



INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION COMMISSION ON  
**DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES IN CARTOGRAPHIC HERITAGE**  
Chair, Prof. Evangelos Livieratos, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

16 December 2008

To whom it may concern,

**Petr Pridal** – Evaluation of his Work to Cartographic Heritage

As the Chair of ICA Commission on Digital Technologies in Cartographic Heritage (<http://web.auth.gr/xeee/ica-heritage>), professor of Cartography since 1979 at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece (<http://cartography.web.auth.gr/Livieratos>) and editor of the international web journal 'e-Perimtron' (<http://www.e-Perimtron.org>) I had recently the opportunity to get personal knowledge of and appreciate the work carried out by Petr Pridal in the field of open source programming, geo-referencing and image processing of maps with particular historical value. This happened in the frame of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> International Workshop on Digital Approaches to Cartographic Heritage, held in Athens in 18 and 19 of May 2007 and in Barcelona, Catalunya, Spain 26 – 27 June 2008, where Petr addressed well prepared and original papers on the issue, with great success and acceptance. The way he is approaching his subject makes his research and the implementation tooling he is originally developing very attractive and inviting but at the same time extremely useful not only for map libraries dealing with map collections, but also for scholars working on the field of digital documentation, classification and evaluation especially of antique maps.

Petr Pridal has not only excellent expertise in programming, but also he understands the needs and requirements of a variety of professionals and academics dealing with cartographic heritage. His Masters dissertation is the best proof of his abilities and skills. His Google Summer of Code project (GDAL2Tiles) allows the elaboration of new programming schemes allowing the treatment of 'heavy' map images in active relation and association with web applications as Google Earth.

Therefore I am fully supporting the project proposed by Moravian Library Brno, Czech Republic on the website <http://help.oldmapsonline.org/geochallenge>.

This project is improving the existing software tools and implementing new online interfaces for them. Such effort will greatly simplify the usage and definitively gain new popularity for the tools and their acceptance by several institutions publishing old maps.

Appreciating Petr's work and intelligence, I proposed him to become an active member of the ICA Commission I am chairing (<http://web.auth.gr/xeee/ICA-Heritage/Members.htm>), hoping to get a valuable input from his side, for the benefit of our international cartographic heritage community.

Yours sincerely,

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