The Ancient World Mapping Center at UNC Chapel Hill (AWMC) presents for inspection and comment a large draft map of the Iberian peninsula. This is the Center’s second such map, following Asia Minor in the Second Century C.E., which was exhibited in draft at AIA’s 2012 Philadelphia meeting and is now finished. Despite the recent improvement of map resources for the study of classical antiquity, it remains a challenge for anyone who studies a very extensive region to gain a cartographic conspectus of it at any serviceable scale, simply because of the sheer extent of the landmass. Asia Minor and Hispania are prime examples. Even in the Barrington Atlas (2000; BA), where each doublespread map extends to 62 cm wide, Asia Minor is split among eleven maps at two different scales, and Hispania among four maps all at 1:1,000,000, with an additional inset to accommodate the Balearic Islands. The presentation of Hispania offered by the Tabula Imperii Romani is no better: five sheets also all at 1:1,000,000, but with northern Portugal limited to the physical landscape only. Moreover, this project’s original intention to issue a comprehensive map encompassing all its sheets once they were completed (in 2001) has not been fulfilled.

Digital technology and the expertise developed at AWMC now permit an attempt at 1:750,000, with the prospect of publication in both print and electronic formats. This more meaningful scale corresponds to the coverage of Greece and Italy in AWMC’s series Wall Maps.
for the Ancient World (Routledge, 2011). Its seven maps were designed, however, to meet the needs of newcomers to antiquity in the classroom. The Center’s Asia Minor and Hispania, by contrast, expect a more mature engagement, and purposely confine their focus to a single century, when each region was stable and thriving under Roman rule. For the Hispania base, the Center has modified OpenStreetMap and Shuttle Radar Topography Mission data to re-create (so far as is feasible) the physical landscape of the Roman period. Use of these open-source resources makes it possible to present the complexities of coast- and river-line work in notably accurate detail. Elevation is distinguished by eight tints. Naming of both landscape and cultural features generally matches BA; co-ordinates are derived from Pleiades Project data wherever available. All settlements marked in BA’s three larger (of five) lettering sizes are included, together significant further sites and new discoveries determined with expert help. Observers’ reactions to the draft on display are eagerly invited, and gain added importance in the light of the Center’s intention to attempt maps of other regions following the same model.

Technical Notes

- Scale: 1:750,000.
- Size: 58.5 inches tall by 68 inches (149 by 173 cm).
- Projection: Europe Lambert Conformal Conic
- Coastline modified from OpenStreetMap, © OpenStreetMap contributors (CC BY-SA).
- Ancient physical and cultural features derived from Tabula Imperii Romani (1991-2001); R. J. A. Talbert (ed.), Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World (Princeton and Oxford, 2000); Pleiades (www.pleiades.stoa.org); and AWMC.

Tabula Imperii Romani Maps of Hispania (based on International Map of the World sheets at 1:1,000,000 scale)

All published by the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas, Madrid:
* K-29, Porto: Conimbriga, Bracara, Lucus, Asturica (1991) [n.b. The lower part of this sheet lacks cultural data]
* Preliminary drafts of these two sheets were displayed at a meeting in 1931, but never brought to publication.

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