

Preface

This volume comprises most of the research presented at the 3rd International Symposium of the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography which took place at the University of Texas at Arlington on October 11–12, 2010. Its appearance in published form sets it apart from the proceedings of the 1st International Symposium (2006 Utrecht, NL) and the 2nd International Symposium (2008 Portsmouth, UK) which have been made accessible through the Commission's website only. The publication of this volume was made possible by forging of a new partnership between the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and the international publishing house Springer-Verlag, an agreement which has afforded this Commission the opportunity to present its most recent research findings to a much wider audience. Hoping that this volume would be the first in a series on the history of cartography deriving from future symposia, it might not be inappropriate to also provide some background on the ICA and its Commission on the History of Cartography.

The International Cartographic Association was founded in 1959 and, as the world authoritative body on cartography, it has as its mission the promotion of the discipline and profession of cartography on as wide a scale as possible. The ICA is basically a technical organisation of professional cartographers who are concerned with current aspects of researching, compiling, and producing maps. As historical maps and historical cartographic material are an integral part of any modern cartographic database, the ICA also maintains a keen interest in research on the evolution of modern cartography. It is towards this end that an ICA Working Group on the History of Cartography was formed already in 1972. Since 1979 this Working Group has the status of a full Commission which today encourages the active involvement of all interested researchers and institutions in this field. Further information on the activities of the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography can be obtained from the Commission's website at www.ichistcarto.org

The history of cartography covers a vast field of knowledge and includes virtually all maps and map-like graphics made by humankind since prehistoric times. Map compilation and map use today are, however, seldom dependent on maps which were produced before early modern times. Taking this into account, the ICA Commission decided to concentrate on the history of cartography since

the Enlightenment and, more specifically, on cartographic developments during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

As already mentioned, this volume emanates from the 3rd International Symposium of the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography. As is customary with symposia of this kind, the 2010 conference in Texas had a general theme which, in this case, was “Charting the Cartography of Chartered Companies”. Chartered Companies were decided on as they played an important role in semi-official overseas exploration, trade, expansion, and colonial power. These companies relied upon maps and charts for planning, implementation and operation, and often employed their own surveyors and map making departments. While contributions towards this general theme were encouraged, the symposium was also open to relevant research on other cartographic endeavours than Chartered Companies.

To foster co-operation and also broaden the discussion, the ICA Commission on Maps and Society was invited to join the Symposium in Arlington. This Commission made a contribution from a social sciences perspective as represented in the papers of Peggy Allison, Berenika Byszewski, and the convener of the group, Jörn Seemann. The fact that the Commission on the History of Cartography does not only have a mandate to investigate and put on record the history of paper maps, but also to document the history of Geographic Information Science, manifested in a special exhibition and a paper session at the Symposium presented by the United States Geological Survey. Important contributions by and in association with this institution are the papers by Patrick McHaffie, Lynn Usery, and Dalia Varanka which focus on the twentieth century evolution from aerial to digital cartography.

As is evident from the above this volume contains papers on the general theme of Chartered Companies as well as papers on a wider array of themes within the field of historical cartography. Unfortunately some papers which were presented at the Symposium could not be included. This caveat could, however, be balanced out by the papers of accepted presenters who were unable to present their research personally.

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