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

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

This workshop has received funding from the European Research Council under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement 714033-MEDEA-CHART/ERC-2016-STG)