

Symposium: The West India Company and Cartography

27--6-2023, Biblioteca Nacional, Rio de Janeiro

10-13.00 Brazilian time

15-18.00, Dutch time

The objective of this symposium is to study different aspects of cartography and its relevance for the West India Company (WIC). The cartography of the Atlantic started already at the end of the sixteenth before the WIC was established in 1621 as skippers and pilots were required to keep logbooks of their trips. Maps were either drawn by those who had seen the place or based on information gathered from witnesses.

Cartography was crucial for the West India Company and the East India Company. In fact, for all those involved in exploring other countries and continents. Coastlines were important as was the knowledge of enemy fortifications.

While Spaniards and Portuguese followed a policy of secrecy concerning maps, the Republic went for openness. In Leiden a course was set up in Dutch, and not in Latin as was usual for university courses, for cartographers, cosmographers, architects, surveyors and military engineers. The courses included mathematical sciences. And how to become a pilot of a ship. Maps were being corrected, improved all the time. Famous cartographers were Joan Blaeu and Johannes Vingboons. For Brazil, Georg Markgraf has made extremely precise maps

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This symposium will be partly presencial, partly on-line

10.00 10-10

Chairperson: Marianne L. Wiesebron

Associate Professor, Leiden University, ret.

Words ofwelcome and introduction

10-10.10.20

Palavras de bem-vindas pela Biblioteca Nacional

10.20-10.25

Translation time / tradução

10.25-10.45

Maria Dulce de Faria,

Map Librarian Chief of the Cartographic Sectionn, Fundação Biblioteca Nacional

The cartographic collection of Dutch Brazil at the National Library of Brazil

The National Library of Brazil has about fifty cartographic materials of the Dutch Brazil period. They are maps and atlases showing the topographic and coastal surveys as well as the

conquests carried out by the Dutch West Indies Company or WIC (Westindische Compagnie) in the Northeast of Brazil. All of this copper-engraved material (maps, charts and views) was produced by great Dutch cartographers, such as Blaeu, Visscher, Danckerts, Gerritz Doncker van Keulen and others. There are also anonymous maps depicting the attempt to conquer Bahia de Todos os Santos by the Dutch, and their victories in Pernambuco, Paraíba and Rio Grande do Norte. In addition, there are geographical atlases and journeys in several sections of the National Library of Brazil, such as *...Rerum per octennium in Brasilia et alibi nuper gestarum* by Barlaeus, *De Zee-atlas* by Doncker, French edition *De nieuwe groote lichtende zee-fakkel* printed by van keulen” and others. Finally, the Cartographic Section is taking inventory of Dutch Brazil collection in others sections of the National Library to better identify maps and/or loose sheets that were part of the books.

10-45-10-55

Questions and comments

10.55-11.05

Translation time / tradução

11.05-11.25

Raymond Buve,
emeritus professor from Leiden University,

The expedition of 1643 to Chile.

Johan Maurits van Nassau, Governor-General of Dutch Brazil proposed in 1642 to the WIC and the States-General to send an expedition to the South of Chile in order to create a naval base for the WIC that could be used as a basis for privateering against Spanish interests in the Pacific. The cartographic knowledge of the navigating officers of this expedition was based on maps of earlier Dutch privateering expeditions. These maps and the maps made by the navigating officers of the 1643 expedition to Chile can be found in the National Archive in The Hague (HANA) and they will be shown in this presentation.

11.25-11.35

Questions and comments

11.35-11.45

Translation time / tradução

11.45-12.05

Oscar Hefting, New Holland Foundation,

Mapping Africa

Cartography of Africa by the Dutch in the 16th and 17th Century

The mapping of Africa by the Dutch started at the end of the 16th Century. The importance lay in copying the route of the Portuguese to the East Indies. This successful spying resulted in the

founding of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) in 1602. Cartography of Africa was focused on the sea-route to the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) and the food stations of Saint Helena, Mauritius and, after 1652, Cape Town.

At the same time, merchants from the Dutch province 'Zeeland' tried to get a trading-position in West Africa. A first, unstable, position was obtained in 1612 by building Fort Nassau on the Gold Coast. Only when John Maurice of Nassau sent a fleet to Elmina Castle (1637-1872) and Luanda (1641-1648), more stable locations were obtained. In his presentation, Hefting will show the maps of the Dutch East – (VOC) and Dutch West India Company (WIC), and how they varied because of their different objectives.

12.05-12.10

Questions and comments

12.10-12.20

Translation time / tradução

12.20-12.40

**Júlio Bandeira, researcher, Biblioteca Nacional,
Cartographic vignettes and cartouches as a narrative**

The subject of this lecture is the importance of map illustration that has been capital in the 16th and 17th centuries' cartography, lasting until the Ottocento. The ornamental features in those maps supplement travel literature related to Brazil displaying narratives that circulated in Europe, and described, imagining, the territory of Brazil. This lecture would enhance the contribution of artists such as Albert Eckhout and Frans Post with garlands, architectures, topographic depictions and naval warfare illustrations in Marcgraf surveys of Dutch Brazil, as the early drawings by anonymous artists showing cannibals feasting and battles between different tribes that originally occupied the territory of Portuguese America.

12.40-12.50

Questions and comments

12.50-13.00

Translation time / tradução

13.00 **Marianne L. Wiesebron** closing words