

Early European World Map: On the Sea Naming of the Far East

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Abstract

It is a process that the world areas are understood, on the whole, from ancient to present, from near to far. As to the European, it is very late to know the Far East area. Since the coming of great navigation, they gradually arrived and knew the Far East and its sea area by two maritime lines, east and west. The maps drawn by them reflected the process they understood the Far East in an aspect. According to these maps, the paper tries to introduce the sea naming of the Far East they distributed.

This paper is divided into four parts: 1, China and the sea area of the Far East the European known from Ptolemaeus' time to 15th century; 2, Sea names seen on the maps by the European from the end of 15th century to the end of 16th century; 3, Korea on the early maps by the European; 4, Sea names seen on the maps in 17th century and the beginning of 18th century.

Essentially this paper is a materials compilation. The author notices that the words on the sea area of the Far East used by the European usually are “Oceanus Orientalis ” (东洋) , “Mar Chin” or “Oceanus Sinensis” (中国海或中国洋) , for them he also gives some explanations and expresses some ideas. And he think the term “Enseada de Nanquin” (南京湾) is so interesting that should be put forward here and be discussed.