

EDITORIAL FOREWORD

Three years after the publication of the first volume of the complete catalogue of the Atlas-Blaeu van der Hem (preserved in the Austrian National Library in Vienna), we present the second volume of the series. Like the first volume, it has been prepared by Erlend de Groot and Peter van der Krogt. The book contains the volumes 9-17 of the Atlas, which deal with Italy, Malta, Switzerland, and the Low Countries. Among the wealth of material we might single out the drawings of Southern Italy, Sicily and Malta by Willem Schellinks, those of Central and Northern Italy by Frederic de Moucheron and Lodewijk Toeput, those of the Netherlands by Lambert Doomer and others, and the remarkable Alpine drawings by Jan Hackaert. Part of these drawings (the works by Hackaert and Schellinks) have been published before. However, many drawings have been attributed to known artists in this catalogue for the first time.

A problem concerning the Atlas Blaeu-Van der Hem in general, and not just the volumes published here, is that of the binding history. It has been studied by Erlend de Groot whose findings on the subject are presented in a short essay following the introduction. As it is our purpose to publish all images and handwritten texts in the Atlas Blaeu-Van der Hem, we were faced with the problem of how to deal with the lengthy descriptions of Sicily and Malta. We have decided to print them in an Appendix, in order to avoid a disruption of the catalogue.

The realisation of this catalogue would not have been possible without the support of many institutions and individuals. The Editorial Committee is especially grateful to An Zwollo, Marijn Schapelhouman, Lucia Nuti and Michiel Plomp for their suggestions with regards to the drawings in the Atlas Blaeu-Van der Hem, to Annemarie Beunen and Iris Contant for their transcription of the texts, to Frances Kemp for her editorial corrections and advice, and to Albert-Jan Klein Wassink, who drew the index sheets for the first volume – and was not mentioned in the foreword – finally to Coen Raaphorst, who drew the index sheets for this volume.