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To Hispalois

Subject: Gerard Mercator ...

Dear Hispalois,

In August 2019, the 450th anniversary of the publication of the World and Marine Map "Ad usum navigantium / For Use by Mariners" by the Duisburg immigrant Gerard Mercator will take place. With an ingeniously simple idea that ranked its author among the immortals of science, the map from 1569 resolved the constructive errors of the conventional 16th-century nautical chart – the *carta de marear* – and provided the navigators with the cartographic aid, which they finally allowed their courses to be correctly placed as straight lines in the "Mercator map".

I'm sad that Hispalois posted his Wikipedia-2015-entry about Mercator's knowledge of navigation.

Navigatonal inaccuracy [edit]

Mercator was not a navigator himself and, while he was obviously aware of the concept of rhumb line, he missed several key practical aspects of navigation. As a result, his world map "was useless for navigation at the time it was created because navigation was something very different from his idealized concept."^[36] 1

Mercator had to work from the geographic information contained in his source maps, which of course was not always accurate, but he may have also introduced errors of his own by misinterpreting the mathematical structure of the Portuguese and Spanish charts of his time. In addition, even if his sources had been perfect, Mercator's map would have still been of little practical use for navigators due to lack of reliable data on magnetic declination and to the difficulty of determining longitude accurately at sea.^[36] 2

These technical reasons explain why Mercator's projection was not widely adopted for marine charts until the 18th century.^[36] 3

1 FALSE: see 1541 (!!!) / 1546 / 1569: legends!

2 NN did not carry out any cartographic examinations on the nautical charts to and after P. Reinell! His "myth 'square flat map'" therefore is itself a scientific myth: a false message (in modern speaking: a fake news!) How could Mercator have written the legends that would find the course, distance and target if he had no correct idea about 'rhumbs'? Even a great "cartographic-guru," is still in 1997's – Excuse! – of this stupid-impudent opinion! (I am annoyed and sad at the same time.)

3 Is Mercator responsible for the fact that Portuguese navigators still do not know the difference? Despite Nunes? Is Mercator's work disparaging, because the world has to wait until the 18th century for exact lunar tables or sufficient clocks to make it possible to determine longitude? What a pity!

4 Of course: widely! **But Hispalois did not control the lyrics of NN:** they contain such vicious and erroneous comments on Gerard Mercator so that I have dedicated ISBN 978-3-7439-1875-7, 978-3-7469-5349-6 them specifically. And NN apparently knows neither of Wright 1599, Snellius 1605/1624, Gunter 1623, Norwood 1633, N. Mercator 1666 nor Chambers 1728 and others! AND, and, ...

I recommend: **To restore Mercator's honor, should delete the text!**

Friedrich Wilhelm Krücken

See www.wilhelmkruecken.de.