

4, Belgrave Road,
Grosvenor, Bath.
15th July 1950

M. Henri Michel,
54, Rue de Lenbosch,
Brussels,

Dear M. Michel,

Very many thanks for the offprint from POPULAR
ASTRONOMY. With regard to the Fig. 4, I don't understand what
this is supposed to represent. In the great Manchu encyclopaedia
the Jesuit maps were shewn, more or less correctly, and I think
these were the first star maps to show both poles. These maps (Fig. 4)
are however very incorrect and can certainly not be invoked as
suitable examples of diagrams for a nocturnal.

Yours sincerely,

Hubert Chubb

14 August 1950

Dear Mr. Chatley,

Your letter of July 15th reached me when I was in the country, for the holidays, and I could not answer it until now; the celestial map reproduced in my paper in Popular Astronomy is of course not very ancient. I could not have the dedications deciphered, at least completely. One reads, according to one of my friends: "10.000 happinesses to the great emperor", and according to another friend North Pole - South Pole. Of course, maps showing both hemispheres can not be very old.

But the interesting point is that, although the map may be dated from our latest centuries, the pole is still marked as it was in the beginning of our era, 2000 years ago. If you compare with Schlegel, you shall readily recognise the principal chinese constellations, and notably the 28 sieou. On the enclosed copy, I have marked the Oriental Hedge, the Occidental Hedge, the Great Bear and the Polar Square mentioned in my paper.

The map is not intended to be invoked as a diagram for measurements; it has only the purpose to show the main polar constellations and particularly the quaint representation of the pole itself in the middle of an imaginary square, which I have identified with the four successive positions of Urs. min.

You may compare this map with the chinese planisphere exhibited at the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh. A reproduction of this last has been published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 1909, by E.B.Knobel. This map is still worse, and the constellations hardly recognisable.

Yours sincerely