

MAPS IN HISTORY



January 2018
Newsletter No


60

Deventer and Surhon Maps

The Brussels Map Circle Programme for 2018
Map heritage of the *Dépôt de la Guerre* at Vincennes



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Cover : La Carte de Saint Hubert en Ardenne (detail)

This original manuscript map (83.5 x 60.5 cm) was drawn by Jacques de Surhon in 1551 and is preserved in the Belgian States Archives in Arlon; the cartouche dedicates it to Saint Remacle, then abbot of the Saint-Hubert abbey; his coat of arms is adjacent to that of the abbey, next to the title of the map.

Photo courtesy of and copyright © to Archives de l'État à Arlon
 (Cartes et plans, A.1.9)

Intro

Dear Map Friends,

Again a new year is beginning: it is the twentieth in the life of our Circle! This will be duly celebrated at the end of the year: watch this space...

On the cover of this first issue of 2018, we have the map of ‘Saint-Hubert en Ardenne’, the only original manuscript map by Jacques de Surhon which survived from 1551 to this date. Viewing this unique piece will be one of the highlights of the excursion to Arlon (Belgium) and Luxembourg which we are organising on 26 and 27 May 2018 (see the programme, page 30): don't miss it!

In the mean time, you can learn more on the context in which this map was produced: Eric Leenders and I have finally written the article we had planned for some time, on ‘Deventer and Surhon’; we have gathered evidence on the links between these pioneers who first mapped the Low Countries, showing that Jacques de Surhon followed in the track of Jacob van Deventer.

This issue of Maps in History also brings you the usual mix of exhibition reports, book reviews and news. In particular, you will get a full report of our yearly Conference in December (on page 24) dedicated to the early maps of Indonesia.

My best wishes to you for a happy cartographic year,



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

Europe revisited: a guided tour through a continent.

Sint-Niklaas (Mercator Museum) 17 September – 17 December 2017

On 26 November 2017 a group of the Brussels Map Circle members went to see the exhibition *Europa herbezocht* [Europe revisited], curated by our member Stanislas De Peuter and featuring (part of) his collection.

Our readers may remember the first part of Stan's exhibition, shown in Tervuren last year and visited by many of our members on the day after our conference 2017. Stan continued the same theme of Flemish-Dutch atlas cartography between 1500 and 1700, this time in the Mercator Museum in Sint-Niklaas.

During the tour Stan took us on a journey through Europe, commenting on his maps with contagious

enthusiasm. He didn't limit himself to pointing out who made the map and when – after all, we could all read this in the catalogue – but made it a very idiosyncratic tour through regions, cities and across oceans, constantly making parallels to today's politics (about the borders in Europe), to changes in the landscapes and cities and to ways of warfare. This made the whole tour pleasantly unexpected and unpredictable and proves again what could be the adage of our Circle: there are as many ways to look at maps as there are ways of making them!

The catalogue of 104 pages unfortunately only exists in Dutch. Unfortunately, because it is a very impressive work, commenting on every single map shown and giving general background of many items. For instance: the maps by Ortelius about Classical antiquity get a little introduction about the genre; the section on title-pages is preceded by an explanation about their making a few centuries ago; finally, the decline of Dutch cartography in the 17th century and the rise of France in this domain is described, and so on. At the beginning and at the end a short biography of some leading European cartographers is given.

The maps on display enchanted by their sheer beauty: any visitor, albeit a complete novice, will have been charmed by them. It is therefore more pleasant that the Museum added a



Stanislas De Peuter presenting his most impressive collection of maps

second part to the catalogue, with colour reproductions in A4 format of the maps. These also seem to aim at the novice, giving a description in colloquial language rather than using the more scientific way of referencing maps.

The exhibition will be finished by the time this little account is published, but at your next visit to the Mercator Museum, don't forget to cast an eye on the catalogue.

We already look forward to the third and last leg of this project: another exhibition curated by Stan, in the same Museum next year, and devoted to the rest of the world.

The Map Circle will keep you posted!



The exhibit Catalogue

Caroline De Candt
carolinedecandt@gmail.com



Medieval Islamic Maps: An Exploration

by Karen C. Pinto

— Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press, 2016; 406 pp., ill., 25.4 x 17.8 cm

— ISBN: 978-0-226-12696-8 (cloth/hard back) USD 60.00

— ISBN: 978-0-226-12701-9 (e-book) from USD 10.00

Karen Pinto is a historian who has devoted most of her professional life to the study of maps drawn by Muslims in the Middle Ages. Here she combines some of her most important findings so far with new hitherto unpublished research on the topic.

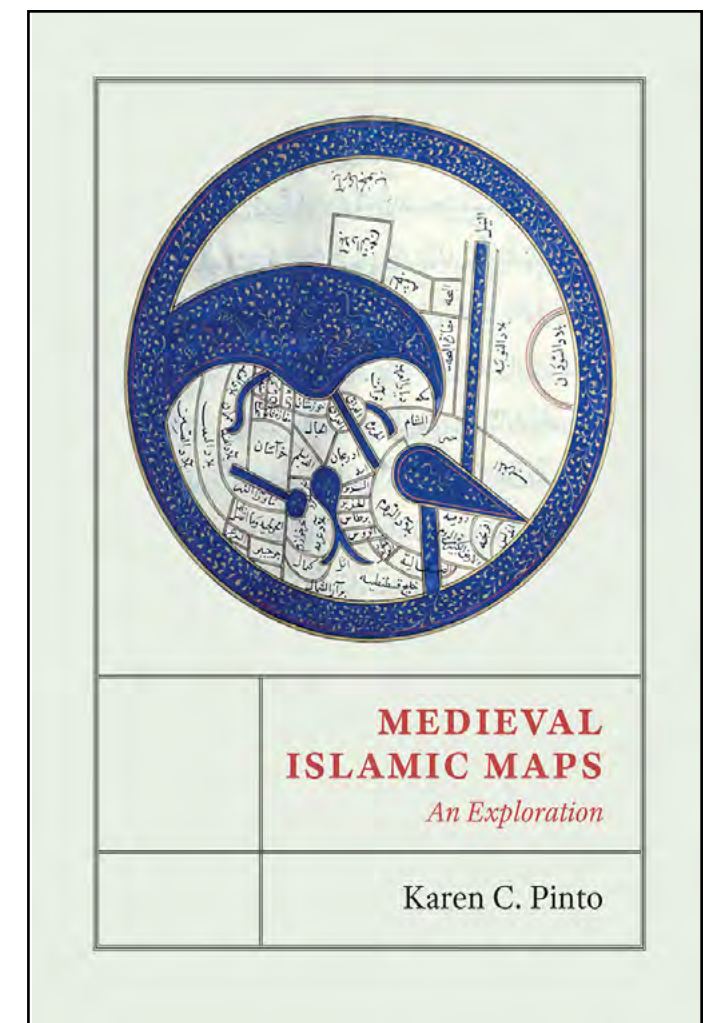
The main title of the book, *Medieval Islamic Maps*, is very broad and could lead the reader to expect some kind of comprehensive catalogue or encyclopaedia of Muslim cartography. This is not the case. As the author writes, 'This book is deliberately not a comprehensive study of all aspects of Islamic maps.' Pinto sets out to explore 'a series of scenarios that illustrate new ways and alternate methodologies' to address Islamic cartography. Her goal is to contribute 'to assembling an understanding of the tantalizing world of Islamic mapping.'

Nevertheless, the initial chapters of the book review the main works of Islamic cartography, as well as the most relevant historiography. She briefly mentions the Arabic or Ottoman maps that are most familiar to the average reader like those of al-Idrisi, Piri Re'is or the *Book of Curiosities*. The reason why precisely these works are the best known today is that they are 'highly mimetic' (i.e. their content closely matches geography as found on modern maps), and for this reason they have attracted most attention from 19th- and 20th-century historians. However, Pinto points out, these mimetic maps are not representative

of the main corpus of medieval Islamic cartography.

She has chosen to focus instead on a rather neglected type of Islamic maps, those found in manuscripts entitled *Kitab al-masalik wa-al-mamalik* (Book of Routes and Realms, abbreviated KMM). The original KMM was written in the 9th century by geographer Ibn Khordadbeh (Ibn Khurradadhbih)

to describe the different countries conquered by Islam. The work was repeatedly reproduced until the 19th century, so hundreds of different manuscript versions are extant. In some cases, the book is illustrated with twenty regional, plus one world, maps. Their coastlines, rivers and borders are very stylized and give them a strongly geometric, almost abstract, look (see this book's cover for



an example). They have conventionally been called ‘maps of the Balkhi school’ and distinguished from another ‘Iraqi map school’. However, as Pinto points out, the classification into Balkhi and Iraqi schools is incorrect and outdated, so she has coined a new name for this category of maps: the KMMS, where ‘S’ is the initial of the Arabic word ‘sūrat’ (‘figure’).

Pinto approaches KMMS, and more specifically the KMMS world maps, from three different angles: iconography, content and patronage; and for each she has chosen one specific issue to study in depth.

One iconographic element that is common to absolutely all KMMS world maps is the Encircling Ocean. A band of water always surrounds the continents, and is often surrounded in turn by mountains or other elements. The search for the origin of the Encircling Ocean surprisingly reveals it in almost every pre-modern civilization, be it on maps or other visual representations. It is, as Pinto says, ‘the basic outline stamp of all premodern *imagines mundi*’ [see p. 146]. This search also serves as a thread to assess the influence that each culture may have had on Islamic mapping. Many similarities do appear with ancient Persian, Indic or Egyptian civilizations and, interestingly, also with medieval Christian *mappaemundi*.

Actually, one of the most fascinating pictures of the book is a T-O map from medieval Spain on which place names are written in Arabic. A collaborative research project is currently studying in depth this cross-over map. On the other hand, no obvious influence of Greco-Roman cartography is identified on KMMS, which runs contrary to conventional assumptions on the sources of Islamic cartography.



Figure 1: T-O mappamundi with annotations in Arabic, ca. 8th or 9th centuries (BNE, Ms Vitr. 014/003, f.116v) [= Fig. 6.21 (p.145) in the book].

The content of the KMMS world maps that most intrigued Pinto was the lands of the Beja. These were an exotic but otherwise rather insignificant East African people that are named on absolutely every KMMS world map, even when logic dictates that scarce space on a small map should be allocated to the most relevant place names. Why did Muslim map makers always give this obscure nation such a prominent place? Pinto retraces the history of the Beja and concludes that the reason for their fame is that in mid-9th century, after a series of wars in which the Abbasid caliphate finally defeated them, the captured Beja chief (interestingly called Ali Baba) was publicly displayed in the Abbasid capital. Armchair geographers, all based near the caliphate’s capital, were

impacted by the sight and ensured the inclusion of the Beja in their maps. The force of tradition then perpetuated the name for centuries.

Regarding patronage, Pinto presents her study (published in *Imago Mundi* in 2011) of a group of six very similar KMMS that were all produced in the reign of Ottoman sultan Mehmet II. The source of this cluster has convincingly been identified by Pinto, as well as how it arrived in Istanbul around 1472. The manuscript’s drawings were sophisticated and of high technical quality, and would durably influence Ottoman artists. Why did the Sultan order so many copies made? One reason may be political propaganda, as the world maps in these KMMS unusually

expand the land of the Byzantine Empire, to which the Ottomans now claimed heritage. Another reason may have been for Mehmet II to look more pious, ‘more Muslim’, in public so as to prevent critics against his private likings for European art and cartography

Pinto does succeed in her stated goal. She has significantly contributed to the understanding of Islamic maps and in addition provided new insights into the evolution of Islamic art and mentalities. This book is a must-read for any scholar interested in the Islamic world, and also for anyone who wants to understand medieval cartography in general.

To finish with a quote from Pinto’s final chapter, that I find particularly inspiring: ‘The only way to understand a map is to get down into it, to play at the edges, to jump into the center and back out again. We need to trace and retrace its lines by eye and by hand and question it’s [sic] every dot until the liminal palimpsest below the surface reveals itself to yield clues of the elusive social mentalité within which the map was born. We must lay bare the ideograph in order to grasp the keys that it holds. Only then can we use maps as alternate doorways into history.’



Figure 2: A map of a city, perhaps Jerusalem, is offered by Archangel Gabriel to Prophet Muhammad, c. 1317-35 (Topkapı Saray Museum, Hazine 2154, f.107a: detail)



Luis A. Robles-Macias
luis.a.robles.macias@gmail.com

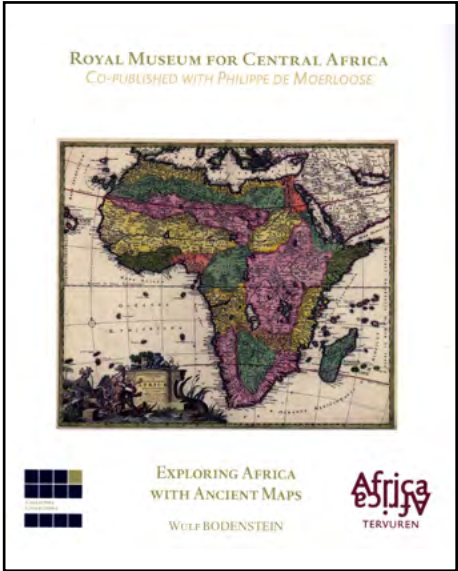
Exploring Africa with Ancient Maps

by Wulf Bodenstein

- Tervuren, Royal Museum for Central Africa, 2017 (as part of the Collections of the RMCA series; co-published with Philippe de Moerloose), 296 pages with around 100 full colour illustrations, soft cover, 15.5 x 18 cm, plus DVD with maps and photos.
- ISBN 978-9-4922-4479-6 - EUR 19.50

The subject matter for this book comes from the Royal Museum for Central Africa's collection of antique maps, described by Guido Gryseels, its Director General, as 'modest', but nevertheless deserving a closer look, firstly because all the maps are of European origin, and secondly because they span six centuries and thus chronicle very effectively knowledge and representation of Africa. The author takes a sample of eighty maps to cover the six centuries – 15th to 20th –devoting one chapter to each century. Each chapter starts with an introduction, chapter one calling its introduction 'Ptolemaios'. This short chapter details Ptolemy's maps of Africa, published by Johannes Reger in his *Cosmographia* in 1486, which set the scene for the following centuries, with editions of Ptolemy's *Cosmographia* or *Geographia* being supplemented with 'modern' maps updating their audience with the latest discoveries.

The sixteenth century saw updated maps which culminated in a truly recognisable shape for Africa. Though the coastlines included far more precise information, the interiors continued to source information from the realms of fantasy. The author takes us through a sample of maps, and entertains us with some 'behind the scenes' information. Why does a map of the Kingdoms of Fez and Morocco contain an insert of the Kingdom of Congo? The A.F. van Langren Map of

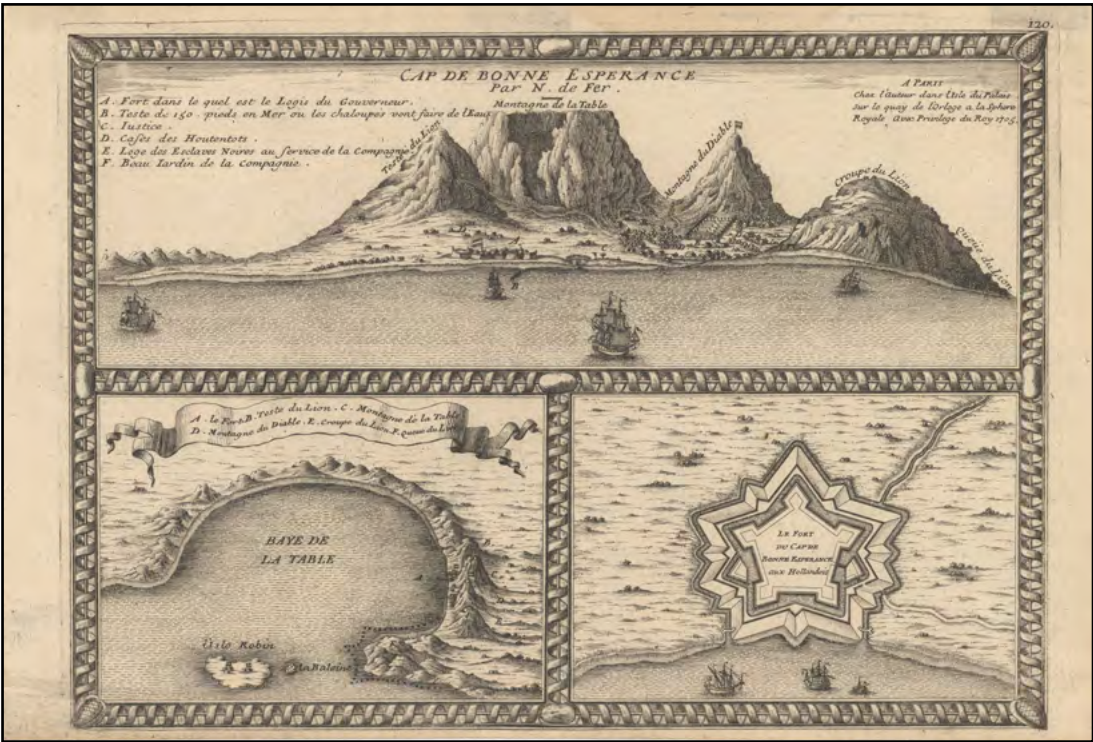


the Coasts of Guinea, Manicongo and Angola (...), Amsterdam 1596 is perhaps the first really decorative map in the series with the mapmaker taking advantage of the ocean to add compass roses, a Portuguese galleon and sea monsters.

The seventeenth century starts with an impressive detail from Joan Blaeu's *Regna Congo et Angola*, 1662. The century saw both the Golden Age of Dutch Cartography and Colbert's creation of the *Académie des Sciences* in France in 1666 which inaugurated a new scientific approach



A.F. van Langren Map of the Coasts of Guinea, Manicongo and Angola (...), Amsterdam 1596



Nicolas de Fer's Cap de Bonne Esperance, Paris 1717

to cartography. Several maps in this section illustrate this. But first the decoration of Willem Janz. Blaeu's map gives us twelve town views plus sixteen groups of inhabitants of Africa, plus text describing the geography and natural environment of the different regions. Map 23 is one of several by Nicolas Sanson, heralding a neater simpler style; Frederick's de Wit's map conceals a disagreement about where the prime meridian should be. In ca 1696 innovations in Carel Allard's map included five climate zones in addition to latitude markings, plus a grid reference to places listed in an index. This chapter ends with an east-facing sea chart by Johannes van Keulen, combining elements of portolans and maps and including a large colourful cartouche.

The eighteenth century is characterised on the one hand by new methods of calculating positions on the earth's surface and at sea and their impact on cartographic production, and on the other by resistance to this new order. Colbert had invited Cassini to advise on the construction of the Paris Observatory and Guillaume Delisle benefitted from studying under

him. As a change from the classical map, the author shows us Nicolas de Fer's *Cap de Bonne Esperance*, Paris 1717 – a view plus plans of Table Bay and of the Dutch Castle. A tabulated key on the view identifies the key places. The following maps illustrate how knowledge of the interior of the continent was growing with maps 'drawn according to the latest authors'. A very large-scale (for the times) map of part of the west coast of Africa by William Smith (London, 1744) is plain but informative, and a scale for Dutch miles is given in addition to that for English miles. D'Anville's map almost seems to show off the blank spaces, his way of demonstrating his philosophy of dealing with the unknown, but at the same time he has engraved notes on the map relating to the Niger and Nile rivers. The chapter finishes with a beautiful *carte-à-figures* by Abbé Jean-Baptiste Louis Clouet, where the map is surrounded by medallions showing historical scenes.

The nineteenth century saw map production move from copperplate engraving and hand colouring to lithography. This combined with scientific exploration of the interior of

the continent meant that cartography took a leap forward. 'Societies' from Britain, France, Germany and Belgium published journals containing explorers' accounts and maps based on these. The 'Scramble for Africa' – where many nations in Europe rushed to claim their share of the continent, was a huge incentive for map-making.

In 1884, at the International Conference in Washington DC, the majority voted for the prime meridian to be that of Greenwich, London. The general trend was towards a plainer style of map. In this chapter we are also introduced to our first globe, by Belgian mapmaker Philippe Vandermaelen. A map by an American geographer Samuel Augustus Mitchell (Philadelphia 1854) introduces us to Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya. In 1876 the Belgian King Leopold II convened the Brussels Geographical Conference and Map 61, Anon, given to the King seems to be summarising the to-date knowledge of the continent as a basis for discussion. As the century drew to a close, plans and charts of scientific missions became more widely published. One example here shows one of Charles Lemaire's

Itineraries of the scientific mission to the Katanga, 1898–1900, Brussels 1902, nicely annotated, together with a painting of a stork sporting the colours of Belgium by the artist Léon Dardenne, a member of the party.

The twentieth century here confines itself to the years prior to WWI, when major exploratory missions came to an end and the maps in RMCA's collection reflect mainly the administration aspects of ruling the Belgian Congo, as that country became known in 1908. Most of the maps in this section are highly colourful, highly political. The final map in this collection is anonymous: Africa, Political Overview, in Meyer's *Kleiner HandAtlas*, Leipzig, 1921. It shows Africa post the Treaty of Versailles, when German possessions in Africa had been distributed to other colonial powers.



Charles Lemaire's Itineraries of the scientific mission to the Katanga, 1898-1900, Brussels 1902



Africa, Political Overview, in Meyer's *Kleiner HandAtlas*, Leipzig, 1921

Where are they now?

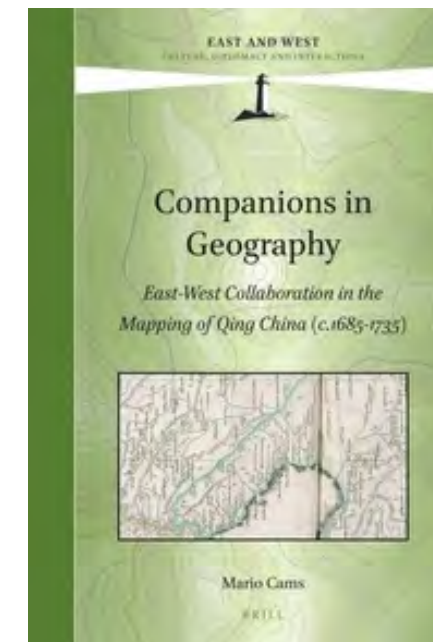
For the second time we are catching up with previous 'How I got into Cartography' interviewees. They also have been very busy since 'Maps in History' (MiH) spoke to them last. Read the latest from Mario, Thomas and Desiree ...

Mario Cams – MiH 45 – January 2013

mariocams@umac.mo

Mario was our second interviewee for the 'How I Got Into Cartography' column. At the time he was a PhD student researching into 'early 18th century cartographic exchanges between Europe and the Qing Empire' at the University of Leuven and was just about to head off to Harvard University to the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations there to study Manchu in order to read his maps better. What has he been up since then? He completed his PhD in 2015 and immediately afterwards he moved to Macau to take up a professorship at the University of Macau, where he has been continuing his research and teaching general history courses for the last two years.

His dissertation was awarded the '2017 DHST Prize for Young Scholars' from the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, Division of History of Science and Technology (IUHPST/DHST), a prestigious prize given every four years to junior researchers in the history of science. 2017 has also seen the publication of his book 'Companions in Geography – East-West Collaboration in the Mapping of Qing China (c.1685–1735)', based on his dissertation, where he presents the mapping of Qing China not just as a Jesuit initiative, but rather the result of a convergence of interests among the French Academy of Sciences, the Jesuit order, and the Kangxi emperor (who reigned 1661–1722). (See the next MiH for a review of the book.)



<http://www.brill.com/products/book/companions-geography>

At the University of Macau he is currently working on an online platform called QingMaps (for the historical analysis of late imperial East Asian maps) together with Fresco Sam-Sin, a lecturer in Manchu at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands. The aim of QingMaps is to create an interactive map analysis and research visualisation tool for students and researchers working on Qing history. <https://qingmaps.org/>

The current software is still under active development but they hope to have a fully functional tool for end-users as soon as possible. In case you are wondering why yet another map tool is needed, the starting point for

this one is to link the Qing maps themselves to the wealth of textual sources produced during the Qing, on geography and other matters. To quote the website: 'This unique point of departure allows for an historically more accurate analysis or visualisation.' Their first priority is to make a fully indexed edition of the Kangxi atlas or Huangyu quanlan tu 皇輿全覽圖 available to the public. Other Qing maps and atlases will follow.

See the link below for a fuller description of Mario's interests, articles, book chapters and other publications. Other projects on the horizon include working further on other so-called 'Jesuit maps of China' and looking more closely at their production contexts from a cross-cultural perspective.

<http://www.umac.mo/fss/hist/staff/Mario%20Cams.html>

The book ends with a bibliography, acknowledgements, and a very useful list of the main events relating to the history, exploration and mapping of Africa. My only issue, is that because of the book's compact size, the layout is sometimes unfortunate, with many maps or part of a map being described on a different page, thus demanding a lot of flipping backwards and forwards. Fortunately, the DVD included in the book's cover permits a study of each map in the book, plus a few others, by zooming on them to admire every detail; it is also possible to compare two maps side by side.

Overall it is a most enjoyable and instructive read. Thank you!

Nicola Boothby
nicola.boothby@telenet.be



Thomas Horst – MiH 46 – May 2013

thomashorst@gmx.net

When MiH first talked to Thomas, he was a postdoctoral researcher based at the Bundeswehr University in Munich, Germany. At that time his research was focusing on different projects, all dealing with late medieval and early modern cartography as part of the History of Science. From Germany he moved in September 2013 to Lisbon, Portugal, for a post-doc research fellowship project – Maps, Globes and Texts: Cosmographical knowledge in early Modern Europe – based at the Interuniversity Center for the History of Science and Technology (CIUHCT, University of Lisbon) which lasts until August 2019.

<http://ciuhct.org/pt/thomas-horst>

There he has also been organising conferences and writing relevant research papers, many reviews for international journals as well as specific entries for encyclopedias – for instance about the Portuguese King John II (1455–1495), in the Bautz. Biographisch-Bibliographisches Kirchenlexikon.

For MiH 49 he wrote an article on the research projects being run at CIUHCT. At that time he had started a new project (together with Henrique Leitão) on the scientific connections between Portugal and Germany and the transfer of knowledge in the 15th and 16th centuries, which led to a workshop he organised at the Biblioteca Nacional in Lisbon, in November 2014. The proceedings of this meeting (co-edited by Thomas) have been published in 2017: *Renaissance Craftsmen and Humanistic Scholars: European Circulation of Knowledge between Portugal and Germany*.



Thomas helped work on the 6th International Conference of European Society for the History of Science (ESHS), organised by CIUHCT in Lisbon in September 2014. Another symposium '*Representing global power in Iberia: Diogo Ribeiro's world maps and Early Modern Science*' followed at the 7th Conference of ESHS in Prague (September 2016).

Other conferences which Thomas helped to organise and which some readers will recognise are: – the third ISHMap-Symposium 'Encounters and Translations: Mapping and Writing the Waters of the World' at the Biblioteca Nacional in Lisbon, June 2016: <http://ishm.elte.hu/?q=archives>, and – the International Workshop 'Universum Infinitum. From the German Philosopher Nicolaus Cusanus to the Iberian Discoveries in the 15th Century: Ocean World in European Exploration' also in June 2016: http://www.ciuhct.org/pt/workshop_universum_infinitum [proceedings in preparation]



And among his many publications are:

– Gerhard Mercator (1512–1594) and his influence on globes in the 16th century, in *Globe Studies* 61/62 (2016), pp. 9–39,

– and an article on late medieval field measurement and boundary marking: *Grenzvermessung und -abmarkung im Spätmittelalter am Beispiel einer illustrierten Handschrift um 1400* <http://geodaesie.info/zfv/zfv-32017/6788>

Since spring 2017 Thomas has also been Editor of the Review Section of the international journal for the history of cartography, *Imago Mundi* (for books published in Europe, Africa, India and the Middle East). He is currently teaching the history of maps, globes and cosmography at the Bundeswehr University and at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University, both in Munich. And in the 2016 summer semester he gave a seminar together with Petra Svatek (see the interview in MiH 51) at the University of Vienna. He is currently working (till February 2018) as a Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow on a project about The Sphere of Sacrobosco at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, <https://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/de/users/thorst>.

Desiree Krikken – MiH 55 – May 2016

d.e.krikken@rug.nl
desiree.krikken@gmail.com

The first interview ended in the middle of her writing her thesis in 2016. She handed in the final version of her research Master's thesis titled *Fattening England's soil: the rise of the surveyor and the impact of geometric land measuring on spatial perceptions in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century England*, on 1 July 2016. She graduated in September that year and began to write a PhD proposal immediately after that.

The Groningen Research Institute for the Study of Culture (ICOG) committee awarded Desiree a full-time PhD research position with a fixed bursary, and she began her adventure in November, 2016. Entitled 'My plot, your plat, our inhabited landscape: early modern land surveyors and the record of European physical space', it has to be completed by November 2020. She has been lucky enough to be able to keep her supervisors (Prof. Dr. Raingard Esser and Dr Mark Thompson) from her Masters research. Desiree's PhD project focuses on the development of land surveying between 1500 and 1700 in relation to geographic thought and agricultural change on a micro-historical level. She is interested in the landscape as a physical, experienced and inhabited space and how early modern people actively recorded and altered it. Most of all, she is interested in what this recorded information meant to people and wants to know what direct impact land surveyors had on the codification of customary law. For this she looks at surveying texts, dispute maps, legislation, local customary practices, manorial records, court cases, field books,

estate books and other archival documents in England, the Netherlands and Germany. In the first interview for MiH she called cartography 'a large jigsaw puzzle'; she still sees it that way, only feels that the work is much more complex and feels a great responsibility to solve the puzzle.

She has presented papers at several conferences, among them the Leeds International Medieval Congress 2017, in July, where she also took part in a panel moderated by Paul D.A. Harvey. She is now working on her first article based on her talk which should be published in the online *journal of Medieval Art & Architecture Peregrinations*.

As a bursary PhD candidate, she has no teaching obligations but believes it is a good idea to be active outside her research project. So she is now the PR-assistant for the Centre for Historical Studies (CHS) at the faculty of Arts and she recently joined the faculty's organising committee *Geschiedenis rond de Middag* (GrdM) [History at lunchtime], where an informal lunch seminar format invites researchers to come and talk about a research-related topic of their own choice. Focusing on her own work, in August she stepped into the boots of a land surveyor. She learned the basic skills of surveying from Erwin Bolhuis, from the Groningen Institute of Archaeology, 'It was a wonderful experience to be out in the open air and try my hand at something I had only written about so far.' Erwin Bolhuis and his colleagues took her through the practices of surveying with modern-day instruments to the

process of measuring and computing and drawing up an accurate plan of the environment. Such hands-on work enabled her to understand the surveyor's manuals' contents better and allowed her to develop a much better feel for the landscape. Now she is looking for a way to familiarise herself with the early modern style of surveying and searches out instruments in museums.

Since then she has joined the Centre for Landscape Studies (KCL) colloquium group at the University, and in 2018 will be part of the Groningen PhD council, an organisation aiming to improve the experience of PhD candidates of all faculties there. For her second PhD year Desiree plans to visit research institutes in the UK and Germany to present her work and to attend graduate workshops. She will also increase her archival research activities in the Netherlands, Germany and England and is planning on publishing more work on her topic.

Longer term she would like to stay in academic research and expand her PhD project by incorporating other areas of the world such as Africa and Asia, preferably taking on a post-doctoral position abroad so as to face the challenges of a new academic environment. She strongly believes in sharing knowledge and sees herself one day becoming part of networks that will help stimulate educational/research programmes.

As we said last time, there's never a dull moment on the world of cartography!

Nicola Boothby
nicola.boothby@telenet.be



Note: These are my last interviews in the series. 'How I Got Into Cartography' and 'Where Are They Now?' will now be taken over by Luis Robles. Many many thanks to all the interviewees over the last five years. I've had a lot of fun talking to you, and I've learnt a lot! Nicola

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Deventer and Surhon: How they first mapped the Low Countries

by Jean-Louis Renteux and Eric Leenders

Jean-Louis Renteux
jl.renteux@gmail.com



Eric Leenders
eric.leenders3@telenet.be



In the history of cartography, the first maps which resulted from a scientific survey technique are probably those of the 'XVII Provinces' (i.e. the Low Countries) over which Charles V of Habsburg, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and King of Spain, gained control in the first half of the 16th century ¹.

Jacob van Deventer (c. 1500 – 1575) was the first cartographer to make provincial maps at a large scale (about 1:170 000 – 1:200 000): he mapped Brabant (before 1536), Holland (before 1542), Gelderland (in 1543), Friesland (in 1545) and Zeeland (in 1547). It is also thought that Deventer was at the source of data used by Gerard Mercator to establish his map of Flanders in 1540 ².

These maps, made for the Spanish authorities or for the local States, were objects of prestige and knowledge displayed in the council halls of provincial governments. For example, Charles V ordered the map of Gelderland to celebrate his conquest of the region.

It is noticeable that Deventer's maps were limited to the northern (Dutch-speaking) provinces and did not cover the southern (French-speaking) provinces which mark the border with

France: Artois, Hainault, Namur and Luxembourg.

In 1548 Jacques de Surhon received an order from Emperor Charles V to map the County of Hainault.³ At that time, Charles V defended the Low Countries against the attacks of the king of France Henry II and the sedition of the Calvinists allied to other rebels; the map had a strategic value and was kept secret.

In 1550 Surhon was tasked to draw a map of the land of the Saint-Hubert abbey and, in 1551, to survey and draw the map of the whole Duchy of Luxembourg (which was finished only in 1555). Charles V, who was keen to have a complete picture of his possessions bordering on France, passed a new contract in 1553 with Jacques de Surhon for a 'description and map of the county of Artois'; he was to be assisted by his son Jean.

Jean de Surhon completed, on his own, the series of maps of the Spanish Low Countries with the County of Namur in 1555, before continuing on the French side of the border, after the Spanish victory at Saint-Quentin in 1557, with Picardy and Vermandois (the region around Saint-Quentin).

This article investigates the possible relationship between these two early cartographic undertakings, and the influence of Jacob van Deventer on Jacques de Surhon.

¹ Through the Treaty of Cambrai in 1529, Charles V obtained Flanders and Artois which, for centuries, were bound to the French King. He finalised his project in 1543 by forcefully incorporating Gelderland.

² 'The map of Flanders by Gerard Mercator and Jacob van Deventer' in BIMCC Newsletter No 43 (pp. 18-23).

³ The maps by Jacques and Jean de Surhon are illustrated and discussed at the end of this article.

The surveying technique of Jacob van Deventer

In 1520 Jacob van Deventer registered at the University of Louvain where, a few years later, Gemma Frisius taught the theoretical basis of topographical survey by triangulation (published in 1533 in the tract 'Libellus de locorum describendorum ratione ..').

Deventer put these methods into practice for producing his regional maps and he even introduced the 'intersection' based on the measure of the azimuths with respect to the northern direction given by the compass. His way of surveying is noted on his map of Gelderland (1543).

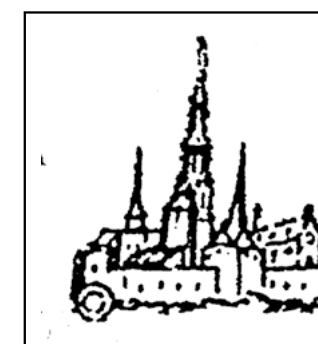


Fig. 1. Example of double ring survey symbol (noted © in this paper)

He measured bearings to cities, or, more precisely, to the highest tower in the cities ⁴. And he identified these cities on his maps with a survey symbol consisting of a double ring.

⁴ This was discussed in more detail in 'A topographical study of the regional maps of Jacob van Deventer' in BIMCC Newsletter No 46 (pp. 14-15).

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The meaning of this symbol is given on the Gelderland map; Deventer writes: ‘if there is no ring–point symbol, it means that there was no measure done from this point.’ In other words, a double ring symbol in a tower represents a measure point from which he measured angles between cities. Deventer measured only angles; distances were not measured but estimated. Gemma Frisius had noted in 1533 that measuring distances was not possible due to the condition of the roads between locations, which were mostly twisting paths. Van Deventer did not use a baseline, but he estimated all distances based on well-known practice, e.g. six walking hours (about 30 km) between Antwerp and Mechelen. The scales on the maps were expressed in walking hours or in regional milliaria.

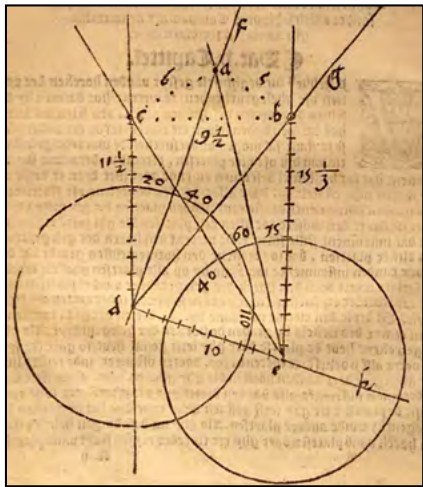


Fig. 2. The intersection method used by Jacob van Deventer, illustrated in the ‘Cosmographie’ by Apianus and Frisius (1553 Dutch edition)

Jacques de Surhon

Jacques de Surhon was an honourable bourgeois of Mons⁵; he participated in the administration of the Saint-Jacques charitable hospital, together with his father Colard and his brother Vincent. In 1529 he established himself as a goldsmith in the main business street of Mons; there are records of some artefacts he produced for the city

5 His family probably originated from the small village of Surhon, 20 km south of Mons (now in France).

or the religious authorities. He was also commissioned by the city to check the weight and measure standards.

He must have demonstrated particular aptitudes in terms of design, drawing, calculation and measurement. Maybe this is why he was selected to become a cartographer and ‘mathematicus’ for the Emperor? In 1548, Charles V ordered him to draw up the first ‘map and descriptions of our country and County of Haynnau...’. On 31 March 1554, after he had completed the maps of Hainault, Luxembourg and Artois, Jacques de Surhon was granted patent letters from the Emperor, giving him the title of ‘ingénieur des cartes des pays de par deçà’ [engineer of maps of the counties beyond], together with a yearly pension.

‘For what reasons did this middle-aged goldsmith become a cartographer? Where did he acquire the basic knowledge for this job?’⁶ This article will attempt to answer this question.

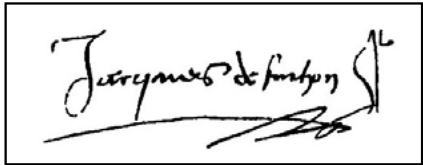


Fig. 3. Signature of Jacques de Surhon

The influence of Jacob van Deventer on Surhon’s maps

In his 1548 order for the map of Hainault, Charles V instructed Jacques de Surhon ‘to map according to the art of geometry, containing the situation and differences between the cities, baronies, villages, monasteries, abbeys, rivers, woods and other localities and the frontiers with other countries and regions within’. These instructions seem almost to have been copied from the maps made by van Deventer, as

6 Jean-Marie Duvosquel, in his article on ‘the map of Saint-Hubert, signed Jacobus Surhonius montensis mathematicus gratissimus ergo dedicabat. 1551’.

the same words are mentioned on his maps of Brabant, Holland and Gelderland.

These instructions were precisely followed by Jacques and his son Jean de Surhon in the maps they respectively produced. This suggests that they used the same ‘scientific’ methods as van Deventer. Van Deventer, who finished the map of Zeeland in 1547 and started the systematic surveys of cities only in 1559, would have had sufficient time to help, and possibly to accompany, Jacques de Surhon for a while during his own surveying.

Surveying results

A first glance at the maps by Jacques and by Jean de Surhon shows immediately the presence of the double ring survey symbol used by van Deventer. For the purpose of this article, surveying results were compared between the six maps by van Deventer and the four by the de Surhon family.

All the localities were counted on all de Surhon maps, as were the survey symbols. Thirty angles were measured on each map between these survey points and were compared with similar angles measured on a modern map at 1:200 000 (the regional maps have a scale between 1:170 000 and 1:200 000 and the difference or ‘deviation’ between these angles was calculated⁷.

The resulting mean ‘angle deviation’ is given in the last column of the following table. The angular deviations within the ten maps show an astonishing similarity. Jacques and Jean de Surhon seem to have been excellent pupils of Jacob van Deventer!

7 The method was illustrated in BIMCC Newsletter No 46, p. 14 (‘A topographical study of the regional maps of Jacob van Deventer’ by Eric Leenders and Jan de Graeve).

PLACE	YEAR	NUMBER OF LOCALITIES ON THE MAP	LOCALITIES WITH A SURVEY SYMBOL	PERCENTAGE (LOCALITIES USED TO SURVEY)	MEDIAN ANGLE DEVIATION ON EACH MAP
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VAN DEVENTER MAPS					
BRABANT	1536	1239	57	4,6	4,6°
HOLLAND	1537	612	56	9,2	3,3°
FLANDERS	1540	1014	44	4,3	2,5°
GELDERLAND	1543	639	61	9,5	5,7°
FRIESLAND	1545	767	35	4,6	4,7°
ZEELAND	1547	391	35	8,9	3,5°

SURHON MAPS					
HAYNAULT	1547	870	34	3,9	5,4°
LUXEMBOURG	1555	592	46	7,8	4,9°
ARTOIS	1554	920	37	4,0	3,9°
NAMUR	1555	498	11	2,2	4,8°

Surveying results between the six maps by van Deventer and the four by Surhon

Conclusions :

During the 16th century the territory of the ‘XVII Provinces’ of Emperor Charles V (corresponding with today’s Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and northern France) was surveyed and mapped for the first time. This article closes the first comprehensive study of these first surveys.

The northern provinces, including Flanders, were surveyed by Jacob van Deventer; the southern were surveyed with the same technique by Jacques de Surhon and his son Jean.

Looking at the similarities between both surveys, it seems clear that van Deventer acted as the mentor of Jacques and Jean de Surhon: same instructions, same technique, same survey symbol and same results. The quality of their work was such that their maps would easily keep their value for many centuries, and be copied many times over.

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Annex: Maps by the Surhons

Map of Hainault

The 1548 order stated that Jacques de Surhon had to deliver only three manuscript copies to the Emperor, and he had to take an oath to keep his work secret. Indeed, Hainault was then in a difficult situation on the border with the kingdom of France, at war with the Spanish Low Countries and it was ravaged by fighting. Surhon's map had a strategic importance.

When Abraham Ortelius published the first edition of his *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* in Antwerp (by Plantin) in 1570, he was unable to get permission to include Surhon's map of Hainault. For the 1572 edition, Ortelius had the map of the County of Hainault engraved on copper; the engraver, Frans Hogenberg, signed and indicated the author of the map (Iacobus Surhonius Montanus), mentioning that he had copied a model ('ex archetypo coelabat'), certainly one of the manuscript maps of 1548. Some proof copies were printed in 1572 when Ortelius requested permission to publish it. But Hainault was then at the heart of the turmoil between Protestants and Catholics, and Ortelius had to destroy the copper plate!

It was not until 1579 that he obtained permission to publish this map in his *Theatrum*. It was engraved again on copper, with the participation of Jean de Surhon (his father Jacques had died in 1557). It is very similar to that of 1572, except for a few details (omission of engraver's signature, date and the publisher's privilege; correction of the County coat-of-arms, and a more detailed representation of the Cambrai area).

According to his contract the cartographer had to indicate the bordering countries, but he was rather parsimonious compared to van Deventer.



The map of Hainault engraved in 1572, 24 years after it was surveyed by Jacques de Surhon.
(centrefold reproduction in BIMCC Newsletter No 43)



The map of Hainault re- engraved in 1579, and published in Abraham Ortelius' 1579 edition of his *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (also centrefold reproduction in BIMCC Newsletter No 19)

Map of Saint-Hubert en Ardenne

This is the only original manuscript map by Jacques de Surhon which has survived to this date¹. It is also the only one which identifies him as 'mathematicus'.

In 1550, Mary of Hungary, who ruled for the Emperor Charles V, ordered Jacques to survey the territory of the abbey of Saint-Hubert which was being disputed between its abbot, the Emperor (as Duke of Luxembourg) and the Episcopal Prince of Liège.

The map covers mainly the forest, rivers and the limits of the domain and shows no roads. It is rather a crude sketchy map which contrasts considerably with the regional maps made by father and son de Surhon.

It only proves that Jacques was considered a trustworthy man, able to deliver maps in a very short time.

¹ Jean-Marie Duvosquel, Une œuvre inédite de Jacques de Surhon: la carte de la terre abbatiale de Saint-Hubert (1551), in Archives et bibliothèques de Belgique, numéro spécial 80, Bruxelles, 2006



'La Carte de Saint-Hubert en Ardenne', 1551
(Photo courtesy of and copyright © to Archives de l'État à Arlon, Cartes et plans, A.1.9)

Map of Artois

The map reproduced **on the centrefold** is that entitled 'Atrebatum Regionis Vera Descriptio' which was published by Ortelius in the 1579 edition of his *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*. Although Jean is indicated as the author ('Johanne, Surhonio Montensi auctore'), there is no doubt that his father Jacques was in charge (which Ortelius corrected later).

In January 1553 Charles V placed a new contract with Jacques de Surhon for 'a description and map of the county of Artois'; Jacques, who was getting old, required the help of his son Jean (in January 1553 he received a deposit of 100 pounds for a map of Artois that 'il ferait avec son filz' [he would do with his son]). After two months he delivered 'la dicte pourtraiture en petite forme' [the said description in small format] to the Emperor and he was requested to produce the complete map.

Strangely enough, Jacques was interrupted in his work by another request: drawing a map of Peru! As it took him only 15 days to complete this task, it is clear that he did not go to Peru to survey that map, but only copied an existing one¹.

During the summer of 1553, Jacques returned to Artois: he visited the Spanish camps at Hesdin and beyond; in 1554-55, he worked with the military into French held territory, thus acting as a spy. His son Jean delivered two copies of the map to Emmanuel-Philibert de Savoie, governor of the Low Countries (who was going to lead the offensive against France in 1557 – becoming victor at Saint.-Quentin in August).

¹ M.-A. Arnould, 'Jacques Desurhon, ingénieur des cartes au service de Charles Quint et son œuvre géographique', in Mélanges Uyttebrouck, Bruxelles, 1996.

Map of Luxembourg

Having started to work in Luxembourg for the Saint - Hubert map, Jacques de Surhon was quickly tasked to survey the whole Duchy, which was then considerably larger than today's Grand-Duchy and Belgian Luxembourg. Surhon was also ordered to survey Chiny, south of the Semois river, which contained the important Cistercian abbey in Orval.

As early as 15 March 1551, provincial officials were required to provide assistance to 'Maistre Jacques de Surhon' in his surveying work.

As Surhon was not familiar with the region and as it is rather hilly, it took him much longer to complete this map than in the case of Hainault: he received a final payment in 1556. Also he needed many more survey points (almost 8% of the village towers) in order to be able to fulfil his survey. Despite this difficulty, Surhon succeeded in obtaining an angular deviation result similar to the other surveys.

The map surveyed in 1551-56 was published only in 1579, in Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*.



The map 'Luttenbergensis Ducatus veriss. Descript. Jacobo Surhonio Montano auctore' (1:400 000) in the 1579 edition of Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*.

Map of the County of Namur

Jean had proven himself as a cartographer while working for years with his father. In 1555, Jacques was probably feeling too old to continue working in the field (he passed away two years later); his son Jean was asked to produce a map of the small County of Namur, thus closing the cartographic gap between Hainault and Luxembourg.

The French offensive in eastern Hainault (Maubeuge, Bavay) the previous year had confirmed that this was an area of strategic importance.

It is the only map by the Surhons with a rather simplified compass.

The geographical structure of the map as well as the survey results are completely in line with the maps made by his father.



The map of the County of Namur entitled 'Namurcum Comitatus' with a privilege dated 1579. Signed by Jean de Surhon as 'Joes Surhon discrib', 1:600 000.

The first edition was to be found in the Ortelius Atlas of 1579.

Maps of the County of Picardy and the Vermandois

It seems that Jean, somehow, accompanied the Spanish army in its 1557 campaign into France, probably pursuing the contacts established during the survey of Artois. In December 1557, he informed the new King Philip II (Charles V had abdicated in 1555) that he had established a map of the fortified places conquered by the Spaniards in Picardy and requested the privilege to print and sell that map. Strangely enough, the permission was granted (maybe thanks to the support of Emmanuel-Philibert de Savoie) and the '*description de la conquest du Vermandois*' was printed by Plantin in Antwerp, meeting with commercial success.

On the other hand, all the maps produced by Jacques and Jean de Surhon had to wait another 22 years (until 1579) to be published.

The map of Picardy entitled 'Picardiae Belgicae regionis descriptio' with a privilege dated 1579. Signed by Jean de Surhon 'Joenne Surhonio'. Published in Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*. of 1579.





The map of Artois entitled 'Atrebatum Regionis Vera Descriptio', 1:300 000, published in the 1579 edition of Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*.

Early Maps of Indonesia

Saturday 9 December 2017

Conference Report

It was a very cold morning on Saturday 9 December 2017, a prelude to the thick white snow flurries that were going to drape most of Belgium in the following days. Yet, at 9 o'clock, the first shivering members of the Brussels Map Circle were present at the entrance of the Royal Library in Brussels for the annual conference that was this year dedicated to early maps of Indonesia.

After a short welcome, the President introduced Hans Kok, a long-time member and welcome guest of the Circle, whose interest in navigation and maps stems from his early days as a KLM pilot and covers **the connection between Indonesia and the Dutch East India Company (VOC).**



Hans Kok

It is no surprise that the VOC, a major force behind the Golden Age of Dutch exploration and discovery (c. 1590s–1720s), was also present in the Indonesian archipelago roughly from 1603 to 1800. The multinational corporation was more than a pure trading company, yet its cartography is, in essence, a need-to-know cartography for commercial aims only, according to Hans. He showed maps of Mercator ('India orientalis', Hondius, 1630), Jodocus Hondius ('Insulae Indiae Orientalis praecipuae [...]), Adriaan Reland ('Insulae Javae pars occidentalis', Gerard Van Keulen), Jan Huyghen van Linschoten and others.



Detail of the map of Batavia by Leti

Especially interesting was Gregorio Leti's town plan (c. 1690) of the trading post in Batavia (present-day Jakarta Old Town), the capital city of the Dutch East Indies on Java. It shows a grid plan filled with warehouses and factories, criss-crossed with canals that straightened the flow of the Ciliwung river. A moat and city wall, designed by Governor-General Jacques Specx (1629–1632), surrounded the whole area.

From 1620 onwards, the hydrographic office on Java started producing maps and the production continued until the VOC started losing money and bankrupted around 1800. Afterwards, Stamford Raffles,

Lieutenant-Governor of Java during the period known as the British Administration (1811–1816), asked the engraver John Walker (1759 – 1830) for 'A map of Java' to accompany his monumental two-volume 'History of Java' published in 1817. Against all Raffles' hopes, the English did not consider Java important and the former possessions of the Dutch East India Company in Indonesia became nationalised as the Dutch East Indies. Military power was exerted at many places. New crops were introduced, such as tea and rubber, and Dutch businessmen set up large, profitable plantations. Maps like Ensink's 'Algemeene Kaart van Nederlands Oostindië [General map of the Dutch East India] (1847)' testify to an extensive shipping network in those days.

Eventually, Japan's World War II occupation dismantled much of the Dutch colonial state and economy. After Hiroshima (1945), an independent movement took place. Hans emphasized how the Dutch Queen Wilhelmina was the only one to promote independence of the country, while the Dutch government was convinced otherwise ...

After this fine introduction, we were ready to cope with some in-depth presentations.'

Under the inspiring title '**It is not our intention to go farther on from here**', **Francisco Roque de Oliveira** (Universidade de Lisboa) presented an overview of the Portuguese cartography of the Indonesian archipelago.

He followed the former researchers Edward Heawood (1863–1949), Eduard Cornelius Abendanon (1878–1962) and Armando Cortesão (1891–1977) who started almost one century ago talking about a 'Portuguese cartographical tradition'.

The cartographical models circulated fast among Europe during the Age of Discoveries.

The fact that Portugal and Spain were competing for the colonies explains the velocity of the Portuguese expansion in Indonesia especially after the capture of Malakka in 1511.

The Maluku islands (Moluccas) were known as the Spice Islands due to the nutmeg, mace and cloves that were originally exclusively found there, hence the Portuguese organised trade missions to the Moluccas and China in 1512–1513.

Francisco's overview started with maps and sketches by Francisco Rodrigues in the aftermath of this first Portuguese expedition and ended with the world map by Lopo Homem in 1554.

The Suma oriental of Tomé Pires and the book of Francisco Rodrigues (BnF), written in Malacca in 1512–5, render the most complete account of the East, and especially Malaya in the Portuguese period.



Francisco Roque de Oliveira

But the Cantino world map is the earliest surviving map showing Portuguese geographic discoveries in the east and west. It is named after Alberto Cantino, an agent for the Duke of Ferrara, who successfully smuggled it from Portugal to Italy in 1502, where it is still kept in the Biblioteca Estense of Modena. The map renders information on where benzoin, a balsamic resin, silk, porcelain and cloves could be found.



The Cantino world map kept at the Biblioteca Estense of Modena (Italy)

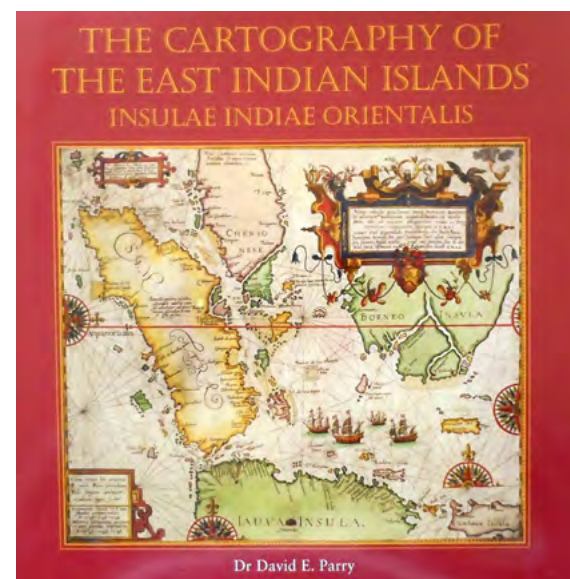
In 1635, António Bocarro and Pedro Barreto de Resende published in Goa their 'Livro das Plantas de Todas as Fortalezas, cidades e povoações do Estado da Índia Oriental' [Book of plans of all the fortresses, cities and settlements of the state of India] (Biblioteca Pública e Arquivo Distrital de Évora).

Lopo Homem's 1554 world map, created for Cosimo I of the Florence Medici, seemed particularly interesting for the Moluccas since, in 1524, Homem participated on the Portuguese side in the Conferences of Badajoz-Elvas, established by the Crowns of Portugal and Spain, following the so-called 'Moluccas issue' which had arisen because both kingdoms claimed the Moluccas islands.



The 'Ilhas de Maluco'
Drawn by Pedro Barreto
de Resende.

After the coffee break, **David Parry** went back in history with a fascinating quest, entitled: **‘How the search for the Spice Islands unrolled the map of the world.’** David’s love affair with Indonesia started after he went living there forty years ago.



Since there was little literature about the topic when he begun collecting maps in the eighties and nineties, he decided to write by himself ‘The cartography of the East Indian Islands – Insulae Indiae Orientalis’ (Countrywide Editions, 2005 –reviewed in BIMCC Newsletter No 27) in which he addresses the medieval concept of the Far East prior to the period of Portuguese exploration and mapping (1415-1510), the Hereford mappamundi, Marco Polo’s travels, the Crusades, Fra Mauro’s mappamundi and the Ptolemy-derived maps.

The trade in the five spices (pepper, cinnamon, clove, nutmeg and mace) motivated the voyages to the east; the last three being unique to ten small volcanic islands in Indonesia. The spice trade was started by the Romans, 1500 years before Vasco de Gama’s three small caravels reached India in 1497.



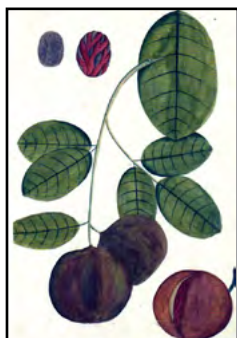
David Parry

David explained what Pythagoras, Herodotus, Eratosthenes and Strabo knew about the geography of the east, emphasizing the remarkable correctness of the distances rendered. It was, not surprisingly, the work of Claudius Ptolemy that had the greatest influence on the cartography and shape of Asia for the next 1400 years. The development of a geographically accurate cartography stagnated during the middle ages, making place for more symbolic representations like T-O maps.

These tell nothing about the spice trade, or about the world trade network, stretching from the Far East and China to Northern Europe, that had been carried on for 1500 years dominated by Middle Eastern, Persian and Indian traders who were providing Europe with spices.

However, the medieval world view changed expressing a more outwards oriented mentality due to the crusades, Marco Polo, the rise of Venice and Genoa, the portolan charts etc. Besides, also the Silk Route closed in the 14th century, so that by the 15th century the so-called cartographic revolution finally took place. Modern maps were introduced in the translated editions of Ptolemy’s ‘Geographia’. These books were meant for a greater public, in contrast to the portolan charts.

David continued with French, Italian, English, etc. cartographers of the 16th to 18th centuries. His favourite map ‘Nova tabula insularum Iava [...]’ comes from the German edition of Part II of Theodore de Bry’s ‘Petits voyages’ (Frankfurt, 1598), which is delicately coloured and shows the trade towns on the coasts of Java and Sumatra.



Nutmeg, one of the unique species of the Indonesian islands

The lunch ‘bien arrosé’ gave us all new energy, and **Hans Kok** took the floor again with refreshed eagerness, talking on **‘Local exploration highlights in the days of the VOC’**.

VOC pilots were trained to record their findings in charts and logbooks, resulting in the creation of an Amsterdam mapmaking agency in the spring of 1617 as well as in a cartographic department in Batavia, the so-called ‘Kaartenwinkel’, where the coming and going of many capable pilots and skippers stimulated the mapmaker to revise charts and to design new prototypes.

There was indeed a whole evolution starting with Petrus Plancius who published in 1594 the secret maps compiled by Bartolomeu Lasso in his so-called Spice Map (Insulae Moluccae, London: John Wolfe, 1594).

The map, engraved by Richard Becket for Jan Huyghen van Linschoten’s ‘Discours of Voyages into ye Easte & West Indies’, helped to end Portuguese control of the spice trade in the Indies, opening the way for the Dutch to gain access to the lucrative commerce extending from the East.

Plancius became one of the founding fathers of the VOC in 1602, and its first official mapmaker. Hendrik Brouwer, another important player, devised, in 1610, the Brouwer Route, a route from South Africa to Java that reduced voyage duration from a year to about six months. He played an important role in the later organisation of the VOC as Governor-General of the East Indies.



Map of J. Huyghen van Linschoten 1596 (HEK collection)

It is interesting that the VOC engaged independent mapmakers and publishers such as Hessel Gerritz. (1617-1632), Willem (1633-1638), Joan I (1638-1673) and Joan II Blaeu (1673-1705) in Amsterdam.

But given the geographical distance between the home department and Batavia, and the growing needs, an increasing amount of adequate charts were prepared in Batavia, or updated locally. Pieter Barendtsz. was appointed as ‘equipagemeester’ of the hydrographic office in Batavia in 1620. Experts such as Maarten Gerritsz. De Vries and Abel Jansz. Tasman supervised the construction of charts in 1644- 45, while Jan Hendricksz. Thim became ‘Baas-kaartenmaker’ (head of the cartographers) in 1670.

After a great period of prosperity in the 1740s and 1750s, the cartography business in Batavia slipped into a gradual decline. When the Dutch left Indonesia, a lot of Dutch toponymy remained and was only then gradually replaced on the map.

Martijn Storms will remember 2017 as a busy year; the ‘Leiden Asia Year’ put Leiden more firmly on the international map as one of the world’s leading knowledge hubs on Asia. Martijn finishes his ‘Leiden Asia Year’ in Brussels with the paper: **‘Confidential or commercial?’** between Blaeu and Van Keulen on the mapmaking of the VOC.

It is indeed a crucial question how the two publishing houses, who had the printing monopoly of all maps of the VOC, inter-related. Willem Blaeu’s grandson got the monopoly until 1705 while after a short intermezzo, from 1743 to 1799, the Van Keulen family delivered the official mapmakers. According to the VOC, the sea was international territory and thus ‘free sea’ versus the ‘mare clausum’ of the Portuguese, but they did not hesitate to change their idea when it suited their goals. Hence, the instructions for VOC mapmaker Blaeu, as well as these for Van Keulen later, required secrecy.



Martijn Storms



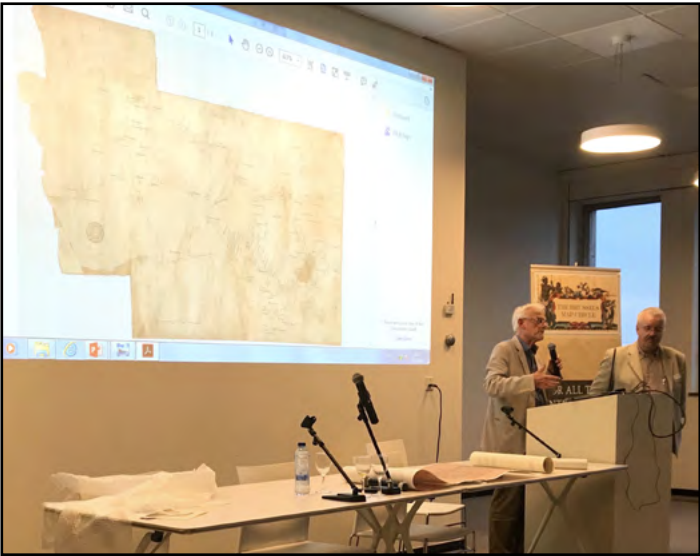
'Oost Indische Huis'- VOC headquarters in Amsterdam

But, when Catharina Buijs (1714–1781), widow of Johannes II van Keulen, was instructed for the additional volume on the coast of the East-Indies of the ‘Nieuwe groote lichtende zeefakkel’ [‘New Shining Sea Torch’](1753), she was allowed to sell the sixth volume, but not to add new information. Similarly, John Thornton’s ‘The English Pilot’ (1703) and the ‘Neptune oriental’ (1745) of D’Après de Manneville used VOC charts as source.



The ‘Nieuwe groote lichtende zeefakkel’ [‘New Shining Sea Torch’] (1753) from J. van Keulen, sold by his widow Catharina Buijs.

As such, Martijn concluded that, although the VOC restrictions limited the commercial map printing, the office of VOC map maker was generally lucrative and apparently outweighed the publicity restrictions. Only after English and French sea atlases of Asian waters were published in the first half of the 18th century, navigational information was no longer kept secret.



Francis Herbert showed some "impressive" large maps...

Our last speaker, **Francis Herbert**, chose to show us the variety of **manuscript surveys and maps of Java and Sumatra** that were produced during the British ‘interregnum’. 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, for example, with an accompanying itinerary. The work was carried out for both the British military governor (Lord Minto) and the civilian Lieutenant-Governor Raffles: the responsible Deputy Quarter-Master General, under Lieutenant-General S. Auchmuty, was Major W. Thorn.

However, video projection was not adapted to show the occasionally very large maps, but reprints did the job and Francis showed some impressive reprints that were on real format unfolded.

As usual, a beautiful map day ended ... with a convivial drink at Café Victor (Bozar).



Our esteemed speakers of the day (ltr)
Francis Herbert, Francisco Roque de Oliveira, Hans Kok, Martijn Storms, David Parry and our President Caroline De Candt.



Karen De Coene
karen.decoene@ugent.be

The Brussels Map Circle Programme for 2018

Saturday 24 March 2018: Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Open only for Brussels Map Circle Active Members.

Time schedule: 10.00 – 11.45

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

All members are encouraged to become Active Members by applying to the President at least 3 weeks before the meeting: president@bimcc.org.

A personal invitation to this AGM with the agenda and a possibility of proxy vote will be sent out to Active Members by separate mail at least 2 weeks before the meeting.

Venue: Royal Library of Belgium, Mont des Arts / Kunstberg, 1000 Brussels, Boardroom / Raadzaal / Salle du conseil

Public transport: train and metro station Central Station / Centraal Station / Gare Centrale

Public parking: Interparking Albertine-Square

Saturday 24 march 2018: Map Afternoon (MAPAF)

Time schedule: 12.00 – 16.30

The Brussels Map Circle kindly invites its members and non-members to bring and present at the Map Afternoon:

- an antique map
- a contemporary map
- an atlas
- a globe
- a cartographic instrument or
- an interesting book on cartography.



Please send us some details about your item (name, author, date, etc – if known of course). We noticed over the last years that it is easier to follow your comments related to a specific item if they are supported by a short projection (using a slideshow or, e.g., a Microsoft PowerPoint® presentation) while your item is being properly displayed on a large table; this (optional) presentation should comprise a maximum of two slides per item in order to allow all participants to present their items. The details of your item and your presentation, if any, should reach Henri Godts (henri.godts@godts.com) or Jean-Christophe Staelens (jcs@staelens.biz) by 1 March 2018.

You are expected at 12.00 for a convivial drink and sandwich lunch.

Registration:

- Prior registration on our website is requested at www.bimcc.org
- Entrance fee for members: EUR 10.00 (members only pay for the catering cost)
- Entrance fee for non-members: EUR 15.00 (catering included)
- Fees are to be prepaid on our bank account before the MAPAF: IBAN BE52 0682 4754 2209, BIC GKCCBEBB (no cash payments during the event please)

Venue: Royal Library of Belgium, Mont des Arts / Kunstberg, 1000 Brussels, Boardroom / Raadzaal / Salle du conseil.

Public transport: Central Station and metro station Central Station / Centraal Station / Gare Centrale

Public parking: Interparking Albertine-Square



Saturday 26 May and Sunday 27 May 2018: Annual Excursion

'1839 : when Luxembourg was last cut to pieces'

Arlon and Luxembourg, Belgium and Luxembourg

This is your chance to learn why Belgium has a province called Luxembourg, just like the Grand Duchy, and why the border between both territories runs where it runs...

A particular focus will be on the last partition in 1839, as a consequence of the 1830 Belgian rebellion.

Schedule

- Saturday 26 May
 - 10.00 – 12.00: State Archives of Belgium in Arlon
 - 12.00 – 14.00: From Arlon to Luxembourg including lunch
 - 14.00 – 16.00: Archives Nationales de Luxembourg
 - 16.00 – 18.00: Walk in Luxembourg
 - 20.00: Dinner
- Sunday 27 May
 - 10.00 – 12.00: Musée Dräi Eechelen in Luxembourg
 - 12.00 – 14.00: From Luxembourg to Arlon including lunch
 - 14.00 – 16.00: Musée Gaspar in Arlon
 - 16.00: the end



City of Luxembourg - J. van Deventer 1558

Under the academic guidance of:

- Jean-Claude Muller, linguist, Premier Conseiller de Gouvernement au Ministère d'État (Luxembourg), president of the Association de Généalogie et d'Héraldique, president of the Institut archéologique du Luxembourg, former head of the Bibliothèque nationale de Luxembourg
- Michel Trigalet, historian, head of department at the Archives de l'État in Arlon
- Philippe Nilles, head of the Section moderne at the Archives nationales de Luxembourg
- François Reinert, historian, Conservateur délégué à la direction at the Musée Dräi Eechelen, Conservateur at the Cabinet des médailles et estampes of the Musée national d'histoire et d'art.

Registration on our website is kindly required.

Venues:

- Archives de l'État in Arlon, Parc des Expositions 9, 6700 Arlon, Belgium
- Archives Nationales de Luxembourg in Luxembourg, Plateau du Saint-Esprit, 1475 Luxembourg
- Musée Dräi Eechelen in Luxembourg, 5 Park Dräi Eechelen, 1499 Luxembourg
- Musée Gaspar in Arlon, rue des Martyrs 16, 6700 Arlon, Belgium.

December 2018: Celebration of the Brussels Map Circle's 20th anniversary!

As this has to be a special event in the life of the Circle, we are still working on it. We will of course keep you posted in the next issue of Maps in History, on our website (www.bimcc.org/events) and with WhatsMap?



Caroline De Candt
carolinedecandt@gmail.com

Faire la carte et restituer le paysage

[Make the map and render the landscape]

A study day at the Château de Vincennes, 17 November 2017.

This year, the study day of the CFC (Comité français de cartographie) was co-organised with the Institut Cartogràfic i Geològic de Catalunya, and hosted by the Service Historique de la Défense (SHD) on the prestigious site of the Château de Vincennes, near Paris.

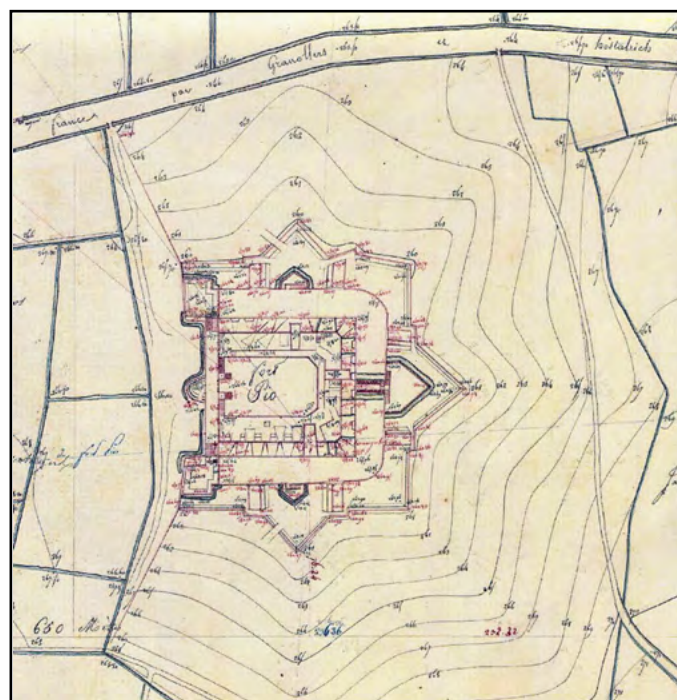
To reach the conference venue, you had to pass a drawbridge, cross the main yard of the castle past the 14th century dungeon and the gothic chapel, into the royal courtyard and the Pavillon de la Reine (built for Louis XIV's wife)!

After the welcome by Pierre Laugeay, head of the SHD, and the introduction by Jean-Marc Besse¹, chairman of the history commission of the CFC, six excellent speakers succeeded in keeping the attention of a large audience on a quite specific theme in the history of cartography: the making of the map and the rendering of the landscape.

The morning session was devoted to 'Topographic mutations in the early 19th century'. We were explained how various cartographers developed methods to produce a better and more elaborate vision of the terrain, particularly of the relief. It all started with a document in the military archives held by the SHD of the *Levé nivelé de la place forte de Barcelone* [Levelling survey of the Barcelona stronghold] made between 1823 and 1827 by the Corps du Génie [Engineer Corps].



On the way to the conference, past the 14th century dungeon



'Levé nivelé de la place forte de Barcelone', 1827, by the Corps du Génie (SHD, GR IVN39(1), feuille 29)

¹ Research director at CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique)

Nicolas Verdier (CNRS-EHESS) began with the story of projects that did not come to fruition: the merging of military data with those of the cadastre in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. He cited the different attempts where the cooperation between the different ministries did not succeed.

Luisa Rossi (Parma University) talked about the works of the Brigade topographique of the Dépôt des Fortifications and its first maps with contours to show the orography: especially La Spezia and Porquerolles. She mentioned in particular Pierre-Antoine Clerc, eventually commander of this brigade, who distinguished himself with the carte-relief of the Gulf of La Spezia completed in 1811. It was at that time that hachures were eliminated and replaced by contours.

Francesc Nadal (Universitat de Barcelona), in introducing the next topics, developed the story of the above-mentioned map of Barcelona. The map was 'found' recently in Vincennes. It had been prepared during the long occupation of Spain (1823 – 27) by the French Army sent by King of France Louis XVIII to restore King Ferdinand VII of Spain to the absolute power. Its scale of the map is 1:1000. There are 54 sheets. It is a particularly detailed survey of the non-aedificandi areas outside the fortifications to the south-west of the city of Barcelona. Many elevation dots with altitude and heights of buildings are included and – most important – the relief is rendered by contours, a real novelty. It is accompanied by a Registre de Triangulation. The map is considered as the best map of Barcelona at that time.

During the lunch break, Claude Ponnou, current head of the SHD maps department, took two groups successively for a guided tour to the Pavillon des Armes. We were first taken to the storage room on the ground floor to see the 'map wall', i.e. hundreds of drawers containing priceless manuscript maps and plans gathered by the French military over the centuries; Ms Ponnou had prepared some fine specimens for us, in front of the 'wall' as well as on the first floor where the former SHD reading room used to be.



Claude Ponnou, head of the SHD maps department, showing a Chinese map to members of the Brussels Map Circle (Jean-Louis Renteux, Jacques Mille and Pierre Parmentier)

The theme of the afternoon session was 'From map to landscape: the contribution of digital techniques'. Dolors Barrot (Institut Cartogràfic i Geològic de Catalunya), a mathematician, explained all the intricacies of developing a 3D model upon the data from the map of Barcelona. The work of his team can now be superimposed on the modern representation of the city. It needs a lot of work to georeference all data and to classify all 'objects'. It results in a wonderful tool to appreciate how the town has developed once the fortifications were demolished and non-aedificandi areas were proposed for urban development.

The same process of digitisation of ancient data was the topics of the ArchiSeine programme and the speech of Laurence Lestel (CNRS, UMR 7619, Sorbonne Université-UMPC-CNRS). The flow of the river Seine, its expansion in the valley, its meanders and islands have been collected in order to produce a historical 3D model.

A last example was given by Léa Hermenault (LAMOP): the ANR Alpage programme concerns the digital rendering of the centre of Paris. The data of the Vasserot, Gomboust and Verniquet town plans allowed the team to produce thematic maps deduced from the cross-referencing of all digitised data.

The first of these plans is especially informative; it shows all internal and external walls of the buildings allowing, after digitisation, to produce a very detailed set of data about the Parisian topography.

Catherine Hofmann drew some conclusions of this study day². Even if the digital data from the Barcelona map came too late to help with the development of the city, it constitutes today a very rich source of information for the historian and all actors of the land development. This is also the case with the three other examples of digitization of historical data.

At the end of the day, we took a short walk from Vincennes to Saint-Mandé, to the headquarters of the IGN (Institut national de l'information géographique et forestière). Members of the IGN staff led the group into the cellars of their archives to show us a selection of their collection of ancient maps (the oldest being a 1630 manuscript plan of the fort at Ambleteuse) and their museum of geodesic instruments. There Luisa Rossi showed us the original map of the isle of Porquerolles drawn, with contours, by the Brigade topographique in 1812, which she had discussed in the morning.



Admiring the contours on the 1812 map of Porquerolles at the IGN



Pierre Parmentier
pierreparmentier@gmail.com

² Some considerations about the beginnings of the use of contours were overlooked: in one of his books, François de Dainville mentions works dated 1777 where the relief is shown by means of courbes de niveau horizontales: François de Dainville and Françoise Grivot, *Le langage des géographes; termes, signes, couleurs des cartes anciennes 1500-1800*. Paris: A. et J. Picard, 2002. p. 166.

Tracking the map heritage of the *Dépôt de la Guerre* in France

The *Dépôt de la Guerre* [War depot] was created in 1688, under Louis XIV, to collect and preserve all maps, plans, memoirs and other archives resulting from French military operations. Over the centuries it kept enriching its collections and accumulated tens of thousands of documents. After various reorganisations, it survived until 1887 when it was split into two different institutions, SGA and SHA. The Service Géographique de l'Armée (SGA) was tasked to continue the production of maps and inherited those collections which could be of use for further developments (in particular the Cassini maps and the Carte d'État-Major [Headquarters map]); the SGA was demilitarised in 1940 and became the Institut Géographique National (IGN). The Service Historique de l'Armée (SHA), which has evolved into the Service Historique de la Défense (SHD), inherited the more ancient collections and the archives. The split of the collections led to some arbitrary decisions and to some bizarre situations: maps produced in the same region by the same cartographers can be present both in the IGN and the SHD.

For the map historian and the map lover, it is not easy to know which maps exist, where they are located and how to get access to them.

For the IGN, managing the historical collection is a marginal activity. Its policy seems to be to digitise those collections and make them available on-line: out of a total of 537 000 maps (mostly IGN produced in the 20th century), 136 000 ancient maps have been scanned and 84 000 are georeferenced; and the work is continuing.

The Cassini maps, Carte d'État-Major (1825-66), 1950 IGN (1:50 000) and historical aerial photos (1950-65) can be consulted and downloaded on <https://remonterletemps.ign.fr/>

However, there are many more maps in the underground floors of the IGN headquarters in Saint-Mandé (an eastern Paris suburb), including about 3000 ancient manuscript maps (1643-1877) the list of which is not public. To get access to those, you have to make a request¹, discuss your specific research with an adviser in the 'Georoom' and determine whether the trip to Saint-Mandé is worthwhile!



The 'cartothèque' in the IGN basement



Large maps can now be consulted in the SHD reading room of the 'Pavillon du Roi' [King Pavilion]

On the other hand, the SHD is wholly dedicated to the conservation and promotion of its heritage. Its main establishment is in the historical Château de Vincennes (near Paris and Saint-Mandé). The process to access historical documents, including maps, is well organised, but rather complex²: you first have to register on-line, reserve the documents you want to consult (up to five per day) AND a place in the reading room (a few days ahead), obtain a badge when you arrive in Vincennes, get a seat number in the reading room and obtain your documents at the counter.

The first and main difficulty, in fact, is to know what to ask for! The SHD holds 450 km long archives, including 50 000 maps. It is progressively developing means to facilitate the access to this wealth of historical documents, but it is badly short of resources. A particular effort is made to digitise documents and put them on-line³. But the focus is on recent history (e.g. WWI centenary); there is no budget to digitise maps!

¹ <http://www.ign.fr/institut/contacter-lequipe-georoom>

² A new book has been published to guide visitors to the SHD: it has 756 pages!

³ <http://www.memoiredeshommes.sga.defense.gouv.fr/> Note that, when a document is on-line it may no longer be communicated physically.



0.01% of the SHD archives!



Ms Ponnou, head of maps and plans at the SHD, in front of the 'wall of maps'

The SHD has a number of 'instruments' on its website to help and guide visitors ⁴. There is a distinction between the 'archives' proper and the 'bibliothèque' [library] which holds not only numerous reference books, but also collections of ancient documents, many of them manuscript. In both cases further complexity arises from the origin of the collections: army, navy, air force, gendarmerie, etc.

For the archives, there are 600 inventories on-line (and many more just on paper, only available on the spot), but no search engine to identify where a specific subject could be covered. Under the title 'Territoires' there is a list of map inventories accessible on-line. The quality of these inventories is also very diverse. There is a very good inventory of the maps of France in the collection of the army, which was also published as a book⁵. A second volume was announced (in 2002) to cover maps of the many territories where the French military have been present, but this has not been realised. On the other hand, the on-line inventory of the maps at the 'Archives centrales de la Marine' was made in 1980 by a sailor admitting having no special qualification; most documents are not dated.

For the bibliothèque, there is a series of good on-line inventories of maritime collections of manuscripts and maps (71 volumes with 6500 maps, dating between 1550 and 1850) ⁶ and, for the land side, there is an interactive catalogue, working as a search engine with key words⁷. There is also a possibility to request advice by e-mail⁸.

This may sound complicated, and it is! But patience and perseverance are rewarded when one discovers unique documents which have been forgotten for centuries.



The region of Nice and Villefranche on a manuscript Italian map of 1763

⁴ <http://www.servicehistorique.sga.defense.gouv.fr/>

⁵ Marie-Anne Corvisier-de Villele et Claude Ponnou, « La France vue par les militaires – Catalogue des cartes de France du Dépôt de la Guerre – Tome premier », Vincennes, SHAT, 2002

⁶ http://www.servicehistorique.sga.defense.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/201601_NP_DBIB_71recueils.pdf; also accessible from the BnF site (Bibliothèque nationale de France): http://ccfr.bnf.fr/portailccfr/jsp/index_view_direct_anonymous.jsp?record=eadcgm:EADC:MAR010550A2.; http://ccfr.bnf.fr/portailccfr/jsp/index_view_direct_anonymous.jsp?record=eadcgm:EADI:FRCGMBPF-940805101-01a.xml

⁷ http://bibli-aleph.polytechnique.fr/F/?func=file&file_name=find-b&local_base=WHA01

⁸ shd-vincennes-bibliotheque.accueil.fct@intradef.gouv.fr

Jean-Louis Renteux
jl.renteux@gmail.com

Paris Map Fair, Globes and Scientific Instruments

Paris, 4 November 2017

Participation by the Brussels Map Circle

This 16th Fair held in the Ambassador/Marriott Hotel in Paris on 4 November 2017 has been expanded with an instrument section and its name has been modified from 'The Map Fair & Travel Books' to the 'Paris Map Fair, Globes and Scientific Instruments'. This very international annual fair assembled 33 exhibitors from ten countries in Europe, the USA and Asia and drew collectors from many others. This number includes the stands of our Circle and of IMCoS.



The Brussels Map Circle Members Wulf Bodenstein, Alex Smit and Paul De Candt at our stand.

Our stand was attended by members Wulf Bodenstein, Paul de Candt and Alex Smit.

Unfortunately Pierre Dumolin and Jan de Graeve's car, which was supposed to bring most of the promotional material, broke down on the way to Paris and they missed the fair.

The expansion with a larger group of exhibitors represents a very welcome development after the reduction in size of the fair over the past years, and provides a more solid base for its future with a larger and even more diversified offering for collectors. The firms Berg (Germany) and Perini (Italy) were absent this year, but there were a few additional first time participants such as Lux in Art and Trippini from Italy..

The number of visitors was appreciably lower than last year, but they were on average of a much higher quality level of interest. This decrease in attendance probably due to the school vacation week in France? Last year a report on the fair by a national French TV channel generated much interest from the general public, but often probably did not get through to those unfamiliar with maps. Perhaps also the many map and book fairs coming soon elsewhere in the world, such as in the USA, had an impact.

But in general the map and book dealers expressed satisfaction with the fair, with good to very good sales, to private collectors as well as among themselves.

This time there seemed to be more interest in atlases compared with past years.



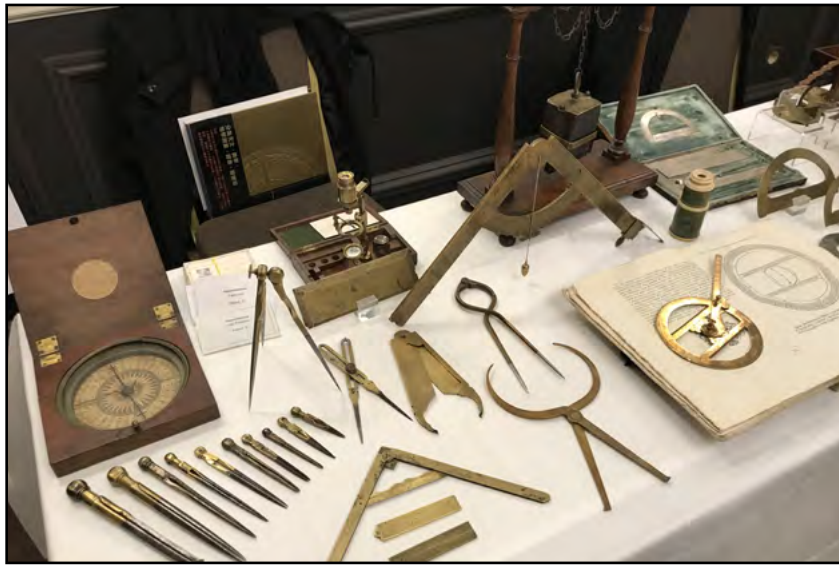
Map of 'Flandria Galliae Belgicae' in the very rare atlas of Europe by Matthias Quad and Johann Bussemacher (Cologne, 1592), proposed by Loeb-Larocque organisers of the Map Fair

For many of the exhibitors of instruments this was their first time at the fair.

They made some good contacts there and some encouraging sales in separate pre-fair meetings with collectors.

Reportedly the level of sales continues to be rather high in the North American market with activity Europe and Asia at a lower level.

A few dealers said they had had to skip some fairs in Europe in order to reduce cost.



The Fair's new instrument section.



The aging community of collectors with few new entries arrivals of younger buyers continues to cause real concern, not only in Europe.



Alex Smit
alex.smit@orange.fr



Exhibition : Under time's spell - In de ban van de tijd

until 25 March 2018, Sint-Pietersabdij - Ghent (Belgium).



Time there is nothing we are so familiar with and yet it continues to elude us. The exhibition Under Time's Spell will show you objects that capture the imagination as well as works written over the centuries in an attempt to solve the mystery that is time. In our audioguide you will also discover the — sometimes quite astonishing — little stories behind this mind-boggling topic.

On Saturday 10 February at 14.00 Jan De Graeve will guide a visit of the exhibition for our members.
(we meet at 13.45 on Sint-Pietersplein 9, Gent)

Sint-Pietersplein and parking-Gent



'Arenberg Auctions' is born ! A merging of Henri Godts and Romantic Agony

Henri Godts was one of the earliest members to join the Brussels International Map Collectors Circle, having participated in the first informal meeting at the Collège Saint Michel on 31 March, 1998.

He was also its very first 'sponsor', with an advertisement appearing in BIMCC Newsletter No 3 in January 1999. Henri even acted as Vice-President of the BIMCC until 2006, when he had to give priority to his professional activities as a dealer and auctioneer of rare books and maps.

But Henri never stopped giving full support to our Circle. For example, he takes care of the dispatching and mailing of 'Maps in History', ensuring that your favourite magazine gets to you in the post. And in recent years, he has taken an active part, together with Jean-Christophe Staelens, in the organisation of our Map Afternoons. Also, our 'Executive Committee' meetings are hosted in his shop, Avenue Louise.



Henri Godts (left) at the last meeting of the Brussels Map Circle Executive Committee, in his shop avenue Louise (with Pierre Parmentier, Jan De Graeve and President Caroline De Candt)

As announced in Maps in History No 57, Henri Godts is now joining forces with another of our faithful sponsors, 'The Romantic Agony', to become the largest book auction in Belgium and the Netherlands, specialising in rare, old, and modern books, manuscripts, autographs, drawings, prints, photographs AND atlases and maps. The merger has been called 'Arenberg Auctions' and is moving, in January 2018, to a new, larger location in Brussels' antiquarian district of the Sablons. They will have premises of 300 m² to accommodate their professional team of about ten specialists in charge of researching and writing the auction catalogues, organising the exhibitions and the auctions which will now take place on site.

And, most importantly for us, there will be enough space to host the meetings of the Brussels Map Circle's Executive Committee.

This will also become our new official address.

May we wish Arenberg Auctions long life and much success in this new and promising formation.

The new firm will have its premises 19, Wolstraat / Rue aux Laines, 1000 Brussels
(<http://arenbergauctions.com/>)

Jean-Louis Renteux
jl.renteux@gmail.com

News from the the Royal Library of Belgium

Maps and Plans department

In January 2017 I was appointed to succeed Marguerite Silvestre, who retired at the end of 2016, as head of the Maps and Plans department of the Royal Library of Belgium. Marguerite had been working with us for many years and had specialized in the history of cartography of the 19th century (she is well known for her work on Philippe Vandermaelen and his *Établissement géographique de Bruxelles*). As she wanted to continue exercising her passion for the history of science, she currently does volunteer work at the Royal Observatory of Belgium on Adolphe Quetelet (especially his correspondence).

For several years now the Maps and Plans department has been engaged in digitizing its collections. I intend to continue this important work that renders our collections more accessible (through the Library's catalogue <http://opac.kbr.be> or via the federal web portal www.cartesius.be) and less vulnerable. On the other hand, our collections expand constantly. This year for example, we acquired two Belgian globes from the end of the 19th century (one terrestrial by Alphonse Lebègue and one celestial by P. Maes) as well as three maps of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – which also show Belgium – dating from 1820, 1830 and 1840. It has therefore become necessary to reassess our stack rooms. An important project for our department in the next few years will be the rearrangement of these stacks, which will allow us to make room and further improve the conservation conditions for future decades.

2017 was a busy year for me as I obtained my Ph.D from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in November. The object of my dissertation, *Cartographie et pouvoir au XVIe siècle: l'atlas de Jacques de Deventer*, was to 'deconstruct' the town atlas made by Jacob van Deventer for king Philip II of Spain during the second part of the 16th century.

Through the deconstruction of selected maps, I tried to understand what makes them remarkable. The vision of the city, the perception of space, the place of the hinterland, representation processes and the profile of the cartographer were some of the aspects that were discussed. They made us understand that, despite an impressively modern result, this collection is still largely indebted to contemporary practices. Furthermore, these maps are not so much military documents but rather tools that represent and construct a territory: the Low Countries during Philip's rule.

A brief summary of this work will be published in a future issue of Maps in History.

I would like to conclude with a word of thanks to the editor of this magazine who kindly let me report some news regarding the Maps and Plans department; as its head, I intend to strengthen its relations to the Brussels Map Circle.

Colin Dupont
colin.dupont@kbr.be



New research on Juan Giovanni Vespucci

Our member Luis Robles is starting a PhD in History at Université Libre de Bruxelles under the supervision of Wouter Bracke, our scientific advisor. Over the next four years, Luis is going to research the life and work of Juan Vespucci, a nephew of the more famous Amerigo who had a multifaceted career as mapmaker, navigator, merchant and possibly even secret agent in early 16th-century Spain. Luis plans to undertake this PhD in parallel to his current career in the research and development department of an energy company.

Luis also maintains a very interesting blog, in English and in Spanish:
<https://historyandmaps.wordpress.com>

Making Maps in History

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

Contents have been checked by the Editorial Committee comprising Wulf Bodenstein, Wouter Bracke, Nicola Boothby, Lisette Danckaert, Francis Herbert and Pierre Parmentier.

Lex Antiqua

Grafiek en oude kaarten

Aankoop en verkoop

Rob Camp Tel +32(0)11 596338
Beursstraat 46 Gsm +32(0)498 772505
3832 Ulbeek-Wellen Fax +32(0)11 596338
www.lex-antiqua.be rob.camp@lex-antiqua.be

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Theatrum orbis terrarum, Abraham Ortelius - 1603

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Auction calendar 2018

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

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16 - 17 February 2018

Events Calendar

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.

Cartographica Neerlandica

The Ortelius Specialist

Soestdijkseweg 101
NL - 3721 AA Bilthoven
Tel +31 30 220 23 96
info@orteliusmaps.com
www.orteliusmaps.com

Paul Bremmers Antiquariaat

Antique Maps and Prints

Brusselsestraat 91
Maastricht
Tel +31 43 3253762
www.paulbremmers.com
info@paulbremmers.com

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 as-sociation 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-ist 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 as-pects of historical cartography, on regions of cartographical interest, on documentation, paper conserva-tion 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 opportu-nity 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 a monthly electronic news bulletin 'WhatsMap?'. It also maintains a website. Information on events and exhibitions to be placed on the calendar of our website and announced in WhatsMap? should be sent to webmaster@bimcc.org

OFFICIAL ADDRESS

c/o Henri Godts
Avenue Louise 230/6
B-1050 Brussels
www.bimcc.org
info@bimcc.org

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Wulf Bodenstein
Avenue des Camélias 71
1150 Bruxelles
telephone: +32 (0) 2 771 23 14
e-mail: wulfbo@outlook.com and
wulfbo@scarlet.be

Eric Leenders
Zwanenlaan 16
2610 Antwerpen
telephone: +32 (0) 3 440 10 81
e-mail: eric.leenders3@telenet.be

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT

Caroline De Candt
Burggravenlaan 341
9000 Gent
telephone: +32(0)9 222 80 14
e-mail: president@bimcc.org

VICE-PRESIDENT AND EDITOR (ÉDITEUR RESPONSABLE)

Jean-Louis Renteux
Rue des Floralies 62
1200 Brussels
telephone: + 32 (0)2 770 59 03
e-mail: editor@bimcc.org

Co-Editor: Paul De Candt
telephone: + 32 (0)475 899 224
e-mail: pdc@aquaterra.be

TREASURER

Eddy Masschalck
Ridder van Ranstlei 77
2640 Mortsel
telephone: +32(0)474934761
e-mail: treasurer@bimcc.org

SECRETARY

Karen De Coene
e-mail: secretary@bimcc.org

WEBMASTER

Pierre Parmentier
e-mail: webmaster@bimcc.org

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR

Wouter Bracke
e-mail: wouter.bracke@kbr.be

OTHER OFFICERS

- Lisette Danckaert
- Jan De Graeve
jan@degraeve-geo.eu
- Henri Godts
henri.godts@godts.com
- Jean-Christophe Staelens
jcs@staelens.biz

BECOMING (AND STAYING) A MEMBER

Members receive three issues of our magazine 'Maps in History' per annum and have free admission to most of the Circle's events. Non-members pay full rates. Annual membership: EUR 40.00, Students and Juniors under 25: EUR 15.00. To become (and stay!) a member, please pay the membership dues EXCLUSIVELY by bank transfer (no cheques please) to our bank account: IBAN BE52 0682 4754 2209 BIC: GKCCBEBB and notify the Membership Secretary (treasurer@bimcc.org) indicating your name and address.

MAPS IN HISTORY

The Brussels Map Circle currently pub-lishes three issues per year. It is distrib-uted, not only to members of the Circle, but also to key institutions (universities, libraries) and to personalities active in the field of the history of cartography, located in 26 different countries. Please submit articles and contribu-tions to the editor (e-mail: editor@bimcc.org) by the following deadlines:

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

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



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