

# Comments to the Danish Study of the Vinland Map

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## Quote 1

" Book bindings

The SH is bound in a binding contemporary with the manuscript, but the book has undergone restoration at least twice. The most recent restoration can be attributed to a date which is later than that of the invention of synthetic glues in the early 1930's. " (page 10 right bottom corner).

IEJ: This isn't at all surprising. The question which hasn't been answered here is when the first restoration took place. Please note the last sentence above quote 1: "Moreover, FT-Raman analysis of the areas of VM parchment not covered by text and drawings would be of interest to see if these areas contain anatase too."

Compare this with quote 2 (page 12 second paragraph left):

"Therefore, comparative FT-Raman analysis of ink on historic European parchment would be of interest".

As I read this, said by the Danish scholars, it indirectly states that the anatase can't be used to falsify VM before such an analysis is completed including a large or relatively large number of historic European parchment. I seriously do hope that such an analysis can be done and that the naysayers using anatase as an argument can wait with their speculations until then.

In the third paragraph page 12 the report states that VM been restored by non-professionals. Combined with the information provided in quote 1 above this seems to have been the second time the map was restored.

## Quote 3:

"Our findings presented above clearly indicate that both the SH and the TR, as they appear today, were previously bound together with other book pages. Moreover, a recent discovery in Luzern, Switzerland, of a 100 year earlier copy of SH contain a copy of the TR strongly supports this possibility. (page 12 bottom paragraph left continued upper right corner).

This isn't at all surprising. While I haven't needed information for the origin of SH, I do know that the 1430 map I referred to many times were kept in a castle in Ulm. That map and other documents later came to the Vatican state. If it was or wasn't bound together with a copy of SH, a copy of TR or with both during the period in Ulm or at the Basel Convent, would of course been of interest to the discussion for future investigations brought up by the Danish scholars. Please read the last paragraph bottom right on page 12.

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The third paragraph right on page 12 is of very strong interest for future discussions re. VM:

quote 4:

" The fact that the VM map cannot have been produced on the parchment bound in a book, and that no evidence can be found of any interventions to the books have been made in the 20th century prior to the rebinding, points towards that, if a recent forgery, the map must have been produced after the 1940's. However, if the VM was originally bound together in front of the SH, as indicated by the match of the wormholes, the two wormholes penetrating part of the text of the map points towards a much earlier production of the map, as it would have been difficult to avoid the ink to bleed by writing over the wholes. Signs of this cannot be observed and have not been reported by others. "

IEJ: This gives two very interesting facts even if the Danish scholars haven't stressed it:

That no signs of ink bleed by writing o v e r the wholes, seems to support that the wormholes observed not only on VM but on TR at least could be used as an indicator that it's not especially likely for a forger to have been drawing and writing VM. As commented above: VM has been treated for conservation not once but twice and the last occasion after 1930. This is a strong argument for VM being genuine. Either it's the 1430 map I written to groups about or it's an old copy of that one.

Inger E Johansson

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- ***Follow-Ups:***

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- ◇ *From:* Doug Weller

- ***References:***

- ◆ ***Danish Study of the Vinland Map***

- ◇ *From:* Doug Weller

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