



following Ptolemy in representing the Indian Ocean as an enclosed sea, though it may be that he simply found the oval format useful for displaying information, particularly itineraries, as he had done with the Mediterranean. The map is in two distinct parts: on the right, the eastern half of the Indian Ocean with Indian and Chinese localities represented along its shores; on the left, the east African coasts and islands. The large island with red dots at the centre of the map (mostly lost in the gutter of the manuscript) is probably Ceylon. In the present copy the two eastern and western halves of the map have been wrongly sited, possibly as a result of a copying technique producing a mirror image. Instead of connecting China with Africa, the right and left halves of the map are joined so that China links up with the Arabian Peninsula, while the east African coast and the coasts of India appear to form one land mass. Moreover, some of the itineraries within each section of the map have been written down in an inverse order, making this copy of the map very impractical to use.