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In the 16th century it was usual for engraved maps to be reissued without alteration, sometimes over a long period. This was because the highly skilful process of hand-engraving meant that making changes was expensive.

The siege of Malta, however, would have been top of the news bulletins throughout Europe at the time, and only a map could readily convey its various stages. So, on at least three occasions, as fresh news reached Venice, the engraver took out the Camocio copper-plate and updated it.


The map would then have been speedily reprinted and sold. That one of the four versions was only discovered three years ago, despite many hundreds having probably been printed, was because, as separate sheets, they had little chance of survival.

This application concerns the four surviving versions (or 'states') of that map. For those historians who wish to understand the progress of the siege the four cartographic versions must be carefully compared. But, even if all had been in one collection, side-by-side comparison of the originals would have been very difficult and not necessarily effective.

Modern scanning technology has solved that problem, in two ways. Researchers can now compare the same section on the four maps simultaneously, and additionally at much greater magnification than the original. Such digitization also helps guarantee that those alterations are preserved, whatever might happen to the originals.

For that reason I am happy to support this application to the Memory of the World Register, for the digitized set of the Camocio maps of the 1565 Siege of Malta.

Tony Campbell

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'C'.

Former Map Librarian of the British Library

Chair of Imago Mundi Ltd

Convenor of the International Conferences on the History of Cartography