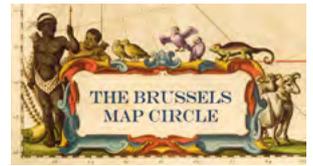


MAPS IN HISTORY



September 2017
Newsletter No

59

A recently discovered portolan chart

The oldest map of Monaco?

The Map Afternoon 2017

Excursion to The Hague - Visiting the VOC archives



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Cover

Detail of the portolan chart recently discovered in Avignon showing the Western Mediterranean.

Intro

Dear Map Friends,

In this issue we are happy to present not one, but two scoops about new map discoveries.

First Joseph Schirò (from the Malta Map Society) reports on an album of 148 manuscript city plans dating from the end of the 17th century, which he has found in the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek. Of course, in Munich, Marianne Reuter had already analysed this album thoroughly, but we thought it would be appropriate to call the attention of all map lovers to it, since it includes plans from all over Europe, from Flanders to the Mediterranean. Among these, a curious plan of the rock of Monaco has caught the attention of Rod Lyon who is thus completing the inventory of plans of Monaco which he published here a few years ago.

The other remarkable find is that of a portolan chart, hitherto gone unnoticed in the Archives in Avignon. Jacques Mille, who had given us a preview at the last Map Afternoon in April, argues that this chart is very probably of the same period as the famous Carte Pisane, i.e. one of the oldest extant portolan charts.

In this issue you will also find reports on our most recent activities (the Annual General Meeting, followed by the Map Afternoon and the excursion to The Hague), as well as the usual mix of exhibition reports and book reviews. But you will not find the usual Events and Exhibition Calendars: we have decided to offer you this information in a more dynamic way, that is through the monthly e-mail transmission of our new electronic notice, 'WhatsMap?', with hyperlinks to the detailed information on our website (www.bimcc.org). You can also contribute to this process by informing us of events and news you would like to share with other members.

Cartographically yours.



Jean-Louis Renteux
Vice-President & Editor
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'Aventuriers des mers'

[Sea adventurers]

Paris (Institut du Monde Arabe) 15 November 2016 - 26 February 2017

Marseilles (MUCEM) 6 June 2017 - 9 October 2017

Two consecutive exhibitions have been organised jointly by the IMA and MUCEM, to permit the discovery of relations established between the Mediterranean World and the Indian Ocean, from Antiquity to the 16th century.

The various and numerous documents shown testify to the trade between the western and eastern worlds, from the Roman epoch, then through Constantinople and, above all, the Muslim expansion, after the 8th century, making the Middle East the hub of trade between Europe and Asia; trade took place overland (the well-known Silk Road), as well as by maritime ways – whose antiquity and importance one discovers nowadays – sailing in the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean, and farther, to Indonesia and China, but also all along the East African coasts.

We may see here a first kind of 'world trading' (globalisation), centred on the Indian Ocean, with a large volume of maritime trade using the regular winds of the monsoon, and bringing prosperity to cities such as Aden, Ormuz, Muscat, Cochin, Calicut and, far away, Canton in south China.

This maritime trade brought from the East (Near and Far) products and goods sought after by western European buyers as well as by mighty Arab princes: spices, incense, luxury goods and, sometimes, slaves.



Fig. 1a - Arabic map from the *Book of Curiosities*.
Oxford Bodleian Library ms Arab c 90 fol. 29v-30r

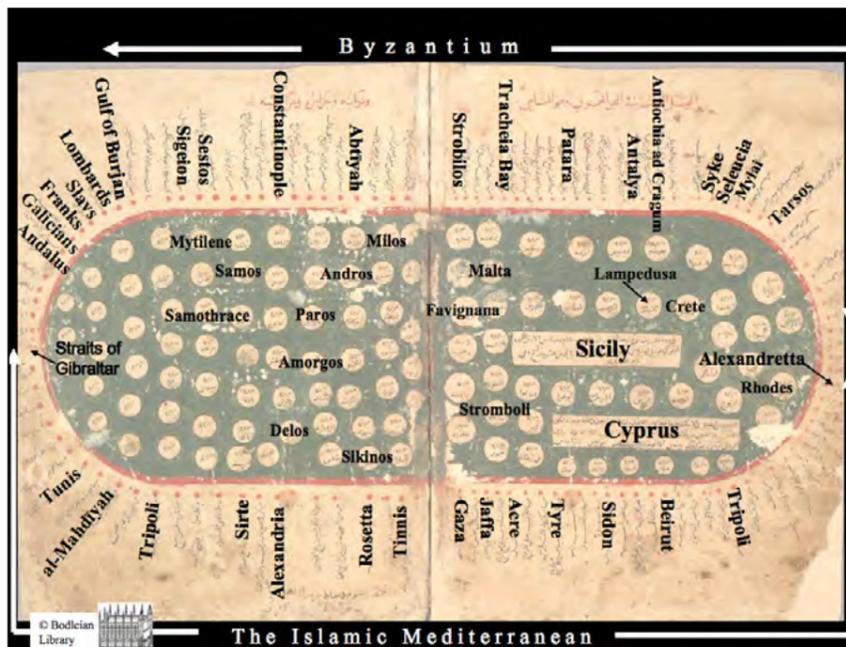


Fig. 1b - Explanatory diagram



Fig. 2 - Map of the Mediterranean and Asia: Muhammad b. Alī al-Sharafī al-Safāqūsi, Sfax (Tunisia) 1009/1601
Bibliothèque nationale de France, Cartes et Plans, GE C-5089 (RES).
Hand-colour on vellum; 47 x 136 cm

We know that it was in order to bypass the Arab trade monopoly that the Portuguese searched and found the way to the Cape of Good Hope, and Vasco da Gama reached India in 1498. The Portuguese thus conquered trade centres such as Goa, and as far as Indonesia, before being replaced by the Dutch of the VOC.

The two exhibitions testify to this trade with models of local ships, various products such as gold, lapis, jewels, spices of course, handicrafts, clothes, furniture, ceramics, glass... and with books and maps bringing the testimony of the discovery of these unrecognised Eastern countries by map makers.

If maps were not the first target of these two exhibitions, a number of them were on display; they were indeed an important contribution to the knowledge of the relationship between Western and Eastern Worlds, showing how Arab and European map makers have drawn these distant countries. Arab map makers were the first, as early as the 10th century, following the legacy of Ptolemy and Constantinople, but also their own knowledge and reports by sailors, merchants, traders, all kinds of dealers



Fig. 3 - Muhammad Al Idrisi's world map Tabula Rogeriana from 1154, upside down with north at the top (BnF - Cartes et Plans, GE A-366).
Like in Ptolemy's World Map, Al-Idrisi connected Africa to a landmass at the bottom of the earth

or travellers. The limited accuracy of this information led to imprecise representations of these new and remote countries.

The main maps exhibited are the following, listed here chronologically (not the case in the exhibitions!).

First, a manuscript map of Ptolemy (mid 15th c.) with Ceylon and Malaysia.

Then, Arab maps, especially the planisphere of Al Idrisi made in 1154 for the Norman king of Sicily, Roger II, and maps in books (*Livre des curiosités*, 11th - 12th centuries, *Livre des routes et*

des royaumes, 1306-07) showing the Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean in very surprising and schematic drawings, as for maps of the *Livre des curiosités* listing all the ports in circles included in an oval form schematizing the Indian Ocean up to Indonesia and China.

From the end of the 13th century, Mediterranean map makers produced portolan charts in Genoa, Venice and Mallorca, based on their own knowledge and also on the legacy of Arabs for Middle Eastern countries and through oral reports of merchants or travellers.

Then the maps of the *Atlas catalan* (1375) and the Catalan map of the World (1450) held in Modena (Biblioteca Estense).

And, overall, the fantastic map of Fra Mauro (ca 1450), held in Venice (Biblioteca Marciana), here exhibited in a digitalised copy on canvas, at its original size; it is both a map of the known world of the time, and the equivalent of a 'book', owing to the numerous texts written on it.

In all cases the drawing of Mediterranean Sea was very accurate, but the maps became more and more imprecise towards the East, for the Indian Ocean and Indonesia, and further more for China (e.g. Cambaluc appears but the outlines of China are unidentifiable in terms of a modern map!).

For China the exhibitions present a book with maps of the sailing of Zeng He, in the short period when Chinese were interested in discovering the World (beginning 15th century).

Also shown is a plan of Venice by Piri Reis and Tunisian maps of Al Sharfi (1551, 1600) with the Mediterranean Sea

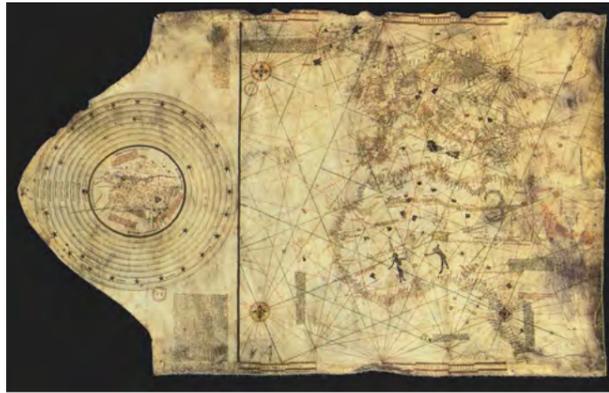


Fig. 4 - 'Christopher Columbus map' 1490

drawn very accurately, copied from European portolan charts, and Eastern countries well described but, as on Fra Mauro's map, with a schematic drawing and many explanatory texts.

Finally there are maps relating the arrival of the Portuguese in the Indian Ocean: Pedro Reinel (1519), Lopo Homen (*Atlas Miller*, 1519) and Andreas Homen (1559 planisphere).

And to conclude, the well known, so called, 'Christopher Columbus map' (1490) giving birth to the idea of the discovery of a new World, when he was searching for a new way, by the West, of reaching the Indian Ocean - already an old World and known for a long time!

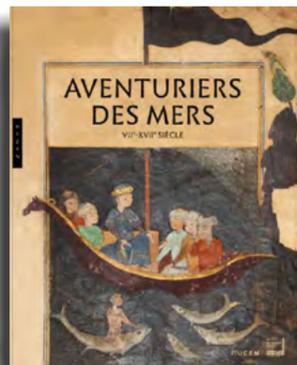
These two exhibitions have shown, a large number of varied documents, among them some very important old maps, all telling the story of these 'Aventuriers des mers' sailing and trading in the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean with the monsoon winds, along the East African coasts and, far away, up to Indonesia and China, calling at Aden, Ormuz, Sofala, Calicut, Canton, and so on, all ports arousing dreams and hopes of enrichment in the minds of the men of these times.



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Further reading:

- **Aventuriers des mers**
(VIIe-XVIIIe siècle).
Catalogue des expositions.
Hazan IMA et MUCEM 2016
EUR 29.00



- **La fabrique de l'Océan Indien.**
Cartes d'Orient et d'Occident
(Antiquité-XVIIe siècle).
Sous la direction d'Emmanuelle
Vagnon et d'Eric Vallet.
Publications de la Sorbonne 2017.
EUR 39.00
A wonderful publication,
absolutely to buy if you are a lover
of old maps!
(See also MiH 58 of May 2017)



Trouver le Nord et autres secrets d'orientation des voyageurs d'autrefois

[Finding the North and other secrets of orientation of the travellers of the past]

by Olivier Le Carrer

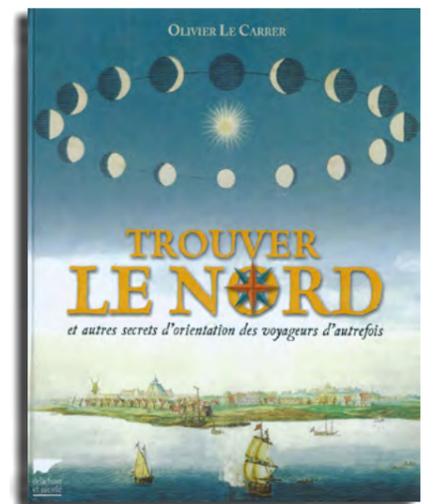
— Paris, Delachaux et Niestlé, 2016. 192 pp., ill., hard cover, 24,5 x 29 cm.
— ISBN 978-2-603-02436-2 - EUR 32.00.

Olivier Le Carrer does not claim to be a scientist. He is a journalist and above all an outstanding navigator. He finds his bearings at sea as best he can, without sophisticated instruments, like GPS, by understanding the problematic of orientation. He reminds us that great travellers such as the Polynesians, Pytheas of Marseilles, the Vikings, Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus, Magellan, Bougainville and Cook observed the sky, the sun, the clouds, the sea, plants and animals, then gradually started to use maps and instruments (hourglass, sounding line, log, compass, quadrant, sextant, marine timekeeper, etc.). *Trouver le Nord* is not a history of map making: maps are one element among others used to find one's bearings and to travel.

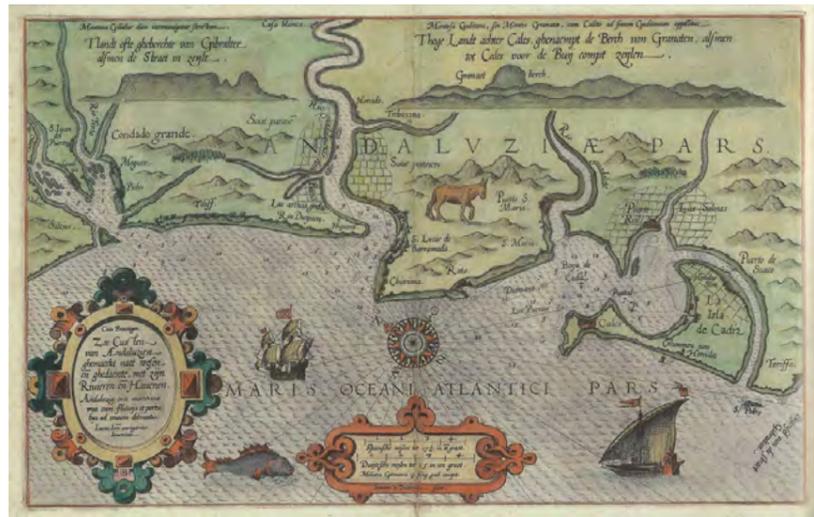
'Maps are not territory', but an interpretation of it, with arrangements, simplifications and omissions. They are used to indicate the way to follow and to find a location. Those which seem to be particularly useful to navigators, the marine (or portolan) charts, appear during the 13th century. Nevertheless, were they always on ships? Did the seafarers regularly consult them? Nothing is less certain, even if some written references (as during the travels of Saint Louis to the Crusades) allude to it. Undoubtedly, navigators relied on seamarks, tradition and hearsay. In any case, the marine charts represented quite accurately the

Mediterranean Basin, the Iberian Peninsula, the Atlantic coast of France and part of the west coast of Africa. But at the end of the 13th century, Marco Polo probably did not use a map for his long journey in Asia. It would take some time before mapmakers gave travellers the means to do without the advice of others. And Christopher Columbus? He had compasses, quadrants, hourglasses, sounding lines and logs, and certainly maps (being himself a mapmaker) at least for the beginning of his crossing towards America: the coasts of the Iberian Peninsula, of the north-west of Africa and of the Canary Islands.

Progressively cartography is developing. In 1584, Waghenaeer, a Dutch mapmaker, gives information that is still rarely represented, although its reliability is uncertain: on a map of the region of Cadiz, some depth soundings are mentioned in the bays and channels. In 1662, Joan Blaeu draws a map of the region of Calais with new details on the roads and landscapes. Yet, for a long time, the map does not resolve everything. Le Carrer shows the contrast between James Cook, using maps on the Endeavour in 1769 in Polynesia, and a Tahitian notable that he took on board and who guided him with his seamarks and memories. It is the opposition between two schools of navigation, the former not necessarily being the most efficient.



Yet Mercator had developed his projection two centuries earlier, in 1569, in order to overcome the impossibility of representing a sphere on a flat plane. The practice of navigation is facilitated, even if the geopolitical vision of the world is transformed, being exaggeratedly expanded in the high latitudes. Le Carrer explains a logical but not always understood consequence of this projection: the difference between a loxodromic route, corresponding to a rectilinear line on a map with the Mercator projection, and an orthodromic route following an arc of a circle having the same centre as that of the Earth. On a map, the line will be more or less curved, according to the latitude and its length. This explains the trap of the straight line on a map, which does not always correspond to the shortest distance between two points!



Spiegel der zeevaerdt, Lucas Janszoon Waghenar, 1584. Map of the region of Cadiz. At the left, the Rio Tinto and Moguer (Palos) from where Christopher Columbus left in 1492

One could imagine that two centuries after Mercator, progress made by cartography would be substantial. For his voyage around the world (1766–1769), Bougainville has got maps using the new projection system and emanating from the *Dépôt des cartes et plans de la Marine*, conceived under Louis XIV and created in 1720. Yet there are still large empty spaces in the Pacific and at both Poles. The depth soundings along the shores have increased but are not systematic. The problem of longitude was solved in 1760, thanks to John Harrison and his successive timekeepers. But the British Admiralty keeps them jealously for its fleet! Bougainville is therefore obliged to sail ‘in the old way’: so many detours and lost time!

This book explains the valuable services maps provide to navigators seeking guidance. It also highlights the role of travellers in mapmaking. The map allows travel and travel facilitates mapmaking. This book focuses on traditional methods of sea, land and air orientation; yet it has the merit of (re)giving its readers the taste for the well-made map and the wish to consult it.

Besides illustrations of measuring and orientation instruments, this superb book contains about fifty

beautiful reproductions of ancient maps: *Tabula Peutingeriana*, *Nautical Atlas of Bartomeu Olives* in 1570, *Polus antarcticus* qualified as *Terra incognita* by Petrus Bertius in 1638, extracts from the *Blaeu Atlas maior* in 1665, map of New Zealand drawn up by Cook in 1769 and translated into French in 1774, a partial map of the



Carte de la Nouvelle Zélande [Map of New Zealand], James Cook, 1774. French edition of the document produced in 1769

Rockies drawn up in 1806 by explorers Lewis and Clark, pedagogical maps of the 20th century, current maps of the French IGN, etc. It also shows the contribution of the maps to the understanding of the landscape and its evolution with the same place on maps of different periods. It provides a valuable lexicon and a bibliography by theme. It recognises the contribution of GPS to a rapid spatial orientation today, but also emphasises what it unfortunately contributes to minimise: the concept of spatial dimension, the overview of the regions covered, the flavour of natural displacements and even the notions of the North and the South and therefore the senses of observation and orientation! It is therefore essential not to ‘lose one’s bearings’ and to continue to observe and consult maps!



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Orbis Disciplinae

Hommages en l'Honneur de Patrick Gautier Dalché

[Tributes to Patrick Gautier Dalché]

Texts gathered by Nathalie Bouloux, Anea Dan and Georges Toliaas.

— Published by Brepols 2017. 841 pp, hardback, illustrated, 18.5 x 26 cm.

— ISBN 978-2-503-56705-1 - EUR 135.00.

Patrick Gautier Dalché retired from his posts as Head of Research at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and Director of Studies at the prestigious research and higher education institution EPHE in 2014. His friends, students and colleagues have all contributed to this mighty tome in his honour. Thirty-six articles — covering the period from late antiquity to the 17th century — written on the areas Patrick Gautier Dalché was himself interested in — the perceptions and representations of space. The articles are written in French, English, German, and Italian; all have abstracts in English.

The first section, entitled **Sacred Spaces**, has nine articles, six in French, one in German and two in English. They cover topics such as the interpretation of the ‘orb’ in painted materials, i.e. is this Christ holding the ‘host’ or the ‘world’,

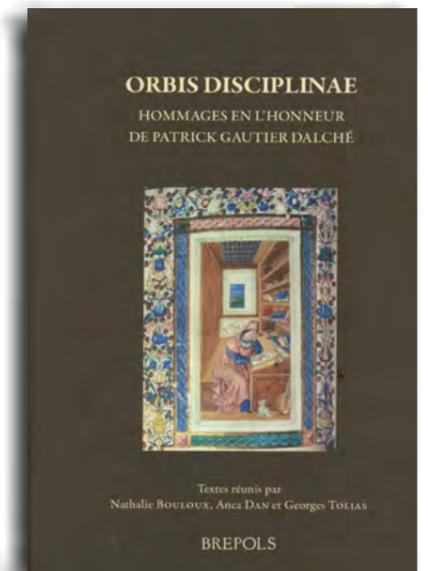


26. Panneau de coffret, ivoire (Berlin, Staatliche Museum, inv. 21110)
(D'après *La France romane au temps des premiers Capétiens*, 303)

Illustration of the host, sign of God, from section 1, article 1

and a study of Hugo de St Victor's claim that there is a ‘another world’ that is stable and lasts forever alongside our own. There follows a piece explaining how Paradise and Hell came to be incorporated into medieval cosmography, and one which looks at how the Holy Land — Eretz Israel — is described in Hebrew literature. Then one on how *mappae mundi* combine representations of geography with symbolism. A beautifully illustrated article gives the reader insight into the ‘Cosmic Vision of St Benedict’, discussing why paintings of the scene invoke the T-O schema. Rather strangely for the reader, the following article, which describes how the Franciscans developed texts and maps as guides for pilgrims, has no illustrations at all. We then have an article on the devotional culture centred on the Passion of Christ as developed in France in late Medieval Europe, and lastly a very well-illustrated article by Catherine Delano-Smith dealing with the question of how far the surviving visuals and explanations of Nicholas of Lyra reproduced in his *Postilla litteralis* represent his own intention.

The second section is called **Images of the World**, and has three articles in French, one in English and one in Italian. The first, well-illustrated, article here looks at a portable sundial now residing at the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, and uses the images as a proxy for the view of the world its owners might have had. There follows an analysis of Paulus Orosius' cartographic methodology in



his *Historiae Adversus Paganos*, which most interestingly ends with text and a diagram illustrating the division of Syria from Strabo's *Chrestomathy*. The following article takes ‘two anonymous Latin adaptations of a lost Greek geographical text’, aiming to show that their use was pedagogical. ‘Un espace heureux’ — a blissful space — is a very short piece reviewing the open and closed nature of ‘space’ in medieval texts and figures. Lastly, this section has another article on *mappae mundi*, this time studying the representation of the Caucasian Taurus mountain range in *mappae mundi* iconography.

Places is the title of the third section. It has three articles in French, two in English and one in Italian. We start with the significance of the words ‘metagonion’ to denote place on the Mediterranean shore of North Africa, and then move on to a piece arguing



Detail of India on Fra Mauro's map (1450), section 3 article 4 (Venice, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana)

against the commonly held — from Braudel onwards — view of Sardinia's place in the Mediterranean. A nicely-illustrated article looks at theories of the western sources of the Nile, while the following piece discusses 'The Real Ganges', describing how historians and mapmakers over time may have confused two different rivers which both carry the same name. Visuals help the reader through the argumentation. On a more local level there follows an article on representations of the town of Saint-Omer, both by cartographers and painters, the latter being thought able to better represent the qualities of the town. At an even more local level, we then move to the Thelle forest in Northern France, which explains how the painters of a map of the forest tried to enhance its authority as a legal document.

The fourth section — **Itineraries** — has four articles in French, and one each in Italian and English. We start with an article on the theory of why Childeric I was exiled to Thuringia, and discusses the difficulty of actually knowing where Thuringia was at that time (5th century CE) given the numerous migrations that took place then. The next paper looks at how geographical space was represented by the writers of the vitae of St. Gall who in the 7th century went from Ireland to found the monastery of the same name in Switzerland. The article in Italian that follows takes a completely different turn, looking at Latin medieval and humanistic plays whose plots involve travel or place-shifting, and which do not strictly respect the Aristotelian rule of unity of space. Then we have an interesting account drawn from records of a lawsuit filed by the owners

of a Genoese ship and its grain cargo from Morocco for damages. The ship had been stolen from the port of Sandwich in England by French pirates. The paper's author shows how in time of famine a market evolved which would later die out as the situation in England improved. John of Montecorvino, Italian Franciscan missionary, traveller and statesman, wrote three letters back to Rome — one from India and two from China — and the next article looks at the legacy of the article sent from India. Italian astronomers and scholars used John of Montecorvino's notations on the climate in India and astronomy to help their own research. The last piece in this section looks at the European Distribution of the Portuguese edition of the Book of Marco Polo, published in Lisbon in 1502, a publication which encourages a Spanish edition a year

later, and found its way into Ramusio's 'Navigazioni et Viaggi', Venice 1550.

The last section is entitled **Transmission**. It contains ten papers, of which six are in French, two in Italian and two in English. The first article deals with the transmission of knowledge, based on the writings of Priscian of Lydia's answers to King Chosroes I to whose court he had been exiled. The next piece, entitled 'Causality and Signification' in Pseudo-Ptolemy's Centiloquium' takes the text of Arabic origin — falsely ascribed to Ptolemy — and reviews how later Latin versions can be compared to some of the most important astrological treatises. Next up is a paper on the development of pharmaceutical lexicons through the Middle Ages. Further articles describe source documents for geographical works, geographical notes from a 15th century scholar in Normandy, a very well-illustrated article on the Anglo-Saxon heptarchy — the seven kingdoms of Essex, East Anglia, Kent, Sussex, Wessex, Mercia and Northumbria and the notion that they had existed together in a stable form — and the way this was used as a starting point for the genealogy of the kings of Britain. The last four comprise a piece on the disappearance and reappearance of Fra Mauro — the San Michele mappa mundi that became the Fra Mauro mappa mundi, and a piece on the book of nautical instructions given to the future François I as part of his education. We then have a short article on 'Early Modern Maps in Mirror Image', looking in detail at some maps drawn between the mid-16th and mid-17th centuries, and finally an analysis of Jesuit educator Philippe Briet's *Parallela geographiae*.

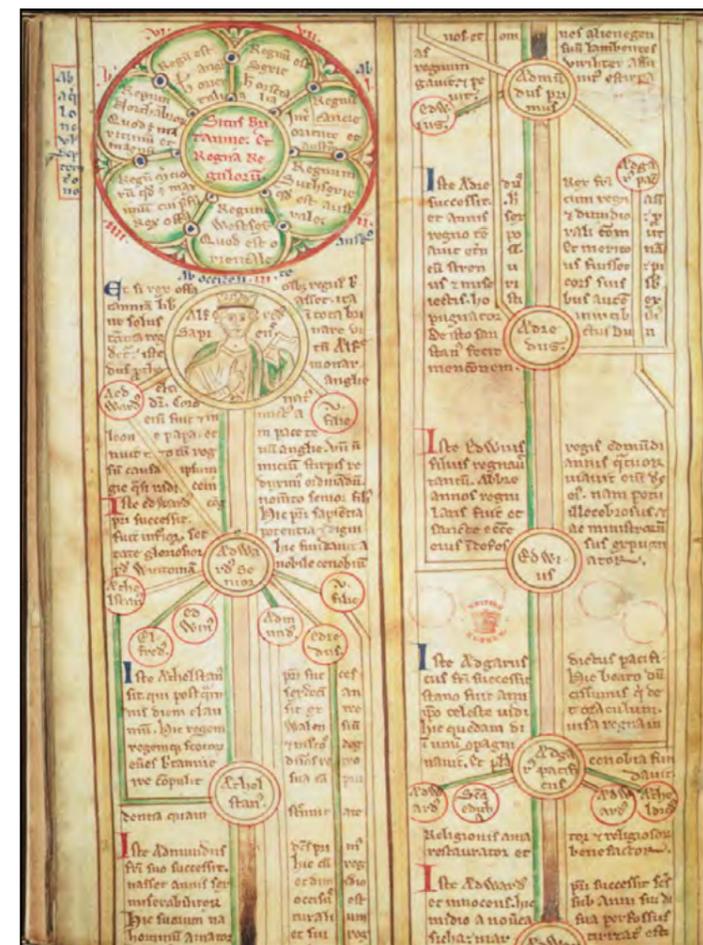


Diagram of the Heptarchy — Situs Britannie — and genealogy, Matthew Paris, section 5 article 6

This is not a book; it is a collection of articles and papers which have been arranged in five themes. Each paper is a work in itself, with copious notes /references to keep the reader busy for many a long evening. The tome is difficult for the non-specialist, challenging, eclectic, and very French, both in style and substance, as befits its objective. Readers will probably use the book by theme or by contributor (if the latter it might have been helpful also to translate the biographies into English) or just dip into it from time to time. A worthy tribute.



Nicola Boothby nicola.boothby@telenet.be

Cartographier l'Asie Mineure. L'orientalisme allemand à l'épreuve du terrain (1838-1895).

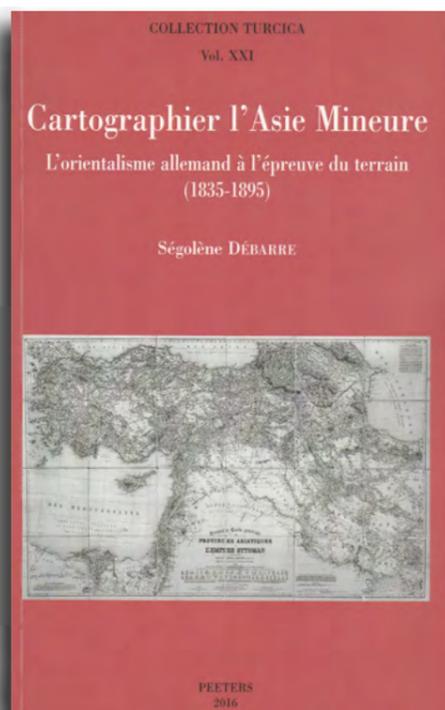
[*Mapping Asia Minor. German orientalism in the field (1835-1895)*].

By Ségolène Débarre

- Volume 21 in collection Turcica
- Paris-Louvain-Bristol CT, Peeters, 2016, XVIII-406 pp (372-28), ill. in colour and b/w. Soft cover, 24 x 16 cm
- ISBN 978-90-429-3185-5, EUR 78.00

Ségolène Débarre, one of the speakers at our 2015 conference on Mapping the Ottoman Empire, must have a soft spot for would-be reviewers. At the very beginning of her well documented book *Cartographier l'Asie Mineure*, she writes a few sentences in four languages (French, English, German, Turkish) which give an excellent overview of her work, actually based on her doctoral thesis. But it would be a great loss to stop at this stage. In six chapters are described how German interests in the Ottoman Empire evolved from essentially archeologically oriented research to more commercial and political purposes; foremost the building of the Baghdad Railway. No maps existed for Anatolia, only sketches from itineraries of explorers and few merchants.

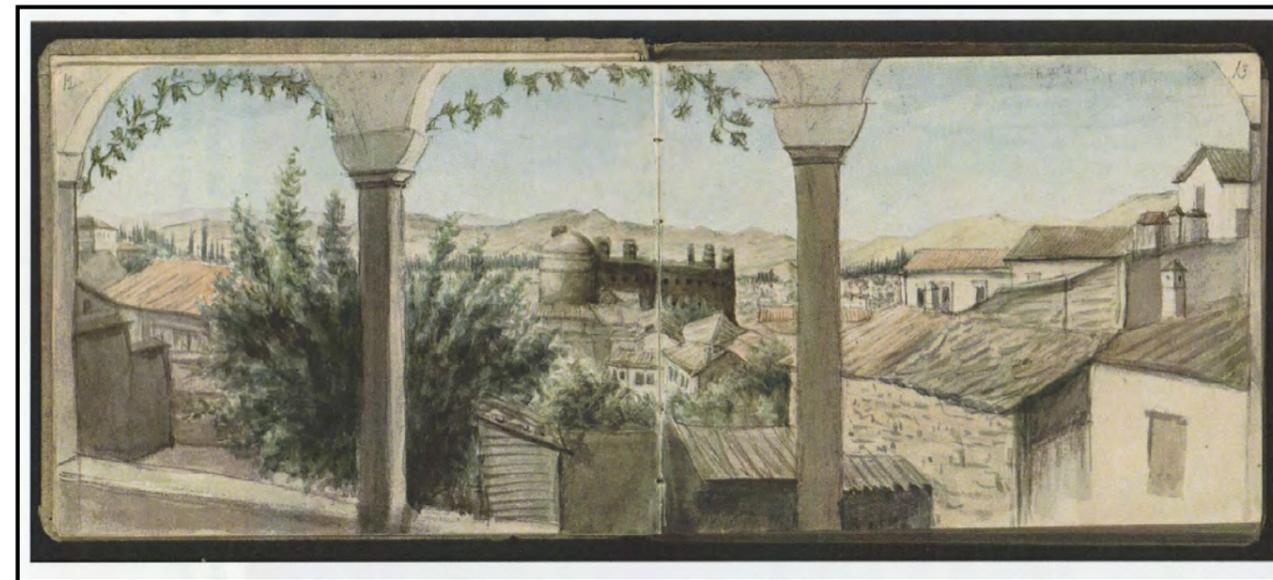
The English wanted to control the Euphrates, the exact situation of which was biased by classical references, and the route to India. The Prussians wanted commercial exchanges and, eventually, modest Prussian settlements. For this, maps were needed. As the Ottomans were eager to improve the defences of the country, both against Egypt and Russia, and to control the rebellious tribes in the interior, they gave help to the mission in Kurdistan led by Helmuth von Moltke. This Prussian



officer had already surveyed in the Balkans, the shores of the Bosphorus and Constantinople to the satisfaction of the Ottomans, and results of his surveys were sent to Carl Ritter, the head of the Royal Cartographic Institute in Berlin. This well-known geographer was preparing his enormous encyclopaedia *Die Erdkunde*, for which he needed information on the Ottoman realm, other than the available classical data. These surveys were a kind of 'hors-d'oeuvre' to the

work of Heinrich Kiepert in Asia Minor.

Kiepert (1818-1899) joined as cartographer a mission led by August Schönborn to collect marbles and archeological inscriptions and also entomological specimens in the coastal regions in 1841-42. It was Kiepert's first opportunity to do field work, but his surveys delayed his fellow travellers, so he went alone to Lesbos, coming back later to the continent. His topographical surveys, landscape sketches and tables of toponyms enabled him to draw a map, using also the 'trustworthy' European documents. The existing Ottoman statistics of population were, strangely enough, only consulted much later by the Europeans. They had to be used critically, not being established on a unique basis and the names of the settlements varying considerably. This was a major problem for Kiepert and other cartographers. The same village could appear twice in a different location or could be omitted. Local people pronounced the toponyms differently, thus raising doublets. The language of the Turks, Kurds, Armenians, Greeks and local dialects made a medley of contradictory information. And the transcription in German was another complication for Kiepert. Due to his classical training, he wanted to correlate, as much as



View of the city of Bergamo, 1886. From Heinrich Kiepert's sketch book (Berlin, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut)

possible, the ancient Greek place names to the current ones. His map of Asia Minor at 1:1 000 000 in six sheets as of 1844 was thus archeologically tinged. This map was based on British geodesic surveys, not Russian ones as Kiepert was unfamiliar with this language, and on his own measurements. It was reissued several times and was much appreciated by the Ottoman authorities, specially for fixing the borders with Russia and penetrating into rebel territory. A cheaper reduction was also edited. Kiepert gave instructions to travellers how to draw sketches and surveys and, later in the century, to use photography. He himself travelled three times more to the Ottoman Empire and in 1890 edited a more thematic special map of Western Asia Minor at 1:250 000, after a general map of the Ottoman Empire in 1867.

Meanwhile, Prussian officers had also made surveys and gathered cartographic information. And Turkish officers had followed courses in map-making in France and had published some regional and general maps, beside Kiepert's notices. Notwithstanding a lack of adequate material, Turkish officers began to do some field surveys (without a geodesic canvas). Manuscript maps kept in the imperial library began to

be printed near the end of the century and Turkish maps were showed at international exhibitions in Paris.

Chapter IV of Dr Débarre's book deals with Anatolia in Carl Ritter's huge *Die Erdkunde*. Two volumes, each well over one thousand pages, divide the country into natural regions, not according to administrative borders which were not settled or were shifting. Ritter illustrated his work with the practical information of Kiepert and other scientists or travellers. He insisted on the importance of commercial possibilities for export and future colonisation, but his whole *Erdkunde* is rather more philosophical than instructive, as stated by the *Annales de la Société de Géographie* (p. 176). Travellers still used Kiepert's map late in the century, despite all its defects ... because it had the merit of existing! Kiepert himself was very critical about the few Turkish maps. Nevertheless, a triangulation canvas in parts of Anatolia gave birth to the first modern Ordnance Survey maps at 1:50 000.

In the last chapter, the author analyses the changes which occurred. Travelling was facilitated by steamers, German officers and scholars were working in Constantinople and had regular exchanges with Berlin. General von der Goltz was head of mission

between 1885 and 1895 as instructor to the Ottoman staff; he sent sketches and new data to Kiepert while trying to encourage the German interests in the Ottoman Empire. This was not always easy as the Sultan kept a suspicious watch on foreigners and his own staff!

A very useful chronological list sets Kiepert's life in opposition to events in Prussia and the Ottoman Empire.

An index of names of persons and places is followed by the sources, a bibliography of 21 pages and 28 illustrations, chiefly maps. Some very pretty views from Kiepert's fields book in 1886 are proof of his skill in drawing and contrast with the austere key to the map plates of the '*Spezialkarte von Westliches Kleinasien*' [special map of Asia Minor].

To quote Ms Débarre, 'this book shows that German orientalism did engage in fieldwork'.

Lisette Danckaert



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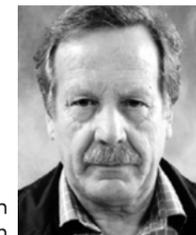
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The discovery of the earliest known map of Monaco (c.1589)

by Rod Lyon and Joseph Schirò

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The imposing rock of Monaco is 185 000 m². At its longest it is 900 metres and at its widest 330 metres. It rises just above 60 metres over sea level. Its top is rather flat and has been inhabited since at least 300 000 BCE. Its history with the Grimaldis dates from 1297 making them one of the longest continuously reigning families in the world.

All that is known so far about Monaco's cartographical past has been published in *The Map Collector*, the *Brussels Map Circle Newsletter*, *IMCoS journal*, *Monaco Autrefois* (two publications) and in issue no. 10 of *Les Annales Monégasques*. Important maps of the principality exist, notably by Merian, Le Rouge, Robert de Vaugondy, Ayrouard and Bellin, but are not numerous when compared to the

international fame of the area. The reason for this is that the principality was small, inaccessible and relatively unknown prior to the incredible success of the Casino and the Sea Bathing Establishment (*Société des Bains de Mer*). Also deeper, bigger and more important ports of call were nearby.

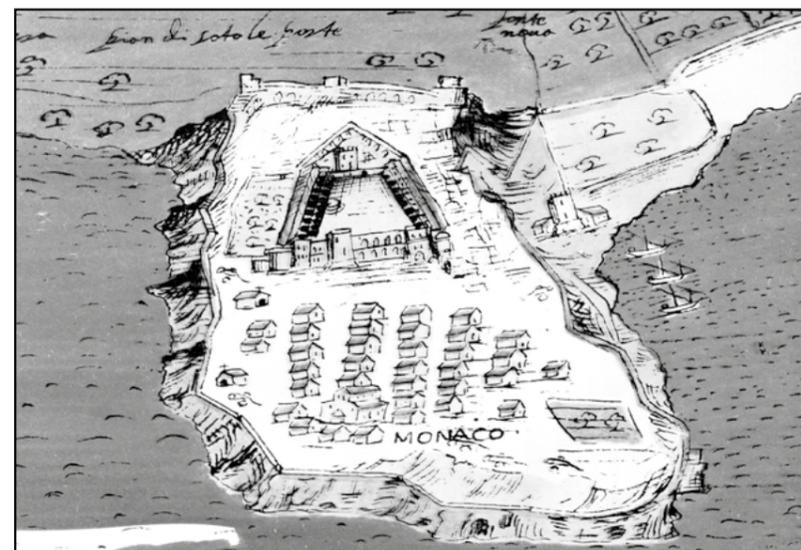
Whilst looking for new maps of Malta – there are many found every year – Joseph Schirò, Secretary of the Malta Map Society (MMS), came across a remarkable album of maps and plans which also included a manuscript map of the Principality of Monaco dating to c.1589.

This exciting find precedes the earliest plan/map kept in the Monaco Palace Archives which is dated 13 March 1602.

Joseph Schirò immediately contacted fellow MMS member Rod Lyon who is a specialist in early maps of Monaco and who has published two studies of old Monaco maps under the title *'Monaco Autrefois'*. He has also published two studies in the BIMCC newsletters nos. 25 & 27.

Composition of album

Among the rich collection of manuscript plans and maps found at the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek of Munich, Germany, there is an album composed of 119 sheets of coloured drawings of several fortifications and fortified cities, army camp plans and battle representations (Cod. icon. 141). The album is listed under the first title, *PIANTE DI FORTEZZE D'ITALIA*, which is rather misleading as it is divided into 4 sections and each section has the following title: *PIANTE DI FORTEZZE D'ITALIA* showing 44 plans (mostly of Piedmont, Lombardy and other regions of Italy, but also of various places around the Mediterranean such as Mallorca, Cyprus, Malta and... Monaco); *PIANTE DI FORTEZZE D'VNGHERIA* with 29 plans for Hungary (now mostly located in Slovakia, Croatia, Romania or even Ukraine); *PIANTE DI FORTEZZE DI FIANDRA* with 63 plans for Flanders (in fact mostly in The Netherlands, especially Frisia, and also northern France); and finally *PIANTE DI FORTEZZE DI FRANCIA* with 12 plans for France (mostly Picardy). Most representations are found on a whole



Detail of the plan of disputed territories between Monaco and La Turbie, 1602.

Courtesy of the 'Archives du Palais Princier'

sheet but others show two to a single sheet bringing the total of ground plans and ground plan images to 148. The volume originally formed part of the Alten Hofbibliothek München which was the court library of Duke Albert V. The sheets have an old numbering in ink at the top centre and another numbering in pencil at the top right corner which do not tally. There is also a numbering on the verso at bottom left which is probably the oldest.



Plan of two fortresses in Croatia: Petrina- and Ziseca (or Sissek)

Binding

The plans have an armorial binding bound in reddish-tan morocco. The gilt decoration consists of an outer vine roll border which can be attributed to the workshop of the Munich bookbinder Kaspar Ritter (before 1563-1598). He also worked for Duke William V of Bavaria¹. The border encloses two panels. The outer panel

¹ See Marianne Reuter's very erudite and academic description of the manuscript Cod.icon. 141, in: BSB Codicon Online (Accessed 27 March 2017): www.bsb-muenchen.de. The plans are accessible on-line at: <http://codicon.digitale-sammlungen.de>.

decoration has a triple fillet with floral corner stamps. The inner panel has a double fillet with concave indentations at the centre of the sides and small tools at the centre and the corners. The front and back cover sport the coat of arms of the Bavarian dukes of the type customary since the time of Duke Albert V of Bavaria (1528 - 79). Edges are gilt. The album has been rebacked

Authorship

The military engineer Giorgio Paleari Fratino (*el Fratin*) (1520/30 - 8 November 1586), possibly in collaboration with his brother Giovanni Giacomo (1520/30 - 27 May 1586), are probably the authors of the album though the compiler could have been their younger brother Bernadino (1520/30 - post 1595). The Paleari Fratino brothers who hailed from Morcote near Lugano in the north of Italy, were engineers, as were Giorgio's son and grandson Francesco and Pietro².

Giorgio Paleari is definitely the author of some of the plans, evinced from several imprints on plans which quote that the plans were either taken from the original drawings of Giorgio Frattino, *cauata dall'originale di Giorgio Pagliaro Frattino*, or that a particular aspect of the fortification was after an invention of his, *invenzione di Giorgio Pagliaro Frattino*. Between about 1560-1588, Giovanni Giacomo was in the service of King Philip II of Spain (1527-1598) and was one of the most important inspectors and builders of fortresses in the Spanish-Habsburg Empire during Spain's *Siglo de oro*. He also came to Malta from 2-7 April 1566 to give his opinion on the plan of the fortifications of Valletta designed by Francesco Laparelli³.

² See Marino Viganò, *El fratin mi ynginiero: I Paleari Fratino da Marcote ingegneri militari ticinesi in Spagna (XVO-XVII)*, Bellinzona, Italy, 2004, for an excellent account of the activities of this extraordinary family of military engineers who worked in the Spanish domains in the Mediterranean

³ Albert Ganado, *Valletta Città Nuova: A map history (1566-1600)*, Malta, 2003, p. 151-152.

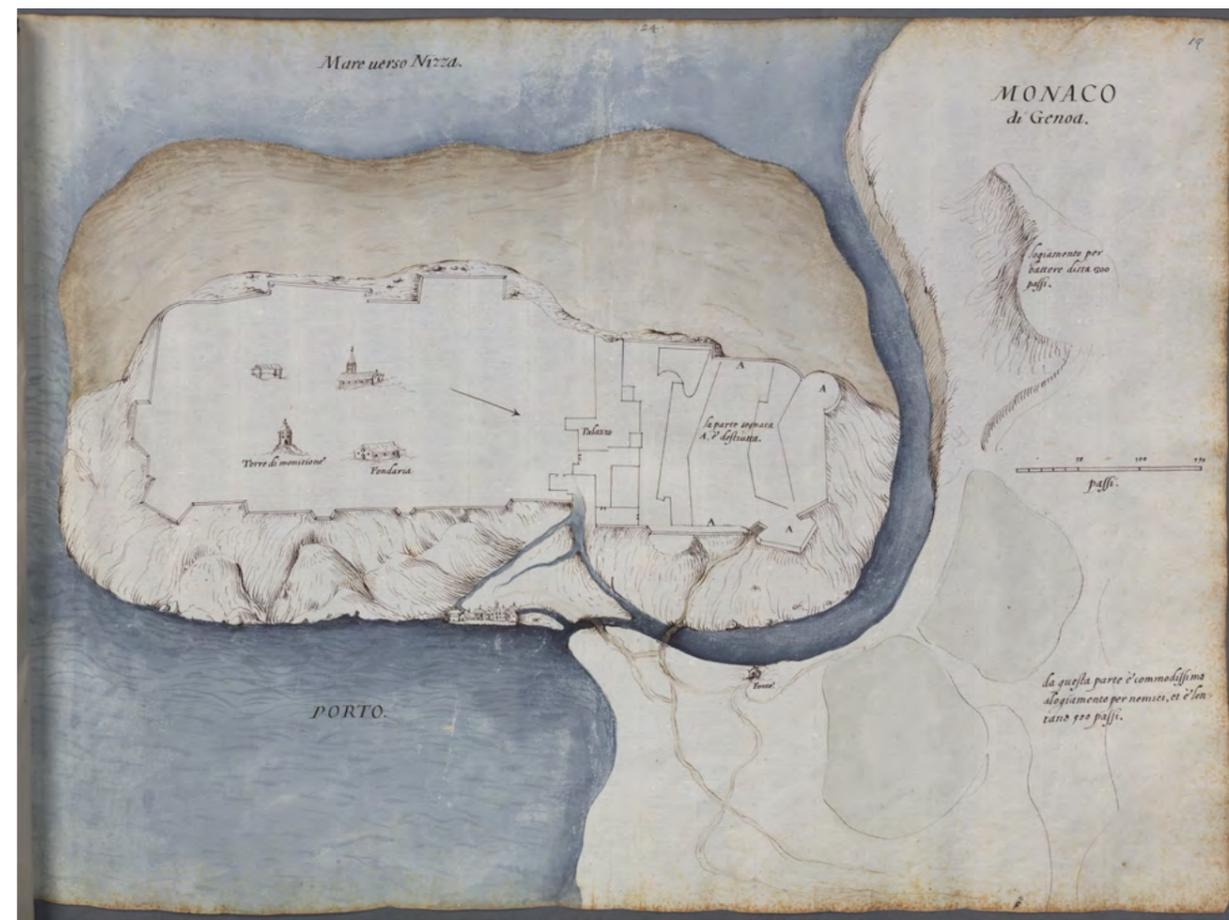
The Map of Monaco

Under the section *PIANTE DI FORTEZZE D'ITALIA*, is found a map titled *Monaco / di Genoa*. (standard sort of title, sometimes also 'Monaco, Coast of Genoa') written at the top right corner. The manuscript map has number 24 written in ink at the top centre and a later number 19 written in pencil is found at the top right corner. The dimensions of the map are 44 × 57 cm. The watermark is a cross on three hills inside a shield with the initials HW, possibly of the German papermaker Hans Weitenhofer⁴. The orientation of the map is south-west to the top. To facilitate the reader with its orientation, the author wrote on the map *Mare uerso Nizza* (sea towards Nice), and *Porto* (harbour) on the sea to the east of the fortified city. A scale of 150 *passi* measuring 89 mm is included to indicate distances.

The most striking feature of this plan is that it shows the Monaco Rock as an island, separated from the mainland by a canal with steep slopes on the north side (where the elevation of the terrain is actually about 30 metres). This suggests that a project could have been formed to surround the Rock by water like a moat. The project was not realised in the 16th century, but it may have inspired a similar project which surfaced in the 18th century as shown by the manuscript plan in the Palace Museum Archives which has been dated to circa 1720⁵ (see page 18), and is accompanied by a plan by the same hand showing the real state of the territory attached to the mainland. Digging such a canal would have been a formidable task with the means available in the 16th or even in the 18th century; the 20th century saw extraordinary transformations of the Monaco landscape, but the Rock never became an island.

⁴ Briquet online. The type is similar to Briquet: Armoiries - Croix - soutenue par trois coupeaux 1245 (1577-1594), but without the letters. (Accessed 30 March, 2017).

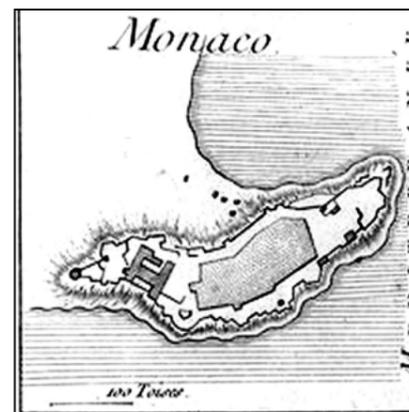
⁵ *Archives du Prince de Monaco*, ms. 154, p. 139.



Monaco di Genoa, manuscript 44 × 57 cm, c.1589 - Giorgio Paleari Fratino?

Courtesy of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich, Germany

The Fratino plan of Monaco has a rough appearance, which obviously is not the result of a proper survey (compare to the plan by Le Rouge of 1760).



Map of Monaco by G. Le Rouge - 1760

It depicts a compact roundish Rock, ignoring its actual elongated crescent shape; the built-up area extends over

the whole area, whereas the southern tip of the Rock remained semi-desert for centuries.

It shows clearly the small church of Saint-Nicolas. This was destroyed and replaced in 1874 by the Cathedral of Monaco (where Princess Grace and Prince Rainier III were married and later interred).

A foundry, *Fondaria*, is also shown (but in the centre of the plateau, whereas it was located on the edge), as well as a *Torre di Monitioné*, a tower where ammunition was stored. A strange building which seems to be a shed is also shown on the map. It seems to be protecting a mound of earth from the elements. It has not been established why it merited an inclusion by the maker of the map, unlike the foundry and the ammunition tower which were both important elements in warfare.

The Palace, *Palazzo*, is located where it is today and behind it are areas marked 'A' which are described as having been destroyed, *La parte segnata A è destrutta ...*, something that is well documented due to repeated attacks on Monaco.

At the base of the Rock on the east side is shown a group of buildings where food was stored and visitors would have had to call for health inspections or to pay the tax levied for passing or visiting Monaco. Also to deliver supplies.

Nearby, a fountain, *fonte*, is shown; it corresponds to the *fonte nova* (new fountain) shown on the 1602 plan, near the start of the access path to the Rock, on the north-east side. The old fountain (Fontvieille or Fonte Viellia) also shown on the 1602 plan further to the west, does not appear



Anonymous. Plan de Monaco, manuscript, c.1720. - Courtesy of Musée des Archives du Palais Princier

on the Fratino plan; maybe because it was where the canal was proposed to be dug, or because it was outside the limits of the plan (near Cape Fontvieille, where it is commemorated today by a replica).

The album containing this plan includes the date 1589 on a plan of the castle of Milan; the dates of other plans have been estimated between 1570 and 1610. This suggests that the Monaco plan was drawn up during the reign of Hercule I who ruled Monaco from 17 May 1589 until 21 November 1604.

During his time he had to face some perilous situations which he overcame thanks to help from Spain and the Genoese Republic. Two attacks came at this time from Provence probably made on the orders of the Duc de Guise, Governor of Provence (1571–1640). First a fleet commanded by Cesar Arnaud disembarked during the night of the 27/28 October 1596 and tried to take by surprise the Rock fortress from the west. Then a second attack in 1597 came when the Provençaux arrived on the eastern side causing a lot of damage to the defences. The Duc de Savoie at that time was also

claiming land in nearby Roquebrune and Menton because of the continual dispute between the Monegasques and Turbiasques, who lived above Monaco.

After much hesitation, the dispute was settled by Hercule I by means of a judgement delivered by Philip II of Spain. The Spanish Protectorate kept a garrison in Monaco from 1524 until 1641. Unfortunately the judgement of Philip II satisfied no one and on 21 November 1604 Hercule was murdered by 40 dagger wounds. His body was thrown over a cliff near the chapel of Saint-Elmo. His corpse was retrieved a few days later and buried in the church of Saint Nicolas the former burial place of the rulers of Monaco.

In this context where Monaco was coveted from many sides, assessing its military potential was a major concern. An intelligence report sent to Prince Hercule I in 1589, stated: '[The Duke of] Savoy has the plan of your fortress which was made by Jérôme Portigiami, his engineer, who had examined it from the outside disguised as a mariner, and studies the means to take it with his machines

and invents many tricks.⁶ The plan considered here might have a similar origin, and may have been drawn by a spy working either for Savoy or Genoa, in order to assess the military aspects of Monaco's fortress. It does point out an area on the mainland where an artillery battery could be placed, overlooking the Palace, 300 *passi* away, and, further east on the slopes of Moneghetti and Monte-Carlo a 'convenient place for enemies to camp and at a distance of 900 *passi* [*commodissima / alloggiamento per nemici et, è lon=tano 900 passi*]. But the fact that 'enemies' are mentioned indicates that the author of the plan was working on the defenders' side. It was probably the Paleari Fratino brothers, engineers working for the King of Spain, 'protector' of Monaco, who were looking to improve the Monaco Rock's defences. Hence the idea to dig a canal to separate the Rock from the mainland.

⁶ Quoted by Thomas Fouilleron in his 'Histoire de Monaco' (2010, Monaco, p. 86). The authors are grateful to Jean-Louis Renteux for providing the reference and all the information.

A recently discovered portolan chart. Maybe one of the oldest extant? The Avignon chart.

by Jacques Mille and Paul Fermon

(translated from the French by Luis A. Robles Macías)



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The discovery

The marine chart presented in this article is preserved at the Archives départementales de Vaucluse, in Avignon, France, with call number Port 01. 3 E 54,888bis.

It was fortuitously discovered towards the end of 2002 by an amateur historian who, while checking a notarial record of 1534–35, had been intrigued by the colour drawings on the skin cover of this record¹. After having alerted the archivists, they found out that it was a rather damaged medieval marine chart. They removed it from the record and had it restored in 2003.

Until 2015 this chart, archived by itself, remained ignored, with no research or publication. That year Paul Fermon 'rediscovered' it within the framework of his PhD thesis overseen by Patrick Gautier Dalché, on

¹ Already in the 1930s, three marine charts were found in notarial records in Avignon and handed over to the Bibliothèque Nationale (charts by Mecia de Viladestes, ca end 14th century; Petrus Rosselli, c.1468; and Petrus Russus, 1516). At the beginning of the 20th century it was in Briançon that a similar discovery had been made of a marine chart, dated 1501 and now preserved in the Archives of the Hautes-Alpes. And, closer to us in time, it is in the same way that was discovered, in 2000, the so-called Lucca chart, studied by Philipp Billion ('A newly discovered chart fragment from the Lucca Archives'. *Imago Mundi* n° 63, 2011).

relationships between painting and local cartography in the Middle Ages.

Even though Paul Fermon was not a specialist in medieval marine cartography, he referred to the works by Tony Campbell and by Ramon Pujades i Bataller², and studied the chart placing it in its historical context, i.e. the presence of the Papacy at Avignon in the early 14th century (1309). From its features (design, construction, toponymy) he estimated that it could date from the 14th century and thought it could be 'une oeuvre précoce' [an 'early work'] and earlier than or contemporary with the mass of marine charts produced in the two first decades of the 14th century.

With the upcoming publication of this PhD thesis by Brepols, the existence of this map will soon be brought to general knowledge.

But chance has had it that the Brussels Map Circle has been the first to be informed of this discovery. The chart is therefore announced, as a world first, from this issue of *Maps in History* and presented as a prelude to further study by specialists in medieval marine cartography's 'formative period' (Campbell).

² Tony Campbell Web Site Map History. Portolan charts. Regularly updated - 2016. Ramon J. Pujades i Bataller. *Les cartes portolanes. La representació medieval d'una mar solcada*. Barcelona 2007

This chance is due to the fact that Jacques Mille, a member of the Circle, fortuitously learnt from P. Fermon about the existence of this map on 2 April 2017. When Mille looked at the reproduction shown by Fermon, he had the feeling that the marine chart could be very old, ranking perhaps among the oldest known (namely, the Pisana, Cortona, Lucca, Riccardiana, Vesconte and Dulcert charts), therefore early 14th century.

A direct examination of the chart, from 4 April 2017, at the Vaucluse archives, reinforced this first impression. Mille sent a picture to Tony Campbell who, with all the usual reservations before a discovery of this type, confirmed that this chart could belong to the considered time period; but that an in-depth study would be required for a more certain conclusion. R. Pujades, informed as well, also estimated that the chart could be placed among the oldest.

Thereafter, Mille presented the chart in person, as a scoop, at the Circle's Map Afternoon (MAPAF) meeting of 22 April 2017, and proposed that *Maps in History* makes the announcement.

This article thus presents this discovery as a summary of a more comprehensive text written jointly by Mille and Fermon and available online (in French) at the Circle's website (www.bimcc.org).

Both this summary and the text itself only represent the authors' own opinions. Any remark or criticism (which will certainly come!) are welcome and regarded as a contribution to the knowledge of this topic of the early portolan charts 'formative period', about which many unknowns and large shadows persist, in particular about the emergence of these maps remaining widely unrecognised, somewhat mysterious and 'like coming out of nowhere', in the late 13th or early 14th centuries.

The chart - Description

The chart (fig. 1) is drawn on a fragment of parchment, 41 x 27 cm, on which at first glance one can make out the Western Mediterranean, inscribed in a double red circle with rhumb lines radiating from 16 points.

Outside the circle, two square grids can be seen. One of them, oriented northwest – southeast, covers the north of the Adriatic; the other one, oriented north-south, covers the North Sea, with the eastern coasts of England and, with a somewhat confusing outline, those going from the Pas de Calais (Strait of Dover) towards Denmark and the Baltic Sea. A careful examination reveals two other grids: one for Brittany and another for the Moroccan coast.

In the upper part of the map is drawn a scale within a circle with two oriented bisectors, in red, with an enigmatic sign, hard to explain.

Also noteworthy are a peculiar 'rose', shaped like a flower with petals coloured in red and green and located at the top of the large North Sea grid; and seven identical depictions of churches, four on the Atlantic coast and tree on the North Sea coast.

It is also clear that the map is incomplete, obviously cut to the East along the line Djerba – Gaeta – Ancona; which explains the interruption of the circle and the Adriatic grid and leaves open the hypothesis of a second

circle with a depiction of the Eastern Mediterranean. The same goes for the North, where the cut is seemingly smaller.

Tears further affect the map in the west and south, with no big consequence on the south as the Sahara is empty, but with more harm to the west where the coasts of Portugal and Spain are missing (if they were ever charted?), as well as those of the English Channel and England's southern and western coastlines, where nevertheless the Bristol channel and the River Severn can be seen.

Other tears affect the central body of the map, the most important of which has removed the Gulf of Genoa, between Marseilles and Tuscany, and Cap Corse. Symmetrical (folding) ink stains hide a great part of the Dalmatian coast and the Adriatic grid.

The Avignon chart offers nevertheless long sections of continental and insular coasts, of which one can follow the outline. On these coasts over 300 toponyms, in black and red and more or less legible, can be identified. Some in black are particularly illegible and will perhaps be revealed only by elaborate techniques.

An anonymous and undated chart

Neither signed nor dated, the Avignon chart raises many questions of which the first one is that of its date.

Regarding the author, some undeciphered script of a different style, visible under the Gulf of Gabes, might perhaps lift a veil. A paleographic study, that remains to be done, could shed light on the geographical origin of the author.

Regarding the date, barring a carbon-14 analysis that would give an indication of the age of the parchment, we are reduced to comparative methods and to the examination of various elements which may be indications allowing us to envisage a

dating. The comparative method uses, among other inputs, the well dated maps of Pietro Vesconte and Angelino Dulcert, to 'locate' undated maps deemed to be from the late 13th and early 14th centuries.

For Vesconte, his charts of 1311 (Florence, for the Eastern Mediterranean) and 1313 (Paris, for the Western Mediterranean), then those that followed until 1327 (Venice, Vienna, Vatican, Lyon, Zürich, London, Florence, with a gradual improvement of England's shape); maps that created a durable model for the depiction of the Mediterranean³, and were copied until the 17th century.

For Dulcert, his charts of 1330 (Florence) and 1339 (Paris), probably made in Mallorca, with very detailed drawings of the interior, vignettes and detailed representation of the northern regions (North Sea, Baltic, Scandinavia).

Within this framework are placed the very small number of anonymous and undated portolan charts that have survived to our days and form the limited corpus deemed to be earlier than Vesconte⁴, namely the Pisana (c.1280), Cortona (c.1300) and Lucca (c.1310-1320) charts, and also maybe the Riccardiana of Florence (C4 Pujades, 1310-1315)⁵.

And now there would be this Avignon chart that we propose to date between 1300 and 1310.

3 On the other hand, the drawing of the Atlantic and northern European coasts will evolve in later maps, based on the improved knowledge that Mediterranean mapmakers will acquire due to the development, from the late 13th century onwards, of maritime trade routes with the North and of discoveries along the African coasts.

4 The old age of some of these charts has been strongly contested by R. Pujades in a 2013 article, in CFC n° 216. "The Pisana Chart. Really a primitive portolan chart made in the 13th century?"

5 All these charts, except the Lucca one, can be found in the DVD included in the cited book by R. Pujades (note 2)

Dating elements

- Similarities with the Pisana and Cortona:
 - Visible red circle (here double circle) in which the western Mediterranean is inscribed, with rhumb lines that do not extend out of it (difference with the Lucca and Vesconte charts).
 - Scale within a circle with oriented bisectors — a design that is specific to the Pisana and Cortona charts, is more complex (cross-shaped) in Vesconte and then systematically becomes a 'ruler'.
 - Square grids, of which the one in the Adriatic reminds of the Pisana chart, which is the only one to display this technique (but here it is not adjacent to the circle).
- Different outline of non-Mediterranean coasts compared to other charts:
 - French Atlantic coasts (fig. 2) better represented and more precise than on the Pisana chart, but less well than on the Lucca, Riccardiana, Vesconte and Dulcert.
 - Very innovative English and North Sea coasts (fig. 3) – schematic in the Pisana chart; almost absent in the Cortona; only for the southern coast of England on the Lucca, and little developed, with a small number of place names, on the first Vesconte charts, to then become richer until the very evolved and detailed design of these regions on the Dulcert charts (North Sea coasts, Denmark, Baltic).
 - In any case the Avignon chart displays a very original design and toponymy, without precedent or continuation, particularly by Vesconte or Dulcert, which leads to the working hypothesis of a work not linked to Genoa or Mallorca.
- The design of certain sections of the Mediterranean coasts is different from Vesconte's model, which became almost absolutely prevalent after 1311-1313:
 - Sand banks in the Gulf of Gabes represented with black dots, like on the Pisana, Cortona and Lucca charts, whereas they will be systematically in red from the Vesconte charts onwards (and on the Riccardiana).



Fig.2 - French Atlantic coast and Brittany

- Languedoc's ponds are not represented in the form of 'stomach with dots' initiated by Vesconte in 1313 and repeated in practically all portolan charts thereafter. Here the design with two shorelines is less schematic than on the Pisana and Cortona charts, and different from the one on the Lucca chart, therefore somehow appearing like the 'intermediary' between the latter and the former maps.
 - 4. Some 'coloured' islands (green, red), which are all black on the Pisana and Cortona charts, a few of them coloured on the Lucca chart, and then all systematically coloured from Vesconte onwards.
 - 5. A larger number of place names in red than on the Pisana and Cortona charts, but fewer than on those of Lucca and Vesconte. Few 'new' place names for the Mediterranean basin but on the other hand quite dense toponymy along the Atlantic (France) and the North (England, North Sea, Baltic). This toponymy is different and original with respect to contemporary charts and has no known equivalent.
 - 6. A rigorous geometrical construction, certainly common to all these early charts but that here determines in particular the position of the grids and the scale circle, as well as the sign that is found in the middle of the circle.
 - 7. Quite correct latitudes and longitudes in the Mediterranean and Adriatic but very inaccurate for the Atlantic coasts (see Bayonne at the same latitude as Valencia, Cherbourg the same as Marseilles) and those of the North Sea, particularly the eastern coasts where for example Lübeck lies on the meridian of Barcelona.
- All these data, with all usual reservations, lead to strong presumptions for a date later than the Pisana and Cortona charts, but earlier than the Lucca and Vesconte's 1311-1313, as well as the Riccardiana; all this evidently subject to the possible future appearance of absolutely contradictory evidence.



Fig. 1 - The Avignon Portolan Chart



Fig.3 - The North Sea with the English, Flemish and Dutch coasts

A singular chart

As a matter of fact, this map presents, outside the Mediterranean space, and with the North Sea grid, some peculiarities that give it a great originality. One is evidently tempted to 'place' it chronologically with respect to the other charts of this 'formative period', including those of Vesconte and Dulcert, and to reason in terms of 'cartographic progress' from one map to the other, according to the development in seafarers' and cartographers' knowledge of the Atlantic and northern regions from the end of the 13th century⁶. We would thus have a possible sequence: Pisana (c.1280), Cortona (c.1300), Avignon (c.1300-10), Lucca (c.1310-20), then Riccardiana (c.1310-13), Vesconte (1311-1313, and following), Ristow-Skelton (c.1315-1325, C10 Pujades), Dulcert (1330-1339) ...

⁶ 'Clos des galées' Arsenal of Rouen in 1294 and naming of Genoese Benedetto Zaccaria as Admiral of the fleet of Philippe IV of France at Rouen. Multiplication of seaborne trade between the Mediterranean and the regions of the North, England, Flanders and the Hansa from the early 14th century.

But such a view is very disputed and there seems to be a consensus that none of the pre-Vesconte charts is actually a copy of an earlier one, or the source of a later one; so, the hypothesis prevails of maps made, during this initial period, at different places and by authors who drew, for the Mediterranean, from an older common background of which no witness has been preserved. But nevertheless all these charts can be considered 'original' because of their pre-Vesconte design of certain coast sections (Languedoc, Gulf of Gabes) and above all because of the design of Atlantic coasts and northern regions (England, North Sea, Denmark, Baltic) according to the development in seafarers' knowledge from such and such cartographic centre, first in isolation (as would be the case here) and then in workshops from Vesconte onwards (Genoa, Venice, Mallorca)⁷. The Avignon chart would thus be, although seemingly related to

⁷ The absence of any reminiscence from the northern regions of this Avignon chart on those by Vesconte or Dulcert leads one to exclude the hypothesis of a Genoese or Mallorcan origin and to postulate instead the hypothesis of a different centre, which remains to be defined.

the Pisana chart (scale, grids, an 'independent chart', a 'cartographic isolate' particularly due to its representation of the French coasts of the Atlantic and above all those coasts drawn inside the great North Sea grid, which are totally original and with no possible reference in earlier or later charts; neither a 'derivative' of an earlier chart, nor a 'source' for a later chart, and therefore eminently 'singular'.

An author who knew the places or who made his map based on hearsay?

For the Mediterranean it is clear, as already stated, that the author of the Avignon chart resorted to the 'common background' of the early portolan charts prior to Vesconte, as the latter indeed himself did, improving it to fix the general design that would then become, by virtue of its very great accuracy, the base model copied at will until the 17th century, with just a few modifications, for example by Beccari in 1403 for the Rhone delta. On the other hand, for the Atlantic and northern coasts, from the Pisana chart onwards and up to Dulcert's charts, every map brings its own touch to the design in the sense of increasing accuracy for Britain and Ireland, the North Sea shorelines, the Danish peninsula and the Baltic Sea; according, as already stated, to the progress in the knowledge of these regions by seamen from the Mediterranean, knowledge that found its way into the mapmakers' marine charts. Here, the quite correct orientation and design of the English coasts point to an effective knowledge by the author (London, bulge of the Norfolk coast, Wash, Spurn Head, perhaps the Scottish Firths, etc.), including the West (Bristol channel, Severn), but with place names that remain to be deciphered.

On the other hand, for the eastern shores of the North Sea, beyond the Pas de Calais (Strait of Dover), the design gives the impression of a map drawn by hearsay, rather than established

after an effective navigation: bafflingly vertical north-south orientation; triangular shape of Denmark — with naming Jutland twice; place names that remain to be deciphered, apart from the clear ones of Bremen and Lübeck; multiple estuaries to ascertain, like this long river that flows all along the top of the map (Vistula?) and the island 'hirlanter' near the bicolour 'rose' (perhaps, taking into account the orientation of the writing, the Shetland?). And on the part of the author a 'scale contraction' that allows him to represent all this long section of coast within the grid of his construction. Similarly, how to interpret the sign included in the scale circle, and which is obviously not an island? Should one see it as a city, based on the geometric construction of the map and its location at equal distance from Venice and from the top of the grid? Prague, Nüremberg? Pure hypothesis, of course.

Historical context

For Paul Fermon, the presence of this map at Avignon, like the three others mentioned above, could be explained by the fact that this city had become in the 14th century, with the presence of the Papacy, not only the centre of western christianity, but also a commercial and cultural centre that lasted after the return of the Popes to Rome. Avignon attracted merchants and sailors at a time when maritime relations with the Atlantic and the northern regions were developing rapidly, and complementing older land routes via the Rhone valley or the Alpine passes.

Is it therefore possible to make the hypothesis of a map that could be just as much a 'sailor's chart' as a 'merchant's chart', drawn up at the same time on the basis of navigators' experience (French coasts, Brittany, English coasts) and of information reported by merchants and transcribed by dead reckoning on the map (Frisian, Danish, Baltic coasts)? A map trying to make a link, this time 'by sea', between the Mediterranean

and these regions of the North, not mapped until then?

In a certain way, the Avignon chart could thus be a 'step' in the construction of cartographic knowledge as a result of the better knowledge of the extra-Mediterranean coasts by sailors from the Mediterranean who visited more and more frequently the English, Flemish, Hanseatic and Baltic coasts, with the corollary of a better cartographic representation of these regions, first illustrated by Vesconte himself for Britain and Ireland, then by Dulcert for Denmark and the Baltic and Scandinavian coasts.

But if we can be sure that Avignon was an active centre of European trade in the 14th and 15th centuries, both by land and by sea, so that charts could have been there because of their usefulness at the time, it is impossible to know at what time this chart and the three others arrived there (14th-15th centuries?), nor how they were preserved there. We limit ourselves to noting that their parchments were reused in the 16th century as by-products to bind notarial records, when they were no longer of interest to navigation ... thus allowing their survival until our times.

Conclusion

Coming to the end of the presentation of this portolan chart, not studied till now but not really unknown as it was discovered in 2002 and has been referenced in archives since then, the authors of this article are happy to have been able to make it known via Maps in History and the on-line article (www.bimcc.org). But this presentation is only a starting point for a study that should be conducted by specialists on this exceptional item whose antiquity is, of course, to be confirmed, as well as its interest for the history of marine cartography in the Middle Ages. Beyond a more precise dating, many fields remain to be explored: undeciphered scripts; a more advanced paleographic study; an analysis of the 'Mediterranean' toponyms

and more broadly of all those still to be deciphered, starting from Campbell's spreadsheet; the reading and interpretation of the English toponyms, as well as those of the North Sea coast and probably the Baltic; the island of 'hirlanter?'; the city (if it is a city?) inside the scale circle; the long river drawn at the top of the parchment; the 'churches', to be located and interpreted, which were perhaps added later. Ultimately, an exciting map that opens new horizons to research, particularly by studying the 'grid of the North Sea', whose content is certainly a fundamental contribution to the mapping of these regions, and can make this map more of a 'merchant's chart' in connection with the Hansa than a 'navigator's chart', as suggested to us by Tony Campbell; a chart that remains 'unique' since it has had no ancestry or descendants to date.

As stated at the beginning of the article, it goes without saying that the ideas expressed by the authors in this article are only their own and that any comment or criticism will be welcomed and received as a contribution to the progress of knowledge in this area of the 'formative period', in which each map at the same time brings answers to the questions asked about their origin and, above all, asks new questions that constitute as many avenues of research to clarify, if not resolve, the enigma of this origin and to determine the evolution that these maps underwent from the end of the 13th century and throughout the 14th century. And, without a doubt, opening new horizons for researchers and a source of fruitful debates.

Note to interested readers:

The French unabridged version of this article appears on our Web site at the address: http://www.bimcc.org/history-of-cartography/the_avignon_chart under the title 'The Avignon chart'

How I Got Into Cartography

Interview with Martijn Storms

Map curator at the Leiden University Library, the Netherlands.

— by Nicola Boothby

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Martijn Storms studied human geography and planning at Utrecht University where he specialised in GIS and cartography. Since 2006 he has been curator of maps and atlases at Leiden (the Netherlands) University Libraries. He chairs the working group of maps and GIS of UKB (association of Dutch research libraries). In addition, he is project coordinator for Peter van der Krogt's Koeman's *Atlantes Neerlandici* at the Brill publishing house and a member of the editing board of Caert-Thresoor, the Dutch journal of the history of cartography, and national representative of the Netherlands for Imago Mundi.

What does cartography mean to you?

A lot! As a child I was always looking at my parents' atlas, the *Winkler Prins Gezinsatlas*, published in 1974. I almost literally devoured that atlas. I still remember the moment that I noticed a small red spot between Switzerland and Austria on the map of Europe. I discovered Liechtenstein! Now that atlas, together with many other atlases and books on cartography, is on my own bookshelves. Yet, I do not consider myself a collector. Children at school soon named me 'a walking atlas', because I knew all countries with their capital cities by heart. I am still fascinated by the way mapmakers transformed geographical reality to a reduced, modelled visualisation on a flat surface, and the many ways in

which that transformation can take place.

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

That is almost too much to describe. First of all, my job is to make the map collections of our library available for research and education. This involves organising cataloguing and digitisation projects and more recently also geo-referencing of (digitised) maps. The latter we organised as a crowdsourcing project named 'Maps in the Crowd'. Furthermore I advise visitors, scholars and students who want to use our cartographic collection or are looking for specific maps. I am also involved

in education. For example, together with Michiel van Groesen, professor of maritime history, we gave an MA course 'Mapping the Ocean' with several visits to the library to study the original maps and atlases. Peter van der Krogt also visits our collection every year with his students from Amsterdam University. I regularly have to deal with loan requests for exhibitions which I sometimes have to courier. In January I was in Lisbon to install our famous 16th-century 'panorama of Lisbon' drawing. In 2015 I travelled to Singapore because some of our VOC charts of Southeast Asia were there on loan in the National Library; but such trips are exceptions. We organise exhibitions ourselves as well, like this



Fig. 1 - The 'elephant map' of Ceylon from the Bodel Nijenhuis Collection. Manuscript, c.1765 (UBL, COLLBN 002-09-031)

year's 'Mapping Japan' exhibition that I have co-curated with Radu Leca in the Japan Museum SieboldHuis in Leiden. Furthermore I give presentations and present papers at conferences and write articles. In general this all contributes to my role as a kind of 'collection ambassador' with a goal to spotlight the map collections of Leiden University.

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

The possibilities for studying the history of cartography are limited in the Netherlands. Only at the end of my student days did I discover the history of cartography. Of course I followed the courses of Günter Schilder in Utrecht, but I really learned the most during my time, now already more than ten years, in Leiden. For a map curator it is important to get to know your collection. That takes time, and even now I still make 'discoveries' in our collection. Because the variety of our collections you have to be an all-rounder, from cadastral surveys of Holland to Asian cartographic traditions and from 'official' VOC charting to commercial mapmaking from the sixteenth century up to now.

Are there careers to be made in cartography?

Yes: not that many, but there are. In my opinion, if you really want to work with old maps, there will be a possibility. But you must be willing to work hard, be enthusiastic, take initiatives and grab the luck that sometimes comes your way. Maybe I could talk easily, but I got the opportunity to make a job of my hobby. Well, I think I was just very lucky actually.

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

Not completely. After I finished my study of geography, I started a PhD about early property and cadastral mapping in the Netherlands. But then the job offer in Leiden came along, I applied and to my surprise I got the job. On the one hand that was 'straightforward', but it meant that I didn't have enough time for the PhD research, especially after I became father of Abel and Tycho soon after. I still haven't finished it, but I'm not that old yet.

Where do you see yourself going from here?

Maybe it sounds a bit old-fashioned but at this moment I really imagine that I can stay as map curator in Leiden until my retirement. It's such a fascinating collection and up to now every time new challenges cross my path, such as the addition of the collections of KIT (the Royal Tropical Institute) and KITLV

(the Royal Institute for Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies); our ongoing geo-referencing project 'Maps in the Crowd'; the move to digital-origin geodata; how to collect and preserve these geodata, and how to make it available for education and research. And, this year, all the activities for our Leiden Asia Year. On the other hand, sometimes I want to have more time to do real research: a combination of curatorship and a job as a researcher would be ideal. But I'm not sure if I would give up my curatorship completely to be a researcher only.

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

That I have a great map collection at my disposal. On the one hand that is limiting, because almost everything I do is related to my 'own' collection, but with the varied map collection of Bodel Nijenhuis and the recently added colonial collections of KIT and KITLV that can't really be considered



Fig. 2 - Pictorial map of Shima Province from the Siebold Collection. Manuscript c.1825 (UBL, Ser. 265)

a limitation. Curatorship of such a collection is a job that you can't do for just a short period of time. It really takes years to learn all the ins and outs of a collection. And after almost 11 years in Leiden, I am still learning every day!

What is happening at Leiden University Library?

This year of 2017, the city and the University of Leiden are celebrating 'Leiden Asia Year'. The reason for this was the addition of the KIT and KITLV map collections; with these, Leiden's map collection has almost doubled in size in the recent years. The incorporation of the libraries of these institutions has made Leiden University Libraries one of the leading collections on Asia, and the largest on Indonesia worldwide. So an extension of the second floor of our main library building was built on top of the front of the library. The official grand opening by Queen Máxima of this Asian Library will take place on 14 September. The whole of 2017 activities related to Asia will take place in Leiden: symposia, exhibitions, lectures, social events etc. The complete programme can be consulted at: www.leidenasiayear.nl.

I am also organising a two-day symposium in collaboration with the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography. This symposium 'Mapping Asia: Cartographic Encounters between East and West' takes place in the University Library on 15-16 September 2017. I think we have put together an interesting programme with thirty speakers from Europe, Asia and America and a keynote address by Ferjan Ormeling. More information can be found on: www.mappingasia.nl.

Two map-related exhibitions will open in September in Leiden. Mentioned above was the 'Mapping Japan'



Fig. 3 - Souvenir aan het Topographisch Bureau te Batavia. Cover of a city map of Batavia from the collection of the Royal Tropical Institute, 1925 (UBL, KIT 161-02-05)

exhibition in SieboldHuis. This will highlight the maps in the collection of Philipp Franz von Siebold (1796-1866): a physician, botanist and traveller who lived and worked on the small artificial island of Dejima, the Dutch trading post in the bay of Nagasaki. He was also interested in geography and he was in touch with various Japanese surveyors and cartographers. They exchanged knowledge and maps. After the Japanese government discovered the 'secret' maps Siebold had in his possession, he eventually was expelled from Japan.

Another exhibition 'Mapping Asia' will take place in Museum Volkenkunde (National Museum of Ethnology). On 14 September 2017, a 'pop-up exhibition' of Asian maps will take place in the library.

Samples from our collections will be highlighted on various places online as well as on a series of panels in

Leiden University Library. Of course, I was involved in the selection and description of maps. A book on our Asian collections titled *Voyage of Discovery* will be published in which our 'Maps in the Crowd' project is put in the spotlight, together with my contribution on the conflicting interests of the Blaeu and Van Keulen mapmaker families (they were both commercial publishers and official VOC cartographers).

On that last topic, I will close my own Leiden Asia Year: not in Leiden – but in Brussels where I will present a paper at the Brussels Map Circle Conference 'Early maps of Indonesia' on 9 December 2017.



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The Brussels Map Circle Annual General Meeting 2017

The Map Circle's Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 22 April at 10.00 in the Boardroom of the Royal Library of Belgium in Brussels. Our two former presidents, Wulf Bodenstein and Eric Leenders, were unfortunately unable to attend the meeting, and neither was the otherwise always present Alex Smit. So we found out, to our great surprise, that a good health is not a free gift included in AGM membership!

In her welcome of all active Members the President gave special attention to two Members who came all the way to Brussels: David Jones from Canada and Jacques Mille from Marseilles. Equally important was the official welcome of two new active Members: Chris van Hauwaert, the creator of our new electronic bulletin, 'WhatsMap?', and Marie Anne Dage, co-organiser of the excursion.



A special guest was the historian Diane Staelens. For her Master's in Public History at the University of Amsterdam, she is preparing a dissertation on the Brussels Map Circle. Apparently we are such an interesting mix of friendly and map loving people with either a professional or an amateur background. It was her survey that was later sent to all the members, hoping that they would help her in gathering the necessary information. Needless to say that we are very curious about her findings!

Hereafter the usual AGM programme turned out to be, this year, even more efficient than before, starting with Jean-Louis Renteux who presented, in a picture show, the activity report of last year. From March to March we had the former AGM and Map Afternoon, three issues of 'Maps in History', our 4-day excursion to Rome and the annual conference devoted to globes and instruments. The excursion co-organised by the Academia Belgica under direction of Wouter Bracke, included interesting visits to the Biblioteca Centrale, the Biblioteca Casanatense, the Vatican (Galleria delle Carte Geografiche and Terza Loggia), the Biblioteca Corsiniana, and the Palazzo Farnese in Caprarola. Given such an interesting programme, we thought it was quite legitimate to raise the membership fee from 30 to 40 euros, as you may have noted!

Talking about money, the moment had arrived to present the financial report. Thanks to 109 paying Members and our paying Sponsors, our Treasurer Eddy Masschalck could bring good news. A major part of our yearly budget was spent on the remaining stock of '100 Kaarten in Vlaanderen', which we will keep for publicity reasons only. Unfortunately we had to reduce the amount of non-paying members, who, in case they do not choose for a paying membership, can always follow our activities on our website or read the former issues of our magazine. Unlike this, the Brussels Map Circle remains a very international club with members from 22 countries. We hope you all keep joining us!

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Making Maps in History

This issue of Maps of 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.

MAPAF 2017

Saturday 22 April 2017

Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels

On Saturday 22 April, thirty-four members and fans of the Map Circle joined in the Boardroom of the Brussels Royal Library for their annual Map Afternoon, as usual preceded by a small sandwich lunch with plenty of wine and pastries.



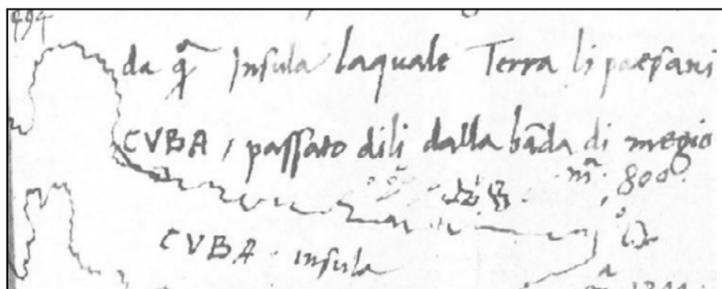
Jean-Christophe Staelens opens the 2017 Map Afternoon

Luis A. Robles Macias

Luis A. Robles Macias started the afternoon with the **Codex Alberico of Alessandro Zorzi**. The patrician living in sixteenth-century Venice was engaged in collecting accounts of voyages. By making manuscript sketches on the margins and blank pages of several codices, he combined the latest news about geographical discoveries with drawings. From his manuscripts one remains in Ferrara (Biblioteca Comunale Ariostea, II.10), while four from the initially five codices are preserved in Florence (BNCF, Magliabechiano, XIII). Only the codex devoted to America, the so-called Codex Alberico, has been studied and its sketch maps have been reproduced recently. Among its fascinating maps, there is a map of Cuba, dated earlier than 1507 and probably inspired by the Cantino map of 1502. Zorzi was presumably as well the intellectual author of a map illustrating an amended translation of Columbus' letter from Jamaica in July 1503 (1st publ.: Venice, 1505). It is generally assumed that the travel accounts were outdated the moment Zorzi received them, so that the sketches he reproduced were of a geography that was no longer current.



Yet, Robles illustrated how quickly new geographic information gathered by Spain reached Venice by mentioning the exploration of the coast of the Gulf of Mexico in 1519, while Zorzi's map was dated 1520. Luis concluded his presentation by stating that Zorzi's contribution lies in the fact that he copied maps that are lost, he drew sketches himself to make sense of information out of travel accounts; in brief, he can be considered as a precursor to the Venetian geographer Giovanni Battista Ramusio (1485 – 1557).



Luis A. Robles Macias used the 2014 edition of the *Codex Zorzi*. Cuba on the Codex Alberico of Alessandro Zorzi (earlier than 1507)

This digital version of the main codices made by Alessandro Zorzi was published as a complement to the proceedings of a conference curated by the Italian philologist Luciano Formisano. *VESPUCCI, FIRENZE E LE AMERICHE. Atti del Convegno di Studi (Firenze, 22-24 novembre 2012)*, A cura di Giuliano Pinto, Leonardo Rombai, Claudia Tripodi. Biblioteca storica toscana - Serie I, vol. 71, Leo S. Olschki, 2014.

Jan De Graeve

Jan De Graeve showed us a very special map sheet of **Cassini de Thury's Map of France** (1748). It was not the geographical region of **Calais, Dunkirk & Flanders** that was so particularly important, rather the fact that it was inserted in an original box decorated with the coat of arms of the last Queen of France Marie-Antoinette (1755-1793). The beautiful and capricious Marie-Antoinette would have liked Cassini's maps so much that she wanted them in colour. We can only guess that this is the reason why the coloured 180 map sheets of the 'Carte générale de France de Cassini dite aussi carte de l'Académie (1747-1815)' preserved in the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) are described as the so-called exemplar of 'Marie-Antoinette'. It was a strange twist of fate that the new survey of the Paris Meridian coincided with the last days of the French royal house and ultimately with the decapitation of King Louis XVI. That the Science Academy started shortly before, in 1792, with the measurements of the Meridian between Dunkirk and Barcelona motivated Jan, after all his efforts to map the Struve meridian as cartographical heritage, to comment on Cassini's meridian line.



Carte générale de la France. 006, [Dunkerque. Nouv. éd.]. N°6 [établie sous la direction de César-François Cassini de Thury. Paris, Observatoire puis Dépôt de la Guerre, between 1756 and 1815]. See also: Paris, BNF, Exemple dit de « Marie-Antoinette ». Published online: Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Des villages de Cassini aux villages d'aujourd'hui. Territoires, populations, deux siècles d'évolution, <http://cassini.ehess.fr>.

Gérard Bouvin

Gérard Bouvin (Maps & Plans Section of the KBR) took a plunge into the Royal Library archives and brought us an **exceptional and large wall map of 1687, entitled 't'Hoogheymraedschap van Rhymland [...]'** which, Lisette Danckaert recalled, was on show in a 1971 exhibition at the KBR ('De Hollandse Kartografie', item 42). The Hoogheemraadschap van Rijnland is the oldest water board of the Netherlands that has been conducting water control activities in the Rijnland since the thirteenth century. The management of the continuing Dutch struggle against water and the complicated funding arrangements required adequate maps. Jan Janszoon Dou and Steven van Broeckhuyzen surveyed the area between 1642 and 1646, while Cornelis Danckerts engraved their manuscript map in 1647. This large-scale map, famous for its accuracy, became a model for later cartographical enterprises of the Rijnland. The second imprint of 1687 included corrections by Johannes Dou Junior and Zeger Wolfsen, as well as decorative margins and coats of arms by Romeyn de Hooghe. The water boards dominated by noble families changed when the swamps were laid dry between first and second imprint. In 1746 a third state was published, this time engraved by David Coster, with corrections by Melchior Bolstra, but without the decorative margins and the coats of arms present in the second edition.



Gérard Bouvin arranging sheets of the 1647 wall map by Johannes Dou Junior and Zeger Wolfsen)

Jan Janszoon Dou; Steven van Broeckhuyzen, t'Hoogheymraedschap van Rhymland [...] anno 1647 [...] anno 1687 is dese caert vernieut, geëmplieert en gecorrigeert, als Dyckgraef en Hoog Heemraden waren, [Leiden?], s.n., 1687. Brussels, KBR III 9.486 D (Magazijn - Kaarten en plans). See for the 2nd state: Nationaal Archief, Den Haag, Provinciaal Bestuur Zuid-Holland: Kaartencollectie Ernsting, voor 1850, nummer toegang 4.2HPB4, inventarisnummer 51.

Colin Dupont

Colin Dupont (Maps & Plans Section of the KBR) presented **six globes** of the collection of the Royal Library, published by the **'Institut National de Géographie'** (Belgium, 19th century). Théodore Falk-Fabian (1845- after 1914) founded this private company after the retreat in 1882 of his companion Henry Merzbach (1837 - after 1892) from their publisher's house 'Merzbach & Falk'. Besides the production of globes in different languages, Falk was the editor of the facsimile maps of van Deventer (Atlas des villes de la Belgique au XVI^e siècle. Cent plans du géographe Jacques de Deventer reproduits en fac-similé chromolithographique par l'Institut national de géographie à Bruxelles, [1911]) and of maps of Congo in Central Africa. According to one of our members, all archives of this firm have been lost, making it thus very difficult to reconstruct the history of the cartographic company.



Globes mounted on a black wood base. Brussels, Institut national de géographie, [1890-1895]. Chromolithography, diameter: c.13 cm, height: 26 cm. Brussels, KBR, Magazijn - Kaarten en plans CP IV 11.138-143.

Marguerite Silvestre

As a specialist on the Belgian cartographer **Philippe Vandermaelen**, Marguerite Silvestre focused on his maps of Brussels. Vandermaelen's business, the 'Etablissement géographique de Bruxelles', was slowing down in the 1860s when the city of Brussels was developing at a fast rate. The 'Conseil Provincial du Brabant' appointed land surveyor Victor Besme (1834-1904) as coordinator of the road planning in the suburbs of Brussels. For his comprehensive plan for the extension and embellishment of the Brussels region (1862) Besme needed Vandermaelen to publish a 'Carte de reconnaissance des environs de Bruxelles' (1876). Vandermaelen, who edited his 'Carte de Bruxelles et ses environs', created as thus important sources for the study of the urbanisation of Brussels and its suburbs. Marguerite used postcards to show us the situation at the Avenue Louise, the Porte de Namur (with a taxi pavilion!) and the tramway line at Bois de la Cambre. Unfolding the map of Brussels turned out a heavy task for those not familiar with the 19th century view of the city; Lisette Danckaert made luckily the clever remark that there is that habit in cartography of numbering the sheets..



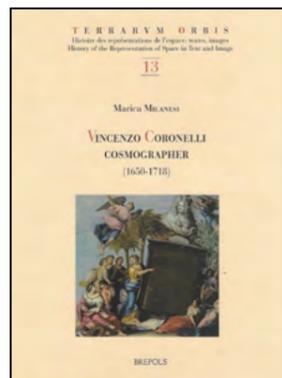
Philippe Vandermaelen, Carte de Bruxelles et ses environs. Bruxelles, Etablissement géographique de Bruxelles, 1861-1862. Lithography, 9 sheets (scale 1: 5000). Brussels, KBR, Cartes et plans, VDM IV 117 - III 4487.

Victor Besme, Carte de reconnaissance des environs de Bruxelles. Bruxelles, Etablissement géographique de Bruxelles, c.1876. Lithography, 15 sheets (scale 1: 2500). Brussels, KBR, Cartes et plans, VDM IV 271 - III 11222.

Jean- Louis Renteux

Jean-Louis Renteux intervened shortly to focus our attention on a recent book about the cartographer **Vincenzo Coronelli** (1650-1718) published by our sponsor Brepols. Coronelli began working as a geographer and was commissioned to make a set of terrestrial and celestial globes for Ranuccio II Farnese, Duke of Parma. Later he was invited to construct a pair of globes for Louis XIV. See Wulf Bodenstein's review in 'Maps in History' No 58.

Marica Milanesi Grendi, Vincenzo Coronelli Cosmographer (1650-1718). Brepols Publishers, 2016.



Paul De Candt

In the **Digital corner**, Paul De Candt presented the map viewer recently developed by Aquaterra, sponsor of our map circle. In 2014 he spoke about the digital map processing (including scanning, geo-referencing and consultation through a map viewer), of historical map series such as Popp, Ferraris and Vandermaelen for Flemish government applications. The current Aquaterra map viewer (www.backtothemap.be) includes a dynamic timeline and many search methods. Our sponsor Ruderman provided digital images of the maps he sold. Also, Aquaterra offers the Members of the Brussels Map Circle the opportunity to geo-reference the maps and to integrate them in the map viewer.

A number of Lafreri-maps (1550-1600), provided by a member, had been scanned and geo-referenced and were shown as examples on how these maps can be used and integrated in a digital application.



If interested, please contact: pdc@aquaterra.be

Jacques Mille



Jacques Mille focused our attention on a **rare map of the engineer-geographer Louis Capitaine** (1749-1797). Since his family participated in the surveys by Cassini between 1755 and 1789, it is not surprising that Capitaine made several reductions of Cassini's 'Carte de France'. His map of the Dauphiné with the administrative divisions of the Ancien Régime was a reduction as well, but it was very up to date. Dedicated to the intendant of the province, a function that disappeared after the revolution, it became politically incorrect and subversive, forcing Capitaine thus to adapt the map to a republican counterpart. The new secularised and nationalised map showed the new departments and had a revolutionary scale added!

Especially interesting was Mille's account of a newly discovered portolan chart with the coast of England, the North Sea, and probably Jutland (Denmark). The sea chart seems very interesting for the northern regions that are generally vaguely rendered on portolans. See his article in this issue!

Louis Capitaine, Carte générale de Dauphiné, 1787 (only 4 surviving copies: Gap, Grenoble, Valence and Mille's private collection).

W. Barents, Map of the Mediterranean, 1593.

Portolan chart. Before Pietro Vesconte, 1300-1313?

Hans Kok

Hans Kok started with a **cartoon map of Holland** that was distributed with the Christmas issue of the Dutch paper Haagsche Post in 1930. Major historical events, from pre-Roman times until around 1830, have their locations visualised in small funny drawings with accompanying one-liners, all reflecting the syllabus that was taught in Dutch schools around the time of its publication.

Hans' second map showed the **channel coast of the western part of Picardie and of the eastern part of Normandy** with inset views of Dieppe and Rouen. Extracted from the '**Neptune François**' or 'Atlas Maritime ou Cartes Marines A L'Usage des Armées du Roy de la Grande Bretagne', the map was engraved by Romeyn de Hooghe after manuscripts in the possession of the British Admiralty.

The third map, a **navigation chart** by **Captain Greenville Collins**, showed the course of the **River Avon** from the City of Bristol to the Severn estuary. Collins was an officer of the Royal Navy commissioned by King Charles II in 1676 to chart the coasts of Great Britain. Collins spent seven years on the survey, before the first edition of the resulting atlas was published in 1693, as 'Great Britain's Coasting Pilot'. Later editions were published through the century.



Navigation chart by Captain Greenville Collins, showing the River Avon (1676)

Hans' fourth map of **Saint-Petersburg** has previously been discussed in the report of MAPAF 2015.

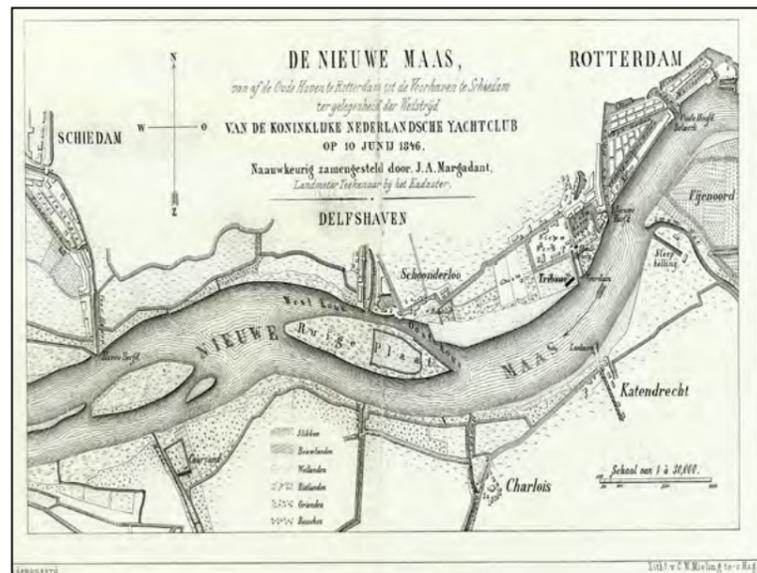
His final piece was a 1960's restrike of **Coronelli's celestial globe gores**. As royal cartographer to Louis XIV, Coronelli was based in Paris from 1681 to 1683 where he published in conjunction with the French publisher Jean Baptiste Nolin, who engraved this set of celestial globe gores for Coronelli in 1688.

- *Ton van Tást, NEDERLAND, de bakermat van roemruchte gebeurlijkheden in verleden en heden, 1930.*
- *Romeyn de Hooghe, Carte des environs de Dieppe, Amsterdam, Pieter Mortier, 1693.*
- *Captain Greenville Collins, The River Avon from the Severn to the City of Bristoll, Map of the river Avon from the English Pilot, 1690.*
- *Johannes Broedelet, Grond-tekening van de Russische Hoofdstadt St. Petersburg, door Czaer Pieter de Eerste in 't jaer 1703 aengelegt, Utrecht, c. 1730.*
- *Vincenzo Coronelli/Jean-Baptiste Nolin, Celestial Globe Gores. Re-strike off the original Coronelli/Nolin plates, kept in the Louvre, 1688/c.1960, coloured and bound.*

Francis Herbert

Francis Herbert took us to **19th century Rotterdam** when prince Henry, supported by his brother William III of Holland, founded the Royal Dutch Yacht Club in 1846. On 10 June of the same year the Yacht Club hosted its first rowing and sailing regatta on the river Maas. The event drew much attention and was an appropriate theme for modish prints, such as the one designed by the Dutch painter Frans Arnold Breuhaus de Groot and printed by Carl Wilhelm Mieling (Rijksmuseum RP-P-OB-88.771) or by the printer G. Engels (RP-P-1905-5674).

Francis showed us a map of the river Nieuwe Maas from the old harbour in Rotterdam to the outer harbour of Schiedam by the cadastral surveyor J. A. Margadant. On the reverse is the program of the competition. A shortage in budget forced the Yacht club, unfortunately, to close already in 1882. The collection of historical ship models ended up in the current Maritiem Museum Rotterdam.



Map of the regatta site of the Royal Dutch Yacht Club in 1846

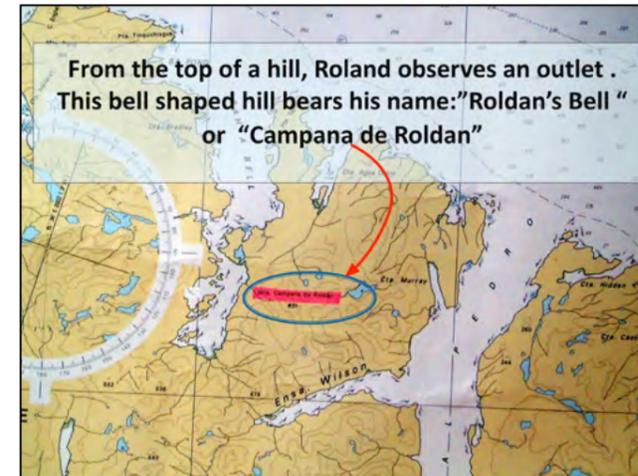
J.A. Margadant, De Nieuwe Maas, van af de Oude Haven te Rotterdam tot de Voorhaven te Schiedam, ter gelegentheid der Wedstrijd van de Koninklijke Nederlandsche Yachtclub op 10 juni 1846.

Naauwkeurig zamengesteld door J.A. Margadant, Landmeter Tèekenaar bij het Kadaster

Lith. van C.W. Mieling te 'sHage. (The Hague, 1846).

Marcel Van Brussel

Marcel Van Brussel presented a **video on Roldan de Argote**, presumably Roeland Vergote from Bruges, who was listed on the crew of Ferdinand Magellan's circumnavigation of the globe from 1519 to 1521. Inspired by Jean Denucé's *Magellan. La question des Moluques et la première circumnavigation* (Bruxelles, Hayez, 1908-1911), Marcel travelled to Patagonia where — in the middle of the Magellan Strait — he rediscovered the 'Campana de Roldan' or 'Roldan's bell' (nowadays: Cerro el Morrión). The bell shaped hill was named after Roldan, who climbed its summit to find the best way to get into the open sea. Roldan ended up as one of the 31 survivors of Magellan's expedition.



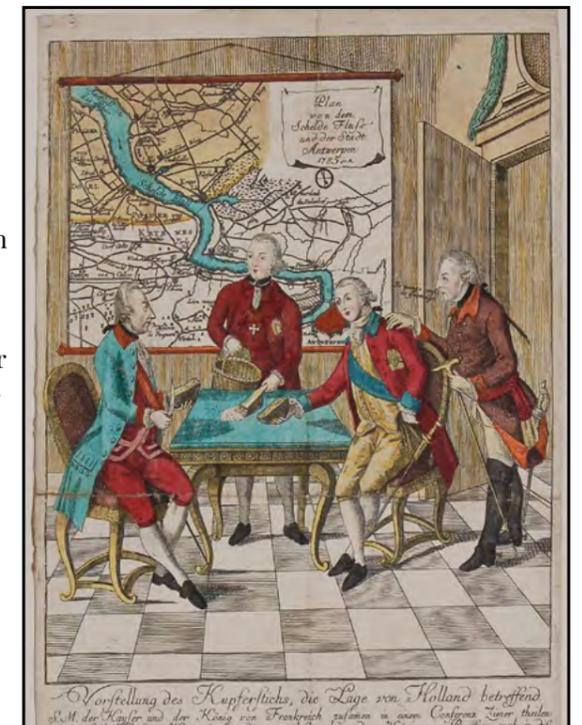
Nautical chart mentioning the 'Campana de Roldan'

After Magellan's circumnavigation, Diego Ribeiro mentioned the place on his version of the Padrón Real (later known as the Padrón General), the official and secret Spanish master map used as a template for all maps present on Spanish ships during the 16th century. The location was copied in the maps of Mercator (1569), Cornelius Wytfliet (1597) and many others.

Christophe Holger

Christophe Holger brought a rare state of a **German caricature print** of which the first state is well-known and preserved in the collections of the University of Texas and the National Library of Paris. The satirical print illustrates the aftermath of the political situation in 1784 when the Austrian territorial demands on behalf of the Austrian Netherlands resulted in a crisis over the freedom of navigation on the River Scheldt.

By the Treaty of Fontainebleau signed between Emperor Joseph II and the States-General of the United Provinces, the Dutch had to provide several concessions to the Habsburgs including payment of ten million Dutch florins and dismemberment of certain military fortifications, but they could keep the 200-year blockade of the Scheldt estuary. Joseph made a second attempt to liberate the commercial lifeline of the Austrian Netherlands when he promised the Bavarian Elector Charles Theodore all the territory except Luxemburg, which he offered to France in return for diplomatic support. When France eventually did not get Luxemburg, the king informed Frederick the Great who intervened by convincing the German princes that Joseph formed a threat to the empire's territorial integrity. The fact that Joseph's youngest brother Max Franz had become in 1784 Elector of Cologne, increased the Habsburg influence in the German territories. This difficult political situation is represented on the print. Emperor Joseph II and King Louis XVI are together in a conference room carving a round of Dutch cheese. Frederick II of Prussia enters the room, puts his hand on the shoulder of the French king and asks what they are doing. When the French king replies that they are dividing the cheese of Holland, Frederick claims that he too likes a piece of Dutch cheese, whereupon the French king replies that the Elector of Cologne takes all the crumbs of Holland... Special on this state is the presence of a map in the background.



German caricature (1784): Emperor Joseph II, Kings Louis XVI of France and Frederick II of Prussia carving a round of Dutch cheese

Representation de cette estampe touchant les affaires d'Holland S. M. l'Empereur Jos. [...] II. [1785]. 1 print (etching), 37.7 x 26.2 cm. The University of Texas at Austin, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, The Popular Imagery Collection, Box 1, Item 45.

Karen De Coene
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The very first multinational in the world!

Excursion of the Map Circle to The Hague on 6 May 2017 to visit the VOC exhibition in the National Archives of the Netherlands *

by Caroline De Candt and Stephane Delodder

A group of some 20 enthusiastic map lovers was shown around the exhibition 'De wereld van de VOC' (Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie) [The world of the Dutch United East India Company].

Before the visit, for those who were interested, there was a Rijsttafel-lunch organised by Hans Kok in one of the many great Indonesian restaurants in town.



Our president with the two guides Ron Guleij and Hans Kok

We were welcomed by the curator of the exhibition, Ron Guleij, archivist, map-curator and researcher working at the department for Presentation and Research of the Nationaal Archief. Ron then guided the Dutch speaking members of our group through the exhibition, while our Member Hans Kok — who is also advisor and lender to the exhibition — did the tour in English for those not fluent in Dutch. Over a short break in the middle, we were offered a coffee and we enjoyed some further socialising.

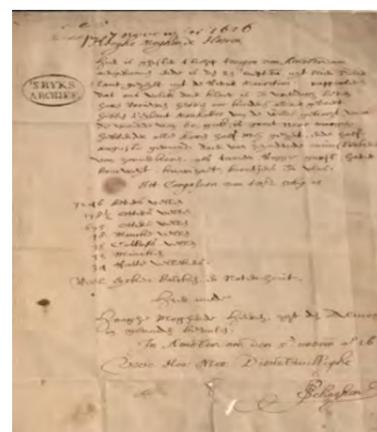


'Nieuw Amsterdam ofte Nieuw Iorx' ('New Amsterdam or New York') by Vingboons 1665

The visitors were taken along a magnificent presentation, in a very attracting setting, of selected maps, (log)books, atlases, and a multitude of objects illustrating the whole context in which these maps were made. All were beautifully displayed in an appealing scenography with multimedia and touch screens.

On one of these, for example, you can type a family name and the computer tells you if this is one of the more than 7 000 names that were on the VOC lists of ship crews. Specific sections of the exhibition were devoted to each of the countries — Cape of Good Hope, Ceylon and India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan and China — where the VOC had offices and warehouses, allowing the visitor to see local customs and practices either recorded in books, journals, drawings, letters, etc.. that are otherwise kept secret in the

Archives. A small sidestep (this isn't really *East India territory*, but probably to good not to show to the visitor) is the record by the Dutch of the buying of the island 'Manahatta' (illustrated with the famous view of 'Nieuw Amsterdam' by Vingboons).



Letter (5 nov 1626) announcing the purchase of Manhattan by Peter Minuit

* The exhibition will be on until 7 January 2018 and you can already download 'De Wereld van de VOC' app in the Appstore. Also there is a specially developed study program available on: www.gahetna.nl/voc. The exhibition language is Dutch, but a tablet available in English can guide you through the exhibits. 'The Dutch East India Company Book' isn't a real catalogue, but much more than that: it gives you the background to what you will see. Available on the spot and in bookshops at € 29.95. For further practical details and background and a list of the maps on display: see our website www.bimcc.org.



Portolan map of Jacobus Russus (1533) representing Europe and North-Africa

We were given some explanation about the creation of the VOC: how the word 'United' stands for the several existing 'Chambers of Commerce' that were doing business in the East. They were brought together under one general board of directors, the famous 'Heeren Zeventien' (the seventeen gentlemen).

The motto of the company was clear: No business without battle. Methods were effective (the dividend on shares was — over the span of the 200 years of the VOC's existence — on average some 11 %) but often brutal. The life on board of the ships was — to say the least — pretty rough. Around one third of the crew did not make it back home.

A crucial instrument was of course a map. This was soon so clear to the company's leaders that a system of constant updating was created: every ship's captain (and his first officer) was given some carefully counted maps at departure. Once they arrived, they had to hand in these maps, together with their own findings, so the maps could be updated immediately. Incidentally: during our conference 2017, you will be able to learn more about the secrecy (or not?) of these maps!

Of all the different maps made by the VOC but also by others, examples are on display. They include portolan charts, city plans, vistas and 'Overzeilers' (a special category of medium-scale charts, designed to cross the oceans) and are almost exclusively manuscript or in any case unique. You can find the complete list on our website. In the section on navigation some instruments can be seen.

Of course, a lot of new, exotic plants, fruits and animals were 'discovered': a reconstruction of a dodo is shown. New ways of living and completely different societies were seen for the first time through European eyes. All of this was recorded in paintings, engravings, journals and ship's logs. Many of these documents are shown, all of them unique: for example, Abel Tasman's journal.

We would have liked to stay longer as this exhibition certainly deserves it. Going through all the additional information on the touchscreens alone will keep you busy for several hours!

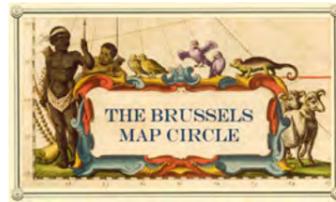


Sketch of the "dodo"

Anyway, we were very pleased with our tour and, at the end, our President thanked our guides with a small token of our gratitude (a copy of 'our' book 'Vlaanderen in 100 kaarten'). To conclude that remarkable afternoon, we headed for a closing drink in town. Compliments to all the organisers (in particular Marie-Anne Dage) for another great excursion.



Caroline De Candt Stephane Delodder
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International Conference 9 December 2017 Early maps of Indonesia *Programme*



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

At this conference, you will hear speakers who will paint a broad overview of the mapping of Indonesia from the 16th century on: the European nations involved and their motives, 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–c.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



Map Indiae Orientalis Insularumque Adiacentium Typus. Ortelius A., 1598.

From *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*. Ghedruckt voor Abraham Ortelius. Anno MDXCVIII (Collection HEK)

6. Some Dutch and British military manuscript surveys and maps of Java and Sumatra, chiefly 1810 to 1814, in Netherlands and UK collections.

During the British 'interregnum' of the former VOC possessions – specifically Java and Sumatra – to ensure non-capture by the French during the latter period of the Napoleonic Wars, an armada from British India was dispatched to Java. Manuscript copies of late 18th-century Dutch maps were made. With Dutch help, too, the British military forces re-surveyed, reviewed or completed mapping in several areas and features – the 'High Military Road' from Batavia [Jakarta], for example, with an accompanying itinerary. This work was carried out for both the British military governor (Lord Minto) and the civilian lieutenant-governor (T.S. Raffles); the responsible Deputy Quarter-Master General was W. Thorn

– Francis Herbert, retired Curator of Maps, Royal Geographical Society-IBG, London, UK; founder member of BIMCC/BMC; active (publishing) member of the International Cartographic Association's History of Cartography Commission

Venue: Royal Library of Belgium, Mont des Arts / Kunstberg

Boulevard de l'Empereur 4 / Keizerslaan 4 – 1000 Brussels (near the Central Station)

Language: English

Time Schedule: 9.30– 16.00 hr

Entry fee: Admission is free for members, non-members pay EUR 10.00 at entrance.

Lunch (optional) is being arranged in the Library's cafeteria, with catering services.

Registration: www.bimcc.org

Internationale Atlastage in Gotha

200 years Stieler Handatlas



Gotha was home to one of the leading publishing houses in the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries. Here, Justus Perthes started publishing the *Stieler Handatlas* in 1817 which would later achieve him worldwide fame. From 1855 his publishing house would develop itself as the leading geographic enterprise by being the first to publish new discoveries in Africa, Asia and Australia in text and on maps in its monthly publication, *Petermanns Geographische Mitteilungen*. Besides the *Stieler Handatlas*, Perthes offered the market a huge range of historical, physical and school atlases.



The small city centre of Gotha in Thuringia, Germany.

The annual event is, as always, characterised by a quite informal atmosphere – both professionals and hobbyists attend – and has, as focus, mainly German cartography from the period 1800–1945; German cartography was leading and flourished, and had built up a worldwide high reputation during these years.

Some fifteen passionate participants joined the workshop, which was led by Dr. Petra Weigel, curator of the Perthes cartography collection. The group was divided into four study teams, each of them targeting a research topic:

1. Analysis of Justus Perthes' business reports, seeking sales data, cost structures and business results in the early years;
2. Study of explanation about maps from the early editions of Stieler's Handatlas;
3. Study of original advertisements, prospectuses and promotion material, and definition of customer target groups;
4. Research on sources of the 10th edition of Stieler's Handatlas, which was published from 1925 up to 1945 and had regular revision during these years. The international edition, first published in the 1930's and targeting the global market, was said to be derived from the 10th edition: but was it really?

Dr. Weigel and Jürgen Espenhorst opened the seminar in the Orangerie, followed by team leaders giving an overview of the research results from the previous days. Petra Weigel introduced the first guest speaker, Dr. Werner Stams, who delivered a very interesting speech about the history of German cartography, tools and techniques applied. The Perthes map of Germany, first published in 1825, received special attention. Maps from the Perthes Collection, together with material taken from several attendees, were able to give us a detailed view

The 'Atlastage' was held, for the twelfth year, from Thursday 6 until Sunday 9 April 2017. It took place in Gotha, a small but culturally rich city located in Thuringia, Germany. The first two days were dedicated to research, and were hosted by the former publishing house building, which survived WW2 with its rich cartographic collection. The seminar took place on Saturday in the neighbouring baroque Orangerie building.

on the development of this map from 1825 till the end of the 19th century. After watching a recently published movie about the history of Justus Perthes Verlag, Dr. Imre Josef Demhardt described the activities of August Petermann at the time that he was working in Edinburgh (1845 - 47) and London (1848 - 55). His close cooperation with Keith Johnston resulted in great cartographic work, all already showing signs of his later work, that would significantly impact the development of cartography in the years to follow. Imre Demhardt showed us details on his contributions to five British atlases, which were in most cases maps showing physical phenomena. August Petermann moved from Great Britain to join the Justus Perthes Verlag in 1855. In this year, the first issue of *Petermanns Geographische Mitteilungen* was published.



Map No. 3 in the 'Atlas of Physical Geography' by A. Petermann - 1850

At the end of the day, Dr. Werner Stams enthusiastically highlighted his first steps in cartography in Leipzig from 1942–1944. By using his own lesson material from the time, he gave us an insight in a cartographic technique that, as with many other earlier techniques, has now become part of history.

Jürgen Espenhorst welcomed us on Sunday morning by expressing a great thank you to his wife and Dr. Weigel; without their support the organisation of this year's Atlas-days would not have been possible. He anticipated that next year's Atlastage will be held in Dresden from 19 until 22 April 2018. This year's Atlastage were closed by the 'Bücherbörse', an exchange, buy and sale of atlases among attendees. We could all look back on a great event, perfectly organised and with some very fine contributions by excellent speakers. Enough luggage to already look forward to next year in Dresden!

Rick Smit
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Theatrum orbis terrarum, Abraham Ortelius - 1603

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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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The Brussels Map Circle

AIMS AND FUNCTIONS

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

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

Its aims are to:

1. Provide an informal and convivial forum for all those with a special interest in maps, atlases, town views and books with maps, be they collectors, academics, antiquarians, or simply interested in the subject
2. Organise lectures on various aspects of historical cartography, on regions of cartographical interest, on documentation, paper conservation and related subjects
3. Organise visits to exhibitions, and to libraries and institutions holding important map and atlas collections.

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

- A MAP-AFTERNOON in March or April, bringing together all those interested in maps and atlases for an informal chat about an item from their collection - an ideal opportunity to get to know the Circle.
- An EXCURSION to a map collection or exhibition.
- An INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on a specific major topic in December.

The Brussels Map Circle also publishes *Maps in History* formerly known as *BIMCC Newsletter*, three times a year and maintains a website.

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Students and Juniors under 25:
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- 15 March for the May edition.
- 15 July for the September edition.
- 15 Nov. for the January edition.

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