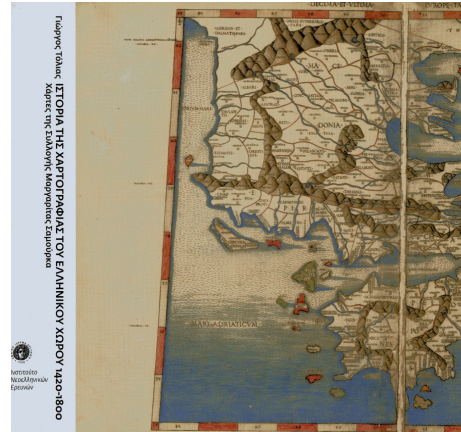




INSTITUTE FOR NEOHELLENIC RESEARCH
NATIONAL HELLENIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION



Γιώργος Τόλιας,

Ιστορία της Χαρτογραφίας του ελληνικού χώρου, 1420-1800. Χάρτες της συλλογής Μαργαρίτας Σαμούρκα

Giorgos Tolias,

[Mapping Greece 1420-1800: A History. Maps from the collection of Margarita Samourka],

INR/NHRF - 104, 350 maps in colour, 540 p.

The subject of the book is the history of map production in regard to Greek space during the years of foreign rule (1420-1800). The maps of the area of Greece are seen as the products and the factors of a broader history, wherein a geographic specialization reflects composite realities – at times opposing one another – of a political, educational and ideological nature. The axis of the historical overview is the typology of maps: the study concentrates on various types and the historical phases of their production, while pinpointing and analysing the manner in which the cartographers perceived and defined the area of Greece, what this represented and what it comprised.

Following a brief presentation of the ancient and medieval cartographic heritage of Humanism, the analysis focuses on the mechanisms of composition of cartographic definitions of the Greek area in the Renaissance and throws light on the processes of shaping, standardizing and diffusion of the basic cartographic models of Greece and its regions through the production of world atlases in the 17th and 18th centuries. The applications of empirical or mathematical cartography within Greece during the same period are examined in parallel. The prerequisites and objectives of the abundant antiquarian and historical cartography of the area of Greece are analysed as the equivalent in cartography of the slow maturing of historical thought in the 16th to the 18th centuries.

The richly illustrated historical study of the cartography of Greek space reveals the gradual emergence of Greece onto the cultural scene in modern times as a recognizable and commonly accepted geographic, cultural and historical entity. The Greek area is defined, by stages, in ever more composite terms, the present day and its historicity are studied in detail, and its ethnic character is assumed both in the conscience of Westerners as much as of the Greeks themselves.

Particular attention was given to the illustration of the publication. It is founded upon the voluminous map collection of Margarita Samourka, the catalogue of which (some 1,700 maps) is published in an appendix compiled by the bibliographer Leonora Navari.

The publication was realized thanks to the sponsorship of the Samourka Foundation.

It was launched in a special function in the NHRF's Leonidas Zervas amphitheatre on Thursday 20 November 2008. Professor Paschalis M. Kitromilides, INR's Director was a speaker about the book, as was Professor Evangelos Livieratos, and the author. Professor Livieratos' text is published in the INR's Information Bulletin, No 33, (2008), p. 62-71.