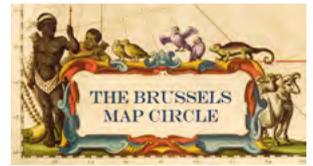


# MAPS IN HISTORY

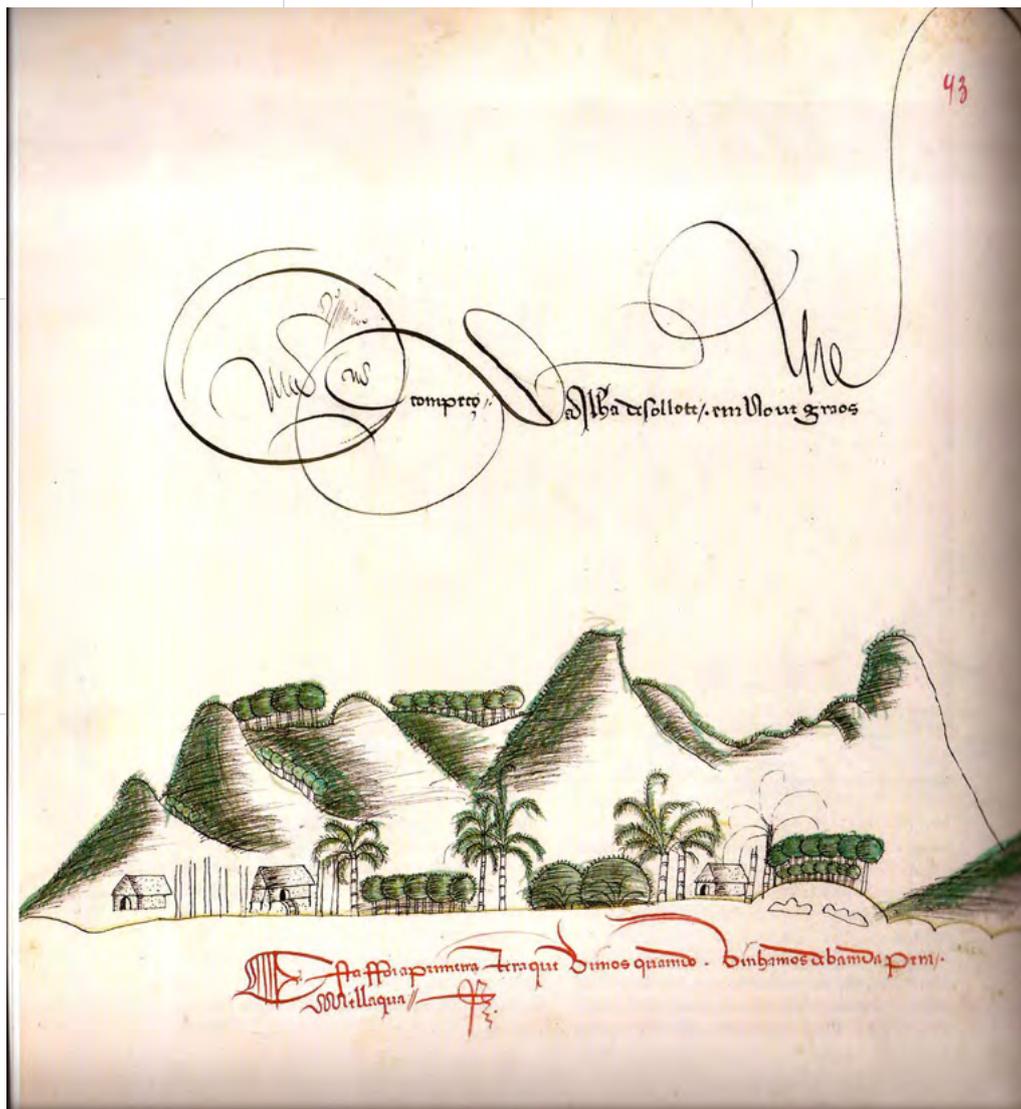


May 2018  
Newsletter No

61

## The Belgium - Luxembourg border formation

The Portuguese voyages to the Spice Islands  
Special 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration



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**Cover :** Francisco Rodrigues, Alor Island

In: Livro de Francisco Rodrigues, 1513-1515, fl. 43 (Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale, Paris)

## Intro

Dear Map Friends,

By the time you read this issue of Maps in History our excursion to Arlon and Luxembourg will be very close, or already past, depending on the logistics of getting our magazine edited, printed and distributed! The theme of this excursion, '1839: when Luxembourg was last cut to pieces', was chosen by the organizers Pierre Parmentier and Marie-Anne Dage to highlight the complex history of the border between Luxembourg and Belgium. Before, during or after the excursion, I recommend you read the article summarizing this history, written by our dear President, Caroline De Candt; a very useful complement to that excursion.

Another most interesting feature of this issue follows our last conference on maps of Indonesia: Francisco Roque de Oliveira has kindly accepted to write down his presentation, 'The Portuguese voyages to the Spice Islands', which shows that the VOC was not the only one to explore that part of the world...

Celebrations of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Brussels Map Circle have already begun! Our MAPAF (Map Afternoon) on 24 March opened with a reception offered by the Circle to its members on the top floor of the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR). Speeches over a glass of 'bubbles' evoked the various activities of the past twenty years, with emphasis on the special relationship which has been established with the KBR 'Maps and Plans' department (see the full report on p.27).

More festivities are being planned to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the end of the year. The date has been chosen, mark it in your diary: 1 December 2018. The venue as well: we have booked the prestigious Plantin-Moretus Museum in Antwerp for the evening. This old 16<sup>th</sup> century print shop (a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2005) is of particular significance for lovers of old maps: this is where Christophe Plantin printed the Theatrum Orbis Terrarum of Abraham Ortelius. The museum holds a number of artifacts from that period... The programme of the evening is still under development: you will get all the information in the September issue of Maps in History as well as on our website www.bimcc.org.

Cartographically yours,

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



# Cosmography at the Louvre Abu Dhabi museum



A huge dome (160 metres in diameter, designed by architect Jean Nouvel) shades the museum; it is, in itself, an evocation of Cosmology!

'From one Louvre to another' is the theme of the first exhibition taking place at the newly inaugurated branch of Paris's Le Louvre in the Emirates. It tells how, in 1793, the young French Republic decided to preserve, rather than destroy, the arts collection accumulated by the former kings and to present them to the public in the prestigious setting of the Louvre royal castle in Paris. Since then the Louvre museum has considerably evolved with, in particular, the controversial creation of the glass pyramid at the centre of its forecourt in 1989. In 2012 a first avatar of the Louvre was inaugurated in Lens, in northern France, within easy reach from London or Brussels. Aiming at opening culture to a broad public outside Paris, it boasts a 'Galerie du Temps' [time gallery] which presents a chronological selection of masterpieces illustrating the progress of Humanity across the centuries.

The Abu Dhabi branch, although clearly targeting a more cosmopolitan and travelled public (many visitors come from Asia), has a similar purpose: the main twelve galleries follow a chronological approach, from the 'first villages' to 'a global stage', and present masterpieces from different cultures, highlighting the parallel evolution of world civilisations.

Among these galleries, one is devoted to 'Cosmography'. It illustrates, in particular with maps and globes, how various civilisations first came into contact. The central item of this room is a terrestrial globe by Vincenzo Coronelli (Venice, 1697), on loan from the Bibliothèque nationale de France; it is also used in a digital display depicting the first great expeditions: Ibn Majid and the Arabian navigators; expeditions of the Chinese Admiral Zheng He; Bartolomeu Dias' explorations of the African coasts; Vasco da Gama's expedition towards India, and arrival of Columbus in America.



The terrestrial globe by Vincenzo Coronelli (Venice, 1697) and, in the foreground, a bronze celestial globe from Morocco (ca 1080).



Detail of the planisphere by Visconte Maggiolo (Genoa, 1531).

There is also a nice series of ancient Arabian astrolabes, as well as a 15<sup>th</sup>-century map of the world from Iraq, to illustrate the importance of the Middle East in the development of navigation techniques.

The artifacts representative of the first contacts between civilisations, comprise three large folding screens depicting the arrival of Portuguese merchants in Japan (ca 1625).

The limited number of maps on display in this restricted space include two remarkable portolan charts: one of the Indian Ocean by João Teixeira Albernaz (Portugal, 1649); and the spectacular planisphere by Visconte Maggiolo (Genoa, 1531) which was on sale at Maastricht TEFAF last year for the equally spectacular price of ten million Euros (see MiH58, p. 34)!

The Louvre Abu Dhabi, and its Cosmography gallery, are well worth a detour on your next trip to Asia!



Jean-Louis Renteux  
jl.renteux@gmail.com

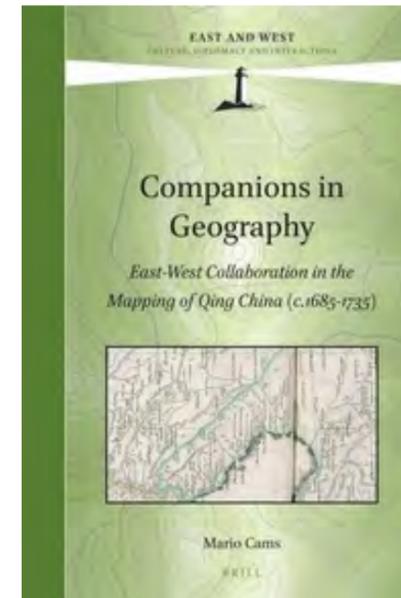
# Companions in Geography: East-West Collaboration in the Mapping of Qing China (c. 1685-1735)

by Mario Cams

— Series: East and West, Volume: 1  
— Leiden, Brill, 2017  
— 280 pages with colour and black and white illustrations, hard cover, 24 x 16 cm  
— ISBN 978-90-04-34535-5, hardback; also available as an e-book ISBN 978-90-04-34536-2, EUR 120.00

The book is based on Mario Cams' PhD thesis (which was discussed in the last issue of MiH, p. 11). As such it starts as one might expect with an explanation of the approach to, and structure of, the work. 'Companions in Geography' refers to a letter written by a French Jesuit priest in 1712 to a fellow mapmaker in China, and sets the scene which will analyse and describe the network of people of various trades, cultures and nationalities who were part of the 'Overview Maps of Imperial Territories' project that is at this book's core. Dr Cams pursues his enquiries tracing the travel and interchange of material objects, among them instruments and maps. The great 'Qing mapping project' was supported by a number of different institutions: the Académie Royale des Sciences in Paris (in turn supported by Louis XIV – this meant that funding was available); the Jesuits, who saw cartography and cartographic skills – geodesy, mathematics, instrument-making – as a means of furthering their influence in China; the Qing Imperial Workshops and the Qing court itself. Beijing, Paris and St. Petersburg all played key roles in the production and exchange of knowledge over the 50-year period lasting roughly 1685 to 1735.

Chapter 1 starts by telling us about three sets of instrument makers in Paris. Michael Butterfield, Louis and Jean Chapotot, and Nicolas Bion were all very active during parts at least of this period, producing, from among many other instruments, the mobile



quadrant, first designed by Jean Picard. All three workshops made quadrants; one well-known name using them was Giovanni Domenico Cassini.

Following the Qing conquest of the Chinese provinces in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, Jesuit missionaries quickly gained access to the Qing court, providing skills in astronomy and applied mathematics. In the late 1680s Louis XIV agreed to sponsor a new French mission to China which arrived in 1688. Two of the 'King's Mathematicians' were told they could stay at court, the other two were free to travel or stay in China's provinces. They took with them the latest instruments from the Paris workshops. Joachim Bouvet, one of those on the mission, was sent back to

France as an Imperial envoy. When he returned he brought not only practical instruments for use in surveying but also the latest maps of Asia which seem to have informed the Qing mapping project decades later. One of the maps was based on the De Fer projection which was used for the project.

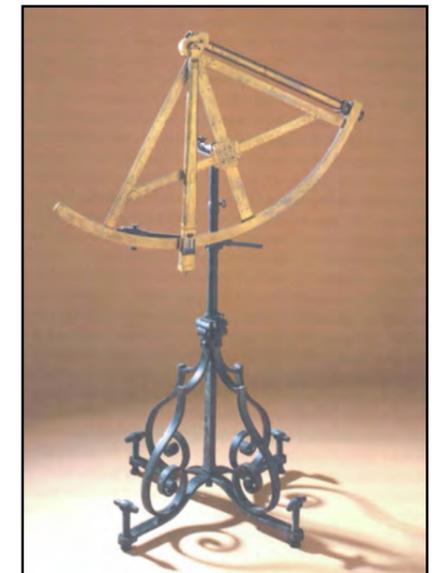


Fig. 1. Quadrant by Butterfield, radius 58cm, similar to the one given to the emperor by the King's mathematicians

First and foremost this chapter describes the interplay between two monarchs interested in cartographic practice, one of whom – the Kangxi emperor – seeing its purpose as a means of bolstering frontier control. The Jesuit order wanted to please the emperor as regards Western learning so that it would have protection for

its mission, and the Académie Royale des Sciences, supported by Louis XIV, sought information from East Asia in its push for scientific exploration. The converging interests led to the adoption of new cartographic standards at the Qing court, which would be handed down to successive emperors.

The first 'Intermission' (of two – between chapters 1 and 2, and 2 and 3) debates the role of the Jesuit order in China. Were they 'Missionaries or Mapmakers' and how did attitudes towards mapmaking differ within the community? The second gives more context to the role of the Jesuit mapmakers in the field in terms of how they supported the Christians they met in far-flung places, and describes the impact of the 'Chinese Rites Controversy' where most Jesuits accepted the integration of some Confucian rites into Christian practice in China, whereas most non-Jesuit groups did not.

Chapter 2 carries the author's fundamental interest as described early in the book: the study of the interchange of material goods as the project's enabler, which uncovers the evolution of the techniques used. It provides insight into the process of mapmaking in the Qing era (Fig. 2); the communications networks, both in terms of individuals and institutions; the control factor as personified by the Kangxi emperor himself; and the variety of roles played by the Chinese – from the Imperial Court, on the road doing the surveying, and in the provinces supporting the survey teams. In Beijing the Imperial Workshops created a 'back office' for the mapping project, producing and storing instruments and creating the atlases which resulted from the surveys.

Chapter 3 deals with the 'afterlife of a family of maps'. It focuses on the circulation of the Qing atlas, and

reconstructs the means whereby the maps were adapted and sent to and from between Beijing, Paris and Saint Petersburg. The maps themselves, plus a large amount of indirect information, helped fill in the gaps on the original maps and extend the scope of the area covered. One of the key players in the process in Paris was Jean-Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville who incorporated the maps into European editions. A Dutch pirated version of his work proved popular; it was cheaper than d'Anville's but far inferior in quality and split the text from the maps themselves.

The author ends by challenging the four dichotomies that 'pervade the literature' (we must remember that the book is based on a PhD thesis): traditional versus scientific practice; global versus local networks; circulation versus production of knowledge; and China versus Europe. In trying to construct an alternative cartography of cross-cultural circulation in history he has attempted, following John Lewis Gaddis, to draw a parallel between cartography and history, that both "provide a way of reversing divisibility, of retrieving unity, of re-capturing a sense of the whole..." The result is fascinating.

I really like this book. On the one hand the 'thesis'-style (pedagogical, sometimes over-repetitive, structure) can be rather cumbersome, telling us

what we are about to read, giving us the information, then summarising the same. On the other hand, on a different level, it is more like a wonderful adventure story comprising empire-building/consolidation, pioneering, accidents, disease and death, East/West diplomacy/collaboration/confrontation, a clash of religions, advanced applied science and insights into everyday life and often hardship in far-flung places, not forgetting the discovery of ginseng! It truly conveys the passion of its author for the subject. The 'exotic' nature of the text is emphasised by a liberal use of Chinese, especially in the notes. The 'Intermissions' provide essential background colour. The notes are thorough. The graphics are very nicely reproduced and of different types – maps, documents, charts, tables etc. All illustrate text on the same or opposite page – a boon compared with many other publications. Lastly, in this age of oversized 'coffee table' books, *Companions in Geography* is a very comfortable size. It is beautifully laid out, with very clean text, a pleasure to read, and to pass on to others.

Thank you!



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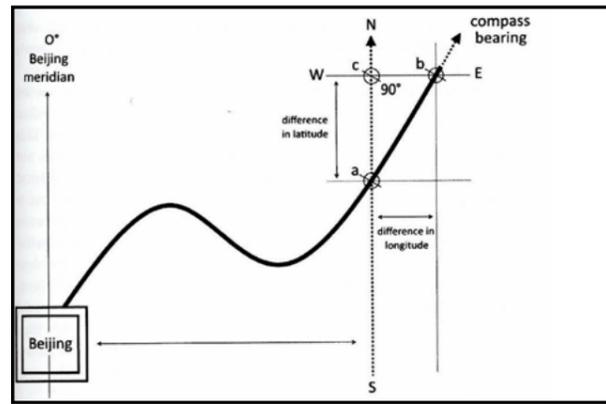


Fig. 2. New Qing cartographic practice and the method of determining longitude based on rope-measured road distances)

# The Portuguese voyages to the Spice Islands

## and the first European maps and sketches of Southeast Asia, 1502-1554

by Francisco Roque de Oliveira

Centre for Geographical Studies  
Institute of Geography and Territorial Planning of the University of Lisbon



Francisco Roque de Oliveira  
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Responding to the kind invitation extended by the Brussels Map Circle, I prepared a general presentation on Portuguese cartography of insular Southeast Asia during the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century for the annual conference held at the Royal Library of Belgium in December 2017 and this is a summary of that presentation. Curiously, it was almost 100 years ago that the Dutch geologist Eduard Cornelius Abendanon (1878-1962) published the study that, ever since, has guided the main research focusing on early European cartography of this part of the world. This article was entitled 'Missing Links in the Development of the Ancient Portuguese Cartography of the Netherlands East Indian Archipelago', which was simultaneously published in *The Journal of Historical Geography* and (in French) in the *Boletim da Sociedade de Geografia de Lisboa*, in 1919.

Edward Heawood (1863-1949), the former librarian of the Royal Geographical Society, and Armando Cortesão (1871-1977), the most influential Portuguese historian of cartography in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, commented upon and expanded the selection and organisation of the maps presented by Abendanon (Heawood, 1919; Cortesão, 1975). Along with Avelino Teixeira da Mota (1920-1982), Abendanon, Heawood and Cortesão represent, even today, the main references for all scholars examining this chapter in the history of cartography (Cortesão

& Mota, 1960). In recent years two other Portuguese historians have updated the interpretation of the set of Portuguese-origin maps which depicted insular Southeast Asia for the first time in European cartography: Luís Filipe Thomaz (1995) and José Manuel Garcia (2002 and 2008). I refer interested readers to this selected set of works, as well as to the analysis that I have prepared of the evolution of the main theoretical and methodological paradigms of this select group of historians focusing on cartography (Oliveira, forthcoming).

It is well known that the Luso-Spanish clash over possession of the Moluccas was the main issue for Portuguese international politics during the early years of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. From the Portuguese perspective (but also from the Spanish perspective) two decisive questions were at play in relation to the Moluccas: on the one hand, control over the production and the main trading routes of nutmeg and cloves, luxury spices which were highly prized in European markets; on the other hand, establishing the limits of the Portuguese sphere of influence in maritime Asia corresponding to the Treaty of Tordesillas. These aspects were the core of a difficult diplomatic negotiation focusing on establishing the Tordesillas antimeridian, which was formally resolved via the Treaty of Zaragoza (1529), confirmed and ratified by Emperor Charles V and by King John III of Portugal.

From the late 15<sup>th</sup> century onward, Portuguese royal agents around the Indian Ocean had systematically sought to compile information about this eastern area of the world which was the source of the famous spices. It is also well known that the first great Portuguese expedition to reconnoitre the Indonesian archipelago took place immediately after Malacca was captured in 1511 by Afonso de Albuquerque, governor of Portuguese India (governed 1508-1515). This was the expedition captained by António de Abreu, who explored the maritime route between Malacca, Banda and the Moluccas in 1511-1512. The main results of this expedition were immediately incorporated into the *Suma Oriental que trata do mar Roxo até aos chins* ['Summa of the East, from the Red Sea up to the Chinese'] by Tomé Pires (1512-1515). This was very probably the most important systematic geographical description of maritime Asia written by a Portuguese observer during the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In relation to the eastern shores of the archipelago that had recently been reconnoitred by Abreu, Pires peremptorily clarified therein that 'noso emtemto nom sera passar daqui por diamte' ['It is not our intention to go farther on from here']. Portugal's great geographical goal in Asia had been achieved.

In light of this, it is possible to divide Portuguese cartographical production concerning the archipelago of modern day Indonesia during the first half



Fig. 1. Jorge Reinel (?), Chart of the Indian Ocean, [Lisbon], [ca. 1510] (Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel)

of the 16<sup>th</sup> century into three main phases. Each of them is associated with a specific stage of progress in relation to geographical knowledge of Southeast Asia by these European observers and also, in a certain sense, a specific type of cartography. The first phase is represented by the sparse set of maps produced between the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and 1511 which have survived to modern times; the second phase corresponds to the cartography prepared by the protagonists of the 1511–1512 expedition; finally, there is the extensive set of maps from the years after this first reconnaissance voyage, in which indicating possession of the Moluccas was a recurring concern of the cartographers.

Two Portuguese maps exemplify the cartography of the ‘Eastern Archipelago’ before António de Abreu’s expedition: the famous anonymous planisphere known as the ‘Cantino map’, dated to 1502, and the anonymous map of the Indian Ocean attributed to Jorge Reinel, from about 1510 (Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel). At a time when the Portuguese only had access to indirect news about the areas situated east of Malacca, the Cantino map included

two captions which could coincide with a pioneering attempt to mark some of these regions, likewise including some information about the respective geo-economy: the caption ‘ilha gaaem esta ilha a muto benjoym e seda e porcelana’ [Ganaor Island: this Island has a lot of benzoin and silk and porcelain], indicated very far to the east of Madagascar, could correspond to Java; and the caption ‘caleirciram aqj he muyto clauo’ [Caleiciram: here there are plenty of cloves], alluding to a smaller island located to the east of the former, which could be identified with the island of Ceram, at the southern end of the Moluccas.

When compared to the Cantino planisphere, the map attributed to Jorge Reinel is free from any kind of Ptolemaic influence, which makes the portrayal of the Asian spaces depicted there particularly innovative in the context of European cartography of the age. This was the standard for Portuguese nautical cartography, which as a rule shunned the use of erudite references – classical or medieval – to fill in the cartography of spaces which had not yet been reconnoitred by exploratory voyages. What is interesting in this context is that the author of this map apparently had access to information which

would seem to correspond to an embryonic concept of the Malay-Indonesian archipelago. This is the case with a set of conjectured islands located south of India, dissected by the Equator and captioned thus: ‘ho grande arcipelago que faz gram temor nom se saber ate honde vão ter estas ilhas’ [‘The large archipelago which causes great fear, since it is not known how far these islands extend’]. Just like in the Cantino map, Sumatra is fully drawn south of the Equator, and is explained as the ‘muyto homrrada e muyto Rica ilha de camatoro’ [‘The very honourable and very rich island of Çamatra’]. The region’s key hub is marked east of Sumatra: ‘a muyto populosa e nobre e Rica cidade de malaca a quall aynda a nos nam he sabyda nem descuberta’ [‘the very populous and noble and rich city of Malacca, which we have not yet discovered’]. Finally, in the southeast sector of the map there is a group of islands consisting of two larger islands and two smaller islands, dissected by the Tropic of Capricorn, which has a caption that – just like on the Cantino map – suggests an identification with the Moluccas: ‘nesta ilha nace o crauo’ [this island (Moluccas?) produces cloves] [Fig. 1].

As has been mentioned, the second phase of Portuguese cartography of insular Southeast Asia is directly associated with the 1511–1512 reconnaissance voyage, ordered by Albuquerque and commanded by António de Abreu. This is the important collection of maps that are part of the Livro de Francisco Rodrigues [‘Book of Francisco Rodrigues’], drawn in Malacca in circa 1513 by this individual, who was a young cartographer trusted by Albuquerque. Rodrigues participated in the 1511–1512 expedition to Banda and the Moluccas, during which he carried out an extensive cartographical survey, which included a notable series of 69 panoramic drawings depicting the northern shores of the chain of islands between Alor and western

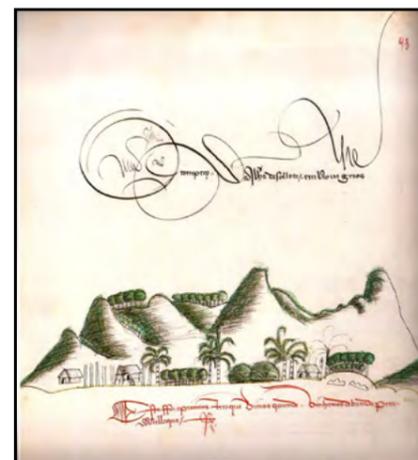


Fig. 2. Francisco Rodrigues, Alor Island In: Livro de Francisco Rodrigues, 1513–1515, fl. 43 (Bibliothèque de l’Assemblée nationale, Paris)

Java. While some of these drawings are profusely illustrated with details of the geography of the islands – volcanoes, plants, settlements and human figures, for example –, others have more schematic outlines, seemingly far closer to the cartographer’s original sketches [Fig. 2].

The Livro de Francisco Rodrigues also has a sequence of seven maps of the Malay-Indonesian archipelago and their immediate surroundings, which resulted from the combination of two distinct kinds of cartographical information: on the one hand, information prepared during the Portuguese naval expedition to Indonesian waters, supervised by Rodrigues himself; on the other hand, cartographical prototypes from Southeast Asian sources, probably with a Malay origin, which made it possible to overcome lacunae in Portuguese direct knowledge about several of the region’s spaces. As a result of this juxtaposition, some of Rodrigues’s maps are extremely important hybrid cartographical products. To cite just three of the most representative examples of this solution, which combines European and Asian representational standards: (1) the map depicting the area of eastern Sumatra, the far west of Java and southwest of Borneo, with the island of Bangka (f. 35 in the Livro, where Borneo is mistakenly identified as Maquecer

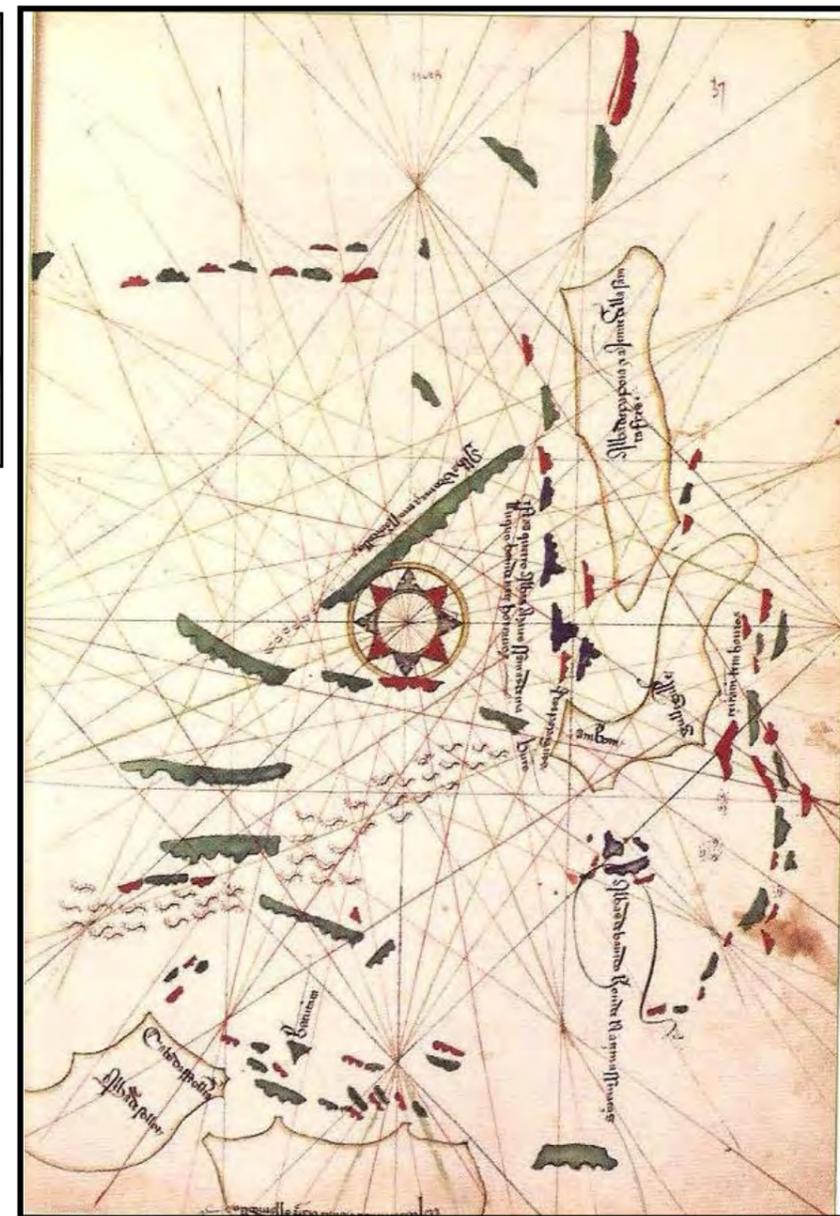


Fig. 3. Francisco Rodrigues, Flores, Timor, the archipelagos of Banda and Moluccas. In: Livro de Francisco Rodrigues, 1513–1515, fl. 37 (Bibliothèque de l’Assemblée nationale, Paris)

= Macaçar/Sulawesi); (2) the map of the eastern and northern coasts of Borneo, eastern Java, Madura, Bali, Lombok and Sumbawa (f. 36, which identifies the ports of call of Agriaci = Gresik and Surubaia = Surabaya, in Java, and shows a clearly non-European standard of representation in the Lesser Sunda Islands); (3) the map depicting the eastern part of the Indonesian archipelago (f. 37, which, apart from Ambon and Ceram, depicts the islands of Flores and Timor and the archipelagos of Banda and the Moluccas)[Fig. 3].

After this hybrid cartographical exercise by Francisco Rodrigues, the main Portuguese cartography of insular Southeast Asia ceased to noticeably reflect the use of Asian prototypes. This was due to successive surveys carried out by cartographers sailing aboard Portuguese ships, but also in the ingrained tendency of the cartographers to not fill in spaces which had not yet been reconnoitred in person with data that had not yet been proved by empirical evidence. However, it can also be noted that after the cartographical campaign

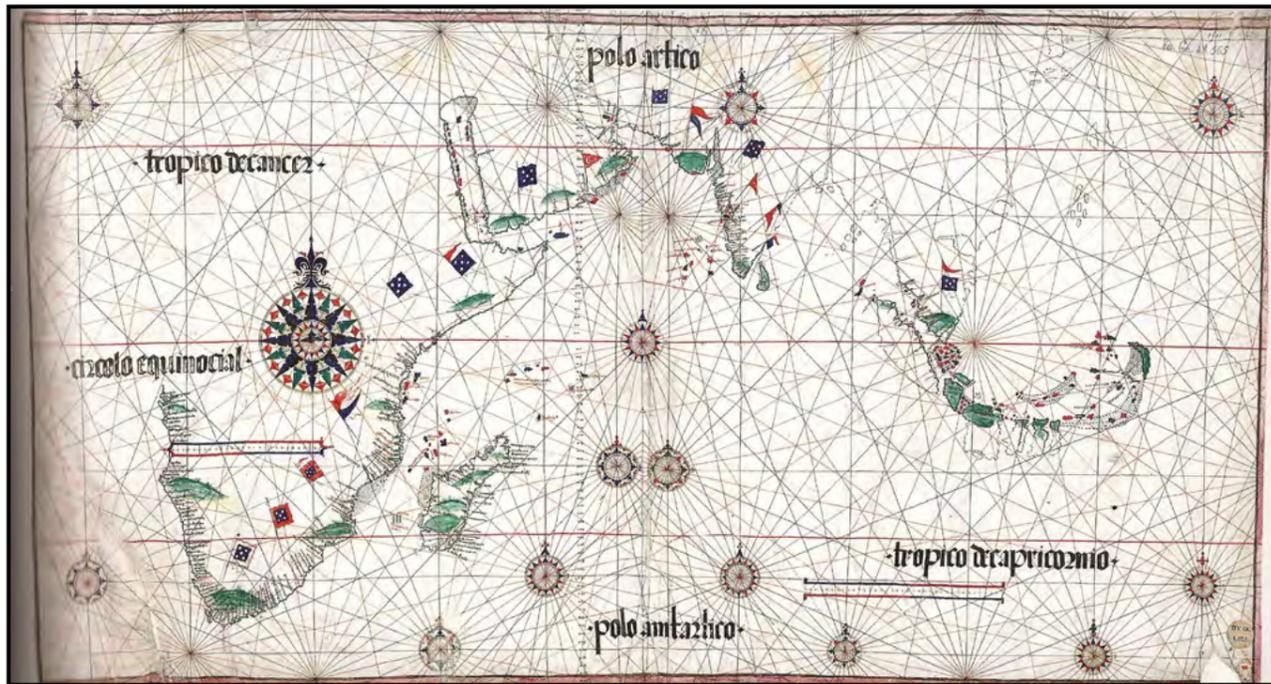


Fig. 4. Pedro Reinel (?), Chart of the Indian Ocean, [Lisbon], ca. 1517. Facsimile by Otto Progel ca. 1843 (Bibliothèque nationale de France). The original belonged to the Wehrkreisbücherei, Munich; disappeared in 1945.

by Rodrigues, the official Portuguese presence in Asia was only associated with the trade routes with Ternate and Banda, the only routes subject to a royal monopoly. As Luís Filipe Thomaz has astutely pointed out, this explains the relative stagnation – and sometimes even regression – of representations of the Indonesian archipelago in Portuguese cartography over the next two decades.

Despite their apparent formal unity, it is still possible to discern some sub-sets within this set of 20 maps representing what has been dubbed the third main phase of Portuguese cartography of this area, produced more or less until 1550. The first of these sub-sets comprises a series of seven maps by the Reinel family, presumably all dating from before the return of the carrack *Victoria*, commanded by Juan Sebastián Elcano, in September 1522. This series begins with two almost identical maps of the Indian Ocean and the Malay-Indonesian archipelago attributed to Pedro Reinel: the lost map of the Munich Armeebibliothek (circa 1517) [Fig. 4] and the British Library map (circa 1522), which depicts the arc of islands between Sumatra and

the Moluccas, corresponding to the Malay trade route followed by the Portuguese along the northern coast of Java and the Lesser Sunda Islands. This is followed by the planisphere attributed to Jorge Reinel from circa 1519 (Kunstmann IV, lost in 1945), which must have been prepared in Seville in the context of preparations for Magellan's voyage and, within the Spanish hemisphere, identified the 'Ilhas de maluquo donde a o cravo' ['the Moluccas Islands, source of cloves']. There are also two representations of the Malay archipelago and the Moluccas in the 'Miller Atlas' by Lopo Homem-Reineis dating from 1519, which combine Ptolemaic vestiges with the use of maps that were very close to Rodrigues' prototype [Fig. 5]. Finally, there is the map of the southern hemisphere with polar projection attributed to Pedro Reinel, dating from 1522, which already depicts the Moluccas within the Portuguese hemisphere (Topkapı Palace, Istanbul).

The Portuguese cartographer Diogo Ribeiro prepared the four planispheres and the map of the western hemisphere, which are known to be his works, in Seville between 1525 and circa 1532, marking the

'Província de Maluco' ['Province of the Moluccas'] in the Spanish hemisphere of Tordesillas. The next map on the list is the anonymous map of the archipelago and the Malay Peninsula known as the 'Penrose Map', dating from circa 1535, which includes Motir, Tidore, Ternate, the northern part of Halmahera (Jeilolo) and perhaps the northern part of Celebes, in addition to what could be the oldest western representation of the northern coast of Borneo. Continuing in chronological order, there are the maps of Southeast Asia in the Atlas attributed to Gaspar Viegas from about 1537 (Biblioteca Riccardiana and Archivio di Stato di Firenze), where it is possible to note the Portuguese pavilions on Timor' and the 'Ilhas de maluquo' ['Islands of the Moluccas'] [Fig. 6]. The outline of Java and the western coast of Celebes proposed by Viegas and by the author of the Penrose map are reflected in the large anonymous map of Asia dating from circa 1540 belonging to the Herzog August Bibliothek (Wolfenbüttel). The fragment of António Pereira's planisphere dating from circa 1545 only depicts the archipelago's eastern shores, curiously marked in a gap in the map's frame (John Carter Brown Library).



Fig. 5. Lopo Homem - Reineis, Chart from Malacca to the Moluccas. In: Atlas Miller, 1519 (Bibliothèque nationale de France).

Completing this series of 20 maps is the anonymous planisphere at the Biblioteca Vallicelliana in Rome dating from circa 1550, which places a Portuguese flag on the 'MALVCO' islands and three Spanish pavilions on New Guinea. This map is famous for containing the oldest known representation of Japan, thus symbolically concluding the cycle of the Portuguese discoveries in Asia. However, the most complete representation of insular Southeast Asia in Portuguese cartography of the age is that contained in Lopo Homem's 1554 planisphere (Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza, Firenze). This map had a lasting influence on subsequent European cartography and served as a temporal milestone in Abendanon's pioneering study.

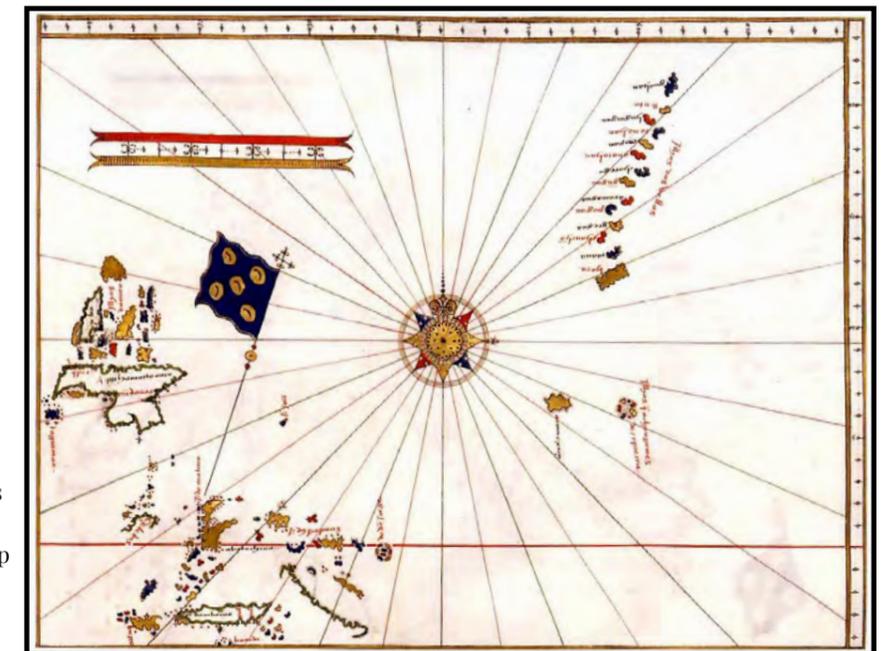


Fig. 6. Gaspar Viegas, Moluccas and nearby islands, ca. 1537 (Biblioteca Riccardiana, Firenze)

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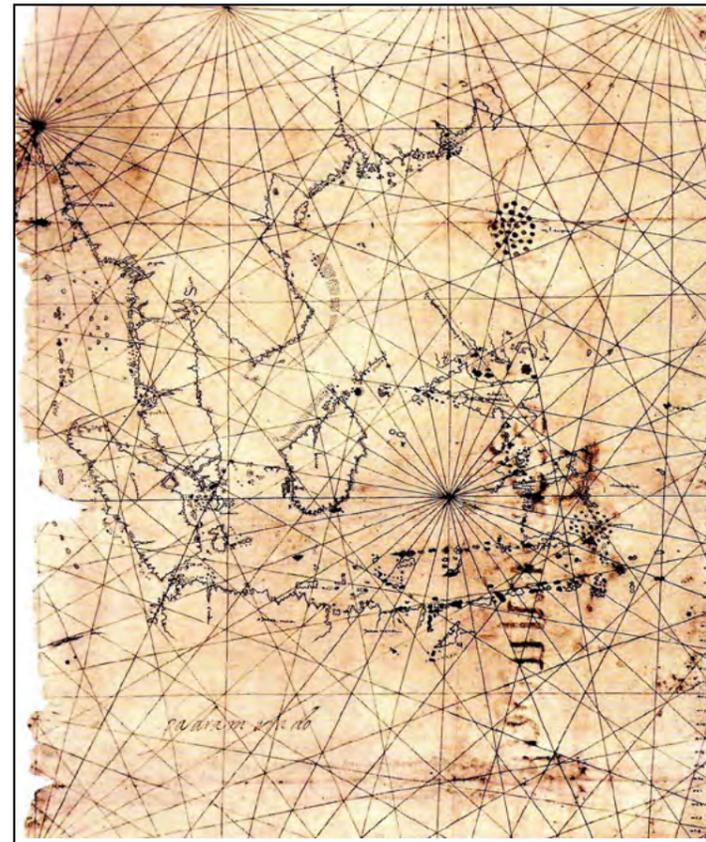
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Fig. 7. Anonymous Portuguese map, ca. 1535 (Boies Penrose Collection, Devon, Pennsylvania).

Even though it is not Portuguese cartographical production strictly speaking, it is important to mention the map of insular Southeast Asia included in the anonymous 'Vallard Atlas', dating from 1547 (Huntington Library). This map shows a discernible dependence on a Portuguese prototype which was very similar to the Penrose map. As Abendanon also noted almost a century ago, when he investigated the famous 'missing links' in Portuguese cartography of the eastern Archipelago, the main French maps of what is conventionally called the 'Dieppe School' are based on Portuguese prototypes. Symbolically too, it was through works such as the 'Vallard Atlas' that the pioneering Portuguese cartography of Asia from the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century handed over the baton to the emerging nautical cartography of northern Europe [Fig. 7 and Fig. 8].



Fig. 8. Anonymous map of Southeast Asia, 1547. In: Vallard Atlas (Huntington Library, San Marino, California).

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# The formation of the border between Belgium and Luxembourg in 1830-1839: a story about the importance of being a map lover

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## Introduction

Maps play an important role in human history. Knowing how to use them can be a major advantage when you are a revolutionary, creating a new state, as we shall see (Fig. 1).

The territory concerned here is the southern part of what is called *The Low Countries*, or what was known in the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century as the Burgundian Netherlands, and later as the (Habsburg) Spanish (1556-1715) or Austrian (1715-1795) Netherlands.

The red line shows the current Belgian borders. The bright pink territory is the *Zuidelijke Nederlanden*, the Southern Netherlands; the darker pink parts indicate land that was lost in the Eighty Years War by the Spanish to the Dutch. The green territories have never been formally part of the Netherlands.

## 1830: the birth of Belgium, a country without frontiers

In 1830 a country is born that from then on will be called Belgium. It is the result of an uprising, caused by many different factors, much too long to comment on here<sup>1</sup>. The facts: the new Belgium is the southern part of what is then the United Kingdom of the Netherlands<sup>2</sup>, a state construct-

<sup>1</sup> It is impossible to go into the name 'Belgium' the rebels chose and its history here

<sup>2</sup> To be precise: *Le Royaume des Pays-Bas* was the term the Congress of Vienna used, French being the international language of diplomacy at that time; Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Treaty



Fig. 1. The map of The Low Countries as in 1648

ed in the aftermath of the defeat of Napoleon, when an eager William of Orange-Nassau proclaimed himself king at the urging of the Congress of Vienna<sup>3</sup>. The latter had one major goal: building a buffer around France with its dangerous revolutionary ideas, meanwhile restoring the old order in Europe: hence the re-installing of a French king and the consecration of a new king for this new state in 1815. From 1815 until 1830 the territory that

of London; the word United was added later by historians to avoid confusion with today's Kingdom of the Netherlands

<sup>3</sup> In fact, the Peace Treaty of Paris of 1814 (between the reinstated French king and the Coalition) decided about this, forerunning the decisions of the Vienna Congress

since the Middle Ages was referred to as The Low Countries was reunited, but without the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, which was 'given' to William by the Congress in Personal Union: therefore, not formally a part of the new state, although it had always been part of the Low Countries ( see further<sup>4</sup>). After the September 1830 rebellion,

<sup>4</sup> The former Prince-Bishopric of Liège and Principality of Malmédy-Stavelot, and the Duchy of Bouillon - never parts of the Low Countries - were incorporated in the new state: again a story in its own; finally, it should be mentioned that another reason for annexing the 'Belgian' provinces to the Dutch ones is compensation for the Cape Colony and Ceylon (Dutch) that the British held occupied and kept

a Parliament, the Congrès National, is formed in no time and a — for the time — very modern Constitution is written. It is decided the new country will be a monarchy and so the search for a head of state is on ... Also, vital ingredients of national pride are at hand: a national hymn is composed and some industrious lady has sewn together what will henceforth be the national flag. Only one thing is lacking: a country.

The problem is: how to convince the contemporary Major Powers<sup>5</sup> to accept this new state, as they are not amused by this breaking up of the buffer around France and the precious new balance they had installed in Europe in 1815 ...

A delegation is dispatched to London<sup>6</sup> to advocate the good cause. The so-called London Conference of December 1830 confirms, one could say grants, the Belgian independence<sup>7</sup> as a neutral state. The official protocols from 20 and 27 January 1831, the *Bases de Séparation*, state that the borders 'from before 1790'<sup>8</sup> will be restored. Also,

5 On 20 November 1815 the Quadruple Alliance was formed between Austria, Britain, Prussia and Russia; the aim was to have regular diplomatic contact, as mutual watch-dogs

6 Since 4 November 1830 the Quadruple Alliance Members were already conveying in London, for this occasion joined by France, in the form of ambassador Talleyrand

7 One could say surprisingly swift: an armed interference from the Major Powers would certainly not have been impossible, but due to several factors in the advantage of the Belgians, the secession was approved.

8 It is nowhere clearly explained why this date was chosen and not for example 1795 when the Republic of the Seven Provinces was formally ended; my guess is that from 1790 on many upheavals started both in the Republic and the Austrian Netherlands as a consequence of the French Revolution, like the formation of the *Etats belgiques unis* and the Powers didn't want any reference to those events and play safe: in 1790, when Joseph II died, there was (still) a stable territory

Luxembourg will remain a separate Grand-Duchy under the House of Nassau and part of the German Confederation.

### Borderlines

To become a 'country', in the sense of a state, recognized as such by the rest of the world, two ingredients are necessary: people<sup>9</sup> and land, a territory. And who says territory says physical borders. Now this is a bit of a problem: how do you split up a state, formed by several units? One would think by simply de-assembling the parts with which the United Kingdom of the Netherlands had been formed in the first place. This may sound relatively straightforward but in reality, it isn't, because: what does 'several units' mean, exactly? Does it mean *three* units: 'Holland' in the north and in the south 'Belgium' but without Luxembourg? Or does it mean two: 'Holland' in the north and in the south Belgium *and* Luxembourg, the former south part of the Austrian Netherlands? From the start it is clear the Major Powers share the first view, as does King William, while the Belgian rebels take the second: after all, hadn't it always been part of the Low Countries? Hadn't its civilians supported the rebellion? There are other problems still in this geopolitical imbroglio, for example Maastricht – key strategic town on the river Meuse and 'capital' of the province of Limburg – where both 'Holland' and the Prince-Bishop of Liège held powers.<sup>10</sup> So, who is to get Maastricht?

### The Duchy of Luxembourg

Since the 14<sup>th</sup> century, this territory has always been part of the Low Countries. Once a much bigger entity, the Duchy first lost territory in 1659 with the Treaty of the Pyrenees.

9 Again, we cannot go into the feelings and opinions about the upheaval of the people concerned; let's just say they were very diverse, in as far they were ever polled.

10 Recognized by the parties in a treaty of 1679.

This was the price the king of Spain (the Low Countries were his then) payed for marrying his oldest daughter to Louis XIV, at the same time ending one of these interminable wars between Spain and France.

So, why was it 'given' to King William in 1815 and not simply incorporated in the new Kingdom? For different reasons: first, as a kind of compensation for his loss of hereditary land in Germany (from the Nassau family) to Prussia. Secondly, the Prussians knew the value of the formidable fortress Luxembourg city, so Luxembourg was made part of the German Confederation (Prussian troops in the fortress could watch over the French border). In this movement, the so-called second partition, a part of the Luxembourg territory was lost to the Prussians who annexed everything east of the rivers Mosel, Sauer/Sûre and Our<sup>11</sup>, to secure what was now the border between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the German Confederation<sup>12</sup>. After all, didn't the German Confederation give up the Prince-Bishopric Liège, since time immemorial part of the Holy Roman Empire, to be added to the new kingdom? Another border that needed to be defined in 1815 was that between Luxembourg (part of the German Confederation) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. In reality, it was a kind of interior border, since King William simply added Luxembourg to his new kingdom and governed it like the rest. Of course, when in 1830 rebellion breaks loose in Belgium, this border becomes important again<sup>13</sup> (Fig. 2).

11 Among others: Cantons Eupen, Kronenburg, Malmédy, Sankt-Vith, Schleiden and part of Aubel

12 As a form of compensation, part of the Prince-Bishopric Liège and Duchy Bouillon were added to Luxembourg.

13 It runs from Pussemange (in today Vresse-sur-Semois in Belgium) in the south to Deiffelt (in today Couvy in Belgium).



Fig. 2. The map of Belgium as in 1839

### Enters ...Jean-Baptiste Nothomb

It will come as no surprise that none of the gentlemen in London who had decided on this matter was particularly bothered by any geographical notion and certainly not by any insight in the long and complex history of what was called The Low Countries. The Austrians who had last ruled the region before the French Revolution probably weren't paying attention in class when the subject was treated, the Prussians were only interested in the military potential of Luxembourg fortress, the British were mainly interested in the port of Antwerp (in French hands a military threat and in Dutch a commercial one) and the Russians couldn't care less. Only sly Talleyrand was as usual well informed. His partition plan was rejected but he managed to eventually secure Bouillon, 'the key to the Ardennes' as Vauban called it, as part of Belgium and not of Luxembourg, that member of the

German Confederation, as we shall see. So, when in June 1831 Jean-Baptiste Nothomb<sup>14</sup> is sent to London after the *Bases de Séparation* have been decided on by the Great Powers, but before they are put into what would become the *Treaty of the Eighteen Articles*, he is really the man who saves the day.

Born in 1805 in Messancy<sup>15</sup>, he has studied law at the University of Liège<sup>16</sup>. He is a supporter of the Belgian Rebellion from the start and in 1830 is elected as member of the Congrès National as representative for Arlon. From early on, Nothomb is very interested in historical

14 Together with Devaux; there were other delegations sent by the Belgian rebels before and after and even simultaneously, which didn't add to the clarity of the situation; for the sake of this clarity we focus on Nothomb here.

15 Then in the French *Département des Forêts*, formerly the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and today Belgium.

16 Ironically enough founded by William I in 1817.

cartography. How much he valued cartographical knowledge is proven by this sentence: 'How many mistakes would be avoided, if diplomats only knew geography! In the negotiations with lords Grey and Palmerston about the borders of Belgium, my strength was that I perfectly knew the historical geography of my country and they didn't'.<sup>17</sup> He has a plan to solve the geographical difficulties. In favour of Belgium, of course. Article 1 of the *Bases de Séparation* assigned to Belgium all territories that in 1790 were NOT in the possession of The United Provinces. Well, Nothomb argues, at that moment many enclaves there were owned

17 Original text: 'Wie viele Fehler würden in der Politik vermieden, wenn die Diplomaten die Geographie kennen! Bei den Verhandlungen mit Lord Grey und Lord Palmerston über die Grenzen Belgiens war meine Stärke, dass ich die historische Geographie meines Landes genau kannte und sie nicht.'; Watelet, Marcel. *Cartografie en politiek in het België van de 19de eeuw*. Brussels, 1987. p. 71



by either the Spanish king or by a German prince<sup>18</sup>. So strictly speaking these enclaves would have to become Belgian. But of course, being in 'Holland', Belgium would be happy to trade them for Dutch enclaves in Limburg (thus making the whole province Belgian). Moreover, the 'Belgians' as successors of the Prince-Bishop of Liège, could put their rights over Maastricht all in the 'bargain'. The aim is clear: obtaining both Limburg and hopefully Luxembourg ...

So there he is in London, a man with a mission. On 9 June he is received by Lord Palmerston, the new Whig Foreign Secretary. 'The noble lord, who at first had been talking about the protocols with utmost stiffness, seemed more inclined to appreciate what we were saying by the end of the conversation.'<sup>19</sup> The next day Lord Grey, Prime Minister, grants him an interview. 'At first, he seemed to regard the whole thing as a phantasm. I used an atlas. The map of the Low Countries was open while I explained the issue of Limbourg and the enclaves. He ended up admitting that the conference hadn't grasped the full extent of the principles it had proclaimed. Things have been decided, he said, just stick to them. Nothomb didn't ask any better.'<sup>20</sup> Later Nothomb will write about his stay in London he didn't notice the city, nor the weather: 'J'étais comme un amoureux'.<sup>21</sup> He is then 25.

18 Too much to enumerate here.

19 Original text: 'Le noble lord qui avait d'abord parlé des protocoles avec je ne sais quelle raideur, paraissait vers la fin de la conversation mieux apprécier ce que nous lui disions'.

20 Original text: 'Il parut d'abord traiter la chose de chimère. J'ai eu recours à un atlas. La carte des Pays-Bas était ouverte devant nous tandis que j'expliquais la question du Limbourg et des enclaves. Il finit par convenir que la conférence n'avait pas envisagé toute la portée des prémisses qu'elle avait posées dans son texte. La chose est faite, conclut-il, tenez-vous-y.' Nothomb ne demandait pas autre chose; Ruzette, Jacques, J.-B. Nothomb, Brussels, (La Renaissance du Livre, coll. 'Notre Passé'), 1946; p. 53

21 'I felt like I was in love'; Ruzette, o.c., p.

### Which maps did Nothomb, the British ministers and the Powers in London use?

A key to the answer lies in a secret protocol from 17 November 1830, issued by the Powers, explaining why they wouldn't give in to the Belgian territorial claims: they would give prevalence to those of King William I. More important for our question: two maps were added to this protocol. They were made in 1789 by the geographer Faden and attributed Zeelandic Flanders and Maastricht (in as far as the sovereignty of the States General stretched) to the United Provinces.<sup>22</sup> The maps to which is referred must be *A map of the Austrian possessions in the Netherlands or Low Countries, with the principalities of Liege and Stavelo (sic), &c. Reduced from the trigonometric survey made by order of H.R.H. the Prince Charles of Lorraine*. London, published by William Faden, Geographer to His Majesty, Jany. 1st, 1789. (see Fig. 3 - centrefold) They were inserted in his World Atlas from 1811. If the previous quotation is referring to two maps, I think we are only talking about one map here: indeed, Faden's map consists of two pages and each page 'addresses' a problem Belgium was facing: the attribution of Zeelandic Flanders on the one hand, the issue of Limburg and Luxembourg on the other. So, since the Powers were using Faden a couple of months earlier, it isn't illogical to think the Atlas Nothomb was referring to in Grey's cabinet was also Faden's World Atlas. But that is speculation. We will probably never know.

### Passing on the hot potato

So Nothomb has made quite an impression in London, one could say. On 26 June 1831 the Treaty of the Eighteen Articles is issued, intended to be the legal translation of the Bases de Séparation (protocols of 20 and 27 January 1831). Although, not quite so ...

56

22 Trévire et Nervien. Les traités de 1831 et 1839, Bruxelles et Paris, 1918, p. 40, n. 2

'The five Powers offer their good offices to keep the *status quo* (my own underlining) in the Duchy of Luxembourg for as long as the separate negotiations will take.'<sup>23</sup> So, although the Powers confirm Luxembourg will remain a separate country<sup>24</sup>, the tone in the second document is much less definite and much seems to be left open for negotiation.

### The 'statu quo'?

In 1831, the situation in the Duchy is as follows: the Belgian rebels are dominating and administrating the country but the fortress itself remains in Prussian hands. The Prussians, who are after all sitting at the conference table in London, are very confident the Duchy will remain in the German Confederation. Besides, who would be able to defy their military power? Surely not a bunch of Brussels hooligans?

As for the province of Limburg, here also the Belgian rebels are in control, except for the city of Maastricht, held by the Dutch.

### All hell breaks loose!

It is clear King William cannot accept the *Treaty of the Eighteen Articles*: he wants to keep both Luxembourg and Limburg. In August 1831 a Dutch army invades Belgium: it is the start of the Ten Days Campaign. The Belgian army lacks unity in command due to political and military discord and is soon in a state of complete confusion. The brand new Belgian king Leopold I sees no other option than to call in the help of the French. French troops arrive and on 12 August 1831 an armistice is signed.

### The reaction in London

The Major Powers are not amused: they see the French intervention as proof of the incapacity of the new state to aptly defend itself. Great-Britain

23 Original text 'Les cinq puissances emploieront leurs bons offices pour que le *statu quo* dans le Duché de Luxembourg soit maintenu pendant le cours de la négociation séparée...'

24 On the other hand, the question of the joined rights of both parties over Maastricht is confirmed in the Treaty.

fears the absorption of Belgium by France, Prussia doesn't want to see Holland weakened, so doesn't want to see Maastricht in Belgian hands and the German Confederation leaves it to the London Conference to decide about Luxembourg. All territorial hopes for Belgium are lost, which is what Nothomb learns when he is sent to London again for a very short visit. And this is what reflects in a new treaty: the Treaty of the XXIV articles<sup>25</sup>. Gone are the open endings that 'parties will negotiate...', gone are the vague terms. It is a package deal with a Judgement of Solomon: Belgium gets *part of* Luxembourg, meaning King William loses it. To compensate this, William gets the right bank of the river Meuse and Maastricht.

### The third partition of Luxembourg

How was this part of Luxembourg outlined? In fact, the idea comes from the French (remember Talleyrand, though his initial partition plan for Belgium was never accepted) who saw the whole buffer theory the other way around, of course, and who wanted a buffer against the German Confederation. Also, they wanted to secure their economic interests in the region: Liège was very much a market for French produce, so the roads connecting it to that part of France, via Arlon, were very important. And the French city of Sedan would be better 'protected' in their view by adding the Bouillon area<sup>26</sup> to Belgium instead of leaving it to Luxembourg.

So, Luxembourg is split up again, along a line that is roughly described in the Treaty and sketched on a map. To the east of the line the territory would remain Luxembourgian, to the west it would become Belgian: the province of Luxembourg<sup>27</sup>.

25 aka the Treaty of London of 1839, also called the First Treaty of London, the Convention of 1839, the Treaty of Separation, the Quintuple Treaty of 1839.

26 This is the city of Bouillon and the canton Paliseul.

27 The road Arlon (B) - Longwy (F) and Arlon - Bastogne (B) is explicitly mentioned as important guideline, as is the river Sûre and the borders of the arrondissement Diekirch (L).

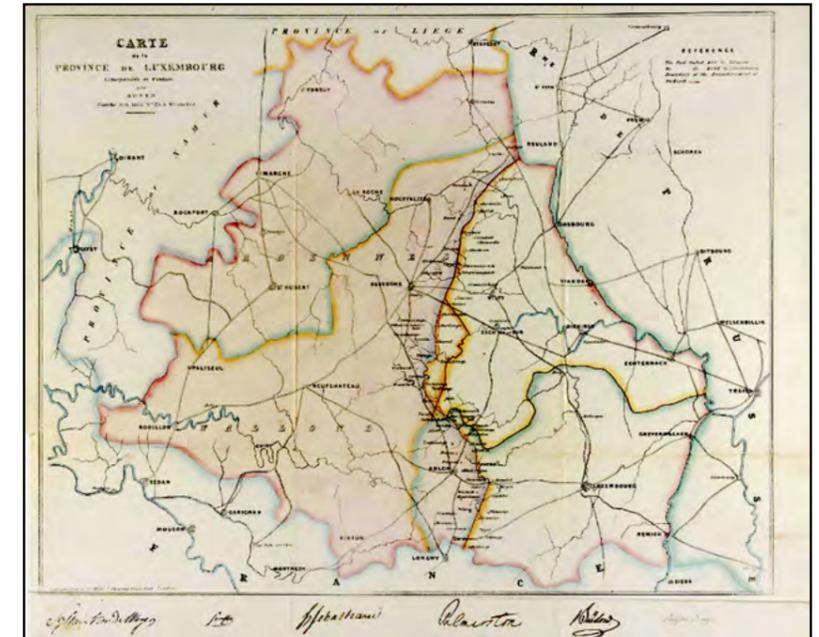


Fig. 4. Carte de la province de Luxembourg: annexe à l'article 2 des traités signés à Londres le 19 avril 1839 entre la Belgique d'une part et les Pays-Bas de l'autre part, et l'Autriche, la France, la Grande-Bretagne, la Prusse et la Russie de l'autre part/lithographiée et publiée par Konen.

Source: Musée Dräi Eechelen, Luxembourg.

### Succession of events

- September 1830: troubles and fighting with Dutch troops
- 4 October 1830: the *Gouvernement Provisoire* (formed by nine leaders of the rebellion) declares independence of the new state Belgium
- 4 November 1830: a ceasefire is proposed to the belligerent parties by London
- 17 November 1830: a secret protocol is made with two maps by Faden
- 20 & 27 January 1831: Protocol with the Bases de Séparation
- 26 June 1831: Treaty of the Eighteen Articles, confirming the Bases de Séparation
- 21 July 1831: King Leopold I is sworn in
- 2 August 1831 start of the Ten Days Campaign
- 12 August 1831: Armistice
- 4 October 1831: Treaty of the XXIV Articles
- 8 June 1839: ratification of the Treaty of the XXIV Articles

The map being used is the *Carte de la province de Luxembourg* annexed to article 2 of the treaties signed in London on 19 April 1839 between Belgium and The Low Countries, and between Austria, France, Great-Britain, Prussia and Russia/lithographed and published by Konen. (Fig. 4)

Jean-Jacques Konen, a Brussels engraver, printer and publisher made the original map on which the borderline was drawn; it was then re-lithographed with the colours showing which parts went to which party by James Wyld (Geographer to Queen Victoria), London; in all the different versions one can find in the different national archives, the signatures differ: sometimes Talleyrand's is on it, sometimes the Dutch one is missing (versions from before 1839, no doubt), sometimes the Belgian one is missing; and the copy in The Hague is a different map altogether: 'réduite sur la carte officielle' and published by Mary-Muller et Cie, Bruxelles.

Nothomb, no longer present in London, is heartbroken. When he learns the border will be drawn in Rodange, he writes to Le Hon: 'You cut me in half. Your line drawn on Rodange crosses



Fig. 5. Carte de la province de Luxembourg, Bruxelles, Etablissement géographique de Bruxelles fondé par Philippe Vandermaelen in 1830, in Atlas de la Belgique en 10 feuilles: comprenant la carte générale du royaume et chacune des provinces ou se trouvent toutes les communes, les routes, rivières et canaux, 1834.

Philippe Vandermaelen was arguably Belgium's greatest geographer and cartographer of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He is best known for his *Atlas Universel* (1825-1827), the first world atlas with all maps made on the same scale and using lithography. He also made the first topographic map of the new country, using the *carte marchande* by Ferraris.

my commune... But let's leave aside personal interests, it is necessary that the line is drawn so that it meets the Chiers between Longwy and Halanzy.<sup>28</sup> (which it will not). To which a fretful Le Hon responds: 'Why is your family going astray beyond Rodange?'<sup>29</sup>

As in all Solomonian Judgements this Treaty has the characteristic that none of the parties is really happy with it. And indeed, the Belgian *Congrès National* has great difficulty with it but finally accepts it (on strong instigation of Nothomb, among others). King William however refuses to sign and will continue refusing until 1839.

28 Original text: 'Vous me coupez en deux. Votre ligne tirée sur Rodange traverse ma commune... Mais laissons de côté les intérêts personnels, il faut que la ligne soit tracée de manière qu'elle recroise la Chiers entre Longwy et Halanzy.'

29 'Pourquoi aussi votre famille va-t-elle s'égarer par delà Rodange?'; Ruzette, o.c., p. 64

And all that time the *statu quo* we saw earlier will remain: Belgium holds Limburg and Luxembourg, except for its two 'capitals', Maastricht and Luxembourg city. And all is peace and quiet for eight long years.

### 1839

On 14 March 1838, after a lot of pressure, King William informs London he will sign the Treaty. Political Belgium is flabbergasted. There are Belgian flags and manifestations everywhere: Limburg and Luxembourg simply belong to Belgium now!

During the debate in the Chamber a delegate gets a stroke and dies. There is even a negotiation with the House of Rothschild in Paris for a loan, to buy the territory Belgium will lose. To no avail, the Powers are adamant: the Treaty will be executed. It is ratified on 8 June 1839. In accordance with art. 6 a mixed Belgian-Dutch commission is appointed to implement

the borderline. On 7 and 8 August 1843 (sic!) an agreement is signed in Maastricht and a map is attached, showing the borderline between the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and Belgium in gold, signed by the different commissaries<sup>30</sup>.

And so, thirteen years after the 1830 Belgian Rebellion, a country was finally formed, with official borderlines and with a territory that could have been very different, possibly not containing a province of Luxembourg ... (Fig. 5).

30 Watelet, Marcel. Luxembourg en cartes et plans, cartographie historique de l'espace luxembourgeois XVe-XIX siècle, Tielt, Lannoo, 1989, p. 51; unfortunately, Watelet doesn't mention the whereabouts of this map; During our excursion to Luxembourg in May (see elsewhere in this magazine) efforts will be made to see this map too.

# How I Got Into Cartography

## Interview with Michael Bischoff

Curator at the Weserrenaissance-Museum in Lemgo, Germany

— by Luis A. Robles-Macias

Michael Bischoff

bischoff@museum-schloss-brake.de



Michael Bischoff, born in 1970 and living in Berlin, is an art historian who works as curator at the Weserrenaissance-Museum at the Brake castle in Lemgo, Germany. His research and publications concern graphic arts, architecture, history of science and cartography of the early modern period in Central Europe. He curated an international conference in 2014, and an exhibition in 2015 – both at the Weserrenaissance-Museum in 2015.

### What does cartography mean to you?

Maps offer orientation. They provide me with an idea of places where I had been to, of regions which I do not yet know or which I will never get to know. Furthermore I appreciate maps since they help to illustrate an unlimited variety of complex facts linked to geographical space – this goes far beyond the weather forecast: for example, environmental data from biodiversity to pollution, or sociological information such as population density or distribution of poverty. This every-day use I surely share with most people.

Apart from this, maps have always aroused my curiosity for places on earth unknown to me. A map's beauty for me is closely linked with its expediency, which is based on a good average between abstraction and visual evidence. I am particularly fascinated

by historical maps. They give us a deep insight not only into the development of geographical knowledge but also into general world views of the past. For example, when maps reflect the European vision of foreign countries and peoples or the upcoming idea of Eurocentrism in the early modern period. Last, but not least, historical maps are more than knowledge stores. Most of them are genuine works of art. These are some of the things I find exciting about old maps.

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

As a curator at the Weserrenaissance-Museum at the Brake castle since 2005, I am responsible for the collection of prints and drawings which includes a small stock of maps and views/panoramas from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The focus of our museum's presentation lies on the art and cultural history of Central Europe in the early modern period. In the past our cultural-historical exhibitions included maps in order to visualize time and geographical space of the subject presented. These exhibitions provided the opportunity to enlarge our inventory of maps and views.

Besides, it was up to me to curate three exhibitions on cartography, since one of my research aims focuses on the history of science: two cabinet exhibitions in 2003 and 2014,

and in 2015 the international exhibition – in cooperation with the map department of the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – 'Weltvermesser – Das Goldene Zeitalter der Kartographie' [Measuring the World – The Golden Age of Cartography]. 'Weltvermesser' provided an overview of European cartography from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>1</sup>

One of its topics I found particularly interesting: the extensive scientific library of Count Simon VI of Lippe, the builder of the Renaissance castle Brake, which is preserved today in the Lippische Landesbibliothek in Detmold, one of our partner institutions. This library includes nearly all important atlases, town books, travel literature or astronomical treatises from the time around 1600. Simon VI was a collector of scientific instruments and he personally carried out astronomical observations. He was in contact with famous scientists of his time, among them the astronomer Tycho Brahe and Landgrave William IV of Hesse, the mathematician and maker of astronomical instruments Jost Bürgi, or the geographer Johann Michael Gigas. The count's books illustrate the important role which geography and astronomy played for an educated Renaissance ruler. This topic is going to keep me busy in the future, too.

1 [www.weltvermesser.de](http://www.weltvermesser.de) Reviewed at IMCoS Journal, Winter 2015, No. 143, pp. 54-57

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

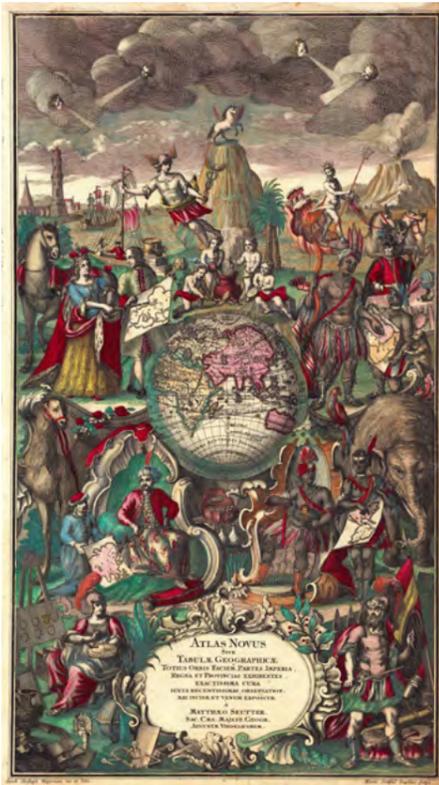
I am an art historian. Beside my main subject I have studied classical archaeology, history and mathematics. At university I had set my focus on Renaissance art and book history. At the Weserrenaissance-Museum I am involved with Renaissance art in Central Europe, with architecture and prints. My exhibitions on cartography and a symposium on that topic were a welcome occasion for intensive studies on the history of cartography as one important aspect of the history of sciences of the early modern period. My training as an art historian is helpful for one of the focuses of my research: the figurative representations, allegories and symbols on the title pages of atlases and geographical or astronomical literature, or on the margins of maps..

*Are there careers to be made in cartography?*

I'm afraid that I'm not the right contact for that question since I am not a map historian in the classical sense. Geography, astronomy and map history are a part-time, but important, sideline of my professional activities, which meets my personal preferences in geography and maps. I have gained the impression that career opportunities for historians of cartography are rather scarce in Germany, since such positions in libraries, museums, map collections or universities are limited.

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

In a way my career from university – via doctoral thesis and two years of museum trainee ship – into a museum does indeed look straightforward. But my professional interaction with the history of cartography is rather incidental..



Atlas Novus from Mattheo Seutter 1735

*Where do you see yourself going from here?*

I would be glad if my future professional work would continue to offer the occasion to deal with the history of cartography. Besides some publication projects on this subject, at the moment I am preparing an exhibition on traveling in the early modern period, which will be presented in Lemgo next year.

Of course I would love in the future to be at a spot where my day-to-day work includes the contact with historical maps: I would like to take up the challenge of being a curator in this field, working with an exciting collection and being able to present my treasures in breathtaking exhibitions to an enthusiastic public

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



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

On the one hand, the face-to-face encounter with rare and exciting cartographical treasures, which open a window to the past for me. On the other hand, I appreciate the several inspiring meetings, new acquaintances and friends as well as the professional network which my involvement with the history of cartography brought me.

## Annual General Meeting 2018



The Map Circle's Annual General Meeting took place on Saturday 24 March at 10.00 in the Boardroom of the Royal Library of Belgium in Brussels. Twenty-one active members participated in the meeting, including our two former presidents, Wulf

Bodenstein and Eric Leenders, and nine other current members of the Executive Committee (EC), except our secretary, Karen De Coene, who could not make it to this AGM. There was no change to the list of active members (28 in total).

In her welcome address President Caroline De Candt stressed that this meeting was the first step in a year of celebrations of the twentieth anniversary of the Circle.



### Presentation of the 2017 Activity Report.

As usual, Jean-Louis Renteux had made a slide-show to support our memory and to illustrate the report!

The Executive Committee held four meetings, with the usual items on the agenda: the excursion, the conference, the AGM/MAPAF and of course always keeping an eye on the finances. This year two special topics stood out: the celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Circle and the moving of our venue for the EC meetings to Henri Godts' new address. So, after so many years, our last EC meeting was held on Avenue Louise.... See MiH 60: Arenberg Auctions is born!

#### AGM AND MAPAF (22 APRIL 2017)

The AGM tackled the usual items on the agenda, focusing on the activities of the Circle and the finances. (report: see MiH 59).

Jean-Christophe Staelens and Henri Godts put a lot of effort into the preparation of this Map Afternoon (MAPAF) and, in particular, in elaborating a better structured cooperation with the KBR, which henceforth will regularly host our MAPAF. The KBR has very well responded to our proposal of closer cooperation, so we may now hope to see some special items from their collection at every MAPAF. The highlight of the 2017 version was the presentation by Jacques Mille of a newly discovered portolan chart: see the article in MiH 59.

#### EXCURSION (6 MAY 2017) AND EXHIBITIONS.

The Circle was given a guided tour of the fascinating exhibition *No business without battle, the world of the VOC, the Dutch East India Company*. This was in the Dutch National Archives in The Hague, where we were very well

received by the curator Ron Guleij. Organiser of the day, Marie-Anne Dage, together with our Dutch member Hans Kok arranged a lunch for us in an Indonesian restaurant: a traditional rijsttafel. See also the review in MiH 59.

Members of the Circle were also invited to visit an exhibition of beautiful city maps, from the collection of our guide Stanislas De Peuter, in the Sint-Niklaas Mercator Museum. And there was another very fine exhibition in Ghent, in the Sint-Pietersabdij, where our member Jan De Graeve served as guide: Under time's spell – In de ban van de tijd.

#### PARIS MAP FAIR (4 NOVEMBER 2017)

We shouldn't forget to mention the presence of our Circle since many years now at this Fair. A nice account

is published in MiH 60, showing Wulf Bodenstein, Alex Smit and Paul De Candt, our 'ambassadors' who made it to Paris.

### CONFERENCE (9 DECEMBER 2017): EARLY MAPS OF INDONESIA

A Europalia year, so a set theme again, this time Indonesia. Speakers came from The Netherlands, not surprisingly, Portugal and Great-Britain/Indonesia. See MiH 60 for the account and the article in this issue.

### Presentation and approval of the accounts for 2017

Treasurer Eddy Masschalck presented the financial report that had been approved by the statutory auditors. Without any subsidiary support the Map Circle again produced a positive result. However, this year the Map

### 'MAPS IN HISTORY'

The preparation and publication of our magazine again absorbed a large proportion of our resources. Jean-Louis Renteux continued to manage the process, while Paul De Candt took care of the lay-out and printing arrangements. Quality control was ensured by the Editorial Committee comprising Wulf Bodenstein, Nicola Boothby, Wouter Bracke, Lisette Danckaert, Francis Herbert and Pierre Parmentier. The three issues published over the year reached a total size of 128 pages!

### WEB SITE AND WHATSMAP?

Another continuing effort to maintain contact with all our members, even if they cannot attend our events, was made by Pierre Parmentier who persistently updates and improves our web site. For more than a year now, thanks to the good offices of our member Chris Van Hauwaert, our monthly electronic newsletter WhatsMap? informs and reminds our members of interesting events and exhibitions, the detail of which they can find on [www.bimcc.org](http://www.bimcc.org).

was distributed in 16 countries. The cost for printing and sending MiH is slightly less than in the past, since we updated the non-paying distribution list ('publicity list').

catering (half price for the renting, due to the good offices of Jan De Graeve and Pierre Dumolin).

resignation as an EC member should become effective as from next AGM. Anyway, she remains on the Editorial Committee and continues as an Active Member.

### Presentation and approval of the draft budget 2018

Included in the budget for 2018 are the usual items: printing cost (MiH), free events for members, EC etc. The main item for the 2018 budget is the

celebration of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, at this MAPAF and, in December, at the Plantin-Moretus museum with an estimated € 5.000 for the renting and

### Discharge of EC members was approved.

### (Re)election of EC members for 3 years.

All EC members remain in office, except for Lisette Danckaert. She presented her resignation after 20 years as an EC-member because she believes it's time for younger people to step in. The AGM proposed to put

her resignation on hold so that she would be able to participate in all 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary events of the Circle as a full EC-member. She was grateful to the AGM for this proposal and accepted it. She suggested that her

### Change of seat of the Circle

As this is a change to the statutes, 2/3 of the Active Members need to be present/represented and 2/3 of them need to approve.

This was no problem: from now on the new address is Wolstraat 19 Rue aux Laines, 1000 Brussels.

Jean-Louis Renteux  
Vice-President, acting Secretary

Caroline De Candt  
President

# MAPAF 2018

## Report of the Special Anniversary Edition

Saturday 24 March 2018

### Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels

#### Anniversary celebration

At 12.00 on 24 March, the Brussels Map Circle offered a reception in the 'Skyroom' on the top floor of the Royal Library to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Members of the Circle and of the KBR 'Maps and Plans' department shared a glass of 'bubbles' and a gourmet sandwich lunch.

In his speech, Wulf Bodenstein recalled how he had created the 'Brussels International Map Collectors'



Lisette Danckaert receiving flowers for her 20 years of EC membership.

#### Treasures from the Royal Library Brussels

After the celebrations, all moved to the 'Salle Antoine De Smet' where Dr Colin Dupont, Head of the 'Maps and Plans' department, assisted by Imke Hansen, librarian, and by Morgane Degryse, apprentice, had prepared a selection of cartographic treasures from the Library.

To start with, Colin Dupont showed two globes: a celestial globe by P. Maes

Circle' in 1998, mentioning the founding members (including Jean-Louis Renteux) who signed up for the creation of this association under Belgian law.

He also evoked the very first 'Map Afternoon' which took place almost exactly 20 years before (on 30 March 1998) in a local school, the 'Collège Saint-Michel', naming those present, then and now: Lisette Danckaert, Henri Godts, Francis Herbert, Hans Kok and Jean-Louis Renteux.

Wulf also mentioned a few of the BIMCC achievements during the ten years of his presidency. He was particularly happy to have organised the first BIMCC Conference in the framework of the Europalia festival in 2007, when its theme was Europe; it coincided with the official opening of an exhibition of maps of Europe in the Royal Library and it was the first time that our Conference was hosted there.

(c. 1850), recently acquired, and a terrestrial one by A.N. Lebègue (c. 1890), the latter of a very small size (diameter 10 cm) and kept in its original decorated wooden box. This to draw attention to Brussels as a centre for the production of (didactical) globes and other geographical objects in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, rich in explorations worldwide.



Caroline De Candt announcing Wulf Bodenstein, the founding father of the Map Circle.

Caroline De Candt followed on with the evocation of key events in the life of our Circle (which became known as 'Brussels Map Circle') under the presidency of her predecessor, Eric Leenders, and her own. She particularly remembered our 'diplomatic' visit to the Map Museum in Bucharest, the excursion to Valenciennes and, of course, the four days' excursion cum symposium in Rome... She concluded by announcing more anniversary celebrations in the prestigious framework of the Plantin-Moretus Museum in Antwerp on 1 December 2018.



Colin Dupont showing several globes



Margueritte Silvestre talking about the Vandermaelen offices



Luis Robles commenting a Portolan map of Bartolomeo Lasso (c. 1588)

In a second presentation, Colin showed three unique loose-sheet original townplans (among others Arlon), drawn by Jacob van Deventer (c. 1505-1575), geographer to Charles V and Philip II. As stated by Colin, their outline and topographical information does suggest that this collection of plans was aimed at constituting a geo-political inventory of the towns and their wider surroundings in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century Netherlands, rather than an instrument for military or strategic use.

Back to 19<sup>th</sup> century Brussels with Marguerite Silvestre, ex-KBR staff and specialist of Philippe Vandermaelen (1795-1865). By means of contemporary maps, she gave the exact location of his 'Etablissement géographique' in Molenbeek (near the Canal and the 'Chaussée de Gand') and evoked the daily scene of his multiple activities by showing lithographic prints with representations of the site and its buildings.

With Luis Robles we explored the seas on a 16<sup>th</sup> century portolan drawn on vellum by Portuguese Bartolomeo Lasso (c. 1588): 'Portulan des mers de l'Europe...'; one of the highlights of the collection of the Royal Library. As a rather late specimen of this type of map, its geographical image and overall presentation is a mix of characteristics of the older and traditional portolans with some elements of a more modern continental map. An amusing detail: the imaginary island of 'Frieslandia' to the north of Greenland.

Another unique highlight of the collection was shown by Imke Hansen: one of the original copperplates (in pristine condition!) from which the maps of the 'Carte Marchande' by Count de Ferraris (1777) were printed, together with an original 18<sup>th</sup> century offprint and a 20<sup>th</sup> century zincography.



Original copperplate made for the *Carte Marchande* by Ferraris -1777.

As a specialist on maps of Africa, the Circle's Founding Father Wulf Bodenstein recently had the privilege of taking a first look at a collection of maps of the Dark Continent which,

having remained hermetically closed for 40 years in the Library of Foreign Affairs (since its key was lost), had been transferred to the KBR. On the special occasion of our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, our former President shed some light on two continental maps of this collection: one by Nicolas Picart after Jodocus Hondius (Paris, 1644) with decorated margins showing native people and townviews, and a very large one by Louis Desnos after Hubert Jaillot (1782).

After the treasures of the KBR, a few members showed items they had brought for the MAPAF as usual.

Francis Herbert (formerly of the Royal Geographical Society, London) showed us his unique copy of the 1837 edition of Goujon's '*Carte physique et politique de l'Europe*', a delicately engraved map published several times during the 1830s by A.H. Brué but based on J. Goujon's original dated 1821; he emphasised the list of European



Wulf Bodenstein commenting the Louis Denos map of Africa. (1782).



Hans Kok (left) comments on a map of Yokohama



Admiring and discussing Globes...

co-sellers (agents) engraved along the bottom margin: i.e. the map trade aspect.

As usual, Hans Kok (President of IMCoS) brought us some curious samples from his large collection: 1° an aviation map Biarritz-Madrid-Sevilla-Tanger for visual navigation (1934) also used by cyclo-enthusiasts; 2° an historical map by Altingh (1718) with the outline of the Roman 'Fossa Drusiana' cutting through the watershed between Rhine and Oude IJssel to access the IJssel river for

military transport to Hamburg in Antiquity; 3° a very large panoramic view of Yokohama (woodcut, coloured, c. 1870) showing ships of all nations in the bay; 4° a map of Scandinavia with sea-monsters after Olaus Magnus (woodcut, Basel edition, 1567) and 5° one of 40 rare large double page maps from 'Licht der Zeevaardt' by Willem Jansz. Blaeu (1608), this sheet from the 1620 reprint by Janssonius.

Lastly, Alex Smit found, at a museum shop on one of his trips through Italy, a recently published atlas for children,

in full colour and in a rather naïve but vivid style, figuring among other things Belgium with 'Manneke Pis', the 'Atomium', chocolate and frites...

This brought us back to Brussels where it all started 20 years ago.

Thanks to all for their contributions to this special anniversary edition and thanks to the Royal Library, to Colin Dupont and his staff to have made it happen.



A general view of the participants at the map room "Salle Antoine De Smet".



Henri Godts

henri@arenbergauctions.com

# The Brussels Map Circle Programme for 2018

## Saturday 26 May and Sunday 27 May 2018: Annual Excursion

### '1839 : when Luxembourg was last cut to pieces'

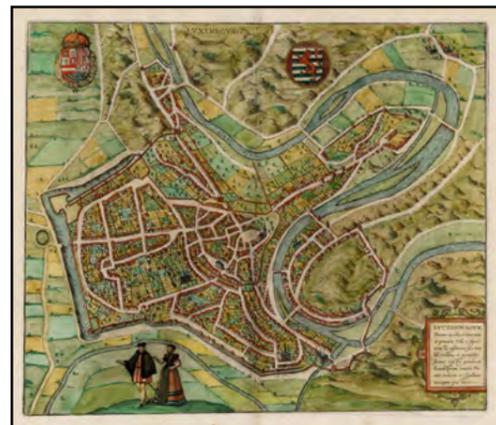
#### Arlon and Luxembourg – City, Belgium and Luxembourg

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 City
  - 20.00: Dinner
- Sunday 27 May
  - 10.00 – 12.00: Musée Dräi Eechelen in Luxembourg
  - 12.00 – 14.30: From Luxembourg to Arlon including lunch
  - 14.30 – 16.30: Musée Gaspar in Arlon : visit "Arlon chef-lieu de province, un destin entre les deux Luxembourg"
  - 16.30: the end



City of Luxembourg - Braun & Hogenberg- 1580

Under the academic guidance of:

David Colling, curator of the Musée Gaspar in Arlon

- Jean-Claude Muller, linguist, *Premier Conseiller de Gouvernement* at the Ministère d'État, president of the *Association de Généalogie et d'Héraldique*, president of the *Institut archéologique du Luxembourg*, former head of the *Bibliothèque nationale de Luxembourg*;
- Philippe Nilles, Conservateur at 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*;
- Michel Trigalet, historian, head of department at the State Archives of Belgium in Arlon.

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 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

Saturday 1 december 2018 at 18.00



The Plantin Moretus Building on the Vrijdagmarkt 22 in the City of Antwerp



The Plantin Moretus Printing room

The Circle decided to make this whole year a celebration year, starting with a festive AGM and MAPAF in the Royal Library in Brussels (you can read the report in this magazine) and concluding in a suitable place, related to our field of interest: the Plantin-Moretus Museum in Antwerp. ([www.museumplantinmoretus.be](http://www.museumplantinmoretus.be))

This museum is UNESCO World Heritage, as it still is housed in the original residence and workshop of the publishing dynasty. It contains – among many other things – the oldest printing presses in the world and a

library with the works of the Officina Plantiniana, that dates back to 1555. Bibles, scientific works and dictionaries were published here, as well as many maps and atlases, Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* arguable being the most famous one.

In this grand decor we offer our members and their partners, who are cordially invited, a private evening on Saturday 1 December 2018.

Indeed, from 18.00 on we will have the museum all to ourselves. There will be guided tours to the buildings and the

collections of manuscripts, paintings and prints, showing masterpieces of the museum.

Of course, appropriate catering will be organised on the spot. We plan to make this a festive and interesting night to remember!

All practical details, with the exact schedule and how to register, will be published on our website, in the September issue of MiH and of course also in WhatsMap?

Don't forget to note 1 December 2018 in your diary !



The Plantin Moretus Library



Caroline De Candt  
[carolinedecandt@gmail.com](mailto:carolinedecandt@gmail.com)

## UNESCO Memory of the World Register - Great Siege of Malta Maps by Giovanni Francesco Camocio

In addition to the World Heritage list of cultural and natural sites, UNESCO maintains the 'Memory of the World International Register', established with the aim of preserving and digitizing humanity's documentary heritage.

Maps of the Great Siege of Malta by Giovanni Francesco Camocio (fl. second half 16<sup>th</sup> century) have recently been recognised as exceptional documentary heritage and inscribed on this register. This followed the discovery in 2013 of State 2 of this map at the Charles University Map Collection in Prague, which provided the opportunity to link it with States 1, 3 and 4 found in the Cartographic Collection at the National Museum of Fine Arts, Valletta, Malta. This significant merge thus permanently sealed this four-state series of maps, which collectively fill one of the many lacunae in the visual chronicle of the well-known

Great Siege of Malta of 1565. Should one of the states be lost or damaged, the integrity of this series would be irreparably compromised.

It cannot be emphasized enough that Great Siege maps are precious primary sources that act as the visual equivalent to written accounts of this battle, which determined the course of the history of the Mediterranean and Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In view of this, the virtual amalgamation of States 1, 3 and 4 with State 2 is effective in bringing together two overseas institutions sharing the common goal of educating and empowering the public.



Four maps forming a unique narrative of the Great Siege of 1565 have been given world recognition by UNESCO, making it into the Memory of the World Register.

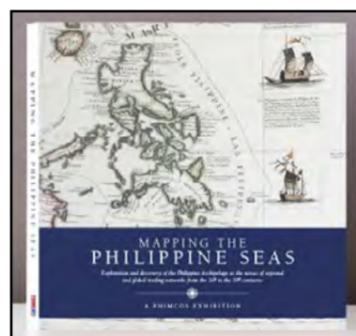
A ceremony took place on 5 April 2018 at the Nostic Palace, Prague, by invitation from the Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic, PhDr. Ilja Šmíd, for the ceremonial handover of the certificates of Memory of the World International Register. Joseph Schiro and Bernadine Scicluna represented the Malta Map Society at this ceremony.

## PHIMCOS, the Philippine Map Collectors' Society – Update.

A few years ago we introduced this association to our readers (MiH50, September 2014, p. 29). Since then, PHIMCOS has accomplished a lot, in particular a number of exhibitions were organised. The most recent one was held in 2017 to commemorate their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary: *Mapping the Philippine Seas*; it showcased 166 maps and charts of the Philippine archipelago and its surrounding seas from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, highlighting the historical importance of the location of the Philippines along

the maritime trade routes through east and southeast Asia; the European exploration of those trade routes; the search for faster and safer sea passages to and within the archipelago; and the use of new, improved charts for the safety of seafarers.

One may get an idea of this exhibition by viewing a nice video, *'Philippines maps through time'* on their website: [www.phimcos.org](http://www.phimcos.org), which can provide an interesting complement to the history of maps of the Spice Islands (ref. our Conference on Indonesia last



December) or serve as an introduction to the first part of this year's IMCoS Symposium which they organise in Manila (15 – 17 October) – see details on [www.imcos-2018-manila.com](http://www.imcos-2018-manila.com).

## 1525 Ptolemy's Geography re-united at Princeton University

Claudius Ptolemy wrote his Geography in the second century A.D., and following its rediscovery in Constantinople in about 1300, it became one of the most popular geographical texts of the European Renaissance, copied in many manuscripts and printed in many editions. Extant copies of these early editions are prized, and costly, items for collectors.

In 2015, our member Jan De Graeve, who is reconstituting the scientific library of Gerard Mercator with original 16<sup>th</sup> century books, was looking for the 1522 Ptolomaeus edition which was part of Mercator's collection.

This was not available anywhere and Jan, instead, bought the text part of a 1525 Ptolomaeus, without maps, which he found at an auction in Italy.

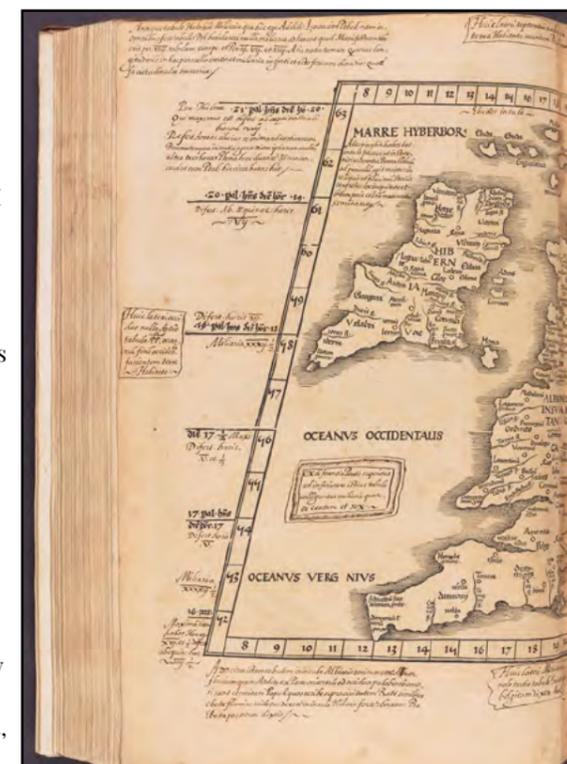
When friends visited his library/museum, which he calls home, he told them about this new find. Among them, Luis Robles who had recently moved from California to Brussels, noticed it was heavily annotated. A bell rang in his head: he remembered that Chet van Duzer<sup>1</sup> had told him about his research on the large number of annotations on one of the maps of a 1525 Ptolemy edition held at Princeton University Library.

<sup>1</sup> Chet Van Duzer is now a Research Fellow at Stanford University, David Rumsey Map Center. Our readers will remember that he contributed to MiH 46 (May 2013). He also published an article about the 1525 Ptolemy: Chet Van Duzer, "Distant Sons of Adam: A Newly Discovered Early Voice on the Origin of the Peoples of the New World," *Viator* 47.3 (2016), pp. 365-385

With Jan's permission, Luis took pictures of a couple of pages from the book and sent them to Chet by email; Chet replied quickly with an 'I owe you a beer!'

Not only was Jan's book another issue of the same edition of Ptolemy's Geography. It also was annotated in the same hand! Very likely, the two book fragments – the one at Princeton and the one owned by Jan – were two halves of one and the same book. Chet contacted Jan, who invited him over to study his book; this took place, with Princeton's support, in late September 2015.

In 2016 Princeton University library had the project to digitize the 1525 Ptolomaeus to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their purchase (in 1917). They inquired if Jan would be willing to collaborate so as to digitize both parts of the original volume. This was a great project and could be beneficial for all. Jan agreed and proposed to swap his book for a 1522 Ptolomaeus edition, but Princeton did not have that copy available. So they offered to buy Jan's book. He accepted so as to be able to complete his collection with other 16<sup>th</sup> century scientific books which were part of Mercator's library.



"Claudii Ptolemaei Geographicae ..." map page of the Princeton University Atlas of 1525 (part UK and Ireland)

One can clearly see the annotations made on this map. Annotations by the same handwriting on the text – part of Jan De Graeves' book proved the two atlas-parts to be from the same atlas.

Jan's half book arrived at Princeton in November 2016. The reunited book has been digitized and is now available online for all to consult (<https://catalog.princeton.edu/catalog/3943643>).

In the mean time, in 2017, Chet has published his research on 'Schemes of Annotation in Copies of Ptolemy's Geography at the Lilly Library, Library of Congress, and Princeton' ([https://www.academia.edu/34062931/Schemes\\_of\\_Annotation\\_in\\_Copies\\_of\\_Ptolemy\\_s\\_Geography\\_at\\_the\\_Lilly\\_Library\\_Library\\_of\\_Congress\\_and\\_Princeton](https://www.academia.edu/34062931/Schemes_of_Annotation_in_Copies_of_Ptolemy_s_Geography_at_the_Lilly_Library_Library_of_Congress_and_Princeton)).

## Auction calendar 2018

### Arenberg Auctions

(A merging of The Romantic Agony and Henri Godts).

19, Wolstraat / Rue aux Laines  
B-1000 Brussels  
Tel +32 (0)2 647 85 48  
Fax +32 (0)2 640 73 32  
arenbergauctions.com

25-26 May 2018

### Bubb Kuyper

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

29 May-1 June 2018  
27-30 November 2018

### Loeb-Larocque

31, rue de Tolbiac,  
F-75013 Paris  
Tel. +33 (0)6 11 80 33 75 or  
Tel./Fax +33 (0)1 44 24 85 80  
www.loeb-larocque.com  
info@loeb-larocque.com

November 2018 (to be confirmed)

### Venator & Hanstein

Cäcilienstrasse 48,  
D-50667 Köln  
Tel. +49 221 257 54 19  
Fax +49 221 257 55 26  
www.venator-hanstein.de  
info@venator-hanstein.de  
21-22 September 2018

### Paulus Swaen Internet Auctions

www.swaen.com  
paulus@swaen.com

19-26 June

11-18 September

9-16 October

13-20 November

### Peter Kiefer Buch- und Kunstauktionen

Steubenstrasse 36  
D-75172 Pforzheim  
Tel. +49 7231 92 320  
Fax +49 7231 92 32 16  
www.kiefer.de, info@kiefer.de  
4-5 May 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 association under Belgian law (asbl/vzw) 0464 423 627.

Its aims are to:

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

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

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

The Brussels Map Circle also publishes *Maps in History* (formerly known as *BIMCC Newsletter*), three times a year and 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](mailto:webmaster@bimcc.org)

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### 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](mailto:treasurer@bimcc.org)) indicating your name and address.

### MAPS IN HISTORY

The Brussels Map Circle currently publishes three issues per year. It is distributed, not only to members of the Circle, but also to key institutions (universities, libraries) and to personalities active in the field of the history of cartography, located in 16 different countries. Please submit articles and contributions to the editor (e-mail: [editor@bimcc.org](mailto:editor@bimcc.org)) by the following deadlines:

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

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



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