

MAPS IN HISTORY



SEPTEMBER 2022
Newsletter No

74

Map Afternoon 2022

Visages de l'exploration au XIXe siècle - BnF Paris

Impressions from ICHC 2022



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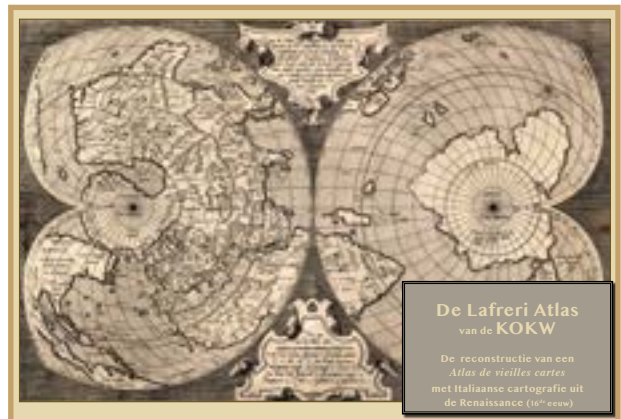
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Cover image

(see page 18)



The map shows the cover-page of a **reconstruction** of the Lafreri Atlas (IATO-Atlas ca. 1550-1600) of the KOKW in Sint Niklaas-Belgium. The original atlas was in a very bad "condition" and some maps were even damaged...

In 1994 it was decided to do a restoration of the atlas. Eversince, the maps were kept separately... Paul de Candt (Map Circle member) reassembled all maps and replaced damaged maps in a new Atlas.

Contents

Pictures at an exhibition

Visages de l'exploration au XIXe siècle – Du mythe à l'histoire [Faces of exploration in the 19th century – from myth to history] Map Circle Excursion to Paris on 02-07-2022	4
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Looks at Books

Visages de l'exploration au XIXe siècle [Faces of exploration in the 19th century] Catalogue of the Exhibition	6
Colonisation & Propagande [Colonisation and Propaganda]	9

History and Cartography

Impressions from ICHC 2022	11
Maps at TEFAF 2022	17
MAPAF 2022 - The Map Afternoon at KBR	19

The Brussels Map Circle News

AGM - Annual General Meeting 2022	27
Atlas Amicorum Peter van der Krogt	28
The 2022 IMCoS / Helen Wallis Award	29
New from Malta	30

Intro

Dear Readers,

Four months ago, I closed the introduction to Issue 73 of *Maps in History* announcing that we were about to meet again for our traditional Map Afternoon (MAPAF) in Brussels. We indeed gathered at the magnificent Royal Library of Belgium on 21 May and enjoyed an impressive series of presentations, as usual enhanced by hands-on inspection of extraordinary books and maps. The interactive nature of MAPAF makes this event difficult to summarise, but in these pages Caroline De Candt has done so in masterly fashion.

Since the MAPAF, there has been no end to opportunities for seeing each other, all of which are duly reported here. Some of us met at the International Conference on the History of Cartography in Bucharest in July; a somewhat unusual version of the usual ICHC by the way. Others crossed paths at fairs, such as TEFAF in Maastricht, while a few got together to visit an exhibition at the Bibliothèque nationale de France that awakened our interest in the role of maps in colonialist propaganda. This in turn led Wulf Bodenstein to read and review for us two recent books on the topic.

I can only celebrate the end of travel restrictions which has allowed us to get back in touch and to establish new links within the small world of those passionate about old maps. I personally very much missed the energy and the fun of in-person contacts.

Finally, I would like to issue a call for volunteers. Our webmaster, Pierre Parmentier, is stepping down in 2023 after two decades building and maintaining the Circle's website and, more recently, the *WhatsMap?* newsletter. This is a crucial job. If you wish to become a pillar of the Circle, and you have some notions of web publishing (or are ready to learn), please let us know.



Luis A. Robles Macías
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Brussels Map Circle Excursion to Paris, 2 July 2022



The Brussels Map Circle's first excursion this year took place in Paris on Saturday 2 July.

The journey by Thalys was more comfortable than the ones we were going to hear about at the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) for the exhibition *Visages de l'exploration au XIXe siècle – Du mythe à l'histoire* [*Faces of exploration in the 19th century – from myth to history*].

This exhibition, curated in partnership with the Société de Géographie and running from 10 May until 21 August 2022, was set up in the small gallery of the François Mitterrand site, located on the left bank of the Seine between the Tolbiac and Bercy bridges. The architecture of this library is impressive: four towers each with 22 floors are placed around a large esplanade like books opened at right angles.

We had arranged to meet in the entrance hall in front of the model of this library complex which was inaugurated in 1995 and was designed to demonstrate innovation and grandeur. The exhibition area is on the same level, next to the book shop.

Olivier Loiseaux, head of *Acquisitions et Collections Géographiques, Département des Cartes et Plans* [*Acquisitions and Geographical Collections, Maps and Plans Department*], welcomed us at 11.00 for a fascinating visit of the exhibition he curated.

He began by explaining that since 1942 his department at the BnF has, in its role as depository, acquired a large part of the archives of the Société de Géographie. These comprise magazines, books, maps, atlases, globes and photographs.

Established 15 December 1821 in Paris 'to enable people to travel to unknown countries', the Society has just celebrated its bicentenary. This was an opportunity for researchers to



delve into its archives with a different perspective from that of the time of Europe's colonial expansion.

In our history books, or in Jules Verne's writings, for example, the explorer was a daring and tenacious man, thanks to whom vast territories could be discovered. This exhibition made us aware that without the people behind the scenes, the invisible ones, such as porters, guides and translators, it would not have been possible to achieve the desired goals fixed and funded mainly by governments.

Covid had made the exhibition difficult to set up, as Mr Loiseaux explained to us. Loans from other public institutions were needed to demonstrate the latest knowledge brought back from these exotic trips in the fields of botany and zoology.

Nowadays it is said that ‘geography makes history’. The role of the geographer was decisive both for the preparation of the journeys and for the publication and certification of their accounts on their return.

We were able to put ourselves in the shoes of the future traveller from the outset by seeing the reconstitution of a geographer’s cabinet with a good display of the instruments, globes and maps (s)he needed. It was there that (s)he would get the information essential for planning the journey, receive travel instructions, and sometimes a promise of a reward if (s)he managed to return with the information sought. Thus René Caillié, the first European to return from Timbuktu (in today’s Mali), received 10 000 gold francs and the Gold Medal of the Society in 1830, plus other advantages.

Concerning ‘field practices’, we were able to assess the enormous risks taken by the explorers; for example we saw the unique *LAfrique nécrologique* map showing the numerous explorers who died there between 1800 and 1874.

We were also surprised to see a sketch of central Africa based only on drawings made in the sand by Sultan Bello, and a poster advertising the war in Madagascar showing a soldier planting the flag of the French Republic on the island in a reduced size, in order to encourage popular support for the colonial conquest.

Our attention was drawn to a very precise map made for the king of Siam who claimed ownership of certain territories. Also interesting were a map of the world annotated in Arabic and many other items.

The exhibition poster shows French explorer Camille Douls photographed by Nadar in 1888. He is wearing an outfit appropriate for his journeys in North Africa. He had become a member of the Société de Géographie but was assassinated during his second trip to Morocco by his guides, who discovered he was a European. All explorers of the time found it a great challenge to gain acceptance from the local population. We saw pictures of René Caillié dressed as a Muslim in prayer and Charles de Foucauld dressed in similar garb to his Jewish guide Rabbi Mardochee. It was vital to try to learn the local language, hence the draft dictionaries on display.

The curator pointed out that European rulers were not the only ones to sponsor expeditions. The viceroy of Egypt, Mehemet Ali, shown in his fine uniform, launched three expeditions to find the sources of the Nile.

Thanks to a large number of portraits, we saw that women also participated in expeditions. Octavie Coudreau and Gabrielle Vassal, who accompanied and sometimes continued their husband’s research, wrote up their logbooks with great care.

The work of collecting and transcribing information could be seen in many of the registers on display; they were as precise as books of accounts.



We were delighted to see how the ‘magic lantern’ or projection lantern for glass discs worked. It enabled photographs brought from the journeys to be shown to the Société de Géographie. One of the Society’s presidents, and a generous donor of his personal collections, was Prince Roland Bonaparte.

In addition to publishing the results of expeditions it was important to make the achievements known through illustrated lectures. These served as proof of the sometimes controversial assertions of discovery or property made in the name of particular or political interests.

It was a great pleasure to be able to visit this exhibition which is remarkable from all points of view. It gives a very good picture of the life of the great travellers in the nineteenth century and of their contribution to the progress of geographical, historical, ethnographic, botanical and zoological knowledge.

After thanking Olivier Loiseaux for taking such good care of us, and for the hours he had devoted to us, we went to see Louis XIV’s majestic globes, and then had a very convivial little lunch nearby.



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Visages de l'exploration au XIXe siècle

Du mythe à l'histoire

[Faces of exploration in the 19th century - from myth to history]

Catalogue of the exhibition at the Bibliothèque nationale de France, 10 May – 21 August 2022, edited by Hélène Blais and Olivier Loiseaux

- Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France, 2022
- 240 pages, 125 illustrations in colour, including 13 maps, soft cover, 26 × 18 cm
- ISBN 978-2-7177-2886-6, EUR 29.00

The nineteenth century saw unprecedented advances in world exploration. As the editors of this catalogue, the curators of the exhibition, explain in their introduction, the memorable circumnavigations of the later eighteenth century by Cook, Bougainville and Lapérouse, followed by Napoleon's no less memorable Egyptian expedition (1798–1801), encouraged new discoveries around the globe. Technical progress resulting from the industrial revolution, growing scientific curiosity, and the nascent awareness of potential new markets for commerce were the driving forces behind what was to lead to Europe's domination of large parts of the world.

With promising preliminaries originating in France, it is perhaps not surprising that the world's first Geographical Society, the Société de Géographie, was founded in Paris in 1821. The Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) celebrated its bicentenary with an exhibition of documents and objects primarily from the Society's collections, now preserved in the BnF (see the report by Marie-Anne Dage, pp 9–10)

Inside a rather sober cover (Fig. 1) we meet some 170 travellers and explorers of all nations, and read about their discoveries on six continents.

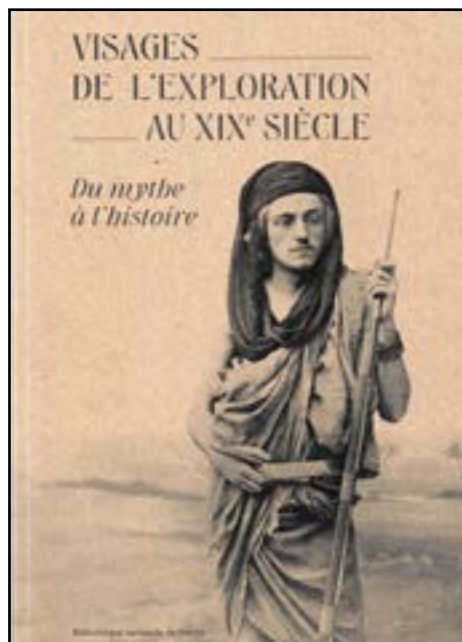


Fig. 1. Cover of the catalogue Camille Douls, French explorer of the Sahara (1864–1889), photograph by Nadar (Paris).

In addressing these, the catalogue expands on the exhibition's theme with a large number of articles grouped into four chapters. In the Introduction, Hélène Blais, Olivier Loiseaux, Jacques Gonzales and Lionel Dupuy take a critical look at the heroic images of explorers as perceived in the past and the role they played as providers of 'facts and figures' in the service of geographical science, while at the same time offering inspiration for authors such as Jules Verne (his *Voyages Extraordinaires*) and material for adventure stories in popular journals. In Chapter I, Olivier Loiseaux

examines the methods used in different countries by governments, scientific institutions, missionary societies and private agencies to take on explorers with funds and the promise of rewards. Loiseaux adds a description of the part played by Muhammad Ali, Viceroy of Egypt, as an entrepreneur of exploration, and Eve Netchine presents Edme-François Jomard's outstanding career as a geographer and as a leading figure in the life of the Société of which he was a co-founder.

Saving invisible explorers from oblivion is the subject of four contributions in Chapter II. In her preliminary overview, Camille Lefebvre identifies those who have remained in the shadow of celebrated explorers for too long: in many cases their wives, but also assistants, local guides, translators and porters. Cécile Van den Avenne singles out the case of David Boilat, a Senegalese priest who provided the Society with much valued descriptions of indigenous customs and languages in the 1840s. Olivier Loiseaux pays tribute to one of the forgotten women explorers, Gabrielle Vassal, wife of a medical officer, who in the early twentieth century travelled up-country in Indochina where she studied and photographed the life of local populations and collected specimens of natural history. During the second half of the nineteenth

century, the British colonial authorities in India employed pundits, that is learned Hindus, as surveyors of Himalayan regions they themselves were prevented from exploring. Felix Driver brings some of them back to life in the last article of this chapter.

In the next chapter we follow four explorers to Africa, Asia and around the world to observe how they performed in the field, facing enormous challenges of logistics, natural hazards and, in short, the unforeseen. Marie-Noëlle Bourguet Seckel sets the scene in her introduction with passing references to 30 explorers. This is followed by Stephanie Zehnle's article on Heinrich Barth's encounter with Muslim dignitaries in North Africa and the Sahel between 1849 and 1855. Olivier Loiseaux visits the ruins of Angkor with Lucien Fournereau who in 1888 lamented, and documented, their advanced state of dilapidation. François Bellec summarises the voyages of Jules Dumont d'Urville, highlighting his two circumnavigations between 1822 and 1829, and his voyage to the Antarctic 1837-1840. With her contribution on Joseph Gallieni, French naval officer, Hélène Blais points out how, as of around 1880, explorers progressively took on missions of a military character. Gallieni is best remembered as Governor General of Madagascar from 1896 onwards (Fig. 2).

The final phase of exploration is the subject of Chapter IV. Hélène Blais in her introduction examines the diverse practices of de-briefings at the end of explorers' journeys. These enabled societies, cartographers and other parties to critically examine results with a view to their use in official reports or as a basis for new maps or further voyages of exploration. Explorers themselves were invited to present their experiences in public conferences or in print. Mounting popular curiosity brought about a first exhibition of Africans in 1877 (Fig. 3),



Fig. 2. French officer placing the French flag on Madagascar representing the Franco-Malagasy Wars between 1883 and 1896 that overthrew the ruling monarchy

the beginning of a series of 'human zoos' in Europe.

Going into detail, a brief account of the conquest of the American Far West by Gilles Fumey is followed by two papers in which Olivier Loiseaux documents the work of photographer Désiré Charnay's travels to America, Africa and Asia between 1858 and 1879 and Eugène Brussaux's mission to Congo-Cameroon in the early 1900s. Finally, Daria Cevoli relates the Siberian exploits of Joseph-Napoléon Martin

in the early 1880s; he returned with some spectacular costumes and other trophies.

Five annexes complete this work. There is an index of proper names and their dates, a well-furnished bibliography, a list of items shown in the exhibition, one of other illustrations added to the catalogue, and a biography of the authors.

With nine articles by the two curators and eleven more by other historians, geographers and researchers, this publication, officially designated a catalogue, broadens the scope of the exhibition to what I would call a companion book. It is unlikely that anyone would take it around the exhibition as a guide. Nevertheless, the annexed 13-page listing of the pieces exhibited serves as a summary catalogue register, showing item number, title, date, author(s), type of document, provenance, size, and catalogue number (BnF or other source). The catalogue number is particularly helpful for those wishing to examine a document (map, photo or other print) on the Internet. Next to 97 item numbers is given the page on which that object is shown in the book. The register contains a total of 300 exhibition items. As the BnF handout mentions 'nearly 200 pieces' on show, one assumes that a certain number of those in the listing were grouped together for display. Nineteen items illustrated in the book do not form part of the exhibition.

As a critical review of exploration and discovery in the nineteenth century, one could not imagine a better survey than the one presented here. The exhibition breaks new ground in presenting a host of actors in the field whose assistance to explorers has not so far received the recognition it deserves, and the book reveals the many facets of personal links between the two, frequently impacting the success of a campaign. Map enthusiasts will enjoy the fair number of printed and also manuscript maps which may invite further study.

Well over one hundred mainly large-size, good-quality reproductions illustrate an impressive range of scholarly contributions. Based on a corpus of irreproachable documentation, this companion book will serve not only for historical reference but also as a memento of a truly fascinating exhibition.

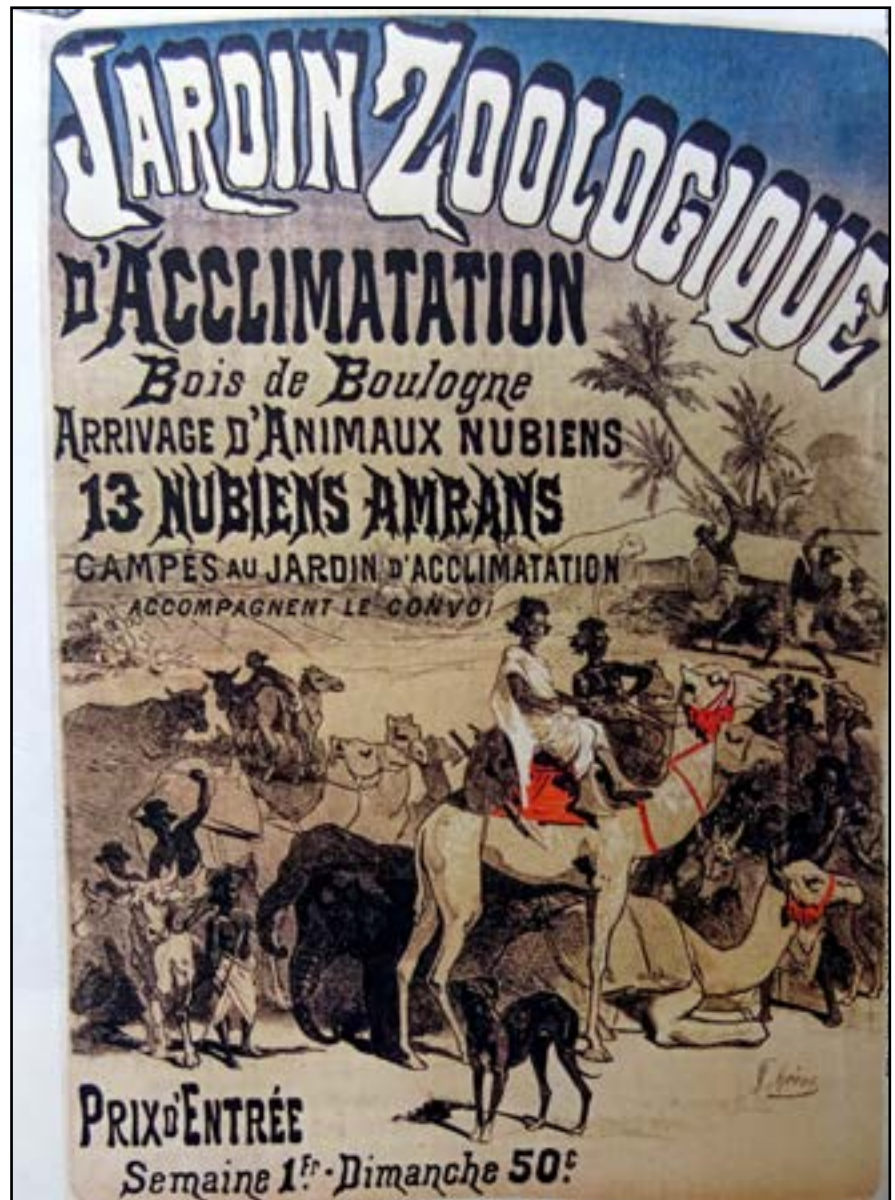


Fig. 3. Exhibition of Nubians, Paris, 1877, poster by Jules Cheret



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Colonisation & Propagande

Le pouvoir de l'image

[Colonisation and Propaganda – The power of image]

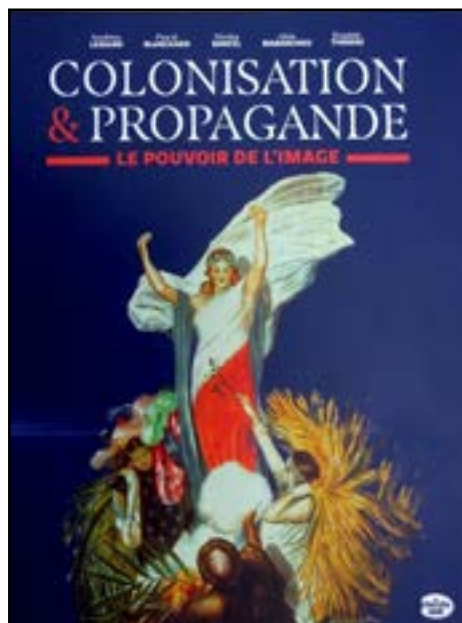
by Sandrine Lemaire, Pascal Blanchard, Nicolas Bancel, Alain Mabanckou, Dominic Thomas

- Paris, Le Cherche Midi, 2020
- 288 pages, 352 colour illustrations, hard back, 29 × 24 cm
- ISBN 978-2-7491-7227-9, EUR 45.00

Having done my review of the *Visages de l'exploration au XIXe siècle – Du mythe à l'histoire* Paris exhibition catalogue (see pp. 4 – 6), I came across another book on colonisation which could be seen as an interesting complement to the subject of exploration developed in the former. Admittedly, it does not offer, apart from a few examples, the cartographic connection map enthusiasts would expect to see in these columns but, in my opinion, it is worth a closer look, remembering that without the efforts of daring explorers and the institutional support behind them, maps of the nineteenth century would not be what they are.

In recent years, questions relating to the memories and remains of some European countries' colonial pasts have erupted onto the political scene with unforeseen intensity. Challenges from various quarters have obliged Europeans to try to come to terms with the darker sides of their colonial heritage.

The book presented here takes an important step in this direction in analysing an all-time expedient of colonial advancement, the propaganda machine. Posters, tourist guides, postcards, board games, school manuals, colonial exhibitions, magazines, films, publicity – all of these have promoted the progress of colonial expansion. What's more,



they helped to establish, in one form or another, the legitimacy of colonial endeavours in Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

A critical survey of their role as instruments of official public relations in France from the beginning of the Third Republic (1870) up to 1980 is the subject of this remarkable publication. Its declared aim is help us understand how the discourse on the 'mission of civilization' engendered the myth of a 'Colonial Republic' that embraced political, social and economic ideologies. Placing records of these events in the context of historical facts, the authors see their work as a contribution to the ongoing efforts of what is called 'deconstructing

our colonial legacy', objectively registering its resonance up to the present day.

Against the background of the colonial history of France of this period, the components of this phenomenon of national propaganda are presented in eight sections.

The first three sections (1870–1922) evoke the consolidation of France's earlier conquests (Algeria 1830, New Caledonia 1853, Cochinchina 1867), which progressively extended into a colonial empire embracing the world from the Antilles via Africa and Asia to the Pacific (see the map at Fig. 1). Explorers become celebrated national heroes, overseas products boosted commercial interests, and 'natives' were exotic attractions at numerous colonial exhibitions. The poster for the Exposition Coloniale of 1922 in Marseilles served as the cover for this book.

As an allegory of the French empire, this poster shows Marianne, the personification of the French Republic, in a jubilant position, draped in the national colours and looking down to the figures typifying peoples of the colonies. The defeat of the German Reich in 1918, resulting in the acquisition of some of its colonies, may have imparted momentum to the design of this poster. In a way it reminds us of the composition



Fig. 2. Title page of Abraham Ortelius, *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (Antwerp, 1570). Image courtesy of Barry Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

in Ortelius' title page of his 1570 *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* where Christian Europa on top reigns over the female figures representing Asia, Africa and South America (Fig. 2).

In sections 4 and 5 (1922–1939) we are shown how French colonies and their products entered into everyday life. Tourism became attractive with modern modes of transport (Fig. 3), literature and the arts (film, music) helped to spread a kind of infatuation with life in the colonies, while education at all levels ensured continued support for these. In spite of the world crisis and growing political dissent at home, the obsession with France's domination in the world culminated in the grand colonial exhibition at the Bois de Vincennes in 1931, attracting thirty-three million visitors for a *tour du monde en un jour* [a tour of the world in one day].

Sections 6 to 8 (1940–1980) examine the temporary loss of France's colonies during the Second World War and their subsequent reintegration into the Union française in 1947, preceded in 1946 by the creation of 'overseas departments' (La Réunion, Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana and a few others). However,

growing instability within the colonial empire finally led to its dissolution, and the advent of independence of the majority of the colonies. The New Hebrides were the last to achieve this in 1980. From then on, French propaganda adapted quite smoothly to promote cooperation and development.

Well documented with ample notes and a bibliography of nearly 300 entries, this book stands out with its wealth of high-quality illustrations. These alone convey an idea of the variety of manifestations in favour of French colonialism in those one hundred years. Readers with a good command of French will appreciate the numerous quotations interspersed in the text, as many from ardent supporters of the empire as from their opponents. Let me close with one recorded at the session of the French Parliament on 29 July 1885 (in translation):

Jules Ferry (President of the Council of Ministers): *'Gentlemen, we must speak out firmly and more sincerely! It must be openly admitted that, indeed, superior races have rights over those inferior.'*

Jules Maigne (left-wing parliamentarian): *'Good heavens, dare you say this in the country where the Rights of Man were proclaimed?'*



Fig. 3. *Compagnie générale transatlantique. French Line Antilles.* Poster by Edouard Colin, 1930.

Impressions from ICHC 2022



The 29th International Conference on the History of Cartography (ICHC) – with the theme Conflict and Cartography – was held from 4 to 8 July 2022 in Bucharest, Romania. Originally scheduled for 2021, it had to be postponed by one year due to Covid-related restrictions. I was happy to meet five other members of the Brussels Map Circle there, as well as friends from the broader community of old map enthusiasts and experts. We were not a big group, though. Compared to the multitudinous 28th ICHC in Amsterdam in 2019, this 29th felt much more intimate, almost like a family event. Part of the reason was that several dozen people followed the conference from home or work via videoconference. Even so, the sum of in-person and remote attendees was slightly fewer than 100. A broader audience was reached via Twitter, where some attendees posted their comments live (Fig. 2).

Organisation

Another important change with respect to 2019 was that only one talk was given at a time. Parallel sessions were abandoned. Everyone I talked to was happy with this decision, which gives every speaker undivided attention and avoids difficult choices for listeners – and moving from one room or building to another, ever hoping that chairpersons/speakers kept time!

Talks were grouped on four of the five days of the week, with a break on Wednesday for the poster session and institutional meetings. Evenings were devoted to map-related tours and social events. One complication regarding the programme was that, against the organisers' will, talks had to be held at three different locations. This created some minor confusion with daydreaming attendees such as yours truly ending up once in the wrong building; admittedly not really a big deal.

More regrettable was the fact that the blend of in-person and remote presentations did not work smoothly. Technical issues plagued remote speakers. Many of them had no control over their PowerPoint slides, which had to be operated by volunteers on site to the voice of 'next slide please'. Speakers did not hear or see what was going on in the various conference rooms, so they could not react if there was an issue. One was already halfway through his talk when he was notified his slides were not being received. But the main problem was that video and, particularly, sound quality was rather poor, making several remote lectures barely intelligible to those in Bucharest. There were complaints about image fuzziness, excess of lighting, lack of laser pointers for



Fig. 2. Wouter Bracke, president of the Brussels Map Circle and new chairman of Imago Mundi Ltd, giving his talk about Bartolomeo Da Li Sonetti's Isolario

speakers and the nausea induced by a constantly rotating background image that was supposed to 'enliven' each talk. Spoken deliveries were sometimes too fast or too faint, and the acoustics of some of the venues did not help. Most of the opinions I heard were that such 'hybrid' conferencing should be avoided in the future: ICHC should either go back to in-person only or move to full online. Personally, I am less categorical because I have attended other hybrid events that worked better. It may all come down to the quality of the audio-visual equipment and the experience of the technical crew, but this certainly makes it difficult to guarantee a good performance in advance. It is also undeniable that not being able to chat with remote participants after the talks detracts from the value of such conference. For future ICHCs, I would vote for prioritising in-person participation but with the option of watching talks from home. Speakers should be required to be on site, hopefully with travel grants for those on tight budgets. And if future circumstances made travelling difficult again, then the entire event should be carried out by videoconference.

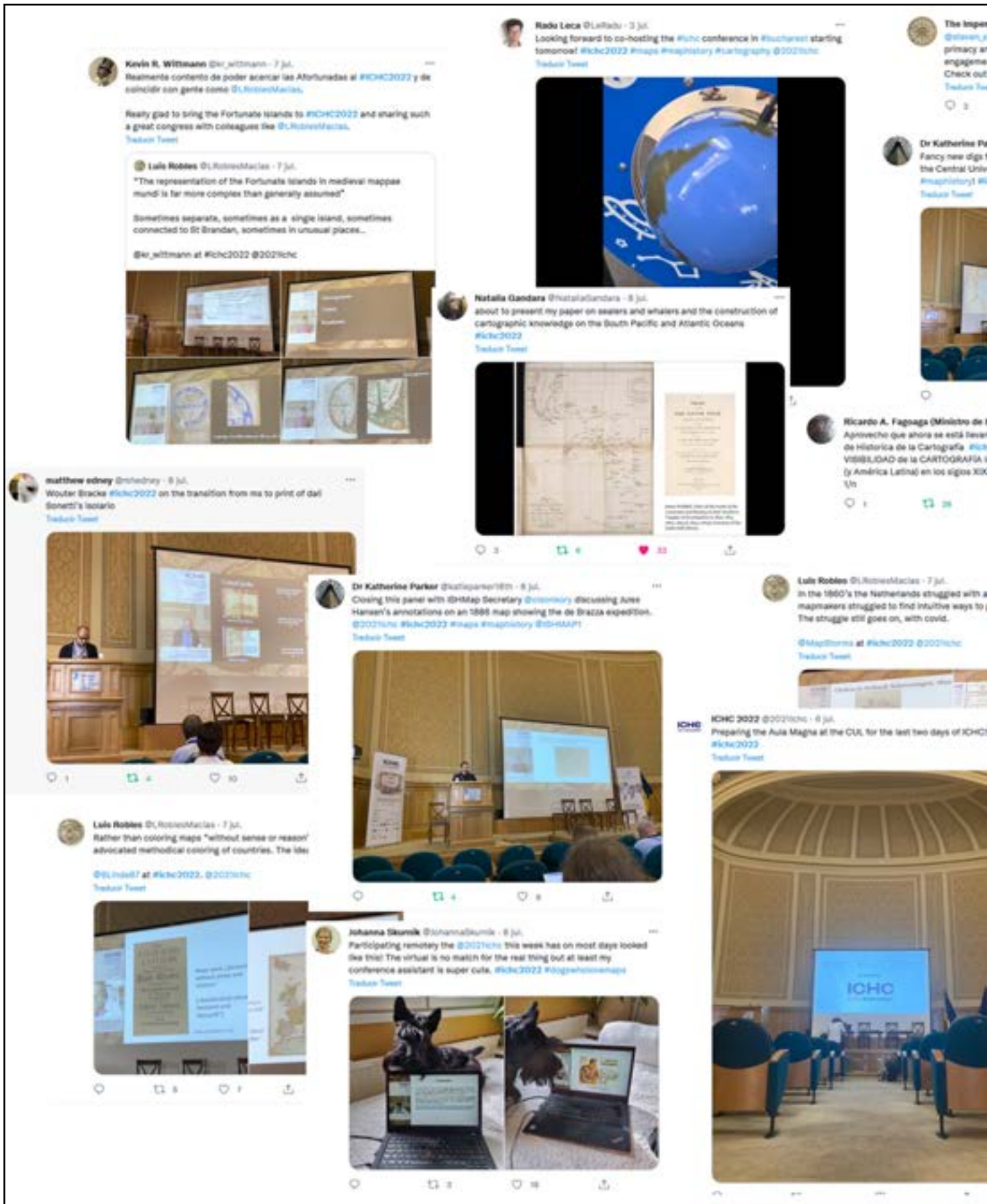


Fig.3. : An impressionist sample of tweets posted with the hashtag #ichc2022.



Project @esperiaProject - 8 Jul.
... closed #ICHG2022 Bucharest with a meditation on the
... emotional power of maps. It was a call for knowledge and
... and humility. The perfect end to a week of idea-collecting.
... his February 24th Archive.



ICHG 2022 @2022IHC - 8 Jul.
ICHG 2022 is ON AIR at Radio France International. Interview with
#Wouter Bracke - Imago Mundi, #Christine Ikin - French National Library,
#Haci de Biaggi - ICHC 2024 in Lyon. Go ICHG #RFR #ICHG2022
#Bucharest
#Radio France



Kevin R. Wittmann @kr_wittmann - 8 Jul.
Inmensa conferencia de @RobertoMactas en #ICHG2022
analizando la lucha por el Magreb a través de las cartas náuticas.
Great paper of @RobertoMactas analyzing the struggle for the Maghreb in
Early Modern Nautical Cartography.

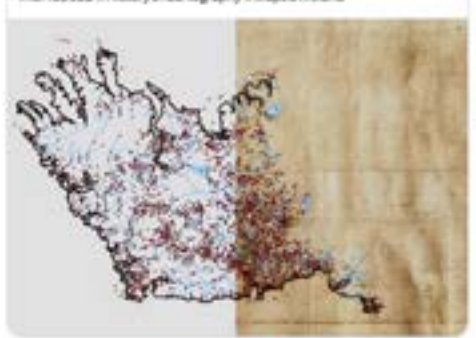


arker @duatiparker1911 - 7 Jul.
... for the final two days of @2022IHC. In the Aula Magna of
... emity Library (Carol I). Ready for more #maps and
... #ICHG2022



Dr Catherine Porter @CatPorter - 8 Jul.
Getting ready to present at #ICHG2022 #Bucharest in Panel T3: Charting
the Seas and Surveying the Lands. Already so inspired by today's first
session on Global Maritime Mapping! #HistoryOfCartography
#Radio France

Dr Catherine Porter @CatPorter - 22 Jun.
Looking forward to speaking about my research on Robert Lythe's
survey of Ireland at the 29th International Conference on the History of
Cartography @2022IHC in early July shorturl.at/b094 #ICHG
#ICHG2022 #HistoryOfCartography #MapsOfIreland



matthew edney @medney - 5 Jul.
Bernard Gautiez #ICHG2022 on official maps of the 1834 workers' uprising
in Lyons - great archive diving!
#Radio France



choiera epidemic. Local
... cholera data on maps.



matthew edney @medney - 5 Jul.
Katie Parker #ICHG2022 on 18c chimeras -- non-existent places on maps
w/ln cultural anxieties over determining quality and truth of maps.
#Radio France



ICHG 2022 @2022IHC - 7 Jul.
@medney exploring XIX century manuscript maps at the Maps Museum.
Thanks for visiting and sharing! #ICHG2022 @2022IHC #Bucharest
#Radio France



Kevin R. Wittmann @kr_wittmann - 8 Jul.
Último día en Bucarest después de un #ICHG2022 absolutamente
fantástico que me ha dejado agotado, pero feliz. ¡Esperando la próxima
edición desde ya!

Last day in Bucharest after an absolutely fantastic #ICHG2022. So
exhausted, but so happy. Looking forward to the next edition!



Talks

The conference programme comprised fifty talks.¹ Summarising all of them here would take too many pages and highlighting only a few individual talks would be unfair to the others. I will thus report only on several common themes that were tackled by two or more speakers, apologising in advance for the many excellent lectures that I am omitting.

Three talks challenged the theoretical frameworks within which old maps have been studied so far. Matthew Edney built on the insights from his recent book² to denounce ‘the ideal of cartography’ and the past association of cartographic pursuit with ‘stages of civilisation’. Mario Cams criticised the usual distinction between ‘European scientific’ and ‘Chinese traditional’ cartographies, and proposed to instead look at maps without pre-imposing national or cultural grids. Bram Vannieuwenhuyze and Marissa Griffioen emphasised the importance of studying map transmission, rather than only production and consumption. While all this may sound very conceptual, the three talks were solidly grounded on specific examples. For instance, Vannieuwenhuyze reconstructed the complex network that transmitted Van Deventer’s atlas from the Habsburg Netherlands to Madrid.

The concept of map transmission resonated with three other talks: the ‘odyssey’ of Daikokuya Kōdayū’s maps from Japan to Russia to Germany (by Vera Dorofeeva-Lichtmann and Ekaterina Simonova-Gudzenko); the intricate relationships between manuscript and printed versions of a Renaissance *Isolario* (by Wouter Bracke, Fig. 1); and similarly complicated interactions between manuscript and printed maps of a South American border region in the late eighteenth century (by Lucía Rodríguez Arrillaga).

Maps of race and ethnicity were the subject of two insightful talks and a workshop. Zef Segal showed how racial maps became increasingly complex throughout the nineteenth century and how their authors perpetuated racial theories well after they had been abandoned by social scientists. Jitka Močičková and Stanislav Holubec focused on the depiction of the Czech-German linguistic border, highlighting manipulations and nationalistic bias. The common take-home message is that maps, far from being innocent reflections of reality, are ideological by nature and often used to advance political aims. I particularly liked the construction by Močičková and Holubec of a comprehensive

database of maps for their research³. Nowadays, with the powerful digital resources at our disposal, it is less and less justified to study one map in isolation rather than complete corpora of maps.

Military conflict was well represented in the programme; a given as the conference’s official title was *Conflict and Cartography*. Anne-Rieke van Schaik confronted maps published by the two sides of the Eighty Years War, here too identifying bias and subtle manipulations. Bernard Gauthiez leveraged maps of the Lyon Insurrection of 1834 to prove that the city centre was ‘redeveloped’ primarily to avoid popular uprisings, pre-dating similar urban changes in Paris. And this chronicler showed how the struggle for the Maghreb between Christian and Muslim powers was represented with flags by certain authors of portolan charts, and how these flags can be used nowadays as another aid for chart dating.

How mapmakers actually worked was the common theme of a number of talks spread over different panels. Sima Krtalić revealed the techniques employed to copy nautical charts by hand.⁴ Martijn Storms put us in the shoes of mapmakers who struggled to devise intuitive ways to plot cholera epidemic data,⁵ while the choice and application of colours on maps were discussed by Benjamin Linde (in eighteenth-century Germany), Diana Lange (in East Asia) and Richard Pegg (in the Big Blue Map of China).

The last common theme I would like to mention is exploration, or rather the critical re-evaluation of Western imperial explorers’ impact on geographical knowledge. André Novaes showed how both Percy Harrison Fawcett’s guides on his exploration of Bolivian Amazonia, and the local peoples he encountered, were a major source of geographical knowledge that Fawcett failed to acknowledge in his reports. Equally silenced was the role of the Ainu in the mapping of their own lands between Japanese and Russian expansionisms, as illustrated by Vasilii Shchepkin. Natalia Gándara, for her part, highlighted the neglected role of British sealers and whalers (rather than official explorers) in charting the Southern Ocean and paving the ground for its commoditisation and imperial domination. Kory Olson showed how the maps that recorded Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza’s travels in what would later be the Republic of Congo deliberately omitted natural and human obstacles to convey an optimistic outlook of colonisation.

¹ The full list can be found at <https://ichc2022.muzeulhartilor.ro/programme>. Abstracts are not available online, only in the hard copy, spiral-wound Programme given to each attendee. Two talks were cancelled at the last minute.

² Matthew H. Edney, *Cartography: The Ideal and Its History* (University of Chicago Press, 2019).

³ Available online at <http://cha.fsv.cvut.cz/web/database/>

⁴ Šima’s full article: ‘Anchoring the Image of the Sea: Copying Coastlines on Manuscript Nautical Charts from the Late Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period’, *Imago Mundi* 74 (1), 2022, pages 1–30.

⁵ See Martijn’s blog post ‘Mapping epidemics: nineteenth century cholera maps of Leiden’, 4 June 2020. <https://leidenspecialcollectionsblog.nl/articles/mapping-epidemics-nineteenth-century-cholera-maps-of-leiden>

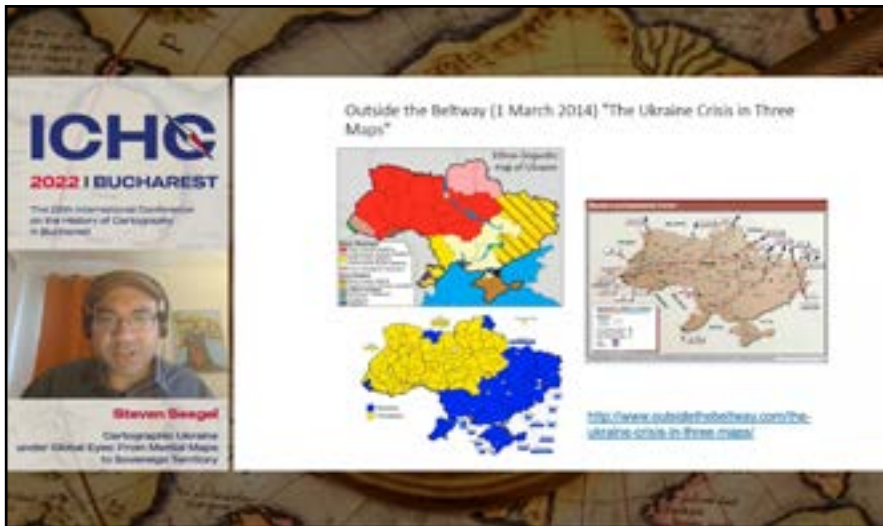


Fig. 3. Steven Seegal giving the final keynote.

This was the format of most remote presentations.

The final keynote lecture by Steven Seegal, on maps of Ukraine, touched on several of the mentioned themes, in particular military conflict and the manipulation and misuse of ethnographic maps (Fig. 3). I would like to praise Seegal's perfect balance between scholarly objectivity and his conveying of the painful emotions associated with the topic.

Tours and events

The lectures were definitely great, but the best part of an ICHC is often what goes on outside. The casual conversation around a drink to discover the human side of prestigious scholars; the exchanges about some rare unrecorded map; the feedback and advice on potential history projects... The organisers created numerous opportunities for these pleasant exchanges. Furthermore, as customary in ICHCs, the programme included visits to the best that Bucharest can offer in terms of cartography.

One of the highlights was the tour of the Muzeul Național al Hărților și Cărții Vechi [National Museum of Maps and Old Books], which was one of the co-organisers of the conference (Fig. 4). This institution was founded around the collection of old maps assembled by Adrian Nastase, former prime minister of Romania. Veteran members of our Circle may remember the excursion to this very museum in 2008.⁶

The core of the collection consists of maps of the historical provinces of Romania, with a room devoted to each. A room that triggered debate was one showing maps of inter-war 'Greater Romania', which encompassed territories that nowadays belong to Moldavia and Ukraine. Several attendees pointed out the absence of criticism of this nationalistic concept in the maps' descriptions, leading to a discussion about the political implications of how maps are displayed. At the museum we could also admire a temporary exhibition about political repression in Communist Romania that included several eye-catching cartographic displays. The tour of the Centrul Național de Cartografie [National



Fig. 4. From left to right: Alfred Hiatt, Christophe Klein and Ioana Zamfir at the National Museum of Maps and Old Books.

Centre of Cartography] was well liked, as visitors were able to see the process of how maps are actually drawn and printed nowadays. I regret not having been able to attend this tour due to other commitments.

On the other hand, I was not impressed by the *Symbolic Cartographies: Geography, Astronomy, Biology* exhibition at the Muzeul Municipiului București [Bucharest Municipality Museum]. It basically consisted of nineteenth-century Romanian maps with no obvious common thread, and nothing about astronomy or biology.

Conclusion

I will retain great memories of this ICHC. The enthusiastic and devoted organising committee managed to overcome difficulties that would have discouraged most of us. Recordings of the talks are a very useful novelty and largely mitigate the technical issues that we experienced. I am sure that the friendly and constructive atmosphere that prevailed throughout the entire conference will be a solid foundation for the continued flourishing of the history of cartography.

Already looking forward to the next ICHC in Lyon in July 2024!

⁶ See BIMCC Newsletter No 31, May 2008.



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Maps at TEFAF 2022



Installation view of Daniel Crouch Rare Books Stand at TEFAF.

The European Fine Art Fair (TEFAF) returned last June to Maastricht, The Netherlands, after the pandemic hiatus. I visited it thanks to a kind invitation by Daniel Crouch Rare Books (DCRB).

DCRB is a London-based dealer specialised in ‘antique maps, atlases, plans, sea charts and voyages dating from the 15th to the 19th centuries’. Its stand at TEFAF was impressive in both quantity and quality. I counted six editions of Ptolemy’s *Geography*, from 1482 to 1541. Being in the Netherlands, works from the ‘Dutch Golden Age’ were prominent. These included the massive 12-volume *Atlas Maior*, wall maps of Amsterdam and Rotterdam, a couple of terrestrial and celestial globes made by Willem Janszoon Blaeu in 1602 and a colourfully illustrated map of Dutch-controlled Brazil published by Joan Blaeu in 1647 (Fig. 1). Visitors could also lay their hands on a portolan atlas signed in 1590 by Portuguese author Jaime Dossaiga, celestial atlases and a long etcetera.

Two of the highlights on Daniel Crouch’s stand were not strictly cartographic. One was a ca. 1455 Italian wall-mounted liturgical calendar; a map of time, one could say. The other was the Chaworth Roll, whose vivid diagrams chart the genealogy of English monarchs up to around 1400.

My personal favourite was a very rare 12-sheet planisphere published in Antwerp in 1604. In its frontispiece (Fig. 2) publisher Jean Baptiste Vrients dedicated it to the Archducal couple Albert and Isabella and cited royal cosmographer Luis Teixeira as his source. The catalogue states that this was an

update of Petrus Plancius’s world map of 1592 with the latest developments compiled by Lisbon-based Teixeira, and that this is only the second known complete copy. A third one at the *Bibliothèque nationale de France* was printed from the same plates, but it lacks the title and its cartouche is void.

Please excuse my lack of elegance in talking about money, but I will do so as perhaps our readers may find it useful. Numerous items in Daniel Crouch’s catalogue had price tags close to or above one million euros. On the other hand, notable items such as a manuscript portolan chart from 1642



Fig. 1. Natives marching under the Dutch banner to battle the Portuguese in George Margraff, *Brasilia qua parte paret Belgis* (Amsterdam: Joan Blaeu, 1647).



Fig. 2. Part of the cartouche with the dedication, publisher's name and date in Joshua van den Ende, *Magna Orbis Terrarum Nova universalis et accurata tabula Geographica ac Hydrographica delineata in hanc majorem formam manu celeberrimi regiae. Majestatis cosmographi Ludovici Texeirae* (Antwerp: Jean Baptiste Vrients, 1604).



Fig. 3. Detail of an unsigned and undated Japanese map of Nagasaki showing the arrival of a Portuguese embassy in 1647.

were on offer for five-digit figures. It is not pocket money, but it is tempting as few individuals own this type of map nowadays. Comparing with recent fairs, I have the impression that prices are on a slightly downward trend. I have noticed reductions of 5 to 20 per cent.

After this feast of a stand, I combed the rest of the fair in search of other samples of ancient cartography. There were globes and armillary spheres in quite a few stands. In contrast, two-dimensional maps were very rare. I spotted only a wall map depicting the arrival of a Portuguese embassy in Nagasaki in 1647, offered for sale by Jorge Welsh (Fig. 3). A few noteworthy books with maps were also on display at bookseller Camille Sourget, including a 1485–1486 edition of Bartolomeo dalli Sonetti's *Isolario*. At TEFAF, ancient maps seem to be a droplet—an outstanding droplet fortunately—in an ocean of paintings, sculptures and jewels.

Talking about jewels, I could not conclude this brief report without mentioning the *event* that marked this 2022 edition of TEFAF: a spectacular armed robbery of diamonds, apparently by a gang of five men who are to date still at large.

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MAPAF 2022

... the Map Afternoon at the KBR

After the long Covid-19 period without our traditional Map Afternoon (MAPAF), a lot of the Brussels Map Circle's members were relieved to finally meet again in the friendly surroundings of the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR) Map Room. The maps that were brought showed an enormous variety in style, subject, and period. The comments that were given by their various presenters proved that there are many ways to look at maps and find interesting aspects in them, avoiding a tedious 'one comment fits all' straitjacket.

Once more Henri Godts served as our master of ceremonies.

1. Is that IATO (Italian, Assembled To Order) or BATO (Belgian, Assembled To Order)? - Paul De Candt

Armed with an enormous suitcase, Paul brought no fewer than three (plus a lot of copies) handmade atlases, the 'hand' mentioned being his own.

a) A synoptic overview of the Burgundian era, evoking the story of the Dukes of Burgundy from 1000 till 1482.

The said period is very important in the national history of Belgium and has recently been a bit of a hype, due to a book that was released and became a mega hit.

However, it contained scarcely any maps or family trees, so Paul decided to remedy this by doing it himself.

This resulted in the first of the atlases he presented.



b) Atlas of Flanders with cartography of the 16th till the 18th centuries.

In this atlas Paul not only shows a diagram of the historical background but also a timeline with all Flemish, Dutch, French and Italian cartographers whose maps of Flanders feature in the atlas.

Paul selected forty-four maps, available digitally, ranging from the 1452 manuscript Cronache de Singniori di Fiandra to the 1777 Ferraris map, all neatly printed on A3 format, together with explanatory comments.

A worthy successor of Jozef Bossu's *Vlaanderen in oude kaarten* (1983).

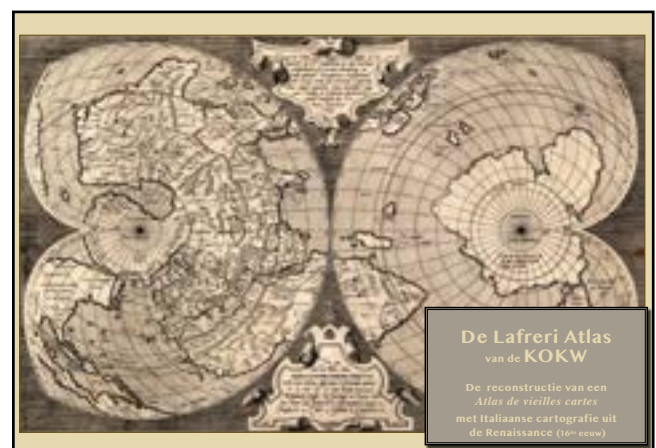


c) The reconstruction of the Lafreri (or IATO: Italian, Assembled To Order) Atlas of the KOKW of Sint Niklaas

In 1994 the KOKW (the association that owns and manages the objects in the Mercator Museum in Sint Niklaas) decided to restore the Lafreri atlas they own, which is the only one in Belgium.

In this A3-sized atlas, Paul not only shows images of these (very well) restored maps in his atlas but he also replaced the (too) damaged maps by identical non-damaged ones, tracked down digitally and printed out in high quality print.

Again, all maps are accompanied by a description and a historical context.





The Vlaanderen and Lafreri Atlases in a A2-binding format

Finally, for both the Atlas of Flanders and the Lafreri-atlas, Paul realised an A2-size atlas with a special binding solution. This allowed all map-pages to be presented with an uninterrupted page coverage.

The atlases are testimony to in-depth knowledge of the maps, in tandem with assiduous, titanic labour not to mention technical savoir-faire with digital images. Impressive !

For more information contact Paul De Candt at pauldecandt@gmail.com

2. Cassini and geology - Jacques Mille

Carte géologique de l'Allier (anonymous colouring, not dated)

Carte du Bas Rhin, Strasbourg à Haguenau (anonymous colouring, not dated)

Once again our French friend had travelled all the way from Marseilles to bring us news of his discoveries, being two maps from an antiquarian shop, coloured and pasted on cloth, which have played an important role in the making of geological maps of the French departments around 1830.

Knowing that Cassini maps had served as 'minutes' for the 1830 maps but had not been preserved, being a geographer-geologist himself and recognising the colouring as being 'geological', he was well aware of the heritage value of these two maps. One is the Cassini *carte de Gannat* (a small town in the Allier department), the other is that of Strasbourg.

Although the maps were anonymous and undated, Jacques stated (after meticulous detective work!) that the geological data on the Gannat map could be attributed to Charles Boulanger (1810-1849); while the colouring on the map of Strasbourg was most probably made by Philippe-Louis Voltz (1785-1840), both *ingénieurs des mines*.



Jacques Mille demonstrating one of his many-coloured maps.



Jean-Louis Renteux re-enacting World War I.

3. In the trenches around La Flamengrie - Jean-Louis Renteux (with much-appreciated help from Francis Herbert)

Sheet 51/1 (Roisin) of the map of Belgium at 1:20 000, by the *Institut de Cartographie Militaire*, 1911 (<https://uurl.kbr.be/1880835>).

Carte d'Etat-Major (sheet 9) at 1:80 000, 'Type 1889', revised 1913, by *Service Géographique de l'Armée* (collection Jean-Louis Renteux).

German version of Sheet 51/1 (Roisin) at 1:60 000, copied from the Belgian maps and complemented with information from the French *Carte d'Etat-Major*, ca. 1914 (collection Jean-Louis Renteux).

Sheet 51 of the series GSGS 2743, 'Belgium and part of France', 1:40 000, Edition 2, Ordnance Survey, (O[verseas]. B[ranh].) October 1918 (collection Francis Herbert).

Kriegs-Marsch-Karte der 18. Armee, 1:100 000 (collection Francis Herbert).

At the end of World War I, British and Canadian troops were advancing in the region of Valenciennes (French Hainaut, where La Flamengrie, Jean-Louis's village, is situated). They were met with fierce resistance from the German rear-guard artillery. All battle records referred to grid coordinates on a map, which Jean-Louis unfortunately could not find. It was not even in the collections of the Belgian War Heritage Documentation Centre. Enters Francis Herbert, who actually owns an original of the said map made by the British!

The military maps provided by the Belgians used a scale (1:20 000) much more suitable for operations in the field than the small scale used by the French (1:80 000). However, the Belgian maps stopped strictly at the French border. The British thus had to make up new maps, extending the Belgian ones over French territory, and superimposing their grid system on it. In parallel, from 1915, the French Army started producing 1:20 000 maps (Plans Directeurs), to close this gap in cartographical tools.

However rapidly and zealously all concerned parties and in particular the British Ordnance Survey (redrawing all provided maps!) worked, there remained nevertheless a variety in mapping systems, language, measuring units, reference grids, etc. To illustrate this, Francis showed a German map of a different area, which had three different grids superimposed on it, with gaps between them (one grid centred around Brussels, one around Paris and one around Pont Favarger). It is now possible to reconstruct the whole military campaign in the region at this final moment of WWI.



Francis Herbert's contribution to the MAPAF: the two tiny atlases and the pocket map of London lying on his *Kriegs-Marsch-Karte*.

In this picture, the different parts of the atlases can be seen as clearly marked by the different colouring of the edge of the pages.

4. Small is beautiful - Francis Herbert

Braving the elements, Eurostar's erratic timetables and new Brexit red tape (but this time without the dreaded Covid-19 restrictions!), Francis managed to make it to our MAPAF in time. Sensibly, when you have to travel like this you don't carry a *Klencke Atlas* with you. So, Francis brought three adorable mini items, proving that small cartographic objects can be both interesting and inexpensive.

- Two editions of a nine-centimetre high compendium '*Knowledge in a nutshell*', comprising Bryce's *Pearl English Dictionary*, *Atlas of the World*, *Gazetteer of the World*, and *Book of General Information* (the last was later re-titled *The Desk Prompter*, comprising information in daily requisition), of ca 1897 and ca 1912, both produced in Glasgow by David Bryce's stationery, printing, publishing and bookselling firm. The Atlas maps came from two firms: (Scottish-origin) George Philip & Son of London & Liverpool from 1893 – starting with only a slim Bryce's *Pearl atlas of the world, containing seventy-two maps*, edited by L.W. Lyde ('Extension Lecturer on Commercial Geography to the Universities of Glasgow and Oxford') and printed by Glasgow University Press – up to ca 1904/1905. Thereafter the maps were produced by W. & A.K. Johnston of Edinburgh & London. Most of the Philip's maps derived from the 18 cm high *Philip's Graphic" school atlas* (ca 1896 edition for the '*Knowledge in a Nutshell*' compendia); those of Johnston from their 19 cm *The multum in parvo atlas of the world* (1907 edition). Bryce used a 'photo reduction process using electroplates to reduce larger volumes to the smallest imaginable size.'

The fore-edge of each 'Nutshell' is identified by the terms 'DICTIONARY', 'ATLAS', 'GAZETTEER' and 'GENERAL INFORMATION' printed in black on differentiating colours (red, yellow, blue, scarlet) of the pages' outer edges; or cut/engraved into the gilt edge (the more expensive version!).

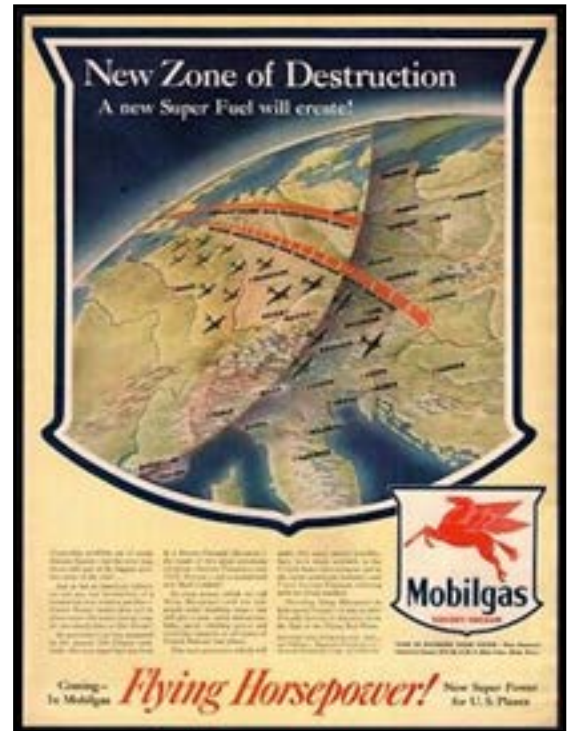
George Philip, as may be remembered, provided a world atlas for the soap-producing firms of John Knight, and of its rivals A. & F. Pears, one of whose objectives was 'to educate generally and to encourage hygiene specifically' of course. A further connection between George Philip, Pears and David Bryce & Son: Bryce printed the first edition (1898) of *Pears' shilling cyclopaedia* – although the latter's anonymous '*Pears' Atlas of the World Containing Sixty Maps printed in Colours*' were not in Philip style.

- *Thacker's pocket map of London. And visitor's guide*. By Henry Thacker & Co., Publishers, 48, Paternoster Row, London, of ca 1867-69. A circular map, centred on Charing Cross, 204 mm in diameter, printed on sheet 285 × 440 mm, mounted on cloth, and folding in cover to 82 mm in height. Overprinted are 'The Postal Divisions . . . by Dotted lines in Blue', 'The Railway Stations . . . bring printed in Red.', and parks (as usual) in green. In the London Post Office Directory (1869) Thacker are also 'gymnastic apparatus manufacturers'; in 1870, now moved to New Street Square, additionally as 'ink manufacturers . . . & gazogene manufacturers'!

5. Every picture tells a story - Harrie Teunissen

Harrie brought some fine examples of 'pictorial maps' from his extensive collection. During World War II, these maps saw rapid growth in newspapers and even commercials. In a colourful way they depict military developments in the world for their American audience. There were examples of a Minneapolis newspaper showing a new coloured map every week. One map was particularly dramatic, showing a part of France, with the river Seine and an ominous black spot above it. It turned out to depict how American troops had crossed the river on a pitch-dark night. 'Hollywood on the map' Harrie called it.

For me the most appealing (or is it *appalling* in this case?) map was a 1943 satellite view avant-la-lettre (there were no satellite images yet!), showing the globe with several big cities located upon its surface, being targeted by bombers. These were being fuelled by Mobilgas, revealing the real commercial target of this nicely coloured map: thanks to this high-performance fuel, it was now possible to annihilate half of the world! Doesn't it ring a bell with the current Ukrainian war?



Harrie Teunissen's 1943 'satellite view' map.

6. Lying low - Hans Kok

As usual, Hans had brought some surprising and original maps from his extensive private collection. He was the third speaker at our MAPAF being 'inspired' by war.

a) HEK MCR 072: *Manuscript map of Sebastopol, 1855*

With a link to the ongoing war in Ukraine, Hans first showed us this map, coming from the house of a Russian general, as attested in French in 1955 on the map. It shows the fortifications with five forts at the harbour entrance and coastline, a central bastion and at least five additional bastions.

b) HEK MCR 044: *U-Boat Submarine seabed chart 1912/1942, Oberkommando der Kriegsmarine*

This map was made to be used in German U-boats during World War II. The purpose was to indicate the spot in the Mediterranean, in the Strait of Bonifacio between Corsica and Sardinia, where the depth and the type of seabed materials were suitable for the U-boat to lie on the bottom with all noise-producing equipment shut down.

c) HEK MCR 097: *Map of Alsace, 1888*

The particularity of this maps lies in the fact that it was made in Braille by a father for his blind son. The author, Martin Kunz from Illzach, even made an entire atlas in Braille.

d) HEK MCR 043: *Bakelite stamping dies for blind maps, ca 1920*

These stamping dies come from a school in Oomkes, Groningen, the Netherlands. Not only are they pretty unusual as cartographic items but their material is pretty special too: Bakelite items, particularly jewellery and radios, have become a popular collectible. It was the world's first plastic made from synthetic components. It was developed by Leo Baekeland, a native and university professor from Gent. In Belgium he's a kind of national hero, of course. A good thing the man gave his name to the material, or would you prefer to say polyoxybenzyl-methylenglycol-anhydride?

e) HEK MCR 136: *motorway map from Vancouver to Mexico, 1931*

This colourful map is really 'the Peutinger map revisited.' It measures ca 5.5 metres, consisting of twenty-five double easy-flip pages and showing Vancouver, Seattle, San Diego, and Tijuana. Beautiful.



Many helping hands needed to unfold Hans Kok's motorway map from Vancouver to Mexico.



Imke Hansen showing the royal hunting grounds of France to an attentive audience.

7. Chasse Royale - Imke Hansen

Carte topographique des environs de Versailles dite des Chasses impériales, levée et dressée de 1764 à 1773 par les ingénieurs géographes des Camps et Armées. [Topographical map of the surroundings of Versailles known as the Imperial Hunting Grounds, surveyed and drawn from 1764 to 1773 by the geographer-engineers of Camps et Armées (military mapmakers)]

The work by French military engineers started in 1764 by order of King Louis XV who wanted a map of his hunting grounds in the region around Versailles. This topographical map has twelve sheets on a scale of 1:28 800.

At that time, there was a rival engineering corps in France, the *ingénieurs du roi*, counting 400 members, compared to 85 *ingénieurs géographes militaires*. And then there were also the surveyors who worked under Cassini on the *Carte de France*. But the head of the *ingénieurs géographes militaires*, Jean-Baptiste Berthier, was well liked by Louis XV. Eight years earlier, Louis XV had ended financial support to Cassini, but in 1764 he commissioned Berthier for the mapping of the *Carte des chasses du roi*.

Large scale topographical mapping started out for military purposes, but afterwards also became a tool for different civilian activities, from town-planning, administering large areas and taxing populations. Berthier convinced Napoleon of the map's potential for his administration, so the map was eventually finished in 1807 with the title of *Chasses impériales* instead of *royales*. However, Berthier would never see his life's work finished, as he died in 1804.

Imke also briefly presented the 'story-telling' project she is preparing with the aid of GIS, showing the navigation route of Belgian Antarctica explorer de Gerlache, based on the logs of the *Belgica* ship. She also worked on Wouter Bracke's '10 maps of Ukraine' to make it into a story map. The current team at the KBR is decidedly doing a good job!

8. Paintbox politician - Colin Dupont

Sphère terrestre et sphère céleste de Gerard Mercator, de Rupelmonde, éditées à Louvain en 1541 et 1551 : *édition nouvelle de 1875, d'après l'original appartenant à la Bibliothèque royale de Belgique* [Terrestrial and celestial globes by Gerard Mercator, from Rupelmonde, published in Leuven in 1541 and 1551; new edition of 1875, based on the original owned by the Royal Library of Belgium]

Belgian politicians will never cease to amaze me. Certainly not when they are a former Prime Minister called Jules Malou (1810 - 1886) and they take up their paintbox to colour the printed gores of a globe! Yet this is exactly what the man did, as mentioned in an inscription in the book of 1875 that the KBR keeps.

Malou was part of the elite of the young Belgium, eager to demonstrate the worth of their country to the rest of the world and already planning to celebrate its fifteenth anniversary in 1880, under the pressure of the formidable king Leopold II. In that spirit of the times many prominent personalities of Belgium's national history were commemorated. Among them, of course, Mercator. And so Malou was the editor of a book, figuring the gores of Mercator's famous pair of globes of 1541 and 1551, based on the originals kept in the Royal Library. And apparently Malou was so pleased with his pet project, he coloured it by hand.

I wonder what the KBR is going to show us next MAPAF: a piece of Leopold II's needlework?



Colin Dupont showing a piece of homecraft by a Belgian Prime Minister.

9. A tale of enclaves and borderlines - Marc Paulis

Map of the Lado enclave, anonymous, not dated

Map of the border between Turkey and Iraq, anonymous, not dated

The speaker showed these two maps that reflect the result of diplomatic negotiations in which his grandfather was involved. In 1894 a British–Congolese Treaty was signed, under which the British leased all of the Nile basin south of 10° north latitude to King Leopold II of the Belgians for the period of his lifetime. This area, called the Lado Enclave, linked the Congo with the navigable Nile. In return, a strip of the Congo was given over to the British, to build the (never finished) Cape to Cairo railway. The rest of this complicated story can be read on Wikipedia and in an article that will be published in our magazine. The second map shown was about the frontier between Turkey and Iraq, where in 1924 the League of Nations imposed a temporary so-called ‘line of Brussels’.

10. Ferraris revisited - Manuel Claeys Bouuaert

Manuel made what we should call in the style of the times a pop-up presentation. But this certainly didn't make it less interesting.

Indeed, he has taken it upon himself ‘to apply the iconic style of the Ferraris map to today's geographic data’, as he explains on his website, made for this purpose.

How did he come to do this?

Well, in 2015 Manuel worked at the Ghent University (UGent) Department of Geography, where he collaborated on a project around the 1777 Ferraris map - or more precisely the *Carte de Cabinet*.

It resulted in, among other things, the said map being geo-referenced and digitised by ‘Paul De Candt and his team’ as Manuel put it –referring to Paul's cartographic company Aquaterra– for the Flemish government. Another ‘output’ was the PhD thesis on this map by Soetkin Vervust, Active Member of our Circle.

Manuel explained which difficulties he had to overcome to get as close as possible to Ferraris' style.



Looking at the city of Gent in Ferraris styled maps for 2021 and 1777



Looking at the city of Brussels in Ferraris styled maps for 2021 and 1777

By all means, do explore his website which showcases several Belgian towns and villages with their current geographic data but in the style of 1777. (<https://manuelclaeysbouuaert.be/projects/ferrarGIS.html>)



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Annual General Meeting 2022

Saturday 22 May 2022

For the first time in three years, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) could be held 'for real'! It took place on Saturday 21 May 2022, in the Boardroom of the Royal Library (KBR) in Brussels. Sixteen active members were present.

Jean-Louis Renteux, Vice-President, chaired the meeting on behalf of President Wouter Bracke. He first paid tribute to three former staff of the KBR who recently passed away, after supporting our Circle for many years: Marguerite Silvestre, Lisette Danckaert and Gérard Bouvin.

He then presented the 2021 Activity Report, illustrated with a slideshow.

Activities were still pretty much restricted by the COVID-19 pandemic and contact between members was essentially maintained thanks to our three media: our Maps In History magazine, three issues being published by Luis Robles and Paul De Candt; WhatsMap?, our monthly digital newsletter which Chris Van Hauwaert handed over to Pierre Parmentier in February 2021; and our website which is updated on an ongoing basis also by Pierre. Even the AGM had to be held virtually, by Zoom, in June 2021 (report in Maps in History No 72). Fortunately, we were able to organise – and to maintain it in spite of the pandemic – one major live event: the 38th IMCoS International Symposium Mapping the world, the Belgian contribution. There were about 60 participants (mostly from EU countries, because of travel restrictions) attending the eleven lectures and three afternoon visits to maps and instruments collections, as well as the final gala dinner at the Cercle Royal Gaulois (full report in Maps in History No 72). Hans Kok, former IMCoS chairman, again expressed his gratitude at this AGM for the smooth running and the good results of the Symposium.

Jean-Christophe Staelens, treasurer, then presented the 2021 financial report that had been approved by the statutory auditors Paul De Candt and Alex Smit. Expenses remained below budget as several activities were restricted by the COVID-19 pandemic. On the revenue side we have kept the membership above 100 and all sponsors have renewed their contribution. There are seven paying sponsors and two who offer services. Major income came from the joint IMCoS-KBR-BIMCC symposium: thanks to the free use of premises and to valuable services offered by KBR, the Circle made a handsome profit. The accounts of 2021 were approved unanimously. The mandates of the auditors Alex Smith and Paul De Candt were renewed for three years. Jan De Graeve resigned.

Jean-Christophe Staelens presented the budget for 2022, based on the usual activities. Several members considered that more activities should be planned to make use of some of the money accumulated on the Circle's accounts. Consequently, it was decided to increase the budget and to reduce the savings account. The assembly accepted the corrected budget and, after discussion, decided to leave the decision on the amount of the 2023 annual membership fee to the Executive Committee.

The assembly unanimously gave discharge to the Executive Committee members for 2021. The renewal of the mandates of five Executive Committee members, for the period 2021-2024, was accepted: Henri Godts, Jan De Graeve, Pierre Parmentier, Jean-Louis Renteux and Jean-Christophe Staelens. The mandate of the three other members of the board (Wouter Bracke, Luis Robles Macías and Marie-Anne Dage) runs until 2023.

Pierre Parmentier, after 20 years as webmaster, informed the meeting that he is looking for a replacement from next year. After discussion it was hoped to find a 'skilled' volunteer among our members, rather than doing paid outsourcing. Among Active Members, Karen De Coene and Floria Benavides-Klein resigned this year for personal reasons. The assembly accepted and thanked five new candidates who are willing to contribute to the functioning of the association: Colin Dupont, Pierre Dumolin, Anne Godfroid, Roger Van Laere and Marijn van Zundert. The number of Active Members thus reaches 30, the maximum limit set by our statutes.

Alex Smit explained why the Conference in Venice planned by Associazione Roberto Almagia for mid-October had to be cancelled, after having been postponed twice due to the pandemic. The meeting thanked Alex Smit for all the preparations he had undertaken for us for the Venice trip. Due to the cancellation of this trip, Wouter Bracke proposed a new project for a trip to Germany to visit to the Gotha Perthes Collection mid October.

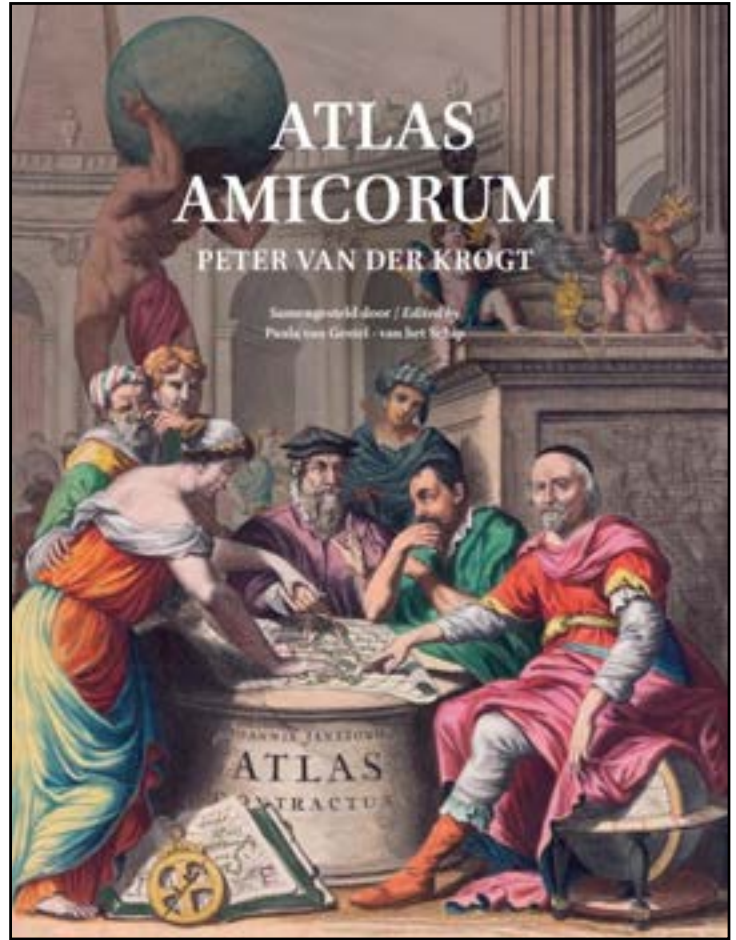
Marie-Anne Dage, Secretary
Jean-Louis Renteux, Vice-President, acting Chairman

Atlas Amicorum Peter van der Krogt

Earlier this year, a notice was posted on our website relating to the reception organised on 24 June 2022 in honour of Peter van der Krogt who had retired from his post as Curator of the collection of maps and atlases at Allard Pierson at the University of Amsterdam¹. On this occasion he was presented with, apart from other distinctions, the Atlas Amicorum, a Festschrift edited by Paula van Gestel-van het Schip. It contains contributions from a large number of renowned map historians from across the world. A review will be published in the next issue of Maps in History.

Peter is known to most map collectors and map dealers through his immense range of scientific publications on the history of cartography. We have had the pleasure of welcoming him at many of our events in Brussels, starting with the Ortelius conference we organised in 1998, the year our Circle was founded. He later participated as a speaker at two of our international conferences.

May he enjoy a long and well-deserved retirement.



¹ <https://www.bimcc.org/news/em-atlas-amicorum-em-peter-van-der-krogt>

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Making Maps in History

This issue of Maps in History was edited by Luis Robbles. Paul De Candt did the lay-out.

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

Hans-Uli Feldmann receives the 2022 IMCoS / Helen Wallis Award

Since 1983, the International Map Collectors' Society (IMCoS) has honoured a map personality from the international cartographic scene at its annual reception in London. The Helen Wallis Award is granted to a person who has made contributions of great merit and wide interest to map collectors worldwide. On 10 June 2022, the award was made to Hans-Uli Feldmann in recognition of his outstanding role in creating, and serving as its chief editor for over 30 years, the renowned Swiss journal *Cartographica Helvetica*. It ceased publication at the end of last year (see *Maps in History* No 73, pages 19–20).

The reception was held at the Rembrandt Hotel in South Kensington, not far from the Royal Geographical Society where the London Map Fair was to open again the next day. Mike Sweeting, IMCoS Chairman, warmly welcomed the participants, after a long period of non-events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He paid a vibrant tribute to Hans Kok who had been the IMCoS Chairman for 17 years and had organised about as many IMCoS symposia around the world. As a token of recognition Hans was presented with a statuette of Atlas holding up the celestial sphere.



Hans-Uli Feldmann (left) receives the Helen Wallis Award from Peter Barber, President of IMCoS.


Photo by Ljiljana Ortolja-Baird.

Valerie Newby, IMCoS Vice-Chairman, then read the award citation, highlighting Hans-Uli Feldmann's career in Swiss cartography and his distinguished contributions to the history of cartography. She also mentioned a few of Hans-Uli's other exploits, such as working on Antarctic research in Australia, climbing Kilimanjaro and the Atlas Mountains in Morocco, and hiking through India and Nepal. Peter Barber, IMCoS President, handed Hans-Uli the commemorative silver plate now engraved with his name as the 39th winner of the award. In his reply, Hans-Uli expressed his gratitude to IMCoS for this renowned distinction which he shared with his home team of colleagues and co-workers in Switzerland.


Vivien Godfrey, CEO of the famous map publishing firm of Stanfords, delivered the Malcolm Young Lecture. In her talk she developed the history of the company which, established in 1853, became one of the world's most important providers of maps and globes. Modern technology required a shift to digital mapping, although traditional paper mapping continues on a smaller scale. Today, the world's greatest collection of Stanford maps is held at the Royal Geographical Society in London.

An informal gathering of Hans-Uli's admirers, with his wife Christiane present, closed this most enjoyable evening.

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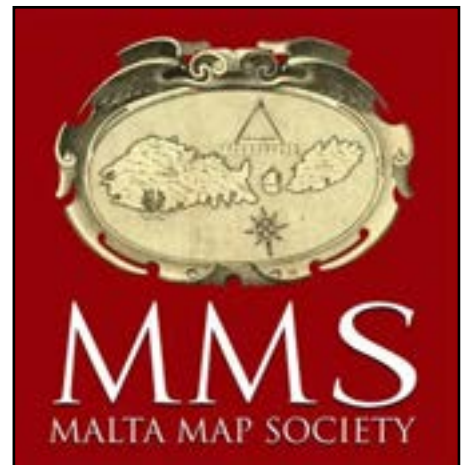
NEWS FROM MALTA

Joseph Schiro, president of the Malta Map Society, has initiated an alliance for the study and sharing of information on old maps, books and engravings of Malta, Lampedusa and Pantelleria.

Joseph kicked off the project with Antonio Taranto, president of the Archivio Storico Lampedusa.

So far two very rare documents have been found.

The alliance also plans to include the island of Pantelleria through a visit in October 2022 to meet Julio Rodo, the local historian and collector.



SPECIAL OFFER
for members of
the Brussels Map Circle

DISLOCATIONS: MAPS, CLASSICAL TRADITION, AND SPATIAL PLAY IN THE EUROPEAN MIDDLE AGES

Alfred Hiatt

Dislocations argues that medieval spatial representation was complex and richly textured, whether in the form of a careful gloss in a manuscript of Lucan's Civil War, or as the exuberant sexualized allegories of the fourteenth-century papal notary Opicinus de Canistris.

The book also explores a further kind of dislocation: the surprising connections between medieval geographical thought and twentieth- and twenty-first-century visual arts.

"*Dislocations* is an ambitious study with a provocative thesis: that disorder, gaps, repetitions, and mistranslations are a constitutive element of geography."

(Karl Whittington, The Ohio State University)



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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 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

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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) 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) 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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