

MAPPING THE WORLD

Perspectives from Asian Cartography

11 Dec 2021 – 8 May 2022

Gallery, Level 10

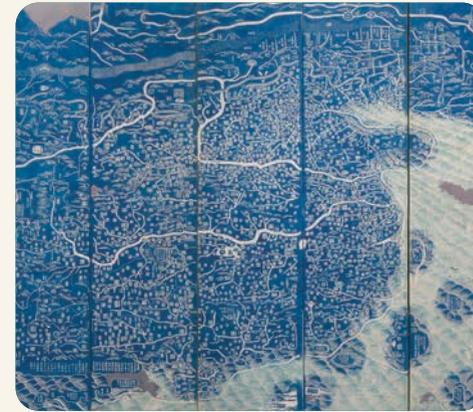
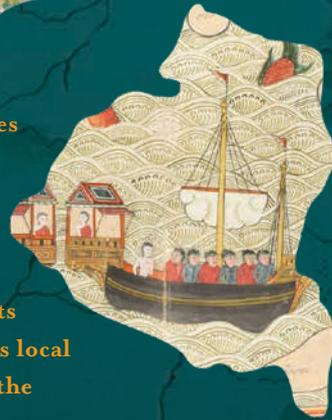
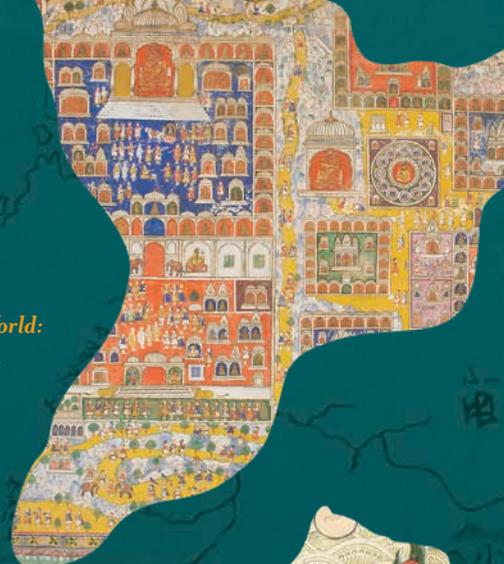
National Library Building

EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

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.



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.

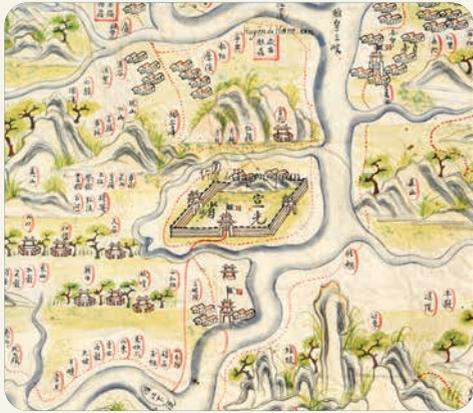


CLOTH PAINTING OF THE PILGRIMAGE CENTRE OF SHATRUNJAYA

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.

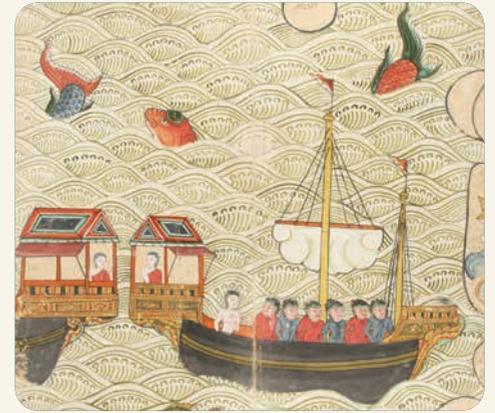


MAP OF THE WORLD FROM KITAB SURAT AL-ARD

Muhammad ibn Ali al-Nasibi Abu al-Qasim Ibn Hawqal (d. 977)
15th century
Manuscript
On loan from Bibliothèque nationale de France

Kitab surat al-ard (“Book of the Configuration of the Land”) was first written in the 10th century by Arab traveller and geographer Ibn Hawqal.

Oriented with the south at the top of the page, this world map contains features of the Greek Ptolemaic tradition. It depicts the continents of Asia, Africa and Europe, with the Islamic world in the centre.



SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS: THE TRAIPTHUM MAP OF THAILAND

Learn about a rare indigenous Thai map found in the Traiphum Manuscript, a Thai Buddhist cosmological treatise dating to 1776.

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.

Ang Mo Kio Public Library:
20 Dec 2021 – 25 Jan 2022

Cheng San Public Library:
26 Jan – 31 Mar 2022

Jurong West Public Library:
1 Apr – 1 May 2022

PROGRAMMES



INSIGHTS TO MAPPING THE WORLD

Sat, 11 Dec 2021

2 pm – 3 pm

The POD, Level 16, National Library Building

This event will also be streamed live on Zoom

Speaker:

Prof Pierre Singaravélou is Professor of History at King's College London and at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

Dr Fabrice Argounès is Assistant Professor in History of Geography at the University of Rouen-Normandy and a researcher at the Centre for the History of Contemporary Asia in Paris.

NAUTICAL CHARTING IN SINGAPORE: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Mon, 10 Jan 2022

6 pm – 7 pm

Zoom Webinar

Speaker:

Mr Lee Weng Choy is Deputy Chief Hydrographer at the Maritime Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and oversees the Hydrographic Survey and Cartographic departments.

PROMINENT SPEAKER SERIES: DR RICHARD PEGG

Mon, 14 Feb 2022

7 pm – 8 pm

Zoom Webinar

Speaker:

Dr Richard Pegg is Director and Curator of Asian Art for the MacLean Collection, Illinois, United States, which houses an Asian art museum and separate map library.

CURATOR'S TOURS

Thursdays

2021: 20 Dec

2022: 20 Jan, 10 Feb, 10 Mar, 14 Apr, 5 May

7 pm – 8 pm

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

PUBLIC TOURS

Saturdays: 8, 15 & 22 Jan 2022

Sundays: 9, 16 & 23 Jan 2022

Saturdays: 5, 12, 19 & 26 Feb 2022

Sundays: 6, 13, 20 & 27 Feb 2022

2 pm – 3 pm

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

周末导览

星期六, 2022年1月8/15/22日

星期日, 2022年1月9/16/23日

星期六, 2022年2月5/12/19/26日

星期日, 2022年2月6/13/20/27日

下午3时至4时

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



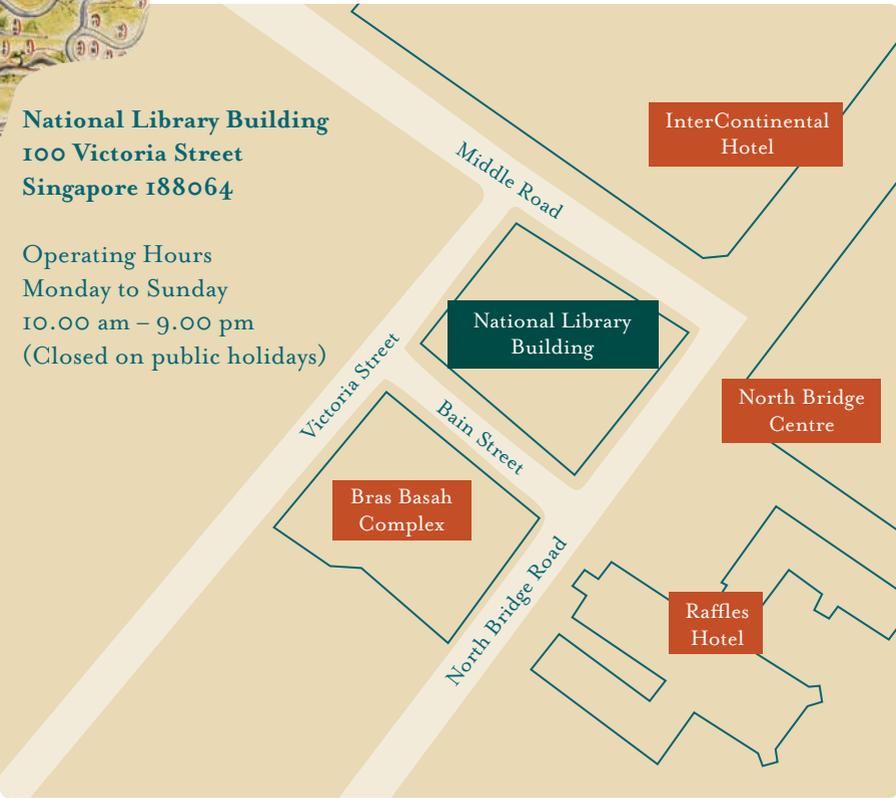
For more information on the exhibition, please visit www.go.gov.sg/mtw



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 (November 2021).
The National Library, Singapore reserves the right to make changes
to the programmes without prior notice.

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