

Title: *Chinae olim Sinarum regionis, nova descriptio*

Date: 1584

Author: *Abraham Ortelius/Ludovico Georgio*

Description: One of the first printed European map of China (see also #368.1). This earliest printed map of China in the European cartographical tradition is found in the 1584 edition of the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, the first world atlas in a modern sense (first ed. 1570) by Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598). It is signed by *Ludovico Georgio*, whose real name was Luis Jorge de Barbuda who was a Portuguese cartographer with Spanish employers. He also produced an early history of China from which of the information for this map must have been drawn. When this map appeared, it was by far the most accurate one of China. Japan is shown on a curious curved projection reminiscent of Portuguese charts of the period with Honshu dissected along the line of Lake Biwa. The outline shows the region horizontally orientated with West at the top and North to the right of the page; and includes parts of Indo-China, the Philippines and most of Japan.

Here the Great Wall of China is shown here for the first time on a European map. The Tartar *yurts*, or travelling tents, are dotted across the plains and steppes of Central and Eastern Asia. Notable is the illustration in eastern China of the wheeled "sail machines". These four wind wagons are shown on the right and top of the map, perhaps the earliest examples of a depiction of this device, which in Europe is certain to have originated in the Low Countries, but which had been invented much earlier in China. The wind wagon is well documented in a treatise in Dutch on the subject by Simon Stevin that appeared in Dutch in the year 1600. The most eye-catching structural characteristic of the map is its orientation with the West on top. From this point of view, it differs from the majority of maps in the *Theatrum*, which are oriented with the North on top. Vera Dorofeeva-Lichtmann has demonstrated that the western orientation of this map of China originates from *portolan*-style [nautical] charts. One of the reasons for such an orientation is purely practical - a more convenient layout for mapping a territory, which has a long narrow shape in the south-north direction.

This map depicts the Chinese territory as a compact enclosure at the eastern end of Asia, delimited from the other Asian countries by dense mountain ranges. The cartographical image of a faraway territorial enclosure impregnable from land was formerly applied for the biblical *Gog and Magog* territories, placed at the northeastern limits of Asia. *Gog and Magog* gradually disappear from European maps by the early 16th century; it is interesting that the mountain enclosure as a cartographic symbol was "revised" in the late 16th century for depicting China.

There is a much more detailed and precise depiction of the seacoast than of the continental parts. As the result, in the map of China the seacoast is disproportionately long in comparison with the compressed continental territories. This disproportion is less noticeable with the western orientation, but becomes more apparent, if such map is re-oriented with North on top. The focus on the coastline outweighing the continent, in which topographically blank spots are filled out by decorative pictures, shows that the map was constructed, beginning with the delineation of the coast, explored from the sea. In comparison, traditional Chinese world maps focused on the Chinese Empire, are constructed from the "opposite" direction - from the continent to its borders, building upon the river network, which plays the role of the map skeleton. The seacoast is given less attention, playing in these maps a secondary role.

One of the most prominent features of the landscape in this map by Ludovicus Georgius is a huge oval lake outside the western border of the Chinese Empire. The lake

has no particular name - it is called the just "Lake" (*Lacus*) and is the source of a large river. The eye-catching lake has been pointed out by Cortesão, who, however, made a strange mistake, and as the result, an erroneous suggestion about its topographical identification. He missed the orientation of the map with the West at top, having defined the *Locus* as located at the northern border of China, and then relying on the long narrow shape of the lake identified it with Baikal: "Near the northern frontier of China is depicted a long and exceptionally large lake, which undoubtedly corresponds to the great Lake Baikal." However, Baikal should have been placed somewhere at the right side of the map, corresponding to the North. The historian Donald Lach suggested that "this was a conventional interior lake which Barbuda moved to the unknown west rather than discard completely". He also recalls that in "Chinese tradition the rivers of this land all originate in a great Western lake". There is a lengthy textual passage in Latin placed in the map just above the *Locus*, which at first sight looks as an elucidation on this prominent landmark:

This round lake in the province of Sanci came about as a result of a flood in the year 1557, during which seven entire communities were inundated, next to small cities and villages, and a gigantic number of dead people were the result, except for one boy only, who was saved by climbing onto the trunk of a tree.

Cortesão, who did not have any doubts that this passage refers to the *Lacus*, provided valuable insights into the origins of this information in earlier maps by Portuguese cartographers (Bartolomeu Velho 1561 and Vaz Dourado, Atlases of 1570 and 1571), adopted by Lach and further developed by Oliveira. The passage, however, refers to a round lake located below the *Lacus*, in the middle of the Sheanxi province (*Sancii* in the map), with a small human figure floating on a wooden trunk, depicting the unique survivor of the inundation described (now a nonexistent lake).

The true identification of the *Lacus* is found in the map of China by Jodocus Hondius (1606), who combined the map of China by Ludovicus Georgius reoriented with the North on top with the map of Japan by Luis Teixeira. In this map the lake bears a name *LACUS CINCUAIY*, a transcription of the Chinese *Xingxiuhai* [Star Lodge(s) Lake]. (see illustration below) It became considered as the source of the Yellow River in Chinese cartography and geographical texts, beginning from the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368). Although, as Lach noted, early Portuguese cartographers did not "have any real sense of the course of the Yellow River", one can make out its course from the *LACUS [CINCUAIY]* in the map of Ludovicus Georgius and its derivation by Jodocus Hondius.

As one of the earliest printed map specifically of China and the first to show the Great Wall, this map remained the standard type for the interior of China for over sixty years. With its three lushly designed cartouches and many illustrations of indigenous shelters, modes of transportation and animals, this is one of Ortelius's richest engravings. A reflection of just how early this map is in the West's knowledge of China is suggested by the fact that Portuguese Jesuits were not allowed to establish a mission on Chinese soil until 1577, just seven years before this map was published. Although the map's Portuguese maker, Barbuda, was himself not a Jesuit, his sources for the map were Portuguese Jesuits. The Chinese characters found in the text on the verso of the map were the first introduction to Chinese language for many educated Europeans of the time. The map and text would have forced many Europeans to see China for the first time as a nation and culture distinct from the others of Asia.

The map of China by Ludovicus Georgius relied mainly on sources by the Portuguese and Spanish explorers of China, who started their observations from the

southwestern seacoast of China. This map bears the impression of spatial ideas and conventions about the eastern extremity of Asia and the New World, current in European cartography of the 16th century. Yet such landmarks as the *Lacus* in the West allow one to suggest that there may have been some attempts at using Chinese maps. Traces of such usage may be very subtle, since they are inscribed into the Western framework of cartographical representation and the author of the resulting map might not have completely comprehended the cartographical images that he borrowed. Another possibility would have been a construction of a cartographical image from descriptive information about a big lake in the West, the source of the Yellow River, which could have indirectly originated from Chinese maps. An interesting comparative example of lakes constructed from descriptive information may be found in the history of representing South America, where we find the imaginary lakes *Parime* and *Xaraes*. Usually such cosmologically significant far-away or imaginary landmarks tend to be depicted in maps in an exaggerated manner.

By the second half of the 17th century, the map by Ludovicus Georgius was made obsolete by other maps making significant use of Chinese cartographical sources, which they adapted to the representational code of the European cartographical tradition. The new standard representation of the Chinese Empire, the *Novus Atlas Sinensis* by Martino Martini (1655), in addition to its general map of the Chinese Empire, included individual maps of provinces, some neighboring countries and an accompanying text, having borrowed this structure from Chinese prototypes.

Attention to the provenance of the map of China in the *Theatrum* was first called by E.W. Dahlgren in 1911, who took notice of a letter about it, written to Ortelius by Benito Arias Montano (1527-1598) on the 28th of February 1576. The historian Armando Cortesao identified the map's author with a Portuguese cartographer Luis Jorge (Luys Jorge, Luys Gorge, Luis Georgio, since 1596 registered as Luis Jorge de Barbuda), having meticulously collected data about him scattered among different written sources (letters, royal *cedulas*, collective declarations).

Below are some translations of the textual notes on this map and on the verso. *Cum priuilegio Imperatoris/Regis, & Brabantiae: ad de/cenniu .1584.* [With an imperial, royal and Brabant privilege for ten years 1584.] Upper centre: *Lacus hic rotundus in Sancij prouincia, factus fuit/inundatione Ao. 1557. in quo submersæ sunt ciuitates/septem; præter opidula et pagos: et mortalium ingê:/tem numerû. vno tantum puero in trunco/arboris seruato.* [This round lake in the province of Sanci came about as a result of a flood in the year 1557, during which seven entire communities were inundated, next to small cities and villages, and a gigantic number of dead people were the result, except for one boy only, who was saved by climbing into the trunk of a tree.] Text between mountain range and great wall: *Murus quadringentorum leucarum inter montium crepidines a Rege Chinæ contra Tartarorum ab hac parte eruptiones exstructus.* [A wall of four hundred miles has been constructed between the edges of the mountains by the King of China against the invasions of the Tartars in this part].

The text on verso includes four transcriptions of Chinese characters, brought back to Europe by the Jesuit Bernadino Escalante, published in Seville in 1577.



Occurrence of this map in Ortelius' *Theatrum* editions and its page number:

1584L3Addblank (100 copies printed) (identical with 1584L, but here without page number; last line, left aligned, in cursive script like the entire text: *vocari à Ptolemeo, situs demonstrat, neque vox abludit. China enim cum scribant Hispani, Lusitanique, Sina tamen pronunciant.*),

1584G3Add25 in upper right corner (75 copies printed) (last line, left aligned, in small Gothic font: *Konig zerschen. Item daß man den Bisern von dannen an manche theyl der weldt hierauf bringe.*),

1585F3Add19 (75 copies printed) (last line, left aligned: *Espaignols & les Portugalois escriuent China, ils prononcent toutefois Sina.*),

1584L93 (750 copies printed) (identical with 1584L3Add, but here with page number; last line, left aligned, in cursive script like the entire text: *vocari à Ptolemeo, situs demonstrat, neque vox abludit. China enim cum scribant Hispani, Lusitanique, Sina tamen pronunciant.*),

1587F93 (250 copies printed) (last line, left aligned: *Espaignols & les Portugalois escriuent China, ils prononcent toutefois Sina.*),

1588S93 or no page number (300 copies printed) (last line first text page, right aligned: *carater*; last line second text page, left aligned: *corda el nombre, por que aun que los Españoles y Portuguezes escriban China; con todo esse pronuncian Sina.*),

1592L101 (525 copies printed) (last line, left aligned, in cursive script: *moribus, exstat quoque volumen Ioannis Gonzalis. De eadem vide Ferdinandum Lopesium Castagnedam. Sed in primus sextum Maffei de Reb. Indicis volumen.*),

1595L106 (500 copies printed) (last line first text page, left aligned: *uerso vt Hebræi, sed supernè rectà seorsum lineas ducunt*; second text page, left aligned: *imprimis sextum Maffej lib. de Reb. Indicis.*),

1598/1610/1613D75 (100 copies printed) (last line first text page, Gothic script: *Alle d'Inwoonders dan van dit rijck/ghelijck oock die van Cauchinchina ende der Eylanden Lequio gebruycken*),

1598F107 (525 copies printed) (last line, left aligned: *Espagnols & les Potugalois escriuent China, ils prononcent toutefois Sina.*),

1601L106 (200 copies printed) (penultimate line first text page, left aligned: *sed supernè rectà deorsum lineas ducunt. ; last line second text page, left aligned: sextum Maffej lib. de Reb. Indicis. item Bibliothecæ Selectæ Posseuini caput nonum libri noni partis primæ.*),

1602G109 (250 copies printed) (last line, left aligned, in Gothic script like the entire text: *Item/ daß man den Bisern von dannen an manche theil der welt hierauf bringe.*),

1602S109 (250 copies printed) (last line first text page, right aligned: *y otros*; last line second text page, *Tambien en el nono capitulo d'el nono libro de la Biblioteca Selecte Posseuini en la prima parte.*),

1603L109 (300 copies printed) (last line, first text page, right aligned: *Habet*; one but last line, first text page, full width: *sed supernè rectà deorsum lineas ducunt ; last line second text page, left aligned: sextum Masseij lib. de Reb. Indicis. item Bibliothecæ Selectæ Posseuini caput nonum libri noni partis primæ.*),

1606E106 (300 copies printed) (last line first text page, full width: For example; a city or towne (the one he calleth "Leombi", the other "Fu") all do expresse this word by this marke [empty space]. In like/maner),

1608/1612I118 (300 copies printed) (last line first text page, right aligned: *sempio*; last line second text page, right aligned: last line second text page, left aligned, in cursive script like 25 lines above it: *scelta libreria del Padre Posseuino pur della compagnia delli Iesuiti ambodue.*),

1609/1612/1641S119 (325 copies printed) (last line first text page, right aligned: *fertil*; last line second text page, left aligned: *Bibliotheca Selecte Posseuini en la prima parte.*),

1609/1612L119 (300 copies printed) (last line, left aligned in small font: item *Bibliothecæ Selectæ Posseuini caput nonum libri noni partis primæ.*).

Cartographic Sources: Luiz Jorge de Barbuda or Ludovicus Georgius who made a manuscript map of China which reached Ortelius in 1580 via Arias Montanus (Meurer p. 111-112), see Hessel's letters nr. 62, 99, 210, 217.

Text Translation: Text (translated from the 1584 Latin 3rd Add., 1584 Latin, 1584 German 3rd Add., 1585 French 3rd Add., 1587 French, 1588 Spanish, 1592 Latin, 1595 Latin, 1598 Dutch, 1598 French, 1601 Latin, 1602 German, 1602 Spanish, 1603 Latin, 1606 English, 1608/1612 Italian, 1609/1612/1641 Spanish and 1609/1612 Latin edition)

164.1. {1584L3Add{CHINA

164.2. {not in 1598D{Bernardinus Scalantus has in Spanish published a specific booklet of this country in a general description, from which we have gathered here these few lines}not in 1598D}. This huge kingdom of China is called TAME by the inhabitants, and they call themselves TANGIS. But by the bordering nations it is called CHINA, {1606E only {which is that [name] Tein or Sin which Avicenna mentions so many hundreds of

times, and recommends for sovereign use in Physics, and it is the same, no doubt, with SINÆ or Sinarum regio, a country with rich commodities much discussed amongst all ancient Cosmographers} 1606E only}. This country in the East borders on the East sea {not in 1588S, 1602G, 1602S, 1608/1612I & 1609/1612/1641S (commonly called Mare Eoum {1606E only has instead {Cin or the sea of China} 1606E only, not in 1588S, 1602G, 1602S, 1608/1612I & 1609/1612/1641S}, on the South on the province Cauchinchina, on the West it is bounded by Bramas, [and] on the North it has the Tartars, a warlike and valiant people, against whom it is defended and separated partly by an artificial wall, {1584G3Add, 1587F, 1588S, 1602G, 1602S, 1603L, 1606E, 1608/1612I & 1609/1612/1641S only {made by the hand and labor of man} 1584G3Add, 1587F, 1588S, 1602G, 1602S, 1603L, 1606E, 1608/1612I & 1609/1612/1641S only}, partly by a natural mountain [range] {1606E only {which runs for hundreds of miles between the countries} 1606E only}.

164.3. It is a country [that is] very fertile with all manner of things necessary for the maintenance of man's life, caused not only by the excellence of the soil and temperature of the air, but especially by the husbandry and industry of the people. For the people here are not given to idleness, but are very laborious and exert themselves. To be idle is here regarded as a shameful thing. It has wonderful amounts of Gold, Silver and [medicinal] Rhubarb. The sea, which beats upon this coast, and the rivers which run through the middle of this country abound with all sorts of fish. In the mountains, valleys and meadows infinite flocks of cattle graze and are maintained. The woods, forests and groves are full of Boars, Foxes, Hares, Rabbits, Zebellines and Weasels and various other such kinds of beasts, whose skins are used for protective clothing. Of all kinds of birds there are plenty, especially water birds, as is shown by the fact that in Canton, which is one of the smaller cities in this province, there are served on their tables every day some ten to twelve thousand Ducks and Geese.

164.4. They sow the drier grounds with wheat and barley, the wet, flat and marshy grounds with rice, which they cut and reap {1588S only {three or} 1588S only} four times a year, [providing] their main diet and means of living. The higher and steep places, and the sides of hills are covered with Pine trees, amongst which they sow {not in 1598D {millet, beans or horse-corn} not in 1598D}. {not in 1602G {Thus there is no place, no field, nor any plot of ground that [remains] unfruitful. Everywhere there are Orchards, Gardens, Fruits, Roses, and Flowers of all sorts,} not in 1602G} {1606E only {yielding the most fragrant and pleasant smell, and excellent appearance to the beholders} 1606E only}. {not in 1588S, 1602S & 1609/1612/1641S {They plant flax in great abundance everywhere {not in 1598D {for various sorts of linen of which they make their clothes} not in 1588S, 1598D, 1602S & 1609/1612/1641S}. But especially Sugar canes (which grow here in marvelously great abundance) and Mulberry trees, to feed the silk worms which eat the leaves of this tree. Silk is their chief merchandise and commodity from which they yearly obtain an infinite gain and profit. There are in this kingdom 240 excellent cities, the names of which generally end in {1584L3Add, 1584L, 1587F, 1588S, 1592L, 1595L, 1598F, 1601L, 1602S, 1603L, 1608/1612I, 1609/1612/1641S & 1609/1612L only {the syllable} 1584L3Add, 1584L, 1587F, 1588S, 1592L, 1595L, 1598F, 1601L, 1602S, 1603L, 1608/1612I, 1609/1612/1641S & 1609/1612L only} fu, which in their language means city, such as Cantonfu, Panquinfu.

164.5. The [names of] towns, of which there is an infinite number, similarly end in Cheu. The villages, which cannot be counted at all, are very densely and pleasantly inhabited through continuous husbandry and tillage. Their cities are mostly situated on the bank

of some wide and navigable river, fortified with broad and deep ditches, and very high, strong walls. These walls, from their foundations upwards, are made of stone. Towards the top and the fortifications, they are made with bricks, connected with lime or potter's clay, the same stuff, I mean, of which China dishes, so esteemed by us, are made. The height of them [= the walls], and their thickness is so great that four {1606E instead has {five} 1606E} {not in 1584G3Add{or six} not in 1584G3Add} men may walk on them next to one another. Here and there on these walls towers and bulwarks have been made from which they may see all their fields, far and near around them. On each side of the wall there is so much vacant space {not in 1584G3Add, 1587F, 1588S, 1598D, 1602G, 1602S & 1609/1612/1641S {(pomœrium the Romans call it)} not in 1584G3Add, 1587F, 1588S, 1598D, 1602G, 1602S & 1609/1612/1641S} that horsemen may pass them six together {1606E has instead {by six rank in battle array} 1606E instead}.

164.6. These walls are so neatly and soundly wrought without any crevices or slits that one would think they have just recently been made, whereas their histories testify that they have been built two thousand years ago. The entrance to their cities is by great gates, most wonderfully and stately built. Their streets are so smooth and precisely leveled, as if they were made by line and level, and are so large and broad that ten to fifteen horsemen can ride side by side through them. In many and various places [the streets] are parted and separated by stately triumphal arches, gracing the cities beyond measure. Some Portuguese report that they saw in the city of Fucho a turret built on forty marble pillars whose height was forty handwidths, and thickness twelve, {not in 1584G3Add, 1587F & 1608/1612I {after the measure which Architects use} not in 1584G3Add, 1587F & 1608/1612I}. This (they state in their judgment) in greatness, exquisite workmanship, beauty and in costs exceeds by far all the stately buildings of Europe.

164.7. We get an impression of the greatness of their cities by this, that they say that the city of Canton, which is as we said is one of the smaller of their cities, is 12,500 {1584G3Add has instead {13,340} 1584G3Add instead} strides {1584L3Add, 1584L, 1592L, 1595L, 1603L, 1606E, 1608/1612I & 1609/1612L have instead {twelve miles}1584L3Add, 1584L, 1592L, 1595L, 1603L, 1606E, 1608/1612I & 1609/1612L}{1587F, 1588S, 1598F, 1602S & 1609/1612/1641S have instead{12,350 strides}1587F, 1588S, 1598F, 1602S & 1609/1612/1641S instead} {1602G has instead{1340}1602G instead} in diameter, besides {1584L3Add, 1584L & 1606E only{350}1584L3Add, 1584L & 1606E only} {1601L, 1603L & 1608/1612I have instead{355}1601L, 1603L & 1608/1612I instead} suburbs which [also] belong to it, very great and populous. The people are broad and round faced, thin-haired, flat nosed and small eyed, although there may be some among them that are reasonably well favored and handsome men. The color of their faces is somewhat like that of those who inhabit Europe, yet those who live around Canton are of a browner complexion. They seldom or never travel outside their own country, nor will they easily tolerate a stranger to dwell among them, particularly further inland, {not in 1588S{except those that have obtained a passport from the King} not in 1588S} {1606E, 1608/1612I & 1609/1612L have instead {publicly sworn to be true to the King and the Country {1606E, 1608/1612I & 1609/1612L instead}. The wealthy and better to do men have all their clothes made of silk in various different colors.

164.8. The simple and common people wear a kind of garment made of {not in 1584G3Add, 1587F, 1588S, 1602G & 1608/1612I {white or} not in 1584G3Add, 1587F, 1588S, 1602G & 1608/1612I} black cotton and sometimes linen, colored or adorned with colored patches {1587F only {or a silver buckle}1587F only}. {not in 1587F} So far in these

parts they do not yet know how to make woollen clothes {not in 1587F}. The men there, like the women here, wear their hair long, winding it in a knot on the crown of their head, where they bind and fasten it with a silver hairpin. The women comb their hair very trimly, and ornate and beautify it with golden spangles and various kinds of pearls and precious stones. They paint and color their faces to enhance their complexion, as the Spanish commonly do. They never go outdoors, except when they are carried in litters on men's shoulders, attended by all the family.

164.9. It is lawful for men to marry many wives, of whom they keep only one in their house, the other being boarded in adjacent places elsewhere. Those who are convicted because of adultery are put to death. Within the city there may be no brothels, and the courtesans all live in the unwallled suburbs. Weddings are always celebrated at new moon or the beginning of the month, and preferably on {1587F, 1588S & 1606E only {the first day of} 1587F, 1588S & 1606E only} March, which is their New Year's Day or first day of the year. These feasts they organize, like we also do, in a very sumptuous manner and with as much preparation and provision as may be obtained or devised. Their chambers are embellished and bedecked with hanging cloths of silk and rich tapestry, [and] flowers are strewn and cast in every corner. This feast is held and continued for many days. During [the feast] they have music from all sorts of instruments, with Interludes and plays on stage. At these banquets they drink and eat so much, that even the very Dutch and Flemish people do not much exceed them [in this]. 164.10. They do not touch their meat with their hands, but they put it into their mouths with a silver fork or hook. They sit at their meal or table in chairs or on stools, as we do here in Europe, and not on the ground, as the rest of the Asians do. They are such a very witty and ingenious people that they have devised and put together certain wagons, which they can skillfully guide through the fields and flat plains, driven forth by its sails and the wind, like a ship at sea. These people already had the art and use of Printing books long before it was known to us here in Europe, {1595L, not in 1598D, 1602G & 1602S[[being] the Western part of the world. {1587F & 1598F only {When they write or print, they do not do like we do, writing from left to right, nor like the Jews do, who do the opposite, but they write in columns from the top to the bottom} 1587F & 1598F only}. {not in 1598F} {In this country, because of its vast size}not in 1598D, nor in 1598F, 1602G & 1602S}, there are many and various peoples speaking distinct and different languages, one understanding the other no better {not in 1598D{than the Castilian understands the Biscayne} not in 1598D}{1588S, 1602S & 1609/1612/1641S have instead{than the Bascongado understands the Valentian} 1588S, 1602S & 1609/1612/1641S instead}, {not in 1588S, 1602S & 1609/1612/1641S{or than the German understands the Frenchman}not in 1588S, 1602S & 1609/1612/1641S}.

164.11. Yet, by their manner of writing, and through the characters which they all use in common, they can understand each other reasonably well. Thus, all the inhabitants of the [various] provinces of this kingdom, as well as those of {1602S & 1609/1612/1641S only {Japan} 1602S & 1609/1612/1641S only}, Cauchinchina and on the Lequeio's {not in 1584G3Add, 1587F, 1588S, 1598D, 1602G, 1608/1612I & 1609/1612/1641S{certain islands on this coast}}not in 1584G3Add, 1587F, 1588S, 1602G, 1608/1612I & 1609/1612/1641S} use one and the same alphabet (as they call it), or rather a kind of painting of letters}not in 1598D} {1606E only(not much unlike the Hieroglyphics of the Egyptians)}1606E only}, through which they most cunningly and readily express everything they want to relate. For example, [take] a city or town (one calls it Leombi, the other Fu) all express this word by this same mark [2 Chinese Characters in 1584L3Add, 1584L, 1584G3Add,

1587F, 1588S, 1592L, 1595L, 1598D, 1598F, 1601L, 1602G, 1602S, 1603L, 1608/1612I, 1609/1612/1641S & 1609/1612L; empty space in 1606E text].

164.12. {not in 1598D[In a similar manner, they mark Heaven, which in this nation is called Guant by this character: [empty space in 1606E, a Chinese character in 1584L3Add, 1584L, 1584G3Add, 1587F, 1588S, 1595L, 1598F, 1601L, 1602G, 1602S, 1603L, 1608/1612I, 1609/1612/1641S & 1609/1612L]. A King, whom they name Bontai thus: [empty space in 1606E, Chinese character in 1584L3Add, 1584L, 1584G3Add, 1587F, 1588S, 1592L, 1595L, 1598F, 1601L, 1602G, 1602S, 1603L, 1608/1612I, 1609/1612/1641S & 1609/1612L]. For they have in their alphabet above five thousand characters for things and words. {1601L[Gaspar Balbus, in his Journal of India, says that they have sixty thousand {1602S & 1609/1612/1641S have instead {six hundred thousand} 1602S & 1609/1612/1641S instead} different characters} 1601L}. {not in 1587F & 1598F, where this is said earlier[In printing or writing, they do not begin at the left and go on to the right as we do, nor the opposite direction, as the {not in 1609/1612L[Jews] {not in 1609/1612L} {not in 1584L3Add, 1584L, 1584G3Add, 1587F, 1588S, 1592L, 1595L, 1601, 1602S, 1603L, 1608/1612I & 1609/1612/1641S{and Arabs}not in 1584L3Add, 1584L, 1584G3Add, 1587F, 1588S, 1592L, 1595L, 1601L, 1602G, 1602S, 1603L, 1608/1612I & 1609/1612/1641S} do, but they begin at the top and go down in a straight line until they come to the bottom of the page}not in 1587F & 1598F, where this is said earlier}. This kingdom has an infinite number of all sorts of galleys, boats and barges, with which they cross rivers and inlets of the sea, so that, when they want to brag about the King's wealth and his powers of command, they use a proverb saying that he can make a bridge of ships so long, that it shall reach from China to Malacca, which are more than 500 leagues apart.

164.13. As regards the part of the country adjacent to the sea, being in every manner and in many places watered and crossed by various great and navigable rivers, there are almost as many people that dwell in boats on the water as there are in houses on the land. There are some who never leave their boats or barges, but who stay there all the time, fishing and fowling [from there] all year long, for, as we said before, the abundance of fish and fowl here in this country is admirable. {not in 1587F & 1598F} {Although this area is beyond all measure fertile in all manner of living creatures, they do help this fertility by art and the following strange invention:} {not in 1587F & 1598F} In the Spring time they cover two or three thousand eggs with horse dung {not in 1598D {(like they do in Alcairo of Egypt)} not in 1598D} by the heat of which after some time small geese and chickens are brought forth and hatch. They do the same in winter, but then they do not put them into dung, but into a wicker basket, and putting this over a moderate fire which is kept burning all the time to reach the same temperature, they achieve the same in a certain number of days.

164.14. They also have the following method for fishing: in those cities which are on the banks and sides of rivers, (as almost all the cities of this kingdom are), they keep a great number of Cormorants or sea-gulls {1606E only {(the Romans call them Mergi} 1606E only}, {not in 1588S & 1598D{the Spaniards Sea crows}} not in 1588S & 1598D} in cages or compartments. When they want to go fishing, they put these [birds] into their boats, and taking them to the deepest part of the river, they bind their necks lightly with cords (to prevent that the fishes they catch should go into their bellies), they cast them in multitudes into the water where they let them stay until their crops are clearly filled with fish, and then, returning to their boats, where they are received, they throw up at their master's feet all the fish they have caught. This they do as often as the fisherman

wants, and then, being brought home to their compartments, their necks are untied, and they are given ordinary food as much as they want.

164.15. This entire country is subject to one King (as to a Monarch) whom they call The Lord of the World, and The Son of Heaven. Paquin, {1606E only} {a city in the Northern parts of this kingdom} 1606E only}, {not in 1584G3Add & 1602G{towards the frontiers of Tartaria} not in 1584G3Add & 1602G} is the seat of their King, where he normally keeps his Court. He never goes out from this, except in times of war. {not in 1587F & 1598F} {His predecessors once kept court in the city of Manquin, which is commemorated by a golden Table that has religiously been preserved. In this the name of the reigning King is written. It is covered by a very rich curtain, which is never drawn away except on festivals and holy days, and when it happens they give it superstitious reverence, as if indeed it did represent the very Majesty of the King himself} {not in 1587F & 1598F}. They report that when he [= the king] makes war at any time against the Tartars, he leads out into the fields at least three hundred thousand footmen and two hundred thousand horsemen, yet, they also add to this that it [= China] is not a very warlike nation. The King has under his [command] a governor, as it were a lieutenant, whom they call Tutan. This lieutenant is the judge who determines all cases and controversies arising between man and man throughout the whole kingdom. In the execution of justice, he uses great severity.

164.16. Thieves and murderers are kept in perpetual imprisonment until their life comes to an end through whipping, hunger or cold. {not in 1587F & 1598F} {Although they are condemned to the most severe punishment which their law inflicts (which usually is whipping) yet the execution of their sentence is so slow that the greater part of condemned men die in prison before their punishment has been executed. This is the reason why everywhere, in all their cities, there is an infinite number of prisoners, so that in Canton, {not in 1584G3Add, 1588S, 1601L, 1602G, 1603L & 1608/1612I only {one of their smaller cities} not in 1584G3Add, 1588S, 1601L, 1602G, 1603L & 1608/1612I only}, there are often more than fifteen thousand {1584G3Add, 1601L, 1602G, 1603L & 1608/1612I have instead {1015}1584G3Add, 1601L, 1602G, 1603L & 1608/1612I instead} men imprisoned at the same time}not in 1587F & 1598F}. Robberies (no crime committed in this country is considered to be more odious) are punished by a cruel kind of whipping.

164.17. The manner of whipping is like this: they lay the party to be whipped, face downwards, and his hands bound behind him. Then he is beaten by a whip made of a reed or cane upon the calves of his legs with such a mighty blow that the victim usually shows blood by the first stroke. The second stroke torments the party to be punished such that he cannot ever get upright. Several torturers do the whipping, one on one leg, and the other on the other, and that so hard that many die of the fiftieth or sixtieth {1602S & 1606E have instead {fifteenth or sixteenth} 1602S & 1606E instead} lash, for all their sinews by this time have been burst asunder. {not in 1588S} {The Portuguese state that every year in this country above two thousand die this kind of death} {not in 1588S}. {not in 1602S & 1609/1612/1641S} {This whip [= cane] is about five fingers broad, {not in 1587F & 1598F}and one finger thick, every foot of} {not in 1587F & 1598F} which they dip into water, to make it more pliant, and [to allow it] to strike a greater blow}not in 1602S & 1609/1612/1641S}.

164.18. Concerning the faith and religion of this nation, it is like this. They believe that all earthly creatures and all things in the World, as well as government and the disposition of them, depend on Heaven and Heavenly powers. They think that Heaven

is the greatest of all Gods, and therefore the character referring to it has the first place in their alphabet. They worship the Sun, the Moon and the Stars, yes even the very Devil himself (whom they picture in the same form as we do here in Europe) that he may not hurt them, as they say. They have stately and sumptuous Churches, in their cities as well as in the country. They also have two sorts of priests: one sort goes in white, with the head shaven, and lives by begging, as our Friars do. The other goes in black, wears long hair, and lives by himself, as our Priests here in Europe do.

164.19. Neither of them may marry, yet they live very wantonly and licentiously. So far from Scalantus. {not in 1584G3Add, 1587F & 1598F{It will not be amiss to add to this some things from other [writers]}not in 1584G3Add, 1587F & 1598F}. Ioannes Barrius {not in 1584G3Add, 1587F, 1598F & 1602G{in his Asian Decades} not in 1587F & 1598F} writes that this king has under [his command] fifteen very great and large countries which they call Governments. And moreover he adds that this King alone far surpasses all the rest of the Princes of Asia around him, and that his yearly revenues surpass all the riches and wealth of entire Europe. {not in 1587F & 1598F{In handicraft trades and occupations they excel above all men living. Their works are so delicately and cunningly made that one would judge them to have been framed by nature, and not by art and industry of man} not in 1584G3Add & 1602G}. {not in 1598D{At the city of Nimpo, which others call Liampo, he says that it has been observed that some of the Portuguese within three months have bought and shipped off 166,000 pounds of silk}not in 1587F, 1598D & 1598F}. Odoardus Barbosa writes that the people {not in 1584G3Add & 1602G{are very kind and humane, and go dressed much like the Dutch, to whom they also are very similar in pronunciation and manner of speech} not in 1584G3Add & 1602G}.

164.20. {not in 1587F & 1598F} {Those clear and transparent vessels or porcelain dishes which among us are valued so highly, are here made in the following manner: they mix certain cochlear shells, egg shells and other things, which they knead and make into a paste. This paste they hide in the earth, where they let it lie for 80 or a hundred years, before they stir it or look at it again, leaving it as an inheritance, or as a precious jewel for their heirs. They use that paste which their grandfathers or great-grandfathers have laid out for them. And they observe the ancient custom that he who takes away old paste will put new paste into its place} not in 1587F & 1598F}. Antonius Pigafetta {1608/1612I only} {Knight in the Order of St. John of Jerusalem} 1608/1612I only} calls this King the mightiest Prince of the whole world. He says that his palace, or the house where he keeps his Court, is enclosed by seven walls. And that he always has 10,000 soldiers as his guards to continually attend upon him. And that 70 crowned Kings pay homage to him, and are subject to his government and command.

164.21. The same author states that Musk is from there transported to various parts of the world} {1584G3Add & 1602G end here}. {not in 1587F & 1598F} {Andreas Corsalis likewise says that the greatest store of [medicinal] rhubarb and Pearl {not in 1584L3Add, 1584L, 1588S, 1592L, 1595L, 1601L, 1602S, 1603L, 1608/1612I, 1609/1612/1641S & 1609/1612L{that is brought to Europe} {not in 1584L3Add, 1584L, 1588S, 1592L, 1595L, 1601L, 1602S, 1603L, 1608/1612I, 1609/1612/1641S & 1609/1612L}, comes from this place.

164.22. {not in 1598D} {In the Jesuit Epistles recently published, many things well worth knowing have here and there been written on this country}not in 1587F, 1598D & 1598F}. The situation [explained there] clearly shows that by Ptolemæus these people were called SINÆ, and the name now retained does not differ much from that. For the

Spaniards and Portuguese write it China but pronounce it Sina} 1584L3Add, 1584L, 1587F, 1588S, 1598D & 1598F end here}. {1592L{Of the situation and nature of this country, [and] the behavior and manners of its people, you may read in a work by Ioannes Gonsalis published on this subject} 1592L}. {1595L} {Also read about it the letters of the Jesuits just mentioned} 1595L}, and [in] Ferdinand Lopez {1592L only} {Castagneda} 1592L only}, but especially the sixth book of Maffeus' de rebus Indicis} 1592L & 1595L end here}. {1601L} {Finally, the ninth chapter of the ninth book of the first part of the excellent Library of Posseuinus} 1601L} {1608/1612I only}{together with those books of the Jesuits}1608/1612I only} Marcel van den Broecke .

Size: 37.2 x 48.2 cm/14.6 x 19 inches

Scale: 1:2,800,000

Approximate number of copies printed: 5,425.

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China in the 1606 Mercator-Hondius Atlas compiled by Jodocus Hondius



Cornelius de Jode's China, 1593, 14.25 x 17.75 inches

De Jode's rare map of China

A superb example of de Jode's map of eastern Asia, produced especially for the 1593 edition of the 'Speculum'.

The map is based upon the work of the Portuguese cartographer Luiz Jorge de Barbuda, whose map of China also appeared in the work of de Jode's competitor, Abraham Ortelius, in 1584. The circular map is framed by elaborate strap-work and three vignettes of Chinese life, calculated to appeal to European interest. At the upper left corner is a fisherman working with the aid of a cormorant, a practice that continues in rural China; at the upper right there is a houseboat with a pen attached to the side. The lower right vignette is of a cart with a sail attached, the Chinese windcarts that fascinated European observers. The final image is of India, showing two people in Eastern dress worshipping a triple-headed god.

The map appeared in the second edition of the de Jodes' atlas 'Speculum orbis terrae'. The 'Speculum' was first published in 1578 by Gerard de Jode (1509-1591) with text by Daniel Cellarius. It was designed to compete with Abraham Ortelius' atlas, 'Theatrum Orbis Terrarum', which had been published eight years earlier. Ortelius used his influence to disrupt de Jode's application for a royal privilege. By the time this was finally granted, seven years after the publication of the 'Theatrum', Ortelius' work had become so popular that de Jode's atlas did not sell well, despite the accuracy and clarity of his maps.

His son Cornelis (1558-1600) continued his father's publishing business after studying at Douai. He produced an enlarged edition of the 'Speculum' in 1593, which Gerard had been planning before his death. Either Cornelis or Gerard was the first person to make a globe following the geography of Mercator in the southern hemisphere; no copies of it survive to provide evidence.

Although sales of de Jode's work were less than ideal, the atlas was evidently held in high regard, with several contemporaries citing its importance alongside the atlases of Mercator and Ortelius. Few examples of either edition of the 'Speculum' have survived, making the maps within a rarity.



*Gujin Xingsheng zhi tu "Map of Advantageous Terrains Past and Present", 1555
This map, or one similar, may have been a source for Ludovicus Georgius' map of China*