

# MAPS IN HISTORY



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69

**The first detailed maps of French Hainaut (early 18<sup>th</sup> century)**

**Cartographic Loyalty of an Explorer: Sven Hedin and  
Justus Perthes' Geographische Anstalt, 1894-1941(45)**

**38<sup>th</sup> IMCoS International Symposium - Jointly with Map Circle and KBR**





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### Cover: "Pythagorean Tetrad "

The 38th IMCoS International Symposium will highlight the early Belgian contributions to the development of cartography worldwide.



The image stems from an early 9<sup>th</sup> century manuscript held at the Royal Library of Belgium (see p. 32).

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## Intro

Dear Map Friends,

The last few months have been a period of transition for the Circle. Our president Caroline De Candt stepped down as planned, and has been succeeded by Wouter Bracke. The editor of Maps in History, Jean-Louis Renteux, moved on to other responsibilities, and Chris Van Hauwaert stepped down from the monthly digital newsletter *WhatsMap?* after more than three years at its helm.

In normal times, we would have met to warmly thank them all for their achievements and for the long hours they have devoted to the Circle. There would have been speeches, we would have drunk a toast or two, or three (!) and perhaps even shed a tear. Their successors would have been encouraged by friendly words and accolades. As it is, only the pages of this magazine will serve as a modest channel to express our gratitude, and our hope to be able soon to fête Caroline, Jean-Louis and Chris as they deserve.

But distanced does not mean idle. We are happy to announce that, behind the scenes, work is now ramping up under Jean-Louis and Wouter's leadership on a new project: the Circle has offered to co-organise the next Symposium of the International Map Collectors' Society (IMCoS) along with the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR). If no natural or manmade event prevents it, we will welcome you next October in Brussels for a true festival of map history.

This issue of Maps in History, like the IMCoS Symposium, is placed under the sign of the Tetrad (see cover) and brings you two main articles, one authored by Imre Demhardt and one by Christiane De Craecker-Dussart. Imre reviews explorer Sven Hedin's key role in the mapping of Inner Asia, while Christiane introduces us to a little-known collection of maps kept at a Belgian cathedral. You will also find an interview – via videoconference, of course – and our usual section of Looks at Books.

Wishing you all a much better 2021, and looking forward to seeing you at the latest in October!

Luis A. Robles Macías  
editor@bimcc.org





# Metropolis in the Making:

## A Planning History of Amsterdam in the Dutch Golden Age

by Jaap Evert Abrahamse

- Brepols. Vol. 6 of Architectural Crossroads: Studies in the History of Amsterdam, 2020
- 535 pages, colour and black and white illustrations, hard cover, 22 × 28 cm
- ISBN 978-2-5035-8030-2 – EUR 125.00

*Metropolis in the Making* is an updated version of the author's PhD thesis. It is a most interesting look at what was happening inside the administration of the city during a period which on the outside was framed by massive growth in Amsterdam-based trade post the fall of Antwerp in 1585, the need for a far larger city in a peat polder landscape, and priority for efficient fortifications against attack during a turbulent century.

J.E. Abrahamse takes us behind the scenes to observe the processes by which decisions were taken, changed, or often not taken at all, where in many cases the wrong people were chosen for the job, where finding the money to fund expansion was always on the top of the agenda, and where, in order to save money, Maurice van Nassau, Prince of Orange, was taken on as a freebee consultant. In short, Abrahamse has used his research to provide a very human account of the development of a major European city.

The book is divided into two parts: after a useful introduction setting the scene, the first part *The Development of the Urban Structure* details the third and fourth expansions which took up the whole of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The second part *The Functioning of Amsterdam* describes how the city actually worked and the main concerns for the authorities. At the end of the book we find a bibliography — most references are in Dutch, a few in English — a list



of illustration credits, an index of buildings and topographical names, and an index of names of people found in the book.

A brief word on the illustrations. Abrahamse has chosen a wide variety: portraits of prominent people, maps, plans, paintings and prints from archives, libraries and galleries worldwide. Together these give the reader a good feel for the era. In addition, he provides us with some modern photographs of places mentioned in the text and some explanatory charts. The Amsterdam city plans on the front (Fig. 1) and

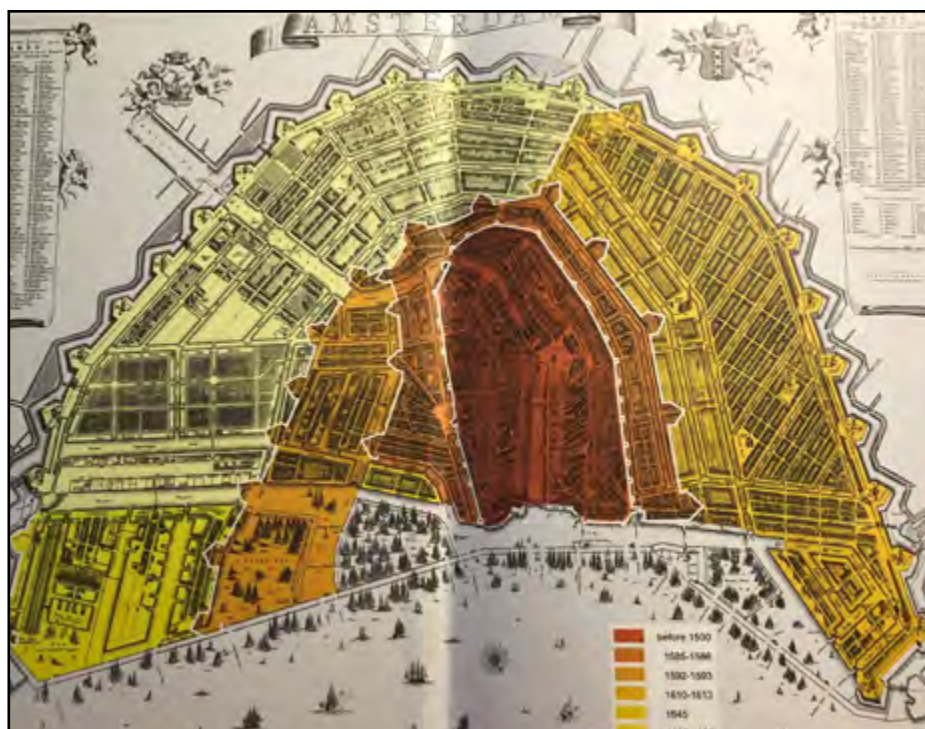


Fig. 1. Amsterdam by Gerred de Broen – overlaid with the periods of the extension projects



Fig. 2. View of the Westerkerk church from the Keizersgracht, where new trees were planted shortly before (Jan van de Heyden 1665)

back inside covers are excellent and essential for following the development of the text.

When it came to urban development, the city's executive committee — made up of four burgomasters plus the two treasurers responsible for the flow of funds — were the key people involved. We hear that they were chosen from an 'old boys' network' of current and former dignitaries of the city. Expansion was driven by the increase in the population: from 30 000 in 1585 to 105 000 in 1622, mainly due to migration into the city. For military and fiscal reasons, building outside the city walls had been banned since the Middle Ages, although enforcement had not been very effective. As regards the third expansion, in addition to the need for expansion within the fortifications, there was a clear need for an increase in port facilities and related industries, and for key institutional buildings; for example, merchants had been urging the authorities to create a meeting place for them: the Stock Exchange. This project was a good example of all the concerns involved in urban planning. The location had to be accessible for its users and affordable for the authorities paying for it. This in turn meant having to expropriate as few extant

building owners as possible, plus the plan chosen should not inconvenience other projects that were already in train. Politics was also a key concern; the authorities needed to extend the boundaries of Amsterdam's territorial jurisdiction in order to physically expand the city. New fortifications had to be built before the city could expand inside them; so military engineers were needed as well as civil architects. To this mix was added the building season, usually closed from November to May. But the author constantly drives home the underlying theme of the need to 'balance the books'; auctions of plots for housing and industry involved ingenious ways of bringing in as much money as feasible, fast. New owners of plots along the canals had to pay for the construction of quay walls, for example, an expense therefore spared the authorities. The author brings us down-to-earth with evidence of a project being 'a rush job', and comparisons being made with other towns; should Amsterdam not boast a grand boulevard in the style of the Lange Voorhout in The Hague? No, it shouldn't, was the conclusion.

When it came to the fourth extension, from 1650 onwards, the author tells us that the planners had learnt from their mistakes during the third. The

ultimate trigger for further expansion was a surprise attack by the Frisian Stadtholder on Amsterdam in July 1650 which proved to the authorities that the city's fortifications were far too weak. Improvements to the city's defence system and the new extension were now the subject of earnest discussion. The city's administration was now run by professionals and the plans were drawn up to the correct level of detail. Abrahamse tells us that 'New policies in the field of expropriation resulted in the possibility of actually realizing the extension as planned, in the elimination of private interests meddling in public affairs, and eventually in much higher revenues.' The finale of the fourth extension was the Plantage (Plantation) project, a green space inside the city walls where avenues and double rows of trees divided up the space. Land for gardens was leased to the highest bidder. The end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century saw the end of expansion for the next two centuries.

Part 2, *The Functioning of Amsterdam*, is a reprise of part 1 in terms of the time period, but takes a different angle. The author starts by taking us through the various industries and institutions needed by the city, from sawmills for construction work



and pits where ink for the printing industry was made to the location of the 'pesthouse' outside the city walls. As a city founded on trade, 'traffic' was a key concern. Waterways, bridges and streets had to be wide enough for their users, and major buildings, the Stock Exchange for example, accessible. As mentioned, the fourth extension learnt lessons from the third, and the needs of the city itself, as opposed to those of individuals, were deemed the priority. Methods of financing evolved to become more efficient. As seen above, initially the quay walls were the responsibility of each plot owner; this was to save the authorities money. However over time it became clear that it would be greatly in the interests of the city for the authorities to take over, thus achieving unified quay walls. Plot owners were asked to pay a tax to cover the cost of the work. Amsterdam was also a very green city (Fig. 2); trees were planted all along the canals and in public squares. A severe disadvantage was the fact that until the late 17<sup>th</sup> century the city was a dangerous place at night; there was almost no lighting. People drowned in the canals on a daily basis. This situation was turned around by the inventor Jan van der Heijden. By 1681 there were 2 600 lanterns lighting up the streets, with a 'small army of 100 lamplighters able to light all of them in fifteen minutes'.

The biggest problem in Amsterdam remained water pollution; the city stank. The problem could not be solved, despite the many initiatives on the table. In fact, it was not until the 19<sup>th</sup> century that a technical solution was found. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, for those who could afford it, the solution was to buy a country house or a private garden.

In comparison with other major cities such as London and Paris in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Amsterdam was 'well-ordered and meticulously planned'. From 1585 to 1663 its surface grew fivefold, its population eightfold. Defence was

a key concern; if the city were not safe, it could not trade effectively, and trading was its lifeblood. In all the resolutions concerning urban development, infrastructure and land development recorded in the archives, "three considerations are mentioned separately or in combination: a certain project was executed 'for the service of the city, for beauty, or for profit'."

Abrahamse has produced a most interesting tome based on archival documents, and has rounded out much of the existing literature on the subject. It is a beautifully organised and illustrated book, a most worthwhile read.

I would like to thank the authors for bringing their knowledge into our living rooms and libraries.

Nicola Boothby  
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# Les premières cartes détaillées du Hainaut français (début XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle)

[The first detailed maps of French Hainaut (early 18<sup>th</sup> century)]

by Jean-Louis Renteux

- Lille, Archives départementales du Nord, 2020. Offprint of the Bulletin de la Commission historique du Nord, tome 59, 2019 (Le patrimoine du département du Nord), pp. 163-213.
- 51 pages, 20 illustrations, 16 × 24 cm
- EUR 25.00 for the complete 360 page volume



Fig. 1. Carte des Comtez de Hainaut, de Namur et de Cambrésis by Guillaume De l'Isle, 1706, 1:240 000, 47 × 66 cm  
<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b8592527s.r=carte%20Hainaut%20%20DeLisle>

For years, Jean-Louis Renteux has been in search of the first detailed manuscript maps of French Hainaut and neighbouring regions during and after the conquests of Louis XIV. Those that he discovered are mostly in the Military Archives at the Château de Vincennes, in the Bibliothèque nationale de

France (BnF) and in the Archives départementales du Nord. We already know the Carte très particulière du Haynaut composed by Naudin in 1709 and updated until 1728<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> *Maps in History*, No 67, May 2020, p. 19-22 and *Cartes & Géomatique*, Bulletin du Comité Français de Cartographie, n° 238, décembre 2018, pp. 115-128.

The author first draws up a welcome inventory of the cartography of Hainaut and surrounding regions during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. He focuses on Jacob van Deventer and Jacques de Surhon, authors of regional maps on relatively small scales (ca 1:200 000). He recalls how





Fig. 2. Valenciennes by Naudin, 1709, 1:28 800  
Valenciennes by Havez, 1725, 1:28 800

mapmaking developed in Antwerp (Ortelius) and Duisburg (Mercator), followed by Amsterdam (Hondius, Janssonius, Blaeu).

Finally came the awakening of French cartography, with the creation by Colbert of the Académie des Sciences and the Observatoire de Paris, in 1666 and 1667 respectively. The map could now become 'scientific', based on geodesy. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, this concept took shape in France with the *Carte de Cassini*, which required many decades of surveys to complete.

In Northern France and the Southern Netherlands, different maps were drawn up according to the same principles, in

particular by a student of Jean-Dominique Cassini, Guillaume De l'Isle (1675-1726). In 1706, he drew up a *Carte des Comtez de Hainaut, de Namur et de Cambrésis* on a scale of 1:240 000 (Fig. 1).

However, the military got nothing out of these maps, which were not sufficiently detailed because the scale was too small. They gave only a general idea of the territories depicted. In order to address these concerns, the Dépôt de la Guerre was created by Louvois in 1688 and, in 1691, the Département des Fortifications was placed under the direction of Vauban. From then on, France had many geographical engineers and other

specialists in maps and plans. There appeared manuscript maps of a different kind. They were not drawn up according to geodetic data, given the time required for measurements and surveys. On the other hand, given their large scale (often 1:28 800), they are very detailed. Different types of landscapes can be distinguished, and villages are no longer represented by a mere symbol, such as a church tower, but by actual streets, houses and farms.

Among these geographical engineers, the Naudins (Jean-Baptiste, his brother Jacques, his son-in-law Jacques Denis and Jean-Jacques, son of Jacques) drew up numerous maps at large scales (often 1:28 800) between ca 1700 – ca 1750, providing a wealth of useful information for the military. However, these should be studied with caution. Since they are not based on geodetic coordinates, they may display distortions in distances and orientations. Moreover, the Naudins often neither signed nor dated them. Finally, they sometimes used the same surveys for decades, despite the changes in the field!

Another family was involved in cartography for military use from the late seventeenth-century to 1744: the Masses with Claude and his two sons, François-Félix

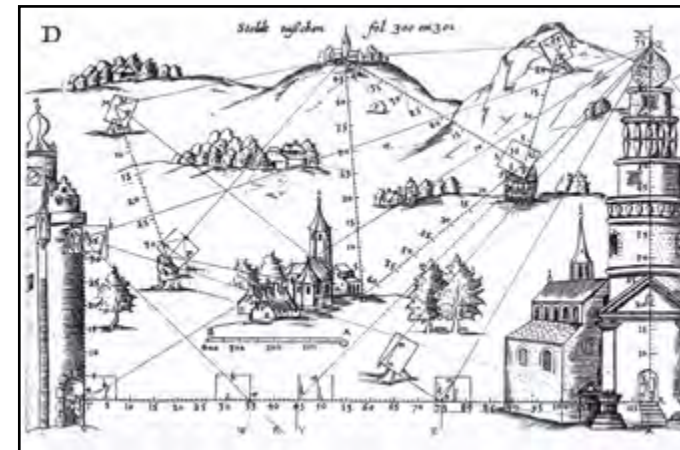


Fig. 3. Early-modern depiction of the application of the planchette (land surveyor's small board) and triangulation.

and Claude-Félix. They brought together abundant and varied information for a series of maps of Hainaut and the border regions of Northern France, at a scale of 1:28 800. These are remarkable for their homogeneity and artistic quality. An important feature is the clear distinction between actually examined territories and those whose outline is copied from earlier maps.

Finally, Charles Havez (1695-1780), a Ponts et Chaussées engineer, drew up an inventory of the road network in French Hainaut in the 1720s. In 1746 he even contributed to a road atlas, the *Atlas de Trudaine*. He compiled 130 maps at a scale of 1:8 600 with roads as well as the surrounding countryside and buildings: bridges, mills, farms, barns, hamlets, etc.

If we compare these various eighteenth-century maps to earlier maps by Surhon and De l'Isle (1:240 000) and even by Cassini (1:86 400), who sometimes neglected details, the military maps of Hainaut and surrounding regions are exceptionally rich thanks to their large scale, and despite the absence of geodetic references. Beyond the information of interest to the contemporary military authorities, they show us the nature of landscapes: valleys, woods, cultivated land, pastures, villages showing roads and houses, hamlets, chapels, castles. They

feature fountains, mills, quarries, brickfields, lime kilns, forges, locks, even Roman remains, and especially coal mines, together with the location of mine shafts, plus, on Havez's maps, the road network. The value of these for the study of the landscape and its evolution speaks for itself.

Jean-Louis Renteux shows us the richness of maps and detailed plans of the northern French regions, in terms of both number and quality. They are a positive outcome of the wars and occupations of the region under Louis XIV. They also are an exception in French cartography. Most regions would have to wait till the nineteenth-century French *Carte d'état-major*, at a scale of 1:20 000, to have such details.

The author completes his text with a series of appendices. He establishes a chronology of the events that led to the production of all these maps, spanning from 1650 to 1760, and puts them in parallel with the activity of each cartographer, whose biography is provided. He has also drawn up a comprehensive inventory of some 200 extant maps of Hainaut and neighbouring regions, indicating year, scale, dimensions, title, author, where they can be found, and — which is still quite rare — availability on the internet, where possible. He completes

this with index maps showing the cartographic coverage.

Let us also highlight the high-quality illustrations with significant details that permit comparison of a place, such as Valenciennes (Fig. 2) or Bavay, as interpreted by different cartographers. Finally, in addition to the bibliography, is a final appendix about the triangulation technique (Fig. 3). Jean-Louis Renteux wishes, through this detailed work, to draw attention to the richness of this cartographic heritage. He also invites us to complete this work with new studies, updates and digitisation of maps.

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Facsimile edition of the wall map of the Southern Low Countries by E. H. Fricx (24 maps)

## Facsimile uitgave:

# Atlas van de Nederlanden en de grenzen met Frankrijk

**Uitgebracht door Eugenius H. Fricx in 1712-1727 in 24 bladen.**

**Hier gedeeltelijk in een heruitgave door Covens en Mortier van 1744.**

**[Facsimile edition of the Atlas of the Netherlands and the frontiers with France. Published by Eugenius H. Fricx in 1712-1727 in 24 sheets. Here partly from a re-publication by Covens and Mortier in 1744.]**

- This Facsimile edition has been edited and introduced by Eric van Hove
- Opglabbeek, Nicole Knops, 2020.
- 11 pp. of introduction with colour illustrations + 27 coloured maps, 48 x 33 cm.
- Hard cover, EUR 85.00; or loose sheets with introduction, EUR 35.00. - No ISBN
- Sales: Boekhandel Malpertuis -Genk-Belgium: [info@boekhandelmalpertuis.be](mailto:info@boekhandelmalpertuis.be)

Brussels mapmaker and bookseller Eugène-Henri Fricx (1644-1730), related to the Mommaert family of printers, was, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the founding father of an important dynasty of Brussels printers.<sup>1</sup> Although he started the printing business in 1670, it is only in 1703 that he published his first maps. He is especially known for his so-called *Carte des Pays-Bas* [Map of the Low Countries] on a scale of ca 1:110 000.

Published in 24 loose sheets from 1706 to 1712 (plus one sheet of 1727), it is also found in a miscellaneous volume published by Fricx from 1712 onwards, under the title *Carte des Pays-Bas et des frontières de France, avec un recueil des plans des villes, sièges et batailles données entre les hauts alliés et la France*.

<sup>1</sup> See BIMCC Newsletter No 24, January 2006, pp. 14-18. A copy of a 1747 edition of Fricx' atlas, prepared by his nephew George Fricx in Brussels, was auctioned by *Arenberg* last December 2020 and another copy is currently for sale at Asher.

The atlas can be divided in two parts: on the one hand the 24-sheet topographical map of the Southern Low Countries and, on the other, a collection of city maps and military newsletters of sieges and battlefields related to the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1714).

The volume was enriched over time with new maps, while the old ones were continuously updated.

The Southern Low Countries map was still being printed by the Fricx family in the 1740s and was copied many times during the same century: by Pierre Mortier in Amsterdam from 1708-09 onwards; Nicolas de Fer in Paris (1708-1710); Hermann Moll in London (ca. 1730); Georges-Louis Le Rouge in Paris (1742); Covens & Mortier in Amsterdam (1720, 1745); Matthäus Seutter in Augsburg (1731/1756); and by the Crépy family in Paris (1744, 1785).

In a sense Fricx' map is the forerunner of the Ferraris map and, when in the 1770s prince Wenzel Anton von Kaunitz, state chancellor and minister of foreign affairs of the Habsburg Empire, tried to persuade Empress Maria Theresa not to accept Ferraris' proposal for a new map of the Austrian Netherlands, he did so by praising the qualities of the Fricx map.

Erik Van Hove is a well-known Belgian collector of old maps. From 2017 to 2019 he showed some of his large collection in several exhibitions organised in the public library in Bilzen, in Limburg, Belgium. One of these exhibitions was dedicated to Fricx' maps.<sup>2</sup>

In 2020, for his eightieth birthday, he decided to publish at his expense a facsimile of the 24-sheet topographical map forming the large wall map

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.erfgoedhaspengouw.be/2018/01/18/historische-kaarten-van-fricx>



of the Southern Low Countries; in other words, the first part of the aforementioned atlas. To these maps he added three more: one of the Duchy of Brabant and the city maps of Brussels and of Antwerp.

For his facsimile he has chosen the most beautiful copies in his collection: 19 are from the edition by Covens & Mortier, one is a copy by Pierre Mortier (no. 8 which is not by Covens & Mortier as indicated), the others are by E.H. Fricx (no. 3 is dated 1707, not 1709 as indicated). Every map is given a short introductory description.

In the general introduction to the facsimile, which begins with a short biography of Fricx, the author describes the history of the production of the maps. This is based on extant literature but also, more interestingly, on surviving correspondence between Fricx and Balthasar Moretus from the Plantin-Moretus Museum in Antwerp.

## The origin of Fricx' map of the Low Countries

The emergence of a high-quality map of the Low Countries from the shop of Fricx who had hitherto not published maps, has been explained by Claire Lemoine-Isabeau<sup>1</sup>.

In 1704, Brussels was occupied by the French. Among them, Robert-Alexandre D'Hermand was ingénieur géographe, attached to Maréchal de Villeroy. It has been shown that Hermand befriended Eugène Fricx who attended his marriage in 1704. The similarities which had been observed between Fricx' map and those of the 1690-94 Flanders campaign by Pennier can thus be explained: Hermand, who was also involved in the mapping of the 1690-94 campaign, must have provided French models to Fricx.

Jean-Louis Renteux

<sup>1</sup> « A l'origine de la carte des Pays-Bas d'Eugène Fricx, les levés des ingénieurs militaires de Louis XIV » in *Le siège de Mons par Louis XIV en 1691. Actes du colloque du 16 mars 1991*, Mons, ACAM, 1992.

This facsimile publication exemplifies former conservation practices: each sheet is mounted on a strip that is bound into the volume. It is a unique item, made by a collector for an audience of map lovers.

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The total fee is EUR 150 a year for an eighth of a page (63 mm x 86 mm), EUR 300 for a quarter of a page, EUR 500 for half a page or EUR 900 for a full page; the back cover costs EUR 1000.

Occasional advertisement in only one issue of 'Maps in History' (e.g. for a Map Fair) is also possible, for EUR 120 (quarter of a page), EUR 200 (half page) or EUR 400 (one page).

Interested? Contact: [editor@bimcc.org](mailto:editor@bimcc.org)

# The Val-Dieu collection in Liège cathedral's treasury

## A little-known collection of beautiful old maps (16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries)<sup>a</sup>

### INTRODUCTION

*Notre-Dame du Val-Dieu* abbey, located in Aubel, northeast of Verviers, about 16 km southwest of Aix-la-Chapelle/Aachen, was founded in 1216 by Cistercian monks from Germany, attracted by the conditions offered by Henri III, Duke of Limbourg, and Lothair II, Count of Dalhem<sup>1</sup>. It has rather an eventful history: rapid growth, followed by setbacks when it found itself in the middle of conflicts or during religious wars, fire, destruction etc. Then came reconstruction and a new period of prosperity, before its suppression by revolutionaries at the end of the eighteenth century. In 1840 it was bought by two priests who quickly sold it to a group of Cistercian monks: they, in turn, occupied it continuously until 2001. Dissolved by the Cistercian order itself, and entrusted to a non-religious community, a new era began for the abbey. It was responsible for ensuring the safety of its works of art and documents that up to then had not enjoyed even the most basic security arrangements and means of conservation. Huge efforts were made to save the abbey's treasures. They were transferred to various institutions: to the Seminary of Liège, which now hosts the library; the State Archives now have the archives, and the University of Liège has been allocated some forty manuscripts. The Treasury of Liège Cathedral has inherited a large collection of 80 000 engravings and prints, the

largest in Belgium<sup>2</sup>. Among these are more than 800 maps, views and plans, produced by many mapmakers from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. The inventory, which is still in progress, is the work of Lucienne Dewez and Marie-Paule Willems-Closset. Engineer Pierre Narinx reviewed the maps, and carefully classified and filed them between sheets of deacidified paper, in order to make them accessible for consultation and study on site.

The printed maps often come from atlases that have been dismantled for various reasons, in order to group maps from several collections to fulfil the wishes of collectors, but also to sell them individually at a higher overall profit. This dispersion sometimes makes it difficult to date them. They are engraved on copper, printed in black and white, then finally enhanced with a few colours, perhaps at the request of the purchaser. Moreover, let us recall the extraordinary multiplicity and complexity of measurement units during the Old Régime: units vary from region to region, even from city to city, using a pre-decimal system. The estimated numerical scales (i.e. the ratio between one distance unit on the ground to the same unit measurement of distance on a map) are therefore only orders

of magnitude<sup>3</sup>. These cartographic documents – some known, others less so – all merit being rescued from oblivion; all the more so because they contribute to, among other aspects, the history of mapmaking, the geography of the represented regions (essentially present-day Belgium and neighbouring countries), the history of economy, human activities, roads, land use, daily life, and to measurements of length.

### SELECTED MAPS

Due to lack of space, we here describe just two maps representing the Principality and the Bishopric of Liège, from the end of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, with short biographies of their authors<sup>4</sup>.

#### *Hugo Allard's Trésor map*

Hugo Allard (or Huych Allardt) (1625-1691) was the first of a line of engravers and printers who enjoyed a certain reputation in Amsterdam; he was a contemporary of the Blaeu, Visscher and de Wit dynasties. It is sometimes difficult to distinguish the maps authored by him from those by his descendants, in particular his son Carel (1648-1709) who re-issued his fathers maps by simply replacing his fathers name Hugo with Carel! The *Trésor* map is indeed by Hugo Allard (*Hugo Allardt Excudit*) and

<sup>3</sup> Christiane De Craecker-Dussart, *L'aventure du mètre*, in *Athena*, Namur, éd. Région wallonne, n° 214, 2005, p. 84-88.

<sup>4</sup> Valerie Scott [et al.], *Tooley's dictionary of mapmakers*, rev. ed., 4 volumes, Tring (Hertfordshire), Map Collector Publications, 1999 (vol. 1); Riverside CT, Early World Press, 2001-2004 (vols 2 – 4)

<sup>2</sup> For the history of the Val-Dieu engravings, see *Bloc-Notes* (periodical of Trésor de la Cathédrale de Liège), no 6, 2006. Jean-Louis Postula, *Le patrimoine wallon en estampes. Parcours à travers les collections de l'ancienne abbaye du Val-Dieu*, Namur, 2007, p. 9-23.

<sup>1</sup> Frédéric Marchesani, *Sur les traces des anciens «pays» de Wallonie*, Namur, 2013, p. 287-289.

<sup>a</sup> This article is taken from Christiane De Craecker-Dussart Une sélection de cartes générales de la Principauté et de l'Évêché de Liège (XVIIe-XVIIIe siècles) issues du Fonds Val-Dieu, in Trésor de Liège. Bulletin trimestriel no 60-61, juillet-décembre 2019.





Fig. 1. Hugo Allard: DIOECESIS LEODIENSIS ACCURATA TABULA (Inventory No 50132). Without place [Amsterdam], without date [before 1691]; 54 × 46 cm; ca 1:200 000; coverage: Namur, Aarschot, Maaseik, Limbourg, beginning of the Hautes Fagnes, Spa. Fonds du Val-Dieu © Trésor de Liège

would therefore be prior to 1691 and relatively rare (Fig. 1). The title is in a cartouche decorated with the armorial bearings of the diocese of Liège. Another cartouche with various personages, including the bishop, and field surveying instruments, contains the scales: *Milliar. Germa. Commu.* or *Millia[r]ia Germa[nica] Commu[nia]* (German Common Miles) and *Millia. Gallic. Commu.* (French Common Miles).

The map is oriented north.

Fortified towns, villages, churches, roads and woods are depicted, as well as a marshy area north of Tongres (Tongeren). Only the boundaries and the diocesan arms, with the episcopal mitre, are coloured.

#### Jean-Claude Dezauche map

Jean-Claude Dezauche (ca 1745–1824), was a publisher, map seller, geographer and engraver in Paris. His atlases use plates of Guillaume Delisle (1675–1726) and Philippe Buache (1700–1773)<sup>5</sup>. In 1773 Buache died and his widow inherited his plates. His nephew, Jean Nicolas Buache de la Neuville (1741–1825), then bought the plates.

<sup>5</sup> Guillaume Delisle, Member of the Academy of Sciences, geographer to the king and pupil of Jean-Dominique Cassini, appears to be an innovator. He adopts the results provided by geodesists and astronomers and gives maps with precise layout, eliminating fanciful elements. Philippe Buache, son-in-law and successor of Delisle, works like him: Monique Pelletier, *Cartographie de la France et du monde de la Renaissance au siècle des lumières*, Paris, 2001, pp. 92–97 and 104.

In 1780 Jean Nicolas Buache sold the business to Dezauche, who also acquired plates from seven other map-makers<sup>6</sup>.

At the end of the eighteenth century, a major development in cartography took place: from then on it was based on new geodetic, topographical and astronomical observations and became more scientific.

On the *Trésor* map (Fig. 2a et 2b) – mounted on canvas and folded – the cities stand out, because they are hand-coloured in red. Likewise, the boundaries are outlined in colours: red for the Principality of Liège; green

<sup>6</sup> Béatrice Pacha and Ludovic Miran, *Cartes et plans imprimés de 1564 à 1815: collections des bibliothèques municipales de la région Centre*, Paris, 1996, pp. 46–49.



Fig. 2a. Jean-Claude Dezauche: NOUVELLE CARTE DE L'EVÊCHÉ ET PRINCIPAUTÉ DE LIEGE. *Dressée d'après plusieurs Cartes particulières et Manuscrites assujetties aux observations Astronomiques de M.M. De l'Académie Rle des Sciences. Par DEZAUCHE, Successeur des Srs De Lisle et Phil. Buache premiers Géographes du Roi et de l'Académie Royale des Sciences. Paris chez l'Auteur, Rue des Noyers. Avec Privilège du Roi 1785.* At the bottom right, an inset: SUPPLÉMENT à la Principauté et Evêché de LIEGE Qui se joint sur la gauche de la Carte à la partie Inférieure. A Liège. Chez Terry, M<sup>d</sup> d'Estampes, au Mauriane en Pierreuse, Et chez les Libraires et M<sup>rs</sup>. d'Estampes (Inventory No 50226). Paris, 1785; 48 × 63 cm; ca 1:240 000; latitudes and longitudes in the frame; coverage: Philippeville, Louvain, Diest, Ruremonde, Aix-la-Chapelle, Limbourg, Bouillon; inset at lower right: Chimay, Beaumont, Thuin, Charleroi, Philippeville and Couvin – Detail. Fonds du Val-Dieu © Trésor de Liège







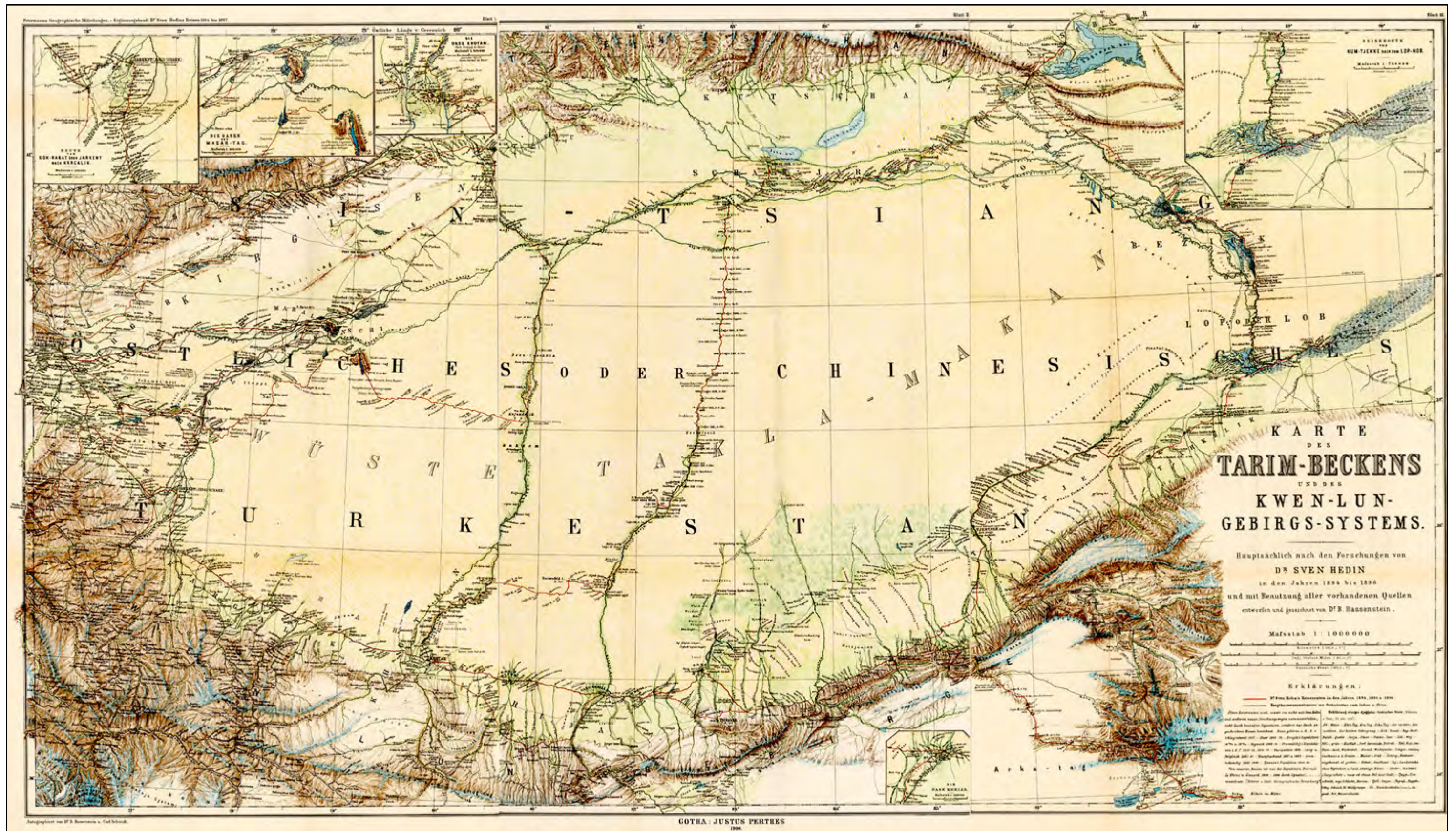


Fig. 5a. Mounted three sheets of Karte des Tarim-Beckens und des Kwen-Lun-Gebirgs-Systems. Hauptsächlich nach den Forschungen von Dr. Sven Hedin in den Jahren 1894 bis 1896 und mit Benutzung aller vorhandenen Quellen [...]. Lithography, 1:1 000 000, III sheets, all joined 71 × 129 cm. Morphographical relief with spot heights in metres, based on Hedin's observations and material of eleven earlier explorers/expeditions dating back to Adolf Schlagintweit in 1857. Source: Dr. A. Petermann's Mitteilungen [...], Supplement Vol. 131 (1900).





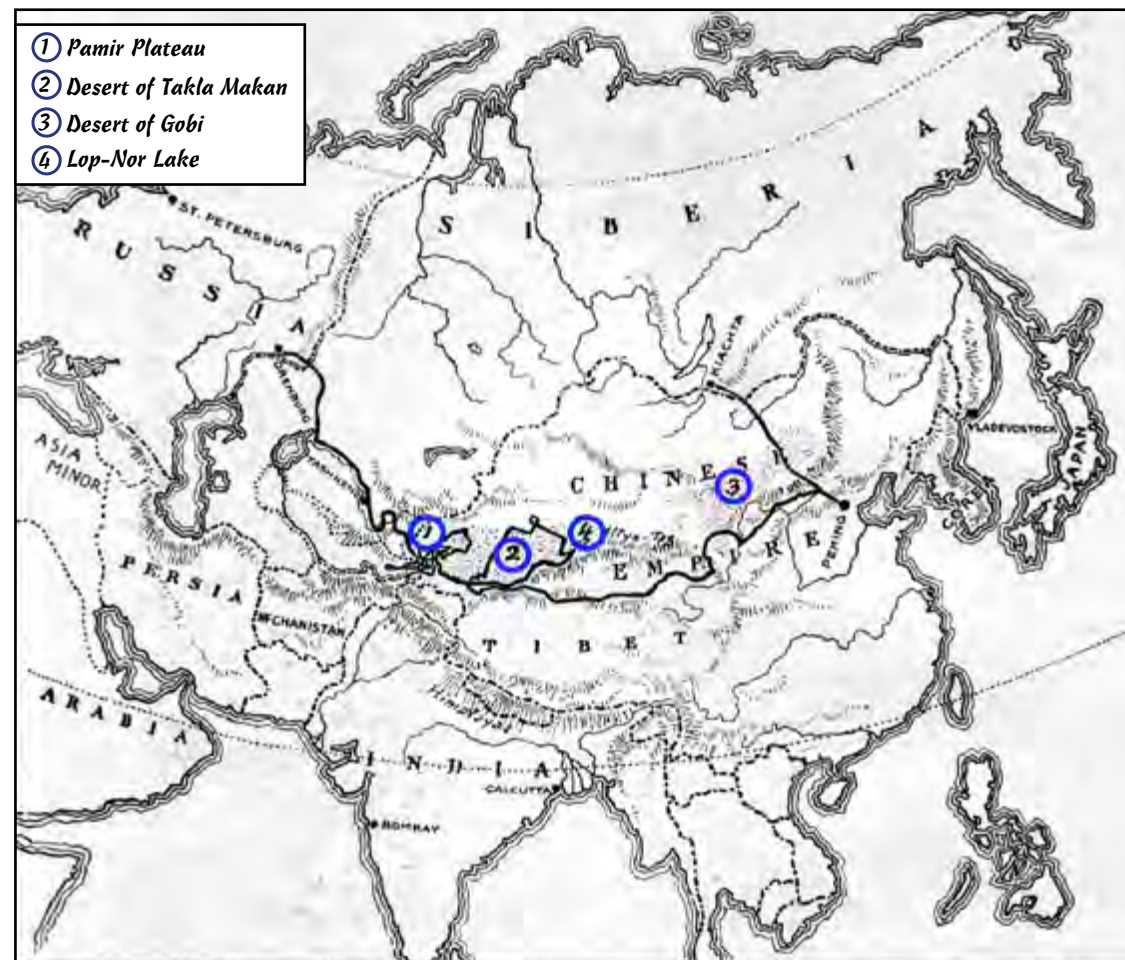


Fig. 2. Sketch Map of Asia showing the route of Sven Hedin's first expedition 1893-1897  
Source: Article In Unexplored Asia in McClure's Magazine, December 1897

His studies were interrupted in 1890 when he accompanied a Swedish embassy to Persia, where he climbed the Demavend (5 609 m), the highest volcano in Asia. From there Hedin even advanced to the westernmost Chinese border city of Kashgar, setting foot into Central Asia for the first time. In preparation of a longer expedition there, he first wrote a book about the diplomatic trip and in 1892 graduated with a thesis on the Demavend.

An adventurous man, Hedin left Stockholm in 1893 for the first of four multi-year expeditions to Central Asia (Fig. 2). Travelling via Tashkent, he reached the 'cold high steppe' or Pamir, a glacial moulded landscape, where the Great Karakul Lake, known only in outline since 1876 by Russian expeditions, became the first target of his research.

By the turn of the century, a leading chronicle of exploration was the German journal *Dr. A. Petermann's Mittheilungen aus Justus Perthes Geographischer Anstalt*<sup>2</sup> in Gotha. In the 1894 October issue Hedin published a brief geomorphological travel account<sup>3</sup> with a sketch map (Fig. 3), which he had posted in May that year from Kashgar. Favourable winter weather had allowed the traveller to

<sup>2</sup> This is already a shorter title than the founding one: *Mittheilungen aus Justus Perthes Geographischer Anstalt über wichtige neue Erforschungen auf dem Gesamtgebiete der Geographie* [...] (1855-78), hence contemporaries gave it the shorthand title 'Petermanns Mittheilungen' before the journal was renamed in 1938 *Petermanns geographische Mittheilungen* (ceased publication in its 149th year in 2004).

<sup>3</sup> Sven Hedin: *Über die Tiefe des großen Kara-kul*. In: Dr. A. Petermann's Mittheilungen [...], Vol. 40 (1894), pp. 211-212, quote on p. 212.

survey the terrain and to make seven soundings – the deepest reaching 230.5m – of an impact crater at about 3 900m altitude: the frozen Karakul Lake. Although clear down to ten meters, Hedin describes the water as '...so bitter that even the horses refused to drink...'

This skimpy first report, and the appealing artistic improvement of Hedin's drawing of the lake, began a more than fifty-year cordial relationship between him and the Gotha cartographers.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Between 1894 and 1941 the journal (with supplement) published 16 maps by Hedin or others depicting routes or regions explored by him. For complete carto-bibliographic details and concise map appraisals see Jan Smits: *Petermann's Maps. Carto-bibliography of the maps in Petermann's Geographische Mittheilungen, 1855-1945*. 't Goy-Houten (Hes & de Graaf) 2004.



Fig. 3. Sketch Map of Karakul Lake with mountains in oblique shading and depths with isobaths and colour gradients. Source: Dr. A. Petermann's Mittheilungen [...], Vol. 40 (1894), p. 211.



Fig. 4. Portrait of Bruno Hassenstein (about early 1880s). Source: Imre Josef Demhardt: *Der Erde ein Gesicht geben. [...]* Gotha (Universität Erfurt) 2006, p. 61.



In the further course of the expedition Hedin crossed the Taklamakan Desert to Lop Nur Lake, losing almost the entire caravan, and then crossed the northern Tibetan highlands, arriving in Beijing in March-1897.

His captivating narrative travelogue made Hedin instantaneously an admired discoverer<sup>5</sup>, while the scientific findings of the first expedition appeared in 1900 as a

supplementary volume of *Petermanns Mittheilungen*.<sup>6</sup>

At that time, however, Hedin had already set out for his second Central-Asian expedition (1899-1902), resulting in the last major map work from the pen of August Petermann's master apprentice Bruno Hassenstein (1839-1902, Fig. 4) only after his return.

The journal's expedition cartography, superbly documented ever since eminent cartographer and editor August Petermann in his preface to the first issue in 1855 had promised 'never an issue without a map', prompted Hedin to entrust Bruno Hassenstein with overseeing the construction and drawing of his no less than 550 loose

notebook sheets in various formats, which contained exemplary route observations. The congenial outcome of pairing an able explorer with an eye for detail, with the experienced route cartographers in Gotha, was a huge three-sheet state-of-the-art map of the Tarim Basin and its boundary mountain ranges (Fig. 5a, Fig. 5b). This was one of three master maps included in Hedin's arguably most significant individual publication with respect to cartography. Attached to concepts of the late nineteenth century, Hedin, even forty years later and working on the Central Asian Atlas, lamented – not least for aesthetical reasons – no longer having at his disposal a mapmaker like Hassenstein with such mastery in route draughtsmanship and indication of morphographical terrain structures on exploration maps.

<sup>5</sup> Swedish version: *En färd genom Asien* 1893-97, 2 vols., Stockholm (A. Bonnier) 1898, German: *Durch Asiens Wüsten. Drei Jahre auf neuen Wegen in Pamir, Lop-nor, Tibet und China*, 2 vols., Leipzig (F.A. Brockhaus) 1899, English: *Through Asia. With Nearly Three Hundred Illustrations from Sketches and Photographs by the Author*, 2 vols., New York / London (Harper & Brothers) 1899 [online: <https://archive.org/details/afg5133.0001.001.umich.edu/page/n7/mode/2up>].

<sup>6</sup> Sven Hedin: *Die geographisch-wissenschaftlichen Ergebnisse meiner Reisen in Zentralasien, 1894-1897* (= Dr. A. Petermann's Mittheilungen [...], Ergänzungsheft 131). Gotha (Justus Perthes) 1900.





Tarim Beckens map overview (see Fig. 5a) with extract location

On his last expedition to Asia in 1927–35, Hedin returned to his main research areas – the Tarim Basin and Tibet – but now mainly as an organisational leader of an already modern international joint venture of numerous specialists. The new detailed knowledge of extensive regions should be documented, as the Swede ardently desired, in the form of a large Central Asian Atlas. Since his student days, Hedin had always preserved a dazzling and unshakeable admiration for Germany as a leading scientific and political power. In World War I, this led him to actively support the cause of the Central Powers<sup>7</sup>, irreparably ruining his reputation among Allied nations and greatly hampering all his post-War expedition plans. Remaining loyal to his romanticised perception of Germany in his 1939 memoir *Fünfzig Jahre Deutschland*, containing a whole chapter on Justus Perthes' Geographische Anstalt in Gotha, Hedin expressed his conviction that the articles and accompanying maps of *Petermanns Mittheilungen* contain an immense treasure of knowledge, the entire historical development of uncovering the Earth.<sup>8</sup>

This explains why Hedin wanted to crown the extensive results of the fourth Central Asia expedition, which took decades to publish (1942: 20

<sup>7</sup> In 1916, Hedin underlined his field skills by undertaking a river survey of the Euphrates to support German expeditionary units aiding Ottoman forces to check the advance of the British invasion. The author currently researches German military cartography of Mesopotamia during World War I.

<sup>8</sup> Sven Hedin: *Fünfzig Jahre Deutschland*. Leipzig (F.A. Brockhaus) 1939, p. 91.

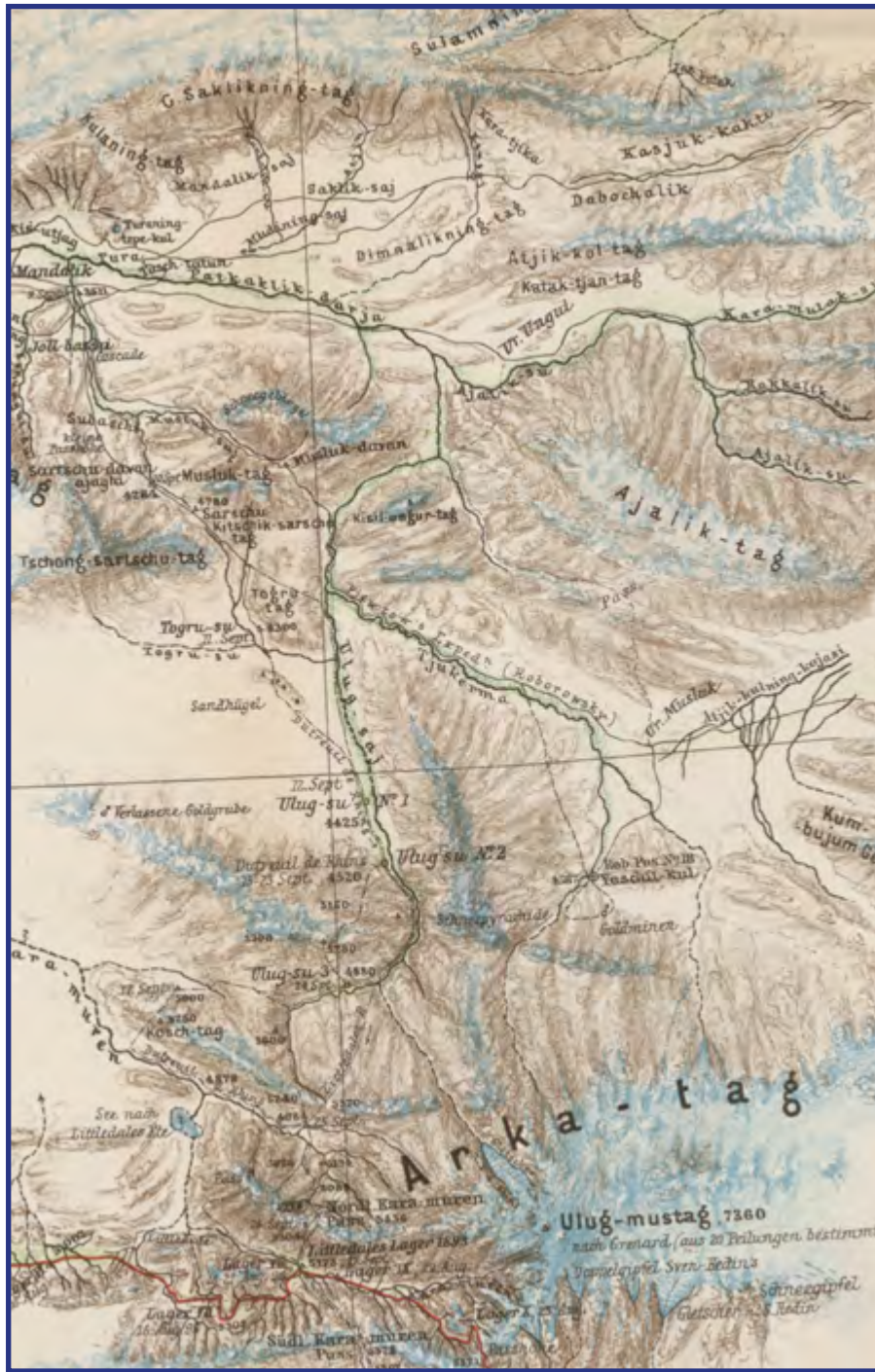
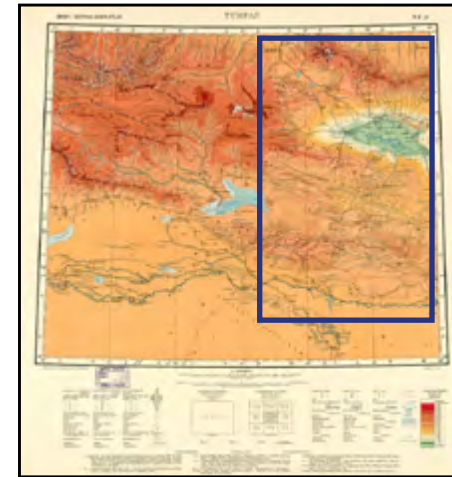


Fig. 5b. Extract of southwest quadrant of sheet III with eastern portion of the northern Tibetan Kunlun Mountains from *Karte des Tarim-Beckens und des Kwen-Lun-Gebirgs-Systems* [...]. Lithography, 1:1 000 000, sheet III, 71 × 43 cm. Source: Dr. A. Petermann's Mittheilungen [...], Supplement Vol. 131 (1900).

volumes – 1980: 52 volumes), with the lasting monument of an accompanying atlas. Quite reasonably, it was to be published only in Germany, and specifically in Gotha where Justus Perthes was deemed capable of such a comprehensive cartographic project. After some hesitation, the Nazi regime recognised the reputational advantage of such a project and, from 1939, financed the project through the German Research Foundation with

Hermann Haack heading the efforts at Justus Perthes' Geographische Anstalt.<sup>9</sup> With priority given to wartime projects, by 1945 Justus Perthes' Geographische Anstalt had completed only three of the planned

<sup>9</sup> Sarah K. Danielsson: *The Intellectual Unmasked. Sven Hedin's Political Life from Pan-Germanism to National Socialism*. PhD thesis. Ann Arbor (University of Minnesota) 2005.



54 maps of the atlas on the scale of 1:1 000 000. The first map (1940) was the sheet Turfan (Fig. 6), published in the January 1941 Issue of Petermanns geographische Mittheilungen with an article by Haack introducing the map series. This included an index map and a map showing which expeditions between 1889 and 1933 formed the basis of the map series.<sup>10</sup> Although these were close to the design of the International Map of the World at scale 1:1 000 000, Hedin, thinking of the aesthetically much more appealing Hassenstein maps, could not relate to the design. The Perthes cartographers carried on with the work on the atlas until 1943, despite army commissions which took priority, because research cartography was much closer to their heart.<sup>11</sup> After Germany's collapse in 1945, the publisher sent the notes and drafts to the now 80 year-old Hedin in Stockholm. From there it reached the US Army Map Service in 1946. While the octogenarian Hedin, because of his entanglement with the Nazi regime, had become a persona non grata for many, the US military had no moral scruples about utilising his notes and the Perthes map drafts for its Cold War cartography of 'red Asia'.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Hermann Haack: *Sven Hedins Zentralasien-Atlas*. In: Petermanns geographische Mittheilungen, Vol. 87 (1941), pp. 2–7.

<sup>11</sup> Franz Köhler: *Gothaer Wege in Geographie und Kartographie*. Gotha (VEB Hermann Haack) 1987, p. 234.

<sup>12</sup> At least some of the project notes, source materials, computations, compilation instructions, and preliminary work maps were handed over sometime after 1968 to the Library of Congress (Call Number G2202.C4 H4 1950).

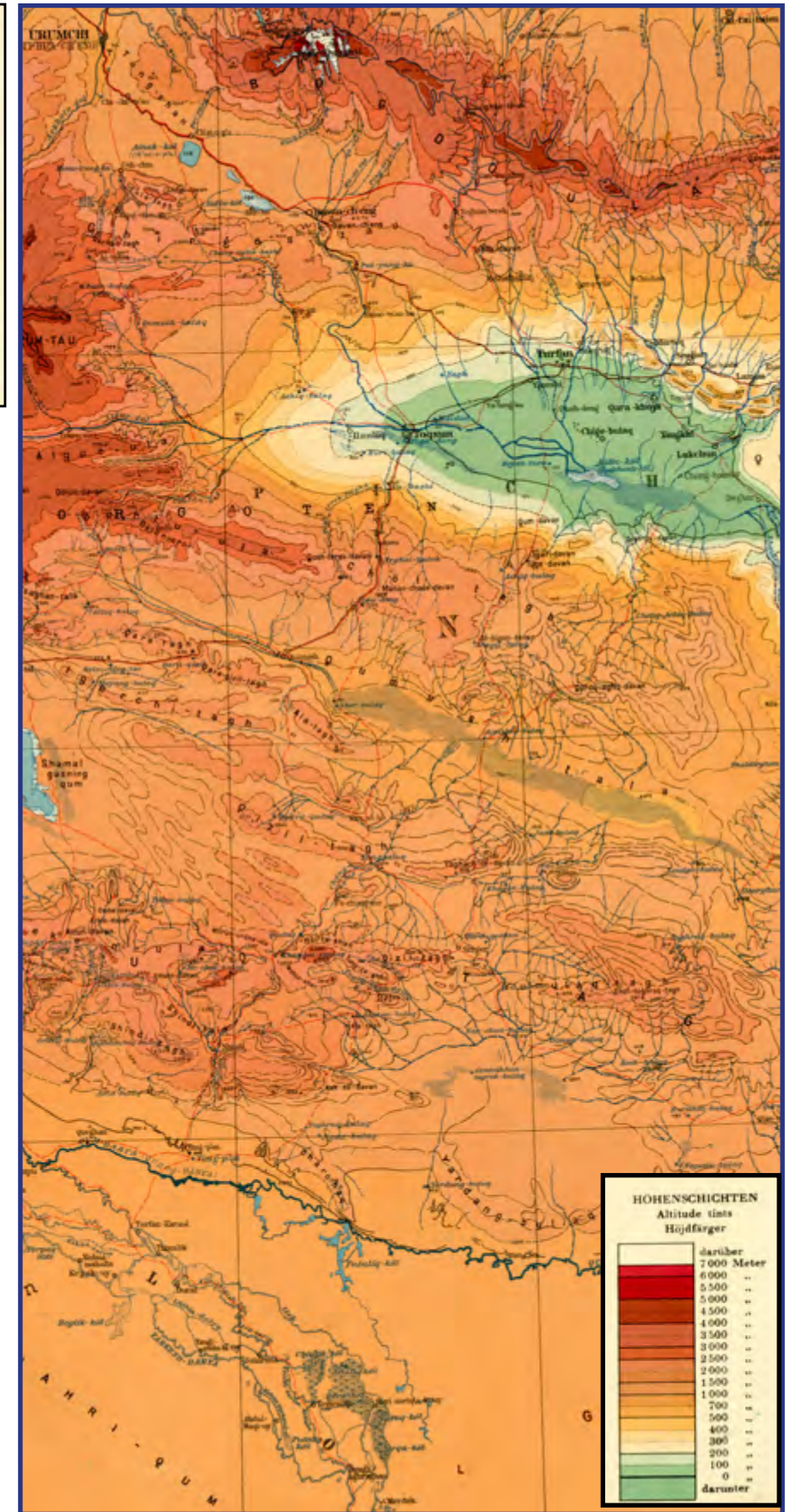
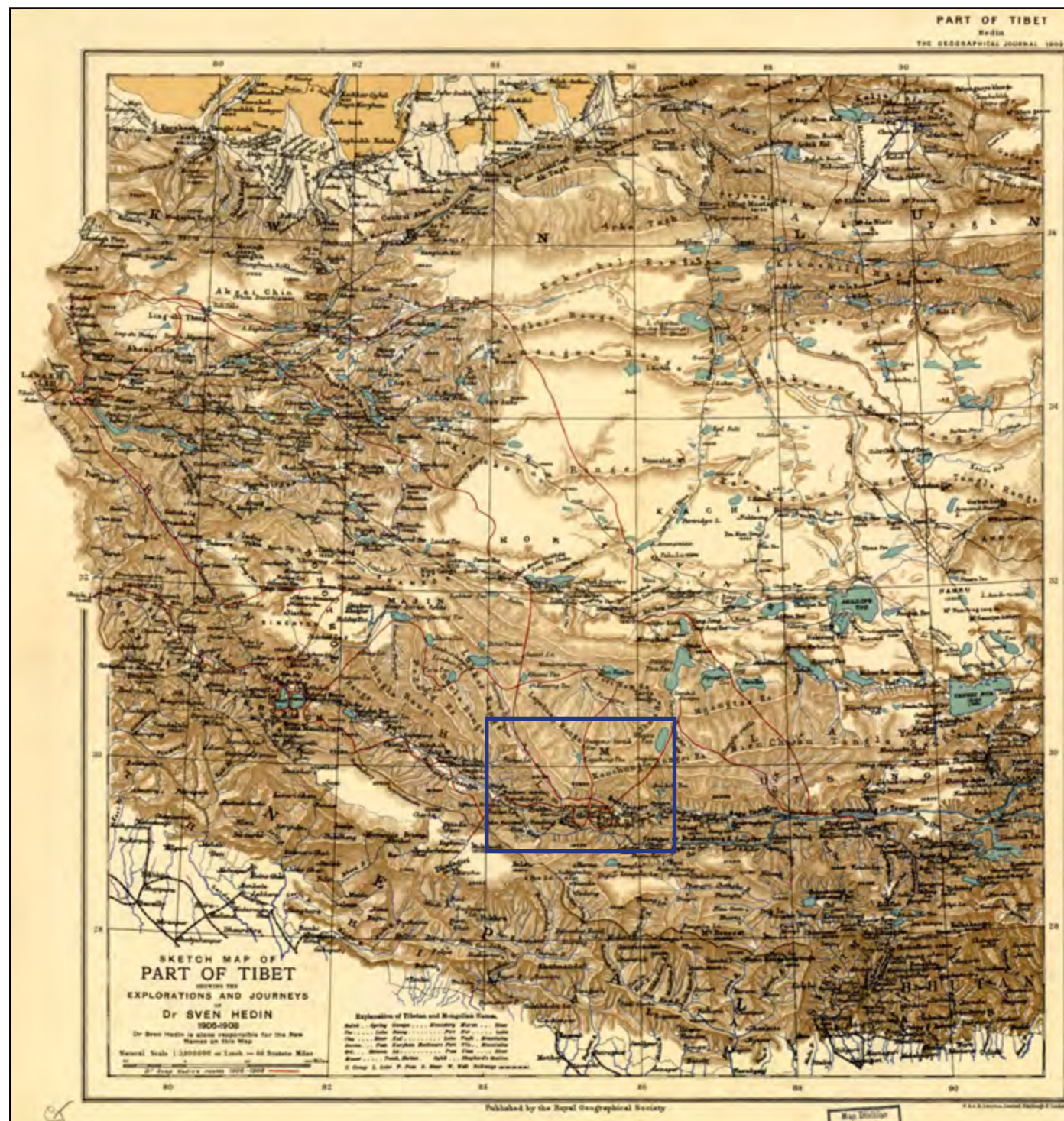


Fig. 6. Eastern half of the sheet [Sven] Hedin / *Zentralasien-Atlas. Turfan*. N.K-45. Edition 1940. Lithography, 1:1 000 000, 47 × 53 cm. Terrain in colour gradations with contour heights and spot heights in metres; legend in German, English and Swedish. Source: Petermanns geographische Mittheilungen, Vol. 87 (1941), Table 1.





Map detail with travel routes (red)

Sketch map of part of Tibet showing the explorations and journeys of Dr. Sven Hedin, 1906-1908. (in red)  
Published by the Royal Geographical Society.  
Scale 1:3,800,000.  
Source <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g7823t.ct000019/>

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# How I Got Into Cartography

## Interview with Gijs Boink

### Archivist & Member of the editorial board of Caert-Thresoor

by Luis A. Robles Macías



Gijs Boink  
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Gijs Boink (born in Waalwijk, Netherlands in 1972) has been working at the Nationaal Archief [National Archives of the Netherlands] in several positions since 1997. Currently he combines the functions of Senior Collections Manager and Reference Archivist, Maps & Drawings, working on preparing major map collections for digitisation. He is a Member of the editorial board of Caert-Thresoor; has worked on the nine volumes of the Comprehensive Atlases of the Dutch East and West India Companies; and has written several articles on the history of cartography and collection care, as well as reviews. Gijs occasionally tweets about his findings as @\_mapnut.

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

Collection administration is one of the main parts of my job. Indeed, my official job title at the Nationaal Archief (NA) is 'Senior Collections Manager'. That means I am responsible for document metadata: they need to be accurate, in the right format and useful for researchers. The Dutch government is obliged by law to transfer its archives to the NA twenty years after their creation. This represents a constant stream of material for which we produce descriptions that we upload, along with digital images, to our database. I also make sure that our database is working and user-friendly, and this involves improving the metadata as necessary. The other main part of my job is digitalisation. Covid is showing us how important this is. We aim to digitise the core of our collections.

#### What led you to this job?

I studied Medieval History at the University of Utrecht. At one point I had to do research at the city archives and, when I started to handle original documents, I was completely 'sold'. This was the place where I wanted to be.

At the time there was only one school for archivists in the Netherlands, which belonged to the National Archives in The Hague. Selection for access was tough but I got in. I studied there for fourteen months, one day per week in The Hague and the rest working in an archive.

In December 1997 a position opened at the NA, to work at the information desk. I applied and was selected. I really liked the role of intermediary between the information contained in our then 100 km of archives and the researchers' questions. After one year there was a reorganisation and I ended up in the Department of Collection Care. What I liked there was the challenge of making complex information findable. You have to take care of the practical details of logistics and numbering, and also describe the material as comprehensively and objectively as possible.

I have always tried to combine these two functions, information desk and collection care, because you're directly confronted with how your efforts work in practice; how useful your descriptions are for your researchers-clients

#### How is your archive evolving?

For our institution, an important change is coming up. In 2017, the entire Dutch administration went digital. Therefore, the influx of paper to the NA should in principle end in 2037.

Digital documents bring their own description, so there is less need to generate metadata for them. A risk however is that digital files can be lost, irreversibly. You can lose paper archives through physical misplacement or destruction but digital archives you can simply delete. We are afraid that the period between 1975 and 2000 may become the worst documented era ever, because of this.

Curiously, I have not yet received a single digital map at the NA. Of course, the Dutch administration has been using digital cartographic tools for a long time. I guess digital maps will eventually come to us, but it is not yet the case.

#### Do you work only with maps?

Not at all! Actually, maps are only part of my workload but they are the part I love best. I started to work on maps around 2004 when I realised that, out of the 300 000 maps we claimed to have at the NA, around 75 000 (or 25%)



were not directly available, meaning that we hadn't registered them.

A bit later on, a publisher contacted the NA and proposed editing a series of facsimile atlases of manuscript maps of the Dutch East India Company (VOC). I jumped on this opportunity to explore that dark looming hole I had discovered in our collection care. This work resulted in a multi-volume publication. For me, maps really 'stuck'. I liked them for the information they contained, for the practical logistical challenges they raised and, definitely, for their beauty. Maps give you so much extra, they are so pictorial with so many little details. They even can be very funny (see an example in Fig. 1).

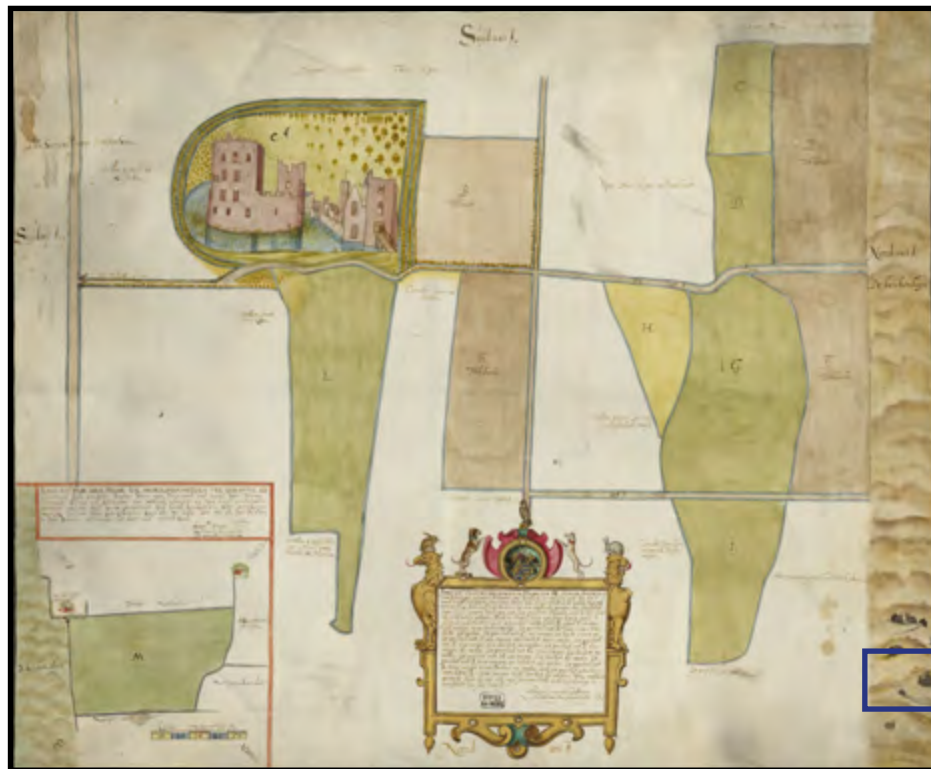


Fig. 1. Map of the house Teylingen and its lands under Warmond, by Simon Aernts, 1596, with inset by Floris Jacobs, 1603. Manuscript on paper, 87 × 72cm. NA 4.VTH 2317.

Note the rabbits below right, doing what rabbits do best.



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Eventually I managed to launch a large project where we opened all boxes and drawers to locate our missing maps. At the end of that project we concluded that 52% – not 25% as previously thought – of our maps had been incorrectly registered! Many of them still await registration.

Our management was initially stunned with this finding but, over time, it proved hard to keep focussed on this problem, as we were being confronted with all the digital challenges at the same time. The opportunity to act has come from the drive to digitise our material though. This has forced the institution to dedicate attention, and means, to registering all documents as a necessary step of the digitisation process.

#### *What would you like to do next?*

I'm doing my utmost to really specialise in maps. The NA had a maps-dedicated division from 1976 to 1994, when it was abolished. There has been nothing like a map curator position since. One or two colleagues had continued to take care of the map collections, at least trying to prevent decay, but did not really manage them. Map curatorship needs special skills and interests. Map collections need specialised care. I would like to become the map curator of the NA. However, our management needs more convincing to create that position. Few archives have one, unfortunately. In fact, in my network I know more map historians than map curators. I hope that our current work on digitisation and description will make the NA management see the interest of having a map curator.

#### *Any specific projects?*

I'm always working on the connection between written documents and maps. Historically, archival maps were often annexes to texts. However, many would later be separated from the files and the link would be lost. Fortunately, there are ways to rebuild that connection, and I like doing that.

Three years ago, we hired a student

who did a fantastic job connecting VOC maps to their original documents. Now I am doing the same with the Council of State's military archive. It contains many manuscript maps that were separated from documents at some point, some of them as old as the 17<sup>th</sup> century. We have 600 boxes of correspondence in our stock. Here I have found the documents to which 500 of our maps were connected. And I have found 1 000 maps that were formerly unknown! I still have 100 boxes left to go through, and it will then take me a couple of years to write about it.

Another project is to digitise the maps of the Ministry of Colonies. This map archive consists of around 5 000 maps spanning from 1815 to 1963, which are very important for Southeast Asians. The existence of this cartographic material is known, but they are difficult to access. If our project is approved, we will digitise all these maps and maybe even link them to the associated texts.

Yet another example. The Dutch Topographic Service transferred its map archive to the NA in two batches. In the first one, in the 1980s, the collections were given very high-level, abstract descriptions that make it difficult to locate anything of interest in them. The second batch arrived around 2014. A quick sample taught us that these ca 45 000 map sheets include not only the Service's entire production since 1930 and many maps from equivalent services in other countries, but also an important part of the Service's collection of old maps, which goes back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. We have not had time to describe any of that yet. One could lose oneself for centuries in this kind of work.

#### *Some final words for the readers of Maps in History?*

I'd say that manuscript government maps, in particular those from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, are an understudied historical source. They are much less popular than the commercially printed maps of earlier centuries, but often much more interesting. They provide a more accurate view of the evolution of the physical environment and they cover more diverse themes: military, water works, roads, disease... you name it. In a normal day at the NA, we may have 100 researchers and, with any luck, only one or two are looking at maps.

I've been a Member of the editorial board of *Caert-Thresoor* since 2008 and I do some map history research once in a while. I like documenting how certain map collections came to be formed, how certain maps were made and why. But I am happiest when I can make sure that the maps we have in our archive are made findable, and put into context. I want to make this stuff known. When you do that, you help other people.



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## A word from the new President

When more than a year ago Caroline De Candt asked me if I might be interested in taking over the Presidency from her in 2021, my initial reaction was a negative one.

Not that I didn't want to, on the contrary I was honoured by her initiative, but rather I thought (and still think) that my multiple professional occupations would prevent me of doing the job as it should be done.

For the past years I have been scientific advisor to the Brussels Map Circle and in so doing was able to have a look behind the scenes of the Circle's organisation. And although we are a fairly small circle, with a defined yearly programme, although the President can count on a trustworthy and dynamic Executive Committee, the Presidency requires great availability of its incumbent. And I wasn't sure — actually, I am still not very sure — if I could guarantee such availability.

In addition I would have loved to see Caroline continuing the Presidency. But she had made up her mind and couldn't be persuaded to stay on. Furthermore, with the health crisis forcing her to cancel the Circle's trip to Venice, which should have been the final act of her then almost ten-year Presidency, she decided to step down early, in October 2020. So, as the saying goes, what must be, must be, and I agreed to be a candidate for the Presidency of the Circle on condition that I could be, following Eric Leenders' example (MiH No 31, May 2008), a transitional President in the hope that within a reasonable lapse of time a younger, and more available, candidate will put him/herself forward. Under these conditions I was elected President in October 2020.

In the *nine years of her Presidency* (19 March 2011 – 07 October 2020), Caroline profoundly changed the organisation of the Circle.

On 24 March 2012 its original name, BIMCC – Brussels International Map Collectors' Circle, changed into the more straightforward *Brussels Map Circle* (MiH No 43, May 2012). She also put some order into the Circle's statutes. From January 2012 onwards the traditional Newsletter became Maps in History and received a colour cover (MiH 42). A new design was applied to MiH 54 (January 2016), which was published in full colour for the first time.

She arranged for *General Assemblies and Map Afternoons* (MAPAF) to be held at the Royal Library of Belgium, and the *Meetings of the Executive Committee* at the premises of Arenberg Auctions (MiH No 60, January 2018). But Caroline not only took initiatives regarding the formal aspects of our organisation, she also put her stamp on its content.

For instance, every second year she embedded the Circle's conference into the framework of *Europalia*, the prestigious international cultural festival held in Belgium every two years which each time takes a different country/region/theme as a focus.

For many years she had an excellent partner in the geography department of Ghent University, more particularly its head, Prof. De Maeyer, with whom she organised the lecture series in Ghent on *Reading old maps* (October 2011 – May 2012; MiH No 41, September 2011). At the *Mercator conference* in Sint-Niklaas, another initiative of the Geography department, several of our Members presented their personal research (25 – 28 April 2012; MiH No 43 and 44) and in 2015 the Circle sponsored the organisation of the *ICHC conference* in Antwerp (12 – 17 July 2015; MiH No 53, September 2015). In the same city, she organised a well-attended reception at the *Plantin-Moretus Museum* to celebrate the Circle's twentieth anniversary (MiH No 61, January 2019).

Another joint venture, this time with the Royal Library and the Davidsfonds publishing house, formed the framework within which the book *Vlaanderen in 100 kaarten* [Flanders in 100 maps], under the direction of Eric Leenders and myself, could be written.

And *we went to Rome...* another joint venture, this time with the Associazione Culturale Roberto Almagià (MiH No 56, September 2016).

Under her Presidency the monthly digital *WhatsMap?* was launched, bringing our Members the latest news on what is going on in the world of the history of cartography.

Her last initiative were the *occasional talks on aspects of the history of cartography* she wanted to organise, of which, unfortunately, due to the health crisis, only one could actually take place, at the Royal Library of Belgium on 6 February 2020. Perhaps I have forgotten one or two more initiatives she took, but even as it stands now, the

list of achievements is impressive and sets the bar very high for her successor(s), to say the least.

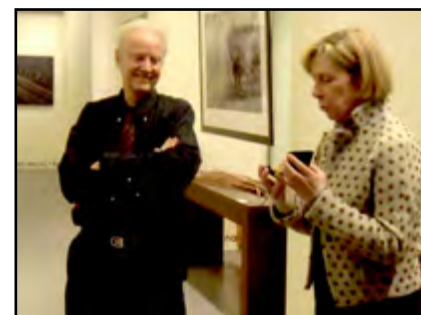
I realise this is not the easiest period to take over, nor is it the time to be very ambitious. Our Circle's aim is above all to meet, to come together, to exchange ideas, look at maps, listen to scholars, colleagues and friends talking about their research into an aspect of the history of cartography, a specific collection or a particular map. Today it has become very difficult to plan such meetings or get-togethers. We cannot arrange map evenings, conferences, or trips. Many societies, museums and other cultural organisations try to replace the physical with the virtual; podcasts and webinars are proposed online. It is obvious to all of you we cannot offer that. But it doesn't mean the Circle's activities are necessarily on hold. On the contrary, we have our website, which is updated on a regular basis, as is our *WhatsMap?*. Our magazine Maps in History will bring you the latest news of our reading, our ideas, our research and that of others. And... we are working on our future.

In October 2021 we will host the 38<sup>th</sup> IMCoS International Symposium on Belgium's contribution to cartography. Do have a look at the relevant webpage. Probably it will be the first time we can meet again physically. We are determined to make it a party!

Until then, keep safe!

Wouter Bracke  
President

Wouter Bracke  
wouter.bracke@kbr.be



19 March 2011 - Former President Eric Leenders welcomes the new President Caroline De Candt



The new President opens the 2011 Conference on 'Brazil on early maps'



2012- Mercator's 500<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations (at his statue on the Zavel/Sablon in Brussels)



2016 - Excursion to Rome and IATO-symposium



2018-Celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Map Circle Anniversary



2017- Presiding an Executive Committee meeting



# Mapping the World, the Belgian contribution

11 – 14 October 2021, Brussels, Belgium

## 38<sup>th</sup> IMCoS International Symposium

Hosted by the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR)

and the Brussels Map Circle



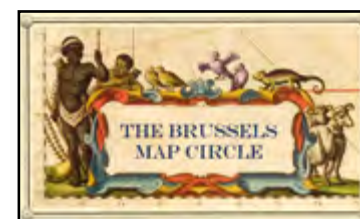
Every year, our friends at the International Map Collectors' Society (IMCoS) participate in a symposium organised for them by a local organisation. In 2020, it should have been the State Library of New South Wales in Sydney; the previous year, it was in Manila (Philippines), in 2018, in Hamburg, in 2017, Chicago, etc.

This year, COVID-19 permitting, the 38<sup>th</sup> IMCoS International Symposium will be hosted by the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR) and the Brussels Map Circle.

This symposium will highlight the early Belgian contributions to the development of cartography worldwide, such as the introduction of triangulation techniques (Frisius, van Deventer), first world atlases (Ortelius, Mercator) and the first practical navigation map (Mercator projection).

This extraordinary history will include the Golden Age of Flemish cartography as well as masterpieces of the later periods, from Michael van Langren's selenography (17th century), over Count Ferraris' Austrian mapping activities (18<sup>th</sup> century), and Vandermaelen's Map Library (19<sup>th</sup> century). The visits to Belgian collections will also reveal cartographic works from Dutch, Italian, French and English origins.

This symposium is planned as a three-day event, commencing with an opening reception on the evening of 11 October 2021 at the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR), comprising speaker presentations at the KBR and visits to collections or institutions holding remarkable map collections. An official dinner will close the Symposium on 14 October 2021. The Symposium will be open to cartographers, geographers, historians, map collectors, land surveyors, curators and everyone with an interest in maps.



## Preliminary programme

- **Monday 11 October 2021**
  - Registration and Reception
- **Tuesday 12 October 2021 – Day 1**
  - Registration (continued)
  - Opening
  - *Where are you? Introduction to Belgium* by Prof. Wouter Bracke (KBR and ULB)
  - *Darkness there and nothing more? Medieval cartography and the Liber Floridus* by Dr Karen De Coene
  - *Intersections of military architecture and cartography in the Low Countries (1540–1625), from Jacob van Deventer to Pierre Le Poivre* by Prof. Pieter Martens (VUB)
  - Lunch at your leisure
  - Guided visit to the Library of the Dukes of Burgundy exhibition at the KBR museum
  - Guided visit around the KBR Map Room
- **Wednesday 13 October 2021 – Day 2**
  - *Ortelius: the man and his world* by Curator Joost Depuydt (Museum Plantin Moretus)
  - *Gerard Mercator as a maker of Scientific Instruments: aspects of materialised knowledge* by Prof. Koenraad van Cleempoel (Universiteit Hasselt)
  - *Northern Europe in sixteenth-century nautical cartography: a comprehensive review* by Drs Luis Robles (ULB)
  - *Between Heaven and Earth. Michiel Florent van Langren and his Map of the Moon.* by Prof. Geert van Paemel (KU Leuven)
  - Lunch at your leisure
  - Visit to the scientific instruments section of the Art & History Museum
  - Visit to the Map Room of the Royal Army Museum (to be confirmed)
- **Thursday 14 October 2021 – Day 3**
  - *The Ostend East India Company 1722–1742* by Dr Jan Parmentier (Museum aan de Stroom)
  - *From a 1761 Venus transit to the Second Military Survey – the century of the Habsburg Empire in cartography* by Prof. Gábor Timár (Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary)
  - *The role of geography and cartography in Leopold II's imperialist ventures around the time of the Berlin Conference (1884–1885)* by Dr Jan Vandersmissen (UGent)
  - *The 'Mappothèque' of Philippe Vandermaelen* by Marguerite Silvestre (to be confirmed)
  - *The Mapping of the Antarctic Peninsula by European Nations around 1900 (Belgium, France, Sweden, and Russia)* by Robert Clancy
  - Lunch at your leisure
  - Visit to the Map Room of the State Archives of Belgium (to be confirmed)
  - Reception and official dinner at the *Cercle Gaulois*
- **Friday 15 till Sunday 17 October 2021 – Day 4**
  - Optional excursion(s) (e.g. Antwerp, Bruges, Ghent, In Flanders Field) organised by our travel agent.





# Tetrad

The image of the Pythagorean tetrad, used as a logo for this IMCoS symposium, stems from an early ninth-century manuscript held at the Royal Library of Belgium which contains, amongst other texts, Isidore of Seville's *De natura rerum* ('On the Nature of Things'). The figure is an illustration of Chapter XI of this book: 'On the constituents of the world'.

The Pythagorean tetrad is all about the number four.

In this representation it encompasses the four classical elements with their attributes.

The elements are at the extremities of the cross:

1. fire (ignis) is on top; it is dry (sicca) and hot (calidus);
2. on the right we have air (aer), hot (calidus) and wet (humidus, here wrongly spelled as numidus);
3. beneath is aqua (water); it is wet (humidus) and cold (frigida);
4. at the left we find earth (terra), cold (frigida) and dry (sicca).

All divine creations are made up of a combination of these four elements,

- the world (mundus),
- the annual cycle (annus) with its four seasons (aestas or summer, ver or spring, hiems or winter and autumnus or autumn),
- man and his four humours (yellow bile or cholera, blood or sanguis, phlegm or humor, and black bile or melancholia).

It thus gives a good summary of all the topics which will be discussed during the symposium: the earth element stands for land cartography; the air for celestial cartography; the water for the sea charts and the fire for maps related to warfare and fortifications plans.



Wouter Bracke  
wouter.bracke@kbr.be

# WhatsMap? Thank You Chris!



Chris Van Hauwaert  
*WhatsMap?* creator

In April 2017, the Circle set up a new way of communicating with our Members: a digital newsletter. The need for a more contemporary and above all faster way of putting out information had already been deeply felt for some time.

Indeed, our cherished *Maps in History* was and still is a paper magazine. We felt this was fine for articles, accounts of events, book reviews and similar. The 'news' section however often contained 'old news' lagging behind, given its thrice-a-year, printed nature. We felt that an electronic newsletter would help our Members to keep a finger on the pulse of the world of historical cartography.

It was then that one of our colleagues entered the scene, with the necessary skills to make this possible: Brussels Map Circle Member Chris Van Hauwaert. A former journalist – Master in Communications Sciences by training and now retired – she was and still is very active in many domains: responsible for the electronic newsletter of two associations,

enthusiastic volunteer in various museums, keen dancer of Renaissance dance and accomplished bookbinder (she's now in her fifth year of apprenticeship), to name just a few aspects of her busy life!

From April 2017 until the end of 2020, Chris crafted *WhatsMap?* which has become such a welcome guest in our mailboxes every month.

She has now decided that almost four years of dedicated commitment (just imagine the amount of work, every month!) to the Circle is enough.

We all agree that she has certainly earned our deep appreciation.

Thank you very much, dear Chris!

Caroline De Candt  
carolinedecandt@gmail.com

# Thank You Jean-Louis!

The year 2020 brought us a fair number of novelties and changes. One of them was that our dear Member Jean-Louis Renteux left the job of Editor of *Maps in History*.

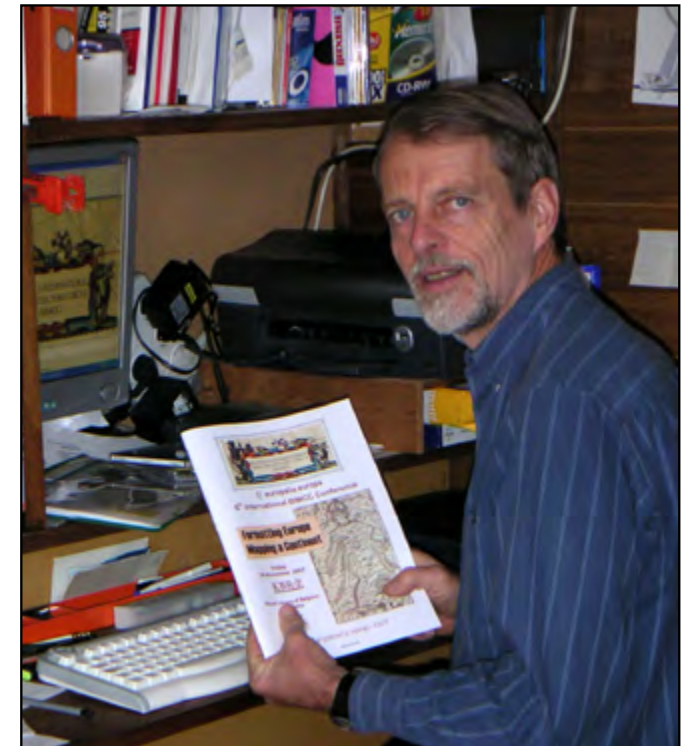
You certainly read his farewell editorial last May, in issue No 67. Fortunately for all of us, Jean-Louis remains the Circle's Vice-President and, in that role, has taken the lead in the organisation of the 38<sup>th</sup> IMCoS International Symposium in Brussels later this year.

Jean-Louis was one of the founding Members, in 1998, of a non-profit cartographic association: the Brussels International Map Collectors' Circle (BIMCC). He had been interested for a while in old maps of Hainaut, and in the mid 1990s found out that a work colleague at EUROCONTROL – the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation – shared a similar passion for the history of cartography. That colleague was Wulf Bodenstein, first President of the Circle and now one of our Honorary Presidents.

In 2004 Jean-Louis became the Editor of the BIMCC's Newsletter, the forerunner of *Maps in History*. As he explained himself in the special issue on the tenth anniversary of the Circle, 'When I retired at the end of 2003, Wulf offered me a book on cartography ...and asked if I would now play a more active role in the BIMCC. I became Editor.' Until then Wulf had edited the Newsletter himself, but the workload was too much on top of his duties as President.

Did Jean-Louis suspect that he would eventually oversee the publication of 48 issues over 16 years? What in 2004 was an artisanal black-and-white newsletter evolved under Jean-Louis's watch into 'a professionally looking colour magazine with high quality historical contributions', to quote his own words. For that he was fortunate to count, from 2015 onwards, on Paul De Candt for the magazine layout and printing. Another key collaborator was Pierre Parmentier, who gave a hand in ensuring the editorial and typographical coherence of the magazine. In return, Jean-Louis helped Pierre out with the design of the Circle's website.

Those who have followed Jean-Louis's work closely over the years have come to admire his patience and his untiring



Jean-Louis Renteux in November 2007 holding the handout of the first conference organised by the BIMCC in the framework of Europalia, which was also its first cooperation with KBR. The handout was the Circle's first-ever publication in colour.

devotion to the task. He always applied a methodical approach and paid great attention to detail; at the same time he was able to keep calm as publication deadlines approached and authors' contributions were still 'missing in action'.

In parallel to his editorial activity, Jean-Louis also cultivated and deepened his passion for Hainaut maps, and is now recognised as the major expert on the topic. After numerous publications, not only in 'his' magazine but also in the Bulletin of the Comité Français de Cartographie, Jean-Louis has summarised his main findings in a monograph.

Thank you, Jean-Louis!

Luis A. Robles Macías  
luis.a.robles.macias@gmail.com

## Making Maps in History

This issue of *Maps in History* was coordinated and edited by Luis Robles.

Paul De Candt did the lay-out on an initial basis of a design by David Raes.

Contents have been checked by the Editorial Committee comprising Wulf Bodenstein, Jean-Louis Renteux, Nicola Boothby, Wouter Bracke, Francis Herbert, Pierre Parmentier, Soetkin Vervust and Luis Robles.



**Forthcoming May 2021**

## LA CARTE D'AVIGNON

*De la Méditerranée à la Baltique 1190-1490*

[From the Mediterranean to the Baltic 1190-1490]

By Jacques MILLE Agrégé de l'Université (Géographie)

- 350 pages and 160 illustrations with an extended English abstract (15p)
- Limited edition: 400 copies, each copy numbered & signed by the author.
- Describes the author's research on nautical medieval charts and Portolans, particularly of the French Mediterranean coasts, from Italy to Spain (1<sup>st</sup> Part), and studies (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Parts) an exceptional nautical chart recently discovered in the *Archives of Vaucluse, Avignon*.
- Subscription price: EUR 40.00 (including shipping costs upon publication) - Retail price: EUR 60.00
- More info & Ordering: jacques.mille2@wanadoo.fr

The book aims to prove that this chart, referred to as '*La carte d'Avignon*', is one of the oldest known to us from that period (along with Pisan and Cortona examples), dateable to circa 1300-1310, and could be the first map of the North Sea as far as Scotland and Gotland island in the Baltic Sea.

The author demonstrates that the chart's anonymous maker was a professional and that his work was both innovative and conducted in secret, more than a quarter of a century before the nautical charts of Vesconte (1311-13), Carignano and Dulcert (1330), who were considered, until now, as the first to map these regions.



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## The Brussels Map Circle

### AIMS AND FUNCTIONS

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

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

Its aims are to:

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

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

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

The Brussels Map Circle also publishes *Maps in History* (formerly known as *BIMCC Newsletter*), three times a year and 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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Barry Lawrence Ruderman

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