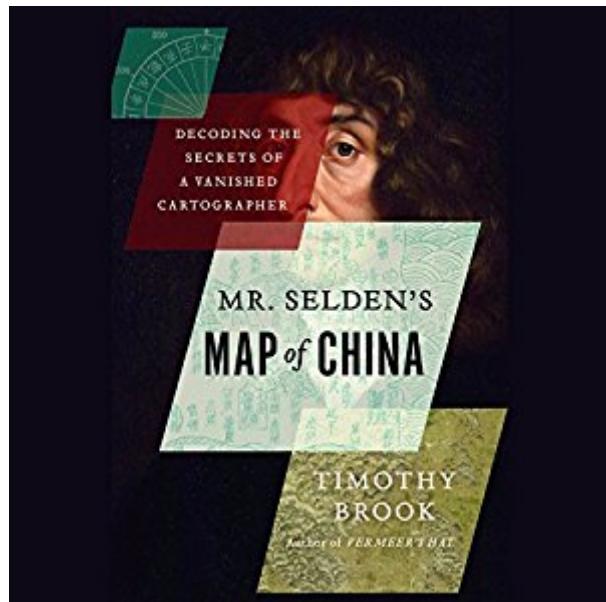


The book was found

Mr. Selden's Map Of China: Decoding The Secrets Of A Vanished Cartographer



Synopsis

From the author of the award-winning Vermeer's Hat, a historical detective story decoding a long-forgotten link between 17th-century Europe and China. Timothy Brook's award-winning Vermeer's Hat unfolded the early history of globalization, using Vermeer's paintings to show how objects like beaver hats and porcelain bowls began to circulate around the world. Now he plumbs the mystery of a single artifact that offers new insights into global connections centuries old. In 2009, an extraordinary map of China was discovered in Oxford's Bodleian Library - where it had first been deposited 350 years before, then stowed and forgotten for nearly a century. Neither historians of China nor cartography experts had ever seen anything like it. It was so odd that experts would have declared it a fake - yet records confirmed it had been delivered to Oxford in 1659. The "Selden Map", as it is known, was a puzzle that needed solving. Brook, a historian of China, set out to explore the riddle. His investigation will lead listeners around this elegant, enigmatic work of art, and from the heart of China, via the Southern Ocean, to the court of King James II. In the story of Selden's map, he reveals for us the surprising links between an English scholar and merchants half a world away, and offers novel insights into the power and meaning that a single map can hold. Brook delivers the same anecdote-rich narrative, intriguing characters, and unexpected historical connections that made Vermeer's Hat an instant classic.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours and 16 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios for Bloomsbury

Audible.com Release Date: October 22, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B00G027KNC

Best Sellers Rank: #168 in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Cartography #242 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Asia #533 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science > Technology & Engineering

Customer Reviews

An easy narrative about the discovery of a map probably drawn in China or by a Chinese cartographer around 1608 that falls into the hands of an English academic at some point before he

wills it to the Bodleian Library in 1654. The tale is well told of its previous owners, its possible origins, its secrets, and the impact it might have had on the west's understanding of Asia and cartography had it been made available to the public during Selden's lifetime, which it was not. There are fascinating sections on a number of related topics making the actual map a vehicle to discuss Chinese history, the story of the Spice Trade, early cartography, dry versus wet compasses, tattooed slaves, and maritime law in a friendly and convivial manner. Brook, in short, is a great story-teller, as those who have also read his most popular book, *Vermeer's Hat*, can attest to. Two or three evenings' reading, at most, and probably more enjoyable to those who have some knowledge of these subjects to begin with because then the various tidbits fall into place amongst the larger fabric of Asian history--the tale of the capture of the *Santa Catarina* at the south end of the Malay Peninsula in 1603, for example, or Zheng He's great maritime adventures.

Some books are stark intellectual endeavor â “ the authorâ ™s mentor, Joseph NEEDHAM, wrote 26 volumes or so on Chinaâ ™s technology. A few books, however, reflect the authorâ ™s unalloyed joy in chance discovery, the pure pleasure of ferreting out the infinite â œwhyâ ™sâ • of the reality in which we are wrapped. This book belongs to the second category. The author, a premier historian of Chinaâ ™s culture and the Ming period, gives his best (and more). The author chances across a XVIIth century map of the South China Sea. With great skill he plumbs not only the â œsecretsâ • of the map, but also the context in which it was acquired. The result is a comparative portrait of culture and mindsets in Europe and China â “ in all directions. This research in itself would be enough to justify reading the book. Along with earlier works by the author, this work helps dispel the view of the Ming period as static and self-regarding. It was Chinaâ ™s tragedy that, the author concludes, having refused trade, it invited imperialism. This is not all: in my view, there is much more in the book. For every â œmysteryâ • uncovered, the author plants â œnewâ • ones â “ subtle metaphors about the historianâ ™s skills and limitations. Here an example: map-drawing is akin to history writing, where the â œcurvatureâ • of the past (the divide of experience canâ ™t be undone) makes it impossible for any historian fully to reconstruct the past. The skill is in minimizing the â œfudging.â •â œOdd as this may seem, one book is not enough to open all doors hidden behind the details of the map, let alone travel the corridors that lead from other doors, still less to enter all the rooms that open off the corridors.â • (pg.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Mr. Selden's Map of China: Decoding the Secrets of a Vanished Cartographer Streetwise Rome Map - Laminated City Center Street Map of Rome, Italy - Folding pocket size travel map with metro

map, subway Drive!: Henry Ford, George Selden, and the Race to Invent the Auto Age StreetSmart NYC Map by VanDam - City Street Map of Manhattan, New York, in 9/11 National Memorial Edition - Laminated folding pocket size city travel and subway map, 2016 Edition Selling to Procurement: 7 Secrets to Decoding Procurement for Smarter B2B Selling and Negotiating Minecraft Secrets: Master Handbook Edition: Top 100 Ultimate Minecraft Secrets You May Have Never Seen Before (Unofficial Minecraft Secrets Guide for Kids) (Ultimate Minecraft Secrets Handbook) Lost Newport: Vanished Cottages of the Resort Era People Who Eat Darkness: The True Story of a Young Woman Who Vanished from the Streets of Tokyo--and the Evil That Swallowed Her Up Mornings on Horseback: The Story of an Extraordinary Family, a Vanished Way of Life and the Unique Child Who Became Theodore Roosevelt Visions of a Vanished World: The Extraordinary Fossils of the HunsrÃƒÂck Slate The Vanished Man: A Lincoln Rhyme Novel (Lincoln Rhyme Novels) The Vanished Man: A Lincoln Rhyme Novel Danielle Steel Value Collection: Fine Things, Jewels, Vanished The Village that Vanished The Village That Vanished (Jane Addams Honor Book (Awards)) ADC the Map People Raleigh, NC 50 Mile Radius Map: Folded Michelin Map Spain & Portugal (Michelin Map, 990) Streetwise London Map - Laminated City Center Street Map of London, England United States Executive Poster Size Wall Map (tubed) (National Geographic Reference Map) Streetwise Venice Water Bus Map - Laminated Vaporetto Venice Map for Travel - Pocket Size

[Dmca](#)