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Cartographic culture heritage belongs to UNESCO

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Summary: The aim of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme is to safeguard the world documentary heritage and allow nominating unique written documents including cartographic heritage. The main criteria is the uniqueness of the documentary item for the nation or for the world. It can be either one document or a collection. The inscription on the Register takes place every two years. Only nine maps or map collections and atlases and two larger collections including maps have been included since 1997 heretofore. The Map Collection of the Charles University in Prague has prepared together with the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta an application for the inclusion of the unique collection of the 4 States of the Siege of Malta map known as the Great Victory of 1565 by F. Camocio.

Introduction

The representatives of archives, museums and collections met at a joint meeting with the representative of the Czech Commission for UNESCO (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic) in Prague in 2014. The aim of the meeting was to inform about the Memory of the World Programme and to initiate further applications and proposals of the Czech cultural monuments in this prestigious register.

The Memory of the World Programme was established in 1992 by UNESCO to safeguard and to make accessible unique documents and to prevent losses from the thesaurus of the world cultural heritage as a consequence of wars or natural disasters (Edmondson 2002). It is evident, that particularly recently, this effort is failing to be implemented, therefore the experts point to the need for the protection of these monuments by legislation. The appeal of the experts from 2012 calls for the set up of standard for the protection and accessibility of old documents, which should also include the protection of digital heritage (UNESCO 2012) (Choy et al. 2016).

Documentary heritage includes documents that have a significant or lasting value for a particular community, culture, country or humanity as a whole and whose loss would mean impoverishment and loss. Documentary heritage that has national and historical importance should be understood by the member countries as a part of global documentary heritage which should be passed intact to the next generations.

Memory of the World Register

The Register of the Programme (MoW Register¹) has been operating since 1997. Parts of the document heritage with a global importance are entered there. The subject of the application can be these

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unique works. The institutions may nominate whole collections or their parts but also individual documents or objects. They may be physically in more locations or even in different countries as parts of different funds. The intention is to virtually restore and connect such document files which were damaged or dispersed in different collections due to the historical events.

The document has to be neither restored nor digitized at the time of filling the application. It may have also otherwise limited availability, the promise of making it accessible in the future is sufficient. If all the terms are complied with, it is possible to submit two national nominations once every two years. An international nomination may be submitted beyond these terms. The committee considers the inclusion of successful proposals in the Register every two years. If the proposal is approved, the submitter acquires the right to use the prestigious symbol and logo of the Programme, he enjoys legitimate recognition and thanks to UNESCO he is further promoted and popularized. The aim of the programme is to facilitate the documents protection by most appropriate techniques, to contribute to the general accessibility, to raise awareness of their existence and importance.

The nomination may be submitted not only by a state but also by a private owner. The condition of the nomination is an agreement of the National Commission for UNESCO. There are 60 of these commissions operating in 2016. The Commission in the Czech Republic was established in 1994.

The Registers are international, regional and national. There is no hierarchy among the registers and they also have their own nomination processes. The authenticity, i.e. if the document is real, genuine, then the uniqueness and irreplaceableness are taken into account in considering the selection criteria. Finally, complementary and comparative criteria play their part, too. These criteria are time, i.e. what was the significance of the document in its time, place, i.e. what was the importance for the place of origin or description, another indicator are the people, i.e. how the document influenced human society or how it testified about human behaviour, then the topic and theme as considerable cultural turning point are evaluated and also the style and form are considered.

The applicant must describe and demonstrate both the preciousness and integrity, thus the state of preservation of the document or the collection. The threat level and the rescue plan are described. All of the mentioned criteria have to be filled in the nomination form, which is available on the UNESCO² web site.

Also required are three layers of access to verify the significance and safeguard, for reproductions, public both in physical or digital form.

The International Register of the Memory of the World (hereafter MoW Register), on the UNESCO web site, allows the search by regions and countries, by the years of entry into the Register and by photographs. To determine the total sum of the exhibits in the Register it is necessary to re-count them. To find thematic content it is necessary to go through each item.

Five collections have been registered into the MoW Register for the Czech Republic by 2015:

- Collection of the Czech manuscripts of the Czech Reformation (National Library of the Czech Republic),

¹ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/flagship-project-activities/memory-of-the-world/register/>

² <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/flagship-project-activities/memory-of-the-world/homepage/>

- Collection of the Russian, Belorussian and Ukrainian émigré periodicals 1918-1945 (National Library of the Czech Republic),
- Collection of 526 prints of university theses from 1637-1754 (National Library of the Czech Republic),
- Collection of periodicals of Czech and Slovak Samizdat in the years of communist totality 1948-1989 from the private library Libri Prohibiti,
- The moving picture shows of Émile Reynaud for the performance *Autour d'une Cabine* (Around a cab) from 1894 (National Technical Museum).

The Prize of the Memory of the World Programme was created in 2004. It was named Jikvi³ to commemorate the oldest print of Korean Buddhist prayers made through movable metal print (1377). The National Library of the Czech Republic was awarded the first Jikji Prize in 2005 in recognition of its effort and achievements in preservation and accessibility of the documentary heritage.

Cartographic monuments in UNESCO

It is surprising how small percentage of the world's unique monuments is formed by cartographic materials although it is known that the reverse is true. The survey of MoW showed that only 5 maps, 1 atlas and 9 collections containing cartographic monuments have been included since 1997 (UNESCO 2016). The first of these nominations were collections of the maps of Tsarist Russia from the Russian State Library in Moscow (1997). *Maps of the Russian Empire and its parts of the 18th century* show not only vast geographical explorations inside this great empire but also on the north coast of Asia, the Far East and also the Pacific where they were associated with the discoveries in North America. The second collection *Hand-written and printed town maps of the 2nd half of the 18th century to the beginning of the 19th century* is outstanding for the toponymic and economic data linked to the Russian Empire.

A Finnish application of the Helsinki University Library was accepted the same year. It was a collection containing also the oldest printed *cartographic atlases*, but also geographical books and travel literature collected by *A.E. Nordenskiöldem* (1832-1901). This Swedish geologist, botanist, mineralogist, geographer, cartographer, seafarer and polar explorer of the Finnish origin is known as a founder of historical cartography. The collection was interesting particularly for printed Ptolemaic atlases, sea atlases and incunabulas.

The next nomination is only from 2003 and it was submitted by Austria. It was a spectacular 50 volume atlas *Atlas Blaeu-Van der Hem* containing 2,400 maps, prints and drawings on 2,500 pages. The lawyer Laurens Van Der Hem (1621-1678) from Amsterdam used Joan Blaeu's *Atlas Maior* to create the largest and the most expensive book of the 17th century. He formed a pictorial encyclopaedia of the period knowledge ranging from geography and cartography to warfare and politics. The most impressive is the set of four volumes of manuscript maps and topographical drawings made for the Dutch East India Company.

³ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/flagship-project-activities/memory-of-the-world/unescojikji-prize/>

United States of America with Germany submitted a proposal to register a map on 12 sheets by *Martin Waldseemüller* from 1507. It is the only known surviving copy, which was discovered in 1901 by J. Fischer S.J. and was bought in 2001 by the Library of Congress for \$10 million from Waldburg-Wolfegg-Waldsee (Germany). Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany, handed it over personally and emphasized that the decision of Germany to pass the map is the sign of transatlantic affinity. The name America was used on the map for the first time. The nomination was approved in 2005.

Most cartographic monuments were registered in 2007, three maps and two collections of maps.

The United Kingdom proposed to register unique medieval circular *Hereford Mapae Mundi* (1290-1310). The map from the Hereford Cathedral was created by Richard of Haldingham or Lafford on vellum of sizes 162.6 x 134.6 cm. It contains 500 illustrations and there is also the Christ at the Last Judgment outwards the map picture.



Figure 1. United Kingdom acquired the registration of the medieval circular *Hereford Mapae Mundi* in 2007 (Source: Map Collection, Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague).

The possibility of repeated success was shown by Austria that nominated map of the public Roman road system, known as *Tabula Peutingeriana* (12th century) from the Austrian National Library. It describes Roman Empire including Eastern Provinces conquered by Alexander the Great on 11 segments of parchment. It presents an original medieval facsimile.

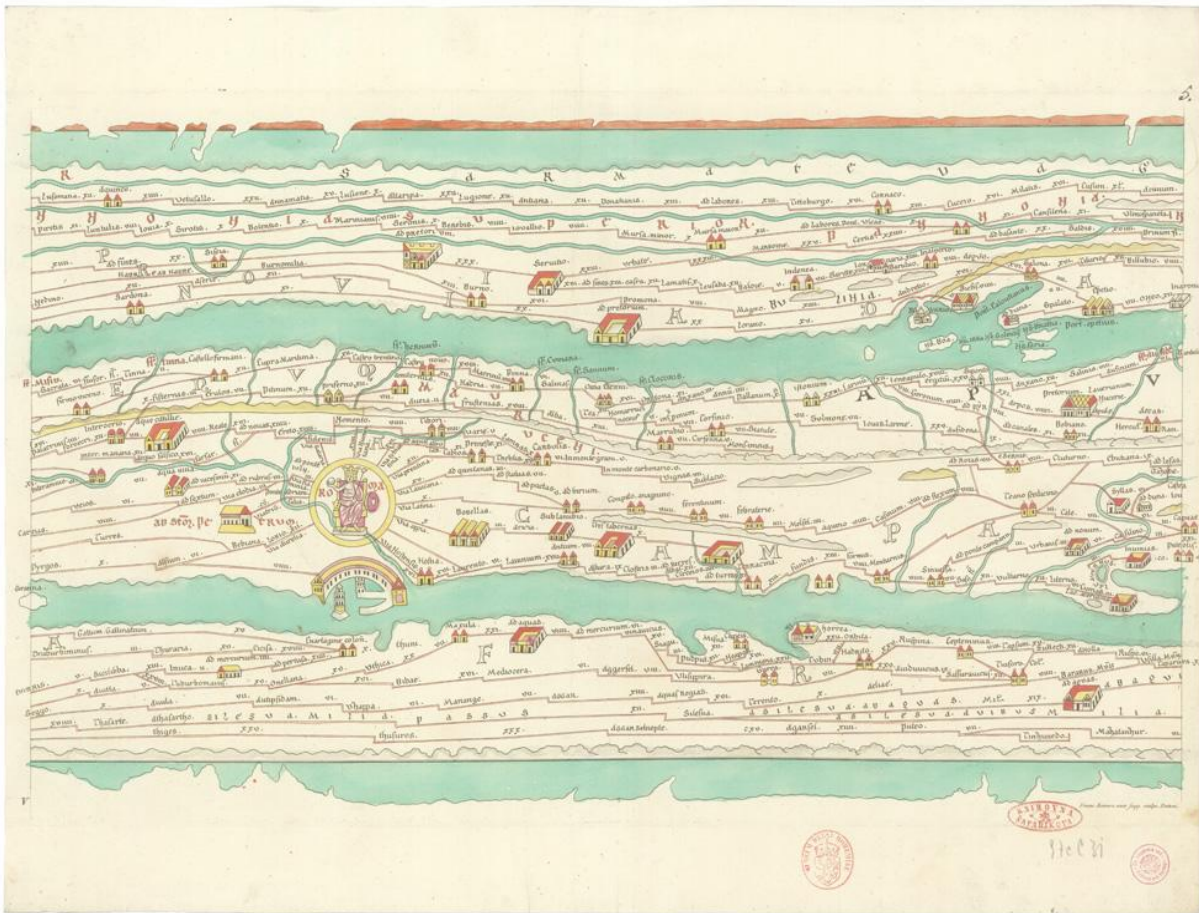


Figure 2. The Austrian National Library acquired the entry of the Roman travel map *Tabula Peutingeriana* into the MoW Register in 2007 (source: Map Collection, Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague).

Thirdly, Austria joined in a common application Hungary and Croatia with the first map representing the territory of Hungarian Kingdom *Tabula Hungariae* (1528) as a collective work under the leadership of Lazarus. It depicts, among others, number of settlements that disappeared during the Turkish wars in the 16th century. The map had been missing for a long time and it was acquired by the collector Sándor Apponyi in 1880 who offered it to Hungarian National Library in 1924.

The collection of mining maps and plans of the Main Chamber – Count Office in Banská Štiavnica was also registered that year. It represents a collection of 20,000 mining maps from the 17th century up to the beginning of the 20th century.

Finally, Venezuelan archive *Colombeia: Generalissimo Francisco de Miranda's archives* also containing maps was entered into the Register in 2007. Francisco de Miranda (1750-1816) was a Venezuelan writer, traveller, patriot and revolutionary seeking the independence of Latin America. His archive contains events linked with the process of independence of the United States of America, the Spanish war against the Moroccan Sultanate, French revolution, with Catherine the Great and Tsarist Russia.

Sweden succeeded with an application in 2011. The collection *Stockholm City Planning and Architectural Drawings* (1713 – present) from the City Archive was included in the MoW. It contains 2.5 millions architectural drawings.

A collection from Bolivia *Documentary Fonds of Royal Audiencia Court of La Plata (RALP)* (1561-1825) containing also maps were included into the Register the same year. The archive holds the documentation for the silver mines of Potosí. Silver extracted here was exported through global business network to Spain, the Orient and further to the Asian market.

A collection of 334 unique pictographic records from the 16th – 18th century under the name *Maps, drawings and illustrations* was submitted by Mexico in 2011. They are characterized by distinctly indigenous Indian style of pre-Hispanic of a conqueror era.

An interesting collection of 500 *handwritten and lithographic maps of Iran in the Qajar Era* (1779-1926) was submitted by Iran and included into the Register in 2013. The map making in Iran fell into the 9th century but the use of accurate geographical scales started only in the 18th century after the founding of the first polytechnic School. The maps provide information on the development of border lines and the changes of toponyms.

Description of Georgian Kingdom and the Geographical Atlas of Vakhushti Bagrationi (1696-1757), a Georgian Prince, historically the first geographical description of the Georgia territory in 1743-1755 was successfully nominated the same year.

The last successfully registered cartographic monument in 2015 was *Mappa Mundi of Albi* nominated by France. It is one of the first non-symbolic and non-abstract world maps. It depicts 25 countries on 3 continents and it is oriented to the East. It comes from the 8th century. The map is a part of a manuscript of 77 pages.

The collected data show that out of the total 347 documents registered in the MoW the cartographic monuments form only 4%. The most applications were accepted from Europe (10), Austria succeeded even three times, then from the South (2) and North America (2) and Asia (1). It is surprising that cartographic monuments of China, India or Japan, Australia or any African country are not registered. A total of 13 national and 2 international applications were submitted.

	Year	Country	Work
1.	1997	Russia	2 collections: maps of the Russian Empire and its parts of the 18 th century, hand-written and printed town maps (18 th - 19 th century) (collection)
2.	1997	Finland	The A.E. Nordenskiöld Collection (15 th -19 th century) (the collection contains also atlases)
3.	2003	Austria	<i>Atlas Blaeu-Van der Hem</i> , 50 volumes, 2,400 maps, prints, and drawings (17 th century) (atlas)
4.	2005	The United States of America and Germany	<i>Universalis cosmographia secundum Ptholomaei traditionem et Americi Vespucii aliorumque Lustrationes</i> by Martin Waldseemüller (1507) (1 map on 12 sheets)
5.	2007	United Kingdom	Hereford Mappa Mundi (13 th /14 th century) (map)
6.	2007	Slovakia	The collection of mining maps and plans of Banská Štiavnica (17 th -20 th century) (collection)
7.	2007	Hungary, Austria and Croatia	Tabula Hungariae (1528) (map)
8.	2007	Austria	Tabula Peutingeriana (12 th century) (map)
9.	2007	Venezuela	Colombeia: Generalissimo Francisco de Miranda's archives (17 th -19 th century) (the collection also contains maps)
10.	2011	Sweden	Stockholm City Planning and Architectural Drawings (1713-present) (collection)
11.	2011	Bolivia	Documentary Fonds of Royal Audiencia Court of La Plata (RALP) (16 th -19 th century) (the collection also contains maps)
12.	2011	Mexico	Maps, drawings and illustrations (16 th -18 th century) (the collection also contains maps)
13.	2013	Iran	500 handwritten and lithographic maps (18 th -20 th century) (collection)
14.	2013	Georgia	Manuscripts and an Atlas (1743-1755) of Vakhushti Batonishvili, (collection)
15.	2015	France	Mappa Mundi of Albi (8 th century) (map)

Table 1. Summary of years, countries and cartographic documents inscribed to the UNESCO Register

The proposal of the Czech-Maltese nomination to the MoW

Czech-Maltese nomination of the series of 4 news maps of the Great Siege of Malta by the Turks in 1565 will apply for the registration in MoW in 2016. Their author was one of the most important Venetian printers and publishers of maps and books *Giovanni Francesco Camocio* (active in 1552-1575). He published books and copperplates with religious themes first. He became famous for his engravings of paintings of Titian, who was his friend. Later he focused on the maps published in different formats. As most of the Venetian population he died of plague in 1575.

The Turkish army led by the Sultan Suleiman I, with 40 thousand men and Dragut's pirates attacked Malta in 1565. There were only 540 Maltese Order's Knights and 8 thousand Maltese and mercenaries against them. Thanks to the bravery of the defenders and the Sicilian viceroy Garcia de Toledo,

who rushed to help with reinforcements, the Turks suffered a defeat. Distributed far and wide, these maps were the most effective means of reporting the latest development of the siege of Malta on whose result the whole Europe impatiently waited (Novotná et al. 2014).

Thanks to the description and digitization of more than 65,000 maps and sheets from the Map Collection of the Faculty of Science of Charles University in Prague it was possible to make accessible also these unique objects. Thus Dr. Joseph Schiro discovered the world unique object, the 2nd State of the plan of the Siege of Malta in the digital collection of the Charles University in 2014. The States 1, 3 and 4 have been owned by the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta (Ganado et al. 1994).

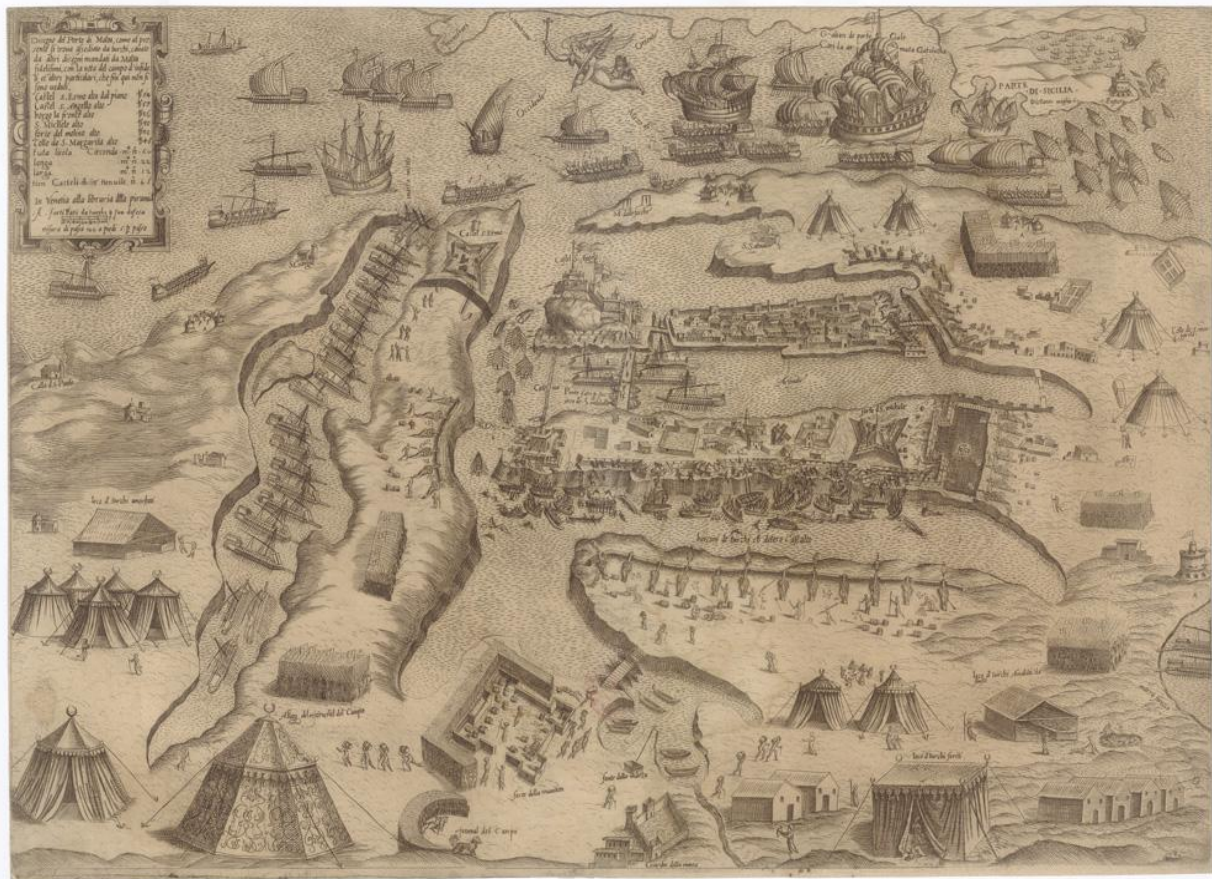


Figure 3. Dr. Joseph Schiro discovered the world's unique 2nd State of the map of the Siege of Malta by F. Camocio from 1565 in the digital collection of the Charles University in 2014 (source: Map Collection, Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague).

Already when visiting Prague, he responded positively to the proposal to try to nominate this collection for inclusion in the MoW Register. The proceedings with the Maltese side took the whole following year. Meanwhile, the nomination was approved by the Czech National Commission for UNESCO. Both sides concentrated on preparation of the application in 2015. Supporting materials, presentations and georeference of the maps were prepared. The result is an effort of the Map Collection of the Faculty of Science of Charles University and the Czech Commission for UNESCO to submit in spring 2016 together with the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta and the Permanent

Delegation of Malta to UNESCO an application for registration the collection of 4 unique maps in the List of the World Heritage UNESCO.

Dr. Bernardine Scicluna, curator of the National Museum of Fine Arts and the director PhDr. Eva Novotná and other employees of the Map Collection prepared an exhibition *Siege maps: keeping memory safe*⁴ in Valletta (29 January – 16 May, 2016) to present this unique collection of the maps on this important event.

Jakub Báča, a student of the Department of Applied Geoinformatics and Cartography of the Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague has created a successful animation of the battle by four well-preserved maps⁵. Web pages have been created⁶.

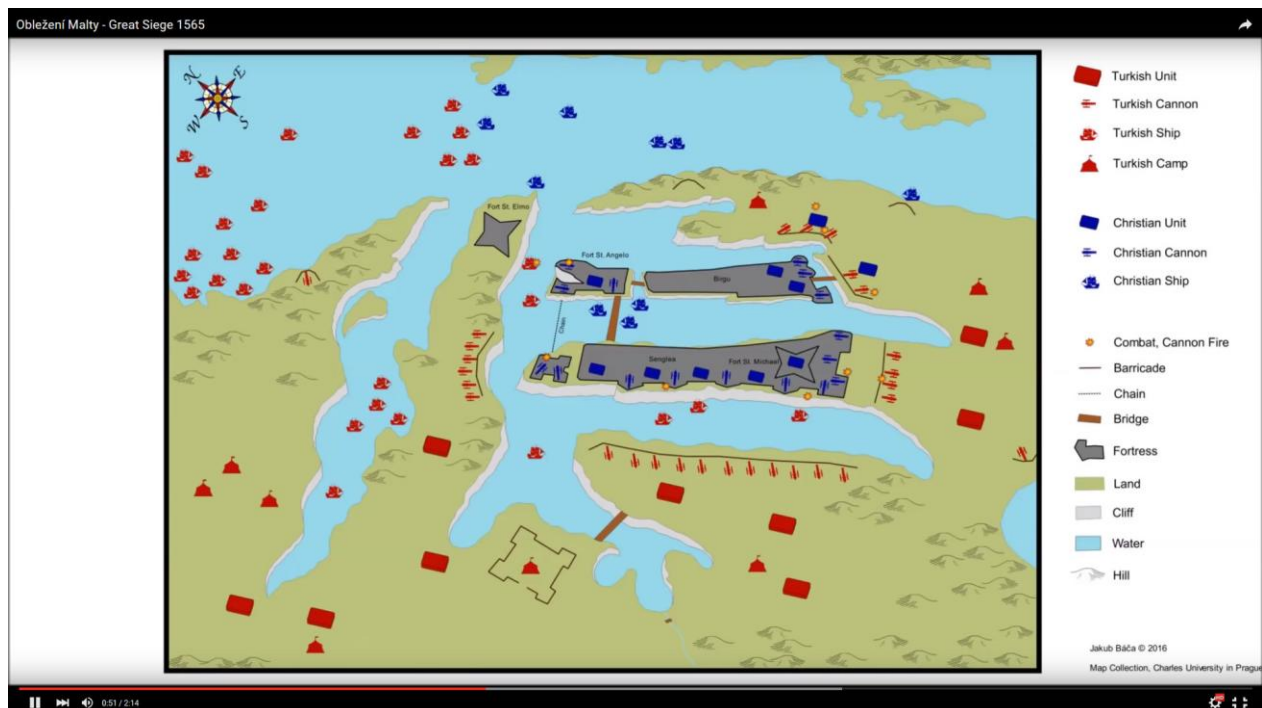


Figure 4. Jakub Báča, a student of the Department of Applied Geoinformatics and Cartography of the Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague prepared animation of the battle (source: www.youtube.com).

Both institutions are maximally dedicated to the promotion and support of the nomination and it would be great if they won also the support of the professional public. The results of the application should be known in June 2017.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is necessary to invite curators of collections, archivists and librarians to cooperate with the national commissions for UNESCO and to send nominations of famous maps, atlases and

⁴ <http://heritagemalta.org/exhibition-siege-maps-keeping-memory-safe/>

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pybbjm8u6V4&feature=youtu.be>

⁶ <https://www.natur.cuni.cz/geography/map-collection/registration-to-unesco>

unique collections. Cartographic monuments can certainly boldly compete with the greatest artistic, scientific and craft works. To fill in the application form is not quite easy. On the other hand, regarding the unique objects, certainly there was a lot published about them which would help the proposers. The entry in the Register gives the document a hallmark of the world cultural heritage, uniqueness, it may even help to receive the national support or sponsors for restoration and digitization of such works. Finally it will contribute to make the institutions with old maps and the historic cartography as such visible. Cartographic cultural heritage simply belongs to UNESCO.

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