



# 針路藍縷

牛津大學珍藏明代海圖及外銷瓷

## Mapping Ming China's Maritime World

The Selden Map and Other Treasures from the University of Oxford



HONG KONG  
maritime  
museum  
香港海事博物館

中華書局



The background of the entire cover is a historical map of Ming China, likely the Selden Map. It shows the coastline, major rivers, and numerous place names in Chinese characters. The map is rendered in a traditional style with brown ink on a yellowish background. The title and subtitle are overlaid on a white rectangular area in the upper left portion of the map.

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策展人：焦天龍

總編輯：焦天龍

編輯：陳佳榮、Tom Christensen、馮錦榮

編輯助理：畢宛清、袁康翹

編輯委員會：譚廣濂、錢江、王式英

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《明代東西洋航海圖》 / 24
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## 前言

2014年3月21日至6月23日期間，香港海事博物館與英國牛津大學攜手，成功合辦《針路藍縷：牛津大學珍藏明代海圖及外銷瓷》特展。這次展覽在呈現多元的精彩展品之餘，更有豐富的活動，包括舉辦《明代海洋貿易、航海術和 underwater 考古研究新進展》國際學術研討會。本套圖錄和論文彙編，正是展覽和研討會的碩果之作。

在悠長的航海歷史裏，《明代東西洋航海圖》展現了海上絲綢之路的一個關鍵時代，新修復的航海圖詳盡描繪出古代中國如何通過海洋貿易連接世界。本特展和國際學術研討會就以珍貴的《明代東西洋航海圖》作主線，為公眾講述明代中國的航海故事。作為香港僅有的海事博物館，本館旨在加強對香港及中國海洋文物的探索瞭解。自2005年向公眾開放後，香港海事博物館致力服務公眾及學術界，以提升大家對香港及中國與世界海上聯繫的興趣。本展覽和國際學術研討會的成功舉辦，無疑是推進本館的使命和遠景邁向目標的一個重要里程碑。

在此謹代表香港海事博物館受託人和信託基金會，誠摯感謝牛津大學的全力合作，並大力支持本館將珍貴文物帶來香港展出。我們有幸成為近四世紀以來，第一家在牛津大學以外展出《明代東西洋航海圖》的博物館！同時在此感謝千里迢迢來到香港發表研究成果的優秀學者們。香港海事博物館、牛津大學的同事朋友們也為是次活動付出了無比的努力，正是你們不懈的努力、辛勤的付出、認真負責的專業精神，促成了本次展覽、研討會、出版的巨大成功。再次感謝並衷心祝賀你們！

香港海事博物館信託基金會主席  
董建成



## Foreword

From 21 March through 23 June 2014, the Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) successfully partnered with the University of Oxford on a special exhibition *Mapping Ming China's Maritime World: The Selden Map and Other Treasures from the University of Oxford*. The exhibition was enriched by an array of programs, including a high-level academic symposium. This catalogue and the proceeding are the fruits of these two successful events.

Both the exhibition and the symposium highlight stories around the newly restored *Selden Map*, a treasure that embodies an important episode of the long history of the Maritime Silk Road that has connected China with the outside world through sea voyages. As Hong Kong's premier maritime museum, HKMM is committed to enhancing the understanding of Hong Kong and China's maritime heritage. Since we opened to the public in 2005, HKMM has been aiming to stimulate public as well as academic interest in Hong Kong and China's maritime connections with the world. The success of the exhibition and the symposium is an important milestone in advancing the museum's mission and vision.

On behalf of the HKMM's Board of Directors and Endowment Trustees, I would like to thank the University of Oxford for their collaboration and all of their efforts that enabled us to bring their treasures to Hong Kong. We are proud to be the first museum to show the *Selden Map* outside the walls of the University of Oxford in almost four centuries! I also want to thank the scholars who came to Hong Kong to share their research with the public. Many staff and other friends at HKMM and the University of Oxford worked tirelessly on the project. It is their hard work, dedication, and professionalism that have ensured the success of the exhibition, the symposium and this publication. Congratulations, and thank you all!

C. C. Tung

Chairman, Hong Kong Maritime Endowment Trust

## 序言

2014 年牛津大學博德利圖書館為香港攜來一張大圖。此圖由三張紙拼成，年代已超過四百年歷史，當時是在亞洲書寫、繪圖並進行加工。

大圖上墨書有關陸地和海洋的資料，並標上河流、樹木、花草、城市、港口。大部份資料以中文標示，並利用指南針及直尺，把一條又一條的航海路線編織成一幅極具歷史意義的航海圖。此圖的歷史價值在於包括了全中國以及大部份亞洲地區的廣闊海域，我們於圖上找到中國及亞洲各國，從中可以發現該圖的重點並不在於大陸板塊，一反當時傳統製圖方法。此圖將重點置於中國南海區域，大部份航線均自中國出發或途經中國，來來往往穿梭交錯於不同海域。

透過圖本身及外在證據考究後，許多學者認為航海圖編繪的年份應為 1600 至 1620 年。當時並沒有其他地圖以亞洲本位的角度，來展現亞洲尤其中國與亞洲及以外緊密的地理連繫，而此圖記載了如何由東亞直抵忽魯謨斯海峽，實乃獨一無二的中國航海圖。航海圖上的文字、路線、陸地、海洋的描述等一連串問題，直至最近才開始讓學者關注。

學術界討論的其中一個問題，是海圖製作的實際年份，有學者認為其年代為 1607 年或之後。另一個討論重點則是海圖從何而來，有學者認為此圖很大可能由英國商人於十七世紀初在西爪哇萬丹獲得，後用作償還債務。另有學者提出此圖應經馬尼拉或呂宋的中國商人帶到歐洲。儘管如此，無數問題仍有待學者討論印證。

1654 年 6 月航海圖首次出現於英國的歷史文獻中，為當時著名學者兼牛津大學畢業生約翰·雪爾登（John Selden）所引述。他於遺言中如此描述所擁有的藏書：「希伯來語的、敘利亞語的、阿拉伯語的、波斯語的、土耳其語的、其他語言的，均可籠統歸納為東方語言。」然而，雪爾登在眾多藏書中唯獨列出一幅「中國地圖」，並表示於過世後會贈予牛津大學的校長、教師、學者，所以此圖一定於 1655 年已送到牛津。這航海圖亦自此存放於牛津大學圖書館，而今次正是三百五十年以來首次於牛津以外的地方展出。



雪爾登的大名出現於不同的領域裏，他是慈善家、政治家兼著名學者。其名聲歷經三個半世紀之長依然屹立不倒，威望地位一如其生前之高。劍橋大學學者賴特福（John Lightfoot）曾於1647年形容雪爾登為地球上最博學的人。約翰·米爾頓（John Milton）則表示雪爾登為本土學者中的翹楚。克拉倫登伯爵兼牛津大學前校監愛德華·海德（Edward Hyde）更為他的學術成就驚為天人。

雪爾登的學術成就建基於他對探索世界的熱忱，以及其超越歐洲地域界限的廣闊世界觀。他廣購書本及手稿，以填滿其對新知識永不滿足的渴求。至於贊助建立博德利圖書館的湯瑪斯·博德利爵士（Sir Thomas Bodley）也是如此，他於1604年通過阿姆斯特丹的拍賣行代理購入中國書籍並帶回英國，成為英國首批由公眾圖書館購買的中國書籍。不過這批在牛津的中國書於七十年後才首次有人閱覽，後來由牛津首位中國職員沈福宗（卒於1691年）編目分類。沈福宗更曾為當時的總館長湯瑪斯·海德（Thomas Hyde）教授過中文。

博德利圖書館非常高興可以將《明代東西洋航海圖》帶回亞洲，尤其抵達地圖標示的其中一處。在此，我們非常感謝董建成先生與香港海事博物館董事局舉辦展覽及國際研討會，以及焦天龍博士的策展工作。我們希望藉此學術會議及專書出版，能夠促進更多研究有關此圖的歷史背景、亞洲商貿歷史，以及歐亞文化交流及經貿關係。

博德利圖書館總館長

Richard Ovenden

2015年6月於牛津

## Preface

The University of Oxford, through its Bodleian Libraries, is proud to have brought to Hong Kong in 2014 an extraordinary piece of paper. Strictly speaking it was in fact three pieces of paper, all milled in Asia more than four hundred years ago and stuck together carefully to form a single sheet, which was prepared as a surface to receive writing and decoration.

Onto this surface was written with black ink and hand-drawn with details of land and sea, with rivers, trees, vegetation, cities, and ports, many of them labelled in Chinese characters. A compass and ruler, and lines of navigation, mark this out to be a map or chart—of extraordinary importance because it shows all of China and most of Asia, roughly speaking where we would expect to find them, but the centre of attention is not a land mass—as was the norm for Chinese cartography of this period—but the South China Sea. Criss-crossing the oceans across the sea and beyond into other waters are navigational routes, most of which begin in or converge on, China.

From internal and external evidence scholars have dated the map to the first two decades of the seventeenth century. No other map from this time, written and drawn from an Asian perspective (as opposed to a European perspective) shows Asia in general and China in particular in this way—in close and direct connection to all the countries of Asia and beyond. The map tells its viewer how to get to the Straits of Hormuz, for example. It is therefore a unique survivor, containing in its Chinese characters, navigational lines, and depictions of land and sea a great number of mysteries that scholars are only now beginning to consider.

One of these scholarly considerations is its precise date: perhaps 1607, perhaps later. Another is its place of acquisition. It was possibly acquired by an English merchant in Bantam, at the western end of Java in the early seventeenth century, possibly in lieu of an unpaid debt, according to one scholar, and came to Europe from Chinese merchants in Manila or Luzon according to another scholar. There are many more questions to be discussed, argued, and debated.

The map itself first appears in the documentary record in England in June 1654 when the will of one of the great scholars of the age, John Selden, an Oxford alumnus, was written out. Selden



drew attention to his books in his will: 'In Hebrew, syriack, arabick, Persian, Turkish, or any other tongue usually understood by the name of oriental'.

One of these items only, he singles out specifically for attention: 'Map of China'. It was to be given, on his death, to the Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars of the University of Oxford, and consequently must have arrived in Oxford in 1655. It has been there ever since, and in 2014 came on show outside of Oxford for the first time in 350 years.

John Selden's name has come down to us in many contexts: as patron, as statesman, as scholar. His reputation has stood the test of the past three and a half centuries, and stands as high now as it did in his own lifetime.

The Cambridge scholar John Lightfoot in 1647 hailed him as 'the learnedest man on earth'. John Milton regarded him as 'chief of learned men, reputed in this land'. Edward Hyde, the Earl of Clarendon and Chancellor of the University of Oxford, thought his learning was 'stupendous'.

Such prodigious learning was based on a sense that the world was interesting beyond the confines of Europe, and his insatiable appetite for new knowledge was fed by his acquisition of books and manuscripts. The same was true of Sir Thomas Bodley—who funded agents at an auction in Amsterdam in 1604 to buy books brought back from China. These were the first books from China to be acquired by a publically accessible library—even though it would be another seventy years before anyone in Oxford could read them! But this was solved by the first Chinese person to be employed at Oxford: Shen Fuzong (d. 1691), who catalogued our Chinese books—and helped teach Thomas Hyde, my seventeenth-century predecessor, something of the language.

The Bodleian is delighted to have brought the *Selden Map* back to Asia, and to one of the sites depicted in its cartography. We would like to thank C. C. Tung and the Board of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum for organizing the exhibition and the symposium, and Dr. Tianlong Jiao for his expertise in the curation of both of these events. We hope that the presence of the map, the symposium, and now this publication will stimulate further research and scholarship in the map and its context in the history of cartography, the history of Asian commerce and trade, and the documentation of cultural and commercial relations between Asia and Europe.

Richard Ovenden  
Bodley's Librarian  
Oxford, June 2015