Tracing localities cited in old literature is sometimes an issue without easy solution

Cédric d'Udekem d'Acoz, RBINS

Present and past

- Today, to record the position of a station, it suffices to use a GPS, even deep in the jungle (my own experience)
- In the colonial period, marine stations usually have Lat/long coordinates (MBIZI stations transferred by me to EXCELL sheet)
- In the colonial period, for INLAND station, Lat/long coordinates are NEVER given in literature: neither in the general/introduction report of the mission, neither in taxonomical reports derivative of the mission
- Then, usually, only the name of the closest locality is given in literature

Finding the position of localities

- 70 to 80% of localities can be found on Geonames.com or the gazetteers of the CIA (now declassified).
- . Some localities can be found on other internet sources (in spending a lot of time...), or the gazetteers "Drosera" of RMCA.
- . It is not infrequent to have several localities with the same name, and sometimes it is not possible to identify, which one is the correct one.
- Some localities were impossible to spot with currently available resources (e.g. some localities listed with vague indications in the Introduction Volume of the de Witte's mission in the Park Upemba.

There were old detailed maps (staff maps), but where are they now?

- . It seems there were ancient staff maps for the regions of interest (in rare cases I found some).
- . I did not find them at RBINS (definitely lost or "lost in the brol").
- . At first glance, the situation is not better for RMCA.
- In many respects, such ghost maps are of great importance (not only for CANATHIST).

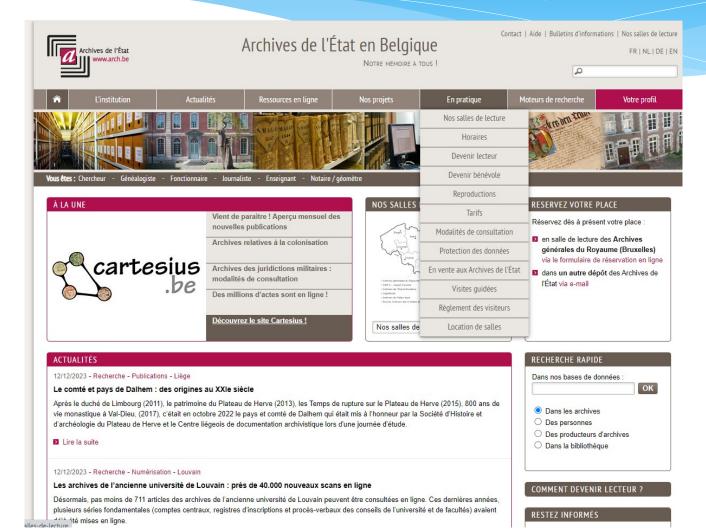
734 pages listing of published and unpublished African maps in pdf

N° CART	REGION	NOM OU DESCRIPTION	PERIODE	ANCIEN CODE	SELECTER Couleur
		(DIAGRAMMES ECHELLEDETIAGE RMERES DIVERSES			
4137	CONGO	(PLUSIEUIRSFEUILLES)13 19/31		0
	CONGO-				
4905	UBANGI	(CONGO-UBANGI) DISTRICTDE L'UBANGI	27	800.000E	C
		ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGOATLAS 7 (COLLECTION DE CROQUIS J77-J100 /			
4007	CONGO	N1-N18) INCOMPLET!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	189?	1/DIVERS	0
1008	CONGO	ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO 11 (COLLECTIONDE CROQUISK1-K24)	189?	1/DIVERS	0
		EXPLICATIVE DE LA CARTEGEOLOGIQUE DE LA REGION DE WATSA / APERCU)		
4009	WATSA	GENERAL/LEGENDEGENERAL/	E1933	1/500.000	0
4010	LAKEKIVU	GERMAN EAST AFRICA LAKEKIVU A1	1916	1/300.000	0
4011	LAKEKIVU	GERMAN EAST AFRICA LAKE KIVU A1	1916	1/300.000	0
4012	KARAGWE	GERMAN EASTAFRICA KARAGWE A2	1916	1/300.000	0
	USIGE				
4013	USUMBURA	GERMANEASTAFRICAUSIGE(USUMBURA) B1	1916	1/300.000	0
	RUANDA				
1014	URUNDI	GERMANEASTAFRICAURUNDI B2	1916	1/300.000	0
4001	CONGO	CARTEFLUMALE DU CONGO DE BRAZZAVILLE A LIRANGA (ATLAS)	1908	1/50.000	0
	AFRIQUE				
	EQUATORIA	MISSION DE PROSPECTION DES FORCESHYDRAULIQUES DE L'AFRIQUE			
	Æ	EQUATORIALE FRANÇAISE CARTES DES BASSINS ET PLANS DES CHUTES ETUDIES			
4005	FRANCAISE	ANNEXEAU RAPPORTD'ENSEMBLE	1931	1/DIVERS	0
	COQUILHAT				
	VILLE	ROUTE COQUILHATVILLE-BOENDE			
4138	BOENDE	(5 FEUILLES)44	1/DIVERS		0
4004	ARUWIMI	ANNEXESA L'ARRETEROYALEDU 31 DECEMBRE1925 SOCIETEMINIERE ARUWIMI-		500-00-000000	
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	HAUT-	SERVICEHYDROGRAPHIQUE SECTION DU HAUT-CONGO DIAGRAMMES DESCRUES		0291463470277437	
4136	CONGO	1915	15	1/DIVERS	0
	ITIMBIRI	(MISSION ITIMBIRI-RUBI)			
4135	RUBI	(PLUSIEURSCARTES ABIME)	23 24		0

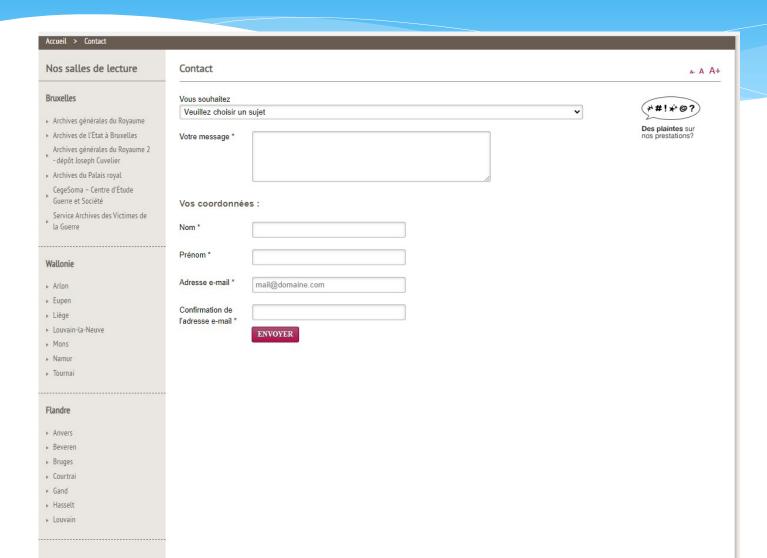
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- . Includes e.g. maps of the Upemba Park at 1/500,000
- Source: Archives de l'Etat Belge: https://www.arch.be/docs/invent/archives-africaines/Cartotheque.pdf

"Archives de l'état belge": site not user-friendly; everything has to be paid and is expensive.



Pas de nr de téléphone, mais un e-mail de contact



Ghost maps issue

- . Double check that really absent from RBINS and RMCA.
- If not, contacting the "Archives de l'Etat belge" for a selection of maps.

Thank you for your attention!

