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Martijn Storms · Mario Cams  
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Editors

# Mapping Asia: Cartographic Encounters Between East and West

Regional Symposium of the ICA Commission  
on the History of Cartography, 2017

 Springer

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# Preface

This volume comprises a selection of the research papers presented at a two-day symposium on the history of cartography, which took place at Leiden University Library on September 15–16, 2017. The symposium was titled *Mapping Asia: Cartographic Encounters Between East and West* and was co-organized by Leiden University Libraries and the Commission on the History of Cartography of the International Cartographic Association (ICA). Over 70 participants from 23 countries in Asia, Europe, and North America attended the symposium, and 30 papers were presented. We hope that this symposium turns out to be the first one in a series of regional symposia on the history of cartography, focusing on a specific region and organized in the years in between the general symposia of the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography.

The main theme of the conference was the interaction and exchange between Asian and Western cartographic practices. It has been strived for to specifically select these papers that focus on this mutual influences of cartographic traditions, also including the inter-Asian interaction in cartography (especially the influence of China and India) and the influence of Arabic mapping traditions on Asian (and European) cartography. Regarding the periods in history, the papers varied from medieval worldviews and the age of discovery, via the period of colonial and missionary cartography to the twentieth century, post-colonial mapmaking. Special attention was paid to the cartography of the Dutch East India Company (VOC), colonial, topographic mapmaking in the Netherlands East Indies, relation between the Dutch and Japanese, and the influence of and relations with Chinese cartography.

This first regional symposium was held within the framework of the Leiden Asia Year. Throughout 2017, Leiden was the leading center for Asia in terms of research, teaching, collections, and expertise. The Leiden Asia Year was prompted by the building of the Asian Library on the roof of Leiden University Library. The Asian Library was opened on September 14, 2017, by Queen Máxima. The collections in the Asian Library that are brought together by Leiden University Libraries belong to the foremost collections on Asia worldwide. The collection on Indonesia is the largest worldwide, including the collections of the Royal Tropical

Institute (KIT) and the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), both acquired in recent years. The Kern collection covering South Asia and the Himalayan region is one of the largest collections in Europe. The Asian Library also houses the largest Chinese collection in Europe. The Japanese collection consists of a unique collection of materials brought to the Netherlands by, among others, Philipp Franz von Siebold (1796–1866).

Alongside the symposium, two cartographic exhibitions were organized. In Japan museum Siebold Huis, the exhibition *Mapping Japan* was co-curated by Radu Leca and Martijn Storms. The exhibition focused on the maps of Japan brought together by Siebold and the international exchange of knowledge and geographic information, methods, and techniques, which led to a significant development in cartography. In 1829, he was found guilty of spying, for being in possession of maps, and banished from Japan. Back in Leiden, Siebold published a map of Japan himself. Manuscript draft and annotated proof prints of this map are kept at Leiden University Library as well. A second exhibition *Mapping Asia* took place at Museum Volkenkunde, the national museum of ethnology. The exhibition was put together by Daan Kok, Fresco Sam-Sin, and Martijn Storms. This exhibition focused on the variety and subjectivity of maps, on different cartographic traditions, worldviews, and power relations. Top piece of the exhibition was the full-size reproduction of the so-called Kangxi map of the Chinese Manchu Empire. The original map consists of 41 woodblock sheets. Digitally mounted this resulted in a map measuring 280 × 460 cm.

We would like to acknowledge our gratitude to Leiden University and especially to its University Library and its Director, Kurt De Belder, for his support.

Leiden, The Netherlands  
 Macau, China  
 Arlington, TX, USA  
 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Martijn Storms  
 Mario Cams  
 Imre Josef Demhardt  
 Ferjan Ormeling

# Contents

<b>The Topographic Survey of the Netherlands East Indies, Batavia 1864–1950</b> .....	1
Ferjan Ormeling	
<b>The Importance of Diacritics on Dutch Historical Map Toponyms in Java, Aceh and Nias</b> .....	21
Albina Apriadsa, Ari Cahyono and Rossaydiana Apriadna	
<b>Buginese Charts: Typical Cartographic Encounters Between East and West?</b> .....	41
Marco van Egmond	
<b>A Collage of Many Things: Rethinking the Making of the Selden Map</b> .....	59
Tsung-jen Chen	
<b>Jesuit Contribution to the Mapping of the Philippine Islands: A Case of the 1734 Pedro Murillo Velarde’s Chart</b> .....	73
Mirela Altic	
<b>Naming and Re-naming on Formosa: The Toponymic Legacies of the VOC Cartographies on the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Western Maps</b> .....	95
Peter Kang	
<b>Localizing Asia: Mapping Japan, Asia, and Europe in the Early Modern World</b> .....	109
Sayoko Sakakibara	

<b>Gyōki-Type Shape: Representation of the Japanese Archipelago in East-Asian and Western Maps</b> . . . . .	125
Ekaterina Simonova-Gudzenko	
<b>Maps as Knowledge Vehicles: Insights from the Collections of Leiden University Library</b> . . . . .	147
Radu Leca	
<b>The Use of Japanese Early Modern Maps by Western Cartographers During the Nineteenth Century</b> . . . . .	169
Kunitada Narumi and Shigeru Kobayashi	
<b>Re-locating the ‘Middle Kingdom’: A Seventeenth-Century Chinese Adaptation of Matteo Ricci’s World Map</b> . . . . .	185
Gang Song	
<b>Cartographic Accuracy and the Myth of Manchu Origins on the 1719 <i>Overview Maps of the Imperial Territories</i></b> . . . . .	207
Fresco Sam-Sin	
<b>Mapmakers in China and Europe 1800–1844: The Perspective of William Huttman, Royal Geographical Society</b> . . . . .	233
Ines Eben von Racknitz	
<b>From ‘All Under Heaven’ to ‘China in the World’: Chinese Visual Imaginations from the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries</b> . . . . .	247
Laura Pflug	
<b>A Disastrous Project: C. P. Keller and the Fortification (Plans) of Bimilipatnam</b> . . . . .	265
Jeroen Bos	
<b>Inventing a Cartographical Image for Postcolonial India: European Models and the Politics of National Identity</b> . . . . .	279
Arundhati Virmani	



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## About the Editors

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**Mario Cams** obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Leuven in 2015 and is currently Assistant Professor at the University of Macau's Department of History. He is the author of *Companions in Geography: East-West Collaboration in the Mapping of Qing China (c. 1685–1735)* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2017), in which he revisits the early eighteenth-century surveying and mapping of Qing China, one of the largest cartographic endeavors of the early modern world. His current research continues to focus on Qing cartography as well as on exchanges in maps and geographies between Europe and East Asia before the twentieth century.

**Imre Josef Demhardt** is interested in post-enlightenment cartography, colonialism, and regional studies with a focus on Central Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, and North America. Besides numerous articles and several books on these subjects, he is involved as co-editor of Vol. 5 (Nineteenth Century) in the encyclopedia project on the History of Cartography. He holds the Garrett Chair in the History of Cartography at the University of Texas at Arlington and currently serves as Chair of the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography.

**Ferjan Ormeling** held the chair of cartography at Utrecht University 1985–2010 and since then is part of the Explokart research group at the University of Amsterdam. His research focuses on atlas cartography, toponymy, and the cartographic history of the Indonesian archipelago, either separately or in combination. He was one of the editors of the national atlases of the Netherlands and

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