Press Release - For Immediate Release

Hong Kong Maritime Museum Special Exhibition
Mapping Ming China’s Maritime World – The Selden Map and Other Treasures from the University of Oxford

(6 Mar 2014· Hong Kong) The Hong Kong Maritime Museum will display highlights from the celebrated Chinese collections held at the University of Oxford in a temporary exhibition entitled “Mapping Ming China’s Maritime World – The Selden Map and Treasures from University of Oxford”.

This special exhibition tells the story of the maritime world of the late Ming-era China (mid-17th century). It features the Selden Map from the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford and other related treasures from the Bodleian and from Oxford’s Ashmolean Museum. Collections from the Hong Kong Maritime Museum, as well as items from local renowned collector Dr. K.L. Tam will also be featured. Most of the objects are displayed to the public in Hong Kong for the first time.

The highlight of the exhibition is The Selden Map of China. It is the earliest map to show shipping routes linking Ming-era China to markets in South Asia and beyond. It is also the first to depict China as part of a greater East and Southeast Asia, and not the centre of the known world. It has recently benefited from extensive conservation work and recent research that has shed new light on the map. Dating from the late Ming period, it shows China, Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Southeast Asia and part of India. It was bequeathed to Oxford in 1659 by John Selden, the London lawyer and historical and linguistic scholar. Other exhibits from Oxford will include the well-known manuscript rutter, or manual of compass directions, Shun feng xiang song, as well as the Zhi nan zheng fa (The True Art of Pointing South).

This exhibition is jointly organised by the Hong Kong Maritime Museum and Oxford University’s Bodleian Libraries.

The opening ceremony will be held at 6:30pm on 20th March 2014. The University of Oxford’s Chancellor Lord Patten of Barnes (Chris Patten), Bodley’s Librarian Richard Ovenden and Hong Kong Maritime Museum Chief Curator Dr. Tian Long Jiao will join the opening ceremony. They will also meet the art and culture press for interviews at 5:20pm to 6:20pm.

An international academic symposium will be held by the Hong Kong Maritime Museum from 7th-8th June 2014 to discuss the latest research into this important period in Chinese maritime history, followed by the publication of the symposium proceedings at the end of 2014. Programme to be confirmed, please check the HKMM website for details.

A series of public lectures will be arranged during the exhibition period, please see appendix 1 for details.

Guided tours for the public, school and families activities will also be available for this exhibition. Please refer to Appendix I for more details.

The exhibition is also timed to coincide with the University of Oxford’s first Alumni Weekend in Asia, taking place in Hong Kong from 21 – 23 March, which will be hosted by its Chancellor Lord Patten of Barnes and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Andrew Hamilton.
Opening Ceremony and Exhibition Details:
Date: 20 March, 2014 (Opening Ceremony + Art and Culture Press Interview)
21 March, 2014 - 23 June, 2014 (Exhibition)
Venue: Robert Y.T. Chen Gallery, Hong Kong Maritime Museum
Address: Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Central Ferry Pier No. 8
Opening Hours: 9:30 am to 5:30 pm (Monday to Friday)
10 am to 7 pm (Saturday and Sunday)
Fees: $30 adults; $15 seniors and students
Website: http://www.hkmaritimemuseum.org/

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Resources:

The Hong Kong Maritime Museum is the home of Hong Kong’s maritime heritage past, present and future where we place Hong Kong’s maritime story into its local, regional and international context. Our vision is to become the maritime museum showcasing Hong Kong and China’s maritime connections to the world focused on the Pearl River Delta and the emergence and development of Hong Kong as a port and international shipping centre. www.hkmaritimemuseum.org

Selden Map website: http://seldenmap.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/. Photographs of the Selden map are available to the media. Please credit to: “The Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford”

Oxford is one of the western world’s leading centres for the study of China, with the largest number of academics working on China anywhere in Europe. A dedicated new building to house the University’s China Centre will open in 2014. Hong Kong-based philanthropist Dickson Poon CBE donated £10 million for the new centre. http://www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/alumni/university-of-oxford-china-centre

The Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford form the largest university library system in the United Kingdom. They include the principal University library—the Bodleian Library—which has been a library of legal deposit for 400 years; major research libraries; and libraries attached to faculties, departments and other institutions of the University. The combined library collections number more than 11 million printed items, in addition to 50,000 e-journals and vast quantities of materials in other formats. http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/

Founded in 1683, the Ashmolean Museum is home to the University of Oxford’s art and archaeology collections. It has one of the finest collections of Chinese art in Europe, ranging from jades and ceramics of the Neolithic period to contemporary paintings and prints. With three permanent galleries dedicated to these collections, the Museum presents an integrated display of art as appreciated both in China and in Europe. http://www.ashmolean.org/The University of Oxford will host the largest-ever gathering of Oxford graduates in Asia for Meeting Minds: Alumni Weekend in Asia from 21 to 23 March, with more than 240 alumni attending.
from across Asia. Hosted by the University’s Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, the Weekend brings graduates, friends and world-leading academic figures together for three days of academic talks, social events, and the exhibit of the famed Selden Map of China. https://www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk/
Appendix I

The Selden Map Exhibition
Date: 21 March, 2014 - 23 June, 2014
Venue: Robert Y.T. Chen Gallery, Hong Kong Maritime Museum
Address: Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Central Ferry Pier No. 8
Opening Hours: 9:30 am to 5:30 pm (Monday to Friday)
10 am to 7 pm (Saturday and Sunday)
Fees: Free with tickets $30 adults; $15 seniors and students
Website: http://www.hkmaritimemuseum.org/
Enquiry: 3713 2500

Event Highlights:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Language</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 March 2014</td>
<td>The Selden Map: Reinterpreting China’s relationship with the world</td>
<td>Richard Ovenden, Bodley’s Librarian, Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>26 April 2014</td>
<td>The Selden Map and Chinese Maritime Trading Routes in the Late 16th to Early 17th Century</td>
<td>Tam Kwong Lim, Managing Director, Kingstar Shipping Ltd. Chairman of Advisory Board of History, Lingnan University, Hong Kong</td>
<td>Cantonese</td>
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<td>3 May 2014</td>
<td>The Hokkien Merchants in Historical Maritime Asia</td>
<td>James K. Chin, Board Director, Hong Kong Maritime Museum Ltd. Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Maritime History Studies</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>24 May 2014</td>
<td>Trade Routes and Sailing Maps in Imperial China</td>
<td>Chan Kai Wing, Tenured consultant, The China Society for Maritime History Studies</td>
<td>Mandarin, supplemented with Cantonese</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Jun 2014</td>
<td>Charting the Eastern and Western Oceans: the Making of Maritime Cartography in East Asia, 1500-1700</td>
<td>Fung Kam Wing, Associate Professor, School of Chinese, University of Hong Kong</td>
<td>English</td>
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Public gallery tours of the exhibition
Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 2pm to 2:30pm

Private tours of the exhibition
Tours for private groups can be arranged on request. Advance booking essential, please see our website for more details.

Weekend Activities
A small extra charge of $20 per participant is payable. Find out more on our website.
Taking your Selden style map home

For visitors over 10 years old
All visitors make a Selden style map key ring or fridge magnet using shrink-art plastic technology (while stocks last) to learn how the Ming Chinese drew maps and how they understood China and the world. With a guided tour of Selden Map exhibition. 
Saturdays 29 March, 5 and 19 April, 10 and 24 May and 14 June 4pm- 5:15pm

For younger visitors and their families
Families can make their own shrink-art key ring or fridge magnet based on a ceramic object from the Selden Map exhibition (while stocks last)
From 2pm - 5pm on the following Sundays: 30 March, 13 April, 27 April, 11 May, 25 May, June 8, June 22.

School activities
From 24 March to 23 June
Try our gallery tours and activities to learn more about maritime trade in Ming China. (Advance booking essential through the Education page on our website)