

The Digitalization and Study of *Huang yu quan lan tu*

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Huang yu quan lan tu (皇輿全覽圖, *Map of a Complete View of Imperial Territory*), also known as the “Jesuit Atlas,” was produced during the Kangxi reign in the early Qing Dynasty. Based on a survey, it was compiled mainly by European missionaries from 1708 to 1717 at the behest of Emperor Kangxi. It was the first on-the-spot survey map of China with latitude and longitude coordinates. Since it was the largest surveyed map of the time, it is a significant milestone in the world history of cartography.

Since it was first published in *Description géographique, historique, chronologique, politique et physique de l'empire de la Chine et de la Tartarie chinoise* (compiled by Jean-Baptiste Du Halde), the *Huang yu quan lan tu* map has barely been altered; it is the most popular atlas of China and its neighboring areas in Europe and has been reprinted in several countries. Various editions exist: three in English (1736, 1738, and 1741), one in German (1745–1756), and one in Russian (1774–1777).

Although the statistics are inconclusive, there are at least six versions of *Huang yu quan lan tu* in China. However, four of these are inaccessible or incomplete, while only two are available for use. One is the original copperplate edition collated by Wang Qianjin and Liu Ruofang and printed in 2007; the other version was edited by German scholar Walter Fuchs in 1943.

With the assistance of students who are native German speakers, my project focus at the RCC is finding the sources that Fuchs applied in his compilation of *Huang yu quan lan tu*. After digitalizing this atlas, I intend to research environmental change in China over the past 300 years using a graphics overlay program and a modern relief map. In the future, I plan to conduct comparative studies on different versions of *Huang yu quan lan tu* in both China and Europe; this study will contribute to the research of Chinese and foreign cultural exchange history.