

国家自然科学基金资助项目

# 中国古代地图集

清代

鄭康成曰舜以青

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# 中國古代地圖集

清 代

AN ATLAS OF ANCIENT MAPS IN CHINA  
—— The Qing Dynasty (1644—1911)

曹婉如 郑锡煌 黄盛璋 钮仲勋 任金城 秦国经 汪前进 编

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# 序

谭其骧

搜集、整理、汇编古文献，虽不是创造性的文化建设工作，但对文化保存、传布所作出的贡献是很大的，可以说不下于，有时甚至有过于创作者。

最显著的例子是：作为中国上古文化的瑰宝《五经》，不论它们与周公、孔子有没有，有多大的关系，总之全是古代相传某一门类文献的汇编或整理本，而不是出于一时一人之手的创作。《易》是古人占卜之辞和解释这些辞的作品。《礼》是古人记载下来的关于礼仪典章的条文和论述。这两种文书都是到西汉时才被汇集写定成书，以后遂传习不绝。春秋时许多国家都有以“春秋”为名的编年史书，周、晋、燕、齐、宋等国的“春秋”都未能传诸后世，惟独鲁国史官所记鲁《春秋》传了下来，这多半是由于经过孔子的笔削整理，因而被后世儒者尊为经典之故。我们更不能设想要是没有人把几十篇商周至春秋战国的文件汇集为一部《书》，没有人把三百零五篇周初至春秋中叶的诗歌汇集为一部《诗》，这些诗、文能以散篇的形式一直流传下来。整理汇编的功绩之巨大，于兹可见。

《汉书·地理志》和《水经注》是两种具有重大价值的中国古代地理名著。中国文化宝库中能拥有这两部名著，当然得归功于班固和酈道元。但班、酈二人的贡献，主要不在于二人自己的撰述，而在于他们把许多有价值的原始地理著作搜罗汇编在一起，从而使这些宝贵资料不至于散佚失传，得以传诸后世以至于今。要是没有班、酈，这么多价值很高而篇幅短小的原始作品，就不可能流传下来。

《汉书·地理志》卷首主要辑录《尚书·禹贡》、《周礼·职方》两篇；卷末主要辑录成帝时刘向所言“域分”和朱赣所条各地区“风俗”；中间正文部分叙述西汉后期郡和县二级政区的建置沿革、户口、山川、关塞、城邑、祠庙、古迹、特产等，则主要依据成帝元延绥和之际（公元前9年左右）和平帝元始二年（公元2年）两份簿籍拼凑而成，可能还采录了一些其他资料。总的说来，全志属于班固自撰性质的章句极少，大致到不了十分之一；这篇重要文献的价值至少可以说什九在于辑录旧文。《禹贡》、《职方》由于早已被收入《尚书》、《周礼》，作为儒家经典的一部分篇幅而一直保存得完整无缺，所以班志卷首辑录这两篇，并不显得是一种大贡献。至于正文所辑两份郡国簿籍和卷末所辑“域分”、“风俗”，那就太重要了，内容丰富多采，是全志的精华部分。两份郡国簿籍记录了西汉后期的疆域政区、户口分布、水道源流，等等；“域分”和“风俗”把西汉各地区的经济人文情况铺陈得比《史记·货殖列传》更为详备。我们当然得感谢班固把这些原始资料辑录下来作为《汉书》篇幅的一部分而传诸永久，否则几乎可以肯定早已失传。



古今有许多学者认为，全部《水经注》内容除一些注明引自前人著作的词句外，都是酈道元根据他自己调查、考察、研究所得写下来的，这是极大的误解。实际酈道元的足迹非但到不了南朝境界，就是在北魏境内，据《魏书》本传所载，也只到过有限的几处。当然他到过的地方可能会比列传提到的多几处，但他自己在《水经注序》中就说过“少无寻山之趣，长违问津之性”，他的治学方法是“默室求深，闭舟问远”，可见他决不是一个大旅行家，更不可能是一个从事大范围实地考察的地理工作者。《水经注》这部书是怎样写成的呢？他在自序中也有所交代，那是“窃以多暇，空倾岁月。辄述水经，布广前文”，“脉其枝流之吐纳，诊其沿路之所缠，访渎搜渠，缉而缀之”。原来他是根据“前文”即前人作品所载水道源流和两岸经历，一渎一渠地缉缀下来的。可见酈注和班志一样，主要贡献也是在于酈道元纂集了大量的前人地理著作，而不是根据他自己亲见亲闻所记下来的那一小部分。

有些人可能会说，酈注在引用前人著作时不是都交代清楚了吗？虽然引书多至四百多种，但引文所占全书篇幅并不多，不能因此便认为这部书的性质属于“述而不作”。殊不知古今撰述体制不同。今人著书写论文凡引用前人、他人著作，不论是整节或一句两句，都必须打上引号，注明出处，不这样便公认为是不谨严、不道德的行为。古人可没有这样严格，引用前人著作可以交代出处，也可以不交代，一随行文的方便。《水经注》正是这样做的。酈道元自己在序中说得很清楚，他是在“布广前文”，他当然可以大段整节移录“前文”，无需一一注明引自某书。例如，《江水注》中描述三峡景象的从“三峡七百里中”至“猿鸣三声泪沾裳”那一段，脍炙人口，向来被人们选为显示酈道元文学造诣的代表作；其实这一段是从盛弘之《荆州记》里抄过来的（见《太平御览》卷53），并不是酈氏自己的创作。但在酈氏则认为可以径行采用，用不着交代出处。这是当时的习惯，并不可怪。一部《水经注》记载到的地域范围是那么辽阔，每处又都要既写地理情况，又写历史事迹，有些段落又描述得那么细致，这决不是凭个人的经历所写得出来的。所以全书采用前人著作而不注明出处的部分，肯定要比注明出处的那部分多上几倍。这也就是说，酈注基本上是一部地理著作的汇编，而不是个人的创作。

这样说决不是贬低《水经注》的价值，蔑视酈道元的贡献。《水经注》之价值连城，正在于它汇集了酈所见到的数以百计的两汉六朝地理著作中的大量资料。酈道元对中国古代地理学作出了杰出的贡献，正在于由于他的搜罗整理汇编，才使大量久已失传的原始地理著作中的一部分宝贵资料，得以流传下来。

上举这些例子，说明了将零篇短帙古文献汇为一编是何等的重要。文字资料如此，图画资料更是如此。

地理之学，非图不明。地图对表达地理情况所起的作用，往往比地理著作更大。我国具有悠久的制作地图的传统，在西周初期的文献记载和铜器铭文里，已有为营建洛邑而绘制的选定城址图（《尚书·洛诰》），为统治者指示“次序祭之”而绘的山川图（《诗·周颂》），记录重大军事行动的《武王成王伐商》，表示王畿以东诸侯疆界的《东国图》（宜侯矢簋铭）等等，足证在此以前必曾已有一段较长时间的制图技术发展过程。尽管目前还没有在原始社会遗存里发现过地图实物，也没有在甲骨文卜辞里找到有关记载，但我们不能排除我国在原始社会晚期、奴隶社会早期已有地图的可能性。

《周礼》中《天官》、《地官》、《春官》、《夏官》等篇所载地图品种极为繁多，有包括当时所知“天下”“九州”的大面积图，有一遂（一万家）乃至一闾一里（二十五家）居住区的小地区图；内容则有山林、川泽、丘陵、坟衍、原隰等地貌，有邦、国、都、鄙、乡、里等政区，有农、牧、矿、动植物等矿产，有交通路线，或民族分布，有可以据以判决闾里争讼的土地图，有贵族和庶民的墓葬图等等。《管子·地图篇》所载地图精确度极高，战争时可据以审知道里远近、地形险要，决定行军路线，举措先后。《周礼》、《管子》所说到的地图有一部分可能出于作者想象，未必实有；有一部分当系二书写成时代即战国时代的实况，也有一部分很可能反映了西周、春秋时的情况。



自秦汉至明清，地图的制作随着时代的进程日益普及、发展。单就唐宋时代而言，当时定制，全国各府州每三年或五年都要绘制一次本州地图，和本州的版籍一起上报尚书省。唐、五代、两宋以六百年、三百州，平均每四年一造送计，即有州图共四万五千。宋咸平后又令诸路十年一上本路图，则两宋又当绘有各路地图数百。尚书省由兵部职方司掌管各地送到的地图，并将各地的图拼合画成一大幅“天下图”，唐五代称为“十道图”，宋改称“九域图”。除统治所及地域内的政区图外，又画有域外的“四夷图”。域内外合起来则为“华夷图”。除疆域政区图外，又有边防、屯牧、邮驿、河渠水利等特种图。除政府各机构和各级地方政府所绘制者外，又有学者私人所制作的地图，包括有突出成就的裴秀《禹贡地域图》、贾耽《海内华夷图》、朱思本《舆地图》等等。总之，在这二千多年中曾经制作出来的地图应以万数计，其中有名目见于各正史艺文志、经籍志、纪、传和唐宋以来类书以及诸家书目、其他记载的，即不下数百种乃至上千种。

中国自古以来重视图不下于书，故图与书合称“图书”或“图籍”，用以包括所有传世文献资料。从各历史时期的记载看来，图与书确是长期以来都受到同样的重视。可是，古籍在历经千百年来天灾人祸之余，流传至今的约计达十余万种，论卷数则应达数百万。而古代地图若以一幅图抵一种书，则流传下来的不及古籍百分之一；若以一幅图抵一卷书，则只有古籍的千分万分之一。古地图流传至今的为什么这么少，推其原故，当由于：

一、图的摹绘比书的传写要难得多，所以图的摹绘本一般都要比书的传写本少得多，流传到后世的机会也相应地减少。有些见于记载的图也许本来只有一幅原制品，从没有复制过，这种以孤本形式保藏起来的图，其存在时期当然不可能很久。

二、古代的制图技术还不大可能在等大的缣帛或纸张上，用多种不同比例尺来画出面积大小不同、内容多少不一的地图来，图幅的宽度长度一般都得跟着所画地域范围的大小和内容之多寡而或大或小或长或方。各种地图图幅大小和形状的差别很大，所以只能以单幅形式收藏，难以装订成册。这就比成册成函的书籍保存起来难得多，一遇事故，更容易损失。有些地图如晋裴秀所见司空所藏“旧天下大图”，用缣八十匹；唐贾耽所制《海内华夷图》，广三丈，纵三丈三尺。这么大的图幅，当然极难长期保存下来。

三、历代书籍或藏在官府，或散在民间；散在民间的比重大致随时代的推移而逐步增加。因而古书的大部分虽在多次劫难中被毁灭了，却还能有小部分保存下来。古代地图则几乎全部是收藏在官府里的，民间藏有地图虽不能说绝无，必然是很少的。因而劫难之来，凡是画在竹、木、纸、帛等材料上的地图，即无一能幸免于难；幸存下来的，只能是刻在石碑上的，或埋在坟墓里的。

四、还有一点就是古代的零碎文字资料可以被汇编为一部“经”而流传下来，可以被采入一朝的“正史”而流传下来，可以被辑缀成一部书而流传下来，而这几种“可以”对难以摹绘、大小不一的单幅地图而言，却都是不存在的。所以不仅经书里没有图，就是地理专著如《汉书·地理志》、《水经注》里，也都是只有文没有图，尽管班固、酈道元都看到过不少前代和当代的地图。这就注定了古地图能否流传下来的命运，完全取决于原制品和当时少量的复制品能否经历千百年来多次天灾人祸仍然保留下来。而事实上这种可能性是不存在的，除非已刻在石上或埋在地下。

正由于地图的流传要比书籍难得多，因而传世的地图不仅数量很少，年代也较近。近代学人所能看到的最早的地图，原来只有八百多年前宋代人所绘制的几幅。直到1973年在长沙马王堆三号汉墓出土了埋葬于汉文帝十二年（前168年）的画在帛上的地图，才使我们看到的古地图实物，一下提早到二千一百多年前。但比之于三千多年前的见于《诗》、《书》和甲骨钟鼎的商周文字记载，仍然要晚上千把年。并且，自汉文帝至北宋后期之间的一千多年，至今也还找不到一幅符合严格意义的地图。本图集所能搜集到的，只有几幅略具地理意义的建筑图和城



市图。

古人在当时的技术条件限制之下，除了刻石、入土之外，即无法将地图长期保存下来，也无法把许多单幅地图汇为一编。时至今日，对古人说来是无法克服的限制早已为现代技术所突破。我们当然再也不能听任那些历经劫难幸存下来的古地图，仍然象过去那样只是将原制品或加上极少量的复制品度藏在图书馆、博物馆、档案馆的善本珍品库里，不令广泛传播；仍然象过去那样以单幅零页的原貌或作为罕见版本书籍的插图而散在各处，不予汇集成编。利用照相缩印技术把古地图拍下来汇集成编，这是一种保存古文物、传播古文化必须做的工作。这种工作世界上有许多历史比较短的国家都已做了，我们这个文明古国到今天才来动手做，应该说是已到了不容许再推迟的时候。但是由于资料太分散，要汇集起来颇不容易。中国科学院自然科学史研究所为此特于1983年9月邀集有关度藏研究单位，组成了《中国古代地图集》编委会。在社会主义大协作精神鼓舞之下，经过三年的努力，现在第一册即将定稿付印了，这是学术界一件很可喜可贺的大事。从此以后，目前传世的古地图就再也不会因原件偶然被毁而连图的内容也随之消灭了；从此以后，原来很难看到看全的很分散的许多珍品孤本，可以通过翻阅几册汇编起来的图集而窥其全豹了。所以这套地图集的出版，既具有保存文化遗产的作用，又可以促使有关学者较前更深入一步研究我国古代地理知识和测绘制图技术的发展过程，从而为发扬传播中华民族传统文化立功。就其贡献的性质而言，是可以与汉儒结集儒家经典、班固将西汉地理资料编入《汉书·地理志》、酈道元将汉魏两晋南北朝地理资料辑缀成为《水经注》差相媲美的。

本图集预定分三册陆续出版。第一册收集了元以前绘制的地图六十种、二百余幅；第二册将收集明代绘制的地图；第三册将汇集清代前期绘制的地图。原则上凡古人画在帛上、纸上或壁上的，刻在石、砖、崖壁、木板上的，属于文物性质的，全收；原来是一些刻本、影印本书籍中的印刷图则不一定全收，一部书里有几十幅图的，一般选收其中有代表性的几幅。文物性质的图所以要规定全收，当然是由于其价值高，原件难以看到。所以我在此一方面热烈庆祝第一册即将与读者见面，一方面又迫切希望第二、第三册能尽快编定出版，因为我知道第二、三册中必将收集比第一册更多的属于文物性质的绘本地图，这些图原来都是我们极难看到的、深藏在博物馆、档案馆、图书馆里的孤本。

1986年7月3日

# PREFACE

Tan Qixiang

The gathering, sorting and compilation of classic documents, though in themselves not a creative work in cultural construction, do contribute a great deal to the preservation and propagation of culture. It may be said their importance even exceeds that of those who actually wrote the documents.

The most prominent example is the *Wu Jing* (*Five Classics*), a treasure in ancient Chinese culture. Whether it was related or unrelated with the Duke of Zhou (first ruler of the Zhou Dynasty) and Confucius, the *Wu Jing* was not the work of any one man or of any particular period. It was entirely the result of compilation and arrangement of a certain category of ancient documents. *Yi Jing* (*Book of Changes*) consists of words of divinations and their explanations. *Li Jing* (*Book of Rites*) is a record of regulations of and discussions on rites left behind by ancient people. The two books were gathered, arranged and compiled during the Western Han Dynasty, and later handed down from generation to generation. Many feudal states compiled annals using the name Spring and Autumn during the period known by that name. The states of Zhou, Jin, Yan, Qi and Song failed to leave behind their annals. Only the *Spring and Autumn* recorded by the official in charge of the history of the State of Lu has passed on to us. This is largely because it was sorted by Confucius and thus revered by later Confucian scholars as a classic. It simply cannot be imagined that scores of documents dating from Shang-Zhou, Spring and Autumn down to the Warring States Period could have survived to this day as single works without having been compiled into a book. It is likewise hard to imagine that the 305 poems from the beginning of the Zhou Dynasty to the middle of the Spring and Autumn Period could have survived to this day as single works had they not been compiled into the *Book of Poetry*. From this one may have an idea of how great is the contribution to culture made by compilation and arrangement of ancient documents.

The *Di Li Zhi* (*Book of Geography*) in the *Han Shu* (*History of the Han Dynasty*) and *Shui Jing Zhu* (*Commentary on the "Waterways Classic"*) are two famous books of great value on ancient Chinese geography. The credit of the inclusion of two such works in the cultural treasure of China should certainly be attributed to Ban Gu and Li Daoyuan, whose contribution lies not so much in the collection and compilation of the many firsthand geographical source writings as in the accounts written by themselves. These valuable source writings or maps have been preserved to this day. They could not have survived without the efforts of Ban Gu and Li Daoyuan.

The *Di Li Zhi* in the *Han Shu* carries two articles in its beginning: the *Yu Gong* of the *Shang Shu* and the *Zhi Fang* of the *Zhou Li*. The final pages of the book are chiefly devoted to Liu Xiang's division of regions and to Zhu Gan's enumeration of the customs of the people inhabiting various areas during Emperor Cheng Di's reign. The main body of the book gives an account of the prefectures and counties, such as establishment of administrative units, population, mountains and rivers, cities and towns, ancestral temples and shrines, places of historical interest and special regional products. It is based on two official accounts written between 9 B. C. and A. D. 2 as well as other data. On the whole only a small portion in the entire book (about one tenth of it) was written by Ban Gu. The value of this important document lies in the fact that nine tenths of it was edited and compiled from previously existing works.

*Yu Gong* and *Zhi Fang*, as part of Confucian classics, have been preserved in its entirety. Ban Gu did not seem to have made any great contribution in including them at the beginning of his book. However, the official record of prefectures and counties in the body of the book and the division of regions and accounts of the customs of people at its end, rich in content and constituting its essence, are very important indeed. The two official entries have recorded the territory and administrative areas, distribution of population, rivers and their sources, etc. of Western Han in its late period. Their discussion of the economy and humanities of the different regions of Western Han are even in greater detail than the accounts in the *Huo Zhi Lie Zhuan* (*Biographies of Traders*) of the *Shi Ji* (*Records of the Historian*). We have much to be thankful to Ban Gu for having compiled these firsthand data as part of the *Han shu* to be handed down as a permanent



record, for otherwise they would have been lost to us long ago.

Scholars of modern and ancient times are of the opinion that the *Shui Jing Zhu*, apart from few passages referred to as quoted from the works of previous writers, was written by Li Daoyuan on the basis of his own investigation and research. This is an utterly mistaken notion. In point of fact Li Daoyuan could only have set foot on a limited number of places in the territory of the Northern Wei Dynasty, much less in the territory of the Southern, according to the account in the *Wei Shu* (*History of the Wei Dynasty*). Of course, the number of places he visited could have been somewhat greater than what was mentioned in his biography recorded in the *Wei Shu*. Li Daoyuan in his Preface to the *Shui Jing Zhu* said that he had never been inclined to go for excursions in hills and along streams. The method of his research was to probe into the depth of things in his own room or to find out the conditions in faraway places without the aid of ships. It is thus clear that he was by no means a great traveller, even less was he a geographer engaged in extensive on-the-spot investigation. How then could he have written his book? He made some reference to this in his Preface, saying that

“Having at my disposal plenty of time  
Which cannot possibly be wasted,  
I wrote the *Shui Jing Zhu* to propagate  
What other writers before me have already put down.  
I conducted a research into the outlets and  
Sources of rivers, their tributaries and the routes  
Of their journey and investigated into irrigation canals  
And ditches as well, and recorded them all in this book.”

From this it can be seen that he based himself on the accounts given by preceding writers to describe waterways, their outlets and sources and the conditions along their banks. The same as Ban Gu's annals, Li Daoyuan's annotation makes its main contribution to culture in gathering and compiling previous geographical accounts rather than in giving eye-witness account of things, which constitutes only a small fraction of their works.

Some would probably argue that in his *Shui Jing Zhu* Li always provides the source of anything he quotes. Although he quotes from as many as over 400 places, his quotations do not occupy much space, so we cannot say that he only gives the accounts of others without writing anything himself in his work. But the way of compilation as it is done today is different from that of Li's time. In modern times when one writes an article, one has to use quotation marks for anything quoted, whether it be a sentence or a whole passage. Failing to do this, a modern writer would be accused of a breach of ethics. Ancient writers were not so strict about this, however. They were at liberty to give or not give the source of their quotations as they saw fit when they wrote. That was just what Li Daoyuan did in his *Shui Jing Zhu*. He made this quite clear in his Preface. In making use of the writings of previous authors, he could very well have quoted whole passages without giving the source of his quotations from other books. For instance, in the volume on *Jiang Shui Zhu* he gives a description of the Three Gorges of the Changjiang River. What follows is a passage people nowadays quote quite often. It starts by

“Within the seven hundred *li* of the Three Gorges” and ends with  
“Three cries of the ape makes the traveller's garment wet with tears.”

This description has long been regarded as Li Daoyuan's representative work, showing his high attainment in literature. In point of fact, however, the passage is a quotation from Sheng Hong's *Jingzhou Annals* [see Vol. 52 of *Tai Ping Yu Lan* (*Tai ping Imperial Encyclopaedia*)]. Li did not write the passage himself. He thought he might very well just use it without mentioning its source. This had been the practice with ancient writers, and there is nothing in it to be surprised at. A book like the *Shui Jing Zhu* could not have been written on the basis of the personal experience of any one man, since it keeps such a detailed account and covers such an extensive scale of territory, geography and history. It is, therefore, certain that passages where sources have not been given outnumber by several times those where sources have been given. This is to say that the book is in the main a compilation of many works rather than the work of an individual.

In so saying I am not derogating the value of the *Shui Jing Zhu* or belittle the contribution of Li Daoyuan. The immense worth of his book lies in the fact that it has compiled a huge amount of data from the hundreds of works on geography of the Western Han, Eastern Han and Six Dynasties which Li had come across. It is his outstanding contribution that he collected a vast amount of precious data from among a vast number of first-hand geographical books long lost to us, and enabled them to be handed down to posterity.

What is stated above shows how important it is to compile short, scattered ancient writings into a book. Such is the case with written material, and even more so with pictorial material.

The science of geography cannot explain itself without the aid of maps. Maps play a far more important role in describing geographical conditions than written geographical accounts. China has a rich tradition in map making. Written documents and inscriptions on bronze vessels reveal that there was a map of the chosen site of a city in the *Luo Gao* of the *Shang Shu* (*Book of History*). In the *Zhou Song* of the *Shi Jing* (*Book of Poetry*) can be found a map of mountains and rivers “in the order” to be visited by rulers “to offer sacrifices”. The *Expedition against Shang by Prince Wu and Prince Cheng* records the major operations launched by the two princes. The *Tong Guo Tu* inscribed on a *gui* (a bronze vessel



used as a food container) owned by Marquis of Yi indicates the boundaries of principalities east of the imperial domain. These provide adequate evidence of the existence of a rather long process of map making before maps were actually drawn. In spite of the fact that no material object of a map has hitherto been found among the remains of the primitive Chinese society, neither are there related records in divination writings inscribed on tortoise shells, still we cannot rule out the possibility that maps existed in China's late primitive society or in the early period of its slave society.

The articles on Heavenly Official, Earthly Official, Spring Official and Summer Official in the *Zhou Li* (*Rites of the Zhou Dynasty*) contain a great variety of maps, such as the big one on the nine *zhou* under heaven, which is a poetic name for China, maps of the residential districts of ten thousand households, and even maps of the location of every 25 households. In the maps there are topographical accounts of mountains, forests, rivers, streams, grave mounds, plateaus and low-lying areas, the administrative areas of feudal states, nations, capitals, frontier towns, villages and precincts as well as products of agriculture, animal husbandry, minerals, fauna and flora. Also seen on these maps are transport lines or the distribution of ethnic groups as well as the distribution of land holding, which served as a basis to settle disputes on land possessions. There are besides maps of grave mounds of the nobility and the common people. The *Di Tu Pian* in the *Guan Zi* (*Book of Master Guan*) carries maps drawn with great precision. In time of war these maps provide a good guide to ascertain the distance of towns or villages and to indicate strategical positions, on the basis of which the route where an army was to march or which towns to attack first were decided. One part of the maps in the *Zhou Li* or in the *Di Tu Pian* of the *Guan Zi* might just be works of imagination by their authors, while another part of them reflects actual conditions then prevailing in the Warring States Period. A third part could very well be reflections of situations of the Western Zhou Dynasty and the Spring and Autumn Period.

From the Qin and Han down to the Ming and Qing Dynasties map making in China became more and more popular and developed in the course of time. During the Tang and Song Dynasties each *fu* or *zhou* (prefecture) had to draw its own map every three or five years and submit it to the Shang Shu Sheng (Department of State Affairs) together with its census. The three hundred prefectures in the Tang, Five Dynasties and Northern and Southern Song Dynasties—covering a period of 600 years, made maps on an average of every four years. This brought the number of maps with a total of 45,000. In the Xian Ping reign of the Song Dynasty it was decreed by the emperor that each *lu* (district) must submit a map of its precinct every ten years. In the Northern and Southern Song Dynasties several hundred maps of different districts must have been drawn. The maps were submitted to the Shang Shu Sheng (Department of State Affairs) by the Zhi Fang Si (Bureau of Maps) under the Department of War. From these maps the Shang Shu Sheng drew a general map of China by the name of Shi Dao Tu (map of ten regions) in the Tang and Five Dynasties. The name was changed to *Jiu Yu Tu* (map of nine regions) in the Song Dynasty. Apart from this map which included territories under the jurisdiction of the central government, there was another map indicating areas beyond the jurisdiction of the central government, known as the *Si Yi Tu* (map of border tribes). These two maps were put together to become the *Hua Yi Tu* (covering territory under and beyond the jurisdiction of the central government). Besides the above-mentioned maps of China's administrative areas and territories, special maps were drawn to indicate border defence, military farming, postal routes, rivers and irrigation canals. In addition to maps drawn by various government departments and by local governments, there were those drawn privately by scholars, including the outstanding map *Yu Gong Di Yu Tu* by Pei Xiu, the *Hai Nei Hua Yi Tu* by Jia Dan and the *Yu Di Tu* by Zhu Siben. In all, there must have been tens of thousands of maps in the course of over 2,000 years. Several hundred up to one thousand such maps are included in records of literature and art of history books written in biographical style, in records of Confucian classics and classical works, and in biographies as well as encyclopaedias and catalogues of books of various schools from the Tang-Song period onwards. There were also several hundred or even as many as one thousand maps recorded in other works.

Since remote antiquity illustrations have been regarded as important as written accounts in China. The Chinese term *tushu* (*tu* meaning illustration, *shu* meaning book) is coined to denote what is known as book in English. The term *tushu* or *tuji* embraces documental material of all sorts handed down from generation to generation. Judging from the records of the different periods in Chinese history, illustrations and written works have always been receiving equal attention. About 100,000 categories or several million copies of ancient books have survived to this day in China's long history marked by constant natural disasters and man-made calamities. Yet ancient maps that have been handed down constituted only one percent of ancient maps, if we take one ancient map for one set of books. Surviving ancient maps constitute only one thousandth or one in ten thousand books, if we regard one ancient map as equal to one book. How then are we to account for the scarcity of surviving ancient maps in China? The reasons for this must be as follows:

1. As the drawing of maps is much more difficult than the writing of books, maps that have been handed down are far less than books that have been written. The chances for the survival of maps are correspondingly reduced. Some of the maps referred to in books may only have one original copy, and may never have been reproduced. No doubt such rare books could not have been preserved for a great length of time.
2. Ancient map drawing technique could not have resulted in producing maps that show different areas and have different contents with different scales on paper or thin silk of equal size. The width and length of maps must correspond to the size and content of the range of topography to be drawn. These maps might be big or small and oblong or square as the case



may be. Their size and shape vary a great deal from map to map. Maps are therefore usually preserved separately and hardly ever bound into volumes. They cause far greater difficulty in preservation than books or books in cases whenever calamity occurred. The *Jiu Tian Xia Da Tu*, an old grand map of China kept by the Si Kong (Minister of Public Works) and once seen by Pei Xiu, made use of 80 bolts of silk. The *Hai Nei Hua Yi Tu*, drawn by Jia Dan of the Tang Dynasty, measured 3 *zhang*<sup>1</sup> in width with a length of 3 *zhang* 3 *chi*<sup>2</sup>. In view of their size, it was extremely difficult to preserve such maps over a long period of time.

3. Books had been preserved in China throughout the ages either by the government or in scattered fashion among the people. Books that came into the hands of the people increased in number as time went by. That was why most books were destroyed during calamities while a small part of them had survived. Ancient maps were almost entirely kept by the government. Few if any were kept in the homes of private people. In consequence of calamities ancient maps, drawn on bamboo, wood, paper or silk, were totally destroyed. The only ones preserved were either found on stone tablets or buried in tombs.

4. Another point is that fragmentary written accounts from ancient times would be handed down from generation to generation if they were compiled into a *jing* (classic), gathered into a *zhengshi* (history written in biographical style) or edited as part of a book. However, the likelihood of single maps, hard to draw and varied in size, surviving under such circumstances is nil. This is why no map can be found in *jing shu* or Chinese classics. Even monographs on geography like the *Di Li Zhi* (*Book of Geography*) in the *Han Shu* (*History of the Han Dynasty*) and the *Shui Jing Zhu* contain only written accounts with no maps, despite the fact that their authors Ban Gu (32 – 97) and Li Daoyuan (466 or 467? – 527) must both have seen many maps of former ages or of their own times. Whether or not ancient maps would be handed down from generation to generation rests completely with the preservation of original maps or the few reproductions during repeated calamities in the course of several thousands of years. As a matter of fact, such likelihood simply doesn't exist, except in the case of maps inscribed or engraved on stones or buried underground in tombs.

Due to difficulty in circulation and preservation, maps that have come down to us are not only few but also of comparatively recent times. The several earliest maps seen by modern Chinese scholars are those drawn by Song Dynasty map-makers about 800 years ago. A map dating from 168 B.C. (12th year of the reign of Emperor Wendi of the Han Dynasty) drawn on silk was unearthed in 1973 at No. 3 Tomb of Western Han Dynasty in Mawangdui, Changsha. This is the earliest artifact in the form of a map discovered so far. It brought the date of the earliest existing map to over 2,100 years ago. Yet this map is about 1,000 years later than those mentioned in the *Book of Poetry* and in the *Book of History*, or recorded in the Yin-Shang Period on tortoise shells and bronze bells and bronze cooking vessels with three or four legs. We still have not discovered any map of the period of over 1,000 years between the reign of the Han Emperor Wendi and late Northern Song Dynasty that can be called a map in the strict sense. What have come to hand and are included in this ancient Chinese atlas are some maps of construction sites and of cities, which are of some geographical significance.

The technological limitations imposed on ancient Chinese map-makers, whose only way for the long preservation of maps was to engrave them on stones or burying them underground, have been surmounted by modern technological advances. These limitations once made it impossible to preserve maps for a long time or to compile many single maps into an atlas. At the present time when technological difficulties have long been done away, we certainly should no longer be content with the small number of original ancient maps and the very few of their reproductions in libraries, museums or archives as rare books or treasures. These maps ought to be circulated. Neither should we allow scattered single maps or pages of maps continue to exist everywhere or as illustrations to rare copies of ancient books. We should compile these maps into atlases, which is a work to be done without delay for the preservation of ancient cultural relics and for the propagation of ancient cultural relics and for the propagation of ancient culture. This work has been undertaken by countries that have a history shorter than China. China itself, with an ancient and long history, is beginning to compile its atlas of ancient maps. Yet such compilation involves difficulty, since the maps are too scattered. In September, 1983 the Institute for the History of Natural Sciences under the Chinese Academy of Sciences called together all organizations related to map-making and formed an editorial board for the compilation of an ancient Chinese atlas. After three years of concerted effort in the spirit of socialist cooperation on a large scale, the final text of its first volume will soon be sent to the press. This is a great event that gives cause for joy and celebration in the academic circles of China. Henceforward existing ancient maps will be preserved and handed down to posterity, and their fate of destruction by accidental factors resulting in maps being lost without even knowing their content will be avoided. Rare and scattered maps, so difficult to see in their entirety, will be ready to hand, if one will only scan the atlas, whose publication will not only preserve China's cultural heritage but also promote further inquiry into the development of ancient geography and map-making technique in China. Consequently, we shall be making a contribution to the development and propagation of traditional Chinese culture. The nature of the contribution may be compared to the compilation of the *Di Li Zhi* in the *Han Shu* by Ban Gu, who made use of Western Han geographical data that appeared in the works of Confucian scholars of the Han Dynasty or to Li Daoyuan's edition of many geographical data of the Han, Wei, Jin and Northern and Southern Dynasties into his *Shui Jing Zhu*.

The three volumes of *An Atlas of Ancient Maps in China* will be published one after another. Volume I consists of 50 kinds of mapstotalling over 200 maps drawn prior to the Yuan Dynasty. Volume II consists of maps drawn during the



Ming Dynasty. Volume III consists of maps drawn in the early period of the Qing Dynasty. As a matter of principle, we have collected and compiled into these volumes all maps drawn on silk, paper or walls as well as those engraved on stones, bricks, rocks or wood by the ancient Chinese so long as they belong to the realm of cultural relics. We have not compiled all printed maps from block-printed editions or from photo-offset copies. When scores of maps are found in one book, a few representative maps will be chosen and included in our atlas. Maps that are regarded as cultural relics have to be included on account of their high value and the difficulty of seeing their originals. In celebrating the publication of Volume I of *An Atlas of Ancient Maps in China*, I earnestly hope that Volume II and Volume III will be published soon, because they include even more drawn maps of the nature of cultural relics, which are not open to the public and kept as rare works in museums, archives and libraries.

1. 1 *zhang* =  $3\frac{1}{3}$  metres.
2. 1 *chi* =  $\frac{1}{3}$  metre.







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