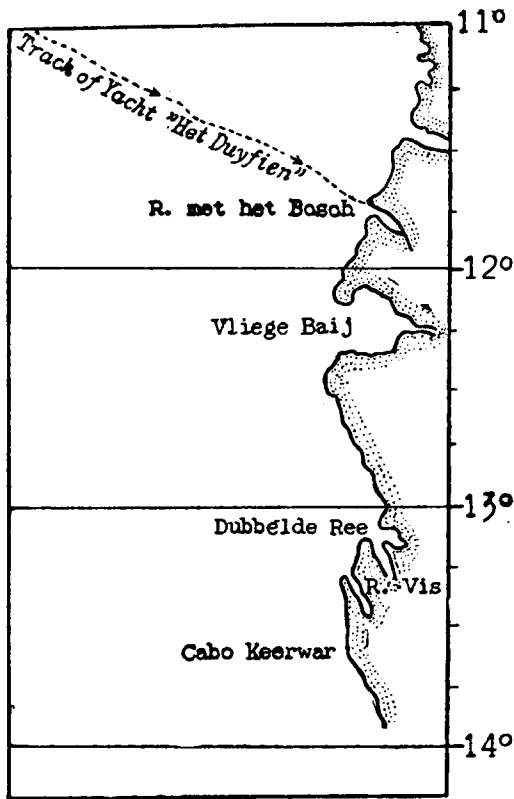


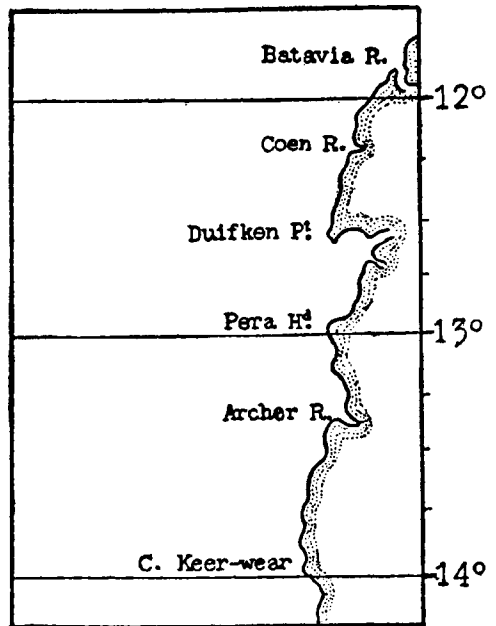
# THE FIRST CHARTING OF THE AUSTRALIAN CONTINENT.

Volume V of *Monumenta Cartographica*, edited by Dr. F.C. WIEDER, Librarian of the University of Leiden, and published at The Hague by Martinus NIJHOFF 1933, a copy of which has recently been obtained by the Bureau, contains amongst several reproductions of maps and plans from the *Secret Atlas of the East India Company*, c. 1670, the original of which is in the National Library, Vienna, one of special interest to Cartographers entitled "The Discovery of Australia by the Yacht *Het Duyfjen* 1606".

This chart shows the track followed by the Yacht both on the outward and homeward journey when visiting the lands lying east of Banda, as far as New Guinea.



*Duyfjen Map*



*Admiralty Chart*

In the excellent cartographical monograph accompanying the map the Editor points out that the discoverer was Jan ROSENGEIN, supercargo of the Yacht, Skipper Willem JANSZ.

He points out that before 1606 no map was drawn on which a real portion of Australia was put down from observations; all that was drawn of the "Terra Australis" in the XVIth century resting on theory only.

He then proceeds to compare the coastline of Australia as shown on this map (named "Nova Guinea") with the modern Admiralty Chart of the west coast of Cape York Peninsula and points out that "there is one figuration which cannot be easily mistaken, that is Vliege Baij, the north Cape of it agrees perfectly in form with Duifken Point which is in Latitude 12°34' — on the Duijfen map it is in 12°7'". Having compared the difference in Latitude of other recognisable features he reaches the conclusion that the landfall of the *Het Duyfien* was at Coen River as shown on the Admiralty chart, "and that Coen River is the first point of the continent of Australia observed and put down on a map of which we have knowledge".

That Dr. WIEDER'S conclusions are almost certainly correct will be seen from the accompanying figures which show the coastline as drawn on the original map and that depicted on British Admiralty Chart No. 445 dated 1929, reduced to the same scale. As might be expected there are small discrepancies in the relative positions of various parts of the coast, but its general appearance is remarkably similar on both.

As the log book of the *Duyfien* is missing, it cannot be stated at which point or points of the coast the Latitude was actually observed and which portions were merely sketched in; it is however of interest to read that, so far as is known, the crew of the *Duyfien* were the first Europeans to land in Australia. Some of them went ashore, but, attacked by natives, they made no attempt to investigate the country. (*Encyclopædia Britannica*).

J. D. N.

