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Early Modern Digital Review

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surveying, and politics will be obscure to some visitors to the site—such as "adventurer"—or might carry a specific meaning critical to understanding the materials in context, such as "soldier" which here refers specifically to members of the "Commonwealth army owed arrears in pay." The list is not long, rather pithy and practical for maximizing accessibility and use. For those wishing to dig further into those terms and the maps' broader historical context, the latter offers good entry. It is certainly not meant to be exhaustive but rather is intended as an introduction to a large and growing scholarly literature. That said, it might be updated, as the most recent entry is 2011. Particularly useful additions include *Enterprise and Empire: Money, Power and the Adventurers for Irish Land during the British Civil Wars* (2020), written by David Brown, member of the Down Survey project team, and Ted McCormick's prize-winning study of William Petty, mastermind of the Survey and the "political arithmetic" that lay behind it (published 2009). But regardless of how far people wish to pursue their interest in Ireland's mid-seventeenth-century revolution, the Down Survey Project offers stark expression of what can happen to those on the receiving end of a complex of processes that textbooks typically describe as "progress" and "modernity."

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Chinese Collections Digitization Project, Digital Bodleian, project creator. Selden Map of China. MS.Selden supra 105. Other.
Oxford: University of Oxford, Bodleian Library, 2016. Accessed 2 December 2021.
digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/objects/58b9518f-d5ea-4cb3-aa15-f42640c50ef3.

> The Selden Map of China, painted with watercolours and ink on Chinese paper, is a unique example of Chinese merchant cartography depicting a network of shipping routes starting from the port of Quanzhou, Fujian province, and reaching as far as Japan and Indonesia. The map, thought to date from the 1620s, arrived at the Bodleian in 1659 with the bequest of the London jurist and legal theorist John Selden, enriching one of the

> earliest collections of Chinese material in England at the time. The map's mandarin text was annotated in Latin in 1687 by Thomas Hyde, the then Bodleian Librarian, with the help of Michael Shen Fuzong, a Jesuit convert visiting from Nanking, who had been invited to assist cataloguing the library's Chinese books. Dimensions: 1.6 x 1 m. Language: Chinese.
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> Chinese Collections Digitization Project, Digital Bodleian

The Selden Map is an extremely significant Chinese historical document that has great impact on our knowledge about Ming China and its relation to the world. As a beautifully painted Chinese maritime trading map dating back to the 1620s, the Selden Map is an important reference for scholars who study Ming China, the global economy, cartography, and art in the early modern period.

First, the Selden Map represents a major breakthrough in traditional Chinese cartographical and geographical conceptions. Since China saw itself as the centre of the world and the centre of civilization, typical ancient Chinese maps placed China at the centre of the world and scattered other countries as little pieces of territory around the periphery. The Selden Map is the first Chinese nautical chart that correctly shows geographical relationships in the East Asia region. It depicts a mainland China that was squeezed into the upper left part of the map. Each Ming Dynasty administrative area is outlined and the names of each province, seat of government, prefecture, and county are marked, but there are few details about the inland areas. Japan and the Korean Peninsula are just sketched in and are not very accurate. However, the depiction of the topography of South East Asia is relatively accurate and the Philippines are drawn in detail, with sixteen names marked. The islands of East Asia and South East Asia occupy more than half of the map. The Selden Map shows not only China within its borders but also the world that lies beyond its borders, especially the open seas. It reveals a change in China's traditional inward-looking view of the world. China is shown merged into this region and not dominating this part of the world.

Second, the Selden Map challenges the conventional understanding of an isolated and conservative Ming China. The so-called "Selden Map of China" is actually a Ming Dynasty merchant seafaring chart, projecting a Ming China that was outward-looking, capitalistic, and vibrant. It marks six eastern and twelve western sea routes of Chinese boats sailing from Quanzhou on the Fujian coast,

as well as sixty ports along these routes. The T-shape trunk route sketch found on the back of the map includes the route parallel to the coast of Fujian, linking Nagasaki, Hirado, and central Vietnam, and another route from near Quanzhou that went south to Manila in the Philippines. These routes were frequently travelled by Chinese merchants, Japanese Red Seal Ships, the Dutch East India Company, and the British East India Company in the early seventeenth century, highlighting the significance for research into international trade in East and South East Asia during the Ming Dynasty—especially the relationship between China and the galleon trade, as well as the important role China played in the emergence of global trade in the early modern period. In addition, while official Ming sea maps of the topography of Chinese and foreign lands were made for imperial envoys sent abroad on diplomatic missions or for national defence purposes, the Selden Map is a merchant map. It is of great significance for those who study the trading activities of ordinary merchants and the new type of relationship between merchants and the state, the world, and the oceans in Ming China.

Third, the Selden Map is an excellent example of knowledge exchange between western and eastern cartography. Western medieval nautical charts typically featured many radial navigation lines, a compass rose, and a scale, which helped the voyager determine the orientation of his ship on the ocean and the distance to the destination. Typical to traditional Chinese map-making, the Zheng He Nautical Chart, the only nautical chart of the high seas that has survived from the Ming Dynasty, was painted on a long scroll, using the "scene-matching method," depicting the topographical features realistically and vividly so that map users could identify their locations by matching their surroundings with a particular scene. The Selden Map, made two hundred years after the Zheng He Nautical Chart, is the first practical Chinese nautical chart to mark compass bearings and ratios, crucial elements in Western cartography. It clearly displays an unusually strong sense of direction and distance. The Selden Map is also the first Chinese nautical chart that adopts a large-scale depiction of the oceans on a single map, a feature of Western cartography: the Ptolemaic method of looking at the world on a single chart. Although the Chinese mainland appears skewed, the depiction of South East Asia is relatively accurate. It is possible that the mapmaker may have consulted Ricci's world maps since there are many similarities between the South East Asian regions on these maps and

the Selden Map. The Selden Map is particularly interesting to those researching cartography and comparative studies.

Finally, the Selden Map is important for those who study Chinese art, traditional painting, and art conservation. As a nautical chart, the Selden Map can also be appreciated as a beautiful landscape painting, a perfect combination of the two forms. The Selden Map is a work of art, beautifully painted in multiple colours and black Chinese carbon ink on three pieces of paper made from the Mitsumata plant which was cultivated in China and Korea in the seventeenth century and widely traded. The cartographer who drew the Selden Map used Chinese landscape painting techniques, sketching in ink the outline of mountain ranges, forests, plants and flowers, rivers, ocean waves, and so on, and then applying six different colours: red, green, blue, yellow, white, and black. Particular topographical features, such as mountains, rivers, islands, and straits, provincial boundaries, cities, and coastal maritime routes are shown in different colours and patterns. The creator of the Selden Map had considerable knowledge of South East Asia's landscape and local products. Different species of trees, whose growth patterns roughly correspond to the longitude, include cedar, plum, willow, bamboo, camphor, pine, and palm, etc. For example, the trees depicted in Ming territory are not the same as the trees depicted in the tropics of South East Asia. On the island east of Sumatra are images of different kinds of palm trees used as cash crops. In South East Asia there are images of the valuable commodity, sandalwood. Many plants are shown on the map, including orchids, peonies, pines, bamboo, fir trees, palms, and loquats, and many of these images appear repeatedly. In the south of Japan, a scarlet chrysanthemum flower is painted.

The Selden Map of China was originally a scroll to be hung on the wall. But it had lost its shafts and been kept in a long box, where it had become seriously damaged from being rolled up too tightly. In 1919, using contemporary methods of conservation, it was backed with linen, which proved to be a bad mistake. As time passed, the backing stiffened and each time the map was opened and unrolled fragments of the map dropped off, causing yet further damage. For the conservation team, the map presented the most challenging conservation of their careers. It took several months of careful consideration to finalize the conservation plan. A combination of techniques and materials from east and west was used to conserve the map and preserve all of its material characteristics and historical evidence. Removing the textile lining from the

back proved to be the most difficult part of the project, a painstaking process which took several months. After the backing was successful removed, Chinese dyed paper was used to fill in the gaps left by the missing part of the map and three layers of Japanese paper were applied to the back of the map in order to strengthen it. At different stages of the restoration, experts with special skills from the British Museum and the British Library were brought in to help. After another year, the map had regained its original, beautiful appearance and was exhibited at the Bodleian Library Exhibition of Rare Treasures of the World in September 2011.

The Selden Map has been digitized and made available to the public by the Chinese Collections Digitization Project of Digital Bodleian, a core service of Bodleian Digital Library Systems and Services (BDLSS), University of Oxford. The digital map is organized into a group of eleven high-quality images. The first image is the whole map while the other ten images cover its different sections. The resolution of the digital map is rather high and the writing is clear and completely legible. It is easy to navigate the digital map with its multiple view options, and all the images can be enlarged for close examination. As outlined in the Terms of Use, like all other contents delivered by Digital Bodleian, the digital form of the Selden Map of China can be used for non-commercial research and teaching.

In conclusion, since its rediscovery in 2008, the Selden Map of China has attracted the attention of scholars from different fields. A historical document, nautical chart, and piece of art, the Selden Map has tremendous significance for research and is an important reference for scholars of the early modern period. The open access to the digital form of the Selden Map of China encourages international research on the topic, which in turn contributes to a better understanding of the map itself, the time and space it depicts, and the connections to today's world.

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