

SECOND INTERNACIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF PORTOLAN CHARTS

Instituto Hidrográfico
Lisbon, 7-8 June 2018

The First International Workshop “On the Origin and Evolution of Portolan Charts” was held in Lisbon in June 2016. That was notable in gathering under the same roof, for the first time, most of the internationally recognized specialists on the subject ready to help in assessing the current state of knowledge.

This second workshop focuses once more on issues relating to the origin and evolution of nautical cartography, but this time has broadened its scope to consider other aspects of the subject, such as the mutual influence between the medieval portolan charts and traditional maps of European and non-European origin.

Although no universally accepted answers have yet been provided to the well-rehearsed issues about the origin, evolution and use of the portolan charts, most experts now appear to agree on two important points: first, that a multidisciplinary approach to these problems is essential, including, for example, the use of numerical analytical techniques to complement the close examination of the manuscripts themselves; and second, that any theory addressing the origin, evolution and use of portolan charts must take into account the navigational practices of the time.

Free admission, registration required

ORGANIZATION

Project MEDEA-CHART
Faculdade de Ciências – Universidade de Lisboa
Instituto Hidrográfico

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Joaquim Alves Gaspar | Tony Campbell
Ana Margarida Nunes

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Tony Campbell | Evangelos Livieratos
Henrique Leitão | Vladimiro Valerio

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7—8 June 2018



Diogo Homem, 1563. Biblioteca Nazionale, Firenze (Port N.26)



Instituto Hidrográfico
Rua das Trinas, 49 — Lisboa

SECOND INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

ON THE ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF PORTOLAN CHARTS

Instituto Hidrográfico

Lisbon | Portugal

7 June | Thursday

09.00—09.30 Registration

09.30 – 10.00 **Welcome & Introduction**

Session 1 | 10.00—11.00

Chair Joaquim Alves Gaspar

10.00 – 10.30 **Tony Campbell** | *How were the portolan charts created? The argument for a mental-map origin*

10.30 – 11.00 **Catherine Delano-Smith** | *Emergent maps: questioning the rise and function of the portolan chart and the regional map in the Middle Ages*

11.00 – 11.30 **Coffee break**

Session 2 | 11.30—13.00

Chair Richard Pflederer

11:30 – 12.00 **Jacques Mille** | *About a recently discovered portolan chart: the Avignon chart*

12.00 – 12.30 **A. Denisov & A. Podossinov** | *Rhipaeon mountains on the early portolan charts: influence of ancient and medieval traditional cartography?*

12.30 – 13.00 **Andrew Blackler** | *Testing the practical application of the 13th and 14th century portolan charts within the historical framework of the late medieval period*

13.00 – 14.30 **Lunch break**

Session 3 | 14.30—16.00

Chair Tony Campbell

14.30 – 15.00 **Pietro Armienti** | *Portolan maps: an achievement of cutting edge knowledge in the Pisa maritime republic*

15.00 – 15.30 **Kevin E. Sheehan** | *Reproduction and retrogression: did the methods of portolan chart production lead to a retrogression in their hydrographical accuracy over time?*

15.30 – 16.00 **Corradino Astengo** | *Customers and patrons of medieval and Renaissance chartmakers*

16.00 – 16.30 **Coffee break**

Session 4 | 16.30—18.00

Chair Vladimiro Valerio

16.30 – 17.00 **Laurent Monsaingeon** | *An enigmatic portolan chart by Baldasaro da Maiolo Visconte (1589)*

17.00 – 17.30 **Yossef Rapoport** | *Mediterranean navigation before the portolan charts: representation of maritime space in the Fatimid Book of Curiosities*

17.30 – 18.00 **Wei-sheng Lin** | *Interpreting data from the portolan charts: the case of the medieval Cilician coastline*

20.00 – 23.00 **Workshop dinner** (Instituto Hidrográfico)

8 June | Friday

Session 5 | 09.30—11.00

Chair Corradino Astengo

09.30 – 10.00 **Vladimiro Valerio** | *Why should medieval charts be drawn in a geometrical projection?*

10.00 – 10.30 **Gonçalo Dias & Gregory McIntosh** | *A new, further method of cartometric analysis with two case studies*

10.30 – 11.00 **Michael Barritt** | *On 'the mischief of an indiscriminate neglect of old surveys' (Captain W. H. Smyth RN): the depiction of navigational hazards on portolan charts*

11.00– 11.30 **Coffee break**

Session 6 | 11.30—13:00

Chair Catherine Delano-Smith

11.30 – 12.00 **Roel Nicolai** | *The navigation data in the Compasso de Navegare: accuracy and provenance*

12.00 – 12.30 **Richard Pflederer** | *Portolan charts of the Mediterranean Sea: analysis of the correspondence with data from Lo Compasso de Navegare*

12.30 – 13.00 **Joaquim Alves Gaspar** | *The Liber de existencia riveriarum and the genesis of nautical cartography*

13.00 – 14.30 **Lunch break**

14.30 – 15.30 **Visit to the Hydrographic Institute and chart exhibition**

Session 7 | 15.30—17.00

Chair Tony Campbe & Joaquim Alves Gaspar

15.30– 16.30 **Round table discussion** | *Portolans and portolan charts: which came first?*

16.30– 17.00 **Closure**



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