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Journal of the International Map Collectors Society

WINTER 1992 ISSUE No. 51

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Cover map: Detail from "Provincia Castellae cum confinii" from Joannis à Montecalerio's Chorographia Descriptio . . . Capucinorum, Milan, 1712 Courtesy Graham Franks

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Guest Editorial

This opportunity to write a short editorial allows me to reflect publicly, so to speak, on our remarkable organisation.

IMCoS can claim to have brought together a diverse range of individuals who would otherwise have undoubtedly remained at a perpetual distance from each other. I never cease to be amazed by the number of nationalities represented at our various meetings. The normal day-to-day activities of each member are as disparate as their cartographic interests. We have no age limitations, no religious creed or barriers, and no problems with language . . . the international receptions we hold invariably sound like the Tower of Babel . . . except that we do understand one another.

It is our common interest and love of cartography that allows us an element of enjoyment that transcends all other restriction. To say: '*I am a map enthusiast*' to a fellow collector is like the pass word to an inner club, a fraternity of amity and goodwill.

How important this element becomes in these hard times of recession. We will do well to remember that ours is an academic and hobby organisation first and foremost and nothing can compare with the *value* of the pleasure to be derived from knowledge and friendship.

When I was invited to write this column by Susan, our indefatigable Chairman and Editor, she asked whether I may like to comment, from a dealer's viewpoint, on current trends. My opening paragraphs are written with this request very much in mind.

As dealers we are exceptionally fortunate that our chosen profession keeps us in touch with a learned hobby world. A world that is leisure and a pastime to most of our clients. It means that we trade, whether profitably or not, in a relatively relaxed atmosphere, even when within the erudite walls of scholastic institutions.

If economic restraints limit a collector's spending power, this is compensated for by his 'addiction' to collecting. The map field, unlike other hobbies, has also an important secondary outlet, the decorative one which caters for the curiosity and gift buyer. At auction the present trend shows that this remains a buyer's market. Prices, whilst steady, remain relatively low. It is interesting to note that this same tendency appears to apply worldwide. Currency exchange rate apart, our collector and dealer friends in Europe and across the Atantic seem to suffer and enjoy vogues identical to ours. There is an unquestionable reduction in the volume of map activity which reflects the overall economic climate.

As for IMCoS, I know I speak on behalf of the majority of dealers when I say that we look at IMCoS with respect for its high academic acheivements and appreciation and gratitude for the wonderful work the organisation does in spreading the benefits of the hobby worldwide. And when business is not as good as it may be, we enjoy even more the companionship we find within the Society's diverse individual and corporate membership.

YASHA BERESINER

11th International Symposium, Madrid

Sixteenth Century Manuscript Maps

Introduction

The modern map of the world, which came to replace Ptolemy's planispheres, emerged in the period between 1434 (when the Portuguese circumnavigated Cape Bojador during their exploration of the Atlantic coast of Africa) and 1526–29, when the planispheres of the Casa de la Contractación in Seville situated continents and islands in their true position as a result of the discoveries made by the Spanish and Portuguese in Africa, America and Asia.

As time does not allow a discussion of the enormous number of manuscript sea charts produced in this period, the following is a limited presentation and commentary of some of the most important of these:

The chart of Juan de la Cosa, 1500
Cantino's Planisphere, 1502
The charts of Pedro and Jorge Reinel, 1517–19
The planispheres of the Casa de la Contractación, 1525–29

The Chart of Juan de la Cosa

The chart of Juan de la Cosa offers the oldest representation of the Western Indies. Traditionally, it has been believed that its author must have drawn it at the end of 1500 in the small village of Puerto de Santa María, near Cadíz. A navigator and cartographer, Juan de la Cosa was also the owner of the Santa María, the ship in which he accompanied Columbus on his first two expeditions (1492–1494). In successive voyages until 1504, he continued to explore the coast of America on his own account.

The chart, which we have examined in the Naval Museum in Madrid, is drawn in colour on two pieces of parchment and measures 96 x 183 cm. It is constructed from bearings and distances and belongs to the nautical- geographic type produced by the Mallorcan portulan atlas school.

The equator and tropic of Cancer sketched on the map constitute the equivalent of a scale of latitudes, for as the two circles are separated by 23.5 degrees, the distance in degrees between any given point on the chart and the equator can be calculated by a rule of three.

The chart cannot be considered a planisphere, as to the west it ends with the Isthmus of Panama and to the east with the mouth of the Ganges.

The representation of the Mediterranean basin and the Black Sea correspond to what is known as 'portulan normal'. In the Ancient World, the western coast of Africa was quite well defined, whilst the eastern coast was much less perfect, as very few references existed to it in that period. As for the south of Asia, it is represented as in the classical planispheres of Ptolemy, although the arrival in Calecut of the Portuguese fleet captained by Vasco da Gama in 1498 is indicated on the chart.

As for America, here the discoveries



Speakers at the International Symposium, Madrid, with IMCoS President Helen Wallis. (From the left): Agustin Hernando, Carmen Liter, Luisa Martin Merás, Luis Giminez Lorente (Symposium Chairman), and Angel Paladini Cuadrado.

made by Columbus during his three voyages (1492–1500) are recorded. The flag of Castile and Leon marks the archipelago of the Lucayas and the island of Guanahaní where Columbus landed on 12 October 1492. Cuba and La Española (Haiti) are also drawn on the map, and along with Martinique, Guadalupe, etc, are called 'The Islands of the Cannibals'. To the south of these one can begin to perceive the existence of a real continent, the coasts of which had been explored during the so-called minor, or Andalusian voyages. The Pearl Coast, from the Gulf of Paria to the Goajira peninsula had been discovered by Ojeda during a long voyage made with Amerigo Vespucci and Juan de la Cosa himself between May 1499 and June 1500. On the coast of Brazil, at a latitude of approximately 8° South, there is an inscription which reads 'This cape was discovered by Vicentianes', a reference to the expedition led by Vicente Yañez Pinzín which in 1499 reached the point later christened by the Portuguese the Cape of San Roque.

The chart also records the discoveries made by the Venetian John Cabot on the northern coast, where four English flags and the inscription 'sea discovered by the English' bears witness to the voyages made by the Venetian between 1496 and 1498 on behalf of the king of England, Henry VIII. News of these undoubtedly reached Castile through the communications of John Day and Raimundo de Soncino.

The arrival, in 1500, of the Por-

tuguese navigator Pedro Alvares Cabral in Brazil is also recorded on the chart.

It can be concluded, therefore, that if the chart was indeed drawn up in 1500, it was perfectly up-to-date at that time.

The sea chart drawn by Juan de la Cosa has one peculiar feature which appears to have escaped the detailed attention of those who have studied it. The entire land mass of the American continent is coloured mottled green, giving it the appearance of a tropical jungle seen from the air or in colour photographs taken from the air. In addition to this, to the north of the Tropic, the continent appears to be divided up by a series of circumferential arcs drawn free-hand, distributed fairly evenly and superimposed on each other, like the scales of a fish, from the coast towards the interior. All the arcs have a radius of some 800 miles. Inside each 'scale' there is a small navy blue circle with a golden point in the centre and a wavy blue appendage, which looks like a golden lagoon being emptied by a river.

To the south of the tropic, the divisions are made by straight lines which cross each other and meet to form four-sided figures or triangles, which make 90 or 45° angles, although other angles exist. Inside each of the segments formed one also finds the small blue 'rivers' or 'lakes'.

The colour and thickness of the arcs and straight dividing lines is the same as those of the equator and of the tropic of Cancer.

We have only seen a similar design in some portulan sea charts of the Mallorcan school. In these, the area covered was very small, as in Gabriel de Valseca's chart of 1439, in which Ireland is drawn like this, or in Jacobo Russo's chart of 1563 which represents the Scandinavian peninsula in this way. We have seen no other example of the blue 'lakes'. Whilst we do not know what this design represents, we suggest that it possibly indicates the existence in these newly discovered lands of numerous gold bearing rivers.

This chart has been the subject of much discussion since 1893,when the Cuban specialist Nazario Guayamilla alleged that the fact that Cuba was an island had not been demonstrated until 1509, when the island was charted by Sebastían de Ocampo. If this was indeed true, this



This and the following photographs (by David Webb, of course) are just a few of the interesting cartouches on display at the exhibition organised by Jaime Armero and his son at the Centro Cultural Galileo.

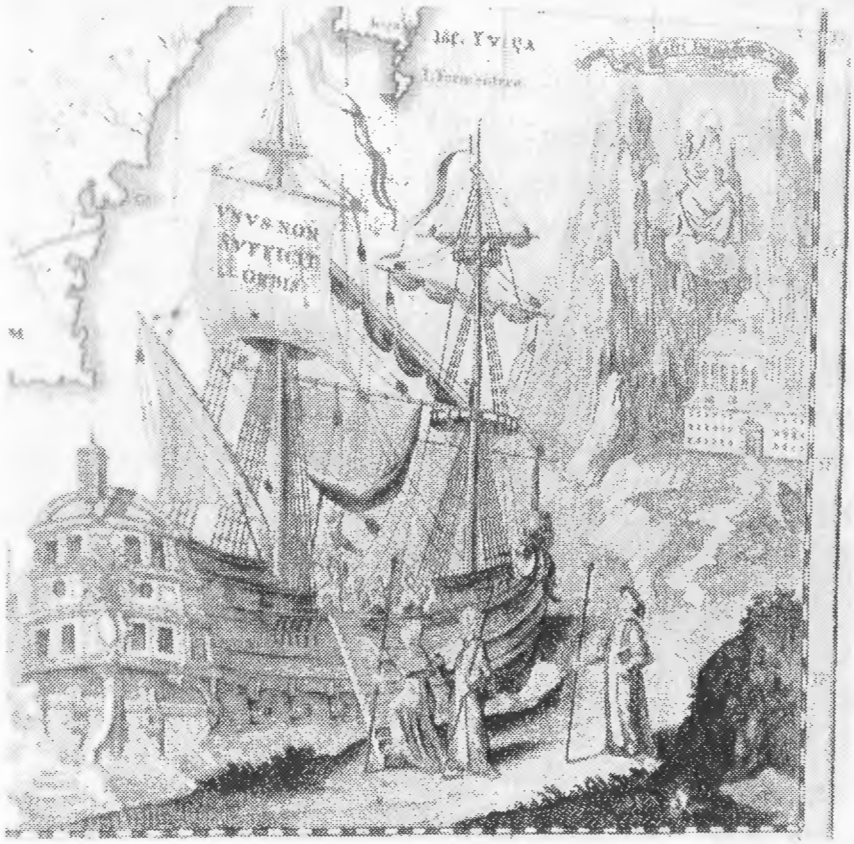


chart would have to date from, or have been altered, after this date, even in the modern era. In 1934, the American admiral George E. Nunn published an article giving much evidence in support of this theory. Other historians have also questioned the dating of this map.

These arguments have already been refuted by the Spanish naval officers Roberto Berreiro and Ricardo Cerezo of the Naval Museum, as well as by other foreign experts, including Arthur Davies, Roukema and David O. True, all of whom presented very solid arguments. In 1987 the chart was analysed in the technical laboratories of the Prado Museum. Their report stated that "no differences have been found between the pigments used in the various parts of the sea chart, and the pigments used were those normally applied in paintings in the period to which this document is dated." All this seems to confirm the authenticity of the dating made.

The chart does, however, have some worrying characteristics. First,the scale used for the New World is greater than that for the Old World, so the two graph scales in the upper and lower edges of the chart, divided in units of 50 miles, cannot be used to measure distances in the other part of the chart, nor to relate the two continents to each other. In addition to this, the line of the equator and the tropic of Cancer correspond to the representation of the Old World, but not to that of the New World. As a result of this, the islands in the Caribbean present enormous errors in latitude; the north coast of Cuba is at 35° North, an error of +12° and La Española has an error of +10°. As for the distances between the islands, and between these and the continent, these err by as much as 25°.

In order to explain these anomalies, it has been argued that Juan de la Cosa took into account the variation of the magnetic declination between the Mediterranean and the Caribbean, so that a pilot, using the chart and sailing by dead reckoning of distance and bearing, would reach the landing point in the newly discovered lands without undue difficulties. In our opinion, this argument, and others of its type, do not satisfactorily resolve the problems presented by this sea chart.

In 1991,the Spanish specialist Colonel O'Donnell, Duke of Estrada, of the Marine Corps, put forward an original solution to all these problems. He sug-

gests that an original chart existed, which only mapped the newly discovered lands, and that this filled two thirds of the left hand piece of the two sheets of parchment which make up the map. At a later date, someone decided to expand the original chart, converting it into what is almost a planisphere. Only the first chart would be the work of Juan de la Cosa, who compiled it from data obtained from the voyage made with Ojeda (May 1499–June 1500), as well as information from other expeditions, which he could only have obtained once back in Spain. This chart,therefore, would have been drawn in Puerto Santa María in 1500, as stated on the main border. As for the rest of the chart, this would have been added between 1500 and 1502 and was intended to show in a single chart the progress made by the Portuguese towards the East Indies, as well as discoveries and advances of the English. The author did not know the precise routes of these but only had references to them from the ambassador in London. Unfortunately, time does not allow us to discuss the other important conclusions reached by this researcher. There can be no doubt, however, that these will provoke great debate among historians and cartographers specialising in the work of Juan de la Cosa.

Cantino's Planisphere

This planisphere, the work of an unknown author, is a fine parchment sea chart consisting of various sheets which form a rectangle of 105 x 219 cm. It is now preserved in the palace of the Prince of Este, in Modena.

The chart was made in Portugal and taken secretly to Italy in November 1502 by Alberto Cantino, then the Duke of Ferrara's ambassador in Lisbon.

The sea chart shows all the discoveries made by Portuguese and Castilian navigators before August 1502. The representation of the Caribbean appears to have been taken from the chart of Juan de la Cosa, but this chart differs notably from the latter in the north-eastern coast of the American continent. Here, the explorations carried out for the king of Portugal by the Corte-Real brothers in Terranova and Labrador (1500–1501) are shown. The Corte-Real believed that these lands lay to the east of the meridian established by the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494 which, running 310 leagues to the west of Cape Verde, divided the globe into two hemispheres, one Spanish and the other Portuguese. As for the coast of Brazil, which was reached by Pedro Alvares Cabral's fleet in 1500 and explored as far as the River Plata by Gonzalez Coelho between August 1501 and April 1502, this appears to have been distorted in an attempt to confuse possible competitors. It is possible that amongst Coelho's expedition was Amerigo Vespucci, who could have been the first person to realise that these lands formed part of a new and undiscovered continent representing a 'quarter of the World'. This possibility was widely publicised, and it was on these grounds that the new continent was eventually named 'America'.

This planisphere was the first to reject the Ptolemaic model, which had been adapted by Enricus Martellus around 1500 and followed by Martin Behaim in his globe of 1492. In Cantino's planisphere, the Indian subcontinent appears for the first time in its true, triangular, form;

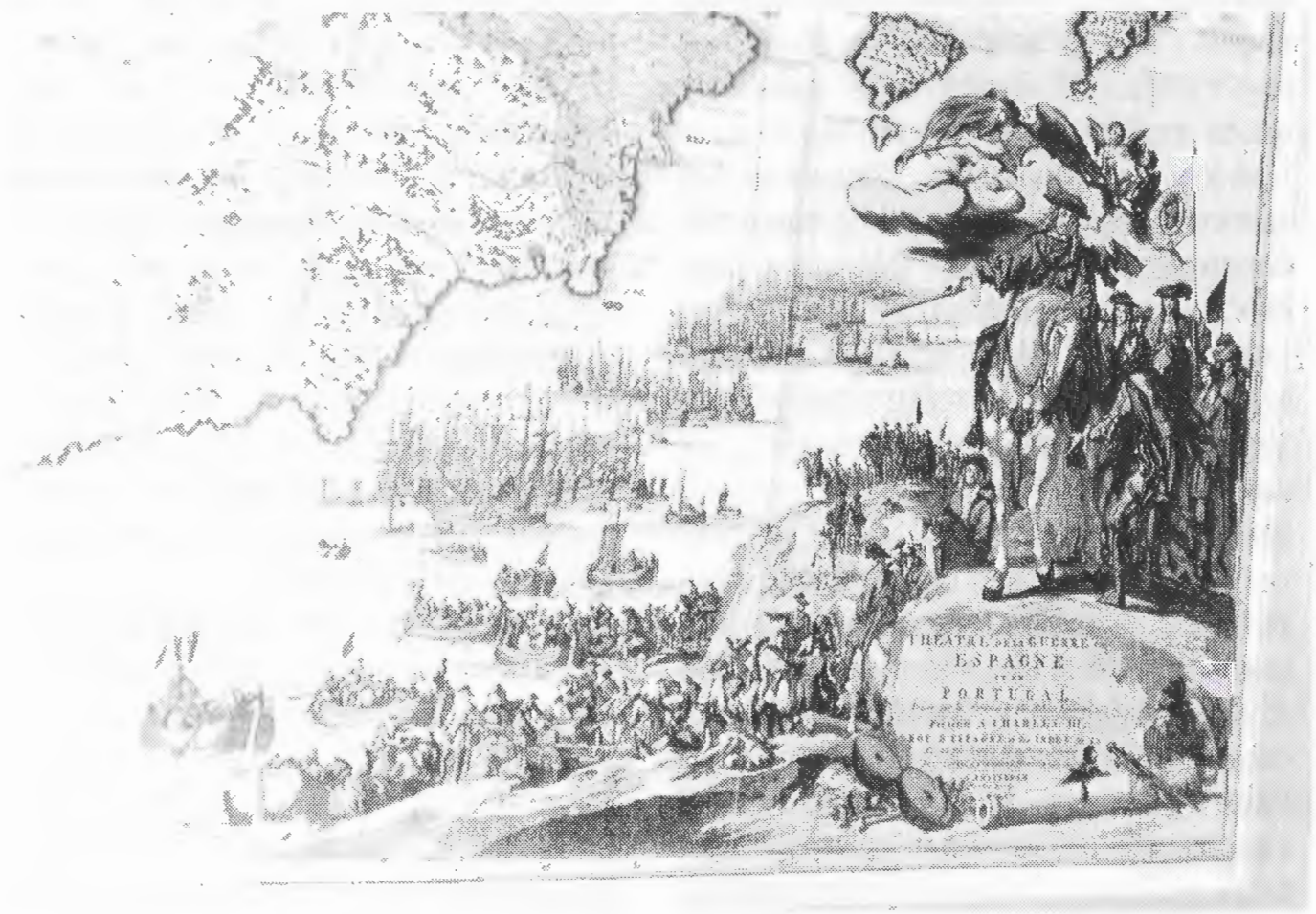
the island of Ceylon is more or less reduced to the correct proportions; and the two most easterly peninsulas of Martellus and Behaim in the Indian Ocean are fused into one. Modifications of this nature, challenging as they did accepted models, must have been based on outside documental sources (perhaps an Arab or Indonesian map), or on oral information, as Vasco da Gama and Alvarez Cabral did not chart Decan,let alone reach Malacca.

As can be deduced from the style and the language used for the place names and explanations, this planisphere, which is richly decorated with numerous miniatures, is truly Portuguese. It subsequently served as a model for some twenty sea charts dating from the first half of the 16th century.

Cantino's chart marked the expansion of the Portuguese cartographic school; numerous cartographers' studios appeared, with those of families such as the Homen, Reinel and Teixeira making notable contributions to the art. Some three hundred charts from this school and country have been located. Dating from the 16th and 17th centuries, they are beautifully decorated parchment manuscripts. There were so many Portuguese cartographers in this period that they travelled around the courts of Europe, serving princes who were not their natural masters.

The Reinel charts

Pedro and Jorge Reinel, father and son, are among the most important Portuguese cartographers from this period. None of their work which has survived down to the present is signed; only one bears the signature of Pedro Reinel, and



another is signed simply 'Reinel'. However, *nine* sea charts in different European map libraries have been identified as the work of these cartographers. Other charts, including the one known as the 'Miller Atlas', which is now preserved in the National Library in Paris, are also attributed to them.

These sea charts must be the first to show the Portuguese discoveries in the eastern extremes of the Indian Ocean, the Malayan Peninsula and Indonesia. In 1509, Alfonso d'Albuquerque captured Goa, in 1511 he went on to occupy Malacca and sent three ships to the Spice Islands. Three years later, in 1514, Portugal founded settlements in Tidore and Tornate in the Moluccas. Using the notes of the pilots who navigated these expeditions, Pedro Reinel must have drawn the chart of Malaysia, the Sonda archipelago and the Moluccas around 1517. This chart now shows no influence of Ptolemy: it is a completely new chart based on empirical data, where the islands of the Sonda archipelago are represented relatively accurately for the first time.

The original chart, which belonged to the Bavarian Army Museum in Munich, was destroyed during the Second World War. Fortunately, however, the cartographer Progel had made a perfect facsimile copy of it in the 19th century. This is now preserved in the National Library in Paris.

Jorge Reinel, forced to abandon Portugal due to some youthful misdeed, appeared in Spain some time before 1519, when he was commissioned to prepare a terraqueous globe and a planisphere for Magellan's expedition by the Casa de la Contractación in Seville. In that year his father travelled to Seville, where he collaborated closely with his son in this task. Both continued to serve Charles V until 1528, when they returned to Lisbon and were received with great honours.

A copy of Jorge Reinel's planisphere, made also by Progel from the original which was lost in the war, is preserved in the National Library in Paris. It is a flat square sea chart, as the equator and meridian established at Tordesillas are divided in degrees, which are equal on both but are not numbered. Significant improvements on previous sea charts can be observed, as many of the errors of latitude of the Antilles have been corrected. Equally, the Pacific coasts of the Isthmus of Panama, the Florida peninsulas, and the Yucatan in the Caribbean are all drawn quite accurately.

Between the Tordesillas meridian which crosses Brazil and the western edge of the planisphere there are 180°, and the Moluccas are located in this area, in the Spanish hemisphere. The Reinels, therefore, were at this time in favour of the king of Spain and against John III of Portugal.

In relation to the West Indies, Jorge Reinel's work must have been based on the 'Padron Real' (Royal Survey) of the Casa de la Contractación in Seville, and in turn, it was to be used as the model for the planispheres drawn there by Nuño García de Toreno and Diogo Ribeiro between approximately 1522 and 1529.

The Planispheres of the Casa de la Contractación

The disaster which Fernando de Magellan's fleet met in his voyage from 1519 to 1522 resulted in the loss of most of the sea charts prepared for that expedition.

However, the return of Juan Sebastián Elcano must have served to enrich the Spaniard's geographical knowledge: the pilot had kept a navigator's log and as he had a planisphere chart, without which it would have been impossible to find the return route, it can be presumed that he would have marked on this the unknown islands and lands which he came across on that long voyage. For when Nuño García de Toreno was appointed pilot and master cartographer in the Casa de la Contractación in Seville in 1519, he was given the task of incorporating these discoveries into the Royal Survey, as the only surviving chart signed by that cartographer dates from 1522, after Elanco's return. This is preserved in the Royal Library in Turin and is the first Spanish map to include the Philippines.

One year later, in 1523, the Portuguese cartographer Diogo Ribeiro entered the service of the Casa de la Contractación as cosmographer and master cartographer and navigational instrument maker. From then on he worked with Nuño García on the preparation of sea charts, on the up-date of the Royal Survey and on the production of copies of the Survey to be sold to pilots. In 1526, Don Hernando Columbus, the navigator's youngest son, was appointed to supervise work on a new Royal Survey. From this time on, the information which we have about the Survey appears to contradict the established version of events. In 1534, a royal letter instructed Don Hernando to hurry to comply with the order he had received some eight years earlier. meanwhile, however, between 1525 and 1529 some beautiful planispheres had been produced by the Casa de la Contractación in Seville for different clients. Fortunately, some of these have survived, and the similarity of their structure and features oblige us to surmise that they are copies of a single original or model. Let us consider a couple of them.

The so-called Salvati planisphere, which is neither signed nor dated but was very probably drawn around 1525 or 1526, must have been a gift from Charles V to Giovanni Salvati, an Italian bishop and papal legate in Spain,later cardinal, who officiated at the Emperor's wedding to Princess Isabel of Portugal in Seville. This very beautiful chart, now preserved in the Medicea Laurenziana Library in Florence, measures 97 x 266 cm. The exuberant decorative richness of the chart has led it to be attributed to Nuño García de Toreno, who was a fine miniaturist. On this planisphere, and in those mentioned below, the great size of the Pacific Ocean is represented, and the American continent is recognised as *Quarta Orbis Pars*, thus marking the official culmination of the process of discovery. No concessions to fantasy are made on these charts, as only the coasts which have been explored and charted by the Spanish and the Portuguese are represented, the unknown parts being left blank.

As for Diogo Ribeiro's planispheres, two, signed and dated in 1529, have survived, whilst two or three unsigned sea charts, dating from between 1525 and 1529, can arguably be attributed to him. The most beautiful of Ribeiro's sea charts, signed and dated in 1529, is preserved in the Vatican Library and is a large, very well drawn, parchment, 85 x 205 cm, soberly decorated with numerous miniatures. It has many explicative in-

scriptions and the author's very personal style of decoration, including a maritime astrolabe, a quadrant and a solar circle. The meridian of Tordesillas stands out strongly, and in the Moluccas, an inscription attributes the discovery of its geographical longitude, which resulted in them being included in the Spanish hemisphere, to Juan Elanco.

In these last charts of Ribeiro we can deem the representation of the Atlantic coast of the New World to be complete, whilst the Pacific coast only appears between latitude 13° North and 9° South. It would take some years to complete the coast from California to the Straits of Magellan.

However, the outline of the modern map of the world was already drawn in 1529.

ANGEL PALADINI CUADRADO
Army Geographical Service

The Cartographer Tomás López (1730–1802)

ABSTRACT

Despite the criticisms he received from some contemporaries and subsequent authors, there is little doubt that Tomás López was the creator of the largest collection of maps of 18th century Spain.

He was a disciple of the geographer d'Anville in Paris, where he was able to study thanks to the patronage of the Marquis de la Ensenada who sought to remedy the lack of Spanish engravers able to 'open maps'. Like his master, Tomás López was a typical 'studio geographer', a publisher of maps who compiled his data from pre-existing cartographical material without carrying out any field work himself.

Along with Juan de la Cruz Cano, he stayed in Paris for nine years, only returning to Madrid in 1760, by which time Ensenada had been dismissed and his plans for the completion of a scientific map of the entire territory of Spain forgotten. López began working independently,producing maps of the kingdoms, provinces and cities of Spain and so fulfilling the role for which he had been prepared in France.

During a period of forty years he engraved and published over 200 maps, working either alone or with the help of his sons Juan and Tomás Mauricio whom he had incorporated into the enterprise. He intended, and managed, to cover the entire peninsula, as well as many of Spain's overseas territories.

In order to complete the preparation of his maps, he drew up a questionnaire which was sent to the civil and ecclesiastical authorities in every village in Spain. The replies to these, which are now preserved in the National Library, not only contain much information of geographical interest, but are also valuable documents for the history of Spain.

Whilst his work was criticised for a supposed lack of scientific criteria, it nevertheless won him both fame and popularity amongst his contemporaries, including the most enlightened of these. He was made a member of the historical

Academy, of the Academia de San Fernando, and of the Arts Academy of Seville among others. His maps were still used during much of the 19th century.

On his death in 1802 his sons published the 'Atlas Geográfico de España' compiled from the best maps he had made of each province. The first edition dates from 1804, another was published in 1810, and in 1830 an amended edition was produced by his sons.

CARMEN LITER
National Library, Madrid

The Spanish Version of John Mitchell's Map of the British and French Dominions in North America

ABSTRACT

All Anglo-Saxon cartographical specialists and many historians know of the map compiled by John Mitchell, 'A Map of the British and French Dominions in North America with the Roads, Distances, Limits and Extent Settlements, Humbly Inscribed to the Right Honourable, the Earl of Halifax, And the other Right Honourable The Lords Commissioners for Trade & Plantations, By their Lordships Most Obliged and very humble servant, John Mitchell. London, 1755.' Engraved by Kitchin and printed by Jefferys and Faden in London, it was published by its author on 13 February 1755 in accordance with the Act of Parliament. The map is divided into eight parts, each 69 cm high by 49.5 cm wide, giving it overall dimensions of 276 x 198 cm.

Mitchell's signature is found on the border, which is decorated with images of vegetation, an allegory of abundance and the landscape. John Mitchell was an English physicist and botanist whose date and place of birth remain unknown. He died in England in 1768, where he returned in 1746 after spending some years living in Urbana (Virginia). He is famous for this map which appears to be the only one he produced.

Numerous editions of this map were published both in England and abroad over the following thirty years. The first French edition dates from 1756 and the German one from 1775; there is no known Spanish edition. The map acquired great political importance as a result of the use made of it by the English and American commissioners responsible for determining the borders of the United States of America in the Versailles Peace Treaty of 1783.

In the naval Museum there exists a magnificent map entitled in Spanish 'Mapa de los Dominios Británicos y Franceses en la América Septentrional, con los Caminos, Distancias, Límites de los Establecimientos. Dedicado al Muy Ilustre Señor Conde de Halifax y demás Señores Comisiarios del comericio de las colonias.Por su obligado y Humilde Señor Juan Mitchel'. It is a fine oil on canvas measuring 149 x 215 cm, a slightly modified copy of Mitchell's original map.

When peace talks with England began in 1782, the Conde de Aranda, then Spanish ambassador to France, was

charged by the government with the defence of Spanish interests. Spain sought to limit the United States' expansion to the west, and so fix the border along a line which would run from the Great Lakes to Georgia, rather than on the Mississippi. The Versailles Peace Treaty was signed in 1783, and Spain received possession of the two Floridas without defining their northern limits, nor accepting that the western border was to run along the Mississippi, as had been established in the treaty.

As was only to be expected, the Spanish ambassador to France used Mitchell's map to draw Spain's frontiers in North America. It is believed, therefore, that the map which is found in the Naval Museum is not only a document of great artistic value, but was also an important element in these negotiations.

LUISA MARTIN MERÁS
Naval Museum, Madrid

The First Maps of Spain

ABSTRACT

This study considers various aspects of the history of the cartography of Spain. After a brief examination of the existing historiography, the most important maps dating from the medieval era are described. Special note should be taken of those maps, simple but beautiful, produced by monks for encyclopaedias or religious volumes; the etymologies of Bishop Isidoro of Seville, the Commentary of the Apocalypse of Saint John, and the Beatitudes all contain images of the world. Equally famous as this Christian cartography was that produced during the Middle Ages in Mallorca and other places on the Mediterranean. Although these were primarily functional, there are also examples of decorative works designed to fulfil a cultural or informative role. The nautical charts, now preserved in libraries and archives all over the world, bear witness to this rich tradition, which would be maintained later in Seville and Andalucia. Outstanding amongst these charts is the magnificent Catalan Atlas of 1375.

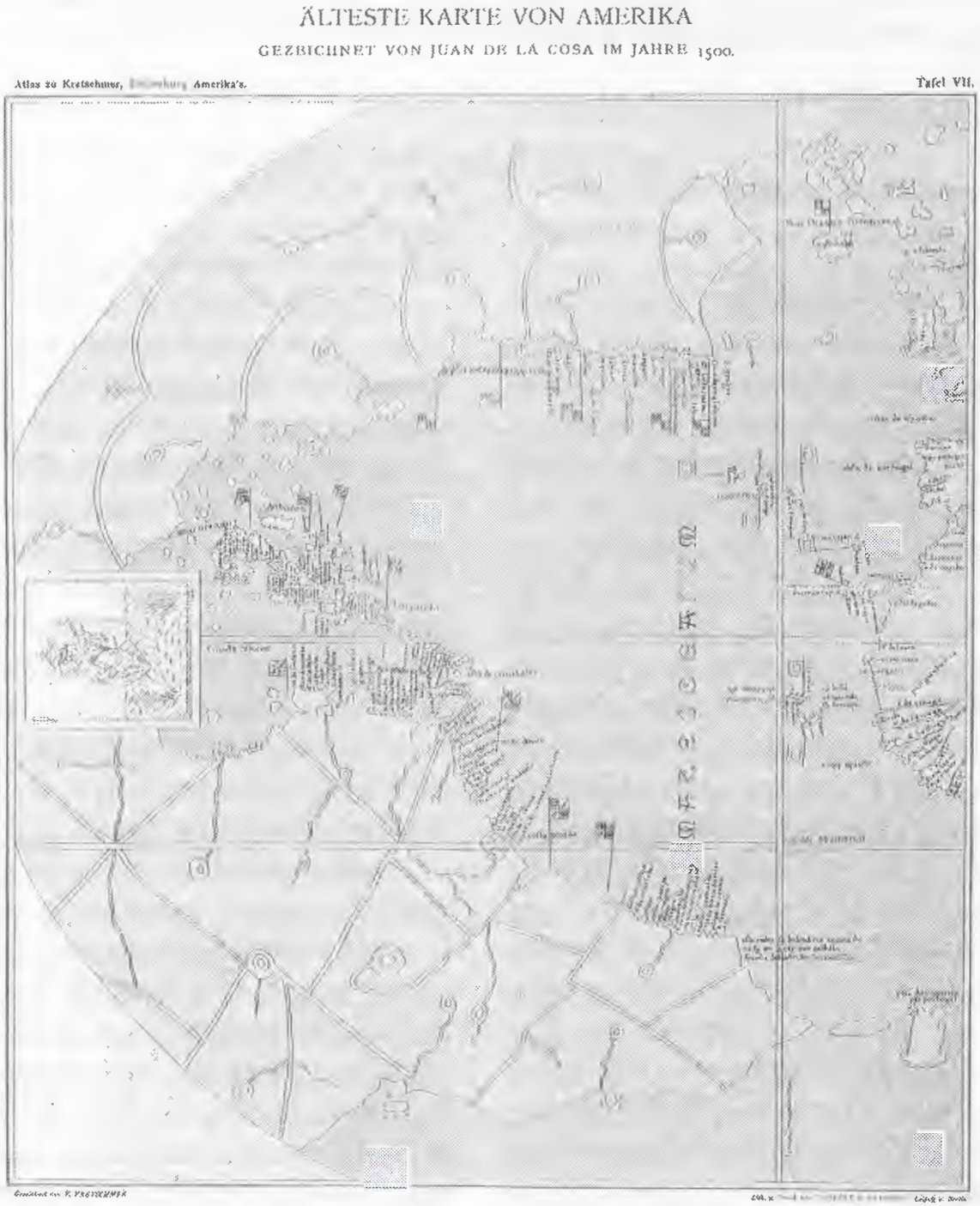
After the introduction of the printing press, Ptolemy's Geographies and the many other atlases published came to include maps of the Iberian peninsula. We do not know of the existence of the manuscripts used for these works, nor the identity of their authors. Generally the work of Italian, Dutch, Flemish or French cartographers, it can be presumed that Spanish sources were used in the compilation of these maps. The history of their design and iconography is closely related to the evolution of atlas production as, with the steady incorporation of new information, a clearer image of Spain and its different regions or areas became available.

Although still little known, there also exists a rich tradition of individual, printed and manuscript maps produced over the centuries.

Besides this cartography of the whole of Spain, the existence of maps of different parts of the country, its coastline or cities should also be noted. From the end

of the 16th century onwards, brilliant examples exist within the western European cartographical tradition. Unfortunately autochthonous production was limited, although it is to be hoped that charts of different types yet to be discovered will reveal and bear witness to the work of Spanish cartographers. The enormous labour of Spanish mapmakers, for example in America, has been the subject of much more detailed research.

This paper ends by listing and commenting on the available bibliography, which, as can be seen, is directed towards a very varied public. This in itself is clear evidence of the growing interest in this



The Juan de la Cosa Map

The major attraction in the Museo Naval, Madrid, is the earliest extant map of the New World created by a Spanish seafarer, Juan de la Cosa. Measuring 183 x 96 cm the map, drawn on ox-hide, is classified as a portolan. It is displayed mounted on Russian leather inside a magnificent oak frame.

The map was bought in 1832 by the Dutch Baron Walckenaer in a Paris curio shop and brought first to the attention of Alexander von Humboldt who authenticated it. The queen of Spain acquired the map in 1853 in an auction, and it finally became the most remarkable cartographic treasure of the Museo Naval. The left-hand section, portraying the new continent, shaded green, has been drawn to a different scale from that of the old world. La Cosa left deliberately vague the question of whether the land mass might join that of Asia.

The illustration of St. Christopher covers the unknown region where the search for a passage to Cathay was soon to begin.

An insufficiently explained feature is the correct delineation of Cuba as an island. Columbus did not fully circumnavigate Cuba on his second voyage. The crew had been obliged to sign a sworn affidavit that Cuba was part of the Asian mainland. No one, on the Spanish side at least, was known to have visited Cuba since. The North American coast was, no doubt, drawn on the basis of information from John Cabot.

The depiction of Europe, Asia and Africa follows in the tradition of 14th and 15th century examples, such as Cresque's Catalan Atlas and Behaim's globe of 1492.

Beneath the vignette of Christopher can be seen the signature of the cartographer and the date 1500. Whilst some scholars date this map to between 1502 and 1510, a pigment analysis made in the Prado Museum in 1986 confirmed the date indicated, regardless of whether this map may be only a copy of an original. None of the several maps of the New World believed to have been executed by Harry Harrisse before 1500 has so far been discovered.

There are still other mysteries. Most experts identify the name Juan de la Cosa with the one who owned and captained the ill-fated Santa Maria on Columbus' first voyage. Others claim that the author of the map was another La Cosa, a sailor, who served on the Niña only during Columbus' second voyage, and Vespucci's in 1499. Captain de Corbeta Roberto Barreiro of the Museo Naval believes they were one and the same person.

Another secret is that of determining the whereabouts of the map before its appearance in Paris. Ian Wilson presumed last year that the map was seized and taken with secret archives from Rome to Paris by Napoleon. On his defeat, some of the material was returned, but not the map which was judged to be unimportant and sold as wrapping paper. The famous map will remain forever an enigma.

Literature

Dreyer-Eimbcke, Oswald: *Kolumbus—Entdeckungen und Irrtümer in der deutschen Kartographie*, Frankfurt, 1991

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Nunn, George Emra: *The Mappemonde of Juan de la Cosa*, Jenkintown, 1934

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Wilson, Ian: *The Columbus Myth*, London, 1991

OSWALD DREYER-EIMBCKE

Madrid: 7th–11th October, 1992

To anyone who attended the symposium in Barcelona in 1986 it will come as no surprise to hear that in Madrid, 1992 cultural capital of Europe, Spain again offered us a feast of cartographic treasures, generous Spanish hospitality and superb organisation.

We gathered on the evening of October 7th, appropriately in the very week of the 500th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of the New World for Spain. Most of the participants checked into the Hotel Suecia, centrally situated within walking distance of the major libraries and the antiquarian book fair. Our first engagement was a generous welcoming reception given by our host and organiser Jaime Armero and his son at their map and print gallery. It was a fine evening and the party was able to expand outside to comfortable leafy surroundings, a most relaxed and enjoyable way to meet old friends and start making new ones. We totalled nearly 90 people from twelve different countries, renewed evidence, if any were needed, of both the genuinely international character of the IMCoS membership and their enthusiasm. Then followed three days of cartographic delights.

Our first visit was to the Biblioteca Nacional where we were welcomed by Señora Carmen Liter, head of the map department. The library began as the royal library of Philip V, which he opened to the public as early as 1712, and then augmented by the acquisition of several important private collections. In 1836 it became the National Library when ownership transferred to the state and during the 19th century was expanded by the donation and purchase of much old and valuable material. Señora Liter had prepared a most varied display of maps and atlases for us, ranging from a 15th century Ptolemy to a manuscript plan of Danzig prepared by the Grande Armée in 1807. We also saw a copy of Apianus' *Astronomicum Caesareum*, 1540, particularly beautifully coloured for presentation to Charles V, a watercolour bird's eye map by Champaña, 1539, for Charles V showing part of the route he was to take across France on a journey to the Netherlands. There were examples of Tomás López' atlas of Spain, 1804, and the atlas of Galiano's voyage to NW America in 1792. It is difficult however to single out particular items as almost all the maps will have had a special interest for somebody.

We then drove 50 km out of Madrid to San Lorenzo de El Escorial. After a leisurely lunch at a nearby Golf Club with a terrace giving us a fine view of Phillip II's monastery palace we visited the monastery library and had a tour of the royal apartments from where for much of the year Phillip II administered his vast empire. In the library Padre Theodoro had laid out a selection of manuscripts and atlases for us to look at and even handle. These included treasures of extreme rarity, in particular medieval manuscripts. We saw etymologies of Isidore of Sevilla with early mappa mundi, including a codex dating from the 7th, 8th and 9th centuries, an early manuscript of Bacon's *Descriptio locorum mundi*, and a 14th century Arab astronomical work. We

were on ground slightly more familiar to most of us with a 15th century Bondalmonte *Isolario*, which the copyist had never completed, a manuscript Ptolemy of 1523, and a 16th century manuscript atlas of Spain. Printed works included a 1482 Berlingheri Ptolemy, a 1588 Spanish edition Ortelius, Mercator-Hondius 1611, and Blaeu's *Atlas Maior* in the 1659 Spanish edition.

Our second day began with another visit to a major city centre collection, the Museo Naval. Here we were looked after by Señora Luis Martin Merás, the head of the Investigation Department, and had an opportunity both to tour the Museum, where the permanent exhibition includes numerous cartographic items, and in particular the Juan de la Cosa map, and to visit the special display she had arranged for us. This display enabled us to examine closely such important maps as the manuscript Spanish version of John Mitchell's 1755 map of North America, c.1780. Later in the day Señora Martin Merás demonstrated in her paper that this map was an important element in the 1782–3 negotiation of Spain's North American frontiers during the preparation of the treaty of the Peace of Versailles. Other important maps included a Mediterranean portulan by Mateo Prunes, 1563, a 1772 version of Antonio Alzate's 'Plano geografico de la mayor parte de la America septentrional espanola', and Francisco Eliza's 1791 manuscript of the Straits of Juan de Fuca and Georgia and west coast of Vancouver Island. The Museum's collections include the historical collections of the Spanish Hydrographic Office. As at the Biblioteca Nacional it was particularly welcome to see atlases as well as single maps and have an opportunity to study them as a whole. Those on display



At the Biblioteca Nacional. The double-page spread (pages 22, 23) shows members gathering on the steps of the Library for the first meeting of the Symposium.

included Dudley 1646, Jansson 1652, Pieter Goos 1666, *Isole famose* (Camocio) 1579, *The Mariner's Mirror* 1588 and Tofiño 1789.

In the afternoon at the Centro Cultural Galileo in the Chamberi district of Madrid we heard four interesting papers: Colonel Angel Paladini of the Army Geographical Service on some important 16th century manuscript maps including the Juan de la Cosa, Señora Martin Merás on the Spanish version of John Mitchell's map, Señora Carmen Liter on the cartographer Tomás López and Professor Agustin Hernando of the University of Barcelona on early maps of Spain. The papers were delivered in Spanish but thanks to Prof. Hernando who provided a translation of one and abstracts of the others even non-Spanish speakers were able to appreciate them.

The seminar was followed by the opening, by the assistant mayor of Chamberi, of a magnificent exhibition organised by Galleria Frame, *Los Mapas Antiquos Más Bellos de España de 1482 a 1895*. Many of the maps we had seen on our other visits had understandably highlighted the achievements of Spanish cartographers in the wider world, particularly the Americas, in contrast this exhibition traced the development of the map of Spain itself. We were given copies of the fine catalogue, illustrating the maps, with text by Professor Hernando expanding the paper we had heard him give. The majority of the maps came from the atlases of mainstream European cartography, and Professor Hernando pointed out that there is still much to be discovered about individual printed and manuscript maps, regional maps and the Spanish sources from which non-Spanish cartographers drew their information.

On Saturday, our last day together, the programme tactfully did not begin until 10.30. I hope this went some way to solve the problems of those who were having such a good time in the evenings that they complained that in Madrid the nights are too short! We were guests of the section of the Army Geographical Service responsible for their archive and map library, which is looked after by Colonel Paladini Cuadrado. The collection is based on maps produced for private collections, and now totals nearly 300 atlases and more than 25,000 maps and plans. We saw the permanent exhibition which shows a selection from this remarkable collection. Here there was something for everybody, portulans, early atlases, printed maps and numerous manuscript plans of Spanish towns and ports at home and overseas. Particular interest was shown in a remarkable series of manuscript copies on vellum of portulans, made in the department in recent years. A delicious buffet lunch rounded off this fascinating visit.

On Saturday evening our closing dinner took the form of a smörgasbord in the Suecia Hotel. This gave us an opportunity to thank the Armero family for all they had done to make the symposium such a resounding success. They had spent months in hard work and preparation, and planned a programme which though packed with activities, in true Spanish style always seemed leisurely, gave us enough time to enjoy each event properly and was interspersed with happy hours over relaxed meals. Jaime Armero junior must especially be thanked by non-Span-

ish speakers for always appearing at the critical moment with his helpful translations, but above all our thanks go to Señor Jaime Armero, senior, who masterminded the whole event. We all took home an excellent catalogue to remind us of their own special contribution of the exhibition of the maps of Spain and left them to recover over what was left of their October 12th holiday weekend.

SUSANNA FISHER

Result of the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation's International Competition "The Cartography of Eastern Mediterranean"

At the 11th International Symposium of IMCoS in Madrid Dr Helen Wallis, IMCoS President, announced, on behalf of Mr Andreas Patsalides, Chairman of the Cultural Foundation of the Bank of Cyprus, the results of the international competition put forward by the Foundation in 1990, which sought to select, finance and publish a work on "The Cartography of Eastern Mediterranean".

The Awards Committee — established by the Cultural Foundation in 1991 in order to set up the rules of the competition — received and studied the various proposals which were submitted before the deadline of February 1992. In the Spring of 1992, the Committee unanimously chose the project,

Maps for the Historian
Maps of Eastern Mediterranean
Published in British Parliamentary Papers, 1801 – 1921
by Susan Gole

Gole's project is a detailed carto-bibliography with supplementary text on the maps; it will result in a definitive corpus of great significance for the history of Mediterranean cartography while it will also constitute a scholarly work of lasting value and a constant source of reference for various disciplines.

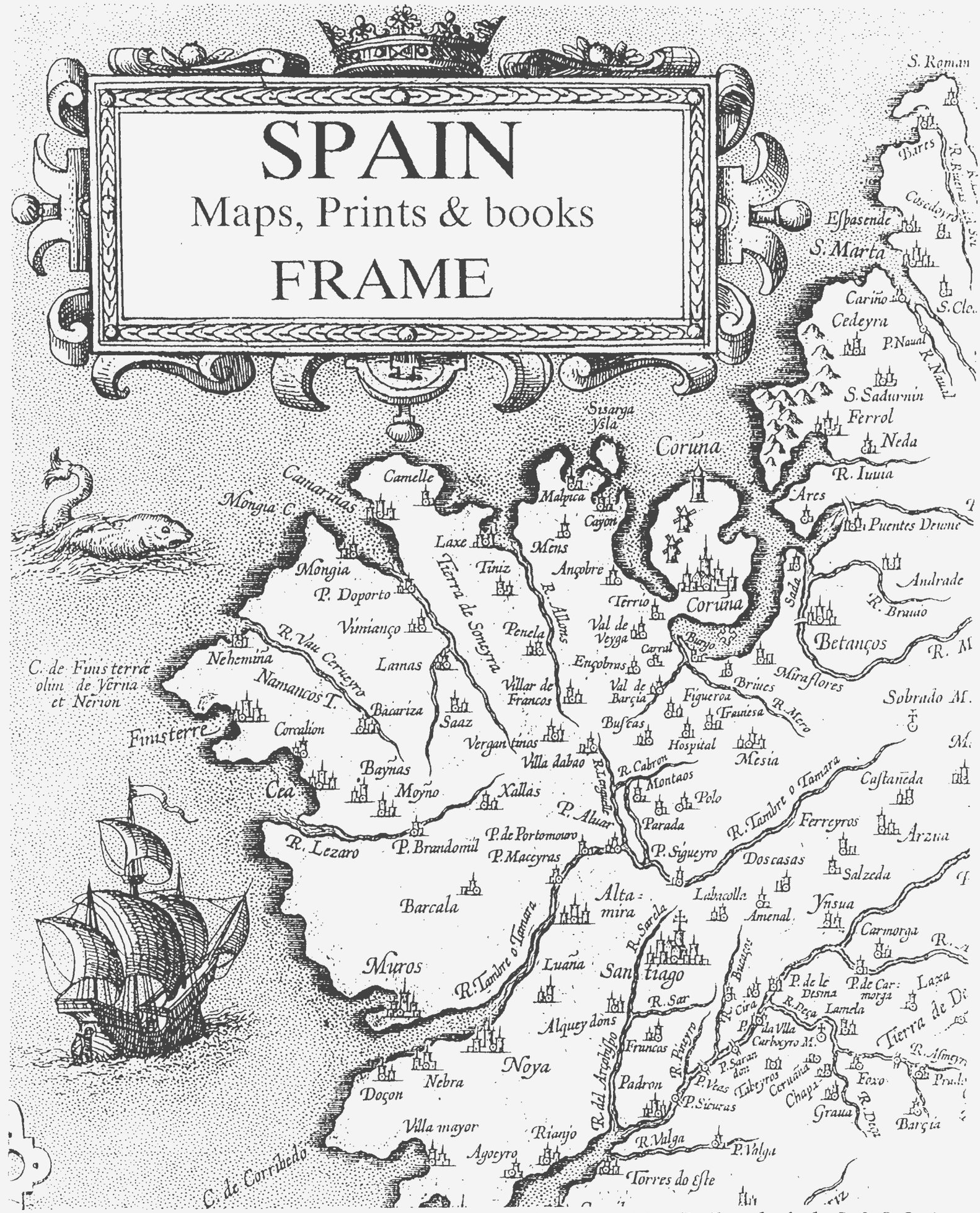
The research on the project will be completed in 1994 and the work, which will be published in Cyprus, is expected to appear early in 1995.

Harley Fellowships making good progress

The Fund, set up in memory of Brian Harley, who died in December 1991, has already attracted over £6000, with a further £2000 promised. So far there have been 80 donors, of whom seven are Sponsors, each contributing £500 or more. This is a very encouraging start and means that it should be possible to award the first Fellowship for 1994. An explanatory leaflet will be issued next year, setting out the procedure for applicants. The J.B. Harley Research Fellowships in the History of Cartography will be open to any who are pursuing advanced research, whatever their nationality, discipline or profession. The size and number of future awards depend on further donations. The eventual target of £40,000 is intended to finance up to three fellowships per year, each for one month. The Trustees would like to acknowledge especially the fundraising efforts of IMCoS, whose seventeen contributors provided a very generous £650 between them.







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Forthcoming Events in UK

27 Jan 1993, 6.00 pm

London Evening at the Farmers' Club

Members are invited to bring a favourite map to an informal evening at the Farmers' Club, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 1EL, and to explain in a few words why they like it, or point out any interesting details. A small charge will be made to cover refreshments.

6 March, 11.00 am

Regional Meeting at Hertford

Contact IMCoS Secretary Harry Pearce if you would like to visit the Hertford Record Office. Enclose a cheque made out to IMCoS for £4.00 to cover administrative costs. Further details will be sent to those interested.

12 June

13th Annual IMCoS Symposium

This will be held at the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London. The morning sessions will be at the London School of Economics. Speakers will be Margaret Condon, Peter Barber, William Foot, and Geraldine Beech.

IMCoS Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday, 19 June, at Poon's Restaurant, Woburn Place.

On Sunday 13 June members are invited to visit the Thames Barrier, and the new developments at Docklands.

Registration forms are included with this issue, and should be returned to IMCoS Secretary Harry Pearce as soon as possible. Increased fees will be payable for registration after 1 May 1993. Special rates at Russell Hotel are available for those booking direct to the hotel with mention of IMCoS Symposium before the end of March.

20 June

IMCoS Map Fair

The IMCoS Map Fair will take place as usual at the New Connaught Rooms, Holborn. Any dealer wishing to take a stall should apply to IMCoS Secretary Harry Pearce immediately.

The London Lectures

Meetings in this seminar, 'Maps and Society' are held at the Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB at 5.00 pm. Admission is free and the meetings are open to anyone who is interested. The next four meetings are:

10 Dec **Patricia Fara** (*Imperial College, University of London*): An Attractive Empire: Mapping Terrestrial Magnetism in the 18th century

7 Jan **Dennis Reinhartz** (*Dept of History, University of Texas-Arlington*): Cartography, Literature and Empire: Herman Moll and his Maps

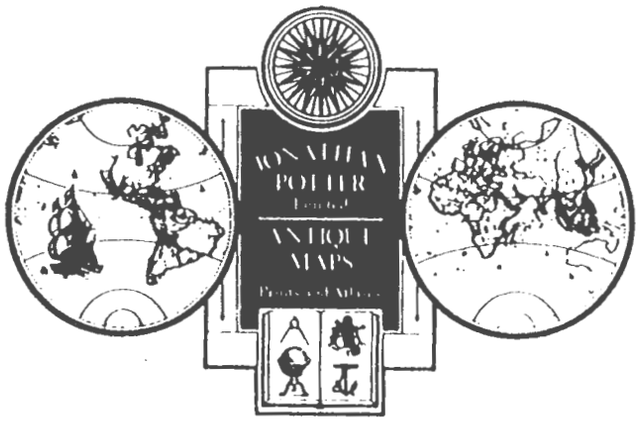
Feb 4 **Malcolm Lewis** (*Dept of Geography, University of Sheffield*): North American Indian and Inuit Maps: Intercultural Significances

Feb 25 **Matthew Edney** (*Dept of Geography, State Univ. of New York at Binghampton*): Scientific Images and Images of Science: the British Mapping of India, 1750–1850

Also at the Warburg, on 29 Jaunary The Leonardo da Vinci Society and Society for Renaissance Studies 3rd Symposium in their series 'Art and Science in the Italian Renaissance: Maps and Mapping'.

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International News and Events

1993 12th International Symposium in association with Freundeskreis für Cartographica in der Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz
Mainz and Bonn.10–13 September
Contact: Herr Konsul Dr Oswald Dreyer-Eimbcke, Raboisen 5, D-2000 Hamburg 1.
Tel: (040) 33 66 96
Fax: (040) 33 13 47

1994 13th International Symposium, in association with the Mercator Committee
Antwerp. 28–31 October
Contact: Itshak Sperling, Voskenslaan 137, B-9000 Gent, Belgium
Tel: (091)22 31 12
Fax: (091) 22 32 97

1995 14th International Symposium in association with the California Map Society
San Francisco. October (dates to be decided)
Contact: Alfred W.Newman, 1414 Mariposa St, Vallejo, CA 94590
Tel: (707) 642 9091

Germany 1993

This symposium promises to be a most interesting one. The joint themes, in Bonn the 'Nuremberg Chronicle' and in Mainz 'Rivers in the Heart of Europe, from the Black Sea to the Baltic' will provide something of interest to a wide range of members. An optional boat trip through some of the loveliest scenery of Europe is offered, and the symposium dinner will be held at Godesberg overlooking the Rhine Valley.

Provisional bookings at the recommended hotels had to be made months ago by the organisers. In order to take advantage of these, members are advised to complete and return the registration form as soon as they receive it.

A newspaper cutting from Wellington, New Zealand

An exhibition of Dutch cartography was held at the Maritime Museum, Wellington, brought there by the Netherlands Embassy in association with the Abel Tasman 1992 Commission, to commemorate the arrival of Tasman in 1642. The travelling exhibition included paintings and plans of small villages, primitive North Sea fishing maps and examples of magnificent charts of the New World reproduced in early 17th century Dutch navigation manuals. It traced the history of cartography from art to science — with painters making way for surveyors and navigators. This was the first overseas exhibition to be displayed at the maritime Museum since it opened 20 years ago.

Exhibition in New York

The Cooper-Hewitt National Museum of Design presents the its first exhibition to explore the persuasive power of maps, from an ancient Mesopotamian tablet to state-of-the-art computer mapping programs. 'The Power of Maps' is on view till 7 March 1993. It is described as the first exhibition to examine the significance of maps as instruments of communication, persuasion and authority. As co-curator Lucy Fellowes writes: 'Maps represent the world through design. They put things in perspective. Powerfully and graphically, maps offer everyone the im-

RODERICK M. BARRON

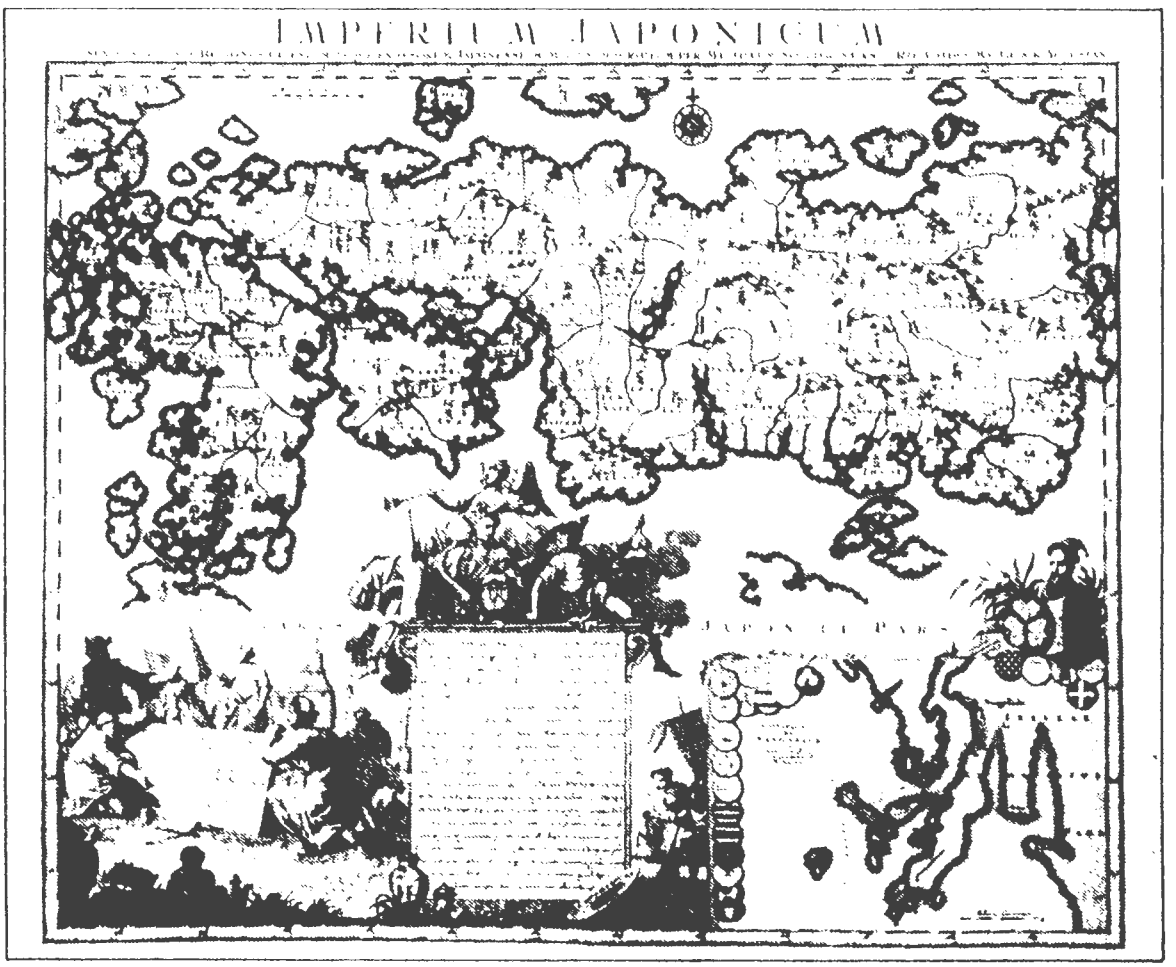
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mediate experience of seeing space. By showing the world drawn to scale, maps also remind us that everything is relative.' An illustrated 256-page catalogue is published by The Guilford Press, New York (Tel: 212 431-9800) at $15.95.

From the Library of Congress, Washington

The catalogue to accompany the Library's Columbian Quincentenary exhibition 'An Ongoing Voyage' has been edited by John R Hébert and is available from the Superintendent of Documents, US Govt Printing Office, Washington DC 20402-9328 for $25.

Mercator 1994

In memory of the 400th anniversary of the death of Gerard Mercator an international bureau has been established in Rupelmonde (Kruibeke), native town of Gerardus de Cremer (Mercator). Events will take place throughout the year, and, for IMCoS, will be highlighted by the 13th International Symposium in Antwerp in October.

News from Latvia

The Riga Museum of History & Navigation has a unique cartographic work — an Atlas with the title, 'Risse des Nordisch-Krieges von 1700 bis 1713' (Sketches of the Nordic War from 1700 to 1713). The title page, or first page of the atlas, which could reveal the place and time of compilation is missing. The size is 46 x 32 cm, and 15 cm thick. It contains 31 maps, 3 plans, 2 schemes and one picture, all of which are drawn by hand in ink (probably Chinese) and painted with water colours. The tone of the colours is very well preserved.

The first six maps depict an area of Latvia by the river Daugava (from the small town of Koknese to Riga). The river is drawn very carefully showing many islands, settlements, reliefs, and the position of troops. The scale of some of the maps is shown in paces, about 150 paces to one cm. The other maps, plans and schemes show the position of troops near the towns of Narva, Grodno, Poltaw, and Scheztin, and in the north of germany near Rügen Island. The only picture of the Atlas depicts the defence of Narva.

The author of this unique atlas might be J.G.M. Furstenhoff whose name is inscribed on one of the maps. If we compare the graphic element of this map with those of the other maps, we may conclude that they are made by the same person. This opinion is also confirmed by a reference to this atlas in the catalogue 'Katalog CLXVI von Albert Cohn in Berlin, 1885‡Juli' (a page of this catalogue is included with the atlas). It is noted in the catalogue that the atlas was drawn by a German officer during the Nordic War, though his name is not mentioned.

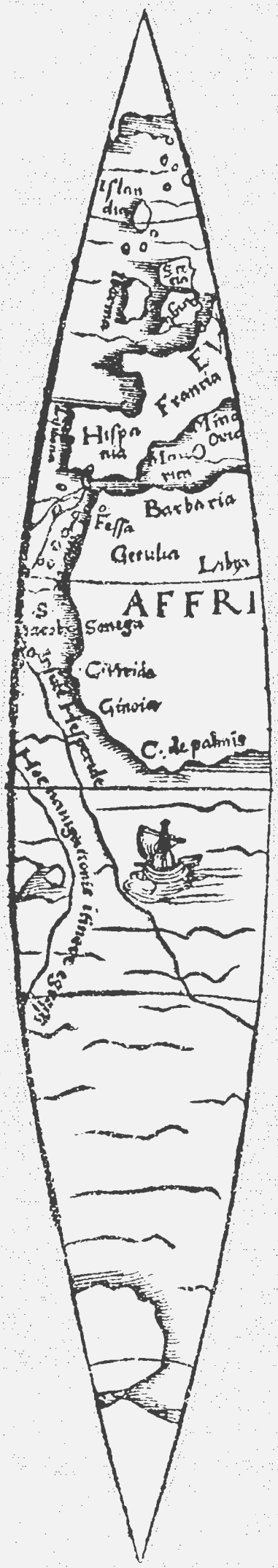
In conclusion I would like to ask map collectors to check the uniqueness of the atlas, and to express their opinion about the advisability of issuing a facsimile of this manuscript atlas.

JANIS STRAUCHMANIS

From Cyprus

In October 1991, Dr Helen Wallis was invited to give the Agnes Michaelides Memorial Lecture at the Cultural Foundation of the Bank of Cyprus.

The late Agnes Michaelides (1914–1990) was one of the Foundation's first



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benefactors and donors. In 1988 she donated to the Foundation a major collection of 64 maps of Cyprus and the Mediterranean which more than doubled the Foundation's own map collection. Appropriately, Dr Wallis' lecture, now published by the Foundation, begins with the presence of Cyprus on the Roman road map known as the *Tabula Peutingeriana* and on the 13th century mappae mundi; it continues with the portolan charts and the Ptolemy maps of Cyprus and proceeds gradually to the late 19th century trigonometrical survey of the island by Captain H.H. Kitchener which was published by E. Stanford in 1885.

Vignettes in the Cartographic History of Cyprus is published by the Cultural Foundation (40 pp, 15 coloured illustrations) and costs £5.00.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

It is now time for those who pay their subscriptions anually to send their cheque in to the Membership Secretary, Caroline Batchelor, Pikes, The Ridgeway, Oxshott, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 0LG.

Rates have not been increased, despite rising printing and administrative costs. They remain £16 per year ($32), or £45 ($US90) for three years. For those who like to make a larger payment then forget about it, the new ten year subscription of £150 ($US 300) may be preferred.

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Japan — Where in the World is it?

The first European mention of Japan was by Marco Polo. Although not claiming to have visited Japan (which he called Zipangu), he devotes several chapters to things he learned about it from his Mongol hosts. That he includes Zipangu in his chapter about India and reports it just before Java and Java Minor tells us that we should not be surprised if he has the position a bit wrong as well. Quoting him,

> 'Zipangu is an island in the eastern ocean, situated at a distance of about fifteen hundred miles from the mainland, or coast of Manji. It is of considerable size . . .'

His description of the place was no less fanciful:

> 'They have gold in the greatest abundance, its sources being inexhaustible .'

He also comments on other riches:

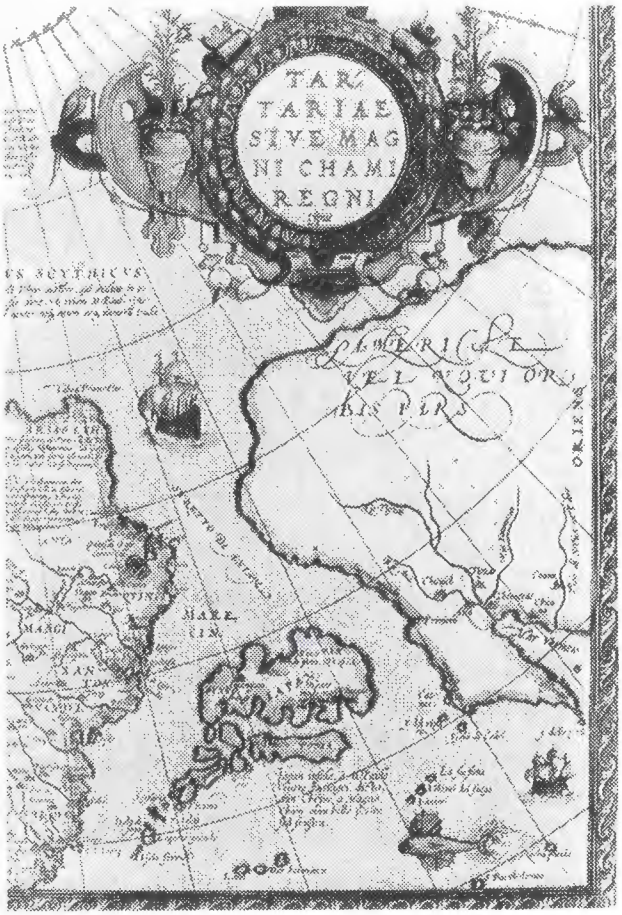
> 'In this island there are pearls also, in large quantities, of a pink colour, round in shape, and of great size equal in value to, or even exceeding that of the white pearls . . . so great was the wealth of this island, that a desire was excited in the breast of the Great Khan, Kublai, now reigning, to make a conquest of it . . .'

No doubt in part due to a bad case of wishful thinking, Christopher Columbus' first expedition was much influenced by two misleading statements in Marco Polo's report of Zipangu. The first of these misconceptions was about the extravagant wealth of the island. Because of Polo's statements about gold and pearls, as well as other, later reports, Columbus made Zipangu a major goal of his trans-Atlantic voyage.

The second and more fundamental error concerns the position of Japan. The Marco Polo report placing the island 1500 miles east of the coast of Asia, coupled with Columbus' acceptance of the most optimistic (understated) estimate of the circumference of the earth, placed Zipangu well within the reach of a westward voyage from Iberia. Given this concept of the Ocean Sea, it is understandable that he would have set off from Palos in Andalusia to reach Japan in a matter of weeks.

In his log entry of October 23, 1492, he says,

> 'I want to leave [Hispaniola] today for the



Detail from Abraham Ortelius' 'Tartariae' (1570) showing the position of Japan midway between the peninsula of California to the east and the mainland of China to the west.

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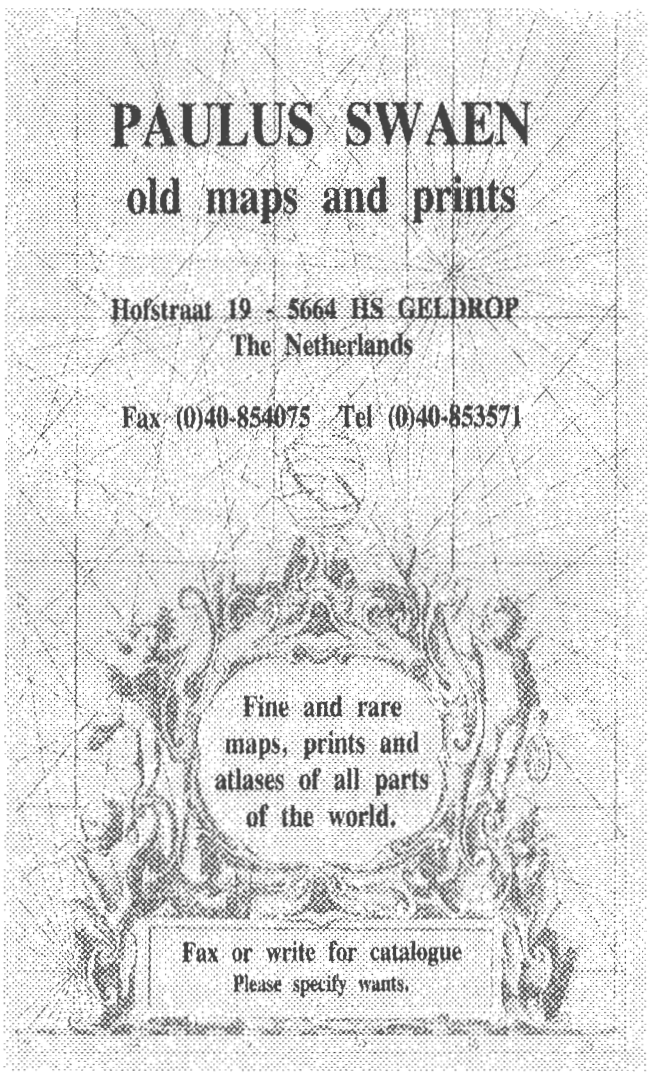
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island of Cuba, which I believe to be Chipangu.'

On the 24th,

'all my globes and world maps seem to indicate that the island of Japan is in this vicinity and I am sure that Cuba and Chipangu are one and the same'.

On the 27th,

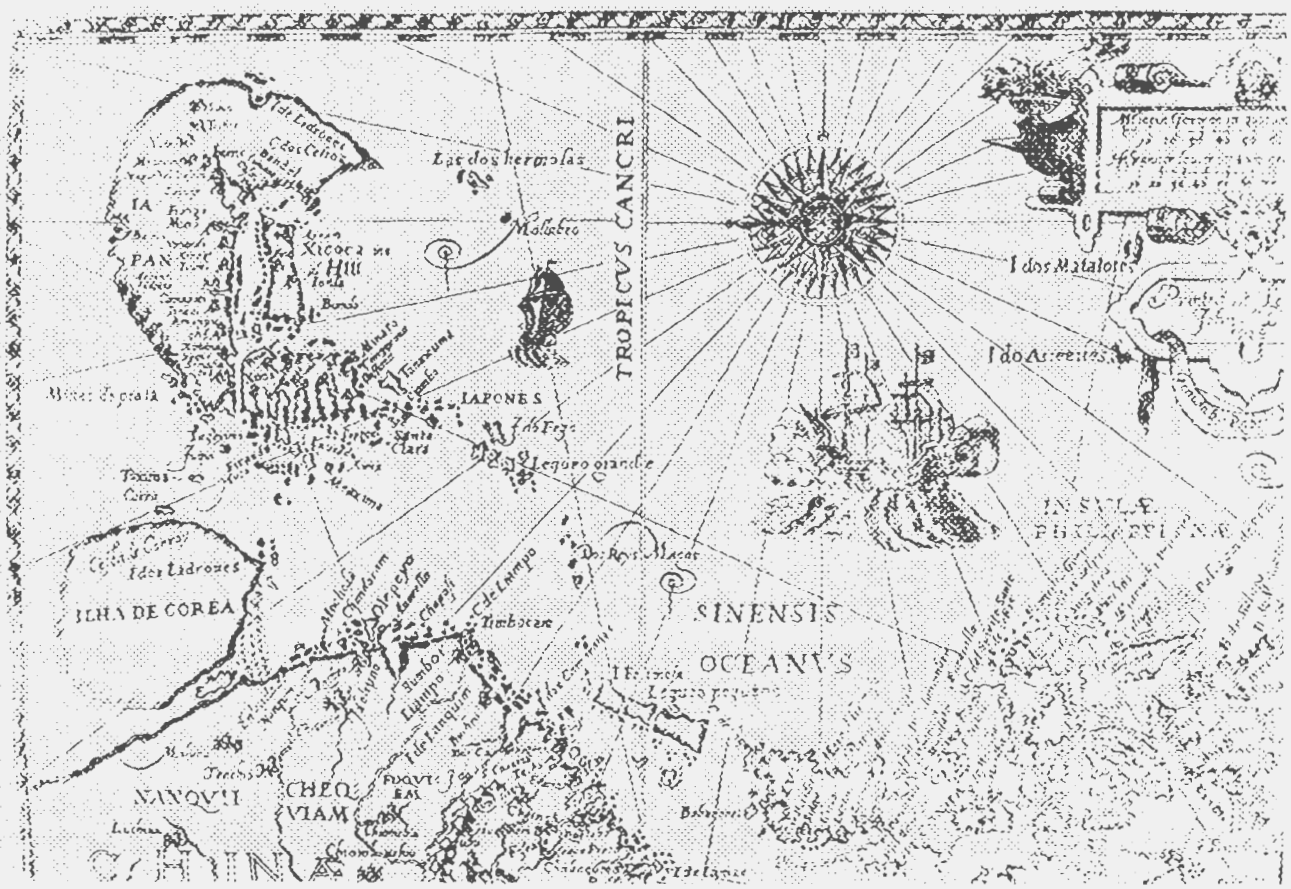
'I hauled up the anchor at sunrise and departed for Cuba, which I am told is magnificent, with gold and pearls. I am now certain that Cuba is the Indian name for Chipangu.'

Finally on the 30th, still thinking he is in the vicinity of Asia, he says'

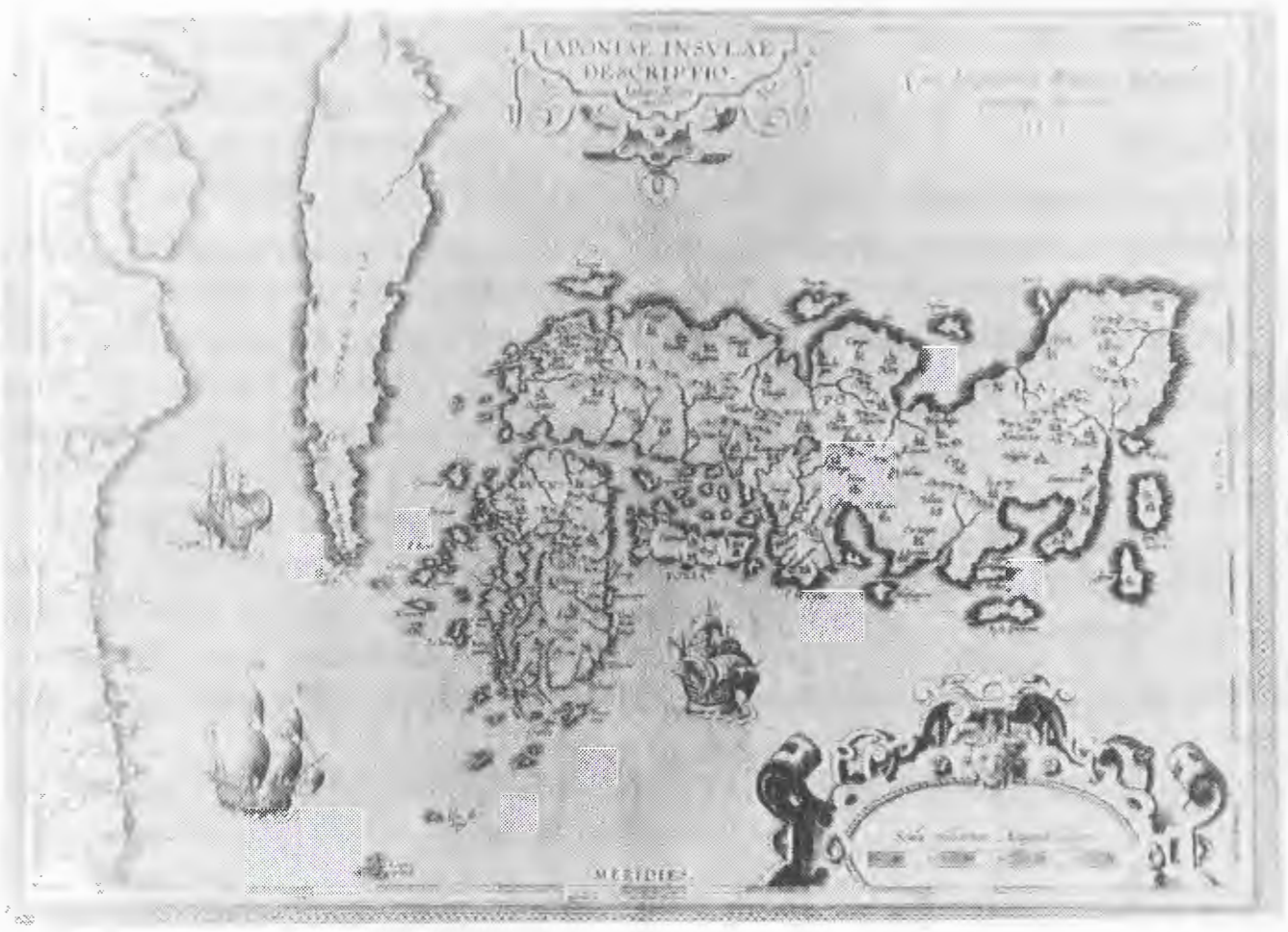
'I must try to go to the Great Khan, for he is in the vicinity or at the city of Cathay, which is the city of the Great Khan.'

The influence of Marco Polo's book is unmistakable in the hopeful words written in his log, but in the intervening two centuries Columbus had moved Japan some several thousand miles to the east.

As subsequent voyages at the end of the 15th century and in the first years of the 16th century began filling in land masses in the Caribbean, it became clear that Japan, much less China, was not to be found in this area. The cartographic solu-



Detail from Linschoten's famous map of East Asia (1596) showing Japan at the correct lattitude and correctly positioned east/west relative to the mainland of China and the 'Ilha de Corea', but with an imaginative and fanciful shape. This 'prawn' shape was taken from the manuscript atlases of the Portuguese Vaz Dourado drawn some 25 years previously, but it did not survive into the 17th century as more accurate forms became available.



The first credible map of Japan by Luiz Teixeira (1595) showing Japan in the correct position and with the three islands of Hinshu, Kyushu and Shikoku in recognizable shape and relative orientation. For decades, this map served as the standard peatern for printed maps of Japan.

tion can be seen in the Waldseemüller world map of 1507. He places Japan just 10° of longitude west of the thin outline of the east coast of America, still within reach of a western voyage from Europe. Furthermore, the north/south positioning had the main island centered on about 12° north latitude.

By the later decades of the 16th century, an amazing amount of information about the Americas and the Pacific had become available to European cartographers, thanks to the voyages of Magellan, Drake and others. The earlier gross miscalculations of the circumference of the earth had been corrected, but Japan was not yet placed with any accuracy. For example, in Ortelius' 'Tartaria' we see Japan located approximately midway between California and China, despite the intense Portuguese trade activities in Kyushu which had commenced in the meantime. The policy of secrecy enforced with vigour by Lisbon was in large part the cause of this and other inaccuracies in the contemporary maps of Asia. Japan had been moved again, and by now is coming closer to its true position.

This secrecy could not be maintained indefinitely and by the end of the 16th century, Linschoten's landmark book, *Itinerario*, had made Portuguese carto-

graphic information available to Europeans in the form of maps engraved by Arnoldus van Langeren. Among these was the famous map of East Asia, covering Japan to Sumatra and Java. In this map, we finally see 'Iapan' positioned at about the correct longitude just beyond the 'Ilha de Corea'. Earlier southerly errors in latitude were also corrected. However, Linschoten had never actually visited Japan, and his map incorporated a gross distortion in the shape of Japan,giving Honshu island a distinctive prawn shape.

Now that the position of Japan had been established with some accuracy, it remained to correct the shape. A progressive metamorphosis, beginning with the Luis Teixeira (1595) 'Iaponiae Insulae Descriptio', continued through the 17th and 18th centuries. However, by this time, Japan was all but closed to Europeans and it was to be a slow process of uncovering the true form of this complex archipelago. Three of the four main islands (Honshu, Kyushu and Shikoku) were in place by Kaempfer (1727), but Hokkaidu was a problem until the 19th century.

Why did the clarifying of Japan's position and form take so long when other remote islands, peninsulas and continents took shape at a much faster pace? There is no one answer, but probably a combination of factors including the Portuguese policy of secrecy in the 16th century, the isolationist attitude of the Japanese government for over three hundred years and perhaps the lack of priority by European cartographers. In any case, this prolonged progression to an accurate representation of Japan provides present day map enthusiasts an ample field for study and speculation.

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RICHARD PFLEDERER

Who was the member who took the lift to the top floor of the hotel while we were in Madrid to take some photographs of the skyline? The only way to obtain a view was to go out onto the fire escape. As there was no handle on the outside of the door for re-entry, the door was propped open with a bottle. Too busy preparing to set up the camera, this person did not notice a maid come along and remove the bottle. The door slammed shut. Luckily the loud hammering that followed was heard by the maid, and our member fortunately did not miss the symposium Dinner. We leave you to guess who this was!

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Writings about Maps

One of a number of highlights of our IMCoS visit to Madrid was the comprehensive and very well displayed exhibition of maps of Spain that was opened immediately following the presentation of papers at the Symposium itself.

Herman Moll's 'A new and exact map of Spain and Portugal divided into its Kingdoms and Principalities' (1711) attracted considerable attention. A very fine map indeed, which one would have thought would have stood on its own merits when it was published, we found to our amusement carries in its bottom left-hand corner what can only be described, in present-day advertising terms, as an extremely vigorous piece of 'knocking copy'. To quote:

> ADVERTISEMENT
> Among all ye Cheats that ye world are dayly abus'd with, none have lately been more scandalous than that of Maps. some times New ones are put out by Ignorant Pretenders. Some times mean & imperfect foreign Maps are Copy'd and publish'd by them as their own, and haveing no Judgement or Knowledge of what is good or bad, correct or incorrect. They basely impose on the Publick with pompous Titles, & pretend they are Countenanc'd & assisted by those who either never saw, or despise their wretched Performances at home, but by others from abroad, who seeing what Trifles have a currency here, are incourag'd to publish evry wretched Coppy that falls into their Hands, as particularly a Map of Spain in 9 Sheets, lately publish'd as a new Draught tho it is at least 70 years old. It may easily be known by ye Arms, somewhat like in this. They have endeavourd to disguise it by a New Title vitz: Theatre de la Guerre en Espagne et en Portugal &c. Dressé sur les Observations de Mrs de l'Academie des Sciences. Par Guillaume de l'Isle, Geographe du Roy. A Paris. Avec Privilege du Roy 1710. To this they add Imaginary Sands & Depths of Water, than which nothing can be of more dangerous consequence if ever it should be usd at Sea, and ye vain Notions it must give others at Land are no less apparent.'

The present-day law of copyright, together with the degree of accuracy and relative cheapness of such large numbers or readily available maps may to us make such a diatribe against a competitor seem curious, even excessive. But we have to remember the high cost of producing new works, the small market for them and the very great extent to which they were plagiarised at that time. It is instructive to note how contemporary issues of the *Gentleman's Magazine* reflected all this.

Many British maps of the period asserted their superiority in their titles, of course. For example: Osborne (1748) 'A *Correct* Map of Caernarvonshire'; Kitchin (1750) 'A *New* Map of Haddingtonshire'; Rollos (1768) 'An *Accurate* Map of Brecknockshire'; and the Bowens (1767) 'Durham . . . with Improvements not inserted in any other half Sheet County Maps Extant' The *GM Supplement* for 1747 went much further in publishing 'An account of preparations made by I. Cave for a new set of COUNTY

MAPS', stressing that 'Many journies have been taken with a measuring wheel', noting 'particular observations and surveys by different persons, eminently skilled in the business' and not failing to point out that all was done 'at no trifling expence.' But then competitors had to be dealt with and so the 'account' continued with the claim that the maps would '. . . avoid a great number of errors, committed by those all-sufficient and sage adventurers, who dreaming of mountains behind their counters, imagine that a good map may be made without stirring out of London; and that, if they purchase two or three old maps, and deliver them to a neat engraver, all the business is done.'

The 'account' went on with a thinly veiled attack on the *Universal Magazine*. 'There are indeed a kind of *Universal Undertakers*, that fancy themselves equal to every thing, but do nothing right. He [Cave] has no reason to be displeased at the start which such have got, nor to envy them the credit and profit of it. On the contrary, tho' he has taken so much pains, he will freely instruct them how to correct one great error of errors, the Bedfordshire map, against the next impression. — As the writing on a plate must be rubbed out, they must erase half a dozen towns, and re-ingrave them in a quite different order; and if they please to ask pardon of the public for exhibiting so confused a jumble, he will proceed to finish his tour and enquiries in the county, and publish a correct map of the whole, for them to accurately survey and copy in a garret.'

Such 'knocking copy' did not abate. In the *GM* for August 1769, we can read:

'There has been lately advertised in the News papers, a Map of the Seat of war between the Russians, Poles and Turks. The authors Messrs. Andrew Dury and P.Bell, assure us that they have been favoured by his Excellency Count Chernishef, with a manuscript and other maps; and that they have compiled theirs from them. Who would not expect after such an account, a very accurate, new, and interesting map of these countries, which are the theatre of war, and so little known to the rest of Europe, and of which we have not any good and accurate maps as yet published. But upon a critical comparison, we found to our great astonishment, that the whole work is only a copy of those maps already published in the Russian Atlas; a work which the Petersburgh-Academy is now ashamed to own, after they have seen what improvements it is capable of.'

Having warmed to his task, the writer continues:

'Is it not a shameful imposition upon the public, to advertise a bad copy of a wretchedly inaccurate map, as a compilation of manuscript maps? and is it not abusing the name of his Excellency, by prefixing it to this production of vile interest and imposture? Had the authors really appeal[sic] to his Excellency, they would have been enabled to get better helps than those they falsely boast of. And as this country is here so little known, and therefore very few are able to judge the merit or demerit of the performance, I thought it encumbent upon me to warn the public against this map, which the interested views of the publishers have a mind to obtrude upon it as a performance compiled from Manuscript Maps.'

After some related comments, the writer really gets to the point, which is to

advertise the superiority of the *GM*'s own map, yet to be published:

' . . . in our next magazine we shall produce a sketch of the Crim, the Sea of Azof, and parts of the rivers Dnieper, Bog, and Cuban, communicated to us by an ingenuous correspondent, a slight comparison of which with Mr Dury's map will convince the connoisseur what a vast difference there is between a work drawn after manuscript and other good maps and memoirs, and with a notion of languages, history and antiquity; and a mere copy of maps, disavowed by the Petersburgh Academy.'

The imagination boggles at the thought of present-day map publishers going at one another in quite this fashion.

COSIMO

Book Reviews

No Day too Long — An Hydrographer's Tale, by Rear Admiral G.S. Ritchie, CB, DSC, FRICS. The Pentland Press, 1992. 250 pages, 23 illustrations. £15.50

Sixty years ago a white-bearded admiral with sparkling eyes fired the imagination of a naval cadet. Over his father's dinner table he thrilled him with tales of adventures in the forests of Borneo and the wilds of British Columbia. The admiral was Sir Frederick Learmouth,lifelong hydrographic surveyor and a former Hydrographer of the Navy; the cadet was Steve Ritchie. The encounter gave Admiral Ritchie an enthusiasm for the life of a naval surveyor which carried him to the top of his profession as Hydrographer of the Navy and subsequently as President of the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau in Monaco.

His enthusiasm for his chosen career makes his autobiography most enjoyable reading; it is evident whether he is describing surveying beaches for British landings in southern Italy, routine peacetime work in the Persian Gulf, or the trials of office life for a sailor. The narrative is colourful with a liberal spicing of anecdote throughout.

Admiral Ritchie gives frequent simple explanations of technical aspects of his work, which help even the lay reader understand the problems and satisfactions a surveyor faces. He describes for example the embryonic Decca system used at the time of the Normandy landings and the difficulties and thrills of getting a record sounding and a bottom sample in the Marianas Trench. With so much information of this sort tucked into the narrative it is a pity that the index is confined to names of men and ships.

In the early sixties Admiral Ritchie became Assistant Hydrographer and found himself tied to an office desk at Cricklewood. As well as 'broadening his dancing experience into the field of ballet', for the Christmas show, he managed to find time to write his history of British nineteenth century surveying, *The Admiralty Chart*. On his retirement from the Navy this involvement with the history of

his profession led to a research fellowship and a year as a full-time historian.

While Hydrographer of the Navy he initiated the then revolutionary metrification of the British Admiralty chart. He realised this change must come if the Admiralty chart was to retain the respect in which it was held internationally, but at the time the decision caused considerable controversy among professions navigators and the public at large, with A.P. Herbert proposing the formation of The Friends of the Fathom!

The last ten years of professional service were spent at the International Hydrographic Bureau in Monaco, the organisation which co- ordinates the charting efforts of the surveying services of the world's navies. He was elected President of the Directing Committee for two successive five year terms, during which the Bureau extended its scheme for international sharing of the small-scale coverage of the world's oceans to the even more demanding task of co-ordinating medium and large scale charts.

A most important dimension of the book stems from Admiral Ritchie's great sense of history and awareness that as he and his colleagues 'laboured . . . to sustain the impeccable standards demanded by the Admiralty Chart' they were heirs to a great tradition dating back to Cook. Even in the mid-twentieth century there were aspects of their work that had remained unchanged since the days of Cook. The surveyor's craft for example was still learnt on the job, with one generation passing on their skills to the next.

This is an enjoyable book which will give members, whether they have any special interest in the sea or not, an insight into one of the great branches of map-making.

SUSANNA FISHER

In a third leader commending the ninth edition of its *Atlas of the World*, published in October, 1992, *The Times* makes this striking claim: 'Mankind has invented three great form of communication: language, music and mapping. But by far the oldes t of the three is mapping.'
Contributed by S.J.S.

Hebrew Maps of the Holy Land, by E. & G. Wajntraub. Vienna, Brüder-Hollinck, 1992. xxiv+277 pages. ISBN 3-85119-248-6.

The long history of cartographic representation of the Holy Land stands unique to that of any other country or region. Its status in the hearts and minds of the followers of the three monotheistic religions resulted in a seamless continuation of the depiction of the country from the very dawn of cartography.

The study in our own day of the Holy Land maps is rich indeed — fuelled no doubt by the zealous band of collectors in this field. However, to study, to collect, to appreciate maps of the Holy Land, and then ignore, due to lack of knowledge, those maps that are in the very language indigenous to that part of the world, is truly unforgivable. The Hebrew language has unfortunately become all too sadly neglected by most outside the Jewish, Hebrew-speaking world. The authors of the present work have rightly attempted to tackle a distinct area that has remained unexplored for too long. Eva and Gimpel

Wajntraub are therefore to be congratulated for opening a vista to an English-speaking audience with their survey of the Holy Land maps in Hebrew.

More than a hundred maps are described, approximately half are of the 19th and 20th centuries and half of earlier centuries; the earliest deriving from a Hebrew manuscript from France, of an exegesis to the Pentateuch, circa 1233. This is the particular value of the book in bringing maps of 'rabbinical fancy' to a wider audience. As the authors point out in their introduction, early knowledge of Holy Land geography was entirely based on the geography of the Bible. Early maps by rabbinic scholars of the Holy Land appeared always as drawings — often only to illustrate a talmudic or exegetical detail — rather than orthodox cartographic representations; in fact very few of the individuals who drew these primitive maps had even stepped foot in the Holy Land. It is interesting to see the varying degrees in which faith in the Bible itself influenced the evolution of Holy Land cartography. For it was not until 1620 that the first distinct Holy Land map appeared — at least as far as we accept the term today. Moreover, for centuries thereafter Hebrew maps, inserted in liturgical works, appeared as declarations of faith in the Wandering Jews' Return to their ancient homeland.

Despite the enthusiasm with which the authors knowledgeably tackle their theme, the book suffers greatly from poor editing and proofing. The prose is often stilted and bland, mis-spellings abound and the transliteration is often confusing. Similarly the book could have been improved upon by a better production designer. The 32 colour plates are set out in four separate 'appendices', without reference to page numbers and are therefore awkward to locate. In general, the quality of the photographic reproduction is uneven. Even the useful notion of a key with Hebrew transcribed into English is often frustratingly placed away from the original illustration; having the two facing each other would have been more helpful. The authors have described each map often referring to the Biblical sources, authors and Jewish practices where relevant. However, footnotes are not provided thus denying further individual investigation where desired.

Despite these faults, the work could be said to follow in the tradition of the late Ze'er Vilnay in popularising a neglected area. Further work is still necessary.

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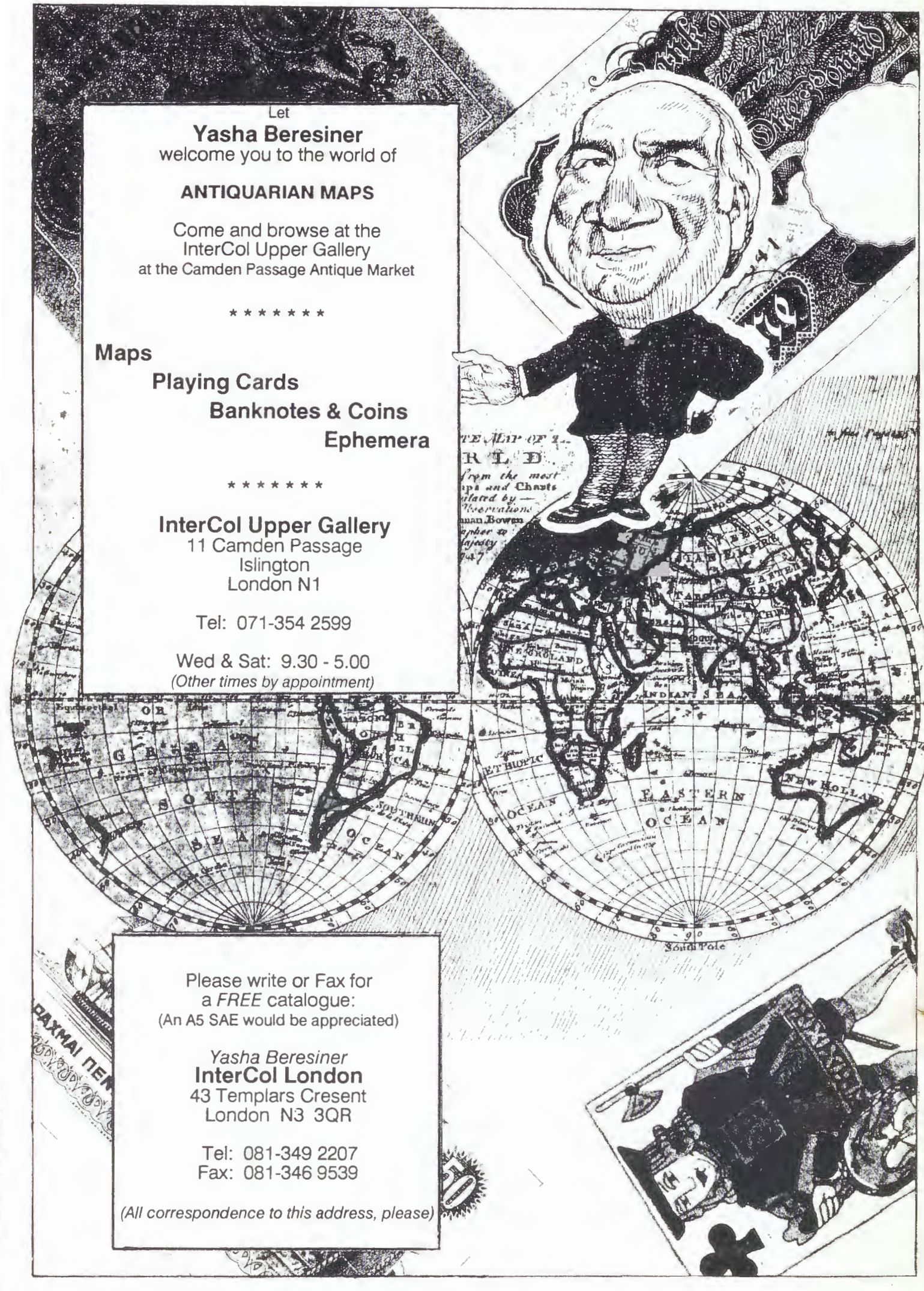
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