Croatian Makers of Portolans and Isolarios

Portolans and isolarios have got a special position in development of cartographic acquaintance of the Adriatic sea. During the 16th century four important Croatian cartographers improved cartographic presentation of the Adriatic and so supported development of the maritime cartography.

Petar Kopic – Pietro Coppo (1470-1556) is one of the most prominent Croatian cartographers of that period. He received his education in Venice from Marco Antonio Sabelica. Four Kopic's works are well known: "De toto orbe", "Summa totius orbis", "Portolano" and "Del sito se Istria".

Vicko Dimitrije Volčić (1563-1607) was making only portolans. Today we know seven of his portolan maps drawn on the parchment. He is supposed to have been a pupil and assistant of Bartolomeo Oliva from Baleari.

Božo Bonifacić-Bonifacij Natal (1537-1592) is a cartographer known by his isolarios. In Croatian State Archives that is one of the oldest engraving isolarios of the Adriatic coast, printed in Venice in 1572 in the workshop of G. F. Camocio. For this isolar Bonifacić made 68 maps among which some detailed surveys of the Croatian littoral. He also made 66 maps for Bertelli's isolar (1574), so he belongs to the most eminent cartographers of the 16th century.

Martin Rota-Kolunic (1532-1583) was a pupil of M. Raimondi. He is also known by the maps published in Camoci's Isolar and by the maps in the work of F. Valegio "Raccolta di piu illustri et famose citta di tutto il mondo" (1573).

With presentation of slides of portolans and isolarios of the quoted authors, we'll present the progress of the Croatian 16th century maritime cartography, as well as the level of knowledge of the Adriatic coast in the age of cartographic renaissance.