

**New exhibition at the Stewart Museum!**

# **20 000 LEAGUES OVER LAND AND SEA**

**Exploring six centuries of cartography**



**Montreal, February 26, 2013** — From June 12, 2013 to April 13, 2014, the Stewart Museum will present the exhibition *20 000 Leagues Over Land and Sea - Exploring Six Centuries of Cartography*. Discover some hundred maps from the Stewart Museum's collection, the largest, most consistent and comprehensive collection of ancient cartography and cosmography conserved by a private museum in Quebec.

On display are world maps, continental maps, maps of countries, sea charts, polar maps, celestial maps and city maps. A selection of navigational, astronomical and surveying instruments as well as globes of the earth and the heavens—all from the Stewart Museum's collection—will complement the exhibition. More than six centuries of mapmaking will be presented, with special emphasis on the Age of Discovery, from the 15th to the 18th centuries. This is an outstanding opportunity to discover the little-known yet fascinating world of ancient mapmaking.

### **The importance of cartography**

The cartographer's craft, as it emerged and developed in the 16th and 17th centuries, quickly became essential to mariners, explorers and administrators, and went hand in hand with navigating the seas, commanding crews and governing territories.

Maps have always been much more than just simple graphic representations of geographic areas. That is why ancient cartography gives us access to an exciting world at the crossroads of science, politics and aesthetics.

### **Integration of new technologies**

What about geographic maps today? They're everywhere and in a multitude of formats using the new technologies: GPS in the car, Google Maps at home, geopositioning on smart phones. After visiting the exhibition *20 000 Leagues Over Land and Sea*, visitors will have a better understanding of the importance of cartography in daily life. They will also experience an "enhanced reading" of maps. On a large touchscreen, visitors will be able to explore 20 digitized, high-definition ancient maps to better appreciate their detail, richness, beauty and complexity, and discover the myriad ways of depicting heaven and earth.

### **About the Stewart Museum**

The Stewart Museum, a private, non-profit history museum, was founded in 1955 by philanthropist David M. Stewart. The institution holds a unique collection of nearly 27,000 artifacts, archival documents and rare books that show the European presence in New France and North America up to the present. The Museum's main mission: to conserve and exhibit these objects, which relate to the voyages, scientific advances, feats of arms, beliefs and daily life of our ancestors. This Montréal organization is located in the arsenal of the British fortified depot on *Île Sainte-Hélène*, a 19th century military construction registered in the *Répertoire du patrimoine culturel du Québec*.

#### **General information**

Stewart Museum  
20 chemin du Tour-de-l'Isle, Parc Jean-Drapeau  
[www.stewart-museum.org](http://www.stewart-museum.org)

Admission:

Adult – \$13

Senior (55 years and over) – \$10

Student (7 to 25 years) – \$10

Child (6 years and under) – free

Family – \$26

Open Wednesday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

General information: 514 861-6701 Group reservations: 514 861-6701, ext. 227

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**Source:** **Stewart Museum**  
[www.stewart-museum.org](http://www.stewart-museum.org)

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