

## **A recently discovered map of Adelaide from 1838 by Light Finnis & co. : 3D scanning and a multi-analytical investigation**

### **Background**

In January 2020, a framed map of Adelaide dated December 1838 belonging to the Migration Museum (History Trust of South Australia) came to the Paper & Books lab of Artlab Australia for condition assessment and rehousing. The map was originally thought to be a print.

During the preliminary assessment, it became clear that the map is completely hand drawn. A more accurate study of the map carried out with high-resolution imaging at various illumination angles and microscopy imaging, has revealed evidence that the surface of the map retains a vast number of intrinsic elements such as: perforation holes and embossed lines caused by compasses and other drawing instruments, pencil marks and a vast number of annotations.

This finding places this document under a new light, identifying an unpublished early drawing of Adelaide and its suburbs (Adelaide was founded 1836) produced in the office of Colonel William Light and Boyle Travers Finnis. The map retains the original backing cloth mounted on a frame and it appears it has not received extensive conservation treatment. For this reason, the potential information of the intrinsic elements embedded in its composing materials is still very high.

### **Scopes of the investigation**

- **Intrinsic elements:** Collection of information about the embedded elements of the map to retain documentation of them;
- **Production:** obtain information on how the map and the city survey was realized;
- **Use:** Investigating the use of the map during the designing of the city and the administration of land distribution;
- **Preservation condition:** Verify the actual condition of the map to evaluate risks and possible benefits of conservation treatments;
- **Compare:** The State Library of South Australia has a similar map dated October 1838 in its collection: "Plan of the District of Adelaide South Australia showing the property of the South Australian Company BRG 42/120/17 ". Compare analysis results of these two maps should bring new insights to the following:
  - Production location;
  - Composing materials;
  - The production history of maps during the early settlements of Adelaide;
  - Decision making for the best conservation treatment and preservation conditions.

### **Investigation Methods**

- High resolution Imaging
- Microscope Imaging
- 3D scanning
- Any other non-invasive/non-destructive technique such as NIR-FTIR-XRF-Spectral Imaging.

### **Acknowledgements**

The research is conducted by Roberto Padoan (Artlab Australia) as principal investigator in collaboration with Michael Bowditch (University of South Australia), Corinne Ball (Migration Museum – History Trust of South Australia) and Beth Robertson (State Library of South Australia).

### **Presentation 1**

**The beginning of a multi-analytical study of an unpublished 1838 map of Adelaide of the Light Finnis & Co office.**

**Presented by:** Roberto Padoan, principal conservator Paper & Books, Artlab Australia.

### **Presentation 2**

**Presentation of Industry 4.0 Testlab of the University of South Australia: Potential collaborations in heritage projects.**

**Presented by:** Michael Bowditch, mechanical engineer, University of South Australia