

A new drawing of Ancient Chinese Map 4200 years ago
--- Based on the findings from the study of ancient Chinese Book 《Shan Hai Jing》 (《Record of the mountains and waters》)

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Abstract:

4200 years ago in “Yu” Dynasty, there has been carried through a large-scale anthropogeography exploration campaign, the major finding of this exploration was record in the book call << Shan Hai Jing>>. The edition we can get today is the revision by the scholar Mr. Liu Xiu came down from 1 century B. C.

After over 20 years researching of << Shan Hai Jing>>, Chinese Scholar Mr. Wang Hong Qi pointed out, the content of <<Shan Hai Jing>> was composed of three books in the four different periods. They are << Wu Zang Shan Jing >> in “Yu ”Dynasty (About 4200 years ago), << Hai Wai Si Jing>> in “Xia” Dynasty (About 4200 ~ 3500 years ago), << Hai Nei Wu Jing>> in “Shang” Dynasty (About 3500~3000 years ago) and “Zhou” Dynasty (About 3000~2200 years ago).

In the book <<Wu Zang Shan Jing>>, there were record total 447 mountains in 26 mountain ranges; 258 water systems; all kinds of physiognomy in 348 places; diverse of minerals in 673 different locations, various plants in 525 different locations; all kinds of animals in 473 different places and also the human activity in 95 different places. All these record were based on the results coming from the exploration campaign carried in the “Yu” Dynasty.

In Sept, 9th, 1999, based on the content of << Wu Zang Shan Jing>> and the textual research fruits of geographic locations which has been studied by Mr. Wang Hong Qi, the Chinese famous painter Mrs. Sun Xiao Qin finished a extra-large size Painting named “ Di Yu Shan He Tu”. This painting is 539 cm high, 779 cm wide.

The << Wu Zang Shan Jing >> and “ Di Yu Shan He Tu” are the Chinese great contribution to the world culture especially to the Geography and cartology. They would also help our present human being to understand and to learn and understand the precious environment 4200 years ago.

Paper body:

It’s an ancient tradition for Chinese people to explore, record and mapping the surrounding living environment. In the most ancient memory for Chinese people, measure and mapping the land was the male primogenitor 伏羲, female primogenitor 女娲 ‘s major job, today we can still find 女娲 and 伏羲 hand with measurement tools and instruments in a lot of their figure paintings. In Chinese XianQin period (About 5000 ~ 10000 B.C, Yan and Huang Dynasty), the full time measuring officers had already been in existence, explore and mapping the tribe distribution was

also one of their target groups. (Pls. Ref. Note. 1)

The most famous and ancient geographic exploration and earth resource investigation campaign happened in Yu dynasty about 4200 years ago, and all the findings was record into the ancient books << Shan Hai Jing >> , <<Yu Gong>> and <<Lv Shi Chun Qiu>> . The <<Lv Shi Chun Qiu>> was finished in 247 B.C when the first Emperor Qin Shi Huang was 13 years old. <<Yu Gong >> was finished during the 春秋战国 period, about 3 – 8 Century B.C. Over the long period of time, there's a lot controversy within the academe regarding who is the author and when was the finished time of <<Shan Hai Jing>>. The present popular edition of <<Shan Hai Jing >> was edited by Liu Xiu and other scholars in Han Dynasty.

Chinese Scolar Mr. Wang Hong Qi has been heavily involved in the researching work on the << Shan Hai Jing >> and other ancient Chinese works. From the beginning of 70th, 20 Century, he published a series of books including << 神秘的八卦文化与游戏>> , <<神妙的生肖文化与游戏>>, <<神秘的星宿文化与游戏>>, <<符号之迷>>, <<生活中的神妙数字>>, <<谈兵说阵>>, <<探寻圣人的足迹>>, <<老子隐迹>>(Historical Novel), <<追寻远古的信息>>, <<山海经点注>>, <<新绘神异全图山海经>>(Co-authors with Mrs. Sun Xiao Qin) and etc.

In 1997, based on the long term research on << Shan Hai Jing>>, Mr. Wang Hong Qi finished the book << The reappearance of Shan Hai Jing Geographic locations>> and in this book he pointed out, what's nowadays existing edition of <<Shan Hai Jing>> was in fact composed by the book<<Wu Zang Shan Jing>>(finished in Yu Dynasty, 4200 years ago); <<Hai Wai Si Jing>>(finished in Xia Dynasty, 3600 years ago); <<Da Huang Si Jing>> (finished in Shang Dynasty, about 3600 ~3000 years ago) and <<Hai Nei Wu Jing>>(finished in Zhou Dynasty , about 3000 ~ 2200 years ago). The editors are the officers and scholars in the national library of Zhou Dynasty. In 516 B.C, the king Zhou Jing Wang's brother Wang Zi Chao failed to inherit the Regality; then he got away from Zhou , took the documents and books in the national library of Zhou to the Chu Country, and finally settled down in today's Nan Yang district in Henan province. He hided the majority of important books and documents and just submitted a few books to the King of Chu, in those submitted books there's << Shan Hai Jing>>. (Please reference Note.2)

The content of <<Wu Zang Shan Jing>> can be described as an national resource white book; in this book the Chinese territory and nearby areas (South to Guangdong, Fujian Coast; North to the Mongolia grassland; West to Tianshan mountain ranges; East to Japanese islands) had been classified into 5 areas --- Nan Shan Jing- Record of Southern mountains; Xi Shan Jing- Record of Western mountains; Bei Shan Jing- Record of Northern mountains; Dong Shan Jing- Record of Eastern mountains; Zhong Shan Jing- Record of Central section mountains). In Na Shan Jing, there's include 5 mountain ranges and so 4 mountain ranges in Xi Shan Jing, 3 mountain ranges in Bei Shan Jing, 4 Mountain ranges in Dong Shan Jing, 12 mountain ranges in Zhong Shan Jing. In every mountain range there records several mountains, and every mountain has the record of its own location, the distance between neighbor mountains, the waters come from it and the mineral, plants, animal and nearby human tribe activity. According to Mr. Wang Hong Qi's statistics, in <<Shan Hai Jing>> there were record total 447 mountains in 26 mountain ranges; 258 water systems; all kinds of physiognomy in 348 places; diverse of minerals in 673 different locations,

various plants in 525 different locations; all kinds of animals in 473 different places and also the human activity in 95 different places. (Pls. ref. Note 3.)

The natural geographic information narrated in <<Wu Zang Shan Jing>> complied with the real natural Environment and geography in China 4200 years before, the reasons are as follows.

1. There's no any record in the book referring to the eastern plain in China, this is because 4200 years before, eastern plain was still a swamp area and not suitable for mankind's living, so it would be very difficult to execute geographic investigation there at that time.
2. A lot of lakes in North China narrated in the book have already disappeared today, for example, the "Qian Tao Lake" and the "Hou Tao Lake" in middle section of Yellow river.
3. In the book, it had been clearly record that today's JiaoLai Plain area (in Shangdong province) was isolated by the sea at that time. And if we trace back to history, we can find some parts of the JiaoLai plain indeed was ever buried under the sea about 4000 years ago.(Pls. ref. Note. 4)
4. All those plants, mineral, animals bear medicine function mentioned in the book, if they were used for making herbal medicine, they were used separately but not mixed together, from this side it can proves the book's finished age would be very old; Besides, although in the <<Wu Zang Shan Jing>> record some places yield iron ore, but at that time the iron ore was only used for making red color paint, not used for producing metal hardware, so it can not testified the finished time of the book by simply using appearance time of metal hardware.

It's a very difficult task to testify the geographic locations narrated in <<Shan Hai Jing>> due to a lot of text errors and the disorder of the content during the hand over of <<Shan Hai Jing>>. During a long period of time, the scholars who study the <<Shan Hai Jing>> can only tell from no more than 1/3 of mountains until the breakthrough made by Mr. Wang Hong Qi, he is the first people who finished the general textual research work of the general locations for 447 mountains in 26 mountain ranges in <<Wu Zang Shan Jing>>. The geographic locations narrated in <<Nan Shan Jing >> includes ---(Below omit the place name, pls. ref., Chinese edition papers for details.)

In Sept, 9th, 1999, based on the content of <<Wu Zang Shan Jing>> and the textual research fruits of geographic locations which has been achieved by Mr. Wang Hong Qi, the Chinese painter Mrs. Sun Xiao Qin finished a extra-large size Painting named "Di Yu Shan He Tu". This painting is 539 cm high, 779 cm wide. In the painting you can find all mountains, water systems, minerals, plants, animals and human activity sites vividly shown on the canvas. From the text narration to the real visual painting was an extremely tough work. Thanks to Mrs. Sun Xiao Qin's excellent work and her particular drawing technique by applying visual angels and scale transform in the same painting, makes all the contents been smartly laid out on this limited size painting. This painting is a unique art works in both the Chinese and the world history, and it has a very high value in the Science and art fields.

The << Wu Zang Shan Jing >> and “ Di Yu Shan He Tu” are the Chinese people’s great contribution to the world culture especially to the Geography and cartology, because they were not only record and revealed the natural geographic environment (includes the distribution of mountains, lakes, plants, animals and etc.) for over 3000,000km² areas in China, but also record and uncovered the culture, the civilization and the living condition for the human being 4200 years before.

Note 1. <<The dictionary of Chinese Legend and Myth>>. Compiled by Mr. Yuan Ke, Published by Shanghai dictionary publishing house, 1985, the first edition.

Note 2. <<The new research development on Shan Hai Jing and the come out of the reappearance maps of the Shan Hai Jing geographic locations>>; Reported by Mr. Cheng Zhi Qiang, Geographic Transaction, 3rd issue, No. 53 Volume, 1998.

Note 3. <<Reappearance maps of the Shan Hai Jing Geographic locations; unscramble the geographic investigation report conducted 4200 years ago.>> , by Mr. Wang Hong Qi, The Map Magazine, 1st issue , 1998. <<The origin of Shan Hai Jing>>, by Mr. Wang Hong Qi, The Map Magazine, 2nd issue , 1998. << The General investigation of land resource in Yu Dynasty.>>, by Mr. Wang Hong Qi , Sci &Tech. Pictoral, 3rd issue, 1999.

Note 4. Chart of the evolvement of Huabei Plain, <<The atlas of Chinese nature Geographic>>, China Map publishing Company, 1st edition, 1984.