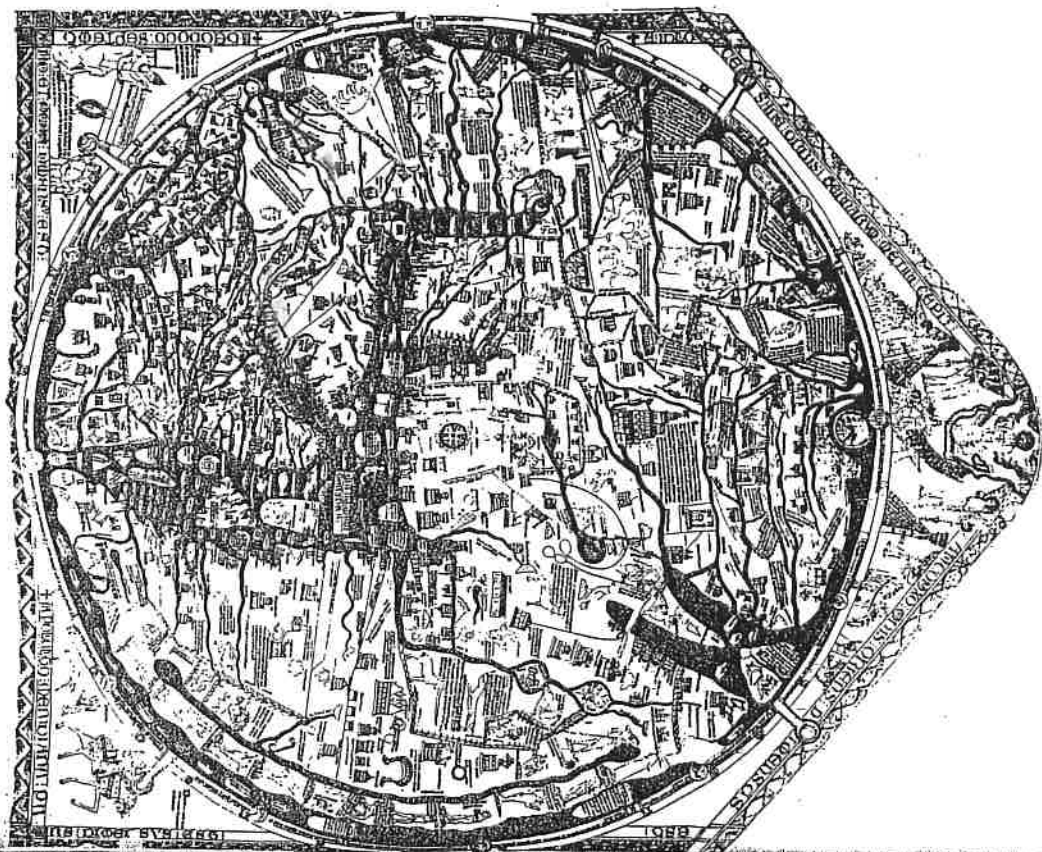
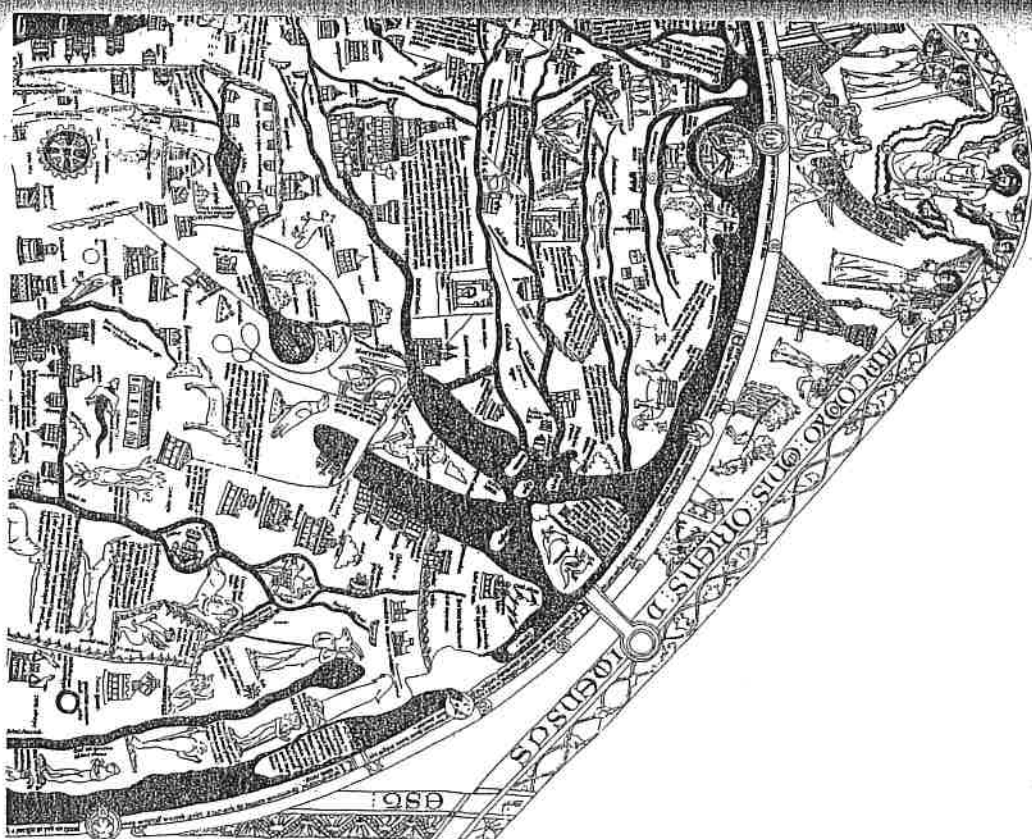




The Hereford Mappa Mundi is the largest and best-preserved medieval map in the world and was the work of Richard of Haldingham who became Prebend of Norton near Hereford soon after 1276. The form of the map is that of the so-called T-O maps, in which the Mediterranean and Black Sea form a T within the circle of the whole. Jerusalem is in the centre and the earthly paradise is at the top. The geography of the regions east of Jerusalem, and the various peoples shown, are derived from fabulous accounts of the east contained in the Alexander legends and related antique and early medieval texts.



The enlarged area shows Christ in majesty at top (east), directly above the Earthly Paradise (an island in the encircling Ocean). Below the Paradise are the four rivers of Paradise and the tall tower of Babylon. The four rivers run through India, which is bordered on the south-west by the Red Sea (coloured red on the original).