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sara.fabrikant@geo.uzh.ch

Map Design

kfield@esri.com

Art & Cartography

scaquard@gmail.com

History of Cartography

elri@worldonline.co.za

Map Projections

mlapaine@geof.hr

Theoretical Cartography

qydu@whu.edu.cn

Data Quality

chenxy@ecit.cn

Atlases

peter.jordan@oew.ac.at

Mapping from Remote Sensor Imagery

xyang@fsu.edu

Geospatial Analysis and Modeling

bin.jiang@hig.se

Geovisualisation

gennady.andrienko@iais.fraunhofer.de

Maps and the Internet

rcammack@mail.unomaha.edu

Ubiquitous Cartography

arikawa@csis.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Digital Technologies in Cartographic Heritage

livier@topo.auth.gr

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suchith.anand@nottingham.ac.uk

Generalisation and Multiple Representation

dirk.burghardt@tu-dresden.de

Planetary Cartography

hhargitai@gmail.com

Mountain Cartography

karel.kriz@univie.ac.at

Neocartography

s.l.chilton@mdx.ac.uk

Maps and Graphics for Blind and Partially Sighted People

acolli@utem.cl

Maps and Society

chris.perkins@manchester.ac.uk

Use and User Issues

elzakker@itc.nl

Cartography and Children

jesus@map.elte.hu

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david.fraser@rmit.edu.au

GI for Sustainability

vstikunov@yandex.ru

Map Production and Geobusiness

philippe.demaeyer@ugent.be

Cartography in Early Warning and Crises Management

undatra@yahoo.com

Geoinformation Infrastructures and Standards

acooper@csir.co.za

Seven Billion and Still Counting (and Mapping)

The structure of ICA research and development in the discipline of cartography is clear to regular readers of this column. The ICA Commissions listed to the left have been approved by the association's General Assembly for 2011-2015 and proposals (including Terms of Reference) have been made. It is acknowledged that the Commissions' remit does not cover every aspect of cartography, and new topics of immediate interest may arise, unforeseen by the governing General Assembly. The Executive Committee therefore can appoint short-term, focused Working Groups, specifically designed to address issues of immediate importance. In 2011-2015, several new Working Groups will join the list of research bodies shown on this page. During the 2007-2011 period, a Working Group on Census Cartography was established. This was primarily in response to United Nations activity in this area. The ongoing (2005-2014) United Nations Statistical Commission World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses had been approved in March 2005 and the cartographic community had a role to play in ensuring that the mapping of contemporary census data was optimised. The UN update to their census mapping handbook triggered the realisation that ICA needed to be involved. The Working Group therefore provided a forum for statistical agencies to discuss topics related to census cartography. Its ambitious terms of reference included:

- **Sharing and exchanging information on mapping methodologies for censuses by:**
 - collaborating with cartographic units in statistical agencies to

document mapping processes that support field operations;

- encouraging statistical organisations to produce cartographic products to accompany the use of statistical data;
- identifying challenges in census mapping operations;
- conducting workshops that present best practices in census cartography and census mapping operations, new developments and technical innovations.

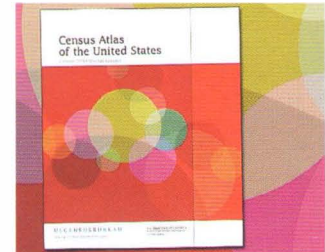
- **Encouraging the use of new technologies and approaches supporting census mapping by:**

- demonstrating successful mapping technology ventures;
- identifying methods for improved harmonisation of data;
- exploring cartographic techniques for effective communication of statistical data themes.

- **Serving as a forum for census organisations that promote census mapping activities by:**

- using ICA-sponsored workshops and conferences for regional meetings of census cartographers;
- encouraging sponsoring organisations such as the United Nations to participate in theme tracks of the International Cartographic Conference.

The Working Group, under chair Timothy Trainor, Chief of the Geography Division, US Census Bureau, participated in and organised formal meetings including: a) Census Summit – GIS for Census and Statistical Agencies



Dust jacket of the Census Atlas.

(San Diego, USA, August 2008) which covered aspects of a traditional census including development of enumeration areas, data collection, statistical analysis and data dissemination; b) Working Group meeting (Santiago, Chile, November 2009) which focused on topics of interest as many nations prepared for national censuses between 2009 and 2012; c) Caribbean Community Census meeting (San Diego, USA, July 2010) which was an information-sharing session between the United States and the Caribbean Statistical Agency; and d) Symposium of the Census Cartography Working Group – Cartographic Advances in Census Data Collection and Dissemination (Orlando, USA, November 2010) which covered topics ranging from census mapping techniques for data collection to thematic and reference mapping for data dissemination. As we welcomed the seven billionth inhabitant of our planet at the end of 2011, the need for quality in census cartography becomes ever more urgent. ICA hopes that its initiative has demonstrated the need for good supportive mapping for census initiatives worldwide. ◀

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gennady.andrienko@iais.fraunhofer.de

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rcammack@mail.unomaha.edu

Ubiquitous Cartography

ankawa@csis.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Digital Technologies in Cartographic Heritage

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acooper@csir.co.za

GIM CORRESPONDENT

David Fairbairn, Newcastle University, UK

Preparing for 2013 in Dresden – From Pole to Pole

Dresden is ready! Joining the ranks of those cities around the world which have hosted International Cartographic Conferences (ICCs), Dresden in Germany is preparing to welcome up to 2,000 international scientists and practitioners from more than 50 countries. The 26th ICC will take place in August 2013. The most recent ICCs were held in Moscow (2007), Santiago de Chile (2009) and Paris (2011), and the subsequent one will be organised in Rio de Janeiro (2015). As a comparatively small city, Dresden is honoured that the Executive Committee of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) decided to choose the capital of the Free State of Saxony, Germany.

The conference aims at actively linking Dresden's famous touristic and professional highlights, and its local cartographic heritage, with a vibrant international conference programme. The city is home to one of the leading international collections of historical globes, for example, and to one of the very few universities worldwide where cartography is taught within an independent curriculum. The programme itself will address a multitude of challenging current topics such as High-mountain Cartography, Cartography for Disaster Management and Risk Mapping, Crowd-sourced and User-made Maps, True 3D in Cartography, Location-based Services, etc. Further focus will be placed on the intensive exchange of information between cartographers and GI specialists and on the rapidly developing relationship between official and user-generated cartography, such as in the OpenStreetMap project.



Dresden is situated on the river Elbe.

ICC 2013 will be held in the Internationales Congress Center, Dresden's purpose-built, terrace-style facility, benefiting from state-of-the-art design and an enviable location on the banks of the River Elbe just upstream from the neighbouring Saxon State Parliament Building. The venue is located in Dresden's fascinating historical city centre, with most of the ICC partner hotels being accessible on foot within a couple of minutes. This may also be regarded as a contribution to sustainable congress organisation in an 'ecological city'. The conference is planned to be a trans-disciplinary event in the best sense of the word, not only between scientists, but also between cartography experts and the public, and between generations. Opportunities for playful activities will introduce scientific work to children and thus help to promote cartography to youngsters. A cartographic art exhibition by an internationally renowned German artist will be held in parallel with the conference itself, which also includes the usual international map exhibition,

featuring cartography from all ICA member nations, along with the Children's Map Competition for the Barbara Petchenik Award. Meanwhile, countless national and international companies and map-publishing houses have already signed up for the technical trade show which accompanies the ICC.

More information, including a formal invitation and a preliminary call for papers, can be found on the website www.icc2013.org, which also allows online registration. The website will also list the latest developments in the run-up to the conference. Those who plan to make a scientific contribution to ICC 2013 are cordially invited to submit preliminary details by e-mail to info@icc2013.org from mid-March 2012.

The organisers are looking forward to welcoming all cartographers to Dresden in August 2013.

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sara.fabrikant@geo.uzh.ch

Map Design

kfield@esri.com

Art & Cartography

scaquard@gmail.com

History of Cartography

elri@worldonline.co.za

Map Projections

mlapaine@geof.hr

Theoretical Cartography

gydu@whu.edu.cn

Data Quality

chenxy@ecit.cn

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xyang@tsu.edu

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acoll@utem.cl

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elzakker@itc.nl

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philippe.demaeyer@ugent.be

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acooper@csir.co.za

GIM CORRESPONDENT

David Fairbairn, Newcastle University, UK

Managing the ICA Commissions

A new Executive Committee, a new set of Commissions, and some new managerial guidelines and procedures were all sound reasons for convening a meeting of ICA Commission chairs in Vienna, Austria, over a two-day period in late November 2011. All the Commissions listed on the left were represented at this meeting, resulting in a gathering of 50 cartographers from around the world.

After initial introductions, participants were asked to define themselves (some chose 'map-maker', for instance, some considered themselves as 'geospatial scientists', while others felt that they were 'geographic data users') and also position their Commissions within a triangular subject-space with the vertices 'Art', 'Technology' and 'Science'. Based on these divisions, breakout groups were then formed and further topics of discussion were addressed, including how the Commissions reflect the work of ICA, and what ICA brings to the work of a Commission.

As well as strategic issues, more pragmatic management tasks were outlined. The operation of a Commission, by the chair elected by the ICA General Assembly, involves appointment of a vice-chair (from a different country) and occasionally more than one vice-chair, to reflect widespread geographical interest. Other membership was considered, as well as how individuals contribute to Commissions. Various activities of a Commission were outlined, including holding workshops and promoting publications. All such activities are governed by the ICA Statutes. Practical advice was also given on



Some breakout groups at the Vienna Commission chairs meeting.

the hosting and linking of Commission websites, the budget expectations and good financial management, as well as the reporting regime and the need to keep the Executive Committee and ICA News informed.

Joint Commission activities were encouraged, as was involvement in the International Cartographic Conferences. All Commission chairs are members of each ICC Scientific Committee and therefore have an important role to play in their development and success. For relevant Commissions, encouragement was given to collaborate with relevant groups outside ICA, both formal (e.g. United Nations) and informal groupings (e.g. user communities), and to engage in the development of capacity-building workshops and outreach.

The meeting also heard from vice-president Menno-Jan Kraak about the updated ICA Research Agenda, driving the scientific activities of

each Commission, and from Michael Peterson, the new chair of the ICA Publications Committee, about the opportunities for publications initiated by Commission activities.

ICA has traditionally been a 'bottom-up' organisation in which Commission chairs have had significant freedom to develop their own agendas and activities. The Vienna meeting strengthened that approach by demonstrating to both new and experienced chairs what support they can expect from the new ICA Executive, and how they can address their self-defined Terms of Reference. Similarly, there was an indication of what ICA expects from the Commissions, and how the ultimate governing body of ICA, its General Assembly, will judge the Commissions at its next meeting in 2015. ◀

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Neocartography

s.l.chilton@mdx.ac.uk

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acoll@utem.cl

Maps and Society

chris.perkins@manchester.ac.uk

Use and User Issues

elzakker@itc.nl

Cartography and Children

jesus@map.elte.hu

Education and Training

david.fraser@rmit.edu.au

GI for Sustainability

vstikunov@yandex.ru

Map Production and Geobusiness

philippe.demaeyer@ugent.be

Cartography in Early Warning and Crises Management

undatra@yahoo.com

Geoinformation Infrastructures and Standards

acooper@csir.co.za

GIM CORRESPONDENT

David Fairbairn, Newcastle University, UK

Geostandards and ICA

ISO/TC211 is the ISO's (International Standards Organization) Technical Committee that is responsible for developing standards for geographic information and geomatics. It has so far published 36 International Standards, eight Technical Specifications and three Technical Reports. In the last couple of years, 13 new projects have commenced, five of which are led by members of the ICA's Commission on Geoinformation Infrastructures and Standards.

ICA has been involved in issues relating to standards since 1989, when a working group was established to look at standards for digital cartographic data exchange. Hal Moellering, chair of the group – and subsequent Commission – for many years, recognised that collaboration with ISO was mutually beneficial. It is noteworthy that this work is continuing: Dr Jean Brodeur (Natural Resources Canada) is leading on new projects addressing GI ontology (ISO/TS 19150-1 and ISO 19150-2) as well as revision of ISO 19101 (geographic reference model fundamentals); Dave Danko (ESRI) is leading revision of the metadata standards (ISO 19115-1); and Dr Serena Coetzee (University of Pretoria) is initiating work on addressing (ISO 19160).

This latter project has been reviewing the standards which are needed for all types of addressing, be they for post, emergency response, utilities, financial or other services, or just visiting people. The project team led by Dr Coetzee has proposed that five standards be developed: ISO 19160-1 Addressing - Conceptual model; ISO 19160-2 Addressing - Good practices for address assignment schemes; ISO



Commission on Geospatial Data Standards, meeting in UTEM, Santiago de Chile, 2009.

19160-3 Addressing - Quality management for address data; ISO 19160-4 Addressing - International postal address components and templates; and ISO 19160-5 Addressing - Address rendering for purposes other than mail.

Of particular interest to the cartographic community is further new work on ISO 19158 which provides a framework for the production relationship between a producer and their customer. It identifies methods of managing the quality of production more efficiently and effectively, drawing on ISO 19157 (Data quality) and ISO 9000 (Quality management systems). ISO 19157 itself combines and revises three standards on Quality principles, Quality evaluation and Quality measures.

The Commission, under the chairmanship of Anthony Cooper (South Africa), has extensive new Terms of Reference, which cover the 2011-2015 period. These address topics of current interest including land-sea data integration and the

combination of terrestrial and marine data; data harmonisation, notably in SDIs such as INSPIRE and within bodies such as the International Hydrographic Organization; defining the current concepts of an SDI; quality issues in SDI; ontologies and semantics in SDIs; the choreography and orchestration of web services for open distributed processing within SDIs; and using standards to achieve interoperability in thematic cartography. ◀

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GIM CORRESPONDENT

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ICA Fellows

This column last considered the ICA awards in 2006. At that time, two eminent individuals, Professors Rhind and Spiess, had been awarded the highest award – the Mannerfelt Gold Medal – for services to the discipline of cartography. A further award was made in 2007 to Jack Dangermond, founder of Esri, for his promotion of cartography as a discipline.

This medal, awarded rarely in order to convey its distinction, has been presented on one other occasion, namely to professor Ferjan Ormeling whose original research work within cartography has spanned several fundamental issues including education, atlas cartography, toponymy and historical cartography. His incisive approach to cartographic thinking also extended across emerging fields such as geovisualisation, data quality, media mapping and environmental and planning mapping.

Professor Ormeling was awarded this medal at the International Cartographic Conference (ICC) in Santiago, Chile, in 2009. At the same meeting, an award of an Honorary Fellowship was made in acknowledgement of an individual's contribution to the ICA: Bengt Rystedt, a past president of ICA, was recognised for his outstanding (and still ongoing) work over several decades. Dr Rystedt has always considered the long-term health and welfare of the Association. His long-term commitment to equity, notably in dealing with ICA's outreach to less-developed nations, is evident from his strong interest in, and willingness to engage with, organisations and individuals in Africa to improve capacity-building.



Professor Yasuo Masai, Dr Monique Pelletier and Professor Michael Peterson

At the ICC in Paris, France, in July 2011, three more individuals were admitted to the ICA Honorary Fellowship. Professor Yasuo Masai, born in 1929 in Tokyo, Japan, is professor emeritus at the Ritssho University where he has taught geography for 16 years. He was chair of ICA Commission on Urban Cartography (1980-1987), organising numerous Commission meetings around the world, and served as national delegate of Japan at many ICCs. He was also president of the Japan Cartographers Association (1993-2000). Professor Masai has published many books and atlases as author and editor, a major academic contribution being the 1:20,000 Restored Urban Land Use Map of Edo (feudal Tokyo), scientifically converted from an old, geometrically imprecise map into a modern, accurate representation.

Dr Monique Pelletier (born in 1934) is a graduate of the École des Chartes (National School of Palaeography and Archival Studies) which contributes to the professional training of executives (chief archivists, librarians and curators) to preserve and disseminate France's cultural heritage. Her studies on the history of cartography are founded on extensive knowledge of the French monarchy and its institutions in the 16th century, a particularly complex period in European history. Appointed Conservator at the French National Library in 1960, she became Chief of the Department of

Maps and Plans in 1976, transforming it into a modern and open map library. Her international connections with library and cultural heritage groups, as well as with ICA, earned her a prominent place in the pantheon of cartographic historians. She led the Commission of History of Cartography (1987-1995) as well as chairing the French Committee of Cartography (1988-1998). Her bibliography is lengthy, including major volumes on cartographic development in France.

Professor Michael Peterson has an outstanding record as chair of the ICA Commission on Maps and the Internet (1999-2011). His academic career developed in the Mid-West and Northeast of the USA, but he has also held visiting appointments in Melbourne, Berlin, Hawaii, Munich, Vienna and Ottawa. An internationalist at heart, professor Peterson has collaborated on publishing widely with fellow cartographic researchers around the world, and his individual scholarly record of research is outstanding. His professional service includes editorial duties, leadership of the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) and governmental advice.

ICA relies on, and is grateful for, the contribution of its fellows. ◀

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GI for Sustainability

vstikunov@yandex.ru

Map Production and Geobusiness

philippe.demaeyer@ugent.be

Cartography in Early Warning and Crises Management

undatra@yahoo.com

Geoinformation Infrastructures and Standards

acooper@csir.co.za

GIM CORRESPONDENT

David Fairbairn, Newcastle University, UK

Hitting the Heights

The ICA Commission on Mountain Cartography last reported its work here in December 2008. Since then, its annual business meetings and biannual workshops have been held regularly. 2012 promises to be a highlight as the 8th Mountain Cartography Workshop will be held at The Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuit Centre near Taurewa, adjacent to the Tongariro National Park, at the centre of New Zealand's North Island (1-5 September 2012). Registration is open via [1](#).

The group naturally tends to meet in mountainous areas, resulting in well-received workshops in stunning locations with exciting content. The previous Mountain Cartography Workshop was held in the resort town of Borsa in the Carpathian mountains of northern Romania. Over 30 participants from 11 different countries developed a lively programme of long and short presentations, demonstrations and posters. The 26 presentations covered mapping and GIS applications for mountain regions, relief mapping and visualisation, tourist mapping projects, and 3D and topographic mapping, visualisation, animation and new techniques.

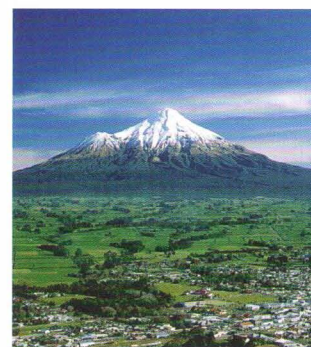
A special issue of the Romanian journal *Geographia Technica* was published to include the majority of the workshop presentations ([2](#)) showing the wide range of issues addressed by the Commission and the subject matter of the 2010 workshop. The programme was introduced by an overview of recent historical developments (Martin Gamache discussed 'Relief Mapping at National Geographic Magazine: 1970 to Present'), whilst specific projects were considered by various

speakers: Jeremias Uffmann presented the new Centennial Edition of the 1908 Alpenverein Map of the Brenta Massif (Italy) and Fernando Berenguer talked on geoinformation retrieval in ice patch Jou Negro (Picos de Europa, Spain). Some conceptual topics were presented by Patrick Kennelly who talked about sky models and illumination issues, Tomaž Podobnikar who presented a method of mountain peak determination supported by shapes analysis, and Dušan Petrovič who assessed results of airborne laser scanning data in mountain areas.

Many case studies were incorporated into the programme: Dorina Ilies outlined problems related to morphostructures mapping in the Plopiș Mountain (Romania), David Schobesberger introduced a topographic overview map of Himachal Pradesh, Nikos Tzelepis discussed topographic relief characterisation of Greek municipalities, Carlos Nelson overviewed Argentinean mountain mapping, and Marianna Serebryakova gave a Russian view on the Swiss mountain relief shading techniques.

Some outstanding tools to assist in terrain data handling and presentation are available, most emanating from members of the Commission: Christian Haeberling presented the new the web-based interactive Swiss World Atlas, Tom Patterson introduced new work from ShadedReliefArchive.com, Bernard Jenny showed developments in his impressive software tools, and Jürg Gilgen presented digital rock drawing.

As always, the indoor workshop



Mountain landscape, North Island, New Zealand.

activity was balanced with outdoor events – walks in the surrounding terrain, an excursion to lake environments and, for the bold, an ascent of Pietrosu Rodnei peak, which at 2,303m is the highest in the Oriental Carpathians.

Cartographic Perspectives, the journal of the North American Cartographic Information Society, has published a special issue (No 67) disseminating some of the research work of Commission members. This is available online at [3](#), and, along with the issue of *Geographia Technica*, is a recommended showcase of the art and science of cartography applied to challenging environments. The Commission is active, addresses a range of vibrant topics, and welcomes you to New Zealand in September. ◀

MORE INFORMATION

1. <http://web.env.auckland.ac.nz/public/mcw2012/pdf/reg-mc-workshop.pdf>
2. <http://studiacrescent.com/abstracts/special-issue,-2010>
3. www.nacis.org/CP/CP67/CP67.pdf

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sara.fabrikant@geo.uzh.ch

Map Design

kfield@esri.com

Art & Cartography

scaquard@gmail.com

History of Cartography

elri@worldonline.co.za

Map Projections

mlapaine@geof.hr

Theoretical Cartography

qydu@whu.edu.cn

Data Quality

chenxy@ecit.cn

Atlases

peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at

Mapping from Remote Sensor Imagery

xyang@fsu.edu

Geospatial Analysis and Modeling

bin.jiang@hig.se

Geovisualisation

gennady.andrienko@iais.fraunhofer.de

Maps and the Internet

rcammack@mail.unomaha.edu

Ubiquitous Cartography

arikawa@csis.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Digital Technologies in Cartographic Heritage

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Open Source Geospatial Technologies

suchith.anand@nottingham.ac.uk

Generalisation and Multiple Representation

dirk.burghardt@tu-dresden.de

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hhargitai@gmail.com

Mountain Cartography

karel.kriz@univie.ac.at

Neocartography

s.l.chilton@mdx.ac.uk

Maps and Graphics for Blind and Partially Sighted People

acolli@utem.cl

Maps and Society

chris.perkins@manchester.ac.uk

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elzakker@itc.nl

Cartography and Children

jesus@map.elte.hu

Education and Training

david.fraser@rmit.edu.au

GI for Sustainability

vstikunov@yandex.ru

Map Production and Geobusiness

philippe.demaeyer@ugent.be

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acooper@csir.co.za

GIM CORRESPONDENT

David Fairbairn, Newcastle University, UK

500 Years of Mercator

Gerard de Kremer was born on 5 March 1512 in the small town of Rupelmonde, situated in the heart of what is now the Flemish region of Belgium. In his mid-teens, whilst studying in 's-Hertogenbosch, he Latinised his name to Gerardus Mercator, and it is by this title that we celebrate, in 2012, 500 years since the birth of one of the most influential cartographers of all time.

Mercator's life showed notable contrasts throughout: from early poverty to mature riches, from living in a small village on the banks of the Scheldt to creating a family business in a cosmopolitan city (Duisburg) on the banks of the Rhine, from teaching theoretical mathematics to actually constructing globes, from proposing design parameters for maps to questioning (and even being imprisoned for his attitude to) religious authority.

Mercator's name lives on in the famous conformal world map projection, which has been used by navigators for centuries, but he also had significant impact on a large number of related areas. In the 1530s, he initially developed skills in mathematical instrument manufacture and subsequently learned engraving, which he applied to map production both for sheet maps and for globe gores. It was whilst working on these that he also became interested in globe making.

The international cartographic community celebrated Mercator's anniversary in April 2012 by supporting a conference which took place in his native Flanders (in the City Hall of Sint-Niklaas, just 10 kilometres from his birthplace, where a Mercator exhibition was



Breaktime at the Mercator 2012 conference, Sint-Niklaas, Belgium.

also presented). Organised by Ghent University Department of Geography and the Heritage Group of Waasland, this meeting highlighted Mercator's work (his training, resources and the mathematics, science and technology of his craft), his context (the impact of the Age of Discovery on cartography, the world view and philosophy of Mercator's time) and his legacy (particularly contemporary approaches to cartographic heritage and application of new techniques to the handling of data and products from Mercator's era). Papers were presented on specific maps and areas of interest, from the Far East and the Ottoman Empire to the Adriatic and islands at the mouth of the Scheldt. Mercator's less well-known work – on the Earth's magnetism, on the design of italic text for atlas map engraving, on the toponymy of Balkan areas – was also represented in the programme. Presenters from all four corners of the world were supplemented by some notable keynote speakers: Professors Gartner (Vienna), Brotton

(London, paper given on his behalf), Horst (Munich) and Monmonier (Syracuse).

Mercator's influence is still apparent today in many areas of cartographic activity, and his name is probably the most widely recognised of all cartographers by the general public all over the world. ICA extends thanks to the organising team at Ghent and Sint-Niklaas, and to the Flemish government, for arranging this celebration. ◀

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sara.fabrikant@geo.uzh.ch

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Data Quality

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Atlases

peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at

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xyang@isu.edu

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bin.jiang@hig.se

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gennady.andrienko@iais.fraunhofer.de

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arikawa@csis.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Digital Technologies in Cartographic Heritage

livier@topo.auth.gr

Open Source Geospatial Technologies

suchith.anand@nottingham.ac.uk

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dirk.burghardt@tu-dresden.de

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acolli@utem.cl

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vstikunov@yandex.ru

Map Production and Geobusiness

philippe.demaeyer@ugent.be

Cartography in Early Warning and Crises Management

undatra@yahoo.com

Geoinformation Infrastructures and Standards

acooper@csir.co.za

GIM CORRESPONDENT

David Fairbairn, Newcastle University, UK

International Year of the Map: a Proposal

At the 15th General Assembly of the ICA in Paris in July 2011, Sweden put forth a motion to promote and organise the International Map Year. To allow sufficient time, 2015 was proposed as a target year. The motion received endorsement of the General Assembly, and the ICA Executive Committee has recently formed a Working Group and accepted the following terms of reference:

- Create a textbook on Cartography and Geographic Information for the general public
- Elaborate plans for national activities and establish national contacts
- Involve the ICA Commissions and Working Groups in the initiative
- Find sponsors among the affiliate members
- Establish contacts with the UN and the sister organisations (through the ICA Executive Committee and the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS))
- Produce information that can be used at national Map Days
- Follow up and update the working plan at the ICC 2013 in Dresden

One of the main tasks of the Working Group is to produce a book on cartography for the general public that can also be used as a textbook for secondary schools and as promotion material to encourage interested students to take up cartographic and geomatics courses at tertiary level. The proposed content includes chapters on how to collect geographic information, how to produce a map both on paper and in electronic form for a homepage, and it also describes map use and explains how maps work. It is hoped that the

book will give students means to produce maps and introduce them, as well as the public, to geographic names, their source and spelling. The book is intended to be distributed via the Internet or transportable electronic media. Later, a printed version may become available.

The other initiative involves organisation of national programmes during the International Map Year. The ICA Working Group will prepare examples of activities that can be arranged by the national members. This could involve finding local organisers such as municipalities, universities and other interested partners. The Swedish Map Year in 2008 was a great success and the organisers really enjoyed demonstrating their work. As an example, representatives from the local municipality, Karlstad University and Lantmäteriet (the National Land Survey of Sweden) organised one event while a local orienteering club displayed their maps and demonstrated the skill of orienteering.

In order to be successful, the International Map Year requires the active promotion and co-operation of all members and sister organisations. The ICA Commissions, Working Groups and affiliated members have to be involved in different ways. The ICA has to co-operate with sister organisations directly and take advantage of its JBGIS membership. An idea to involve the United Nations (UN) and present a paper at the UN Regional Cartographic Conference to be held in Bangkok in October 2012 has been tabled.



United Nations approval for establishing an International Year of the Map will be sought for 2015.

The ICA Working Group on International Map Year plans to set up a website and organise a meeting, during the AutoCarto in Columbus in September 2012, to discuss the content of the proposed book.

Bengt Rystedt, chair ICA Working Group on International Map Year

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acooper@csir.co.za

GIM CORRESPONDENT

David Fairbairn, Newcastle University, UK

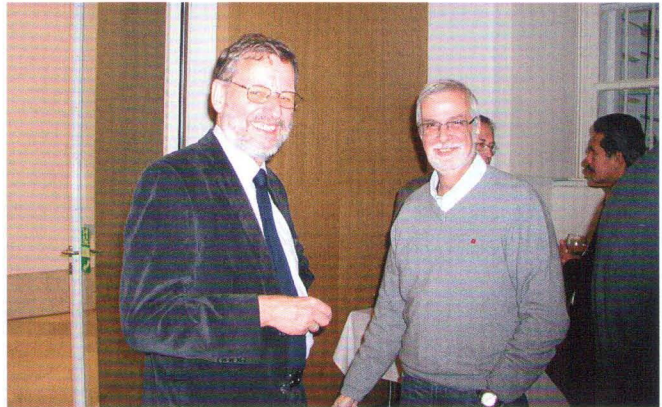
Discussing Atlases

Two years ago, this column reported that the ICA Commission on Atlases had met in Romania, Algeria and Chile, and was about to host a major workshop in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The renewed Commission, its new Terms of Reference for the 2011-2015 period having been approved by the ICA General Assembly last year, continues in 2012 with its worldwide mission to improve atlas cartography.

The Commission, along with the National Committee of Geographers of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Geographical Society, the Ukrainian Cartographic Association, the Institute of Geography of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, and the State Scientific and Production Enterprise Kartographia, is organising the 5th All-Ukrainian Scientific and Practical Conference on National Mapping entitled 'National Atlases in the Formation of the Global Information Space' [1]. The event will be held this month (13-14 September) at the Kiev House of Scientists in Kiev, Ukraine.

The programme will address a range of important themes: characteristics of national and regional atlases of different countries of the world, modern conceptual approaches to the creation of national and regional atlases, problems of information reflection and co-ordination of thematic maps of border regions, and software and technology for the creation of paper and electronic versions of national atlases. With its official languages confirmed as Ukrainian, Russian and English, this international conference will further develop the mature atlas business in Ukraine.

On 15-16 November 2012, the Commission will collaborate with the Chinese Academy of Sciences,



Dr Peter Jordan, chair of the Commission, with ICA vice president Prof Paulo Menezes.

the Institute of Geography and Natural Resources Research, the Geographical Society of China, the Surveying and Mapping Society of China, and the Geology Society of China, in organising a 'Workshop on City Atlases' as part of the 7th National Conference of Cartography and GIS: Digital Cities Benefit Human Beings. The workshop will take place at the Institute of Geography and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Guangzhou, China, and will focus on various aspects of city atlases. Considerable local participation is expected.

Meanwhile, in Europe, six ICA Commissions – including the Atlas Commission – are jointly organising the International Symposium on Service-Oriented Mapping (SOMAP 2012). The themes covered in detail by this symposium, which will be held at the Austrian Federal Office for Metrology and Surveying (BEV) in Vienna, Austria, on 22-23 November 2012, will include: modern map production methods, service-oriented architectures for mapping and geobusiness, innovative map applications, geobusiness models and map dissemination, (service-oriented) crowdsourcing, joining distributed

sources (legal, organisational, technical, etc.) for map production, licences, co-operation and prices, long-term management of (map) production flows, preservation of service-oriented maps, projections in service-oriented mapping, security aspects and protection of critical SDI, smart maps, use and user issues in service-oriented mapping, location-centred mapping, browser-based service-oriented mapping, and application-based service-oriented mapping. The Commission on Atlases will organise a special session with presentations of new atlases from Central Europe and beyond. For more information about the scope of service-oriented mapping and its contemporary relationship with networked spatial infrastructures, and for details of the symposium, visit [2].

Peter Jordan, Chair, ICA Commission on Atlases

MORE INFORMATION

1. www.ignau.org.ua/conference.htm

2. <http://somap.cartography.at>



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sara.fabrikant@geo.uzh.ch

Map Design

kfield@esri.com

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scaquard@gmail.com

History of Cartography

elri@worldonline.co.za

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mlapaine@geof.hr

Theoretical Cartography

gydu@whu.edu.cn

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chenxy@ecit.cn

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peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at

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xyang@tsu.edu

Geospatial Analysis and Modeling

bin.jiang@hig.se

Geovisualisation

gennady.andrienko@iaisi.fraunhofer.de

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arikawa@csis.u-tokyo.ac.jp

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dirk.burghardt@tu-dresden.de

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chris.perkins@manchester.ac.uk

Use and User Issues

elzakker@itc.nl

Cartography and Children

jesus@map.elte.hu

Education and Training

dave.fairbairn@newcastle.ac.uk

GI for Sustainability

vstikunov@yandex.ru

Map Production and Geobusiness

philippe.demaeyer@ugent.be

Cartography in Early Warning and Crises

Management

undatra@yahoo.com

Geoinformation Infrastructures and Standards

acooper@csir.co.za

GIM CORRESPONDENT

David Fairbairn, Newcastle University, UK

Mapping Regions and Nations: a Catalan Example

In today's world of open source data, geobrowsers, personal navigation tools and multi-platform map dissemination possibilities, national mapping agencies must adapt or perish. The financial constraints imposed by central governments compound the problems of meeting expected production targets, reacting to shifting public demands and incorporating contemporary technical advances. It is clear that the role of national mapping agencies is changing significantly almost from year to year.

ICA supports and benefits from the membership of national mapping agencies in many ways, as described in this column in April 2007. ICA's commitment to observing, advising and learning from such organisations is particularly evident in its dedicated 'national mapping agencies day' held at each two-yearly international cartographic conference. The need for special conference sessions addressing the many issues affecting national mapping agencies is recognised by the Executive Committee of ICA, and the successful meeting of leaders in such organisations at international cartographic conferences to discuss common aspects is a regular feature. It is clear that a flexible approach to future work and a commitment to maintaining the traditional value of national geographic databases are together driving the most forward-looking national mapping agencies. Radical economic models are the hallmark of many dynamic agencies; some are subject to significant administrative change, others stress research and development while yet others broaden their product base. One institute which typifies the



Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya staff in front of the ICC headquarters in Barcelona, Spain.

changing nature of national mapping agencies, but still maintains traditional values in many respects, is the Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya (ICC), a corporate member of ICA and the National Mapping Organisation of Catalonia, which designs, produces and distributes free geospatial information to a wide variety of users, both public and private. ICC has a rich heritage, as well as competencies and skills in adding value to and handling geospatial information, and is currently celebrating its 30th anniversary. ICC offers a complete range of digital products covering Catalonia in a variety of themes and scales – urban (1:1,000), territorial (1:5,000, 1:10,000 and 1:25,000), printed editions (1:25,000, 1:50,000, 1:100,000 and 1:250,000) – as well as many other products such as orthophotographs (10 and 25cm resolution), reference network maps (roads, trails and streets) and thematic cartography among others. In terms of innovation, ICC is devoted to its adopted mixed model that fuses production with development. This approach has allowed the institute to achieve technical and production

breakthroughs. Likewise, ICC operates its own primary data capture infrastructure, such as its own sensors and aerial platforms. This leads to optimal flexibility and efficiency in terms of geoinformation production.

ICC also acts as the Technical Secretariat of Catalonia's Cartographic Coordination Commission (C4) to the Catalan Geospatial Council which informs the Catalan Administration for the purpose of defining technical and operational policies to be implemented officially. The quality and usefulness of ICC products are the main drivers. They are being scrutinised and validated on a daily basis, and more than 930,000 geoinformation products were downloaded from the ICC website in 2011 alone. The number of ICA awards received by the Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya is a testimony to the quality and innovation of its cartography. ◀

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undatra@yahoo.com

Geoinformation Infrastructures and Standards

acooper@csir.co.za

GIM CORRESPONDENT

David Fairbairn, Newcastle University, UK

Celebrating Geodesy and Cartography in Slovenia

In co-operation with its partners, the Slovenian Association of Surveyors, a national representative of the International Cartographic Association, decided to organise several events to celebrate the 1st Day of the European Surveyor and GeoInformation, an initiative of the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors (CLGE), along with the auspicious date of Mercator's quincentenary. The events were thematically related to cartography and its development through history.

The first event, which took place in the National and University Library in Ljubljana, was an exhibition of old maps representing the current extent of Slovenia's territory and produced by Slovenian and foreign cartographers alike, including Mercator's Atlas. The exhibition was open to the public for more than a month, while on 5 March 2012, the day of 500th anniversary of Gerhard Mercator's birth, a discussion devoted to the development and importance of cartography was facilitated by the exhibition authors Dr Renata Šolar and Jerneja Fridl (MSc), with participation from Dr Dušan Petrovič, Dr Branko Janež Rojc, Dr Milan Orožen Adamič and Dr Tomaž Podobnikar.

In the evening of the same day, a formal occasion was held in the atrium of the Scientific Research Centre of the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts, under the patronage of President of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr Danilo Türk, who was joined by honoured guests. In his keynote address, President Türk emphasised land management as one of the main constituent elements of a statehood and stressed that the management of



President of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr Danilo Türk, addresses the audience (Image courtesy: I Karničnik).

spatial data is also an important responsibility of the State.

The main speaker was the president of the Association of Surveyors of Slovenia, Jurij Režek (MSc), who emphasised the importance of the technological and social development of geodesy, the role of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure for spatial planning and space management, and the achievements of Slovenian surveyors and cartographers. The programme continued with the premiere of an educational documentary film, 'From Mercator to Galileo', directed and produced by Kino Svečina and available from 1. (in the Slovenian language only). The movie highlights the importance of geodesy and its role in contemporary society and is also intended for broadcast on national television. In the last part of the celebration, two very prominent Slovenian cartographers, Dr Branko Janež Rojc and Mr Viljem Kos, were

honoured for their lifelong contribution to the field of cartography.

The celebration programme was enriched by the Horn Quartet of the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra, playing works by the Flemish composers Josquin des Prez and Orlando de Lassus, who were contemporaries of Gerhard Mercator. ICA is delighted to support such important national initiatives in the promotion of cartography throughout its member nations. ◀

Dušan Petrovič
 University of Ljubljana

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www.icaci.org
 1. <http://bit.ly/WL8HOY>



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Cognitive Visualisation

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Map Design

kfield@esri.com

Art & Cartography

scaquard@gmail.com

History of Cartography

elri@worldonline.co.za

Map Projections

mlapaine@geof.hr

Theoretical Cartography

qydu@whu.edu.cn

Data Quality

chenxy@ecit.cn

Atlases

peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at

Mapping from Remote Sensor Imagery

xyang@tsu.edu

Geospatial Analysis and Modeling

bin.jiang@hig.se

Geovisualisation

gennady.andrienko@iais.fraunhofer.de

Maps and the Internet

rcammack@mail.unomaha.edu

Ubiquitous Cartography

arikawa@csis.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Digital Technologies in Cartographic Heritage

livier@topo.auth.gr

Open Source Geospatial Technologies

suchith.anand@nottingham.ac.uk

Generalisation and Multiple Representation

dirk.burghardt@tu-dresden.de

Planetary Cartography

hhargtai@gmail.com

Mountain Cartography

karel.kriz@univie.ac.at

Neocartography

s.i.chilton@mdx.ac.uk

Maps and Graphics for Blind and Partially Sighted People

acoll@utem.cl

Maps and Society

chris.perkins@manchester.ac.uk

Use and User Issues

elzakker@itc.nl

Cartography and Children

jesus@map.elte.hu

Education and Training

dave.fairbairn@newcastle.ac.uk

GI for Sustainability

vstikunov@yandex.ru

Map Production and Geobusiness

philippe.demaeyer@ugent.be

Cartography in Early Warning and Crises Management

undatra@yahoo.com

Geoinformation Infrastructures and Standards

acooper@csir.co.za

GIM CORRESPONDENT

David Fairbairn, Newcastle University, UK

Meeting in the 'Land of the Long White Cloud'

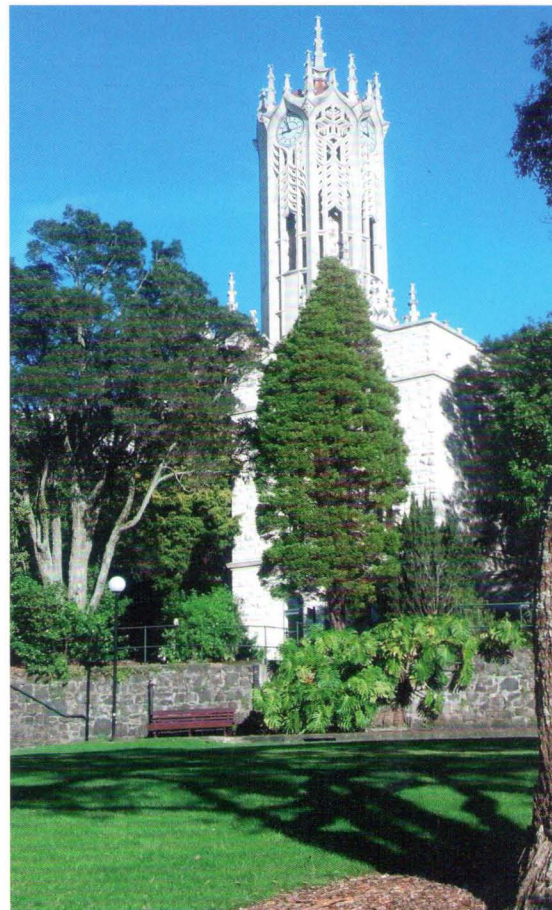
Promotion and support of international conferences is one of the *raison d'être* of global learned societies such as ICA. In each 'odd-numbered' year, ICA meets at an International Cartographic Conference (ICC), bringing together the world's cartographic and GI community. The next such conference (the 26th ICC) will be held in Dresden, Germany, in August 2013, and you are welcome to attend. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, will host the 27th ICC, and the 28th event will take place in Washington DC, USA.

In 'even-numbered' years, ICA encourages symposia to be organised regionally, still addressing the wide range of cartographic research and practices but focussed on specific parts of the world. 2012 saw the ICA Regional Symposium on Cartography for Australasia and Oceania, which was held in association with the GeoCart2012 conference of the New Zealand Cartographic Society (NZCS). This was the second ICA Symposium for this region, and took place in August in the attractive surroundings of the University of Auckland campus on the North island of New Zealand (Aotearoa, meaning 'Land of the Long White Cloud').

The broad programme included contributions on topics ranging from historical mapping to geospatial technologies. A total of 38 refereed papers were presented in 10 sessions running in two parallel streams. In addition, five keynote speakers shared their personal views on specific issues, from the creation of Natural Earth databases to manpower planning in cartographic practices. The

international audience, which included attendees from the UK, US, Australia, Switzerland, Germany and the Czech Republic as well as New Zealand, enjoyed a well-organised and valuable meeting against the backdrop of pleasant spring weather. The presence of the ICA president, professor Georg Gartner, underlined the importance attached to such regional symposia by ICA.

The vitality of cartography in New Zealand was demonstrated by the high-profile presence of commercial 'mapsmiths' who produce excellent examples of well-designed and efficient maps for the domestic and overseas markets. A display featuring both commercial products and research posters illuminated the foyer of the excellent conference venue. The contribution of those engaged in such commercial activities to the post-conference workshop of the ICA Commission on Mountain Cartography was also evident. This workshop (highlighted in *GIM International* in June 2012 and to be reported on in a future issue) was successfully presented at a well-suited outdoor pursuits venue on the slopes of Mount Tongariro, a couple of hours south of Auckland. Despite a minor eruption of the nearby volcano in early August 2012, the international gathering of



University of Auckland campus, August 2012.

mountain cartographers went ahead just four weeks later and participants enjoyed an exhilarating few days of presentations as well as outdoor tramping, skiing and ice-climbing activities.

The enthusiastic and talented committee of the NZCS is to be commended for yet another successful biennial symposium and for hosting the Mountain Cartography workshop in such an appropriate location. ◀

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