

Inner Asian and Altaic Studies Lecture at Harvard University  
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## **Manchu Archives and the Cartographic Knowledge of the Northeast in the Huangyu Quanlan Tu**

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### Abstract:

In 1708, the Kangxi emperor sent out three missionaries as part of a team of surveyors also including an escort, a carpenter, and others, in order to survey the territory of the Manchu homeland that would later be included in the “Complete map of imperial lands” (*Huangyu quanlan tu*). They traveled through Shanhaiguan along the seashore to the city of Fenghuang, and later west of the Changbai Mountains back to the city of Mukden. After that, they continued eastward, passing the garrison towns of Ningguta and Hunchun, the Suifen and Ussuri rivers, and on towards the lower reaches of the Amur.

Two years later, the emperor again sent out a team, this time mainly consisting of Manchus. They reached areas that were not visited during the first expedition, such as the mouth of the Amur River and the island of Sakhalin, where they undertook surveying activities. When we look carefully at the people who conducted the surveying activities on both expeditions, we see that the literature has hitherto focused solely on the role of the missionaries, while neglecting the Manchu expedition leaders and representatives of the Bureau of Astronomy. In this presentation, I use Manchu and other language materials to revisit the surveying activities related to the creation of the *Huangyu quanlan tu* in the Northeast.

In previous studies, this event has been described based mainly on Chinese archival materials and materials of the Jesuit mission. It has been concluded that the maps were drawn by three Jesuit missionaries (Frigelli, Regis and Jartoux) who accompanied the first group of surveyors.

However, there are also previously unstudied Manchu archival sources which reveal much new information about this event. For example, the exact lists of the expedition members allow us to envisage both working teams which consisted of more than 18 people each, most of them being Qing bannermen. The Manchu texts give names and professions or capacities of each member of the expeditions, thus effectively changing the established clichés.

I would also like to show how some previous assumptions stemming from the Jesuits descriptions, e.g. concerning the state of knowledge and technology of the Manchus, are contradicted by archival data.

Thus, in my lecture, I would like to show how the newly discovered Manchu archival texts can bring fundamental change into our knowledge of the Qing history.