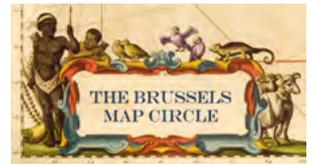


# MAPS IN HISTORY



May 2017  
Newsletter No

58

## The Medici in cartography

Valentijn's map of The Cape

Early maps of Indonesia - Conference programme

Last 'Events Calendar'



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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 1571.

# 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 *WhatsMap*, 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  
editor@bimcc.org

# '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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 same location there were also two side exhibitions about the exploration of the Poles and of Central Africa during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, showing contemporary pictures and local newspaper articles. In the exhibition, responses were given to several questions: Why are maps oriented to the North? Is there a universal map of the world? Why is Europe depicted in the upper part and centrally for the world in these maps? The various displays respond to these questions, by explaining to the visitor the major discoveries of explorers and the development of scientific instruments from the end of the Middle Ages till the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. About 85 maps, atlases and instruments, in pristine condition, are on display. But why in Chambéry? The very vast and rich collection of its

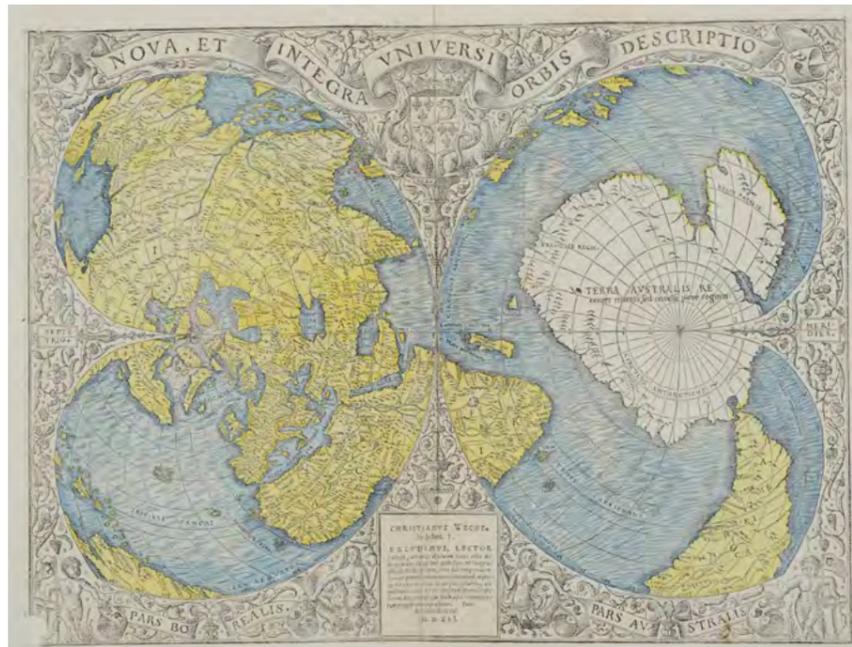


Fig. 1 - 'Nouvelle carte du monde', Oronce Fine (1494-1555), [Paris]: Christian Wechel, 1541

Bibliothèques municipales de Chambéry, CAR MON A 7.  
Scale about 1: 80 000 000; 35 x 45.5 cm

Municipal Library was acquired in 1885 from the Library of the Collège des Jésuites of Chambéry, which earlier received it through a major legacy from a local collector, Claude-Marie Pillet. This collection was completed by a legacy from the family of Richard de Réginauld de Lannoy de Bissy (1844-1906), an army officer, explorer and cartographer, who is best known as a geographer of Africa. His major and very ambitious accomplishment has been to develop the first complete map of Africa at a scale of 1:2 000 000. Other legacies and acquisitions have been added to these collections. An important part of the collection also consists of maps of the Savoie region. These and the entire Lannoy de Bissy collection have been described,

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.

This collection of several thousand maps, atlases and travel books is organised in three parts:

- Maps and city plans of Chambéry and Savoie
- Maps of Africa of the 19<sup>th</sup> century from the legacy of Lannoy de Bissy
- Old maps and atlases of the world with all continents represented

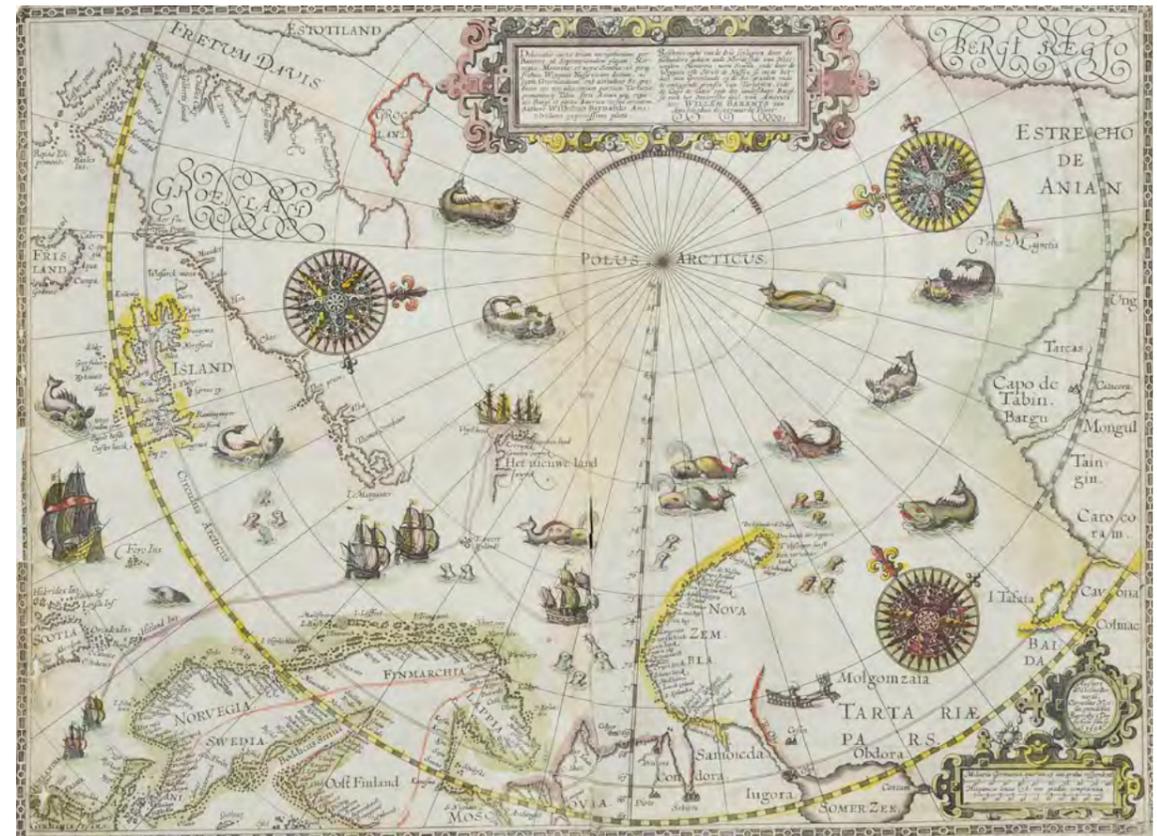


Fig. 2 - 'Carte des trois navigations de Willem Barents aux terres septentrionales' [Amstelodami]: Cornelius Nicolai excudebat. Baptista a Doetechum schulp., 1598

Bibliothèques municipales de Chambéry, CAR MON B 6.

Scale about 1:10 000 000; 43,5 x 57 cm

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 Janssonius. 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 Dreyfus with two other Médiathèque librarians, are really impressive, considering 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 Tufféry, 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.

A nice catalogue (95 pages) in colour to this exhibition has been published, giving an overview about the history of exploration and mapmaking and showing a summary of the items exhibited. It can be obtained from Chambéry's town hall at the modest cost of EUR 15.00 (plus postage) by

contacting [patrimoine@mairie-chambery.fr](mailto:patrimoine@mairie-chambery.fr)

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](http://www.voyageursdesavoie-bmchambery.fr)
- Library : <http://bibliotheque-numerique.chambery.fr>
- Full program: [www.chambery.fr/bibliotheques](http://www.chambery.fr/bibliotheques)

Alex Smit  
[alex.smit@orange.fr](mailto:alex.smit@orange.fr)



# 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.
- Turnhout: Brepols Publishers, 2016 – 472 pp., 44 ill. in colour. Hard cover, 27 x 21 cm.
- ISBN 978-2-503-56461-6, EUR 125.00.
- Special offer for our readers: EUR 95.00 (plus VAT), valid until 30 June 2017.
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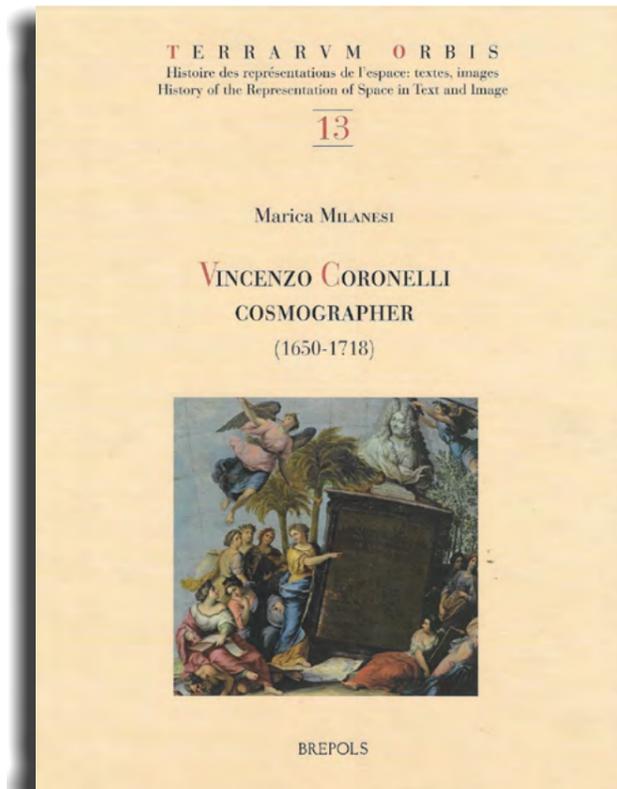
Mention the name of Coronelli, and one immediately thinks of globes. In 1952, this long-standing mental association inspired some collectors of globes in Vienna to found a circle of specialists which became the International Coronelli Society for the Study of Globes, the only scientific Society exclusively 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 based on revised articles published previously, is the monograph now before us.

A concise biography in Part I presents Vincenzo Coronelli (1650-1718) as coming from a rather poor family in Venice. Having been admitted a novice in Assisi first, and a Friar monk in Venice later in 1671, he studied theology in Rome and geometry in Padua where he was introduced to globe making.

Engaged by Cardinal d'Estrées, 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'Estrées offered Louis XIV for his Versailles palace, then under construction. Back in Venice in 1683, 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 hydraulics. 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.



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 munificent dedication to l'Auguste Majesté 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 17<sup>th</sup> century, its celestial counterpart had a mission to perform. In the dedication cartouche to the king, Cardinal d'Estrées 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, 5 September 1638, 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 business. They were then the largest printed globes ever made, outclassing the Dutch globes available on the market at that time. Among them is the beautiful pair of terrestrial and celestial globes of the Royal Library of Belgium (after 1701, 113 cm in diameter) which was presented to participants of our Conference on Globes and Instruments in December, 2016 (see

the report in *Maps in History* No 57, p. 35). As of 1697, Coronelli published the printed gores in a book called the *Libro dei Globi* of which only thirteen copies are known to exist today. These gores are prized collector's items. The more modest amateur map historian may content himself with the facsimile of this book published in the series *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, Fourth Series, Vol. V (1969). 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 1690. 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 1680's gave him a scholarly status. Contrary, however, to the image he presented of himself to his entourage,

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 5 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 historiography 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.

Wulf Bodenstein  
wulfbo@scarlet.be



# 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.

— ISBN 978 94 007 4320 5 - EUR 31.75.

Like 99.99% of the world population I have not been on Antarctica, the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 the explorers; scientific research came in parallel, to improve the accessibility of fishing and hunting grounds.

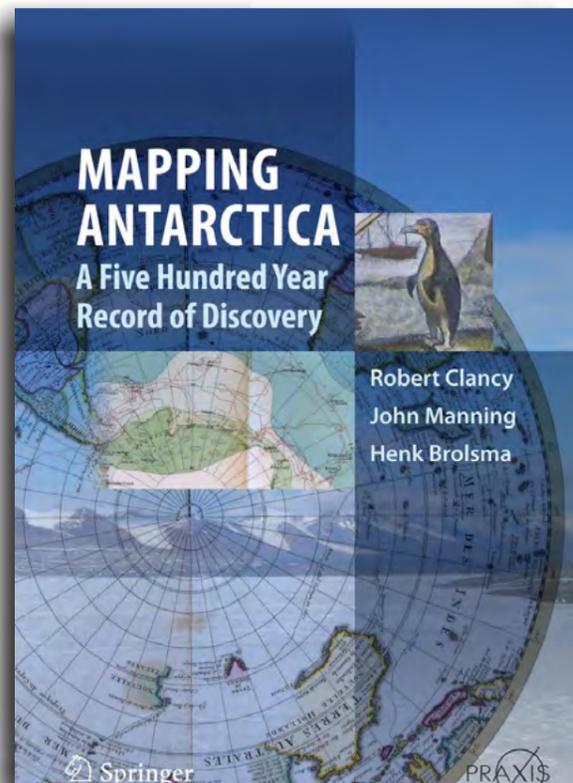
The first chapter describes the research for the North East and North West Passages by English and Dutch merchants looking for a shorter and safer route to the spice countries, building up experience in navigation and survival techniques; it is illustrated with the Ortelius world map of 1570, the Gerard Mercator

map of the North Pole and eight other circumpolar maps by, e.g., Nordenskiöld, 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.

Looking for the magnetic North and South Poles that influenced their compass needles became an object of study. Edmond Halley introduced the isogonic lines or magnetic meridians in the southern hemisphere and Louis Duperrey situated the magnetic South Pole at 76°S and 135–136°E. This chapter is illustrated with twelve maps and comments on Hondius, Cornelis de Jode, John Ross and others.

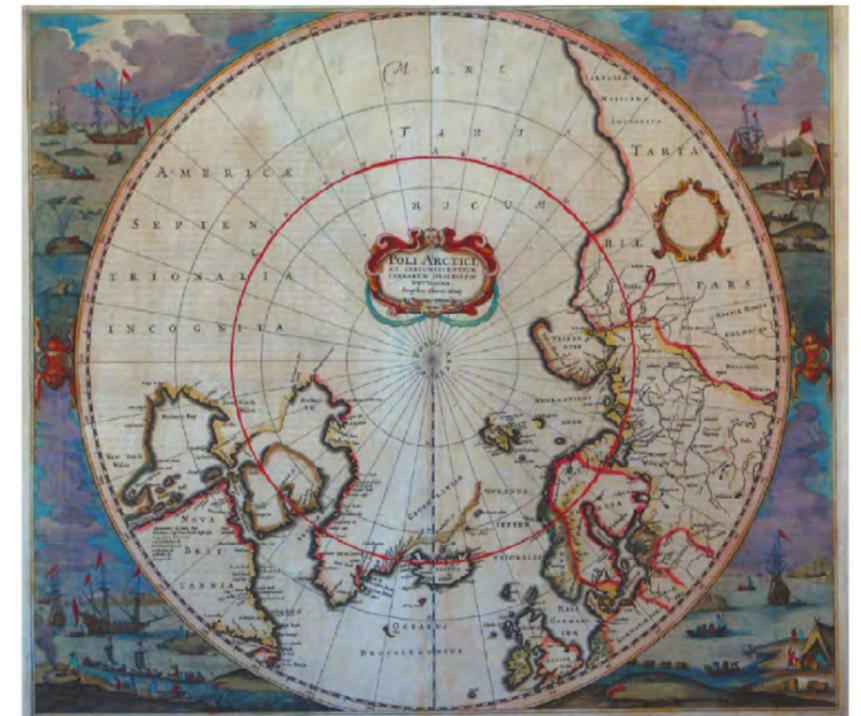
A historic overview of maps from Claudius Ptolemy to Captain James Cook illustrates the research for land in the southern seas: 'Terra Australis



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-O' map, the 1482 Ptolemy world map, the 1531 *Nova, et integra universi orbis descriptio* by Fine, the 1595 Mercator world map showing Terra Australis, the *Maris Pacifici* by Ortelius (1589), and maps of Delisle and the *Orbis terrarum Nova* 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 320 000 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 1881, on whaling which became the convention on banning sealing in the Falklands.

Wilkes 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 66°S and 146°E. W. Thompson expanded oceanic surveying and Sir John Murray edited 50 volumes in 1895, 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



Poli Arcti -1639 - Henricus Hondius 1639

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 scorbustus (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 20<sup>th</sup> century. Otto Nordenskiöld 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 Drygalski 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 1600 miles, mapping the mountains and the Beardmore Glacier. Amundsen with four companions and four dog sledges departed on 19 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 inland, and planted permanent meteorological stations and two permanent east

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, Norway, USA, Argentina, Chile, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, France; the cooperation on scientific purposes leading to the International Polar Years of 1892, 1932, and 1958. SCAR (Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research) cooperation and the Antarctic Treaty in 1959, banning all military use and activities, is still respected. Another eight maps illustrate the expedition routes and territorial claims and the

trigometrogen photogrammetric mapping of one and a half million square miles with the 'Highjump' programme. From 1950 to 2010 sees mapping use ground control points to improve the quality of aero-photogrammetry with the introduction of tellurometers, Doppler and sonar technology and GPS. These techniques enabled

Kingdom, USA and USSR (since 1991: Russia) are explained with another 20 maps to illustrate their activities and mapping.

The ninth chapter focuses on international scientific contributions in different sciences and many treaties: Antarctic Seal Convention, SCAR, 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 (1991) ensures a better protection and study of the Antarctic environment. The detailed maps also focus on altitudes and the Vinson Massif at 4897 m!

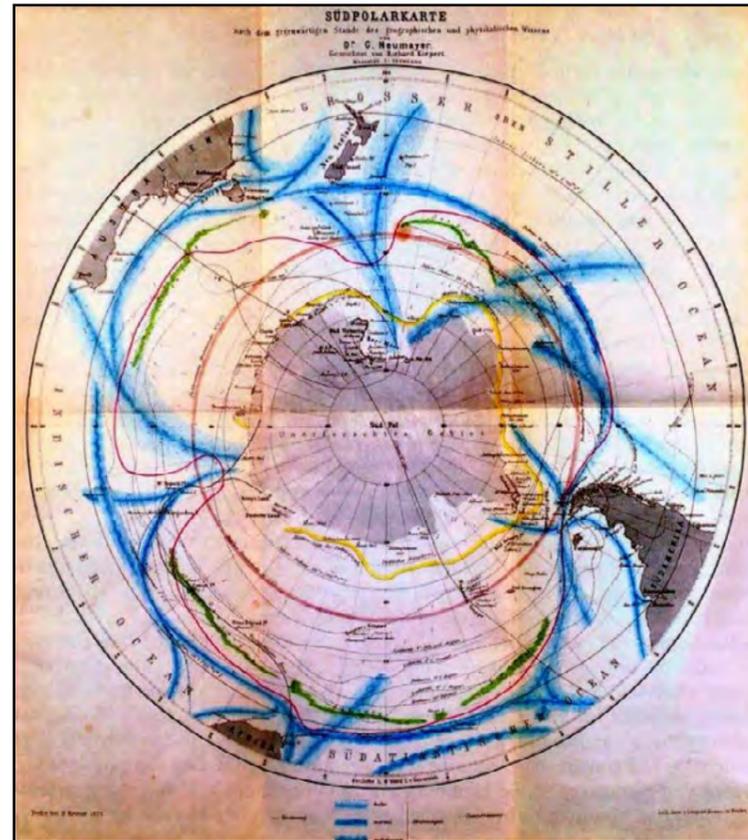
The tenth and final chapter deals with the evolution of knowledge of Antarctica through atlases, with another 23 illustrations of Terra Australis Incognita.

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.

Jan De Graeve  
jan@degraeve-geo.eu



Südpolarkarte 1872 - Dr G von Neumayer

precisions and indirect measures, unheard of before. Amongst many surveyors, our colleague Alan Fredric Wright spent two full years (1961-62) applying these techniques on Antarctica; his great contribution is commemorated by a peninsula named after him on Adelaide Island. The activities and contributions of Argentina, Australia (with ANARA exploration), Chile, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, United

Kingdom, Norway, USA, Argentina, Chile, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, France; the cooperation on scientific purposes leading to the International Polar Years of 1892, 1932, and 1958. SCAR (Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research) cooperation and the Antarctic Treaty in 1959, banning all military use and activities, is still respected. Another eight maps illustrate the expedition routes and territorial claims and the

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

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

by Kevin R. Wittmann

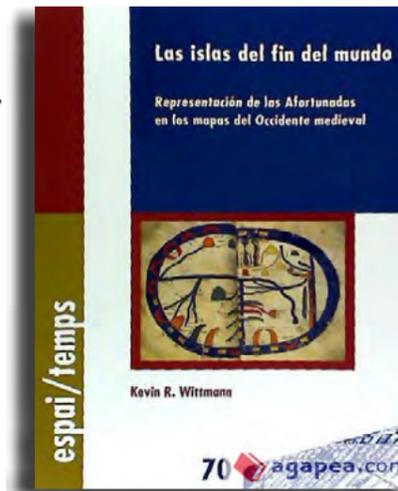
— La Laguna and Lleida: Universidad de La Laguna and Universitat de Lleida, 2016, 126 pp., colour ill.

— ISBN: 978-84-15939-45-0, EUR 18.00 - Language : spanish

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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 mappamundi. 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 mappamundi - 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 the 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 mindsets throughout the European Middle Ages.

Luis Robles-Macias  
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# La Fabrique de l'Océan Indien. Cartes d'Orient et d'Occident (Antiquité-XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle)

[The Making of the Indian Ocean. Maps from East and West  
(Antiquity-16<sup>th</sup> century)]

Edited by Emmanuelle Vagnon and Eric Vallet

— Paris: Publications de la Sorbonne, 2017 - 372 pp., richly illustrated – maps and extracts of maps – soft cover, 27 x 30 cm EUR 39,00 ISBN: 978-2-85944-979-7

This is a truly splendid work which retraces the history of the mapmaking of the Indian Ocean from Antiquity to the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, setting out the circulation of knowledge, mapping traditions and images of the area. It is the fruit of the MeDian – 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 45), 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. The reader is thus offered a summary of the work of many historians and cartographic researchers, offering a variety of angles on how this body of sea and the land masses around it came into being through the skills, knowledge and know-how of the cultures who were either just going about their business trading there, or seeking domination.



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 civilisations over time had differing concepts of this sea. The timeline starts in Antiquity with the Babylon mappamundi (8<sup>th</sup> century BCE) and ends on the brink of the 17<sup>th</sup> 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 first section deals with the way maps gave form to the Indian Ocean. We see it as viewed by ancient Mesopotamia, from the ancient Greeks (for example the map centred on the Indian Ocean published in the Parergon, an extension of the Theatris Orbis Terrarum, 1597), how it was drawn on the 'Latin' mappamundi (e.g. from the 12<sup>th</sup> century Liber Floridus), and its representation in Arab cartography (e.g. Ibn Hawqal's 'Book of the Configuration of the Earth', 10<sup>th</sup> century – see Fig. 1). We then move on to view the Ocean through the eyes of European Renaissance cartographers (Battista Agnese's map of the Indian Ocean in his nautical atlas of the world, 1543), followed by its depiction in south-east Asia (the 'Kangnido' by Kim Sa-hyeong et al., 1402).



Fig. 1 - Ibn Hawqal's 'Book of the Configuration of the Earth' - 10<sup>th</sup> century



Fig. 2 - Diogo Homem's map of the Indian Ocean, 1561

The second part focusses on the ways the shorelines and seas were named. It starts by asking how India gave its name to this vast ocean. Why was an ocean called after just one of its coastlines? Earlier on it had been called the Erythraean Sea, the Red Sea. But when the Portuguese were at the height of their power – exemplified by the Atlas Miller – bits of the ocean began to be called after their adjacent coastlines/coastal areas, and the Arabs did the same. A map by Angelino Dulcert (1339) explains the trade routes and what was being shipped to where. Maps started to include new elements as knowledge spread, but also tended to retain the old. The map by Jan Huyghen van Linschoten (1595) mixes Latin for regions and seas, and Arab and Portuguese for the names of islands, coastlines and interiors. Arab travellers, among them al-Idrisi and ibn Battuta, added names of towns. The Cantino planisphere (1502) brought together all the information from the Portuguese voyages of Vasco da Gama, Pedro Alvares Cabral and João da Nova. It was the first document to give a correct account of Africa's coasts overall. Cantino procured the document in Lisbon and took it to Italy where it was much copied. Later on, Diogo Homem's map of the Indian Ocean (see Fig. 2) – part of his nautical atlas (1561) – became famous for its precision and artistry. By the end

of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Dutch navigators had taken over the exploration of the Indian Ocean routes from the Portuguese and sought out concrete information to update their maps.

The third section looks at how the Indian Ocean was drawn and illustrated. It had always been subject to a mixture of experience and imagination, from its cartographers. The section covers the various ways mapmakers from different traditions treated islands, how they started to develop rutters and views of ports, for example Pedro Barreto de Resende's descriptions of Mombasa and Muscat (copy after 1635) (see Fig. 3), and how information did not just come from mariners and traders. We read about navigator D. João da Castro, who took a very scientific view of maritime navigation. Francisco Rodriguez wrote a nautical guide to the whole of the coastline of the Indian Ocean. Finally the last chapter deals with the 'marvels' – from different kinds of vessels to giants and monsters – that were incorporated into maps of the area, coming from the European, Arab, Persian and Turkish traditions.

The book ends with a very useful parallel chronology, a wide-ranging bibliography, a detailed index, and a table of contents.

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

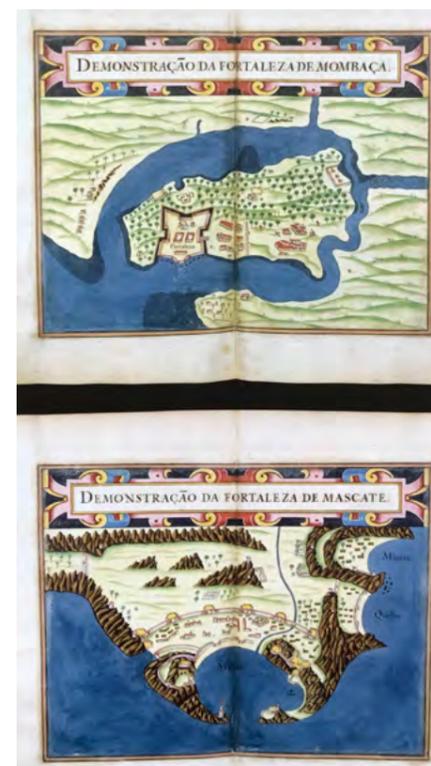


Fig. 3 - Pedro Barreto de Resende's descriptions of Mombasa and Muscat (copy after 1635)



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# François Valentijn's Influential Maps of the Cape of Good Hope

by Roger Stewart



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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 Liesbeeck 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

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 Liesbeeck River to the east of Table Mountain; and identified outspans (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 1685, 1695, 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. Caput Bonae Spei Hodiernum of Peter Kolbe. As was common at the time, Valentijn did not distinguish between his own information and the work of others.



Fig. 1 - François Valentijn 1724  
(Wikimedia Commons)

<sup>1</sup> Valentijn, François. 'Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indie'. Dordrecht and Amsterdam, Johannes van Braam and Gerard onder de Linden, 1724 – 26.

<sup>2</sup> Serton, Petrus, ed., 'Beschryvinge van de Kaap der Goede Hoop met de Zaaken daar toe behoren Amsterdam 1726' [Description of the Cape of Good Hope with the Matters concerning it. Amsterdam 1726], Cape Town: Van Riebeeck Society, 1971. The book published the Beschryvinge in Dutch and English. The introduction is in Afrikaans and English. The extensive footnotes are in Afrikaans only. Volume 1 is available at [http://www.dbnl.org/tekst/vale003besc01\\_01/vale003besc01\\_01.pdf](http://www.dbnl.org/tekst/vale003besc01_01/vale003besc01_01.pdf)



Fig. 2a - Valentijn's map and inset of the Cape of Good Hope

Serton forgivingly described Valentijn as 'a tireless compiler of facts' and George McCall Theal, the historian, concluded that 'the whole (Beschryvinge) is worked into an admirable description of the country'.<sup>3,4</sup>

Although Kolbe's book on the Cape was much more widely published, its credibility was questioned; nevertheless, the text seemed to attract attention for a number of years and was popular and influential. Balthazar Lakeman, who published the posthumous Dutch edition of Kolbe's book, copied Valentijn's map within a year of the publication of the Beschryvinge, which, arguably, was the more reliable published treatise on the Cape of Good Hope.

3 Serton, *ibid.*, p. 7 (volume I)

4 Theal, George McCall. 'Catalogue of Books and Pamphlets Relating to Africa South of the Zambesi. in the Collection of George McCall Theal', Cape Town: T Maskew Miller, 1912, p. 320

### Valentijn's Maps of the Cape of Good Hope (Fig. 2a and 2b)

The Beschryvinge includes two maps of the Cape of Good Hope (Norwich #214)<sup>5</sup>, 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 Liesbeeck River – Johannes Loots published an unbound map in ca 1698.<sup>6</sup>

5 Stone, J. ed., 'Norwich's Maps of Africa', Norwich VA: Terra Nova Press, 2005. The Norwich collection is now in the Department of Special Collections in the library of Stanford University in the U.S.A.

6 Stewart, Roger, 'Nieuwe en

### Nieuwe Kaart van Caap der Goede Hoop

Valentijn's larger map (56 x 46 cm) is entitled 'Nieuwe Kaart van Caap der Goede Hoop in hare rechte tegenwoordige staat' [New map of the Cape of Good Hope in its present state]. It covers an irregular triangle of territory, the points of which are the mouth of the Groen (Green) River about 225 km north of the settlement; Cape Point in the south-west and Algoa Bay, almost 800 km to the east. An inset map of the south-western, settled corner of the colony is in the top right corner of the page (infra). I have not been able to determine the engraver of the map and inset; however, Valentijn had access to the VOC and its map makers.

Valentijn's longitude of Cape Town was based on a misreading of Kolbe's text (his cartographer read 37° 55' east of Tenerife as 37° 35');

Naaauwkeurige land- en zee-kaart, van ... Caap de Bonne Esperanc(a)', IMCoS Journal 2014; 136: 13 – 20

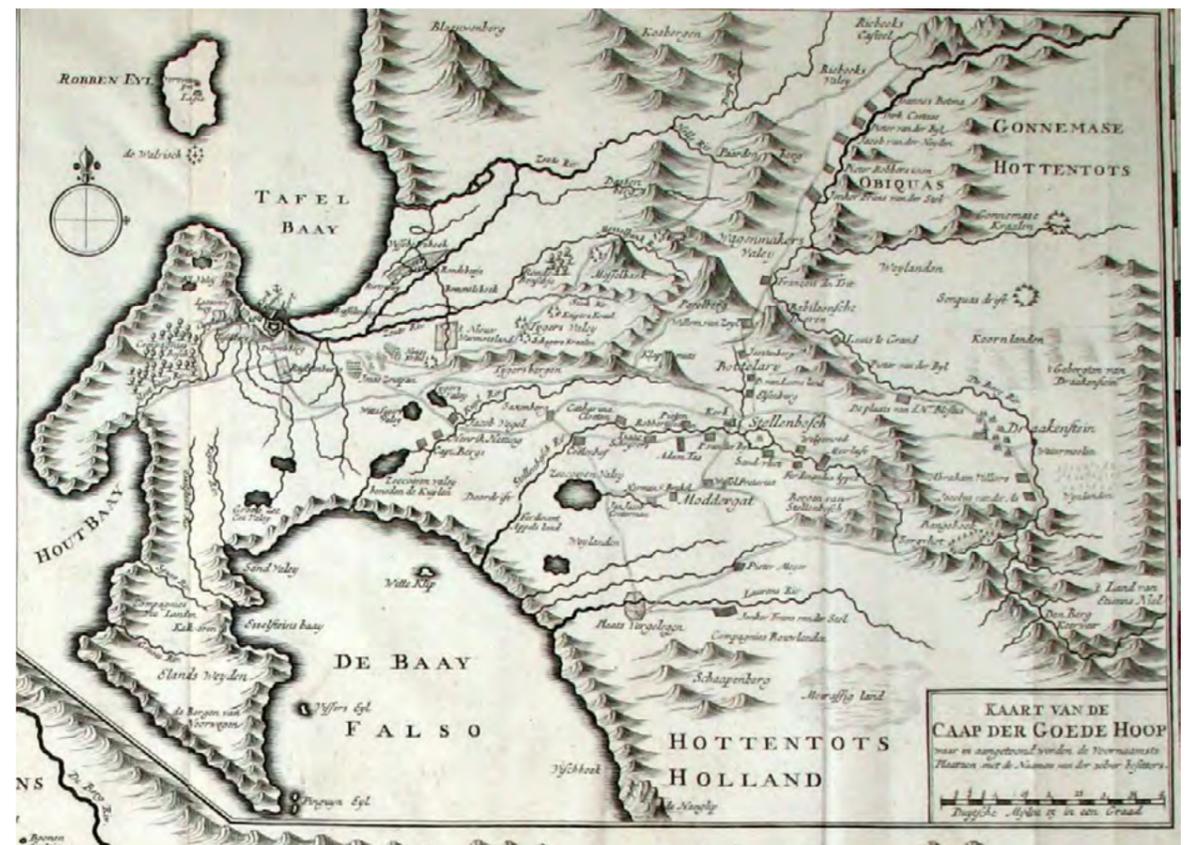


Fig. 2b - The inset on Valentijn's map of the Cape of Good Hope

the longitudinal difference between Table and Algoa Bays of only 5 1/2° was underestimated by 2°, a common error at that time.<sup>7</sup> Algoa Bay is about 1/2° too far north, also a common error, while Cape Town's latitude of 34° 25'S is approximately 1/2 degree too far south. The coastline, with its exaggerated promontories and bays, was derived from VOC sources, most likely Caspar van Weede's Chart from Saldanha Bay to False Bay, which was more than seventy years old when Valentijn's book was published.<sup>8</sup>

Valentijn's map also copies van Weede's grossly incorrect shape of Saldanha Bay (it should be more like the mirror-image of an inverted L). The territory east of False Bay was not well known and the map reflects this.

7 Serton *ibid.*, I: p. 11

8 Manuscript map 4.VEL 168 at the Dutch National Archives, illustrated in Brommer, Bea, ed., *Grote Atlas van de Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie. V Afrika. Voorburg (Netherlands)*, Atlas Maior, 2009, pp. 64 – 65. The 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.<sup>9</sup> 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 to Namaqualand led by Simon van der Stel (in 1685 and 1686) and a shorter expedition by Johannes Starrenburg (in 1705), both of which he included in the Beschryvinge.<sup>1-2</sup> These journals were tightly held by the VOC and Valentijn's was their only publication before the twentieth century.<sup>10</sup> Gilbert Waterson, who discovered the missing, official Van der

9 Mossop, Ernest. *Old Cape Highways*. (Cape Town: Maskew Miller, 1927), pp. 117-169

10 Waterhouse, Gilbert. *Simon van der Stel's Journal of his expedition to Namaqualand 1685 – 6* (London, New York, Toronto: Longmans, Green, and Company; Dublin: Hodges, Figgis and Co., 1932), p. vii – xiii

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.<sup>10</sup>

As described in Starrenburg's journal, the Tythouw River (today the Langveirivier – Long Lake River) is shown on the map correctly to terminate in a salt pan a short distance from the sea.<sup>11-12</sup> Van der Stel's journal is clear that the Berg River discharges its waters into the sea at St. Heleens (Helena) Bay'.<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup> However, it is likely that

11 Serton *op. cit.*, p. 29 (of volume II).

12 3218AB Lambert's Bay, 3rd edition, 1:50 000. Chief Directorate, Surveys and Mapping, South Africa. The river drains to the Wadrifoutsoutpan (Wagon Drift Saltpan)

13 Serton, *op. cit.*, p. 235 (volume I).

14 Glatigny, Pascal and Maré, Estelle. 'A map and its copy of Governor Simon van

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 aangetoond werden de Voornaamste Plaatzten met de Naamen van der zelve besitters [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 south-western 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. Vergelegen, 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.<sup>15 16</sup> Valentijn's map

der Stel's expedition to Namaqualand (1685): an enquiry into their visual values', *South African Journal of Art History* 2006, 21 (1), 104 – 113. Van der Stel's map is figure 1, which can be viewed at <http://goo.gl/OxyuWL>

15 'Nieuwe Naaukeurige Land-en Zee-Kaart, van het voornaamste Gedeelte der Kaffersche Kust, Begrypende de Sardanje-Bay en de Caap de Bonne Esperanca met alle des Zelfs Plantazien'. The map is approximately 48 x 58 cm. It seems the map was published ca. 1798 by Johannes Loots.6 Seton refers to the map by its headline, 'Nova et Accurata Tabula Promontorii Bonae Spe'.2

16 Scholte, Mieke. 'Vier Kaarten van de

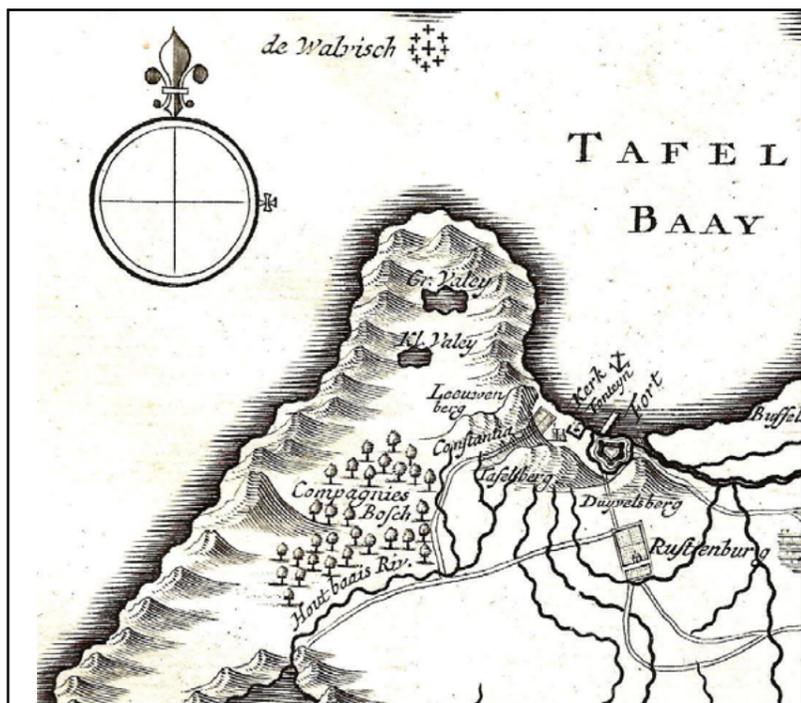


Fig. 3 - Some critical errors (see above) that reflect Valentijn's poor supervision of the cartographer

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.

Governor Simon van de 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 [Lay-out or Plan of the Cape] and Gezicht van

Kaap der Goede Hoop' [Four maps of the Cape of Good Hope]. Caert Thresoor: a. 5(4)(1986), 75 – 85; b. 6(2) (1987), 19 – 22; c. 7(1)(1988), 10 – 17

Kaap der Goede Hoop [View of the Cape of Good Hope].<sup>17</sup> 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,<sup>18</sup> 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 'Caarte van de Kaap de Goede Hoop Leggend en't zuyder 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 Kaart.<sup>19</sup>

17 Seton, op. cit., opposite p. 66 and p. 67 respectively.

18 See note 6

19 Kolbe, Peter 'Caarte van de Kaap de Goede Hoop Leggend en't zuyder gedeelte van Africa' in 'Naaukeurige en Uitvoerige Beschryvinge van de Kaap de

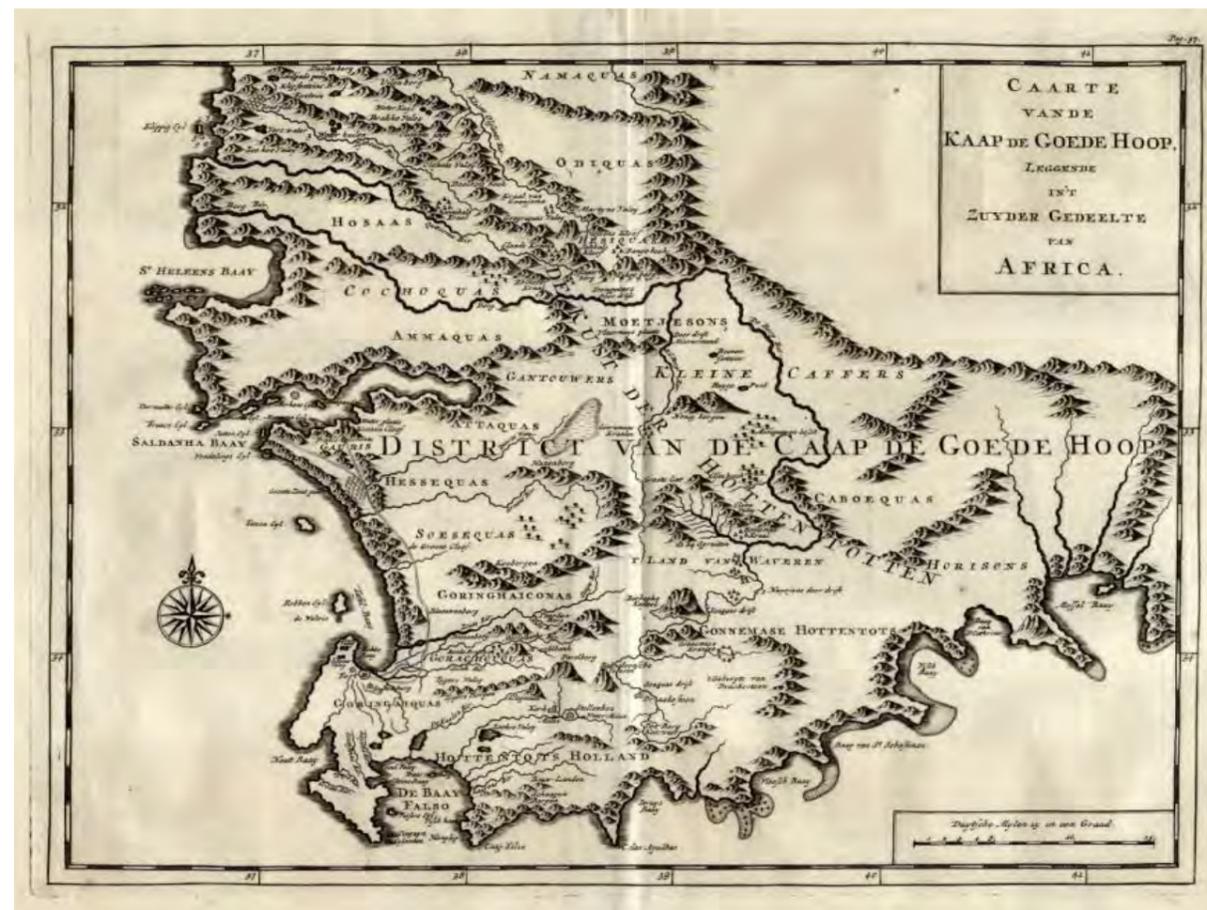


Fig. 4 - Kolbe's 'Kaarte van de Kaap de Goede Hoop' (1727)

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 depot des plans de la marine' [This map is based on those of Kolbe and on a few manuscript of the French navy plan deposit]<sup>20</sup>. Bellin's maps of the Cape were widely distributed from 1746 until 1781 and are readily available today.

Goede Hoop', Amsterdam: Lakeman, 1727

20 'Le Pays des Hottentots' was published in Prévost d' Exile Antoine's 'Histoire Générale des Voyages', Paris: Didot, 1746-1759. It was also published as 'Il Paese Degli Ottentotti ...' in Bellin, Jacques 'Teatro della Guerra Maritime', Venice, 1781, which appears in the Italian edition of Bellin's 'Petit Atlas Maritime'.

In 1778, Tobias Conrad Lotter published Promontorii Bonae Spei, which is a miniature inset that seems to have been derived from Kolbe.<sup>21</sup> Valentijn's map also influenced the northern part of L.S. de la Rochette's map of the Cape of Good Hope that was published between 1782 and 1838, first by William Faden and then by James Wyld.<sup>22</sup>

21 An inset on 'Africae Pars Meridionalis cum Promontorio Bonae Spei. Accuratissime Delineato Opera Tobiae Conradi Lotter Geographi Augustae Vindelicorum' in 'Atlas géographique de cent et huit cartes', 1778

22 Stewart, Roger. 'De la Rochette's map of the Cape of Good Hope', *IMCoS Journal* 2013; 132: 22 – 27

**Roger Stewart**  
Roger Stewart is the representative in South Africa of the International Map Collectors' Society.

# 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 the Medici created a lasting impact in Europe, of which a major part is still available for perusing in the libraries and museums in Florence and elsewhere.

## The emergence of the Medici family

During the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Apennine 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 Swabian emperor). 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 reign of Cosimo I de’ Medici

The Medici were able to have had 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 1537 (aged only 18) 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 stable 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 1).



Fig. 1 - A portrait of the Grand Duke Cosimo I made in the workshop of the painter Agnolo Bronzino around 1560



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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 reigned over the Mediterranean and terrorized populations, their impact needed to be reduced.

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 scarce cartographic material; and the development of Livorno as a free port with naval shipyards, nautical schools and a centre for the development of nautical charts and instruments. So far Rome, Genoa and Venice were the most important centres of cartography in the Italian peninsula with only a few well-known map-makers in the Tuscany region. Already in the 15<sup>th</sup> century several geographers, such as Nicolò Niccoli, Paolo Pozzo Toscanelli (also a scientific mentor to Columbus), Francesco Lapaccini, Nicolò Cusano and the Dane, Claudio Clausson Swart, impacted

on the development of better maps. Cosimo I’s ancestors had bought and commissioned translations of major literary books, including Ptolemy’s *Geographia*. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century Toscanelli and Vespucci contributed to the revival of astronomical and geographical studies in Florence, laying the basis for the new celestial and terrestrial cartography that, with the strong support by Cosimo I and Ferdinando I and II, was to become a real hallmark of the Medici family.

## The Room of Geographical Maps in the Palazzo Vecchio

On Cosimo I’s request the famous painter and architect Giorgio Vasari (1511–74) built, between 1555 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 Palace of the Priors). On the second floor in the former loggia of this old part the ‘Room of the Wardrobe’ was constructed between 1562 and 1586, 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 53 maps of the world on the wooden door panels. The planning of the decoration was first started by the



Fig. 2 - Map of Scandinavia made by Egnazio Danti, in the Palazzo Vecchio’s ‘Room of the Geographical Maps’

Olivetian friar and cosmographer Miniato Pitti, with the Ptolemaic maps drawn by Egnazio Danti, of which he completed 30 up to 1575 (see figure 2), when he had to resign after a clash with the local ecclesiastical authorities. Shortly thereafter he was invited by Pope Gregory III to Rome to work on the maps of the papal apartments in the Vatican’s Third Loggia (seen during our visit in May 2016). The other 23 maps were finished in 1587 by the Olivetan friar Stefano Buonsignori, a pupil of Pitti. All the maps also show the typical flora and fauna of the countries depicted. The works were carried out over a period of 23 years, but were delayed several times. Cosimo’s two sons, Francesco and Ferdinando, who followed him after his death, authorized their continuation and completion.



Fig. 3 - Globe by Egnazio Danti

In the centre of the Room stands a very large globe with a diameter of over two metres, completed by Egnazio Danti in 1571 (figure 3). This globe and his maps are based on the *Geographia* of Ptolemy (2<sup>nd</sup> century CE) with updates. The other 23 maps, with the recent ones of the New World, were made by using both published sources, such as from Ortelius, Battista Ramusio and Giacomo Gastaldi, and still unpublished maps, such as the nautical planisphere of Bartolomeo Velho on four sheets produced in 1561, now exhibited in the Galileo Museum. The ceiling shows 12 large squares with 4 panels each of the celestial constellations, but these were never completed. Vasari described this project as ‘a capriccio and invention by Cosimo I to be able to see all the maps and the skies together, without errors



Fig. 6 - Nautical mappamundi in four sections by Lopo Homem of ca 1554 displayed in the Galileo Museum, Florence.

and 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 river'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 Uffizi 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 Ludovico Buti on the walls of the Mathematics Room in the Galleria degli Uffizi.

### Museo Galileo

This Museum (formerly the 'Institute and Museum of the History of Science'), founded in 1930 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 400 years since Galileo Galilei (1564–1642) made his first astronomical discoveries with his telescope. In 2014 the Museum celebrated the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. 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 1300 precious items, of which the core was collected and developed during the reigns of the Grand Dukes Cosimo I and of Ferdinando I. The emphasis is on navigational and military sciences. From Galileo 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 1593 (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.



Fig. 4 - The Armillary Sphere representing the world by Antonio Santucci (around 1593) on display in the Globe Room of the Galileo Museum in Florence.

In 1582 Santucci had built a much smaller version, offered by Ferdinando I to the Spanish king Philip II. This globe was badly damaged during its



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

transportation to Madrid but well restored and donated by the King to 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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

between 1599 and 1612 and also worked for the Grand Duke Ferdinando I in Rome, when the latter was still a cardinal.

Cosimo I started to collect portolan charts from the Portuguese cartographers Bartolomeo Velho (1586), such as his nautical planisphere on four panels of 1554; and from Lopo Homem on four panels of 1554 (figure 6 - centrefold). Homem, on his mappamundi of 1519, was the first to show a connection between the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans, illustrating the change in perception of the world in the Middle Ages from an oceanic view (the world surrounded by water) to a terrestrial theory, as expressed by Ptolemy in his Geography which became the widely-adopted Renaissance view. Also shown is a nautical atlas of Giovanni Oliva (1616). On a wall is displayed a copy of the large mappamundi of Fra Mauro of Venice (1457–59).

This Museum was heavily damaged by the severe flooding of the Arno in the autumn of 1966, with the water reaching over four metres high on the ground floor; but its collections were almost all saved and subsequently the building and collections were restored.

The nearby **Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale** houses a major collection of books and geographical maps made during the reign of the Medici, which can be consulted. (figure 7). This Library was much developed when Florence became the capital for a short period after the unification of Italy.

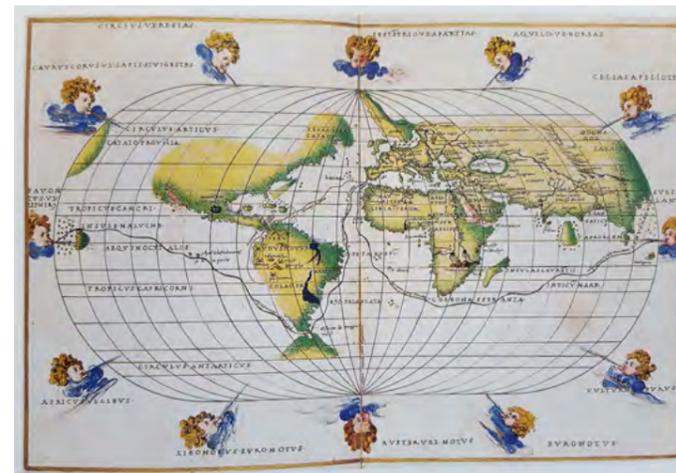


Fig. 7 - World-map depicting the voyage around the world by Magellan made by Battista Agnese in ca. 1540 which is in the very rich collection of the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale of Florence.

### 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 1609 and 1610 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 1610 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.

### 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 Castille, 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

Ferdinando I was very fortunate to be able to enlist the services of Sir Robert Dudley in 1605. He became very important for him in the development of the ducal navy and as very valuable source of information on the New World and the European powers. Robert Dudley (1574–1649) was an English explorer and cartographer and an illegitimate son of Robert Dudley, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Leicester. Between 1594 and 1597 he had made several expeditions to the newly discovered continent – to Brazil, the West Indies and New England. He also made a voyage to China. He was knighted by the English Crown for his conduct in

the capture of Cadiz and inherited the estate from his father; but, despite much effort during the period 1603 to 1605, he was unsuccessful in inheriting his title. Because of his less acceptable social behaviour he was forced to leave England. He readily found a new existence in Tuscany as an engineer, shipbuilder and geographer: first for the Grand Duke Ferdinando I and later also for Ferdinando II. These welcomed his wide experience and assigned him many projects, such as the reinforcement of the port of Livorno, draining swamps, designing and building new ships and developing improved instrumentation and mapping. Between 1620 and 1630 Dudley wrote his memoirs of navigation and seamanship, which he used later as a basis for his monumental six-volume 'Dell'Arcano del Mare' [the Secret of the Sea] published by himself in 1646–47. This comprehensive treatise of navigation, shipbuilding, astronomy and cartography, also included the very first sea atlas of the entire world, including 130 maps of his own design engraved by the Florentine baroque style engraver Antonio Francesco Lucini, who spent twelve years to prepare the plates. Later engravers chose a different style, so that Dudley's work became unique and rare 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 Galileo Museum, responsible for its collections. His valuable advice and direction in my search for this article was much appreciated.



Fig. 9 - 'Map of the Adriatic sea - 1661' by Robert Dudley from Dudley's Arcano del Mare (B. Ruderman collection)

## Cooperation on digital library of Waldseemüller map



The map of the New Continent and the Atlantic by Waldseemüller of 1507, showing for the first time the name 'America'

The Galileo Museum in Florence (Italy) and the Library of Congress in Washington DC (USA) have developed together a new initiative with an experimental digital library, via a website, with details of the very famous map on which the name America appeared for the first time. This map entitled 'Universalis Cosmographia ...', by the young geographer Waldseemüller, was part of an updated edition of the geography treatise of Ptolemy published under the direction of Gauthier Lud in Saint - Dié, a small town in the Vosges area of Lorraine, now part of eastern France.<sup>1</sup>

This map was printed in 1507, based on information collected by Amerigo Mateo Vespucci from four expeditions to the new continent 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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<sup>1</sup> More historical background on Waldseemüller and the 'Cymnase Vosgien' can be found in the article by Monique Pelletier published in BIMCC Newsletter No 27... ten years ago!

# 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 2015... 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.

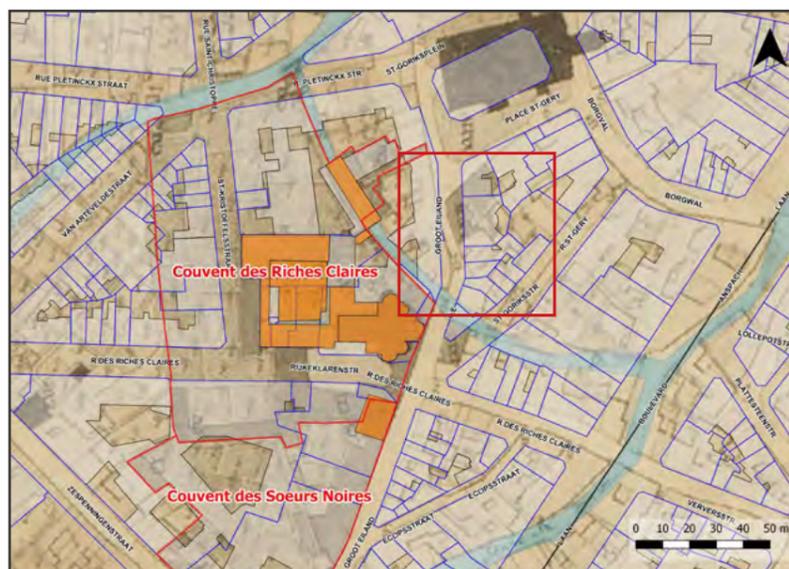
While working at Ghent University she also participated in the organisation of several conferences, one of which was the 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography, which was organised jointly with the Map Circle in Ghent in December 2014. Ever since then 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



Map of Brussels by Lefebvre d'Archambault (1774) on which the modern parcel structure, buildings, road network, and remnants of the convents of the Rich Claires and Black Sisters (orange) are indicated.

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.



Tom Harper

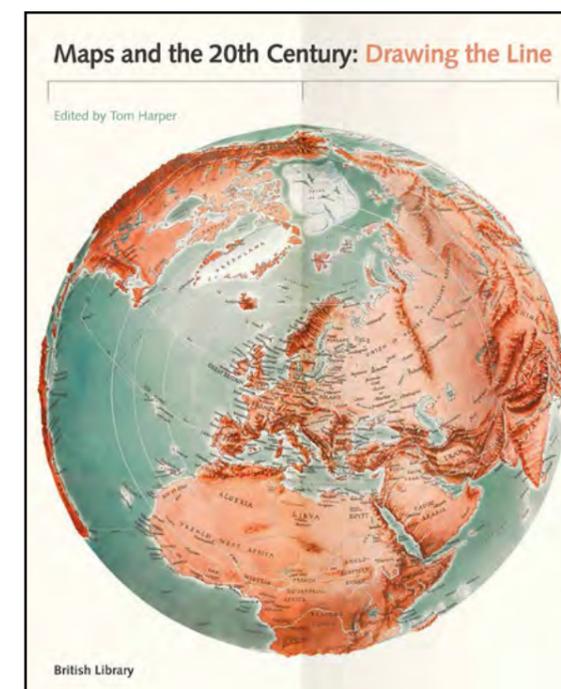
MiH 49 - May 2014

Tom Harper, curator of antiquarian maps at the British Library, described his role there as an 'access point' to the collections, a rather low-key expression for a very wide-ranging and rather important job. He needs to know what is in the full breadth of the huge collection, and where to access it if required. In the summer of 2015 your writer was privileged to be on the receiving end of a lively session at the Library entitled 'Mapping and its Audiences during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century' - described by another participant as 'entertaining and inspiring' - as part of the London Rare Books School course Mapping Land & Sea before 1950. When the Newsletter spoke to him in 2014 he was on the point of publishing a book. So what's been happening since then?

In October 2014 'A History of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in 100 maps' - co-authored with Tim Bryars - was published. The book was the basis for the exhibition *Maps and the Twentieth Century: Drawing the Line* (4 November 2016 - 1 March 2017) at the British Library which they had started gearing up for in 2015. 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 550 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 1890 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.



Exhibition poster of *Maps and the Twentieth Century: Drawing the Line*: 4 November 2016 - 1 March 2017, British Library, London



Emmanuelle Vagnon

#### MiH 50 – September 2014

When we last spoke to Emmanuelle Vagnon, a researcher at LAMOP, the Laboratoire de Médiévisstique 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 from about A.D. 1500. Her research was based in Paris, but she thought she might have to go to Italy or the British Library for further research.

She has been pretty busy since then!

In 2015 Emmanuelle was a member of the scientific team which prepared the cartography exhibition in Izmir, Turkey: 'French and Ottoman cartography of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus (17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries)', plus the catalogue which was published together with the French Institute for Anatolian Studies, Istanbul. In December she presented the project at our Map Circle conference in Brussels Mapping the Ottoman Empire.

Also that year Emmanuelle finished her study of the illustrated portolan – which was exhibited at the exhibition at the Château Royal at Blois held to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the accession of Francis I – and wrote two articles on it: one published in the 'Orbis disciplinae: Hommages en l'honneur de Patrick Gautier Dalché',



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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 Navy Museum. 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 Albi (southern France) Jocelyne Deschaux, Sandrine Victor and Thibault Courcelle – a conference to follow up a research seminar at University Paris 1. This conference in Albi 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 57). Last year also saw her presenting her work in Paris and Leuven.

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-XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle) [The Making of the Indian Ocean. Maps from East and West (Antiquity-16<sup>th</sup> 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 through different cultures and time-periods: Greek, Latin, Arab, Persian, Indian, Chinese, Turk, Portuguese and Dutch, Mongol, ... until the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> 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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# 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 we 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 (!) 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 55.

#### **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 56, 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 57 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?**

Last but not least, the Circle realized a wish that had been living for a while but couldn't be materialized by the lack of helping hands (see point 1): an electronic newsletter that could inform our members much faster and in a more contemporary way about news and events. This resulted in sending out WhatsMap? for the first time in the weeks before the AGM.

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## Making Maps in History

This issue of *Maps in History* was coordinated and edited by Jean-Louis Renteux. 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 Wulf Bodenstein, Nicola Boothby, Lisette Danckaert, Karen De Coene, Francis Herbert and Pierre Parmentier.



## 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 1. Short overview of Indonesian history (1580-1950)

*Putting early cartography into perspective*

- Hans D. Kok, retired KLM B-747 pilot and manager, Chairman IMCoS (London, UK)

### 2. It is not our intention to go farther on from here. The Portuguese voyages to the Spice Islands and the first European maps and sketches of Southeast Asia, 1512-ca 1550

Our purpose is to present an overview of the Portuguese cartography of the Indonesian archipelago between the maps and sketches drawn by Francisco Rodrigues in the aftermath of the first Portuguese expedition to the Moluccas in 1511-12 and the 1554 world map by Lopo Homem. We will cross some references regarding coeval Spanish and French cartography, identifying the political and historical contexts of elaboration of each of these series of maps.

- Francisco Roque de Oliveira, Centre for Geographical Studies, IGOT-Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

### 3. How the search for the Spice Islands unrolled the map of the World.

Providing a general overview of his book *The cartography of the East Indian Islands – Insulae Indiae Orientalis*, the author will describe the importance of the search for the Spice Islands, the Holy Grail of the majority of the great Renaissance voyages of exploration, in opening up the world and promoting the mapping of the same.

- David Parry, Soil Scientist, Environmental Development Consultant and Curator, Indonesia

### 4. Local exploration highlights in the days of the Dutch United East India Company (VOC)

An overview from the exploration of the archipelago from Batavia, including the travels to Australia/New Zealand (Tasman) and Japan (Maarten Gerritsz. Vries), with some explanation about the map production of the Dutch East India Company (the VOC)

- Hans D. Kok, retired KLM B-747 pilot and manager, Chairman IMCoS (London, UK)

### 5. Confidential or commercial? The conflicting interests within the Blaeu and Van Keulen mapmaker families.

For two periods, the office of VOC mapmaker was in the hands of two well-known map publishing families: the Blaeus (1633-1705) and the Van Keulens (1743-1799). Although the VOC mapmakers had to swear secrecy, it is open to question to what extent VOC cartography was considered confidential. How did the Blaeu and Van Keulen families reconcile the role of official VOC mapmakers with their activities as commercial publishers? Was there a conflict of interest between their commercial activities and their commitment to the VOC?

- Martijn Storms, Curator of maps and atlases, Leiden University Library, The Netherlands

**Venue :** Royal Library of Belgium, Mont des Arts / Kunstberg  
Boulevard de l'Empereur 4 / Keizerslaan 4 - 1000 Brussels (near the Central Station)

## International News 3D globes

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 globes 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 compliance with the originals down to the last detail, and to guarantee a great fluidity and legibility of the entire zoomable area. The extraordinary 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 1515. 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 'Bibliotheca Electoralis' 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.

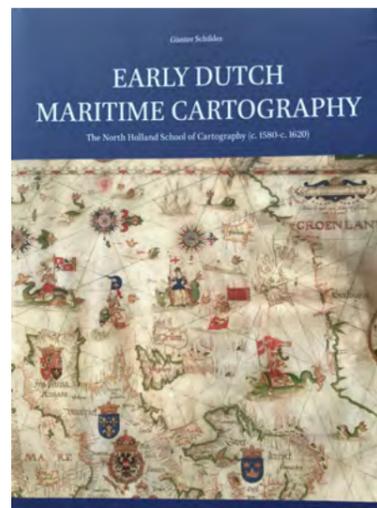
Further information: [www.ehh.uni-jena.de](http://www.ehh.uni-jena.de)  
Or contact: [andreas.christoph@uni-jena.de](mailto:andreas.christoph@uni-jena.de)

Digital Globes portal under development at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena (FSU)

## At 75, Prof. Günter Schilder has a new baby!

Just prior to his 75<sup>th</sup> 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 (until 2007) and acted as a catalyst in many ways in his field, particularly with the 'Explokart' 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 addressing the BIMCC in 2006

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 the 2007 milestone Conference in the Royal Library on 'Formatting 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup>-century portolan chart in pen and ink with lapis lazuli, heightened in silver and gold, on six sheets of vellum joined, dimensions 935 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.

The richly decorated planisphere graphically summarises the negotiations between the two Iberian super powers of Portugal and Spain and the conflict between the houses of Habsburg and Valois.

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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!



Planisphere by Vesconte Maggiolo (1531)

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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F. Devroe

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# Events calendar

## Seminar: Le Monde vu d'Asie: Histoire et Pratiques Cartographiques dans les Mondes Asiatiques [The World Seen From Asia: History And Cartographic Practices in Asian Worlds]

6 June 2017, 18.30

Paris, France

On the Silk Road: Le changement climatique dans la cartographie de la Route de la Soie

Lecture by Philippe Claude Forêt (Université Nazarbayev).

Venue: École Normale Supérieure 45, Rue d'Ulm, 75005 Paris

Contact: Fabrice Argounès (Fabrice.Argounes@univ-paris1.fr); Hélène Blais (helene.blais@wanadoo.fr).

## London Map Fair

17 June 2017, 12.00-19.00

18 June 2017, 10.00-18.00

London, UK

The largest Antique Map Fair in Europe, established 1980.

Venue: Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 (Entrance: Exhibition Road)

17 June 2017, 14.30

Fred Rose and his 'serio-comic' cartoon maps

Lecture by Roderick Barron (specialist dealer in allegorical & satirical maps)

Venue: Royal Geographical Society (see above), Ondaatje Theatre.

## Mapping Tools for Non-Mapping Experts: Incorporating Geospatial Visualization Tools in Libraries

2 - 7 July 2017

Washington DC, USA

Pre-Conference workshop in the frame of the 28<sup>th</sup> International Cartographic

Conference, Washington DC, USA, organised by the ICA Commission on Cartographic Heritage into the Digital in association and partnership with the MAGIC group.

Venue: to be confirmed

Participation is free.

Contact: Marcy Bidney (bidney@uwm.edu); Nathan Piekielek (nbp104@psu.edu).

URL: <http://cartography.web.auth.gr/ICA-Heritage/2015-2019/pg/ICC2017.html>

## ICC 2017 Washington DC.

2 - 7 July 2017

Washington DC, USA



28<sup>th</sup> International Cartographic Conference of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) with 40 different conference themes, keynote presentations, commission meetings, exhibitions and a number of pre-Conference workshops. The National Galleries of Art, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Geographic Society, and the Library of Congress will all play a role in making this a great conference.

Venue: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Road NW, Washington, DC 20008 USA

Contact: [info@icc2017.org](mailto:info@icc2017.org)

URL: [icc2017.org](http://icc2017.org)

## Meeting of the International Society of Curators of Early Maps (ISCCEM)

9 July 2017, 9.00-13.00

Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Contact: Ed Dahl (ed.dahl@sympatico.ca).

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

## ICHC 2017 - The 27<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the History of Cartography

9 - 14 July 2017

Belo Horizonte, Brazil



It is the first time ICHC will be hosted in a South American country. The main theme refers to the wider region of Latin America.

Venue: Minas Tennis Clube Cultural Center, 2244 Rua da Bahia, Belo Horizonte (5th floor).

Contact: ICHC-2017 (infoichc2017@gmail.com).

URL: <http://www.ichc2017.ufmg.br/>

## Conference: Mapping the Past, Exploiting the Future: Cartographies and Understandings of the Arctic

21 - 22 July 2017

Greenwich, London, UK

Venue: National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London.

## Annual International Conference of the Royal Geographical Society: Decolonising geographical knowledges: opening geography out to the world.

29 August - 1 September 2017

London, UK

Venue: Royal Geographical Society-IBG (junction of Kensington Gore /Exhibition Road) Kensington, London SW7 2AR; and Imperial College London, further south down Exhibition Road..

Contact: [AC2017@rgs.org](mailto:AC2017@rgs.org)

## 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://dch2017.net/>

## Annual Workshop of the Map Curators' Group (MCG) of the British Cartographic Society; Unfolding the map: presenting your map collection to new audiences.

5 September 2017

Redworth, County Durham, UK

Venue: Redworth Hall Hotel, County Durham, DL5 6NL

Contact: Ann Sutherland, Convener, Map Curators' Group (ann.m.sutherland@talk21.com) or Anne Taylor, Map Department, Cambridge University Library (aemt2@cam.ac.uk).

URL: <http://www.cartography.org.uk/about/special-interest-groups/mcg/>

## BCS - SoC Conference 2017 Maps for Changing Reality

5 - 7 September 2017

Redworth, County Durham, UK

Preliminary themes: 3D Mapping; Augmented & Virtual Reality; Web 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).

## International Symposium: Mapping Asia - Cartographic Encounters between East and West

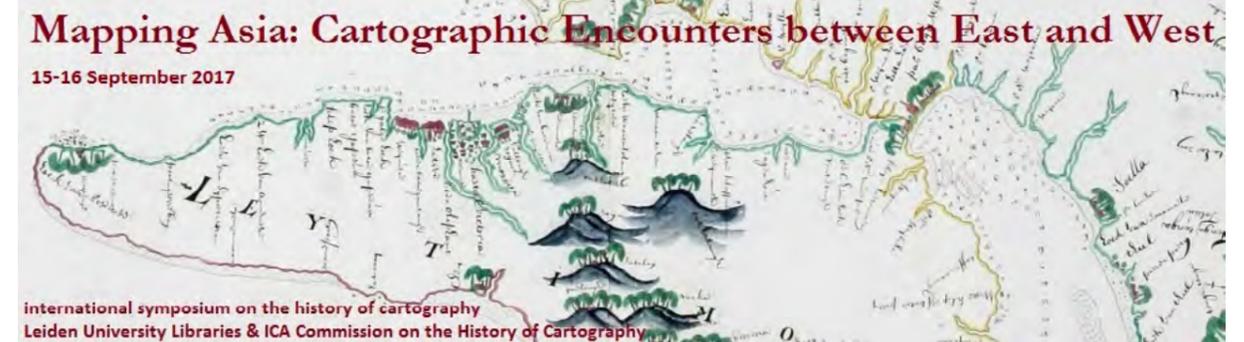
15 - 16 September 2017

Leiden, The Netherlands

Venue: Leiden University Libraries, Vossius Room, Witte Singel 27, 2311 BC Leiden.

URL: <http://blogs.library.leiden.edu/mappingasia/>

Contact: Martijn Storms, Curator of Maps & Atlases at Leiden University Libraries (m.storms@library.leidenuniv.nl).



## 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 *WhatsMap?* our new electronic notice, with hyperlinks to the detailed information on our website.

If you have not received the first issues of *WhatsMap?*, 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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[www.orteliusmaps.com](http://www.orteliusmaps.com)

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[info@paulbremmers.com](mailto:info@paulbremmers.com)

## Exhibitions calendar

### Aventuriers des mers [Ocean Explorers]

7 June 2017 – 9 October 2017

Marseilles, France

Between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean was the playground of important maritime explorations that took place in a thousand year's period from the Persian Empire to the Dutch navigations. The exhibition includes the Umayyad Caliphate in the seventh century and continues until the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Venue: MuCEM, the Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilizations, 7 Promenade Robert Laffont, Marseilles

### Death in the Ice: the shocking story of Franklin's final expedition

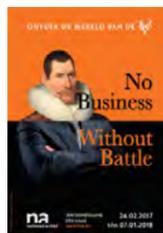
14 July 2017 – 7 January 2018  
Greenwich, London, UK

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 Admiralty 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 through a combination 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.

Venue: National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10 9NF

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



### The world of the VOC

24 February 2017 – 7 January 2018

The Hague, The Netherlands.

Venue: Nationaal Archief, Prins Willem Alexanderhof 20, 2595 BE Den Haag.  
URL: <http://www.gahetna.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's extensive collection of maps and atlases. Get acquainted with the four pioneers of cartography: Ptolemy, Mercator, Claesz, and Blaeu. These map makers and publishers produced maps and atlases that forever changed how we see the world.

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

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

## Auction calendar 2017

### 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](http://www.godts.com)  
[infosite@godts.com](mailto:infosite@godts.com)

20 June – 10 October – 12 December 2017 (Provisional date)

### Peter Kiefer Buch- und Kunstauktionen

Steubenstrasse 36  
D-75172 Pforzheim  
Tel. +49 7231 92 320  
Fax +49 7231 92 32 16  
[www.kiefer.de](http://www.kiefer.de), [info@kiefer.de](mailto:info@kiefer.de)  
5 – 6 May 2017

### Bubb Kuyper

Jansweg 39, NL-2011 KM Haarlem  
Tel. +31 23 532 39 86

[www.bubbkuyper.com](http://www.bubbkuyper.com)  
[info@bubbkuyper.com](mailto:info@bubbkuyper.com)

30 May till 2 June (on view 25 – 28 May) 2017

21 – 24 November (on view 16 – 19 November) 2017

### 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](http://www.loeb-larocque.com)  
[info@loeb-larocque.com](mailto:info@loeb-larocque.com)

November (to be confirmed)

### Marc van de Wiele

Sint-Salvatorskerkhof 7  
B-8000 Brugge  
Tel. +32 (0)50 33 63 17  
Fax +32 (0)50 34 64 57

[www.marcvandewiele.com](http://www.marcvandewiele.com)  
[van.de.wiele@skynet.be](mailto:van.de.wiele@skynet.be)

20 May 2017 (in Damme)  
7 October 2017

### Venator & Hanstein

Cäcilienstrasse 48,  
D-50667 Köln  
Tel. +49 221 257 54 19  
Fax +49 221 257 55 26  
[www.venator-hanstein.de](http://www.venator-hanstein.de)  
[info@venator-hanstein.de](mailto:info@venator-hanstein.de)

Autumn auction not yet confirmed

### Paulus Swaen Internet Auctions

[www.swaen.com](http://www.swaen.com)  
[paulus@swaen.com](mailto:paulus@swaen.com)

Silent auctions

13 – 20 June | 12 – 19 September 2017  
10 – 17 October | 15 – 22 November 2017

## 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 specialist interest in maps, atlases, town views and books with maps, be they collectors, academics, antiquarians, or simply interested in the subject
2. Organise lectures on various aspects of historical cartography, on regions of cartographical interest, on documentation, paper conservation and related subjects
3. Organise visits to exhibitions, and to libraries and institutions holding important map and atlas collections.

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

- A MAP-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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### 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 15.00.

To become (and stay!) a member, please pay the membership dues EXCLUSIVELY by bank transfer (no cheques please) to our bank account: IBAN BE52 0682 4754 2209 BIC: GKCCBEBB and notify the Membership Secretary ([treasurer@bimcc.org](mailto:treasurer@bimcc.org)) indicating your name and address.

### MAPS IN HISTORY

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](mailto: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.



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