IMCoS JOURNAL

Summer 2010 *Number 121*



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Features

7 *Fishing & Fine Architecture*
by Richard Young

13 *Alexander von Humboldt and an early map of New Spain*
by Dennis Reinhartz

31 *London Map Fair : List of exhibitors*

35 *Spitzbergen ~ Early exploration and mapping*
by Jeremy Pool

Regular items

3 *A Letter From the IMCoS Chairman*
by Hans Kok

5 *From the Editor's Desk*
by Valerie Newby

20 *You Write to Us*

25 *IMCoS Matters*

45 *Mapping Matters*

53 *Book Reviews*

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A Letter From the IMCoS Chairman



IMCoS was founded in 1980 and its first activities took place in 1981. At that time the 'I' for 'International' was probably a bit far-fetched, although, indeed, there were non–British people among our very early members. Over the years, the Society has progressively become more international. As London was 'home' to the Society, domestic and international matters were run from there. This may have fostered the feeling abroad that UK events were run with members' subscription money. This is not true as we decided officially some years ago that local events were to be organised locally (although visiting members can always participate, of course) and that any costs incurred would be borne by the participants, including the overhead costs like printing the registration leaflets. It is not always easy to forecast the number of participants and sometimes a small loss is generated or a minor surplus which may end up in the IMCoS coffers. So far, we have marginally made more profits than losses, but never ever enough to consider returning money to the participants or chasing them for the extra pound that we actually would have needed. I trust this will put some minds at rest.

Our International Symposiums so far have always been on foreign soil but on closer scrutiny there is no reason to consider London less 'international' than any other place where we have been. When this idea sunk in, we wondered why we had never before considered organising an International Symposium here. After almost 30 years it is finally going to happen and you are all kindly invited to participate.

Our founding father, Malcolm Young, who held membership number 2, with only Yasha Beresiner preceding him with membership number 1, sadly passed away on March 17th. I know he was very happy that the symposium was to be held in London (see article by Malcolm's son, Richard on page 7 of this issue of the *Journal*). IMCoS as a Society owes him a great debt of gratitude, not only for co-founding IMCoS, but also for being its Chairman and President and even more so for his staunch support over the years. His acute mind has always stayed abreast of developments in the society, notwithstanding his impaired eyesight, which must have made reading the *Journal* quite difficult. See his full obituary in IMCoS Matters. A large delegation, including your chairman, attended the funeral on 30th March which confirmed that he was a very special man. We tender to his wife Diana, his sons and their respective families, our heartfelt condolences. The Malcolm Young lectures, to be given before each annual dinner, will continue in his memory. Francis Herbert has agreed to speak this year on 4th June and his subject will be the life of Malcolm Young. There will also be presentation of the Helen Wallis Award to the 2010 winner. All members are invited to attend. Also, the 2010 AGM will be held on Saturday 5th June, finishing in time for us to go straight into the London Map Fair in the same RGS building. The room for the AGM is graciously made available to IMCoS by the London Map Fair Organisers, which is highly appreciated.

Hans Kok

SCANDINAVIAN MAP SPECIALIST



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From the Editor's Desk

by Valerie Newby

By now I am sure that most members of IMCoS have heard that Malcolm Young died on Wednesday, 17th March (See IMCoS Matters p.26 for obituary and the Chairman's letter). He served the Society in many ways over the years and was always a *tour de force* and a gentleman. I am convinced that wherever he is now he is busy forming a new map society and cajoling people to serve on the committee; an invitation it will be impossible for them to refuse!

A friend of his sent this poem on his 90th birthday and we have his permission to reproduce it.

To Malcolm – a pre-birthday thought

How does one keep up with Malcolm's mind?
His interests are wide and "explosive" I find,
There's history, old buildings and rare books to view,
Politics, finance and anything new.

He has made his mark in so many fields,
And still keeps a tab on all of the "yields",
With Fishing, Foods, and Farming too,
The Ancient Maps – a Society new!

Music, from youth a joy and pleasure,
In times of stress, a prop to treasure.
Faith -- most certainly a strong one –
(Though the Sermon shouldn't be a long one!)

So
Here's to the mighty Laird O'Whyr,
His favourite pastime – making a "stir"!
Soon his years will come to Ninety –
But will that slow him? NO, NOT LIKELY!!

Sadly, he died aged 91 but our Society owes him a huge debt of gratitude. It is probably true to say that without him there may not have been a society.

Just before he died Malcolm collaborated with his son Richard on the article which appears on p.7 of this issue. It seems an amazing coincidence that we should be holding our first ever international symposium in England on our 30th anniversary and that part of it is being held in Greenwich where Malcolm Young's family lived and worked for many years.

We need to put a list of our members' names and addresses on the members' only section of the IMCoS website. Before we do this we need to know if, for any reason, you do not want your name and contact details to appear. This is very important as members often want to be able to contact other like-minded individuals in the collecting world, and we need to do this as soon as possible. My email address is Valerie.newby@btopenworld.com

The danger of people selling maps and atlases on Ebay with a degree of anonymity is highlighted by a message on the map history discussion group Maphist. A claim has been made that someone is selling maps on Ebay which may have been stolen from American historical collections. This does highlight a problem with this form of selling which is probably not monitored closely by the police and, even if it were, proof of theft might be hard to establish. This is obviously a problem which is going to occur more and more in the future and which could possibly result in a worldwide police committee being set up to monitor sites like Ebay.

I hope you will enjoy this issue of the *Journal* which we have published early in order to give everyone advance information on our June weekend activities and on the London Map Fair. In addition to the article by Richard Young we have an article on the mapping of Spitzbergen, Norway, by Jeremy Pool who collects maps of that area. It is fascinating how a small and inhospitable area of land became so well mapped purely for its commercial possibilities. Jeremy is probably known to readers as the compiler of the online *Antique Map Price Guide* which is regularly updated and lists more than 50,000 prices for early maps. Also in this issue is an article by Dennis Reinhartz on Alexander von Humboldt. Many scholars have taken an interest in Humboldt as it was the 150th anniversary of his death last year.

So although we publish this issue on a sad note with the loss of Malcolm we know that he would want us to continue to improve the content and design of the *IMCoS Journal* for all of you. He waited with eager anticipation each quarter for it to arrive and was also the first person to telephone me and say which articles he had enjoyed.

Don't miss the British Library exhibition 'Magnificent Maps: Power, Propaganda and Art'. It is simply wonderful! Congratulations to IMCoS members Peter Barber and Tom Harper who trawled through the Library's vast collections to bring you this unrivalled selection of maps.

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Fishing & Fine Architecture

Greenwich and its past association with mapping

by Richard Young

I was pleased to see IMCoS select Greenwich as the principal venue for the 2010 annual International Symposium. Members will be aware of the importance of Greenwich to mapping of the world, being the location of the zero meridian from which all longitude is measured, and from where the ships would set their chronometers at midday when the falling sphere at the Greenwich Observatory was clearly visible to sea captains prior to their sailing out through the Thames Estuary on voyages across the world.[1]

There are many fine charts of the Thames Estuary, perhaps one of the earliest and finest being produced in 1583/4 by Lucas Waghenaer, the Dutch hydrographer and pilot of Enkhuizen. The sea chart shows hazards such as the Whitaker beacon off Burnham on Crouch and detailed depth soundings to Gravesend, as well as mapping the River Thames through to London. No doubt it was of great use in 1667 to the Dutch navy who came as 'uninvited guests' just for a few days and who proceeded to sack the town and naval docks at Sheerness, Upnor Castle and then the naval docks at Chatham on the 23rd June 1667. The event is well illustrated in the engraving by Matthäus Merian, the Younger, the topographical engraver and publisher.

The location of Greenwich as the base for the deep sea North Sea and inshore fishing industries



Fig. 1
Sea Chart of the Thames Estuary 1583/84 (Leiden edition) from Lucas Janszoon Waghenaer's first printed maritime atlas.

from Tudor times is not surprising given Greenwich's location within some six miles of London. Later the fish trade was greatly assisted by the location of the first English suburban railway, opening in 1836, with the station being designed in 1840, making it one of the oldest station buildings in the world. But with the extension of the railways further across the country to ports nearer the North Sea fishing grounds, the deep water fishing fleets increasingly left their Greenwich base from the 1860s onwards. Indeed Greenwich deep sea fishermen had been among the first to invest in the new fishing port of Grimsby in 1857.

Inshore fishermen remained at Greenwich as they had ready access to the fishing grounds in the Thames estuary as far as north Foreland headland in east Kent to ports such as Brightlingsea and Wivenhoe in North Essex. One of the finest sea charts of the Thames estuary is that produced by Captain Greenvile Collins, Hydrographer to the King [Charles II]. Clearly marked are the treacherous and numerous local sandbanks and the passage ways through them, such as the quaintly named Wallet. It is these sandbanks that gave rise to the large inshore fishing industry in the estuary where the shrimps, especially the now rare brown shrimp (unlike the pink variety) used to abound.

On the banks of the river at Greenwich, Peter boats and Bawleys, sailing boats with boilers for cooking seafood, were built. These boats were used in the Thames estuary principally for catching shrimps, sprats, whitebait and flat fish. Indeed the annual Parliamentary Whitebait dinners for the full Cabinet of the British Government were still being held in Greenwich's Trafalgar Tavern until 1894.

One of the many inshore fishing businesses located by the river in Greenwich was my family's business, W. Young & Sons. Although no longer under family control it is now known as Young's Seafoods and has become one of the most



Fig. 2
An engraving by Matthäus Merian, the Younger, of the sacking of the towns along the River Thames in 1667.

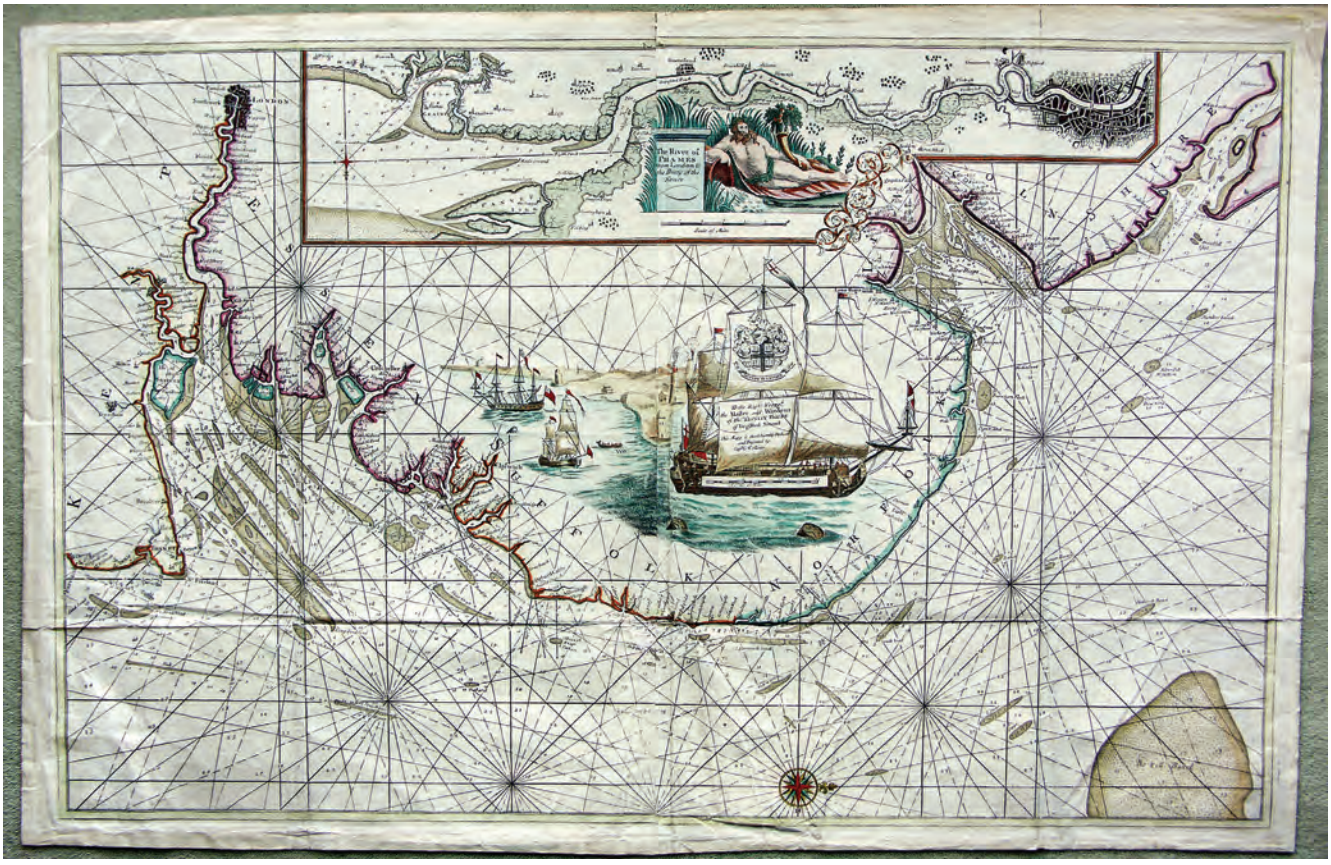


Fig. 3
A sea chart of the Thames estuary in the **Great Britain's Coasting Pilot...** *of 1693 by Captain Greenvile Collins.*

important seafood businesses in the world.

The Young's fishing business can be traced back locally in Greenwich to the 1760s but it really developed there from the early 1800's with combined enterprises of fishing with that of sales deliveries into London society and hotels. This dual business model (as we would now term it) was achieved in around 1805 solely by the initiative of Elizabeth Martha, the 15-year-old shrimp girl and William Young, a 16-year-old fisherman. By 1810 they had married and so essentially started the famous Young's seafood family which my father, Malcolm Young, ran for many years. He was also the first Chairman of IMCoS, becoming later International Chairman and Director; more recently he was accorded a Fellowship of the Society.

Fishermen lived in streets abutting or along the river; two such streets where the Young family lived for over 100 years were Lassell Street (formerly Marlborough Street) and Ballast Quay, which was also known for a time in the 1800s as Union Wharf.

From the 16th century onwards coal ships from the north east of England would deliver their precious cargoes to London either upstream or to the docks on the opposite side of the river to Greenwich. On returning they would load chalk and gravel at Ballast Quay which had come from the pits in Greenwich as ballast for their back haul cargo.

Members of IMCoS may like to do the Greenwich Riverside Path Walk from the Cutty Sark tea clipper eastwards along the river and indeed drop into the well known taverns of 'The Trafalgar' on Crane Street and the 'Cutty Sark' on Ballast Quay. (For a more detailed description of the Riverside Path Walk, members should refer to: www.gold.ac.uk/world/gihs/mmgrpath.html)

The association of Greenwich with fishing drew to a close by the early 1900s. By then the River Thames had become too polluted at Greenwich and many inshore fishermen, including the Youngs, first moved down to Gravesend and then down to Leigh on the north side of the Thames. Here the air was also said to be healthier and it had a good railway connection into London.

Greenwich boasts many fine buildings including The Old Royal Naval College, formerly the Royal Hospital designed by Sir Christopher Wren and established by Royal Charter in 1694 as

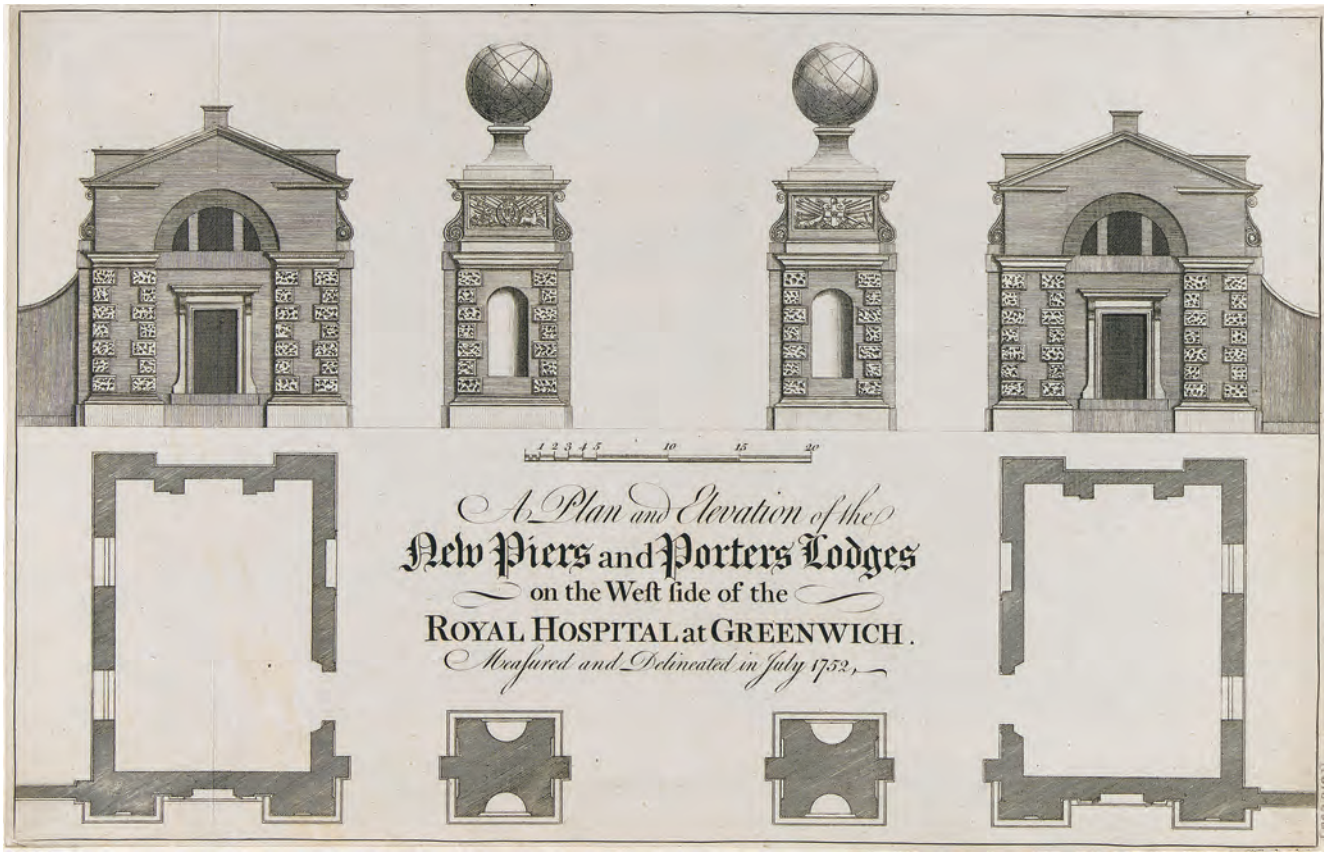


Fig. 4 The two stone globes on top of the piers on the west side of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich. (Image PU2183, © National Maritime Museum, Greenwich).

a hospital for the relief and support of seamen and their dependents. In 1873 it was taken over as the Royal Naval College for training young officers and seamen up until 1998.

Cartographers will be interested to see the famous stone carved globes which were originally placed on the top of the West Gate piers on the west side of the Royal Hospital, Greenwich in 1754. They were moved west to their present position in 1850. As reported by the National Maritime Museum these two stone globes, six feet in diameter and weighing seven tons each, were designed in 1752 by Richard Oliver at a cost of 50 guineas. The one to the south is the terrestrial globe and features parallels of latitude, laid in copper every 10 degrees, and bears the track of Anson's voyage around the world (1740-1744). The other globe is the celestial sphere and was designed with inlays of the 24 meridians, the equinoxial, the ecliptic, tropics and circles and a great number of stars. Erosion has now unfortunately dissolved much of the stone surface so removing many of these interesting details and making the copper bands stand proud. Curiously it was one of my family's forebears, a local Greenwich stonemason named Jones who was involved in completing the work on these famous globes. Mr Jones was from a line of stonemasons based originally at Chew Magna in Somerset where they worked on Wells Cathedral before moving to Greenwich. Malcolm Young's grandmother was from the Jones family and her daughter married Malcolm's father at Christchurch in Greenwich in 1898.

It may surprise members to know that in the past the lawns to the front of The Old Royal Naval College were used as rugby football pitches for the young naval officers. In fact, in 1935 my father, Malcolm Young, played rugby for his school (King's School Rochester - probably the oldest in Britain, being founded in 604AD and re-founded by Henry VIII in 1542) against the Royal Naval College. Afterwards my father told me he was entertained for post-match tea and cakes in Greenwich's famous Painted Hall.

At that time the valuable contents of the Painted Hall had only just been transferred to the then newly-created National Maritime Museum. The Painted Hall is still probably the finest dining hall in the Western world and it was here that the body of Admiral Lord Nelson was brought to lie in state after he had been killed at the moment of his victory over Napoleon's fleet at Cape Trafalgar.

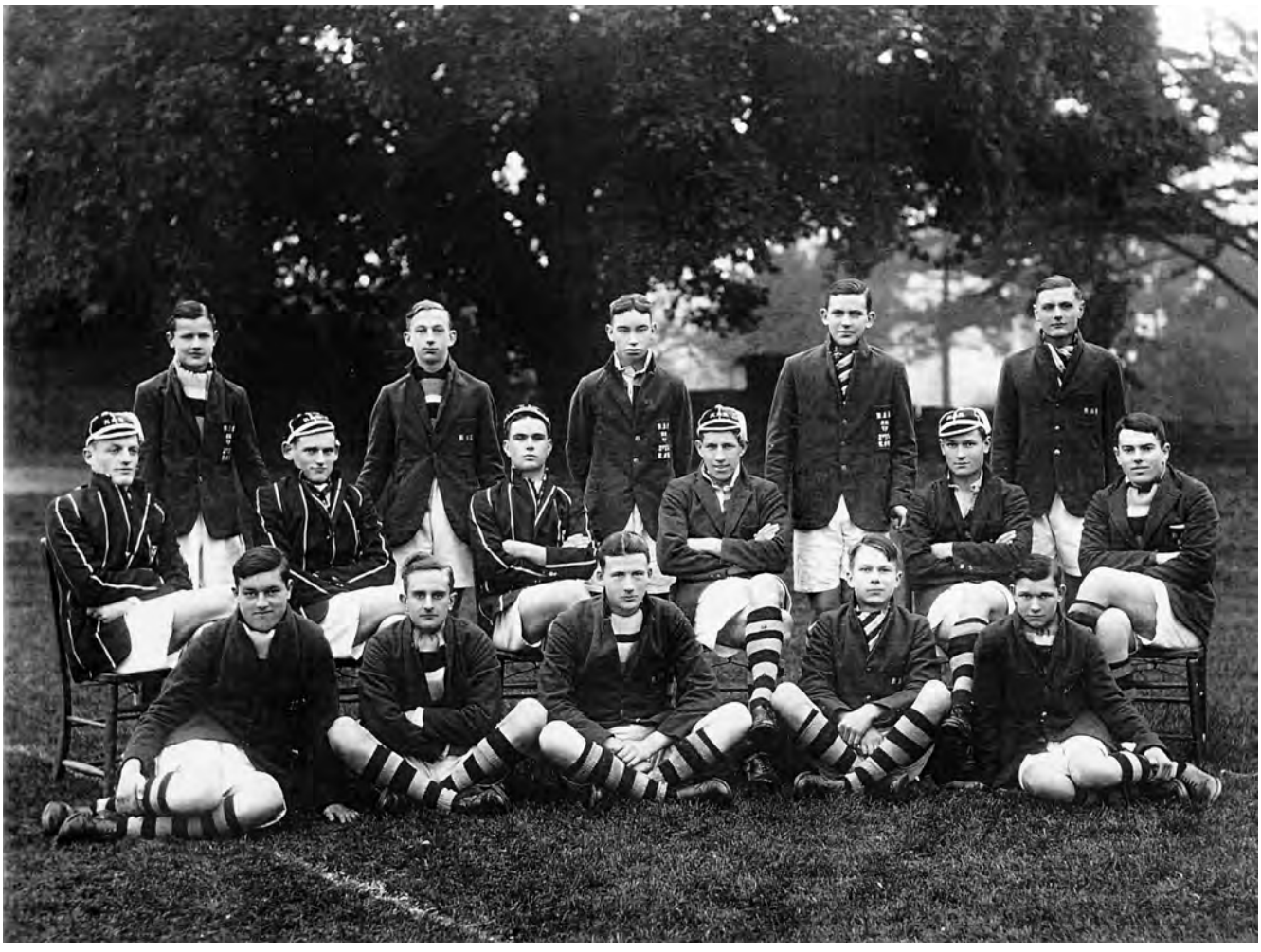


Fig. 5
The First XV Rugby Team of King's School, Rochester, in 1935. Malcolm Young is seated second from left in the centre row.



Notes

1. Only at the International Meridian Conference in Washington DC in 1884 did most nations vote for Greenwich to be taken as the Prime Meridian for time and east/west measurement.

Like many family members, as a young man the author, Richard Young (pictured left), worked for a short while in the family's seafood business. He now farms in the South of England, having retired as a Consultant, Chartered Accountant and an International Project Financier. As a yachtsman he developed an interest in old seacharts of Britain's coastal waters. Later, travelling on international assignments in Brazil, the Indian Ocean and Australia and with family in Argentina, Uruguay and the Falkland Islands, he furthered his interests in old seacharts of remote islands.

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Alexander von Humboldt

His earliest surviving map of New Spain

by Dennis Reinhartz

Friedrich Wilhelm Heinrich Alexander *Freiherr* von Humboldt (1769-1859) was a 'polymath,'[1] a virtuoso intellectual - naturalist, explorer, philosopher, diplomat, and author - in the vein of Mikhail Lomonosov, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson, among others, and a transitional figure of the later Enlightenment and early Romantic eras. He was from Prussia, born and died in Berlin, the son of Major Georg von Humboldt, who served in the armies of Frederick the Great and was a hero of the Seven Years War, and the younger brother of Wilhelm von Humboldt, a Prussian government minister, philosopher, and linguist. But beyond being a German, Alexander was also much the devoted Francophile, who spoke fluent French as well as Spanish and English, and a true European. Today, he is considered a founder of modern geography, especially biogeography, which brings together aspects of biology, geography, and geology. As in much of his work, in his *magnum opus, Kosmos. Entwurf einer phisischen Weltbeschreibung* (1845-1858), he strove to bring greater unity to the sciences and social sciences.

Jefferson, a kindred spirit, thought Humboldt to be the 'greatest scientist' that he had ever met, and Charles Darwin saw him as the 'greatest travelling scientist' of the age. Throughout much of his career, Humboldt certainly was consumed by his field work. After attending the universities in Frankfurt-an-der-Oder (finance) and Göttingen (botany, geology, geography, metallurgy, and mining), in 1792-1796 he served as an assessor of mines in Prussia, rising to the rank of supervisor-in-chief. He also toured much of Europe in 1790-1798, the Americas in 1799-1804, and the environs of Russian Eurasia in 1829.

The most important of his explorations was to the New World. Having failed to join Napoleon in Egypt in 1799, Humboldt and his partner the French botanist Aimé Bonpland, armed with royal permits from the otherwise secretive Spanish, set out from Paris via Madrid to Latin America. On their expedition, they explored, researched, and collected specimens in the lands of Venezuela, the Orinoco River Basin, Cuba, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Mexico. On the way home, Humboldt spent three weeks in Washington, DC, where he struck up a friendship with the President Thomas Jefferson. Some of the findings of this extensive journey were detailed in Humboldt's *Essai Politique sur le Royaume de Nouvelle Espagne…* (Political Essay on the Kingdom of New Spain…), published in Paris in 1809 and London in 1810.

The 150th Anniversary of the death of Humboldt was celebrated in 2009, and perhaps it is an appropriate time to reconsider his depiction of the North American Greater Southwest. With



Fig. 1 Humboldt by Friedrich Georg Weitsch, 1806



Figs. 2 & 3
The two-sheet (separating to the north and south of present-day El Paso, Texas) masterpiece **Carte Generale du Royaume de la Nouvelle Espagne…** ***[A Map of New Spain…] by Humboldt, Paris 1809.***



Fig. 4
The copy of Humboldt's ms map of New Spain found recently.

the various editions of his *Political Essay*, was Humboldt's two-sheet (separating to the north and south of present-day El Paso, Texas) masterpiece map, 'A Map of New Spain…,' which Martin and Martin among others relate as a 'magnificent cartographic achievement.'[2] It is based not only on data collected by Humboldt in the field but also on research carried out in Madrid, Seville, Mexico City, and elsewhere on his journey.[3] Along the way, Humboldt left copies of his manuscript map with the viceroy of Colombia in 1801 and Jefferson in 1804,[4] who shared it with Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin, Secretary of State James Madison, Governor of the Louisiana Territory, General James Wilkinson, explorer Lieutenant Zebulon Pike, and perhaps unknown others. Humboldt's original was in French. Sadly, all these copies were thought to have been lost. However, another copy of Humboldt's manuscript map has recently resurfaced. *Carte Geografica Gral del Reyno N. E. Sacada de la Original hecha en 1803 por el Sor. Baron de Humboldt. Y Dedicada al Sor. Conde de la Valenciana* currently on loan for study by permission of its owner (to whom I am profoundly indebted) to the Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library at The University of Texas at Arlington.

While in Mexico, Humboldt acted in part under the auspices of the Royal School of Mines in Mexico City, where he drew his first, incomplete manuscript map for a 'A Map of New Spain….'.[5] He also spent a month with the wealthy *Conde de la Valenciana* in the silver mining centre of Guanajuato in the highlands of west central Mexico. Accounts of Humboldt's Guanajuato stay are to be found in his personal diary and *Political Essay*. He estimated the *Conde* family's mining, metallurgical, and ranching interests to be worth well in excess of 25 million francs. The *Conde* saw and liked very much the unfinished draft of the New Spain map and secured from Humboldt permission to have a copy made of it. Juan Segura, a local artist, was commissioned by the *Conde* to make the *Carte Geografica…* in August 1803.[6]

Although Humboldt drew his first maps at the age of thirteen, he was not primarily a cartographer. The Segura copy is probably a more artistic rendering than the original, yet it is a close copy. The *Carte Geografica…* is in printed and cursive Spanish of ink and watercolor wash on laid paper and measures 90.2 x 62.2 cms. It is period backed on linen as evidenced by oxidized colour through the linen. There are border longitude and latitude markings, but the map apparently lacks any distance scales, though one might be stuck artfully in the ground in the cartouche.

There is also a simple but beautiful European-style cartouche, supported by an allegorical Indian maiden still representing the New World. To complete the effect, the cartouche is interlaced with a garland of bananas and pierced by a native arrow; a parrot sits on the branch of a tree stump to the right of the maiden and what may be a distance scale. The cartouche contains the title of the map above a guide to the map's symbols for 'Ciudades,' 'Villas,' 'Diputaciones,' 'Minerales,' 'Pueblos,' 'Haciendas,' 'Rancherias,' and 'Miciones.' In all probability, the cartouche was not copied from the original.

South of the borderlands between New Spain and the new Louisiana Territory of the United States, organized provinces are colour differentiated, and physical features, cities and towns, mining centres, and other established significant points are clearly indicated. Segura does not employ the innovative and accurate hatching or *hachures* to designate mountains used by Humboldt on his printed map and probably on his manuscript copy as well. Nor did Segura draw the mountains in profile as was common. Instead, he favoured a more traditional and artistic use of darker (brown) colour shading.[7] This is the area better known to the Mexican authorities and visited in part by Humboldt. Given his background in geology and



Fig. 5
A copy of the map of New Spain by Juan Segura. This was commissioned by Coude de la Valenciana and drawn for her by Humboldt. Guanajuato, 1803

metallurgy and his Guanajuato host's mining interests, it is not surprising that the map places an emphasis on Mexico's real (e.g. mines) and potential (e.g. mountains) mineral wealth. This theme carries over into the later printed map.

The Segura copy is much weaker on the northern borderlands as were the Spanish knowledge and sources upon which Humboldt's original was grounded. In his commentaries across the top of the map, Humboldt acknowledges his ignorance of northern New Spain. He had not yet done any fieldwork in the north, nor did he. Instead he deviated via Cuba to Washington DC before returning to Europe. Consequently, in the northeast the Segura copy essentially ends at the '*Rio Colorado*' and the '*Provincia de Texas*.' Along what looks to be the northern part of the Rio Grande, there is a reference to a native people, '*Indias Cumanches*,' the Comanche, who with their raiding were having a destabilising impact on this frontier. To fill in white space, the north is covered with Indian names. And also, possibly due to the influences of the Romantics who cared more for the natural landscape than the people on it. There are few mentions of other human groups to the south on Humboldt's map.

To the northwest it generally goes into present-day New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah to the region of the Great Salt Lake ('*de Valle Salado*'). Here, through his notations on the map, Humboldt reveals an acceptance of the geography of the Aztec origins myth.[8] In the white spaces across the north, there are written references to various Spanish expeditions (e.g. '*Velez y Escalante en 1777*') that had previously explored this expansive territory. In Spain and/or Mexico, Humboldt presumably was granted access to some of the reports and accompanying maps from some of these expeditions. As Huseman correctly points out, "For all the information Humboldt's map provided, it also indicated how little the Spanish in Mexico City [and he] knew about the distant areas they claimed and administered."[9]

Humboldt's printed map reveals more information about the north than is shown on the Segura copy. This additional data was secured post-Guanajuato possibly in Mexico, but also probably in the United States from Jefferson and Wilkinson. General Wilkinson had been a Spanish spy, and he was also associated with Vice President Aaron Burr in an ill-fated scheme to create a breakaway republic in the northern borderlands of New Spain after precipitating a war with Spain over the area. As a result, he knew a good deal about the North American Greater Southwest. Jefferson and Wilkinson also probably made the American cartography of the region, much of which was also used by Pike on his tour of discovery in 1806-1807, available to Humboldt.[10] Humboldt therefore had not uncommonly traded geographic information with the Americans in 1804.

Humboldt's published 'A Map of New Spain…' was a foundation map for the



Fig. 6
The cartouche on the map by Juan Segura.



Fig. 7
A portrait of a more mature Alexander von Humboldt painted by Joseph Stieler, 1843.

cartography of the Greater Southwest for almost the next half century after its appearance.[11] The Segura copy of Humboldt's manuscript original helps to give us a fuller understanding of the process of construction and final presentation of the crucial printed map.

Notes

1. Carl I. Wheat refers to him as the 'German savant' in *The Mapping of the Transmissisippi West, 1542-1861* (San Francisco, CA: Institute of Historical Cartography, 1957-1963), 1, 132.

2. James C. Martin and Robert Sidney Martin, *Maps of Texas and the Southwest, 1513-1900* (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1999 [1984]), 109. Also, see: Ben W. Huseman, *Revisualizing Westward Expansion: A Century of Conflict in Maps, 1800-1900* (Arlington: The University of Texas at Arlington Library, 2008), Thomas Winthrop Streeter, *Bibliography of Texas, 1795-1845* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1955-1960), and Wheat.

3. Wheat, 1, 133-135.

4. *Ibid*, 1, 137.

5. *Ibid*, 1, 132.

6. Huseman, 6-7.

7. Wheat, 1, 134.

8. Wheat, 1, 134.

9. Huseman, 8. He also cites not only the documentation of the Dominguez-Escalante expedition, but also the manuscript map (1776) of Bernardo Miera y Pacheco and earlier published map (Paris: 1768) of José Antonio Alzate y Ramírez as sources for Humboldt's map.

10. Dennis Reinhartz, 'Zebulon Pike's Cartographic Indebtedness to Alexander von Humboldt,' unpublished paper, Texas State Historical Association, Austin, TX (27 March 2009), 9-10.

11. Huseman, 8, Martin and Martin, 108-109, and Seymour I. Schwartz and Ralph E. Ehrenberg, *The Mapping of America* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1980), 225-227.

A version of this article was presented at the 23rd International Conference on the History of Cartography in Copenhagen, Denmark on 12th-17th July 2009. The cartographic illustrations in the article are courtesy of the Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library at the University of Texas at Arlington.



The author, Dennis Reinhartz, is Emeritus Professor of History at The University of Texas at Arlington and lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico with his wife Judy. He is an associate editor for Volume 4 of the History of Cartography and will publish a book about the non-cartographic elements on old maps, tentatively titled 'Maps in Detail' in 2011.

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Illustrated: Abraham Ortelius, *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, 1st ed., 3rd issue, Antwerp, 1570, 53 hand-coloured engraved maps
Sold 28 January 2009

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Correction and apology

Unfortunately, due to a computer glitch, a map from the article 'Pikes Peak: Early ascents that put Pikes Peak on the map' by Wesley Brown on page 17 of the last issue of the *Journal* (N°120) was repeated on the first page of Richard Smith's article on José Andres Cornide de Folgueira y Saavedra instead of the portrait of Cornide. This is very regrettable and we apologise unreservedly to Richard for this error. To try and make up for this we are publishing the portrait below.

The Editor



The missing Fig. 1 from the article. A lithograph of Jose Cornide (Courtesy of the Real Academia de la Historia)

Free back issues

I wish to give away some back issues of *The Map Collector* magazine (12) and copies of the *IMCoS Journal* dating back to 1982. If any member is interested please contact me.

David A. Williams
+44 (0)208 84521820
dvdwms@hotmail.com

'Antique' or 'antiquarian' are troublesome words

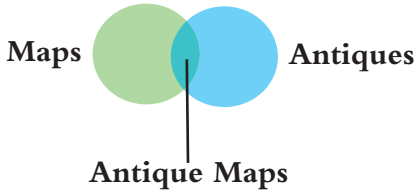
Unfortunately, Bill Bryson does not deal with 'antique' or 'antiquarian' in his book on *Troublesome Words* (Penguin, 2002).

I collect and study old, printed maps. Recently, a friend asked me: "What do you call someone who collects and studies old maps?" I knew I was in trouble. Am I an antique map collector, antique mapcollector, antiquarian map collector or antiquarian mapcollector? I fled to the web.

In the Miriam Webster Dictionary, an antiquarian is someone who studies antiquities. At www.dictionary.com the adjective can mean 'of or pertaining to the study of antiquities'; also 'dealing in, or interested in old or rare books'. *The Oxford Pocket Dictionary* (at www.encyclopedia.com): 'adj. relating to or dealing in antiques or rare books; valuable because rare or old: antiquarian books; n. a person who studies or collects antiques or antiquities.' In *Wikipedia*, 'most often in modern usage, an antiquarian is a person who deals with or collects rare and ancient antiquarian books'. There is an American Antiquarian Society which is a society of antiquarians. The International Map Collectors' Society is for people with an interest in collecting 'antique maps'. The International Antiquarian Mapsellers Association is for sellers of 'antiquarian maps'. The Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America has been 'promoting ethical standards and professionalism in the antiquarian book trade in America'.

I fled from the web and resorted to etymology and the elementary logic of sets.

'Antique' is derived from the Latin adjective *antiquus, a, um*: old or ancient. An antique object is old. Today, it is also collectible. Antique is also a verb. To antique is to bind a book 'after an antique manner' (OED). A simple Venn diagram illustrates the logical and useful convergence of the nouns that are maps and antiques.



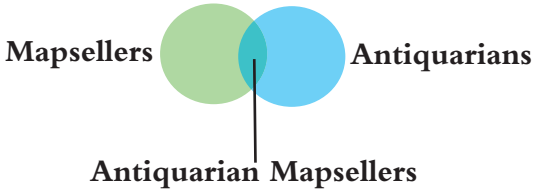
Antique is the adjective that describes the subset of maps that are antiques. I collect them.

'Antiquarian' and antiquary are derived from the Latin noun *antiquarius*: a scholar of the past or

of ancient things (OED). This is not contentious. In the current understanding of scholarship, scholars have and advance knowledge in their subject. As an adjective, antiquarian connects nouns to scholarship in antiquity and antiquities. The adjective may also be used to describe a 'large size of drawing paper' (OED).

Is antiquarian map permissible? It is, if the map is being studied in the pursuit of new knowledge in antiquity or antiquities. Antiquarian's map is also acceptable. However, neither an antiquarian map nor an antiquarian's map necessarily is old or collectible! For example, an antiquarian who is studying ancient trade routes might use modern and old maps.

An antique map seller is a seller of old and collectible maps. Map seller is contracted to mapseller. Today, it is impolite to refer to an antique mapseller, even if the seller is old. Is antiquarian mapseller permissible? Logically, it is.



Antiquarian mapsellers are both antiquarians and mapsellers. The same logic applies to antiquarian mapcollectors (although, map collector is contracted infrequently). Most sellers and collectors of antique maps are knowledgeable in their field, but few are antiquarians. Antiquarian does not assign old age to the maps, the sellers or the collectors.

What about societies and associations? An Antiquarian Society correctly is a Society of Antiquarians or an Antiquarians' Society, as in International Map Collectors' Society. The same logic applies to mapsellers' societies or associations.

I think I can now answer my friend's question. I am an antique map collector. I might be amateur antiquarian mapcollector too. I am not an antique mapcollector.

Proposed new entry for Bill Bryson's book:

Antique, antiquarian

An antique is a collectible, old object. The adjective modifies inert objects; an antique map or atlas for example. To antique is to apply an ancient technique in a craft such as book binding.

An antiquarian is a scholar of antiquity or antiquities (old things). The adjective connects nouns to an antiquarian's work. An antiquarian collector collects objects in order to advance society's knowledge and understanding of antiquity or antiquities.

Societies and associations are collective nouns. They are neither antiquarian nor antique. Use the possessive case of the appropriate noun to describe a society or association, e.g. map collectors' society.

I am sure the two troublesome words may be used differently, but expect some trouble.

Roger Stewart, a member of the International Map Collectors' Society.
Cape Town, South Africa.
ristew@iafrica.com
www.stewartmapcollection.com

Ortelius' legacy

The winter issue of the *IMCoS Journal* included a book review of *Ortelius' Theatrum Orbis Terrarum (1570-1641)* by Marcel van den Broecke. Ortelius' own library of books and manuscripts was considered to be his main source of information. The review stated that this library:-

'...was inherited by his nephew, Colius, who donated both the library and the letters of his uncle to Cambridge University.'

Wishing to follow up the possibility of viewing the library and letters I wrote to Cambridge University Library, whose librarian is most helpful. Apparently, the University Library only contains two books with the inscription of Ortelius and one with that of Colius. They acquired neither his library nor his letters; Pembroke College holds his *Album Amicorum* but no letters.

Apparently Ortelius' letters were published by J.H. Hessels in 1887 and the original letters were sold at Sotheby's in 1955. It is believed that some may now be in the Royal Library in The Hague and others in the University of Austin, Texas. The *Dictionary of National Biography* states that Colius left some of his uncle's books to Bishop Moore's Library and thence to Cambridge University Library.

My question is, where did Marcel van den Broecke get his information and was the main library kept intact elsewhere?

Barbara A. Thomas
Surrey, UK

NB. As the Society is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its founding this year we would welcome letters containing any reminiscences or amusing stories which members may have about IMCoS events in the past. If these are accompanied by a photograph it would be even better. We could then print these in the Autumn issue of the *Journal*. Don't forget to include your name and address or email contact.
Editor.

Member seeks military maps

I am looking for a Dutch WW2 map published by the *Deutsche Zeitung in den Niederlanden* (German Newspaper of the Netherlands), and issued either in 1942 or 1943. The map measures 24x35 ins [61x89cms] and shows the entire Pacific theatre war zone. The oceans on this map are coloured black, axis held areas are coloured an orange/reddish colour and Allied held areas are coloured a greyish white colour. The writing/information on the map is in German. Also, the initials DZ appear on the front of the map.

I am also looking for another WW2 map published by the same *Deutsche Zeitung in den Niederlanden* and issued either in 1942 or 1943. This map measures 25 x 35 ins [63.5 x 89cms] and shows the entire theatre of war in Europe, the Near East and North Africa. The oceans on this map are coloured a dark blue. All landmasses are coloured in a cream/tan colour. The writing/information on this map is in German. Also, the initials DZ appear on the front of the map. Please contact me if anyone has either of these maps. I am prepared to pay the top price!

Jeffrey Douma
doumai@comcast.net





Quote for the Day

'The fascination of old maps is proverbial. As long as human nature remains unchanged so long will the unknown and the mysterious continue to possess an irresistible attraction for the majority of mankind. The maps of our own day, however much their beauty of colouring and accuracy of information may please us, are almost wholly devoid of any element of mystery or romance; the blank spaces are rapidly becoming fewer and smaller, and even the most inaccessible regions are beginning to seem less savage and remote. As Mr John Buchan has reminded us, it will not be long before the 'last secrets' are revealed, and soon even south-eastern Arabia and the heart of New Guinea and the remotest corners of Bolivia and Brazil will all be explored and mapped and measured. Thus it comes about that the maps of former days appeal to a certain side of our nature in a way that no modern map can rival.'

Taken from Thomas Chubb, *The Printed Maps in the Atlases of Great Britain and Ireland. A bibliography, 1579-1870* (1974).

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IMCoS Matters

Celebrating 30 years

Important notice to members:
We are hoping to put the membership list on the members-only section of the IMCoS website. If anyone would prefer *not* to have their names on the website list please let us know as soon as possible.

Accessing the *Members Only* section of the website
www.imcos.org: Enter your surname followed by your first initial as given to IMCoS Membership Secretary (no stops) on the first line. When asked for your password enter your membership number without any initial zero on the next line.

The June weekend
We are looking forward to seeing members at the conducted tour of the new exhibition at The British Library on the afternoon of Friday, 4th June, followed by the annual dinner being held this year at the Royal Overseas League, 5 St. James's Terrace, London SW1A 1LP. Francis Herbert is to be our guest speaker for The Malcolm Young Lecture. His subject is 'Malcolm Young, his life, travels and maps.' The lecture will start at 7pm followed by dinner. Please arrive promptly. The annual general meeting is being held this year at the Royal Geographical Society at 1, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR at 10 am on Saturday, 5th June. The agenda is printed below. We would like as many members as possible to come and support us. You will not miss the map fair as it does not open until midday.
Please note the London Map Fair, supported by IMCoS, will be held on Saturday 5th June from midday to 7pm and Sunday 6th June from 10am to 5pm. Their lecturer is Nick Crane.

Notes: The Society has paid out £6,907 in deposits for services associated with the Symposium which will take place in October 2010. No registrations had been received as at 31st December 2009.

The accounts have been examined by Alan Bartlett and Peter Carpenter.

Full accounts are available on the Members' website, and will be presented to the Annual General meeting on 5th June 2010.

Jeremy Edwards

Agenda for IMCoS Annual General Meeting 2010

1. Welcome and opening.
2. Approval of minutes AGM 2009.
3. Chairman's report for 2009.
4. Treasurer's report 2009; presentation of 2009 annual accounts.
5. Report on International Matters.
6. Progress report and invitation for the 2010 London Symposium.
7. Approval of the next term of tenure for our President.
8. Approval of subscription fees 2011.
9. AOB.
10. Closure.

Venue: Royal Geographical Society,
The Ondaatje Theatre,
1 Kensington Gore,
London, SW7 2AR
Date: Saturday 5th June 2010.
Time: 10.00 hrs; doors open from 09.30 hrs.

Summary of accounts for the year ended 31st December, 2009

INCOME		
Subscriptions		£16,264
Advertising		21,692
Bank interest		923
Other income		2,248
Surplus on events		381
		£41,508
EXPENSES		
Journal costs		£32,317
Advertising, awards & presentation		1,019
Insurance		1,033
Membership services		2,185
Administration & committee costs		3,427
Bank charges & exchange differences		976
		£40,957
Surplus for the year		£ 551
Balance of funds brought forward		£57,467
Total members' funds		£58,018
BALANCE SHEET		
Bank balances		£66,600
Prepayments (Symposium)		6,907
Accounts receivable		1,298
		£74,805
Less Prepaid subscriptions	£15,762	
Accruals	2,525	
		18,287
		£56,518
Library		1,500
Net worth		£58,018

Obituary
Malcolm Young (1918-2010) RIP

Malcolm Young, dear friend to IMCoS and to so many of us personally, passed away peacefully at 2:30 am on Wednesday 17th March, 2010. He was 91 years old.



There isn't a single thought about Malcolm that comes to my mind that is not agreeable and congenial. That is probably because we met and befriended each other under that very special ambience generated by IMCoS. Malcolm's sense of fun and his enthusiasm were infectious and, notwithstanding our very differing backgrounds and upbringing, we found a great deal in common and a unifying bond in IMCoS. From the very start in 1980, on that Saturday in Birmingham when I pointed at him and asked that he become Chairman of our fledgling Society, he took to IMCoS like a duck takes to water. He remained dedicated and devoted to the very last months of his life.

IMCoS owes a great debt of gratitude to Malcolm for guiding the Society to the great achievements we enjoy today. He personally selected our first senior officers led by Rodney Shirley and later Helen Wallis and others. Outside of the committee meetings, we used to discuss the society's potential and his visions for the future of IMCoS. The success of our first major event beyond the series of regional meetings - the Map Fair and Auction at the Grosvenor Hotel, Victoria, London, in October 1981 - gave us a sense of consolidation and a feeling that we were now en route never to look back. Malcolm often recalled, with that mischievous glint in his eye, how we 'smuggled' bottles of wine under our jackets to the reception in the Hotel, saving, in those early days, considerable corkage charges to the Society!

He was solely instrumental in internationalising the Society. He travelled the world and appointed the first of our National Representatives in Europe. He personally sought and selected locations for our international meetings. This led to the Amsterdam symposium in November 1982 followed by an unforgettable gathering in Nicosia, in April 1984. I have the fondest memories of Malcolm from that trip. We spent a great deal of time together and in so many ways he was in his element. He was particularly proud of the Cyprus Government first day covers depicting the IMCoS logo. He took front stage and represented the Society, with Diana always by his side, with great dignity and personality in all the International functions that they attended.

Words will never sufficiently convey or record all that Malcolm meant to IMCoS. He was an IMCoS giant and all of us who follow in his footsteps do so in his shadow.

Susan Gole, among Malcolm's closest friends, told me of Malcolm's long and successful commercial career. After his return from a prisoner of war camp at the end of WWII, he joined the family firm of fisheries and food production and brought about many innovations. He became interested in medicine (he later wished he might have studied either as a doctor or an engineer) and was active in several medical societies, most notably as one of the founders of Action on Smoking for Health (ASH) and then its treasurer. Over thirty years ago he decided that he preferred a country style of life, and bought a farm in Wiltshire. There he and Diana lived, and Malcolm was still active in the management of the farm until the end. He was also involved in the local branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. His other interests are too numerous to list, amongst them, curiously, he played second violin in the prison camp orchestra that had been set up, and his love of music always remained!

There is no doubt, however, that IMCoS became a most important part of Malcolm's life from 1980 to his dying day. His interest in all IMCoS affairs continued long after he was able to attend meetings. He was kept informed by various members, not least by Susan, of all that was going on and he expressed his views, at times passionately, in letters and correspondence, now in our archives.

Malcolm had enjoyed a full and fruitful life and IMCoS added to his joy. On the morning that he passed away I spoke with Diana, whose closing words resonate in my ears: "Life owed nothing to Malcolm".

May he rest in peace.
Yasha Beresiner

Welcome to our new representative

We would like to extend a welcome to our new IMCoS National Representative for Korea, T.J. Kim of Seoul in Korea. His contact details appear on p. 64 of this journal.

28th International Symposium in London

by Jenny Harvey

I hope that my report in the Spring *Journal* was informative for members thinking of coming to the Symposium. Since writing it in February, I have two exciting updates to make by way of additions to the programme.

You will have seen that the Gala Dinner is being held in Stationers' Hall, one of the ancient City Livery Companies of London. Most archives of city livery companies are held in the Metropolitan Archives which we will be visiting on our first afternoon. However, The Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers (to give it its full title) has always retained its own records, and I am pleased to say that the archivist has agreed to display some of their material for us to view before we have dinner.

Equally if not more exciting is that we have received agreement for a surprise visit to an important collection which is never open to the public. This will take place on Monday afternoon in parallel with the visit to the Metropolitan Archives. There are restrictions on numbers for this visit, so it will be offered to participants on a first come first served basis, by reference to their booking dates. Regrettably, accompanying persons are not eligible for this visit.

Many of you will have visited London before and do not need any introduction to well known places to visit in addition to your participation in the Symposium. We thought it might be helpful, however, to provide details of some lesser known places, which can typically be visited in one to two hours. A flyer is included with this *Journal* to give brief but salient information.

I would like to clarify our journey back to London from Greenwich on the Thames Clipper. There may be some misapprehension that this is a pleasure cruise back to London. It is a regular scheduled service, which normally makes various stops on its journey back to Charing Cross Pier. However, because we have chartered one Clipper for IMCoS, ours will be a fast non-stop journey to provide a flavour of Thames travel.

As I write no-one is entering or leaving the UK by air thanks to the Icelandic volcano. Whilst this is deemed an act of God, an act of Mammon in the last month or so has been to make this International Symposium cheaper for those of you attending from abroad! The pound sterling has moved significantly lower against the Euro and the Dollar making the trip to London more affordable, provided you book before the rates change again!

From the beginning of July it may be possible for members (some may have already visited the proposed afternoon venues) to book on a daily basis for separate Symposium activities. The registration fees will be as follows:

Morning lectures only, including buffet lunch
£100 per day

Inclusive daily rate (lectures, lunch, transport and afternoon visit) £120 per day

Opening Reception and Exhibition on Sunday
£25 per person

Gala Dinner on Wednesday
£100 per person

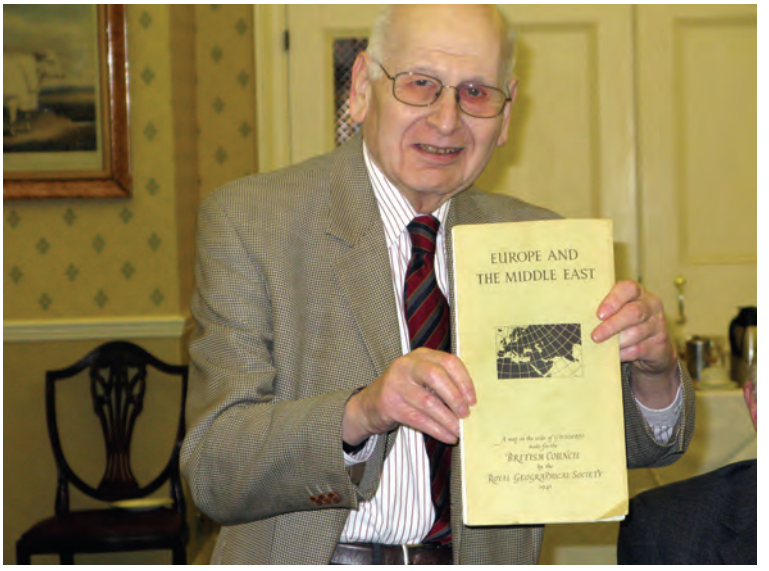
Enquiries for separate days or activities should be made at the beginning of July to Jenny Harvey by email or phone. Her contact details can be seen on the index page of the Journal.

Collectors' evening in February

By Valerie Newby

IMCoS members gathered at the Farmers' Club in London on a very cold and wet evening of 16th February. Francis Herbert, retired Curator of Maps at the Royal Geographical Society-IBG, was in the chair and kept us all under control (or at least tried). The theme was town or city plans in guide books, on hydrographic charts, or standing alone but members were also welcome to bring any other map if they so desired (which they mostly did).

Walter Valk started the evening by displaying a map of Europe and the Middle East produced by the RGS for the British Council during the Second World War: his map (English language edition) was published in 1941, to which the



Walter Valk pictured at the collectors' evening in February.





(Right) Dr Barbara Thomas displaying her little book of maps of the British Isles by Rutger Hermannides in a vellum binding and dated 1661 (Far right) Kitty Liebreich with her town plan of Sziget in Hungary. Photos by David Webb.

Chairman added that the Arabic edition was published in 1945 and that both editions, either flat or folded in covers, are still available from the RGS! Walter pointed out that it was useful to have a small scale map when planning strategy. He was followed by London dealer Kitty Liebreich who showed three maps of Geneva, and a town plan of Sziget (now Szigetvár), a fortified town in Hungary, which is on an island and was invaded by the Turks and then recaptured. This plan was by Gabriel Bodenehr (the Elder) and dated to about 1690. Barbara Thomas followed with a book of maps of the British Isles (*Britanniae Magna*) by Rutger Hermannides which was bound in vellum and dated 1661. It was published in Amsterdam and included a portrait of Charles II. It was an obvious piece of Royalist propaganda.

David Webb had only brought photocopies of



Cyrus Ala'i explaining some points on his map of Teheran. Photo by David Webb

maps as he was worried that the originals would get wet in the rain! One was the map of Surrey from Michael Drayton's *Poly-Olbion* and the other was a road map book of 1885.

Jenny Harvey showed us a 16-sheet atlas by Jean/John Rocque of his map of London and Suburbs (complete with its 'List of the Subscribers of this Work') published in 1746. She described it as the first A-Z. Ray Eddy had brought along an edition of Gough's *Topography* and a large-scale town plan of Durham dated 1754. He was followed by Cyrus Ala'i with the first official map of Teheran dating to 1858. He explained that two Muslims were sent to survey the city and had to do it on foot and in difficult circumstances as local people were highly suspicious of their motives. It obviously took them many years. At that time the population of the city was 80,000 whereas today it is 8 million.

Valerie Newby displayed two items. One showed the Roman area of Verulamium and the later nearby city of St Albans in 1721. This came from a book entitled *Beauties of England and Wales*. Caroline Batchelor explained that she was fond of maps by Emanuel Bowen and his son Thomas and she had brought along one showing Herefordshire. She also brought *Beeton's Dictionary of Universal Information*, containing maps; this was published by Samuel Orchart Beeton (FRGS), husband of the famous cook, Mrs Beeton. Rodney Shirley had stuck to the theme with a town plan of Constantinople from the well known Braun and Hogenberg *Civitates Orbis Terrarum* (published in six volumes between 1572 and 1618). At the foot is a turbaned nobleman accompanied by a retinue of janissaries carrying bows and arrows; there are also 12 medallion heads of Ottoman rulers including two named Mahomet. He also showed a folding map of Europe by J. Betts *Europe Delineated* and a relatively modern map of the United Nations (1948) which displayed the national flags of some 50 countries which were members at that time.

Finally, Francis Herbert showed us a pictorial plan of *Grosvenor House & the Heart of London* "done for Grosvenor House by Herry Perry in 1936". This was the front of a 13.5 x 21.5 cm folding-card publicity item; on the back was printed the seasonal 'Tariff' for the internationally famous hotel, and the centre pages are headed "As the map shows, Grosvenor House is in Park Lane overlooking London's great garden, Hyde Park". Many other pictorial maps and publicity posters (for London Transport) by woman artist Heather (or Herry) Perry (1893-1962) can be seen in the LT Transport Museum in Covent Garden; but this item seems to be a rare example of a hotel publicity work by her.



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Francis Herbert at the map collectors' evening. Photo by David Webb.

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Spitsbergen

Early exploration and mapping

by Jeremy Pool

The archipelago of Spitsbergen – or *Svalbard*, as it is known today – would seem like an unlikely area of interest for early cartographers. Located very far north, halfway between Norway's North Cape and the North Pole, covered with snow, ice and rugged mountains, Spitsbergen was viewed as uninhabitable except for during a few months of summer. It had no indigenous population and it was located far from the normal sailing routes of European commerce.

Yet during the seventeenth century the mapping of Spitsbergen flourished, and it is interesting to understand why it was important at that time – important to commercial and state interests, and also important to cosmographers.

Over the years various claims have been made as to who first discovered the archipelago. Some have claimed that Vikings discovered it in 1194, based on a comment found in the Icelandic Annals for that year. Others have claimed that Pomor hunters and trappers, from

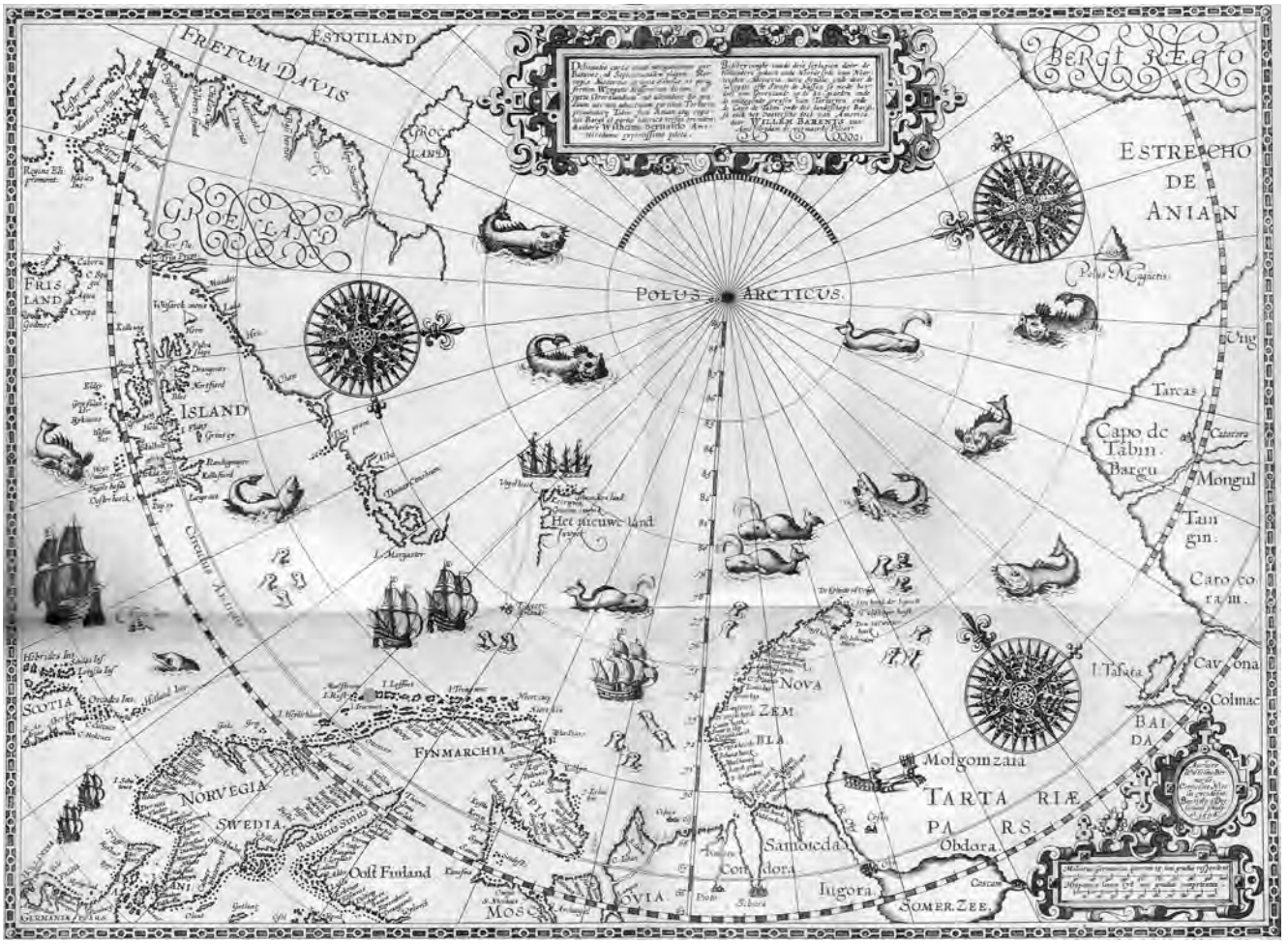


Fig. 1
The Barentsz Polar Map. The first printed map to depict Spitsbergen, the map also depicts the route of the two ships on Barentsz' last polar voyage in 1596-97. Published in Amsterdam by Claesz in 1598.

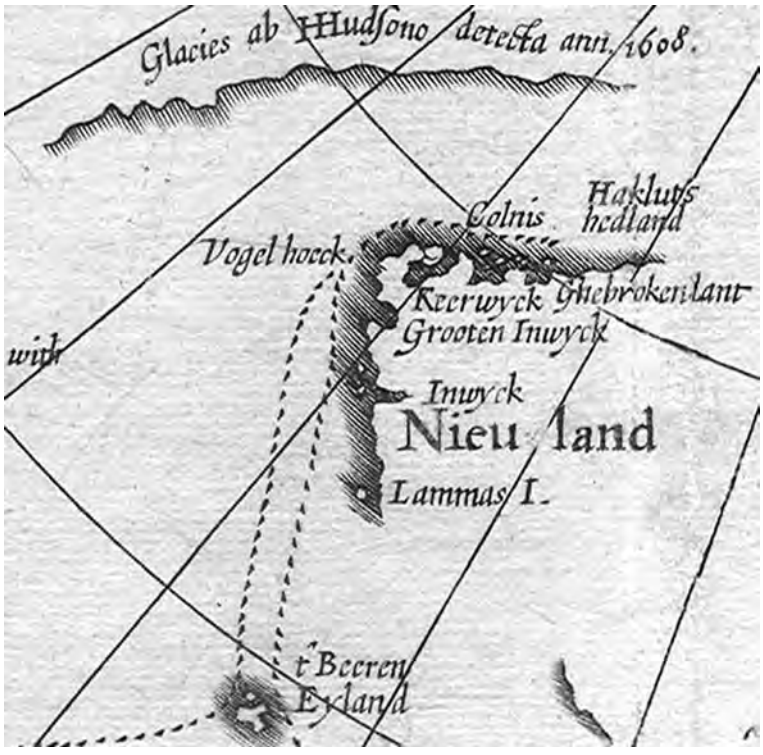


Fig. 2
A detail from the map published by Hondius, in J. Pontanus's* Rerum et Urbis Amstelodamensium Historia *(1611). Follows the Barentsz depiction, but with some added English toponyms based on Henry Hudson's voyage of 1607.

the White Sea area of Russia, discovered the islands in the mid-sixteenth century or earlier. But the first documented discovery was by the Dutch expedition of 1596, most often associated with the name of its chief pilot, Willem Barentsz. This was on the third, and last, of three expeditions made by Barentsz (in 1594, 1595 and 1596) in search of a northeast passage to the Indies. This last voyage, during which Spitsbergen was discovered, is better known for the harrowing tale of Barentsz' ship trapped in the ice off the northeastern tip of Novaya Zemlya, the crew overwintering there, and escaping the following spring in two open boats. Sadly, Barentsz himself died on the return trip.

The story of his last voyage, including the discovery of Spitsbergen, was written by Gerrit de Veer and published in Amsterdam, by Claesz, in 1598. This was the same year Claesz also published the famous map, usually referred to as Barentsz' polar map (Fig. 1). The depiction of Spitsbergen -- the first printed map on which it is shown – is pretty minimal. Only a bit of the northwestern coastline can be seen, and only a few toponyms are given. Though labelled *Het Nieuwe Land* (The New Land), an extract from Barentsz' log, published in de Veer's account, says that the discoverers gave this land the name *Spitsbergen* on account of its pointed mountains.

It was eleven years after Barentsz' discovery before Spitsbergen was again sighted. In 1607, on the first of his four expeditions in search of a northern route to the Indies, Henry Hudson saw roughly the same part of the northwest coast that Barentsz had seen. The map which records this was published by Jodocus Hondius in 1611 (Fig. 2). The depiction of Spitsbergen on this map, though clearly modelled on the Barentsz map, adds a couple of English toponyms (including *Haklut's Hedland*).

These two maps, reflecting Barentsz' and Hudson's early sailings to Spitsbergen, do not really convey the impact that the discovery of islands at this high latitude had on the cosmographic world view of the time. To appreciate this impact we need to go back and look at how the polar world was depicted prior to these discoveries; in particular, the Arctic as presented by Gerard Mercator and by his successor, Jodocus Hondius, and Hondius's influential contemporary Petrus Plancius.

On Mercator's famous world map of 1569, the map that originated the projection bearing the map-maker's name, the Arctic is presented in an inset. This is because the Mercator projection itself did not allow depiction of the very top, or bottom, of the globe. In this circular inset a mountainous rock is shown at the North Pole, surrounded by open water. The open water is itself surrounded by a ring of four very large islands. These are separated by channels through which water flows northward from the seas lying to the south. Though not shown visually on the map, these inflowing channels were thought to flow down into the earth at the North Pole. This depiction, which I will call the 'polar-island' theory, derives from a work, now lost, entitled *Inventio Fortunatae*, thought to date from about 1360. Mercator is not the first cartographer to use this depiction of the Arctic. The well-known Ruysch world map of 1507 and the 1531 cordiform world map of Oronce Fine both use it. Even the Behaim Globe of 1492 shows a north polar area derived from the *Inventio Fortunatae*.

Just before he died, Mercator prepared a map of the North Polar area for his projected *Atlas* (Fig. 3). For this map Mercator used the polar inset on his 1569 wall map as the model. Sixteenth-century English voyages, in search of a northeast passage to the Indies, had added some knowledge of the Arctic seas and islands north of

Europe. To incorporate these English discoveries, Mercator made some modifications to his 1569 depiction when preparing his atlas map 25 years later. But the basic model, the four-island ring around the North Pole, is still very much intact. Mercator died in 1594, two years before Barentsz discovered Spitsbergen, so it was left to Mercator's successor, Jodocus Hondius, to deal with this new information when updating subsequent editions of the *Atlas*.

For the first edition of the *Atlas* published under his imprint, in 1606, Hondius updated Mercator's North Pole map by erasing part of one of the polar islands and putting in Spitsbergen (Fig. 4). Looking at this map one can almost sense the discomfort that Hondius must have felt as he tried to reconcile the existing polar-island depiction with the hard facts brought back by Barentsz' last voyage. Here was an island where a much larger landmass was expected to be. It is almost as if Hondius is asking you to choose which

Fig. 3
First state of the Mercator atlas map of the North Pole, based on the polar inset from Mercator's wall map of the world of 1569. Published in 1595, before Spitsbergen's discovery.



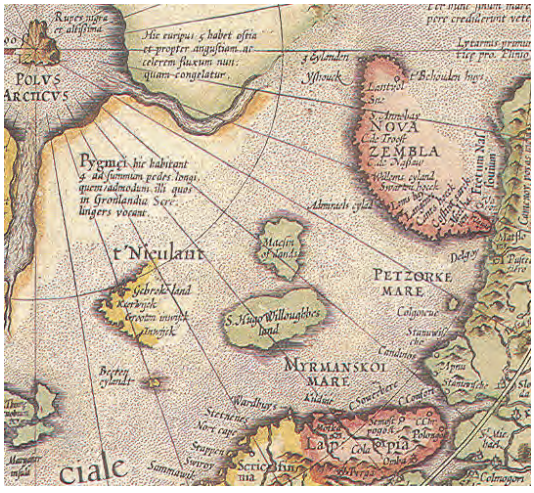


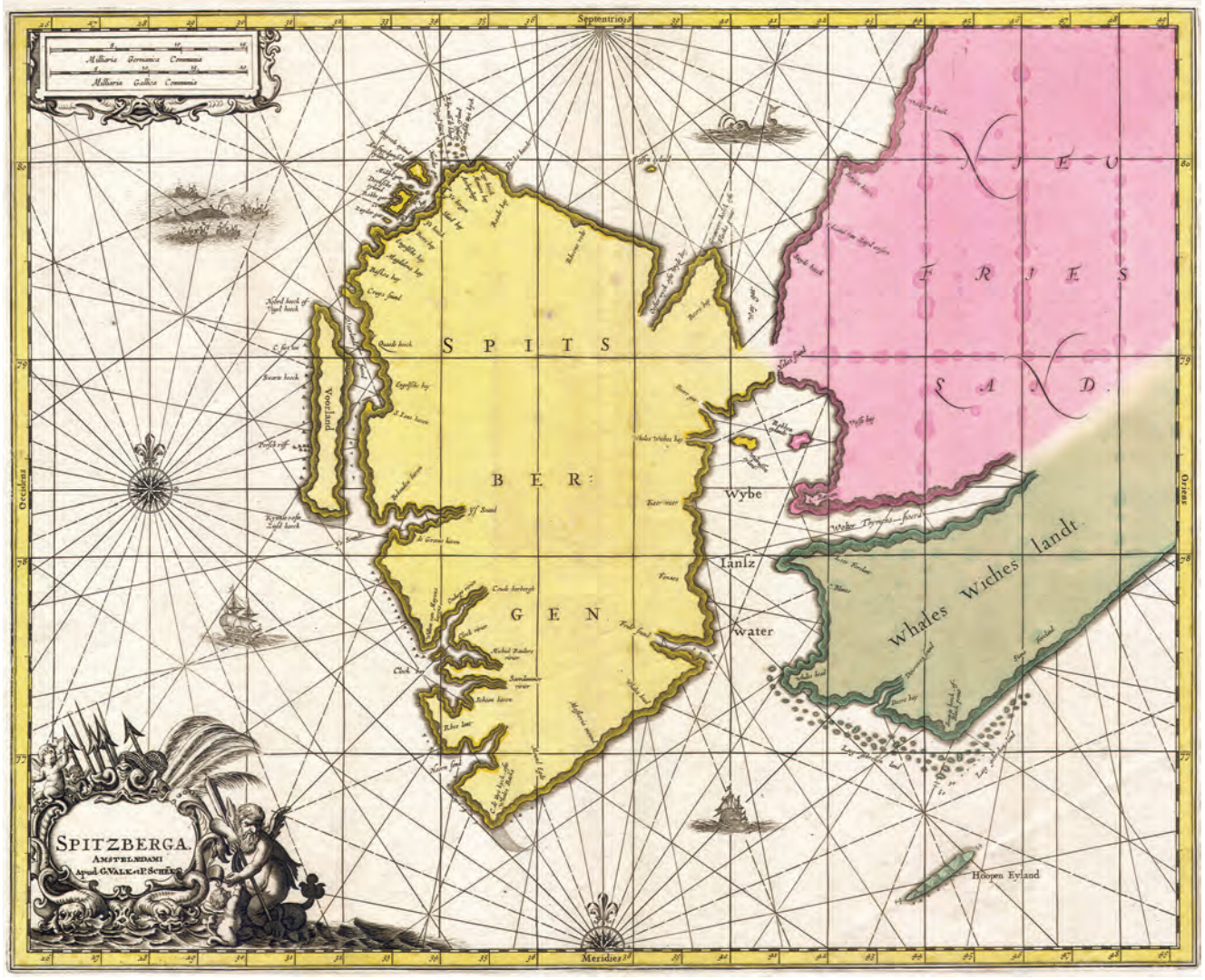
Fig.4 (right) Detail from the second state of the Mercator North Pole map, revised by H. Hondius to show the discovery of Spitsbergen as well as the findings of English voyages. First published in 1606.

Fig.5 (below) J. Janssonius's atlas map,* Spitzberga. *Originally published in the* Atlas Novus *in 1659, this later state, with the imprint of Valk & Schenk, is dated c.1683

depiction to accept, since both cannot be true.

Hondius also added a new map of Europe to the 1606 edition of the *Atlas*. The northern edge of the map extends into the area that would include the polar islands derived from the *Inventio Fortunatae*, but no sign of these islands is shown. Instead, Hondius includes a small note saying 'Gerard Mercator and others have drawn an Arctic continent at this place, but our navigators [i.e. the Dutch], have not seen any sign of it, having travelled past 81° North on their voyages in 1595 and 1596' [author's translation].

What began as doubt or uncertainty simply grew over time until the polar-island theory was completely dropped. By 1636 (when Jodocus's son, Henricus, was publishing the Mercator



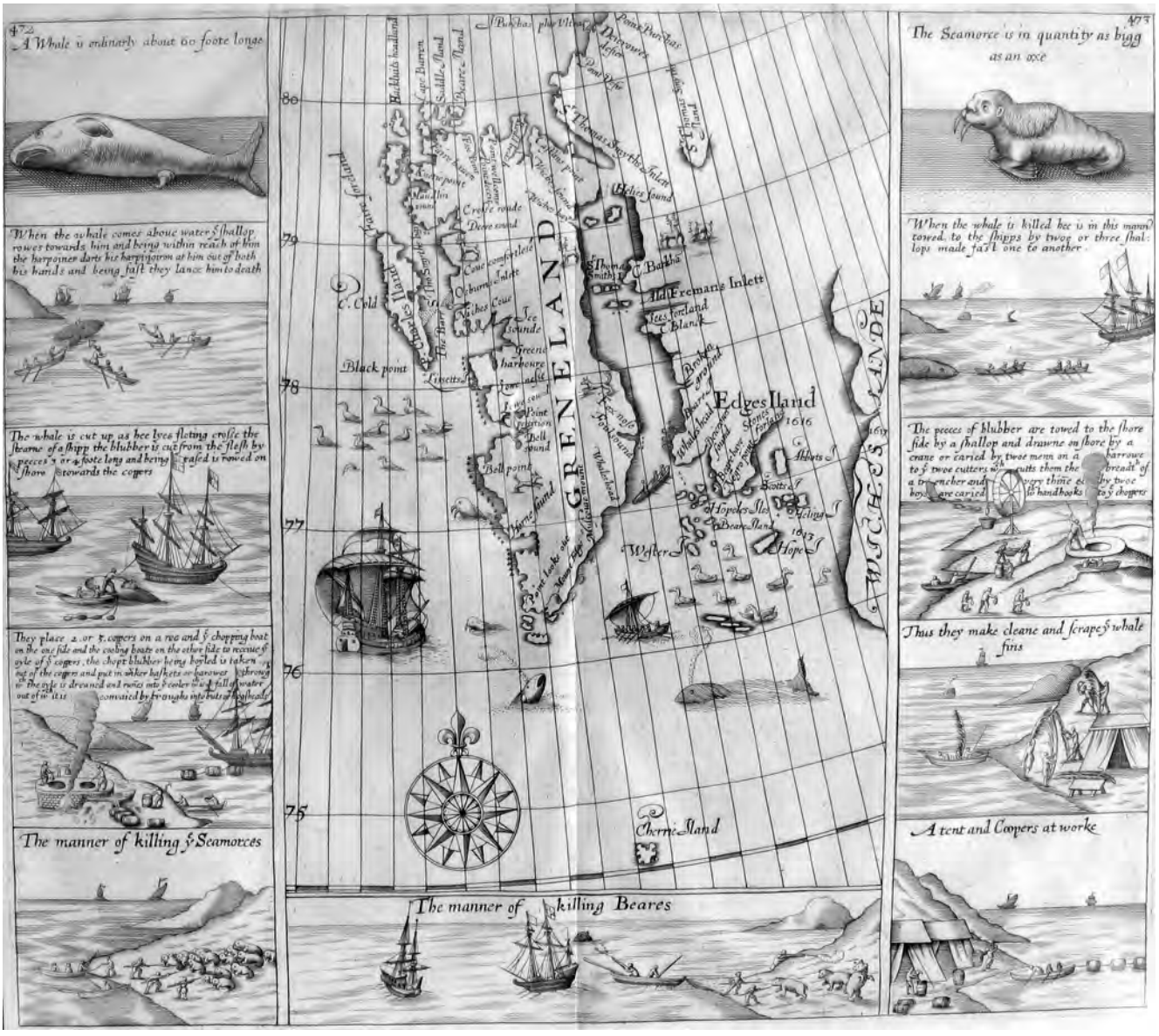


Fig. 6
Map of Spitsbergen (here called "Greneland"), from* Purchas His Pilgrimes *(1625). Purchas attributes the map to Thomas Edge, a captain who made numerous whaling voyages to Spitsbergen. The whaling vignettes are based on drawings from the unpublished whaling journal of Robert Fotherby.

Atlas), the original North Pole map was gone, replaced by a completely new map that showed not a trace of the polar islands.

Like Hondius, Petrus Plancius went through a similar process of initially accepting a polar-island view of the Arctic, then having some doubts which were explicitly expressed in maps, and finally dropping the polar-island theory completely. If anything, Plancius was quicker than Hondius in his willingness to accept new data which cast doubts on the prevailing theory. Though reports from the sixteenth-century English voyages to the north were clearly an important part of this new data, it was the discovery of Spitsbergen that really sealed the fate of the long-held *Inventio Fortunatae* theory. Much as the supernova observed by Tycho Brahe in 1572 upended long-held cosmological ideas about the fixity of the heavens, so the discovery of Spitsbergen, 24 years later, began a process which eventually upended long-held cosmographical ideas about the earth's polar areas.

Though the discovery of Spitsbergen played an important role in the evolution of late sixteenth and early seventeenth-century

cosmography, it also played a role, much larger than might be expected, in the cartography of the period. Spitsbergen was not just an addition on world maps and polar maps of the time; a considerable number of atlas-sized maps, of Spitsbergen alone, were produced for Dutch and English atlases, both maritime and terrestrial. The Dutch publishing houses of Blaeu, Janssonius, Valk & Schenk (Fig. 5), van Keulen, Doncker, Colom, and Loots all produced maps or charts of Spitsbergen alone. In England Spitsbergen charts appeared in the *English Pilot* and in *Purchas His Pilgrimes* (Fig. 6). (On English maps Spitsbergen was usually named *Greenland*, as the English initially speculated that this newly-discovered land was connected, in the north, to Greenland. Even when this connection was disproved, the name continued to be used, sometimes with *New Greenland* being specified, to contrast with the real Greenland or *Old Greenland*.)

The map in Purchas reflects the reason behind this proliferation of Spitsbergen maps: whaling. Henry Hudson had noticed an

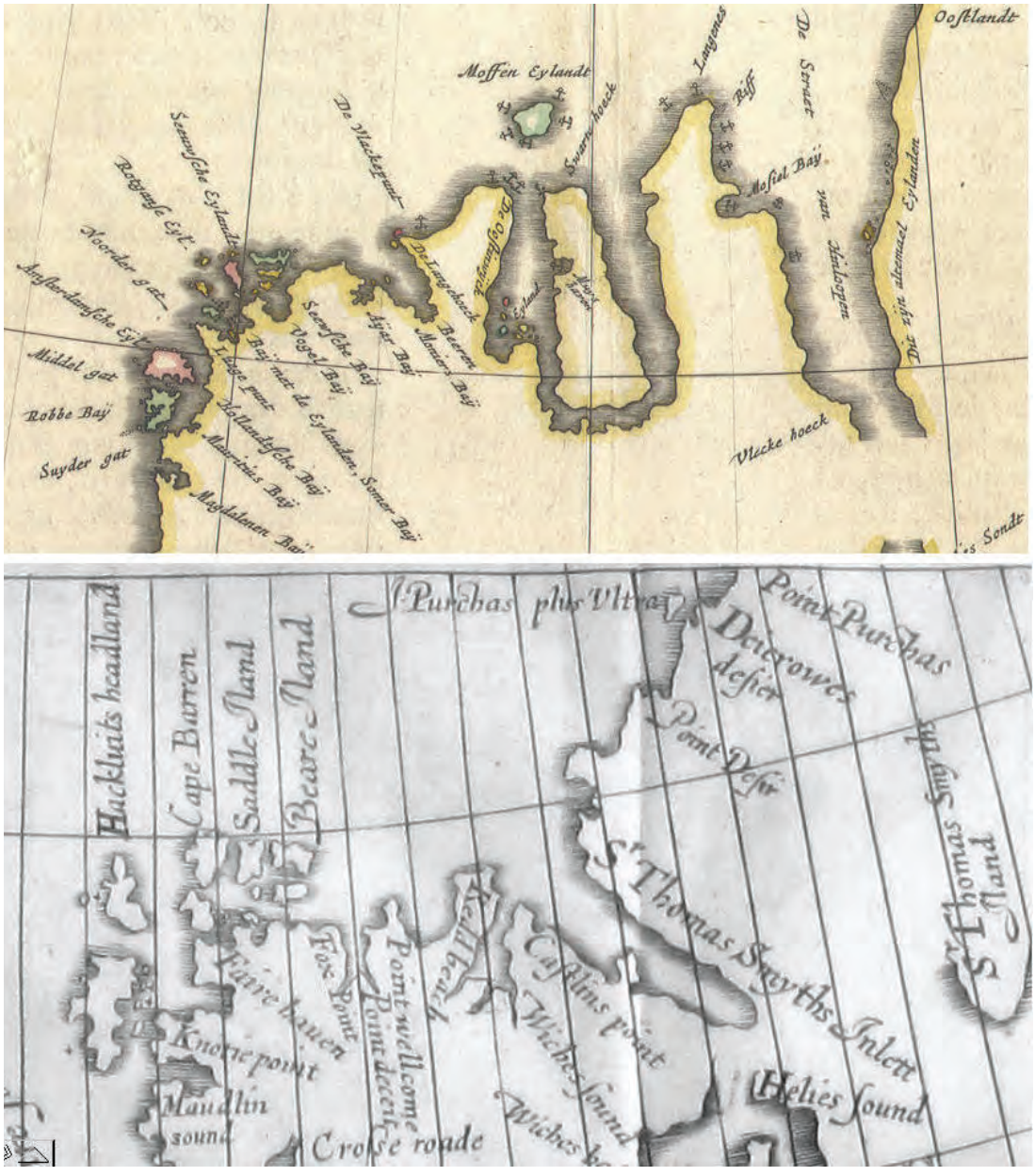


Fig. 7
Comparative toponymy: a section from a Dutch map (Blaeu), at the top, and an English map (Purchas), below. The names are almost exclusively Dutch in the one case and English in the other.



Fig. 8
This attractive view of Smeerenberg in Spitzbergen Norway, dates back to c.1900 (Library of Congress, Washington DC Print No.7182)

abundance of whales there in 1607, and by 1611 the English had organized the first planned whaling voyage to Spitsbergen, under the auspices of the Muscovy Company. The Dutch were not far behind, sending their first whaling fleet north in 1612. Just as European powers competed for the riches of the Indies, so they competed for the riches of the sea, in the form of whale oil, and Spitsbergen was ground zero in the early battle for this wealth.

Though other countries (including Denmark, France and Germany) participated to a lesser degree, the early whaling effort and competition were primarily an English and Dutch affair, and it is the map-makers in those two countries who produced the surprisingly large number of Spitsbergen maps during this period. The various maps display a remarkable variety, in terms of the portrayed shape and extent of the archipelago. There is no one Dutch or one English configuration. (Given the difficulty of navigating its frequently ice-choked waters, it is not surprising that the maritime surveying of Spitsbergen's coasts was inaccurate and incomplete, or that these uncertainties produced a variety of cartographic representations.)

What stands out most when comparing Dutch and English charts of Spitsbergen is their toponymy. Fig. 7 compares a section of the northwest coast on two charts, one Dutch and one English, that happen to otherwise share a quite similar depiction for the overall shape of the archipelago. On the Dutch map we see names such as *Amsterdamsche Eyland, Hollandsche Bay, Mauritius Bay, Wybe Ians Water, Hinloopen Strait*. On the English map one finds *Prince Charles Island, Hackluyt's Headland, Point Purchas, Sir Thomas Smith's Inlet* and *Mount Edge*. So thoroughly nationalised is the toponymy on these charts that it seems like the only thing lacking is the presence of English or Dutch flags, declaring colonial ownership, in the style of portolan charts.

By the end of the seventeenth century

whaling in Spitsbergen's bays had ended, the whales either overfished, or, through learning, having moved to less hazardous feeding grounds. Whaling did continue, but it moved away from the immediate vicinity of Spitsbergen's bays and fjords, and the processing of whale oil also moved from onshore to on-boat or to factories back home.

Once Spitsbergen was no longer an area of economic interest, the land became *Terra Nullius* or No Man's Land, unoccupied and unclaimed. By the beginning of the eighteenth century there were very few major landmasses on the globe that were not claimed as part of the empires of one state or another. Antarctica was one of those few and Spitsbergen was another. Not surprisingly, interest in the mapping of Spitsbergen waned along with the economic interest. Unlike the seventeenth century atlases of Blaeu and Janssonius, atlases produced by eighteenth century map-makers did not include separate maps of Spitsbergen.

Spitsbergen did continue to attract the attention of scientific expeditions, and, in the early 20th century, the archipelago regained some economic interest due to its mineral resources, particularly its coal. Though these later efforts, especially the scientific expeditions, produced some maps, the cartographic attention these islands received in the seventeenth century was never recaptured. A bit like Tycho Brahe's supernova, the mapping of Spitsbergen started suddenly, grew to a bright peak, and then faded away.



Acknowledgements

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The author, Jeremy Pool, lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He has been collecting maps of the Arctic and North Atlantic for 15 years. In addition, he tracks the trade in antique maps as the publisher of the annually issued Antique Map Price Record CD-Rom. *Prior to this he worked for 30 years as a developer of software used in medical research.*

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Americae Sive Novi Orbis, Nova Descriptio

Third state of this famous map with the revised shape of South America. Other revisions include the addition of the name California, and the Indian name "Wingandekoa" in the Chesapeake Bay region. The Solomon Islands are shown here for the first time since they were discovered in 1568. Latin text on verso with page number 5, most probably from the 1603 edition.

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Creator:	Abraham Ortelius
Subject:	Western Hemisphere
Year:	1587
Size:	19.0" x 14.0" (48.3 x 35.6 cm)
Color:	Black & White
Condition:	(A) Superb impression with only faint toning along fold. Professional repair of fold in bottom margin.
Source:	Theatrum Orbis Terrarum
City:	Antwerp
References:	Burden #64, van den Broecke #11.



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Mapping Matters

News from the world of maps

London Antique Map Fair 2010
Report by Massimo de Martini

Now in its 30th consecutive year, this is the largest Antique Map Fair in Europe and the most well established event of its kind in the world. It will be held in The Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR on Saturday, 5th June 12.00-19.00 and Sunday, 6th June 10.00-17.00. Admission is free.

Once again the RGS will host the fair which brings together around 40 of the leading national and international map dealers as well as hundreds of visiting dealers, collectors, curators and map aficionados from all parts of the world.

A fantastic selection of original antique maps will be for sale, ranging in age from the 15th century to the 20th century. They cover all parts of the world and are priced to suit all pockets from £10 to £100,000.

Exhibitors will also offer a large range of atlases, travel books, globes, sea charts, town plans, topographical prints, reference books and related ephemera.

We are pleased to announce that the guest speaker for our lecture will be Nicholas Crane FRGS, explorer, writer, broadcaster and presenter of the TV programmes *Map Man, Coast and Great British Journeys*. He will speak about the great Flemish cartographer Gerard Mercator's life, his map production and his legacy to modern mapping. The lecture will be held on Saturday 5th June at 14.30 in the RGS's Ondaatje Theatre. Admission is free and is strictly on a first come first served basis. For further information please visit our web-site or contact Massimo De Martini, Advertising and PR manager for London Map Fairs Ltd. Tel: 020 7491 0010 info@alteagallery.com www.londonmapfairs.com

First meeting of first ever Malta Map Society
Report by D.R. Lyon

The first meeting of the very first Malta Map Society was held on 6th March this year at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pardo Hall, Valletta. In the chair was Dr Albert Ganado who was nominated President. Other nominations to sit on



The newly-elected committee of the recently formed Malta Map Society. From left to right: Rod Lyon, Dr William Zammit, Joseph Schiro (Secretary), Bernadine Scicluna, William Soler, Dr Albert Ganado (President), Claude Micallef Attard (Treasurer), Dr Ivan Fsadni (Vice-President) and Dr Austin Sammut (Public Relations Officer).

the committee were Dr Ivan Fsadni, Joseph Schiro, Claude Micalief Attard, Ms Bernadine Scicluna, Dr Austin Sammut, William Soler, William Zammit and David R. Lyon.

Dr Ganado read out the statutes of the new society which were unanimously approved. There are currently 28 members and discussion took place about the setting up of a website, documenting the numerous old oil paintings on the island which feature maps and are found mostly in private collections, the maps kept at the National Library and the National Maritime Museum and a number of other topics. Other subjects discussed included the variants of Maltese maps with a number of examples given by Dr Ganado. Also discussed was the recent exhibition of maps of Malta held in Gozo which had resulted in identification of new variants from collectors and visitors. Future meetings of the new society will be held at the Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta. This presently houses the Albert Ganado Malta Map Collection.

(Below) A rare propaganda map showing Chruchill as an octopus, produced in France c.1942. Currently on display in the British Library exhibition.



Update on the collapse of the Cologne archives

One year after the collapse of the Cologne City Archives the KVB (Cologne Transport Operators) has admitted mistakes were made. The latest investigations reveal that there were omissions during the supervision of the construction of the tram line which is to run under the archives. Apparently the KVB did not sufficiently check the installation of iron rods or the concrete posts, and too much water was pumped out of the construction pit in front of the archive building at the Waldmarkt. This may well have led to the disaster.

The building, which was built in 1971, contained some 18 kilometres of shelving housing some 65,000 historical documents. It collapsed in March 2009 causing huge damage to the archives and two lives were lost. For the full story see *IMCoS Journal* No.117, Summer 2009, p.50.

Ebay concerns

Concern has been expressed on Maphist about a person described as 'an active US map thief' who is suspected of selling stolen maps on Ebay. A dealer in California, claims that this person may have "stolen over 10,000 maps from American Institutional Collections". He goes on to ask if anyone is actively working to stop this person's activities.

Broadcast on maps

Mike Parker, author of the recently published book *Map Addict* (see review on p.49 of the *IMCoS Journal* N°120) gave a series of five broadcasts about maps on BBC4 during the week starting March 22nd. The titles of the broadcasts were 'Map makers', 'Mapping the metropolis', 'Motoring maps', 'Social maps' and 'The lie of the land'.

TV broadcast on maps

'They delight. They distract. They reveal truths. They whisper secrets. They unsettle. They inspire. Maps are not just geographical objects – they are works of art'. So goes the publicity for the BBC Four series of programmes on maps which started on Monday, 19th April and featured many of the people we know associated with mapping. One of the programmes featured the Hereford *Mappamundi*, the largest intact medieval wall map in the World, which IMCoS will be visiting during our upcoming International Symposium. Advisor for the programmes was Peter Barber, Head of Map Collections at The British Library.

EXHIBITIONS

'Magnificent Maps: Power, Propaganda and Art' at The British Library, London 30th April to 19th September, 2010

An outstanding exhibition is currently taking place at The British Library, London. Following the success of his exhibition 'London: a life in maps' three years ago, Peter Barber, Head of Map Collections at the BL, has now staged another impressive event which opened on 30th April and will continue until 19th September. 'Magnificent Maps: Power, Propaganda and Art' showcases the British Library's unique collection of large-scale display maps, many of which have never been exhibited before, and demonstrates why maps are about far more than geography.

The exhibition includes impressive maps from the 1400s to the present day, including the largest atlas in the World, the *Klencke Atlas* dating to *c.*1660, which is usually displayed outside the Map Library at the BL. We hope to publish an article by Tom Harper, Curator of Antiquarian Mapping at the BL, on the atlas in the next issue of the *IMCoS Journal*. Tom has been Peter's right-hand man in the mounting of this amazing exhibition and they trawled through 26,000 of the Library's 4½ million maps to choose the items for display. Peter revealed this when he was interviewed on Breakfast TV on 16th April together with Professor Jerry Brotton. BBC Four has been running a series of programmes about maps with Peter Barber acting as consultant. The programmes have told the story of mapping from its beginnings to Google Earth.

IMCoS are holding a special guided tour of the exhibition on the afternoon of Friday, 4th June. Even if you are not able to attend this viewing do visit the exhibition at some other time. It is the chance of a lifetime!

An accompanying book, written by Peter Barber and Tom Harper, is available at the BL shop or from www.bl-bookshop@bl.uk

Envisioning the World: The First Printed Maps, 1472-1700 15th September 2010 - 17th December 2010 at Portland, Maine

This exhibition will be held at Osher Map Library, University of Southern Maine, USA. The library is located in Portland at the corner of Forest Avenue and Bedford Street. The exhibition



(Below) Peter Barber and colleague with the British Library's* Klencke Atlas *of c.1660, the largest book in the world, currently on display in the exhibition.



The Fra Mauro world map of 1450 was copied in 1804 as shown here. Currently on display at the British Library.

will feature approximately 30 rare world maps drawn from the collection of Henry Wendt, and will explore the major trends in intellectual history from the early Renaissance through the scientific era of the Enlightenment. Through the language of cartography the maps in the exhibition illustrate the way in which scientists, mathematicians, explorers and cartographers came to grips with the shape, size and nature of the Earth as a whole and its place in the universe. The library is open from 1-4 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. http://www.envisioningtheworld.com/the-maps/

Ship-owners and navigators of Dieppe from 16th to 19th centuries

30th May – 4th July, 2010 at Dieppe, France

Dieppe is famous for its school of chartmakers and this exhibition will show many of their charts. The location is The Dieppe Municipal Library at 1 Quai Berigny, Dieppe. Tel. +33 2 35066262

NB. Details of other exhibitions around the world can be found at www.home.earthlink.net/~docktor/exhibit.htm



Paul Sandby, RA (1731-1809): Picturing Britain, a bicentenary exhibition
13th March to 13th June, 2010 at the Royal Academy of Arts, London.

Currently on display are 80 watercolours by Paul Sandby RA (1731-1809). Sandby is better known to map aficionadas as a mapmaker. He was born in Nottingham and joined the topographical drawing room of the Board of Ordnance in the early 1740s. In 1747 he became Chief Draughtsman for William Roy's military survey of Scotland and in 1752 was commissioned to produce landscapes of the royal estates at Windsor. He turned from mapmaking to watercolours later in life and this exhibition is devoted to the latter. For more information visit: www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibitions/paul-sandby-RA-1731-1809-picturing-Britain-a-bicentenary-exhibition

(Left)
Paul Sandby at work. One of his watercolurs of royal estates at Windsor is illustrated below.



LECTURES AND COURSES

'History of Maps and Mapping'
Monday, 28th June-2nd July, 2010 at the London Rare Books School, Institute of English Studies, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU Course organisers: Dr Catherine Delano-Smith and Sarah Tyacke. Contact: Jon.millington@sas.ac.uk

'Mapping Land and Sea Before 1900'
Monday 5th July - 9th July, 2010.
Course tutors: Dr Catherine Delano-Smith and Sarah Tyacke. Same venue as the above.

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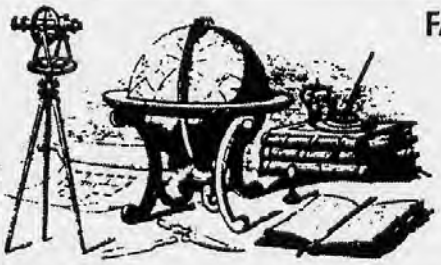
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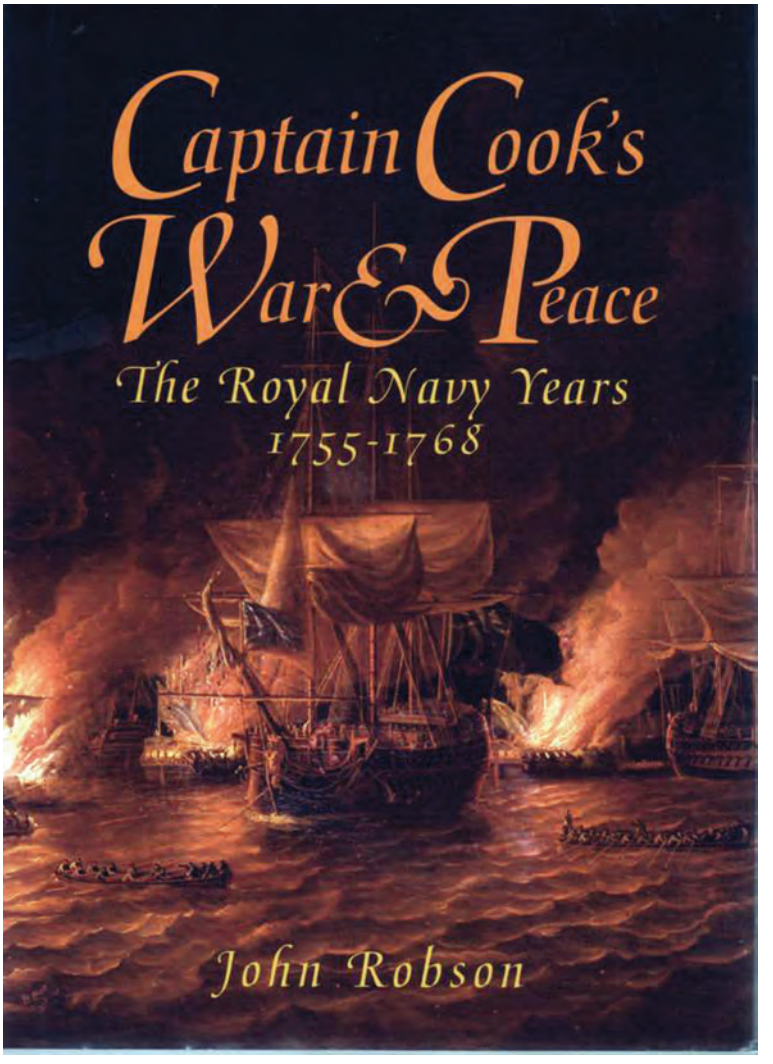
Book Reviews

A look at recent publications about maps

Captain Cook's War and Peace: The Royal Navy Years 1755-1768 by John Robson. Seaforth Publishing, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, Yorkshire S70 2AS www.seaforthpublishing.com 2009. ISBN 978 1 84832 033 8. pp. 216, 19 maps, 23 illustrations (7 in full colour). Price £19.95.

John Robson has had a lifelong interest in maps and Captain Cook. His latest book covers Cook's early years in the Royal Navy. After joining the Navy in 1755, Cook's first ship was the *Eagle*, which he joined as an able seaman, but was soon promoted to master's mate, taking part in a number of cruises in the Channel and Western Approaches. When Captain Hugh Palliser was appointed in command of the *Eagle*, he persuaded Cook to sit the examination for master in June 1757, which he had no difficulty in passing. Cook was immediately appointed master of the *Solebay* which he took on a cruise to the Orkney and Shetland Islands. This cruise and five cruises undertaken in the *Eagle* are depicted in a series of excellent sketch maps which are a feature of this book, making the text easy to follow. In October 1757 Cook was appointed to the newly commissioned *Pembroke* and in her took part in the attack on the French fortress of Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island. After the fall of the fortress, Cook went ashore where he met an army surveyor, Major Samuel Holland, who was engaged in surveying the fortress with a plane table. Cook invited Holland to come on board the *Pembroke* to meet the captain, John Simcoe, which stimulated Cook to take an interest in hydrographic surveying.

Later that winter, when the *Pembroke* was stationed in Halifax, Cook, Simcoe and Holland produced a chart of the St Lawrence for use in the assault on Quebec the following summer. Robson details the part Cook took in guiding the British fleet through The Traverse, a difficult passage in the approaches to Quebec, which the French thought the British would be unable to pass. Cook then took part in operations leading to the capitulation of Quebec, for which he was rewarded by being appointed as master of the *Northumberland*, flagship of Commodore Alexander Colvill. For the next few years the *Northumberland* was based mainly in Halifax and there were few opportunities for Cook to engage in his new found interest in surveying. Then, in 1762, the French sent a small expedition across the Atlantic and captured St Johns, Newfoundland. British reaction was swift and a naval task force, commanded by Colvill, was sent to recapture St Johns. This gave Cook the opportunity to carry out a number of sketch surveys in the approaches to St Johns, which led Colvill to report to the Admiralty that Cook was 'well qualified for the work he has performed, and for greater undertakings of the same kind'. This recommendation reached the Admiralty at the same time as Captain Thomas Graves, Governor of Newfoundland, complained to the Admiralty about the total lack of adequate charts of the island, requesting an immediate survey be carried out. This led to Cook being appointed



to carry out this survey, which he did between 1763 and 1767 in the schooner *Grenville*. He managed to survey the whole of the north, west and south coasts of the island and his surveys were published at his own expense and were of such good quality that they were in use for most of the 19th century.

Robson ends his book by speculating why Cook was selected to command the *Endeavour* for the first of his Pacific voyages, but you have only to compare the quality of Cook's surviving manuscript charts with those of his contemporaries to realise that as a surveyor Cook had no equal. The text is interspersed with biographical entries of individuals who influenced Cook's career during these formative years such as Palliser and Holland. This adds to the value of the book. There is a useful bibliography, particularly with regard to manuscript sources, but it is unfortunate that at the time that Robson did his research the Admiralty Library, in which there are a number of important Cook charts, was housed temporarily in the UK Hydrographic Office. It has now been transferred to the Royal Naval Museum in Portsmouth. This work is a valuable contribution to the Cook literature, and is illustrated with a good selection of his manuscript charts of the St Lawrence and Newfoundland.

Andrew David

Formatting Europe – Mapping a Continent
This paperback is part of the Belgeo series 9 (No.2008 3-4) published by the Belgeo–Geo–Instituut, Celestijnenlaan 200E, B-3001 Heverlee (Leuven), Belgium Tel. +32(0)2 16 32 24 41, Fax +32(0) 16 32 29 80. ISSN 1377-2368. Price €30 (in Belgium), €36 (outside Belgium).

The Europalia cultural festival in Europe is staged in Brussels every other year. In 2007 the theme was *europalia.europa* and it was devoted to the 27 member states of the European Union to commemorate the signing of the Treaty of Rome 50 years ago. Contacts between the Europalia organising team and the Brussels International Map Collectors' Circle (BIMCC) led to an agreement whereby the BIMCC would organise an international conference on the history of the mapping of Europe, and the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR) would stage an exhibition of historical maps of Europe. This resulted in a common project which became known as 'Formatting Europe – Mapping a Continent'. The conference took place on 16th November 2007 and the exhibition ran from 17th November 2007 until 8th February 2008.

This book provides the proceedings of the conference in the Belgeo series (i.e. the Belgian Journal of Geography). Of the eight lectures given during the conference only six could be reproduced in this volume as two speakers were not in a position to produce their manuscripts in time. This is a shame, particularly as one on the publishing house of Homann in Nürnberg was rather interesting.

The texts of the lectures have been complemented by six chapters written by renowned map historians. Of a total of 14 articles, including the editorial and the introduction, three are written in French, one in Dutch and 10 in English. All articles carry abstracts in English. They are arranged chronologically beginning with reflections on early medieval Arab cartography and ending with 20th century satirical and propagandistic maps up until the 1940s.

One article particularly caught the attention of this reviewer. That by Jean-Charles Ducène strikes a cord as it emphasises the contributions made by Arab scientists to cartography in the middle ages and notes their gradual decline after the 12th and 13th centuries. This has probable cultural and religious reasons reflected in modern times by the relatively



small contribution of Islamic authors to science and literature these days, and to the amount of books which have been translated into Arabic over the past 100 or 150 years.

In view of the IMCoS International Symposium held in Norway in 2009, the article by Leena Miekkavaara on 'The Mapping of the Northern Countries by Olaus Magnus in 1539' was of particular interest. Magnus drew the woodcut map – one of the largest ever produced (125 x 170 cm) – of the northern regions to make them better known in Southern and central Europe.

The article by Rodney Shirley on allegorical images of Europe puts much emphasis on the history of the depiction of Europe as an allegorical figure. It makes interesting reading as it also introduces this subject covered by Peter Meurer in the paper which follows 'Europa Regina. Europe depicted as a queen'. The reader receives excellent background information about Greek mythology – Zeus taking the form of a bull abducting Europa, a Phoenician princess - and sound historical facts about Europe in the Renaissance. Peter van der Krogt carries on with an excellent overview of the Braun and Hogenberg town atlas in 'Mapping the towns of Europe 1572 – 1617', plus their political meaning spiced with a political if not religious interpretation of figures in their traditional costumes on town plans.

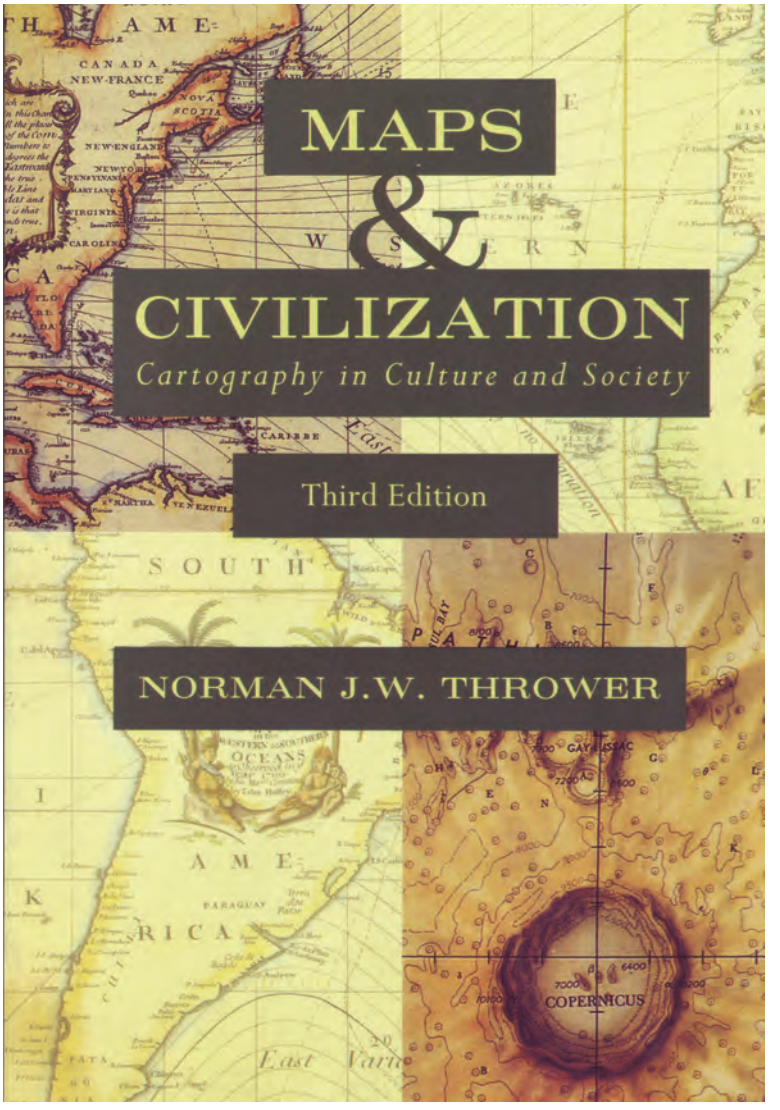
In general, the proceedings are fascinating to read as they provide a deeper study of texts one does not always follow as closely during a lecture as the subjects deserve. Certain gaps in knowledge may be closed e.g. about anthropomorphic, floramorphic and zoomorphic maps, hypsometrical maps – see article by Bernard Jouret, - and choropleth maps - see article by Gilles Palsky. They are also worth studying as they present a wealth of information which should be of interest to many people active in the cartographic world. Altogether, a useful reference.

Rolph Langlais

Maps and Civilization: Cartography in Culture and Society by Norman J. W. Thrower. University of Chicago Press; 3rd edition (15th October 2008). Paperback, 362 pages. ISBN-10: 0226799743 ISBN-13: 978-0226799742. US$25.00, UK£16.63.

Last year the California Map Society (CMS) celebrated the 90th birthday of its first president, Norman J.W. Thrower. As part of this celebration we reissued CMS's Occasional Paper #9 by Norman, which summarizes his significant contributions to the world of cartography. The title of this paper was purposely chosen as 'Maps and Civilization' to acknowledge Norman's classic now in its third edition. Perhaps this book is his *magnum opus* among his truly remarkable literary production on cartography. As Norman explained to me with his usual witty style, at our last CMS Southern California meeting, the book was entitled 'Maps & Man' in its first edition, a title that was soon replaced in its second edition with the more 'politically correct', as Norman put it, present title.

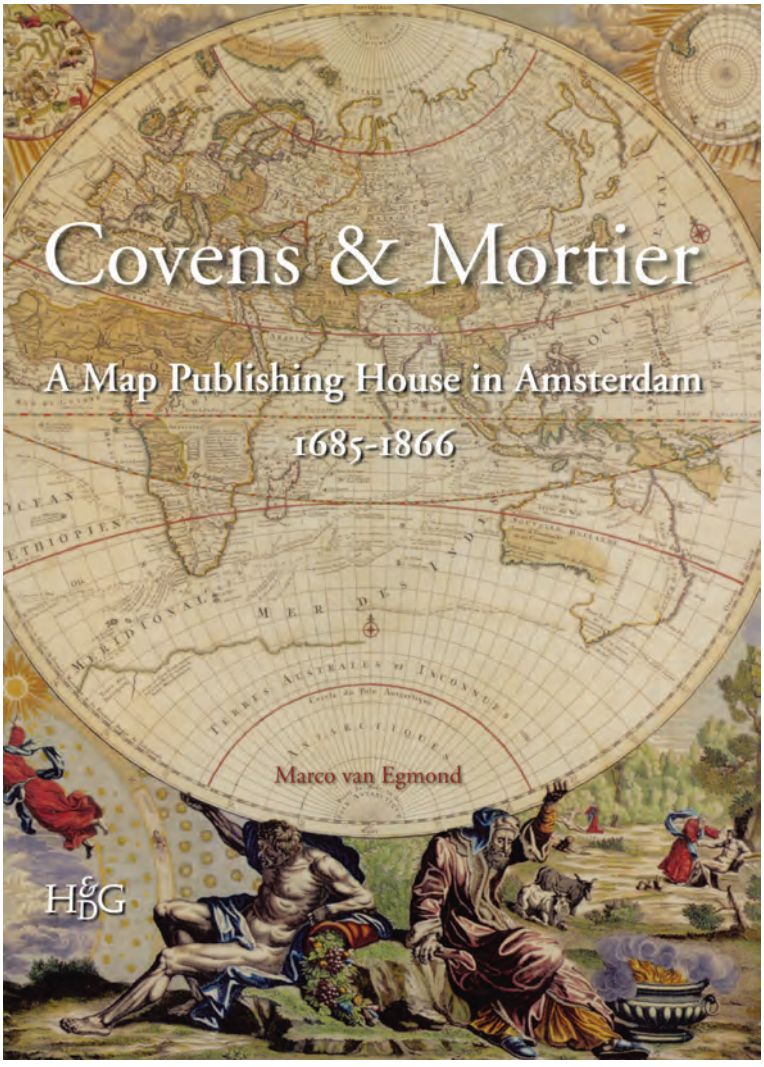
It is intended as a primer of cartography as the lovely opening quote from of the book reveals:
I daylie see many that delight to looke on Mappes but yet for want of skill in Geography, they knowe not with what manner of lines they are traced, nor what those lines do signify nor yet the true use of Mappes. (Thomas Blundeville from *A Brief Description of Universal Mappes and Cardes and Their Use* London, 1589)



This volume presents in its chronological nine chapters a coherent history of cartography from antiquity to modernity, describing the techniques developed in each period. The work has been expanded and updated in each successive edition. Of course this endeavour, even in its current 362-page edition (over 200 pages longer than the 1972 first edition), remains a bit of a Sisyphean task for any single book and undoubtedly some areas of cartographic knowledge will fare better than others. In a few small areas where I have some knowledge, I found some outdated material. For example, we have known for some time that the alleged author of the 1375 Catalan Atlas was not named Abraham Cresques, but Cresques Abraham and that his son Jafudà (son of) Cresques (following the patronymic Jewish tradition) was dead by 1410 and could not have been the Majorcan cartographer who helped Henry the Navigator in his mythical nautical school at Sagres. Similarly, the section on solar system mapping still reads a bit dated and evokes the glory days of the moon race. In any event, one should not get distracted with these minor points as the scope of the book is a global survey and Norman often directs us to the extensive bibliography to further explore any topics. Remarkably, these bibliographies have been fine-tuned for the Spanish and Japanese editions of the books, a point that should be of interest for the IMCoS international readership.The book also contains three interesting appendices that include a very extensive glossary of cartographical terms and a survey of map projections through history.

I believe this third edition is a good addition to any library for those of us who want to have a compact history of cartography and to gain more in-depth knowledge on cartographical techniques. As the vice president of the Southern California Map Society I feel very fortunate to have Norman Thrower still very much involved with us and the world of maps that he loves. Thank you Professor Thrower for helping us to better understand what those lines signify, and the true use of maps.

Juan Ceva, Pasadena, California



Covens & Mortier: A Map Publishing House in Amsterdam 1685 – 1866 by Marco van Egmond. Published by Hes & De Graaf, PO Box 540, 3990 GH Houten, Netherlands. ISBN 78 90 6194 2207. Hardback, clothbound, with full colour dust jacket; 32 x 24 cm. Pp.600, c.500 full colour images and cd-rom with 29 supplementary appendices. Price €175.

A short review cannot do justice to this massive, comprehensive, and thorough volume describing the activities of the publishing firm Covens & Mortier over 181 years from 1685-1866. Dutch cartographic activity throughout the 16th and 17th centuries has generally been well covered, but this is not true of the 18th and 19th centuries where Van Egmond's researches and observations take on an especial value.

The initial eight chapters of the work describe in detail the commercial cartographic background in Amsterdam in the 18th and 19th centuries, principally touching on the activities of the firm Covens & Mortier. As is emphasised in the Introduction, the generic term 'Covens & Mortier' strictly only applies to the period from the conjuncture of members of the two families in 1721 under the names Johannes Covens and Cornelis Mortier, the latter individual being one of the sons of Pieter Mortier.

Prior to his early death aged 60 in 1711, Pieter Mortier from Amsterdam was an active publisher of cartographic material; principally atlases originating from French sources - Sanson, Jaillot, De Fer and others. In chapter 5

Van Egmond gives due attention to the complex arrangements - such as the Huguetans contracts that led to the copying of important French atlases from 1685 onwards and their publication under Mortier's imprint in Amsterdam. Some earlier commentators (such as Pastoureau) classify these publications as *contrefaçions* and there is still uncertainty as to the extent of plagiarism that took place or whether there was mutually agreed co-publication.

The important stock of atlases and individual maps that had been acquired by Pieter Mortier subsequently passed into Covens & Mortier hands and, as Van Egmond shows, many items continued to be republished until the end of the 18th century and even in a few cases (for instance, works by Tirion and Van der Aa) as late as 1850. The chronological development of the publication of atlases by Covens & Mortier is clearly set out in a folding 'Appendix B' at the end of the work; 'Appendix A' being a genealogy of the Covens & Mortier family. There are also a further 29 appendices numbered I-XXIX on a CD-Rom within the back cover. These appendices are mainly in Dutch and provide details of estate provisions, map and copperplate catalogues, and contemporary references to the firm Covens & Mortier.

Almost half of the total number of pages of Van Egmond's work - 278 out of 600 - is taken up with a full carto-bibliography of both original and derivative maps published by the firm. All such maps are fully described and illustrated. These include the fine marine maps engraved by Romeyn de Hooghe for Pieter Mortier's *Neptune François* from 1693, 110 smaller maps in various national sets of his *Atlas Portatif*, and five individual wall maps of the World and the four Continents (1705-09) known only by later states. Then, from 1727, some 130 individual maps are listed, concluding with a map of the province of Utrecht dated 1862 and representing the very last publication under the *Mortier Covens en Zoon* imprint.

It is not always easy to discern, even from scanning a combination of Appendix B and the *Chronology* table on page 555-558, which were the actual cartographical publications in each year under the Mortier or Covens & Mortier imprints. For instance, Mortier's fine 1703 *Bible* with five maps appears in the latter listing but not the former while the *c*.1790 publications of the *Atlas Nouveau* and the *Atlas François* appear in the former but not the latter. But without doubt the mid to late 18th century firm of Covens & Mortier must have retained a huge stock of copperplates and/or sheets of maps from their French suppliers and, in addition, as well as many book stocks, the plates of maps originated by once-important names such as De Wit, Blaeu, Allard, Frickx, Schenk & Valck, Tirion, and Van der Aa.

Why then did the firm decline, fail to regenerate itself, and finally - in 1866 - slide into liquidation? Somehow there was a shrivelling of innovation, a failure to adapt to competition from abroad, particularly Germany, and a drop in the local market. In chapter 8 Van Egmond covers the later 18th and 19th century periods in a broad assessment of both internal and external factors leading to the decline of the Covens & Mortier establishment in spite of its many strengths.

Overall, one cannot but have great admiration for the diligence and perspicacity of Van Egmond in producing this *opus magnus*. It does not read like a formal academic dissertion, although based on one and his organisation of the (overflowing) tide of relevant material is exemplary. In the main, he has also been well served by his publishers HES & de Graaf and the many illustrations are of high quality. Although the high price may restrict sales to a few private collectors this work will rest for many years on the shelves of all important map libraries, departments of geography, auction houses, and cartographic institutions worldwide.

Rodney Shirley

King Henry's Map of the British Isles with commentary by Peter Barber. Published in 2009 by The Folio Society, 44 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4FS. Hardback book size 250 x 195 mm in slipcase; pp.158 and 48 illustrations, mostly in full colour. Facsimile of the map on simulated vellum, rolled within a decorative presentation box. No ISBN cited. Price £95.

The subject of this review is a unique manuscript map of the British Isles originally from the holdings of Sir Robert Cotton which formed a significant part of the foundation collections of the British Museum when it was created in 1753. In 1973 the majority of the Museum's manuscripts and maps were transferred to the British Library. The 'King Henry' of the map's title is King Henry VIII.

The Folio Society is fortunate in securing Peter Barber as the author of *King Henry's Map*, or the *Angliae Figura*, as he is well known for his extensive research into the cartographical and historical background of the Tudor period. The early chapters discuss how the mapping of Britain came about from

325 BC up to Tudor times. One of the most influential of the medieval maps was the large Gough map dating from c.1360, now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and recently re-studied by Nick Millea. This map, possibly based on a lost Roman map of Britain, seems to have influenced several authors of maps of England in the 1530s-40s, among them Sebastian Münster for his *Cosmographia* of 1540 as well as the author of *Angliae Figura*. Examples from another tradition, such as the mariners' maps by Pietro Coppo from the 1520s, show an anomalous broad channel separating England and Scotland which did not find favour.

In Part III, the body of the commentary, Barber provides a detailed description of the map's topographical features, amplified by a 30-page appendix of the place names. Up to now there has been no clear identification of the date and author of the *Angliae Figura* but Barber's explorative detective work under the section 'When, by Whom and Why?' provides more positive determinations. The map's date, previously accorded the date span 1534-36, is now considered most likely to have been made slightly later, between late 1536 and the opening months of 1538. The quest for the possible author is more complex but, on a number of circumstantial grounds, Barber pinpoints as the map's author the cleric Maurice Griffiths, who ended his career as Bishop of Rochester. Griffiths, who died in 1558, is not known to have created any further maps.



The *Angliae Figura* is derived from various medieval sources and (in the author's words) '...in no respects, except possibly in the vicinity of Ely, was it based on the map-maker's or his agents' direct observations and measurement'. In consequence, in spite of the proliferation of place names, it soon became obsolete, and was overtaken by larger and more modern multi-sheet creations of the Elizabethan era such as those by Mercator (1564) and Saxton (1583).

As well as the scholarly textual research into early British mapping, contemporary cartography, and the King Henry map itself, the 48 illustrations are excellently reproduced and widely cover the field of study. The 248 notes at the end demonstrate that the literature devoted to the early mapping of the British Isles is now quite extensive. It is therefore rather a pity that there is no index nor a select bibliography. For instance, one earlier work I myself would have included would be G R Crone's *Early Maps of the British Isles AD 1000-1579* (briefly mentioned under end notes 43 and 69) which includes the *Angliae Figura* among its descriptions and as no.12 within its portfolio of reproductions; also the Pietro Coppo British Isles map referred to earlier.

Finally, a small point, the rolled-up vellum facsimile is an excellent reproduction of the map, but it needs weights to hold it flat. It is thus not very convenient to consult, especially as there is no illustration of King Henry's map within the commentary book. There are, however, two different portraits of Henry VIII himself, both by Hans Holbein the Younger; one on the front cover and one as the frontispiece.

The *Angliae Figura* facsimile is contained within an elegant dark blue box, embellished with gilt fleurs-de-lys and a large gilt monogram 'H R' for *Henricus Rex* which is repeated on the cover of the book. The ensemble provides an admirable gift for a retiring cartographer or historical academic as well as providing a luxurious (if a little extravagant) addition to any institutional or private collection.

Rodney Shirley

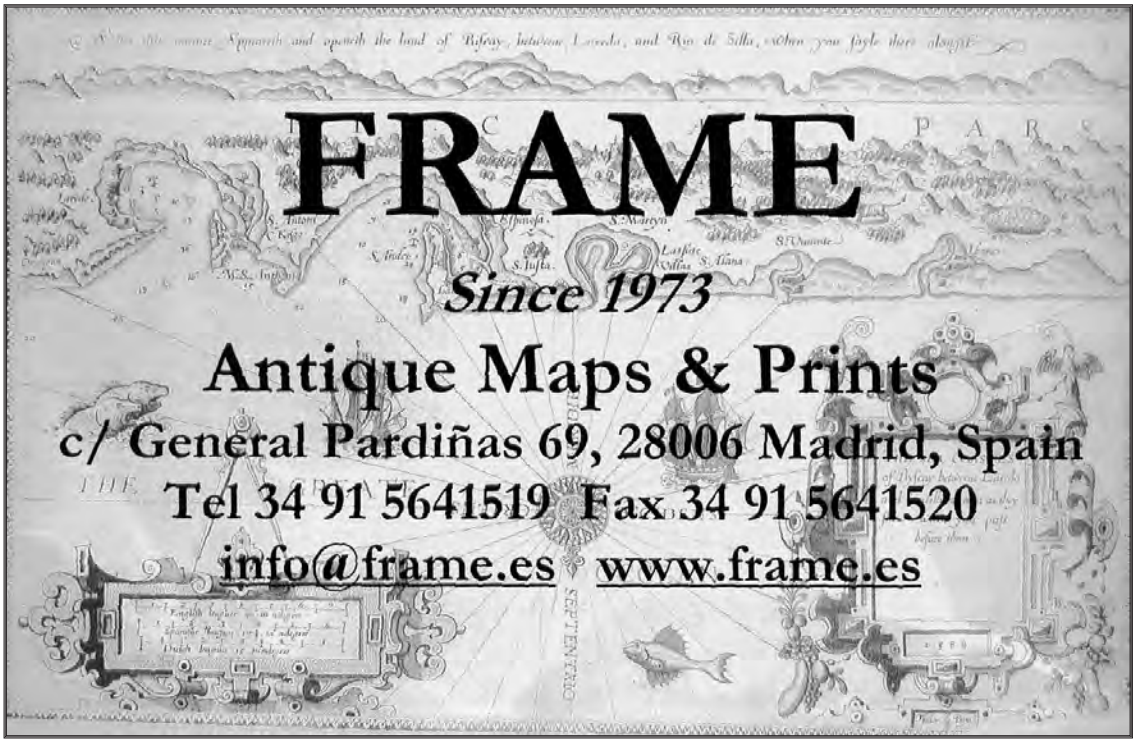
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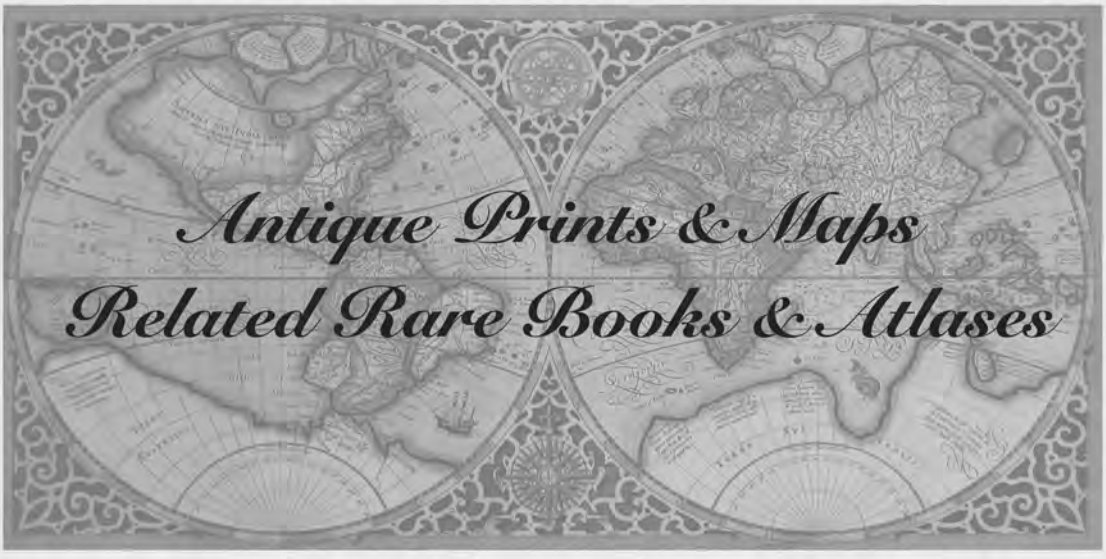
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Front cover picture: 'Tabula Magnae Britanniae Angliam Scotiam et Hiberniam' by Claes Janszoon Visscher (under his latinised name Nicolaus Iohannis). The map originated in the early 1620s and was engraved by Abraham Goos. This copy is dated 1650. (By courtesy of Rodney Shirley)

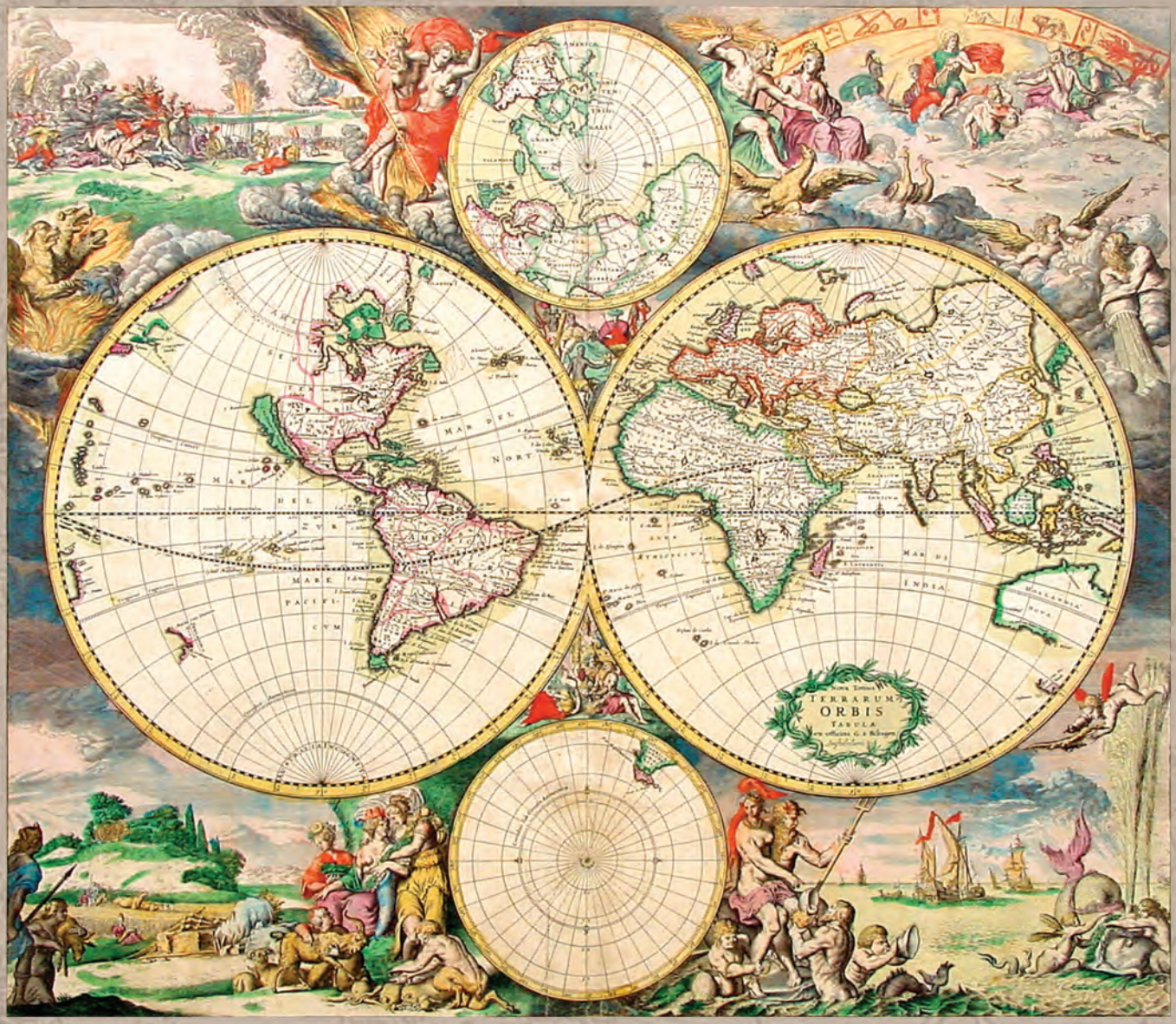
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Frame	59
Garwood & Voigt	44
Leen **Helmink**	inside back cover
Murray **Hudson**	52
IAMA	50-51
Intercol	60
Kitt S. **Kapp**	61
Librairie Le Bail	61
Loeb Larocque	60
London Map Fair	2
The **Map House**	inside front cover
MapRecord Publications	62
Map World	63
Martayan Lan	outside back cover
Mostly Maps	61
Kenneth **Nebenzahl**	62
The **Observatory**	60
Old Church Galleries	44
Old World Auctions	43
Kunstantikvariat **Pama** AS	4
Paris Map Fair	29
Philadelphia Print Shop	63
Gonzalo Fernández **Pontes**	52
Jonathan **Potter**	23
Prime Meridian	60
Reiss & Sohn	30
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Monika **Schmidt**	44
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