

Preface

This volume comprises most of the research papers presented at the 4th International Symposium of the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography which took place at the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, Hungary, on June 28–29, 2012. As such this is the second volume in a series which has been made possible through the partnership between the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and the international publishing house of Springer-Verlag.

The ICA 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 regarding researching, compiling and producing maps. As historical maps and historical cartographic material are in integral part of any modern cartographic database, the ICA also maintains a keen interest in the research on the evolution of modern cartography. In its effort to promote this interest, the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography considers it its responsibility to encourage the active involvement of all interested researchers and institutions in this field.

The history of cartography covers a vast field of knowledge and includes 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. With this point in mind, 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.

The 4th International Symposium of the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography had, as its general theme, “Exploration—Discovery—Cartography”. The nineteenth century was a period characterised by a quest for empirical knowledge with regard to the geography of the earth, marked by voyages of exploration by sea and land. The exploration undertaken by governments, institutions and individuals inevitably led to discovery as well as to mapping which filled up the empty white spaces so common on maps of the eighteenth century. While contributions towards this general theme were encouraged, the Symposium was also open to relevant research on cartographic endeavours other than exploratory mapping. At the symposium in Budapest 24 papers were presented, and this volume contains the

revised and edited version of twenty of these. Some papers could unfortunately not be included, and because of limited space, none of the eight poster presentations could be published.

We would like to acknowledge our gratitude to the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, and especially to the Head of the Department of Cartography and Geoinformatics and Secretary-General of the ICA, Prof. László Zentai, for the logistic support he rendered during the Symposium. We are also indebted to the Director of the University Library, Dr. László Szögi, and to Dr. Máté János Bíbor and his colleagues at the Library's Department of Special Collections, as well as to Mrs. Marianna Nyitrai and her staff, for the map exhibition and reception in the library building. The symposium participants are grateful to Ph.D. students Domonkos Hillier, Ádám Bérces and János Jeney for their technical assistance throughout the meeting. Finally, we gratefully acknowledge the kind assistance of Ms. Agata Oelschläger of Springer-Verlag towards the production of this book.

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