

IDENTIFYING AN UNDESCRIBED DANCKERTS ATLAS

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Összefoglalás - 1997-ben a szegedi József Attila Tudományegyetem Földrajzi Tanszékeinek Könyvtárában felbukkant egy eddig ismeretlen Danckerts atlasz. A mű pontos leírása és meghatározása során kiderült, hogy ez egy rendkívül ritka, szép és értékes, ám sajnos hiányos, a XVII. század végéről származó munka. A kutatás folyamán felszínre került tények felhívták a figyelmet arra, hogy a mértékadó nemzetközi szakirodalomban is több módosításra szoruló adat és elképzelés található.

Summary - In 1997 a heretofore unknown Danckerts atlas has come to light in the Library of Geography Departments of József Attila University (Szeged, Hungary). Scrutiny for identifying the work has resulted in establishing the volume as a remnant of an extremely rare and precious work from the late 17th century. The examination has also drawn attention to the necessary modification of recently accepted notions of the international carto-bibliography concerning the producing and publishing history of the Danckerts atlases.

Key words: map history, late 17th century Dutch atlas cartography, Danckerts family, Danckerts works, categories of Danckerts world atlases, identifying, collation.

INTRODUCTION

In February 1997, looking for books in the Library of Geography Departments of József Attila University (Szeged, Hungary), one of the authors hit upon an externally simple and plain volume among the atlases. To his great surprise, however, it turned out to be a volume comprising maps by Danckerts. Identifying the work with help of the library's catalogue and the inventory yielded no result for its catalogue card with description was missing and the noting in the inventory was anything but satisfying (*Fig. 1*). It was so raised the necessity for searching and finding out more and more accurate information concerning the given volume.

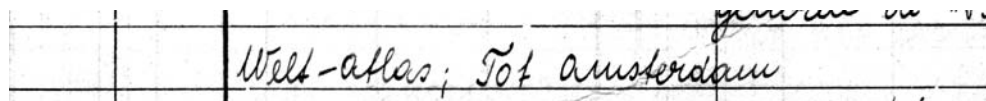


Fig. 1 The note of the inventory

The question can be brought up in the reader, of course, who is not so well up in the field of history of cartography and of carto-bibliography: what could be the importance of the emergence of the Danckerts atlas yet undescribed? A number of specialists, foreign and Hungarian (*Keuning*, 1955; *Stegena*, 1985; *Welu*, 1987; *Klinghammer*, 1995; *Wawrik*, 1995) are of the same opinion in that the Danckerts family was an outstanding representative of the 17th century Dutch cartography which at that time held a leading position in the field of mapmaking and -publishing in the world. "The characteristics of the atlas maps by the Danckerts, compared with those of other map publishers in Amsterdam are: they are clear and their scales are mostly larger than that of other maps of the period. Their cartographic works, compared with that published by the Blaeus or Janssonius¹, are attractive" (*Koeman*, 1969) (*Fig. 2, Fig. 3*). An author is also to be found who sees the most gifted copper-engraver of the 17th century in the person of Justus (I) (1635-1701), one of the members of the Danckerts family (*Allen*, 1994). Notwithstanding the concurring opinions, papers dealing in details with the Danckerts's life and their activity cannot almost be found. It is especially true of their atlases, the most important reason of which derives from the fact that only a very small amount of Danckerts atlases are recently known.

For arriving at a more successful examination and a better evaluation of the given Danckerts atlas work we had first and foremost to survey the available data referring to the Danckerts and their atlases.

THE DANCKERTS FAMILY

The Danckerts family (*Fig. 4*) was very large and ramifying having had a lot of members who were active in engraving on an artistic level. In this short view, however, we are dealing mainly with those who took part in the atlas production. As we will see, the biographical data give good assistance in determining the age of the Danckerts atlas guarded in József Attila University, Szeged.

The family's roots can be traced back to Cornelis Danckerts (1536-1595), a carpenter in Amsterdam. From his marriage with Lijsbet Cornelisdr two sons are known: Cornelis Danckerts de Rij (1561-1634) and Danckert Cornelisz (ca. 1580-1625). Cornelis and his descendants called themselves Danckerts de Rij. Danckerts Cornelisz who is at the root of the line we are now interested in was first a skipper then a stone merchant. He married Lijstbeth Jansdr, shortly after the turn of the century. Several members of his branch were well-known engravers-etchers, mapmakers and printsellers (*Keuning*, 1955). Danckert Cornelisz had two sons: Cornelis Danckerts (1603-1656) and Dancker Danckerts (1614-?).

Cornelis the elder brother established himself as an engraver, map- and artprint producer, printer and publisher in Amsterdam in the early 1630s. His shop was flourishing under his, the father's and his sons' and grandsons' direction in the second half of the 17th century as far as 1717 when the grandson Cornelis died. (Hereafter for distinguishing Cornelis the firm's founder and Cornelis, the grandson, Cornelis (I) and Cornelis (II) will be used,

Identifying an undescribed Danckerts atlas



Fig. 2 A part of the map No. 13



Fig. 3 A part of the map No. 9

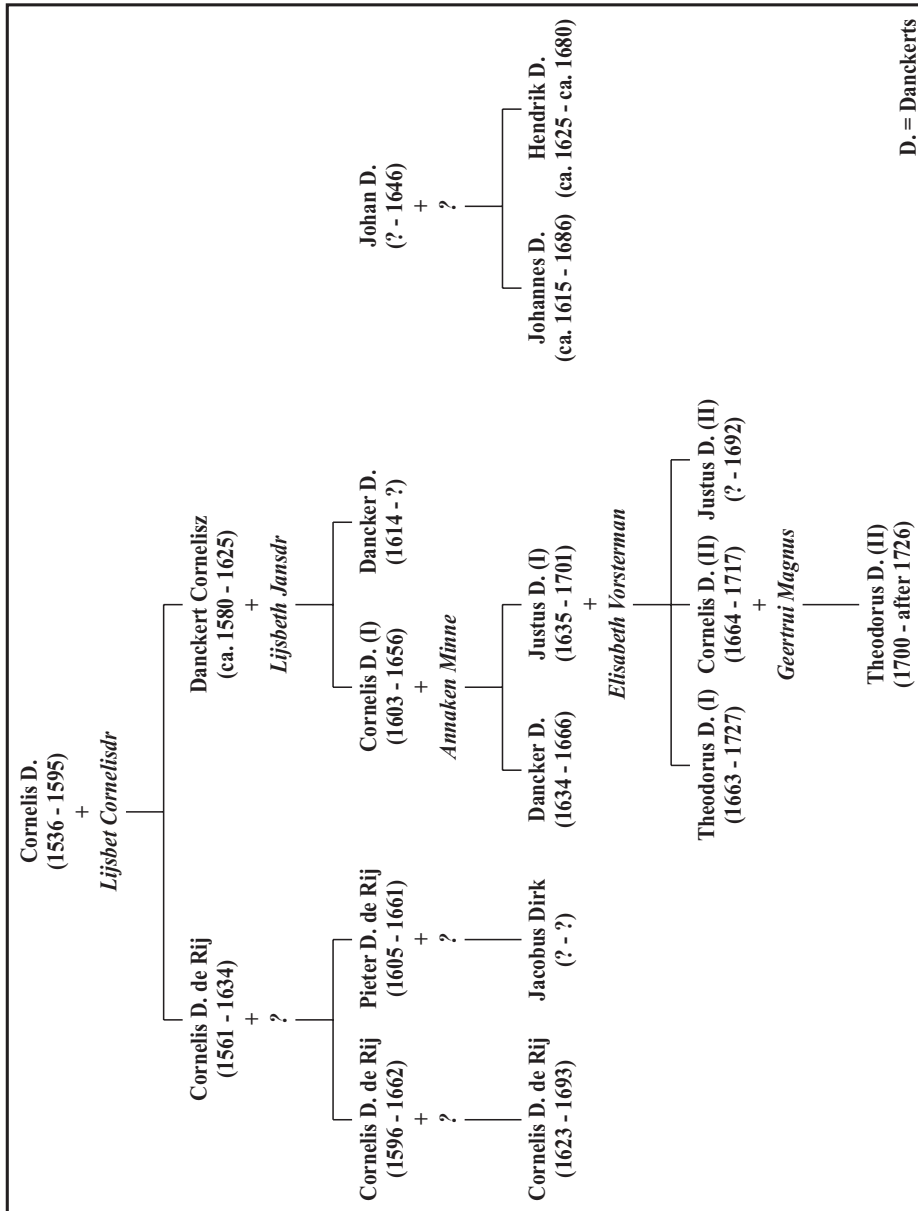


Fig. 4 The family tree of the Danckerts'

respectively.) Cornelis (I) was an eminent engraver producing a number of single-sheet maps and wall maps. Besides his own publications, he was working for reknown personalities of the time such as the famous John Speed (1552-1629), historian and mapmaker, "the father of the English atlases" or for Petrus Bertius (1565-1629), the illustrious geography professor at Leiden University (*Tooley*, 1979).

At Cornelis (I)' death (1656), the elder son, Dancker (1634-1666) took the shop over then at his early passing the younger brother Justus (1635-1701) who had been a stone merchant succeeded his brother in direction of the firm. (As distinguishing marks (I) will be used at Justus, the father's name and (II) at the son's.) The Danckerts family's map producing and -publishing office had its apogee at the time of Justus (I) and of his three sons Theodorus (I) (1663-1727), Cornelis (II) (1664-1717) and Justus (II) (?-1692).

Between 1669-1701 their shop was run in the "Calverstraet in the Danckbaerheyt" (Danckbaerheyt=Thankfulness). Cornelis (II) married Geertrui Magnus, the daughter of a famous contemporary Amsterdam bookbinder, Albert Magnus and moved into the house of Magnus' widow on the "Nieuwendijk in de Atlas". (Albert Magnus had died some years before.) Thus after 1696 two print shops of the Danckerts were being run in Amsterdam and from that time onwards on different publications, also on maps and on atlas' title- and index-pages, Cornelis (II) used this new address.

The Danckerts's firm's closing down was gradually taking place. The first harder breaking could be caused by the general depression in 1713 when Justus (I)' heirs decided to sell a part of the map and atlas stock with lots of copperplates. The final, full stopping occurred at the time of the last surviving brother, Theodorus (I) in 1727 when the remaining estate was also sold.

The copperplates of the maps were bought by Reiner and Josua Ottens, first-rate Amsterdam map- and atlas publishers in the first part of the 18th century. Following the general custom of the time, the Ottens erased the Danckerts names and addresses replacing them with their own (*Koeman*, 1969).

DANCKERTS ATLASES

Roughly 300 single-sheet maps, wall maps and art-prints can be connected with the Danckerts name (*Vries*, 1986). About compiling atlases by Danckerts, there is very few and partly contradicting information².

In the second part of the 17th century and in the early 18th century lots of Dutch composite atlases were assembled from different authors' maps³.

Maps by Danckerts can also be found in such atlases, even the Danckerts atlas' title-page was also used by other publishers or collectors. But as mentioned above, only a few atlas volumes are known which were compiled by the Danckerts themselves from their own maps.

The atlases by the Danckerts have a clear structure. There is a title-page, an index for the maps, sometimes printed on the back of the title-page. No preliminary text can be found and

text on the verso of the maps are also not included. The sequence of the maps begins with a world map (sometimes a celestial chart), then the maps of the four continents are coming, afterwards the sheets of different countries, of their territories and provinces, regionally arranged. The Danckerts atlases as other 16th to 18th century atlases, however, comprise mainly the maps of European territories, independently of the complete sum of the maps. We have known atlases by Danckerts with lots of different sums of maps. There are atlases with 25 maps, atlases with 29, 49, 74, 90, 93, 98, 100 maps, but from the confusing data, a clear structure can be deciphered only with hard work.

Fortunately, the "Atlas Neerlandici" (ed. by *C. Koeman*), a general bibliography of the Dutch atlases published up to 1880, however, tried it. In this bibliography the following categorization of the Danckerts world atlases can be found:

1. Atlas with printed index, listing 26 items (including the title-page + 25 maps).
4 copies are certain to exist: Newberry Libr., Chicago (1); Engelbrecht Coll., Maritime Mus., Rotterdam (1); Saltykov-Sjtsjredin' Publ. Libr., Sankt Peterburg (1); Nat. Libr., Vienna (1).
2. Atlas with printed index, listing 30 items (title-page + 29 maps).
3 copies mentioned: Libr. Ac. of Science, Cracow (1); Brit. Mus., London (2).
3. Atlas with ca. 60 maps.
No copies mentioned.
4. Atlas with number of maps varying between 74 and 90.
3 copies mentioned: Engelbrecht Coll., Maritime Mus., Rotterdam (2); Libr. of Congr., Washington D.C. (1)
5. Atlas with printed index, listing 100 items.
3 copies mentioned: Univ. Libr., Amsterdam (1); Yale Univ., New Haven (1); Libr. of Congr., Washington D.C. (1)⁴ (*Koeman*, 1969).

In this grouping it is striking that the compiler separated a particular category No. 3 but without mentioning any copy of it. This indicates such copies' existence as the compiler of the classification must have come to know such volume or volumes, at least from some sources. As we will see, the attempt for an identification of the Szeged Danckerts atlas and for giving a bibliographical description has proved the existence of an atlas of this group, moreover, it has queried the validity of this classification.

THE SZEGED ATLAS

The given atlas in the holdings of the Library of Geography Departments of József Attila University at Szeged, Hungary has the inventory number: 3486 and stock sign: D 179. The volume is 52x31 cm large, bound into half leather-cloth and comprises 26 maps with publisher's hand-written numbering in their upper right corner (out of the maps' frame) (*Fig. 5*). The map sheets were printed from copperplates, hand-coloured and are in a good condition. No particular notes or glosses printed or manuscript can be seen on the maps (on the recto or



Fig. 5 A part of the map No. 11

verso), not even a note referring to provenience which could facilitate clearing up the one-time possessor or possessors, only the proprietary seal of the Geographical Institute of the Szeged University can be detected.

We could conclude from this that the Danckerts atlas must have got to the holdings of the Geographical Institute no later than 1962 (when the university was renamed). It is conceivable that the work had come to the holdings even in Kolozsvár (now Cluj-Napoca, Romania) before the university removed to Szeged after the World War I as the Library of the Geographical Institute possessed roughly 2000 books and some 3000 map sheets in around 1925. It cannot naturally be precluded that the atlas arrived only with those large acquisitions which took place by purchases and donations in the mid-1920s.

With no title-page, index and its truncated condition (lots of maps are missing), the correct determination and bibliographical description of the volume seemed almost impossible. However, the numbering and its defects in the upper right corner of the pages suggested that we faced a remnant of a once complete work. The missing maps could be dispersed at any time in tempests of history or in several (?) bindings could be named as the real cause. (Skillless hands made nasty cuttings on the mapsheets' margins, very possibly at bindings.)

For all of these above mentioned reasons we saw that the chance for the volume's identification would be received only by collating it to other Danckerts atlases. The international carto-bibliography and map history referring to the history of Danckerts production activity knows as we mentioned previously, only a few Danckerts atlases. Even those 3 volumes have been unknown internationally which are held in the Map Department of the National Széchényi Library⁵ as we concluded during research. These atlases are as follows:

1. Atlas with printed index, listing 26 items. TA 225 (OSZK). (25 maps = Atlantes Neerlandici catalogue, category 1).
2. Atlas with printed index, listing 50 items. TA 224 (OSZK). (49 maps = Atlantes Neerlandici catalogue, category 3 (?)).
3. Atlas with printed index, listing 100 items. TA 232 (OSZK). (98 maps = Atlantes Neerlandici catalogue, category 5).

The detailed collation of the Szeged Danckerts atlas to the OSZK atlases concluded in a surprising result. TA 224 (OSZK) and D 179 (JATE) showed a very close coincidence (*Table 1*). *Table 1* speaks for itself and the conclusion is that the D 179 (JATE) Danckerts atlas can be identified as a remnant of a Danckerts atlas with 50 items. Moreover, the two volumes seemed to be variations as only 4 differences in map title could be deciphered after collating each of the 25 mutual map sheets, namely in the maps No. 7, 34, 38, 48. The small differences in these maps' titles are always the same: name Theodorus substitutes for name Justus. (But who is behind name Justus could not be known with certainty; Justus (I) or Justus (II) or both. Name Theodorus surely covers Theodorus (I)). The Szeged copy is far more incomplete but the sheet No. 36 can be found only in D 179 (JATE) and is missing from TA 224 (OSZK).

Fixing the publication date of the Szeged atlas turned out to be a hard problem. "Seeing the custom of leaving maps undated become especially in vogue in the second half of

Table 1 The content and authors of maps of the TA 224 (OSZK) and D 179 (JATE) atlases.

NO.	ITEM <i>The names are identical with those of the index in the atlas TA 224 (OSZK)</i>	AUTHOR	
		TA 224 (OSZK)	D 179 (JATE)
1.	Atlas	+	—
2.	Nova Orbis Tabula	Justus D.	—
3.	America	Justus D.	—
4.	Africa	Justus D.	—
5.	Asia	Justus D.	—
6.	Europa	Justus D.	—
7.	Portugallia	Justus D.	Theodorus D.
8.	Hispania	Justus D.	—
9.	Gallia	Justus D.	Justus D.
10.	Italia, Corsica & Sardinia	Justus D.	—
11.	Mare Mediterraneum Occidentalis	Justus D.	Justus D.
12.	Mare Mediterraneum Orientalis	Justus D.	—
13.	Sabaudia & Piemontium	Justus D.	Justus D.
14.	Helvetia	Justus D.	Justus D.
15.	Germania	Justus D.	Justus D.
16.	Rhenus Fluvius	Justus D.	Justus D.
17.	Rhenus Superior	Theodorus D.	Theodorus D.
18.	Rhenus Inferior	Theodorus D.	Theodorus D.
19.	Lotharingia Ducatus	Theodorus D.	—
20.	Franconia	Theodorus D.	Theodorus D.
21.	Bohemia	Theodorus D.	—
22.	Danubii Fluvii	Theodorus D.	—
23.	Circulus Westphalicus	Justus D.	Justus D.
24.	Circulus Saxonicus	Justus D.	—
25.	Leodiensis & Coloniensis	Theodorus D.	Theodorus D.
26.	Germania Inferior	Justus D.	—
27.	Belgium Foederatum	—	—
28.	Hollandia Comitatus	Justus D.	Justus D.
29.	Ultrajectum Dominium	Justus D.	Justus D.
30.	Geldria Ducatus	Justus D.	Justus D.
31.	Belgii Regii	Justus D.	Justus D.
32.	Flandria Comitatus	Theodorus D.	Theodorus D.
33.	Hannonia Comitatus	Theodorus D.	Theodorus D.
34.	Namurcum Comitatus	Justus D.	Theodorus D.
35.	Luxemburgum Ducatus	—	—
36.	Brabantia Ducatus	—	Justus D.
37.	Anglia, Scotia & Hibernia	Justus D.	—
38.	Canalis	Justus D.	Theodorus D.
39.	Dania Regnum	Justus D.	—
40.	Succia & Norvegia	Justus D.	—
41.	Polonia & Lithuania	Justus D.	Justus D.
42.	Hungaria	—	—
43.	Hungaria & Graecia	Justus D.	—
44.	Civitates Hungariae	—	—
45.	Morea	Justus D.	Justus D.
46.	Civitates Moreae	Justus D.	Justus D.
47.	Russia vulgo Moscovia	Justus D.	Justus D.
48.	Turcicum Imperium	Justus D.	Theodorus D.
49.	Judaea sive Terra Sancta	Theodorus D.	—
50.	Nova Belgica & Pensilvania	Justus D.	—

the 17th century. In this case only the content of a map can sometimes give the answer as regards its date." (*Keuning*, 1955). In our incident we used a similar method. Setting out from the fact that the TA 224 (OSZK) and D 179 (JATE) atlases proved to be very close variations of each other, our task shifted to determine the publishing date of the TA 224 (OSZK) atlas firstly as this copy is more complete in any aspects.

On the title-page of the TA 224 (OSZK) atlas the following inscription can be seen: "ATLAS / TOT AMSTERDAM / bij IUSTUS DANCKERS in de Calverstraet in de Danckaerheijt". As we had known, the Danckerts shop was being run at this address between 1669-1701 (*Koeman*, 1969), so a conclusion arose: TA 224 (OSZK) must have been published in the 1669-1701 period. A more precise date could only be hoped from a scrutiny of the maps themselves. Lots of maps bear a privilege⁶ lettering in different forms that the Danckerts family was granted by the States of Holland and West Frisia: "cum Privilegio Ordinum Holland: et West-vrisiae" (*Fig. 6*), "cum Privil: Ordin: Hollandiae et West-frisiae" or "met Privilegio" etc. From biographical data we had known, the granting to Danckerts occurred on August 14, 1684, so the edition of the atlas must have been taken place only after this time. The publishing epoch could be, however, even narrowed down as the map sheet No. 43 delineating Hungary and its surroundings (or more precisely the theatre of war between Christian and Turkish Muslim powers from 1683 onwards), has a list of towns and fortresses (in the lower left corner) with occupation dates by the Turks and recapturing dates by the Christians, respectively. The last line in this list is as follows: "Belgrado exp. 1529. rec. 1688". For us it meant that the TA 224 (OSZK) atlas could only be issued after this date, between 1688 and 1701⁷.

But a question for dating atlas D 179 (JATE) still remained open: what state of the missing map No. 43 from the atlas D 179 (JATE) could have been? For 5 states of the "Regni Hungariae..." map have recently been known. State 1684 or later (*Szántai*, 1996); State 1687 (TA 225 (OSZK)); State 1688 (TA 224 (OSZK) and *Szántai*, 1996); and other 2 states⁸ by Johannes Danckerts and that by Philip Bouttats junior and Justus Danckerts. Which state could have been originally incorporated in D 179 (JATE) atlas? The state 1684, state 1687, 1688? Or even an earlier version by Johannes or Dancker?

This question looked crucial for trying to tie atlas D 179 (JATE) to atlas TA 224 (OSZK). How could we choose? Resolving this problem and with it the problem of publishing date of D 179 (JATE) seemed to be determined only in one way: a collation of all maps in those atlases which have detailed bibliographical description or known by ourselves personally⁹. (Atlantes Neerlandici/Danl-Dan5 and TA 224 (OSZK), TA 225 (OSZK), TA 232 (OSZK), D 179 (JATE)).

If we sum up shortly the result, the scrutiny has led to a conclusion that the Danckerts atlas with 50 sheets could not possibly be ready at the time of privilege granting in 1684 and the earliest issuing could be occurred at ca. 1687/88.

How did we gain this probability? The departing point was the privilege wordings. There are two types of Danckerts maps in this aspect: there is a privilege sign on the map or there is not. We had known that in the late 17th century Amsterdam, the map producers, against

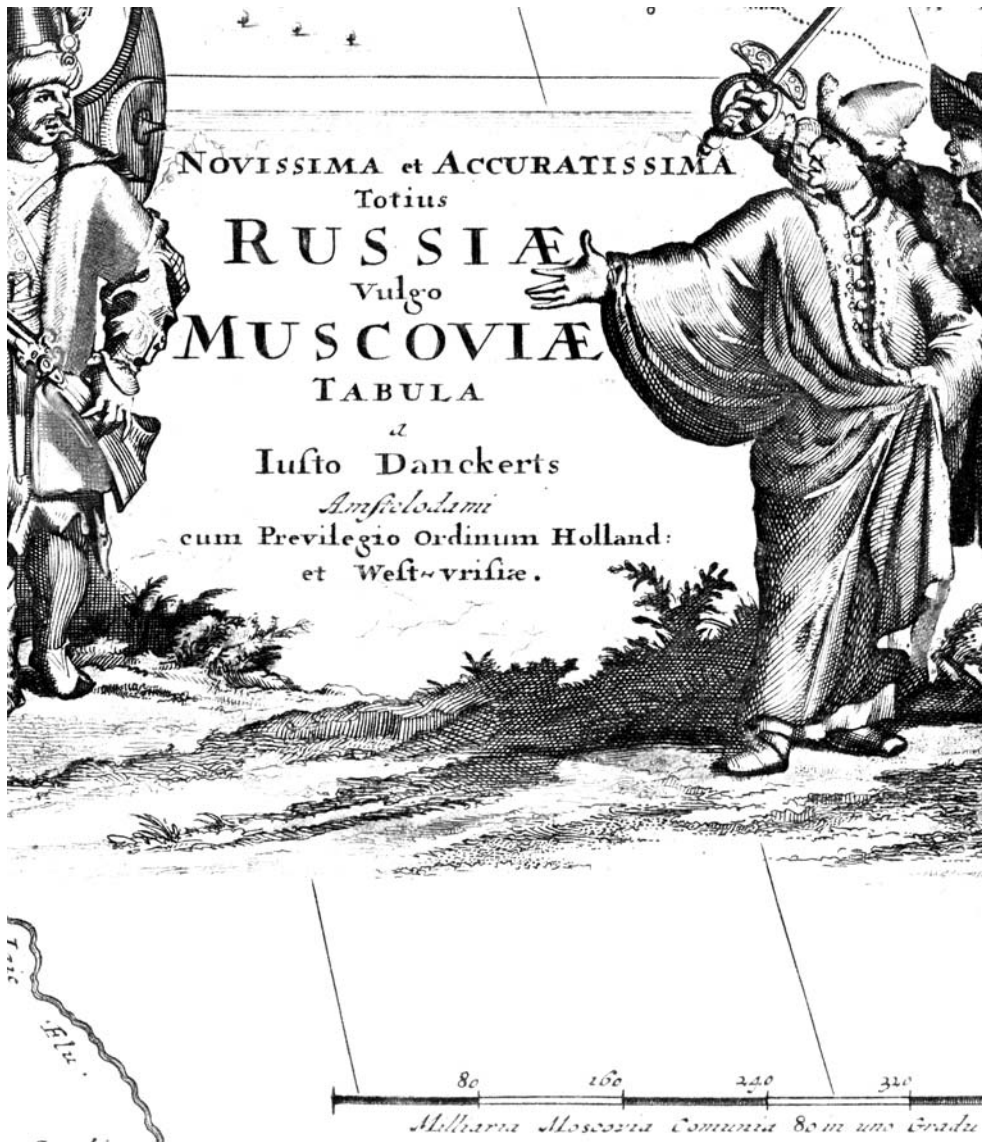


Fig. 6 A part of the map No. 47

their rivals' illegal using or plagiarising, regularly put their gotten privilege on their maps. Moreover, we noticed that the number of the maps with privilege are growing in those atlases which have more and more pages. Even a tendency could be realized: the later states of the same map got the privilege lettering but the other direction could hardly be detected: removing a privilege wording from the map. So the basic guess for the start was as follows: maps without privilege were made before 1684 (August 14)¹⁰.

With scrutinizing the privilege inscriptions and the different states of each particular map, the following result could be gained: before 1684 the Danckerts family could have only 17 (18) maps of their own¹¹ ready for a complete geographical atlas. The maps of important regions, around the half of Europe had been waited for producing¹². They were only ready at the time of privilege granting in 1684 or shortly before. These maps were those of Switzerland, of the British Isles, of Scandinavia, of Poland, of Russia, of "Regni Hungariae...", of the Peloponnesos and of the Turkish Empire that is the northern, eastern, southeastern and some middle parts of Europe. With these 8 new maps, the Danckerts stock for a complete atlas became essentially ready and this collection was later enlarged mainly with maps of provinces and parts of the different European countries (first and foremost with those of Germany, France, Netherlands, and Italy).

For an atlas with ca. 50 maps, as the D 179 (JATE) and TA 224 (OSZK), the Danckerts had to produce some more 24 new maps. If we calculate the time needed to the engravers for ca. 24 maps, in light of the speed the engravers of the age worked, we can count roughly another 2-3 years. That is ca. 1686/87, which figure strengthens that the D 179 (JATE) atlas had very unlikely been assembled before that time¹³.

However, knowing the contemporary custom of the stock producing of maps that is the practice of printing a fairly large quantity of the maps before compiling them into an atlas, the chance of including an earlier state of the "Regni Hungariae..." map could not totally be excluded¹⁴.

At this stage of scrutiny, an unexpected, lucky turn happened. While we were going over the pages of atlas TA 225 (OSZK) again (who knows how many times) it was happily noticed that there were recapturing dates also on the body of the Peloponnesos map and the latest one was 1687. This marvellous accident played the solution of the dating atlas D 179 (JATE) into our hand (concerning at least the lower limit of publication date) as the Peloponnesos map is incorporated also into D 179 (JATE) and has survived truncations (*Fig. 7*). We could so state that maps in the Danckerts's atlas guarded at Szegeed must have been assembled at least in 1687 or later, and as a "by-product" the date 1687 on Peloponnesos map strengthened our previous collations' result, too.

After determining the lower limit of the publishing date, we could turn to the upper one. The question arose: could we tighten the date at this side, too? In this scrutiny Cornelis (II) was our "associate". From a reference book (*Shirley*, 1984) it could be gained that Cornelis (II) most probably started his map-maker's carrier in the 1690s. His known world map derived from ca. 1695, a reworking of the map made by Justus (I) in ca. 1680 and he used his new address on his maps after 1696 (moreover, we considered the early passing of Justus (II), too



Fig. 7 A part of the map No. 45

(1692)). The survey of his maps in atlases listing 26, 50 and 75 items came to a result that the first maps of Cornelis (II) appeared only in the atlas with 74 maps (i.e. 8 in all in the *Atlantes Neerlandici*/Dan3). Determining the possible compiling date of a Danckerts atlas with ca. 75 maps could be figured out in the same way as we had done in the case of atlas with ca. 50 maps, that is for other 25 maps to 50 another 2-3 years must have been needed on the average to arrive at a complete Danckerts atlas comprising 75 maps¹⁵. The calculated date of such an atlas' compiling could be in 1688/89 or in the early 90s considering that the atlases with 50 pages we have recently known were assembled into atlases in 1687 (D 179 (JATE)) and 1688 (TA 224 (OSZK)) or later.

In this way, our final suggestion for the publishing date of the two Danckerts atlases with 50 items (49 maps + title-page) that is of D 179 (JATE) and of TA 224 (OSZK) can be placed between 1687, 1688 and 1695/96 with certainty or even we can take the risk saying 1687-1692 for D 179 (JATE) and 1688-1692 for TA 224 (OSZK). And finally, the periods 1687-ca. 1690 and 1688-ca. 1690 cannot also be unconceivable for D 179 (JATE) and TA 224 (OSZK), respectively. Further examinations, collations with other Danckerts atlases and making use of further new information will judge these provisional proposals of ours.

CONCLUSION

In the first place we can establish that the Danckerts atlas in Szeged compiled originally as an atlas with 49 maps in 1687-ca. 1695 proved to have real worth for the history of cartography, even in its truncated, bad condition.

The examination carried out for its identification resulted in some valuable outcomes. Firstly, the quantity of known original Danckerts atlases can be enlarged with 4 copies: TA 224 (OSZK), TA 225 (OSZK), TA 232 (OSZK) and D 179 (JATE). Secondly, it has thrown some more light on the ambiguous history of the Danckerts atlas production.

In addition, it has absolutely become settled that category 3 with ca. 60 maps (in the *Atlantes Neerlandici* bibliography) hides an actually existing Danckerts atlas. Moreover, the atlas of 50 items has turned out to have at the spot two variations and the emergence of the two Danckerts atlases of 50 pages points to a revision of recently accepted categorization of the Danckerts atlases. For this revision, further research will be necessitated, however, the following changes for category 3 can be even now offered:

1. Atlas with an exact quantity of items: title + index + 49 maps (and not ca. 60 maps).
2. Atlas comprising maps between 50 and 60 (as 74-90 in the case of group 4).
3. Atlas with 50 sheets can form a separate group (as atlas of 26 items and of 30 items forms a detached class), so the system must be enlarged to 6 groups in this case.

Item, some rationale would be found in separating also category 4 into other two detached ones.

This classification, nevertheless, seems to be regarded as only a preliminary, outlined approach and a future thoroughful collation in a broader circle of survived Danckerts atlases will certainly change our recent notions on the atlases. By the assistance of coming examinations, as in the case of identifying D 179 (JATE) volume, more light will hopefully be thrown on the very obscure publishing history of the Danckerts atlases.

NOTES

- ¹ Blaeu and Janssonius are two famous names in the Dutch map-making history. Their officinas were dominating in the field of geographical atlas production and had an almost total monopoly on the market of atlases during the century till ca. 1660s-70s.
- ² *Koeman* (1969) suggests that atlas producing started in the 1660s, *Wawrik* (1985) had confidence in the 1670s, while *Shirley* (1984) would accept a later date, ca. 1680.
- ³ Even giant wall map composite atlases can be mentioned from the 1660s, the famous "Klencke Atlas", now in London; the "Atlas des Herzogs von Mecklenburg" in Rostock; and the "Mauritius Atlas" in Berlin.
- ⁴ Having seen the rareness of the Danckerts atlases in public collection, a logical thought of going to the matter of privately owned Danckerts atlases came into our minds. Surveying the approximate quantity of those atlases, however, only the selling lists at auction were at our disposal. Having looked through all *The Map Collector's* issues between 1977 and 1996 and the sketchy selected lists in *Mercator's World's* numbers of 1996-1998, only 2 other Danckerts atlases could be discovered roughly in a 20-year period. (*The Map Collector*, No. 24, 1983 September, p.56. – atlas of 93 maps; *The Map Collector*, No. 30, 1985 March, p. 55. – atlas of 100 maps.) So as to realize the rarity of the Danckerts atlases, it is also worth mentioning the case of the famous 16th century basic atlas work, *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* by Abraham Ortelius. As *Van den Broecke* (1986) calculated: from each edition of the atlas which was issued more than 30 times between 1570 and 1612, 30-40 volumes exist on the average, while the total sum of the *Theatrum* survived is over 500 copies.
- ⁵ The National Széchényi Library possesses an important collection of atlases produced in the 16th and 17th century Netherlands including 3 almost complete, "hidden" Danckerts atlases.
- ⁶ In the late 17th century the States customarily gave firms privileges for 10 or even 15 years as exclusive rights for selling maps, atlases or other prints of their own.
- ⁷ Belgrade was retaken by the Christian troops on September 6, 1688. As we have known, producing a completely new map of a contemporary (war or other) event needed approximately a year (*Heinz*, 1997). In our case, however, only minute changes must have been done on the copper-plate – the TA 225 (OSZK) atlas has the same map with the same list missing only the last line from the list referring to Belgrade.

- ⁸ The issuing dates of the later two maps are fairly obscure. Johannes Danckerts was a cousin of Justus (I). The "Regni Hungariae..." map with his name in the map's title have recently become known only from late Danckerts atlases by Theodorus (I) (TA 232 (OSZK)) and Cornelis (II) (*Szántai*, 1996), but the question who actually made this map, Justus (I) or Justus (II) or Johannes or even Dancker (1634-1666) has not been solved yet. (Dancker's name as engraver can be seen on certain states of the plate). Philip Bouttats junior was active in Antwerp as a member of an engraver and publisher family. A rather close variation of the "Regni Hungariae..." map by Philip's relative Gaspar Bouttats also exists. Most probably both of them used the Danckerts maps as source for their own versions edited at the time of the Turkish wars sometimes in the late 17th century. The Philip's version has a list of fortresses with the last date 1687 at Eger, Hungary. Eger was recaptured on December 16, 1687, so this state of the map could come out from print only in or after 1687. (*Szántai*, 1996 mentioning 1688, but seems not to know the Justus version of 1687.)
- ⁹ We used, of course, every information at collation we had owned of the Danckerts family and the producing and publishing practice in Amsterdam in the 17th-18th centuries that we have gathered from reference books or periodicals.
- ¹⁰ There could be exceptions, that maps without privilege sign are still after 1684. However, their numbers are only a few and these are second-rate maps for an atlas. They depict provinces, districts or towns and fortresses and do not belong to the most important maps of the world, of the continents, of countries which formed (and still form) the skeleton of a geographical atlas.
- ¹¹ Map of the world, of the four continents, of Germania, of Gallia (=France), of Hispania, of Portugal, of Italy, of Denmark, of the XVII Provinces (=the Netherlands and Belgium), of Comitatus Hollandia, of Ducatus Geldria et Zuthpania, of the river Rhine, of Circulus Saxoniae, of Hungary by Du Val, and of Novi Belgii (=the eastern part of North America) that is the maps of the world, of the continents, of the western parts of Europe and those territories which were mostly of interest to the purchasers of the time mainly in the Low Countries. The Geldria map could be found, however, only in atlases with 49 or more maps.
- ¹² Maps of smaller areas, regions, provinces or districts of other continents were far less important in a general atlas in the 16-17th centuries and their ratio stood far behind of those counterparts in Europe.
- ¹³ In special circumstances, engravers could produce a map plate roughly in a month even through a longer period of time, but we must calculate that Justus (I) was in his 50s after 1685 probably dealing with the selling part of the business and the burden of compiling and engraving must have lied mainly on the shoulders of the young Theodorus (I) and maybe of Justus (II). Theodorus (I) was in his early 20s and Justus (II) – if he was born in 1665/66 – could be in the same age but with 2 years younger.

- ¹⁴ The quantity which was printed from a newly engraved or an emended plate varied at each territory and could depend even on very particular circumstances. Here it's worth mentioning that the other Hungary-map by Pierre Du Val which was reworked by Justus Danckerts could be the sheet No. 42 in atlas D 179 (JATE), as in the atlas TA 224 (OSZK). This map can be found in every atlas that had been examined, with or without a privilege sign.
- ¹⁵ It could have been possible that the Danckerts family compiled an atlas with 74 maps using other author's maps but the total number of their maps in atlases we have known seems to make this unlikely.

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