Dutch atlases -
the Google Earth of the 17th century

A lecture by Prof. Peter van der Krogt (Amsterdam and Utrecht) as part of the Fagel Project. The lecture is organised by the Fagel Map Project - Department of History and Trinity Long Room Hub.

Wednesday 11 June 2014, 18:00
In the Neill/Hoey Lecture Theatre, Trinity Long Room Hub. Admission is free and all are welcome.

When we want to get an image of the world, nowadays we use Google Earth. In the 17th century the common source for geographical information was the atlas. What is an atlas? Dutch publishers, first in Antwerp and from about 1600 in Amsterdam, were the leaders in the field of atlas production. The first “real” atlas is the Theatrum Orbis Terrarum by Abraham Ortelius, published in 1570. The highlight is the publication of the Atlas Maior by Joan Blaeu in 1664, the greatest and finest atlas ever made, consisting of eleven large folio volumes with about 600 maps. The Dutch monopoly of the international atlas market cemented by these early publishers was continued by later 17th century Amsterdam publishers such as the Visschers and Frederick de Wit. Indeed the Dutch control of the map and atlas market would be carried into the 18th century by the next generation of cartographic publishers. The lecture is richly illustrated with many maps from these atlases.

Dr Peter van der Krogt, a leading expert on Dutch atlases, is author of the series Koeman’s Atlantes Neerlandici, a bibliography of atlases published in the Low Countries, and of the illustrated and annotated catalogue of the Atlas Blaeu-Van der Hem of the Austrian National Library. He is head of the Explokart Research Program for the History of Cartography at the Special Collections of the University of Amsterdam and Lecturer at Utrecht University.