



SACRED PLACES

* ON MAPS *

A CARTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE
BENEDICTINE ARCHABBEY OF PANNONHALMA, HUNGARY
AND
THE BENEDICTINE ABBEY SCHOTTENSTIFT, VIENNA, AUSTRIA
PANNONHALMA, HUNGARY
APRIL 5, 2005 – NOVEMBER 11, 2005

The Exhibition Hall of the *Benedictine Archabbey of Pannonhalma* presently features a very special exhibition of maps, inviting visitors to the *Sacred Mount of Pannonia* on a unique spiritual pilgrimage in cartographic time and space, filled with the spirit radiated by these ancient walls.

Cartography is somehow equally equipped to show us holy sites and to model mundane geographic information such as coordinates, distances, landmarks, quantities, and processes.

Like a holy site itself, the map marks a point where different worlds meet. This is what enables it to facilitate a dialogue between worlds, times, and spaces, and between people and mindsets – an exchange through which we can begin to better understand others and ourselves.

The perambulation of this exhibit can be thought of as a veritable *pilgrimage* whereby the holy sites featured by the old maps on display are visited, along an itinerary that is physically real and figurative at the same time. It is not, however, a straight path in the literal sense of the term, but a meandering line fashioned from the space of the exhibition by each visitor choosing his own trajectory, as on any voyage executed in space and time. The given arrangement of the material is not meant to lead the way so much as to aid orientation within the space of the exhibition, organized in five thematic clusters that will hopefully fit into the pattern of a homogeneous *spiritual journey*.

