

# 25 YEARS

## INSTITUT CARTOGRÀFIC DE CATALUNYA

### NEW FOUNDATION

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the creation of the Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya (ICC).

In every period in which Catalonia has had a minimum capacity for action in terms of self-government, it has created its own cartographic entities.

In 1914, the Mancomunitat (Union of Catalonia) created the Geographic Service, which was recovered by the Republican Generalitat and renamed Cartographic Service after 1939.

In the present democratic Generalitat, the Institute was created in 1982 by Law 11/1982 of 8 October of the Catalan Parliament, with the aim that Catalonia should have cartographic resources of quality to represent its territory with the greatest accuracy.

**"IN ORDER TO SATISFACTORILY PLAN AND UNDERTAKE PUBLIC WORKS, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE HIGH-QUALITY CARTOGRAPHY AVAILABLE, SO THAT THE TERRITORY CAN BE MEASURED AND REPRESENTED WITH THE GREATEST ACCURACY"**

In 1997, having accumulated fifteen years of experience since its creation, and with a view to continuing to carry out its functions with a greater degree of speed and efficiency, the ICC changed its legal status, becoming a public entity of the Generalitat de Catalunya (Government of Catalonia) by means of Law 6/1997 of 11 June passed by the Parliament.

8 years later, on 27 December 2005, the Catalan Parliament passed Law 16/2005 relating to geographic information and the Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya, with the aim of updating the powers of the Institute and extending the regulatory framework from new perspectives. This new Law maintained the status of the ICC as a public entity, regulated the official nature of the cartography, created the Cartographic Coordination Committee of Catalonia, the Cartographic Plan of Catalonia and the Cartographic Records of Catalonia, and regulated the Infraestructura de Dades Espacials de Catalunya (Spatial Data Infrastructure of Catalonia) and the Cartoteca de Catalunya (Map Library).

**"WITH THIS NEW LAW, THE INSTITUTE TOOK UP A NEW CHALLENGE: TO MAKE UP-TO-DATE CARTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE QUICKLY, DYNAMICALLY AND EFFICIENTLY"**

In presenting the cartography that it generates, the Institute must have appropriate tools, it must constantly modernize and update its knowledge, and above all, it must ensure that it gradually becomes the point of reference for the official cartography of Catalonia.



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

Year 12 – February 2007 – Number 28 – ISSN: 1137-2370  
D. L.: B. 40970-1996

 Generalitat de Catalunya  
Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya



## EXHIBITION: MAPS IN THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR, 1936-1939

In the Spanish Civil War there was considerable action on the cartographic front. During the all but three years that the war lasted, the cartographic services of both sides printed tens of thousands of maps. Although the challenge that this represented resembled the challenges faced in other wars fought in Europe during the first half of the 20th century, cartographic production in Spain had its own special characteristics. This was partly due to the particular circumstances of a civil war and the geopolitical situation of the time, and partly due to the exceptional position of Spanish military cartography in the mid-1930s.

**“THE CARTOGRAPHY PRODUCED DURING THE CIVIL WAR WAS QUITE UNPRECEDENTED IN THE HISTORY OF SPANISH CARTOGRAPHY”**

Starting from the same unfinished map of the territory (map of Spain 1:50 000), both sides made a titanic effort to obtain, process and publish cartographic information, in order to provide their armies with an essential tool: maps. While the official institutions of the Spanish state remained under the control of the Republic, Franco's army, which did not have any maps at the beginning of the war, was able to obtain help from outside Spain. Thus Italian volunteers from the Corpo Truppe Volontarie arrived with a topo-cartographic section which produced many maps of the areas where the war was being fought.

**“THE ICC HAS ORGANIZED THE EXHIBITION IN ORDER TO PUBLICIZE A SAMPLE OF THE MAPS, SKETCHES AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS THAT**

**WERE PRODUCED IN THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR”**

Although its historical importance has been recognized, the cartography produced during the Civil War has received little attention from the experts who have studied the conflict, and public knowledge of this cartography is very limited.

**“THIS IS THE FIRST EXHIBITION DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE MAPS USED BY BOTH SIDES DURING THE CIVIL WAR”**

The exhibition, organized by the ICC, the Direcció General de la Memòria Democràtica (Democratic Memorial) and the Secretaria d'Universitats i Recerca (Universities and Research), is structured into 10 thematic sections: the first reviews the position of military cartography in Spain at the point when the Civil War broke out. The second looks at the reorganization of the Republican cartographic services from September 1936, while the third focuses on the cartographic services of Franco's army. The fourth examines the internationalization of the cartographic production,

with the participation of the Sezione Topocartografica of the Corpo Truppe Volontarie sent to Spain by Mussolini in 1937. The fifth section is devoted to the cartographic training of the officers and NCOs of both armies. Sections six to nine exhibit the maps at various scales that were used: 1:50 000, 1:25 000, 1:100 000, in addition to road maps, and the final section covers the use of aerial photographs in the conflict.

The exhibition includes more than fifty maps and photographs produced by both Spanish and foreign (principally Italian) organizations, in addition to commercial maps used during the war.

**“A SAMPLE OF THE CARTOGRAPHY PRODUCED IN THE CIVIL WAR FORMS PART OF THE COLLECTION OF DOCUMENTS HELD BY THE ICC AND IS NOW EXHIBITED FOR THE FIRST TIME”**

The exhibition, which will subsequently travel to many parts of Catalonia and Spain, is open to the public at the headquarters of the ICC from 24 January to 30 March 2007. Visiting hours are 9.00-18.00 Monday to Friday, and 10.00-19.00 on Saturdays.



## CATALOGUE OF THE EXHIBITION

To coincide with the aforementioned exhibition, in January 2007 the ICC, the Direcció General de la Memòria Democràtica and the Secretaria d'Universitats i Recerca published the catalogue of the exhibition *Els mapes de la Guerra Civil espanyola, 1936-1939*.

**“THE CATALOGUE REPRODUCES MANY OF THE DOCUMENTS SHOWN IN THE EXHIBITION”**

The Catalogue also contains four articles written by geographers who are spe-

cialists in this subject. They provide a detailed appraisal of the cartographic production of this period. Dr. Francesc Nadal documents the cartography produced by the Republican army; Dr. Luis Urteaga relates the cartographic vicissitudes of Franco's army, highlighting the contribution made by the Italian volunteers; Dr. Felipe Fernández describes the production of aerial photographs, and Dr. Carme Montaner reviews the documents from this period that can be consulted at the Cartoteca de Catalunya.



## REGIONAL ATLASES OF CATALONIA: Alt Empordà and Garrotxa

**B**etween September and November 2006, the ICC and Diputació de Girona (Girona Regional Council) published two new volumes corresponding to the second edition of the *Atles comarcal de Catalunya*: Alt Empordà and Garrotxa. This second edition is presented in CD-Rom format.

**“THE NEW PRODUCT SUPPORTS CONNECTION TO THE GEOSERVICES OF THE ICC IN RASTER FORMAT”**

These atlases offer a descriptive view of each *comarca* (administrative division of Catalonia) by considering its general, physical and human geography, as well as its history. They are illustrated with many thematic maps, figures and graphics, photographs and statistical tables.

With these two atlases, there is now a total of three volumes published in digital format of the *comarques* situated in the province of Girona. The volumes of Cerdanya and Baix Empordà will be published shortly.



## 7th GEOMATICS WEEK AND III GLOBALGEO

**T**he 7th Geomatics Week was held on 20-23 February 2007 and the III International Geotelematics Exhibition (GlobalGeo) was staged on 20-22 February. The venue for both events was the Congress Hall of Fira de Barcelona.

The Geomatics Week is a multidisciplinary event held every two years and organized by Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya, Institut de Geomàtica, Col·legi Oficial d'Enginyers Tècnics en Topografia (Catalonia division), and Escola Politècnica Superior d'Edificació de Barcelona.

This Congress focuses on the disciplines that form part of geomatics: geodesy and navigation, photogrammetry and topography, cartography, geographic information systems and other earth sciences.

**“THE MAIN THEME OF THIS YEAR'S EVENT WAS: HIGH RESOLUTION SENSORS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS”**

With the passing of the years, this Congress has consolidated itself as the most important geomatics event that is held in Spain, and it has become a key meeting point for scientists, professionals and students in the sector from Spain and overseas.

To coincide with the Geomatics Week, the III International Geotelematics Exhibition (GlobalGeo) was served as an international meeting point for learning more about supply and demand in the geoma-

tics and geotelematics market. More than 30 events were programmed to take place before and during the Geomatics Week. These include lectures, seminars and evening sessions, which will be presented and supported by the principal companies and institutions in the sector.

For further information, please visit:

[www.setmana-geomatica.org](http://www.setmana-geomatica.org)



## NEW FACSIMILE EDITIONS OF ANCIENT MAPS

**T**he ICC has produced facsimile editions of ten ancient maps of Catalonia, the originals of which, with the exception of no. IV, can be found in the Cartoteca de Catalunya. The purpose of these facsimiles is to offer lovers of ancient cartography the opportunity to enjoy well-known maps presented with a high degree of quality.

**“EACH OF THE FACSIMILES INCLUDES AN INTRODUCTORY STUDY WRITTEN BY A SPECIALIST IN THE SUBJECT”**

The facsimiles comprise:

- Nueva Descripción Geographica del Principado de Catalunya, by Josef Aparici, 1769.
- La Principauté de Catalogne et le Comté de Roussillon, by Michel Antonie Baudrand, 1703.
- La Catalogne, by Père Placide de Sainte-Hélène, 1792.
- Nova Principatus Cataloniae descriptio, by J. B. Vrients, 1602-1605.
- Catalonia, by I. Ianssonii and H. Hondii, 1638.
- Plan du siège de la ville de Barcelone avec la carte de la côte de la mer depuis le cap de Cervere jusqu'aux environs de Llobregat, by Beaulieu, 1698.
- Mapa del Principado de Cataluña y Condado del Rosellón, by F. X. de Garma Durán, 1770 ca.
- Mapa del Principado de Cataluña: comprende los corregimientos de Barcelona, Cervera, Gerona, Lérida, Manresa, Mataró, Puigcerdá, Talarn, Tarragona, Tortosa, Villafranca, Vique, y la subdelegación del Valle de Arán, by Tomás López, 1776.
- Catalunya con las nuevas divisiones, by A. H. Dufour, 1837.
- Mapa de Catalunya, by F. Flos Calcat, 1906.

All these facsimiles can be purchased at the ICC customer service centers.



## BRIEF NOTES

### FROM BALMES TO MONTJUÏC. THE ICC CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER HAS MOVED

The customer service and sales center for cartography located in carrer de Balmes, Barcelona, has been transferred to the headquarters of the ICC. The center opened at its new site on 1 January 2007.

The opening hours are as before:

Mornings: 9.00 to 14.00 h

Afternoons: 16.00 to 18.30 h

(Monday to Friday)

The new address of the center is:

Parc de Montjuïc

(at the end of carrer de Lleida, Barcelona)

Tel. 93 567 15 90

Fax 93 567 15 91

### NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR THE INSTITUT GEOLÒGIC DE CATALUNYA

The Institut Geològic de Catalunya (Geological Institute of Catalonia), created by Law 19/2005 (see ICC Newsletter No. 26), has moved to carrer de Balmes, 209, Barcelona.

### CHANGE OF ED50 REFERENCE SYSTEM TO ETRS89

A study is in progress with a view to changing the official reference system (European Datum 1950 - ED50) and replacing it with the new pan-European reference system (European Terrestrial Reference System 1989 - ETRS89).

This change forms part of the first resolution adopted by the EUREF, the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), subcommission for the European reference frame. Thus the new ETRS89 system should support single georeferencing of elements within the European Community, as well as greater interoperability of geographic information and global positioning systems, with all the advantages that this entails.

This change will gradually be applied to the existing cartographic series.

## SYMPOSIUM: CARTOGRAPHIC DATABASE OF CATALONIA 1:25 000

The Symposium: Cartographic database of Catalonia 1:25 000, organized by the ICC, was held at the headquarters of the ICC on 12 January 2007.

Now that this Database covers more than 30% of the territory, it was thought that the time had to come to reflect on its relationship with the policies relating to territorial databases produced in Catalonia.

Thus the aim of this Symposium was to introduce participants to the production of the Cartographic database of Catalonia 1:25 000, which originates from the generalization of the Topographic database 1:5 000, but also has some characteristics of its own that make it particularly interesting to cartography producers and, above all, cartography users.

The following presentations were made:

- "The territorial cartographic database and its relationship with other existing cartographic databases", by J. L. Colomer, the ICC's Technical Deputy Director.
- "The data: from 1:5 000 3D to 1:25 000 3D. Origin, cartographic generalization and updating", by B. Baella, ICC Development Manager.
- "Data distribution: Formats", by A. Lleopart, Head of the Cartographic Databases Unit of the ICC.
- "Access to the products of the Database 1:25 000. Customer service centers, Internet and derived cartography", by J. Romeu, Head of the Support Unit of the Cartographic Coordination Committee of the ICC.

The symposium was attended by 79 people from various institutions. 37% of the participants came from various departments of the Generalitat de Catalunya, 16% from municipal councils and businesses, 4% from regional councils, 14% from municipal associations and consortia, 11% from universities and research institutes and centers, 14% from service companies, and the remaining 4% were private participants.

The intention is that this Database should be merged with the database produced by the Instituto Geográfico Nacional, thereby creating a single database for Catalonia.



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