

Mapping East Asia in Context Workshop

7 December 2023, HKUST Library

Session 1 10:00-10:30 am

Where and What is China? European Visions from Marco Polo to the Sixteenth Century from a Global Perspective

Angelo Cattaneo (National Research Council of Italy)

This paper aspires to expand and deepen some research hypotheses that I recently had the opportunity to analyze, regarding the complex and articulated cultural dynamics intersecting in the European mapping of East Asia, that include today's Mongolia and China, and its global positioning following the Iberian voyages of expansion. This exploratory essay dwells on some possible theoretical implications based on the analysis of relevant European documentation between about 1450-1510.

Session 2 10:30 - 11:00 am

Reimagining *Tianxia*: Syncretic Chinese World Maps in the 17th and 18th Centuries

Song Gang (The University of Hong Kong)

This paper investigates a group of syncretic world maps produced and circulated by lesser-known Chinese mapmakers from the late Ming to the mid-Qing periods. They reflected a special type of Chinese response to European cartography introduced by the Jesuit missionaries, thus playing a role in the cross-cultural encounter of China and Europe in the early modern era. The syncretic features of these maps suggest that some Chinese people of the time decided to make compromises in between two very different cartographic traditions. They tried to reimage the world that they knew of, adopting some novel forms and data but meanwhile adhering to some map-making conventions in accordance with the age-old concept of *Tianxia* 天下, or All-under-Heaven. No matter whether the syncretic practices proved to be valid and sustainable, these

maps challenge the general understanding of Chinese responses to Western cartography. I further argue that they became an expedient choice and buffered the subsequent profound shifts in modern Chinese cartography.

Session 3 11:10 - 11:40 am

Models and Imitators: Material History and Diffusion Patterns of Western Maps of China between the 16th and the 18th Century

Marco Caboara (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

The European public knew China through different kind of maps, aimed at different cultural layers and at different segments of the market. Before assessing these various ways of diffusing knowledge, it is necessary to identify the publication venues and the material production of the maps created during first 150 years of cartographic exchange between China and Europe.

Session 4 11:40 am - 12:10 pm

The Relation between Michał Boym's Type A Maps of China and Michele Ruggieri's & Matteo Ricci's Maps

Lin Hong (Shanghai Normal University)

Between 1650 and 1656, Polish Jesuit Michał Boym was summoned back to Europe, where he sought the assistance of various countries and the Roman Curia for the revival of the Ming Dynasty. During his return to Europe, Boym and his Chinese assistant Andreas Chin produced two largely different sets of maps of China. Many scholars have studied the first set (Type A), however, adequate explanation of the map content, source material, mapping process, and date has not yet been reached. The second set of maps of China by Boym (Type B) kept at the Archivio di Stato di Roma is gradually noticed by academics in the recent years, which provided a chance for deeper researches. In another paper, the present author has pointed out that the Types B maps were produced earlier than Type A, and were based on a now lost large Chinese general map which was the combination of the drawing of Far East on Matteo Ricci's Chinese world map and one now lost '*Renji tu*' popular in late Ming dynasty. This paper focuses on Boym's Type A maps and examines their association with some important contemporaneous maps. In early 1653, Boym visited Giovanni Battista Riccioli in Bologna with his Type B maps. At the end of the same year, Boym arrived at Rome, and later he accessed Michele Ruggieri's manuscript atlas of China made about half a century earlier, along with the *Da Ming Yitong*

Wenwu Zhusiyamen Guanzhi used by Ruggieri, which prompted Boym to totally change his mapping method. Boym made the Type A maps mainly based on the provincial maps in *Da Ming Guanzhi* as well as his preset approximate coordinates scale on the carry-along large Chinese general map. Boym left direct notes on Ruggieri's maps, some of the characters on some pages of the surviving Ruggieri's manuscripts were actually added by Boym and his Chinese assistant. While Type A maps are indirectly related to Ricci's map through the intermediary of the large Chinese general map. The purpose of this paper is to show more vividly the back-and-forth transmission of Chinese and Western maps and geographical knowledge, and to try to reconstruct a part of the complex network of mapmaking communication across time and space.

Session 5 1:40-2:10 pm

The Materiality of Giulio Aleni's *Wanguo quantu* 萬國全圖

Mario Cams (KU Leuven)

The *Wanguo quantu* originally included in Giulio Aleni and Yang Tingyun's *Zhifang waiji* 職方外紀 (Hangzhou, 1623 & Fujian, c. 1628) is key to understanding the reception of Renaissance cosmography in the seventeenth century. The *Zhifang waiji* circulated widely across East Asia in manuscript and print, so that it remained the go-to source of information on the wider world until well into the nineteenth century. But the impact of the *Wanguo quantu* reached far beyond that of the book because it also circulated separately in several editions. Based on an investigation of the materiality of extant copies of the map, this paper aims to re-assess the crucial role played by the *Wanguo quantu* in re-imagining the world in Ming China and beyond.

Session 6 2:10 - 2:40 pm

From Western Gift to Chinese Ceremonial Object: The Early History of the Introduction of the European Globe to China (1585-1766)

Wang Yao (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)

The globe, based on the "Spherical Earth", was first made by ancient Greek astronomers, then inherited by the Arabs in the 9th century and introduced to the Yuan Dynasty in the 13th century. Modern European globes were introduced to China by the Jesuits in the late 16th

century, and current research focuses on individual objects such as the 1623 globe and the Qing court globes. Using newly published Jesuit archives and ancient Chinese and Western maps, we can trace the early history of the production and dissemination of globes in China from the late 16th century to the mid-18th century. The first Chinese globe was made by Matteo Ricci in 1585 in Zhaoqing, China; influenced by him, the Chinese Qu Rukui and Li Zhizao both made their own globes. And Li Zhizao made a globe in 1603 mentioned in Chinese and Western studies, should be dated 1608. The first surviving globe made in China was probably made for the Emperor in 1623, while the technique of European printed globes was introduced to China by Johann Adam Schall von Bell in 1636. From the Qing dynasty onwards, globes were made by Qin Tianjian or the Manufacturing Bureau in the Qing court. The emperors of the early Qing dynasty always had a generous and open-minded attitude towards Western science and artifacts, regardless of their boundaries. Thus, the globe, which completely overturned the ancient Chinese theory of “spherical heaven and square earth”, was accepted by the Qing emperors until the Qianlong emperor included it among the imperial ceremonial objects. In the nearly two hundred years since its introduction to China, the globe has undergone a magnificent historical transformation from Western gift to Chinese ceremonial object.

Session 7 2:40-3:10 pm

The Geographical Knowledge Exchange between Joseon and Ming in the Early 16th Century: A Focus on the Case of *Honil Yeokdae Gukdo Gangli Jido* 混一歷代國都疆理之圖

Son Koeun (Korea University)

The purpose of this paper is to highlight the importance of *Kanglido* 混一歷代國都疆理之圖, the early 16th century world map that was produced in Joseon. The paper specifically focuses on the significance of this map regarding the geographical knowledge exchange between Joseon and Ming. By closely examining this map, the paper aims to shed light on the possible routes and methods used for exchange materials, such as maps and atlases, between the two dynasties.

The 16th century *Kanglido* 混一歷代國都疆理之圖 is a distinct version of the renowned world map 混一疆理歷代國都之圖 created in 1402. Undoubtedly, the *Kanglido* of 1402 is recognized as one of the earliest and finest East Asian world maps encompassing the Western world, including Africa. Given its extraordinary characteristics, the 15th century *Kanglido* is highlighted as a symbol of transnational geographical knowledge exchange during the Mongol

Empire. However, regrettably, the original base maps of the 15th century *Kanglido* is no longer exist, and there are insufficient textual sources to comprehend the details of the geographical knowledge exchange behind the map.

A century later, Joseon created a new version of the world map in the early 16th century. The title of the new map is very similar to the 15th century version, but the appearance of the map has undergone a complete transformation as the western part of the world no longer appears on it. These significant changes, reducing the coverage of the map, resulted in the 16th century version not garnering much attention in the scholarly world.

However, in comparison to the 15th century *Kanglido*, the 16th century version provides a wealth of clues that enable exploration into the geographical knowledge exchange behind the map. One significant factor is the existence of the base map from the 16th century *Kanglido*, which is currently housed in the Lüshun Museum(旅順博物館). This base map originated from Ming and is known as 楊子器跋輿地圖, created in 1526. Having both maps in existence provides a solid foundation for investigating the possible channel of map exchange between Joseon and Ming in the early 16th century. Additionally, numerous other sources such as 朝鮮王朝實錄, 明實錄, 燕行錄, 使朝鮮錄 and more are available to trace the potential routes of the geographical knowledge exchange between the two dynasties. These sources offer further insights into the exchange and facilitate a comprehensive exploration of the topic.

Overall, this paper focuses on the significance of the 混一歷代國都疆理之圖 as a case of the geographic knowledge exchange that occurred between Joseon and Ming during the early 16th century. By taking into account the historical context of the Joseon-Ming relations during the 16th century, this paper uncovers a rare instance of “personal” geographic knowledge exchange between king 中宗 of Joseon and the envoy 龔用卿 from Ming in 1537. This case provides valuable insights into the specific methods through which geographic knowledge was exchanged and transmitted during this period.

Session 8 3:30-4:00 pm

Cartographic Tracing, Transliteration of Place Names, Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Michele Ruggieri's Methodology for his Atlas of China (late 16th-early 17th century)

Stefano Piastra (Bologna University)

After summarising data and events relating to the figure of the Jesuit Michele Ruggieri (1543-1607), a pioneer of the period of encounter between East and West in the Modern Age, and his project, which remained at the manuscript stage, to publish the first Western atlas of China, the article analyses in detail, on the basis of the materials that now exist at the State Archives in Rome, the missionary's working methodology, based on Chinese cartographic sources, their enlargement and transliteration of the toponyms contained therein, and cartographic tracing. Following these operations, a further phase would have seen a professional cartographer succeed Ruggieri in the processing of the maps, which, thus finished, would finally be passed on to the engraver for the copperplate engraving (the latter phase was never completed due to Ruggieri's death). Further topics addressed are an estimate of Ruggieri's materials connected to the atlas that were originally intended to be present among the working materials, but which are now destroyed or missing, some epistemological reflections on the nature of the cartography of the atlas, and, finally, some notes on what graphic layout and impact Ruggieri's atlas would have had if published.

