

Welcome address of the Chair of the ICA Commission on Digital Technologies in Cartographic Heritage

ICC, Barcelona, 19-20 April 2012

On behalf of the International Cartographic Association **Commission on Digital Technologies in Cartographic Heritage**, I welcome you all in the 7th Workshop on **Digital Approaches in Cartographic Heritage** invited and hosted by our Commission's kind and generous **Supporting Institution**, the **Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya**.

This year's Workshop is mainly targeting at the map-librarianship because our Barcelona hosts had the idea to couple our event with the 18th Conference of the **LIBER Maps-Expert Group**, which took place the two last days in this same venue. LIBER, the Association of European Research Libraries, have in its structure an active Group of Map Librarians with some of its members being members of our Commission too.

It is not thus surprising the presence among us of participants from such a consistent number of Libraries but also from Archives, Museums and Cultural Institutions together with the traditional participants from the Universities, Research Centres and the private sector. This plurality in participation is a safe indication of the broad interest for our Commission.

I wish to express my sincere thanks and indebtedness to a great friend of our Commission, the Director of the Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya and distinguished personality of the International Cartographic Community **Jaume Miranda i Canals** for his constant and profound support generously offered to this Commission since many years now. He and his cooperators in the ICC, the Commission Vice Chair **Carme Montaner**, Head of the ICC Map Library, the Commission member **Rafael Roset**, the responsible of the digital implementation in the ICC Map Library and their colleagues and staff, offered for the second time, hospitality, expertise, culture, true sense of friendship and solidarity which is more than necessary in these difficult periods we are living. **Moltes gràcies** dear colleagues and friends in the ICC. **El seu suport és molt important perquè és profound!**

My thanks are also addressed to all the participants who contribute and follow the Workshop, the Sessions Chairs, the Commission members and especially those of them who are active and present in our initiatives. Also to the Commission's international Board of this Workshop: **Georg Gartner**, the ICA President (Vienna); **László Zentai**, the ICA Secretary General and Commission's **Supporting Institution** associate (Budapest); **Anne Ruas**, ICA Vice-Chair and ICA Executive Committee Liaison to the Commission (Paris); **Ferjan Ormeling**, Commission Member (Utrecht); **Francesco Guerra**, Commission Member and Commission's **Supporting Institution** associate (Venice); **Chris Fleet**, Commission Member and Commission's **Supporting Institution** associate (Edinburgh); **Petr Přidal**, Commission Member (Baar / Brno); **Alastair Pearson**, Commission Vice-Chair (Portsmouth).

I wish also to salute the participants who came from afar, from outside Europe. It is very important to have representatives from all over the World since our Commission belongs to ICA, an international Association covering all continents.

Last but not least, I wish to express my deep thanks to the Thessaloniki task-force group, my University colleagues **Chrysoula Boutoura**, the Director of the Department of Cadastre, Photogrammetry and Cartography, School of Surveying Engineering and **Alexandra Kousoulakou** and to my research associates **Angeliki Tsorlini**, **Maria Pazarli** and **Nopi Ploutoglou** who volunteered to deal with organizational and implementation issues related to the Commission's work. They offered valuable assistance and support with enthusiasm and dedication.

Enjoy your stay in Barcelona!