
Waldseemüller's "Solidum"

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Gerlache often came back to his first idea—the south pole—towards which his courageous, persevering and daring spirit still led him. I was, and I am still, of the opinion that this fixed idea—farthest south—is not compatible with that of an expedition of scientific exploration.

But why does Dr. Pelseneer take exception to the fact that a seaman should imagine a voyage of discovery (which is most natural) rather than one of science?

Secondly, I must draw the attention of Dr. Pelseneer to the fact that it is not only now, but also before the departure of the *Belgica* from Antwerp, and during the voyage, that I “complained” of the lack of any written contract, written instructions, and defined programme for the voyage. Consequently, it would be “a historical mistake” to state that a “lack of written contract was agreed between all” of us.

Lastly, the chart inserted in my paper is a copy of Captain Lecointe’s map published in the *Bulletin* of the Geographical Society of Brussels (January, 1900), which is, until now, the only official record of the cartographical work of the Expedition. The Admiralty has already taken into consideration this chart, so that the name of “Belgica strait” was printed in August, 1900, and March, 1901, on the map [1113]: South Shetland and South Orkney. Farther, it is to be regretted that the *Belgica* Commission has not officially communicated the decision of changing the name of the strait to the different geographical institutions and societies, a decision which is contrary to that of the Seventh International Congress for the “Rules for Geographical Nomenclature,” but which, I hope, would be accepted by the Admiralty and all geographers, if it were officially known.

HENRYK ARCTOWSKI,

Of the Scientific Staff of the Expedition.

Waldseemüller’s “Solidum.”

59, Drakefield Road, Upper Tooting, S.W., Feb. 4, 1902.

WITH reference to the interpretation of the word *solidum* in the title of the ‘Cosmographiæ Introductio’ of Waldseemüller referred to in the interesting article in this month’s number of the *Journal* on “The First Map containing the Name America,” it may be worth while to point out that Egli, in his ‘Nomina Geographica’ (2nd edit.), under the entry America, speaks of a globe as the work to which this ‘Introductio’ was to serve as a companion, and adds that a copy (?) of the segments of this globe, perhaps a unique specimen, is to be found in the collection of Gen. Steinhauser in Vienna. I have ventured to treat Egli’s “Ex. der Segmente” as equivalent to “Exemplar der Segmente.” Dr. Egli had the bad habit of sometimes using abbreviations without explaining them. Possibly an inquiry addressed to Gen. Steinhauser might clear up this matter.

GEO. G. CHISHOLM.

Glaciation.

“Glaciation” (*Journal*, p. 192) is a term already appropriated by geologists to express the effect on the surface of the Earth of ice. Lately it has been frequently used to express the amount of surface covered by ice. Ought not some definite decision as to which sense is to prevail be come to in order to prevent ambiguity?

D. W. F.