



Report on the activities of the

ICA COMMISSION ON THE HISTORY OF CARTOGRAPHY, 2007 – 2011

1. INTRODUCTION

In 2007 the WG on the History of Colonial Cartography amalgamated with the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography with Prof Elri Liebenberg (South Africa) as Chair. Dr Peter Collier of Portsmouth University (UK) and Dr Imre Josef Demhardt (University of Texas at Arlington) have acted as Vice-Chairs.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Commission's Terms of Reference are published on the ICA website www.icaci.org. During the four years 2007-2011, specific attention was given to the following:

2.1 The investigation of the **impact of technological innovations** on cartography during the last two centuries. During the last 200 years map production has greatly changed and the development of the methods and practises which affected this change form an integral part of the Commission's work.

2.2 The documentation of the recent **history of GI science** in general and computer-aided mapping and Geographical Information Systems in particular, as recommended in the ICA Research Agenda.

2.3 The examination of the changing **role of maps** worldwide as **cartographical** (as opposed to historical) **documents** during the late 18th, the 19th and the 20th centuries. The role of cartography in history is part and parcel of the history of Cartography as a discipline. For the purposes of the ICA, historical maps are studied to inform current cartographic activities, hence it would be irrelevant to go back further in time than the beginning of the 18th century. What is important is that the historical map should be viewed as a document with specific cartographic characteristics peculiar to the circumstances under which it was compiled. Viewing it just as an historical document is the domain of other, non-cartographic, organizations.

2.4 The maintenance of a dedicated **website** www.ichistcarto.org which acts as source of reference and database for commission members and other interested researchers.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The Commission currently has 67 members of which approximately 30 could be described as "active".

3. MEETINGS

The following Commission meetings took place:

2008: 2nd International Symposium on the History of Cartography, University of Portsmouth, UK, 10-13 September 2008

This Symposium was attended by 53 delegates, mostly from the UK, but also from as far afield as South Africa, Sweden, Croatia, Nigeria and the United States. A total of 24 technical papers were presented and the symposium managed to accentuate the importance of the 19th and 20th centuries within the overall field of the history of cartography.

The publications which emanated from the Symposium included a Programme and Abstracts Booklet which were printed in Pretoria prior to the Symposium, a CD containing the Proceedings which was issued during registration, and a printed Proceedings containing the revised papers of all speakers which was published in Pretoria in April 2009.

The Symposium also included a technical visit to the Admiralty Library in the Portsmouth Naval Dockyard. Which houses a large collection of historical hydrographic maps as well as an exhibition of maps and nautical charts.

2009: Commission meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, 11 July 2009

The 23rd International Cartographic Conference (ICHC) was organised by the Royal Danish Library in collaboration with Imago Mundi Ltd., the Royal Danish Society for Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing, and the Royal Danish Geographical Society. The ICHC is the only scholarly conference solely dedicated to advancing knowledge of the history of maps and mapmaking. The day preceding the ICHC is traditionally allocated to the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography. In July 2009 the theme of the ICA Commission meeting was **Cartography in the Nineteenth Century: Concepts and Challenges**.

The ICA meeting consisted of two sessions. **Session 1** lasted from 14:00 until 15:30 and took the form of a Round Table Discussion of the objectives and provisional structure and content of Volume 5 of the University of Chicago Press' prestigious History of Cartography Project. **Session 2** lasted from 16:00 until 18:00 when Elri Liebenberg read a paper on "19th Century Cartography: A global overview" and Imre Demhardt spoke on "19th Century Cartography: The contribution of August Petermann".

2009: ICC2009, Santiago de Chile

Of the 384 papers read at the ICC2009, 17 were in sessions allocated to the Commission on the History of Cartography. The Commission also had a Business Meeting during which household matters were discussed.

2010: 3rd International Symposium on the History of Cartography, University of Texas (Arlington), Texas, 10-13 October 2010.

In October 2010 the Commission held a successful Symposium at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). The meeting was held in conjunction with the 7th Biennial Virginia Garrett Lectures on the History of Cartography presented by the UTA on 8 October 2010, and the Fall Meeting of the Texas Map Society on 9 October 2010. The general theme of the Symposium was "Charting the Cartography of Companies: Company Mapping, 1600-1900". The Commission

aimed to highlight the influence of chartered companies (precursors of modern corporations) in cartography, as they played an important role in overseas exploration, trade, expansion and colonial power. These companies relied upon maps and charts for planning, implementation and operation, and often employed their own map and chart makers, surveyors, cartographers and mapping departments.

To accommodate as many participants as possible, papers on other cartographic endeavours during the 19th century were also presented. Members of the ICA Commission on Maps and Society participated, as did representatives of the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Amongst the presentations by the USGS were papers on the development of photogrammetrical techniques in American sector mapping, the digital transition in US cartography during the 1970s, and the diffusion of USGS geospatial data for scientific research. With these papers the ICA Commission wanted to demonstrate its mandate to not only investigate and record the history of cartography, but also that of GI-Science.

The Symposium was attended by approximately 45 people and a total of 21 papers were read. The majority of participants were from the US, but others came from as far afield as Croatia, Hungary, South Africa, Brazil and the UK.

2011: Workshop at the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, 2 July 2011

The Commission plans a **one-day Workshop** at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF) in Paris (Richelieu-site) on **Saturday 2 July 2011**.

The Programme will consist of the following:

- (1) A demonstration of the capability and potential of the software package "MapAnalyst" by **Dr Alastair Pearson** of Portsmouth University, UK. This computer programme was developed by Dr Bernhard Jenny of the *Kartographisches Institut* in Zürich and is known as "The Map Historian's Tool for the Analysis of Old Maps".
- (2) A PowerPoint presentation by **Dr Paul van den Brink** of the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, on "The Internet as a resource for carto-bibliographic research".
- (3) A PowerPoint presentation by **Lucia Lovison-Golob** on the "The Exploration of African Cartography at the Afriterrra Foundation". The speaker is Project Director of the Afriterrra Foundation a non-profit cartographic library and archive in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, and Chairperson of the ICA Working Group on Open Access Data and Intellectual Property Rights.
- (4) A Visit to the Map Department of the BNF where a selection of particular maps of Africa from the BNF collection relating to the colonial period, will be viewed.

4. LIAISON WITH OTHER RECOGNISED BODIES WORKING IN THE HoC

The Commission has close ties with the following international organizations active in the field of historical cartography:

- Imago Mundi Ltd. and the ICHC (International Conference on the History of Cartography)
- History of Cartography Project of the University of Chicago
- BIMCC (Brussels International Map Collectors Society)
- Society for the History of the Discoveries
- IMCoS (International Map Collectors Society)
- ISHM (International Society on the History of the Map)

5. PUBLICATIONS

The following publications were issued on behalf of the Commission:

5.1 Elri Liebenberg, Imre Josef Demhardt and Peter Collier (eds.). 2008. *Proceedings of the Symposium on the History of Cartography in the 19th and 20th centuries, Portsmouth University, UK, 10-12 September 2008*. Pretoria: ICA. 208 pp. ISBN 978-0-620-43750-9

5.2 Elri Liebenberg and Imre Josef Demhardt (eds.). 2011. *History of Cartography*. Vol 6 in the Series: Lecture Notes in Geoinformation and Cartography, Sub-series: Publications of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) . Heidelberg, Germany: Springer. Hardcover, 300 pp. ISBN 978-3-642-19087-2. (Forthcoming August 2011).

6. WEBSITE

The Commission's website www.icahistcarto.org was not only maintained, but also redesigned and upgraded during the reporting period.

Elri Liebenberg, University of South Africa (Chair)
Imre Josef Demhardt, University of Texas (Arlington) (Vice-Chair)
Peter Collier, University of Portsmouth (Vice-Chair)

15 June 2011