - influenced different styles of representation. The book is also a significant contribution to the history of the names of each Canary Island. One aspect I missed in the study, however, is the discussion of maps included in manuscripts of Ptolemy’s Geography. Are there variations in the ways that they represent the Fortunate Isles and did they influence other medieval cartographic traditions?

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This is a truly splendid work which rewrites the history of the mapping of the Indian Ocean from Antiquity to the end of the 16th century, setting out the circulation of knowledge, mapping traditions and images of the area. It is the fruit of the Mefian – Les sociétés méditerranéennes et l’océan Indien – research programme, enhanced by a number of French institutions – universities, libraries, and so on. Alongside the research itself a week-long conference was held in Paris each year from 2009-12. The papers from these sessions, plus those from additional study days, focussed on the history of the Indian Ocean – its archaeology, literary and geographical texts, and maps. The ‘L’âge d’or des cartes marines, Quand l’Europe découvrait le monde’ exhibition in Paris, October 2012 – January 2013 (see MIH No 43), which many map lovers in Europe will have visited, plus the accompanying conference, were the first manifestation of the results of the research work. The aim of this book is to delve further into the topic, to accompany the conference, were the first manifestation of the results of the research work. The aim of this book is to delve further into the topic.

The book is a real example of teamwork. Fourteen authors have contributed papers to the book, working out of France, the UK, Portugal, the USA, India and South Africa. They bring a rich variety of angles on the topic, and show the reader how civilizations over time had differing concepts of this sea. The timeline starts in Antiquity with the Babylon mappamundi (8th century BCE) and ends on the brink of the 17th century, when the Portuguese monopoly ended with the arrival of the Dutch, British and French on the scene.

‘La Fabrique’ is divided into sections. Each chapter is followed by a ‘focus’, an illustrated explanation of a single map, and each section has at least one ‘insert’ which gives a more general summary of, for example, ‘Portuguese exploration and cartography’. This helps the reader to better understand the flow of the section.

The section covers the various ways mapmakers from different traditions treated islands, how they started to treat islands, how they started to tell the story depicted by the writers and are well produced and described, often diagrammatically. We are reading academic articles dealing with a set of similar themes through many different lenses – Greek, Latin, Arab, Persian, Indian, Chinese, Turk, Portuguese, Dutch and Mongol. Information overlaps and builds as the contributions to the depiction of the Indian Ocean are described. This is not an easy read. It is however, most rewarding.

Many of the maps will be familiar to readers, many will not. All, however, tell the story depicted by the writers and are well produced and described, often diagrammatically. We are reading academic articles dealing with a set of similar themes through many different lenses – Greek, Latin, Arab, Persian, Indian, Chinese, Turk, Portuguese, Dutch and Mongol. Information overlaps and builds as the contributions to the depiction of the Indian Ocean are described. This is not an easy read. It is however, most rewarding.
François Valentijn's Influential Maps of the Cape of Good Hope

by Roger Stewart

In 1726, François Valentijn published two maps of the Cape of Good Hope in *’Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien*. The larger map, ‘Nieuwe Kaart van Caap der Goede Hoop’ is a map of most of the Dutch settlement known at that time; the inset, ‘Kaart van de Caap der Goede Hoop’, shows the early eastward expansion of the colony, beyond the Liesbeek river. Despite anachronisms and avoidable cartographic errors, Valentijn’s maps recorded a significant epoch in the history of the Cape and had a surprisingly wide and long influence on maps of the region.

Valentijn’s ‘Beschryvinge van de Kaap der Goede Hoop’

François Valentijn (1666–1727) was a Calvinist Minister and an historian of the Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie (VOC), the United Dutch East Indian Company. His book, *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien* [Old and New East-Indies], described the VOC settlements and trade in the Far East, Ceylon (i.e. Sri Lanka), Mauritius and Cape of Good Hope.¹

This massive work of eight folio volumes comprises approximately 5000 double column pages and 1000 illustrations. ‘Beschryvinge van de Kaap der Goede Hoop’ [Descriptions of the Cape of Good Hope] comprises four chapters in Volume 5 of the book.²

The maps that illustrated his Beschryvinge are of the south-western corner of Africa in which the VOC established a settlement in 1652. They also documented the settlement’s eastward expansion beyond the short Liesbeek river to the east of Table Mountain; and identified outspurs (camp sites) on the northern routes used by early VOC explorers. Despite their numerous flaws, the maps had a wide influence for more than a century on the cartography of the country.

Valentijn knew the Cape settlement quite well. In 1665, 1669, 1705 and 1714, he visited the expanding Dutch colony en route to and from the East Indies, the total duration of his residence being more than six months. He travelled in an easterly direction to the village of Stellenbosch, on the banks of the Eerste River, and to the country estate Vergelegen (in today’s Somerset West), at the foothills of the Hottentots Holland Mountains, which were an obstacle to further expansion. He visited Constantia, the Governor’s country estate (still extant) at the southern end of the first expansion. In the Netherlands, he also had privileged access to some of the VOC’s highest officers and its documents. In the preparation of his Beschryvinge, Valentijn not only made use of his personal knowledge, experience and contacts, but also made use of numerous published sources e.g. Capet Ilonar Spei Hodtimm of Peter Kolbe. As was common at the time, Valentijn did not distinguish between his own information and the work of others.

Valentijn's Maps of the Cape of Good Hope

The Beschryvinge includes two maps of the Cape of Good Hope (Norwich = 214), one of which is an inset (Fig. 2b); a plan of the built settlement; a sea chart from Saldanha Bay to False Bay; a plan of the VOC Garden and there is a prospect of the settlement and surrounding mountains. The northern part of Valentijn's larger map was the first published cartographic record of early VOC exploration in search of riches in Monomotapa. The inset provides detail of the south-western part of his map and was the first map in a book to record the eastward expansion of the colony beyond Table Mountain and the Liesbeek River – Johannes Loots published an unbound map in ca 1698.5

7 Serton ibid p 11
8 Manuscript map 4.VEL 1618 at the Dutch National Archives. Illustrated in Brommer, Bas, ed. Groote Atlas van de Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie V Afrika, Voortburg (Netherlands), Atlas M anno 2009; pp 64 – 65. This map is also No. 38 A in the Beschryvinge 1, which is illustrated opposite p. 50 in Serton. 2

Valentijn did not travel a significant distance from Table Bay and Stellenbosch, yet he was the first to publish new cartographic information on a narrow strip of the interior of the west coast, along of the old ‘northern highway’ described in some detail by Ernest Mossop.9 This part of the northern Cape was not yet settled by the VOC; Valentijn obtained the information from the VOC’s journals of the expedition toNamaqualand led by Simon van der Stel in 1685 and 1686 and a shorter expedition by Johannes Starrenburg (in 1701), both of which he included in the Beschryvinge.10 These journals were tightly held by the VOC and Valentijn’s was their only publication before the twentieth century.11 Gilbert Waterson, who discovered the missing, official Van der Stel journal in the 1920s (in Ireland), concluded that Valentijn probably received from Willem Adriaan van der Stel (Simon’s son) a copy of an unofficial journal, which would not have included the official map.90

As described in Starrenburg’s journal, the Tythouw River (today the Langeleirrivier – Long Lake River) is shown on the map correctly to terminate in a salt pan a short distance from the sea.111 Van der Stel’s journal is clear that the Berg River discharges its waters into the sea at St. Heleens (Helena) Bay.11 However, on Nieuwe Kaart, the river mouth is north of the bay. Van der Stel’s map shows both the correct shape of Saldanha Bay and also the correct location of the mouth of the Berg River.11 However, it is likely that

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11 Serton op. cit. p. 29 (of volume I).
12 32184/88 A.B. Lambert’s Bay, 3 rd edition, 150 000 Chief Directorate, Surveys and Mapping, South Africa. The river drains to the Wadrifoutpan (Wagon Drift Saltpan).
13 Serton, op. cit. p. 235 (volume I).

14 Clatworthy, Pascal and Mard, Estelle. A map and its copy of Governor Simon van der Stel’s journal in the 1700s (in Ireland), concluded that Valentijn probably received from Willem Adriaan van der Stel (Simon’s son) a copy of an unofficial journal, which would not have included the official map.90

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neither the engraver nor Valentijn had seen Van der Stel's map and Valentijn had not travelled to either the bay or the river mouth.

Kaart van de Caap der Goede Hoop

The title of the inset (31.2 x 21.9 cm) implies the expansion of the Cape settlement towards the Stellenbosch region: Kaart van de Caap der Goede Hoop waar in antwoord werden de Voornamaaste Plaatsen met de Naamen van der zelve bestitters [Map of the Cape of Good Hope in which are shown the prominent farms and the names of the settlers]. The map is a distorted enlargement of the southwestern corner of the colony; it seems reasonable to conclude, in Valentijn's defence, that he intended the inset to provide a pictorial representation of the eastward spread of farmer settlers, rather than an accurate geographical representation of the region. Nevertheless, the toponyms are of historical importance: many of these early farms have retained their names to this day (e.g. Vergéldinkom, Meerlust and Elsenburg) and are now famous destinations for tourists and wine lovers.

The inset and also the part of 'Kaart van de Caap' from Saldanha Bay to False Bay were modelled on and copied errors from the anonymous, undated Nieuwe Naauwkeurige Land-en Zee-Kaart ... Begrypende de Sardanje-Bay en de Caap de Bonne Esperanc. The latter map was published ca 1698 by Johannes Loots.16 Valentijn's map has some contradictions of his text and omissions, which suggest poor supervision of the cartographer. By way of example, three unnecessary errors on Valentijn's map, which he could have corrected, are illustrated in figure 3.

Gouverneur Simon van der Stel's country estate, Constantia is located on the inset between Table and Lion Mountains, instead of about 8 km south. The inset also shows a road that starts between the Lion and Table Mountains, traverses impassable, mountainous terrain (not shown on the map) and terminates at its junction with the actual road from Cape Town, which curves via Rustenberg, to the real Constantia estate. Valentijn had travelled on the latter road when he visited Constantia. Inexplicably, the Head and Rump of Lion's Mountain are transposed, i.e. the head is north of the rump, instead of south. The correct orientation is illustrated elsewhere in the Beschryvinge: in De Kaap in Platte Grond [Plan of the Cape] and Gesicht van Kaap der Goede Hoop [View of the Cape of Good Hope].17 Presumably this transposition and anthropomorphic representation of Lion's Head was a creative interpretation of Valentijn's cartographer.

Valentijn's cartographic influence

Despite its flaws of geography and time and even though superior maps were to emerge,18 Valentijn's map of the Cape of Good Hope met the needs of publishers and cartographers for more than a century! This influence was partly due to 'Kaarte van de Kaap der Goede Hoop Leggend en't zuider gedeelte van Africa' [Map of the Cape of Good Hope located in the southern part of Africa] (Fig. 4) in the 1727 Dutch translation of Peter Kolbe's book, by Balthasar Lakeman; the Lakeman map was a poorly disguised direct copy of the southern part of Valentijn's Nieuwe Naauwkeurige Land-en Zee-Kaart.19 This influence

Kaarte van de Caap der Goede Hoop [View of the Cape of Good Hope].

The title of Kolbe's map is engraved in an open space where Valentijn had placed his inset map (cfr. figure 2a and 4). The Kolbe/Lakeman map influenced the prolific Jacques Bellin who commented on his map of the Cape: ‘Cette carte est dressée sur celles de Kolbe et sur quelques Manuscrits du dépôt des plans de la marine’ [This map is based on those of Kolbe and on a few manuscript of the French navy plan deposit]20. Bellin's maps of the Cape were widely distributed from 1746 until 1781 and are readily available today.

Goode Hoop; Amsterdam: Lakeman, 1727

20 Le Pays des Hottentots was published in Prévote d’Exils Antonio's Histoire Générale des Voyages: Paris; Didot, 1746-1759. It was also published as 'Il Paese Degli Ottentotti ...' in Bellin, Jacques 'Teatro della Cuera Maritime' Venice, 1781, which appears in the Italian edition of Bellin's 'Petit Atlas Maritime' published by divers, published between 1719 and 1721.

21 An inset on Africae Pars Meridionalis cum Promontorio Bonae Spei Accuratissime Delineato Opera Tobiae Accuratissime Delineato Opera Tobiae Accuratissime Delineato Opera Tobiae Conradi Lotter Georaphi Augustae Tabula Promontori Bonae Spei. In 1778, Tobias Conrad Lotter published a miniature inset that seems to have been derived from Kolbe.21 Valentijn's map also influenced the northern part of L.S. de la Rochette's map of the Cape of Good Hope which was published between 1782 and 1838, first by William Faden and then by James Wyld.22

Roger Stewart

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18 History and Cartography 7(1)(1988), 10 – 17
19 See note 6
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The Medici Family and cartography in Florence

by Alex Smit

In this article a few aspects of the very long and fascinating reign of the Medici family will be covered, regarding their impact of the development of cartography and related sciences, which took place primarily between the sixteenth and the seventeenth centuries in Florence and the Tuscany region of the Italian peninsula. With its very significant support of sciences, the dynasty of this most prestigious family ruled outside Florence and, in a very clever way, Duke with unchallenged power (see figure 3).

The emergence of the Medici family

During the 14th to the 18th centuries this most prestigious family ruled Florence and Tuscany. By frequent marriages with members of a large number of important European courts they were able to exert a major influence on the European continent. A vivid example of this is the reign of Catherine de Medici (1519–89) as Queen of France. The fabulous art collections of the Medici and their support of the advancement of science created a lasting impact. This family of modest origins from the Appennino valley of Mugello near Florence (one of the many independent ‘city states’ of that time) was, due to the failure of its government in its democratic experiments, able to seize power. This was due, also, to its internal divisions and to constant wars with the large Vatican state headed by the Popes, and with other Italian and imperial foreign states, which were interested in enlarging their territorial influence; they were attracted by the city’s and region’s incredible richness. During this period the Medici faced shifting political fortunes several times and had to step down from power, even with an exile, but they always managed to return. Their initial ascension to power and Renaissance splendour with Cosimo the Elder (1389–1464) and Lorenzo the Magnificent (1449–92) followed an ever complex governing of the city during the extended conflicts between the Guelphs (backed by the Pope) and Ghibellines (supporting the Emperor of Germany). The guilds became a very strong political entity, forming a new middle class, but the perpetual strife and conspiracies between the noble families in Florence negatively impacted trade and life. During this period the Medici had gained wealth and prominence as traders and bankers, but their civic power remained limited. Early on there were two separate branches in the family.

The reigning Medici

The Medici were able to have nominated several popes from their family, earning much prestige and popular support. The young Duke Cosimo I (1519–74) was raised outside Florence and, in a very clever move, succeeded in 1557 (aged only 28) to be named as the head of the government after early deaths in war and assassinations of other family members. Thereafter Florence started a rather stabilised period of strong geographical expansion of its territory with a long period of sustained economic development and increasing wealth. Cosimo emerged as the Grand Duke with unchallenged power (see figure 3).

Cosimo took a few very important initiatives in 1562: the institution of the Maritime Order of the Knights of Saint Stephen, tasked with defending the Tyrrhenian coast against the Saracen raids; the appointment of the Dominican friar Egnazio Danti as his cosmographer to update and enrich his geographical and nautical instruments. He also had to acquire additional staff with nautical military skills and practical experience in order to take part in the lucrative trade with the East and West Indies but, as the Turkish fleet with Barbarossa and North African pirates then regained over the Mediterranean and terrorized populations, their impact needed to be reduced.

Cosimo I’s request the famous painter and architect Giorgio Vasari (1511–74), built, between 1557 and 1574, the very impressive Palazzo Vecchio (Old Palace) on the Piazza della Signoria in the old city’s very centre (over the previous walls of the Palazzo of the Priori). On the second floor in the former loggia of this old part the ‘Room of the Wardrobe’ was constructed between 1562 and 1786, with two levels of doors with closets in which were stored Cosimo I’s scientific treasures. This room was renamed the ‘Room of the Geographical Maps’ (see cover) after the oil painting of 55 maps of the world on the wooden door panels. The planning of the decoration was first started by the

After his marriage to Eleonora of Toledo he cancelled his alliance with France, despite the already evident accession of Catherine de Medici on the French throne. He sided with the Spanish emperor Charles V, who turned a blind eye to Cosimo’s plan to conquer most of the Tuscany region. With his earlier conquest of other city states, and the Republic of Siena after a long battle in 1555, he obtained direct access to the sea and now possessed several important harbours. His control over Pisa, Livorno and Piombino, allowed Cosimo to become a respectable maritime power. But, to be able to participate in the very profitable international trade, he needed to strengthen fortifications, establish improved shipbuilding capabilities and to gain expertise in fields of geography, navigation and nautical instruments. He also had to acquire additional staff with nautical military skills and practical experience in order to take part in the lucrative trade with the East and West Indies but, as the Turkish fleet with Barbarossa and North African pirates then regained over the Mediterranean and terrorized populations, their impact needed to be reduced.

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Fig. 6 - Nautical mappamundi in four sections by Lopo Homem of ca. 1554 displayed in the Galileo Museum, Florence.
to see and measure them. Cosimo was impressed with the dominating position in Europe of the Spanish King Charles V and he wanted to replicate him in prestige. He asked to insert in the Room of the Maps the motto ‘kosmos kosmou kosmos’ which, by a wordplay with his name and the Greek word of universe, meant ‘The Grand Duke Cosimo I honours the world and the world him’; or, in other words, that the world is of Cosimo I. After his marriage gave him many children, in 1560 Cosimo moved to the vastly extended Pitti Palace on the Arno’s left bank, and ordered the Palace to be linked to the Palazzo Vecchio by the Vasari corridor. The Palazzo Vecchio and also the Galleria degli Ufizzi were henceforth used as seats of the government and the ducal administration. Other maps were painted for the Pitti Palace. Cosimo died in 1574 and his son, Ferdinando I, very much interested in the arts, commissioned the painting of other maps by Lanciole Buti on the walls of the Mathematics Room in the Galleria degli Ufizzi.

**Museo Galileo**

This Museum (formerly the ‘Institute and Museum of the History of Science’), founded in 1910 and housed on two floors in the Palazzo Castellano on the river Arno was, following its complete re-structuring and its eventual reopening in 2010, renamed ‘Galileo Museum’. The International Year of Astronomy in 2009 was the occasion of the celebration of the 450th anniversary of the birth of Galileo. The Museum’s name change was made for easier reference and communication and to highlight the very prominent place of Galileo’s heritage in its collections. It houses the collections assembled during the reigns of the Medici, which ended with the death of Gian Gastone in 1737, who died without a successor, and that of the Habsbourg-Lorraine, who became the new rulers by succession. Then Francis Stephen became the new Grand Duke and he and his successors strongly supported scientific activity. Their reign ended with the unification of Italy in 1861.

This beautifully decorated Museum shows over 1500 precious items, of which the core was collected and developed during the reigns of the Grand Dukes Cosimo I and of Ferdinand I. The emphasis is on navigational and military sciences. From Galilei himself are on display his telescope, a geometric compass and the lens he used to discover Jupiter’s moons. A centrepiece of the exhibits is the ‘Armillary Globe or Sphere’ of Antonio Santucci, also called the ‘Universal Machine of the World’, which he started in 1588 and finished around 1601 (figure 4). This exceptional globe, covered with pure gold, stands in the centre of the Globe Room. Measuring over 3 metres in diameter, it illustrates the complexity of the Cosmos centred on the Earth, in line with the concepts of Aristotle and Ptolemy.

In 1588 Santucci had built a much smaller version, offered by Ferdinando I to the Spanish king Philip II. This globe was badly damaged during its transportation to Madrid but well restored and donated by the King to the Escorial Monastery. It is now in the Biblioteca Municipal de El Escorial in Madrid. Other celestial and terrestrial globes displayed in the Globe Room (figure 5) are from Vincenzo Coronelli (a globe pair from the end of the 17th century), Willem Blaeu, Jodocus Hondius, Matthäus Greuter, Guillaume Delisle, Charles-François Delamarche, John Cary and Johannes Klinger. Santucci was a professor of mathematics at the University of Pisa.

**Fig. 4 - The Armillary Sphere representing the world by Antonio Santucci (around 1588) on display in the Globe Room of the Galileo Museum in Florence**

**Fig. 5 - The Globe room in the Galileo Museum.**

Galileo Galilei (1564–1642)

It is rather difficult to classify Galileo. Without doubt he was an extremely intelligent and brilliant person, who acquired a universal knowledge in a very wide range of different arts and sciences. Later in his life he even enjoyed epithets such as the ‘Tuscan Archimedes’ and the ‘Divine Mathematician’. Early in his life he was known as a writer, musician and philosopher, but as of the age of 40 he became much better known as a mathematician and a very able craftsman. He taught mathematics for many years. During 1610 and 1611 he undertook an intense study of the Moon, Sun and planets with unprecedented observations and deductions, such as discovering the moons of Jupiter. He succeeded in being hired by the Medici in 1612 on his skills in philosophy and, interestingly, not as a scientist. He was known as an extremely knowledgeable person, but very critical and not always appreciated by his peers and in frequent conflict with the church. He had a major influence on the development of improved instruments for navigation and observation for geography and his collection of instruments is now in the Museo Galileo.

**Fig. 6 - The Armillary Sphere making the Mercator Projection, a worldmap made by Battista Agnese in ca 1540 which is in the very rich collection of the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale of Florence.**

In 1593 Galileo began to build a large terrestrial globe for the Grand Duke Ferdinando I with the help of his brother Vincenzo. This globe was made for easier reference and communication and to highlight the very prominent position of Pisa in the Middle-Ages. The resulting globe was badly damaged during its transportation to Madrid but well restored and donated by the King to the Escorial Monastery. It is now in the Biblioteca Municipal de El Escorial in Madrid. Other celestial and terrestrial globes displayed in the Globe Room (figure 5) are from Vincenzo Coronelli (a globe pair from the end of the 17th century), Willem Blaeu, Jodocus Hondius, Matthäus Greuter, Guillaume Delisle, Charles-François Delamarche, John Cary and Johannes Klinger. Santucci was a professor of mathematics at the University of Pisa.

**Fig. 7 - World map depicting the voyage around the world by Magellan made by Battista Agnese in ca 1540 which is in the very rich collection of the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale of Florence.**

**Fig. 8 - ‘Amerigo Vespucci on the Waldseemüller map of 1507 (detail of the full map on page 27).’**

**Amerigo Vespucci (1454-1512)**

This explorer is most known as the first European to understand that the lands discovered by Christopher Columbus did not form part of Asia, but were a so far unknown new continent. The cartographer Martin Waldseemüller (with Matthias Ringmann) used the name ‘America’ for this New World for the first time (figure 8).

**Fig. 8 - ‘Amerigo Vespucci on the Waldseemüller map of 1507 (detail of the full map on page 27).’**

Vespucci was born into a notary’s family in Florence; his uncle Giorgio Vasari, a Dominican monk, owned a large library and took care of Amerigo’s education. Emphasis was placed on classical literature and the sciences, such as astronomy, cosmography and geography. Ptolemy and Aristotle were covered in depth. Amerigo was very impressed with Alexander the Great’s writings of his voyages. He also studied with Paolo Toscanelli, director of San Marco convent’s Library, one of the most important specialists and collectors of geographic maps at that time. The Vespucci and Medici families were close. After further studies in Pisa, Amerigo was allowed to work in the diplomatic service of the Duke in Paris, at the Court in Florence and in 1492 as a commercial agent for them in Seville, Spain. During the rest of his life Amerigo worked for the Courts of Portugal and Castile, while maintaining a regular contact with the Grand Dukes in Florence. In Seville he met with Christopher Columbus and they became friends. He joined him on his second voyage and also became a captain of one of the ships that sailed
to the New World. He wrote many letters about these travels, but the lack of accurate ship records continues to create confusion about the exact number of voyages and destinations visited. Benefitting from his intelligence and excellent education, he was able to play a major role in the documentation and distribution of information throughout Europe on his voyages and the new lands discovered. Columbus never admitted to have discovered a New Continent and he ended his life in disgrace by the Spanish Court.

**Admiral Sir Robert Dudley**

Ferdinand I was very fortunate to be able to enlist the services of Sir Robert Dudley in 1503. He became very important for him in the development of the ducal navy and as very valuable information throughout Europe for his conduct in

**Robert Dudley** (1574–1649) was an English explorer and cartographer. Dudley was a member of the English Crown for his conduct in the history of cartography. He also carried a wide collection of navigation instruments with him from England and over time developed many others in Tuscany, part of which are now on display in the Galileo Museum.

Over the past centuries the vast collections of cartographic, astronomical and navigational treasures of the Medici/Lorraine families were dispersed and even partially lost. Fortunately a large part was kept in Florence and surroundings, but spread out between many museums and libraries, such as the Museo Galileo, Palazzo Vecchio, Palazzo Pitti, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Galleria degli Uffizi, Biblioteca Riccardiana, Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, Biblioteca Moreniana, Biblioteca Marucelliana, Istituto Geografico Militare, etc. These collections are beautiful but their wide dispersion is rendering a good overview rather complex and very time consuming.

My sincere thanks go to Prof. Filippo Camerota, Deputy Director of the Museo Galileo, Palazzo Vecchio, and to the many museums and libraries, such as the Museo Galileo, Palazzo Vecchio, Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, Biblioteca Moreniana, Biblioteca Marucelliana, Istituto Geografico Militare, etc. These collections are beautiful but their wide dispersion is rendering a good overview rather complex and very time consuming.

This map was printed in 1507, based on information collected by Amerigo Mateo Vespucci from four expeditions to the New World in which he participated, and later organised between 1497 and 1504. Two voyages were under the Spanish and Portuguese flags, but some doubt and discussions continue between scholars whether all four were really made. There is no doubt though that he really set foot in the New World.

Vespucci was born in Florence in 1454 and moved to Seville in 1492 to find a new commercial representative following a request by the court of the Florentine Medici family; he died there in 1512. In Seville he also met and became friends with Christopher Columbus. Waldseemüller remembered that Vespucci, in a letter of 1503 covering one of his voyages, mentioned for the very first time that he had visited a ‘Mundus Novus’ (a New World).

His letter claimed he was the first known person to recognize publicly that this newly discovered land was not a part of Asia, but a so far unknown continent. Until his death Christopher Columbus remained convinced that he had been navigating between the islands of Asia. He died in disgrace and poverty without recognition that he really was the very first person to have put foot on this new continent. Thus Waldseemüller honoured Vespucci instead of Columbus, by calling this new continent ‘America’ (from ‘Americus’, the Latinised version of Amerigo); this name was subsequently adopted by other geographers.

This map is the only known exemplar remaining from a print-run of 1000 copies. After having been considered lost for several centuries, it was discovered only in 1901 by the Jesuit and cartographer Joseph Fischer in the Library of a castle in Baden-Württemberg. Composed of twelve separate sheets, its total joined size is 138 x 238 cm. The Library of Congress acquired the map in 2003 for display in Washington DC.

The map can be consulted on the Museo Galileo website (in Italian): http://mostre.museogalileo.it/waldseemuller/

Similar information can be found on the website of the Library of Congress.

https://www.loc.gov/item/2003626426/

**Alex Smit**

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1 More historical background on Waldseemüller and the ‘Gymnase Vespucci’ can be found in the article by Monique Pelliot published in BIMCC Newsletter No 27, ten years ago.

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Fig 9 - Map of the Adriatic sea ’1661’ by Robert Dudley from Dudley’s Arcano del Mare (B. Ruderman collection)
Where are they now?

For some time we have been talking about catching up with our previous ‘How I Got into Cartography’ interviewees.

Rest assured they have been very busy since ‘Maps in History’ spoke to them last. Read the latest from Soetkin, Tom and Emmanuelle ...

Interviews by Nicola Boothby

Soetkin Vervust

Mih 44 - September 2012

Soetkin was our very first interviewee for the How I Got Into Cartography column. At the time she was a PhD student doing research into Ferraris Carte de Cabinet at Ghent University. Her research was scheduled to continue until October 2013... so what has she been doing since ‘Maps in History’ spoke to her last?

She tells us that she is happy to report that she successfully defended her PhD thesis on the Ferraris Maps in June 2016. Maps in History No 57 included an article that summarises some of her most important research findings.

While working at Ghent University she also participated in the organisation of several conferences, one of which was the 7th International Symposium of the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography, which was organised jointly with the Map Circle in Ghent in December 2014. Ever since then she has become actively involved in the Commission’s activities and was appointed as their executive secretary in 2015. In October 2016 the Commission organised its most recent International Symposium in Dubrovnik. The two main events for 2017 are a Workshop at the Library of Congress in Washington DC at the end of June and a Symposium on Mapping Asia in Leiden in September.

Last November she also started a new job at the Archaeology Department of the Brussels-Capital Region. She really enjoys working there because the job combines her research interests in archaeology and geography and allows her to fully exploit the skills she acquired throughout her years of study. One of her main assignments is to locate excavation sites on a variety of city maps dating from the Middle Ages up until recent times to gain a better insight into the chronology of the sites and to help determine the archaeological potential they still have. She is also working on a number of thematic historic atlases for the city centre including one on the city’s convents and one on its fortifications.

This coming autumn she will start a Marie Curie postdoctoral research project at Newcastle University (UK), in collaboration with the Free University of Brussels (ULB). She’s going to investigate how cultural landscapes were formed over the long term, and how elements from earlier landscapes contributed to the heritage of later periods. Taking two case study areas in the UK and Belgium. Her aim is to use a broad range of methods to identify ancient landscape features and to understand the chronological relationships between them. One method being the study of historic maps.

Drawing the Line (4 November 2016 - 1 March 2017) at the British Library which they had started gearing up for in 2011. If you visited the exhibition you will have seen that whereas that book was a chronological journey through the century, the exhibition took a thematic approach. The visitor passed through five ‘zones’ which placed together maps associated with topics such as war, peace, movement, money. Around 200 maps were on display, taken from the Library’s collection of more than four million. It was global in coverage, from the ocean floor into outer space, and celebrated maps in their widest diversity from paper map and atlases, to map clothes, ceramics, medals and digital imagery. The exhibition book was published in November, and there was a series of cartographic-related events, and a map website with a selection of articles with images.

In addition staff of the British Library including Nick Dykes and Crispin Jewitt have been busy working on a number of projects including the British War Office Archive digitisation project whereby the British Library has catalogued, conserved and digitised over 500 military intelligence maps and associated documents from the War Office Archive relating to the former British East Africa – modern day Kenya, Uganda and adjacent parts of Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, DR Congo, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia. The archive comprises topographical ‘compilation material’, built up and maintained by the War Office for making and revising maps, together with material created in the course of map production. The maps were created between 1880 and 1940, and show the region as it was immediately before and during the colonial era. Ranging from small sketch maps made by intelligence officers in situ, through surveyors’ field sheets to cartographers’ fair drawings, most of the items are unique manuscripts, or short-run prints (often further annotated) made for limited distribution internal use.
The Brussels Map Circle

Annual activity report
March 2016 - April 2017

The following activity report has been presented to the Annual General Meeting on 22 April 2017. The report of that meeting will be published in the September issue of Maps in History (MiH).

1. The Executive Committee held four meetings. Among the most important items focused on in this period, were the finances of the Circle (with particular focus on, and attention given to, our sponsors), which led to the decision to raise the membership fee (for the first time ever) to EUR 40.00. Other important items were the excursion to Rome; the further fine-tuning of the making, printing and sending of the MiH; the searching and finding (and) helping hands for the excursion and news gathering; and sending the latter to our members.

2. AGM and MAPAF 12 March 2016

The AGM tackled the usual Agenda items, focusing on the Circle and its finances. For the second time the former Map Evening was replaced, for practical reasons, by the Map Afternoon or MAPAF. As we managed to receive the aid of the Map Section of the KBR, this resulted in an even more interesting event than before, with a couple of rare maps from their collection: review in MiH 75.

3. Excursion May 2016

The excursion to Rome was of course the highlight of the year. As we have extensively reported on this in MiH 96, there is no need to repeat this here, except to say that it was a truly unique event, exceeding everyone’s expectations.

4. Conference 10 December 2016 Instruments and globes

This conference was a little different, in that many of the speakers were ‘homegrown’ Circle members, who did an excellent job, and that we even got the visit of a Belgian Minister, to decorate one of the said speakers: read MiH 17 for the account.

5. ‘Maps in History’

The preparation and publication of our magazine again absorbed a large proportion of our resources. The three issues published over the year reached a record total size of 140 pages!

6. WhatsMap?

Recent events and activities were reported on, with a more contemporary way about news and events. This resulted in sending WhatsMap for the first time in the weeks before the AGM.

Caroline De Candt president@bimcc.org

Making Maps in History

This issue of Maps of History was coordinated and edited by Jean-Louis Renieux. Paul De Candt did the lay-out on the basis of a design by David Raes.

Contents have been checked by the Editorial Committee comprising Wolff Bodenstein, Nicola Boothby, Lisette Danckaert, Karen De Coene, Francis Herbert and Pierre Parmentier.

MAY 2017 – MAPS IN HISTORY NO 58

INTERVIEW

Emmanuelle Vagnon

MiH 50 – September 2014

When we last spoke to Emmanuelle Vagnon, a researcher at LAMOP, the Laboratoire de Médievistique Occidentale de Paris, the Paris Centre for Western Medieval Studies, part of the CNRS, the French National Centre for Scientific Research, she was doing research into an illustrated portolan map for the book ‘Cartes Marines’ published by BnF in 2012.

In 2015 Emmanuelle was a member of the 26th International Conference on the History of Cartography. She presented a research poster at the 26th International Conference on the History of Cartography in Antwerp that July.

In June 2016 as a member of the ISHMap and a specialist in portolan charts, Emmanuelle was at the two conferences in Lisbon in June 2016: the ISHMap conference: Encounters and translations – Mapping and writing the waters of the world at the National Library of Portugal, and the first international workshop: On the origin and evolution of portolan charts, at the Universidade Da Beira Interior. She also went to Cyprus to present a paper on portolan charts in October. The same month also saw her organise – together with her colleagues in Abi (southern France) Jocelyne Deschans, Sandrine Victor and Thibault Courcelle – a conference to follow up a research seminar at University Paris 1. This Conference in Abi worked under the theme On the scale of the world. The map as a cultural, social and political object (from Antiquity to the present day) (see report in MiH 19).

This year has so far seen the publication of a book written for the most part together with Eric Vallet: La Fabrique de l’Océan Indien. Cartes d’Orient et d’Occident (Antiquité-XVIe siècle) [The Making of the Indian Ocean. Maps from East and West (Antiquity-16th century)], Paris, Publications de la Sorbonne, 2017; see ‘Looks at Books’ in this issue, page 12. The book, richly illustrated, retraces the history of the map-making of the Indian Ocean since Antiquity and deals with the circulation of knowledge, mapping traditions and images of the East. It compares the conception and the representation of this maritime area though different cultures and time-periods: Greek, Latin, Arab, Persian, Indian, Chinese, Turk, Portuguese and Dutch. Mongol, ... until the end of the 16th century.

As we see, there’s never a dull moment on the world of cartography!

Look out for a further ‘catchup’ in a few Maps in History’s time!

Nicola Boothby
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Emmanuelle Vagnon made several contributions on portolan maps for the book ‘Cartes Marines’ published by BnF in 2012.

The other in LAMOP. If you went to the exhibition you may have seen an extract from the first article which was printed for the exhibition, and you may have caught up with her presenting her research at her poster session at the 26th International Conference on the History of Cartography in Antwerp that July.

The following activity report has been presented to the Annual General Meeting on 22 April 2017. The report of that meeting will be published in the September issue of Maps in History (MiH).

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MAY 2017 – MAPS IN HISTORY NO 58
International Conference
9 December 2017,
Early maps of Indonesia
Draft programme

Once more the Conference will take place in the framework of the multicultural festival Europalia, which is devoted, this year, to Indonesia.

At this conference, you will hear speakers who will paint a broad overview of the mapping of Indonesia from the 16th century on: the European nations involved and their motifs, the most important mapmakers and the most iconic maps. The speakers greatly reflect these nations: Portuguese, Dutch and British (but Indonesia-based).

We follow a chronological line, starting with the Portuguese explorers and their maps, with attention paid to some contemporary, non-Portuguese mapmakers. We then continue with the other European explorers and mapmakers who mapped the region. Given the importance of the Dutch both for the history of Indonesia and for that of mapmaking, two Dutch speakers will highlight this. They will start by sketching the general picture of the presence of Dutch mapmakers in Batavia, where the VOC (Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie – the Dutch United East India Company) had its headquarters and then continue on a more pointed and controversial issue: that of the (supposed?) secrecy of the VOC maps.

For two periods, the office of VOC mapmaker was in the hands of two well-known map publishing families: the Blaeus and the Van Keulen mapmaker families. The access to unique and historically valuable cultural treasures, such as ancient maps, which are preserved in libraries, archives or museums, is strictly restricted. Even researchers rarely have the chance to actually handle, illuminate and examine them from all sides.

To overcome these drawbacks and allow research to progress, good quality copies and facsimiles of the most valuable maps have progressively been made available and, thanks to digitalisation, made accessible on the internet.

The problem with 3D models is more delicate, since they are by definition three-dimensional objects and are not so easily reproduced in two dimensions. But technological progress is now making possible also to examine 3D virtual reproductions.

... in France

In 2015, fifty-five ancient terrestrial and celestial globes among the finest of the collection of the National Library of France (BnF) were scanned by the Japanese Dai Nippon Printing Co., Ltd (DNP) as part of a ‘sponsorship of competence’. DNP met this technological challenge by optimising its know-how in the digitisation of works of art, to make pictures of a remarkable quality of these digital renditions in 3D of the BnF’s globes could be appreciated during a demonstration given in March at the ‘Maison de la culture japonaise’ in Paris. These 3D globes are now all available online on Gallica: http://gallica.bnf.fr/html/und/cartes/globes

Terrestrial Globe of R. de Vaugondy 1773 at the BNF de France and scanned by DNP Dai Nippon Printing Co., Ltd [2015]

... in Germany

A research project is being launched at the Free State of Thuringia and Friedrich Schiller University Jena (FSU): ‘Digital Culture and Collection Management in 3D’. The project will be supported over the next three years with funding, to a total of almost one million euros, from the European Fund for Regional Development (EFRD), the FSU and various local institutions.

In a pilot study, Dr Christoph of FSU’s Ernst-Haeckel-Haus will measure historical globes, starting with one from 1572. It belonged to mathematician and astronomer Johannes Schöner and is now in the Duchess Anna Amalia Library in Weimar. This terrestrial globe of around 30 centimetres in diameter came from Wittenberg to Jena with the ‘bibliothecaelectoralis’ of the University’s founder, Johann Friedrich I. Some centuries later, Archduke Carl August of Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach arranged for his minister, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, to bring the globe to Weimar, where it has been kept to this day. It was examined by, among others, Alexander von Humboldt, when he stopped off in Weimar in December 1826.

Dr Christoph says that the main aim of his 3D project is to make such treasures accessible to a wide public, present them in an up-to-date fashion, and make them available for scientific investigation. Creating such a virtual Renaissance’ requires, in addition to the scanning technology, appropriate means of saving and presenting the 3D data. Developing these facilities is a further aim of the joint endeavour. Future users should be able to obtain a maximum amount of information about the cultural assets within a minimum period of time. What is more: such data can also be used to create accurate replicas of the objects through 3D printing, so that they can actually be handled.

Further information: www.ehh.uni-jena.de
Or contact: andreas.christoph@uni-jena.de
At 75, Prof. Günter Schilder has a new baby!

Just prior to his 75th birthday on 18 February 2017, Prof. Dr. G.G.R. Schilder sent this message around: ‘Papa Günter is proud to announce the birth of his new baby! Weight: 3.9 kg. … Name:Early Dutch Maritime Cartography.’

Papa and baby are doing well. Visit and inspection at home are welcome.

This new baby brings his total production to well over 15 000 pages and 150 kg! Among his numerous publications, the series ‘Monumenta Cartographica Neerlandica’ is certainly his Opus Magnum (see the review of Volume VIII in BIMCC Newsletter, No 32). Prof. Schilder has held his Chair in Historic Cartography for over 25 years at Utrecht University, now continuing, at University of Amsterdam, winter courses on the History of Cartography at Utrecht and acted as a catalyst in many ways in his field, particularly with the ‘Explorakart’ project which allows a high turn-over of research, executed by volunteer researchers, who are trained first at the University, complete their field work in small groups and prepare the results for publication under academic guidance and control.

Prof. Schilder needs no further introduction to our members as he has been a Speaker at our Conferences in 2002, and in 2006 (when he spoke on ‘The development of Dutch maritime cartography, 1530-1630’), and he was Chairman at a 2001 milestone Conference in the Royal Library on ‘Mapping Europe – Mapping a Continent’. Quite a few of our members – including our two Honorary Presidents - have had the privilege of attending his winter courses on the History of Cartography at Utrecht University, now continuing, at University of Amsterdam, under the leadership of Peter van der Krogt and Paul van den Brink.

Congratulations, Prof. Schilder!

Maggiolo Planisphere: ‘A jewel of the cartographer’s art’

Tefaf (The European Fine Art Fair), the world’s pre-eminent art, antiques and design fair, takes place each year in March at the Maastricht Exhibition and Conference Centre (MECC). This year’s 30th Tefaf opened its official webpage with the depiction of a magnificent cartographic item: the Vesconte Maggiolo Planisphere of 1531.

This extraordinary manuscript has come available for sale at Tefaf, by Daniel Crouch Rare Books, for the incredible price of EUR 10 000 000.

Described by Crouch as ‘A jewel of the cartographer’s art’, this is a monumental early 16th-century portolan chart in pen and ink with lapis lazuli, heightened in silver and gold, on six sheets of vellum joined, dimensions 435 x 2055 mm, signed and dated 8 November 1531. It is the first known existing map to outline North America’s eastern coast; one of the earliest illustrations of Verrazano’s first voyage; and the first voyage of discovery under French auspices.

In its historical perspective this chart must be viewed as both an icon of the Age of discovery and a draft for peace between Habsburg Spain and Valois France.

The 1494 demarcation line established by the Treaty of Tordesillas is evident, as are the flags and territories claimed by Portugal, Spain and France.

Monumental planispheres were the favourite format for documenting new territorial possessions during the Age of Discovery and no papal approval could be valid without one. Drawn by the cartographer Vesconte Maggiolo, one of the best known Italian 16th century chart-makers, this 1531 example was apparently unknown until 1983 and undocumented until 1996. Its large size, together with its artistic decoration, indicates that it was commissioned by someone from the elite who remains unknown; but it clearly shows the claims of both the rival powers of Spain and France.

Particularly interesting is the presence of the legendary Mountains of the Moon, the traditional source of the Nile, in Africa; it includes a depiction of the Tree of Knowledge thus identifying the Mountains of the Moon with the terrestrial Paradise. It also contains richly elaborate city views, flora and fauna and decorative representations of elephants, lions, camels and unicorns; today’s Vietnam is represented by a dragon!

Some place-names in the northern hemisphere are written upside-down, as the map was supposed to be consulted on a table: then the writing would be legible from various sides!

This fascinating item, one of 2017’s Tefaf’s unexpected treasures, is still for sale: don’t miss it!

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

International Interdisciplinary Conference on Digital Cultural Heritage
30 August – 1 September 2017
Berlin, Germany
Venue: Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Potsdamer Str. 33, 10785 Berlin
URL: http://icdn2017.net/

Annual Workshop of the Map Curators’ Group (MCG) of the British Cartographic Society: Unfolding your map collection to new audiences.
5 September 2017
Radcroft, County Durham, UK
Venue: Redworth Hall Hotel, County Durham, DL5 6NL

Contact: Ann Sutherland, Convener, Map Curators’ Group (ann.m.sutherland@kcl.ac.uk) or Anna Taylor, Map Department, Cambridge University Library (aemt2@cam.ac.uk).

Global Event: Cartographic Heritage into the Digital Age: 3D Mapping; Current Affairs; Topographic Mapping; Open Data; Map Design; Data Visualization; Mapping our Planet; Historical Mapping; Fantasy Maps; Disaster Mapping
Contact: Ed Dahl (ed.dahl@sympatico.ca).

Last ‘Events Calendar’!
From now on the calendar of events and exhibitions will no longer be printed in this magazine but will instead be sent to you with WhatsApp® our new electronic notice, with hyperlinks to the detailed information on our website. If you have not received the first issues of WhatsApp®, make sure to send us your e-mail address; and do not hesitate to inform us of events and news you would like to share with other members.

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**Exhibitions calendar**

**Aventuriers des mers [Ocean Explorers]**

7 June 2017 – 9 October 2017

Marseille, France

Between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean was the playground of important maritime explorations that took place in a thousand-year period from the Persian Empire to the Dutch navigations. The exhibition includes the Umayyad Caliphate in the seventh century and continues until the 18th century.

Venue: MUCEM, the Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilizations, 7 Promenade Robert Lafont, Marseille.

**Death in the Ice: the shocking story of Franklin’s final expedition**

14 July 2017 – 7 January 2018

Greenwich, London, UK

In a world first, the exhibition explores the mysterious fate of Sir John Franklin and his crew on their final expedition – a mystery that still remains unsolved today. Europeans last saw Sir John Franklin and his 128-man crew in Baffin Bay in July 1845, as HMS Erebus and Terror sailed to find the North-West Passage. This was the biggest expedition that Britain had ever sent to the Arctic region. Two years later, nothing more had been heard from the men and the admiral launched a series of expeditions in an attempt to find them. Over the course of the next 30 years, news filtered back to Britain of the deaths of the entire crew consisting of scurvy and starvation, and speculation of cannibalism and potential madness.

And all the while Erebus, Terror, Franklin and most of his crew were still nowhere to be found.


URL: http://www.rmg.co.uk/

**The world of the VOC**

24 February 2017 – 7 January 2018

The Hague, The Netherlands.


URL: http://www.gaheima.nl/tentoonstelling/voc

**The Atlases**

April 2014 – April 2018

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Go on a journey with the maps and atlases that forever changed how we see the world. The exhibition, The Atlases, shows you top pieces from The National Maritime Museum, Kattenburgerplein 1, 1018 KK Amsterdam.

Venue: East Wing, Het Scheepvaartmuseum (National Maritime Museum), Kattenburgerplein 1, 1018 KK Amsterdam.

URL: https://www.hetscheepvaartmuseum.nl/discover/exhibitions/the-atlases

**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 0494 421 612).

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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 40.00, Students and Juniors under 25: EUR 10.00.

To become (and stay) a member, please pay the membership dues EXCLUSIVELY by bank transfer (no cheques please) to our bank account:

IBAN: BE62 0682 4754 2209

BIC: GCKCBEBB 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 25 different countries. Please submit calendar items and other contributions to the editor (e-mail: editor@bimcc.org) by the following deadlines:

- 15 Nov. for the January edition.

Items presented for publication are submitted to the approval of the Editorial Committee. Signed articles and reviews reflect solely the opinions of the author.
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