

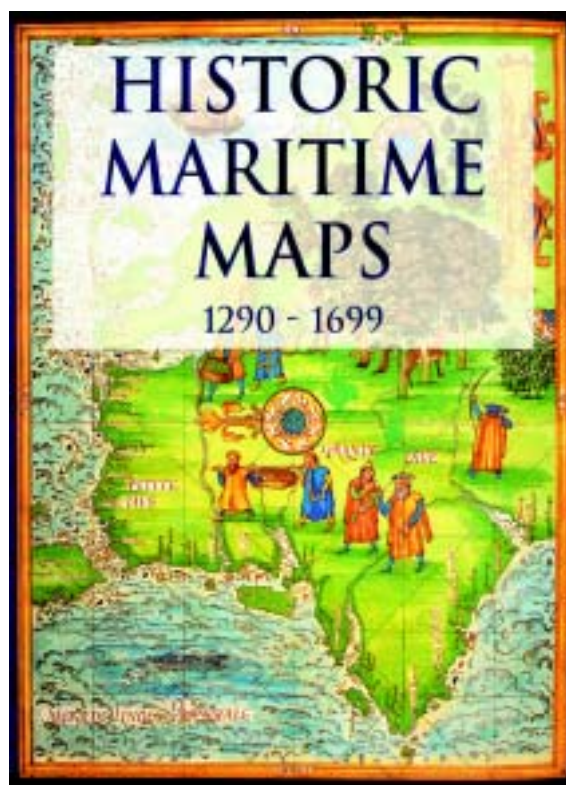
Historic Maritime Maps Used for Historic Exploration 1290–1699

Donald Wigal

The book *Historic Maritime Maps* by Donald Wigal (Parkstone Press, New York, 2000, 264 pages, hard cover) will be a real delicacy for every fan of old maps and the period of the New World Discoveries. It is an exceptionally lavishly produced monograph. Old charts, especially portolans, are not a mere decorative illustration here. High quality of the attached map reproductions provides a very good legibility and usability for various historic researches, which makes the book exceptionally valuable. These are rare and very valuable maritime charts made mostly in the period of Great Geographic Discoveries, as a need, but also as a consequence of sea travels and discoveries of until then unknown countries and civilisations.

The book consists of six chapters. In the first introductory chapter (Maps and Exploring) the role of maps in discovering and exploring the world is emphasised. There are the first explorations described starting with Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC, through Viking raids to Greenland and America up to the journey of Marco Polo. In the second chapter (Discovering New Worlds, West and East: 1400–1500) and in the third chapter (Beyond the New World: 1500–1550) there are Spanish, Portuguese, French and British explorations and conquering of America described and documented with maps. In the fourth chapter (Bridging the Oceans: 1550–1600) and in the fifth chapter (The Renaissance of Discovery: 1600–1700) the discovery and mapping of Africa, Australia and Asia are described, and the sixth chapter (Sailing Towards the Modern World: 1700–1900) is dedicated to the journey of James Cook and to the explorations of Oceania and polar territories. Each of the chapters is accompanied by a large number of charts, either being the basis upon which the journeys were made, or were made as the result of those journeys. At the end of each passage the characteristics and development of charts at that time are mentioned, as well as navigation manners, and the most important cartographic schools. Almost all well known creators of charts are presented, as e.g. Petrus Vesconte, Angelino Dulcert, Buillelmus Solieri, Cristoforo Buondelmonte, Jacobo Giroldis, Petrus Roselli, Grazioso Benincasa, Gaspar Viegas, Piri Re'is,

Giacomo de Maggiolo and Francesco Oliva, but also very many less known cartographers deserving credit. The presented charts are kept in the National Library in Paris, City Libraries in Lion and Dijon, in the Government Office in Paris, the State Archives in Lisbon, the State Archives in Den Haag, the British Library in London, the National Museum in Tokyo, and in several private collections.



Rarity maps are not easily available even if they are kept in Croatia, and since in this case there are rare maps and atlases collected from the whole world involved they would be absolutely unavailable for the majority of researchers without such monographs. Our researcher will now be able to get an insight not only into the history of world research and into the irreplaceable role of maps, but also into the development of the sea navigation itself and cartography developed on the basis of above mentioned research without having to travel themselves.

Mirela Slukan-Altić

Historic Maritime Maps Used for Historic Exploration 1290–1699

Donald Wigal

Knjiga *Povijesne pomorske karte* Donalda Wigala (Parkstone Press, New York, 2000, 264. str, tvrdi uvez) za svakog će ljubitelja starih karata i razdoblja otkrivanja Novog svijeta biti prava poslastica. To je iznimno bogato opremljena monografija, u kojoj stare pomorske karte, osobito portulani, nisu samo dekorativna ilustracija. Visoka kvaliteta reprodukcija priloženih karata osigurava njihovu dobru čitljivost i upotrebljivost za različita povijesna istraživanja, što knjizi daje osobitu vrijednost. Radi se o rijetkim i iznimno vrijednim pomorskim kartama nastalima uglavnom u razdoblju velikih geografskih otkrića, kao potreba, ali i posljedica putovanja morskim prostranstvima i otkrića do tada nepoznatih zemalja i civilizacija.

Knjiga se sastoji od šest poglavlja. U prvom, uvodnom poglavlju (Maps and Exploring) ističe se uloga karata u otkrivanju i istraživanju svijeta. Opisuje se prva istraživanja, počevši od Aleksandra Velikoga u 4. stoljeću pr. Kr., preko vikinških pohoda prema Grenlandu i Americi sve do putovanja Marka Pola. U drugom (Discovering New Worlds, West and East: 1400–1500) i trećem poglavlju (Beyond the New World: 1500–1550) opisuju se i kartama dokumentiraju španjolska i portugalska, francuska i britanska istraživanja i osvajanja Amerike. U četvrtom (Bridging the Oceans: 1550–1600) i petom poglavlju (The Renaissance of Discovery: 1600–1700) riječ je o otkrivanju i kartiranju Afrike, Australije i Azije, dok je šesto poglavlje (Sailing Towards the Modern World: 1700–1900) posvećeno putovanjima Jamesa Cooka te istraživanjima Oceanije i polarnih krajeva. Svako je poglavlje popraćeno velikim brojem karata, bilo da su se temelju njih putovanja odvijala, bilo da su nastale kao njihov krajnji rezultat. Na kraju svakog odlomka posebno se navode osobine i razvoj pomorskih karata toga razdoblja, načini navigacije te najvažnije kartografske škole. Zastupljeni su gotovo svi najpoznatiji majstori pomorskih karata kao sto su Petrus Vesconte, Angelino Dulcert, Guillelmus Solieri, Cristoforo Buondelmonte, Jacobo Giroldis, Petrus Roselli, Grazioso Benincasa, Gaspar Viegas, Piri Re'is, Giacomo de Maggiolo i Francesco Oliva te niz iznimno zaslužnih ali manje poznatih kartografa. Prikazane karte čuvaju se u Nacionalnoj

knjižnici u Parizu, Gradskim knjižnicama u Lionu i Dijonu, Vladinu uredu u Parizu, Državnom arhivu u Lisabonu, Državnom arhivu u Haagu, Britanskoj knjižnici u Londonu, Nacionalnome muzeju u Tokiju te u više privatnih zbirki.



Raritete su karte teško dostupne i kada se čuvaju u Hrvatskoj, a kako se tu radi o rijetkim kartama i atlasima sakupljenima iz cijeloga svijeta, bez takvih monografija one bi za većinu istraživača bile gotovo nedostupne. Tako će naši istraživači putem te knjige moći dobiti uvid ne samo u povijest istraživanja svijeta i u nezamjenjivu ulogu karata već i u razvoj pomorske navigacije i kartografije, koja se temelji na spomenutim putovanjima.

Mirela Šukan-Altić