

Naming the World:

*Toward A Digital Historical Gazetteer for Asia and
the Globe*

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For Presentation at the Council on East Asian Libraries Annual Meeting

Faculty Lecture

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I: “Istanbul Not Constantinople”

Place Names Change Over Time



- Naming places is a significant meaning-making activity around the world and through time.
- *The power to assign names is the power to control territory.*
- Place names often endure in the record when little else remains.



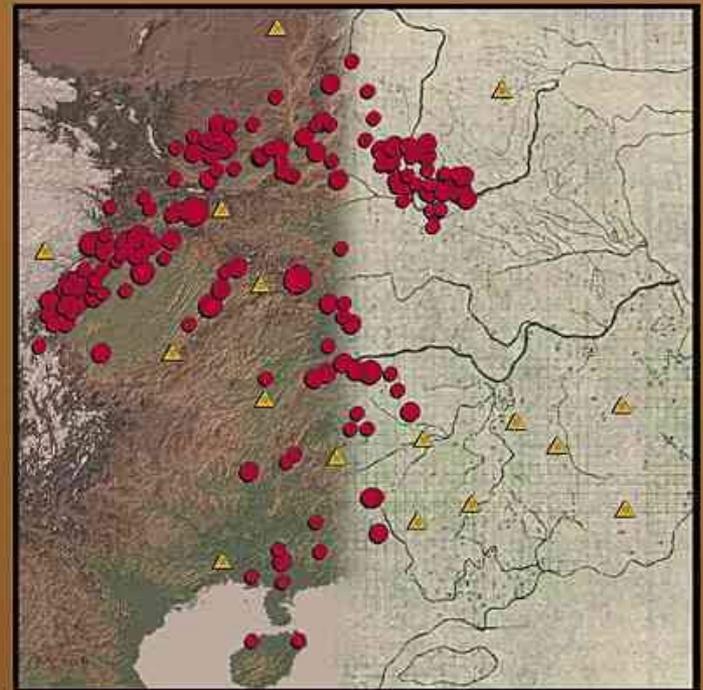
Aztec and Spanish armies at Tenochtitlan in 1519. “What might it mean...to question the habit of thinking of space as a surface? If, instead, we conceive of a meeting up of histories, what happens to our implicit imagination of time and space?”

–Doreen Massey, *For Space*

Weilu Prefecture 威虜軍
("awe the caitiffs")
became Guangxin 廣信
軍 Prefecture ("extensive
trust") in 981 in the
course of diplomatic
efforts between
Northern Song and Liao.

'Dividing the Realm in Order to Govern'

The Spatial Organization
of the Song State (960–1276 CE)



Ruth Mostern

Historical names of Beijing [edit]

The city has held many other names. The chronological list below sets out both the names of the city itself, a

- **Ji and Jicheng**: The first major known settlement was the eponymous capital of the ancient Ji state between neighborhood south of the Beijing West Railway Station. Located 20 miles south of the Liao, Jin, Yuan, Ming
 - Ji: simplified Chinese: 蓟; traditional Chinese: 蓟; pinyin: *Jì*; Wade–Giles: *Chi*
 - Jicheng: Chinese: 蓟城; pinyin: *Jìchéng*; Wade–Giles: *Chi-cheng*; literally: "Ji City"
- **Yan and Yanjing**: Ji was conquered by Yan around the 7th century BC but was employed as its conqueror Rengong (as King of Yan), and the Princes of Yan. The Khitans of the 10th- to 12th-century Liao Dynasty former Yenching University (since merged into Peking University).
 - Yan: Chinese: 燕; pinyin: *Yān*; Wade–Giles: *Yen*
 - Yanjing: Chinese: 燕京; pinyin: *Yānjīng*
- **Guangyang**: After the Qin conquest, Ji was made the capital of the Guangyang Commandery.
 - simplified Chinese: 广阳郡; traditional Chinese: 廣陽郡; pinyin: *Guǎngyángjùn*; Wade–Giles: *Kuang-yang-jün*
- **Fanyang and Yuyang**: During the Han Dynasty, the commandery was renamed Yuyang and the city itself
 - Yuyang: simplified Chinese: 渔阳郡; traditional Chinese: 漁陽郡; pinyin: *Yúyángjùn*; Wade–Giles: *Yü-yang-jün*
 - Fanyang: simplified Chinese: 范阳; traditional Chinese: 范陽; pinyin: *Fànyáng*; Wade–Giles: *Fan-yang*
- **Jixian**: From the 1st century BC until at least the AD 4th-century Western Jin dynasty, Jixian served as
 - simplified Chinese: 蓟县; traditional Chinese: 蓟縣; pinyin: *Jìxiàn*; Wade–Giles: *Chi-hsien*
- **Youzhou**: Under the Tang Dynasty, the city generally employed Youzhou as its name. During the Tianbao
 - Chinese: 幽州; pinyin: *Yōuzhōu*; Wade–Giles: *Yu-chou*
- **Nanjing**: In the 10th and 12th centuries, the northerly Liao Dynasty restored the name Yanjing. They also
 - Chinese: 南京; pinyin: *Nánjīng*; Wade–Giles: *Nan-ching*
- **Zhongdu**: During the 12th-century Later Jin dynasty, it was known as Zhongdu.
 - Chinese: 中都; pinyin: *Zhōngdū*; literally: "Central Capital"
- **Khanbaliq**: The Mongolian Yuan Dynasty originally restored the name Yanjing before constructing a new city gradually absorbed the former settlements around the area.
 - Chinese: 大都; pinyin: *Dādū*; literally: "Great Capital"
- **Beiping**: Under the Ming Dynasty, the city itself was initially known as Beiping. The name reads literally as
 - Chinese: 北平; pinyin: *Běipíng*; Wade–Giles: *Pei-p'ing*; literally: "Northern Peace"
- **Shuntian and Beizhili**: When the usurping Yongle Emperor established his base of Beiping as a second capital, it surrounded it.^[11]
 - Shuntian: simplified Chinese: 顺天; traditional Chinese: 順天; pinyin: *Shùntiān*; Wade–Giles: *Shün-t'ien*
 - Beizhili: simplified Chinese: 北直隶; traditional Chinese: 北直隸; pinyin: *Běizhílì*; Wade–Giles: *Pei-chih-li*
- **Jingshi and Beijing**: When the palace was finally completed in 1420, the Yongle Emperor moved the capital from Nanjing to Beijing. The name "Beijing" was used to denote the city.
 - Jingshi: 京師
 - Beijing, in the Nationalist era
 - "Beijing", in the PRC

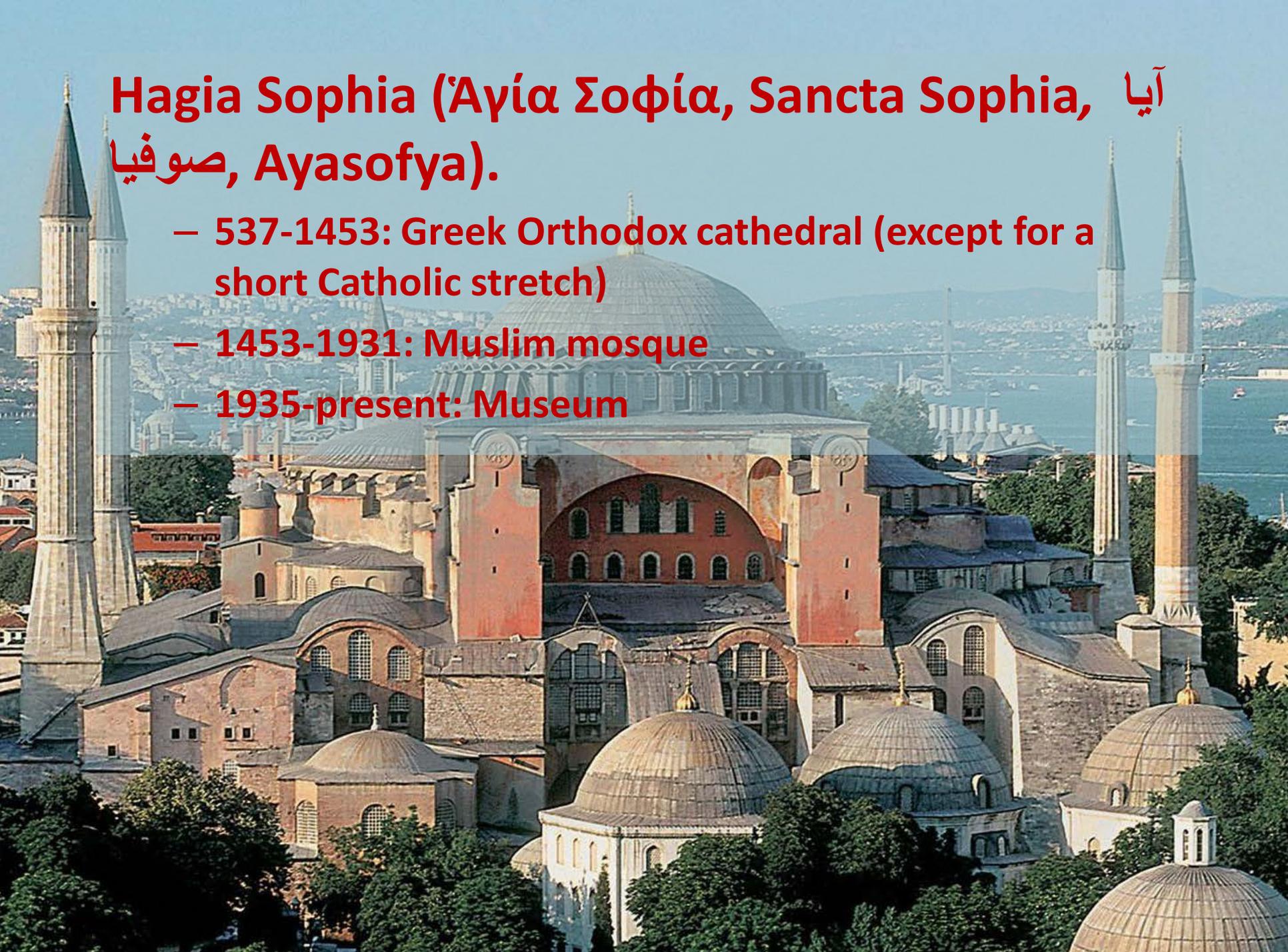


A 1584 map of China by Abraham Ortelius based on a manuscript map by Luiz Jorge de Barbuda with Beijing marked as *C[ivitas] Paquin*

→The long history of political power is made manifest through a sequence of names.

Hagia Sophia (Ἁγία Σοφία, Sancta Sophia, آيا صوفيا, Ayasofya).

- 537-1453: Greek Orthodox cathedral (except for a short Catholic stretch)
- 1453-1931: Muslim mosque
- 1935-present: Museum



“Sometimes different cities follow one another on the same site and under the same name, born and dying without knowing one another... At times, even the names of the inhabitants remain the same, and their voices’ accent, and also the features of the faces; but the gods who live beneath names and above places have gone off without a word, and outsiders have settled in their place.” -- Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities* (30)



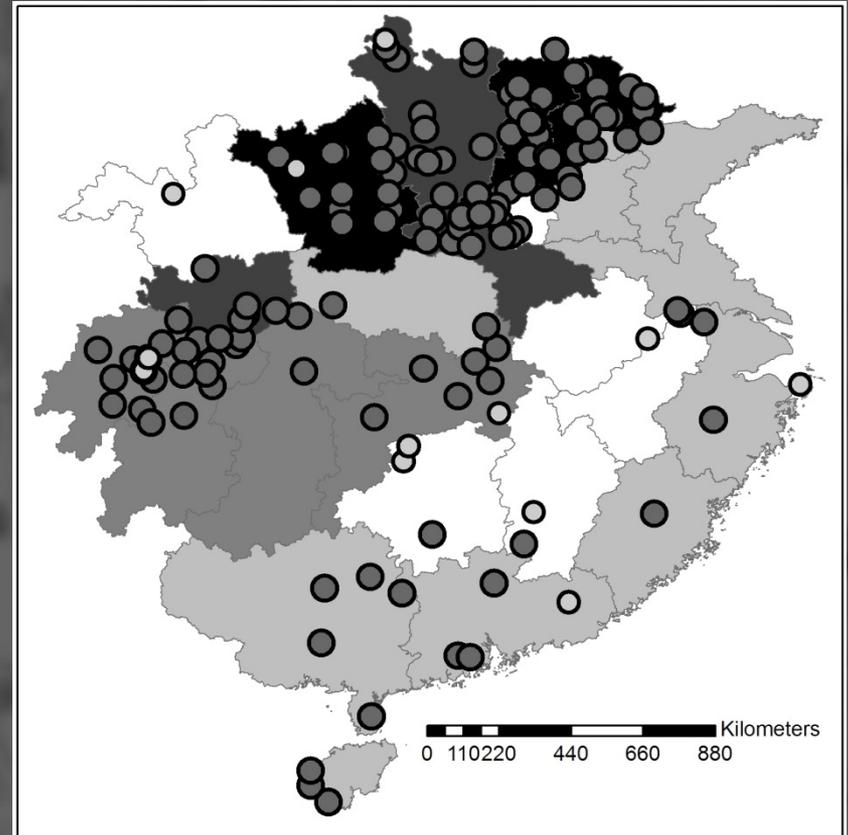
“Dividing the Realm in Order to Govern”

The Spatial Organization of the Song State, 960–176 CE

A gazetteer database reveals:

- A few places changed names.
- The density of the state presence varied by region, era, and policy objective.

Spatial information in *difangzhi* 地方志 was relational and textual.

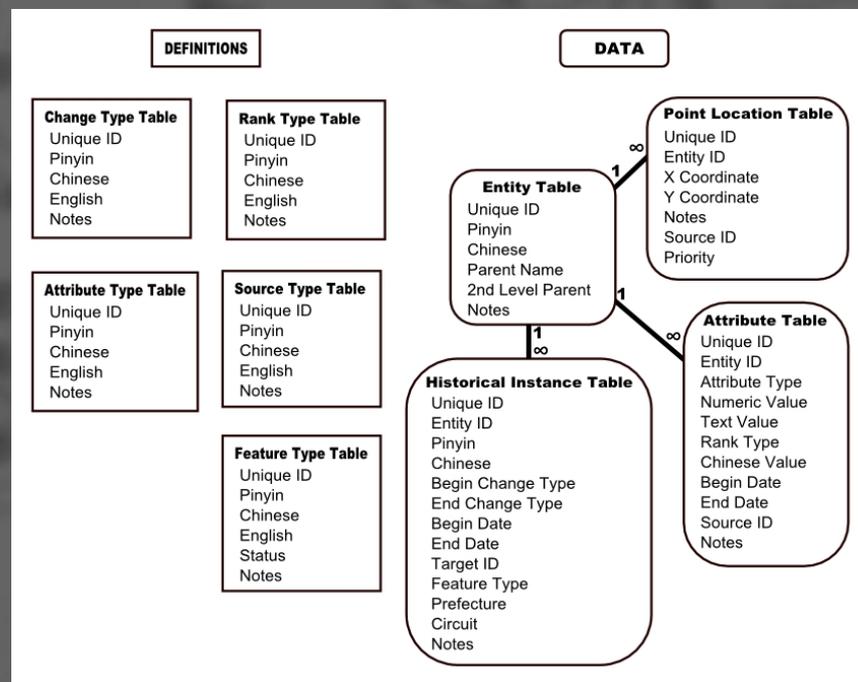


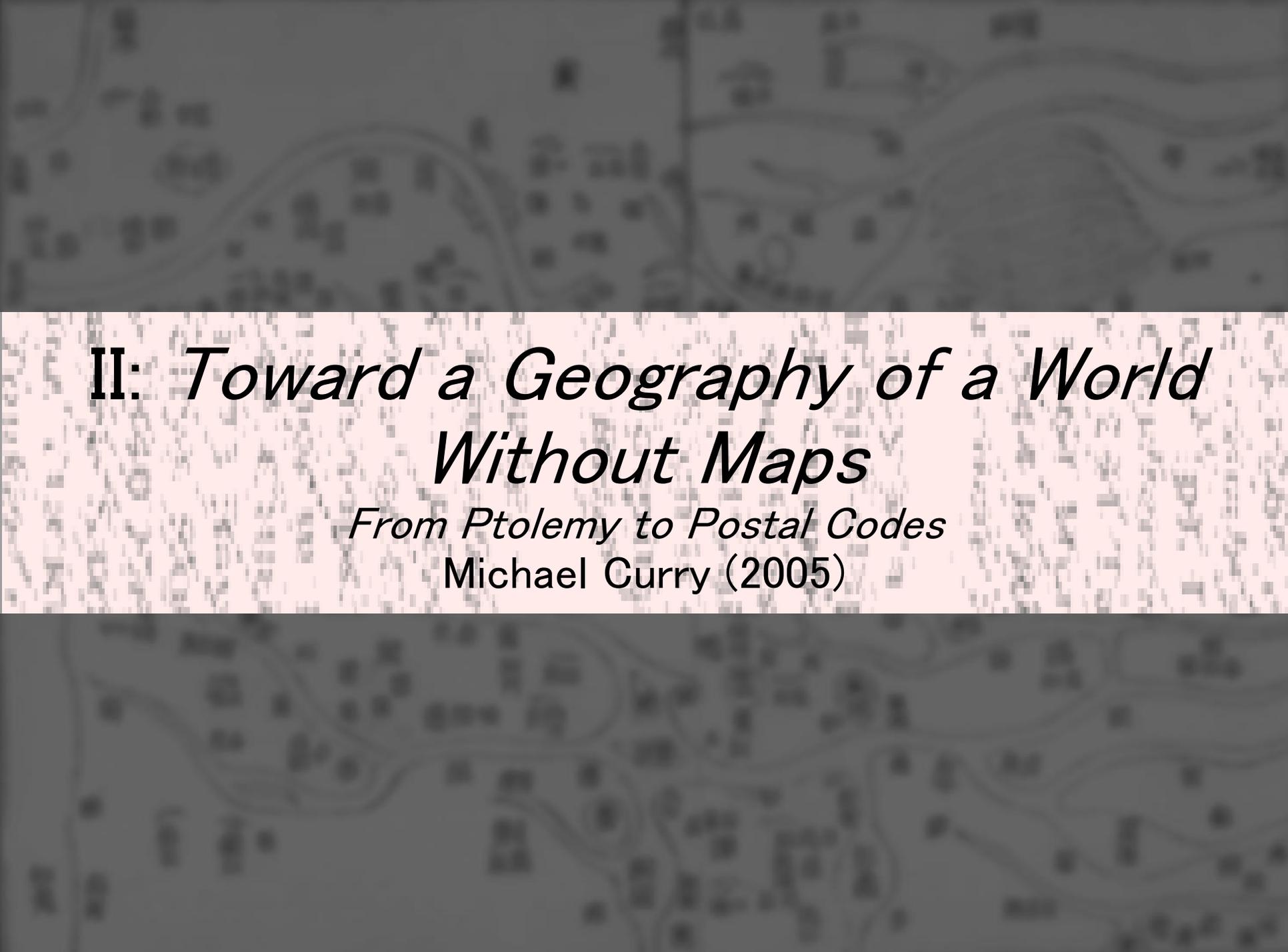
The court abolished dozens of county governments during an eleventh century fiscal reform movement.

An Example of Song Spatial Complexity: Modeling Ningyuan

Ningyuan 寧遠 in Guangnan West circuit had three different names over the course of the Song, three different jurisdiction types, and was transferred multiple times. In 1150 it was known as Jiyang and was a Rank Two *zhou*, while in 1080 it was a Rank Four town known as Linchuan, and in 1050 it was a Rank Three county known as Ningyuan. Hope Wright, whose work is organized by place name, describes some of the history of this place as follows:

CHI-YANG (chün) 吉陽	Kuang-nan W. 18 N., 109 E. (Yai) *-Hsia. Formerly Yai chou, reduced to Chu-yai chün 1073; abol 1136, att as Ning-yüan hs to CH'IUNG, Kuang-nan W. Re-est as Chi-yang chün 1143. 1073-1136: No hsien. 2 chen: Lin-ch'uan, T'eng-ch'iao. From 1143: 2 hsien: Ning-yüan (former Lin-ch'uan chen); Chi-yang (former T'eng-ch'iao chen.) Pop. (1080) 251 [TP 351 (340; 11)] [YF 351 (340; 11) Another ed: 251 (2401 11)] (TP 169; YF 9/465)
Chi-yang (hs) 吉陽	CHI-YANG, Kuang-nan W. *-Hsia. When Yai chou abol 1073, this hs made a chen, name changed to T'eng-ch'iao; tr as chen to CH'IUNG in 1136. Re-est as Chi-yang hs att to chün in 1143.



The background of the slide is a grayscale map of the world, showing continents and country borders. The map is centered and occupies the entire background area.

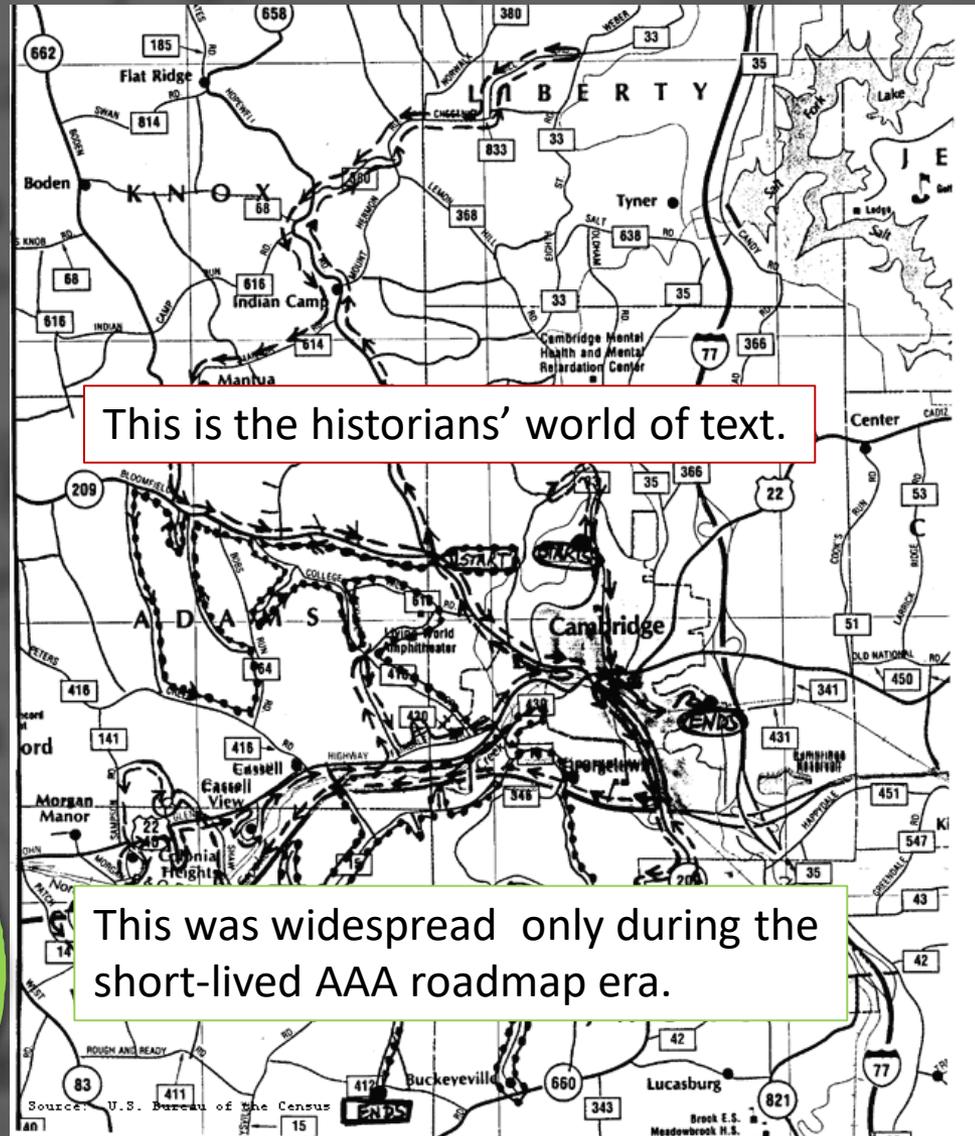
II: *Toward a Geography of a World Without Maps*

From Ptolemy to Postal Codes

Michael Curry (2005)

Three modes of thinking about the world:

- *Choros* (names and regions)
- *Topos* (travels, itineraries, and relationships)
- *Geos* (mathematically oriented maps of continuous space)



A hand reconstruction of postal carrier routes, from a 1993 academic article.

Choros: A Geography of Place

Yi-fu Tuan: Experience constructs place at different scales. The fireplace and the home are both places. Neighborhood, town, and city are places; a distinctive region is a place, and so is a nation....As centers of meaning the number of places in the world is enormous and cannot be contained in the largest gazetteer.

Tim Ingold: The landscape is constituted as an enduring record of – and testimony to – the lives and works of past generations who have dwelt within it, and in so doing, have left there something of themselves.

071

Adopted name } *Humtulips* *Clark*
 River named } *PO.*
 River in *Chehalis* county, west coast of Washington.

Alternative names and authorities
New King Harbor

Humtulups C. S. 1887; L. O. 87 and 91.
 Um-ta-lah Map Dept. of Oregon, 1859.
 Hum-tu-lups U. S. Engineers' Map of Terr. W. of Miss. 1865-1868.
 Hum-tulup Map Dept. of Columbia, 81 and 85.
 Humtulips (town and P. O.) P. G. and P. R. maps.

Local usage } *Humtulips - Clark*
 Submitted by } *Land Office*
 Date } October, 1895.
 This card prepared by
 " " verified by

(over)

Recommendation of Executive Committee
Humtulips *Marcus Baker*
do. *H. G. O.*
do. *C. J.*

APPROVED.
 MAR 3 1896

U. S. BOARD ON GEOG. NAMES.

Each of these texts is a series of attestations about a name or status that a place has held at some point.

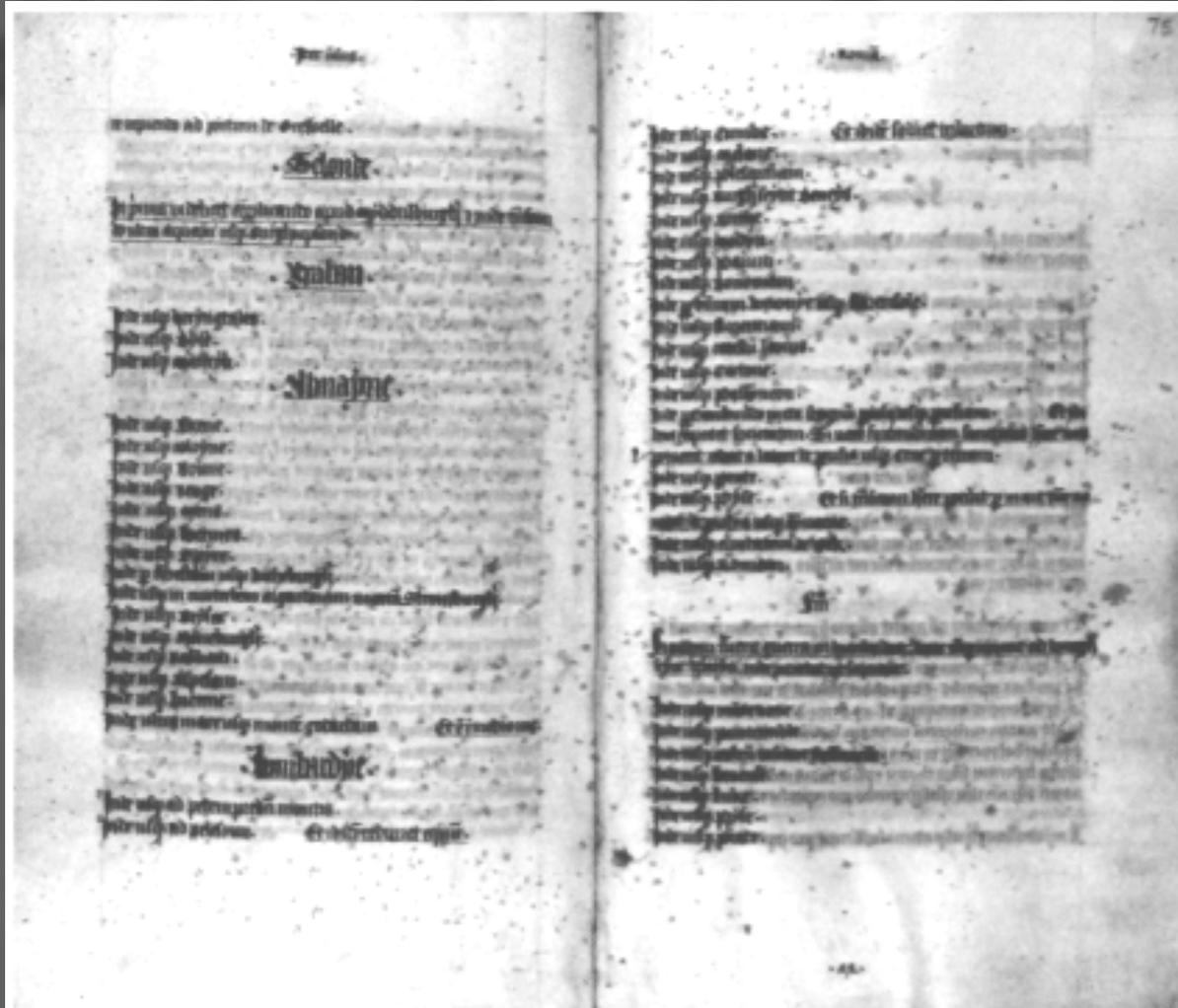
郴 州

郴 縣 桂 陽 宜 章

永 興 資 興 桂 東

漢高祖屬荊州三國吳蜀分荊州以湘水為界長沙江夏
 桂陽以東屬吳晉屬江州又屬湘州隋廢桂陽立郴州因
 漢縣名也唐改桂陽郡復為郴州 國朝因之 中興領
 縣四 寧宗朝以溪峒擾攘創資興桂東兩縣今領縣六
 縣 治 郴

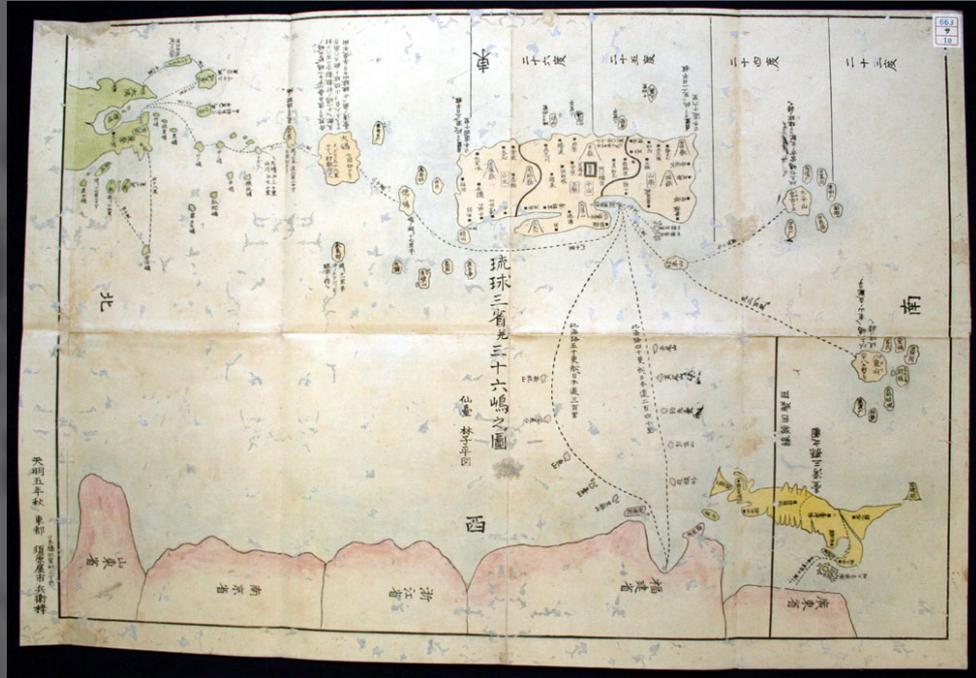
Topos: A Geography of Itinerary



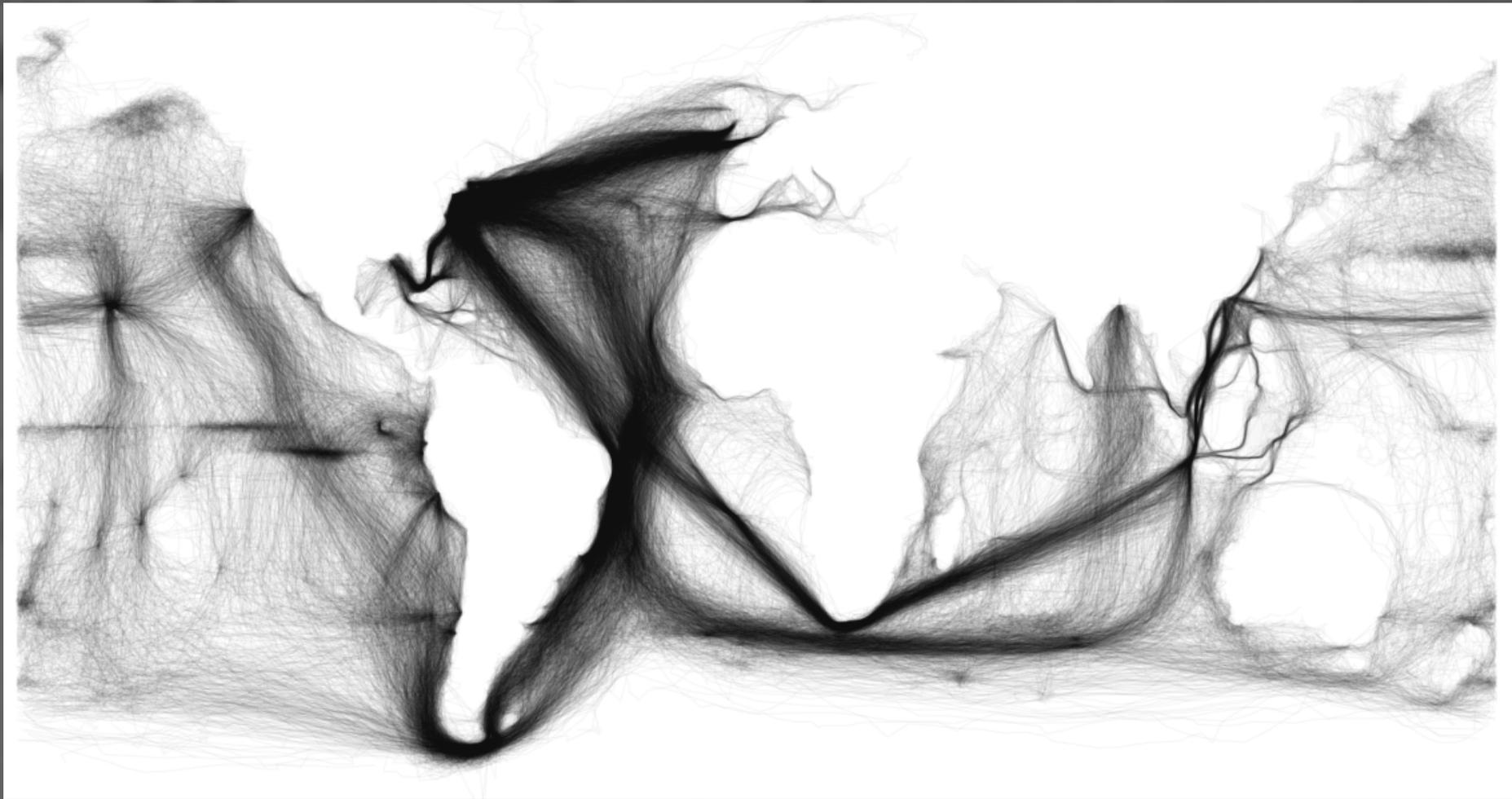
Catherine Delano-Smith:
Early modern European
wayfinding generally
used texts, not maps.

A traveler's itinerary from
England to Rome around 1400,
set out according to political
divisions. One note marks the
halfway point of the journey,
another indicates the spot where
horses must be paid for. The last
heading describes an alternative
route to be used if there is war in
Lombardy.

日本一鑑海圖經卷之一
 歲乙卯功方
 奉
 使日本取道嶺南惟時治事傾風故召司方之人以供其事司
 方者司趨向方之人也爰究指南之書而詢臨海之要廣求
 博采者久之有以所錄之書應者謂之曰鍼譜按考日本
 路經言之未詳後得二書一曰渡海方程一曰海道經書此
 兩者同出而異名也歷按是書多載西南夷國方程而日本
 程途雖有其名亦鮮有詳者一曰四海指南內載三
 日本一鑑海圖經卷之一
 王進之使日本取道大倉田止山放洋而往取野願寄音次
 抱里寄音沿入其都夫彼路經如斯而已近考前代日本之
 役魏晉隋唐各亦遣使皆緣朝鮮往焉今
 國初僧宗泐為詩贈使者行云滄茫熊野山一發青雲際按考
 熊野在彼南海紀伊間秦道方士徐福祠堂在焉據夫詩言
 莫非取道其右與又學士宋濂之跋云自荊州揚帆五日至
 其國又踰月入其都言雖如此亦未見其詳也旬
 嘉靖初給事中陳侃出使琉球取道福建以往其從者有識
 日本路程者故聞海人因知取道於小大琉球沿諸海山一路



《渡海方程》，《海道經書》，《海道針經》 and other rutters were navigation itineraries. Navigation maps were made from texts, not made from scratch.



Ben Schmidt: tracks from nineteenth century ships logs, all voyages from the ICOADS US Maury collection

III: *Placing Names*

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PLACING NAMES

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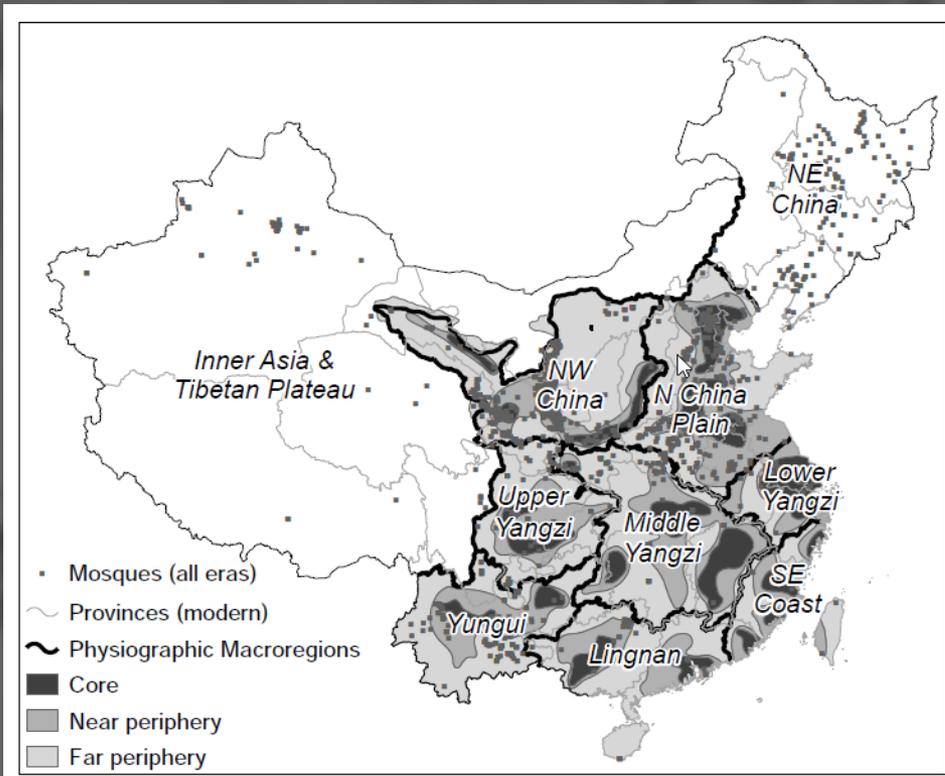
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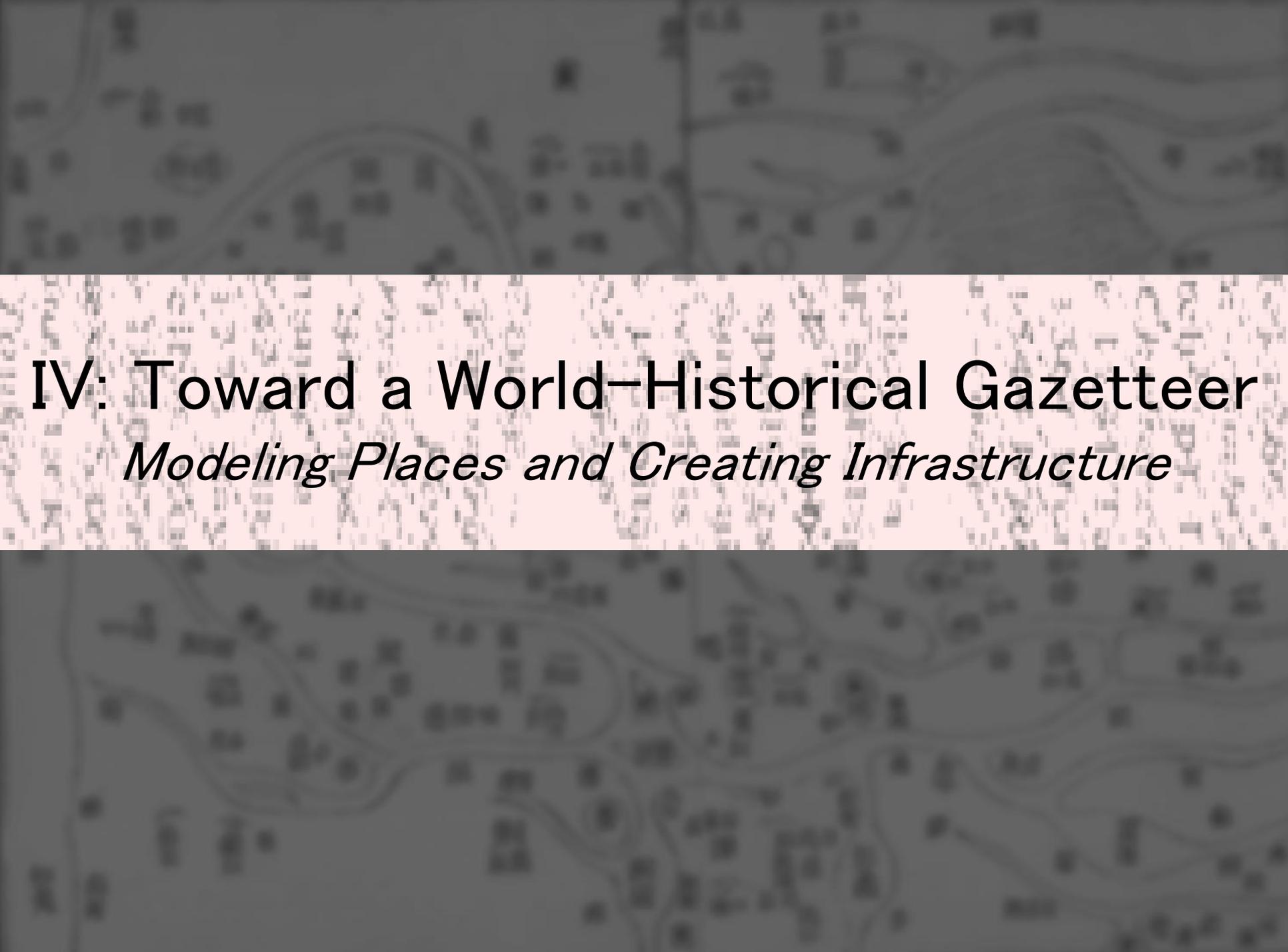
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Pi-ling Pai and I-Chun Fan



Core-periphery modeling in China and Japan using gazetteer data
(Henderson and Ryavec, Mizoguchi)

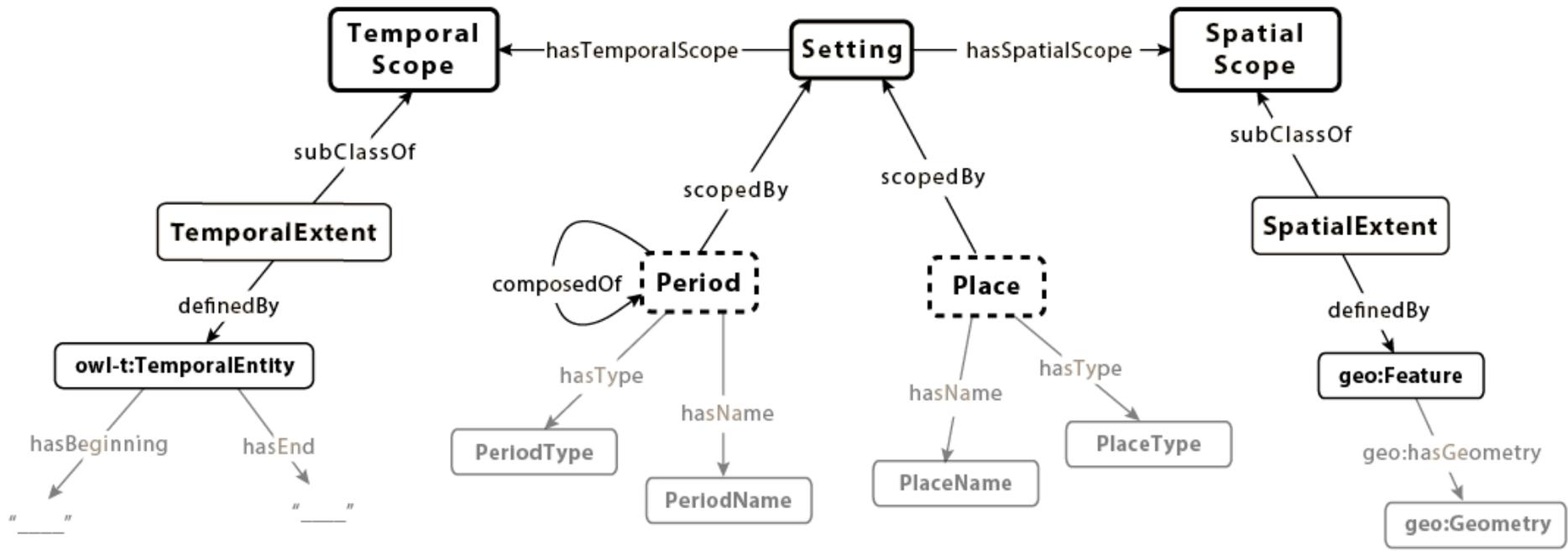


IV: Toward a World-Historical Gazetteer

Modeling Places and Creating Infrastructure

Modeling and Linking Places

Karl Grossner et al. in *Placing Names*



```

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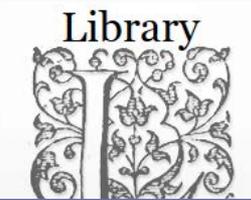
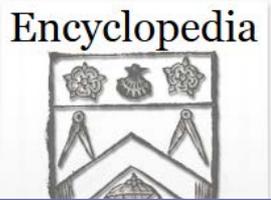
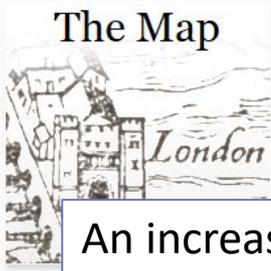
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	set:hasSpatialScope	set:SpatialScope .
set:Period	set:scopedBy	set:Setting .
set:Place	set:scopedBy	set:Setting .
set:TemporalExtent	rdfs:subClassOf	set:SpatialScope ;
	set:definedBy	owl-t:TemporalEntity .
set:SpatialExtent	rdfs:subClassOf	set:SpatialScope ;
	set:definedBy	geo:Feature .
set:hasTemporalScope	a	owl:FunctionalProperty .
set:hasSpatialScope	a	owl:FunctionalProperty .

EARLY * MODERN MAP of LONDON

Map Encyclopedia Library Stow About News

Go!



An increasing number of digital humanities projects focusing on historical texts, maps, and data are backed by gazetteers, but most are local or regional in scope, and/or focused on a very particular topic.

China Biographical

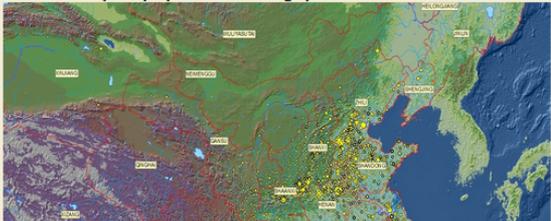
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Home

Welcome

Introduction

The China Biographical Database is a freely accessible relational database with biographical information about approximately **360,000 individuals as of April 2015**, primarily from the 7th through 19th centuries. With both online and offline versions, the data is meant to be useful for statistical, social network, and spatial analysis as well as serving as a kind of biographical reference. The image below shows the **spatial distribution** of a cross dynastic subset of 67,000 people in CBDB by basic affiliations (籍貫). (click to enlarge)



Updates

Tang Research Foundation

We are pleased to announce beginning in January 2015 the Research Foundation is supporting a comprehensive prosopographical investigation period based on excavated epigraphs (墓誌), official documents, and other writings.

New Release

UPDATED CBDB database 2015. For download and about this release follow

<http://sites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k162298&tabgroupid=icb.tabgroup144476>

MAPS ONLINE

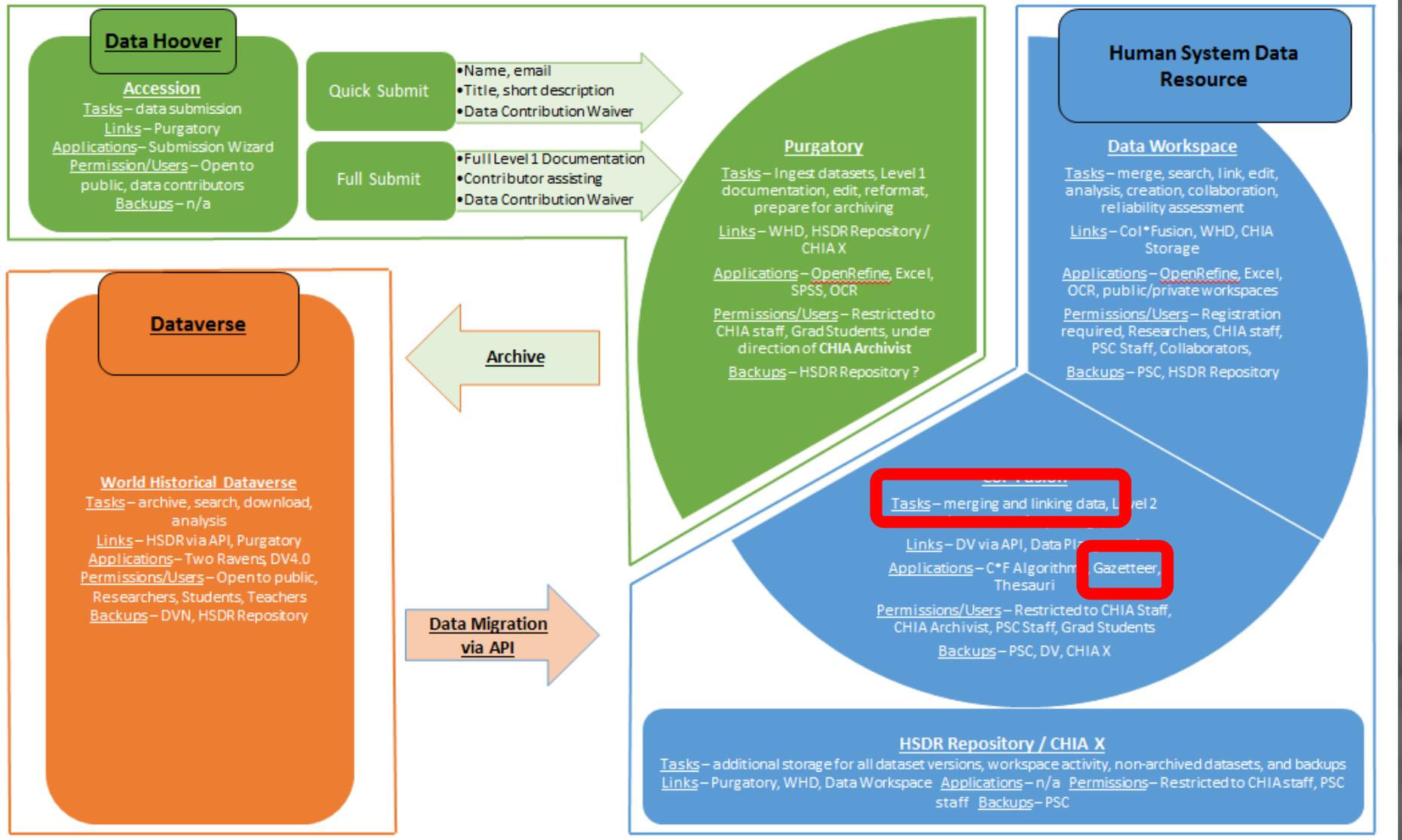


Discovering the Cartography of the Past

Welcome to Old Maps Online, the easy-to-use gateway to historical maps in libraries around the world.

[Find a place](#) [Browse the old maps](#)

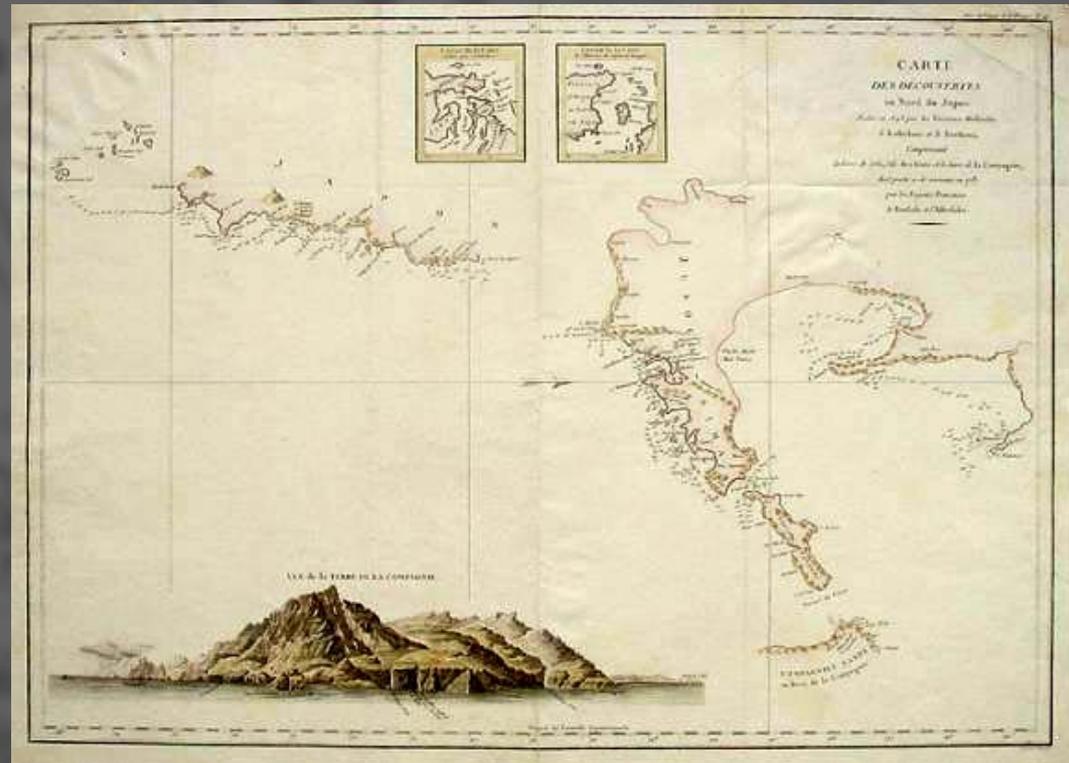
Share on    



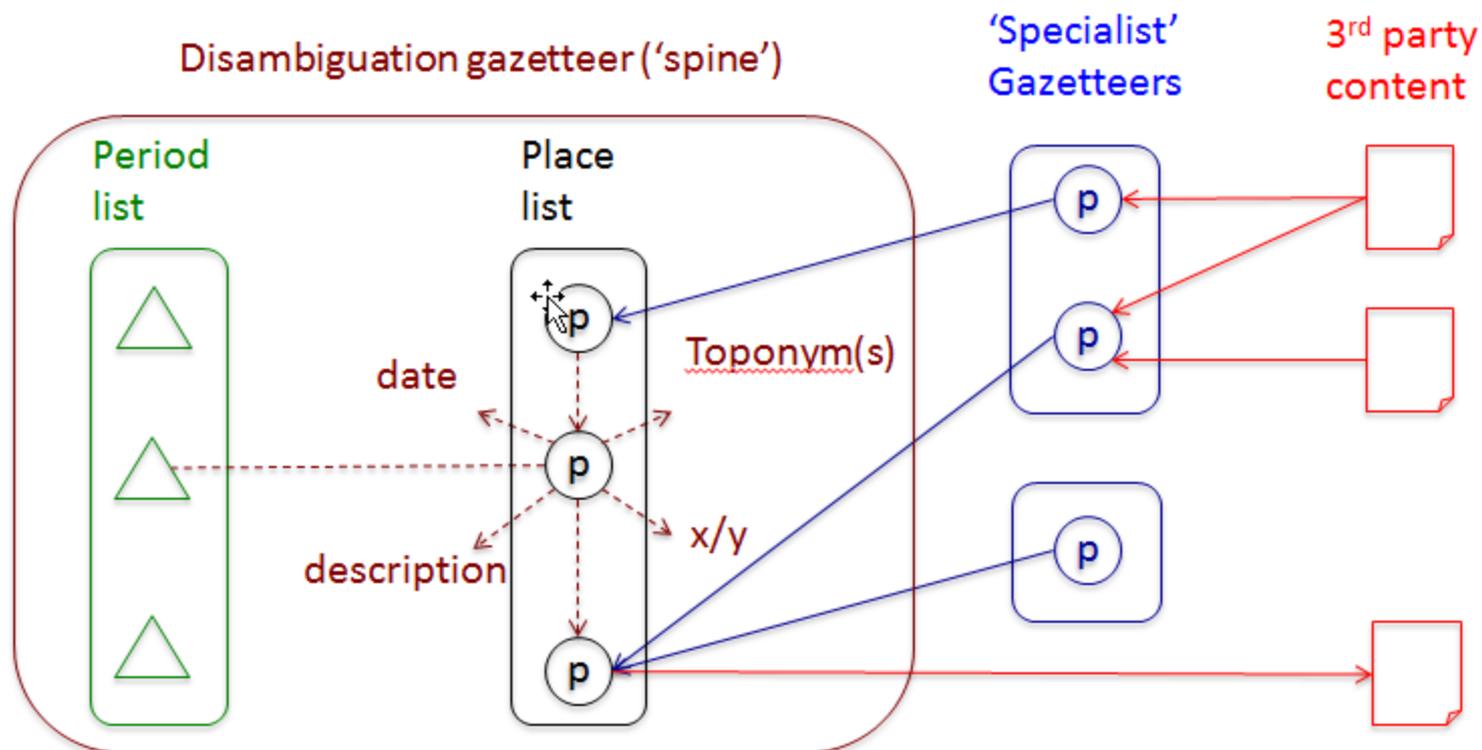
Dataset repositories like the Collaborative for Historical Information and Analysis at the Pitt World History Center need gazetteers as thesauri and to support visualization.

Place modeling supports analysis and interoperable infrastructure and is also an exercise for thinking about discourse and semantics.

But specialist gazetteers need to be linked together.



La Perouse, *Cartes de decouvertes au Nord du Japon*, 1797. Studying this expedition inspired Bruno Latour's work about the power of centralizing and standardizing geographical knowledge.



1. A list of URIs form the basic entity set for places and **periods** ([Wikidata](#); [Geonames](#); [Library of Congress](#); [PeriodO](#); [ChronOntology](#);...)
2. A Disambiguation Gazetteer, provides basic visualization and alignment infrastructure ([Pelagios Interchange](#); [CIDOC CRM](#);...)
3. **Specialist Gazetteers** increase scientific content and granularity ([Pleiades](#); [PastPlace](#); [DARE](#); [SKOS](#);...)
4. **3rd Party content** is annotates references to specialist or spinal gazetteer ([Pelagios Open Annotation](#); [Recogito](#); [European Library](#);...)

“

*Linking together the places of our past
through the documents that refer to them*

”


Linking together the places of our past
through the documents that refer to them

[ABOUT](#) [BLOG](#) [MAP](#) [FIND A PLACE](#) [IN USE](#) [API](#) [CONTRIBUTE](#) [PARTNERS](#) [RECOGITO](#)

TUESDAY, 7 JULY 2015

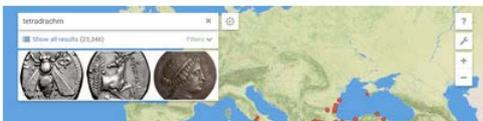
Peripleo: a Sneak Preview

There's been quite a loooong silence on this blog about our tool development activities. Not that we've been idle. Far from it: we've been as busy as ever in our top-secret underground hideaway. Those of you following us on [twitter](#) may have noticed the occasional screenshot or info-bite leaking out. But today we're finally ready to give you a first comprehensive sneak preview of what we've been up to: the development of a spatio-temporal search engine for Pelagios. Everyone, meet **Peripleo**.

Peripleo is Greek for "to sail (or swim) around", and the notion of being able to freely navigate the "sea of open data", collectively brought together by our partners (and discovering the treasures hidden in remote places and ancient times!) is exactly what we had in mind when we started out.

Example 1: Tetradrachm

To see how Peripleo works, let's take a swim through two examples. First, let's search for 'tetradrachm', a particular coin type. This brings us to the following result, shown in Fig. 1: a total of 23,346 hits, and a map with a distribution of lots of small dots (and one slightly larger than the rest), indicating where those results are located. We also get some preview images for our results.



SEARCH THE PELAGIOS BLOG

RECENT POSTS

Linked Pasts
As Pelagios 3 and 4 are getting close to wrap up, we hosted an event at KCL in London called Linked Pasts. We've been meaning to write a post about...

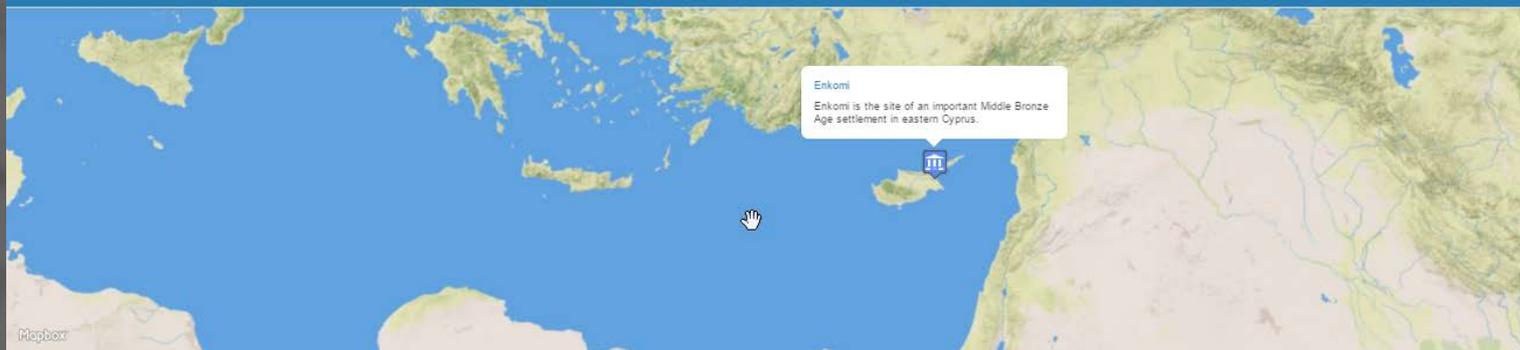
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Return to Gaul
This post has been written by first-year students of [Archaeology](#) at [Maastricht University](#).
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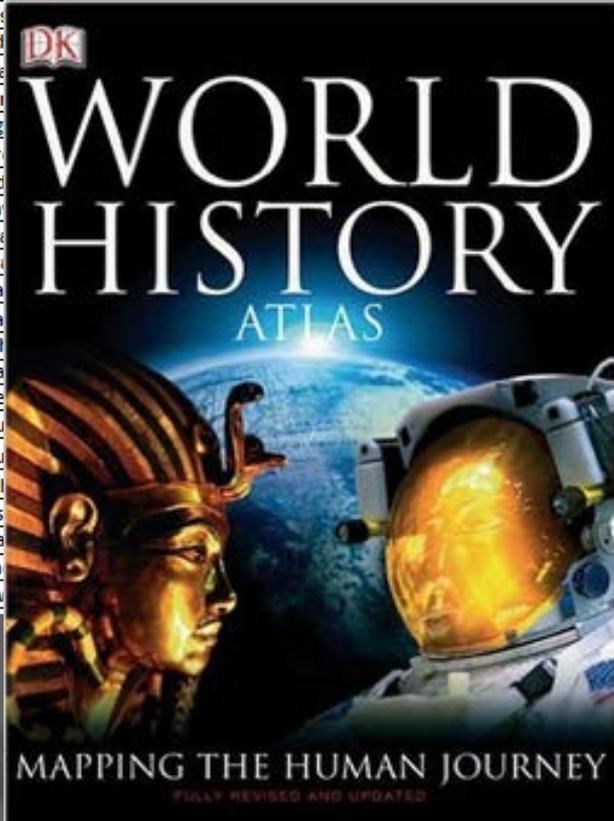
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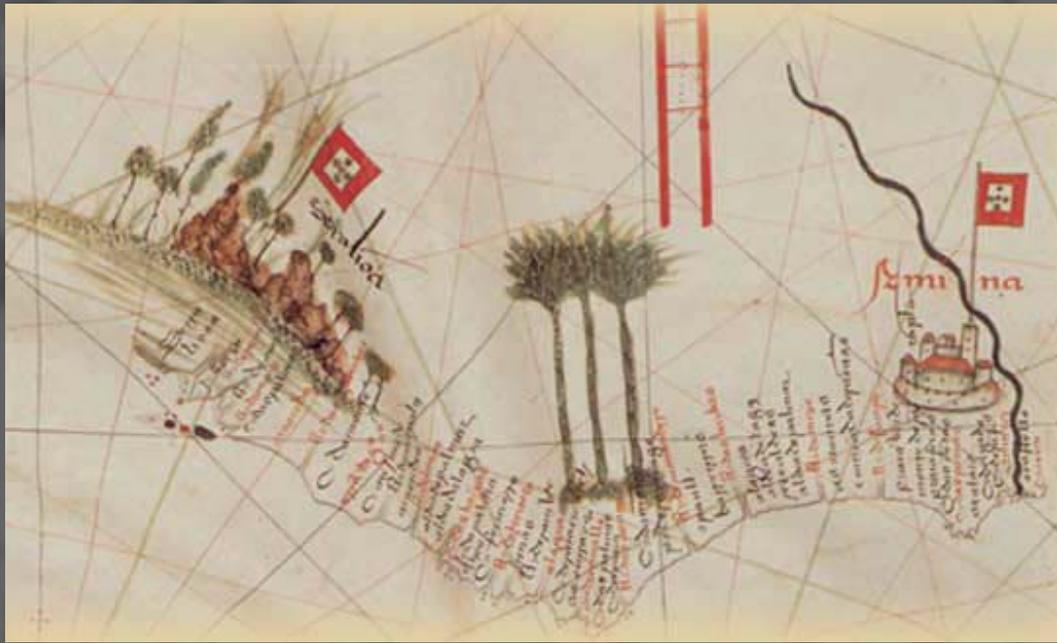
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Appendix 2: Sample Gazetteer Entries

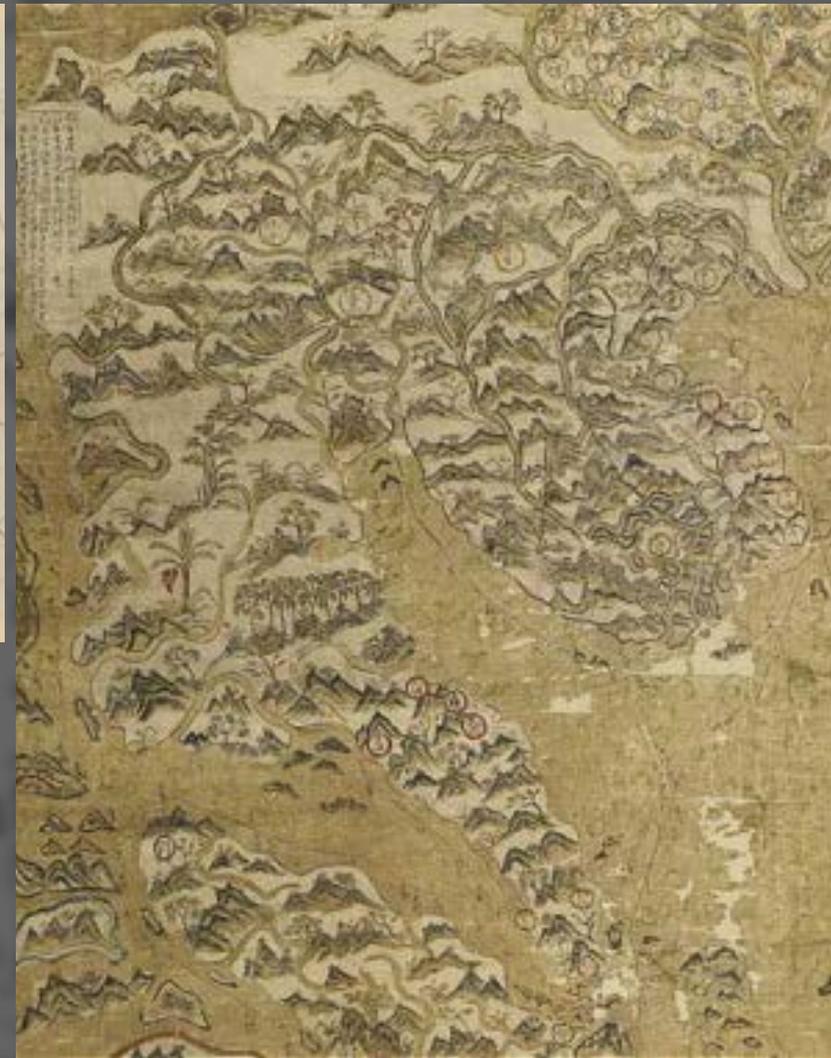
NAME*	TYPE*	CONTAINED BY*	NAMED PERIOD*	ATLAS MAP ATTESTATIONS BY TIME PERIOD											VARIANT NAME	SOURCE	
				*time period covered by map attestation													
				Pre-1400	1400-1500	1500-1600	1600-1700	1700-1800	1800-1850	1850-1900	1900-1925	1925-1950	1950-1975	1975-2016			*alternative name listed in the source material
Aarhus	populated place	Scandinavia	medieval states	X												Arhus	Black Atlas
Aari	language	Africa															Glottolog
Abai Tubu-Abai Sembauk	language	Eurasia															Glottolog
Abancay	populated place	South America	Incas		X												Black Atlas
Abanyom	language	Africa															Glottolog
Abaza	language	Eurasia															Glottolog
Abbeville	populated place	Europe	medieval states	X													Black Atlas
Abé	language	Africa															Glottolog
Aberdare	mountain range	Africa															Wikidata
Aberdeen	populated place	British Isles	medieval states	X													Black Atlas
Abeche					X											mod. Abeche	Black Atlas
Abidjan															X		Black Atlas
Absecon																	Wikidata
Adara				X													Black Atlas
Adiguna											X					Ger. Etsch	Black Atlas
Adirondack																	Wikidata
Afud										X							mod. Nimule
Aizawa												X	X	X			Black Atlas
Akba			early modern			X	X	X									Black Atlas
Akita				X						X	X	X					Black Atlas
Albany																	Wikidata
Alda																	Wikidata
Allal			Mughal Empire			X	X	X									Black Atlas
Ama				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Wikidata
Ame							X	X	X	X							Black Atlas
Amu				X													Wikidata
Amu				X													Wikidata
Andl			modern									X	X	X			Black Atlas
Aras				X												Araks	Wikidata
Arka				X	X	X	X	X	X	X							Wikidata
Arm																	Wikidata
Aruv																	Wikidata





Guinea coast of Africa from Sierra Leone to Elmina (Ghana).
Cantino Map of 1502, Biblioteca estense, Modena

Collaborators with specialist gazetteers can link them to the “spine.”



Detail of Southeast Asia from the Selden
Map of c. 1619, Bodleian Library



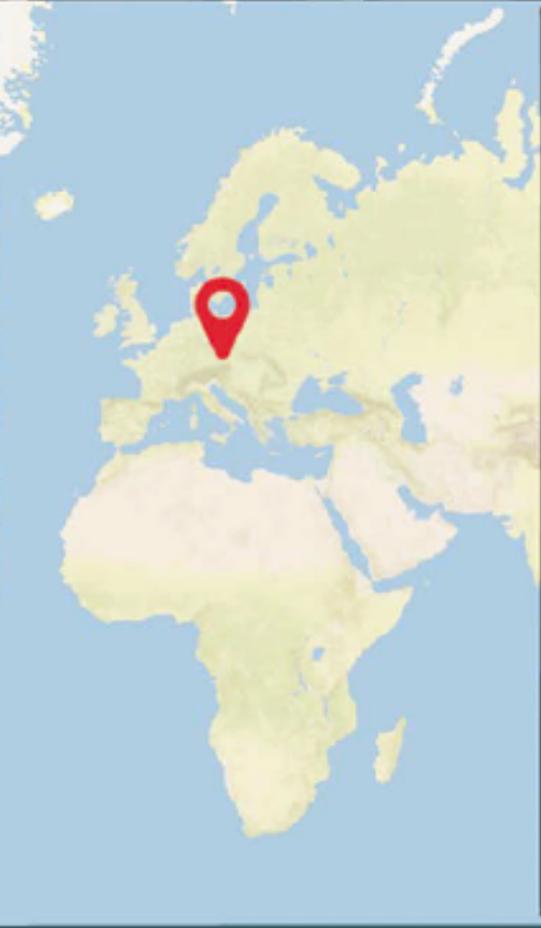
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 covie, Cracow, Cracônia, Cracônia, Gorad
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[A Pope's Itinerary, 1342](#)
[Mongol invasion, 1241](#)





Gazetteer development is a crucial endeavor because linked gazetteers are critical infrastructure for interoperability in the digital realm, and because place names are the residue of the “meeting up of histories in space.”