Celebrating Magellan and Elcano

**Celebrating Magellan and Elcano**

Information Paper submitted by Portugal and Spain

*Summary*

There were a number of educational initiatives to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the First Circumnavigation of the Globe by Ferdinand Magellan and Juan Sebastián Elcano, arguably two of the greatest navigators of all times. In this paper, it is reported a non-exhaustive number of initiatives carried out by Portugal and Spain, despite the COVID 19 pandemic.

*Education and Outreach initiatives of Portuguese and Spanish organizations celebrating the 500th anniversary of the First Circumnavigation of the Globe by Ferdinand Magellan and Juan Sebastián Elcano*

At XLII, Chile reported on the commemoration of the of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the Strait of Magellan, as part ofthe World´s first circumnavigation by Fernão de Magalhães; known in Spanish as Fernando/Hernando de Magallanes and as Ferdinand Magellan in English (ATCM XLII, IP 115).

Under the command of the Portuguese Ferdinand Magellan and, after his death in the Philippines, with the Spaniard Juan Sebastian Elcano at the helm, the expedition, financed by the Spanish Crown, set sail in 1519 from Seville to be completed three years later by Elcano. This expedition, possibly the greatest maritime adventure in human record, went on to circumnavigate the Earth for the first time, proving that our planet was round.

Magellan developed considerable navigation skills, named the Pacific Ocean, was the first European to navigate the Magellan Strait (initially named “*Estreito de Todos os Santos*”) and added immensely to European knowledge about the World. He is still regularly remembered through times. Examples: NASA named Magellan the mission to Venus (one of the most successful deep space missions), one of the craters in the Moon is named Magellan. The two galaxies that can be seen by naked eye in the Southern Hemisphere are called Magellan clouds (or *Nubeculae Magellani*). Punta Arenas (Chile) holds the Universidad de Magallanes and has a penguin with his name (Magellan penguin *Spheniscus magellanicus*).

After his captain’s death, Elcano took the helm of the Nao Victoria and, in his determination to return to Spain, made the audacious decision to sail West crossing uncharted waters of the Indian ocean, rounding the Cape of Good Hope and arriving in Seville on September 8th 1522, along with only 17 members of the crew, originally made up of 240 men. On the one hand, the scientific legacy of both Magellan and Elcano lives on thanks to Andrés de Urdaneta, another survivor of the expedition, who later in the 16th century discovered the so-called “tornaviaje”, the return pathway across the Pacific from the Philippines, effectively connecting China to Europe through Mexico. On the other hand, it also lingers thanks to the Italian Antonio Pigaffeta, which have embarked with Magellan and arrived with Elcano, becoming the chronicler of this journey, whose adventures are known through his publication “The First Journey around the World”. This is the only accountable writing since, if ever existed, there are no trace or records of the Magellan notebook or diary. All this set in motion what modern historians have called «The First Globalization».

A non-exhaustive list of education and outreach activities by Portugal and Spain include:

* The Portuguese Navy tall ship NRP Sagres planned a Circumnavigation tour in 2020 (departing on the 5 January 2020), for 371 days covering 20 countries, following the Magellan Route. This mission was part of the Celebration Programme for the Fifth Centenary of Fernão de Magalhães Circumnavigation (<https://sagres.marinha.pt/> ). However, due to the pandemic situation, this journey was cancelled and the NRP Sagres returned to port in March 2020.
* In a similar vein, the Spanish Navy training ship ‘Juan Sebastian de Elcano’ left Cadiz on September 24, 2020 for her 93rd Training Cruise. She is scheduled to sail around the world as one of the main milestones organized to commemorate the fifth Centenary of the first Circumnavigation of the Earth. The ship will have the opportunity to visit other relevant places of the original expedition such as Guam, the Philippines or Indonesia.
* Digital display on “Biodiversity in the expedition of circumnavigation of Magalhães-Elcano (1519-1522)", with the collaboration of the Sociedade de Geografia de Lisboa and the Embassy of Spain in Portugal, with the support of the Directorate General for Culture of the Ministry of Culture of Spain.
* Group of 8 Conferences on the intervention of Portuguese and Spanish scientists in commemoration of the 500 years of the expedition of circumnavigation of Magalhães-Elcano (1519-1522). 9 Sept. - 4 Oct. 2019, Room Algarve, Sociedade de Geografia de Lisboa (http://www.socgeografialisboa.pt/2019/)
* **ElViajeMásLargo #VCentenario | "The Longest Voyage: The First Journey around the World"** is an exhibition and documentary programme that reflects on the attitude of man before a long trip into the unknown. It connects the first circumnavigation of the Earth with the individual challenges of the present and the collective challenges of the future. The project began in 2018 with the exhibition following the steps of Magellan and the preparations of the first circumnavigation with the traveling exhibition "The Dream, 1518-2018", and continued with the celebration, in 2019, of a great exhibition in the Archivo General de Indias in Seville around the first circumnavigation and the importance of "travel" for the evolution of mankind.
* **El viaje a la Especiería** (The trip to the Spice Trading House) This exhibition, made up of 32 images, some of them from the Naval Museum, was displayed in Espinosa de los Monteros (Burgos). This town also pays tribute to the sailor Gonzalo Gómez de Espinosa, born there in 1479 and embarked on the ship Trinidad, captained by Ferdinand Magellan, who, after the latter's death in 1521, took command of the damaged ship that could not accompany the Victoria and Juan Sebastián Elcano on their return.
* Educational event "More Magalhães more World" by Ciência Viva/Pavilion of Knowledge. To celebrate the 500th anniversary of the departure for the first World circumnavigation, on the 20th of Sept. 2019 the Pavilion of Knowledge dedicated a day to exploration and to new challenges to Humankind and for the Oceans. On that day, Institutions that produce knowledge about the Sea (e.g., Universities, Research Institutes) presented the visitors with a vision of what has changed in the last centuries. It was an event full of challenges and practical activities about the Oceans, bringing together families, scientists and specialists around the table to discuss their next expeditions and innovations, in diverse fields ranging from climate change to biodiversity. 20 Sept. 2019 Pavilhão do Conhecimento, Lisboa.  
  (ttps://www.pavconhecimento.pt/)
* POLAR WEEKS by the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) Portugal and Polar Educators International (PEI) Portugal, with their national and international partners. This activity brought together polar scientists into schools across Portugal, to give lectures (or skype calls with international colleagues; read Xavier et al. (2018)) in March and October 2019, in which Magellan was regularly mentioned and remembered.
* European investigators night 2019. Educational activities in 27th September at the University of Coimbra (Portugal) related to polar science.  
    
  -
* XVI SIMPÓSIO DE HISTÓRIA MARÍTIMA, titled "Fernão de Magalhães and the knowledge of the Oceans" 19, 20 and 21 November 2019. Sociedade de Geografia, Lisboa. (https://escolanaval.marinha.pt/pt/)
* Conference "Fernão de Magalhães - his family context" by António de Mattos e Silva at 5pm 17 Dez. 2019 at Room Algarve, Sociedade de Geografia de Lisboa.
* List of activities by the Portuguese Navy (https://www.marinha.pt/pt/).
* List of activities by Tourism of Portugal (http://www.magalhaes500.pt/).
* List of the 343 activities by the Centennial Commission in Spain: http://vcentenario.es/actividades/
* Report of the cooperation of Portugal and Spain in celebrating the 500 years of the first World circumnavegation (https://www.publico.pt/2019/04/01/).

*Reference*

Xavier JC, Azinhaga PF, Seco J, Fugmann G (2018) International Polar Week as an educational

activity to boost science–educational links: Portugal as a case study. *Polar Record* 54(5-6): 360

365. Doi: 10.1017/S0032247418000621