



## **Anthony Jenkinson's unique wall map of Russia (1562) and its influence on European cartography**

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### Abstract

The abovementioned map of Russia covers the eastern end of Europe and is also one of the earliest map of the country. The map of Russia made by Anthony Jenkinson in 1562 was the most important document from the first travels of Englishmen who were searching a proper way to China. Until 1987 Jenkinson was known as author of this map only thanks to the famous Ortelius atlas *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*. Until that date, i.e. for more than four centuries, the genuine map was considered lost and scholars could investigate only existing renditions – in Ortelius' and de Jode's atlases.

Very interesting theories were then discussed by scholars interested in this map because the two renditions mentioned differed from one another. To be precise, de Jode's copy covered half of the territory represented by Ortelius, and then the question arose: who is right and whose rendition is closer to the genuine Jenkinson's map. We now know that de Jode's rendition portrays only the left half of the original territory and that the Ortelius' version is faithful to the original.

An unexpected event happened in 1987 which, at last, allowed us to see the original map in question. One day a lady brought the 16<sup>th</sup> century map to the Wrocław cathedral library and then to the Wrocław University Library. Before, she had shown the map in some other libraries, but no one had expressed an interest in it. The map she brought was in a ruinous state – twice folded and brought in a plastic bag. What's more, this unique map had been used for years by the lady – a teacher – as a teaching aid for history lessons. How did it get into the hands of the teacher? She explained that it was a present given to her by one of her pupils, who had found it in her cellar.

Because the map was considered by the author of this paper to be such a sensational find, the owner decided to sell it to the Wrocław University Library cartographic collection.

The map was bought at once and has undergone treatment for preservation, and at the next International Conference on History of Cartography in Amsterdam, in 1989, it was presented for the first time at the poster session; it created something of a sensation that was expressed in the title of the conference account by Valerie Scott: 'Map of Russia revealed at conference' (The Map Collector, Autumn 1989, Issue No. 48, pp. 38-39)

Before the Jenkinson map had been rediscovered, many scholars could investigate only existing renditions. The author of this paper then immediately compared the original copy of the map with the two well-known renditions. As mentioned above, the Ortelius derivative turned out to be more faithful, especially with respect to the territorial range, however with a poorer ornamentation. As far as the size is concerned, the genuine copy turned out to be much larger: Jenkinson's – 101.7 cm horizontally and 81.7 cm vertically, including a 6 cm border, and Ortelius': 44 cm and 35.3 cm. The territories of the genuine map and Ortelius' rendition stretch from the gulf of Finland in the northwest to Tashkent in the southeast, and from Persia in the south to the northern coast of Russia – both maps have a northern orientation. Neither Jenkinson nor his successors marked longitudes.



Recognition of the genuine map not only brought a new knowledge about its details but also raised some problems. One was the date which was confirmed on the original map, but became a controversial point of discussion. During a scientific stay in Cambridge the present writer was happy to find the heraldry book in which the coat of arms – the same as that on the map and belonging to Henry Sidney, the sponsor of the map – had been conferred upon him in 1566. This date was also confirmed by Prof. Samuel Baron but by another fact, i.e. two journeys of two Englishmen – Spark and Southam, who influenced the geographical names used on Jenkinson's map. This leads us to put the date of the map at about 1567. This valid work had an early influence on the later cartography of this territory, i.e. on maps by the Van Deutecum brothers (the so called Daškov map) of 1569 and in 1570 in Ortelius' first edition of *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*.

The next controversial question turned out to be Jenkinson's authorship because of the new information provided in the cartouche of the genuine map. Namely, besides Jenkinson as the author and Sidney, the sponsor (both known from the Ortelius map), a cartouche of the genuine map mentioned quite new co-creators: Nicolaus Reinoldus, the engraver, and Clemens Adams, the editor. Some scholars speculate that these three co-creators – Sidney, Adams and Reynolds – had greater predispositions to map making than any merchant or explorer as Jenkinson is usually described. On the other hand, quite sufficient proof of Jenkinson's authorship should be his diary in which he included his own surveys of distances and geographical latitudes. Furthermore, all three cartographers Van Deutecum, Ortelius and de Jode attributed the map's authorship to Jenkinson. We should also take into account that the map was made only on the basis of information provided by Jenkinson.

A detailed comparison of the map under consideration with other maps of Russia made by different authors of that period resulted in an interesting conclusion. Morgan and Coot were the first to express an opinion that the northern part of the map was based on the Borough brothers' map, the western part was based on the Wied map, and only the eastern and southern parts were by Jenkinson himself. The same scholars also claim that Münster's map became a model for Jenkinson; it may have been one but not the only one, because as we know Münster's map is very generalized, while Jenkinson's is quite rich in details. Taking into account that on Jenkinson's map the Amu-Daria (there called Ougus) is flowing into the Caspian Sea, we should also see the influence of Ptolemy's map. Relations among the cartographers of that time have already been described by this author in a paper published in Polish (*Czasopismo Geograficzne*, Wrocław 2000); a shortened English version (published by the National Library, Warsaw) is accessible to all who can use Internet.

Now, according to the title of this lecture, the present author is undertaking another task: to analyze the influence of the rediscovered map on later cartography and to answer the question whether Jenkinson's map influenced the image portrayed by the postjenkinson cartography of the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Many maps of different cartographers and countries have been taken into consideration. Only general maps of Europe will be examined here, because maps of fragments of territory shown on Jenkinson's map, and also published at that time, call for a quite separate study and article.

Taking into account the date of Jenkinson's map, the last quarter of the 16<sup>th</sup> century should be examined. There are many wall maps of famous cartographers such as A. Ortelius (1570) and S. Münster's map of Europe in the shape of a queen of the same year, G. Mercator (1572), K. Vopel (1572), G. Gastaldi (1595) and J. Hondius



(1595) and again Ortelius (1598).

Understandably much richer development of Europe maps can be observed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In the early half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century there are maps by: W. J. Blaeu (1606), J. Hondius (1606), G. de Jode (1613), one of C. Ptolemaeus (1621 Padua edition), two different maps of J. Speed (1626 and 1627), J. Hondius - J. Jansson (c. 1638) and M. Merian (c.1650). In the last half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century: F. De Wit (c.1660), J. Speed (1675), P. Duval (1677), R. Morden (1687), V. Coronelli and C. Allard (both undated). In the 18<sup>th</sup> century J. Jansson continued his activity and his map of Europe is dated c. 1700. Later cartographers are: G. de l'Isle (1700), E. Wells (1712), J. À Montecalerio (1712), N. De Fer (1716 & 1717), J. M. Hase (1720), N. Visscher (son? 1726), A.F. Zurner (1729), G. M. Seutter (1730), J. G. Schreiber (1730), H. Moll (c. 1736), J. B. Nolin (1737), J. Cary (1740), L. Valk (undated).

Finally, still on maps of Europe in the later half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century we can observe that the mapping of the Russian territory is out of date. The following cartographers and their maps of that period were taken into consideration: R. Vaugondy ( 1751), E. Bowen (1752), L. Euler (1753), P. C. Monath (1760), T. Jeffreys (1764), A.F.W. Crome, W. Guthrie (1785), G. Robinson (1785), L. Brion de la Tour (1786 & 1790), C. Mondhare (c. 1788), J. M. Hase (1789) and T. C. Lotter (undated).

As a final result of these investigations the monograph with thematically arranged chapters, a facsimile edition of the genuine Jenkinson's map and a dictionary of geographical names on maps compared is in preparation and planned to be published.

