

## COMMENTS ON THE EXISTING COPIES OF THE MERCATOR'S CHART OF 1569

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With reference to some remarks which were published in the *Hydrographic Review* for May, 1931, Vol. VIII N<sup>o</sup> 1, page 97, *Remark A*, on the subject of the MERCATOR'S Chart of 1569, Professor A. WEDEMEYER, Ministerialrat in the *Nautische Abteilung der Marineleitung* in Berlin, has kindly forwarded the following information :

BERLIN,  
18th August, 1931.

In addition to the two MERCATOR'S Charts of the World mentioned on page 97 of the *Hydrographic Review* of May 1931, there are two further charts in existence :

1) A copy in the library of Count MIRBACH in the Schloss Harff an der Erft. This chart was described by Leonhard KORTH in the *Frankfurter Zeitung* of 21st June, 1902, number 170, S., page 1.

2) G. MARCEL discovered the fourth original print in 1899 in the library of the University of Basel. See : Gabriel MARCEL : *Note sur une mission géographique en Suisse*, Soc. de Géogr., Paris, VII, sér. XX, 1899, page 85.

No Nürnberg copy of MERCATOR'S Chart of the World is known. DE LA RONCIÈRE was evidently led astray by a publication by DRECKER entitled : *Ein Instrument, eine Karte und eine Schrift des Nürnberger Kartographen und Kompassmachers Erhard Etzlaub*, *Annalen d. Hydrographie*, 1917, pag. 217 to 224. (An Instrument, a Chart and a Work of the Nürnberg Cartographer & Compass-maker Erhard ETZLAUB). As early as 1910 M. ECKERT had already suggested that this chart was a predecessor of the MERCATOR projection. According to DRECKER, 60° on the Equator extend over 72 millimetres ; thus the scale is 1:100.000.000. The degrees of latitude are increased for each degree from the Equator to the Polar Circle and each fifth degree is numbered. The meridian is 98 millimetres long. The small chart is on the top of a boxwood chest. The board is 116 millimetres long, 84 millimetres wide and 7 millimetres thick.

According to the measurements taken by DRECKER this small chart must be considered as a predecessor of MERCATOR'S Projection. DRECKER does not doubt that ETZLAUB drew up similar charts on large scale and introduced but a reduction on his instrument which has in the interior two sundials. The instrument is now in the German Museum in Nürnberg.

The most detailed work on Tables on meridional parts, the drawing of which is probably based on mathematical research, is to be found in the *Annalen der Hydrographie*, 1916, pag. 63-76, 121-136, in which I included a Table of meridional parts to 10 places of decimals.

The Directing Committee wishes to express its thanks to Professor WEDEMEYER for this supplementary information.

With regard to the question of meridional parts, we would recall that the table referred to was reproduced in an article entitled : *Tables of Meridional Parts*, published in the *Hydrographic Review*, Vol. V, N<sup>o</sup> 1, page 203.

