FUNDACIÓN CAJASOL | Plaza de San Francisco, Sevilla

Vanguardia hall, entrance on Álvarez Quintero street
Opening hours: Monday through Saturday, 11 am to 2 pm and 6 pm to 9 pm

Fundación Cajasol · ECM Sevilla2024 · Universidad de Sevilla · Archivo General de Indias · Biblioteca Universidad de Sevilla · RASC · Ministerio de Cultura · FECYT Innovación · Año Cajal

FUNDACIÓN CAJASOL
June 27 to July 20, 2024

MAPS

Seville's Cartographic Heritage from the 15th to the 18th Centuries

Maps Exhibition

Seville's Cartographic Heritage from the 15th to the 18th Centuries

maps and books belonging to the

- Columbine Library
- General Archive of Indies
- Ancient Collection of the Library of the University of Seville

A selection of twenty-nine ancient maps and maps in books which traverse the history of cartography in Europe and America in five episodes and a grand finale:

I. Ancient and medieval maps
II. Ptolemy and the Renaissance
III. World maps and atlases
IV. Columbus' departure and return
V. America

The ending is theatrical and mathematical: the method of map making devised in the 16th century by the Flemish cartographer **Gerardus Mercator.**

Since the dawn of mankind, every civilization has made maps. Those from Antiquity hardly have survived. During the Middle Ages, maps made in Europe were largely schematic and symbolic.

Then came the 15th century, when Ptolemy's geographical work was rediscovered. As the 16th century and the Renaissance progressed, the work of Flemish cartographers such as Gerardus Mercator and Abraham Ortelius was instrumental in making maps increasingly more accurate.

Columbus' voyage changed the course of history. His travel plans are captured in some handwritten notes on how to get to the Indies by sailing West, while his return is represented by the letter reporting on his discoveries, which became a true best-seller in Europe.

We end with seven beautiful manuscriptal maps, drawn in ink and watercolored by settlers, friars and jurists, and sent with their reports and claims to the distant bureaucracy of a large colonial empire.