



Portolan charts

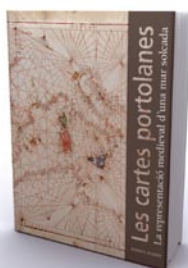
The medieval representation of a ploughed sea

In October 2007, the book *Les cartes portolanes. La representació medieval d'una mar solcada* (Portolan charts. The medieval representation of a ploughed sea), of the author Ramon J. Pujades, was published by Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya, fruit of a joint initiative with Institut d'Estudis Catalans and Institut Europeu de la Mediterrània.

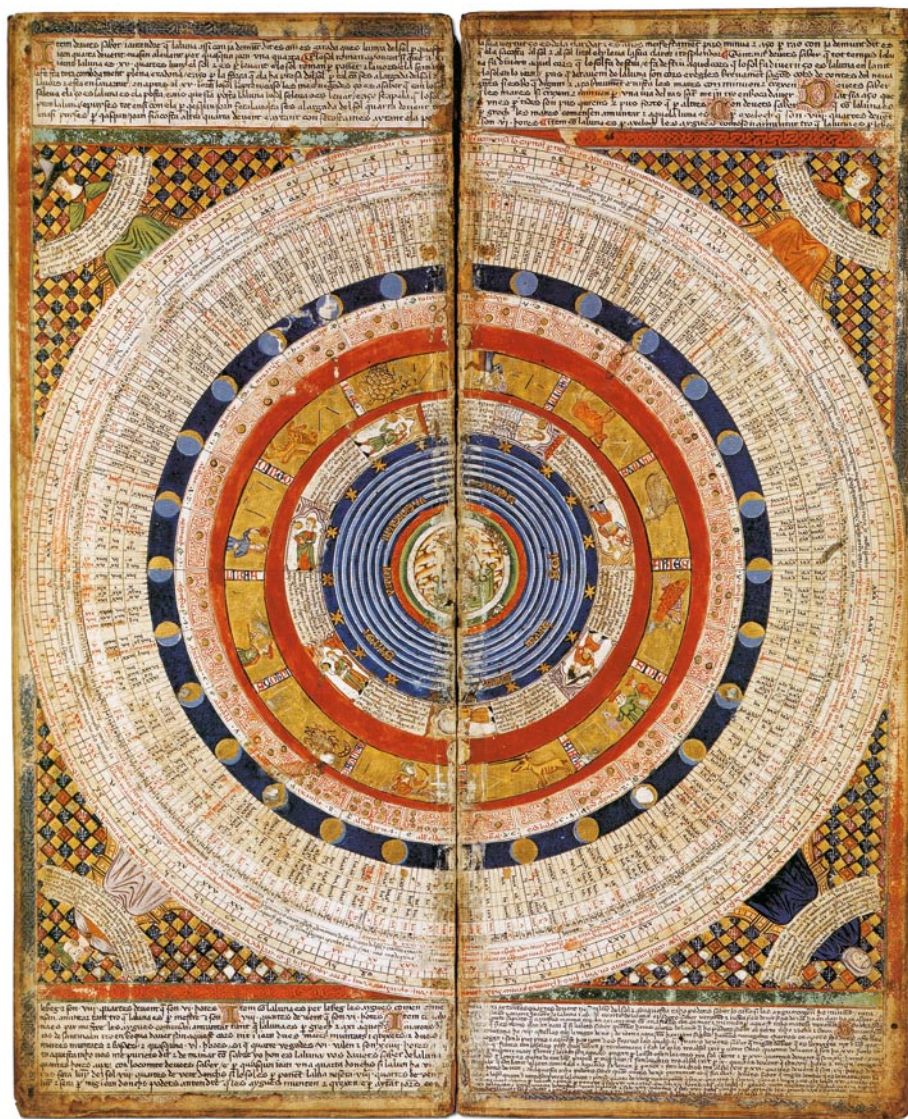
This work offers an all-encompassing view of its subject matter emphasizing on the instrumental techniques of geographic measuring at medieval era, the evolution of writing, trade and politics as drivers for maritime navigation, etc.

Les cartes portolanes. La representació medieval d'una mar solcada

Ramon J. Pujades
526 pages + DVD
Institut Cartogràfic
de Catalunya
Institut d'Estudis
Catalans
Institut Europeu
de la Mediterrània



The profusely illustrated book is structured into six chapters. The first centres on Mediterranean merchant's exchanges and written culture in the transition from the full to the low Middle Ages. In the second, the author describes the problems related with the conserved works' representativeness. The following chapter portrays the uses and users of medieval nautical charts. The work continues with the productive process and then depicts the cartographers and their workshops, to conclude with an approach to the origin of medieval nautical cartography.



**THE BOOK OPENS NEW
PERSPECTIVES IN THE HISTORY
OF CARTOGRAPHY IN GENERAL
AND IN THE PORTOLAN CHARTS
WORLD SPECIFICALLY**

This first-class scientific work, in addition to final conclusions, bibliography, toponymic appendix and English translation of the text, comes with a DVD featuring over 300 images of great beauty of portolan charts. ■

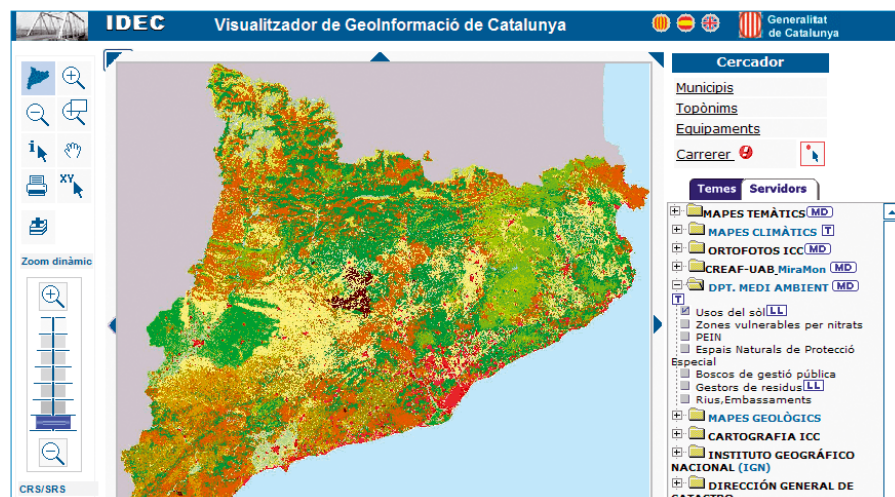
Spatial data infrastructure of Catalonia (IDEC): Evolution 2002-2007

An agreement was signed in 2002 to promote the IDEC project between the Departament d'Universitats, Recerca i Societat de la Informació (Universities, Research and the Information Society), the Departament de Política Territorial i Obres Públiques (Town and Country Planning and Public Works) and the Centre de Telecomunicacions i Tecnologies de la Informació (Telecommunications and Information Technologies). This agreement was supported and promoted by the Catalan Division of the Asociación Española de Sistemas de Información Geográfica (AESIG) (Geographic Information Systems).

THE IDEC PROJECT WAS CONSOLIDATED IN 2005 WITH LAW 16/2005

Law 16/2005 facilitated the creation of the Centre de Suport per a la Infraestructura de Dades Espacials de Catalunya (Support Center of the Catalan Spatial Data Infrastructure – Catalonia). This center, which forms part of the ICC's organic structure, was created as a technical unit and essential body for the promotion, operation and maintenance of the IDE itself, with a view to promote its development, and advise public organizations in areas related with meta-data, interoperable technologies, data harmonization and others. It also works to facilitate the resources necessary for the proper operation of the infrastructure, among them and most significantly, the Metadata Catalog of Data and Services and the Geoportal, which provides access to infrastructure resources and services as they are contributed and published by supplier organizations.

THE IDEC IS BASED ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF NON-DUPLICATION, EASE OF ACCESS AND SHARED USE OF GEOINFORMATION



The basic principles of the IDEC aim to generalize the usage of the geographic reference information, the fundamental thematic data and any other information considered essential for knowledge of a territory.

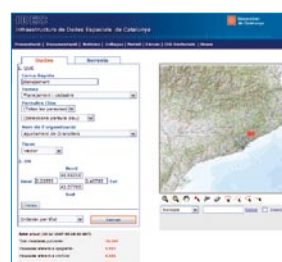
The GIS integrated into the IDEC have to be interoperable. That is why technological development must meet certain requisites, which are compliant with the international standards in force.

Some of the most noteworthy roles of the IDEC Support Center are: to promote and maintain the IDEC; to make known, describe and publicize existing geographic information and the applied services; to disseminate technological assets so as to make them accessible, interoperable and shareable, and to act as a coordination structure for the implementation and maintenance of the spatial data infrastructure, with the contribution of products, users, service providers and coordination organizations, among others.

WHAT BEGAN AS A FORERUNNING PROJECT FOR SPAIN IS NOW IN LINE WITH THE NEW "INSPIRE" EUROPEAN DIRECTIVE, APPROVED IN 2007

The INSPIRE Directive, approved in 2007, calls for the construction of these types of infrastructures in all member states, and the harmonization of geo-information to make it compatible and shareable with the different European institutions and among the member states' Public Administrations.

IDEC is now supporting the spatial data infrastructure (SDI) of local administrations in Catalonia, and collaborates with other SDI initiatives such as the SDI of Andalucía, managed by the Instituto de Cartografía de Andalucía. Also is important to underline the promotion of sectorial or thematic SDI's like Coastal Management (*IDE Costes*) and *IDE Univers* (European project to promote the participation of universities and research centers to the regional SDI'). ■



A book to pay tribute to Montserrat Galera: A collection of articles on cartography and map libraries



Recull d'articles sobre cartografia i cartoteques

Montserrat Galera
164 pages
Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya

The Cartoteca de Catalunya (Map Library of Catalonia – CTC) was created three years after the foundation of the ICC (Law 11/1982 of the Parliament of Catalonia) as a unit integrated within the internal structure of the ICC and under the direction of Montserrat Galera Monegal.

From its creation until Montserrat Galera left her job for retirement, the numerous activities carried out by the CTC are evidences of her dedication: The first exhibition was organized the same year of its creation (1985): Maps of Catalonia from the 17th and 18th centuries. The following year the reading room was opened as a public service. In 1989 the first CTC's monograph was published. It was a revised and amended reissue of the book by Msgr. Ignasi Colomer, *Cartografia*

de Catalunya i dels Països Catalans. From 1990 to 2000 a history and cartography doctorate program was held co-hosted with the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Two years later, the first catalogue of maps from Catalonia was published. In 1995, the headquarters of the ICC was relocated from Balmes Street to Montjuïc Parc (Barcelona) and the CTC opened up its reading room at the new facility. In 1997 the CTC catalogue was included in the *Catàleg Col·lectiu d'Universitats de*

Catalunya (CCUC) thanks to an agreement with the CBUC, and finally during 2002 the 250 000 cartographic records were overcome and at the same time started the digitalization of its funds which has located the CTC as a reference center in the Iberian Peninsula.

The book *Recull d'articles sobre cartografia i cartoteques* is a compilation of 13 articles published by Montserrat Galera between 1979 and 1994. You will find at the end of the book the exhaustive bibliography of all her printed works from 1972 to 2006.

This book has been intended to be a tribute to Montserrat Galera Monegal for her high level of involvement in her role as a director of the Cartoteca de Catalunya. ■

Tour calendar for the exhibition “Maps in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939”

When the travelling exhibition “Maps in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939” closed its doors in the ICC headquarters (see ICC Newsletter, no. 28) it travelled to Seville from 31st May to 8th July; Zaragoza from 6th to 28th September; Huesca from 5th to 21st October; Teruel from 26th October to 16th November; Granada from 29th November to 21st December, and, in 2008, to Málaga from 14th to 31st January and to Jaén from 12nd February to 6th March.

This exhibition tour has been coordinated by the Direcció General de la Memòria Democràtica (General Directorate for Democratic Memory).

A special mention should be made of the exhibit's widespread acceptance by both Catalan and Spanish publics. ■

Cartographic databases of the ICC for the Atlas Universal Planeta

Atlas Universal Planeta

584 pages
Editorial Planeta SA



The cartographic databases of the *Atlas Universal Planeta*, published in 2007 by Editorial Planeta SA, were developed by the ICC.

This Atlas is especially noteworthy for the homogeneity and exhaustiveness of its cartography: it represents, at 1:4 000 000 scale, the entirety of the Earth's surface, with the exception of the European Union, which it features on a scale of 1:1 000 000, and Greenland, shown at 1:6 000 000 scale.

THE CARTOGRAPHY OF THE ATLAS HAS BEEN UPDATED WITH THE LATEST TECHNOLOGIES APPLICABLE TO THE CARTOGRAPHIC WORLD

The method used for updating the cartography has allowed to work with new designs that facilitate the reading and interpretation of the maps. The Atlas also features a toponymic index with over 225 000 entries.

The synergy between the ICC's experience and available cartographic databases, and the global publishing capacity of the Planeta Group, now allows us to offer this cartographic and geographic landmark, which we hope will become a widely-disseminated reference work. ■

Brief notes

NEW BOOK ON TOPONYMY

In October 2007 the ICC and the Societat d'Onomàstica published the book *Recull onomàstic de Sant Quirze Safaja*, by Enric Garcia-Pey Pey, featuring a collection of all past and present toponyms collected by the author.

This publication is aimed at the general public, and especially, all those interested in learning the history of place names in Catalonia.

Soon the books, *Noms de lloc, de casa i de persona de Balsareny (Bages)* by Ramon Carreté, and *Pals. Recull onomàstic*, by Anna-Maria Corredor Plaja will be published.

III CARTOGRAPHY AND HIKING WORKSHOP

This event, organized by the ICC, Editorial Alpina and Geoestel, was held at ICC headquarters on 17th November 2007.

The subject matter of the event was to discuss and analyze the current state of hiking in our nation and its future perspectives.

It was attended by 60 participants, all of them interested in the world of hiking.

Projects for Morocco: Cartographic consulting, geodetic network and digital cartography quality control

Thanks to the framework cooperation agreement signed in October 2004 between the ICC and the Agence Nationale de la Conservation Foncière, du Cadastre et de la Cartographie (ANCFCC) of Morocco, covering the areas of cartographic and land registry information production, training, research and technology transfer, the first specific agreement was signed in December, 2005, by which the ICC would carry out the following tasks:

- Advising to obtain better definition in cartographic projects.
- Definition of a new geodetic network of reference and recommendations for analysis of the impact of this new network on the land registry and cartography.
- Technical assistance for the production of some 100 topographic maps at 1:25 000 scale of the area of Essaouria, and for quality control.

All three projects concluded in 2007. ■

Topographic database of Catalonia 1:5000 in Miramon format

Starting in October 2007 users have been able to download the *Base topogràfica de Catalunya 1:5000* (BT-5M) in Miramon format using the Internet map consultation and download application, or purchase it at any of our points of service.

The Miramon software, developed by CREAM, must be downloaded and installed to use Miramon files.

In relation with this new offering, a workshop was held at the ICC in October 2007, during which a detailed presentation was given on the particularities of the BT-5M in this distribution format.

The event was attended by 81 participants, all ICC cartography experts and users. ■

Hyperspectrality: Vegetation, agriculture and environment

The ICC Flights Unit works with Earth observation sensors. One of them is the CASI: a hyperspectral sensor that can divide the visible electromagnetic and near infrared spectrum into up to 288 different bands, capturing an image of the territory.

The CASI has been used in different applications, but its characteristics and capacities are still little known.

In order to shed more light on this valuable territorial knowledge tool, on 9th November 2007 the ICC held a special workshop entitled *Hiperespectralitat: vegetació, agricultura i medi ambient*.

The workshop featured a presentation on the characteristics of CASI, and its place within the range of aircraft or satellite-borne hyperspectral sensors. The information capture and processing mechanisms were explained in detail, and some of its main applications analyzed.

One of the ultimate objectives of the workshop was to promote dialog with and among those interested in it, and resolve doubts or propose uses of the sensor other than those presented.

The workshop was attended by 54 participants. ■

This newsletter is a free publication available in Catalan, Spanish and English.

Year 13 / February 2008 / Number 31
ISSN: 1137-2370 / DL: B-40970-1996

Headquarters of the Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya
Parc de Montjuïc / E-08038 Barcelona
Telephone (+34) 93 567 15 00 / Telefax 93 567 15 67
E-mail: esther.muns@icc.cat

Customer Service Centers

Parc de Montjuïc / E-08038 Barcelona
Telephone (+34) 93 567 15 90 / Fax 93 567 15 91
Gran Via de Jaume I, 38 / E-17001 Girona
Telephone (+34) 972 22 72 67 / Fax 972 22 73 15 / EADOP
Doctor Fleming, 19 / E-25006 Lleida
Telephone (+34) 973 28 19 30 / Fax 973 26 10 55 / EADOP
Major, 37 / E-43003 Tarragona
Telephone (+34) 977 21 17 97 / Fax 977 22 01 27 / EADOP

© Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya

<http://www.icc.cat>