

**Royal
Geographical
Society**

with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

WILEY

Joris Carolus and Edge Island

Author(s): Edward Heawood

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 28, No. 2 (Aug., 1906), pp. 189-190

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1776105>

Accessed: 27-06-2016 08:51 UTC

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at

<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers), Wiley are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Geographical Journal*

CORRESPONDENCE.

Joris Carolus and Edge Island.

IN an article published in the *Journal* for June, 1901, and reprinted in a revised form in his book 'No Man's Land,' lately issued by the Cambridge University Press, Sir Martin Conway discusses the voyage of Joris Carolus to Spitsbergen in 1614, and comes to the conclusion that, though no specific claim to that effect was ever made by him, the Dutch navigator is to be credited with the original discovery, in that year, of the island since known as Edge island, from its reputed discoverer, Captain Thomas Edge, who reached it two years later.

The chief authority for this idea is the map drawn by Carolus,* on which certain lands are represented to the south-east of Spitsbergen, coupled with the fact that Carolus is known to have bent on discovery during the 1614 voyage, and that his movements after August 9 have not been recorded. These considerations certainly point to the possibility that Edge island was discovered in 1614; but before definitely transferring the credit from Edge to Carolus, ought we not to consider whether the map in question is incapable of any other explanation?

On this map, two land-masses are drawn, separated by sounds from the western main island of Spitsbergen and from each other. While the more westerly is marked "Onbekende Cust," that to the east bears the name Marfyn (or Morfyn?), a corruption of the Matsyn of earlier maps, itself based on vague information respecting a "Matthew's land" in the Novaya Zemlya region. Now, if Marfyn really represents Edge island, it is placed some 18° too far east (relatively to the main island), while if the "Onbekende Cust" is considered to represent Whale's Head of Edge island (why, in this case, should it be called "onbekende"?), the extension in longitude of that island becomes no less than 30°, instead of the 4° which it has in reality. May it not be that the two lands in question are merely copied from earlier maps of the type represented by Hœnius' map of 1600, and that of Hondius in Pontanus' *History of Amsterdam* (1611), in which there is an indication of land (without name) between Matsyn and Spitsbergen, corresponding with Carolus' "Onbekende Cust," except in so far as the latter has received an extension of area?

That cartographers did not scruple to give a fairly detailed representation of lands inserted from hearsay, need not be insisted on,† while even as regards its form, Marfyn seems suggested by the earlier delineations of Matsyn. Again, even granting that Matsyn was generally connected by cartographers with Spitsbergen rather than with Novaya Zemlya, this would seem to supply an additional argument *against* the identification of Marfyn with Edge island, for if such a connection was commonly supposed to exist before the date of Carolus' map, this explorer would merely be following precedent in showing the coasts as he did, and there is no need to suppose personal knowledge on his part. Later identifications of Marfyn or Marsyn with Edge island would naturally be suggested by his own map.

Besides the strange silence of Carolus in regard to his supposed discovery, the fact that he was said to have "advanced his voyage towards the north pole,"

* Reproduced in part in the *Journal*, vol. 17, p. 625, and in 'No Man's Land,' p. 331.

† An instance is the fictitious Y° des Géants in the Southern Indian ocean in Desceliers' map of 1546, which is shown with various rocks and shoals round its coast. If it be said that this really represents Zanzibar, shifted from its true position, equally well might Marfyn represent some real, but misplaced, portion of the Novaya Zemlya coast.

together with his (unjustifiable) claim to have reached 83°, evidently imply that he based his title to reward on work to the north, rather than the south-east, of Spitsbergen.

EDWARD HEAWOOD.

MEETINGS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, SESSION 1905-1906.

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

May 11, 1906.

"Some Problems on the Physical Geography of the Seistan Basin." By Colonel Sir Henry McMahon, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.

June 8, 1906.

"A Plea for the Investigation of the Biological (Floral and Faunal) and Anthropological (Racial and Cultural) Distributions in the Pacific." By Prof. A. C. Haddon, F.R.S.

GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE OF THE MONTH.

Additions to the Library.

By EDWARD HEAWOOD, M.A., *Librarian*, R.G.S.

The following abbreviations of nouns and the adjectives derived from them are employed to indicate the source of articles from other publications. Geographical names are in each case written in full:—

A. = Academy, Academie, Akademie.
 Abh. = Abhandlungen.
 Ann. = Annals, Annales, Annalen.
 B. = Bulletin, Bollettino, Boletim.
 Col. = Colonies.
 Com. = Commerce.
 C. R. = Comptes Rendus.
 E. = Erdkunde.
 G. = Geography, Géographie, Geografia.
 Ges. = Gesellschaft.
 I. = Institute, Institution.
 Iz. = Izvestiya.
 J. = Journal.
 Jb. = Jahrbuch.
 k. u. k. = kaiserlich und königlich.
 M. = Mitteilungen.

Mag. = Magazine.
 Mem. (Mém.) = Memoirs, Mémoires.
 Met. (mét.) = Meteorological, etc.
 P. = Proceedings.
 R. = Royal.
 Rev. (Riv.) = Review, Revue, Rivista.
 S. = Society, Société, Selskab.
 Sc. = Science(s).
 Sitzb. = Sitzungsbericht.
 T. = Transactions.
 Ts. = Tijdschrift, Tidskrift.
 V. = Verein.
 Verh. = Verhandlungen.
 W. = Wissenschaft, and compounds.
 Z. = Zeitschrift.
 Zap. = Zapiski.

On account of the ambiguity of the words *octavo*, *quarto*, etc., the size of books in the list below is denoted by the length and breadth of the cover in inches to the nearest half-inch. The size of the *Journal* is 10 × 6½.

A selection of the works in this list will be noticed elsewhere in the "Journal."

EUROPE.

- Alps—Dent-Blanche. *C. Rd.* 142 (1906): 527-529. Argand.
 Sur la tectonique du massif de la Dent-Blanche. Note de Émile Argand.
 Alps—Structure. *B.S. Belge Géol.* 19 (1905): 377-440. Van de Wiele.
 Les théories nouvelles de la formation des Alpes et l'influence tectonique des affaissements méditerranéens. Par le Dr. C. Van de Wiele. *With Map.*