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## **A variant of Rigas Velestinlis Version-A Charta: The Kapesovo copy**

*Keywords:* Rigas Velestinlis; Rigas Charta; 18<sup>th</sup> century cartography; rare maps; Greek cartography; Greek Enlightenment; Cartographic heritage; Rigas Charta Version-A; Rigas Charta Kapesovo copy.

### *Summary*

In a previous note the two major versions (named A and B) of the Rigas Velestinlis Charta were unveiled for the first time. Having available a high quality and reliability digital copy of Charta Version-A, namely the Kapesovo copy, an interesting variant of Version A has been now documented. This particular variant of Version-A copy presents only two differences with respect to the original Version-A copies, recorded in sheets No. 3 and No. 9.

This new finding, thanks to digital technologies applied in the study of old maps, complicates furthermore the question opened by the previous relevant note concerning the versions of Rigas Charta and their variants as far as their origin it is concerned.

### **Introduction**

In a previous note published in this journal<sup>1</sup> the existence of two versions of the Rigas Velestinlis Charta (Version-A and Version-B) was for the first time documented thanks to the aid of digital technologies as applied in the analysis of old maps. The copies of Charta belonging to Version-A are less in number than those belonging to Version-B and are differentiated due to thirteen well determined alterations which are located in seven map-sheets from a total of twelve completing this cartographic masterpiece of the Greek Enlightenment. As the focus on Charta's copies belonging to both versions are now more painstaking, a new finding came out investigating a high quality copy of Charta belonging to Version-A, the Kapesovo copy<sup>2</sup>.

### **The Kapesovo variant of A-version Charta**

Thanks to digital technologies it was for the first time presented in that short note, the existence of (at least) two different versions of Rigas Charta, called **Version-A** and **Version-B**, as it is documented from the thirteen differences detected in seven map-sheets (Fig. 1, *Left*) from a total of twelve map-sheets. These differences are all recorded in the **Version-B** existing copies which are more numerous than those belonging to **Version-A**.

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<sup>1</sup> E. Livieratos, 2008, "On the unveiling of two versions of Rigas Velestinlis Charta", *e-Perimtron*, Vol. 3, No. 3, 183-190. The first announcement of the results of this research was posted in "MapHist Discussion Group on History of Cartography" and in the author's website (cartography.web.auth.gr/Livieratos) on October 4, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Thanks are due to the keepers of the Kapesovo Charta in the "Paschaleios" School of Kapesovo, Epirus, Thomas Raptis, Apostolos Ntinalaxis and Thoukididis Papageorgiou who made available for study the ultra-high quality digital copy of the map kindly scanned, processed and kindly offered by the *Colour Consulting Group (CCG)* of Thessaloniki [www.ccg.gr].

Having available a high resolution copy of the Kapesovo *Charta* belonging originally to **Versio-A**, Angeliki Tsorlini<sup>3</sup> detected two differences in sheets No. 3 and No. 9 (Fig. 1, *Right*) corresponding exactly to those in the relevant sheets of **Versio-B**. It is important to stress here, that the differences in sheet No. 9 is only one in the Kapesovo copy and not three as in the maps belonging to **Versio-B**. This particularity classifies the Kapesovo copy as a variant copy of **Versio-A**, which requires the updating of the list of *Charta* copies first appeared in the 2008 relevant note published in this journal<sup>4</sup>.

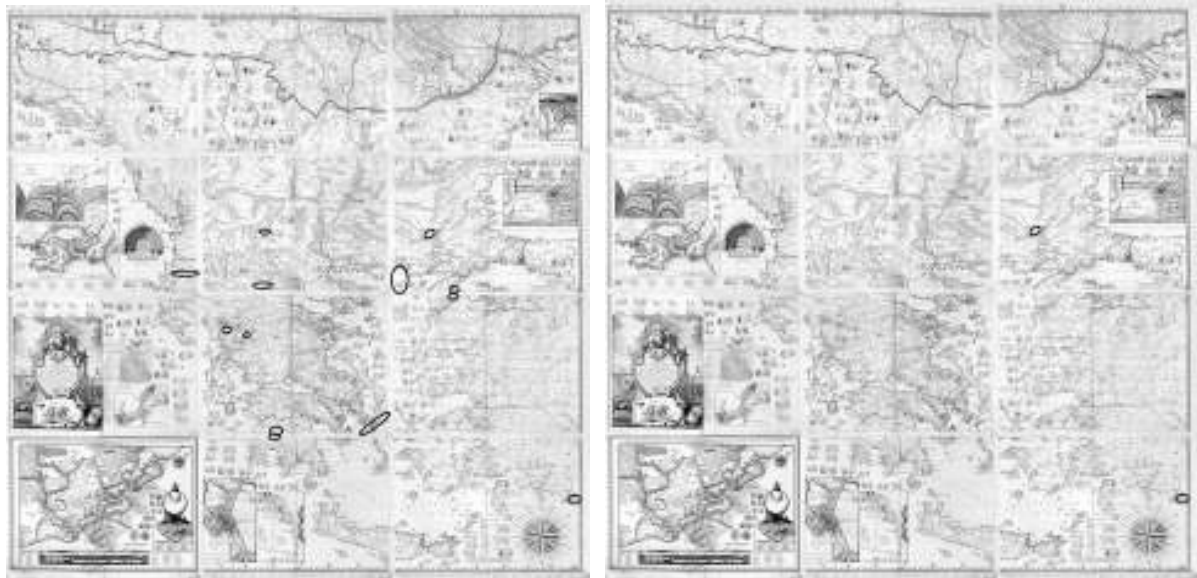


Figure 1. Rigas *Charta*. The numbering of the sheets (No. 1 to No. 12) starts from the lower-left to the right and always from left to right upwards.

*Left*: The thirteen differences apparent on **Versio-B** copies as detected in seven map sheets: one in sheet No. 2, one in No. 3, four in No. 5, one in No. 6, one in No. 7, two in No. 8 and three in No. 9.

*Right*: The two differences detected on the **Kapesovo copy** (originally belonging to **Versio-A**): one in sheet No. 3 and one in No. 9.

In the following series of images the two differences are shown constituting the Kapesovo variant of **Versio-A** following the map-sheet numbering.

**Sheet No. 3: One difference:**



**Kapesovo variant of Versio-A**, sheet No. 3: text “Φαίνεται μία καταποντισμένη πόλις εις την Θάλασσαν.” **Versio-A**, sheet No. 3: text missing.

Figure 2: Detail of sheet No. 3.

<sup>3</sup> Cand. Dr. Angeliki Tsorlini (Dipl. Eng., MSc., Faculty of Rural & Surveying Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) investigated carefully the Kapeso digital copy.

<sup>4</sup> E. Livieratos, 2008, “On the unveiling...” p. 190.

Sheet No. 9: One difference:



Kapesovo variant of Version-A, sheet No. 9: toponym “Αρτίσκος Π.”.



Version-A, sheet No. 9: toponym missing.

Figure 9c: Detail of sheet No. 9.

The differences illustrated above, are summarized in the updated Table 1, listed by map-sheet and map version, including **Version-B**.

Map-sheet No.	Version-B	Version-A	Kapesovo Version-A variant
2	ἦρα [+ a mountain symbol] [a river traced differently]	Missing [missing] [a river traced differently]	Missing [missing] [a river traced differently]
3	Φαίνεται μία κατά- ποντισμένη πόλις εἰς την Θάλασσαν.	missing	Φαίνεται μία κατά- ποντισμένη πόλις εἰς την Θάλασσαν.
5	νέδας Π. [river traced differently]	missing [river traced differently]	missing [river traced differently]
5	ΠΕΛΑΓΟΣ	ΕΛΑΓΟΣ	ΕΛΑΓΟΣ
5	παραμυθία Πανδοσία	missing	missing
5	Τρεμώ	missing	missing
6	ΠΟΝΤΟ	ΠΟΝ	ΠΟΝ
7	a road below “Απολλωνία. Πόλινα”.	missing	missing
8	Περλεπέ	missing	missing
8	Ξηρολίβαδον	missing	missing
9	Σ [the last letter of ΠΟΝΤΟ is in sh. 6]	missing	missing
9	ΑΙ [the rest letters ΓΑΙΟΝ are in sh. 6]	missing	missing
9	Αρτίσκος Π.	missing	Αρτίσκος Π.

Table 1: The toponymy differences in the two Rigas *Charta* versions and the Kapesovo variant.

Concluding remarks

Following the research on Rigas Velestinlis *Charta* a new finding is reported here, concerning the two major versions of the map. Thanks to modern digital technologies, as applied to the analysis of old maps, it is shown that one of the **Version-A** copies, namely the “Kapesovo copy” of the Paschaleios School in Kapesovo, Epirus, is actually a **Version-A variant** since two differences (corresponding to those of **Version-B**) are apparent in two map-sheets. This important finding is a striking confirmation that the only possible way of studying in detail particularly dense maps, as it

is the case of Rigas *Charta*, is to implement modern digital technologies not only for the geometric analyses of maps but also for the reading of their content. From the updating of the investigation we carried out, in **Version-A** (i.e. the case with the missing toponyms and some incomplete names) belong less copies of Rigas *Charta* comparing to the number of those belonging to **Version-B**, as it can be seen in the still provisional list of Table 2. Here we notice the interesting fact that the up to now known *Charta* copies kept in libraries outside Greece all belong to **Version-B**.

	<b>Version-B</b>	<b>Version-A</b>	<b>Version-A Variant</b>
<b>In Greece</b>	Library of Parliament <sup>5</sup>	Library of Parliament <sup>5</sup>	
	National Library <sup>5</sup>	National Bank of Greece Cultural Foundation (Victor & Niovi Melas Map Collection)	
	War Museum <sup>5</sup>	Sylvia Ioannou Map Collection	
	National Historic Museum <sup>5</sup> (2)	Archaeological Museum, Andros isl. <sup>5</sup>	
	Gennadius Library		Paschaleios School of Kapesovo
	Aristotle University, Thessaloniki		
	Municipal Library, Kozani		
	Evangelistria Found., Tinos isl. <sup>6</sup>		
	[ <i>Under search</i> : Velestino; National Library (2?); Ministry of Foreign Affairs <sup>7</sup> ; Ambelakia; ... ]		
<b>Abroad</b>	Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris <sup>8</sup>		
	British Library (2), London <sup>8</sup>		
	Royal Geographical Society, London <sup>8</sup>		
	Kungliga Biblioteket, Stockholm <sup>8</sup>		
	Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Vienna <sup>9</sup>		
	[ <i>Under search</i> : Belgrade; Harvard; ... ]		

Table 2: Provisional list showing the Rigas *Charta* complete copies existing in Greece and abroad, classified according to their Version (A, B and A-variant).

The new findings which enrich the knowledge on the Rigas *Charta* two versions, enforces the requirement for a thorough historical investigation on the possible sources of its two versions and their variant, as it was posed in the previous note on the issue<sup>10</sup>.

## References

E. Livieratos, 2008, "On the unveiling of two versions of Rigas Veletinlis *Charta*", *e-Perimtron*, Vol. 3, No. 3, 183-190.

<sup>5</sup> Information given by Cand. Dr. Maria Pazarli.

<sup>6</sup> Information given by Prof. Lyssandros Tsoulos.

<sup>7</sup> Information given by Ambassador emeritus Christos Zacharakis.

<sup>8</sup> See acknowledgements in Livieratos, p. 190.

<sup>9</sup> Information given by ÖNB

<sup>10</sup> Livieratos, p. 190.