

Historic appearances and their motivations of two maritime toponyms : *East Sea*, *Sea of Korea*

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We tend to take as a whole two toponyms of *East Sea* and *Sea of Korea* legitimating the name of '동해 (Donghae)'. But these are two names differing by their origins and motivations. *East Sea* is the name translated by Government in favor of foreign friends, but Aleni already transcribed the name Small *East Sea* in 1623, while *Sea of Korea* appears first on the map of Godinho de Eredia in 1615. Many European cartographers favored in 18th century this name as a rational one for the sea in the eastside of the Korean Peninsula. The authors of this paper tried to retrace the historic appearances and the motivations of these two names.

Two toponyms '*East Sea*' and '*Sea of Korea*' are related to 'Donghae' but they are different in origins and motivations. '*East Sea*' is a name created by the Korean Government which translates 'Donghae' for foreigners, while '*Sea of Korea*' was invented and used in European old maps especially in the 18th century. Actually in Korea '*East Sea*' is the name favored by more people. But there are also those who are convinced that the name '*Sea of Korea*' is more suitable and rational.

Historically Arab merchants called Korea by the name of *Cory* or *Cori*. 'Mare Orientale' on the world map in 'Isolario' 1528 by B. Bordone has nothing to do with *East Sea*. The first trace of '*Sea of Korea*' appears on the map of Asia 1615 by Godinho de Eredia. As a mathematician interested in history and geography, he was born in Malacca and educated in Goa. His map, published in Maccao, shows *East Sea* as 'Mar Coria', which is *Sea of Korea*, 13 years later than Matteo Ricci. De Eredia added suffix 'a' to the end as it is a rule in Portuguese. But unfortunately the name he invented didn't have any follower like the country name 'Coria'.

Next to G. de Erediam, farther Aleni, reviewing Matteo Ricci's map of 1602 finds some toponymic errors. As he learned in Beijing that Manchurians are calling '*East*

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Sea as 'Tung hai' he inscribed on his map of 1623 'Small Tung Hai'. Of course *East Sea* is not a big sea. But he had another motivation for his inscription. Knowing that during the Ming Dynasty, people called *East Sea*, 'Small Sea', Aleni in fact fused two names to form a single name. Aleni's naming didn't get either any success among cartographers.

R. Dudley on his map of Japan and Korea in 'Dell Arcano del Mare' in 1646 put 'Mare di Corai' on *East Sea*. But there are also 'Oceano Boriale del Giappone' and 'Mare di Iezo' also. 'Mare di Corai' was not an exclusive name of *East Sea*. N. Sanson, on his map of Asia 1652 and, on other maps, inscribes 'Océan Oriental'. But this 'Ocean' embraced *East Sea* and the sea under the Japanese Isles. It is why this is not an exclusive name of *East Sea*.

A Jesuit farther in Paris, P. Briet, from the same town as N. Sanson and close to him, thanks to his relations with missionaries having been to Beijing, was informed the local name *East Sea* that he translated into 'Océan Oriental' on his map of 'Royaume du Japon' of Japan 1650. As his name was an endonym, it is different from any name for eastern sea far away from Europe. And at that time there were no any semantic difference between 'Ocean' and 'Sea'.

An important chance happened with A. Montanus, a Belgian preacher of Protestant church. His book on Japan, a best-selling book all over Europe, impressed strongly to his readers. On his map of Japan in his book, *East Sea* was named as 'Mer de Corée' namely *Sea of Korea*. We do not know exactly what the motivation of naming was. It seems, according to his personal reasoning, 'Mer de Corée' was a more convincing name. Anyway, though his naming didn't make any immediate followers, it is certain that Montanus laid down strong foundation for the coming of Golden Age of 'Mer de Corée' in 18th century.

In the same year as Montanus Book of 1669, another Jesuit Belgian Farther in Peking, Verbiest, wanted to revise his predecessors maps, especially toponyms. But it was a bit uneasy to deny the names given by his predecessor. He came to work out a neutral name containing different names. He mixed '*Sea of Japan*' and Aleni's 'Small Tung Hai' to make 'Mer Orientale du Japon'. But from logical point of view, the sea in the east of Japan, can't be *East Sea* but indicate Pacific Ocean.

A noted traveler interested in history, J. B. Tavernier too, gave a book on Japan in 1679 which was quite popular. Tavernier knew obviously Montanus and his map. But knowing also P. Briet, he preferred the name 'Océan Oriental'. Nevertheless remember-

ing the name of Montanus, he added the name of ‘Mer de Corée’, on the south east side of *East Sea*.

Manesson Malet on his map ‘Isles du Japon’ 1683, the name *East Sea* appeared as ‘Océan Oriental’ after Briet. Another Jesuit Belgian farther A. Thomas arrived in 1686, studied geography and examined his predecessors maps. He couldn’t agree on the name given to *East Sea*. Influenced by Montanus he thought Montanus name was most reasonable one. He put in latin ‘Mare Coreanum’ on his map of Asia 1690.

G. Delisle, First Geographer to the king, and most respected geographer of his time, kept in hand a wide range of geographic information sources, including that of missionaries. Informed about the local name of *East Sea*, he translated the name as ‘Mer Orientale’ and kept using it. He opened the 18th century with his ‘Mappe-Monde’, World map of 1700, on which *East Sea* was inscribed as ‘Mer Orientale’. But being aware that many cartographers are rather inclined to the name of ‘Mer de Corée’, he hurried up to inform people on ‘Carte des Indes et de la Chine’ 1705 the facts that ‘Mer Orientale’ and ‘Mer de Corée’ were the name for the same sea on his map, G. Delisle was helped by De Fer, who explained that *East Sea*, which was unknown to Europeans, had been called by Tartars (Manchurians) as ‘Mer Orientale’ on his map of East Asia 1703.

But De Fer, unlike G. Delisle, with some contradictory information, was inconsistent on toponyms. Anyway ‘Mer Orientale’ influenced cartographers, all over Europe. Dutch cartographer Schenk in 1708 gave a very similar description of the Korean peninsula with ‘Mer Orientale’ on *East Sea*. British Senex, on his ‘Map of India and China’ 1721, is inscribing ‘Eastern Sea’ on East sea, while German cartographer Hase, having worked with J. B. Homann and inherited all his materials, changed some of Homanns toponyms and named *East Sea* after Delisle and De Fer, but in some inventive way : ‘Mare Orientale Minnus’ which is Small *East Sea*. Gussefeld and some other German cartographers followed Hases inventive name.

Therefore, there was a kind of bifurcation for the sea name: ‘*East Sea*’ party and ‘*Sea of Korea*’ party. The former come from local name (=endonym), the latter is a name given by European cartographers, oversea name (=exonym). But the balance was in favor of the latter. In England even those who were influenced by G. Delisle for geographic form of Korea, preferred ‘*Sea of Korea*’ to *East Sea*, and about the majority of Cartographers : H Moll, Green, E. Bowen, T. Bowen, J. Gibson, Faden, Laurie and Whittle, Salmon, Dunn, Kitchin, Wilkinson, Wyld, Russel, etc., chose ‘*Sea of Korea*’ or

'Gulf of Korea' for *East Sea*. In France, same phenomenon: Chambon, Bellin family, Janvier, Bonne, Danet, G. Robert de Vaugondy, D. Robert de Vaugondy, Buache, J. N. Delisle, Le Rouge, Boulanger, Robert, Chouet, Moithey, Phillipe, Brion de la Tour, J. B. Nolin, Clermont, P. Mertier, etc... stuck to the name of 'Mer de Corée', blooming 'Golden Age of Mer de Corée' in the 18th century.

D'Anville, usually quite reticent for naming any unknown sea, made a small surprise on his manuscript map of Korea, marking twice 'Mer de Corée' on *East Sea*. He was also known as an important collector of valuable maps and he collected Picauds map of Asia 1763, in which *East Sea* was named 'Mer de Corée'.

'Mer de Corée' was victorious over *East Sea* all over European maps, when a strong storm hit these maps with the Atlas 1797 by La Pérouse. Many European Cartographers were keen on La Pérouse expedition. Because exploring *East Sea* was one of the important missions. La Pérouse used the name 'Mer de Corée' with 'Mer du Japon' in his text. But on some of maps in Atlas, he inscribed '*Sea of Japan*' for *East Sea*. This naming shifted to '*Sea of Japan*' even those who named *East Sea* as '*Sea of Korea*' before La Pérouse.

After La Pérouse, Krusenstern made a world tour with special interest in Japan and he inscribed on his map of 1808, '*Sea of Japan*' also. A Dutch doctor Siebold, having studied geography while staying years in Japan, made a map of Japan in 1832 and named '*Sea of Japan*' for *East Sea*. But Krusenstern and Siebold, compared with La Pérouse, played rather a minor role in the shift to '*Sea of Japan*'.

Despite the general trend of changing name for *East Sea*, two famous British Cartographers of the King, Faden and Wyld, stubbornly persisted on using '*Sea of Korea*': the former on his map of 1808, and the latter, on his map of 1846. In France also, Dejeux, on his 'Carte de l'Asie' 1800, inscribe 'Mer de Corée' on *East Sea*. But having examined La Pérouse Atlas, on his 'L'Asie' 1805, he gave a double name 'Mer de Corée' in bigger letters and 'Mer du Japon' in smaller letters. Encyclopedia Britannica name the same sea '*Sea of Korea*' in 1771, 1783, but changed to '*Sea of Japan*' in its 1881 edition.

Some unexpected products came out with the shift of name from '*Sea of Korea*' to '*Sea of Japan*'. There were maps which switched to '*Sea of Japan*' and put '*Sea of Korea*' near 'East China Sea'. Thus, T. Mollo, on his 'Chinescher Reich', meaning Chinese Kingdom, 1820, drove '*Sea of Korea*' to the south east of China. Brué & Pigué too, inscribing '*Sea of Japan*' on *East Sea* on 'Carte Générale de l'Asie' 1821, thrust down 'Mer de Corée' to

East China Sea. Lapie on 'China and Japan' 1832, moved 'Mer de Corée' down to South West.

Were there any unconscious psychological movements by cartographers? We do not know their motivation. Anyway, an analogical movement is observed in Japan. Traditionally the Japanese were indifferent on maritime names and they did not name it until 1800. According to professor Lee Sang Tae, 18 maps and official documents were discovered in Japan which inscribe 'Josen-kai' for *Sea of Korea* or *East Sea* from 1800-1870, meanwhile since 1870, '*Sea of Japan*' constitutes the majority of Japanese maps and 'Josen-kai' was pushed to East China Sea. Professor Lee S.T. presumes that pushing 'Josen-kai' toward 'East China Sea' was a well planned strategic way of driving far away 'Josen-kai'.¹⁾ For us, we would like rather assume that this phenomenon happening later than in Europe, Japanese maps were influenced by European maps.

Looking on Russian maps started around 1730, as there was no market for maps, governmental organization published mainly most maps. According to Korean Embassy in Russia, among 25 remaining Russian maps, 8 of them inscribed '*Sea of Korea*', 5 of them, '*Sea of Japan*', 4 of them 'Eastern Sea' 6 of them, no inscription, 2 of them, double name of '*Sea of Korea*' and '*Sea of Japan*'.

China keeps very old written recordings. According to Professor Wu Song-di, 'Hou Han Shu' written 2000 years ago, is describing Manchurian Tribe Nu Zen, calling *East Sea* as 'Tung Hai'.²⁾ Other Chinese scholars Cheng Long, Gu Renhe are supporting Professor Wu, saying that the name of *East Sea* exists since NuZen came to the world through history.

In Korea, unlike in Japan, historical documents are recording the name of '*East Sea*' since 2000 years almost same period in China. Though old maps are destroyed through many foreign invasions, Korean people keep consistently the name of *East Sea* all over its history.

1) Lee Sang-Tae 'Replacement of the name *East Sea* with '*Sea of Japan*', 11th International Seminar on Sea Names, 2009, The Society for *East Sea*.

2) Wu Song-di, 'The Geographical name for *Sea of Japan* in Chinese documents, "The 1st International Seminar on Geographical name of *East Sea*, 1995, The Society for East Sea.

Conclusion

Although the nature of *‘East Sea’* and *‘Sea of Korea’* differ one another, the two names alternate on European maps, contrasting with the name of *‘Sea of Japan’*. Cartographic history proves *‘East Sea’* and *‘Sea of Korea’*, especially *‘Sea of Korea’*, are much more important than *‘Sea of Japan’* before 19th century, but are losing grounds after La Pérouse.

In this respect the superiority of *‘Sea of Japan’* is not long. No names are eternal; they are destined to change if they lose the reason of existence. We should be ready to accept changes. And it is silly and absurd to take a national pride from the name.

Especially when the object is shared by different countries, the name of one nation should not obstruct the way to peace and friendship which are most important value.

요약

*East Sea*와 *Sea of Korea*는 동해 명칭과 일본해와의 병기를 정당화하지만 그 두 이름은 역사적 기원과 사용 배경이 다르다. *East Sea*는 정부가 외국인을 위하여 번역한 이름으로 알레니 신부는 1623년에 이미 지도에 “소동해”라는 표기를 하였고, 공딩뉴 데 에레디아는 1615년 “한국해”라는 명칭을 지도에 표기하였고 유럽 지도제작자들은 그 이름이 동해에 어울리는 합리적 이름이라고 판단하여 18세기 거의 모든 지도들이 그렇게 표기하였다. 두 저자는 그 두 이름의 역사적 출현과 사용 동기를 추적하여 정리하고자 하였다.