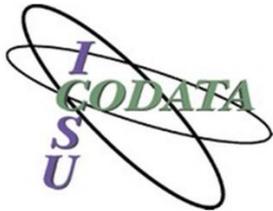


Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kartographie e.V.

In Kooperation mit der Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin,
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DCH2015

Int. Conference on Digital Cultural Heritage

Public Lecture



Dr. Dominique Görlitz Prof. Dr. Manfred F. Buchroithner

Institute of Cartography
Technical University, Dresden

Who Made the First World Map? Ancient Cartography in the Light of Modern Research

Investigations into world maps and globes of the early 16th century, in particular the map of the German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller (1507 & 1516), the globes of Johann Schöner from Nuremberg (created 1515 – 1533) and the Marble Globe of Gotha, also attributed to Johann Schöner, document the break with Ptolemy's world picture, whose conceptional errors have already been well known during the Late Antiquity. Under consideration of antique lore (antipode continents) and interdisciplinary evidences many research works evince knowledge about the New World significantly prior to the re-discovery by Columbus in 1492 (Hapgood 1979, Hessler 2008 & 2013, Görlitz 2013, Görlitz et al. 2014). The most accurate depiction of South America can be found on the so-called Marble Globe of Gotha (1533) and on the Lenox-Globe (1508), currently kept in New York, as well as on the Ostrich-Globe (1504), now kept in Vienna, which display the principle shape of the Americas with extremely high accuracy (Gallez 1980; Görlitz 2013; Horn 1976; Messinne 2013 & 2015). Unpublished current research about another early globe presently kept in Germany and so far not yet mentioned in international scientific literature will also be presented by the authors: this globe displays amazing details about Antarctica. This is corroborated by other stunning facts so far unknown in the scientific communities.

Highly accurate digital visualisations of all Schöner globes incl. the Marble Globe of Gotha and other globes as well as the Waldseemüller Map permit the determination of authenticity and accuracy of the "new" continents in the West and South which are only treated with extremely sparse information in the antique lores well as in the current scientific literature. Today, highly accurate digital globes displaying the shore lines of the above mentioned sources allow the comparison with the actual topographic features in up-to-date satellite maps. These visualizations may then assist both cultural and cartographic historians dealing with early cartography to put the deviant theories about the cultural interactions before Columbus' journey of 1492 onto a sound scientific basis.

Keywords: Antique Cartography, Early cartography, Early Globes, Structure from Motion (SfM), Virtual Geomodels, Cartographic Enigma, Waldseemüller, South America, Antarctica

Place: Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Otto-Braun-Saal
Potsdamer Str. 33, 10785 Berlin

Time: Thursday October 29, 2015, 17:00 h

admission free, guests are welcome!

DCH2015 details <https://idw-online.de/de/event52218>

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