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A Paris Smellwalk

Visualisation of Historical Olfactory Narrative

DR KATE MCLEAN | 2023

<https://twitter.com/katemclean> | sensorymaps.com

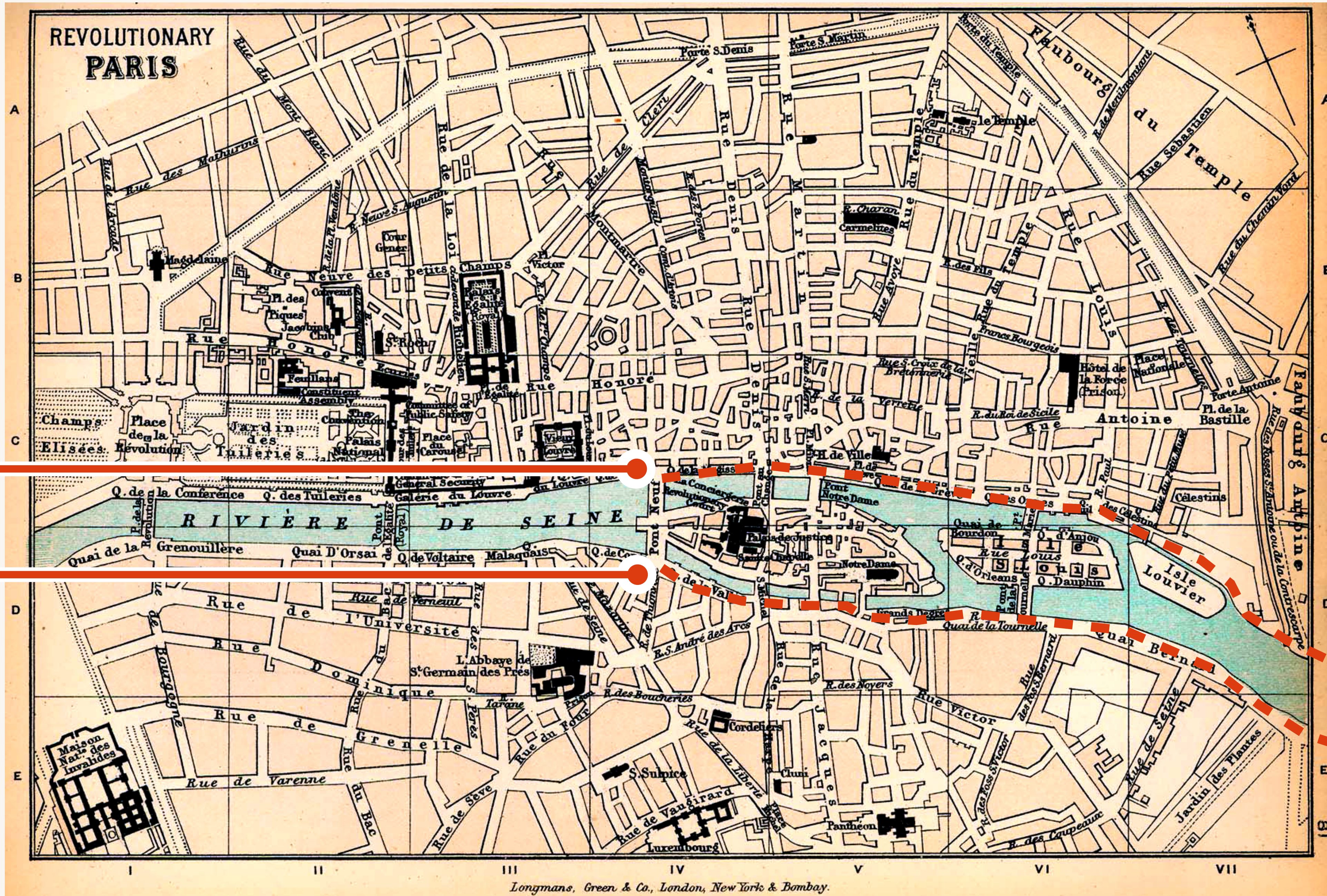
First recorded Smellwalk

- Feb 14, 1790 – 7 months after the storming of the Bastille in Paris
- Commissioned by Royal Society of Medicine
- A ‘sanitary survey’
- Investigation of noxious smells

Corbin, A (1982)



Forestier (nd)



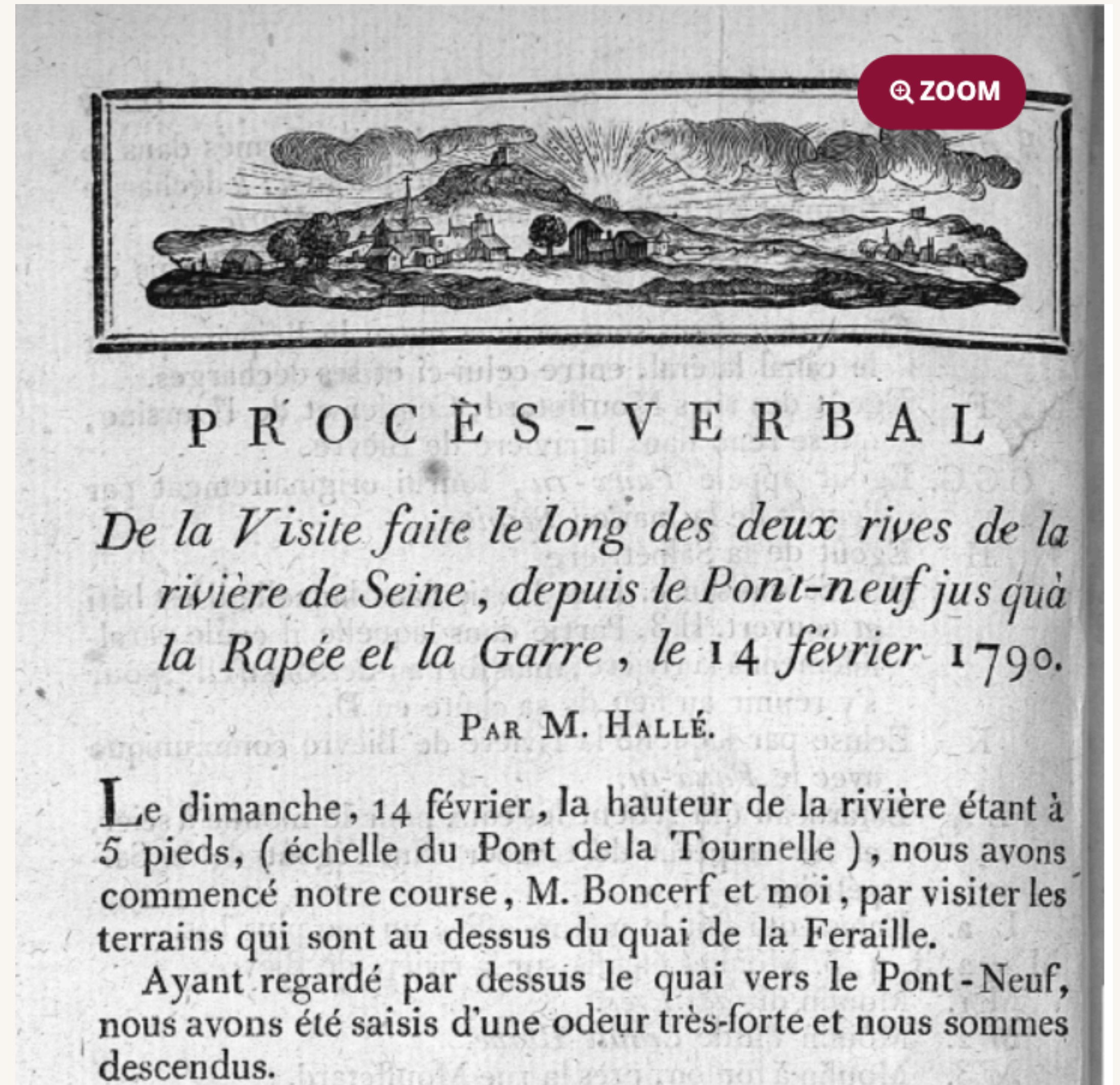
Start

Finish

VERBAL RECORD

From a visit made along the two banks of the River Seine, from Port Neuf to Rapée de la Gare, February 14, 1790.

BY M. HALLE.



Hallé (1790) Histoire et Mémoires de la Société Royale de Médecine, 10 (1789). BIU Santé website



P R O C È S - V E R B A L

*De la Visite faite le long des deux rives de la
rivière de Seine, depuis le Pont-neuf jus qu'à
la Rapée et la Garre, le 14 février 1790.*

PAR M. HALLÉ.

Spatial Olfactory Narrative

Allocation of smells to place

Journey Map

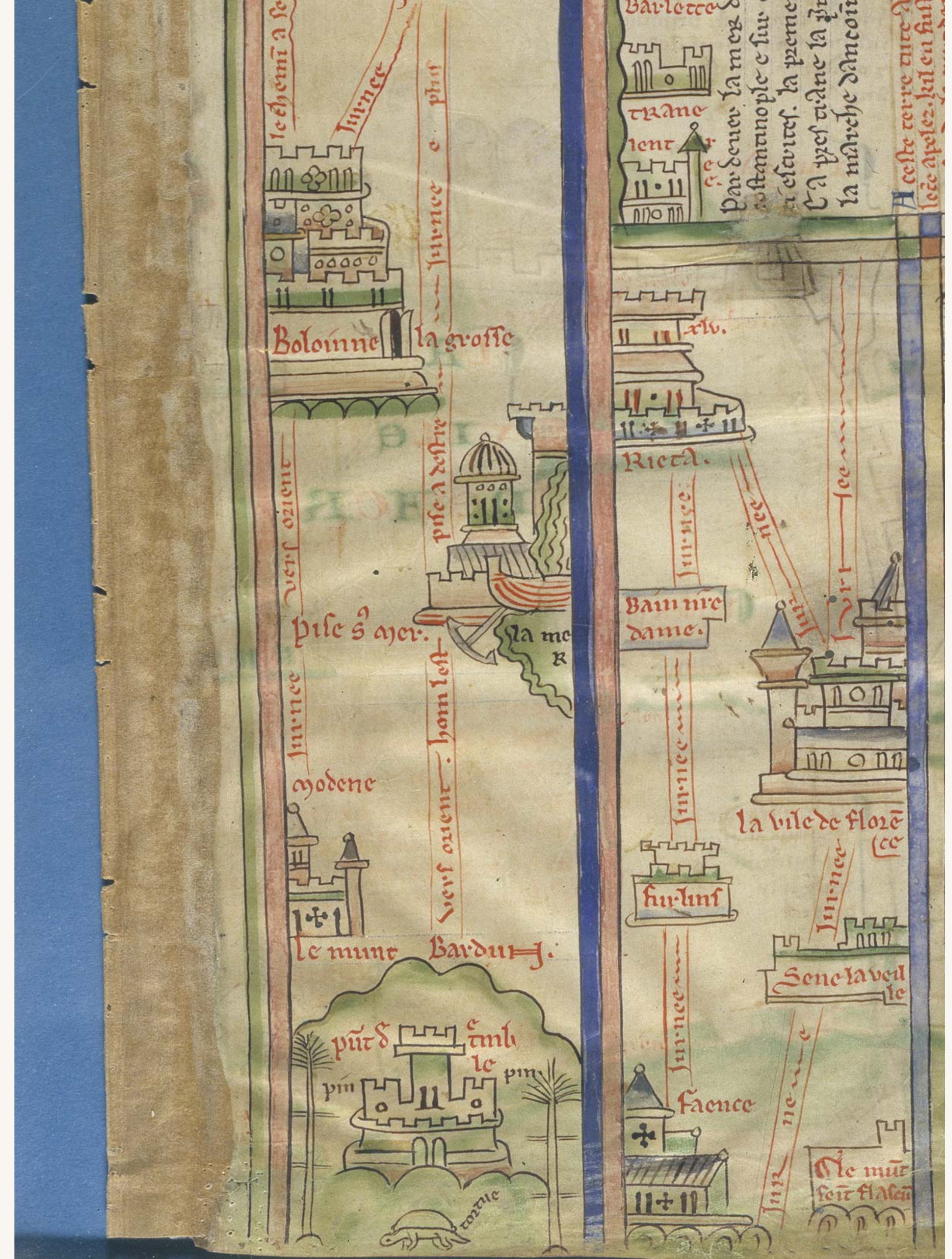
This cartographic precedent, creates a linear sense of place. AKA Itinerary Map, SatNav, 1D Map

Penney, L (2013)

c. 1250 Chronica Major

Matthew Paris' pictorial itineraries represent a spiritual rather than a physical journey (Connolly, 1999).

- *Journey from London to Jerusalem*
- *Virtual pilgrimage*
- *Enabled Medieval monks to meet their vows of stability, not incur expense and yet to conduct pilgrimages to the Holy Land (Connolly, 1999)*



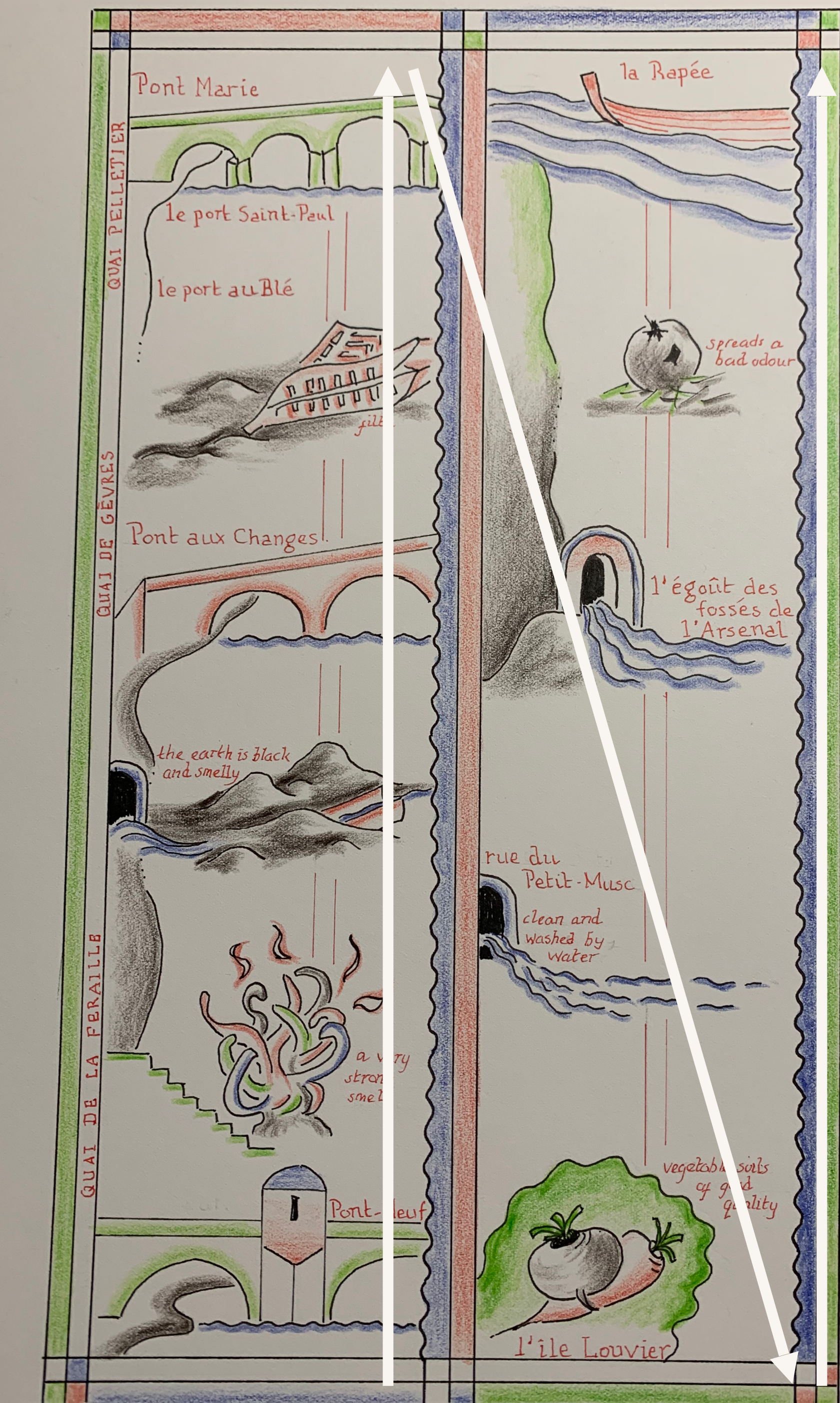
Linearity of smell experience

We sniff sequentially

Hallé & Boncerf's Smellwalk

Designed to be read sequentially:

- *N-shaped trajectory maintains focus on the goal ahead*
- *A “mediational tool” – a series of prompts” (Vasiliu, 2017)*
- *Olfactory stops (italic text) facilitate imagination of smells on the route*



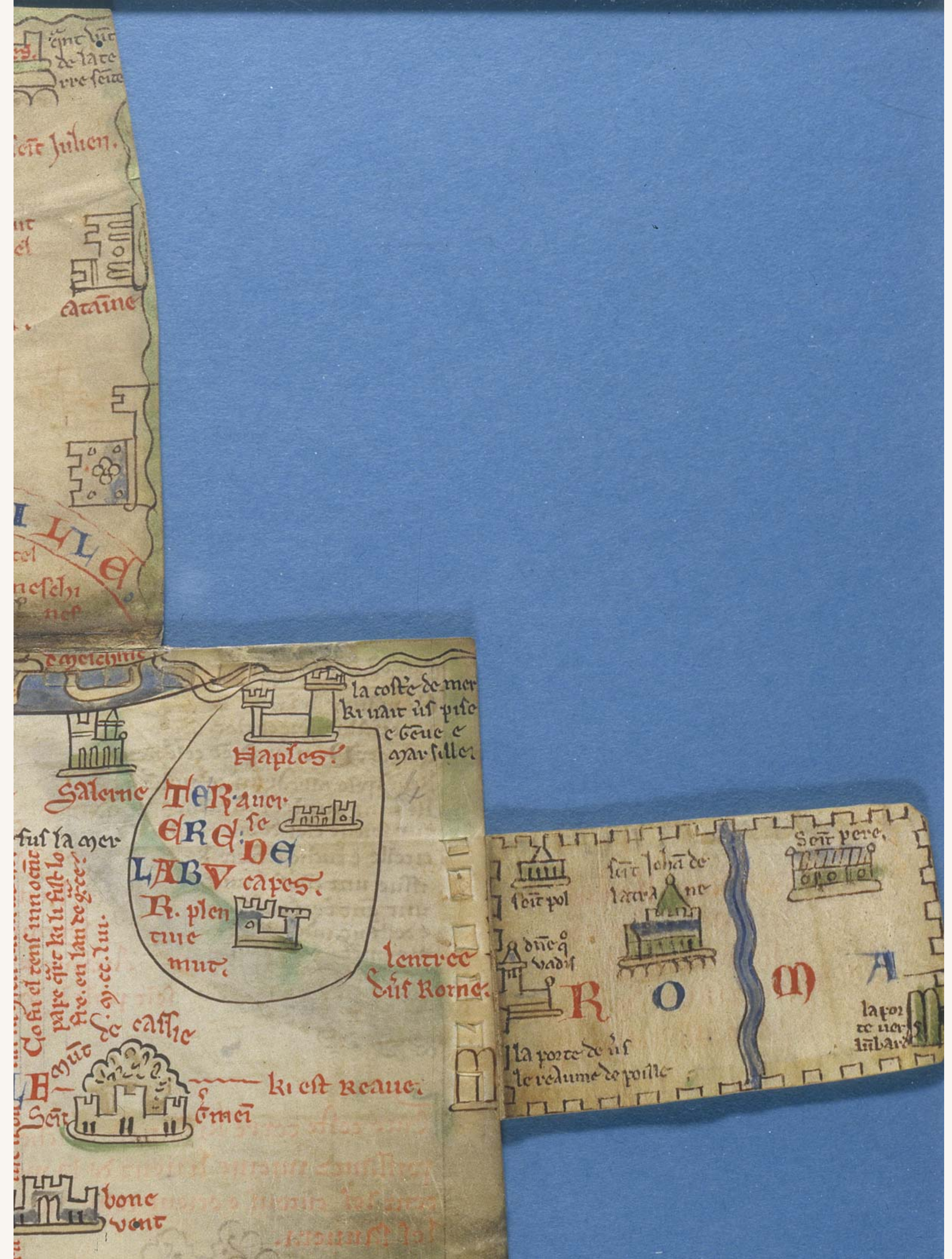
Imagination

We can never know for sure the smells encountered. In imagining them we need time to reflect and to focus

Sensory & Interactive

Flaps in the text and way of reading contribute to the sensory nature of the 'journey'

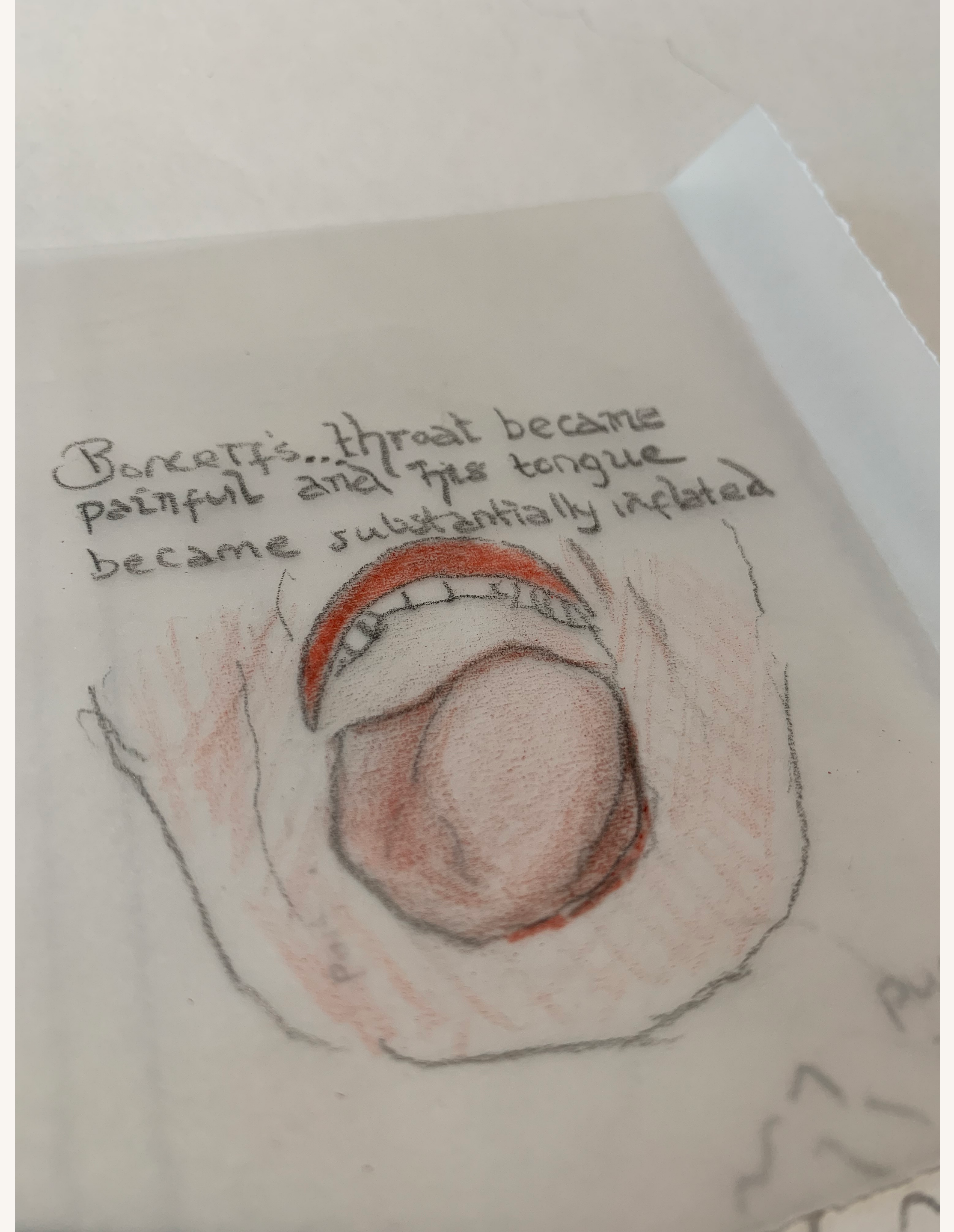
- *These maps are a sensate vehicle for an imagined pilgrimage – “sight, sound, touch all combine to make the experience of reading the map a richer, more bodily implicated activity” Connolly (1999).*



Boncerf's Tongue

Emphasise the embodied

- *[Boncerf's] throat became painful and his tongue substantially inflated*



Context and tone plays an important role in history, lending sensory congruence to a past event affords 'viewer' empathy.

Deliberately designed to invoke sensory empathy for historical narratives.

**Thanks to the Marcus Rediker and
Karlos Kentrill Hill and the Graphic
Histories Panel session this morning...**

**THANK YOU &
QUESTIONS**