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Map Matters



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Welcome to the "Autumn" 2010 edition of *Map Matters*, the newsletter of the Australia on the Map Division of the Australasian Hydrographic Society.



If you have any contributions or suggestions for *Map Matters*, you can email them to me at: fgeurts@vtown.com.au, or post them to me at:

GPO Box 1781,
Canberra, 2601

Frank Geurts
Editor

News

James Cook's Hydrography Teacher: Samuel Holland

The website of the Australian Hydrographic Service states that "its traditions and methods take their origins from those of the Royal Navy and the pioneers of hydrography". These include names "synonymous with Australian history", it states somewhat enthusiastically, "such as...". Then it provides a list of names, with James Cook being the first. As so often when a "first" is attributed to James Cook, there is a Dutchman lurking somewhere who made it possible. For example, when one attributes the "European discovery" of the Australian east coast to him, we find him guided by a map charted by Dutch mariners, including the VOC Captain Abel Tasman. The maps not only told him that the east coast existed but roughly where it was located. Cook's visit to New Zealand had similarly been preceded by Tasman's visit there. Historians always look for forward and backward linkages. It prevents us from deifying those lucky persons, who were capable of doing the right thing when they happened to be sent to the right place at the right time. We begin to understand why it would have happened the way it did.



Samuel
Holland

Why was Cook a hydrographer?

When we ask how Cook became such a skilled hydrographer we see history repeating itself. We find another Dutchman, an officer in the British Army, Captain Samuel Holland. In those days it was not commonplace that British naval officers were expert in the science of geodesy, i.e. in the making of accurate charts themselves. The expedition Cook was to embark on in 1768, however, required not only a leader and a good navigator, but also someone who could produce an accurate map from coastal observations and locate it accurately on the globe. It would have been unacceptable for the Admiralty to send a naval officer who returned, indicating that the east coast of New Holland had been sighted, but sorry, an accurate map could not be produced. Cook, as we know, made a very good map of most of the continent's east coast, naming it New South Wales, its west coast (i.e. of Cape York) having already been charted earlier by Dutch mariners. Cook's efforts to learn surveying and those individuals who made the time, effort and resources available to teach him, therefore contributed greatly to his place in history. From an AHS view of history it is always relevant to ponder the source and quality of the hydrographic knowledge involved, as much as it is about getting that knowledge "out there" when required. Many speculative words have been written based on 16th century maps, with information of supposedly Portuguese origin allegedly showing Australia. As AOTM Division's Robert King explained in his recent article in *The Globe* (62:1-50), such maps had little to do with hydrography and hence are unreliable, indeed useless, in proving an historical theory.

Holland in The Netherlands

JC Beaglehole, in his *The Life of Captain Cook* relied on Willis Chipman's 1924 book *The Life and Times of Samuel Holland, Surveyor General (1764-1801)* in claiming "He was a Dutchman and born in the same year as Cook". It now appears that both writers had Samuel Johan Holland's place and year of birth wrong, as more recent research shows he was most likely born in 1729 in the Dutch city of Deventer (pronounced "day-ven-tur").¹ Holland's parents died young and he was brought up by two aunts. They provided him with private tuition, including mathematics, English and French. He became an army cadet in 1745, where he chose artillery because of his interest in mathematics and military engineering. This included ballistics, but also design, construction, defending, attacking and demolition of fortifications, and hence surveying and mapping.

In 1749 Holland married the sister of a colleague. Unfortunately their only child died young and the couple grew apart and they decided to part. It was the time of the War of Austrian Succession, when the Netherlands, England and Austria were on the same side. Opposing them was France, the real superpower in Europe, allied with a number of other nations. Holland fought in various theatres, including Hulst and Bergen op Zoom, both being ultimately taken by the French. He surveyed and made maps of several fortified towns including those two and of Nijmegen, near where he had been married. During the war he had frequent contact with English troops and his skills were noticed by the Duke of Richmond. He was offered a lieutenancy in the Royal American Regiment of Foot in March 1756, which would fight the French in North America.

North American war.

In 1756, war had broken out between France and Great Britain. In North America, hostilities between American and Canadian colonists had erupted two years previously. The war led to the fall of New France. Samuel Holland would be embroiled in this "Seven Years War". In North America a hurricane had almost destroyed the British fleet, and the planned assault on Quebec was postponed. Holland was under the command of General Amherst on the second expedition against Louisburg in 1758, where he distinguished himself in obtaining highly accurate charted reconnaissance information whilst under fire. This did not go unnoticed and Brigade General Wolfe, his immediate commander, gave Holland the command of the decisive northwest attack on Louisville. After Louisville fell on 26

July, Holland was ordered to survey its fortifications and the surrounds. When making observations in the field at Kensington Cove he was spotted by James Cook, Sailmaster of the navy ship *Pembroke*. Cook asked him to teach him the science of accurate charting. Holland agreed and they started the next day at a beach near White Point. Captain Simco of the *Pembroke*, Cook's commanding officer, was very supportive of this initiative. Cook and Holland would regularly meet onboard in Simco's cabin in the period before the attack on Quebec. There was ample time to study and to practise, basically the whole winter of 1758, and Holland was able to provide a wealth of books for his student. In November the *Pembroke* sailed for Halifax where the British forces were quartered for the winter. There was a lack of reliable charts for an attack on Quebec and Holland, who was also fluent in French, was required to assess existing material, mainly French, and add to it.

Cook becoming a surveyor

With Cook at his side Holland embarked on making accurate maps of the area around Halifax, work that would continue after the war. The result was a map titled: "A New Chart of the River Saint Lawrence from the Island of Anticosti to the falls of Richelieu, with all the Islands, Rocks, Shoals and Soundings". A later photo taken from outer space overlaid on the chart would show barely any discrepancies. It would get the ships safely through the Saint Lawrence River to Quebec, greatly contributing to taking the city from the French. Cook's contribution whilst learning his art made him into a formidable surveyor. He was lucky finding such a knowledgeable teacher, keen to pass on as much knowledge as possible. The son of Captain Simco, John Graves Simco, later Governor of Upper Canada, changed the name of Lake Toronto to Lake Simco in honour of his father. He called the southern arm Cook Bay, with flowing into it - Holland River. How symbolic. Holland married again in North America and had ten children by his de facto and later legal wife Marie-Joseph Rollet. Samuel Holland became the first Surveyor General in Canadian history and surveyed many districts for the first time. He made trips to Britain in 1784 and 1787. He is an important person in the history of science and technology in Canada, recognized for his role in setting high standards of accuracy in mapping and in training surveyors and cartographers. He was also famous in the northern United States for mapping and his contributions to boundary settlements. Having trained James Cook in geodesy makes his role highly relevant as well in terms of its contribution to the history of Australia. Major Samuel Holland died 28 December 1801 at Quebec. Indeed, even today, some of the "traditions and methods" of the Australian Hydrographic Service will have had their origins with Samuel Holland.

Peter Reynders

1. http://www.lowensteyn.com/Samuel_Holland/index.html

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Dirk Hartog's Landing on Beach, the Gold-bearing Province

With the Dirk Hartog 400th Anniversary coming up Robert's article illustrates the historical context to his contact with west coast (Ed.).

When Dirk Hartog landed in October 1616 on the coast of Western Australia, what was subsequently called Eendracht Land after his ship, he would not have been surprised to perceive that it was evidently part of a land of continental extent. Maps of the time showed a part of the southern continent, the *Terra Australis*, projecting northward beyond the Tropic of Capricorn in more or less that location. That land was the Kingdom of Locach, also known as *Beach*.

Linschoten's
Iterario
(showing
Beach on
right)



Beach appeared on maps of the time, notably that of Abraham Ortelius of 1570 and that of Jan Huygen van Linschoten of 1596, as the northernmost part of the southern continent, the *Terra Australis*, along with *Locach*. According to Marco Polo, *Locach* was a kingdom where gold was “so plentiful that no none who did not see it could believe it”. *Beach* was in fact a mistranscription of *Locach*, which was Marco Polo’s name for the southern Thai kingdom of Lavo, or Lop Buri, the “city of Lavo”, (after *Lavo*, the son of Rama in Hindu mythology).¹ In Chinese (Cantonese), Lavo was pronounced “Lo-huk” (𨮒), from which Marco Polo took his rendition of the name.² In the German cursive script, “Locach” and “Beach” look similar, and in the 1532 edition of Marco Polo’s *Travels* published by Simon Grynaeus and Johann Huttich, his *Locach* was changed to *Boëach*, later shortened to *Beach*.³ They seem to have drawn on the mappemonde published in Florence in 1489 by Henricus Martellus (the latinized form of Heinrich Hammer’s name), in which *provincia boëach* appears as the southern neighbour of *provincia ciamba* (Champa, in what is now south-central Vietnam). Book III of Marco Polo’s *Travels* described his journey by sea from China to India by way of Champa, Java (which he called *Java Major*), *Locach* and Sumatra (called *Java Minor*). After a chapter describing the kingdom of Champa there follows a chapter describing Java (which he did not visit himself).⁴ The narrative then resumes, describing the route southward from Champa toward Sumatra, but by a slip of the pen the name “Java” was substituted for “Champa” as the point of departure, locating Sumatra 1,300 miles to the south of Java instead of Champa. *Locach*, located between Champa and Sumatra, was likewise mis-placed far to the south of Java, by some geographers on or near an extension of the *Terra Australis*.⁵ As explained by Sir Henry Yule, the editor of an English edition of Marco Polo’s

Travels: “Some geographers of the 16th century, following the old editions which carried the travellers south-east of Java to the land of “Boeach” (or Locac), introduced in their maps a continent in that situation”.⁶

Gerard Mercator did just that on his 1541 globe, placing *Beach provincia aurifera* (“Beach the gold-bearing province”) in the northernmost part of the *Terra Australis* in accordance with the faulty text of Marco Polo’s *Travels*. It remained in this location on his world map of 1569 with *Lucach regnum* shown somewhat to its south west, with the amplified description, quoting Marco Polo, *Beach provincia aurifera quam pauci ex alienis regionibus adeunt propter gentis inhumanitatem* (“Beach the gold-bearing province, wither few go from other countries because of the savagery of its people”).⁷



The *Eendracht*

Following Mercator, Abraham Ortelius also showed *BEACH* and *LVCACH* in these locations on his world map of 1571. In England, the cosmographer John Dee became fascinated by *BEACH* shown in the atlas of Ortelius, and in the context of preparations for Francis Drake’s expedition to the South Sea, urged his countrymen to make the voyage to the golden province.⁸ Likewise, Linschoten’s very popular 1596 map of the East Indies (pictured) showed *BEACH provincia aurifera* projecting from the map’s southern edge. Frederick de Houtman said in a letter to Prince Maurice, that in July 1619 on a voyage from the Cape of Good Hope to Batavia in the VOC ship *Dordrecht*, he and his companion ship the *Amsterdam* under Jacob Dedel had reached the *Southland*, or *Beach* in 32°20’ and in 27°40’, which “was the land discovered by the *Eendracht*”.⁹ In 1642, the Council of Batavia, no doubt encouraged by Hartog’s and Houtman’s confirmation of the existence of this land, despatched Abel Tasman and Franchoijs Visscher on a voyage of which one of the objects was to obtain knowledge of “all the totally unknown provinces of Beach”.¹⁰

Robert King

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2. Paul Pelliot, *Notes on Marco Polo*, Paris, Imprimerie Nationale, 1963, Vol.II, pp.768-9, note 2.
3. Simon Grynaeus and Johann Huttich, *Novus Orbis Regionum ac Insularum*, Basel and Paris, 1532, Marco Polo cap.xi, “De provincia Boëach”; cited in Thomas Suarez, *Early Mapping of Southeast Asia, Hong Kong, Periplus*, 1999, p.160.
4. Milione: il Milione nelle redazioni toscana e franco-italiana, *Le Divisament dou Monde*, Gabriella Ponchi ed., Milano, Arnoldo Mondadori Editore, 1982, p.540: cap. clxiii, “La grant isle de Java”.
5. James R. McClymont, “The Theory of an Antipodal Southern Continent during the Sixteenth Century”,

Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, Hobart, January 1892, Hobart, the Association, 1893, pp.442-462; Paul Pelliot, Notes on Marco Polo, Paris, Imprimerie Nationale, 1963, Vol.II, p.769.

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7. Gerhard Mercator and Antoine de Smet, Les Spheres terrestre e celeste de Gerard Mercator, 1541 et 1551: reproductions anastatiques des fuseaux originaux gravé par Gerard Mercator et conserves a la Bibliotheque royale a Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Editions Culture et Civilisation, 1968; Peter van der Krogt, Globi Neerlandici: The Production of Globes in the Low Countries, Utrecht, HES Publishers, 1993, p.64, plate 2.14.
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9. Frederik Willem Stapel, De Oostindische Compagnie en Australië, Amsterdam, P.N. van Kampen, 1937, pp.11 and 28.
10. J.E. Heeres, "Abel Janszoon Tasman, His Life and Labours", Abel Tasman's Journal, Los Angeles, 1965, pp.137, 141-2; cited in Andrew Sharp, The Voyages of Abel Janszoon Tasman, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1968, p.24.

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The Thévenot Map: NLA Acquires Rare Maps of Australia

The unveiling of Australia's coasts to the rest of the world was a process that took over 200 years. It began when the Dutch ship, the *Duyfken*, under Willem Janszoon, charted about 300 km of the western side of Cape York in 1606, and was completed with the publication of the Freycinet Map in 1811, and the Flinders Map in 1814.

Hollandia Nova detecta
1644; *Terre Australe*
decouverte l'an 1644



The original chart made by the *Duyfken* has been lost, although there are copies in existence dating from 1670. The first time Australia makes its appearance on a map, however, was in 1622 with the publication of the Gerritsz Map of the Pacific Ocean.

This showed a coastline running south of New Guinea, the part of west Cape York charted by the *Duyfken*.

As time went by, more of Australia's coasts were mapped, sometimes as result of accidental contact or shipwrecks, sometimes as a result of deliberate exploration. Two of the more formidable voyages to Australia were undertaken by Abel Janszoon Tasman, in 1642 to Tasmania (and then New Zealand), and in 1644 along the north coast from Cape York in Queensland to North West Cape in Western Australia. Tasman's voyages added considerably to what was known of Australia.

Melchisédech Thévenot (1620-1692) was an author, scientist, traveller, cartographer, diplomat, Orientalist, inventor (of the spirit level), and at one time, Royal Librarian to Louis XIV. While he wrote one of the earliest books on swimming in 1696, *The Art of Swimming*, Thévenot is perhaps better remembered for his book, *Relations de divers voyages curieux*. This was a collection of travel writings, sketches and maps published in five parts between 1663 and 1696. Included in part 5 is an account of the wreck of the *Batavia* on the Abrolhos Islands in Western Australia in 1629, and extracts from Abel Tasman's journal. More importantly, *Relations* also contains a map of Australia showing the full extent of cartographic knowledge of the continent up to 1644. That map, shown below, is entitled *Hollandia Nova detecta 1644; Terre Australe decouuerte l'an 1644*. As can be seen, the map shows about two-thirds of Australia had been mapped, and includes detail of Tasmania as well as New Zealand.

The National Library of Australia recently acquired a rare copy of *Relations de divers voyages curieux* containing the *Hollandia Nova detecta 1644* map. Understandably, the Curator of Maps, Dr Martin Woods, was "delighted with the acquisition which would complement the library's extensive collection of maps and travel writings." Dr Woods pointed out that this map was in fact "used for reference by James Cook aboard the *Endeavour* in 1770".

One of the notable aspects of the map is the relative position of some of the features portrayed. For example, islands at the eastern end of the Indonesian archipelago are misplaced, so that the island of Timor is shown north of the Northern Territory coast. Tasmania, on the other hand appears well west of its true position. A curious element is the vertical line running through the centre of the map, marked with latitudinal divisions. Although not indicated, this was probably intended to show the antimeridian of the line arising from the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494, where the world was divided into the Spanish and Portuguese hemispheres. But perhaps the most impressive thing about the Thévenot Map, which anyone who has seen a facsimile of this map, or the original as I have been privileged to do, is the realisation of just how much of Australia had already been mapped by 1644.

Rupert Gerritsen

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ANZMaps website

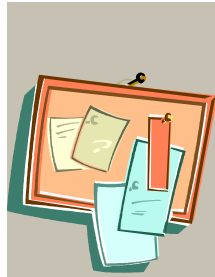
For the ANZMaps website, go to:
www.anzmaps.org

ANZMaps is an amalgamation with the former Australian and New Zealand Map Societies, and is called ANZMaps - Australian and New Zealand Map Society. It has just launched a new website **www.anzmaps.org** which you might like to look at.

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Projects update

A snapshot of some of the AOTM Division projects initiated or underway.



National Events Corporation

To have a National Events Corporation established to provide a permanent governmental structure and funding stream for commemorations of national significance. Proposal has been put before the Government and Opposition. Strategy to be reviewed.

Explorers Commemorative Area in Parliamentary Triangle

To have an area set aside within the Parliamentary Triangle for the erection of statues, monuments and other commemorative structures to mark significant landmarks in the maritime discovery, contact and exploration of Australia. Information received that Windsor Walk has been designated, letter written to the Prime Minister as Chair of National Memorials Committee urging designation of a more prominent and visible location. Next step dependent on response to letter to PM.

200th Anniversary Freycinet Map Exhibition 2011

To foster exhibitions and events to mark the publication of the Freycinet Map, the 1st complete map of Australia. To take place in 2011. Strategy of engaging with French community and alerting libraries and museums and other interested parties implemented. Next steps include continued circulation of the image of the 1811 map to promote wider awareness, and further engagement with French community.

2014 – The Naming of Australia – The Flinders Map of 1814

To foster suitable commemorations of the 200th anniversary of the publication of Matthew Flinders' map of Australia, which led to the adoption the name of Australia. National and Australasian State Libraries alerted to significance. Next steps are to await formal response to letter to NSLA and the formation of a working party.

2016 Dirk Hartog 400th Anniversary

Consultations have taken place with stakeholders, discussions held with Dutch Ambassador, organisational structure under consideration by stakeholders, and notional event program being developed. Aims and Objectives finalised. Statement on historical significance finalised. Next steps include further consultation in the near future with other stakeholders to clarify proposed organisational structure and develop proposed event program

Refuge Bay Project

To ensure an appropriate memorial is erected at "The Basin" in Sydney Harbour in recognition of the formulation of the first draft of the Australian Constitution at that location. Working group formed, historical significance documented, historical maps located, bay resurveyed, article written. National Heritage List nomination prepared and submitted. Awaiting outcome of nomination for National Heritage List

Lord Howe Island

A project to document and display the maritime history of Lord Howe Island. Scope of project has been agreed. Work to continue on preparation of material for posting or publication on early history and heritage of Lord Howe Island.

Search for Deadwater Wreck

To stimulate or if necessary organise a search for the remains of the "Deadwater Wreck" north of Busselton, WA. Archaeological consultant identified, funding submissions under consideration. Awaiting outcome of current submissions, further submissions may need to be made.

Early Indigenous/Indian Contact

To research pre- and early post-colonial contact and interaction between Indigenous Australians and people of Indian descent. Research plan developed. including prehistory research component and historical research component.

Next steps include completion of prehistory research component and historical research component.

Research on Sailors/Aboriginal Interaction in WA (linguistics, genetics, biogeography, epidemiology, oral traditions)

Collaboration with possible research project in this area. Up to three DNA testing projects possibly in progress or under consideration. One project has been receiving media attention. Awaiting outcome of testing and possible publication of results by one of the research projects

Ship Images Project

A project to place photos and illustrations of iconic vessels, replicas and models on website. Project reformulated to current form. Ships types identified. Working on drawings of ship types and main structural components identified and drawings nearing completion. Drawings of ship types and main structural components of sailing ships to be completed and scanned.

Animated Map

Arrange publication and widespread distribution of the "Dunny Door" version of map of significant early voyages and maritime exploration of Australia's coasts. Hard draft of maps and information bites have been finalised. Design of map and information hierarchy has been developed. Webmaster will provide GIS expertise and graphic design. Plotting of ships' routes and graphic representation to continue.

Translation Projects

Translation of selected texts relating to early Australian maritime contact and exploration. A number of small amendments to online translation of VOC Charter made on expert advice. First translation (La VOC – Eylandt's Mauritius and Rodrigues) has commenced and proceeding.

Curriculum Development

Fostering inclusion of early history framework in a national curriculum. National Curriculum issued, includes two units on early contact. Will review curriculum content when made public.

Centre of Excellence in Hydrography that incorporates a component of historical cartography

To have a Centre of Excellence established which teaches hydrography and cartography and related disciplines and technologies and incorporates a component of historical cartography. Strategic alliances being formed. Sources of funding to be identified at appropriate time.

Documentaries and Feature Films

To foster the production of TV documentaries and feature films on relevant aspects of early Australian history. Discussions held in last 18 months with three set of producers, advice and information provided on funding sources, historical background. Cook/Janszoon project nearing completion. Hartog project under development.

Members welcome

Meetings of the Australia on the Map Division Council are open to all AOTM members who can and would like to attend.



AOTM meets
monthly at
the
National
Library in
Canberra.

Meetings are held on the first Friday of the month, at 12.30pm in the Friends Lounge of the National Library of Australia in Canberra.

Contacts

How to contact the AOTM Division

For more information go to the AOTM website, www.australiaonthemap.org.au

Australia on the Map Division, Australasian Hydrographic Society

Chair

Rupert Gerritsen

email: rupertgerritsen@ozemail.com.au

Secretary & Treasurer

Peter Reynders

email: pbreynders@yahoo.com.au

Map Matters Editor

Frank Geurts

email: fgeurts@vtown.com.au