

FIRST INTERNACIONAL WORKSHOP

ON THE ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF PORTOLAN CHARTS

Museu de Marinha
Lisbon, 6-7 June 2016

The origin of the nautical chart is among the most challenging unresolved subjects within the History of Cartography. Emerging almost fully-formed in the thirteenth century and exhibiting an unprecedented accuracy, when compared with the contemporary cartography, the portolan chart of the Mediterranean is an intriguing medieval artefact. The purpose of this workshop, the first to gather most of the internationally recognized specialists on the subject, is to assess the current state of knowledge and the range of opinion about the birth and evolution of portolan charts. New and promising developments have occurred in recent years which may help to solve some of the most critical questions about the *when*, *where* and *why* the earliest charts were created, *how* they were constructed, *how* they evolved over time and *how* they were used. These matters will be the focus of the more than twenty papers —and one round-table discussion—that will be presented in the workshop. Reflecting the fact that the researchers currently working on these issues come from the both sciences and the humanities fields, the papers will deal equally with technical and historical viewpoints.

Free admission, registration required:

ciuhct.org/events/portmeeting/



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Evangelos Livieratos | Joaquim Alves Gaspar
Piero Falchetta | Tony Campbell

ORGANIZATION

Centre for the History of
Science and Technology (CIUHCT)
Museu de Marinha (Navy Museum)

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Joaquim Alves Gaspar | Tony Campbell | Evangelos Livieratos

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Museu de Marinha (Navy Museum)
Praça do Império — Lisboa

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Lisboa | Portugal

6 June | Monday

09.00—09.30 Registration

Session 1 | 09.30—11.30

Chair Joaquim Alves Gaspar

09.30 – 09.50 **Welcome**

09.50 – 10.45 **Opening Talks**

Evangelos Livieratos | *ICA Commission "Cartographic Heritage into the Digital": tasks, tools and working methods*

Tony Campbell | *Recent research: evidence from the texts and charts themselves*

Joaquim Alves Gaspar | *Some historiographical notes on the origin of portolan charts*

10.45 – 11.00 Discussion

11.00 – 11.30 **Coffee break**

Session 2 | 11.30—13.00

Chair Ramon Pujades

1:30 – 12.00 Dmitri Shcheglov | *Ptolemy's map and ancient background of the portolan charts*

12.00 – 12.30 Stefan Schröder | *The Islamic hypothesis revisited: transcultural knowledge and late medieval portolan charts*

12.30 – 13.00 Chet Van Duzer | *Misplaced islands and the meridian of water: an unsuspected case of Islamic influence on nautical charts*

13.00 – 14.30 **Lunch break**

Session 3 | 14.30—16.00

Chair Chet Van Duzer

14.30 – 15.00 Harald Gropp | *Portolan maps and mappae mundi from Lull to Martellus*

15.00 – 15.30 Ramon Pujades | *Genoa and the birth of medieval nautical cartography: the basic features of an exported pattern*

15.30 – 16.00 Gregory McIntosh | *After the compass and before the chart: considerations on the origin of the portolan chart*

16.00 – 16.30 **Coffee break**

Session 4 | 16.30—18.00

Chair Catherine Hofmann

16.30 – 17.00 Emmanuelle Vagnon | *Cultural and commercial use of portolan charts: old debate, new evidence*

17.00 – 17.30 Gregory McIntosh, R. Pflederer | *Proposal for genetic testing of medieval and Renaissance manuscript map parchments*

17.30 – 18.00 Corradino Astengo | *Manual of instructions not included*

20.00 – 23.00 **Workshop dinner**

7 June | Tuesday

Session 5 | 09.00—10.30

Chair Corradino Astengo

09.00 – 09.30 Juan O. Hernández | *Name 'deturpatio' in portolan charts during Atlantic expansion*

09.30 – 10.00 Krisztina Irás | *Central Europe on portolan charts*

10.00 – 10.30 Jacques Mille | *The French coasts of the Mediterranean Sea on portolan charts*

10.30 – 11.00 **Coffee break**

Session 6 | 11.00—12:30

Chair Evangelos Livieratos

11.00 – 11.30 Roel Nicolai | *Geodetic and methodological aspects of the research into the origin of portolan charts*

11.30 – 12.00 Catherine Hofmann et al. | *Is the Carta Pisana still the oldest known marine chart? The results of laboratory analysis and of radiocarbon dating*

12.00 – 12.30 Tony Campbell | *What do we know historically about the origin of the portolan chart; how can we best fill in the gaps?*

12.30 – 14.00 **Lunch break**

Session 7 | 14.00—15:30

Chair Emmanuelle Vagnon

14.00 – 14.30 Richard Pflederer | *Portolan charts of the Mediterranean Sea: localized variation in indicated bearings between points*

14.30 – 15.00 Kevin Sheehan | *Construction and reconstruction: investigating how portolan maps were manufactured through experimental reproduction*

15.00 – 15.30 Joaquim Alves Gaspar | *Cartometric and modelling techniques in the study of portolan charts*

15.30 – 16.00 **Coffee break**

Session 8 | 16.00—18.00

Chair Tony Campbell

16.00 – 16.15 Richard Pflederer | *Comprehensive census of portolan charts: late 13th century to mid-18th century* (short paper)

16.15 – 17.30 **Round table discussion**
Evangelos Livieratos | *Analyzing the geometric content of old maps: smooth operational approaches and the Digital Humanities perspective*

17.30 – 18.00 **Closure**