

International Cartographic Association

Commission on Digital Technologies in Cartographic Heritage

<http://xeee.web.auth.gr/ICA-Heritage/>

Commission Activities

The activities of the Commission on Digital Technologies in Cartographic Heritage during 2012 - 2013 evolved mainly around three activities:

- The Commission's Annual Workshop
- The Commission's support and involvement in the organization of activities for the Greek "Cartographic Week"
- The editing of the web journal "e-Perimetron"

The Commission's Annual (2012) Workshop *Digital Approaches to Cartographic Heritage* and the preparation of the 2013 Workshop

The 7th Commission Workshop on *Digital Approaches to Cartographic Heritage* was held in Barcelona, in 19 and 20 of April 2012, after an invitation by one of its Supporting Institutions, the Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya (ICC). The Workshop was generously hosted by the ICC, which provided space and facilities for the event. The ICC hosts had the good idea of coupling the Workshop with the LIBER-Map Experts Group 18th Conference which took place in the same venue in 17-18 April 2012. LIBER, the Association of European Research Libraries, has in its structure an active Group of Map Librarians with some of its members being members of our Commission too. Their participation in the Commission's Workshop not only enlarged the attending audience but it contributed to substantial and fruitful discussions and exchange of views in many occasions during the Workshop's course.

A number of 91 participants registered in the Workshop, coming from 24 countries and 42 cities, throughout Europe and North & South America. The audience's multidisciplinary synthesis (participants from Libraries, Archives, Museums and Cultural Institutions together with the traditional participants from the Universities, Research Centres and the private sector) was in line with the scope and purpose of a number of the Commission's terms of reference related to:

- encouraging and promoting the dialogue between digital technologies and map librarianship, map archives / map collections, history of cartography
- opening of new ways in cartographic heritage research
- inspiring partnerships and joint ventures between experts from the fields above

The Workshop's topics covered a broad spectrum of fields of theoretical and applied research related to:

- Digital map libraries and map collections
- Archiving, matching, management, networking and accessibility of Cartographic Heritage items in-situ and in the web
- Development of methodologies and standards applied on proper two- and three- dimensional digitisation of Cartographic Heritage objects, materials and documents
- Digital map restoration
- Digital technologies in map collections, including the digitisation of collections.
- Online presentation of maps in georeferenced and ungeoreferenced forms
- Discovery, accessibility and retrieval of materials through a range of portals, INSPIRE and SDIs
- New opportunities for cooperation and partnerships using digital technologies / Developing tools for the long-term preservation of digital map content
- Open data relevant issues.

The hosting ICC certainly provided an ideal atmosphere for the Workshop; our local organizers were also enthusiastic enough to offer some extra tours in the technical facilities and exhibitions of the Institut Cartogràfic during the breaks. The warm spirit of the whole event is captured in the photos uploaded in the Commission's website. (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/61773467@N04/sets/72157629545480846/show/>). The success of the Workshop would not have been made feasible without the efforts of a number of people from the ICC, as well.

The upcoming 8th ICA Workshop on Digital Approaches to Cartographic Heritage it is going to be held in Rome, in September 19-20, 2013. The Workshop is hosted by the Italian Geographic Society (SGI) at Villa Celimontana.

The Workshop is, as always, addressed to scholars, researchers, map-curators, map-collectors, map-librarians, administrators, digital industry / market operators and students coming from different cultural and educational backgrounds (humanistic, scientific, arts and engineering) whose work is either focused on or affined to cartographic heritage. In this way, a common ground will be offered to colleagues from various disciplines and practice where they can meet, interact and exchange knowledge, experience, plans and ideas on how the digital revolution and modern information and communication technologies can or could be used and contribute to cartographic heritage in terms of acquisition, processing, visualization and communication of relevant digital data. The sessions' items will follow the Commission's terms of reference, expecting to consider:

- The multidisciplinary dimension of cartographic heritage.

- Transformation into digital form of old maps, globes and other cartographic documents; comparison of digitization methods and technologies and development of relevant standards.
- Applications of digital techniques to the cartographic study (analysis and interpretation) of old maps and their geometric and thematic content; tests of various analytic processes and visualization.
- Development and management of digital map libraries accessible to the general public; digital tools to assist map curators, to aid the networking of map libraries and to allow in-situ and remote virtual access to cartographic heritage.
- Digital support for the preservation and restoration of old maps, atlases and globes.
- The use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and the web for the teaching and for the diffusion of the heritage of cartography and maps to the general public.
- The 'digital needs' of individual map collectors.
- Scanners for proper digitalization: state of the art and perspectives.

The full papers will be included in the Workshop's CD-ROM, available to all participants. Selected papers will be also published in e-Perimetron, the international web journal on sciences and technologies affined to history of cartography and maps (<http://www.e-perimetron.org>), according to the journal's editorial policy.

As always, the registration to the Workshop is free.

More information about the upcoming Rome Workshop can be found in the Commission's webpage, which is continuously updated on the matter:

http://xeee.web.auth.gr/ICA-Heritage/2011_2015/Roma2013/index.htm

The Commission's support to the Greek *Cartographic Week*

A panorama of Modern Greek Cartography was offered to the participants of the *Cartographic Week*, organized from the 9th until the 13th of October 2012 in the city of Kozani, in Northern Greece. The selection of the place was done having in mind the 100th anniversary celebration of the independence of Macedonia and Epirus in 1912 and their incorporation into the Greek State. Kozani is a central place in Western Macedonia and an active city in many aspects currently, as well as during the historical past. Two important institutions, The Koventareios Municipal Library and the Lassaneios Municipal Map Library are located in Kozani, both having established a close cooperation with our Commission in matters related to cartographic heritage and digital technologies.

The activities of the Cartographic Week spanned a broad spectrum of topics, starting with Historical Cartography, proceeding with items of current cartographic interest

and ending up with the most recent technological issues for the country, promising useful developments in the near future. The contribution and the work done by the Commission in the organization, the support and participations during the Cartographic Week were invaluable. It was a week fully dedicated to maps, addressing the many dimensions of Cartography. ICA's Secretary General and Treasurer László Zentai was invited and attended a number of events during the Cartographic Week, which started with presentations in Historical Cartography concerning the migrations and communities of Greeks from western Macedonia and Kozani to Europe and especially in Hungary, organized by our Commission and held in the Lassaneios Map Library of Kozani. Two prominent speakers, specialists on the matter of Greek Diaspora, Prof. O. Katsiardi-Hering and Dr. I. Mantouvalos gave captivating presentations during the opening evening, which culminated with the cartographic exhibition on "Western-Macedonian and Kozanites in Western Europe – Hungary" that was opened immediately after the presentations.

The presentations were concerned with the Greek communities in Central and West Europe during the 18th -19th century, the immigration networks and the overall activities of the Greek Diaspora in Europe, with a strong Greek presence in social and economic activity of European cities at that time. The exhibition, on the other hand gave the cartographic dimension of the topic and it was centred around two major Atlases: the famous 18th century Atlas of J.B. Homann, *Atlas Minor XXXVI Tabularum Hommanianarum Coloribus methodice distinctarum*, a copy of which exists in the Kozani Library and a modern Hungarian Atlas (2001) by Hidas Gábor, *Történelmi Világatlasz*. Copies of other historical Hungarian maps (from the 18th and 19th centuries) were kindly provided by the ICA Secretary General and Treasurer Prof. László Zentai for the purposes of the exhibition. Additional material from historical sources was shown, together with modern representations of the relevant geographic space on present-day base maps, with the help of digital technologies; the whole presentation was an interesting travel in the cities and areas of Europe where an active, progressive and patriotic part of the Greek nation flourished, playing an important role in the so-called Greek Enlightenment during the 18th-19th centuries.

A second exhibition, held also in the Lassaneios Map Library opened a couple of days later, related to the centennial anniversary mentioned before and entitled "From Melouna to Kozani". This second exhibition, also supported by the Commission was a memorial reference to the Greek cartography of the second half of the 19th century related to the expansion of Greek territory and the respective mappings of the borderlines, starting in 1832, continuing to the north in Thessaly until 1881 and up to Macedonia and Epirus in 1912-1913, with presentations of the main phases characterizing the cartographic activity of the era.

For an overview of the Greek Cartographic Week of 2012 take a look here:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/89878425@N06/sets/72157631966505675/show/>

The Commission's support to the web-journal "e-Perimetron"

A fundamental part of the Commission's work is the editing and publishing of the international web-journal *e-Perimetron*, on-line since 2006. This free-access journal, dedicated to sciences and technologies affined to the history of cartography and maps, is actually supporting the Commission's scientific activities counting, from 2006 to 2012, seven volumes of 28 issues with 164 published papers in a total of 1829 pages. The first 2013 issue of the 8th volume is already on-line.

Visit *e-Perimetron* in the journal's site:

<http://www.e-perimetron.org>

Planned activities of the Commission

- A future activity that the Commission is currently working on is the examination of possibilities and prospects for the cooperation with LIBER's Map Librarians Group/ Groupe des Cartothécaires. This initiative is undertaken in cooperation with the Commission's Vice Chair Dr. Carme Montaner (Director of the Map Library, Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya).
- **After the upcoming 8th ICA Workshop on Digital Approaches to Cartographic Heritage to be held in Rome this year (19-20 September), the next 9th Workshop is arranged to be held in Budapest in 2014, hosted by the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Department of Cartography and Geoinformatics.**

Other Commission Connections

Being recognized as a hub of cultural heritage, historical studies and technology, the Commission was recently asked to act as a connector to a broader audience for an on-line exhibition of rare and curious atlases from the University of Bristol Library's Special Collections. The respective links are therefore given here, with thanks to Ms. Veronica Delladora for providing them. Enjoy!

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/news/2013/9381.html>

<http://uobatlasses.net/>