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MOWCAP
UNESCO Memory of the World
Regional Committee for Asia/Pacific

Nomination form

Asia/Pacific Memory of the World

Register

Office Use Only	
ID code:	Item or collection short title:
Institution / Owner:	Country or countries
Assessed by: (RujayaAbhakorn) (date) .. / .. / (xxxxxx) (date) .. / .. / (xxxxxx) (date) .. / .. / (xxxxxx) (date) .. / .. /	Decision: (circle as appropriate) 1. Recommended 2. Not recommended 3. Recommended subject to the following (attach additional comments if required):

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Introduction

This form should be used to nominate items to the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register. It sets out, in logical order, the range of information needed. Nominations should be expressed in clear concise language and lengthy submissions are not required.

Supplementary data may be attached. Please clearly label and number every page in the boxes provided.

It is highly recommended that prospective nominees should carefully read the *Guidelines* for nominating items and collections to the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register for further information before and during preparing a nomination. Nominees should also look at the current International *Memory of the World* Register

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1678&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

and the [Australian *Memory of the World* Register](#) to see examples of completed nomination forms.

Please submit two complete document sets on paper (one original and one photocopied versions) and one electronically.

Completed nominations should be posted by mail and submitted electronically to reach the following address:

Ms Helen Swinnerton
 Secretary General of MOWCAP,
 1/F Tower 2 &3, HSBC Centre, 1 Sham Mong Road, Kowloon
 Hong Kong
helen.swinnerton@gmail.com

The nomination form and any accompanying material will not be returned and will become the property of MOWCAP.

MOWCAP maintains a website at <http://www.unesco.mowcap.org>. Questions may be addressed to the MOWCAP Register Subcommittee (rujaya2000@yahoo.com). Please keep a copy of this form for your records and in case we need to contact you.

Please also keep an electronic version of the completed form as we will need this for successful nominations to speed up entries onto the MOWCAP website.

Ray Edmondson
 Chair, MOWCAP

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Nomination form

Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World Register* nomination form

Part A: Essential information

1 Summary (max 100 words)

Give a brief description of the documentary heritage being nominated, and the reasons for proposing it. Highlight the nature, uniqueness and significance of the nominated documentary heritage.

The DOUBLE STELLAR HEMISPHERE (hereinafter referred to as the Map) printed in 7th year of Chong zhen Emperor of Ming dynasty(1634), xylographically printed in eight vertical sections of fine Chinese native paper, well mounted with blue palace silk for screen hanging form. Each section is 171,5 cm high and 56,5 cm wide, and when the eight sections be put together side by side ,the whole Map approximately is 200cm x452cm , which including the mounting margin. The map now is preserved in the map repository of the First historical Archives of China, being kept in 8 individual paper cylinders.

The Map is constituted of 20 colorful pictures (16 star charts and 4 pictures of astronomical instruments) and 2 legends.

The creation of the Map was presided over by Xu Guangqi whom was the minister of Rites and the Grand Secretary of the Wen-Yuan Ge of the Ming Empire, and mainly was assisted by the famous German missionary Johann Adam Schall von bell.

The creating of the Map is on the base of that, either inheriting the traditional contents features of China's ancient star maps, or absorbing the new results of the Occidental astronomy in theories and methods. The Happening of the Map reflected the result of the highest level in the oriental astrology at that age. So the Map is the earliest and the largest cosmological Oriental spectacular cosmological map that we can find in the world nowadays and it sets a precedent for the future modern Chinese star map.

the Map is a milestone of the historical document.

2 Nominator

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

The First Historical Archives of China

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

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The First Historical Archives of China

2.3 Contact person(s)

The First Historical Archives of China

2.4 Contact details

Name	Address
The First Historical Archives of China	The First Historical Archives of China Xihua Gate Palace Museum Beijing 100031 China

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
86-10-63096489	86-10-63096489	lsdag1925@163.com

3 Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

3.1 Title of documentary heritage item or collection

DOUBLE STELLAR HEMISPHERE

3.2 Catalogue or registration details

The map now has been registered in the "Imperial Household map directory (1)," Map No: 100, name: Plan sphere of constellation map.

3.3 Photographs or a video of the documentary heritage

Provides the photos with catalogue

3.4 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

As a political instrument of the Imperial authority, the astronomical calendar truly was used to maintain the prestige of the empire over the numerous vassal and tributary countries for a long time in China. Towards the end of the 16th century, since the scientific rules on which it was

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originally based had been outdated or lost, it had for years been drawn up merely empirically and hence is swarmed with errors, China had been aware of an urgent of a change on astronomy, so some Western missionaries whom as the introducers of the Occidental sciences and the professional astronomers, theirs appeals had been approved by Chinese Emperor that to service in the Imperial court and give assistance to the Chinese astronomy. Since then, on the basis of either integrating the achievement of traditional Chinese astronomy or absorbing the advanced nutrition form Western astronomy, China's astronomical calendar had get over a new climax, in this context, it resulted in emergence of the DOUBLE STELLAR HEMISPHERE.

DOUBLE STELLAR HEMISPHERE was printed in 7th year of Chong zhen Emperor of Ming dynasty(1634), xylographically printed in eight vertical sections of fine Chinese native paper, well mounted with blue palace silk for screen hanging . Each section is 171,5 cm high and 56,5 cm wide, and when the eight sections is put together side by side ,the whole Map approximately is 200cm ×452cm , including the mounting margin.

As the Minister of Rites of the Ming Empire, Xu Guangqi had presided over the designing and produce of the Map with assistance from a famous German missionary Johann Adam Schall von bell. As well, the map has revised and approved by another Western missionary Giacomo Rho from Milan. Lots scholars of the Imperial Board of Astronomy had participated in the work of the mapping, the scholar Wu Mingzhu is well known one of them whom had borne the drawing of the Map.

There are two major large hemispheres of the stars in the Map: the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere, showing the stars seen above and below the equinoctial circle. Each hemisphere is 160 cm in diameter and surrounded by an around border with visible marks of the Equator and the twenty minutes of the Ecliptic. However, there is different size of stars painted on the Map, including the constellations, the nebula, and the Milky Way, most had used the traditional Chinese star name, and some had used the star name translated from the Western.

Between the two major large hemispheres and along their outside edge , respectively were inlaid with 14 small star maps (such as “Equator map” and “zodiac chart”...) and other 4 pictures of astronomical instruments (such as “theodolite of the Ecliptic”...). In addition there are two long legends at the beginning and end of the Map. “Preface of the two general maps of the stars south and North of the Equator” and “Explanation of the two general maps of the stars south and North of the Equator”. The image sequence annotation of whole eight sections of the screen used the Chinese traditional left- right dimension.

Contrary to custom, neither of both legends was dated, as the Map does not bear a general title. According the result of research, It seems that the mapping at the latest no later than November 1633 (Xu Guangqi’s death), but the printing of the Map was finished towards the end of July, 1634. As

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a version present to throne, It is not surprising if we consider the largest dimension of the Map had been made art processing again. It can be imagined that whole procedure of producing is: designed and carved the wood blocks firstly, then printed it on paper and filled in colors including gilding every star. There is a letter from Schall to his German-missionary colleagues, in which he said that the Chinese Emperor received the Map with much favor and kept it for a long time in his private palaces. Till to the Qing Dynasty, the Map was kept in the Imperial Household department, and it availably can be finding in the Qing Imperial Household map Directory “collection of imperial Maps” which edited in 1761. From then on, the Map has been secretly hidden in the royal court; it is impossible that any outsiders have a chance to see it. And up to now, the Map is preserved in the map repository of the First historical Archives of China.

According to the research: Johann Adam Schall von bell had privately printed two copies of the Map sent back to Europe in 1634 shortly after printing, and now one is existing in the Vatican library, and another one, perhaps, is in national library of France in Paris. As the original copy presented to Chinese Emperor ,the Map had have a long-hidden in the royal court, never been known and study by outsiders, so once Westerners have considered the copy in Europe of unique one, and hence it has been well known in the world as " The Double Stellar Hemisphere of Johann" for a long time.

By the compare of the Map kept in Chinese royal court with the one in Vatican, we find that, although the dimensions and pictures of both Maps are basically similar, but there still is some difference in signature of the “Explanation of the two general maps of the stars south and north of the Equator”: in the Map of Vatican, it was signature by Johann Schall with Jesuit Giacomo Rho and another 9 Chinese scholars who worked in the Imperial Board of Astronomy. But in the present copy kept Chinese royal court, it was only signed by Johann Schall, consequently without Giacomo Rho and other Chinese scholars. Another significant difference is that the Vatican’s Copy just was xylographically printed in ink, and then added some light color. But in the Chinese copy, especially in two large hemisphere, full undersurface are filled with mineral blue, and all constellations are gilded, therefore the whole Map looks very resplendent, artistic and more decorative, highlighting the characteristics of oriental royal art of it.

Above all, the Map is an indubitable milestone of the historical document.

3.5 Bibliography

The map had been registered in the “catalogue of maps office of the

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Imperial household department” which edited in twenty-six years of the Qing Emperor Qianlong (1761), and it formerly named as "Western celestial globe map" in the catalogue.

3.6 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage

Name	Qualifications	Address
Xu Kai	Professor	The History department of Peking University Haidian district the Summer Palace road 5 Beijing 100871 China

Name	Qualifications	Address
Zhu Saihong	Researcher	The library of the Palace Museum Xihua Gate Palace Museum Beijing 100031 China

Name	Qualifications	Address
Zhu Jinfu	Researcher	The First Historical Archives of China Xihua Gate Palace Museum Beijing 100031 China

I assert that the above named referees have given their written permission for their names and contact details to be used in connection with this nomination for the *Asia/Pacific Memory of the World Register*, and their names to appear on the website. (Contact details will not appear on the website or be disclosed by the MOWCAP to any third party).

Signature	Full name (Please PRINT)

	Date

4 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

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Name	Address	
The First Historical Archives of China	The First Historical Archives of China Xihua Gate Palace Museum Beijing 100031 China	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
86-10-63096489	86-10-3096489	lsdag1925@163.com

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address
The First Historical Archives of China	The First Historical Archives of China Xihua Gate Palace Museum Beijing 100031 China
Telephone	Email
86-10-63096489	lsdag1925@163.com

4.3 Legal status

Details of legal and administrative powers for the preservation of the documentary heritage

State-owned

4.4 Accessibility

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Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed

Plan to photograph the Map firstly in order to provide the digitization of it to the public in reading room of the First Historical Archives of China, and a simulated copy for exhibition will be made.

All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:

As the Map is the original the biggest culture relic survived over 380 years, so the original use of temporarily is unavailable

4.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

The First Historical Archives of Chain owns the copyrights reserved.

5 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 First criterion: authenticity. Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Has its identity and origin been reliably established?

The track of the Map's collection and inheritance in the Chinese royal court, have been authenticated with the historical records, such as that it had been registered in the record of the "catalogue of maps office of the Imperial household department". Therefore the Map is unique nature and sources of unquestionable. Those are authenticity by experts.

5.2 Second criterion: world significance. Is the documentary heritage unique and irreplaceable, something whose disappearance or deterioration would constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created a great impact over a span of time and/or within a particular supra-national cultural area of the region? Is it representative of a type, but it has no direct equal? Has it had great influence – whether positive or negative – on the course of history?

The Map is the only one existed in the world as the earliest Stars map of the largest size that privately had been used by Orient Emperor. It is considers of an exclusive and non-renewable relic, whether in the style, drawing and mounting methods, or in aspect of scientific, artistic and cultural. Thus, it will be regretful if it is damaged.

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5.3 Third, world significance must be demonstrated in meeting one or more of the following criteria. Because significance is comparative, these criteria are best illustrated by checking them against items of documentary heritage already inscribed (for example) on the International *Memory of the World Register*:

Time: Is it especially evocative of its time (which may have been one of crisis, or significant social or cultural change; it may represent a new discovery or be the “first of its kind”)

In China there is a long history over thousands of years on astronomical observations and drawing the stars maps. This star map, created and used by Emperor in the Ming dynasty 380 years ago, and had been secretly kept in the Chinese royal court. It represents the peak of the astronomy and astrology in Chinese feudal society.

Place: Does it contain crucial information about a locality important in the history of the region and its cultures? Or did the location have an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the documentary heritage? Or is it descriptive of physical environments, cities or institutions since vanished?

China Empire is the mode core of the Far East feudal dynasties; In fact, the calendar has been used in China as an efficient political instrument for maintaining the prestige of the empire over the numerous vassal and tributary countries for a long time. This star Map produced in the Chinese royal court is deeply with distinct political colors of the Far East feudal dynasty, especially in the naming of the constellation, and drawing method, etc.

People: Is it related to people in a social and cultural context that reflects significant aspects of human behavior, or social, industrial, artistic or political development...It may reflect the important roles and impact of key or certain individuals or groups.

The creation of the Map relates to some famous person in history. Xu Guangqi as the important people, who presided over the whole work of producing of the Map, is a famous cultural senior political officials, scholars and scientists in the Ming Empire. Another famous person Schall who give assistance to Xu Guangqi for presiding the work, is a well-known Western missionary serviced in the Chinese Imperial Board of Astronomy. They are all influential figures in the history of China and of the cultural transportation between East and West.

Subject and theme: The subject matter may represent particular historical or intellectual

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developments in natural, social and human sciences, politics, ideology, sports and the arts.

The scientific value of the Map is very high. It is produced on the basis of the result of Chinese traditional stars measuring and nomenclature, and also consult to the new result of European system of the zodiac .Such as , in the naming of constellation, the Map have adopted a special method that: some star's name which had been given an official star name in ancient China before was continue to be used in the Map; other some star's name without any Chinese ancient star name ,would used the new star's name translated from the Western; as well, some star haven't been marked the name in the Map because there is no names neither in ancient China or in the West. Of course, as having borrowed scientific result from the Western measurement method, the Map hence is more accurate in the constellation and positioning. CASS experts have identified those and indicate that: There is some stares marked on the Map have not been recorded in the previous star maps. However, the Western scientists consider the Map of a higher scientific value and point out that : this star map is a modern product of the combination of stellar astronomy theory and practice , since then there was a strong impact to the traditional Chinese star map in form and content which have a long history , those are Characterized by obvious improvement in so many aspects: expressing of the star names, organizing and instituting of constellations, measuring and projecting of star, shaping and painting of star maps and tables ,expanding the number of star constellation ,etc.

As a landmark star map, it makes the Chinese ancient star map which have highlighted an important position in the world history of astronomy , and meanwhile occurs a fundamental changes again during the time of science revolution in Europe . As a milestone, the happen of the Map undoubtedly witnessed the history of the communication between China and the West in science and culture.

Form and style: The item(s) may have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value, be a typical or key exemplar of a type or presentation, custom or medium, or of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format.

This Map is a masterwork in which there is about twenty different size and scale of the star chart and astronomical instrument. The Map is with a high artistic value, as well is a splendid and colorful working both in the layout design and painting method. Firstly, the layout design of the Map had absorbed the new results of the Occidental astronomy; it's Western pattern that is with pictures and legends together, made the Map looks more gorgeous and highly decorative. Meanwhile, there are two long legends in Chinese at the beginning and end of the Map: "Preface of the two general maps of the stars south and north of the Equator" and "Explanation of the two general

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maps of the stars south and north of the Equator”, both are all in Chinese and have been signed, and well stamped with Xu’s seal on his legend. In addition, most small star maps and pictures of the astronomical instruments on the Map, have been attached the text of explaining, on the other hand, the Map also can be regarded as an important astronomic document.

In the aspects of painting and framed, the Map has used the traditional Chinese techniques. The Map had been printed on paper by a wood-block and filled with colorful mineral pigments. Especially In both large hemisphere, full undersurface had been filled with blue mineral pigment, all constellations were gilded, and the Galaxy was painted with silver white color. That Therefore made the whole Map looks like a classic picture: the entire galaxy emerged and all stars twinkles with golden glitter under the blue sky background, Those made the Map looks very resplendent, artistic and more decorative. So it undoubtedly is an ancient artwork.

6 Other matters taken into account: rarity, integrity and threat

Rarity Does the content or physical nature of the documentary heritage make it a rare surviving example of its type or time?

The Map is the original version used by Chinese emperor with the documentary value, cultural relic’s value, and artistic value.

Integrity Within the natural physical limitations of carrier survival, is the documentary heritage complete or partial? Has it been altered or damaged?

As the Map have been secretly hidden in the royal court, the protective measures properly is very well , so although the 380 years has passed, and there is some very slight abrasion and some fold ,even a few of mineral pigments have been oxidized and faded on the Map, otherwise ,it remarkably is well preserved.

Threat Is its survival in danger? If it is secure, must vigilance be applied to maintain that security? Detail the nature and scope of threats.

As the Map is a historical document printed in Chinese traditional paper and mounted with Chinese native silk, there is a hard work avoids the potential risk from taking out repeatedly and physical deterioration, especially from the insects and mold. In addition, the Map was printed with mineral pigments; it easily is oxidized and faded. So how to improve the appropriate environment of storage (relate to temperature, humidity,

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prevention medicines of pest of mold, and special harness, etc.) and to reduce the use of the original is a serious challenge to management work.

Attach a separate statement if space is insufficient!

7 Preservation and Access Management Plan

Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? Are there strategies to preserve and provide access to it?

YES NO

If yes, describe or attach a summary of the plan. If no, please provide details about current method of storage and custody of the materials.

The management plan is divided into two steps:

- 1) Rescue and repair the broken part of the Map take the digital photos, produce Simulation copies. Henceforth only provide copies to utilize in order to protect the original.
- 2) Improvement the preserve environment, equipment, and harness of the Map.

8 Any other information

Please provide any other information that supports the inclusion of this item(s) / collection on the Asia/Pacific Memory of the World Register.

Attach a separate statement if space insufficient.

Document Owner: First Historical Archives of China

Custodian: China First Historical Archives

Recommended by: National Archives Bureau of China

9 Checklist

Nominees may find completing the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to MOWCAP.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | MOWCAP website reviewed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Introduction read |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | summary completed (maximum 100 word) (section 1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nomination and contact details completed (section 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | History/Origin/Background/Provenance completed (section 3.4) |

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-
- Bibliography completed (section 3.5)**
-
- Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6)**
-
- Declaration signed and dated that all referees have given their written permission for their names to appear on the MOWCAP website (section 3.6)**
-
- Details of owner completed (section 4.1)**
-
- Details of custodian – if different from owner - completed (section 4.2)**
-
- Details of legal status completed (section 4.3)**
-
- Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4)**
-
- Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5)**
-
- Evidence presented of authenticity (section 5.1)**
-
- Evidence presented of world significance (section 5.2)**
-
- Evidence presented against one or more additional criteria (section 5.3)**
-
- Information presented on rarity, integrity and threat (section 6)**
-
- Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan provide details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 7)**
-
- Any other information provided - if applicable (section 8)**
-
- Sample photographs or VDO prepared for MOWCAP use (if required)**
-
- Printed copy of Nomination Form made for organization's records**
-
- Electronic copy of Nomination Form made for MOWCAP use (if required)**