

# MOMPRACEM DAY IN LA SPEZIA

Salgari-Spezia: beyond the adventure

by Negro Fabio

Per Terra e Per Mare project

[www.emiliosalgari.it](http://www.emiliosalgari.it)

Fabro Negro of the Per Terra e Per Mare project presented his research on the geography and history of Mompracem at the Emilio Salgari convention in La Spezia. Fabio Negro is a member of staff of the Per Terra e per Mare project, named after a magazine edited by Emilio Salgari in 1908, and wrote a study entitled "Mompracem: l'isola che c'era" ("Mompracem: the Island that was"), soon to be published as a book, about the real aspects of Sandokan's Cove. As a nautical expert, Fabio has been working since 2002 to identify the real island of Mompracem.

The first part of the work deals with the myth of Mompracem: the island as described in novels, films, cartoons, gadgets, etc. But Mompracem is not only Sandokan. So Fabio placed a poll on the emiliosalgari.it website, asking: "Mompracem, the island, the legend. What does this name represent for you?" Hundreds of people answered the poll, including Italian director Umberto Lenzi, documentary maker Folco Qulici and actor Kabir Bedi, whom Fabio met at Turin University. Kabir said:

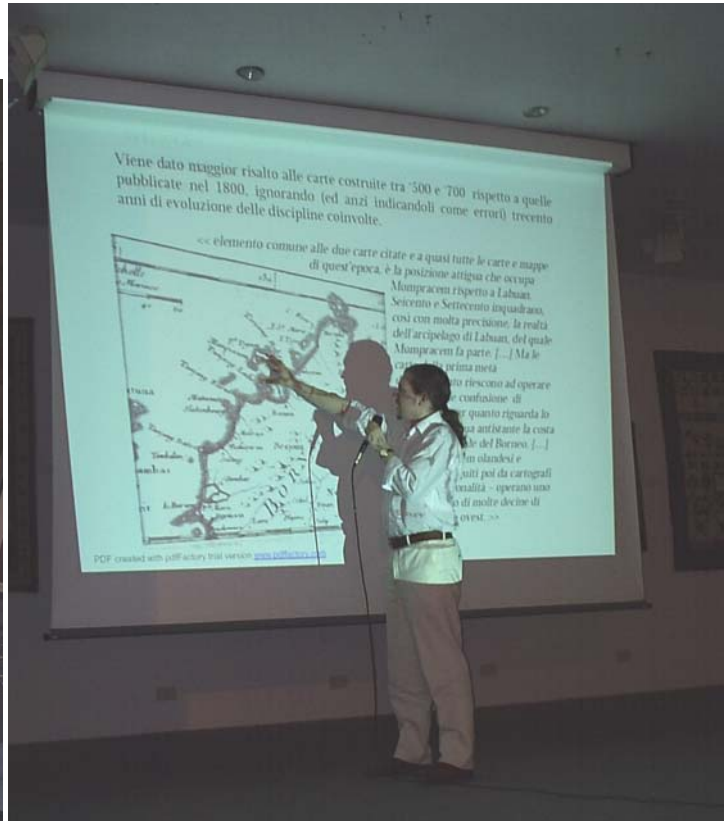
*"For me Mompracem is a personal and inner concept. A place in which loyalty and friendship are important. If Mompracem is invaded by 5,000 Germans having a barbecue, that's not important! Have you ever heard my radio program Chat? - Yes – OK. Just like a man using his PC to say he is Sandokan, so through our dreams Mompracem becomes a great thing!"*

Fabio tried then looked at the geology of Borneo, studying volcanoes, ocean waves, and earthquakes.

And finally, a wonderful truth emerged: Mompracem really does exist, as a small coral reef in the South China Sea!



Photo: "Per Terra e Per Mare" group at La Spezia with the flag of Mompracem. On his knees: **Felice Pozzo**, Salgari's most important research assistant. **Corinne "The Pearl of Labuan"** (emiliosalgari.it webmaster) is holding the flag; **Fabio Negro**, in a brown hat and white trousers, is next to the flag.



Fabio explaining his research