

MAPPING THE WORLD

Perspectives from Asian Cartography

11 Dec 2021 – 8 May 2022

Gallery, Level 10

National Library Building

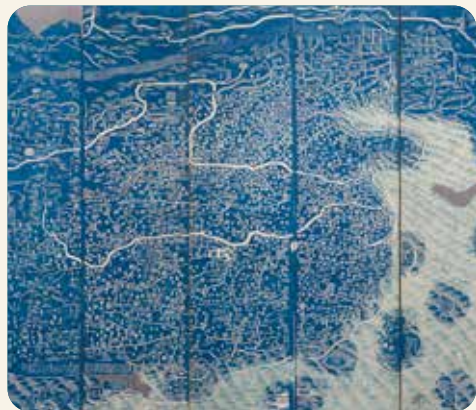
Showcasing rare historical maps, *Mapping the World: Perspectives from Asian Cartography* brings together different mapping traditions and worldviews, political and cultural spheres of influence, and the exchange of cartographic knowledge between civilisations across the world.

The exhibition, held in partnership with the Embassy of France in Singapore, features over 60 treasures from overseas institutions and private collections such as the Bibliothèque nationale de France, Musée Guimet and École Française D'Extreme-Orient in France, as well as the MacLean Collection, Illinois, United States and the Yokohama City University, Japan. It also highlights rare maps from the National Library, Singapore, as well as local institutions such as the Asian Civilisations Museum and the Indian Heritage Centre.

Through these historical maps, this exhibition opens up a fascinating and illuminating window into how civilisations see themselves and the world across time and space.



EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS



COMPLETE GEOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE EVERLASTING UNIFIED QING EMPIRE (*DAQING WANNIAN YITONG DILI QUANTU*) (detail)

Huang Qianren (黄千人, 1694-1771)
China, Qing dynasty, 1815 reprint
Woodblock-printed blue ink on paper
On loan from Yokohama City University
Library and Information Center

This map (大清万年一统地理全图) is a revised and enlarged reprint of the “All-Under-Heaven Complete Map of the Everlasting Unified Qing Empire” (大清万年一统天下全图, *Daqing wannian yitong tianxia quantu*). The original map was first presented by cartographer Huang Qianren to Emperor Qianlong in 1767. It shows the consolidated Qing empire, which had reached its greatest extent during Qianlong’s reign from 1736 to 1796.



CLOTH PAINTING OF THE PILGRIMAGE CENTRE OF SHATRUNJAYA

Rajasthan, Western India, c. 1880
Pigments on cotton
On loan from Indian Heritage Centre

This is an exquisite cloth painting, known as a *pata*, of the religious pilgrimage centre of Shatrunjaya, India. The *pata* was used as a symbolic representation of the holy site. Large *patas* like this were put up during a ceremony or in a temple.

Worshippers unable to visit sacred sites due to illness or old age would instead view these *patas* and imagine travelling around the holy sites. This process was known as a mental pilgrimage (*bhava-yatra*).



MAP OF NORTHWEST TONKIN (detail)

Vietnam, French Indochina

c. 1883–1885

On loan from Private Collection,
France

The French conquest of Indochina spanned the late 19th century. In 1887, French Indochina – the collective term for the French colonial territories of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos – was born.

This map of Tonkin in northern Vietnam shows the Red River between the Chinese border and the Hanoi region, and part of the Claire and Black Rivers. Its depiction of French flags in cities across Tonkin makes it a rare example of a Vietnamese map influenced by French colonisation.



KONYO BANKOKU ZENZU (MAP OF THE MYRIAD COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD)

Japan, Edo period (1603–1867)

Date unknown

Manuscript folded map, ink and colour
on paper

On loan from Yokohama City University
Library and Information Center

This map is a Japanese adaptation of *Kunyu wanguo quantu* (坤輿万国全图), a world map created by Italian Jesuit priest Matteo Ricci in China in 1602. The original map was a collaboration between the European scholars of the Jesuit mission and the Chinese scholars and artisans of the Ming dynasty imperial court. Numerous copies of the map were sent to Korea and Japan. This hand-coloured map is a simplified Japanese version of Ricci's original map.



DOUBLE PAGE ILLUSTRATION OF MECCA AND MEDINA FROM PRAYER BOOK *DALA'IL AL-KHAYRAT*

India, 17th century
Ink, colours and gold on paper
**On loan from the Asian Civilisations
Museum, National Heritage Board**

These illustrations of the two holiest sites in Islam appear in *Dala'il al-Khayrat* (*Guide to Goodness*), one of the most widespread Muslim prayer books compiled by Muhammad ibn Sulayman al-Jazuli (d. 1465).

The right panel features the Great Mosque with the *Ka'ba* at its centre in Mecca. The left panel depicts The Prophet's Mosque in Medina, where the Prophet Muhammad and his companions were buried.

Such images serve as a symbolic map of the spiritual world, locating the centres of divine power and worship, enabling the viewer to embark on a mental pilgrimage.



SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS: THE TRAIPHUM MAP OF THAILAND

Learn about a rare indigenous Thai map found in the *Traiphum Manuscript*, a Thai Buddhist cosmological treatise that dates back to 1776. Courtesy of the National Library of Thailand, Fine Arts Department.

Until 8 May 2022
10 am – 9 pm
Lobby, Level 1, National Library Building

STORY OF A MAP: THE TALE OF BUDDHA

Explore a unique historical map from Thailand that tells the story of Prince Siddhartha Gautama and his journey to becoming Buddha.

Cheng San Public Library:
26 Jan – 31 Mar 2022
Jurong West Public Library:
1 Apr – 1 May 2022

PROGRAMMES



CURATORS' TALK

Fri, 1 Apr 2022

6 pm – 7 pm

Zoom

Speakers:

Chung Sang Hong is the lead curator for the exhibition, *Mapping the World: Perspectives from Asian Cartography*. He heads the Exhibitions team at the National Library Board, Singapore.

Chia Jie Lin is an assistant curator with the Exhibitions team at the National Library Board, Singapore. She is a co-curator of *Mapping the World: Perspectives from Asian Cartography* and *Human x Nature: Environmental Histories of Singapore* (2021).

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN WITHIN GAMES AND COMPARISONS WITH CARTOGRAPHY

Mon, 11 Apr 2022

6 pm – 7 pm

Zoom

Speaker:

Malcolm Grant has been developing games since 1993 and lecturing since 2009. He is experienced in programming and scripting languages and possesses a coding background.

HOW HARRY BECK MAPS CAN REDEFINE A CITY

Mon, 18 Apr 2022

6 pm – 7 pm

Zoom

Speaker:

Faiz Basha is a 19-year-old Singaporean who spent most of his growing up years in Switzerland. He graduated from the International School of Geneva with an International Baccalaureate diploma.

CURATOR'S TOURS

Thursdays

10 Mar, 14 Apr, 5 May

7 pm – 8 pm

Meeting place: Gallery entrance, Level 10, National Library Building

PUBLIC TOURS

Thursdays, 7 pm – 8 pm:

3, 17, 24 & 31 Mar

7, 21 & 28 Apr

Saturdays, 11 am – 12 pm & 2 pm – 3pm:

5, 12, 19 & 26 Mar

2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 Apr

7 May

Sundays, 11 am – 12 pm & 2 pm – 3pm:

6, 13, 20 & 27 Mar

3, 10, 17 & 24 Apr

8 May

Meeting point: Gallery entrance,
Level 10, National Library Building
Conducted in English | Led by docents

周末导览

星期六, 下午3时至4时

3月5/12/19/26日

4月2/9/16/23/30日

5月7日

星期日, 下午3时至4时

3月6/13/20/27日

4月3/10/17/24日

5月8日

于国家图书馆大厦
10楼展厅门口 (集合地点)
华语讲解 | 由义务导览员带领



For more information on
the exhibition, please visit
www.go.gov.sg/mtw



Admission to programmes
is free. To register or
for full programmes
listing, visit
www.go.gov.sg/mtwprogs

Please adhere to safe management measures for your safety.

For enquiries on exhibition tours, please email visitnls@nlb.gov.sg



National Library Building
100 Victoria Street
Singapore 188064

Operating Hours
Monday to Sunday
10.00 am – 9.00 pm
(Closed on public holidays)

All information is correct at the time of printing (February 2022).
The National Library, Singapore reserves the right to make changes
to the programmes without prior notice.

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