

Study on Map Series Depicted along the Great Wall in Shanxi in the National Palace Museum Collection

Lu Sheue-yann

Associate Curator, Department of Rare Books and Documents
National Palace Museum

Abstract

The National Palace Museum owns various series of maps depicted along the Great Wall in Shanxi of the Ming dynasty. They are 22 volumes grouped as the *Map of the region depicted along the Great Wall in Shanxi* and the *Map of the Shanxi Sanguan region depicted along the Great Wall*, drawn in colour on yarn and mounted as album leaf format. The size of each leaf is 45 cm height and 73 cm width. Because of the long transfer history and the Migration of Museum during the wartime, many leaves were in wrong order, and the inventory was occurred few errors. After comparing the contents of these maps, it seems that these series of maps could be identified as two groups: one is drawn during 1637-1647; the other is drawn before 1659 and inherited many features from the late-Ming dynasty maps. Since there are few reliable historical documents available, the study is based on the content, walls, fortifications, style of painting, finally concluded with the evolution of border defence maps following the Ming dynasty. The spatial distribution of the settlement and changes in Shanxi region is one of many issues for further studies.

Keywords: Shanxi Military Region, antique maps, border defense maps