

Report on the WG on the history of Colonial Cartography 2003-2007

During the ICA Conference in Durban in 2003 a group of delegates felt that sufficient interest in more modern mapping, and specifically 19th and 20th centuries colonial cartography, existed to justify the formation of a Working Group on this subject which could run parallel to the existing Commission. The formation of such a WG was approved by the Executive Committee of the ICA in January 2004. The tenure of the WG is currently limited to the period 2003-2007 when the next ICA General Assembly will be held in Moscow.

Since 2003 substantial work has been done by the WG which has currently 37 members of which approximately 22 can be considered active. The following results have been achieved:

1. The construction and maintenance of a Website (<http://www.histcolcarto.org>) which disseminates information on various aspects of the WG and its work.

3. During 2003-2007 the WG focused on Africa and Australasia as research topics and the research of members on these areas was encouraged on an ongoing basis. Contact was established with accredited journals such as *Cartographica Helvetica* and the *British Cartographic Journal* and contributions from WG members are regularly published. Details appear on the website.

3. Members were encouraged to submit papers for ICC2005 (Coruña, Spain) and by request the WG was allocated three sessions of four papers each.

4. The WG held its first annual International Symposium in collaboration with the Department of Cartography of the Faculty of Geosciences at Utrecht University in the Netherlands from 21-23 August 2006.

The proceedings of this symposium have been published on CD-Rom and on the WG's website.

5. As an outreach effort to accommodate topics and researchers from developing countries, the WG tried to organise an International Regional Symposium in collaboration with the University of Yaounde in Cameroon in September 2006. A considerable amount of time and effort were spent on this initiative which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to a lack of funding from the side of Cameroon.

6. The WG's second annual International Symposium has provisionally been planned to take place at Portsmouth University in the UK in 2008.

7. Provisional plans have been made for the compilation of an inventory of lesser-known sources on colonial Cartography in the 19th and 20th centuries which will cover British, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese mapping and mapping practises.

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