

# CARTE DE LA DENSITÉ DE LA POPULATION

INSTITUT ROYAL COLONIAL BELGE  
COMMISSION CENTRALE DE L'ATLAS GÉNÉRAL DU  
CONGO BELGE  
ET DU  
RUANDA-URUNDI  
INDEX N° 624

DRESSÉE PAR P. GOUROU

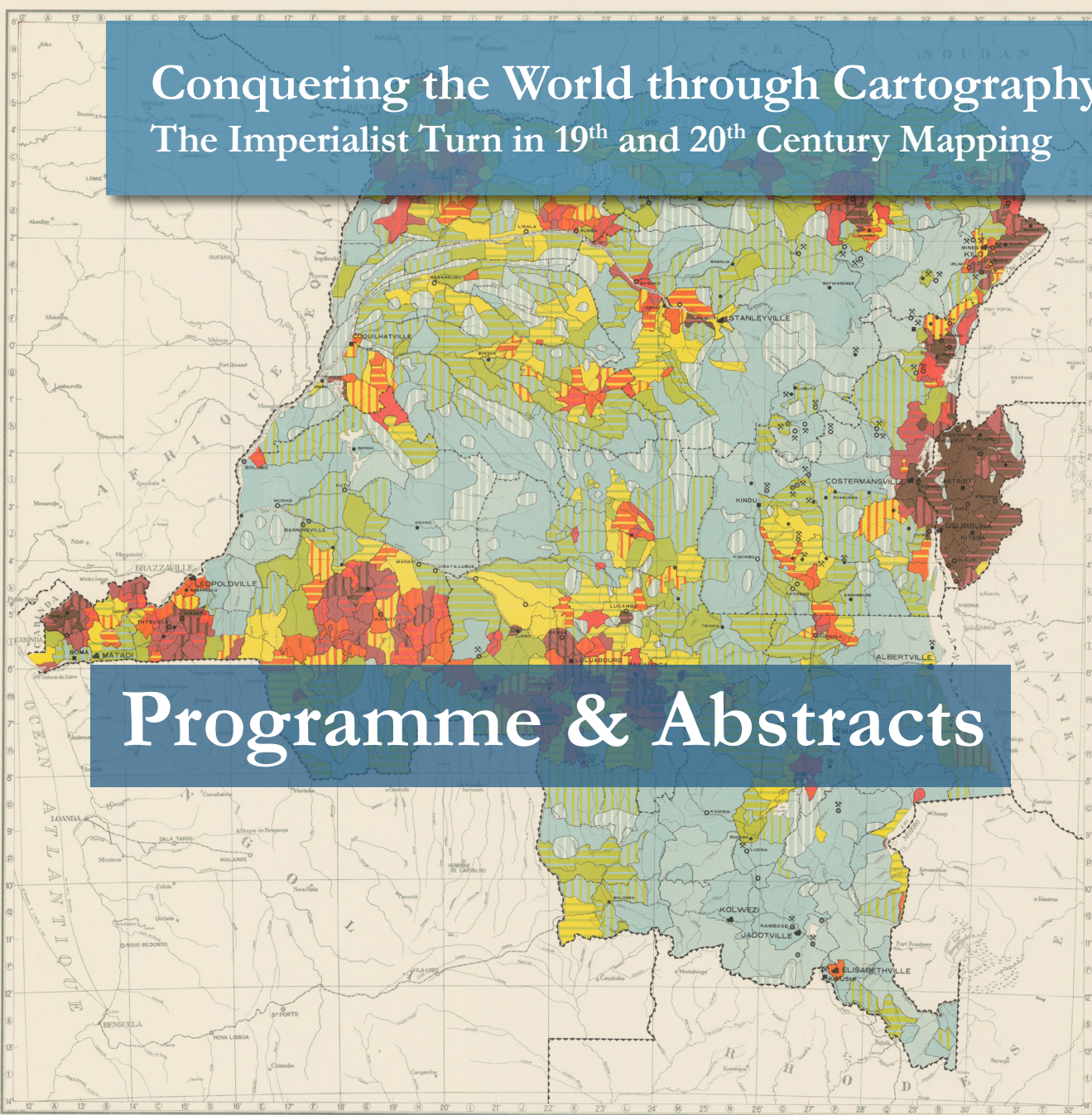
## KAART DER BEVOLKINGSDICHTHEID

OPGEMAAKT DOOR P. GOUROU

KONINKLIJK BELGISCH KOLONIAAL INSTITUUT  
CENTRALE COMMISSIE VOOR DEN ALGEMEENEN ATLAS VAN  
BELGISCH CONGO  
EN VAN  
RUANDA-URUNDI  
INDEX N° 624

# Conquering the World through Cartography The Imperialist Turn in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Mapping

# Programme & Abstracts



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# PROGRAMME

## TUESDAY 30/05/2023

8.30 - 13.00 Registration

9.00 - 9.30 Opening address Imre Demhardt (ICA Commission History of Cartography)

### **Keynote**

Philippe DE MAEYER (RAOS)

**The Contribution of the RAOS and its Members to the Cartography of Central Africa**

9.30 - 10.30 **Session 1**

**Stanley's Map and Colonial Ambitions**

Mathilde LEDUC

**Maps for a King: King Leopold II's Maps of Congo (Before 1885)**

Wouter BRACKE

10.30 - 11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00 - 12.30 **Session 2**

**Leopoldian Imperial Cartography: The Case of the Kouilou-Niari Basin Prior to the Foundation of the Congo Free State**

Jan VANDERSMISSEN

**From an Exploitation Colony to a Contemporary Cartography of Building Materials**

Judith LE MAIRE, Victor BRUNFAUT & G ry LELOUTRE

**Looking at Africa. Knowledge and Land Management from a University Cartographic Collection (Firenze, Italy)**

Camillo BERTI, Margherita AZZARI, Pauline DEGUY, Lorenzo DOLFI & Cristiano TANCREDI

12.30 - 13.30 *Lunch*

13.30 - 15.00 **Session 3**

**The Emergence of Map History in Paris, 1830-1850, to Narrate the Rise of European Civilization**

Matthew EDNEY

**Cartography, Imperialism and the Scientific Invention of Language Borders (1807-1923)**

Felix DE MONTET

**Mapping Human Organs: Spleen Maps in Twentieth-Century Malaria Control Campaigns**

Lauren KILLINGSWORTH

15.00 - 15.30 *Coffee break*

15.30 - 17.00 **Session 4**

**Maps to Defend the Kaiser in Ottoman Asia. German Military Cartography Between the Sinai and Mesopotamia, 1915-1918**

Imre DEMHARDT

**The Biblical and the Mandatory. Naming the Summit of Lebanon 1830-1930**

Jack KEILO

**"A Valuable Element of Pacification and French Influence": Military Cartographers as Colonial Agents in the Levant Mandate**

Louis LE DOUARIN



17.00 - 17.30 **Poster session**

**Italian East Africa through Cartographic and Photographic Sources of the *Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare* (Florence, Italy)**

Lorenzo DOLFI, Margherita AZZARI, Camillo BERTI, Pauline DEGUY & Cristiano TANCREDI

**Preserve and Make Available Maps from the RMCA Collection**

François KERVYN

**Mapping Land in British North Borneo: A Colonial Heterotopia**

Guillermo Arturo MEDINA FRIAS

**Cartographic Memoirs in Colonial India: Uncovering the Entangled Practices of Mapping**

Manasi MOHANAN SUSHAMA

**Santa Claus Rules the World: A Case Study of Imperialism Embedded in a Map**

Christopher THIRY

17.30 - 19.00 *Reception*

## **WEDNESDAY 31/05/2023**

9.00 - 10.30 **Session 5**

**Municipal Imperialism and Cartography – The Maps from the Geographic Society of Lyon at the End of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

Enali DE BIAGGI

**The British Colonial Regime on Cyprus: Mapping the Capital City, Nicosia**

Merve SENEM ARKAN

**The Limits of Imperial Knowledge: Cartography and the First Trigonometrical Survey of Cyprus (Kitchener's Map, ed. 1885)**

Evangelos PAPADIAS, Antonis HADJIKYRIACOU, Christoforos VRADIS & Christos CHALKIAS

10.30 - 11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00 - 12.30 **Session 6**

**Imperial Spatiality in Early Soviet Maps**

Olesia IGNATEVA, Sofia GAVRILOVA & Jana MOSER

**Surveying the (Post)Colony: India, Africa and the Persistence of Colonial Cartography**

Philip JAGESSAR

**Post-Colonial National Atlases – Celebrating Realizations of Independence or Sustaining Colonial Structures?**

Eric LOSANG

12.30 - 12.45 *Closing address*

12.45 - 14.00 *Lunch*

14.00 - 17.00 *Visit to the Africa Museum in Tervuren (by bus)*

## **THURSDAY 01/06/2023**

From 9.30 *Visit to the Map Room of the Royal Library of Belgium*

“Not just Congo. Belgian colonial mapping in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries”

# Abstract Book

**TUESDAY**  
**30/05/2023**

# Keynote

# **The Contribution of RAOS and its Members to the Cartography of Central-Africa**

Philippe DE MAEYER<sup>1</sup>

## **ABSTRACT**

The Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences (RAOS) is showing today an interest in the knowledge of the past and is proud of maintaining the memory of the past in the light of the present, including the colonial period during which it was founded in 1928.

The Academy was involved in the historical cartography of overseas territories in two ways: on the one hand, it published the *Atlas général du Congo belge et du Ruanda-Urundi* (AGC) and, on the other hand, many of its members were directly or indirectly involved in the systematic geographical survey and cartography of Central Africa. To study the latter, the RAOS has at its disposal an extensive biographical collection containing some 5,600 entries on Belgians who played an important role overseas, or on non-Belgians who were involved in overseas activities by Belgian personalities (<https://www.kaowarsom.be/en/bbom>).

Further to the lecture presented by Henri Buttgenbach at the meeting of 18 November 1933 of the Section of Natural and Medical Sciences, it was decided to set up a "Central Commission for the General Atlas of the Congo"; the commission remained active until 1962 when the same section could only conclude that, given the reorientation of RAOS activities, it was better to suspend the publication of new map sheets.

Of course, the (systematic) mapping of Congo is older than RAOS itself. References to certain mapping from the 19th century can be found in the AGC, for instance on map sheet 13 (*Carte des Explorations*), which traces the routes of the so-called explorers. The explorations of Augustin Delporte (1844-1891) and Charles Lemaire (1863-1925), who made a series of geodetic observations at the behest of Leopold II, were plotted on the *Carte géodésique du Congo belge et du Ruanda-Urundi*. The map sheet *Carte des Explorations géologiques* presents the voyages of discovery from 1816 to 1920 with a physical geographical or geological emphasis. The importance of the Atlas is due to the fact that it offers an inventory of the spatial situation and knowledge in many areas of Congo. Later on (1947) the AGC was organized in a decimal system divided into seven general headings: history, geodesy, physical geography, biogeography, anthropological and cultural sciences, administrative and social policy and finally economy.

The AGC must be understood in light of the flowering of national atlases as seen in the countries of the northern hemisphere. Considering that worldwide the first national atlas was published in 1899 in Finland, other countries published after WWI national atlases in order to promote their identity. Belgium published its national atlas (first series) between 1950 and 1972. The publication of the AGC started thus long before the publication of the Belgian atlas. Common features of both atlases are that they were accompanied by an explanatory booklet and that they were not published in one bulky volume; they took the shape of a series of map sheets, issued separately or collectively and placed in a slipcase for the Belgian National Atlas and in a wrapper for the AGC.

AGC maps are available on line at <https://www.kaowarsom.be/en/online-maps>

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Philippe De Maeyer is emeritus senior full professor in cartography and GIS at Ghent University and since 2021 the Permanent Secretary of the Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences (RAOS).

He holds a master degree in geography, a PhD in geology and several postgraduate certificates, including one in marine geology and a postgraduate in business economy.

His research topics include geo-spatial data acquisition, land-use/land cover modelling, flood risk calculation, map semiology, 3D/4D GIS for World Heritage and history of cartography.

He is co-author of more than 600 scientific papers, of which more than 280 are referenced on the Web of Science.

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<sup>1</sup> Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences & Ghent University, Department of Geography. E-mail: [philippe.demaeyer@kaowarsom.be](mailto:philippe.demaeyer@kaowarsom.be)



# Session 1

# Stanley's Map and Colonial Ambitions

Mathilde LEDUC-GRIMALDI<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

Stanley and the remaining members of his transcontinental expedition arrived in Boma on the Atlantic coast on 9 August 1877. Three years of exploration were completed, marked by the circumnavigation of Lake Victoria and Tanganyika and the descent of the Congo River from end to end.

Stanley's travel gave him worldwide fame as he brought back the first draft of a map to the metropolises active in the European colonial movement. Notes and sketches giving an overview of the river's course, in particular the cataract areas and the large navigable stretches, complete the large map that Stanley developed during his journey. The sketches were later reworked, the map redrawn and lithographed - a means of reproduction already in widespread use since the 1830s - to serve as an entry document for the publication of his journey "Through the Dark Continent". It was the publisher Edward Marston who took Stanley's sketches and turned them into illustrations. In 2002, this map was sold at auction in London for £65,000.

Until then, Stanley was only a freelance journalist. He wanted to do scientific work in the two volumes that retraced his three years at the head of the Anglo-American Expedition. The map was a means of marking his accession to the scientific field. But between 1874 and 1877, colonial appetites had had time to whet in Europe, particularly those of the Belgian king. The Stanley map was an asset that Leopold was quick to master. From this map, Leopold II built his colonial enterprise in the Congo, first by creating the famous stations along the Congo, and then by taking over the adjacent lands.

The colonial aims of the European powers could not exist without cartography and it is necessary to underline here the role of learned societies (Paris or RGS) and the role of publishers (E. Marston or F. A. Brockhaus) in transforming the surveys brought back from Africa into a general map of Africa or an album of several more detailed maps. The need for maps, especially during the tracing process, which enabled the latest field surveys to be kept up to date, was also a source of information theft or espionage, both on the Belgian and French sides.

In the last quarter of the 19th century, the map allowed the direct acceleration and massification of the French colonial conquest, but also that of the 'independent state of the Congo'. Not only was it decisive for the organization of colonial expeditions, but it was also essential for the establishment of borders and the settlement of territorial disputes. On the map of Africa, 'Hic sunt leones', which was still used on maps from the beginning of the century, was replaced by the bold names of the European powers.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mathilde Leduc-Grimaldi, PhD FRGS works for the History and Politics Department of the Royal Museum for Central Africa (Tervuren). Focusing on history and art history of the second half of the 19th century, she has published with Prof. Emeritus James Newman (Syracuse University) the complete travel diaries, journals and correspondence of HM Stanley in search of Livingstone, the partial circumnavigation of Tanganyika of the two travelers and the return to the coast.

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<sup>1</sup> Royal Museum for Central Africa. E-mail: mathilde.leduc@africamuseum.be

## **Maps for a King: King Leopold II's Maps of Congo (Before 1885)**

Wouter BRACKE

### **ABSTRACT**

In his search for an overseas colony, King Leopold II of Belgium became interested in Africa in the Summer of 1875. It will take him ten years to realize his dreams and become de facto sovereign of the Independent State of the Congo or the Congo Free State. The political process which led to the organization of the Berlin Conference in 1885 and the subsequent demarcation of the new country's frontiers through separate treaties are fairly well known and have found their reflection in the many maps published by all parties concerned. In Belgium King Leopold II found in the newly created Institut national de géographie (1882) and even more so in its journal called *Le mouvement géographique* (1884) gradually a rich cartographic source and politically powerful instrument to promote the development of his African project. If the history of the Institut national de géographie itself is hardly studied, the maps published in its journal have been frequently used to illustrate historical contributions on colonial Congo. The map material King Leopold II had at its disposal prior to the creation of this institute and its journal remains yet unstudied. It is written that the King's map collection has disappeared somewhere in the 1920s and indeed no traces of it have been found so far. On the other hand, the inventory of the King's library which should be preserved in the Royal Palace at Laeken although it is not accessible today, was published only a couple of days after the King's demise in December 1909. This rich but hastily compiled inventory bears witness to the King's interests in geography in a broad sense. It also shows how the library was conceived as a working instrument in the larger framework of the King's strive for territorial expansion and offered him the theoretical basis of his geographical thinking.

This paper will focus on the books and other items in the library's inventory related to Congo. Through their identification it will try to reconstruct the possible cartographic image of Central Africa the King's library presented to its owner in the run-up to the convention of November 1884 and the Berlin Conference of 1885. After a general description of the inventory, its origins, structure and objectives, the paper will then discuss the books on geography in general and Africa in particular that could be identified. Special attention will be given to maps and map related material in these works. The paper wants to show how the library played an important role in the creation of the King's cartographic image of his colony, a role that was complementary to the handwritten reports the King received and the personal contacts he kept with explorers, scientists, and politicians.

# Session 2

# **Leopoldian Imperial Cartography: The Case of the Kouilou-Niari Basin Prior to the Foundation of the Congo Free State**

Jan VANDERSMISSEN<sup>1</sup>

## **ABSTRACT**

This paper zooms in on Leopoldian imperial geography in times of tension prior to the establishment of the Congo Free State. The Geographical Conference of Brussels in 1876 resulted in exploration missions undertaken by the AIA, the CEHC, and finally the AIC, both in the east and west of the Congo Basin and adjacent areas. This process was often accompanied by land grabbing, which was not without consequences. Geopolitical tensions with France and Portugal, among others, forced Leopold II to make difficult choices. These are cartographically translated into several maps that not only show the spheres of influence but also reinforce the territorial claims. A new analysis of maps edited by Alphonse-Jules Wauters and the Institut National de Géographie will shed light on the specific case of the cartographic representation of the Kouilou-Niari Basin, where the claims made by Leopold's AIC were disputed by France since 1883, and of the valleys of rivers flowing into the Congo via the north side (right bank). These maps strikingly express, through their specific visual discourse, the intertwining of cartography with imperial agendas in the run-up to the Berlin Conference in 1884-1885.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Jan Vandersmissen holds a PhD in history and is researcher and lecturer at Ghent University. He is interested in the history of science and technology in imperial contexts, more in particular in the scientific and technological aspects of expansionist projects developed by various European nations, as well as in the knowledge transfers that resulted from these undertakings. He published extensively on issues related to the world of travelers, prospectors, geographers, cartographers and environmentalists from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. He is a member of the Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences and of the International Academy of the History of Science.

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<sup>1</sup> Ghent University. E-mail: [jan.vandersmissen@ugent.be](mailto:jan.vandersmissen@ugent.be)

# **From an Exploitation Colony to a Contemporary Cartography of Building Materials**

Victor BRUNFAUT<sup>1</sup>, G ry LELOUTRE<sup>1</sup> & Judith LE MAIRE<sup>1</sup>

## **ABSTRACT**

The paper reports on an exploratory work, on the one hand on cartography as a documentary resource (the so-called 'historical' cartography of the colonial period), and on the other hand as a contemporary tool of knowledge, post-colonial by definition. This work focuses on a specific territory (the province of Bas Congo, now Kongo Central), based on the disciplines of architecture and urban planning, which produce a different kind of cartography from that of geographers: a cartography that is an instrument of knowledge of the territory as a project, in a prospective vision anchored in the territory.

The Lower Congo was mapped by the explorers and then by the Belgian colonisers, beyond the philanthropic or anti-slavery considerations specific to the imperialism of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, as an 'exploitation colony'. The cartography produced was intended to exploit the material and mineral resources of this territory for the benefit of Leopold II and then the Belgian state from 1908 onwards. The aim of this 'exploitation cartography' was to identify and locate the resources, and to set up the infrastructure that would allow the extraction and transport of the resources - railways, workshops, stations, housing for the operators and workers. The maps and plans were produced by engineers, the military, etc. Architects were not sent to the territory, architecture was not considered at all, and certainly not vernacular or local architecture. These constructions were functional ones.

These exploitation maps, intended for export, were returned to Belgium at independence and are today 'absent' from the territory of the independent Congo. Our paper proposes to place them in the contemporary Congolese territory as a tool for analysis. In addition to these absent maps, it appears that some maps are 'missing': they were not relevant for the exploitation and were not produced. Here we will examine, via an original cartography resulting from several research seminars, those that concern the exploitation of resources for local construction, and thus produced by architects in Central Kongo itself.

Amongst the conclusions, we will insist on the fact that the exploitation maps have constructed a geography of the Congolese territory that is progressively diverging from the current reality. There is a growing divergence between the colonial urban framework, with towns established along the railway lines and at the main transshipment points throughout the Congo, and the contemporary development of urbanisation, which is particularly concentrated along the borders at the main customs points, essentially in the East, but also in Central Kongo, linked to the global trade in goods and raw materials.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Victor Brunfaut: Dr in urban planning. He supervises courses on architectural projects and thesis on the Maghreb and sub-Saharan Africa.

G ry Leloutre : urban planner and Dr in Art de b tir (ULBrussels). He is interested in the dynamics, modes of arrangement of spaces and artefacts produced by urbanization, on the Brussels metropolitan area and Central Africa (research by design).

Judith le Maire: Dr in architecture history (UParis I La Sorbonne). She develops a "situated epistemology" of architectural research, adapted to the specific research field and decentered from Western sources (doctoral training in the DRC since 2013).

They are architects and professors - Faculty of Architecture ULB.

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<sup>1</sup> Universit  libre de Bruxelles - ULB. E-mail: Victor.brunfaut@ulb.be, g ry.leloutre@ulb.be, judith.le.maire@ulb.be



## Looking at Africa. Knowledge and Land Management from a University Cartographic Collection (Firenze, Italy)

Margherita AZZARI, Camillo BERTI<sup>1</sup>, Pauline DEGUY, Lorenzo DOLFI & Cristiano TANCREDI

### ABSTRACT

The Geography section of the Humanities Library of the University of Florence holds an important cartographic collection relating to the territories, mainly in the African continent (Libya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia), interested by the Italian State's colonial policy between 1870 and 1945.

The collection was initially set up by the Chair of Geography of the *Istituto di Studi superiori, pratici e di perfezionamento* [Institute of Higher, Practical and Advanced Studies] (1859-1924), precursor of the present University. Other map collections were later attached to the university library: the *Società di Studi Geografici* [Society of Geographical Studies] collection, founded in 1895, and the *Fondo Marinelli*, consisting of a large number of books and maps, created personally by the two eminent geographers Giovanni and Olinto Marinelli. The historical section of the map library – which collects documents dating from the 1700s to the mid-1900s, even though the most conspicuous nucleus dates to the period between the Unification of Italy and the First World War – includes a total of about 1,300 maps, many of which are divided into various sheets, for a total of almost 9,000 pieces. In this context, the collection of "colonial" maps is especially worthy of mention (approximately 400 maps and about 950 sheets).

These maps concern different parts of Africa, but the most significant nucleus relates to the territories acquired or object of expansion interests by the Italian state. The cartographic documents have different features in terms of age, format, type, purpose and scale. Most of the maps were produced by public institutions for knowledge and land management, but there are also maps produced by important private organizations. The study of these maps is also intended to investigate the role of cartography in the Italian government's commercial and military policy, aimed - particularly in Libya - at political, urban and agrarian conquest.

With the dual aim of developing better conservation strategies and of enhancing this cartographic heritage, a project has been launched with the goal of a systematic census and of digitization. The maps with metadata and extended descriptions will be available through web as a part of an open access digital archive that will allow textual and geographical retrieval of the documents, as well as the consultation of high-resolution images of the maps.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Camillo Berti, Ph.D., is Associate Professor in Geography of the Department of History, Archeology, Geography, Art and Performing Arts, University of Florence.

Passionate about cartography, his scientific interests concern historical geography with particular attention to the landscape change, historical cartography and the applications of geographic information systems.

He is author of essays in scientific journals, collective volumes and some monographs. He is a member of the editorial board of the "Bollettino della Società Geografica Italiana" and of the "Bollettino della Associazione Italiana di Cartografia".

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<sup>1</sup> University of Florence, Department of History, Archaeology, Geography, Arts and Performing Arts.

# Session 3

# The Emergence of Map History in Paris, 1830-1850, to Narrate the Rise of European Civilization

Matthew H. EDNEY<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

Systematic map history emerged in Paris in the 1830s and 1840s to demonstrate the metanarrative of human cultural progress and especially the rise of modern, European, global civilization. Scottish philosophers in the mid-eighteenth century, for example, had postulated four stages of civilization based on property relations: hunter gathering (one possesses oneself), nomadic pastoralism (...animals), arable agriculture (...land), and commercial trade (...capital). While other precise stadial models were postulated in the nineteenth century (by Karl Marx, Auguste Comte, etc.), most educated people accepted the principle that every culture must develop linearly through vaguely defined stages. In each implementation of the metanarrative, the transition from one cultural stage to the next featured an increase in social and economic complexity accompanied by changes in cognitive capacity, reason, and morality. Empirical evidence was lacking to show ancient transitions, say from hunter-gathering to sedentary agriculture, yet the truth of the transition from medieval superstition to modern rationality could be readily demonstrated.

A small group of scholars working in Paris turned to the study of early geographical and marine maps to show the truth of the superiority of modern European civilization. In 1831/32, Baron Charles-Athanase Walckenaer acquired a manuscript world map, dated 1500 and signed by Juan de la Cosa. The map led Alexander von Humboldt to seek out other early maps of the New World, so as to trace the transition from medievalism to modernity and the triumphal rise of European reason and science. (By comparison, the contemporary growth of Europe's empires presented no great change in rationality, only technological and military advance.) After 1839, Edme-François Jomard and the visconde de Santarém created large collections of facsimiles of early maps to permit any other scholars to see for themselves just how European culture had advanced between the Middle Ages and the widespread adoption of print in the later sixteenth century. In exploring the work of these four scholars in forming what would later grow into globalist map history, this paper reveals the origins of the history of cartography as contributing to Europe's sense of superiority and imperialistic sentiments.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Matthew H. Edney is Osher Professor in the History of Cartography, University of Southern Maine. He also directs the History of Cartography Project, University of Wisconsin–Madison, for which he edited, with Mary Pedley, Volume Four: *Cartography in the European Enlightenment* (2019). A student of imperial mapping in early British India (*Mapping an Empire* [1997]) and North America, he is broadly interested in mapping and power relations. His most recent book is *Cartography: The Ideal and Its History* (Chicago, 2019). He blogs at [www.mappingasprocess.net](http://www.mappingasprocess.net).

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<sup>1</sup> Universities of Southern Maine and Wisconsin–Madison. E-mail: [matthew.edney@maine.edu](mailto:matthew.edney@maine.edu)

# **Cartography, Imperialism and the Scientific Invention of Language Borders (1807-1923)**

Felix DE MONTETY<sup>1</sup>

## **ABSTRACT**

From the “polyglot” maps published by Gottfried Hensel in 1741 to the contemporary digital dialectal atlases, the problem represented by the spatial visualisation of linguistic variation has led to the creation of a wide array of cartographical materials, that have all too rarely been studied by map historians. While the first of those thematic maps were developed in the context of biblical philology, the Enlightenment, and research on the origins of language and focused heavily on Humankind’s linguistic diversity, early 19<sup>th</sup> language mapping quickly extended into the realm of geographical and political discourse as it sparked the interest of European philologists, geographers, and statesmen alike, from the Humboldt brothers and Goethe to Charles-Etienne Coquebert de Montbret and Adriano Balbi.

This contribution will attempt to make use of processual, semiotic and postcolonial approaches to map history in order to look at the rise of modern linguistic cartography as a form of disciplinary scientific discourse and as a tool for imperial governmentalities. It will first study key aspects of its formal evolution from the Napoleonic era to the First World War, notably under the influence of German cartographers and editors such as Heinrich Berghaus and Paul Langhans and linguists such as Georg Wenker. It will then look at two case studies in West Africa and the Middle East to show how the visual appeal of linguistic maps contributed to spread the concept of linguistic border as a basis for national and colonial boundary-making and legitimate the projection of such borders into imperial spaces.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Felix de Montety is a post-doctoral researcher at the Université Grenoble Alpes who specializes on geographical perspectives on language and identity in Europe and Central Asia. Having completed his doctoral dissertation at the University of Nottingham in 2018, he has been working on the history of language mapping and bordering in Germany and France since 2019 and his current project focuses on language variation and place-naming processes in mountain areas in the Alps.

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<sup>1</sup> Université Grenoble Alpes, France. E-mail: felix.de-montety@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr

# Mapping Human Organs: Spleen Maps in Twentieth-Century Malaria Control Campaigns

Lauren KILLINGSWORTH<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

This paper examines the practice of “spleen mapping” as a tool of empire in twentieth century colonial India and Latin America. British and American public health officials viewed spleen enlargement as a proxy for malaria incidence, and conducted “spleen surveys” by palpating the abdomens of their subjects to determine the “splenic index”, or percentage of spleens enlarged. The spleen physical exam was deemed necessary for the diagnosis of malaria, as indigenous subjects were viewed as “untrustworthy” and “ignorant” when it came to reporting cases of malarial fever. The twentieth century saw a proliferation of splenic index maps, maps depicting average spleen enlargement over colonial territories. Here, I examine medical reports containing spleen maps, infectious disease textbooks, instruction manuals on malaria surveying, and photographs of patients undergoing spleen exams, drawing upon the archives of British India, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the U.S. Public Health Service.

I show that spleen surveys involved surveillance from the level of the individual body (and organ) to the greater population. Medical officers lined up village members and painted the outline of their organs on their body in an invasive form of human mapping. In Latin America, U.S. public health officials performed autopsies on those who died to determine the weight of spleens. Splenic mapping raised questions about race, sex, immunity, and the environment. American medical officers noted that splenic enlargement was more common in women than men, and wondered whether this was a biological difference in spleen size or a difference of malaria exposure. The Black population was deemed to be mostly immune from splenic enlargement, and the indigenous people of Latin America were seen to be much more susceptible. This paper makes an important contribution to the history of imperialist medical cartography. I show that the violating practice of spleen mapping reinforced imperial hierarchies at multiple levels and strengthened biological race theories that justified colonial rule.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Lauren Killingsworth is a medical student and PhD student in History of Science and Medicine at Yale University. Her research interests include the history of medical cartography and infectious disease control in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. She holds an MPhil in History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine from the University of Cambridge, where she was a Gates Cambridge Scholar. She is a recipient of the Ristow Prize for academic achievement in the history of cartography.

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<sup>1</sup> Yale University, Dept. of History of Science and Medicine, MD-PhD Candidate. E-mail: lauren.killingsworth@yale.edu

# Session 4



# Maps to Defend the Kaiser in Ottoman Asia German Military Cartography Between the Sinai and Mesopotamia, 1915-1918

Imre Josef DEMHARDT<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

In 1836-39, Helmuth von Moltke, who rose to serve as Chief of Staff of the Prussian Army, was the trailblazing officer to establish a tradition of German officers advising the Ottoman army. Over the decades, German military liaison with the Sultan's armed forces steadily grew tighter. When the Ottoman Empire joined World War I, siding with the Central Powers in October 1914, well over three hundred German officers served in the Turkish army or were attached as advisors. However, only when the Ottoman-German alliance was threatened in various Asian theaters of war, a fully-fledged German surveying section — *Vermessungsabteilung 27* — was deployed to survey, map, and print military maps to Ottoman Asia to cartographically support the defense of both Empires.

The German military cartographers faced manifold challenges that were different from the European theatres of war. Therefore, this paper provides a background on the logistic framework of German field reconnaissance and map-making at headquarters level in Berlin and just behind the frontlines. This allows for an appraisal of the logistical, technological, and cartographical achievements of hitherto understudied German military map series in Ottoman Asia with regional case studies on the Sinai Peninsula (1915-16), Mesopotamia (modern Iraq and Syria, 1916-18), and most significantly Palestine (1917-18).

By the end of the war, German military cartographers had produced five topographical map series: *Operationskarte* in 1:800,000, *Karte des türkisch-ägyptischen Grenzgebietes* in 1:250,000, *Karte von Mesopotamien (und Syrien)* in 1:400,000, *Karte von Nordbabylonien* in 1:200,000, and *Karte von Palästina* in five (!) different scales 1:250,000, 1:168,960, 1:100,000, 1:50,000, and 1:25,000 (fig. 1). The paper provides the first comparative appraisal of these map series.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Imre Josef Demhardt is a historian and geographer, who holds the Garrett Chair in the History of Cartography at the University of Texas at Arlington. His research interests include military cartography of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

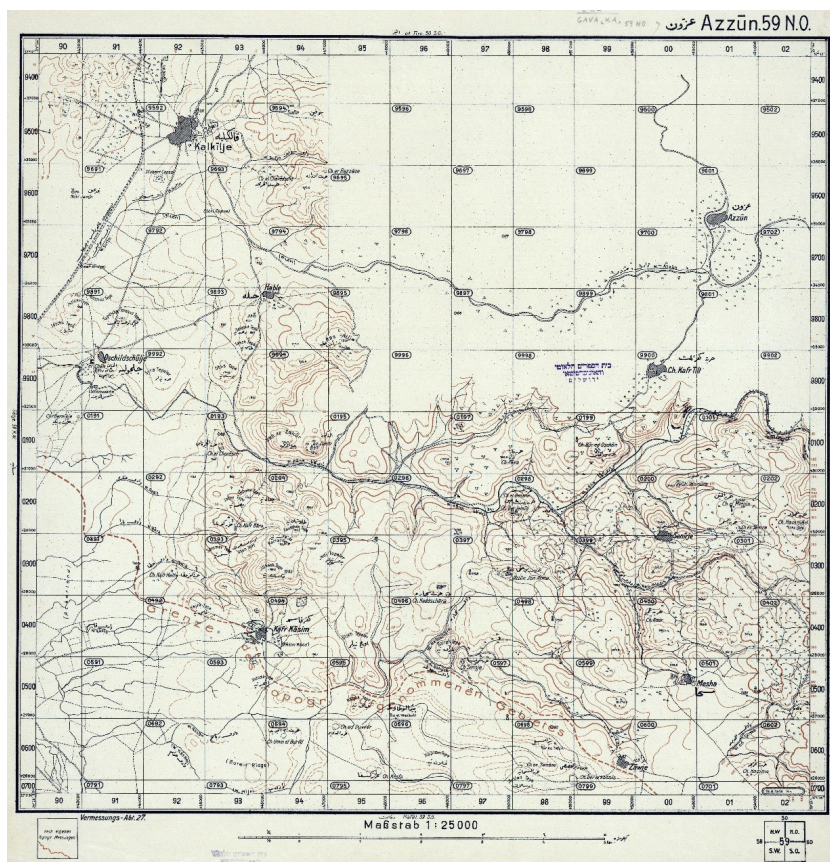


Fig. 1. — The summer 1918 stalemate of the front to the north of Jaffa enabled *Vermessungsabteilung 27* to undertake field observations in the combat area and release Sheet Azzun in 1:25,000. This sheet shows a broken line diagonally across the SW quadrant designated as “Grenze des topographisch aufgenommenen Gebiets” (= Border of the topographically surveyed area), a euphemism for the stagnant front line. The German side of the ‘contact line’ shows true isohypses with absolute heights and settlement features, based on aerial stereo-photogrammetry and plane-tableing, while the British side could only be rendered in tentative form lines. The NE quadrant was behind the front-line action and left void of topography to speed up the release of the sheet [National Library of Israel].

<sup>1</sup> University of Texas at Arlington. E-mail: demhardt@uta.edu

## The Biblical and the Mandatory Naming the Summit of Lebanon 1830-1930

Jack KEILO

### ABSTRACT

This paper addresses the official naming process of the peak of Mount Lebanon (3088m). It analyses a corpus of primary sources (maps, travel accounts, surveys) and shows, through the prism of the oronym, the evolution of Imperial[ist] cartographies of the Levant (The first *Outremer* and a "modern" version of *Holy Land*, mandated by France and the UK after the WWI, at the height of their colonial empires).

To the European Powers of the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> C., Mount Lebanon was of secondary importance and seen from the perspective of the Holy Land, while the topography of Palestine was the most known of the Levant (and began to reflect cartographic progress). The highest peak of the Lebanon chain, still not precisely located, was simply referred to as "Mount Lebanon", its Biblical and Antiquity designation.

Following the civil war of 1860, the arrival of Napoleon III's troops, then the creation of the Mutasarrifate of Mount-Lebanon, the French *Corps expéditionnaire de Syrie* did map the mountain while using *Dhor el Khodib*, one of the massifs' peaks, as name per metonymy. This "tradition" was followed by numerous French travellers and officers till the Mandate in 1920.

Later in the 1860s, Sir Richard F. Burton (†1890, officer and explorer) and Charles F. Tyrwhitt-Drake (†1874, the PEF), during their primary research journeys, reported the oral names interchangeably used by the locals, *Qurnat as Sawda* ("The Black Corner" according to their text) and *Tizmaroun/Timaroun*, as the "real highest peak of Lebanon". The second of the two names made its appearance on some maps, especially French ones. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> C., the summit of Lebanon was still referred to by the three abovementioned names, plus *Femm el Mizab* (one of the massif's lower peaks), used by some local writers.

After 1920, it was the *Bureau topographique* of the French Mandatory Troops that enshrined *Qurnat as Sawda* in the official topographic maps of Mount Lebanon. The adding of the name, orally used by local herds and villagers till the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (but unknown by most inhabitants), attested the "subduing" of Mount Lebanon and the passage from the Imperial Ottoman to the Mandatory French era. The polysemy the peak of Mount Lebanon has had reflects the different phases of cartographic interests of the Colonial powers in the Levant: the Biblical; the explorative/informational; then the precise topographic mapping under the Mandate and the fulfilment of the colonial process. *Qurnat as Sawda* is a result of Imperial[ist] dynamics that still shape the map of Lebanon and the rest of the Levant today.

### SOME MAPS AND PRIMARY SOURCES IN THE STUDY:

Bridel G., 1891, *La Palestine illustrée*.

Bureau topographique, 1931, *Carte des États du Levant sous mandat français*.

Burton R. F., Tyrwhitt-Drake C. F., 1872, *Unexplored Syria*.

Corps expéditionnaire de Syrie, 1862, *Carte du Liban d'après les reconnaissances de la Brigade topographique*.

Palestine Exploration Fund, 1877, *Maps of the PEF Survey of Palestine*.

Reclus É., 1884, *Nouvelle Géographie universelle, Livre IX L'Asie Antérieure*.

# **“A Valuable Element of Pacification and French Influence”: Military Cartographers as Colonial Agents in the Levant Mandate**

Louis LE DOUARIN<sup>1</sup>

## **ABSTRACT**

In 1920, France was granted mandate on part of the former Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire. French military authorities were then quick to organize different cartographic operations, both on the field and in Paris, to prepare and support the takeover. The cartographic project for the Mandate was also meant to illustrate France's role in the region. The change of rule was associated with a scientific shift: the production of a modern, survey-based, and comprehensive map was to embody the “civilizing mission” and the building of novel and fully mapped polities under European guardianship. This state-like cartographic rationalization of space was however also associated with the violent nature of the French administration. Although the “mandate” system was presented as a new form of respectful guardianship and cooperation in opposition to more classical forms of imperialism, cartography did play a central part in conquest, surveillance, and repression of local oppositions in the Levant, like in the rest of the colonial world. The scientific ideal of a comprehensive and modern map had thus to adapt to the colonial agenda, i.e. to the evolution of the political and financial context in the Mandate, but also to the geographical and human specificities of the land itself. For instance, new challenges emerged in 1927 after the Syrian revolt when the French tried to strengthen their presence in the oriental desert. In these vast, arid, and sparsely populated regions, automobile itineraries and aerial photography were developed as a rapid and cheap way to produce the maps needed to assert control on more hostile peripheries. Looking at the history of the French cartographic project in the Levant in detail, we however see that cartographers met significant obstacles on the ground, challenging their agendas and scientific practices but also threatening their security. Nevertheless, they did explore and relentlessly roam the land, and were sometimes the only European for kilometres on end, at a time when the financial implication of France's presence in the region was receiving more severe critics in Paris.

Drawing on archives from the French geographical services in Paris, this communication thus questions the role played by French cartographers not only as mapmakers, dedicated servants of a scientific ideal, but also as colonial agents, who impersonated but also shaped France's presence in its imperial margins. Before representing space, cartographers had to master it from a material and physical point of view, which involved circulating and operating in complex and sometimes hostile physical and human environments. Dealing with the asperities of the Syrian and Lebanese territory meant compromising with approximation and incomprehension, basing pretended regular topographic maps on mere sketched itineraries and reusing often depreciated older Ottoman and European material. Interrogating the production of the Syrian map through the history of its failures and compromises thus brings nuance to the image of an omnipotent and perfectly precise colonial cartography. It also helps understand how French mapmakers contributed to the production of this colonial territory, not only through maps, which build representations of the territory, but also directly through their practices anchored in space, and by the way they adapted their cartographic project to the realities on the ground.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

I am a temporary lecturer (*Attaché temporaire d'enseignement et de recherche*) at Aix-Marseille Université, department of Geography and Urban planning. Interested in historical geography and the history of geography, I study the production and diffusion of geographical knowledge on the Middle East. My research deals with the history of geographical and cartographic knowledge about Syria and Lebanon between the middle of the nineteenth century and the period of the French Mandate, and the role they had in the production of these territories, and in particular in the drawing of borders. I defended my PhD on this topic in May 2022, at the European University Institute, in the department of History and Civilization in history and civilization.

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<sup>1</sup> Aix-Marseille Université. E-mail: louis.LE-DOUARIN@univ-amu.fr

# Poster session

## Italian East Africa through Cartographic and Photographic Sources of the *Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare* (Florence, Italy)

Margherita AZZARI<sup>1</sup>, Camillo BERTI<sup>1</sup>, Pauline DEGUY<sup>1</sup>, Lorenzo DOLFI<sup>2</sup>  
& Cristiano TANCREDI<sup>1</sup>

### ABSTRACT

The former *Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare*, now part of the Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo [Italian Agency for Development Cooperation], was founded in 1904 in Florence under the name *Istituto Agricolo Coloniale Italiano* to promote agronomic studies and the development of agriculture in tropical environments. The institute played a particularly important role in the period between the two world wars, under the direction of Armando Maugini, when its activities were mainly aimed at supporting the agricultural development of the Italian colonies.

The map collection holds about 2,500 documents that preserve important evidence of the activities carried out by the Institute in Africa and show the scientific role and commitment of Italian technicians in the field of agronomy. The maps have different features in terms of age, format, type, purpose and scale and most of them were produced for knowledge and land management, by public and important private organizations. The collections also host expedition reliefs and unpublished sketches. The photographic collection includes 113 albums containing a total of about 15,410 photographs which can be linked to the maps. Along with the map collection, the photographs represent a cultural heritage both of Italy and East Africa that needs to be preserved and protected. It helps us to understand and value the links between Italy and East Africa.

A project has been launched by the University of Florence and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, with the goal of digitizing and conducting a systematic census and of cataloguing, to develop strategies of conservation and enhancement of this relevant heritage. The maps and the photographs with metadata and extended descriptions will be available through the web as a part of an open access digital archive that will allow textual and geographical retrieval of the documents, as well as the consultation of high-resolution images.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Lorenzo Dolfi is a Ph.D student in the University of Eastern Piedmont. He collaborates also with the Laboratory of applied Geography (University of Florence) directed by Professor Margherita Azzari, where in 2022 he was a research fellow. He is a member of the Editorial Staff of the Bulletin of Italian Geographical Society and also of the Social Office of Italian Geographical Society. His research interests include historical cartography and environmental history.

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<sup>1</sup> LabGeo - University of Florence.

<sup>2</sup> University of Eastern Piedmont. E-mail. [lorenzo.dolfi@uniupo.it](mailto:lorenzo.dolfi@uniupo.it)

# Preserve and Make Available Maps from the RMCA Collection

François KERVYN<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

The Royal Museum for Central Africa houses a collection of maps of African territories, including documents of historical interest (15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century) and more recent maps (20<sup>th</sup> century-present) whose interest is mainly utilitarian. Although the oldest and most precious ones require special preservation conditions, all of them are at the heart of one of the RMCA's missions to make often rare documents accessible to the public.

With the emergence of new digitisation tools, but above all following the emergence of policies aimed at facilitating access to information, a systematic scanning programme was set up, coupled with the development of an online catalogue of metadata.

Today the RMCA's geo-catalogue includes more than 40,000 document entries, many of which concern the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Rwanda and the Burundi, as well as other African countries, and most of which have been scanned.

In addition to the inventory and digitisation work carried out at the RMCA, a similar approach has been undertaken in the framework of cooperation projects with African scientific institutions. The aim is to promote the importance of preserving scientific heritage that is often threatened by unfavourable political and economic conditions, and to invite these partner institutions to share their metadata in the same geocatalogue. The result is increased visibility for the institutions and access for the public to information that was previously ignored.

In addition to the limited means available to carry out these initiatives, there are still challenges to be met, including the definition of the conditions of access to documents whose rights holders are not easily identifiable and for which we nevertheless receive frequent requests for reproductions. To this must be added the problem of mass scanning encountered in the preservation of the ~300,000 aerial photographs acquired at the end of the colonial period and which are at the origin of the maps of the DRC, Rwanda and Burundi.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

A geologist by training with a PhD in applied remote sensing, F. Kervyn uses geomatics to study volcanic hazards in the Virunga region (DRC). In 2011, he returned to the RMCA after 2 years as a project manager for mapping in the DRC for the EU. He was then entrusted with the lead of the Natural Hazards and Mapping Unit of the RMCA, which focuses on the characterisation of natural hazards in Central Africa. In parallel, he initiated the process of valorising the RMCA's collection of maps and aerial photographs. Since 2021, he is head of the Earth Sciences Department of the RMCA.

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<sup>1</sup> Royal museum for central Africa, Department of Earth sciences, Natural hazards and cartography. E-mail: francois.kervyn@africamuseum.be



# Mapping Land in British North Borneo: A Colonial Heterotopia

Guillermo Arturo MEDINA FRIAS<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

"A map of British North Borneo" was a cartographical series, published by Edward Stanford between 1903 and 1906, that revealed the land market of the colony administered by the North Borneo Company. Since the establishment of the Company in 1881, the establishment of a system of land management became one of the main challenges of the company. As it is mentioned by Clery (2002), the available land in British North Borneo wasn't organised through the principle of terra nullus, on the contrary there was a clear recognition of previous occupiers of the land. However, the colonial-imperial mindset of the company imposed a system of land registry under the need of organising the territory.

This registry was built on the elaboration of different Land Ordinances (1894, 1904 and 1930), that established the conditions of ownership and use of the land, providing the sense and functionality of the colonial territory. But if the Land Ordinances were the institutional framework that settle the idea of land, Stanford's maps can be interpreted as the technological medium that visualized and represented their dominion and organisation. The maps became an instrument that facilitated the legibility of the territory under the imperial context of the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The novelty of the maps is that they establish a land grid that is accompanied by the administrative borders, native's land areas, and the location of extractive companies. In that way it populates the blank spaces of the previous maps. It uses the grid as an instrument to "normalise" the space under the sense of functionality of the economic geography of the beginning of the century. However, while the totality of the features is organised in the grid, the allocation of the plots of the companies do not have a precise shape, on the contrary they overlap to the rigidity of the grid.

This proposal wants to open a discussion about how to problematise the decolonial discourse, focusing on the notions of sense and legibility, into historical maps. I use Stanford's maps as a gateway for testing if a colonial territory can be explored under Foucault's concept of heterotopia in opposition to a utopia. If a utopia was the idealisation of places, that in some cases lead to fictional or inexistent, the idea of a colonial heterotopia and its cartographical representation is orientated to deconstruct its mapping process as a dialogue between the map's features, structures and historical regime. In that way, the map instead of idealising and re-producing an accurate idea of a place, is a dialogue that structures a way of making sense to the places that not necessarily needs to be accurate. The map transforms itself into a mapping exercise, proposing a question about how its features acquire a sense and are legible under different structures of power and temporalities; a position that lead to how we read historical maps nowadays.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Political Scientist, MA in History and Heritage. My thesis was about 19<sup>th</sup> Century maps of Cabo Verde elaborated by the Comissão de Cartografia. I've been researching about insular spaces in historical cartography, focused on the 18<sup>th</sup> century maps of the Caribbean, and the restitution of land and housing rights in Colombia. Most recently I began to explore communities' place-based experiences and digital participatory cartography. I am exploring how participatory and historical mapping can be a gateway for discussing how communities provide a sense of place to a territory, and problematise the use of maps in their everyday life.

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<sup>1</sup> Independent Researcher. E-mail: gamedinafrias@uniandes.edu.co

# Cartographic Memoirs in Colonial India: Uncovering the Entangled Practices of Mapping

Manasi MOHANAN SUSHAMA<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

This paper will look into the memoirs of British and native cartographers to trace the mapping practices that existed in colonial India. Most of the cartographers who mapped the Indian sub-continent has written extensive reports, memoirs, and diaries and published them along with the maps. For example, the memoir written by Rennell titled *The memoir of the Map of Hindoostan: or the Mogul's Empire*, was arguably as significant as the map drawn by him. Thus, the memoirs serve as a context to read the maps. The paper attempts to locate these memoirs in the cartographic history of the subcontinent.

Although practices of mapping existed prior to colonization such as the Mughal and indigenous practices, colonialism centralized the cartographic methods by rejecting them as non-scientific. British introduced technologies such as trigonometric survey for scientific accuracy. The English East India Company undertook the project of mapping making cartography an important tool of imperialism. However, mapping a 'strange landscape' was not an easy task for the colonizer. They widely made use of the human resource and knowledge of the natives in the process of cartographic expedition. Natives, employed by the British, adapted the new technologies while also engaging with the existing native and Islamic knowledge system. Thus the cartography of the Indian subcontinent is largely the result of an entanglement between the European technology and traditional epistemology, aided by colonialism.

However, within this process, the effort of the native cartographers was systematically invisibilized by the colonial state, making the Indian mapping an overtly colonial, or rather British, project and product of European colonialism. While acknowledging that all European nations that colonized India made their own maps, this study will solely engage with the British, owing to their domination in the discourse arguably extending their term and territory in the subcontinent. The study would try to read cartography of the Indian subcontinent outside the colonial history through the memoirs of both British and native cartographers. Such a reading would critique the colonial portrayal of a passive recipient and bring out the active participation of natives in the process of mapping. Thus, the paper argues that the British cartographic expedition in India, which later led to the homogenous imagination of a modern nation state called India, is not merely a colonial enterprise, rather an entangled process.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Manasi MS is a PhD scholar at the Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad, India. Her current work is on the mapping practices in India focusing on the colonial period to understand the interwoven relationship between cartography, nationalism and knowledge production.

Her area interests include cartography, nationalism, decolonial studies, and visual culture.

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<sup>1</sup> PhD Scholar, University of Hyderabad, India.

# **Santa Claus Rules the World: A Case Study of Imperialism Embedded in a Map**

Christopher J. J. THIRY<sup>1</sup>

## **ABSTRACT**

From 1948 to 1959, the General Drafting Company, one of the “Big Three” American road map makers, produced a series of Christmas card maps that featured Santa Claus. These maps reveal American hegemony and a nationalist worldview. Although Santa Claus generally serves as an avatar for the benevolent “Traditional American” who is generous and jolly, the Santa of General Drafting maps portray him differently. Santas are seen harvesting natural resources, hunting animals, and being shown deference by non-Americans while disparaging the Soviet Union. Most disturbingly, Santa is enslaving other Santas in Siberia. The abhorrent behavior is being cloaked by the kindly image of Santa Claus to make his (America’s) actions more palatable. These Christmas card maps are compelling and unique examples that illustrate how imperialism can be displayed using deeply engrained cultural stereotypes and ideologies which are masked by “light-hearted” cartoons.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Christopher Thiry has been the Map & GIS Librarian at the Colorado School of Mines since 1995. He holds an BA in history and MILS from the University of Michigan. He has studied, written, and spoken extensively on the history of mine maps, race-based real estate documents in Jefferson County Colorado, and aspects of map librarianship.

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<sup>1</sup> E-mail: cthiry@mines.edu

**WEDNESDAY**  
**31/05/2023**

# Session 5

# Municipal Imperialism and Cartography – The Maps from the Geographic Society of Lyon at the End of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

Enali DE BIAGGI<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

Like many other Geographical societies, the one founded in Lyon in 1873 had implicit commercial interests associated with the idea of “fostering commercial and geographical progress” (Solleilet, 1875). The *Société de Géographie de Lyon*, like other previous gatherings of the city’s elite, associated a powerful catholic influence on missionary organizations and military views on foreign territories, whereas most knowledge over places was related to the city’s merchant interests. Set on a renewed colonial impulse in the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian war, the society justifies the need to gather as much information as possible about all parts of the world during journeys to remote areas, especially documenting the ‘unknown lands’. Its members formed a pronounced taste for the production of maps related to one of the city’s main business, the silk trade. For example, the society offers “prizes” and the first contest launched in 1874 offers 500 francs to those capable of drawing “a geographical map showing (...) the locations in the world where silk cocoons are produced, the domestic markets in each region, and the imports and export” (Christophe, Legrand, 1875). Such a map should be followed by a memoir containing clear and precise statistics on the subject. Other prizes, such as scientific exploration of the Alps or memoirs on the best ways to popularize geographical knowledge, were worth 300 francs, which shows how the creation of maps was valued. Through its first years, the ambition of creating an “atlas of sericulture” by making contests on maps depicting silk activities in Italy, in Turkey and Greece, in France before engaging in an exploratory trip to the eastern lands (China and south east Asia) could only be in search of maintaining Lyons primary place in the European silk markets.

From 1875 on, a new « bulletin » makes sure all its activities are registered. A first study on the maps published in it during the first 25 years of the society shows how strong the municipal imperialism of Lyon was (Laffey, 1975) and the particular contribution maps provided in the local “colonial education program”. Maps were published in the bulletin, some were presented on special occasions or collected by acquisitions or donations - the cartographic archives coming from the society shows how largely its members were planning to be a part of the European expansion in different parts of the world and how geography was deployed as an asset to the city at the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Enali De Biaggi is a senior lecturer at the *Département de géographie et territoire* (Department of Geography and Territorial sciences) and a member of the UMR 5600 - Environment - City - Society since 2002. Her research topics cover the role of spatial representations in planning projects and the historical perspective of the use of maps and geographic information systems for the understanding of territorial dynamics.

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<sup>1</sup> Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3 – UMR 5600 EVS. E-mail: enali.debiaggi@univ-lyon3.fr



# **The British Colonial Regime on Cyprus: Mapping the Capital City, Nicosia**

Merve Senem ARKAN<sup>1</sup>

## **ABSTRACT**

The administration of the island of Cyprus was annexed by the British Empire from the Ottoman Empire in 1878, which later became a Crown Colony in 1925. During the British colonial regime, the uneasiness within the island and the conflict between the citizens and the new government were getting stronger with each year until the island's independence in 1960.

With the newly appointed administration, surveys were made; advanced and more accurate maps of the island were produced. New data on the island's physical and human geography was created by large-scale surveys and topographical maps, in addition, urban maps of the capital city Nicosia were drawn. During this period, Nicosia was developing and improving quickly. This historical city's oriental look was modernizing and inevitably the structure of the city changed because of it. Thus, several maps of the city at different scales with few years apart were created. Thus the capital city, Nicosia with multi-cultural background and different ruling and governing powers can be followed by its physical transformation on the maps.

For different purposes, the truth can be manipulated on maps so they do not always reflect reality, or can even change it. Nicosia is certainly a powerful case in point of this phenomenon. During the British Era, the maps became more detailed, and the usage of new and advanced technology changed the maps and representation of cities, however; whether they could represent the historical and social changes accurately and reflect the truth of the era in their maps remains a question.

The paper will examine the depiction of the cultural diversity, the city's colourful background and its development during this era on the Nicosia maps and the British government's priority to reflect on these aspects of the city as the seat of the government and symbol of the colonial power over the island.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Assist. Prof. Dr. Merve Senem Arkan graduated with Archaeology and Art History Major at Eastern Mediterranean University in Cyprus. She holds a Master's degree in Eastern Mediterranean Studies from Eastern Mediterranean University in Cyprus which was awarded in 2011. Her Ph.D. dissertation "The Urban Cartography of Cyprus: between the 16th and the 20th centuries" was awarded in 2017 from the History of Cartography Department at Eötvös Lorand University, Hungary. After she worked at the Eastern Mediterranean University she became the head of the department of Archaeology and Art history at Arkin University of Creative Arts and Design in 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> Assist. Prof. Dr. Arkin University of Creative Arts and Design. E-mail: [merve.arkan@arucad.edu.tr](mailto:merve.arkan@arucad.edu.tr)

# **The Limits of Imperial Knowledge: Cartography and the First Trigonometrical Survey of Cyprus (Kitchener's Map, Ed. 1885)**

Evangelos PAPADIAS<sup>1</sup>, Antonis HADJIKYRIACOU<sup>2</sup>, Christoforos VRADIS<sup>1</sup> & Christos CHALKIAS<sup>1</sup>

## **ABSTRACT**

The passage of Cyprus under British control in 1878 marked the acceleration of modernization processes that had been initiated in the preceding decades under Ottoman sovereignty. Mapping the new possession was a high priority for British. Two months after the inauguration of British rule, a trigonometrical survey was assigned to Lieutenant Horatio Herbert Kitchener, who had just completed surveying Palestine. Kitchener's map is the only source that provides professionally surveyed historical geographic data for Cyprus in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is the first attempt to survey the island in detail and to construct a large-scale accurate map (1:63,360). Information about ethno-religious groups, communication and transportation networks, historical placenames, natural features, landmarks, hydrography etc., is found integrated on the 15 sheets of the map. The map is considered to have encapsulated the late Ottoman era and the early intentions of the British to establish administration over the island. The production of imperial knowledge, however, also entails the projection of power and reproduces official narratives. A critical reading of the map reveals the political implications of a series of inaccuracies and silences, be they intended or unintended. The contentious issue of religion in the troubled history of inter-communal relations on the island is one case in point, as is the recording of toponyms and the attribution of ethno-religious characteristics. Equally important is the modernization narrative reflected in the recording of the telegraph and the road network. Overall, the paper investigates the production of spatial knowledge as a means to establish control over the population, and identifies of limits thereof.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Evangelos Papadias is a Ph.D candidate with a BSc in Geography and MSc in Geoinformatics.

Dr. Antonis Hadjikyriacou is Assistant Professor of Ottoman and Turkish History at Panteion University, Athens and Affiliate Scholar at the Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis, Stanford University.

Christoforos Vradis is a Ph.D. candidate with a BSc in Rural Surveying and MSc in Geoinformation Technology.

Dr. Christos Chalkias is professor of GIS and Applied Geography at Harokopio University of Athens, department of Geography.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Geography, Harokopio University, Athens. E-mail: papadias@hua.gr; cvradis@hua.gr; xalkias@hua.gr

<sup>2</sup> Department of Political Science and History, Panteion University, Athens, and Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis, Stanford University. E-mail: ant.hadjikyriacou@panteion.gr

# Session 6

## Imperial Spatiality in Early Soviet Maps

Olesia IGNATEVA<sup>1</sup>, Sofia GAVRILOVA<sup>2</sup> & Jana MOSER<sup>2</sup>

### ABSTRACT

The Soviet Union did not consider itself a classical empire, and the current discourse argues that we need new approaches to studying such a peculiar case. However, many Soviet policies, processes and institutions are discussed through the imperial lens, and scholars apply colonial and post-colonial theory to address them. Among others, which applies to the "mastering" of Soviet space and landscapes, be that the actual construction strategies or the production of the imagery landscapes through the cultural representations.

With this paper, we aim to discuss to which extent the production of Soviet spaces of the early Soviet time (the 1920s-1940s) could be considered imperial. The Soviet cartographic knowledge production was based on Soviet ideology and supported the politics of nations making, forced (re)settlements, and mastering territory. Maps and atlases were produced by a small group of professionals in the biggest cities, predominantly in the Russian language. Therefore, the system of Soviet cartographic production has been imposing specific views on the former Soviet Union from above, with little room for the embedment of alternative worldviews. In addition, the question of visual language arises. Which map elements allow us to analyze and interpret the imperial purposes of the maps? We propose to look at specific characteristics that scholars usually see as "imperial" in British or French cartography, such as the contents of maps, using specific visual language and data (see, *e.g.* Akerman, 2009). We want to analyze to which extent those can be traced in the early Soviet cartography with its strong influence in producing specific spatial "truths". Therefore, we particularly aim to focus on some examples of geographical atlases produced in the 1920s to 1940s.

With this paper, we want to open up the discussion about the "imperial" nature of the Soviet cartography, to which extent it contributed to the construction of the peripheries and "colonies" by the Soviet state and to define particular approaches in data selection and visual representation, which contribute to the production of this imperial spatial representations.

### SOURCES:

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### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Olesia Ignateva is a beginner scholar and university assistant at the Cartography Research Division at the Vienna University of Technology.

Sofia Gavrilova is a geographer and cartographer. Since 2020 she has been a researcher at Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) in Leipzig.

Jana Moser is head of the department of Cartography and Visual Communication" at IfL Leipzig.

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<sup>1</sup> TU Vienna. E-mail: olesia.ignateva@tuwien.ac.at

<sup>2</sup> Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography. E-mail: s\_gavrilova@leibniz-ifl.de; j\_moser@leibniz-ifl.de

# **Surveying the (Post)Colony: India, Africa and the Persistence of Colonial Cartography**

Philip JAGESSAR<sup>1</sup>

## **ABSTRACT**

A growing body of research in the history of cartography has focused on the legacy and evolution of imperial mapping during and after decolonization (Akerman, 2017), alongside more conceptual work looking to decolonize mapping in theory and praxis (Rose-Redwood, 2020). However, there are very few comparative studies of the continuities and changes in surveying and mapping during decolonization. India, which gained independence in 1947, and the British colonies of Africa, which mostly achieved independence in the 1950s and 1960s, provide an interesting comparative study of how colonialism shaped cartographic institutions in these new nations and how imperial surveys persisted in different forms and contexts, including in the transfer of surveying staff from India to Africa.

This paper comparatively examines the legacy of British colonial surveying and mapping in India and in its African colonies during and after decolonization. It shows that in India, the Survey of India largely underwent changes in the years before independence which greatly "Indianized" the Survey, although its highest officers remained British. Partition saw the Survey split between Pakistan and India yet, within a decade, it was managed and staffed by Indian officers and retained its status as an international cartographic agency. In Africa, on the other hand, British surveying proved more enduring through the Directorate of Colonial Surveys and subsequently the Directorate of Overseas Surveys based in Britain, which largely continued to produce maps for African nations after independence. This paper argues that, unlike in India, cartography and surveying in Africa after decolonization was framed in terms of development, especially through the Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan and its sponsorship of surveys and map production.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Currently a Wellcome Trust Research Fellow at King's College London, exploring public health maps and surveys in colonial India. Previously completed a PhD at the University of Nottingham on language mapping and the Linguistic Survey of India.

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<sup>1</sup> King's College London. E-mail: philip.jagessar@kcl.ac.uk

# Post-Colonial National Atlases – Celebrating Realizations of Independence or Sustaining Colonial Structures?

Eric LOSANG<sup>1</sup>

## Keywords

Postcolonialism; National Atlas; Atlas Narrative.

## Abstract

The end of colonial Empires in the aftermath of WW II, 50 colonies became independent by 1970, is one of the most important political movements of the 20th century. In the process, not only was the state-organized oppression of indigenous peoples by colonial rulers ended, but self-responsible states were created, often thanks to the assistance of the former colonisers.

The following reorganization as national states reflected former territorial boundaries, whether it was administrative distributions within the former colonial empire (North-West Africa) or creation of demarcation lines between empires (Central and East Africa). These boundaries represent a double-edged sword, still today, strengthening the identity of specific ethnical groups by splitting others. Under these circumstances nation-building became a rather difficult task that involved numerous post-colonial civil wars in former colonies.

The paper considers the publication of initial post-colonial national atlases that often aim to build national identity and construct national coherence through a multilevel analysis that compares visualization modes, elements of map languages, narrative structures and the production processes and milieus.

The paper also compares elements of pre-independence atlases, produced as territorial statements by the former colonial powers and elements in national atlases that were produced 25 or more year after gaining sovereignty in the context of nation building. In addition, the paper will point out colonial and post-colonial narratives in the aforementioned atlases and relate them to different notions of the term nation as either inclusive or exclusive construction.

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<sup>1</sup> Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig, Germany.



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