

# ERATOSTHENES

*International Center for Ancient Geography  
and its Tradition in the Medieval and Modern Ages*

University of Perugia, Department of Letters

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ERATOSTHENES promotes and coordinates research projects, conferences and seminars, as well as educational and public information projects.

ERATOSTHENES supports the publication of *Geographia Antiqua*, Leo S. Olschki, Firenze.

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Proceedings of national and international conferences published in *Geographia Antiqua*

- 1997 *L'idea di Italia. Geografia e storia*
- 2000 *Geografia e storia ellenistica nell'Asia Minore di Strabone*
- 2002 *L'Elide e Olimpia*
- 2006 *La cartografia degli antichi e dei moderni*
- 2008-2009-2010 *Geografia e politica in Grecia e a Roma (Villa Vigoni)*
- 2012 *Le périple de Néarque*
- 2013 *Geografia e storia: antico e moderno/ Geographie und Geschichte: Antik und Modern, Humboldt-Kolleg, Perugia, (in print).*



University of Perugia - Department of Letters

## Fifth Seminar of *Geographia Antiqua*



## Ἱστορία περιοδική Construction and deconstruction of ptolemaic cartography

15-16<sup>th</sup> October 2015



Palazzo Manzoni, Sala delle Adunanze  
Piazza Morlacchi, Perugia

## Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>

**h. 9.00**

PIETRO JANNI

*Tolomeo, uno «sconfitto della storia»?*

PASCAL ARNAUD

*Il trattamento cartografico del materiale peri-plografico e dia-plografico da parte di Tolomeo: qualche esempio.*

SILVIA PANICHI

*L'istmo della penisola anatolica*

**h. 16.00**

KLAUS GEUS

*Zur Person und den Quellen des Marinus*

PHILIPP SEUBERT

*La délimitation du monde arabe d'Eratosthène à Ptolémée*

## Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>

**h. 9.00**

DIDIER MARCOTTE

*Ptolémée ethnographe*

ARTHUR HAUSHALTER

*L'Ibérie de Ptolémée: géographie mathématique et procédés empiriques*

FRANCESCO PRONTERA

*Da Strabone a Tolomeo: cartografia generale e regionale*

In the history of science, Greco-Roman cartography is identified with ancient astronomy and immediately recalls the work of Eratosthenes and Claudius Ptolemy. His *Guide to Geography* marks the culmination of a long tradition of research, which, in the cultural climate of European humanism, would come to enjoy a new beginning.

Even in its “scientific” expressions, however, ancient geography is marked by the empirical data of politico-military history and by the economic dynamism of Greco-Roman civilization. The disproportion between the elaboration of the theoretical principles of astronomical geography and their applicability has not up to now led to any integrated reflection on the construction process of ancient cartography in a historical perspective. The ongoing controversies over the nature and use of ancient maps are sometimes sterile because they insist on considering – with different or opposing evaluations – the same scarce documentation, to which the so-called “Artemidorus Papyrus” has added nothing significantly new.

The central idea of this Seminar is that ancient history not only broadens geographical horizons but that it also orients their mental and/or cartographic representations. The aim is not to devalue the relative progress of “scientific” geography from Eratosthenes to Ptolemy, but rather to arrive at a concrete understanding of the interaction between the scarcity of reference points that were fixed thanks to astronomical surveys and the multiplicity of “reference points” selected by practical geography in a topographic, regional and supra-regional dimension.

To *deconstruct Ptolemy's Guide* means to bring to light the historical stratification of the spatial relationships dictated by terrestrial and maritime itineraries; the internal coherence of the mathematical model cannot erase the historico-geographic variables of the material to which Ptolemy applies his procedures.