



The «New Map of Rome» by Giambattista Nolli: a precise representation of the urban space in the 18th century

Keti Lelo and Carlo Maria Travaglini

CROMA, Università Roma Tre (lelo@uniroma3.it; c.travaglini@uniroma3.it)

The paper refers to the on going experience of the project "The Historic Atlas of Modern Rome" implemented by CROMA (Centro di ateneo per lo studio di Roma) - University Roma Tre. The project combines research in urban history with geographical information systems, and has as main objective to study the "historic environment" of Rome and its transformations.

In 1748, Giovanni Battista Nolli (1692-1756) published his «New Map of Rome» (Nuova Pianta di Roma). This work represents the first geometrically correct representation of Rome within the city walls, and the only map deriving from a topographical survey of which the procedures are known. The map represents a precious source of information and a valid cartographic basis for the study of the successive phases of the city development.

The presentation will illustrate the characteristics of this cartographic source, the results obtained from the georeferencing process and the construction of a GIS system for the city of Rome in the 18th century. The described methodology stands at the basis of the first volume of the Atlas, that will be shortly published in printable as well as in digital version, in a CD Rom containing a graphical interface that permits the interactive interrogation of map and databases.