

Preface

This volume comprises most of the research papers presented at the 5th International Symposium of the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography which took place at Ghent University in Ghent, Belgium, on 2–5 December, 2014. As such it is the third 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 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 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 5th International Symposium of the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography had as its general theme “Cartography in Times of War and Peace”. The Symposium was jointly organised by the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography, the ICA Commission on Map Production and Geo-Business, and the Brussels Map Circle (BMC) in collaboration with the Department of Geography of Ghent University, and the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO). The various paper sessions were held at Ghent University’s conference centre “Het Pand”.

The main focus of the Symposium was on Military Cartography in commemoration of the First World War (1914–1918), also known as the ‘Great War’. The ICA Commission acknowledged the fact that the First World War was the world’s first truly global conflict as the battle raged not just in the trenches of the Western Front, but also in Africa, in the Middle East, and in Asia, and that military maps and mapping played a decisive role in all these areas. With 2014 being the centenary of the outbreak of the War, and the conference venue in Ghent situated so close to the actual war zone of 1914–1918, contributions on military cartography during World War I were encouraged. The Symposium was, however, also open to contributions on military mapping executed in various parts of the world before and after World War I.

To foster cooperation and also broaden the discussion, the ICA Commission on Map Production and Geo-Business joined the Symposium in Ghent. This Commission made a contribution from a map production perspective by organising the Second EuroSDR Workshop on the “Preservation of the Geographical Production Process” immediately prior to the Symposium. The initiative was supported by EuroSDR (EuroSpatial Data Research), EuroGeographics (the Association of European National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies), the ICA and the National Geographic Institute Belgium. The aim of the Workshop was to bring the dwindling knowledge on cartographic production methods of the pre-digital era to the attention of European National Mapping Agencies, academic institutions, museums, private companies, ICA members, and other interested parties and to ask for their cooperation in addressing this situation. The ICA Commission on the History of Cartography pledged its support for this venture and undertook to investigate to what extent pre-digital map production processes and procedures have been archived and documented by National Mapping Agencies.

To complement the Symposium, the former Map Librarian of the Royal Geographical Society in London, Francis Herbert, kindly exhibited 130 military maps and postcards from his private collections. The maps and postcards, of which a comprehensive bibliography appears in this volume, covered various military events such as the Crimean War, the Boer War, the First World War, and the Second World War.

We would like to acknowledge out gratitude to Ghent University, and especially to the Head of the Department of Geography and Chair of the ICA Commission on Map Production and Geo-Business, Prof Philippe De Maeyer, for the logistic support he rendered during the Symposium. We are also indebted to Ms Helga Vermeulen for her continued administrative support before, during and after the Symposium, and to Michiel Van den Berghe for putting his technical knowledge re digital matters to our disposal. Finally, we gratefully acknowledge the kind assistance of Ms Agata Oelschlaeger and Ms Ragavia Ramakrishnan of Springer-Verlag towards the production of this book.

Pretoria, RSA
Arlington, Texas, USA
Ghent, Belgium

Elri Liebenberg
Imre Josef Demhardt
Soetkin Vervust

History of Military Cartography

5th International Symposium of the ICA Commission on
the History of Cartography, 2014

Liebenberg, E.; Demhardt, I.J.; Vervust, S. (Eds.)

2016, XI, 375 p. 165 illus., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-25242-1