

# The Mysteries of the Marco Polo Maps



BENJAMIN B. OLSHIN

# **The Mysteries Of The Marco Polo Maps**

**Lingjun Ying** 

### The Mysteries Of The Marco Polo Maps:

The Mysteries of the Marco Polo Maps Benjamin B. Olshin, 2014-10-29 Concerns a collection of maps and associated documents claimed to be from Marco Polo s time or that of his daughters as many of the maps have the name or one or another of the three daughters on them Discusses provenance authenticity and history of the documents known to scholars as the Marco Polo Maps since 1948 here discussed fully for the first time The Mysteries of the Marco Polo Maps Benjamin B. Olshin, 2014-10-29 What s the truth behind the travels of Marco Polo A fascinating tale about maps history and exploration Times Literary Supplement UK In the thirteenth century Italian merchant and explorer Marco Polo traveled from Venice to the far reaches of Asia a journey he chronicled in a narrative titled Il Milione later known as The Travels of Marco Polo While Polo s writings would go on to inspire the likes of Christopher Columbus scholars have long debated their veracity Some have argued that Polo never even reached China while others believe that he came as far as the Americas Now there s new evidence for this historical puzzle a very curious collection of fourteen little known maps and related documents said to have belonged to the family of Marco Polo himself Here historian of cartography Benjamin B Olshin offers the first credible book length analysis of these artifacts charting their course from obscure origins in the private collection of Italian American immigrant Marcian Rossi in the 1930s to investigations of their authenticity by the Library of Congress J Edgar Hoover and the FBI to the work of the late cartographic scholar Leo Bagrow to Olshin's own efforts to track down and study the Rossi maps all but one of which are in the possession of Rossi's great grandson Are the maps forgeries facsimiles or modernized copies Did Marco Polo s daughters whose names appear on several of the artifacts preserve in them geographic information about Asia first recorded by their father Or did they inherit maps created by him Did Marco Polo entrust the maps to an admiral with links to Rossi s family line Or if the maps have no connection to Marco Polo who made them when and why Regardless of the maps provenance this tale takes us on a fascinating journey offering insights into Italian history the age of exploration and the wonders of cartography Olshin's book tugs powerfully at the imagination of anybody interested in the Polo story medieval history old maps geographical ideas European voyages of discovery and early Chinese legends The Wall Street Journal Mapping Paradigms in Modern and Contemporary Art Simonetta Moro, 2021-07-29 Mapping Paradigms in Modern and Contemporary Art defines a new cartographic aesthetic or what Simonetta Moro calls carto aesthetics as a key to interpreting specific phenomena in modern and contemporary art through the concept of poetic cartography The problem of mapping although indebted to the spatial turn of poststructuralist philosophy is reconstructed as hermeneutics while exposing the nexus between topology space time and memory The book posits that the emergence of mapping as a ubiquitous theme in contemporary art can be attributed to the power of the cartographic model to constitute multiple worldviews that can be seen as paradigmatic of the post modern and contemporary condition. This book will be of particular interest to scholars in art history art theory aesthetics and cartography Cartography between Christian Europe and the

Arabic-Islamic World, 1100-1500, 2021-06-17 Medieval Christian European and Arabic Islamic cultures are both notable for the wealth and diversity of their geographical literature yet to date there has been relatively little attempt to compare medieval Christian and Islamic mapping traditions in a detailed manner Cartography between Christian Europe and the Arabic Islamic World offers a timely assessment of the level of interaction between the two traditions across a range of map genres including world and regional maps maps of the seven climes and celestial cartography Through a mixture of synthesis and case study the volume makes the case for significant but limited cultural transfer Contributors are Elly Dekker Jean Charles Duc ne Alfred Hiatt Yossef Rapoport Stefan Schr der Emmanuelle Vagnon **Commander Francis Drake & the** West Coast Mysteries Gunnar Thompson, 2010-09-01 Discovery of Drake's lost navigational chart finally reveals secrets behind his voyage to America's West Coast in 1579 The secret location of Drake's colony New Albion is finally identified This was the first British colony in America and it marks the beginning of the British Empire At last we know the reason for an ongoing feud between Queen Elizabeth and Sir Francis He wanted desperately to rescue the shipmates that he left behind in New Albion Drake used a shipboard clock to map the West Coast This is the first map of America that was made using a chronometer thus Drake s map is accurate to within 15 degrees of the true longitude Drake was not just a pirate as most historians assume He was a naturalist ethnographer and geographer Drake's map and his new ship design opened the way Topos in Utopia: A peregrination to early modern utopianism's space Sotirios for the Dutch East India Company Triantafyllos, 2021-09-07 Topos in Utopia examines early modern literary utopias and intentional communities social and cultural conception of space Starting from Thomas More's seminal work published in 1516 and covering a period of three centuries until the emergence of Enlightenment's euchronia this work provides a thorough yet concise examination of the way space was imagined and utilised in the early modern visions of a better society Dealing with an aspect usually ignored by the scholars of early modern utopianism this book asks us to consider if utopias imaginary lands are based not only on abstract ideas but also on concrete spaces Shedding new light on a period where reformation zeal humanism s optimism colonialism's greed and a proto scientific discourse were combined to produce a series of alternative social and political paradigms this work transports us from the shores of America to the search for the Terra Australia Incognita and the desire to find a new and better world for us The Da Vinci Globe Stefaan Missinne, 2019-01-17 A chance discovery at a distinguished London map fair in 2012 by a Belgian globe collector produced the most unique of finds a distinct globe with mysterious images such as old ships sailors a volcano a hybrid monster pentimenti waving patterns conic individualised mountains curving rivers vigorous coastal lines chiaroscuro and an unresolved triangular anagram which remains an enigma The globe is hand engraved in great detail on ostrich egg shells from Pavia by a left handed Renaissance genius of unquestionable quality It shows secret knowledge of the map world from the time of Columbus Cabral Amerigo Vespucci and Leonardo da Vinci Central and North America are covered by a vast ocean The da Vinci globe originates from Florence and

dates from 1504 It marks the first time ever that the names of countries such as Brazil Germania Arabia and Judea have appeared on a globe A Leonardo drawing for this globe showing the coast of the New World and Africa has been discovered in the British Library This book brings the reader through a fabulous journey of scholars maps riddles rebuses iconographic symbols and enigmatic phrases such as HIC SVNT DRACONES to illuminate the da Vinci globe It details 500 years of mystery fine scholarship and expert forensic testing at numerous material science laboratories the world over The da Vinci globe now takes its rightful place surpassing the Lenox globe its copper cast identical twin as the most mysterious globe of our time As such this monograph is an essential text in Leonardo studies and in the history of cartography **Columbus** Al M. Rocca, 2023-02-20 The impact of Christopher Columbus s first transatlantic voyage launched an unprecedented explosion of European exploration Throughout the last 500 years scholars have recognized this transforming event and they have written extensively on the subject To date no American author has dedicated a book to Columbus s life before 1492 This biography does so with a focus on geographical experiences that affected his formulation of a transatlantic concept Incorporating extensive research from American and European scholars historians geographers anthropologists and cartographers the author proposes that Columbus systematically built a transatlantic voyage proposal from knowledge gained on previous voyages in the Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Atlantic Ocean The book's extensive use of maps place Columbus s actions on specific land and ocean locations Persons interested in gleaning more information about Columbus s maritime background will find a plethora of maps to visualize the extent of his early travels **Ancient Ocean Crossings** Stephen C. Jett, 2017-06-06 Paints a compelling picture of impressive pre Columbian cultures and Old World civilizations that contrary to many prevailing notions were not isolated from one another In Ancient Ocean Crossings Reconsidering the Case for Contacts with the Pre Columbian Americas Stephen Jett encourages readers to reevaluate the common belief that there was no significant interchange between the chiefdoms and civilizations of Eurasia and Africa and peoples who occupied the alleged terra incognita beyond the great oceans More than a hundred centuries separate the time that Ice Age hunters are conventionally thought to have crossed a land bridge from Asia into North America and the arrival of Columbus in the Bahamas in 1492 Traditional belief has long held that earth s two hemispheres were essentially cut off from one another as a result of the post Pleistocene meltwater fed rising oceans that covered that bridge The oceans along with arctic climates and daunting terrestrial distances formed impermeable barriers to interhemispheric communication This viewpoint implies that the cultures of the Old World and those of the Americas developed independently Drawing on abundant and concrete evidence to support his theory for significant pre Columbian contacts Jett suggests that many ancient peoples had both the seafaring capabilities and the motives to cross the oceans and in fact did so repeatedly and with great impact His deep and broad work synthesizes information and ideas from archaeology geography linguistics climatology oceanography ethnobotany genetics medicine and the history of navigation and seafaring making an innovative and persuasive

multidisciplinary case for a new understanding of human societies and their diffuse but interconnected development Strange matter Martin Bleisteiner, Jan-Peer Hartmann, Andrew James Johnston, 2025-09-02 Strange matter offers exciting new perspectives on the premodern fascination with materiality and the various ways in which the Middle Ages and subsequent periods experienced things in time Drawing on a wide selection of examples that range from medieval texts and artefacts of both European and non European origin to Macbeth s highly evocative meditation on bubbles the essays compiled in this volume look beyond the confines of the Anglophone world As they engage critically with the specific temporal otherness modernity has so often ascribed to medieval texts and artefacts the contributors also enter into productive dialogue with recent trends in criticism such as thing studies and the growing field of object biographies in cultural studies and museology

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